The Mormon Moment, in Context:
an interview with Patrick Mason, chair of the Mormon Studies program
Or more important

On August 29, CGU welcomed its largest class of incoming students in the institution's history by holding the first university-wide orientation ceremony.

This was a great day for Claremont Graduate University, and we hope to build on it by continually increasing the opportunities and support we offer our current and future students. That is why the university’s number one funding priority is fellowship support.

By donating to CGU’s Annual Fund, you will not just be assisting the university, but helping provide an education to students eager to understand how the world works and use that knowledge to make it a better place.

Visit www.cgu.edu/giving. Select “Give to CGU” and fill out the giving form and payment information.

At this page you can also find information on different ways to give—including planned giving—and the benefits of donating to CGU.

Giving is easy. Don’t believe us? Try it yourself.
Features

14 Someone to Watch Over You (and tell you to get some exercise)
In nearly every country in the world, life expectancy is rising. Embedded within this good news is the distressing increase of chronic diseases that occur later in life, perhaps most notably diabetes. While many researchers seek medical solutions to this problem, School of Information Systems and Technology Professor Samir Chatterjee has been developing a technological one.

16 A Hunger For Change
In the early 1990s, CGU alum Badiul Alam Majumdar left his tenured faculty position to return to his home country of Bangladesh. His work as country director for the Hunger Project has been instrumental in empowering millions—most notably women—and changing the mindset of dependency and resignation.

20 The Mormon Moment, in Context
An interview with Patrick Mason, the Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate University. Mason oversees the first graduate program devoted to Mormon studies in the world, which not only puts him at the vanguard of a burgeoning academic field, but has made him one of the most prominent public educators of a burgeoning religion.

24 Football, Flow, and Finding Your Way After Tearing an Achilles Tendon
Athletics and academia often seem like strange bedfellows, but School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences’ Positive Psychology student Damian Vaughn is fusing his love for both into a successful post-playing career after five seasons as a professional football player.

38 Carrying the Flame: After Escape, An Artist Emerges
Aragna Ker, local artist and Claremont Graduate University alum, was just an infant when the Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia, killing an estimated two million of their country’s own citizens during their four-year rule. Though he escaped the country while still a child, his Cambodian roots still inspire his artwork today.
Sure, it wasn’t a Waterford crystal glass filled with expensive champagne, but when I suddenly toasted a can of Diet Coke to a group of students last month at our annual Graduate Student Council (GSC) Welcome Back BBQ—the most well-attended one we’ve ever had—I did it with as much conviction as if I were making a toast at a wedding. “A toast to what?” you ask. To the amazing spirit of togetherness I saw that night everywhere I looked, and I that have seen developing across CGU.

Because of our size and commitment to working across disciplines, we were always a tight-knit community: working together, taking classes together, doing research together, and having deeper conversations together. But there is a new sense of unity in the air, and the recent all-university orientation and student BBQ announced this loudly.

Both were tremendous successes. And the turnout was amazing, with both venues—Garrison Theatre and Mudd Quad—packed with students, staff, and faculty. I was really struck by the buzz of enthusiasm and pride that I felt from the crowd and heard from students as I talked with them and watched them interact with each other. Psychology students introducing themselves to religion students, an education professor chatting up an aspiring economist, MBAs having drinks with MFAs—it was all so incredibly gratifying to be a part of and I know it means there are great things to come this year and beyond. So much credit for the success goes to the planning committees, Student Services, the GSC, and other campus groups for their tireless work in putting on two events worthy of the wonderful students that we welcomed and welcomed back.

Cultivating this spirit of togetherness is important for numerous reasons, though maybe none more than that, because we are we are such a small and diverse university, the opportunities for truly integrated, cutting-edge, and impactful research are uniquely potent here. It means sharing ideas across the disciplinary boundaries, learning from other disciplines and creating new ideas and new solutions that know no limits. This is a point the realignment is addressing and I think will greatly enhance our legacy of outstanding research and graduate education.

I was reminded of part of this amazing legacy the other night as I visited the Art Department’s exhibition In Their Own Words: Oral Histories of CGU Art, which celebrated the tremendous creative contributions of seven CGU alumni and faculty—Roland Reiss, Michael Brewster, Connie Zehr, Mowry Baden, Ted Kerzie, John Frame, and the late and much-beloved Karl Benjamin. Likewise, reading this issue’s interview with Religion Professor Patrick Mason (which I urge you to read on page 20), who is doing trail-blazing research on Mormonism, I see someone who is truly carrying forward this tradition of excellence today, along with every one of our amazing faculty members and students in dozens of different disciplines.

Yes, we are a diverse university, but if we can continue to cultivate this spirit of togetherness, we can be a model of hope and common understanding for not only other universities, but the world.

Here’s to all of us at Claremont Graduate University. Cheers!

Deborah A. Freund
President
Kay Family Foundation establishes a fund for disability-research scholarship in honor of Susan M. Daniels

The Kay Family Foundation has established a scholarship fund at CGU in honor of nationally recognized disability-rights activist and educator Susan M. Daniels.

The Susan M. Daniels Scholarship will be awarded annually to a CGU doctoral student who has demonstrated particular excellence in and passion for disability research. Students from all CGU schools are eligible to apply within three months of a successful dissertation proposal defense.

Daniels, who served as a visiting scholar at CGU’s Kay Center for E-Health Research, worked tirelessly to achieve social justice and economic parity for people with disabilities. She died in October 2011 at the age of 62. It was her wish that a fund be established to support high-quality graduate-level research to benefit the disability community.

“Susan shined a light on the need to consider the needs of those with disabilities. With this scholarship we can keep that light shining through a new generation of scholars and leaders,” said Tom Horan, director of the Kay Center.

The Kay Family Foundation was established in 2005 to promote and support digital innovation in faith, education, medical, and the arts. The foundation was created by Steeve Kay, co-founder of QTC Management, the largest private provider of government-outsourced occupational health and injury and disability examination services in the United States.

To contribute to the Susan M. Daniels Scholarship Fund, contact CGU Director of Development Karen May at karen.m.may@cgu.edu, or (909) 607-1604.

Drucker School grads, professor win award for marketing and growth plan

Recent graduates from the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management, Nicholas Fusso and Heather Hoopes, and Professor Hideki Yamawaki were recognized by the 2012 International Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) for their work developing a marketing and growth plan for a Southern California public radio station 89.3 FM KPCC.

The team won a Bronze Award in the Design Strategy category in the annual competition. They partnered on the project and contest entry with colleagues from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California.

The plan focused on how the station can increase listenership and maintain a long-term competitive advantage, turning non-listeners into listeners, listeners into members, and members into donors.

Roy and Carol Christensen create Mormon Studies endowment with $500,000 gift

CGU Trustee Roy Christensen and his wife, Carol Christensen, have given $500,000 to establish an endowed fellowship in support of the university’s Mormon Studies program.

The Robert L. Millet Fellowship will fund scholarships and research for CGU Mormon Studies students intending to pursue careers teaching religion and engaging in related research at either the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ institutes and seminaries or the campuses of Brigham Young University.

The Mormon religion has grown to more than 13 million members worldwide, prompting a demand for serious academic scholarship alongside the world’s other major religions. CGU’s Religion programs offer graduate and doctoral students both the widest Mormon Studies track in the United States and the first endowed chair in Mormon Studies outside of Utah.

The Christensens have supported the university’s Mormon Studies program from its infancy. In addition to the establishment of the Robert L. Millet Fellowship, they were instrumental in the creation of a $3 million endowment in support of the Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies.

Christensen, chairman of the Ensign Group, has served on CGU’s Board of Trustees since 2009.

The fellowship—named in honor of prominent Mormon theologian Robert L. Millet, professor of ancient scripture at Brigham Young University—will be administered by the Howard W. Hunter Foundation, which was established in 2006 to endow a chair and a center for Mormon Studies within Claremont Graduate University’s School of Religion.

The Howard W. Hunter Foundation and the Mormon Studies Council at CGU are committed to raising additional funds to match the Christensens’ $500,000 initial endowment.
Professors on longlist for Wellcome Trust Book Prize

Claremont Graduate University (CGU) Economics Professor Paul Zak and Adjunct Professor Michael Shermer have both been named to the 2012 Wellcome Trust Book Prize longlist.

The prize, which carries a purse of nearly $40,000, recognizes fiction and nonfiction books that explore issues related to health, illness, and medicine.

Zak, the director of CGU’s Center for Neuroeconomic Studies, received the nod for his book The Moral Molecule, which examines how the brain chemical oxytocin shapes our morality. Shermer made the list for his book The Believing Brain, which centers on how beliefs are born, formed, nourished, reinforced, challenged, changed, and extinguished.

The CGU professors are joined on the longlist by a dozen other finalists.

The Wellcome Trust Book Prize was established by the Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health.

CGU mourns the loss of alumnus, former Professor Karl Benjamin

CGU alumnus, former Professor, and nationally acclaimed artist Karl Benjamin died on July 26 at age 86.

Benjamin earned his MA from CGU in 1960 and settled in Claremont as an art professor at both CGU and Pomona College. Though he retired from teaching more than a decade ago, he kept close ties to CGU and held significant influence in the university’s art program.

“We have lost a cherished alumnus, a wonderful teacher, and a dear friend,” CGU President Deborah Freund said. “Even through his last days Karl remained a dedicated mentor to generations of CGU art students. We will miss him terribly.”

Benjamin began his career working in an abstract expressionist style, but abandoned it in the late 1950s to focus on geometry and color. His work fell out of fashion in the 1970s and 1980s, but roared back in the 1990s, when a new generation of artists discovered it.

One of them was David Pagel, current chairman of CGU’s Art Department. “It blew my mind how good and fresh his work was,” Pagel said. “It was like this treasure trove of great art that people didn’t know about. He was an inspiration.”

Even as his fame grew, Benjamin kept a keen interest in CGU students and their work. He regularly visited their studios and attended their exhibition openings. Every year he handpicked a student to receive the Karl and Beverly Benjamin Fellowship in Art.

CGU Art Professor Michael Brewster, a longtime friend and colleague, called him a “modern master.”

Benjamin taught students how to lead a life dedicated to art, Brewster said. At a time when many artists were mired in theoretical musings about the meaning of art, Benjamin reveled in the experience of making it.

“As an art hero has left us,” Brewster said. “He was a shining example to the hundreds of students who studied with him.”

He is survived by his wife, Beverly, their two daughters, a son, and many grandchildren.
The Getty Foundation in Los Angeles has announced a three-year, $1.95 million grant to CGU for continued support of the Getty Leadership Institute (GLI), the world’s leading source of professional development for current and future museum leaders.

The grant will support the continued operation of the institute on CGU’s campus through 2015. It will also support a re-envisioning of the institute’s programs, curriculum, and staff support designed to ensure that GLI at CGU remains at the forefront of developing innovative leadership programs for art-museum professionals.

The goals for this new era of GLI at CGU will include the selection of a new executive director to succeed Phil Nowlen, who is retiring at the end of the year. Nowlen, a highly respected and experienced professional in the field, has led GLI with distinction since 2000, advancing to the position after 14 years as academic director of the Getty’s Museum Management Institute (MMI).

GLI moved from the Getty Center in Los Angeles to Claremont Graduate University in 2010. GLI chose to partner with CGU because of shared values, geographic proximity to the Getty, and most of all, the outstanding quality of the university’s faculty and programs in the fields of arts and management.

Tarek Azzam, assistant professor in the School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences (SBOS), was honored with the 2012 Marcia Guttentag Promising New Evaluator Award from the American Evaluation Association (AEA).

The award is presented to a promising new evaluator whose work is consistent with AEA’s guiding principles for evaluators.

“I am humbled and honored to receive this prestigious award from AEA,” Azzam said. “I feel very fortunate to be part of the evaluation field, with its fascinating challenges, intrigues, and debates.”

The award committee stated that “Azzam’s accomplishments are many and he exemplifies all that could be hoped for in a new evaluator. He is a prolific published scholar/educator, innovator, mentor and trainer who has won the profound respect of his colleagues.”

Note: read about one of Azzam’s latest research projects on page 13.

The School of Community and Global Health’s (SCGH) Master of Public Health (MPH) program has received full accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. The council approved accreditation for five years, the longest allowable for a newly accredited program.

“This accreditation confirms the high quality of our Master of Public Health program and solidifies our place among the best programs in the country,” said Andy Johnson, dean of SCGH. “It also ensures that our students will continue to have access to the fullest range of job opportunities when they graduate with their MPH degrees.”

CGU formed the School of Community and Global Health in the summer of 2008 to foster the study of twenty-first century health threats such as accelerated shifts in global populations and spikes in preventable health-related problems. The MPH program, which enrolled its first students in fall 2009, focuses on the decreases in health and well-being that result from economic and social circumstance and lifestyle choices, including obesity, diabetes, and diseases related to tobacco, alcohol, and drug abuse, both locally and globally.

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs.

In its final report, CEPH praised CGU’s MPH faculty as “exceptionally well qualified” and called faculty research “excellent.”

“The fact that such a young program received this level of praise and the full five-year accreditation shows we’re off to a terrific start,” Johnson said.
International teachers visit CGU

For the second year in a row, the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the nonprofit organization IREX have chosen CGU to host 21 high school teachers from around the world for the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program. The program places participating teachers, called fellows, at select host universities to enhance their teaching skills, develop expertise in their subject areas, and learn more about the United States. The fellows were paired with American teachers at Claremont, Pomona, Chaffey, and Upland School Districts.

In addition to collaboratively teaching in local middle and high schools, the fellows participated in professional development classes at CGU to develop subject specific strategies, teaching methodologies, curriculum development, and the use of technology for education.

Professor DeLacy Ganley of CGU’s Teacher Education Program leads the university’s TEA Program. She says it is in line with the goal of Teacher Education, which is to prepare globally aware and culturally relevant educators.

“We’re in the business of preparing quality teachers,” Ganley said. “Quality teachers have a global perspective and are able to have productive, strong relationships with people regardless of where they’re from.”

The 21 fellows, who come from 16 countries, stay for six weeks. They arrived on September 21 and departed on November 5.

Information Systems & Technology professors attend White House Safety Datapalooza

Professor Tom Horan and Assistant Professor Brian Hilton from CGU’s Center for Information Systems and Technology (CISAT) were invited by the White House to discuss their work at the Safety Datapalooza, which highlighted innovators from the private, nonprofit, and academic sectors who have utilized free government data to build products, services, and apps that advance public safety in creative and powerful ways.

The event, hosted by the White House Office of Public Engagement, Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the US Department of Transportation, was held on September 14 in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, DC.

This marks the second time in the past four months that the White House has invited these professors for discussions on data and public safety. The pair previously traveled to Washington in May to participate in the launch of the federal Public Safety Data Community.

Horan and Hilton are developing projects at the cutting edge of health and public-safety information technology. They have worked together to create the SafeRoadMaps website, which uses traffic-safety data to analyze dangerous roads and highways. The application, created in a partnership between CISAT and the University of Minnesota’s Center for Excellence in Rural Safety, has been viewed by users more than 12 million times.

President Deborah Freund appointed as advisor to California health task force

CGU President Deborah Freund has been appointed as an expert advisor to a statewide task force charged with developing a 10-year plan to make Californians healthier.

The “Let’s Get Healthy California” task force, assembled by Governor Jerry Brown and the state’s Health and Human Services Agency, will gather and evaluate the best ideas and practices to improve health quality, control health costs, promote personal responsibility for individual health, and advance health equity.

The task force will specifically identify obstacles and create a framework for measuring improvements in key areas, including: reducing diabetes, asthma, childhood obesity, hypertension, and sepsis-related mortality; reducing hospital readmissions with 30 days of discharge; and increasing the number of children receiving recommended vaccines by age three.

Freund is an internationally recognized health economist, known in particular for her research in the areas of Medicaid, health-care outcomes, and PharmacoEconomics, a field she is credited with founding.

The first meeting of the “Let’s Get Healthy California” task force was held in Los Angeles on June 11, 2012. The plan will be presented by December 15, 2012.
Educational Studies receives $800,000 grant to develop math and science teachers

CGU has received a grant of nearly $800,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to recruit and train math and science teachers for high-need public school districts.

The grant, funded through the NSF’s Robert Noyce Scholarship Program, will enable CGU’s School of Educational Studies to develop 40 new teachers over the next five years. These NSF Teaching Fellows will receive national exposure, significant financial support, and continued professional opportunities through this program.

“We want to find the top undergraduate college students in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields and put them on the path to the classroom and school leadership,” said Lisa Loop, co-director of CGU’s Teacher Education Internship Program. “This grant allows us to offer scholarships and other support to graduates who have a passion to help the next generation and who want to make a difference, especially in high-need areas and minority communities.”

CGU will partner in its recruitment efforts with the five undergraduate schools in the prestigious Claremont College Consortium: Harvey Mudd, Claremont McKenna, Pomona, Scripps, and Pitzer Colleges. CGU will also launch a recruitment campaign at Texas Southern University to increase the enrollment of African-American candidates, though graduates from any other university are encouraged to apply.

This is the second time CGU has received a grant from the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program. In 2005, the university received $460,000, which it used to recruit and train 40 STEM teachers, 38 of whom remain in the classroom today.

The project directors are David Drew, education professor at CGU, and Darryl Yong, mathematics professor at Harvey Mudd College, along with Loop. This is the same team that administered the Phase I NSF grant.

Drucker School, Center for Information Systems & Technology partner to launch IT-MBA program

CGU’s Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management has partnered with the university’s Center for Information Systems and Technology (CISAT) to establish a new MBA program designed to prepare future executives and entrepreneurs to succeed in the digital age.

Beginning in fall 2013, the Drucker School will offer an Information Technology (IT) concentration in its MBA program. The IT-MBA curriculum will combine the Drucker School’s business and management acumen with CISAT’s expertise in information systems and technology innovation to prepare well-rounded managers who excel at running businesses that depend on fast moving technology.

“We are excited about accelerating this partnership with CISAT for many reasons, one of the key ones being that at the heart of creative and successful industries is a solid grounding in what technologies can do for a company,” Drucker School Dean Bernie Jaworski said. “With this partnership, we can now fully deliver on this key business need and do so in a way that is very consistent with the Drucker School’s philosophy and approach.”

CISAT Director Tom Horan concurred, adding, “The most successful technological companies rely on managers who have a keen grasp on how rapidly changing systems can be leveraged for competitive and sustainable advantage.”

Former California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott joins School of Educational Studies

Jack Scott, chancellor of the California Community Colleges from 2009–2012, joined CGU’s School of Educational Studies as a scholar-in-residence for the academic year.

As scholar-in-residence, Scott will engage in classroom discussions with CGU masters and doctoral students, help launch a certificate program for community-college professionals, and deliver three public lectures on pressing education issues. The first lecture, on October 2, was titled “California’s Disinvestment in Higher Education: Its Consequences and How to Fix It.”

“Jack is among CGU’s most distinguished alumni,” said Scott Thomas, dean of CGU’s School of Educational Studies. “For decades, he has worked tirelessly on the state’s most vital social and educational issues, and now he’s bringing his experience and wisdom back to CGU. He will be an invaluable resource for the CGU community, and we’re honored to have him with us here in Claremont.”

Scott, who holds a PhD in history from CGU, retired as chancellor of the California Community Colleges effective Sept. 1.
“Citizenship” and “character” are two of those elusive terms that are not only hard to define, but seem to be traits one is either born with or not. But for School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences (SBOS) Assistant Professor Laura Wray-Lake, these traits—like good manners—can be cultivated; and, the sooner young people start getting the message, the more engaged in society they will become, and the more democracy on the whole will benefit.

Anything from taking out the trash for an elderly neighbor to running for city council counts as an act of “civic engagement,” defined as any behavior that contributes to the greater good of society. And for any community to thrive, whether that community is a small neighborhood or an entire nation, its citizens must be actively engaged in its betterment. But how, when, and what inspires individuals to become actively engaged citizens has always been something of a mystery. Until now.

Wray-Lake has devoted much of her career to studying how citizens become civically engaged. Focusing on children and how they absorb values of citizenship and character, she has discerned that the messages youth receive from parents, including the context in which they are received, affect their likelihood of being civically engaged.

“It sounds obvious, but teens have to correctly interpret parents’ messages before they can impact their own values and behaviors.”

Based on those findings, they will design a survey. This phase will identify whether (and how) civic engagement and character can be measured in childhood. The team will also look for developmental patterns in civic engagement and character.

The third part of the project will be a larger quantitative study of youth and parents, looking at how a young person’s context—family, neighborhood, peers, and school—affects their character, competencies, and level of civic engagement. In other words, figuring out if and how children understand these concepts, the team wants to ultimately find ways to enhance these values among them.

And while it is nice to encourage young people to put out the trash for a neighbor, the ultimate payoff is the adults these youth will become: adults with a civically, community-minded character. Seen this way, the concerted effort to instill these values in youth has the potential, later down the line, to create a completely transformed citizenry.

“The enduring impact of the project will consist of encouraging character strengths and engaged citizenship in young people, which has positive implications for the well being of the youth themselves and for democracy as a whole,” said Wray-Lake.
From posting a photo on Instagram to a status update on Twitter, online social networking is the newest way to share ideas and thoughts with colleagues, friends, and family. But beyond posting detailed accounts of your most recent meal (sometimes in 140 characters or less), what value does social media have for educational institutions and their students, particularly those less affluent?

Associate Professor of Education Cecilia Rios-Aguilar uses social network analysis—the study of relationship patterns within a social structure—to determine just this. Her research focuses on underrepresented and underprivileged students in community college settings, and how being a part of an online social network affects their educational success.

Past studies suggest that the more connected a student is—both academically and socially—the more successful they tend to be. Most students at community colleges have fewer opportunities to connect with their peers than at traditional four-year institutions. That is why Rios-Aguilar is looking at those in the two-year college setting.

“Can we help build community, a virtual community, so that the students feel engaged and connected to their college?” Rios-Aguilar queried. “Maybe the virtual environment can help us fulfill those social and academic needs so that it creates a certain type of community that can improve their outcomes.”

She teamed up with a former colleague Regina Deil-Amen, associate professor at the University of Arizona; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; the League for Innovation in the Community College; and Inigral, Inc., for a three-year exploratory study that examines if and how social media affects community college students’ persistence and success.

Inigral developed the Schools App, an application that can be monitored remotely to collect data and provide a community-college-focused social media platform for students to engage in. With metrics from this platform, Rios-Aguilar hopes to study the relationship between students’ social networks and the persistence and success of the students. The project also examines the content and meaning of the online interactions of students with peers, faculty, and staff.

Through a selection process, the team identified nine community colleges representing a wide range of demographics and regional areas, including the Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTTC), where almost 93 percent of students live on or below the poverty line. In spring 2012, they visited each campus and interviewed over 500 students about the role of social media in their community college life.

“Now we have qualitative data about what social media is for them, what they use it for, what impact it has on their college experience, if at all. We will eventually be able to answer questions like, ‘Do the students that spend more time on social media do better or worse academically?’ That’s ultimately what we want to understand,” Rios-Aguilar said.

One challenge is identifying what constitutes “better” or “worse” for community-college students. Traditional measures of success, such as credits attempted and credits earned, grade-point averages, and transferring to a four-year institution, are not always the most accurate. For some students, success often means just showing up for class, completing a certificate, or finishing their homework, according to Rios-Aguilar.

But if social media has the potential to encourage students to meet these measures of success in their professional and academic lives, it has to have value and purpose.

“If there’s not value in using the tool, it’s just like checking one more account,” she said. “Students are already inundated with e-mails. If you don’t show purpose and value, it’s just another e-mail account. That’s when the technology cannot work. So we’re trying to find ways we can make it purposeful and relevant.”
HOW OVERHEARING MESSAGES CAN LEAD TO OVERCOMING DEPRESSION

*Primum non nocere,* “First, do no harm,” is well known in medical circles, but it is also a maxim Research Professor Jason Siegel prescribes for outreach work on depression. His studies have shown that advertising meant to destigmatize the condition and compel sufferers to seek help can be counterproductive. As a result, he is crafting a novel approach that could increase help-seeking among people with depression.

Siegel’s interest in combating depression started in the late 1990s. He was still in graduate school and suffering from the affliction himself. His experience, coupled with an interest in social-health psychology, made him curious about the effectiveness of depression-related outreach.

“I was unable to find any programs of research that asked how people with depression respond to messages compared to people without depression,” Siegel said, adding that available research largely focused on clinical work to treat depression, or changing perceptions of people without depression toward those with the condition, not on using the media to increase help-seeking of people with depression.

The lack of scholarship on outreach effectiveness didn’t stop the outreach itself. Over the subsequent decade, Siegel would come across ads that seemed to be created without any awareness that people with depression process information differently than non-depressed people.

“If a campaign reads: ‘Other people have overcome depression, so can you,’ a depressed person may interpret the message as reading, ‘Other people have beaten this. Why haven’t you?’ This can make someone feel weak, while increasing the stigma they already feel about their condition,” said Siegel.

Health campaigns that backfire and create the opposite behavior in their intended audience are not uncommon. And that was what Siegel found in an initial study, conducted with CGU student Brianna Lienemann, where they tested a print public-service announcement (PSA) on depression and found that outreach directly targeting depressed people can heighten despondency and self-stigma in those suffering from the affliction. Obviously, an alternate communication strategy was in order.

This was the opportunity Siegel had been working towards since grad school. Throughout his career, he has worked with colleagues to create effective messaging for campaigns increasing organ donation and decreasing illegal drug use. Working with CGU students Lienemann and Cara Tan, they learned that an effective means of influencing people with depression might be to employ the Overheard Communication Technique, an indirect way of persuading people. The idea behind “overheard communication” is that you are more inclined to believe information you overhear than what you are told directly.

To utilize this method, Siegel created and tested two identical messages, with the sole difference being that one directly addressed those with depression (“Do you fight depression?”) while the other addressed those who know someone with depression (“Do you know someone fighting depression?”). Amongst people with depression, the ad that wasn’t addressed to them was found to be more effective in both encouraging them to seek help themselves, and reducing the stigma they felt about their condition.

Recently, Siegel received a CGU Blais Foundation CGU Professor Grant, along with CGU Professor William Crano and Harvey Mudd College’s Debra Mashek, to continue refining his approach. He is now rewording current depression PSAs to utilize the Overheard Communication Technique and compare its effectiveness with the original ad.

Said Siegel, “I’m trying to complement current depression outreach work. There are great things being done, but there is little scholarship empirically assessing how depression influences processing of persuasive messages. We need to do everything we can to make sufferers understand that this is an illness, not a weakness, and help is available.”
TAREK AZZAM INTRODUCES EVIDENCE FOR LA’S JUVENILE COURT

Advocates of reform in Los Angeles County’s juvenile court system have long had a clear impediment: lack of information. Juvenile defendants’ records are confidential, making evaluations of court processes nearly impossible. But in 2010 a team of researchers featuring School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences Assistant Professor Tarek Azzam received a court order granting them access. Their findings provide much-needed evidence to those looking to ensure every youth receives equal treatment.

In Los Angeles County Superior Court, juvenile defendants who cannot afford legal representation receive either a contract-panel attorney or a public defender. Public defenders are salaried employees and their compensation has no bearing on how many cases they take. Contract-panel attorneys basically operate like freelancers: they are generally paid $320 to $345 per assigned client.

Cyn Yamashiro, a faculty member at Loyola Law School, spent 10 years as an attorney in LA’s Public Defender’s Office. While there, he observed what he believed to be a diminished quality of representation from the contract-panel attorneys compared to public defenders. This was not due to incompetence or laziness, but a flawed incentive structure. Contract-panel attorneys not only have a fiduciary interest in taking on additional (perhaps too many) clients, but also are limited in the amount of time they can spend with those they represent given the low-compensation structure.

Additionally, public defenders can draw on the resources unavailable to contract-panel attorneys. One example: If a public defender needs an expert witness, their office can cover the witness’ appearance fee. Contract-panel attorneys would need to pay that cost out of their own (hardly deep) pockets.

Though Yamashiro was confident in his conclusions, his push for reform was met with a request for evidence. Since he is a lawyer, not a researcher, he needed tools to help test his hypothesis. These tools became available after meeting Tarek Azzam.

“It was the perfect mix for a collaboration,” Azzam said. “He didn’t have a background in research. I didn’t have a background in law. We spent the first few months learning from each other about our respective fields.”

From these conversations emerged a study that ultimately included 180 variables detailing the background of the juvenile defendants, what the attorneys did to represent them, and the final verdict of the case.

The big breakthrough came when they were awarded a court order allowing them access to approximately 40,000 juvenile case files.

“We sent a team into the courthouse archives. They had to take out each paper file by hand, search out information, and put it into a database that we created,” Azzam said. “We used a random sample of about 4,000 cases, but it still took over two years to compile the data we needed.”

That data ended up supporting what Yamashiro had suspected: juveniles represented by contract-panel attorneys were less likely to have petitions filed on their behalf, more likely to be convicted of a higher crime category (felony as opposed to misdemeanor), and more likely to get lengthier sentences.

In addition, the group did preliminary cost analysis and found that while the county saves money by employing contract-panel attorneys, the extra costs of lengthier sentences and harsher punishments (such as detention instead of probation) brought about through insufficient representation could total over $50 million.

Of course, dollar figures are minor concerns compared to the human toll of an inequitable justice system. To that end, Azzam and Yamashiro plan to both publicize these findings and build on them.

“One of our ideas is tracking the defendants we found in our initial review, as they go into the adult system,” said Azzam. “We want to get a better idea of what the long-term effects are of having a contract-panel attorney. And this one should be easier, since the adult database is publicly available.”
In-home monitoring entailed that Chatterjee and his team, which includes CGU doctoral students Akshay Pottathil and Harry Xie, and postdoc fellow Jake Byun, set up sensors in doors and medicine cabinets that could detect when they open and close; pressure pads in chairs, couches, and beds; and a monitor to record television use. The participants also wore BodyMedia armbands that measure steps taken as well as quality and quantity of sleep. Subjects were also instructed to report daily on what they had eaten and how much water they drank. The information from each device was transmitted back to Chatterjee’s lab.

“This was a typical before-and-after study,” he said. “After we wired up the homes, we collected data for a week, but had no communication with the subject. After that, we spent four weeks interacting with our subject, giving them feedback on their maintenance habits.”

According to a report on aging by the United Nations, 10 percent of the world’s population was 60 years or older in 2000. By 2050, that number will rise to 21 percent. Between 1985–2000 the number of people with type 2 diabetes—far more common than type 1 and typically diagnosed in adults 35 and older—had increased from 30 million to 285 million. Those two trends are dovetailing into an epidemic of elderly people who are managing a disease that requires constant diligence.

“This is a huge problem,” said Chatterjee. “In my research, I am targeting the older population, 65 and above. Everyone in that age group is at an advanced risk for dementia, which can obviously hinder proper management of type 2 diabetes.”

The American Diabetes Association has five cornerstones to self-management regimens. Some recommendations are relatively easy, such as keeping doctor appointments and measuring glucose levels daily. Others can get complicated or burdensome, such as taking medications at proper times, keeping a balanced diet, and exercising regularly. Neglecting any of those guidelines, much less several, can have serious consequences for a diabetes patient: amputation, blindness, or fatal kidney disease.

To compel elderly people with diabetes to better manage their condition, Chatterjee drew on his background in persuasive technology, that is, technology that changes behavior or attitudes through persuasion. What he created is a subset of persuasive technology he calls persuasive sensing. With exploratory funding from the National Science Foundation, he installed a system of tiny sensors into the homes of two elderly individuals with diabetes that would measure physiological and biological parameters relevant to managing their condition.

One subject was a 60-year-old female, the other an 82-year-old male, who was also suffering from skin cancer. “Despite his ailments, he was amazingly active and energetic for someone his age,” Chatterjee said. “He was thrilled to be a participant, because he wanted to stay in his own home, and this monitoring is something that can help achieve that.”

In-home monitoring entailed that Chatterjee and his team, which includes CGU doctoral students Akshay Pottathil and Harry Xie, and postdoc fellow Jake Byun, set up sensors in doors and medicine cabinets that could detect when they open and close; pressure pads in chairs, couches, and beds; and a monitor to record television use. The participants also wore BodyMedia armbands that measure steps taken as well as quality and quantity of sleep. Subjects were also instructed to report daily on what they had eaten and how much water they drank. The information from each device was transmitted back to Chatterjee’s lab.

“This was a typical before-and-after study,” he said. “After we wired up the homes, we collected data for a week, but had no communication with the subject. After that, we spent four weeks interacting with our subject, giving them feedback on their maintenance habits.”
from this study, Chatterjee has discovered other benefits of persuasive sensing that go beyond behavior change.

One of the most exciting is predictive modeling. With only five weeks of data, Chatterjee and a subgroup of researchers were able to predict with 94 and 97 percent accuracy (for the male and female, respectively) the following day’s blood glucose value.

“I don’t know how doctors in clinics are currently monitoring this, but if we can expand the research—maybe take this to 50–100 homes—we might be able to really learn the value of our predictive model. And from there it would be relatively easy to send someone an alert that would pop up on their smartphone. Something like, ‘Your blood glucose values are predicted to be at this rate tomorrow, which is high. Consult your doctor,’” Chatterjee said.

He has already published some papers detailing the early results and potential of persuasive sensing. Judging from the positive feedback, Chatterjee sees many potential partners for follow-up research, including his own students at CGU. He was recently promoted to the Fletcher Jones Chair in Technology and Management, which will give him the ability to provide scholarships to two doctoral students who can assist him in his research. He has also received correspondence from colleagues in America and Australia about collaborating on future persuasive-sensing research.

“We are going to have to utilize technology, because when you look at the demographics of diabetes, the current path we are on might be unsustainable without it,” said Chatterjee. “Thankfully, I really think we are on the cusp of a major breakthrough.”
A hunger for change

In the beginning of 1991, CGU alum Badiul Alam Majumdar was a full professor of economics and finance at Washington State University. By the end of the following year he resigned his position, gave up tenure, and permanently moved with his family to Bangladesh, the country where he was born and raised, but left 21 years earlier as a student.

He left the comfort of America and his academic position because he saw the opportunity created by the county’s first-ever free election and the opportunity to end hunger and poverty in his homeland—although it wasn’t until he got there that he fully realized how much work needed to be done.

By 1994, he was still settling into his position as country director in Bangladesh for the Hunger Project (THP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the sustainable end of world hunger. Only a few minutes after arriving at a rural hospital for a tour (though much of Bangladesh is rural, the country’s population of 160 million fits inside a landmass the size of Wisconsin), a woman entered cradling an infant.

She told the attending physician she had walked 10 miles in search of treatment for her sick child. The doctor checked the baby and couldn’t find a heartbeat; it had most likely died during the journey. Though the child hadn’t starved, Majumdar recalled, it probably suffered from diarrhea, a condition often brought about by unclean water.

“I was born in Bangladesh. I grew up in Bangladesh. I was born in poverty. I thought I had seen it all. But that really shook me up, happening right before my eyes,” he said. “It also indicated to me that malnutrition is the root cause of death for infants, though it is often attributed to other diseases. Diarrhea is not normally fatal. But it kills hundreds of thousands of children in Bangladesh because their immune systems do not develop fully due to malnutrition. That made my resolve stronger to continue this fight against hunger.”

In 1970, when Majumdar first came to America, Bangladesh was known as East Pakistan, Claremont Graduate University was Claremont Graduate School, and Peter Drucker had just arrived in California to teach at the business school that would eventually bear his name. Majumdar had just graduated from Dhaka University and was awarded the Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship for International Understanding to attend the Business Economics program at CGU and attend classes taught by Drucker.

The two foreign-born, Southern California transplants quickly bonded. After listening to him lecture in the classroom, Majumdar would spend hours afterward talking to Drucker, and their conversations soon spilled over into the weekends. The

Photos provided by the Hunger Project (www.thp.org)
If women are educated and healthy, children are educated and healthy. And so is the nation.
Great management thinker developed such a bond for his student from South Asia that he referred to himself as Majumdar’s “godfather” in a letter of recommendation.

Their relationship was undoubtedly strengthened by the tragedy and strife occurring in Majumdar’s home country. That year, a cyclone struck the coastal areas of Bangladesh, killing somewhere between 300,000–500,000 people and destroying approximately 85 percent of homes in the affected areas. The central government’s response seemed inefficient to many East Pakistanis, emboldening the region’s resistance movement, which would lead to the Bangladesh Liberation War in early 1971 and soon after the larger Indo-Pakistani War.

For Majumdar, the mental toll of these wars and natural disasters was compounded by uncertainty. “This was a difficult period in my life. For about five months I was isolated from my family back home, including my wife, who was pregnant with our first child. I had no way to communicate with them,” he said.

Solace came from a man whose business acumen is so often effusively praised that many overlook his compassionate nature.

“He was one of the nicest people I have met in my entire life,” Majumdar said about Drucker. “He took me under his wing, he treated me like a son.”

In this case, the idea Majumdar promotes through his work at THP is that hunger is not inevitable. Hunger can end. That idea might sound idealistic, but it is something Majumdar believes in literally. In fact, for him hunger is not even about food—or a lack thereof. There is enough food in the world to feed its inhabitants. Hunger is created through bad policies and corruption, and can be addressed through empowerment, policy change, and accountability.

A 2010 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations backs him up: they found that of the 925 million undernourished people in the world, less than 10 percent were hungry due to famine. But what gives the most credence to Majumdar’s idea is the success he has had realizing it in his home country.

Majumdar’s return to Bangladesh in 1991 was not as auspicious as he would have liked. His first post-academic position was with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a federal agency in charge of administering civilian foreign aid. This would be the first and only job Majumdar would ever be fired from. In fact, he wears his dismissal as a badge of honor; he was let go because of his refusal to participate in under-the-table deals.

During his first year-and-a-half back in Bangladesh, he reacquainted himself with the country by traveling and meeting with as many villagers as he could, receiving an education supplementing what he had learned in American academia: “Those villagers with no formal education, they became my new teachers. They molded me. Peter Drucker molded me intellectually, but these villagers molded my heart, my way of looking at their situation.”

But what they taught Majumdar about their needs conflicted with the guiding principles of his employer.

There are two basic paradigms that dominate foreign aid. The first is charity. It focuses on providing food, blankets, tents, medicine, doctors, etc. According to Majumdar, this approach is appropriate following crises like earthquakes or floods, but in those cases an agency should come in, provide relief, then leave. If you don’t leave, the steady flow of aid—doing things for people rather than people doing things for themselves—creates a culture of dependency, hopelessness, and helplessness.

To illustrate this, he recounted a story from his travels: “I was visiting a village and saw a parrot that had been let loose and was wandering around. I asked, ‘Doesn’t it fly away?’ They said, ‘No. It can not fly anymore.’ I asked if they had clipped its wings. They said no. The bird used to be able to fly and survive on its own, but once its ‘owner’ caged it, it was no longer able to care for itself.

“Even though the inherent power of a bird is to fly, it could not do so as its muscles did not develop fully due to non-practice. Because of the massive aid to Bangladesh,” Majumdar noted, “we became like that parrot. We have the ability to survive and be self-reliant, but our inherent abilities to stand on our own feet are not developed.”

In addition, as Majumdar noticed early on in his return, aid disbursement is often controlled by government and NGO officials. This, along with the involvement of the “ruling class,” creates an incubator for corruption, regardless of a donor’s intentions.

“The donors provided a lot of aid, a lot of charity, a lot of service. And this brought about corruption, which was largely tolerated. I was made the head of a USAID project in Bangladesh, and I didn’t want to be part of the ‘problem.’ I wanted to be part of the ‘solution.’ So I got fired,” he said. “And that was the best thing that ever happened to me.”

It ended up being good for his country as well. At that time, in the early 1990s, approximately 44 million Bangladeshis were undernourished, or 38 percent of a population of 118 million. By 2008, the FAO estimated that that number had fallen to 41 million, or 26 percent of a population that had increased to nearly 160 million.

In 1993, Majumdar became the country director for THP-Bangladesh, which—in contrast to the USAID—does not distribute food. Instead, the Hunger Project seeks solutions based on self-reliance.
To bring about self-reliance in Bangladesh, Majumdar has been engaging in the second kind of foreign aid: empowerment, with special emphasis on female empowerment. “In Bangladesh, women face harsh discrimination from birth. It’s unthinkable from an American’s perspective,” he said. “The girl is less cared for than the boy. They eat less and are usually more malnourished. Boys go to school and girls often stay home to help their mothers. Boys are taken to the doctor before girls. Before they are 18, many girls, who are neither physically nor mentally ready, are married off to much older men.”

Though 18 is the minimum age required by law to marry, reports estimate that nearly two-thirds of the marriages in Bangladesh are child marriages. These young women are particularly unprepared for motherhood. They are often malnourished and uneducated, and are more likely to produce malnourished children and be unable to educate them.

“It’s a cycle of malnourishment, perpetuating hunger in generation after generation. No matter how much investment we make, unless the cycle is broken we won’t get very far. We need to empower women. If we are to succeed as a country, we must have the contribution from women—50 percent of the population—who are now marginalized,” Majumdar said.

Women must be educated and healthy, he asserted. If women are educated and healthy, children are educated and healthy. And so is the nation.

Facing a headwind of gender bias that may have been in place for tens of thousands of years, what Majumdar has been able to achieve in a single generation seems especially remarkable.

Under his leadership, THP–Bangladesh has become the largest volunteer-based organization in the country, with 140,000 animators (THP’s term for volunteer catalysts) covering all 64 of the country’s districts. These individuals have all attended and completed the Hunger Project’s VCA (vision, commitment, and action) Workshops and Animators Training. These trainings, generally focused on gender and development issues, empower women and youth leaders to take self-reliant action, and to train others for the same purpose.

In addition to in-person trainings (many of which used to be led by Majumdar), over nine million people have participated in the VCA workshop, which is now so successful it is being adopted in other countries. THP–Bangladesh also has approximately 100,000 student volunteers; young Bangladeshis who, according to Majumdar, “have not become incapacitated like the parrot.”

Most importantly, the quarter-million animators, students, and women leaders have been taking action. More than 460 female animators ran for office in municipal elections in 2011, with 169 winning their race (the previous year, only 21 women were elected). THP–Bangladesh staff and animators have held more than 580 Primary School Enrollment meetings (with over 19,000 attendees), where they emphasized the importance of education for children—especially girls.

Developing a cultural respect for girls is a driving initiative for THP–Bangladesh. To that end, Majumdar and the animators successfully lobbied for the establishment of National Girl Child Day. Since it was first recognized in 2000, animators have led local-level celebrations, teach-ins, and marches in small villages and big cities. These events have been so successful that they were instrumental in the United Nations designating October 11 as International Day of the Girl Child.

THP’s 2011 Animator Reunion/Conference in Dhaka was attended by 15,000 volunteers who all paid their own travel costs and nominal registration fees. At the conference, attendees could share updates on the hundreds of local initiatives led by a newly empowered populace, including nutritional awareness campaigns for pregnant mothers, the construction of clean latrines for communities lacking proper sanitation, and advocating for open budget meetings to provide transparency and accountability.

Two other organizations with which Majumdar is prominently involved supplement the work of THP in Bangladesh: he is founder/secretary of SHUJAN (Citizens for Good Governance), an organization that advocates for more open elections and good governance; and he is president of the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum. What these groups have in common with THP is that they do not provide services, but instead mobilize people to take action for themselves.

“Bangladeshis must take responsibility for Bangladesh’s future. Bangladeshis must be in the trenches to fight hunger and poverty. Bangladeshis must be the ones who do whatever is appropriate for Bangladesh’s development,” he said.

Even Majumdar’s former employer, the USAID, is changing its mindset: In March 2012 they released Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy, a key piece of their strategy to augment service-provision with programs that promote sustainable self-reliance. (They even used an image from a Hunger Project National Girl Child Day poster on the cover of their report.)

“A lot of us who provide aid talk about changing the mindset of dependency and resignation in the people we assist. But we have a mindset, too: donors, the educated, and the policymakers can have the mindset that the poor are problem. The poor need to be looked after. They are a liability. But that isn’t true. The poor themselves are the solution,” Majumdar said. “And as we change that mindset of dependency and resignation, fortunately, the donor mindset seems to be changing, too.”
The Mormon Moment, in Context
As holder of the Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate University, Patrick Mason oversees the only graduate program devoted to Mormon studies in the world. This not only puts him at the vanguard of a burgeoning academic field, but has made him one of the most prominent public educators of a burgeoning religion.

For the past several years, interest in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been steadily building—culminating in the near-insatiable appetite for information on Mitt Romney, a former Mormon bishop, after he secured the Republican nomination for president of the United States. With the spotlight on Romney, his long marginalized and often persecuted faith may be cementing its position as a significant world religion.

Concurrent with that is an expanding body of scholarship on Mormonism. This July, the New York Times featured a story on the growing number of Mormon-studies scholars; first on their list was Mason. His prominence can also be measured in volume: whenever journalists write about Romney’s faith, they invariably call upon Mason for comment. This year he has already been featured in the Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, and the Washington Post, to name only a few. He has also appeared on podcasts, radio, and television.

What nearly all of his comments in the media have in common is that they are in response to questions about a particular incident or issue-of-the-day. Here, we conduct a more open-ended interview with Mason on Romney and the Mormon moment, the nascent Mormon-Evangelical political partnership, Mormon studies at CGU, and more, including the influence of Malcolm X on Mason as a scholar and as a person.

Below is a condensed transcript. The full interview is available at the Flame online: www.cgu.edu/flame.

The Flame: There’s a lot of talk about the Mormon moment—which is where your two fields intersect, Mormon studies and history. Do you agree that this is a unique time for Mormonism?

Mason: Absolutely. Interest in Mormonism has waxed and waned over the past 200 years. We could point to other Mormon moments. There’s been a lot of attention on Mormonism in the past, but almost all of it was negative. The dynamic has been one where the LDS Church is defensive and the rest of the nation—whether it’s religious leaders, the media, politicians—are taking an aggressive stance. In those situations there’s not much meeting in the middle, or even productive conversation in the middle. That’s the difference about this particular moment. There is a lot of constructive and productive conversation to be had. There’s public education to be done, and that’s one of the reasons I am more than happy to work with the media.

The Flame: How would you compare the Catholic moment and John Kennedy’s election to president with the current Mormon moment? Are they analogous, or are the differences big enough that they aren’t comparable?

Mason: I think they are similar in a lot of ways. It’s interesting because essentially Romney is making the same argument that Kennedy made. Kennedy got up in September 1960 and said “I’m not the Catholic candidate for president, I’m the Democratic candidate for president who happens to be Catholic, and my faith is a private issue.” Essentially Romney has followed that line. Romney doesn’t want to talk about religion on the campaign trail.

At the same time, John F. Kennedy became the hope and dream for millions of American Catholics who said “This is our chance for legitimacy. Finally we will be accepted, after 200 years in America we will be accepted.” And they were. That was a watershed moment for the American Catholic community. I think the same dynamic is true in Mormonism right now. I know a lot of lifelong Democratic Mormons—there are about 12 of them [laughs]—but a lot of them are going to vote for Romney because they say, “He’s our guy. This is our moment, when we gain acceptance, finally.”

The Flame: Is part of the Mormon moment a lessening of the traditional antagonism between Evangelicals and Mormons?

Mason: The answer is yes and no at the same time. In November [2011], while it was still primary season you had this guy, Robert Jeffress down in Dallas, a prominent Southern Baptist, come out and say Mormonism is a cult. He was very explicit about it: Romney is a member of a cult, he’s not Christian. But then as soon as Romney gets the nomination, Robert Jeffress endorses him [laughs].

And Mormons and Evangelicals have partnered on political issues like Prop 8 [Proposition 8 was a ballot proposition in California that amended the state constitution to only recognize marriages between a man and woman.] And actually the LDS Church’s involvement in Prop 8 earned it a lot of credibility with other conservative religious groups, because they saw the [LDS] Church kind of put itself out on a line. Of course, it completely devastated relationships with liberal, secular—let alone the gay—communities, so that was a real watershed. But it earned a kind of respect from some of those other conservative groups.
So I think it’s a both/and; there is a pretty significant hostility between the two groups [Mormons and Evangelicals], especially at the grassroots level. But they also get along and work together on political issues. They all find themselves in the religious right. Politics makes strange bedfellows, and I think that’s the case here.

The Flame: Is that why so many Mormons are Republican?
Mason: It’s a lot of the same dynamics of why most Evangelicals are conservative and Republican. In the 1960s and 1970s the parties went in different directions. The Democratic Party’s platform endorsed abortion, gay rights, feminism, these cultural touchstone issues, prayer in school, things like that. Whereas the Republican Party, largely because of the Evangelical influence in the 1970s, really embraced conservative religion.

It’s not that either party reached out to Mormons. First of all, electorally they are not significant enough for either party to care that much about. Actually, a lot of Mormons voted Democratic for most of the twentieth century. A lot of grassroots Mormons were FDR Democrats and believed in the New Deal. It was really after that shift beginning in the 1960s, this new Democratic Party that allied itself more with liberal social issues, including civil rights and feminism and all these things, that Mormons looked around and said “We don’t feel comfortable here.” So there was a mass exodus to the Republican Party in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Flame: When you talk to the media, are there common questions you get?
Mason: The main thing is, everything is filtered through Mitt Romney. The underlying assumption—sometimes they ask it explicitly, sometimes it’s there in the background: How does Mormonism explain Mitt Romney? What can we understand about Mitt Romney because of his Mormonism?

I’m not sure that is the right question to ask or always a good question to ask. It is a legitimate question, but I don’t think it’s always the most important question. But that is what is behind the media interest, what’s been driving it.

The Flame: Do you think understanding Mormonism does provide particular insight into Mitt Romney? Also, Do you think learning about Mormonism through the Mitt Romney lens is a legitimate way to learn about the faith?
Mason: The answer is both yes and no. With the first one, look, Mormonism is an essential part of who Mitt Romney is. He’s not just a casual churchgoer, a social churchgoer, like a Ronald Reagan. He’s more like a Jimmy Carter, in that religion is really at the heart of who he is, how he sees the world, and so forth.

But you can’t understand Mitt Romney only through Mormonism. I don’t think you can understand him separate from his corporate experience. I think he sees the world as much through the eyes of Wall Street as he does through Joseph Smith. And I actually think those visions bump up against each other, and I don’t think he has fully reconciled those two things. We’re all split personalities in a way. So I think if you only looked through the Mormon lens, he’s certainly a product of that, but if you pretend that Mormonism will explain everything about Mitt Romney, I don’t think you’re going to get there.

I’m happy for Romney to be the filter [for understanding Mormonism]. Romney does tell us a lot about contemporary Mormonism. I don’t follow his every move on the campaign trail, but I think his most comfortable speech that he gave was the commencement speech at Liberty University, Jerry Falwell’s university. Now that to me is really interesting, because the place where he was most comfortable is with a bunch of fundamentalist Protestants.

That tells us a lot. For me, that tells me something about contemporary Mormonism, that that’s the language that contemporary Mormons speak and feel comfortable with. We feel more comfortable with conservative people who theologically hate us than with a kind of motley, mixed, pluralistic, secular public square.

The Flame: In the Claremont Studies Newsletter you wrote about a class you taught on Mormonism here and mentioned how happy you were that the majority of students were non-LDS. Why is that important?
Mason: Two reasons: it’s important that while we’re training students in religion here at CGU—they are going to be going out and having careers in religion and teaching religion at other universities—for them to know something about Mormonism. Now Mormonism may not get the same media scrutiny it’s getting now, but the Church is only going to grow, demographically, and really establish itself as an important part of the American and global landscape. So it’s important for students to understand it. I don’t think every student has to take a class on Mormonism, but it’s going to be a part of every American religion class you are going to teach. So it’s important to know something about it from reading sources, both secondary and primary literature, rather than just guessing.

And I think it’s good for Mormon studies—really good—to have non-LDS people involved in it. I think some of the best work in Mormon studies has been done by the non-LDS people working in it. Now this is always the dynamic we talk about in religious studies in general, the insider/outsider dynamic: who has the better perspective, someone inside a tradition or outside a tradition? And there are cases to be made both ways, but actually you need both. The outsider perspective is invaluable. And we see it not just in the scholarship, but in the classroom. The class I taught last spring was 10 times better because we had a diverse group of people who were the whole range: from orthodox, conservative LDS to secular, feminist theology, queer theology, and everything in between. It just made for a far better classroom
dynamic. It's exactly what we want in the classroom. It makes for a far more productive discourse for everyone, rather than just when everybody agrees with each other.

The Flame: You had previously written that the most influential book in your life is The Autobiography of Malcolm X. Did that influence you more as an individual or as a scholar?

Mason: Both! In a lot of ways it set me on a kind of intellectual and even spiritual trajectory that I am on and have been on ever since. I was 15 or 16 years old and it was when the Spike Lee movie [Malcolm X] came out with Denzel Washington. For whatever reason my mom took me to see it. My mom does not like Malcolm X. She did not take anyone else from my family, not my dad, not my brothers. It was just me and her.

I didn’t even know who this guy was. It was one of those strange serendipitous moments in life. I was just blown away. I immediately went home and read the book [The Autobiography of Malcolm X]. And it opened up this whole other world.

Now I grew up in suburban Utah. I think there was one black student in my high school. Overwhelmingly Mormon. Overwhelmingly conservative. A very safe and in many ways parochial upbringing. And this just shattered my idea about America. About justice and human relationships. I was really compelled—and still am compelled—by a lot of Malcolm X’s diagnosis of some of the deep structural injustices in our country and in human relationships.

In a lot of ways that put me on this trajectory of trying to figure out why and how. It’s one of the reasons I went into peace studies—I have a master’s degree in peace studies. A lot of my work is on violence and peace building. It really gave me a structural lens on human society and human relationships that I’m not sure I would have gotten otherwise.

Contemporary Mormonism is really a conservative theology in the sense that the emphasis is on the individual: individual action, individual accountability and responsibility. But there’s not much emphasis or attention paid to structures of injustice or structures of violence. I had to get that somewhere else, and that’s what Malcolm gave me.

Malcolm’s critiques of injustice also present in Mormon theology and in Mormon history, though it’s not the dominant theme you get by going to a Mormon congregation these days.

This sense that there are things seriously wrong with the way we’ve structured our society: the way we treat one another, our worship of markets, gender relations, all kinds of things, a kind of worship of radical individualism and so forth. I see a lot of the same kind of diagnosis of some of the sickness of society, though I think they are going in somewhat different directions.

If I thought hard enough I could probably write an essay: “Malcolm X the Mormon.” But he wouldn’t have liked Mormonism—I don’t know how much he knew about Mormons. Of course, the Church still banned blacks from holding the priesthood [until 1978]. He may have known that and that was enough.

The Flame: You’re currently fusing your interests in Mormonism and American history, but when you think about where you want your career to take you, do you see yourself shifting back to your initial interest in history?

Mason: One of the reasons I am interested in Mormonism, intellectually, is because I think it is a great laboratory for studying the issues that I care about. Studying about issues of religious freedom, tolerance, the relationship between religion and the state, religion and politics. So for me it’s never just about Mormonism. It’s Mormonism as a case study for these broader themes in American culture and history. That’s why I feel like I am able to do both and wear both hats relatively comfortably.

I do think sometimes, okay, maybe after these next two projects, I’ll do something on American religion in general, with maybe a chapter on Mormons. I’m really interested in issues of religion and the state. So somewhere down the line, do I do a broader project on that? Or on secularization or something like that? But I’ve got enough to do for the next few years.

For the full interview, including Mason’s thoughts on George Romney (Mitt Romney’s father, who ran for president in 1968), prominent politically liberal Mormons like Maurice Udall and Harry Reid, and recommended books for those just getting interested in Mormonism, visit www.cgu.edu/flame.
"It all starts with the flow. Throw in the performance aspect and that’s when you really have something. Larry [Bird] played with passion, persistence, and purpose. There was meaning to his performances... Flow plus meaning equals performance."

—NBA Hall-of-Fame basketball player Bill Walton, on former teammate Larry Bird
In 1994, Vaughn’s collegiate football career began after an inauspicious start. He wasn’t recruited out of high school, and was redshirted as a freshman walk-on after trying out for the Miami University football team in 1993 so that his strength and speed could further develop. But when he took the field for the Redhawks’ first home game that year, something strange and unexpected happened. The redshirt freshman tight end inexplicably felt more focused, more confident, and more energized than he ever had in his entire life. His nerves disappeared; he was tireless; he seemingly got open at will, caught every pass thrown to him, and could make every block. He could do no wrong.

“I thought, ‘What the hell was that? Did I eat something?’ I didn’t know how I got to that place, but it felt like I couldn’t expend the energy I had in my body. I wanted to reexperience it, so I began focusing on my game-day rituals,” Vaughn said. “But it wasn’t until my senior season that I began to sort of get it.”

It was in his senior season that he discussed his on-the-field experiences with his godmother, a psychology professor in Brazil. She remarked that what he was feeling sounded similar to a then-relatively new psychological concept: flow. The concept was first identified by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, currently a distinguished professor of psychology and management at CGU, and popularized in his 1990 book, *Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience*. In *Flow*, Csikszentmihalyi describes it as being “the state in which people are so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter; the experience itself is so enjoyable that people will do it even at great cost, for the sheer sake of doing it.” When Vaughn read that he realized, “Oh my God, that’s it!”

In college, Vaughn’s enjoyment of football—playing it for the “sheer sake of doing it” —was a key factor in his success. He started every game during his four seasons for the Redhawks and was a first-team All-Mid Atlantic Conference selection his senior year. In the 1998 National Football League draft, he was selected in the seventh round by the Cincinnati Bengals, making him the first Brazilian player (he holds dual citizenship in the United States and Brazil) in NFL history.

While the life of a professional athlete is idealized by almost every amateur, Vaughn discovered that working in the NFL stifled much of the joy he had found on the football field in Ohio. And without that joy, his performance suffered.

“There is so much pressure and it’s just so intense. I have never experienced anything close to the high amount of pressure that’s in the NFL,” Vaughn said. “You constantly feel like you’ve got to prove yourself. Get approval from peers and coaches. Half of the time you’re telling yourself you don’t belong there. Most of the guys in the NFL think that.”

This anxiety is often the result of constant, high-stakes scrutiny, and can lead to unhealthy attitudes and decisions. Players battling injuries that would keep most bedridden still manage to suit up for games. They take medication that might mask the pain, but only delays recovery, risks further injury, and can lead to a dependency on painkillers. Additionally, with the players’ livelihood dependent on performance—or more accurately, the perception of their performance—the game itself becomes less enjoyable and more about pleasing coaches, impressing peers, and proving yourself to fans.

“It takes you out of your game. All of a sudden you are dependent on others,” Vaughn said.

Ultimately, Vaughn ended up playing two seasons with the Bengals, one with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and a final season with the Barcelona Dragons in NFL Europe. After tearing his Achilles tendon, he rehabbed for over a year but was unable to pass the physical exam that would allow him back on the field. Just like that, his playing career was over. And like so many athletes in NFL, he didn’t have a fully developed game plan for life after football.
IN COLLEGE, VAUGHN’S ENJOYMENT OF FOOTBALL—PLAYING FOR THE “SHEER SAKE OF DOING IT”—WAS A KEY FACTOR IN HIS SUCCESS.

Though his interest in psychology was constantly stoked by his interest in flow and the various psychological methods to achieve peak performance, a career in that field didn’t seem viable. Instead, he became an entrepreneur, founding businesses in America and Brazil that manufactured countertops and imported rare and exotic stone for commercial application. These ventures achieved revenues in the millions, but despite this success, his interests drifted back to football.

As someone who had successfully transitioned into a productive life after the NFL, retired players began approaching Vaughn for advice: “I became sort of a big brother. I had started some companies and players would ask how I did that; how I got into something entirely different than football, not just coaching.”

Rather than teaching his former colleagues the nuts and bolts of business management, Vaughn passed on the real secret of his success: clarity, focus, and peace of mind. All of these are invaluable, if not necessary, assets in achieving success, be it running on a football field, or a small business. Vaughn found his help was in such demand that his time and interests began shifting from his businesses to helping retiring and, increasingly, current athletes. After two years of immersing himself in cognitive neuroscience and consciousness course work at the University of Arizona, he founded the Vaughn Center in 2009.

In its three years of operation, Vaughn’s work through his center has focused almost entirely on helping athletes maximize their performance through mental improvement. This includes elite performers in track and field, baseball, basketball, and, of course, football, ranging in levels of competition from collegians to Olympians to professionals.

One of his most prominent success stories is Green Bay Packers linebacker A.J. Hawk. The former All-American from Ohio State University was drafted in the first round (fifth overall) in the 2006 NFL draft, and was in the midst of a productive but unspectacular career when he began working with Vaughn.

“He was struggling with team politics, and self-sabotage on top of that. Athletes don’t just compete against their opponent, they compete against themselves. If your teammate gets a big contract, you start worrying about whether there’s enough money left for you. You pick up little nuances, like if a coach talks to you differently, or if he directs a sarcastic remark at you. You’re thinking about all this instead of focusing on getting the job done,” said Vaughn.

In the 2010 season, his first after working with Vaughn, Hawk completed 111 tackles, after finishing with less than 90 the previous two years. That year the Packers also won the Super Bowl, and the team rewarded Hawk in 2011 with a five-year contract worth $33.8 million.

“People don’t realize how much of the game is mental. Damian brought that to my attention and taught me how to clear out all of the clutter on and off the field,” wrote Hawk. “He teaches you how to be present and aware of every situation you find yourself in. I look forward to a lifetime relationship with Damian.”

Vaughn stresses that his work with Hawk, as with all his clients, is about overcoming the mental and physical challenges of being a professional athlete, not addressing one’s personal, off-the-field problems. “It’s not life coaching. It is about work, productivity, performance, and leadership,” he said.

In one of Vaughn’s assignments this summer, he spoke to the University of Oklahoma Sooners football team during their training camp. His talk with the students went so well that executives from Fox Sports offered him a position doing Spanish-language color commentary for Fox Deportes’ college football coverage, which he postponed to the 2014 season (Vaughn is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese).
His discussion with the Sooners revolved around finding meaning in their performance and enjoyment in what they do. This is a common refrain of his outreach work, and the driving force behind the research he is doing as a graduate student.

“I love what I’m doing now, but I also love research. So I came here hoping to supplant my outreach work and make my own contribution to the growing body of research in positive psychology, especially revolving around flow,” Vaughn said.

His current project involves, not surprisingly, football and motivation. He is looking at how athletes achieve flow in their performance; in particular, he wants to discover the optimal relationship between extrinsic and intrinsic motivation for achieving flow.

In sports, extrinsic motivations include outside rewards: money, adulation from fans, and even winning the game itself. Intrinsic motivation is less tangible. “It’s playing for the love of the game, for the joy it brings you,” said Vaughn. “There’s also the challenge of learning, of pushing yourself, of finding satisfaction with your performance.”

For almost any athlete, there will be some balance between intrinsic and extrinsic. In Vaughn’s football career, his motivation made a steady shift from largely intrinsic to almost entirely extrinsic as he moved up the ranks, from high school to college to the pros—and his ability to achieve flow in his performance suffered accordingly. It is Vaughn’s belief that this focus on extrinsic rewards adversely affected his career—as it seems to for many of the athletes he coaches. Now he is looking at current players from top high school, college, and professional teams to see what effect external and internal rewards have on their performance.

In the NFL, extrinsic rewards—with its lucrative salaries and audiences that number in the tens of millions—are highest in the sport. Those rewards are still present in Division I college and top-tier high school football programs—anyone who’s been to a Pacific-12 Conference football game or a high school game on a Friday night in Texas can attest to that—but there is a clear difference in magnitude.

For his research, Vaughn will survey football players at all levels and ask them to rate their extrinsic and intrinsic motivations on a scale of 1 to 5. Using this data and comparing it to those who self-report experiencing flow will give Vaughn a good idea of what combination of the two types of motivation is most conducive for optimal performance.

In addition, through CGU’s Quality of Life Research Center, Vaughn is pursuing two pilot studies: one looking at how athletes’ personalities determine what sport they play, another gauging what effect, if any, wearing compression apparel has on athletes’ ability to attain flow. These projects are in line with an ultimate goal of carving out a new niche in positive psychology: positive sports psychology. Even better: they are giving Vaughn a chance to work with Csikszentmihalyi.

“Working with Mike has been great. He’s just amazing. He is modest and laid back, but his contributions to my work are invaluable,” Vaughn said. “What he’s helping me do is expand the field. There’s already sports psychology, but there isn’t positive sports psychology. CGU is already a pioneer in positive psychology, and I think this would be a great place to raise our flag.”

Though football is the venue through which Vaughn is predominantly gathering his information, he sees this research as applicable to the general workplace as well. Certainly, most of us don’t get tackled by 300-pound linemen or have to hit a 100-mile-an-hour fastball in our chosen profession, but that doesn’t mean we don’t face the same challenges as those who do.

“The principles are the same,” Vaughn said. “I attend production meetings at Fox [Sports] and I see the same dynamic there that exists in an NFL locker room. The stressors—one’s own job security, errant comments from your boss—they’re the same. It’s all about getting past those and focusing on the job.”
John Angus (Mathematical Sciences) published “Inferences on Process Noise in a Linear Model” in Mathematical and Computer Modelling.

Tarek Azzam (Behavioral and Organizational Sciences) is publishing: "Kids, counsel and costs: An empirical study of indigent defense services in the Los Angeles juvenile delinquency courts," with C. Yamishiro and I. Himelfarb, in Criminal Law Bulletin; “GIS in evaluation: Utilizing the power of geographic information systems to represent evaluation data” and “The nature and frequency of inclusion of people with disabilities in program evaluation,” with M. Jacobson and J.G. Baez, in the American Journal of Evaluation. Azzam is the principal investigator for a National Institutes of Health, Evaluation of City of Hope Community Teaching Laboratory grant for $100,000.

Dale Berger (Behavioral and Organizational Sciences) held a one-day professional workshop prior to the meeting of the American Evaluation Association in Minneapolis on “Applications of multiple regression for evaluators: Mediation, moderation, and more.” He also presented “Factor analysis for understanding and application” as a demonstration.

Michelle Bligh (Behavioral and Organizational Sciences) had several publications: “Shared Leadership in a High Growth Environment: Realizing the American Dream at Panda Restaurant Group” in Share the Lead!, with J.C. Kohles, “Followercentric approaches to leadership,” “Approaching Leadership with a Follower Focus,” and “From Radical to Mainstream? How Followercentric Approaches Inform Leadership” in the Journal of Psychology (Zeitschrift für Psychologie). Bligh also presented “Antecedents to Shared Leadership: Psychological Empowerment and Team Potency,” with M. Fausing, at the 30th International Congress of Psychology in Cape Town, South Africa; “From Managing to Leading Diversity: Mandatory Versus Aspirational Diversity Approaches,” with S. Willis, at the annual meeting of the Academy of Management in Boston; and “A Construal Level Theory of Leader-Follower Distance: Validation and Application” with J. Lewandowski at the annual meeting of the Western Psychological Association in San Francisco.

Peter Boyer (Arts & Humanities) was a featured composer on Sirius-XM Satellite Radio’s Symphony Hall channel, in a program that included his music and an interview. Boyer’s work Ellis Island: The Dream of America was performed by the Fort Worth (TX) Symphony Orchestra, the Plymouth (MA) Philharmonic Orchestra, the Bend (IN) Symphony Orchestra, the Brevard (FL) Symphony Orchestra, and the Bartlesville (OK) Symphony Orchestra. The Fort Worth Symphony released a two-CD set, Take Six, which featured works by its six composers-in-residence from 2006-2012, including Boyer’s Celebration Overture, recorded live at Bass Hall in 2010. Boyer returned to Fort Worth for three performances of his work Festivities, conducted by Carl St. Clair (of Orange County’s Pacific Symphony), as part of the symphony’s centennial season. Boyer’s work Titanic was performed by the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Michigan Interlochen Center for the Arts and his Silver Fanfare was performed by the Lancaster (OH) Festival Orchestra. Boyer orchestrated suites from the film scores Toy Story 3 (composer Randy Newman) and Wall·E (composer Thomas Newman) for Pixar in Concert, a live event produced by Disney-Pixar and performed by the San Francisco Symphony and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. Boyer orchestrated music from Thomas Newman’s score for Skyfall, the latest James Bond film, from MGM/Columbia Pictures.

Janet Brodie (Arts & Humanities) was invited by the National Endowment for the Humanities to serve on the judges’ panel for proposals in the category of “America’s Media Makers Development & Production” in Washington, DC.

Heather Campbell (Politics and Economics) published Urban Environmental Policy Analysis with Elizabeth Corley. CGU doctoral student Nick Cain has one chapter in the book. She also published “Environmental Inequities in a Sunbelt City: A Bayesian Spatial Analysis,” with Y. Chun and K. Yushim, in the Journal of Urban Affairs. Campbell presented “New Approaches in Studying Environmental Injustice” on a panel at the Association for Public Policy and Analysis and Management (APPAM) research conference.

William Crano (Behavioral and Organizational Sciences) was called to advise the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (in Vienna). Specifically, he will report to the national representatives of the Paris Pact, a group of countries that either supply or receive illicit drugs. His job will be to show how the proper use of mass media can reduce demand for drugs.

Ingolf Dalferth (Religion) received a research grant of $175,000 from the Swiss National Foundation for a project entitled “Prayer as embodied Understanding.” He has also been appointed as a permanent fellow at the Collegium Helveticum (Zurich). Dalferth had several publications: “Gott denken – ohne Metaphysik? Zu einer aktuellen Kontroverse in Theologie,” with A. Hunziker, “Hermeneutische Theologie – heute,” with P. Bühler and A. Hunziker, in Mohr Siebeck; and “Kommunikation des Vertrauens,” with S. Perz-Keller, in Evangelische Verlaganstalt. He also published “The Idea of an Axial Age. A Phenomenological Reconsideration” in NZSTh. Dalferth also presented several key note addresses at conferences: “Religion and the Dialectics of Secularisation,” International Conference on Modernity and Secularisation, University of Sarajevo/Bosnia; “Transzendenz und Immanenz als theologische Orientierungs begriffe,” International Conference on the Hermeneutics of Transcendence, University of Zurich; “Selblos Passions,” East European Conference on Philosophy of Religion, Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik/Croatia; “Kierkegaard on True Love,” International Conference on Kierkegaard on Love and the Passions, University of Copenhagen; and “Ist radikale Negativität möglicht?,” Conference on “Die Arbeit des Negativen in Philosophie und Psychoanalyse,” University of Basel.

Stewart Donaldson (Behavioral and Organizational Sciences) published “Taming the Waves and Horses of Positive Organizational Psychology” in Advances in Positive Organizational Psychology, with CGU student Maren Dolbiet, and gave an invited address with Mikala Caizkentumhali on “Taking Stock of the First Decade of Positive Psychology” at the Western Psychological Association Conference in San Francisco. He also gave invited lectures, presentations, facilitated panels, and taught workshops at the Centers for Disease Control & American Evaluation.
David Drew (Educational Studies) presented a keynote address at the joint annual meeting of the human resources programs of the National Science Foundation. His article, “The Five Misconceptions about Teaching Math and Science,” was published in Slate magazine. “Why US can’t get back to head of the class (because it was never there)” was published in the online Washington Post. He is currently working with the “Einstein Fellows” in Washington, DC. This is a group of rigorously selected math and science teachers who are assigned as aides for one or two years in the Congress, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy.

Patricia Easton (Arts & Humanities) published two articles: “Descartes on Moral Judgment and the Power of the Passions,” in Essays on Neuroscience and Political Theory: Thinking the Body Politic, and “The Siren Song of Skepticism: Pierre Bayle’s Non-fideistic Refrain” in Skeptical Faith, Claremont Studies in Philosophy of Religion, Conference 2010. She was the principal lead on the grant renewal for the Getty Leadership Institute, which was awarded a three-year, $1.95 million grant, and is currently leading the transition effort as the institute searches for a new executive director.

Lori Anne Ferrell (Arts & Humanities) spoke with the faculty of History on the future of graduate scholarship in the humanities and the future of international collaboration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She also spoke at a symposium at St Paul’s Cathedral, London, on “Editing the Sermons of John Donne.” Ferrell gave an invited talk at a colloquium jointly organized by the University of York, England, and the Mellon Foundation to discuss the value and validity of digitizing medieval and early modern ecclesiastical records, and spoke at at Pepperdine University on “The Bible and The People”: a guest lecture in conjunction with their current exhibition on the King James Bible. She continues to co-direct the Huntington Library/USC Seminar in Early Modern British History and is currently preparing for an exhibition at the Huntington Library, provisionally entitled “Illuminated Palaces: Extra-Illustrated Books in the Huntington Library Collection,” which will open in July 2013, and for which she is the guest curator.

Why did you choose to come to CGU? I came to Drucker for the small faculty size and interdisciplinary nature of the school, as well as the impressive quality of its students and faculty.

What are your research interests? My research interests span a wide range of topics in corporate finance, international finance, and industrial organization. My research can be grouped in two lines: agency theory and the relationship between industrial structure and financial performance.

What is the best book you could give someone to get them interested in your field? I keep a shelf of “fun finance reads” in my office for students. In order to get an overview of basic corporate finance: Burton Malkiel’s Random Walk Down Wall Street; if they are interested in international finance: Rouge Trader by Nick Leeson.

Do you welcome or despair the widespread digitalization of books and media? I do both. I welcome the ease and speed of buying digital books and the ability to read from my iPhone/iPad wherever I am. However, I also despair the loss of book lending/borrowing between friends, or the smell and feel of a physical book. I also miss strolling around bookstores.

What is your most common form of procrastination when trying to get work done? Planning trips or finding other things to do online rather than starting the actual work.

If you could choose a career outside academe, what would it be? I would love to be a chef and open a nice bookstore/café. But with my training I would probably end up in professional finance.
Leading Education” at the American Association of School Administrator’s Women in School Leadership Forum in Newport Beach. She also published “Taking a critical stance in research,” with J.M. Simmons, in Research methods in educational leadership and management (3rd ed.).

Eunyoung Ha (Politics and Economics) published “Globalization, Government Ideology, and Income Inequality in Developing Countries” in the Journal of Politics.


Jeremy Hunter (Drucker) gave the keynote lecture at the “Mindfulness in Business” conference in Stockholm, Sweden, and was featured in the Dagens Nyheter, the largest Swedish daily newspaper. He also joined the board of the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society. He presented at the Mindfulness and Management panel at the Academy of Management conference in Boston. Hunter also presented “The Internal Dynamics of Leadership” at the Southern California Leadership Network’s Leadership Southern California fellowship orientation. NPR’s Morning Edition broadcasted a feature on his “Executive Mind and Practice of Self-Management” classes and the piece made NPR’s most e-mailed story list that week.

Rachel Lachowicz (Arts & Humanities) opened a show at the Orange County Museum of Art. Lachowicz is a sculptor whose work, according to the Orange County Museum of Art website, “is often grounded in a feminist reworking of well-known works by male artists, a process exemplified by her 1991 “Homage to Carl Andre,” in which lipstick and wax are combined to produce a work that covers six square feet of floor space.”

Gondy Leroy (Information Systems and Technology) was invited to speak about her research at Zynx Health in Los Angeles (“Using a Predicate-based Biomedical Search Engine for Going Beyond Keyword-based Search”), at the Pomona College CS Colloquium (“A Triple-based Biomedical Search Engine”), and at the University of Arizona’s MIS Seminar (“Transdisciplinary Solutions to Communication Problems in Healthcare and Biomedicine”). Together with her students, she published a journal article, two conference papers, and a conference un-poster. She also served on the expert panel of the Doctoral Consortium at the Seventh International Conference on Design Science Research in Information Systems and Technology (DESIRIST), and currently serves as mentor for WitsOn – Women in Technology Sharing Online (organized by Harvey Mudd College and Piazza) and as the president-elect of the Association for Information System’s Special Interest Group on Health.

Lisa Loop (Educational Studies) as co-PI, along with David Drew (PI) and Darryl Yong of Harvey Mudd College, was awarded a National Science Foundation grant to continue their successful work with the Noyce Scholarship Program to recruit and educate outstanding STEM teachers. The award is for $798,750 and runs from October 1, 2012–September 30, 2017.

Tom Luschei (Educational Studies), along with Amita Chudgar of Michigan State University, received a grant from UNICEF to conduct a cross-national study entitled “Teachers of Children Marginalized by Social Origin, Economic Status, or Location.” He also published an article, “Teacher Training and Transitions in Rural Indonesian Schools: A Case Study of Bogor, West Java,” with Ida Zubaidah, in the Asia Pacific Journal of Education.

Wendy Martin (Arts & Humanities) gave an invited lecture on “Emily Dickinson: the Poetry and Practice of Autonomy” at Michigan State University.

Allen M. Omoto (Behavioral and Organizational Sciences) published a chapter titled “Social policy: Barriers and opportunities for personality and social psychology” in The Oxford Handbook of Personality and Social Psychology. He presented an invited address on “Social action and predictors of environmental engagement” at the meeting of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues in Charlotte. Omoto also has co-authored a number of other presentations with former and current CGU students, including at the meetings of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, the International Association for Relationship Research, and the American Psychological Association. Finally, with current CGU student Coral Bruni, he recently received funding from the USDA Forest Service to support a program of research, “The Get To Know Your Wild Neighbors Research Program,” aimed at better understanding the roles played by natural history museums in increasing feelings of connectedness with nature among youth.

David Pagel (Arts & Humanities) published five essays, including “Ingenious Adaptation” in Decade: Contemporary Collecting; “Full Circle” in Albert Contreras; “Inside-Outsider” in Ralph Humphrey: Works, 1973-1984; “Trust” in Michael Bishop; and “Speed in Art (and Sports)” in Color/Fast: R. Nelson Parrish. He gave a public lecture about his curatorial activities at Azusa Pacific University and completed his first triple century, in 21½ hours, on June 23.


Becky Reichard (Behavioral and Organizational Sciences) won best paper finalist in several categories at the Academy of Management conference in Boston, along with PhD student Maren Dollwet. The paper was “Cross-cultural psychological capital: A validation study,” and was the recipient of AoM Best Paper Proceedings award, Skolkovo best paper award finalist in the International Management Division, and OB/HRM/OT best paper award finalist. Another student, Natasha Wilder, presented “Training cross-cultural leadership skills: Building psychological capital,” co-authored with Reichard, M. Condren, S. Serrano, and W. Wang, at the American Psychological Association in Orlando. Reichard also presented “Longitudinal research on early predictors of adult leadership,” with A.W. Gottfried, A.E. Gottfried, D.W. Guerin, P.H. Oliver, and R.E. Riggio, at the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) in San Diego.

Melissa Rogers (Politics and Economics) and Eunyoung Ha (Politics and Economics) hosted the Southern California Comparative Political Institutions Conference at CGU, which attracted over 50 participants from local colleges and universities, and the surrounding area.

Teaching Psychology Online: Tips and Strategies for Success
By Stewart I. Donaldson and Kelly S. Neff
Intended as a resource for psychology educators ranging from teaching assistants to experienced faculty, this book shows readers how to effectively create and manage an online psychology course. Guidelines for preparing courses, facilitating communication, and assigning grades are provided along with activities and assessments geared specifically towards psychology. Pedagogical theories and research are fused with the authors’ teaching experiences to help maximize the reader’s abilities as an online psychology instructor. The book focuses on psychology education at the undergraduate level but it also includes material appropriate for graduate students and professionals. Readers will find helpful examples from all the major content areas including introductory, social, developmental, biological, abnormal, and positive psychology, and human sexuality.

War and Peace in Our Time: Mormon Perspectives
Edited by Patrick Mason, J. David Pulsipher, and Richard L. Bushman
These essays reveal how the scriptures, prophetic teachings, history, culture, rituals, and traditions of Mormonism have been, are, and can be used as warrants for a wide range of activities and attitudes—from radical pacifism to legitimation of the United States’ use of preemptive force against its enemies. As a relatively young religion that for much of its early history was simply struggling for survival, Mormonism has not yet fully grappled with some of the pressing questions of war and peace, with all of the attendant theological, social, and political ramifications. Given the LDS Church’s relative stability and measure of prominence and influence in the early twenty-first century, the time is ripe to examine the historical, spiritual, and cultural resources within the tradition that provide a foundation for constructive dialogue about how individual Latter-day Saints and the institutional Church orient themselves in a world of violence. While recognizing the important contributions of previous scholars who had offered analysis and reflection on the topic, these essays offer a more sustained and collaborative examination of Mormon perspectives on war and peace, drawing on both historical-social scientific research as well as more normative (theological and ethical) arguments.
Deborah Faye Carter  NEW FACULTY

School of Educational Studies
PhD, University of Michigan

Why CGU? I came because I was quite attracted to the School of Educational Studies’ (SES) emphasis on social-justice issues. I have been committed to understanding social disparities between racial ethnic groups since high school and so my lifelong commitment to these issues seems to be a good fit with the aims of the SES faculty and students.

What are your research Interests? I am interested, broadly, in addressing racial/ethnic disparities in college attendance, college completion, and who goes to graduate school. Recently, my research has focused on the kinds of educational interventions that lead African American and Latina/o students to pursue graduate school in STEM and related fields.

What is the best book you could give someone to get them interested in your field? It is hard to choose just one book, but I have been particularly interested in the recent book Degrees of Inequality by Ann Mullen. It covers a lot of ground in terms of race, class, college choice, academic achievement, and degree expectations.

Do you welcome or despair the widespread digitalization of books and media? Since I possess a Kindle and have the Kindle app on my mobile devices (and I frequently buy media of all kinds online), it would be hypocritical for me to despair the widespread digitalization of books and other media. I love it and I love having access to my media wherever I am.

What is your most common form of procrastination? I read a lot as a form of procrastination and I read all kinds of things, especially long-form journalism. I also like fiction novels, movies, and tv.

If you could choose a career outside academe, what would it be? When I started college, I thought I would be a physical therapist. Now that many years have passed, I think I would be best suited to be a librarian, computer programmer, or private investigator if I were not in academe.
Arts & Humanities

Edward Baker, MFA 1967, was the featured artist at a solo exhibition at the District Art Gallery in Tustin, California, from April 23–May 20, 2012. Baker is the retired dean of Fine Arts at Orange Coast College, and is teaching in Europe during the fall of 2012.


Melissa Daniels, MA, English, 2005, completed her PhD in English at Northwestern University in the spring of 2012. She specialized in nineteenth-century African and American literature and her dissertation, “Black Literary Realism and the Romance of Race,” explored African American contributions to American literary realism. Daniels has joined the faculty of Campbell Hall, an independent, co-ed college prep school in Los Angeles.

Charles Feesago, MFA 2007, had his second solo show at Offramp Gallery in Pasadena from May 6–June 3, 2012. The exhibition, entitled Retention, continues to explore Feesago’s interest in the bowl as a metaphor for ritual consumption and its effect on thought and memory, both public and private.

Alejandra Gutierrez, MA, Cultural Studies, 2012, installed her first exhibition in her new role as assistant to museum registrar at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California. The exhibition, Play with Me: Interactive Installations, featured work by 12 artists and explored the interactive potential of contemporary art, seeking to dispel notions of distance by breaking down barriers of access to art by the public.

Donald Harris, Former Student, English, received one of Spain’s highest honors from the Spanish embassy on behalf of the King of Spain in September. The Cross of the Order of Civil Merit recognizes Harris’ extraordinary service promoting the people, culture, and foods of Spain here in the United States. Harris first became acquainted with Spain in 1965 as a US Navy chaplain, and founded La Tienda, which is now a flourishing online retailer offering a selection of over 800 gourmet foods and artisanal goods from Spain. Family owned and operated, the business is dedicated to working with artisan and small family producers in Spain.

Ronald Heckelman, PhD, English, 1985, has designed a unique class for Lone Star College in Houston that is part business course, part anthropological exploration, and all about writing. The course teaches the culture of baseball, and the semester covers such varied topics as race, immigration, and the role of the little leagues, and culminates with a trip to a Houston Astros game where students tour the facility and learn about the business of the game.

James Huber, MFA 1975, had a solo exhibition in the Napa Hall Art Gallery at California State University, Channel Islands, in September 2012. The exhibition, Paintings, sought to arouse the viewer’s imagination through lush, colorful compositions of tension, energy, harmony, and balance. Huber’s painting is a process of evaluation, and to him, painting is finished when it feels right. His paintings have been exhibited at the University of Southern California, the Riverside Art Museum, and the in the LACMA Rental Gallery, and his work is in numerous collections throughout the United States.

Joanna Mang, MA, English, 2011, was a contestant on the game show Jeopardy. Her run on the show started on October 1. She won over $24,000 in her appearance.

Behavioral and Organizational Sciences

Dinah Bird, MA, Public Policy Analysis, 1988; PhD, Psychology, 1990, was designated one of three members of a dedicated wholesaling team formed in July by Symetra Life Insurance Company. Bird and her colleagues will represent the company’s registered investment products, including Symetra True Variable Annuity, which launched in June. Bird is experienced in portfolio management knowledge and business development expertise, much of which she gained during her years at Barclays Global Investors. She is Symetra’s senior investments specialist for Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Michael Malone, MA, Psychology, 1977; PhD, Psychology, 1982, led a series of thought-provoking webinars for marketing intelligence firm Integrated Cloud Intelligence, Inc. (ICI), where he is founder and CEO. The webinars will focus on using the Market Drive Model to derive comprehensive and actionable insights from market research. Through ICI, Malone has been providing marketing intelligence services to Fortune 500 companies for over 30 years.

Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management

David Barnard, MBA 1977, had two images selected for Off the Clock, an exhibition organized by the American Photographic Artists (APA)–Los Angeles. Around 100 images were selected by curator Gordon Baldwin, former associate curator of photographs for the J. Paul Getty Museum. The exhibition debuted in Los Angeles, and will continue on to other APA locations in the country. The images will also be on the APA-LA website for a year.
In Memoriam

CGU mourns the loss of Emeritus President Joseph Platt

Claremont Graduate University Emeritus President Joseph Platt died on July 10 at the age of 96.

Platt served as the eighth president of the Claremont Graduate School and University Center (now Claremont Graduate University) from 1976–1981. A physicist by trade, he was a strong believer in the liberal arts model of education. Under his leadership the university launched new programs in management, policy, and music.

“Joe was one of the biggest supporters of the university’s move towards transdisciplinary scholarship,” CGU President Deborah Freund said. “He predicted the future and set forth a vision that is still relevant today. We are deeply saddened by his passing, and our thoughts are with his wife, Jean, and their family.”

Platt came to Claremont with Jean in 1956 to become the founding president of another Claremont College, Harvey Mudd. He served there for two decades, building the college into one of the most selective institutions in the United States.

He laid the foundations for a life in education when he graduated from the University of Rochester in 1937 with a degree in physics. Five years later he received a PhD in experimental physics from Cornell University. At Cornell, he worked alongside fellow physicists who later became involved in the Manhattan Project.

In 1943 he was appointed a staff member and section chief of the Radiation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he continued until 1946. During World War II, Platt worked on radar devices and served with the US military as a civilian introducing the machines into combat-use in the European and Pacific theaters.

He returned to Rochester after the war to take a teaching position, which he held until 1949, when he took a post as chief of the Physics Branch of the Research Division of the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, DC. After two years in Washington, he returned to Rochester, where he both taught in and led the university’s Physics Department.

Platt kept close ties to Claremont Graduate University after his retirement. He served as chairman of the Board of Visitors for the School of Educational Studies, established a scholarship fund to support Educational Studies students, and created the Joseph B. Platt Chair for a professor of Educational Studies.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, and his daughters Ann Platt Walker of La Jolla, California, and Beth Platt Garrow of Willowbrook, Illinois.

For Platt’s 90th birthday, the section of 12th Street in front of the Harvey Mudd College campus was renamed Platt Boulevard.

In Memoriam

Barbara Bass Evans, PhD, Education, 1989
William T. Husung, Jr., MA, Education, 1957
Andrew Stephen Marshall, Former Student, Education

Marvin Wayne Meyer, PhD, Religion, 1979
Claude Edward Norcross, MA, Education, 1948
Virginia E. Stephens, Certificate, Education, 1943
**Educational Studies**

**Douglas DeWitt, PhD, Education, 1993,** accepted a personal invitation from the Secretary of the Air Force to attend the 59th Annual National Security Forum (NSF) at the Air War College in Alabama. The purpose of the NSF is to expose influential citizens to senior US and international officers and civilian equivalents in order to engage each other’s ideas and perspectives on security issues.

**Jacqueline Doud, PhD, Education, 1976,** was appointed as the private sector representative to the California Student Aid Commission by California Governor Jerry Brown in September 2012. Aside from her degree at CGU, her tenure as president of Mount Saint Mary’s College in Pasadena will also come in handy. Doud will also receive the Theodore Hesburgh Award for contributions to Catholic Higher Education in February 2014.

**Stephanie Feeney, PhD, Education, 1972,** released the second edition of her book, *Ethics and the Early Childhood Educator: Using the NAEYC Code.* The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the nation’s leading professional organization for those working with children from birth through age eight. Feeney is professor emerita of education at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa, where she directed undergraduate and graduate early childhood education programs for many years.

**William Hemmerdinger, MFA 1979, PhD, Education, 1979,** was a participant in Big Enough?: Large Scale Print, Cape Cod, an exhibition at the Hyannis Harbor Art Center from August 1–19, 2012. It featured members of the Cape Cod Printmakers, and showcased bi-coastal Hemmerdinger’s mixed media works, which have been included in the Getty Archive.

**Nuh Kimbwala, MA, Teacher Education, 1998,** was appointed principal of Harding University Partnership School in the Santa Barbara Unified School District in July 2012. The appointment was made by the district based on the recommendation of an 11-member panel comprised of teachers, employees, administrators, and parents. Harding Prep serves more than 450 students in grades K-6. Kimbwala is working on his PhD in urban leadership at CGU.

**Janet Loyd, MA, Education, 1984,** was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church on June 20, 2012. Loyd is an elementary school teacher in Darrington, Washington, and began her 26th year as teacher in the fall.

**Frances Martinez, MA, Teacher Education, 2007,** graduated from the University of Southern California’s Rossier School of Education with her doctorate in education on May 10, 2012. Her concentrations were educational psychology and educational leadership. Martinez’s dissertation, “A Tale of Two Principal’s: The Complexity of Fostering and Achieving Organizational Improvement,” was nominated for Rossier’s Dissertation of the Year Award for Outstanding Research in the Field of Education.

**Information Systems and Technology**

**Paul Witman, MS, Information Science, 1987; PhD, Information Science, 2007,** was granted tenure and advanced to the rank of associate professor at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California. Witman, who has a bachelor’s in math and computer science from the University of California, Los Angeles, is in the School of Management.

**Politics and Economics**

**Iris DeGruy-Bell, MA, Government, 1976,** was named executive director of the Youth Development Council by Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. The council was created by lawmakers in early 2012 to streamline services for youths across the state. Bell had been deputy director of the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, and interim transition director of the state commission, whose functions will be taken over by the new council.

**Sherine El Hag, MA, Economics, 2000; MBA 2001; PhD, Economics, 2009,** joined Alfred State College as an assistant professor of economics in September 2012. In addition to her education at CGU, El Hag has bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the American University in Cairo. Alfred State College is one of the five University Colleges of Technology within the SUNY system, and the cornerstone of their culture is project-based learning.
The Visible: Poems
Louisiana State University Press, 2012
Bruce Bond  MA, English, 1977

In Bond’s The Visible we enter into a surreal landscape “where it is neither day nor night / but both at once,” where light becomes an imaginative force that both illuminates and obscures. The illegible draws us closer to the page—the visible revealed, paradoxically, by what we cannot see.

Though these formally restrained poems possess an abstract and introspective intensity, Bond grounds them in the everyday. Both vivid and speculative, the chiseled lyrics breathe. In “My Mother’s Closet,” the pages of medical books become holy and horrendous, “soiled at the corners, the mind’s / terrific passages shocked with highlight, / glossed with scratches in a mother’s hand.”

Criminal Insurgencies in Mexico and the Americas: The Gangs and Cartels Wage War
Routledge, 2012
Edited by Robert Bunker  MA, Government, 1987; PhD, Political Science, 1993

In recent years the southwestern border of the United States has come under increasing pressure from the activities of the Mexican narco-insurgents. They have developed rapidly from nebulous gangs into networked cartels that have exposed the porosity of the border. These cartels declare no allegiance to any nation and are engaging in asymmetrical warfare against sovereign states throughout Mexico and Central America, with de facto political control shifting into areas of impunity under the control of the cartels. This book addresses these concerns and focuses on the criminal insurgencies being waged by the gangs and cartels. Bunker explores these topics by breaking essays down into sections on theory, Mexico, and the Americas, along with a number of introductory essays pertaining to this premier security threat to the United States and her allies in the region. Criminal Insurgencies will serve as a valuable resource to scholars in the fields of regional security, criminal justice, and American studies.

Border Rhetorics: Citizenship and Identity on the US-Mexico Frontier
University of Alabama Press, 2012
Edited by D. Robert DeChaine  PhD, Cultural Studies, 2001

Border Rhetorics is a collection of essays that undertakes a wide-ranging examination of the US-Mexico border as it functions in the rhetorical production of civic unity in the United States. A “border” is a powerful and versatile concept, and has implications for both the empowerment and subjugation of any given populace. Both real and imagined, the border separates a zone of physical and symbolic exchange whose geographical, political, economic, and cultural interactions bear profoundly on popular understandings of citizenship and identity. Often understood as an unruly boundary in dire need of containment from the ravages of criminals, illegal aliens, and other undesirable threats to the national body, the US-Mexico border exemplifies how normative constructions of “proper” border relations reinforce definitions of US citizenship, which in turn can lead to anxiety, unrest, and violence centered around the struggle to define what it means to be a member of a natural political community.

The Black Cultural Front: Black Writers and Artists of the Depression Generation
University Press of Mississippi, 2012
Brian Dolinar  PhD, Cultural Studies, 2005

The Black Cultural Front describes how the social and political movements that grew out of the Depression facilitated the left turn of several African American artists and writers. Dolinar examines that formation of a black cultural front by looking at the works of poet Langston Hughes, novelist Chester Himes, and cartoonist Ollie Harrington. The Communist-led John Reed Clubs brought together black and white writers in writing collectives, and while none of the writers Dolinar looks at were card-carrying members of the party, they all participated in the Left during their careers. Collectively, the experience of these three figures contributes to the story of a “long” movement for African American freedom that flourished during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Yet this book also stresses the impact that McCarthyism had on dismantling the Black Left and how it affected each individual involved. Each suffered for their past allegiances, yet the lasting influence of the Depression in their work was evident for the rest of their lives.

The Roots of Nubian Christianity Uncovered: The Triumph of the Last Pharaoh
Africa World Press, 2012
Salim Faraji  MA, Religion, 2004; PhD, Religion, 2007

The history of Late Antique Africa and the origins of Nubian Christianity have received little attention by Africanists and virtually ignored by Africana historians. The Roots of Nubian Christianity Uncovered answers the questions of how and why ancient Nubia converted to Christianity during the fourth–sixth century CE. Faraji demonstrates that it is no longer acceptable to argue that Nubia converted to Christianity due to Byzantine missions, but rather that a little known monarch inaugurated the beginnings of ancient Nubian Christianity during his fifth century reign. King Silko was in fact the last Pharaoh in the Nile Valley and the first Christian king of Medieval Nubia, and The Roots of Nubian Christianity Uncovered challenges conventional views about religious conversion that privilege “Pagan vs. Christian” dichotomous discourses and makes clear that Nubian Christianity, like other forms of African Christianity, has been shaped by traditional religions and Nubian culture.
The first detailed examination of Hawaiian annexation in a generation, Pacific Gibraltar offers a fresh analysis and provocative conclusions about major episodes in this complex story. Based on sweeping reevaluation of new and existing sources in three countries, Morgan addresses such key questions as the extent of US support for the overthrow of the monarchy—including the USS Boston’s mysterious return to Honolulu to land troops as the revolution began—and President Grover Cleveland’s attempt to restore the queen using naval forces to intimidate the white provisional government. The book also examines the US-Japan annexation confrontation in 1897 and the final acquisition of the islands in 1989 as the culmination of growing appreciation for Hawaii’s value to US mainland defense.

Concerned about how broken government has become and worried about his career and the future of his family, Smart received an unexpected message that changed how he saw the problem, and lead to Leadocracy. His journey took him behind the scenes to work with private sector leaders who made the leap into government, and his book explores: why great leaders avoid government; how the three A’s of leadership can help us identify, hire, and become better leaders; how we can avoid non-leader candidates like the Turtle, Bureaucrat, Screamer, and Idealist; and how the adrenaline rush of flow can offer leaders from the private sector the adventure of a lifetime. Thomas Paine’s Common Sense painted a vision that inspired a generation and changed the course of human history. The movement of our times is smart government by society’s greatest leaders. Leaders like you.
After escape, an artist emerges

Aragna Ker, local artist and Claremont Graduate University alum, was just an infant when the Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia, killing an estimated two million of their country’s own citizens during their four-year rule. Fear was woven into the fabric of the Cambodian lifestyle; schools and temples were converted to prisons that held offenders of the new regime, and actions deemed contrary to Khmer Rouge’s communist ideals were punishable by torture and/or death. Though he escaped the country while still a child, his Cambodian roots still inspire his artwork today.

In 1979, at the age of six, the Church of the Brethren sponsored Ker and his family’s immigration to California, giving them the chance to escape the terror that pervaded their home country. Despite living through genocide, Ker has chosen to channel those experiences into something positive. “If that didn’t happen, how would my life be?” mused Ker. “We all have our different circumstances. Unfortunately mine was really terrible, horrific, but if that didn’t happen I wouldn’t be here. I wouldn’t be an artist.”

His recent exhibition entitled *Uprising*, which ran at the Sabina Lee Gallery in Los Angeles from July 7-August 11, featured a variety of work that reflects his outlook on life and on art. For Ker, art is about self-discovery and transformation; his artist’s statement declares that he “curiously attacks simplistic materials,” such as sequins, popsicle sticks, and basic water colors.

“I try to make art from a child’s perspective,” he said. This perspective, he believes, relates back to the idea of play—a concept he finds to be vital to his work. His work, however, is far from child’s play. Rather, his distinct and unique style produces a provocative result, and he notes that CGU played an integral part in allowing him to cultivate this aesthetic. “My professors would say ‘You have your own style. Find that, figure it out, follow that.’ And I was able to do that,” he said.

*Uprising* combined modern-day cultural symbols with myth and history, or fused fantasy and reality to make what was a dismal scene into something much more hopeful.
One piece portrays a figure of Icarus flying over tents garishly decorated with multicolored flags with the face of Michael Jackson. Another projects a child and his father seemingly stranded in a desert; but instead of a donkey, they have a Pegasus who can ostensibly spirit them away to greener pastures. Ker relates these images and their message of transformation back to his own life:

“My own life has been changed and transformed. I’ve uprised out of my own culture and now I’m in this hybrid globalized culture.”

Despite leaving Cambodia at such a young age, Ker has not lost touch with his country of origin, personally or artistically. He’s returned twice since he left, and painted a life-sized elephant on permanent display in the Elephants of Asia Exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo. The museum provided the elephant, and Ker was commissioned to adorn it in the way he thought best represented Cambodia.

“I had to really think about it. This was going to be on display for a long time,” he said. “I wanted to say: this is what a Cambodian elephant would be.”

Ker ultimately decided to use the symbol of Angkor Wat, the largest Hindu temple complex in the world.

“Instead of just painting Angkor Wat, I made one side as the day time and the other side as the night time, so transition and change. To me that was very important.”

This is not the only way he has paid homage to his home country. From 2009–2012, his work was on exhibit at the United States Embassy in Cambodia. Ker’s work at the embassy centered around attaining the American dream; in one portrait he painted his family with a sparkly house. And for Ker, the American dream is more than just a thematic element in his art.

“It’s so cliché to say, but what if you never had that opportunity? And I had the opportunity to go to school, to get my masters, and to be an artist,” he said. “I’ve been striving to fulfill the American dream.”

This opportunity has had a lasting impression on him. Besides consistently being featured in galleries throughout Southern California, Ker uses his skills as an artist to teach art classes to disabled adults at First Street Gallery Art Center.

“That’s how I followed my own path. Someone else was there to say I was good and should follow my own road. I want to offer that to future artists.”
As we review our goals and plans for the future, Claremont Graduate University wants and needs your feedback in our 2012 ALUMNI SURVEY.

By taking the time to fill out our online survey, you will help make CGU stronger and better. Let your voice be heard, today.

www.cgu.edu/alumnisurvey