

LA JOLLA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL MAGAZINE

1926

SPRING 2020



TORREYS ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

♥

The strength of the LJCDS community lies in its people—alumni, parents, grandparents, students, faculty and staff. We're thinking about you during this difficult time.

SPECIAL MESSAGE REGARDING COVID-19



ADELDAU



CAROLINE KELLY '22

DOLORES HUERTA

STUDIO II

After learning about the Chicano Park murals in San Diego, Caroline Kelly '22 used color vibrations and repeating patterns to portray Dolores Huerta's political work, specifically her role as co-founder of the United Farm Workers union with Cesar Chavez. The Spanish phrase "*Sí Se Puede*" is translated to "Yes We Can!" and communicates Huerta's unwavering commitment to equality and justice.



Torrey Community

I hope you and your family are healthy and safe. Amid COVID-19, may you find sources of joy, optimism and gratitude as you navigate these challenging times.

“The heart of a community is made up of the care, rapport and connection that we have for one another that transcends distance.”

At La Jolla Country Day School, our priority is the health, safety and security of our students, faculty, staff and community. Campus closed on March 16, 2020. While we were physically apart, we remained intellectually and emotionally connected. The heart of a community is made up of the care, rapport and connection that we have for one another that transcends distance.

Over the past several months, we learned that there is no shortage of goodness, kindness and dignity at our school. The pandemic was not the catalyst to create a community; rather it provided the time for us to appreciate the community that we have.

The dedication and care of our leadership team and faculty have been unwavering as they’ve worked tirelessly to create high-quality, engaging distance-learning plans. I am proud of the way our community rapidly and effectively pivoted in the best interest of our students. I am grateful for the ways our faculty, staff, parents, grandparents, students and alumni have supported one another during this difficult time.

The people in this community and their commitment to our promise of inspiring greatness for a better world will propel us forward. Our founder, Louise Balmer, would be proud.

The contents of the spring issue were written pre-pandemic. We have intentionally moved forward with a printed magazine, as we believe that staying connected is more important than ever. In this time of increasing digital communication, I felt you would enjoy having a physical copy. I hope the stories in this magazine make you proud of this remarkable Torrey community.

We look forward to sharing stories of how LJCDs responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in the fall/winter 2020 issue. If you have a story to share, please email me at gkrahn@ljcds.org or communications@ljcds.org.

Take care of yourself, your family, your friends and all those around you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary W. Krahn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary Krahn, Ph.D.
Head of School

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If you're reading this online and wish to receive a copy or if you prefer to opt out of receiving a mailed magazine, please contact communications@ljcds.org.



**LA JOLLA
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**
Inspiring Greatness for a Better World

NATALIE BRAND '02

30



ON THE COVER: Photography by Aaron Clamage

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Going Behind the Genes

Seth Crosby '78 is committed to research and bettering the world through science. He helps run a lab that utilizes genetic sequencing to help identify diseases and potential treatments.

30 | COVER

A Passion for Politics

Natalie Brand '02 has dedicated her career to informing and educating the public through the news. Today, she is managing the 24/7 news cycle as a political reporter in Washington, D.C.

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FACEBOOK & TWITTER



1
K through Grade 4 students are ready to showcase their math thinking at Math Night! 📈
POSTED ON JANUARY 16, 2020

2
Happy Lunar New Year! We hope your days are filled with immense joy and prosperity. Kudos to those involved in the celebration. 🎉
POSTED ON JANUARY 25, 2020

3
Congratulations to our class of 2020 student-athletes who committed to play at the college level during Signing Day. 🏆
POSTED ON FEBRUARY 5, 2020

4
Spoken Word hosted by Santé Prince with guest poets & budding Torrey poets was food for the soul. Thank you to all our Black Cultural Consciousness parent organizers. 🙌
POSTED ON FEBRUARY 8, 2020

5
LJCDs welcomed grandparents and special friends to the Middle School today. Thank you to all our grandparents and special friends who came from near and far to visit us on this day! 🎉
POSTED ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020

6
The University of San Diego hosted our class of 2021 college kickoff program. A full day of conversation and learning about the college search process. Our juniors are ready! 📚
POSTED ON JANUARY 10, 2020

7
Fourth-graders at LJCDs discussed their hopes and dreams for 2020 and picked one word that will guide and focus them in the things they do, both in and out of school. #inspiringgreatness #OneWord2020 🗣️
POSTED ON JANUARY 11, 2020

PERSPECTIVE

Sexism's Curtain Call: The Jokes That Failed to Land

I am told that I can't take a joke—that my entire generation can't take a joke and that we are, in fact, just too sensitive to function. I find this particularly humorous, as my generation readily laughs at internet memes, the most basic form of comedy, all day long. We simply don't find prejudice funny. As such, I refuse to laugh at your joke, not because I lack the capacity for humor, but because I simply refuse to aid in the casual reinforcement of prejudice.

I am not alone in my stance, nor am I a radical pioneer. Women everywhere have stopped laughing. The world as a global community has refused to let such jokes continue to be cracked. Instead, we welcome your death—that is, the death of centuries of gender-derived discrimination. We watch you leave with the same ferocity that you existed. We note the liberation spread in your wake, and we thank God that we can finally say goodbye.

We say goodbye to forced smiles and demure dispositions. To cages of domesticity and damsels always in distress. To chastisement for being too assertive or for being too unambitious. To kitten heels and pencil skirts, pepper spray and only jogging in daylight.

Goodbye to looking over our shoulders. To looking down. To being overlooked and to looks that linger. To being judged for having children, for not having children, for having children and going back to work, and for having children and not going back

to work. To handshakes, heartaches, asking for it and it all being our own fault. Goodbye.

No more "It's none of my business." No more "Boys will be boys." No more "She's too smart to let that happen." No more "Not my problem."

We will not be sad to see you go. With your passing, we embrace understanding. We exert the influence we rightfully deserve and celebrate the equality that is a woman's inalienable right. Your demise assures us that our femininity is strength, our elegance is empowerment, and our contribution is always necessary.

Losing your influence is threatening to some. To those individuals, I remind them that female empowerment is not a threat. It is the rightful uplifting of individuals who have long been silenced. As I brace myself for their sound, I laugh joyously at your demise. With your good riddance, I usher in the rise of a generation inexorable to the supposed hilarity of your inequality.

Sexism, this is your curtain call. Your jokes all fell flat and your punchlines failed to land. Your influence will forever light a fire in women everywhere to pursue their deserved equality, but you will never again exist as you once were. Sexism, I bid you farewell forever. —**SYDNEY STRAWN '20**

.....
This speech was given during La Jolla Country Day School's second annual Citizenship Week in fall 2019. Citizenship Week is a call to action for students to recognize and appreciate their roles as community members with fundamental rights, critical responsibilities and the capacity to bring about meaningful change. With guest speakers and schoolwide activities that bring together students of all ages, LJCDS celebrated the achievements of engaged citizens of the past. Students committed to working and achieving together as engaged citizens of the future. The theme of feminism, empowerment and breaking barriers corresponded with the 100th anniversary of California ratifying the 19th Amendment (Nov. 1, 1919) and the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (Nov. 9, 1989).

I am not alone in
my stance, nor am
I a radical pioneer.
Women everywhere
have stopped
laughing.



IN MEMORIAM

The Legacy of the Bostons



When the names **Bruce and Marsha Boston** are mentioned to alumni and faculty, past and present, what immediately follows is an outpouring of love and stories of profound impact and gratitude. The husband and wife duo were legends who left an indelible imprint on those who had the privilege of learning from and working with them at La Jolla Country Day School.

Inspirational, influential, passionate, nurturing, talented, compassionate, giving and admirable are among the scores of sentiments shared about the Bostons, who passed away within a few months of each other. Marsha, a visual arts educator in the Upper School for 22 years from 1989 to 2011, died on October 10, 2019, at age 73. Bruce, an English educator in the Upper School from 1974 to 2008, died shortly after his wife of more than 55 years on January 11, 2020, also at 73 years old.



“Marsha was so humble. She always heaped praise on the students rather than herself. You never felt that it was about Marsha—it was always about the students.”

Bruce Fayman, former LJCDs arts educator

The Artist Educator

Marsha’s graceful, soft-spoken and gentle demeanor transformed her art studio classroom into an encouraging space for all students. “Mrs. Boston challenged me to stray away from my comfort zone and experiment with different materials and subject matter that I never would have tried on my own,” says Adrienne Sigeti ’11. “She encouraged all of her students to think outside the box, always lending support and guidance when a piece didn’t turn out exactly as planned.”

As an educator, mentor and working artist, Marsha’s influence led numerous alumni to pursue art, personally and professionally. Her commitment, joy and passion for her craft were evident and infectious. “Marsha was my favorite teacher,” says Mina Rahnama Ash ’07. “Her artwork was a huge influence on me. I even ended up going to UC San Diego and graduating with a BA in studio art, honors.”

Marsha’s influence extended to her colleagues. “Marsha was my most important mentor when I first came to LJCDs,” shares Bruce Fayman ’77 P’15 ’17 ’19, former visual arts educator. “She always expressed

confidence in my ability to reach students and handle the rigors of teaching, which was so vital for me to hear. ... I also credit Marsha with helping me begin my own professional career in the arts and encouraging me to take bolder steps with my own creative choices.”

During the past two decades, Marsha’s professional artwork centered on the myths and concepts that have defined the human relationship with nature. Her watercolor and ink paintings of abstract botanicals, specifically medicinal plants indigenous to California, were soft and gentle, yet powerful in their message. Marsha’s work connects viewers with the wonders of plant life and to an earlier time, when plants were sacred and revered for their healing abilities.

“Marsha made the art studio a place where students wanted to be, where creative problem solving would flourish and self-expression would become a source of confidence and pride.”

Ann Chaitin, former LJCDs arts educator



“I came to him a needy teenager; he turned me into a serious writer. I was homeless (literally), and he gave me shelter in poetry.”

Karin Schalm '83

“His impact was immediate and stunning. Poetry was his vehicle for bringing all the issues raised in the '60s about identity, community, government, authority, war and peace into astonishing focus. Bruce would never think of separating his life from poetry.”

Will Erickson, former LJCDs
English educator

The Poet Educator

Ascholar and influencer, Bruce was a well-respected educator and published poet known for donning round spectacles. He taught English in the Upper School for 34 years and also served as the English department chair.

Under his leadership, Bruce created a visiting poets program, welcoming distinguished scribes, including Philip Levine, United States Poet Laureate from 2011–2012, and Pulitzer Prize–winner Galway Kinnell. He also launched the student literary magazine *Pegasus*, which remains in publication today.

Bruce was an intensely passionate educator. While challenging those around him with high expectations, he did so with kindness and encouragement. “Bruce inspired his colleagues to think big, to teach passionately and with great skill, and to reinvent the craft to suit the students’ needs,” shares Deborah Shaul, Upper School English educator. He placed great value on relationship building among colleagues. “He truly fostered a family atmosphere in the department,” says Joanne

Bradley, Upper School English educator. “We hung out together outside of school a lot, so we weren’t just colleagues at work. I think we were a much better department because we were so cohesive. It was not just a job for us.”

His optimism for professional growth seeped into his faculty evaluations. “I remember he always talked about evaluations as a celebration of the faculty that he had,” shares Bradley. “He celebrated our strengths, which was very important, and gave really good suggestions to implement in classroom teaching.”

Bruce’s profound impact in his classroom spans generations. He was generous with his time, spending endless hours working on creative writing or poetry with students. “Bruce always saw the writer in his students, often long before they saw that in themselves,” says Shaul. “He had a magic about him, an aura that inspired kids to write and to write well. He really brought out the poet in everyone.”

“Repudiate puffery,” is one of Bruce’s most famous lines. He encouraged all those around him to speak and write from the heart.

The Love

Bruce and Marsha dedicated their careers to making a difference in the lives of students—which they did beautifully. Personally, they devoted their lives to loving, caring for and supporting each other. “[I remember] two [people] who loved each other through everything,” says former faculty member Heidi Bruning. Will Erickson, another former colleague, remembers, “They were inseparable. I can hardly think of one without the other.”

Their unequivocal love for each other inspired all those around them. “My best memory of Bruce, beyond his writing and his teaching and how he cared about his students, [was] his love for Marsha,” says Sharon McCartney ’77. “The way that he spoke about her and their years together showed me (skeptical teenage me) what love could be. And their love endured. I respect them both so much.” —**TIFFANY TRUONG**

“They got married at a very young age, at 16, and they were truly in love. They were really just the greatest couple. I honestly think Bruce died of a broken heart, if you can do that.”

Joanne Bradley,
LJCDs English educator

“He and Marsha, who lived their lives like geese on open water, showed us that the way is clear in everything we do: Do no harm. Teach kindness. Save what we have left.”

Chip Lee, former LJCDs
English educator

SAVE THE DATE

A Celebration of Life and Impact

LJCDs will honor the Bostons during Alumni Weekend 2020 on August 28, 2020.*

*Due to COVID-19, updates on events will be forthcoming via email.





EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Creating Change in the City of Peace

Four years ago, as freshmen, leaders **Nikita Nair '20** and **Matthew Wirtz '20** set their goals for the Torrey Model United Nations (TorreyMUN) team. The wish list included qualifying for the most prestigious Model UN conference in the world: The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) conference. In early 2020, the team's ambition was finally realized when they departed for the Netherlands to attend a five-day simulation of the United Nations.

Located in The Hague—known as the City of Peace and Justice and home to the seat of the Dutch government—THIMUN has a unique relationship with the United Nations. When a resolution passes at THIMUN, it is sent directly to the UN to be considered for discussion.

Participation at THIMUN is by invitation only, and it is something the TorreyMUN team has been working toward for the past five years, since Nair and Wirtz were in middle school. This year's discussions centered around the theme "Securing Democracy: Every Vote Matters!" Once at the conference, students discussed, debated and negotiated various world problems with more than 3,000 participants from over 200 different schools located in more than 100 countries.

Led by advisor Fiona Halloran and assistant advisor Jonathan Shulman, the LJCDS team of 12 represented the country of Liberia at THIMUN and worked to accurately represent its policies and views through discussions ranging from the

Hong Kong protests to protecting maternal health. TorreyMUN team members lobbied with fellow delegates from around the world to brainstorm resolutions to these global issues.

TorreyMUN successfully passed multiple resolutions at THIMUN, which will be sent directly to the United Nations in hopes of bringing about meaningful change. "Once accepted into THIMUN, a school can attend for as long as it wishes to do so," Halloran shares. "The seniors, in other words, won this prize not only for themselves but for all the TorreyMUNers who will come after them—truly an expression of the spirit of TorreyMUN."

—HANNAH JACOBS



Swimming

TAYLA GRAINGER '20
PHOTOGRAPHY

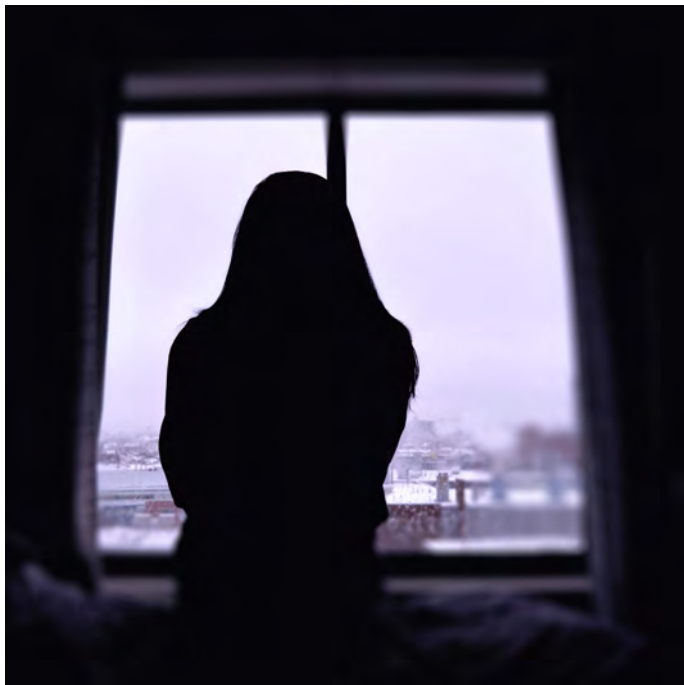
“Depression and anxiety are incurable, and the struggle against mental illness is lifelong. Each day presents a new challenge, and we can choose either to tread water by taking positive steps toward recovery, or surrender to the current and drown. One day, I hope to float by finding and maintaining inner peace.”

VISUAL ARTS

Capturing Dreams

The Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) in San Diego selected the works of Yubeen “Amy” Cho '21 and Tayla Grainger '20 to be featured in the 14th Annual Juried Youth Exhibition, “Dreamscapes.”

Since 2006, MOPA has held an annual juried exhibition showcasing the photographic talents of K–12 students from San Diego and Tijuana. Students are encouraged to submit work that responds visually to a particular theme. The winning entries are selected for their creativity and artistic interpretation of that year’s topic. This year’s call asked students to submit works responding to the theme of dreams—an exploration of the subconscious and the ways in which we perceive dreams. Cho’s and Grainger’s were among the 100 selected from a total of 874 student submissions. —JENNIFER FOGARTY



The Labyrinth in my Head

YUBEEN “AMY” CHO '21
PHOTOGRAPHY

“Ever since I moved to the United States at age 6, so much of growing up happened in my mind since I couldn’t communicate with many of my American friends. I think this stage of ‘daydreams’ has shaped me to almost create another world in which I can reflect and escape reality. In the photo, my mom had been contemplating a potential outcome of her choices, and I decided to capture this moment because our thoughts are often so deep that we drown in them.”





ATHLETICS

Hoop Dreams Come True



Te-Hina Paopao '20

In the history of San Diego high school sports, only six women's basketball players have been named McDonald's All-Americans. Three of them played at La Jolla Country Day School. Recipients **Candice Wiggins '04** and **Kelsey Plum '13** went on to star in college and the WNBA. Now, **Te-Hina Paopao '20** shares this tremendous honor.

Women's basketball coach Terri Bamford knew Paopao was special when she first met her at age 10. Bamford, who has led the LJCD women's basketball program since 1999, still carries a photo of her and young Paopao together. On the picture, Bamford wrote, "Future McDonald's All-American."

Paopao's road to success involved many setbacks early in her Upper School journey. In September of freshman year, she tore her right ACL and played only four games at the end of the season. Then in her sophomore year, she tore her left ACL and missed the entire season. But through it all, Paopao remained resilient and optimistic. She committed to the rehabilitation work necessary to return to the game stronger and stepped up as a team leader.

In her junior and senior years, Paopao returned to the game healthy and in full force. After her junior season, Paopao was selected 1st Team All-Coastal League, Coastal League Player of the Year, and Cal-Hi All-State Best of the Best Team. In the 2019–2020 season, Paopao was named California Gatorade Player of the Year.

Paopao played in every game her senior season and averaged 23 points, eight rebounds, four assists and three steals per game. The team's season closed with an unprecedented record of 32–1. The Torreys captured the 2019–2020 Coastal League Championship and the Open Division CIF Championship—the first Open Division title in LJCD history. The Torreys finished the season ranked No. 1 in the United States and were named 2019–2020 National Champions by MaxPreps. But Paopao's priority is being the ultimate teammate. "I play unselfish team-first basketball," Paopao says. "I am more concerned about winning than stats. I am always ready to do whatever is needed for my team at any time of the game, whether it's to score, rebound or make a defensive stop."

Paopao leaves a legacy of talent, determination, humility and class. In fall 2020, she will join the Ducks at the University of Oregon. "She's an electric point guard," shares Oregon head coach Kelly Graves. "Te-Hina's skillset is incredible. She is a strong rebounder, an uncanny passer and an elite three-point shooter. She's an unselfish teammate, a hard worker who always plays the game with a huge smile, and a baller to the max with a really high basketball IQ." —**ROBERT GRASSO**

The Torreys advanced to the California Open Division State Championship Game. However, due to COVID-19, the game was canceled.



COMMITMENT

From Lifer to Board President

Ask any alumni what La Jolla Country Day School means to them, and the words *home* and *community* will be among those mentioned. For **Lucy Smith Conroy '90 P'24 '25 '35**, LJCDS has been her home away from home since she was 5 years old, making her a “lifer,” and it’s still her community now as a parent. Her love and passion for the school shine through in the numerous ways she has given back over the years, most recently by assuming the role of the board of trustees president in 2019.

While many alumni have served on the board of trustees, Conroy is the first to become president.

The board of trustees supports Head of School Gary Krahn, Ph.D., and his vision for the school, while forecasting strategic initiatives that will ensure LJCDS is in the best possible position 10, 20, 50 years from now.

Conroy’s role involves weekly meeting (at a minimum) with the head of school. She plans six board meetings and oversees the six committees of the board—Audit, Buildings and Grounds, Engagement, Executive, Finance, and Committee on Trustees.

One of the school’s priorities includes creating a master plan to guide the development of the campus. “As our centennial approaches in 2026, the needs of our student body are changing,” Conroy shares. “And

we want to be sure we have the right facilities in place to support future LJCDS students.”

Other priorities in the 2019–2020 academic year are diversity, equity and inclusivity. To better support the strategic initiative, Conroy attended the People of Color Conference (PoCC) for professional development. PoCC brings together students, faculty and staff from across the country to provide a safe space for leadership, professional development and networking for people of color and allies of all backgrounds in independent schools.

Conroy and her brother, Mark '93, witnessed firsthand the importance of giving back. Their parents, Sidney Smith, M.D., and Lucy Smith, generously offered their time, talents and treasure to support LJCDS, including serving as the board of trustees president and Parents Association president, respectively.



What's particularly special is that Conroy's children have been taught by some of the same teachers she had as a student.



Conroy has held numerous volunteer roles at the school in the past decade: Country Day Fund ambassador, room parent, president of the Alumni Leadership Council, board of trustees committee member and board of trustees vice president.

After 13 years at LJCDS, Conroy headed to the East Coast to earn a Bachelor of Arts in theater and women's studies from Trinity College and a Master of Fine Arts in directing from Columbia University. As a freelance theater director and member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, she has had her work produced both in New York and at regional theaters across the country. She is also the former resident dramaturg at Court Theatre in Chicago.

When Conroy and her husband, Ambrose, returned to San Diego, they wanted their children, Ben '24 and Keira '25 (and now soon-to-be Tiny Torrey, Sara '35), to experience an LJCDS education.

"LJCDS was the first place I went to look for my home base," shares Conroy. "I reconnected with other alumni, and now as a parent, my best friends are the people that I've met here. Country Day was waiting for me, a second home once again."

What's particularly special is that Conroy's children have been taught by some of the same teachers she had as a student.

"I can trace so many of my strengths back to what I learned at Country Day," shares Conroy. "I have very vivid memories of moments with specific teachers,

what I call change-your-life teachers. I think we're quite blessed to have the faculty we have, and my children are having the same experience."

The school's campus and facilities have changed dramatically since the 1980s; however, Conroy shares, "There's something about the heart of it. There's something in the DNA of the school that is still very much the same. I think when my children tell their stories, they will be similar to mine."

To help develop a culture of giving among alumni at LJCDS and to encourage young alumni to give back to the school's annual fund, Conroy and her husband generously initiated a match program with the class of 2016. They'll match up to a \$50 donation per graduate for six years starting from the year they graduated.

With her leadership, wisdom, perspective and genuine love for the school, Conroy is looking forward to helping shape the school for future generations. —JENNIFER FOGARTY



ATHLETICS

Making Moves in the MLB

ALFONSO RIVAS '15 & KEATON WEISZ '15

It's a banner time for LJCDS baseball alumni. In back-to-back MLB drafts, teammates and friends Alfonso Rivas and Keaton Weisz, both class of 2015, were chosen to join the MLB ranks and are currently honing their skills in their respective clubs' minor league systems, with the hopes of one day shining on the big-league diamond.

Rivas was chosen in the fourth round of the 2018 draft by the Oakland A's after a standout career playing in multiple positions, including outfield and first base, for the University of Arizona, where he proved to be one of the best hitters in the Pac-12. Scouting reports also cited his strong arm, patience at the plate and good feel for the strike zone. These reports echo what LJCDS baseball coach John Edman observed of Rivas in their years together: "Alfonso has one of the sweetest swings you will ever see, and you could tell when he was a freshman that he would be one of the best hitters we have ever had. His plate discipline is amazing. He never chases a pitch out of the strike zone, which is a very big deal in baseball. That makes him a really tough out at any level."

The A's sent Rivas, 23, to the short-season New York-Penn League to finish 2018, where he performed well enough for Oakland to have him skip the Low-A team and go straight to the High-A California League. Rivas was then sent up to Triple-A for eight games. In the 2019 season, he played 142 games across the three leagues and at one point had a batting average of

.420. He was acquired by the Chicago Cubs in January 2020.

Weisz was a gifted shortstop at LJCDS with standout speed and defensive skills. "Keaton is one of the fastest players I have ever coached," says Coach Edman. "His speed on the base paths is a game-changer, and it also gives him amazing range as an infielder. While in high school, he made some crazy plays that you only see super high-level guys make. Keaton is also a very playful teammate who makes being on his team really fun for everyone."

Upon graduation, Weisz chose to play for Auburn, but he ultimately transferred to Coastal Carolina, where he flourished as a versatile infielder, playing third and second base, as well as shortstop. A right-handed thrower and batter, Weisz spent two seasons with the school, where his batting average peaked at .359 with 46 RBIs. Weisz split time between shortstop and third base, registering a .910 fielding percentage, and he was a two-time member of the Sun Belt Conference Commissioner's List (2016–2017 and 2017–2018).

The Los Angeles Angels drafted Weisz, 23, in round 36 of the 2019 MLB draft. In July 2019, he was assigned first to the

Mobile BayBears and then to the Arizona League Angels. He played a total of 18 games for the two teams, splitting time between second and third base.

Close friends who refer to each other as "brother," Rivas and Weisz are each other's biggest fans. "Alfonso and I have been best friends since about seventh grade and often he is referred to as my adopted brother," shares Weisz. "We have trained tremendously hard. We have always had our friendship to get us through the hard times, but our friendship also encourages us to push each other to be the best we can be. Alfonso isn't just a tremendous baseball player but one of the best all-around people I have ever met."

Rivas adds, "The relationship that Keaton and I have is that we are family. We are brothers, and seeing him accomplish what he is accomplishing with his baseball career is incredible, and it makes me very proud."

No matter where their careers take them, it's clear they will remain close friends, and neither will forget where they came from. They both return to LJCDS for the alumni baseball game each December if they are in town. "They are Torreys through and through," says Edman.

—MICHELLE CHOATE

"We have always had our friendship to get us through the hard times, but our friendship also encourages us to push each other to be the best we can be."

MLB players
Keaton Weisz '15
(left photos) and
Alfonso Rivas '15
(right photos)



“Alfonso has one of the sweetest swings you will ever see, and you could tell when he was a freshman that he would be one of the best hitters we have ever had. His plate discipline is amazing.”



“Keaton is one of the fastest players I have ever coached. His speed on the base paths is a game-changer, and it also gives him amazing range as an infielder.”



Keaton Weisz '15 was chosen by the Los Angeles Angels in round 36 of the 2019 MLB draft. A versatile player, he splits his time between third and second base and is currently assigned to the Arizona League Angels.



Alfonso Rivas '15 was chosen by the Oakland A's in the fourth round of the 2018 MLB draft. He was traded to the Chicago Cubs in January 2020 where he plays multiple positions, including first baseman, relief pitcher and left fielder.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Finding Your Grip

MISSY HUNT KELLY '90

“Get a grip” is not a phrase one usually hears in polite conversation. But for Missy Hunt Kelly '90, it's a lifestyle. As the CEO and founder of CatTongue Grips, Kelly helps people “get a grip” as her life's work.

Ask people what a CatTongue Grip is, and you will likely receive a variety of fun responses. Its origin began in February 2015 at a Verizon store in Park City, Utah. Upon purchasing a new cell phone, Kelly's husband, Matt, immediately noted the new device's perilous slipperiness. Unsatisfied with the salesperson's solution (an insurance plan) and inspired by his background in the skateboarding culture of Southern California, he purchased grip tape from a skateboard shop for the back of his phone. Observing her husband's new invention, Kelly remarked how the scratchy surface of the tape not only felt like a cat's tongue, but also that it would damage any surface it came into contact with. After a search online to find a comparable solution produced no results, the idea for CatTongue Grips was born.

Eight prototypes and more than two and a half years later, CatTongue Grips were on the market: an adhesive, non-slip cellphone accessory that sticks to the back of the user's phone or case to yield a better grip.

Shortly after the product launched on Amazon Exclusives and in their online store in November 2017, Kelly partnered with U.S. Ski & Snowboard to create a customized CatTongue Grip for the athletes' goodie bags at the Olympic Games. This resulted in other organizations clawing for branded grips, and the young company further expanded their suite of offerings. New products emerged, including larger-sized versions for tablets and laptops (the Phat Cat), as well as a roll tape for a multitude of other products and surfaces, from slippery tool handles to truck beds.

Today, the product has grown to support those with special needs. Through the company's partnership with Spartan Race, Kelly met Chris Waddell, a celebrated Paralympian who illuminated a particular issue for those in wheelchairs: items constantly fall off their laps. She supplied Waddell with her products, which immediately transformed his daily life. The roll tape now benefits a variety of special needs. Children with autism use the product on the insides of their shoes to provide a calming effect while in class. People with cerebral palsy (and other grip-related issues) use the tape to provide a better grip on utensils. For those in wheelchairs, it has created nonslip foot pedals on the chairs to prevent the feet from slipping and getting injured.

What's on the horizon for CatTongue Grips? By the end of this year's first quarter, they aim to have a double-sided, nonadhesive grip pad on the market. The new product has already seen much success on the dashboards of trucks as well as in veterinarians' offices, which have reported the grip pad has made the animals safer and more stable while on the exam table. “We are creating and finding uses for our material every day,” says Kelly. —KATELYN SIGETI '06



Missy Hunt Kelly '90 is the co-founder and CEO of CatTongue Grips, a company that manufactures adhesive non-slip grips that can be applied to a variety of surfaces, such as mobile devices.

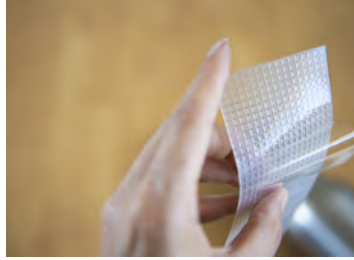
 CATTONGUEGRIPS.COM

SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

Eight prototypes and more than two and a half years later, CatTongue Grips were on the market: an adhesive, non-slip cellphone accessory that sticks to the back of the user's phone or case to yield a better grip. Every day they are creating and finding new uses for their material.

NEW PRODUCTS

The company continues to grow their product offerings, such as a roll tape for a multitude of slippery surfaces.



SUPPORTING SPECIAL NEEDS

Their roll tape also benefits those with special needs, including children with autism, people with cerebral palsy and those in wheelchairs.



FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

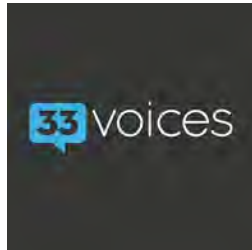
They have created a number of branded grips through collaborations with organizations including U.S. Ski & Snowboard, Spartan Race and the University of Southern California.



EXPANDING USERS

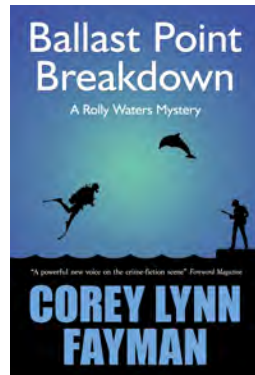
Recently, CatTongue Grips have become a staple for truckers and veterinarians.

ALUMNI IN THE PRESS



JENNA ABDOU '11

Jenna Abdou is the host and producer of *Beyond the Headline*, a 33voices podcast, that profiles mission-driven entrepreneurs who are inspiring change and uplifting their local and global communities. With more than 300 episodes and counting, *Beyond the Headline* features guests, including the chief science officer of Headspace, the senior vice president of community at Poshmark, the co-founder of Stella and Dot, and the founders of Gorjana, who share their perspectives, wisdom, courage and turning points in their lives. Abdou believes that through sharing our stories, we can inspire meaningful connection, inspiration and action.

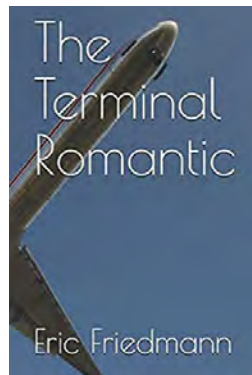


COREY LYNN FAYMAN '76

Ballast Point Breakdown is the fourth novel in Corey Lynn Fayman's award-winning crime series featuring Rolly Waters, a San Diego private investigator and musician. *Ballast Point Breakdown* investigates a public death and its deep-seated connections within the San Diego community. Fayman's novel features unique characters, fast-paced action and dark humor, and Rolly's search for the truth will keep readers guessing until the very last page.

"Sideman's guts twisted into a knot as he saw the woman rise from the deck. She was on fire, burning in front of him, engulfed in the flames. The bearded man raised his right hand and waved it across his chest, like a priest giving last rites. The woman raised her arms, reaching, reaching."

Excerpt from the book

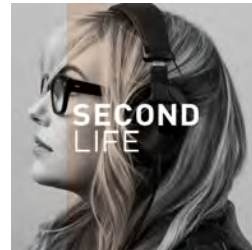


ERIC FRIEDMANN '86

The Terminal Romantic is a fast-paced tale that details the romance between an ambitious lawyer and a fallen air-traffic controller whose lives converge after 9/11. It offers an insider's take on law school and the inner workings of air-traffic control in a unique setting, with well-developed characters. *The Terminal Romantic* is both captivating and hopeful, offering romance during a tragic time in American history.

"Every summer they seemingly ignored all the travel guides' advice and showed up in woefully uninformed droves from every corner of the globe, fresh from ninety-degree wherever in shorts and no jacket, determined to walk across the Golden Gate Bridge anyway."

Excerpt from the book



HILLARY KERR '97

The *Second Life* podcast, airing every Monday morning, highlights notable women who have successfully made career changes during their lives. *Second Life* has featured women such as Jennifer Lopez, Reese Witherspoon and Nicole Richie, and the show speaks to how each woman forged her career path. Host Hillary Kerr is no stranger to the second-life phenomenon. She began her career as an editor with *Elle* magazine and later met her business partner, Katherine Power, and co-founded Who What Wear, a global media and consumer-brands company. *Second Life* shares the lessons, failures and successes of numerous influential women inspiring listeners to take the leap to a new career.



STEPHANIE WEISS '92

Stephanie Weiss, an accomplished mezzo-soprano, released her first solo album, *Sacred & Profane: Duo au courant Performs Song Cycles of Daron Hagen*. The album features three of award-winning composer, conductor and collaborative pianist Daron Hagen's song cycles, performed by Weiss and pianist Christina Wright-Ivanova. Weiss and Wright-Ivanova were struck by Hagen's originality. They selected the name "duo au courant" because of their commitment to singing music about current topics. Weiss is also an established faculty member at Arizona State University as well as a regular guest at Deutsche Oper Berlin.

—HANNAH JACOBS

REUNIONS

Celebrations and Memories

LJCDS hosted several events in the 2019–2020 academic year for alumni, family, faculty, staff and coaches to reunite, reminisce and celebrate.



Above: All-Alumni Family Picnic at La Jolla Country Day School
AUGUST 25, 2019

Left: Alumni Lacrosse Game at La Jolla Country Day School
DECEMBER 21, 2019

Below: Decade Reunions: Classes of 1969, 1979, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2009 at La Jolla Country Day School
AUGUST 24, 2019

SAVE THE DATE

Due to COVID-19, updates on events will be forthcoming via email.

Reunions: Classes of 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995*, 2000 and 2010, August 29, 2020

*25-year reunion for the class of 1995

All-Alumni Family Reunion Picnic, August 30, 2020

[LJCDS.ORG/ALUMNI](https://www.ljcds.org/alumni)



STAY CONNECTED

LJCDS alumni are active on Facebook and LinkedIn. Join the groups today and make connections with fellow alumni, discuss careers, network and share your favorite memories of LJCDS.

[Facebook.com/groups/LJCDSAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LJCDSAlumni)

[LinkedIn.com/groups/1289217](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1289217)

“Overheard”

Middle-schoolers are risk-takers and they're enthusiastic, and because of that combination, they're willing to jump in with both feet.

Leigh Pierce P'24 '29, Middle School science teacher, *Roots & Wings* podcast

I'm glad the sky is painted blue
and the earth is painted green
with all the beautiful fresh air all
sandwiched in between.

Alex Conrad '29, spoken word performance

You don't have to be perfect. I'm just trying to say you have to live your life the best that you can. Make the right choices, don't care about what others say, and don't wait till it's too late to realize you always have a choice.

Jordan Jones '26, spoken word performance

LJCDS faculty and staff are exceptional and create a place where each student can thrive to be the best version of him/herself.

Anonymous LJCDS review, greatschools.org

Education is such a powerful agent for change, and I am constantly grateful for the opportunity to help develop the minds and characters of the students I taught while supporting and learning from the faculty I serve.

Tom Trocano, head of Upper School, *Country Day Connection* newsletter

Art became my escape. It was, and still is, my safe space, a way to tune out the world when it became chaotic. It also helped me express myself when I simply couldn't find the words.

Emily Bergan '22, Louise Balmer Creative Recognition Ceremony

So many of the people you read about in your textbooks, the interesting ones, challenged the norm! They were unsatisfied with the parameters that had been set. So, cherish your brilliant minds. Think outside the box. Create something different. Actually pursue your passions. And do not let others influence you into the assembly line.

Laurel Johnson '12,
Louise Balmer Creative Recognition Ceremony

I wanted a smaller school where I could foster better relationships with other students and my teachers.

Revyn Kim '20, Senior Spotlight

We are grateful to be part of this community...helping to produce not just great students, but great humans to make the world a better place.

Amy Glass Mischler '91 P'27 '30, LJCDs testimonial

I know my children will be well prepared for college and, at the same time, they have learned so much over the years about community service and social responsibility.

Anonymous LJCDs review, greatschools.org

I hope that through dancing, or any other type of art, you will find the meaning of your life and cultivate a community leading with dignity.

Jinglei "Stella" Zhang '20 and Huiyu "Victoria" Hu '20,
Louise Balmer Creative Recognition Ceremony




SETH CROSBY '78

Photography by Sid Hastings

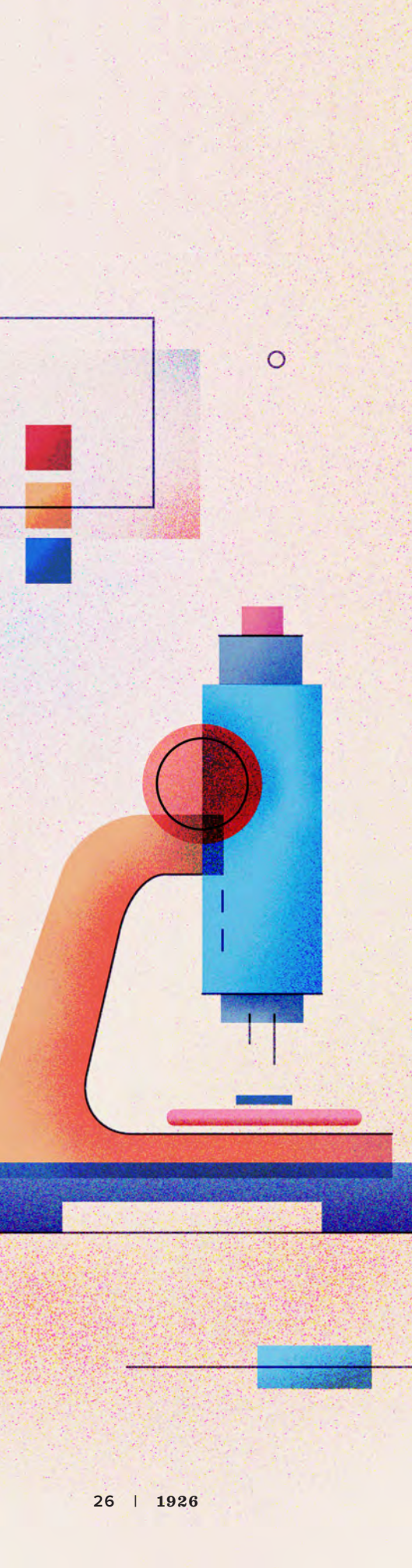


GOING **BEHIND** *THE GENES*

BY MICHELLE CHOATE



Seth Crosby '78 has dedicated his career to examining cells, genes and DNA—the building blocks of life—in an effort to help understand and conquer humanity's biggest health challenges.



Steth Crosby '78, M.D., missed his LJCDS graduation because he was in a lab at Scripps Clinic conducting research on pernicious anemia. The research required him to take blood samples from South African fruit bats at specific times, and had Crosby attended the commencement ceremony, he would have risked compromising the test results. He'd started at the lab when he was 14, working his way up from cleaning rat cages, and he took the experiment very seriously.

In the ensuing four decades, Crosby has never found himself far from a lab because he believes deeply in what happens there: It's science at its unbiased, factual best, dedicated to making life healthier and longer.

Crosby now serves as the director of research collaborations for the McDonnell Genome Institute (MGI) at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. MGI is a world leader in the fast-paced, constantly changing field of genomics and has played a vital role in the field of genome sequencing. MGI was a key player in the Human Genome Project—an international effort to decode all 3 billion letters of our genetic blueprint—ultimately contributing 25 percent of the finished sequence. In 2008, MGI became the first to sequence the complete genome of a cancer patient (a woman with leukemia) and to trace her disease to its genetic roots. This has led the way for the institute's involvement in new personalized medicine research and discoveries through collaborations with doctors and pharmaceutical companies—and puts Crosby and his colleagues at the forefront of some of the most important developments in the identification and treatment of disease.

"In my world, we involve ourselves in two things," says Crosby. "One is comfort, in that we try to make living more comfortable and less painful. The other is longevity; we hope we can prolong life."

SCIENCE & LONGEVITY VERSUS ART & MEANING

Though a scientist in practice, Crosby is also a lover of literature, poetry and the arts. His work is about finding ways to lengthen and improve human life. However, he is perhaps rare in the scientific community in that he believes that art and beauty are as important as longevity. Though he spent much of high school in the lab, he did take some important lessons from his time at LJCDS—and from unexpected places. "Strangely, the great influences for me at LJCDS were not in the sciences but in the departments of history and English," says Crosby. "Will Erickson [English], Roger Weaver [English], Bruce Boston [English] and Tom Vogt [political science] all indelibly influenced the way I perceive art, life and the world. In my mind, health and art are on the same playing field. I would even argue that meaning is more important than comfort and longevity."

This personal creed resulted in Crosby taking a less-than-straightforward path to medical school and his subsequent career. He began his time at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as a biology major but switched to English literature after six months of hitchhiking around the country and reading metaphysical texts. Crosby had decided, at least temporarily, that "science was meaningless. I really love writing in all of its sort of magnificence, so I decided to become an English lit major."

But in a classic "the grass is always greener on the other side" scenario, Crosby ultimately concluded that "science feels so much more important. And I had to face the fact that my most fundamental nature is as a scientist. As much as I like writing and art, I'm not an artist."



“In my world, we involve ourselves in two things. One is comfort, in that we try to make living more comfortable and less painful. The other is longevity; we hope we can prolong life.”

BREATHING WITH THE GREATEST EASE

After graduating with his English degree, Crosby realized he wanted to go to medical school, so he went back and completed his undergraduate studies in biology. But doubts of a different kind began to plague him as he neared the end of his med school journey. “I was furiously jealous of my college classmates who had gone into research rather than clinical medicine. I wanted to go back into the lab to study neurobiology. I felt like that was the atmosphere in which I could breathe with the greatest ease,” explains Crosby. “I wanted to focus on scientific problems. The challenge for someone who’s scientifically inclined in medicine is that a lot of medicine is dogma. In fact, it’s legally dogma; if you diverge from certain protocols in medicine, you can be liable for medical decisions that you make. There are places for science in medicine, but science is not the main thing.”

Crosby moved on to do a post-doctorate at Washington University in St. Louis and went to work in a laboratory. After three years, he left that lab because “real life came barging in.” Crosby’s wife had just had their second child, and he was burning through the \$25,000-a-year he made as a post-doctorate. As he saw it, he could either commit to academia and become a professor, or he could go into the applied science of pharmaceuticals.

Pharma seemed like the best decision. Crosby spent 10 years in the industry, working on projects in hematology and microbiology. But it was his assignment to functional genomics that introduced him to what has become his great love: genomic sequencing.



“I was brought in to help manage the people who did the experiments but also to help analyze all the data coming in. How do you take a million observations and make any sense of it at all?”

A GREAT LOVE FOR GENES

When Crosby first dipped a toe into genomics, the Human Genome Project was new. Thousands of genes were being discovered every month, but for 90 percent of them, their function was completely unknown. Says Crosby, “And so began an industry of people who would figure out gene function. One way this is done is by turning a gene up or turning a gene down, and then seeing what changed in whatever system they were looking at. If you make too much of this gene, does it give you cancer? Does it cure you of cancer? Does it give you diabetes? How can I reach in and tweak genes and see what happens to the cells?” And Crosby became part of that group of people.

After 10 years of Crosby working in the pharmaceutical industry, the company he was working for at the time, Pfizer, decided to close its St. Louis facility. Fortunately, Crosby soon found himself directing a small three-person genomics laboratory at Washington University, the lab now part of MGI. “I was brought in to help manage the people who did the experiments but also to help analyze all the data coming in. How do you take a million observations and make any sense of it at all?” says Crosby.

A critical part of Crosby’s role as MGI’s director of research collaboration is to develop new business and cultivate research collaborations. Perhaps his most significant accomplishment in this area was establishing a close association with Illumina, a renowned biotechnology corporation that develops, manufactures and markets integrated systems for the analysis of genetic variation and biological function. They have been called the Google of the DNA-sequencing arena, and as they grew into a multinational, multibillion-dollar company, MGI grew along with it, jumping from three staffers to about 100.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT?

Though what they do at MGI is timely, relevant and has huge implications for human health, the lab is not forming the hypotheses that drive their research. Those come from the doctors, pharmaceutical companies and others they work with. “Doctors will come to us after noticing that one group of cancer patients responds very well to a particular type of immunotherapy, but another group of patients that appear to have the same cancer isn’t doing very well with the same immunotherapy,” says Crosby. “As far as the doctors can tell through their microscopes, the cancers look identical. They ask us to figure out what the difference is. What genes are messed up in these cancers—or in the specific patients—that can explain why the patients behave differently? We may not ask the questions, but we provide the technology to give them the answers.”

One of MGI’s important achievements is its sequencing of thousands of cancers for the creation of huge sets of data that highlight all of the mutations found in these different cancers. “A lot of these mutations may not have anything to do with the cancers,” says Crosby. “The hard challenge for cancer doctors is to figure out which of these mutations are causative and which make the cancer happen or make it worse, and which are just ‘passenger’ mutations that we don’t have to pay attention to.” In a similar fashion, MGI will provide pharmaceutical companies with information about the important differences between certain cancers, so the companies can develop drugs that will most effectively treat those cancers.

In their work, MGI uses their instrumentation, computer software and expertise to analyze huge quantities of data that doctors and drug companies cannot—due to cost and time. “Obviously you can’t sit there and look at 3 billion bits of information with your eyes. The data is very complex and difficult to analyze. It requires teams of people and is very involved,” explains Crosby. “Our people use computer programs to separate significant versus insignificant correlations.” In fact, MGI has hundreds of different statistical programs that are used to look at genetic data in order to make the kinds of observations that doctors, pharmaceutical companies, universities—humanity—need.

Though a great deal of their work is focused on cancer, MGI is involved in a large array of diseases, projects and studies. Much of the lab’s newest research has involved the human microbiome, which is all the bacteria, viruses and fungi that live on and in human beings. Feces alone contains hundreds of species of bacteria, which can be quickly identified by analyzing the feces’ DNA. Says Crosby, “We are rapidly learning that bacteria has a big impact on many aspects of human health.” MGI recently worked with Jeff Gordon, a world-renowned microbiome researcher, to determine why a group of Bangladeshi children were not growing despite receiving adequate nutrition. It turned out that the children’s microbiome was the problem. “They were missing the ‘right’ kind of bacteria in their intestines and so could not properly use their food,” says Crosby. “In addition, the group determined that food can be tailored to the individual microbiome—an unusual example of personalized medicine.”

A WAY TO WRAP UP

As he enters his 60s, Crosby has begun to think about the next phase of his life. “There’s a part of me that misses patient care,” he shares. In part, Crosby has been influenced by observing his wife’s career as one of St. Louis’s top hospice nurses, which he sees as “a beautiful, meaningful life.” As a result, he’s thinking about someday becoming a patient advocate. “I want to help patients find their way through this incredibly dense forest of modern clinical medicine. These days, the healthcare system doesn’t give doctors much time to talk to patients. As an advocate, I could sit with them for a while and help them understand the issues and what their choices are. I think that would be a great way to wrap up my career.” ■

“These days, the healthcare system doesn’t give doctors much time to talk to patients. As an advocate, I could sit with them for a while and help them understand the issues and what their choices are.”



A PASSION FOR POLITICS

★
1988–2002
La Jolla
Country Day
School
La Jolla, CA

★
2002–2005
UC San Diego
San Diego, CA

★
2006–2010
KPSP, A CBS
Affiliate
Palm
Springs, CA

★
2014–2015
Harvard
Kennedy School
Cambridge, MA

★
2015–2018
King 5
Media Group
Seattle, WA

★
2018–2019
TVW
2019–present
CBS News
Washington, D.C.

★
2010–2012
KPTV, A Fox
Affiliate
Portland, OR

★
2012–2014
KTVK
Phoenix, AZ

BY MICHELLE CHOATE



NATALIE BRAND '02

News consumption is varied and personal. Some of us are strict about reading the morning paper; others start their evenings with the local news; some will scroll through their social media feeds throughout the day. In today's climate, the options are seemingly endless, and the news cycle is 24/7. Sources include time-tested traditional networks and newspapers, as well as less established, more informal blogs, tweets and YouTube videos. It's an understatement to say there are a lot of choices.

Natalie Brand '02 has spent her career as a reporter striving to be one of those choices, and one that is trusted, balanced and unbiased. For nearly 20 years she has traveled the road of writer and reporter, shining a light on the issues and events of the day. She started young, at the bottom, but her passion for information and educating the public has taken her up and down the West Coast and across the country. Now she's made it to the epicenter of American government and politics, Washington, D.C., where she currently works as a CBS affiliate news correspondent, providing politically focused reports to the nation.



Learn and Move On



BRAND IS IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES

NOW, but she's been writing and disseminating the news in various forms since she was a student at LJCDS, as co-editor-in-chief of the yearbook and school newspaper. "I've always said some of the hardest academic work I've ever done was at LJCDS," says Brand. "I dabbled in different journalistic paths back then but didn't know what form I wanted to take. I liked layout from the yearbook, so I was thinking maybe magazine work. I want to extend a special thank you to Mr. [Bruce] Fayman for encouraging me to pursue journalism."

After an internship at the local CBS affiliate, KFMB 8, when she was a freshman at the University of California, San Diego, Brand found her passion for TV news.

The initial internship evolved into a full-time job by Brand's junior year. She worked as a writer for the morning newscast, then progressed to a producing track. While she found great fulfillment in producing entire newscasts, Brand had always wanted to try reporting in the field. After graduating from UC San Diego in 2005, she started working at the Palm Springs CBS affiliate, KPSP, as a reporter, where she reveled in being in the trenches. Over her four years in Palm Springs, she reported on topics ranging from devastating wildfires to the presidential funeral of Gerald Ford. Brand then spent two years with Portland, Oregon's Fox affiliate, KPTV, where she covered the Occupy Portland Movement and composed in-depth reports on the city's heroin epidemic and sex-trafficking problem. From there, she was off to Phoenix, Arizona, covering issues ranging from the economy to immigration for KTVK. "In my business," explains Brand, "you keep trying to move up to bigger news markets, which requires moving around a lot."



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"The current 24/7 news cycle has fundamentally changed how we cover the news day. It's always on, and there is information overload at times."

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Learn and Move On



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"We are racing to keep up with the story, and the story can change 50 different times over the course of your shift. The challenge is, how do you keep up with that?"



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"How do you stay competitive with other outlets that might have a scoop, but also stay true to the rigors and standards of good journalism?"

Milestones*

ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES & BIRTHS



1

Lindsay Kroener '00 and husband **Danny Kurz '00** welcomed son Ben on April 21, 2019. He joins older sister Emma (4).

2

Porschia Talbot '03 and wife Dawn Marie Talbot welcomed daughter Harlow Grey Talbot on October 19, 2019.

3

Indya Talbot Yuill '04 and husband Braden Yuill welcomed son Jett Brady Yuill on September 27, 2019.

4

Andrea Walker '06 and husband Allen Morris welcomed daughter Scout Walker Morris on February 12, 2020.

STAY CONNECTED

We want to hear from alumni! Are you celebrating a life event? Have news to share? Send us a class note. All class notes will be published online.

[LJCDS.ORG/ALUMNI](https://ljcads.org/alumni)



5
Catherine Race Remley '10 married **Luke Remley '10** on August 10, 2019.

6
Jodi Morris '10 is engaged to Michael Ryczyn. They plan for a summer 2021 wedding.

7
Tommy Edman '13 married Kristen Masako Edman on November 23, 2019.

8
Vinny Pujji '10 is engaged to Alexandra Jewett. They plan for a July 2020 wedding.

9
Elise Edman '16 is engaged to Patrick Casey. They plan for a December 2020 wedding.

1926 ∞

THE FAYMAN LIBR



ARY

As the new campus on Genesee was expanding into an age 3 through Grade 12 campus, a few hurdles prevented La Jolla Country Day School from becoming a fully functioning educational facility in the eyes of the 1960s Western Association of Schools and Colleges accrediting bodies. The last of those requirements was the addition of a school library that is worthy of the school's vision and the entire student body.

Lynn Fayman, a La Jolla Country Day School board member, parent and photographer, and his wife, Danah, were well-known champions of contemporary art and artists in San Diego and advocates of the humanities.

In 1967, Lynn visited Donald Leavenworth, LJCDS's first headmaster of the new campus, at home while he was recovering from surgery to share the good news. "In [Lynn's] arms was a bundle of papers," shares Leavenworth. "He came up to the bed and let the bundle fall and said, 'There's a library.' Those were certificates of stock, enough to build it."

The library was designed by noted local architects Frederick Liebhardt and Eugene Weston III and built in a modern style, wooden and light. The configuration harkened back to the missions and rancharos of San Diego County, constructed in a U-shape around a central courtyard. Five rooms were set up for language lab instruction, and a prominent feature was a sunken reading lounge with a central fireplace. In spring 1968, the building opened to the students and housed 20,000 volumes along with student and professional artwork.

A friend of the school, Russell Forester, designed the fountain in front of the new library. An artist and architect, Forester previously designed "The Unfinished Man," a sculpture still on view in the lobby of the Jacobs Family Library administration building. LJCDS's board of trustees raised more than \$10,000. In the final planning meeting, Forester announced that he would not be charging the school for his design services so that all of the funds could go toward the construction of the piece. At the dedication of the new library and fountain, Forester arrived at the school to find three boys standing under the flowing water in awe.

The original Fayman Library was demolished in 2008 but is honored in name as the Lower School library on the first floor of the Jacobs Family Library administration building. —**RAFAEL EATON**



My Inspiration!



My parents first introduced me to the A-list constellations: Ursa Major and Minor, a mother bear with her cub; Orion, a warrior brandishing his sword; Cassiopeia, an elegant lady ensconced on a couch.

While I knew what I was supposed to be seeing, I always made my own constellations and connected my own dots. My skies contained dancing tigers and flying elephants.

The same is true in our lives. There is an understanding of how things should work, yet it's up to the individual to determine their unique perspective. It's inspiring to know that we are the makers of our own destinies.

Every day I am surrounded by future Olympians, presidents, concertmasters, best-selling authors, surgeons and changemakers—that in itself inspires me.

The stars remind me of the vastness of the cosmos, and in a sense, the multitude of possibilities present. It thrills me that each decision we make is simply one building block to who we eventually become. It all comes down to our choices and the dots we choose to connect.

Nikita Nair '20
Student Council Co-President



Giving Back +

PHILANTHROPY AT LJCDS

Amanda Smith Latimer '95 P'22 '24

One of the greatest testaments to the strength and impact of the La Jolla Country Day School community lies in our legacy families— alumni who have returned to the school to give their child the gift of a La Jolla Country Day School education. Their commitment is not only showcased in their decision to choose the school twice but also demonstrated through their generosity of time, talent and treasure.

Amanda Smith Latimer, a lifer from the Class of 1995, epitomizes this spirit of philanthropy. “I continue to give back to LJCDS because I am incredibly grateful for all of the years they gave to me when I was a student from preschool through 12th grade. What I appreciate about this school is the love and care they give my children and the absolute trust I have in the teachers, faculty and staff. It feels good to know my kids are in such a safe environment.”

As an alumna and a Torrey parent, Latimer holds a unique perspective on the importance of philanthropy in enhancing and advancing the school’s mission. “Philanthropy is very important to my family,” she shares. “I had an amazing role model in my grandma, Joan. After I graduated in 1995 from LJCDS, she donated the Smith Gymnasium and the Four Flowers Theater. She wanted to give back to LJCDS because of what the school did for my sisters and me. I will continue to follow in my grandma’s footsteps because she taught me how important it is to give back.”

Rooted in
generosity

HELP US GROW OUR LEGACY FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

To learn more or to make a gift, visit www.ljcads.org/giving or contact Katie Sigeti '06, philanthropy manager, alumni programs, at ksigeti@ljcds.org.

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