the president's notebook

Of Gates and Proper Colleges

In the early years of the last century, James Blaisdell, founder of the Claremont Consortium, was faced with a challenging decision. Should Pomona College expend its then-scarce capital on a building project, or should it invest gates to signify a formal and official entrance to the college’s grounds? Despite the pressing need for classspace, Blaisdell chose to build large and impressive gates on the northeast side of Pomona’s campus. In justifying this decision, he proclaimed to the campus community that every “proper college” must have gates.

From the very earliest days of the university, more than 1,000 years ago, gates have marked a real and symbolic passage into and out of the academic world. At Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, Bologna and Salamanca, university gates have been elevated to high masonry art. But university gates provide more than just a decorative entrance. They also impart a process of admission and the formal right of entry.

When Blaisdell declared that every proper college needed gates, he was affirming one of the oldest principles of the academy: a place of learning is only complete when its physical setting makes it possible for students to enter.

During its 78-year history, Claremont Graduate University has never had formal and official gates. CGU has also never had the opportunity to create a sense of place across its 20 acres to match the privileged intellectual space it has enjoyed for nearly eight decades. Now all of this is changing.

More than two years ago, CGU began a campus master planning project under the leadership of William Everhart, senior vice president for finance and administration. This initiative reflected the strong desire of the university community to create a meaningful “sense of place” within its grounds. These efforts are now bearing fruit thanks to the incredible generosity of the university’s friends and supporters.

A crucial first step in creating this sought-after sense of place has been made possible by two of CGU’s oldest and finest friends, Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. DesCombes. In the year of the university’s 1925 founding, these gates bring CGU into the ranks of “proper colleges” by defining the university’s real and symbolic entry.

I encourage you to come to campus to enjoy these changes and additions, and to relish in the sense of place that is being created at Claremont Graduate University. And when you come to Claremont, I invite you to make a real and symbolic passage into the university through the newly constructed DesCombes Family Gates.
The gift, presented on May 16, honors the leadership of John W. Bachmann, managing partner of St. Louis-based Edward Jones since 1980. Bachmann, who steps down as managing partner at the end of this year, also serves as a CGU trustee and chair of the Drucker School’s Board of Visitors.

Thank you for highlighting L-TAPL, the after-school pedagogical laboratories I have developed, in the article “Urban Refuge,” from the Spring issue of The Flame. I would however, like to clarify a few points.

First, the author used the phrase “the African American dialect Ebonics.” As a scholar who has studied the topic, I do not use the term Ebonics to refer to African American English, nor do I characterize it as a dialect.

Third, the text implies that there are only five novice teachers in each lab. Actually, there are five each day, and since the lab meets three days a week, the total number of novice teachers in the lab is 15.

Finally, I would like to point out that although the after-school programs free the students and teachers who benefit, the project would not exist without considerable financial support. This three-year project has been funded by an $85,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and a $1.3 million grant from the Office of Education Research and Improvement.

Since its founding, CGU has fostered a tradition of excellence, innovation and distinction. The Colleagues is the premiere donor group for CGU. Members include an exclusive circle of CGU donors who, through their valued partnership and vital investment in the university, aid CGU’s mission by providing financial support for programs such as:

- Scholarships and Student Fellowships
- Student and Faculty Recruitment
- Technology and Facility Enhancements

Join as a founding member by making your leadership commitment to CGU today.

For more information, please contact the office of Annual Giving (909) 621-8027 or email Colleagues@cgu.edu

www.cgu.edu/giving/colleges.asp

If you are interested in learning more about the challenges The Drucker Legacy Campaign presents, please contact Gary Jimenez, director of development for the Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management, at 909-621-8227.
Undaunted by bear market, students invest real money

Undaunted by a bear market and nervous stock exchanges this year, students in the Asset Management Practicum at the Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management studied investing for portfolio clients and institutions. Unlike most classes, however, these students managed real money.

Established in 2003 with the efforts of ambitious students of the Drucker School and an initial contribution of $300,000 from Henry Kravis, noted financier and founder of Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts, and Co., the Asset Management Practicum is now responsible annually for the management of a small fraction of the CGU endowment.

The mission of the “corporation” was to develop and operate a conservatively managed equity fund that is capable of providing superior returns to investors and a rigorous, high-quality practical educational experience for MISPE (Master of Science in Financial Engineering) and MBA students of the Drucker School.

Many of the students are hoping to become portfolio managers, institutional investors, or investment consultants. Dual-degree student Ji Ji Kim enjoyed the hands-on nature of the class. “I would like to provide investment advice and creative financial products for high-networth individuals,” she said. “This class was about people, not just the technical skills required to do the job.”

Professor Donald Gould schooled Kim’s appreciation of the practicality of the course. “From my perspective as both a professor and a practitioner, the beauty of the practicum was that the students got to see not just the elegance of the theories, but also the realities of applying them in a real-world setting with all its serious constraints.”

Gould, an adjunct faculty member in finance at the Drucker School, has 20 years of experience in the asset management industry. He is president and founder of Gould Asset Management LLC, with $27 million currently under management. Precisely Gould was a managing director for Franklin Templeton Investments.

“I think it’s particularly useful that the class’s ‘client’ was not just anyone, but was in fact the Claremont Graduate University’s endowment fund,” said Gould. “Given what the students are paying in tuition and the like, the importance of delivering good performance for the endowment is far from an abstraction.”

New math school responds to industry challenges

Over the years CGU’s math department has tackled problems as diverse as Earth-Mars communications, air pollution transport, automatic word recognition, and wind power generation. Now following a recent vote of the university trustees, the former department will broaden its reach even further, becoming the new School of Mathematical Sciences.

“This gives us a better framework in which to grow,” says the dean of the new school, mathematics professor John Angus. “We don’t adhere to a set of narrow specialties like traditional math departments. We pursue mathematical problems and ideas without regard to disciplinary boundaries, and this approach is a hallmark of education and research at CGU.”

With its newfound status as one of eight schools in the university, the math faculty is free to charter new programs and increase the visibility, influence, and diversity of its research and education. It will also be able to expand quantitative concentrations in other Ph.D. programs at CGU.

The school will also continue its math-clinic projects that have built the program’s reputation as one of the nation’s elite in applied mathematics. For nearly 30 years, graduate students and professors have worked directly with business, industry, and government, addressing real and challenging mathematical problems facing these organizations. This past spring semester, the CGU Math Clinic worked on projects in semiconductor modeling, monitoring flows of crude oil through pipelines, and optimizing communications between Earth and Mars.

“The clinic influences our curriculum,” says Angus. “We reinforce areas in our curriculum needed to solve contemporary problems in applied mathematics presented by the clinic. Conversely, the clinic brings a serious gap in mathematics curricula at other universities. It better prepares students for work outside of academia, makes them more marketable in academia, and it takes a proactive approach to answering the age-old question among math students: ‘When are we ever going to use this?’”

The Ph.D. in Financial Engineering will be offered for the first time this fall. It builds on the existing Master of Science in Financial Engineering degree offered jointly by mathematicians and CGU’s Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management. The degree combines rigorous mathematics with training in finance.

The Ph.D. in Computational Sciences, which will also be offered this fall, is a joint Ph.D. offered with San Diego State University. The discipline encompasses engineering, science, and applied mathematics. It addresses issues of computation broader in scope and more complex than those normally addressed by computer science.

Other degrees offered in the new School of Mathematical Sciences include masters and Ph.D.s in mathematics, the Ph.D. in engineering and industrial applied mathematics (jointly with California State University, Long Beach), and dual degrees with economics and teacher education.

Future plans for the school include a proposal for a Ph.D. in Computational Biology, possibly in partnership with the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences. This hot new field uses mathematical modeling and high-speed computation to understand how biological mechanisms such as gene interactions work.

Students are expected to pursue research and teaching at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of California, Santa Cruz, and other leading institutions.

Colleges program launched

Claremont Graduate University recently established the Colleges, a premier annual giving society. Colleges provides donors special access to CGU faculty and distinguished visitors, while lending financial strength to student scholarships, academic programs, faculty support, and facilities upgrades—providing more than $3.2 million in critically needed funds every year.

“Members of the society are an exclusive group who, through their annual commitment and generosity embody CGU’s mission and tradition of service,” says John W. Crowe, vice president of advancement.

Privileges of membership include special lectures and presentations by CGU faculty and student dignitaries, unique opportunities to meet with CGU faculty alumni, and donors, and chances to learn about cutting-edge research and advances in technology.

In the inaugural Colleges event, held earlier this year at the Bel Air home of CGU trustee Pamela Mullin, featured Drucker professor Richard Elsworth speaking on his book Leading with Purpose. On September 16, the Colleges will enjoy VIP access to an exclusive Paramount Pictures film premiere at the historic Grauman’s Chinese Theater in Hollywood, followed by a private reception with the stars of the film.

Globalization in Morocco

Susan Steiner, CGU associate vice president for sponsored research, and Dean Karen Torjesen of the School of Religion were among the participants at the Fez Festival of World Sacred Music, held June 6-11 in Morocco. Steiner was also a moderator at the colloquium titled “Giving a Soul to Globalization” in connection with the festival. Steiner and Torjesen are coordinating a similar colloquium to be held in Los Angeles in February. It will bring together leaders from religion, business, education, government, and the arts in a multicultural dialogue.

Margaret Jagels honored

An afternoon tea was held on March 10 in honor of Margaret Jagels for her many years of generous support for the university, along with her late husband, George Jagels. A portrait of the Jagels was hung in the lobby of the building which bears their name at 10th Street and Dartmouth.

For more information, please call the Colleagues office at 909-621-8204, or go to www.cgu.edu/giving/colleagues.asp.

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With Purpose

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Alumni, friends, and advocates of CGU who wish to join this unique group can do so at five levels of support: Chairman’s Colleagues ($25,000), Trustee’s Colleagues ($10,000), President’s Colleagues ($5,000), Dean’s Colleagues ($2,500), and Academic Colleagues ($1,000).

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Trustee's gift propels a student's dream

Looking at Mario Villarreal, it's not hard to see a future president of Mexico. "I haven't decided about running for office yet," he demurs. But the talent and the passion for public service are apparent. Villarreal is not a person for whom greatness was foreordained. His father was killed in an automobile accident when he was just a year old, leaving Mario's mother a 19-year-old widow. She supported herself and her young son, with help from her mother and sister, by running a hair salon.

After earning an undergraduate degree at the Institute of Technology in Monterrey, Mexico, Villarreal worked as a financial analyst for the Coca-Cola Company. He completed a master's degree in economics in 1997 from the University of Nuevo Leon.

He believes it was the best decision of his academic life. "I'm so happy here," he says. "It's the whole package. It's truly family." The close bonds he formed with faculty and students were strengthened last February 16. The night before he was set to take his final qualifying exam, he received word that his grandmother and two aunts had been killed—just like his father, in an auto accident. "Forget about the exam," the faculty told him. "Do you need money? Do you need someone to take you to the airport?" Says Villarreal, "That's when I knew that SPE was family."

Two weeks later Villarreal returned to Claremont and passed the qualifying exams. He hopes to finish his dissertation within a year and return to Mexico by 2004 to do research and teaching.

That timetable got a boost at the CGU commencement on May 17, when Villarreal was presented with the 2003 Pamela B. Mullins Dream and Believe Award. Mullins, who came to the United States from Scotland as a teenager, presents an annual award that enables an doctoral student to finish his or her degree without the distraction of having to earn a living, and allows that student to move more quickly to pursue his or her dream. The award includes full tuition for a year, plus a $25,000 stipend.

Villarreal sees in the gift a lesson about life. "Pamela Mullin came here with 27 dollars in her pocket. She went into the private sector without anything and built something very important, and now is giving back," he says. "Maybe I should do both things—start my own business consulting and then establish a scholarship fund."

Whatever Villarreal decides to do, it will be rooted in his love of Mexico and its people. "I love our sense of humor," he says. "I love our strength to fight back and to laugh even at the hardest situations."

And it will involve helping others. "I want to be in public service," he says, "to take care of those who can't take care of themselves. To be a voice for the voiceless is very important."

Poetry at the Getty Center

Award winners Linda Gregerson and Joanie Mackowski read from their books of poetry at the Eleventh Annual Kingsley Tufts Poetry Awards ceremony held at The Getty Center on April 12.

Gregerson won the $50,000 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award for her book, Waste. Mackowski won the $10,000 Kate Tufts Discovery Award for her book of poetry, Twisties. The Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award is the country's largest monetary award for a single book of poetry. Both awards are given by Claremont Graduate University.

Riordans receive honorary degrees

Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and his wife, Nancy Daly Riordan, received honorary doctor of humane letters degrees at CGU's seventy-sixth annual commencement on May 17.

Richard Riordan, who served as mayor of Los Angeles from 1993 to 2001, was honored for making Los Angeles safer, creating quality jobs throughout the city, improving government efficiency, strengthening neighborhoods, and reforming the public education system.

"The secret of success in life can be wrapped up in two words: courage and giving," said Riordan in his acceptance. "And it will involve helping others. "I want to be in public service," he says, "to take care of those who can't take care of themselves. To be a voice for the voiceless is very important."

Nancy Daly Riordan was also honored for her work on behalf of children. Among her accomplishments was founding the United Friends of the Children to support Los Angeles foster children and founding the Children's Action Network, which advocates for children in partnership with the entertainment industry.

"The secret of success in life can be wrapped up in two words: courage and giving," said Nancy Daly Riordan in her acceptance.

Riordan was also honored for his work in improving the education of children. With a strong belief that every child deserves the tools to compete in society.

Riordan launched many nationally-recognized programs benefiting young people all over Los Angeles. "I can only imagine how proud my parents would be today," said Daly Riordan. "Through the foundation in life they gave me, they laid the groundwork that has led to my receiving this doctorate of humane letters, honoris causa."

Mayor's Committee on Children, Youth and Families, and in 1989 was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to the President's Commission on Children. Currently, she serves as cochair of the Advisory Council of the Universal Access to Preschool Initiative.

"I'm a website client," Villarreal says of Pamela Mullin. "I can only imagine how proud my parents would be today," said Daly Riordan. "Through the foundation in life they gave me, they laid the groundwork that has led to my receiving this doctorate of humane letters, honoris causa."

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Dr. George Kozmetsky, a dedicated trustee and friend of CGU, died on April 30. He was 85.

Well known in business, education, technology, and philanthropy, Kozmetsky cofounded Telodyne Inc. in 1969. After helping to build the company into a major conglomerate, Kozmetsky moved his family from Los Angeles to Austin, Texas, where he became dean of the business school at the University of Texas. Active in creating partnerships between business and academia, he was integral to Austin’s emergence as a thriving high technology center. Along the way, he founded a major think-tank called the IC2 Institute. His personal generosity and that of the Kozmetsky family foundation he headed, the RGK Foundation, established Kozmetsky as a leading philanthropist.

At CGU, Kozmetsky introduced the concept of transdisciplinary scholarship to help explain the university’s long-standing commitment to teaching and research that transcends traditional academic disciplines. His idea was the principle motivation behind development of the university’s new academic plan in 2001, Kozmetsky’s generosity, shared by his wife Ronya, created CGU’s first university-wide transdisciplinary chair.

Kozmetsky is survived by Ronya, his wife of 59 years, son Gregory, daughter Nadya Scott, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

The Politics of Aesthetics: Nationalism, Gender, Romanticism
By Marc Redfield
(Viking, 2003)

Well known in business, education, technology, and academia, he was integral to Austin’s emergence as a thriving high technology center. Along the way, he founded a major think-tank called the IC2 Institute. His personal generosity and that of the Kozmetsky family foundation he headed, the RGK Foundation, established Kozmetsky as a leading philanthropist.

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The art of Dea D’Crocker (adjunct, Art) is showcased in an exhibition entitled “Past Magnetic North” at the LIMH Gallery in San Francisco. The show runs through September 6.

Patricia Estaban (Economics, Arts & Humanities) received a $100,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to study “Good Work in Higher Education.”

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Graduate student’s summer camp sparks laughter and support for children who lost parents in the 9/11 terrorist attacks

The mothers arrived at the Shea Stadium parking lot on August 18, 2002, a bit apprehensive. They were about to hand over the most precious part of their lives—the hands of strangers for the next week—strangers led by Jed Dorfman, a 27-year-old New Yorker soon to become an M.B.A. student at the Drucker School at CGU. Every one of the mothers was a widow who lost her husband on September 11. She was sending her child to America’s Camp.

“It was just heartbreaking,” Dorfman recalls. “Here were the people who were affected [by the tragedy]. No longer were they just names on a piece of paper. They were moms. And the kids showed up wearing FDNY, NYPD, ‘9-11 Never Forget’ shirts. A lot of the girls were wearing necklaces with pictures of their fathers.”

Most of the children had not slept away from their mothers since the day their fathers died. One girl couldn’t get on the bus. But the rest waved “Bye, Mom!” and jumped on board, eager to begin what would become a lifelong memory of living, grieving, and having fun.

Jed Dorfman was working 36 miles outside New York City at the offices of Camp Walt Whitman when the Twin Towers collapsed. An old friend died in the Cantor Fitzgerald suite on the ninetieth floor. “I remember being in the city and being goaded to see the posters that were plastered everywhere saying, ‘This person is one of those three children: This person has five children.’ It just overwhelmed me. I kept coming back to the thought of these kids who had lost their parent. So many of them.”

Dorfman gave money. He gave blood. But he wanted to do more. “I was watching Rudy Giuliani giving a talk, and it was one of those moments when a light bulb goes off,” he explains. “I told my wife, ‘I think I could put together a camp for these kids. That’s something I know how to do.’”

For nearly 20 years, Dorfman’s parents had run Camp Walt Whitman, a premier east-coast camp located in the mountains of New Hampshire. While the camp had been sold to CampGroup, Jed still served as assistant director, something he’d done for the previous three years. “I went to the CEO of CampGroup,” says Dorfman. “He called me about two minutes after I sent it and said it was the best idea he’d seen since he took over the company. [I] would run the camp, he agreed to have CampGroup finance it.”

Dorfman scheduled the camp for August 18-25, 2002, at a lakeside facility in Lenox, Massachusetts. Jed quit his job and devoted the next 10 months to creating “America’s Camp,” offered free of charge to any child who had lost a parent on September 11. Directors of two other CampGroup camps joined in what became a collaborative project aided by the Twin Towers Fund and that New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani established to assist families of government workers killed or injured in the attacks.

The vision was to create a camp that would be incredibly fun, while recognizing that all of the campers shared a similar life experience of tragic loss. “We wanted to make it a fun camp, where kids would get to play, build, play sports, go out in the woods,” says Dorfman. “But we wanted to acknowledge that grief issues were there and we were going to do our best to handle anything kids brought with them and wanted to talk about.” The Center for Grieving Children, based in Portland, Maine, joined the camp team to provide specialized, professional resources.

Volunteers were so plentiful that Dorfman had to turn away his own friends if they didn’t have camp experience. Top counselors from top camps worked free of charge. Lawyers and accountants gave pro bono advice. The best hairdresser in town provided free haircuts.

Celebrities came, too, from football, basketball, and hockey. The Mets invited the kids into the clubhouse before they left for camp. A particular favorite was actor Vern Troyer, who played Mini Me in the Austin Powers movies. “He’s very nice,” says Dorfman. “He came up to my kitchen and his message was so wonderful about being happy with who he was. He had so much love he gave to the kids, and they gave it back.”

The 80 campers were diverse—rich, poor, black, white. “We had one family with five kids,” says Dorfman. “The family had lost the father, and the mother was dying of cancer. Another girl had lost her dad, and her mother had died the summer before.”

During the day the campers threw themselves into the plethora of activities. At night, in their cabins, they talked about losing their parent. Each cabin chose two people to share their losses with the entire camp. As they talked, the counselors cried with them. They cried with each other. Later I would walk by the cabins and see the counselors outside sobbing.”

One of the mothers called Dorfman before the week had ended. “I was just on the website,” she said, “and I saw a picture of my daughter smiling. It’s the first time I’ve seen her smile since September 11.”

By Marilyn Thomsen

Jed Dorfman at Shea Stadium.

Top: Jed Dorfman with celebrity friends, including Vern Troyer (“Mini Me” in the Austin Powers movies) and Phil Fondacaro (“Willow”), along with America’s Camp director Jay Toporoff. Middle: Dorfman knows that a pie in the face always makes for a good laugh. Bottom: Dorfman at Shea Stadium.

One day the camp staff took the children to the nearby Norman Rockwell Museum that houses the paintings known as “The Four Freedoms.” “One was a painting of two kids being tucked in by their parents,” recalls Dorfman. “I remember seeing the father and the mother lying in bed with a boy. Another girl had lost her dad, and her mother had died the summer before.”

During the day the campers threw themselves into the plethora of activities. At night, in their cabins, they talked about losing their parent. Each cabin had a facilitator from the Center for Grieving Children. Dorfman says, “We had kids who hadn’t cried since 9/11. They were children of firemen and policemen, and it wasn’t encouraged in their families. They had with each other. Later I would walk by the cabins and see the counselors outside sobbing.”

At Buddy Central, any child who didn’t want to take part in an activity could go and talk to a counselor or work on a project such as a memory box. Children would tell Dorfman that they were making the box as a place for their mothers to keep the jewelry given to her by their father.

Coming to grips with loss was interwoven with swimming and tennis lessons. “We had voluntary nondiscrimination lessons every day and we had a priest who was absolutely amazing,” Dorfman recalls. “It was a 20-minute quiet time down by the lake. There was a moment when the priest asked if anyone wanted to make some comments. A 13-year-old boy said, ‘I hope my father has aged in heaven, and I hope he’s proud of my actions on earth.’ His sister put her head on a camp staff member’s shoulder and quietly added, ‘I do, too.’”

Dorfman overheard a camper telephoning his mom. “We slept out at a campsite last night, and we had s’mores,” the boy enthused. “And the last thing that we did was I wrote a message to Dad and put it in the fire and the smoke went up to him in heaven. I knew Dad heard me that I love him.”

Thanks to Jed Dorfman’s leadership and compassion, the America’s Camp will be there for the children of September 13 for many years to come.
Five CGU Experts Discuss Prospects in the Middle East

By Bryan Schneider

Kugler: But so many groups are lumped together as terrorists. We have to be very clear to distinguish groups like Hizbollah pursuing domestic agendas from an organization like al-Qaeda that has a different reason for being. Al-Qaeda is an international terror group driven by an anti-Western outlook. Our invasion of Iraq is not going to remove that threat at all because there was little, if any, al-Qaeda there.

The Flame: How can the U.S. be successful at influencing outcomes in the region?

Barkan: The U.S. has to be more sophisticated in manipulating and working with the different parties, because the Arab world is just as pluralistic as the West.

Snider: I think the U.S. needs to realize that the most dramatic forces that will shape politics in the area are those that are the least amenable to our kind of manipulation, or “guidance.” I agree that the U.S. can be more successful by working with various groups instead of trying to engineer something on its own. Manipulation and coercion are not going to get us far.

Barkan: I’m not sure that’s true. The military force that the U.S. used was immensely successful. It really shook the Middle East. It contained Syria and Iran in terms of their ability to support extramilitary forces. The inability of the Iraq army to resist has made people think twice. The question is—what is the U.S. going to do now that the country is occupied?

Kugler: Winning the Iraq war does not create stability. It creates opportunities that could advance stability in the region. But the U.S. is not pursuing those opportunities effectively.

At the global level, the U.S. split with N.A.T.O. on Iraq is also a serious concern. Long term, the only way we can maintain some semblance of international security is with the full cooperation of the European Union, along with potential agreement from Russia and China.

The Flame: Will Islamic fundamentalism flourish or diminish over the next five years, and will we see a corresponding growth or reduction in terrorism?

Barkan: Fundamentalism has grown in the Arab world, but it’s only in Iran that it has become a form of government. For 20 years, fundamentalism has failed to dominate other countries. In Iran, fundamentalism is on the defensive, it’s becoming less controlling of the government. So if you’re talking about the short term, there’s no reason to assume that fundamentalism will become victorious in the region. Its political impact is probably going to diminish.
The Islamic fundamentalists have raped a windfall of disconcerted people who are not necessarily supportive of a theocratic state, but who need a forum for engaging in critical discussion. And this is why I believe it in the U.S. strategic interest to gently push these governments to open up.

What has happened in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran is that the state has taken over the appointment of clerics. Of course, the clerics may have completely different political goals in mind when they perform their functions, but the state wants no dissent. This situation creates a lot of conflict.

The Flame: Will the stated U.S. goal of democratizing Iraq be successful? If so, will democracy spread to other Middle Eastern countries?

Snider: I think America should take an interest in Iraq, because the problem that they have now is a lack of political dissent. This problem has to be addressed, because without it, democracy will not be possible. In other words, if we want democracy to succeed, we have to create an environment where people can express their opinions without being harassed. This is crucial to the success of democracy in Iraq.

The Flame: Have we seen any progress towards democracy in Iraq so far?

Snider: Yes, we have seen some progress towards democracy in Iraq. The Iraqi people have been able to vote for their representatives and have chosen a new government. This is a significant step towards democracy in Iraq.

Harriet: In my opinion, there won't be any more fundamentalism than there is now. But if the Iraqi situation is not brought under some kind of reasonable control, then we will become more supportive of a theocratic state, but we need a forum for engaging in critical discussion. And this is why I believe it in the U.S. strategic interest to gently push these governments to open up.

Kugler: The connection we've drawn between fundamentalism and terrorism is not accurate. For example, in Iraq, if the remnants of the secularist Ba'ath party are excluded from participation in the political process, they will become a legitimate, political organization. This is important to recognize, because when we talk about negotiating settlements in that part of the world, if we cannot find a way to bring these groups together, we miss critical opportunities to give such groups with large nonradical constituencies a stake in the newly emerging status quo.

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riding in the back of a cab from the Beijing airport as black bicycles glided silently on rain-slicked streets under the glow of red lanterns, I began to glimpse the mystery and beauty waiting in China. This ride was the first of many including tea truck, bicycle, log canoe, donkey cab, motorcycle, yak, richshaw, slow buses, fast trains, and planes that were to transport me on the adventure of a lifetime. 

In the last year, five other alumni, faculty, staff, and students at Claremont Graduate University also followed their passions in China, thanks to grants made by the R. Stanton Avery Foundation. Michael Mahin, a doctoral student in English, studied martial arts while living in a monastery in northeast China. Wendy Martin, professor of English, learned about tea cultivation and production. Edie Young, faculty support in the Drucker School, stayed with farmers and studied how they built stone terraces in their fields. MBA student Nick Stadnina discovered great surf and body boarding in the South China Sea. Teacher education alumna Margaret Chadwick studied fashion design.

I had the opportunity to travel for thirty days in March searching for poets and oral folk verse. I found stark contrasts on my journey, as growth is exploding in China. Construction cranes and scaffolding fill the eastern city of Shanghai and Beijing. Arc welders bath at midnight, while in rural villages near the border of Tibet, workers carry boulders suspended from rope slings. Twenty-four-hour Internet cafes feature the latest computer games while people without TV gather to watch movies together in makeshift tent theaters.

Everywhere there were surprises—silent Tai Chi in the morning streets of Beijing, groups of middle-aged Chinese men and women singing together in public parks, Sichuan peppers bubbling in vats of oil, and impromptu shampoo bowls set up on city sidewalks. As a Westerner, I was devastated at an honored guest, dining with families, visiting homes, temples, and schools. Many asked to photograph this red-haired stranger with grandparents, fiancées, and babies.

The journey was marked by synchronicity. With no specific plan, but round-theclock assistance from Weng Diedie, a resourceful university student known as Butterfly, we found a total of 39 poets. The trail of poets led 3,600 miles from northeastern through central China to southwestern villages near Myanmar and Laos.

The language of poetry turned out to be universal. Poets and artists shared conversation, defining moments, and a desire to capture images reflecting the humanness of life. Poets provided hospitality, offering tangerines, serving chrysanthemum tea, bringing photographs of family, talking about artistic perceptions and the explosion of change in contemporary China. I was impressed by the generosity of the Chinese people and welcomed into homes and studios of poets and artists. Through these encounters, I discovered the rich history of poetry in China. Poetry was long considered the height of literary accomplishment. A number of sites immortalize poet's contributions to public life, such as the Leshan Buddha and the walled-teraced parks surrounding West Lake in Hangzhou, where Mac first met with former President Nixon. Several lushly landscaped memorial parks are devoted to renowned poets, such as Xue Tao, a poetess from the 12th century.

In an incredible stroke of good fortune, Butterfly and I learned of an important annual poetry festival taking place the following day. Chengdu is a center for cultural arts and home to some of the finest poets in Central China. A local news crew offered a ride in the newswagon. Geese farmers herded flocks and villagers carried chickens and piglets to market as the newsvan bounced along a winding dirt road.

At the top of a mountain awash in plum blossoms, a panel of 13 well-known poets surrounded a Nigerian teacher, were preparing to read their works. Moments after arriving, I was unexpectedly escorted to the head table where a bank of microphones stood waiting. I quickly penned a poem on a napkin. Though most of the audience spoke only Mandarin, they applauded as enthusiastically at the American poem as if their favorite poem had just been read. Poets were treated to a lavish banquet where delicacies such as eel and pig’s blood were served at communal tables. There were many rounds of toasts in
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The China adventure program honors R. Stanton Avery, adventurer, philanthropist, inventor, and entrepreneur. The program honors the spirit of adventure in Avery’s initial journey to China. Grants are available to staff, faculty, students, and recent graduates of The Claremont Colleges. California Institute of the Arts and California Institute of Technology. The program invites proposals for any adventure not directly related to an individual's discipline. Grants may be funded for up to one year.

As a fellow CGU student and traveler Michael Mahin said in a recent email from China, “This is still a dream come true. So much to learn. So little time.”

The villages of Lugu Lake are matriarchal societies. Women under the black, starry sky, villagers organize a communal campfire. One member from each of the village families comes ... the echo of the refrain bounces off the nearby mountains, “Mademi, mademi,” “lucky and happy.”

The Musou are a branch of the Naxi nationality with a population of approximately 15,000 and are the main ethnic group scattered throughout the whole territory of Lugu Lake. The ancients recognized Lugu Lake as the mother of the Naxi nation. They believe it is a holy place and an ancient land. It is also a place of primitive simplicity, pure virgin land, the ancient tradition of tea and pristine landscapes, home to the Mousu culture. Melodic folk songs and oral traditional play an important role in maintaining the traditions and the peaceful, simple life that has existed here for thousands of years. Lugu Lake’s remote location and difficult access have allowed this society to retain its cultural heritage for thousands of years. At the entrance to each village is a triangular rock wall tied with Tibetan prayer flags that flap in the wind. Women ride horses, carry sticks in bundles on their backs, and rowing canoes to neighboring islands, where the only structure may be a prayer temple.

The villages of Lugu Lake are matriarchal societies. Women are heads of households. Couples never marry and engage in an alternative system called Asia or visiting marriage. Women choose male lovers who visit at night. These traditions are passed along to new generations through rituals, stories, and folk songs. Musou children grow up in their mother’s home, raised by uncles. Fathers are not financially bound to the lower family. This society is regarded as a living fossil for the study of the development of matriarchal cultures.

Many Lugu villages have beautiful singing voices. At night under the black, starry sky villagers organize a communal campfire. One member from each of the village families comes to dance around the fire, singing traditional Musou songs. Songs pay tribute to the beauty of the lake and this peaceful mountain life. Men and women sing counterpoint and the echo of the refrain bounces off the nearby mountains, “Mademi, mademi,” “lucky and happy.” The Musou are a branch of the Naxi nationality with a population of approximately 15,000 and are the main ethnic group scattered throughout the whole territory of Lugu Lake. The ancients recognized Lugu Lake as the mother of the Naxi nation. They believe it is a holy place and an ancient land. It is also a place of primitive simplicity, pure virgin land, the ancient tradition of tea and pristine landscapes, home to the Mousu culture. Melodic folk songs and oral traditional play an important role in maintaining the traditions and the peaceful, simple life that has existed here for thousands of years. Lugu Lake’s remote location and difficult access have allowed this society to retain its cultural heritage for thousands of years. At the entrance to each village is a triangular rock wall tied with Tibetan prayer flags that flap in the wind. Women ride horses, carry sticks in bundles on their backs, and rowing canoes to neighboring islands, where the only structure may be a prayer temple.

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Three unlikely allies—a Palestinian, an Israeli-American, and a Jew from Beverly Hills—are attempting to do what decades of generals and statesmen have thus far failed to achieve: bring lasting peace to the Middle East. Their tool is a business plan for Jozoor Microfinance. Their aim: "We want peace for the next generation, and this can be achieved, not with idealism, but sound economic principles."

That Beverly Hills resident Bryan Berkett, a senior English literature major at Columbia University, ever met up with Stanford senior Uri Pomerantz and Hisham Jabi, an MBA student at the Drucker School at Claremont Graduate University, is unlikely enough. That they formed a business partnership transcending cultural, national, and religious differences in pursuit of a common goal seems almost miraculous.

The three are united by a common bond of suffering. Pomerantz lost his great-aunt last year to a terrorist shooting on a busy street in Jerusalem. Jabi's cousin was killed by a stray Israeli bullet as he nursed her 13-day-old baby on the balcony of her West Bank home. Berkett is the grandson of Holocaust survivors.

The idea for a microfinance venture grew out of Islamic culture and history courses that Berkett took at Columbia. He was concerned about peace in the Middle East and was surprised by the polarization he found on campus. "I need to Sharon—should come in by the West Bank with tanks," he recalls. "Palestinians were just as militant on the other side."

Berkett watched a documentary film about a young Palestinian, "a young guy, a good guy," he says. "I kept feeling that he was the Palestinian version of me. Then at the end of the movie he said, "I'm thinking of becoming a suicide bomber because I have nothing to live for." It was shocking to hear him say that."

Berkett wondered if part of the solution to Palestinian despair might be found in microfinance loans for small businesses. It is an approach used in many developing countries to help people lift themselves out of poverty and is encouraged by the United Nations. Through a string of friends and relatives, Berkett discovered Stanford student Pomerantz, who shared the same vision.

The two decided to write a business plan for a microfinance venture and enter it in competitions sponsored by major business schools.

One of the competitions, however, required that an MBA student be part of the team. "I sent an email to a good friend, explaining the business model and asking him to join the team," Berkett says. "He got an email back saying, 'F--- them. I don't want to help any f---ing Palestinians.' I was shocked by his response."

Friends and coincidence led Berkett and Pomerantz to Hisham Jabi, a Palestinian Clinton Scholar pursuing dual degrees in management and information science at CGU. Jabi studied the project idea for two months before committing himself. It soon took over his life. "We pushed each other really hard," says Pomerantz. "When we were not in class, we were doing this 30 hours a week for seven months."

Jozoor Microfinance, as they named the project, won the Stanford Social Venture Business Plan competition in late May and was selected as a finalist in the Goldman Sachs-Berkeley-Columbia competition.

Along the way it became a life passion for the partners, one that has continued to consume them since they collected their diplomas this spring. They are actively raising money for a pilot project to test the business model and are seeking an on-site director. They hope to launch Jozoor soon.

"Palestine and Israel are so similar. Take away ethnicities that are different, and we are just humans trying to exist." —Uri Pomerantz

Crossing Cultures,
Changing Lives

Unusual partnership
takes root, promotes peace
in the volatile West Bank

By Marilyn Thomsen

"We want peace for the next generation, and this can be achieved, not with idealism, but sound economic principles."

—Uri Pomerantz
is about 60 percent, and half of the population lives in poverty defined as two dollars a day. "Statistically most suicide bombers come from people who live in these areas," Jabi says. "If we give them hope, they can channel their energies in productive ways rather than leave them in frustration that can lead to violence." Jabi has already seen the microloan plan work successfully. A family friend in the West Bank suffered repeated financial losses when the cucumber he was trying to market spoiled in the hot sun while he waited for clearance at Israeli checkpoints. He asked Jabi to loan him funds to turn their cumbercins into canned pickles that would not spoil in transport and was able to start a successful side business. Based on Jabi's intimate knowledge of the West Bank economy and society, the partners chose the village of Salfit, located between the major Palestinian cities of Ramallah and Nablus, as the site of the pilot project. Salfit is surrounded by a number of Israeli settlements which annexed Palestinian olive groves. It is also home to a more educated population than is found in other West Bank villages. The aim is to test the business model with an initial round of 50 loans with an average value of $900 each. Depending on their experience and collateral, clients will receive a loan as an individual or be part of group loans. Jabi's model is inspired by the Grameen Bank, the world's first and largest microlending organization, located in Bangladesh. Grameen requires group members to approve or reject other members' business proposals before a group can receive its loans. Each member of the group is also required to guarantee the loans made to each other member as well as himself. Thus, there is considerable social pressure for each of the members to repay their loan. A unique aspect of the Jozoor business plan is the training and mentoring offered to clients. Four pre-loan sessions will help the young entrepreneurs learn how to recognize a good business opportunity, how to develop a sound business plan, how to pay taxes, and how to develop other market skills. After completing the workshop, clients will be assigned to a sector focused on the area. Jabi used the two months he was detained to teach himself Hebrew. Later, he enrolled in the Martin Buber Center for External Education at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. For two years, he studied for a certificate in Islamic studies. And he watched the Israeli people around him. "What do they eat? Why do they do what they do?" he asked himself. And, he wondered, "How can we Palestineans be equal to them?"

The answer, he concluded, was "education, education, education—and communication.

Though he prepared for a career in auditing, Jabi discovered he had an entrepreneur's heart. In 1994, he opened a West Bank office for Nabuco—the Modern Palestinian Bank. By 1996, the bank was growing so fast that Jabi grew to be a $2.5 million-year business, employing 55 people. It provided office automation solutions to businesses on the West Bank. Malicious business took Jabi as far as away Hong Kong, where he encountered, to his great surprise, an Arab restaurant.

"The restaurant was unadorned and complex story about transcending our routine individualistic boundaries in search of the true secret of life. ... for matters of great consequence by reading this little book about a little prince who is ever present in all of us.

I found stupidly帷幕 by Michael Moore to be absolutely witty, full of research and absolutely satirical. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to have a debate on special interest groups and their influence. It offers much for a balanced view of our world. Good journalistic writing.

Veronica Finn M.A., Politics and Policy, 2002

Whether you were a kid or an adult when you first read it, and whether you have read it once or many times over, you can always reminisce about the simple and yet profound lessons present in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's. This is a happy and sad, unadorned and complex story about transcending our routine individualistic boundaries in search of the true secret of life. ... for matters of great consequence by reading this little book about a little prince who is ever present in all of us. 

Mandem Harshman Ph.D. student, Educational Studies

I would recommend Philip Pullman's trilogy, His Dark Materials—children's books in the same vein as Harry Potter. The books are set in alternative, interconnected worlds quite similar to the one we think we know, although in one world John Calvin became pope! The thoughtful yet well- paced story follows the journey of two children as they attempt to uncover the secret of a strange phenomenon called Dust which may be sentient, maybe sentient, or just may be the very essence of grace. Giant armored bears, demons, good witches, and bad angels also complicate the children's adventure. The trilogy begins with The Golden Compass, continues with The Subtle Knife and ends with The Amber Spyglass.

Cathy Gordon Ph.D. student, History (Early Modern Studies)

I recently read the historian Richard Hofstadter’s Anti-intellectualism in American Life which won the Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction in 1964. Far from dated, Hofstadter’s analysis of the roots of American anti-intellectualism is profoundly relevant for anyone who wishes to understand the rise and make sense of President George W. Bush and the current degradation of nuanced moral and political reasoning. Once more the author provides insight into the landscape of contemporary American religious belief and culture.

Denise Maloney France P.H.D. Religion, 2003

Malcolm Gladwell, Outliers

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For fun summer reading, I’d highly recommend Philip Pullman’s trilogy, His Dark Materials—children’s books in the same vein as Harry Potter. The books are set in alternative, interconnected worlds quite similar to the one we think we know, although in one world John Calvin became pope! The thoughtful yet well- paced story follows the journey of two children as they attempt to uncover the secret of a strange phenomenon called Dust which may be sentient, maybe sentient, or just may be the very essence of grace. Giant armored bears, demons, good witches, and bad angels also complicate the children’s adventure. The trilogy begins with The Golden Compass, continues with The Subtle Knife and ends with The Amber Spyglass.

Cathy Gordon Ph.D. student, History (Early Modern Studies)

I recently read the historian Richard Hofstadter’s Anti-intellectualism in American Life which won the Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction in 1964. Far from dated, Hofstadter’s analysis of the roots of American anti-intellectualism is profoundly relevant for anyone who wishes to understand the rise and make sense of President George W. Bush and the current degradation of nuanced moral and political reasoning. Once more the author provides insight into the landscape of contemporary American religious belief and culture.

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MEET CGU'S NEW ALUMNI DIRECTOR

When Joy Rosenzweig Kliewer (Ph.D. Education, 1997) first discovered CGU after finishing his degree at U.C. Irvine and UCLA, she felt she had found a hidden treasure. “I loved the small, student-centered community the beauty and intimacy of the campus,” says Kliewer, who started as CGU’s new director of alumni affairs this past April.

Kliewer comes to CGU from Arroyo Grande University in Orange County, where she served as founding dean of the School of Education. At Arroyo, she was credited with launching the university’s first teacher education program and boosting enrollment in the school from 20 students to more than 200 students. Kliewer has also taught courses on education, evaluation, and planning, and consulted on research projects for Pomona College, Claremont University-Consortium, and the Center for the Study of Community College Research at UCLA, among others.

Kliewer completed a Ph.D. in education with a concentration in higher education. Studying under professors Jack Schuster, Daryl Smith, and David Drew, she worked as a teaching assistant, a research assistant, and a program coordinator for the Howard R. Bowen Institute for Policy Research in Higher Education. “I had a wonderful experience here as a student and great mentors with whom I have stayed connected,” says Kliewer.

In 1999, Kliewer published a book, The Research Campus: Nurturing the Science-Learning Environment (Oryx Press, Greenwood Publishers 1999), which is based on her dissertation at CGU. She has presented workshops across the country on the topic of innovative education and, most recently, served as a keynote speaker at the 30th anniversary conference of the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University.

Kliewer is currently developing a strategy for increased alumni engagement at CGU. Her overriding goals are to nurture lifelong connections between alumni and the university and to build programs to enhance the personal and professional development of alumni.

Specifically, Kliewer plans to expand online and on-campus activities for alumni in conjunction with the university’s academic schools and centers, engage alumni in new student recruitment, alumni liaison, and newsletters, and enhance the alumni website and online directory (www.alumni.cgu.edu).

Kliewer also wants to get the word out on existing alumni benefits such as career services, library privileges, tuition benefits, and CGU’s free alumni email forwarding and online alumni directory services. She can be reached at 909-621-8027 or joykliewar@979.aol.com.
early March, raising over $14,000. A partnership with Albertson’s grocery stores allows customers to obtain a card giving 2 percent of the money spent at the stores to the Bethany Memorial Foundation. The foundation recently completed a successful book drive, gathering 30,000 books to benefit Ethiopian college libraries. Future plans include expanding the number of orphans helped, creating a network of partnerships with other organizations, and building a new public library in Ethiopia.

Negash, who recently served as a visiting assistant professor at Chapman University, moved last July with his family to Atlanta, Georgia to take a tenured faculty position in information science at Kennesaw State University. Although Negash plans to promote the foundation there, it will continue to be based in California.

Negash, who hails originally from Ethiopia but is now a U.S. citizen, chose Ethiopia not only because of his heritage there, but because he could do more with less. A more $400 a month can support a family of five. Most importantly, however, some of the world’s greatest need exists in this East African country of 64 million people.

War, famine, and the AIDS epidemic have taken an enormous toll on the adult population, leaving an estimated 1.2 million orphans in a country that cannot afford to care for them. According to United Nations estimates, 10.6 percent of Ethiopian adults were HIV positive at the end of 1999.

Seizing education as the key to escaping poverty, the foundation is currently helping 12 orphans and their families through financial assistance, tutoring, and mentoring. Resources are committed to these children until they complete their education and develop employable skills. They must meet certain scholastic and behavioral standards to retain the funding. The tutors hired to help the children are college students who are themselves orphans. In need of this employment to pay their educational expenses, the ultimate aim of the foundation’s support is to make the orphans’ guardians and the tutors self-sufficient.

A good example of those helped by the program is Sara Abate and her brother, Medfin. Both lost their father seven years ago when Sara was eight and her brother was only a year old. Their father, a volunteer soldier, lost his life in battle. Their mother, who worked tirelessly to support them, fell victim to AIDS four years later. Sara and Medfin’s grandfather took custody of them after their parents’ death, even though their grandfather was too ill to work. The only financial support came from the grandmother’s day laborer baking bread, which in a good week garnered only $9 (equivalent to $1 per week). Since their assistance from the Bethany Foundation, the children, now eight and 15, are doing better in school. The entire family eats three complete meals a day. And the grandmother’s income has increased eightfold. Sara hopes to become a commercial pilot someday and Medfin a medical doctor.

In addition to gaining official recognition by the California State Senate and Assembly, the County of San Bernardino, and the cities of Chino and Chino Hills where the foundation is based, the foundation has held several successful fundraisers since early March, raising over $34,000. A partnership with Albertson’s grocery stores allows customers to obtain a card giving 2 percent of the money spent at the stores to the Bethany Memorial Foundation.

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For more information about the Bethany Negash Memorial Foundation, go to www.bethanymemorial.org or call 1-866-501-KIDS.
THREE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED AT COMMENCEMENT

Three alumni of diverse accomplishments and distinctions were honored at CGU’s seventy-sixth annual spring commencement ceremony on May 17.

Renowned artist James Turrell was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Known worldwide for his artwork exploring light and space, Turrell’s current project is centered on an extinct volcano, the Roden Crater near the Grand Canyon, which he has been transforming into a celestial observatory for the past 30 years.

Service Awards were presented to Priscilla Fernandez and George Brinton. Fernandez, a CGU English alumna, has served as a member of the Board of Visitors for CGU’s Centers for the Arts and Humanities for the past 10 years. She was recently elected to serve as a member of the university’s Board of Trustees. Fernandez is collection development librarian and professor at Chaffey College in Alta Loma, where she has worked since 1972. She has been active in numerous organizations benefitting college, university, and community libraries, including the Electronic Access to Resources Committee for the Community Colleges.

George Brinton is an economics alumnus and president of Brinton Economics, Inc., a research and consulting company in West Los Angeles. Brinton serves on the Board of Visitors for the School of Politics and Economics. Previously he served as a senior economist at Stanford Research Institute. Brinton was a member of the faculty at the University of Southern California, and later at Claremont Graduate School and the University of Wisconsin.

Alumni—Has Your Address Or E-Mail Changed?
E-mail alumni@cgu.edu or phone the Office of Alumni Affairs at 909-621-8027 with your e-mail, address, or phone updates to ensure that you continue to receive the magazine and invitations to alumni and campus events. Updates can also be faxed to 909-621-4202, attention: Office of Alumni Affairs.

Alumni: What’s New?

Please use the space below to update us on your personal or professional activities. Attach additional pages if needed, and do send photos.* Alumni profiles and photos may be published in a future issue of the Flame magazine and on the CGU alumni web site.

Date:_____________________________________

Name: _________________________________

First Name _____________________________

Middle Name ___________________________

Last Name ______________________________

Home Address, Street, including apartment number _____________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State ______ Zip ______ Country ______

Home phone ___________________ Call phone ___________________

Work phone ___________________ E-Mail Address(es)____________________________

Job Title __________________________________________________________________

Year of graduation or last class taken__________________________________________

Program/School/Center

❑ Arts & Humanities ❑ Education ❑ Religion
❑ Information Science ❑ Drucker ❑ Mathematical Sciences
❑ Politics & Economics ❑ Behavioral & Organizational Sciences

Degree(s) or certificate(s) earned at CGU, with year(s):___________________________

Brief description of personal or professional activities (attach additional sheets, if needed): ________________________________________________________________

Detach and send this form with any photos to the Office of Alumni Affairs, Claremont Graduate University, Jagels Building, 165 East Tenth St., Claremont, CA 91711-6160, fax (909) 607-4202 (ATTENTION: Alumni Affairs) or e-mail your news to alumni@cgu.edu.

* Photos should be submitted in 300 dpi, if electronic format. Photos may be used, on print and quality specifications. If you would like your photos to be returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your mailing.
In 1992, Sandra Cox (Ph.D. Education, 1985) was preparing for a well-earned retirement following a long and distinguished career as a school psychologist in the Los Angeles Unified School District. But then came the Los Angeles riots, decimating neighborhoods and creating a crisis of unparalleled proportions for the city she loved. Cox decided her retirement would have to wait.

As the rioting subsided, Cox got on the phone with friends and colleagues in the mental health profession, urging them to join her in helping the communities hit hardest by the violence. “One of the key things I learned from my professors at CGU was that the underclass have no stake in society unless they have the tools for progress,” says Cox.

Her colleagues heeded the call, forming a temporary volunteer team of 15 crisis counselors offering free services to the affected communities. “Originally we planned this to last for three weeks but soon figured out that wouldn’t work,” says Cox. With a grant from the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, the group, now called the Coalition of Mental Health Professionals with Cox as executive director, became a long-term service provider for South Los Angeles residents.

The coalition continues to offer free services in individual and family therapy, crisis intervention, HIV/AIDS counseling, domestic violence counseling and classes, conflict resolution, and stress management training. The coalition also operates apartments for homeless individuals with chronic mental disabilities. The Raymond and Odessa Cox Villas, as these apartments are named, honor Cox’s parents, from whom she draws much inspiration for her community work. “It’s in my genes to do good for humankind,” says Cox. “My parents imbued this in me.”

Cox’s father was a union organizer and, in 1948, one of the first African-Americans to run for elective office in California. He lost that election but opened the door for many African-American candidates who followed. Cox’s mother fought for 30 years to get a community college built near their South Los Angeles community, with the hope that her children wouldn’t be forced to travel long distances for their education. In 1967, she accomplished her goal, being one of the principal founders of Los Angeles Southwest College.

Recently, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation chose Cox from among hundreds of nominees to receive the prestigious Community Health Leadership Program award. The award carries a $15,000 personal prize for Cox, and $105,000 to benefit the coalition.

According to Catherine Dunham, director of the Community Mental Health Leadership Program, the award honors the unsung heroes of community health, those who are determined and relentless in their work and bring badly needed resources to underserved communities. Cox came to CGU in 1996, after completing her master’s degree in educational psychology from the University of Southern California. She received a Ph.D. in education with a concentration in social psychology. “I don’t regret one day I spent at CGU,” says Cox. “I was getting a hold of valuable concepts and applying them to life. My professors pushed me to my limits, but the skills I learned were life lessons.”