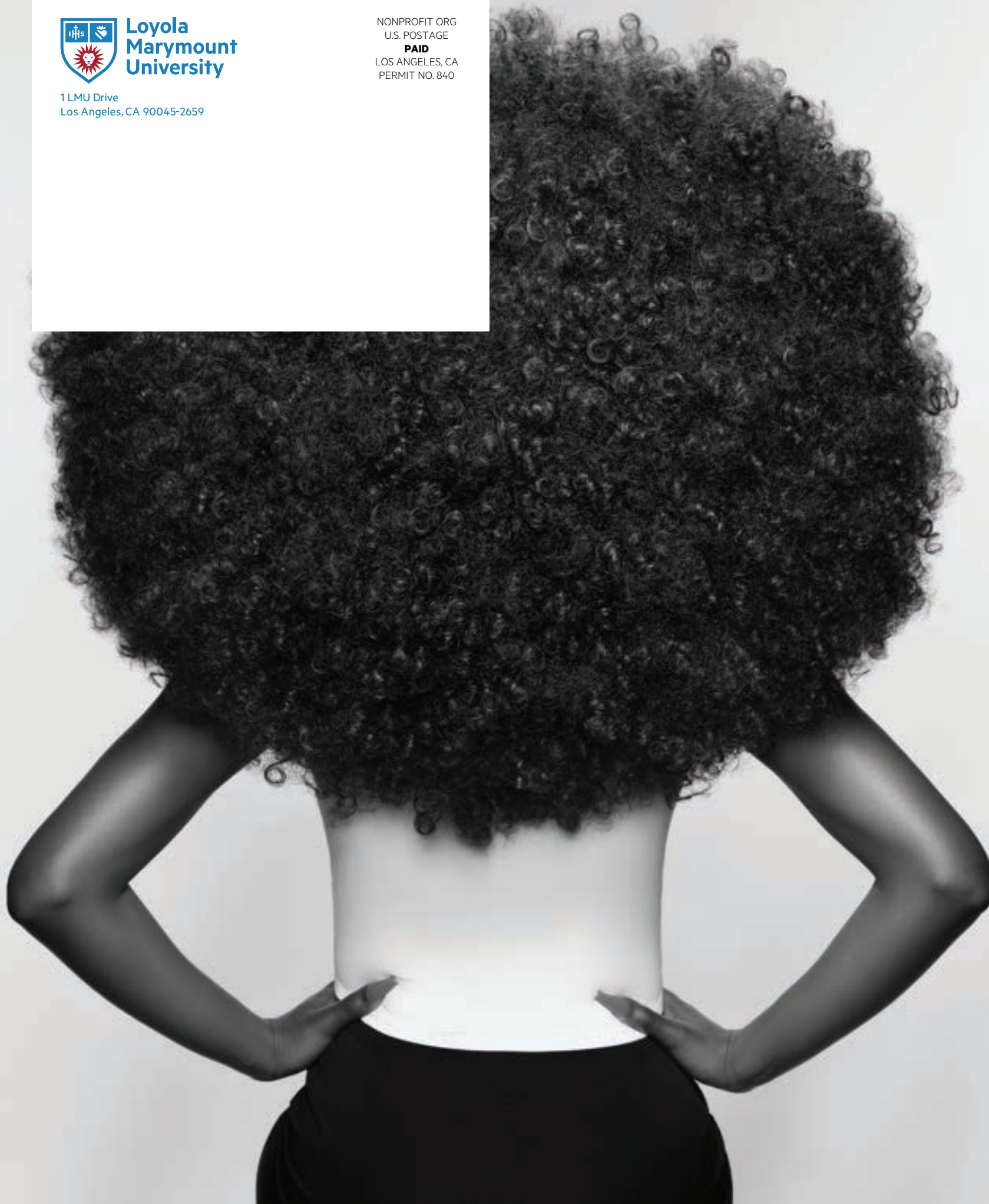




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## Crowning Achievement

Stephanie Bell's Film  
Fights for Justice and  
Black Women's Hair

THE MAGAZINE OF LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY





**Pacific Standard Time** Guoying, China

Each year, during the Spring Festival, hundreds of millions of Chinese urban migrant workers return to their rural villages to reunite with their families. The phenomenon is considered the world's largest annual human migration. China's powerful economy is partly built on the productiveness of its rural-to-urban migrant workers. But the cost to migrants is disruption of family life and lack of full social rights where they work. Meng Li, professor of communication studies in the LMU College of Communication and Fine Arts, researched Spring Festival reunion rituals and how they contribute to family cohesion. She conducted interviews with migrant workers and observed their reunions in Guoying, a small village in central China. "The migration," Li says, "has become a massive coping mechanism that temporarily helps workers counter great social disorientation."

## DEPARTMENTS

### 3 Letter From L.A.

The pandemic debate about wearing masks obscures a deeper question: What will we do about the invisible mask that, knowingly or not, we wear all the time?

### 12 Intersections

For students in Amir Hussain's Intro to Islam course, nothing is more surprising than learning of Islam's esteem for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

### 20 Rankings

Outdoor photographer Chris Liedle '12 ranks the best summer cooling spots found in lakes and rivers of the Western United States.

### 24 The Afterlife

Journalism, already under siege, has been emaciated by the pandemic, but two young alumni are adapting to the field's post-COVID-19 future.

### 56 LMU(sports)

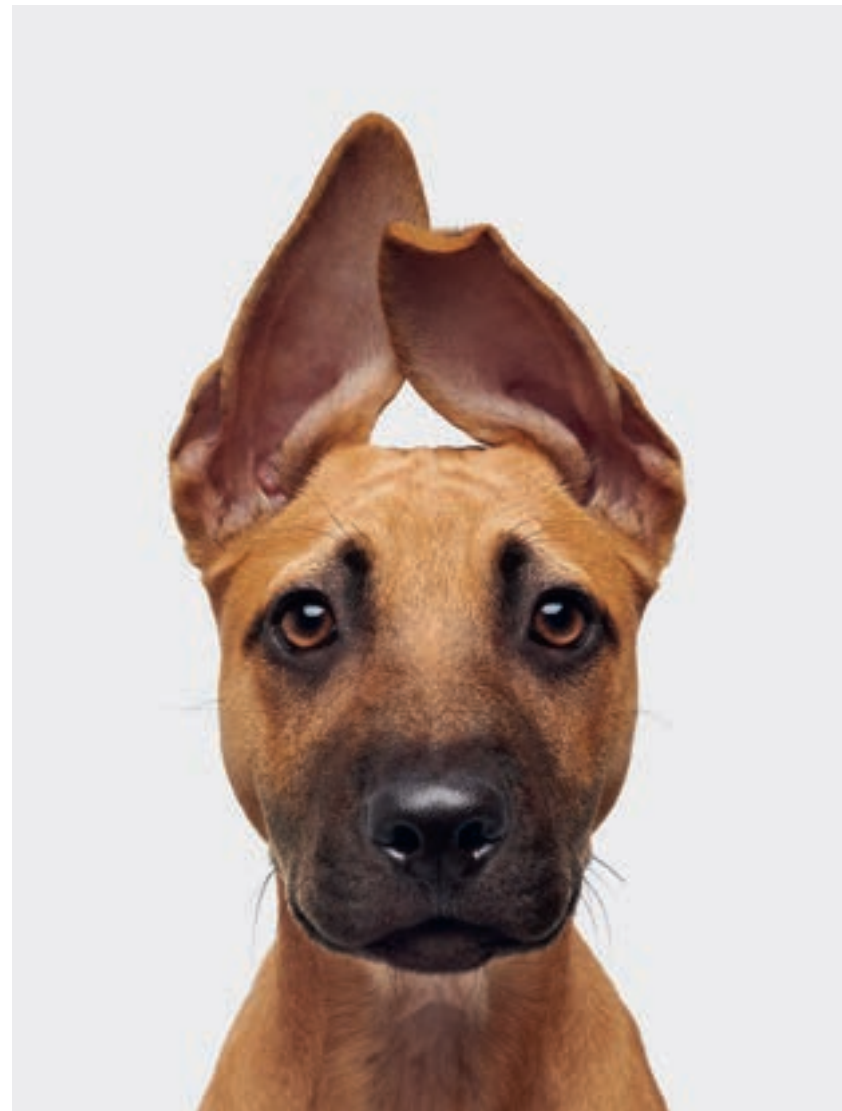
Coach Paul Krumpke, with three WCC soccer titles and eight NCAA tourney appearances in his 23-year career, describes his All-Time 11 LMU futbol side.

### 64 Letter From Atlanta

Monica LaBelle '96, who has lived in L.A., France, Africa and Atlanta, has learned that the answer to the question "Where is home?" is "where you make it."

### 72 My Take

Bones in Rome's catacombs led James T. Keane '96 to the confounding Catholic crossing place where skepticism wrestles with imagination.



#### ON THE COVER

Stephanie Bell '20, photographed by Jon Rou, turned her senior capstone project into a documentary about natural hair and race-based hair discrimination. See Page 26.

#### THIS PAGE

Dogs often are said to be humans' best friends. But many of us will testify that our canine friends have helped us maintain not just our sanity but our humanity during the pandemic. See Page 36.

## 36

### The Dogs That Save Us

Dogs have helped many of us weather the pandemic, but dogs' restorative relationship with humans is likely a 15,000-year-old story.

## FEATURES

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### Crowns

Maybe it's hard for some to believe, but race-based hair discrimination is something Black women have lived and witnessed for a long time.

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### Stage Rights

One night in May 1963, James Baldwin and friends schooled Robert F. Kennedy for the Kennedys' poor support for civil rights, and the lesson took.

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### Amped up

With LMU's KXLU as her training ground, Mukta Mohan '14 is hitting the digital world hard as an executive producer with the Obamas' media and podcast company Higher Ground Audio.

## 46

### The Class of COVID

The COVID-19 crisis revealed deep flaws in the nation's education systems; will it lead to ways to improve education?

## 50

### Cougar Town

Native mountain lions risk their lives to cross the U.S. 101 freeway. A wildlife crossing, in the form of a bridge, could save them.

PHOTO BY RANDAL FORD

# Unmasked

WE WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC all the time, have been. My mask is how I want to be seen. Maybe it does the job, perhaps not. I take it off when I'm alone, asleep, or among family and longtime friends. It feels safe to take off the public mask in those protected groups.

When the impact of the coronavirus first shifted life's daily routines more than a year ago, I noticed that a rare sense of shared experience seemed to descend upon American society. What will we learn? What will we value, or value more? Will we re-evaluate what we most deeply esteem? Asked often at the time, those questions arose from a deep desire to adapt. And these: What do we miss? What will change forever after? What lessons will we take with us?

## WHAT WILL CHANGE FOREVER AFTER? WHAT LESSONS WILL WE TAKE WITH US?



ILLUSTRATION BY DIANA EJAITA

But the questions did not live for long. Quickly, it became clear that the pandemic was not to be a shared experience. Some of us died, some of us didn't. Some of us were more likely to die than others. Some, not all, lost family members. Some went jobless, others maintained their income. Some profited greatly. And some kept jobs with great risks, had to. Wearing masks became a sharpened point of conflict. The sense of a common struggle toward a common good eroded. Community sometimes has a short life.

Early on, I wrote that I missed Sunday Mass in Sacred Heart Chapel. Living without Jesuit homilies and inspiring music was dulled living. But as

a Eucharistic minister, I most missed handing the cup of wine to those who approached the altar for Holy Communion. I noticed that most people remove their public mask at that moment. I tried always to do so, too. The moment calls

for it. I miss the release found in taking off the mask, like drawing fresh air in a spiritual breath. I miss the community.

For many weeks, I've participated in an online Mass. A friend, who is a priest, says Mass from his living room. Others attend, too, some 20 or 30 of us from across the country. Welcome greeting, Gospel, homily, breaking of the bread, prayer after Communion, benediction — the Order of Mass is intact. Still, none of us can receive the bread and wine, and it's as unlike Mass in the chapel as Mass can be.

But I've come to deeply value the moment when we who are online write our prayers, the Prayers of the Faithful, into the chat box. The unemployed brother, the wife whose husband died from the virus, the teenager diagnosed with cancer, asylum-seekers at the border — our deepest hopes and fears are shared. Even the veiled prayer for a "special intention" reveals that there is a heart among us filled with desire or anguish. Our masks are removed.

During the pandemic, many of us have shaped a community in such temporary shelters. I think often about the images evoked by the word shelter: a roof over one's head, a haven from violence and danger, an unexpected home where we are welcomed and cared for. Will we take those shelters with us, and expand them, as we move on?



## The Rector Testimonies

When the LMU community gathered to celebrate the life of Pam Rector '77, M.A. '79, M.A. Ed. '82 on Feb. 24, 2020, Sacred Heart Chapel was found to be too small. Students, alumni, staff, faculty and friends filled all floor and balcony pews. Even standing room was in short supply, with many outside at the doors. Tears and grief poured forth after Pam's passing because she touched so many. And, because she touched so many, tributes flowed as well. This past spring, LMU launched a fundraising effort to name the Center for Service and Action, which Pam directed for 20 years, in her honor (see Page 66). We share here some of the tributes to Pam that have appeared in many LMU communication channels. — The Editor

Pam Rector, who was founding director of the LMU Center for Service and Action, passed away on Feb. 15, 2020.

**MY COMPASS**  
When I think about my most memorable experiences at LMU, a great majority of them involve Pam Rector. I worked at the Center for Service and Action for my entire four years at LMU. Pam

was my home away from home, and the Center for Service and Action was the compass that directed me to my vocation. Together, the two inspired me

to live a life that is both joyful and full of purpose.  
**Lauren Lewis Brown '06**  
Alexandria, Virginia

**UNIQUELY LMU**  
The Center for Service and Action and the experiences it provides for

students are really what separates LMU from any other university. Pam Rector's CSA helped me (and I am sure many others) so much in my career and life. Pam deserves this recognition and then some!

**Mark Ballinger '18**  
La Puente, California

**'GET OFF YOUR BLUFF'**  
If you knew Pam, you know she often said community-based work and partnership-building can't happen unless we "got off our bluff." Living a life of purpose was a central part of her being. She was inspiring.

**Lorena Chavez '99**  
Bellflower, California

**BEING REAL**  
Pam's bigger-than-life personality, family-oriented spirit, sensitivity to the needs of others, thirst for justice and inclusivity, and her continual striving for excellence are all qualities that I admired when I worked with her at CSA. She mentored me with an open heart and candid perspective. She was real. The Pam Rector Center for Service and Action makes sense. It's a tribute to her unwavering love for her students, LMU and the global community.

**LEGACY OF MENTORING**  
I knew Pam before she came back to LMU when she was a counselor in the Lennox School District. She was always dedicated to service to underserved

### IT'S ABOUT GRATITUDE

Pam was a mentor to me and many others. I was a work study student in the office, and Pam loved me and supported me at a time when I was probably not easy to love and support. But every day she showed up. I have been blessed to return to CSA as a professional staff member and learn from Pam from a different angle. She taught me creative problem-solving. She made sure I knew community was what we valued above all else. And while she was sick, she had our team focus on gratitude because she thought it an important

**LIVE LOUDLY**  
Pam Rector inspired me to be bolder, wiser, to love more deeply and more fully, and to live life out loud! Her absence from our LMU campus community and our Angeleno community is felt, but the lessons she taught us and the love she gave us all so freely remain strong and steady.

**Monique Mansour '12**  
Los Angeles

**HEALING BLUNTNES**  
I will miss Pam's laugh, her ability and willingness to call BS when she saw it, and our late-night emails recapping the day or just being silly. Pam was a perfect balance for me. I am hopelessly optimistic, and she had a beautiful and often blunt way of making sure I was grounded with my feet firmly placed in reality.

**Anthony Garrison-Engbrecht M.A. '15**  
Merced, California

communities. She was also an amazing mentor to students and colleagues. Her sometimes irreverence was often due to speaking truth to power. We were friends for many years, and we collaborated on many projects. She is greatly missed.

**Vicki Graf**  
Professor, LMU School of Education Los Angeles

**Patrick Furlong '06**  
Director, LMU Center for Service and Action Los Angeles

**LEGACY OF MENTORING**  
I knew Pam before she came back to LMU when she was a counselor in the Lennox School District. She was always dedicated to service to underserved

ILLUSTRATION BY EDEL RODRIGUEZ

## Contributors



**Barry Blitt** is a cartoonist and illustrator. He has contributed illustrations and more than 100 covers to *The New Yorker*. He is the author of "Blitt," a collection of covers for *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair* and other publications.

### For the "Stage Rights" article (Page 32), was it difficult to illustrate a meeting for which there was little or no visual documentation?

It was challenging, yeah. I didn't know how everyone was dressed, for one thing — did James Baldwin wear a suit and tie? Also, every photo of Lena Horne I could find was basically a PR glamor shot, so it was an issue incorporating her into the picture. (On the other hand, since no photos exist of the event, no one can tell me I misrepresented it visually.)

### Which recent New Yorker cover was the hardest to execute and why?

Every New Yorker cover is the hardest one. It's a high-profile gig, and I get nervous each time I get to draw one. I also got anxious drawing the Baldwin-RFK illustration. It felt like such an important moment to depict. I worried about getting the mood right. (I'm just too sensitive is the problem.)

### Is political tragedy more challenging to illustrate than political absurdity?

Well, yeah, for me absurdity comes a little easier. I can be playful in a way I might not choose to in a picture about a tragedy. (I'm not called upon to illustrate tragic situations much. Once in a while. But mostly I get summoned for laughs.)

### What's your next major project?

My next major project? I need a dental implant for a front tooth, and I'm thinking of doing it myself.



**Lincoln Agnew**, an illustrator based in Calgary, Canada, illustrated the children's books titled "CookieBot!" and "Harry and Horsie." His work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Los Angeles Magazine* and elsewhere.

**Sol Cotti** is an illustrator based in Buenos Aires. Her clients have included NPR, *Scientific American*, the Louvre Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, Condé Nast and others.



**Diana Ejaita** is an Italian-Nigerian illustrator and textile designer in Berlin. Her clients have included Design Indaba, Apple, *The New Yorker*, Scoop and others.

**Amir Hussain**, a professor of theological studies in the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, is the author of "Muslims and the Making of America." Hussain also is vice president of the American Academy of Religion.



**Randal Ford** is a commercial and fine arts photographer whose work has appeared in *Texas Monthly*, *Audubon*, *Communication Arts* and elsewhere. His "Good Dog: A Collection of Portraits" was published in 2020.

**Alexander Huls** is a writer based in Toronto. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *Popular Mechanics* and elsewhere.



**Robert Jackson M.A. '96** is a professor of English at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is the author of "Fade In, Crossroads: A History of the Southern Cinema."



**Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn '90** is a Los Angeles-based journalist and author. She documented her own natural hair journey in the essay "Growing Gray," in *Ms. Magazine* (March 2020). Follow her @JaniceRhoshalle.



**Kelsie Lyn**, who created the hair style for the cover photograph and those in "Crowns" (see Page 26), is a celebrity hairstylist and makeup artist specializing in all-natural hair. She has worked with Jennifer Hudson, Jessica Williams, Ayesha Curry, Sonya Curry, Nika King and others. Follow her @WithLovebyK.

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SoFi Stadium, in nearby Inglewood, became the site for LMU's 109th Commencement Exercises.

## SoFi Commencement Marks the Start of Post-Pandemic Life

TWO LMU EVENTS THAT occur without fail every year are unusually noteworthy in 2021: Commencement and the start of the new academic year. Both are testimony to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on almost all aspects of modern life.

LMU's 109th Commencement Exercises, on July 31, are unprecedented in almost every way. This year's events bring together the undergraduate and graduate classes of 2020 and 2021, as well as the LMU Loyola Law School classes of both years. With SoFi Stadium as the venue, Commencement takes place in L.A.'s newest state-of-the-art athletic and events venue. Built by Los Angeles Rams owner and chairman E. Stanley Kroenke, the stadium is home to the NFL's Los Angeles Rams and Chargers, and it will host Super Bowl LVI in 2022 as well as the opening and closing ceremonies of the summer 2028 Olympic Games.

Emceeding the occasion is Vin Scully, former broadcaster for the Los Angeles Dodgers and one of the city's most revered public figures (see opposite page). With a Jesuit education of his own and being a parent and grandparent to several alumni, Scully is no stranger to LMU. The 2021 Commencement speaker, Viola Davis, who played the title role in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," has won an Academy Award, a Primetime Emmy, two Tony Awards, NAACP Image Awards and a Screen Actors Guild Award. Davis has long been involved with efforts for justice, from supporting the Black Lives Matter movement to fighting hunger and helping to open doors for other Black female actors.

If Commencement 2021 symbolizes the disruption of the pandemic, the return to campus in fall 2021 may represent a long-anticipated resumption of university life. After a limited, staged reopening of some campus resources in March 2021 and a phased return of some faculty and staff during the summer, LMU will welcome students for in-person instruction, co-curricular programs, support services, and campus housing at full capacity. Classes begin on Aug. 30.

"Since March of 2020, many people across LMU have worked diligently to ensure our campus remains COVID-safe and aligned with L.A. County Public Health protocols," says Devra Schwartz, vice president of campus safety and security. "We are ready, and so excited to welcome students back."

Throughout the course of the pandemic, LMU has closely adhered to all public health and Cal/OSHA guidelines and safety protocols, and safety and health precautions will remain a high priority.

### NEWSLINE

**1.18 Education Equity**  
Howard Fuller, Civil Rights activist and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Marquette University, speaks on "Equity in Catholic Education: Are We Living the Legacy?" at the 10th anniversary celebration of the SOE Center for Catholic Education.

**1.21 L.A. Pandemic**  
Daniel Chavira, M.D., medical director of Clinical Observation at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, describes vaccines, health care and the state of the COVID-19 crisis in Los Angeles.

**1.26 Separated Children**  
Journalist Jacob Soboroff, who is the author of "Separated: Inside an American Tragedy," talks about the Trump administration policy of separating families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

**1.26 Data Talks**  
Timothy Park, director of Strategic Analytics and Commercial Planning at Sony, describes the benefits for business of using data pillars in a data-driven culture.

**1.26 Polling Chatter**  
Sean McElwee, pollster and data scientist, addresses the role of polls in the 2020 U.S. election, their predictive power and what they tell us about what Americans really want.

**1.27 Business Ethics**  
Rene LaVigne '83, president and CEO of Iron Bow Technologies, discusses the importance of ethics, integrity, diversity and inclusion in business, as well as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

**1.28 Black Theater**  
Actor, director and producer Ngozi Anyanwu discusses her life and work as a Black artist who has worked on issues of racial and social justice in the professional theater arts community.

**2.4 Democracy and Truth**  
Wolf Blitzer, CNN anchor, and Carol Costello, former CNN anchor and LMU lecturer in journalism, discuss disinformation and democratic institutions as part of the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice 2021 Symposium.

### CONVERSATION

**VIN SCULLY, P '95, P '99, and grandparent to three additional alumni, came to Los Angeles when the Dodgers moved here in 1958. In the decades that followed, he became the voice of the franchise and, for many, an iconic symbol of L.A. itself. But Scully was born and raised a New Yorker. A graduate of Fordham Prep High School and Fordham University, he is the product of a Jesuit education. Scully will serve as emcee at the LMU Commencement at SoFi Stadium. He spoke to LMU Magazine about his career.**

#### What do you miss about not being in the press box on game day?

I miss people: the person who runs the elevator, the custodian of the press box. I'd usually greet the visiting radio and TV people of whichever team was playing that night. I tried to meet the challenge of doing the play-by-play and make it a little more interesting, informative if possible and even slightly entertaining if I could find something to put a smile on someone's face. But the actual games — I don't miss them nearly as much as the people.

#### How would you describe the lasting impact on your life of your Jesuit education?

In one word: faith. That's what I've been holding onto with both hands as long as I've lived. I spent eight years

at what they call Rose Hill, which is the Fordham University and Fordham Prep campus. So, I was deeply immersed in Jesuit life.

#### What was your major at Fordham?

I really majored in radio. Oh, sure, I guess I was an English major, but it was the radio station that was so precious to me.

#### We know the names of baseball's stars and will remember them as long as we live. But how should we value the utility infielders, long-relief pitchers and the guys hired just to pinch hit?

If you look at a ballclub, of the 26 players you have at least 13 pitchers. The bulk of them are sitting quietly in the bullpen. They're like so many of us in this world who toil, who are not going to make a headline. We're not going to do anything but work hard, get paid and raise a family. When you look at a game, yes, there are stars, just as in life itself, but the bulk of the machinery, as in life, is the unsung who work and produce. I think that's the big lesson to be learned.

#### What career might you have pursued if your broadcasting career had failed?

I never thought of failure. I just plodded on and was fortunate. I might have been a bit of a writer who went on to write for a newspaper or something. I dreamt of being a broadcaster when I was 8 years old. I remember a nun in the eighth grade, Sr. Virginia Maria, God bless her. When she learned I wanted to be a sports announcer, which was unheard of in the '30s, she had me stand up every day and read for just a few minutes. After a while, I became accustomed to addressing my classmates and doing whatever she wanted me to do on my feet. I think that helped a great deal.

#### What's your advice to the student who is broadcasting LMU's baseball games from the Page Stadium press box and wonders if there's a career in the future?

I would say it's about mental outlook. Don't be discouraged; it's a big world. There are radio stations and television stations all over, twice as many as when I was starting out. I'd work hard, and I'd give it a good five years. If I'm not where I want to be after five years, then, OK, I'd go somewhere else.

#### What have you been proudest of in your work with the Dodgers?

When I look back over my life, at all the great breaks and things that happened, it was as if at an early age I was handed a book of instructions. I followed the instructions, and things worked out well. But proud? No, not even a little. In fact, if I thought I was proud, I'd kick my fanny right down the street. I do thank God. I do that very, very much.



NEWSLINE

**2.5 Living in Inclusion**  
Jay Francis, senior VP of Current Series, Diversity and Inclusion for Disney Television Animation! joins a conversation about his experiences as a Black executive in corporate America.

**2.9 Meaning of Justice**  
Sarah Tyson, professor of philosophy at the University of Colorado, Denver, examines the demands of justice in the Stanford rape trial and other cases of rape and sexual violence.

**2.17 Seeking Racial Justice**  
Lecia Brooks '78, chief of staff of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, talks about her work and SPLC efforts to fight white supremacy and support human rights.

**2.18 Rejecting Vaccines**  
Jennifer Reich, author of "Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines," discusses the distrust of vaccines among some parents and a balance between personal liberty and community responsibility.

**2.24 The First Amendment**  
Vic Mensa, a rapper, singer, songwriter and activist, speaks as part of the Los Angeles Loyolan's 19th Annual First Amendment Week "Expressions From the Margins."

**2.26 "Black in Business"**  
Rob Williams, executive VP of development and production with JuVee Productions, talks about his career path and strategies for Black professionals in the film industry.

**2.26 Writing Liars**  
Marlene King, writer, producer and director who also was the showrunner for "Pretty Little Liars," describes how she hires writers and the process of taking a project from pitch to screen.

**3.8 Trans Issues**  
Héctor T. Plascencia, a movement consultant and social justice advocate, talks about their policy, action and organizing work in undocumented communities of color, especially queer and trans folks.

# HOLDING BACK Kids

**THE QUESTION** Should parents engage in redshirting their eighth-grade student athletes — holding them back from graduation — purely for reasons of athletic competition?

**URBACH** There is a trend emerging in America that is affecting our children, specifically our eighth-grade students. This practice is considered by some to be the best way to be successful in sports, while others view it as an abuse of youth athletics: to purposely hold back an eighth-grade student from graduating with his or her class in order to be physically, and perhaps mentally, more prepared for their high school athletic career, having benefitted from an extra year of growth and development.

This practice, unprecedented in this age group, raises many questions: Is it right to hold back a student who is legitimately ready for high school for the sole purpose of being bigger, stronger and faster in athletic competition? What message is being sent by parents to their children in doing so?

It is easy to say you want your child to have the best chance at being successful in his or her high school athletic endeavors. After years of preparation by a student for the next level, both academically and athletically, a parent just simply says no, we are not going to graduate our child this year. Instead, the child will repeat the eighth grade



**Dave Urbach '97, M.A. '08** has worked in high school athletics administration in the Los Angeles area, including as an athletics director, for more than 20 years. He lives in Granada Hills, California.

to work on athletic skills or advance physically. But success at what price?

There are two issues that must be addressed. First, this is a gamble with physical and psychological risks. Second, this places the priority on the athletic side of that child's life. Will your son or daughter get bigger, stronger and faster? Will their skill set increase and make them a dominant player? Or might they get injured, or "burn out" from the stress associated with getting to the next level? And what of that proverbial next level?

Look at the numbers: They do not lie. According to NCAA.org, 2% of all graduating high school seniors get some form of higher education athletic aid. That's a low percentage, considering that in 2019–20 approximately 3.7 million students were expected to graduate. Truth is, there is more money to be had for academic-oriented college aid, but few realize that fact.

Too many parents feel that redshirting at the secondary education level will lead to an athletic scholarship at a D1 college or university. In addition to the risk of injury and burn-out, let's also hope that athletes are not mentally drained by the extra physical workload and the redundant workload in the classroom.

One must also consider the social ramifications of redshirting, as these student athletes will now be without the peers they went to school with, in some cases for more than eight years. Too often, we place an emphasis on athletics to the point where we forget what athletics is supposed to be about. It is supposed to be about working on a skill, working with a team and learning that through hard work you can achieve great things and create wonderful memories that will enhance your life for years afterward. Trust me, after being involved in high school athletics for more than 20 years and the past 10 as an athletic director, I can see that the one common attribute that all our most successful athletes have had is balance. Successful athletes know how to work hard, improve daily and enjoy the process or, as I like to call it, their unique athletic journey.

Let's look, too, at the education issue involved. What message are parents sending to their children? "Academically, you are ready to graduate and join your peers at the high school of your choice, but we want you to be more physically developed and to work on your game." Are we telling our children that this step makes sense even though it goes against the natural flow of education?

We are telling our children that their ability to play a sport matters much. But the question remains: Is putting your eggs in this athletically motivated basket best for your child? Parents, it is up to us to question the practice of redshirting at such a young age.



ILLUSTRATION BY SOL COTTI

L.A. STORY

## Coastal View

THE SCENIC BEAUTY of the Southern California shoreline has long captivated visitors and inspired the land's protection. For thousands of years, native peoples inhabited the coastal plain, fished the rivers and the sea, and revered the natural terrain. The Chumash people from what is now the Ventura-Santa Barbara area named the territory *Malibu*, meaning "place of noisy surf." From the south, Gabriellino-Tongva people spoke of *Topanga*, "where the mountains run down to the sea."

With the Spanish occupation of California in 1769, retired soldiers sought land to support themselves and their families. In 1802, Jose Bartolome Tapia (1766–1824) received a government grant for his Rancho Topanga Malibu Sequit. Tapia built an adobe home, planted corn and laid out a vineyard in Malibu Canyon, above what is now the Serra Retreat House. In 1848, Tapia's widow sold the 13,000-acre property for 400 pesos, half paid in cash, the rest in merchandise.

In the 1880s, Southern California's weather lured thousands of newcomers, one of whom, Frederick Hastings Rindge (1857–1905), bought the ranch in 1892, for \$10 an acre. With additional purchases, his "farm" totaled 17,000 acres that fronted 25 miles of beach. Rindge had found his heart's delight: a "farm near the ocean under the lee of the mountains" with "a troutbrook [sic], wild trees, a lake, good soil, and excellent climate, one not too hot in summer." Here he grazed cattle, harvested grain, and planted orchards until his unexpected death in 1905.

His widow, May Knight Rindge (1864–1941), sought to protect the property from intruders, employing *vaqueros* to drive off trespassers. But she also resisted corporate and state entities that wanted access to her land to complete coastal transportation arteries. A woman not to be crossed, she blocked the Southern Pacific Railroad from laying tracks up from Santa Monica by building her



May Knight Rindge (1864–1941)

**Michael Engh, S.J. '72** is chancellor of LMU. Previously he has been professor of history and dean of the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, as well as president of Santa Clara University.

own railroad, the 15-mile Hueneme, Malibu and Port Los Angeles Railroad. Rindge also took to the courts. Beginning in 1907, she battled Los Angeles County and the State of California to prevent the extension through the ranch of Highway 1 (then known as the Roosevelt Highway). Litigation raged for 15 years until 1923, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state had the right of eminent domain to construct through her property a scenic highway for public enjoyment. Determined to prevent spoilation of the land, May resisted development on her ranch and died nearly bankrupt for her efforts.

Rindge descendants have loved Malibu up to the present. John Francis Rindge (1932–2013), grandson of Frederick and May, spoke readily about his family's legacy of preservation. A graduate of Loyola University of Los Angeles in 1953, he co-authored books with his brother about his grandmother's pottery company that produced the famous Malibu tiles. Another relative deeded land to the U.S. government for the creation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Thanks to their care, the Rindge family has preserved the natural integrity of the Malibu coast. —**Michael Engh, S.J. '72**

## Leimert Park Village

CULTURE, COMMUNITY and camaraderie all converge here to create an atmosphere of joy: Leimert Park, the proverbial heart of South Central Los Angeles. Drum circles, double-dutch sessions and pervasive incense smells are constant reminders of childhood and home, and an identity established through the gathering of individuals who for decades have brought their creativity and ideas to Leimert Park. The present-day pandemic has reminded us of our natural human inclination to gather with one another in community. Leimert Park Village epitomizes community, my community. The interconnectedness of people, art, diversity and intellect makes it a place I'll never again take for granted.

Established in 1927, Leimert Park is one of Los Angeles' first planned communities. Under the restrictive covenant laws at the time, Leimert Park and other communities were restricted to whites until 1948, when these laws were overturned by the Supreme Court. Prior to and during this time, African Americans had begun to migrate to Los Angeles due in large part to the probable reality that they could buy a home and get a good paying job. From the late 1940s to present day, this community has established an identity defined by artists, businesswomen and businessmen, and families seeking to raise their children in a community that truly felt like home.

When I visit Leimert Park, I experience the vibrancy of what it means to



**Ethan Smith '11, M.S. '16** is COO of Treehouse Co-Living located in the Los Angeles area. He earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in the LMU Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering.

find fellowship with other people and create moments of joy in community. I am reminded of the excitement I feel when I see children, parents and grandparents dancing to the music from the popular coffee shop DJ on Degnan Boulevard. Equally, I'm filled with curiosity about the street vendors lining Degnan on Saturdays selling everything from the latest detox tea to skin products I use myself.

The common thread among us during the past year is that we have missed out on continually being surrounded by authentic community. What I once took for granted has come to the forefront of my lived experience as a necessity: the need to be truly connected. Leimert Park has reminded me of that reality. It is a special place where you may find me on a Friday night in front of Sole Folks, grooving to a live music performance or strolling along Degnan on a Sunday afternoon, taking it all in — the culture, community and camaraderie in the "Park."

# Court

## EXTENSION

Since his November 2020 election, President Joe Biden has been urged to propose federal legislation that would increase the number of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court. Doing so would not be the first attempt to expand the court. President Franklin D. Roosevelt tried and failed in 1937. Here's a look at "court-packing," a political battle whose precedent may say much about its present prospects.

### Who coined the term "court-packing"?

Opponents of the Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937 used the term "court-packing" to describe the proposal in a pejorative manner.

### Why did FDR attempt to expand the court?

FDR as well as the majority Democrat U.S. Congress had been elected by voters who supported the New Deal platform to redress the dire economic conditions of the Great Depression by enacting pro-worker legislation. However, the Supreme Court was comprised of justices who had such strong pro-business economic policy preferences that they became infamous for striking down progressive-era federal laws like the National Industrial Recovery Act. This Supreme Court struck down more major federal laws than at any other time in the nation's history. FDR's rationale for adding justices was that it was contrary to the will of the voters who had elected him and the majority Democrat Congress for unelected Supreme Court justices to override the judgment of the Congress on legislative policy.

### How would FDR's plan have changed the court?

The proposed law created a new judgeship for every federal judge over 70 years old, adding six new justices.

### Why did FDR's plan fail?

Although many Americans, especially political progressives, were angry with the court's repeated overruling of legislation protecting workers and regulating the monopolistic actions of big business, elite lawyers, for example, formed groups like the National Committee for Independent Courts which successfully created opposition arguing FDR's plan was a presidential

power grab that constituted an assault on the rule of law.

### If FDR's plan failed, how did the New Deal happen?

Many view FDR's threat to increase the size of the court as an important contributing factor in a now-famous change in 1937 from the Supreme Court overruling to upholding progressive New Deal legislation. The subsequent retirement or death of five justices allowed FDR to make five appointments to the Supreme Court in his second term even though his legislative proposal was never passed.

### Is the size of the Supreme Court specified in the Constitution?

No, the text of the Constitution is silent. The number of justices has ranged from five to 10, but has been nine since 1869.

### Why do some advocates urge President Biden to increase the size of the court?

Some contend the current justices, when interpreting the law, are improperly imposing their personal policy preferences like the justices FDR criticized for usurping the role of the president and Congress. Others urge Biden to increase the size of the court

to redress the fact that Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell impeded the March 2016 nomination of Merrick Garland, President Barack Obama's nominee, but oversaw the confirmation vote of Justice Amy Coney Barrett, President Donald Trump's nominee, just seven days before the November 2020 presidential election. McConnell had opposed Senate action on Garland's nomination on the grounds that it should not take place within seven months prior to a presidential election.

### What is the central argument against expanding the court, and, if you were advisor to President Biden, would you recommend he attempt it?

If it were to become commonplace to pass laws changing the size of the Supreme Court, it could severely diminish the power and stature of the court to serve as a check on the powers of the president and Congress. The Democrats' razor-thin margin of control in Congress would make the passage of such legislation extremely difficult. Even if Biden deemed it appropriate, unless and until the vast majority of the American electorate also favors adding more seats to the Supreme Court, a plan to do so has little chance of being enacted into law.



**Kimberly West-Faulcon** holds the James P. Bradley Chair in Constitutional Law and is a professor of law at the LMU Loyola Law School.



# Our Lady of the Qur'an

MANY CHRISTIANS are unaware of the role that the Virgin Mary plays among Muslims. It might surprise them to know that she is the only woman who is mentioned by name in the Qur'an. In fact, she is named more often in the Qur'an (34 times) than she is in the New Testament (19 times). The "House of Mary" is in Turkey, near Ephesus, where it is visited by both Muslim and Catholic pilgrims, including Pope Paul VI, St. Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

The 19th chapter of the Qur'an is Surah Maryam, the chapter of Mary. In that chapter, as in the Gospel of Luke, the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she will have a son, even though no man has touched her. When she asks how this is possible, Gabriel replies, "Your Lord says, 'It is easy for Me, We will make him a sign for humanity and a Mercy from Us.'" That's one of my favorite Qur'anic titles for Jesus, a sign for humanity and a mercy from God. The chapter goes on to describe Mary giving birth to Jesus under a palm tree, with ripe dates to feed her and her child.

Years ago, I worked with the Franciscans in Ohio when they wanted to tell the story of the encounter in 1219 between their founder, St. Francis of Assisi, and the Muslim sultan in Egypt during the fifth Crusade. That's another important point for those who think that interfaith dialogue is "modern": The Franciscans would have never existed as an order without the encounter and dialogue with Muslims. During that project, I was privileged to get to know Br. Robert Lentz, the acclaimed Franciscan icon writer. I was particularly taken with his series of Middle Eastern images of holy people, and for years we talked about the possibility of my commissioning an icon from him. This year, I was blessed with the icon that Br. Robert wrote for me, "Our Lady of the Qur'an."

**Amir Hussain**, a professor of theological studies in the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, is the author of "Muslims and the Making of America." Hussain also is vice president of the American Academy of Religion.

Mary holds her child, Jesus, in the folds of her robe, and I can see in the icon the Qur'anic story of how Mary was once criticized by some in her community who could not accept the virgin birth of Jesus. In the story, Mary points to the child, indicating that he should speak for himself. That's one of the many miracles of Jesus in the Qur'an, that he speaks as an infant: "But they said, 'How shall we speak to one who is still in the cradle, a little child?'" Jesus said, 'Behold, I am God's servant; God has given me the Book and made me a prophet. God has made me blessed, wherever I may be; and God has enjoined me to pray and to give alms so long as I live, and likewise to cherish my mother; God has not made me arrogant or unblessed. Peace be upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I am raised up alive.'" (Qur'an 19:30-35)

In the Islamic tradition, one sees flames around the heads of holy people, similar to halos in Christianity. The Arabic text at the bottom of the icon is from the Qur'an 3:42, another line that might surprise some Christians since it comes not from the Gospel of Luke, but from the Qur'an: "O Mary, surely God has elected you, purified you, and exalted you above all the women in the world." Mary appears in the Qur'an, to Muslims, as she appears to other people across history and geography. In this way, Our Lady brings Muslims and Christians together. —**Amir Hussain**



**Mary Balogh Boyle** is a botanist with the U.S. Geological Survey. Based in Las Vegas, she manages a five-state USGS restoration initiative.

# Growing a Tomato

Just about everyone has a crazy secret for growing the epic summer tomato — feed the plant coffee grinds and eggshells; employ garlic nearby to stave off pests; bury a fish head near the roots for fertilizer. But it may come as a relief to know there are some tried and true tips that produce high yields of sweet fruit into the fall that leave your fishmonger out of the picture. Mary Balogh Boyle advises that a little advance planning and research goes a long way. There are hundreds of tomato hybrids and heirloom varieties. Read up, stock up on supplies, pick a sunny spot in your yard and get your hands dirty.

**STEP 1**  
Pinch off undeveloped fruit and some flowers to divert energy to root growth and plant establishment.

**STEP 2**  
Snip off the two lowest sets of leaves at the base so that this section of the stem can be planted below ground.

**STEP 3**  
Use a rich soil that drains well. Adding coconut coir and perlite will make the tomatoes thrive.

**STEP 4**  
Stake or cage the plant to support the main stem.

**STEP 5**  
Stakes or a cage also will support lateral stems when they are heavy with fruit.

**STEP 6**  
Deeply water at the base of the plant in the morning or on a consistent schedule.

**STEP 7**  
Shake the plant every few days when the plant is producing flowers to help cross-pollinate.

**STEP 8**  
Leave fruit on the vine as long as possible until fully red and ripe for the richest flavor; harvest frequently to encourage production.

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL WARAKSA



NEWSLINE

- 3.9 Wildlife Justice**  
Charles Nilon, a University of Missouri professor who studies the impact of urbanization on wildlife habitats and populations, speaks about urban wildlife and environmental justice.
- 3.9 French Film**  
The Tournées Film Festival @ LMU launches a series of internationally acclaimed French films — from directors including Céline Sciamma, Marie Losier, Justine Triet and Djibril Diop Mambéty — focused around the theme of “Women in French Beyond Borders.”
- 3.9 Social Entrepreneurship**  
Paul Polizzotto, founder and CEO of social impact technology company Givewith, discusses his career as a serial social entrepreneur in the Hilton Distinguished Entrepreneur Lecture Series.
- 3.10 China Power**  
Nong Hong, who is executive director of the Institute for China-America Studies in Washington, D.C., outlines Beijing’s perspective on U.S.-China relations and international disputes in the South China Sea.
- 3.11 Vatican Observer**  
Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J., director of the Vatican Observatory, discusses issues in astrophysics and cosmology, including God’s creation and humanity’s place in the cosmos.
- 3.11 Comedy School**  
Actor Ed O’Neill, who taught social studies at a Catholic high school before his stellar acting career, talks with SFTV students and takes questions about his work in film and television.
- 3.12 BLM and Political Movements**  
Deva Woody, professor at The New School for Social Research in New York City, discusses “Black Lives Matter and the Democratic Necessity of Social Movements” as part of the LMU Bellarmine Forum.
- 3.15 Medical Apartheid**  
Harriet Washington, author and ethicist, talks about current challenges to ethical health care, including the dissemination of vaccines and the elision of informed consent during the coronavirus pandemic.

**NADIA KIM** is a professor of sociology in the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts. Her research focuses on migration, immigration, Asian American studies, and race-gender-class intersectionality. She is the author of “Imperial Citizens: Koreans and Race from Seoul to LA.”

**Attacks on Asian and Asian Americans are reported to be more prevalent since the start of the pandemic. Have attacks been occurring all along but only now being acknowledged?**

Attacks have been going on, but COVID-19 is what makes this moment unique in terms of frequency of occurrence. In some cities across America, the highest rates of hate violence have been against Asian Americans.

**Would you say, then, that hate violence is ever-present, like a disease in remission that can flare up when inflamed by events?**

Yes, hate violence often has flared up in response to events — such as wars or the 2003 SARS outbreak and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic — but also laws and policies. For example, the notion that Asian Americans are contagion, disease carriers, flared up when federal exclusion laws were passed. The Page Act of 1875 prohibited immigration of Chinese women, painting them as prostitutes and carriers of sexual diseases.

**Due to recent events, White America is taking notice of hate violence, but would Asians and Asian Americans say that for them it is a fact of life in America?**

We have never seen the rates of hate violence this high and sustained for so long. At the same time, we have long experienced race-gender-class assaults, microaggressions and sexualized violence. In a white/black-focused country, Asian Americans battle a sense of erasure: Maybe we aren’t important, maybe this discrimination we’ve experienced isn’t really discrimination. The pandemic has made it abundantly clear that we shouldn’t absorb the messages

from society that make us think, “Oh well, maybe this isn’t discrimination,” or “Maybe this isn’t as important as racism against other groups.”

**Have you experienced abuse directed at you, and was any of it overtly gender-oriented?**

Yes, I have. This is the stuff that is pedestrian among Asian Americans. All of us have been told “Go back to your country” — I was born in New York City. That’s standard. I have also experienced sexualized assault based on the notion of an exotic, erotic Asian woman. For example, when crossing a street outside my home during the pandemic, a man in a car came within inches of running me over. It was as if he knew he wasn’t going to actually hit me but wanted me to think that he would. That rattled me. In terms of physical violence, that hadn’t happened to me before.

**So, how should we understand the particular mixing of gender and race when it comes to abuse of Asian American women?**

Asian American women are imaged as passive, as sexual objects, as meek, as quiet and as vulnerable to domination. On the other hand,

Asian American women are seen as a threat. A lot of that comes from constructions of the “dragon lady” notion — an emasculating femme fatale who will impose her sexual power over you such that you lose. That’s also a cause for violence, because that threat has to be stamped out if you’re going to maintain white American power or white American dominance.

**You’re a sociologist — how does your expertise help you understand this phenomenon?**

Sociologists were at the center of critical race theory. Legal scholars picked up on what sociologists have been saying for decades about the importance of policies on racism, such as the Muslim ban. Sociologists also have been at the center of intersectionality. Intersectional paradigms have helped us understand that the Atlanta massacre in mid-March, for example, was not just about the women killed being Asian women. It was about their being sexualized Asian women, but it was also about class. These were workers in the massage industry.

**What are people doing — and what can we all do — to counter the rise in anti-Asian attacks and racism?**

Educate oneself about the history and present condition of racism against Asian Americans. China-bashing, for instance, fundamentally affects people who look Chinese in America. Joining with community groups, church and interfaith alliances for justice, and multiracial and multiethnic coalitions makes a tremendous difference. Doing what Asians With Attitudes are doing in Oakland matters — escorting elders safely to the market, the doctor’s office, to home. Donating to Asian American organizations is helpful. But we also must have a stronger under-



# Path of Shame

America’s legacy of anti-Asian racism and violence begins with the arrival of Asian immigrants in the United States, particularly in California, in the 19th century. Since that time, Asians and Asian Americans have been blamed for economic downturns, diseases, prostitution, and treason or potential treason. Although slander, riots and murders have been commonplace, legal processes also have been used to cover racism with the veneer of law. Here are some prominent examples. —The Editor



**1876 Anti-Chinese Riot**  
Antioch whites in Antioch, California, burn down the city’s Chinatown. Earlier, Chinese people had been banned from walking the streets after sunset.

**1882 Chinese Exclusion Act**  
All Chinese immigration to the U.S. is banned for 10 years.



**1900 San Francisco Plague**  
The Chinese community in San Francisco is blamed for an outbreak of bubonic plague. Movement in and out of the city’s Chinatown is prohibited for anyone except whites.

**1930 Watsonville Riot**  
White mobs numbering in the hundreds attack Filipino farmworkers in Watsonville, California, in January 1930.

**1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act**  
Filipinos living in the U.S. are reclassified as resident aliens under immigration law and thus no longer able to freely immigrate into the United States.



**1871 Chinese Massacre**  
After a white man is caught in a crossfire of rival Chinese groups in Los Angeles, a mob of more than 500 attacks the Chinese community near Olvera Street on Oct. 24, 1871. At least 17 Chinese men and boys are lynched.



**1982 Murder of Vincent Chin**  
Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man, is beaten to death outside a Detroit club in June 1982 by two white men who blamed him for their loss of jobs. Fined \$3,000, the men serve no prison time.



# 2021

**Atlanta Mass Shooting**  
A gunman kills eight people in Atlanta, including six women of Asian descent, at three spa and massage businesses. The shooter is said to have associated them with sexual temptation.



# 1854

**PEOPLE V. HALL**  
George Hall shoots and kills Ling Sing, a Chinese immigrant, but the testimony of Asian witnesses is rejected. The California Supreme Court rules that Asian immigrants cannot testify against a white person in court.



**1861 Nevada Anti-Miscegenation Law**  
Nevada becomes the first state to pass a law specifically barring marriages between whites and Asians. Afterward, 14 more states follow suit.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAGUE COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION. ARNOLD GENTHE COLLECTION

# Black AND WHITE

WHEN George C. Fatheree III helped close a deal involving 4 million photographic images and an auction sale of \$30 million, he helped preserve one of the most historically valuable collections documenting U.S. history.

The photography trove is the archive of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, a collection that captures world-famous Black American leaders of the 20th century, from Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Miles Davis to U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm, Dorothy Dandridge and Lorraine Hansberry. But there are quiet, intimate images as well. “There’s a photo of Billie Holiday in a hotel room,” Fatheree recalls. “You can see the track marks on her arm. It’s a very raw, emotional, intimate image of her.”

Four foundations formed a consortium to make the purchase in 2019: the J. Paul Getty Trust, the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The consortium’s intention, Fatheree says, was to preserve the collection in philanthropic hands, so that the materials could be captured, digitized and studied by the public and scholars in the future.

Fatheree, who teaches at the LMU Loyola Law School, says the collection is important not only because of the images of Black leaders but also as evidence of representation: *Ebony* and *Jet* regularly featured successful Black Americans in all walks of U.S. life.

“The archive shows lots of Black people in professional careers,” Fatheree says, “such as a head of a university library system or of a major restaurant chain.”

Fatheree, a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson who earned his J.D. at the LMU Loyola Law School in 2007, completed the transaction within a five-day deadline. “This was a deal like no other that I had worked on,” he says.

### American Legacy

The *Ebony*/*Jet* collection documents Black American life in 20th century America. Above (l-r): U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm, singer Mahalia Jackson, Muslim minister Malcolm X. Below (l-r): singer Billie Holiday, musician Miles Davis, writer Maya Angelou.



### NEWSLINE

- 3.15 Education Injustice**  
Bettina L. Love, author and educational researcher at the University of Georgia, talks about her work as a professor and researcher, as well as efforts to fight injustice in schools and communities.
- 3.16 Freedom Riders**  
Professor Emeritus Robert Singleton and Helen Singleton M.A. '85, who were Freedom Riders as a young married couple in July 1961, receive the President's Medal from LMU President Timothy Law Snyder, Ph.D.
- 3.19 Faith Doing Justice**  
Marla Frederick, ethnologist and professor of religion and culture at Emory University, lectures on "A Faith That Does Justice: Interfaith Perspectives."
- 3.20 Greek Revolution**  
Roderick Beaton, professor emeritus at King's College, U.K., gives a lecture about the Greek revolution of 1821 and its influence on world history.
- 3.24 Japanese Internment**  
Director Jon Osaki discusses his documentary "ALTERNATIVE FACTS: The Lies of Executive Order 9066," which examines Executive Order 9066 that authorized the forced removal and incarceration of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans in 1942.
- 3.25 Milligan Lecture**  
Susan Abraham, professor at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley and former LMU professor of theological studies, delivers the Annual Mary Milligan, R.S.H.M. Lecture in Spirituality on depression, anxiety and pain, and Incarnational spirituality.
- 3.26 Black Design**  
Cheryl D. Miller, who holds degrees in fine arts, design and theology, discusses her work in supporting Black female designers and her design firm that worked with a Fortune 500 clientele in the New York City market.

# Summer Glass

A good novel acts as a window on the world its writer imagines. It may also reveal as much about the world its reader lives in every day. We asked English professor Julia Lee for her summer fiction recommendations. Choose for yourself whether they are windows or mirrors, or both. —The Editor.



**Julia Lee** is a professor of English in the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts. She is the author of “The American Slave Narrative and the Victorian Novel” and “Our Gang: A Racial History of ‘The Little Rascals.’” Her novel, “By The Book,” was published under the pen name Julia Sonneborn.

**Brit Bennett**

“The Vanishing Half”  
This multigenerational novel follows the lives of identical twins Desiree and Stella, one of whom decides to pass as white. What begins as a story of racial passing also brings up interesting questions about gender passing and other socially constructed identities. Half of the novel takes place in Los Angeles, and one of the main characters attends LMU!

**Charles Yu**

“Interior Chinatown”  
Winner of the 2020 National Book Award, this novel made me laugh out loud. Yu imagines America as a procedural cop show called “Black and White,” with the protagonist endlessly trying to break out of his typecast role of “Generic Asian Man.” Written in the form of a screenplay, the novel is a devastating satire of Hollywood, which makes sense given Yu’s other career as a screenwriter for shows like HBO’s “Westworld.”

**Louise Erdrich**

“The Night Watchman”  
Based on the life of Erdrich’s own grandfather, a night watchman and member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa, this novel follows Thomas Wazhashk’s fight to prevent the “termination” of Chippewa land ownership and treaty rights by Congress. Erdrich is one of my favorite writers, and this novel is both a love letter to Erdrich’s grandfather and a continuation of his legacy of resistance.

**Octavia E. Butler**

“Parable of the Sower”  
Published by Butler in 1993, “Parable of the Sower” is an Afrofuturist novel that opens in the year 2024 (just around the corner). California has become a dystopian hellscape, ravaged by climate change, poverty and violence. Read this book and you will experience Butler prophesied our current moment — and how she imagines a way forward. (To learn more about Butler, check out LMU alum Lynell George’s new book, “A Handful of Earth, a Handful of Sky: the World of Octavia E. Butler.”)

**Min Jin Lee**

“Pachinko”  
Warning: this is a Very Long Novel. It reminds me of my favorite Victorian novels — enormous door-stoppers covering generations of a family. In this case, the novel is about the Zainichi — ethnic Koreans living in Japan who survived grinding poverty and discrimination by opening up pachinko parlors (gambling being one of the few industries open to them). I adore Lee’s compassionate moral vision and world-building.

**Melody Mansfield**

“A Bug Collection”  
This collection of stories is a whimsical exploration of life through the eyes of mayflies, katydids, dung beetles and more. Melody was one of my colleagues and mentors when I first began teaching almost 25 years ago, and she recently passed away from breast cancer. This book so beautifully captures Melody’s warmth, grace, humor and love of the natural world — qualities she held onto even when facing her own death.

**Wilkie Collins**

“The Woman in White”  
Collins is sometimes credited with writing the first detective novel (others claim it was Poe). I’ve always loved this novel because it’s a crazy page-turner, with a mysterious woman dressed in white (who may have escaped from an insane asylum), an Italian count with pet white mice, and a fake baronet named Sir Percival Glyde. Collins was a master of the “sensation novel” (basically, 19th century thrillers), and this one is chock full of cliff-hangers and shocking secrets.

ILLUSTRATION BY NICOLE XU



## New SFTV Digs

WHEN LMU REOPENS for the fall 2021 semester, students, faculty and staff will discover several physical additions that will dramatically improve the learning environment and the quality of life for the campus community. Two residence complexes and new additions to the LMU School of Film and Television will have an immediate impact on life on the bluff.

Palm South, with a 300-bed capacity, provides an apartment-style environment for continuing students, with double and single rooms in five-person apartments. Palm South also includes “pods” — large apartments designed for 18–20 residents in double and single rooms, with a kitchen, common area and multiple bathrooms. The complex includes air conditioning, meeting spaces, a laundry and outdoor seating. An online tour of Palm South can be viewed at the LMU Student Housing YouTube channel.

Palm North is a traditional residence hall with 330 beds for first-year students, with double and single rooms and a central bathroom on each of four floors. The building features study rooms on each floor, a common kitchen, controlled air conditioning and a courtyard with hammocks.

The new residences were designed to support the student learning environment and community-building, says Rich Rocheleau, associate vice president for Student Life. “Apartments and offices specifically designed for faculty will be included in these facilities to increase student/faculty engagement outside of the classroom. Multipurpose space is being included for hosting a variety of academic and co-curricular activities and events in each facility.”

The student learning resources of SFTV, which was ranked seventh among U.S. film schools in 2020 by The

Hollywood Reporter, have expanded with the completion of the Howard B. Fitzpatrick Pavilion. Facing Alumni Mall, the Fitzpatrick Pavilion, which will stand as an expansion of the Communication Arts building, features two screening rooms, an immersive media lab, a post-production studio, a camera-directing stage, a flexible motion-capture area and a state-of-the-art, 86-seat theater with high-definition 4k projection capabilities, and flexible classroom spaces. To see a digital tour of the building, go to [sftv.lmu.edu](http://sftv.lmu.edu).

“The Howard B. Fitzpatrick Pavilion is an outstanding addition to SFTV’s industry-leading facilities,” says Bryant Keith Alexander, interim SFTV dean and dean of the LMU College of Communication and Fine Arts. “With the addition of the Pavilion, we deepen our ability to nurture students’ digital learning experiences and will continue to enthusiastically pursue resources that support those endeavors.”

“The Howard B. Fitzpatrick Pavilion will be a space for SFTV students to explore new and emerging media as never before, a critical expansion at a time when entertainment mediums are becoming more diversified,” says Alexander.

NEWSLINE

**4.1 Screen Diversity**  
Actor, screenwriter and filmmaker Chantal Maurice discusses Black film and TV artists and her work in shows, including “Mr. Robot,” “Quantico,” “Queen Sugar” and “The Blacklist,” along with her company, CoStar Coaching.

**4.12 Arab Jewish Life**  
David Suissa, editor of LA Jewish Journal and host of “The David Suissa Podcast,” speaks to students about his writings and his experience of being an Arab Jew in America.

**4.13 Curious Politics**  
Perry Zurn, professor of philosophy and religion at American University in Washington, D.C., discusses curiosity as a social force that plays a role in political movements for change.

**4.15 Race in Schools**  
Tyron Howard, professor at UCLA and author of “Why Race and Culture Matter in Schools,” examines research, practices and programs that can improve the education outcomes of Black males in schools.

**4.19 L.A. Economic Future**  
Stephen Cheung, COO of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. and president of the World Trade Center Los Angeles, discusses entrepreneurial and global opportunities in the L.A. region.

**4.20 DEI Initiatives**  
Michelle Wroan, managing partner with KPMG Los Angeles, talks about the accounting organization’s programs on diversity, equity and inclusion and the future of the accounting profession.

**4.20 Biden and Catholicism**  
Massimo Faggioli, author of “Joe Biden and Catholicism in the United States,” discusses religion and politics in the U.S., and the place of President Biden, America’s second Catholic president, in that context.

**4.20 Addressing Sustainability**  
Tischa Munoz-Erickson, research social scientist with the USDA Forest Service International Institute of Tropical Forestry, lectures on the adaptive governance of urban social-ecological systems.

WESTERN

# Waters

NO ONE WOULD REFUSE a July afternoon sprawled on a California beach. But for some of us, hiking to several thousand feet to spend a few days beside alpine lakes takes us far closer to heaven. Chris Liedle is a much-traveled backpacker and outdoor photographer who is deeply enamored with the mountains and lakes of the Cascades and Sierras, from Washington to California. Indoors, he's the communications director for the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, in Multnomah County, Oregon. We asked Liedle to rank lake and river watering holes of the West.

**1 Three Sisters Wilderness, Oregon**

At about 7,000 feet in elevation, the nameless tarns of the Three Sisters Wilderness offer infinity pool-like views of Broken Top and the Middle and North Sisters. Don't expect pool temperatures though. The tarns never climb above 60 degrees due to their elevation, but they're perfect for a refreshing dip after a long day on the trail.

**2 Eagle Cap Wilderness, Oregon**

Accessible only by foot or horseback, the Eagle Cap Wilderness offers some of the most rugged and best backpacking in the Northwest. Carved by glaciers, deep

U-shaped valleys are flanked by salt-and-pepper granite mountains. Pristine high-alpine lakes and moraines await those who are willing to go the distance.

**3 Waldo Lake, Oregon**

Waldo Lake in the Waldo Lake Wilderness is one of the largest natural lakes in Oregon and one of the purest in the world. The lack of nutrients and plant life contribute to its purity. On calm days, you can see to depths of 120 feet. To protect its natural beauty, no engine-powered boats are allowed on the water.

**4 Mount Adams Wilderness, Washington**

Often overshadowed by Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens and Mount

Hood, Mount Adams offers a quiet retreat on the eastern crest of the Washington Cascades. Car camp or backpack to one of the many lakes in the area for stunning views and reflections of the 12,280-foot mountain. On the way, a stop at Lower Lewis River Falls offers cliff jumping off a 43-foot-high ledge into a deep pool.

**5 Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway, Oregon**

Just 45 minutes from Bend, the Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway features towering volcanic mountains, jaw-dropping lakes and breathtaking views. During the summer, enjoy first-class hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, swimming, boating and

camping. In winter, ski deep powder at Mount Bachelor or snowshoe up Tumalo Mountain.

**6 Mount Jefferson Wilderness, Oregon**

The Lionshead Fire swept through much of the northern section of the Mount Jefferson Wilderness in 2020. The area is closed for the foreseeable future. But put it on the calendar for the coming years. Nestled just north of Mount Jefferson, a dormant volcano, lies a sub-alpine meadow dotted with picturesque lakes.

**7 Clear Lake, Oregon**

Three thousand years ago, a lava flow dammed the McKenzie River, submerging a conifer forest upstream. Fed by filtered snowmelt, Oregon's Clear Lake has unmatched clarity, consistently around 150 feet. Because the temperature hovers around 38 degrees year-round, many of the trees that were submerged are preserved.

**8 Maidenhair Falls, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California**

In the desert, everything revolves around water. Maidenhair Falls is a seasonal 20-foot waterfall in Hellhole Canyon, in California's Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Runoff from the San Diego County mountains drains to the desert floor in Anza-Borrego.

**9 Elk River, Oregon**

The Elk River is often overlooked by many who opt to visit the Rogue River. Designated a Wild & Scenic River, the Elk winds through deep gorges between the Grassy Knob and Copper Salmon Wilderness Areas. Drive east on a maintained gravel road until you find the perfect spot for swimming or fishing. The Elk River is one of the healthiest, historic salmon fisheries in the West.

**10 Smith River, California**

Flowing from the Oregon-California border, the Smith River winds its way through the Redwoods to the California coastline. Cast a line or drive out onto one of the many cobblestone river bars and camp or swim at your leisure. For those looking for a more remote experience, raft the North Fork and admire the contrast between light-blue water and orange-colored rock cliffs.



CONVERSATION

To see Dominique Hargreaves' video in LMU's Meet The Pride, go to [magazine.lmu.edu/videos](http://magazine.lmu.edu/videos).

NEWSLINE

**4.21 Fraud and Misconduct**  
The Paul A. Grosch Lecture Series features Tim Hedley, senior advisor with K2 Integrity, speaking about what organizations can do to stave off fraud, corruption and misconduct in the business world.

**4.21 Life at Adidas**  
Austin Lacter, senior global brand marketing manager for basketball at Adidas, describes life at one of the world's largest sportswear companies.

**4.22 Korea Politics**  
Victor Cha, professor of international affairs at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Washington, D.C., outlines the status of U.S.-Korea relations under the Biden administration.

**4.22 Dual Language Education**  
Guadalupe Valdés, who teaches at the Stanford Graduate School of Education, discusses bilingualism as it relates to teachers in training and the role of education in national policies on immigration.

**6.2 Festival Road**  
Actors Saul Williams, Thamele Mputlwana and others who helped make "Akilla's Escape," in which a drug dealer planning to leave the business tries to save a young boy from a life of violence, talk with SFTV students about feature films and film festivals.

**6.4 A Mob Birthday**  
Jimmy Giannopoulos, director/co-writer; Diomedes Raul Bermudez, producer/co-writer; and Siena Oberman, producer, talk online with SFTV students about the making of "The Birthday Cake" and the experience of putting a modern twist on a well-known film genre — the mob film.

**6.9 Hellenic Public Service**  
Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, a businesswoman and ambassador-at-large for the Hellenic State, receives the Zoe Caloyeras Distinguished Lecture Leadership Award for her contributions to public life from the Basil P. Caloyeras Center.

**6.25 A "Twelfth Night"**  
The Fourth Annual Shakespeare on the Bluff Festival takes place online with a presentation of "Twelfth Night," a comedy of mistaken identity, gender play

**DOMINIQUE HARGREAVES '04** has worked for years in sustainability and environmental issues, and until recently as deputy chief sustainability officer for the City of Los Angeles. She is the author of L.A.'s Green New Deal, the city's climate action plan. We spoke to Hargreaves, who earned a bachelor's degree from the LMU College of Business Administration, about the future of climate change. The conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

**Imagine this: It's 2054, and you're back on the LMU campus for your 50-year reunion. What is the best-case climate scenario?**  
If I'm looking out from the bluff, I'd be able to see out to the coast and out to the mountains, because the air would be clean. When I look out to the ocean, the water is clean. If we've done our job, then the temperature does not rise by more than a couple of degrees. You see people walking, biking, riding electric buses, taking available transit — and maybe there are some flying autonomous vehicles.

**What is the worst-case scenario?**  
We go backwards. If we maintain our internal combustion vehicles and keep burning fossil fuels in our buildings, schools and homes, then you won't be able to see the mountains. You won't even really be able to go outside in 2054 — it will be like an apocalyptic landscape. It will be extremely hot. There will be more

wildfires closing in on the city on an annual basis. You won't want to go to the beach because it will be filled with plastic. With projections of sea level rise, we could lose the Ballona Wetlands. There's also a gigantic natural gas storage facility at the bottom of the bluff that could potentially rupture and leak methane, rendering that area a disaster area.

**You co-authored L.A.'s Green New Deal. What is that?**  
L.A.'s Green New Deal is based on science-based targets. It's rooted in equity, and it's meant to deliver a green economy and more than 400,000 green jobs. The city's original Sustainable City pLAN was published in 2015. When we were getting ready for the 2019 edition, the world had changed. We had President Donald Trump in office, who had pulled out of the Paris Agreement. Mayor Eric Garcetti, along with many others, said we're still in, we're going to uphold Paris. To uphold the Paris Agreement means you need to reduce emissions from all aspects of the economy, so that you are net zero by 2050.

**How are we doing with Green New Deal goals?**  
About two-thirds of them are on track to be delivered by the end of this year. There is progress on transportation initiatives: improvements of bus lanes, bike lanes, filling of potholes — things that are easier to do when there's no traffic. The city also was able to do some innovative building retrofits, particularly with the Los Angeles Unified School District, while those buildings were not occupied.

**You mentioned equity. How do we achieve equity and climate justice?**  
It's important to strive for equitable outcomes, but you can't get there if you aren't listening to and taking in the advice and priorities of residents. When I worked with the city, we started a new department — the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, which seeks to address the concerns of frontline communities around the issues that matter to them, including oil well drilling, jobs, transportation access, food access, and clean air and water.

**Most people talk about climate change. Perhaps we should call it "climate changed." Are we past the point where mitigation measures can help? Is it all about adaptation now?**  
Both are happening simultaneously. Certainly, governments are focused on adaptation, but you can't take your eyes off mitigation measures. Scientists say we won't be able to undo a lot of the emissions and climate change impacts that have occurred. But we can do better in our daily practices. We can draw down carbon, sequester carbon and put out less carbon into the atmosphere. So, it feels like the time is even more urgent to take climate action.



LMU NEWS

Rivalry Beach vs. Valley

# Chips On the Shoulder

When it comes to Silicon Beach vs. Silicon Valley, bragging rights are a very serious matter. We're talking money, lots of it. California's tech industry is crucial to the nation's economy. Plus there is a generational divide: the back-in-the-day originators vs. the new kids on the block. Then there's reputation or, really, credit for creativity: Is the future of California tech innovation centered up north or in L.A.? We asked two alumni to go at it. Let the chips fall where they may.



We had a head start. In 1938, Bill Hewlett and David Packard started developing their audio oscillator in their Palo Alto garage, which was dubbed the "Birthplace of Silicon Valley." That's two years before Howard Hughes bought the land that would become Playa Vista.



**NORTHERN**  
**John Kovacevich '92**

is an advertising creative director from San Francisco who's worked for Silicon Valley heavyweights Facebook, Google, Cisco, HP and others.

The silicon-based integrated circuit, the microprocessor and the microcomputer were all developed up north. Snapchat, one of SoCal's biggest tech innovators, gave us the dancing hotdog filter. #JustSaying



What would you do with a 39% raise? According to Glassdoor, that's how much more a software engineer makes in Santa Clara compared to Los Angeles.



When Elon Musk — SpaceX, Tesla — asked us to dig a giant tunnel under our city, we were smart enough to smile politely and back out of the room.



Silicon Valley is where the money is. Of the \$69 billion that U.S.-based venture funds invested in startups in Q1 of 2021, more than a third landed in Silicon Valley and the Bay Area.

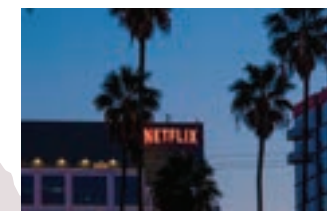


"Silicon Beach?" The best you could come up with is a photocopy of our name? By the way, photocopies were invented by Xerox in, you guessed it, Silicon Valley.



**SOUTHERN**  
**Bryan Rivas '15**

is an analytical guru living in the heart of Silicon Beach. His technical skills have landed him clients such as Toyota, Twitch, Pinterest, Chipotle and Hawaiian Airlines.



Thanks for starting the entrepreneurial dream; we'll take it from here. Netflix, Google, YouTube, BuzzFeed, Apple — they saw what was happening in L.A. and jumped on the bandwagon right away.



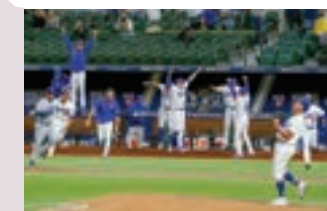
Hope you take your increased salary and figure out work/life balance in your studio apartment. The NorCal cost of living is 16% more expensive than L.A. No wonder you need more \$\$\$.



Silicon Beach's rep for philanthropy — Honest Company, Good Rx — is as well-known as its rep for innovation. #Tech+heart. Silicon Valley, you should take more ethics courses.



"Once upon a time" an Imagineer made a dream come true. You cannot buy happiness, but this is the closest thing to magic that any city has to offer.



There's a reason fans around the country chant "Beat L.A.!" — we matter. Let us know the first time anyone chants "Beat Sunnyvale!"



Make fun of Elon Musk if you feel you must, but his SpaceX, in our backyard, basically took NASA's place in space.

## PRESS

# Forward

*The Afterlife is a new LMU Magazine department in which thought leaders and experts in the LMU community explore the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic may change our work, interactions and daily life. —The Editor*

JERMAINE JOHNSON II '19 thought he had gotten his dream assignment. Just a few months after graduating from LMU with degrees in marketing, African American studies and journalism, Johnson was hired to cover sports for The Sun-Gazette, a small weekly newspaper in Tulare County, California. As the paper's sole sports reporter, Johnson attended high school sports games nearly every evening, conducting interviews, shooting photographs and even laying out the publication's sports pages.

Then came the pandemic. Almost immediately, the teams that Johnson covered stopped competing, as school officials grappled with how to carry on while the virus spread throughout California. Johnson, who had long planned for a lengthy career in sports journalism, suddenly found himself without a beat.

"I was a sports reporter with no sports to cover," says Johnson. "I basically pivoted to doing general assignment reporting. I was going to city council meetings. Instead of sports photography, I was doing news photography. I was going to local businesses and asking them how they were affected [by the pandemic]. There was a completely new skills set that I had to develop."

In February, some high school sports teams began competing again, and Johnson is transitioning back to his work as a sports reporter. Thanks to loans made available by federal COVID-19 relief legislation, The Sun-Gazette, which is privately owned, did not have to resort to layoffs or cease publication even as its advertising revenue waned during the pandemic. Other news outlets did not fare as well.

A month after states began shutting down schools and businesses, the New York Times reported that, as a result of the pandemic, news organizations had laid off, furloughed or reduced the pay of some 37,000 employees.

Even before the pandemic, many news organizations were in trouble financially, particularly local newspapers that

**Kate Pickert** is a professor of journalism and English in the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts. A former staff writer for Time magazine, she is the author of "Radical: The Science, Culture, and History of Breast Cancer in America."



struggled to adapt to web-based business models. Thousands of papers have shut down across the country since 2000. Between 2008 and 2019, according to the Pew Research Center, half of all jobs in newspaper newsrooms were lost. The pandemic hit surviving local newspapers hard because many rely heavily on advertising, one of the first costs that businesses cut when the economy slowed due to the pandemic.

But the pandemic's impact on the journalism industry hasn't been a total loss. It's bred innovation, too. National television news broadcasters have learned that they can book guests who are located far from large studios, using Zoom and Skype, diversifying the voices that can appear on air. Some news organizations that previously buckled under the expense of office space are learning they can function with reporters and editors working from home. And local city councils and school boards have grown accustomed to live-streaming public meetings, making them easier for reporters to cover.

In May 2020, Ali Swenson '16 was hired to cover misinformation for the Associated Press. She had planned to move to New York City to work at the AP's newsroom there but is instead living with her sister in Seattle and working from a desk in her bedroom.

"I'm proud of the way the Associated Press and my team have adapted to remote work," says Swenson. "We have people working all across the country and the world. We've been able to stay connected via Slack, email, Zoom and continue to create the same journalism we would have pre-pandemic."

Swenson's job revolves around debunking conspiracy theories posted online, many of which involve pandemic-related matters like the efficacy of masks and safety of virus testing and vaccination. "COVID-19 has affected the [misinformation] beat tremendously, because it's the biggest thing people are unsure about right now," says Swenson.

As difficult as the pandemic has been for the news business, it has also reminded audiences of the industry's indispensability. Readers, viewers and listeners are hungry for reliable information about COVID-19, and news organizations that provide it are benefitting. STAT, a highly respected health news website, saw its audience increase nearly 20-fold in 2020, according to a report from Harvard's Nieman Lab.

A frequent criticism of mainstream national journalism is that it focuses too much attention on the people and cultures found on the coasts and in large cities where news organizations are based and journalists live. The pandemic may ultimately upend this paradigm, proving to newsroom managers that reporters and editors can live anywhere and still report the news. Swenson says: "Not as many reporters are concentrated in urban hubs. They're more spread out, and they're seeing more communities and different parts of society."

After nearly a year working remotely, Swenson says she is eager to return to a newsroom. "I do my best work when I can work in person with my colleagues," she says. In addition to the spontaneous conversations and brainstorming that happen in a newsroom environment, Swenson says she's looking forward to meeting colleagues that she's so far only seen on screen.



# C R O W W S N S

STEPHANIE BELL'S SENIOR FILM PROJECT TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT  
ON BLACK WOMEN'S NATURAL HAIRSTYLES AND RACE-BASED HAIR DISCRIMINATION.

By Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn '90  
Photographs by Jon Rou

*I am not my hair  
I am not this skin  
I am the soul that lives within  
—India Arie, “I Am Not My Hair”*

RUMI WROTE ABOUT IT. India Arie sang about it. But scores of Black women choosing to wear their natural hair in professional spaces are too often penalized for it.

“On the topic of natural hair — and accepting our natural hair as Black women — people are always going to have an opinion about what’s growing out of your personal scalp,” says Stephanie Bell ’20 while talking about the making her capstone documentary film, “Defending Our Crowns.” The 13-minute final undergraduate project at LMU examines the pressures Black women face in fashion and entertainment to conform to European hair standards.

Respectability politics is for real, and oftentimes our worth as Black people is tied to how we wear our hair. In fact, according to Bell, the issue of “good hair” and colorism has become so problematic that generations of Black women have internalized this discrimination as a normal fact of life.

She’s right. And in 2019, California became the first state in the U.S. to pass the CROWN Act — Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural hair — which ends race-based hair discrimination in workplaces and in K-12 public and charter schools. Championed by then-California Senator Holly Mitchell and galvanized by Esi Eggleston Bracey, former COO and head of beauty and personal care for Unilever PLC North America, the CROWN Act has become a movement in government and private sectors aimed at ending hair discrimination nationwide.

“This isn’t about hair,” says Mitchell, now a Los Angeles County Supervisor. “This is about discrimination, and us creating a culture shift where we acknowledge that a Eurocentric standard of beauty, i.e., straight hair, is not true to us.”

“It certainly doesn’t define professionalism,” adds Mitchell, who wore locs for 17 years, “and it certainly shouldn’t justify little girls being suspended from school because their mothers sent them to school with box braids.”

Michelle Amor Gillie, clinical professor of screenwriting in the LMU School of Film and Television, says Black women have become used to a kind of code switching — which when speaking is alternating between two or more dialects, styles or registers for social and professional engagement — with their hair. She sees it as much on campus as in Hollywood.

**T**

THE ISSUE OF  
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“I haven’t had flack about my ’fro,” she says about wearing her hair natural as a professor, “but I definitely notice when I straighten my hair, people are extra, ‘Oh my god, it’s so pretty, oh my god, oh my god!’ And they love to tell me I look younger. But when I rock my ’fro, they don’t really say much.”

“To be honest with you,” she adds, “I will straighten my hair for an interview. Then when I get the job, I’ll wash it out, and then it’s back to the ’fro. I’ve definitely done that. And it is frustrating.”

While Amor Gillie says she doesn’t wear her hair to please others — she likes it straight or curly — she is aware that different styles have different impacts, especially on screen. This is true not only for the characters but for those viewing the shows. Black people want to be seen in our fullness — and that includes radiant afros, plaits, braids and twists; loc’d styles and bone-straight hair. Which is why Amor Gillie is committed to having a Black hair stylist on the set of her one-hour drama “The Honorable.” (The script was sold in 2019 to CBS and is now at BET.) But even she admits that’s not going to be easy to accomplish for every production.

It’s a matter of, well, grooming.

“And that goes back to the fact that it’s still a union job,” Amor Gillie says, referring to on-set hair stylists, and getting stylists and beauticians [who work with Black hair] on those sets is not easy. A lot of times, these are people who already work in or own a shop. They’re not likely to be industry union members or to work near TV/film sets. To find people who would be willing to come to L.A. or another movie location can be a challenge.

It’s also about getting people who understand the business.

For the aspiring industry stylist, this first means a lot of hustling and oodles of hours shadowing an on-set hair stylist — most often the “key stylist” — and building a portfolio. Those behind the chair are required to perform an infinite variety of ’dos, like period styles or “specialized hair” (which, coincidentally, includes African American hair), stay current on a plethora of products (how hair performs in rain, wind or humidity), work with multiple actors, and meet the demands of the director or showrunner. Shooting days are fast-paced for TV and typically slow on film sets. A starting salary can be up to \$77,000. But the hours are often long, and the hair team is usually the first on set and last to leave.

“It’s different from being in the beauty shop all day laughing and talking,” Amor Gillie says, “If there’s a call time at 7 a.m., then you might have to be ready to work by 3 or 4 in the morning so that the production can be on time. So, it’s going to take looking at how to get people in in a way that would benefit [Black stylists] being in the union, getting the word out that there are opportunities doing hair on sets, and that it’s a viable career.”







In “Defending Our Crowns,” Bell features three actresses with varying horror stories of working with white stylists who could not work with the textures of Black hair, having to wear protective weaves or wigs over their own hair, and being seen as “difficult” when arriving on-set with their hair already salon-styled. Bell, who was a journalism major in the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, was setting up the in-person interviews at an area beauty salon and had charted the places where she would shoot her b-roll.

Then, COVID-19 flipped her script.

“It was hard at first to get through it because I had an idea in my head about what I wanted the film to look like,” Bell admits, citing the plans she had lined up to film her documentary before the shutdown. “I had to schedule the calls via Zoom, and I had to do everything virtually. I was really upset about that because I had the vision in my mind of what I wanted the film to look like, and it wasn’t going to look like that at all.”

But once Bell finished her first interview, she was raring to go. “I felt so good,” she says, the glee resonant in her voice. “I was happy with how the conversation went, and it felt good to be able to share experiences with someone who had similar experiences to my own when it comes to natural hair and embracing your hair. That gave me the momentum to keep going and get through the entire project.”

“Of course, the film would have looked better with in-person interviews,” says Bell’s advisor, Rubén Martínez, Fletcher Jones Chair in Literature and Writing in BCLA and professor of English and Chicano Studies, “but she did so good with the b-roll, the source material and her interview subjects. They were three of the most fabulous speakers — just fantastic — that they could sustain it.”

More than that, Martínez says, Bell’s got that *thing*. “Just look at the title of her project — ‘Defending Our Crowns’ — the clever appropriation of that phrase from the fighting and sports world. She has top-flight skills in both print and video. It’s clear to me that the journalism program can only take some of the credit here. She has that *it* thing. She came into the classroom with a very strong skill set.”

“Defending Our Crowns” is a quintessential culmination of Bell’s loves: fashion, beauty, media and wrestling. (Yes, you read that right: wrestling.) Born in Los Angeles and raised in Pontiac, Michigan, she wanted to become a hair stylist like her mother and studied cosmetology at a local trade school while juggling her final two years in high school and dreaming of her chance on the mat.

“I was a super fan of World Wrestling Entertainment, and I was going to be a wrestler,” she says, laughing, “I used to take clips of wrestling from TV and edit them

# B

BELL  
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TEXTURES OF  
BLACK HAIR.

into music videos to create the stories I wanted to see from those characters, or the stories I would want to portray if I were to be a wrestler. At the time I didn’t know I was creating short films, or music videos. I was just creating, and I loved it.”

Before transferring to LMU as a second-year junior, Bell was studying kinesiology at Santa Monica College. “I was definitely on a different path,” she says. “But I had a group of friends [who] would get together on the weekends or after class and shoot little short films and music videos. That’s when I realized I could actually have a career in that.”

Bell honed her journalism skills in classes with Evelyn McDonnell, English professor and former director of the BCLA journalism program, who helped Bell land an internship at The Argonaut, a weekly newspaper serving Marina del Rey, Venice, Santa Monica and the Westside.

“She discovered she could write about fashion and beauty, and that it was a valid pursuit,” McDonnell says. “She’s really interested in making films, so I think she understood how journalism could inform that kind of work.”

Bell’s film has gone on to receive honors from Student Doc L.A., Hollywood First-Time Filmmakers Showcase and the Spotlight Documentary Film Awards. And in April “Defending Our Crowns” was named Student Journalism Best Arts or Entertainment Feature at the Los Angeles Press Club’s National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards.

“I was not expecting this to do so well, honestly, because it didn’t turn out the way I wanted it to in the beginning,” she says, with a laugh. “I love the film, and I stand by it 100%. I’m not ashamed of it at all, but I know I can do better, and I want to improve it.”

Bell says she may work to update the film while in graduate school at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. But there are more immediate stories she wants to tell.

“I won a grant from Getty Images to create a short documentary and shoot documentary images,” she says, “so I want to use this grant to fund that project, which will focus on beauty supply stores and the Black hair experience.”

“Now is a great time,” Bell says of being a young filmmaker. “We all have so many fresh stories and ideas, especially within the Black community. Now is a perfect time to be free and share the story you want to hear and the story you want to be told.”

To view Stephanie Bell’s award-winning documentary “Defending Our Crowns,” go to [stephbproductions.com/defendingourcrowns](http://stephbproductions.com/defendingourcrowns).



# STAGE RIGHTS

In 1963, James Baldwin masterminded a tense nighttime meeting with Robert F. Kennedy to break down the Kennedy Administration's reluctance to act on civil rights.

BY Robert Jackson M.A.'96  
Illustrations by Barry Blitt

**I**N JANUARY 1963, the same month that saw the publication of James Baldwin's "The Fire Next Time" and its stark, prophetic warning about America's "racial nightmare," a new governor of Alabama was inaugurated. George Wallace thundered on the occasion: "In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!"

Over the course of the spring, Birmingham, Alabama, would become the latest stage for the Civil Rights Movement, providing images that inspired — and — shocked the world. Lunch counter sit-ins. Hundreds of young children marching. Fire hoses and police dogs turned on peaceful protestors. Martin Luther King Jr.'s mug shot and prison cell. Arson and dynamite attacks of the sort that earned the city a gruesome nickname: Bombingham.

On July 11, President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation. “A great change is at hand, and our task, our obligation, is to make that revolution, that change, peaceful and constructive for all. Those who do nothing are inviting shame, as well as violence. Those who act boldly are recognizing right, as well as reality. Next week I shall ask the Congress of the United States to act, to make a commitment it has not fully made in this century to the proposition that race has no place in American life or law.”

But there was another stage for the action, far from Alabama, that few knew about in the spring of 1963. No transcripts or photographs or newsreels were recorded. Its attendees, including Baldwin, agreed to keep it a secret, but almost as soon as they left the scene — a palatial apartment building overlooking Central Park in New York City — competing stories of what happened, and what it meant, sprang up like crabgrass.

It was the president’s brother — Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy — who invited Baldwin to talk. When they spoke on May 23, RFK said he wanted to get together with Black thinkers and public figures who could command the respect of Blacks throughout the country. Even after the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955–56, the Little Rock high school crisis of 1957, the student sit-in movement of 1960, the Freedom Rides of 1961, and the Birmingham campaign that began not long after Wallace took office in 1963, the Kennedys did not know where to start in contacting Black leaders who could help them understand the thinking of Black Americans. So, RFK started with Baldwin, perhaps the most famous writer of his time — he was on the cover of that week’s Time magazine — and a vocal critic of the Kennedys’ seemingly glacial pace in matters of race.

“Can you find some people who can tell me what the government can do?” RFK asked. “Yes,” Baldwin replied, “I know just the people.” They arranged to meet the next evening at the Kennedys’ apartment at 24 Central Park South. “So, I said okay, not quite realizing what I’d gotten myself into,” Baldwin later recalled. “I called up a few friends. The bunch of people I knew are fairly rowdy, independent, tough-minded men and women.”

The May 24 meeting, then, came together in much the same way one of Baldwin’s stage plays, like “The Amen Corner” (1954) or the civil rights play he was working on, “Blues for Mister Charlie” (1964), might come together.

On extremely short notice, Baldwin assembled the cast. It included Lorraine Hansberry, whose “A Raisin in the Sun” (1959) had been the first play written by a Black woman to be staged on Broadway. It included movie stars Harry Belafonte and Lena Horne, who had been active in the movement for years. It included the Black psychologist and Harlem community organizer Kenneth Clark. It included two men with deep knowledge of policy and political institutions: attorney Clarence Jones, one of King’s most trusted advisors, and Edwin Berry, executive director of the Chicago Urban League. It included Baldwin’s brother, David, and several other personal friends. Finally, and most consequentially, it included a 25-year-old civil-rights activist named Jerome Smith, who had been brutally beaten by white mobs more than a dozen times as a Freedom Rider in the early ’60s. A native of New Orleans whom Baldwin had met amid their Deep South movement work, Smith was in New York to receive medical care for his injuries — he would suffer from headaches and damaged eyesight for the rest of his life.

“There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation,” Baldwin responded to a William Faulkner statement, “The challenge is in the moment, the time is always now.”

With Burke Marshall, head of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, alongside him, RFK welcomed the visitors. Sure enough, and to his surprise, they were rowdy, independent and tough-minded.

RFK began the meeting by enumerating the accomplishments of the Kennedy administration in civil rights. His visitors knew all this. “We all wanted more,” Horne recalled, “but he didn’t realize how much we expected of him and how much more we felt had to be done, and quickly.” Their dissatisfaction was palpable.

RFK shifted from boasting about progress to counseling patience. “We have a party in revolt,” he said, “and we have to be somewhat considerate about how to keep them onboard if the Democratic Party is going to prevail in the next elections.”

This didn’t work either. RFK’s guests had not come for a lecture on the virtues of patience. All their lives they had been told to be patient — to “go slow,” as the Mississippi novelist William Faulkner had advocated in a notorious 1956 public statement that raised Baldwin’s ire to such a degree that he soon decided to return from France, where he had lived since 1948, to take a greater role in the movement. “There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation,” Baldwin had responded to Faulkner. “The challenge is in the moment, the time is always now.”

As it became clear that RFK was failing to sway his audience, his exasperation mounted. When he began to complain that Black people, rather than appreciating the Kennedys’ progressive actions, were flirting with extremists like Malcolm X and bringing the country closer to chaos, Smith, a longtime follower of the nonviolent teachings of Gandhi and King, could hold his silence no longer.

“You don’t have no idea what trouble is,” he burst out at the attorney general. “Because I’m close to the moment where I’m ready to take up a gun. I’ve seen what government can do to crush the spirit and lives of people in the South.”

RFK was scandalized. Smith outraged him further when he said he would never consider fighting for the U.S. in a foreign war. “How can you say that?” demanded the attorney general, who had lost one brother, and nearly two (JFK had survived a serious injury in the Pacific theater in 1943), during World War II.

RFK’s turn to speak was over. He slumped in a chair, listening, watching and seething. His guests berated him for the administration’s failure to protect Black lives. They railed on the FBI, which had long spied on leaders like King and sought to disrupt even the most nonviolent and

RFK’s guests had not come for a lecture on the virtues of patience. All their lives they had been told to be patient — to “go slow.”

peaceful civil rights organizing. They scoffed at his praise for Justice Department agents, some of whom, Smith said, had stood watching while he and his friends were beaten by racist whites. They came at RFK for nearly three hours, in wave after wave of frustration and rage, exhorting the attorney general to recognize the moral rather than political stakes of the racial crisis in America. Hansberry reminded everyone of a recent Time photograph, an image of a Birmingham policeman kneeling on a Black woman’s neck. Questioning the moral condition of a civilization that could produce such “specimens of white manhood,” she was the first to leave.

“It was all emotion, hysteria,” RFK said privately afterwards, still in disbelief at what he had seen and heard. “They stood up and orated — they cursed — some of them wept and left the room.”

Some of his guests were inclined to agree. “It really was one of the most violent, emotional verbal assaults and attacks that I had ever witnessed,” Clark later commented.

Lena Horne credited the brutal honesty of Smith with transforming the meeting from a polite discussion of federal policy into something more elemental. “He communicated the plain, basic suffering of being a Negro,” she wrote in her autobiography. “The primeval memory of everyone in that room went to work after that. We all went back to nitty-gritty with that kid who was out there in a cotton patch trying to get poor, miserable Negro people to sign their names to a piece of paper saying they’d vote. We were back at a level where a man just wants to be a man, living and breathing, where unless he has that right, all the rest is only talk.”

Some of those present told a New York Times reporter, anonymously, that the meeting had been a “flop.” Baldwin continued to criticize the Kennedy administration’s approach to race as “totally inadequate,” but he refused to characterize the meeting as a failure. It was, he said, “significant and, I hope, beneficial.” Time, he believed, would tell.

In subsequent days, RFK seemed traumatized not just by what he felt was an unfair judgment against him but more fundamentally by such an unchecked outpouring of feeling. The experience gnawed at him, and slowly he began to view the meeting differently. “After Baldwin, Bobby was absolutely shocked,” said Nicholas Katzenbach, one of RFK’s deputies. “But the fact that he thought he knew so much — and learned he didn’t — was important.” A few days later, he had come around to view Smith in a different light. “I guess if I were in his shoes,” Kennedy admitted to his press secretary, “if I had gone through what he’s gone through, I might feel differently about this country.”

Soon RFK’s lifelong concern for victims and underdogs, an engagement deepened by his Catholic faith,

was manifesting itself more prominently in what biographer Evan Thomas described as a “leap from contempt to identification” and a “transformation from rage to outrage.” He pushed federal agencies to hire more Blacks and scolded Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson — whose own transformation would enable him to make enormous contributions to the cause of civil rights in the coming years — for the government’s inaction in much the same terms he had been scolded by Baldwin’s cast. And he turned up the pressure on his older brother. It was time, he insisted, for the president to declare civil rights a moral imperative, and to advocate new laws that would get to “the heart of the matter” and destroy Jim Crow.

President Kennedy knew that the politics of civil rights were far from straightforward. The Democratic Party still enjoyed strong support from much of the white South and counted a number of prominent segregationists among its Congressional ranks. Maintaining this devil’s bargain had become, in recent years, an art form, one which the Kennedys themselves had practiced with great skill and calculation. Unequivocal support for civil rights of the sort RFK now demanded would transform the party, encouraging segregationists to look for a new home where their institutional racism was more welcome. Many of the president’s advisors regarded RFK as a hothead, undisciplined and politically naïve, whose agitation for civil rights legislation could splinter the party. They may well have been correct. But the president overruled them, siding with his brother.

On June 11, soon after the National Guard assisted several Black students in the integration of the University of Alabama while Governor Wallace staged a futile protest for television cameras and raged against the “military dictatorship” of the federal government, JFK also appeared on television.

“We are confronted,” he said, “primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.”

Baldwin, then in Puerto Rico in search of solitude to work on his play, might have reveled in this choice of the words, which he had been articulating for a long time. But he was not the sort to celebrate such things, and, anyway, he soon learned that his good friend Medgar Evers, a World War II veteran working as field secretary of the Mississippi National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, had been shot down in his own driveway by a white supremacist just a few hours after the president’s speech. Baldwin would dedicate “Blues for Mister Charlie” to Evers. The struggle would continue. It continues still.

If RFK had looked inside the issue of Life magazine that arrived on May 24, the date of his secret meeting in New York, he would have found yet more coverage of the celebrated Baldwin: a photo essay documenting Baldwin’s recent trip through the South, during which he had given a few lectures and spent time with Evers and other activists. RFK could have read Baldwin’s words in the Life interview and perhaps learned something of the demands Baldwin made on his audience: “Most contemporary fiction, like most contemporary theater, is designed to corroborate your fantasies and make you walk out whistling. I don’t want you to whistle at my stuff, baby. I want you to be sitting on the edge of your chair waiting for the nurses to carry you out.”

It was not quite that extreme. RFK had, at least, exited the meeting under his own power. But he had experienced something remarkable and had been changed, in ways that also would change his country, during that James Baldwin Production staged in his living room.

# The Dogs That Save Us

THE HUMAN-DOG LOVEFEST

MAY BE 15,000 YEARS OLD, AND THE PANDEMIC

HAS GIVEN IT A SHOT IN THE ARM.

BY ALEXANDER HULS  
PORTRAITS BY RANDAL FORD

ON JUNE 17, 2020, when Annenberg PetSpace staff members brought out Clementine, a latte brown Chihuahua mix, Sam Lee was looking for signs she was the right dog for him.

Lee, 51, had made the decision to adopt a pup to ease some of the anxiety and loneliness of pandemic living. A public art department employee of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority, he found himself worried about lockdowns and contracting COVID-19. Divorced, with a 12-year-old son who only stayed with him parttime, Lee was often alone, limited to Zoom interactions with colleagues, and longing for companionship. He hoped a dog — the right one — would help.

Sitting in the PetSpace's yard, he and his son waited patiently to see if Clementine would approach them. After a few minutes, she did, and to the shock of the staff, licked his son's hand. They'd never seen the Chihuahua do that. She only ever barked at other potential adopters.

That was the first good sign to Lee.

Shortly after, Clementine allowed him to pick her up. As he did, she settled and pushed her body against his chest. He felt her trust and natural acceptance of him.

That was the second good sign. He adopted her. "I just fell in love with her," he says.

It's likely Clementine felt the same way, finding in Lee the signs — and qualities — she herself was looking for in an owner. "Dogs and humans see the world in amazingly similar ways," says Eric Strauss, whose job has been to put himself inside the heads (and behaviors) of animals as an LMU professor of biology and executive director of the LMU Center for Urban Resilience (CUREs). He has also worked closely with the Annenberg PetSpace, which provides funding to CUREs in order to help produce studies, papers and educational material to further the understanding of the human-animal bond.

That includes the human-dog bond Lee and Clementine experienced as they first met, a connection that's been repeated across the world for centuries. It was a moment that reflected the millennia-worth of biology and psychology that has made the relationship between humans and dogs a singular one.

"There is no animal with which people have had a longer relationship than with dogs," says Clive Wynne, a professor of psychology at Arizona State University who specializes in animal behavior. Wynne has worked closely with Strauss, co-authoring several papers (including one about dogs titled "Humanity's Best Friend") and currently collaborating on several upcoming projects. "There is also no animal with which people have a richer, more intimate, relationship."

Some 15,000 or more years ago, our connection with man's best friend began when a wolf and a human crossed paths and changed the trajectory of both species forever. Strauss — and others — believe it may have happened in two ways. Perhaps a visionary early human, seeing some domestic potential, removed a wolf pup from its litter to train and set it on an evolutionary trajectory toward dogdom. Alternatively, perhaps a lone wolf, already exhibiting proto-dog behavior or DNA, liked to scavenge at the edge of a human settlement, and one night received food from a person cooking meat over a fire, sparking an ever-increasing integration into human's lives.

Whatever the encounter, it soon gave fruit to a mutually beneficial partnership: hunting. "Dogs are not much good at hunting on their own, and humans under certain conditions — like dense forests — are not much good at hunting on their own. But put the two species together and you've got this team that can do what neither partner on their own can achieve," says Wynne.

Through dogs — and their keen eyes, powerful noses and barks ideal for signaling danger or prospective prey — humans could hunt better and benefit from the protein of the animal meat. That was evolutionarily important because more protein led to the further physical development of both species' muscle and bone, which better enabled their mutual survival.

# Walter

American Pitbull Terrier



# Raul

Great Dane puppy



## Mele



After bringing Mele home from the shelter, our family focused on building her confidence. The increased time spent at home helped with this. Now, Mele expects to run by the neighborhood church and share a banana for snack every day. These special moments instill confidence and strengthen our companionship.

**Hayden Tanabe '18**  
*Former ASLMU President*

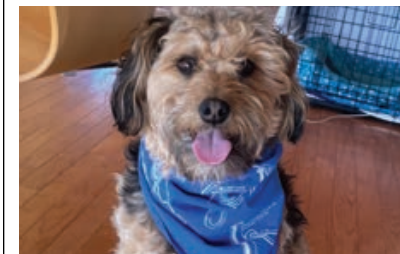
## Duncan



I am single, so most days during the pandemic, Duncan was my only eye contact or physical contact all day. Just looking across the bed at him lying there or having him put his foot on my arm, which he loves to do when he needs attention or comforts me, could turn my entire day around. In addition, we began walking four miles a day during the pandemic, and those walks definitely forced me to get out of bed when I didn't want to, provided me with fresh air and sunshine, and gave me a purpose that brought some level of sanity.

**Melinda Weaver**  
*Postdoctoral Fellow, CURes*

## Rumi



How is a dog's joy so contagious? Going for a walk with Rumi (yes, after the poet) — on a country road, without a leash — is a major treat for me. She prances, dashes, sniffs and gallops, everything a feast for the senses. Her delight seeps into my soul.

**Jennifer Abe**  
*Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

**DOGS HAVE  
A POWERFUL  
ABILITY TO  
UNDERSTAND,  
TAKE CARE  
OF AND  
LOVE US.**

Better hunting had another critical effect. “It would have contributed to the phenomenon that humans have, and few other animals do: We have more food than we can eat in a given day,” says Strauss. “That changed everything about humanity. Once we domesticated plants and animals, we didn't have to hunt for food continuously. It stopped our hunter-gatherer behavior. It stopped us moving around. It was the beginning of villages, which led to cities and walls and governance.”

In helping humans find their place, dogs found theirs, too. “Every living being, every species, has its place in the world,” says Wynne. “Dogs made our world their niche.” In providing canines with protection, warmth and food, humans gave dogs the safety and comfort to grow in response to their human-driven environment. As a result, Strauss explains, they adopted our sleep patterns, our diets and even our diseases. Artificial selection led to a wide range of breeds.

They adapted as well to our needs of them. Hunting dogs became livestock protectors. They became man's best friend. They even changed so they could be like us in another way, by developing whites around their eyes (called sclera) that allowed us to know where dogs are looking. During hunting that would have been vital, but as hunting phased out, it allowed us to see how they looked at the world and see ourselves in them — bringing both species closer together.

When Sam Lee brought Clementine home to his apartment, the Chihuahua tentatively explored the kitchen, living room and bedrooms. Lee and his son again gave her space, and again, in time, she approached them, jumping on the couch where they offered her treats, and they stroked her rich brown fur to reassure her and bond. Soon, Clementine rewarded them: She stretched her neck high to reach Lee's son's face and began licking.

Clementine showed affection for Lee, too, when that night she came to his bed and reached up with her front legs. He hadn't been sure about a dog in his bed, but seeing her longing to be near him, he picked her up. She curled up at his feet and fell asleep.

Lee and Clementine quickly entered into a mutually caring relationship. He had to massage her every day to continue her recovery from a surgery to her left leg a few months before. And he stopped feeling alone, as his days filled up with walks, couch naps and movie nights, and her quiet presence in a bed under his desk as he worked. He felt himself relax, sometimes only needing to look at her to feel better. “There was such comfort in petting her, holding her and giving her hugs,” he says. The mental toll of the pandemic retreated. “I felt like my mood stabilized. I didn't feel like I was on a roller coaster.”

When he did have the occasional, and expected, moment of sadness or anxiety, he noticed Clementine could tell. She'd hop on the couch next to him and quietly, but reassuringly, push her body against his, echoing the first time they connected in the PetSpace yard. In such a simple act, Clementine and Lee were once again also channeling something deeper in the human and dog relationship.

Dogs are uniquely calibrated to humans. Brian Hare, an evolutionary anthropologist at Duke university, and Ádám Miklósi, a dog cognition expert at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, have argued that through domestication dogs acquired a special type of cognition that allows them to understand human beings. Wynne has developed an alternative theory, arguing that dogs simply have a singular proclivity for loving other species. “They have no other way of being but to be empathetic, concerned and caring,” says Wynne.

Either way, the effect is — and studies bear this out — that dogs have a powerful ability to understand, take care of and love us. Those abilities

became increasingly drawn upon as the structure of human society changed over history. Despite being a social species by nature, we began separating ourselves geographically and generationally, becoming smaller and more distanced units, notes Strauss, drawing on his understanding of the developmental history of urban ecosystems. As we became more isolated, less communal, we've become more lonely. Dogs' capability for love and reading us is now all the more essential. "We rely on our dogs for the emotional support and protection against loneliness to a degree that's never existed before," says Wynne.

That support comes from the comfort of their love presence but also something biological. Oxytocin, informally known as the love hormone, is released in our bodies when we have close interactions with people we have a strong bond with. For example, new couples or mothers breastfeeding newborns are proven examples. But it's not limited to just people.

Studies have found that when a dog and their owner look at each other, oxytocin is released. Because stress hormones are slow to break down, lingering in our blood for days, oxytocin can offer counteraction and prevention. "I call it changing your chemistry," says Melinda Weaver, an LMU postdoctoral fellow with CUREs who specializes in animal behavior and was a dog trainer for 10 years. "Your dog can give that to you, and you can give that to your dog."

Touching also has a powerful effect on us. "Think of all the nerve endings in your hands that are stimulated when you stroke the fur of an animal. You're getting thousands of signals every second that are overcoming some of the other signals you have of worry or anxiety," says Strauss. "We get that touch; it lowers our blood pressure, lowers our heart rate and increases oxytocin."

Dogs' ability to know us also means they know when we may need them in that way. It's why Clementine could sense when Lee needed comfort. "Because of things like body posture, odors we're giving off, sounds we make, they are tuned in to our emotional state. When we're not doing well, it draws upon a suite of behavioral responses in them — from their paternal response to the concern about their safety as their pack leader is suffering," says Strauss.

That's both an emotional and evolutionary reaction, says Wynne. "Your dog sincerely loves you and is sincerely concerned when you are in distress, and yet that is also an evolved capacity that evolved precisely because it placed your dog's ancestors in a good position to survive."

It's no surprise, then, that adoption rates have soared during the pandemic, with centers like the Annenberg PetSpace barely keeping up with demand. Not just because people need emotional support, or social interactions, but help with their state of mind. "I'm of the opinion that a strong relationship with an animal is helpful to our psychological worldview," says Strauss. For people like Lee that has proven true during the pandemic, offering a form of survival different than the one humans and dogs shared 15,000 years ago, but nonetheless important. Lee can't imagine what the pandemic would have been like without Clementine. "I think I would be really depressed, to be honest," says Lee, who even adopted another Chihuahua named Mika in November 2020. "Without them, I think it would just be suffocating."

When asked what underlying biological or behavioral drive would have led Clementine to accept Lee and his son over other prospective adopters, Strauss has a theory. As a puppy, at some point Clementine absorbed a smell, a hand motion, a display of emotion that she attributed with the world being OK. It's possible, he says, that Lee or his son echoed that memory. "She found someone who reminded her of life being good," says Strauss. Clementine has done the same for Lee. Just like the other pandemic dogs have done for their owners, and as dogs have been doing since they were only barely not wolves anymore. They have made our lives better when we need them the most.

## Enzo



Enzo, my sweet Enzo. He has been my faithful companion and my ferocious defender — especially every day at 5:30 when the mailperson comes. I have come to fully understand and appreciate what writers mean when they say a dog is a person's best friend. Enzo is completely loyal and loving and makes me laugh. He has absolutely kept me sane during my 56 weeks at home.  
**Lane Bove '69, M.Ed. '72**  
*Senior Vice President, Student Affairs*

## Hannah



Having a dog during the pandemic has encouraged me to be outside more, which has helped to improve my mood during these challenging times. I also take more breaks while I work so I can take my dog on short walks, which helps to keep me moving throughout the day.  
**Maria Christina Vasquez**  
*Professor, Biology*

## Rocco and Dexter



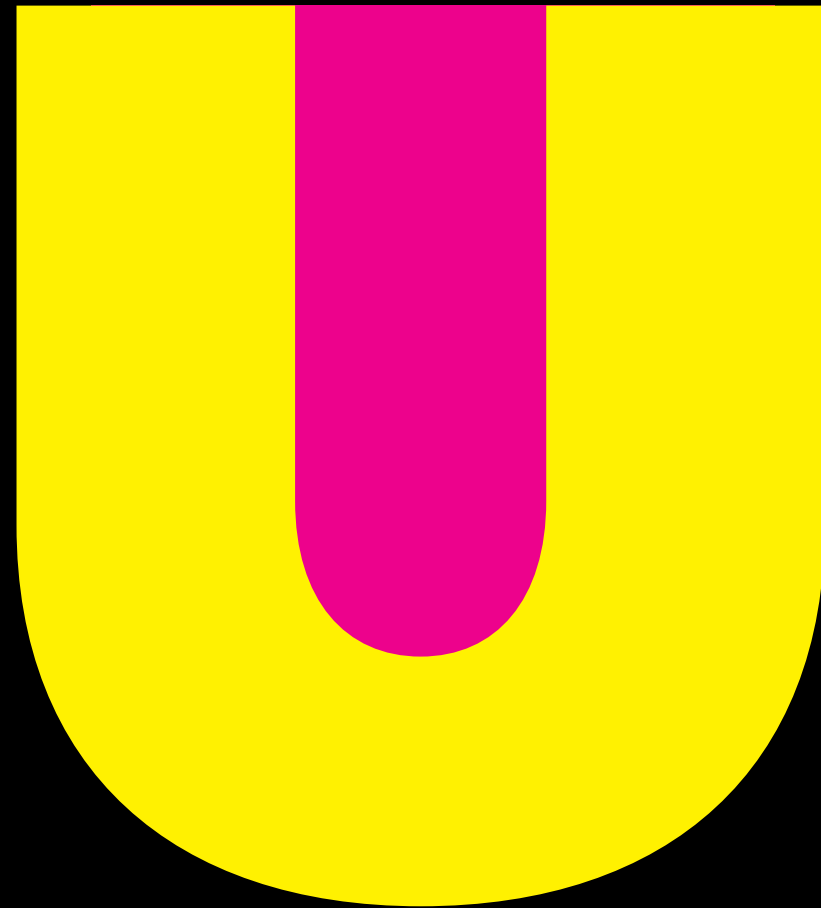
My two rescue dachshunds, Rocco and Dexter, have gotten used to my constant presence at home during this quarantine time. They enjoy every bit of bonus snack, belly rub and bed snuggle. I think I've been spoiled by their constant companionship.  
**Chris de Silva M.A. '18**  
*Associate Director of Music Ministry  
Campus Ministry*

## Poppy

Bernedoodle



# AMPED



**AN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER WITH HIGHER GROUND AUDIO AMPLIFIES VOICES AND STORIES THAT ARE TOO RARELY HEARD. AN INTERVIEW WITH MUKTA MOHAN '14 PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON ROU**

The second thing Mukta Mohan applied for at LMU was a show at KXLU. The first, her admission application, got her accepted. Once on campus, she dove deep in the station's music vault, becoming program director, and also learned politics through campus activism and working with the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Now, Mohan has joined her devotion to audio media and her commitment to politics. She's vice president at Higher Ground Audio, the podcast division of Higher Ground Productions, a media company founded by former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama. Mohan was the executive producer for "Renegades: Born in the USA," a podcast featuring a series of conversations between President Obama and Bruce Springsteen. Along the way she developed news shows and executive produced podcasts, for MTV News and Crooked Media. Mohan was interviewed by Evelyn McDonnell, professor of journalism and new media and author of "Women Who Rock: Bessie to Beyonce. Girl Groups to Riot Grrrl."



### What was your role in “Renegades: Born in the USA”?

We’re a small team at Higher Ground Audio. There are four of us, but we worked with a great independent podcast production company called Dustlight. Together, we narrowed down topics and conversation themes that we thought would be interesting to flesh out over the course of eight episodes. President Obama actually chose Bruce Springsteen as his conversation partner because of the friendship they have. We filtered through hours and hours of tape, picking out the moments that we felt listeners would connect with the most. Then, we figured out the sonic landscape that all of this lives in — layering in music. There were hours and hours of listening to rounds of edits, finally landing on the finished product.

### I feel they both said things that I’ve never heard either of them say. Obama pushed Springsteen on race in a way that no one has.

It was incredible to hear both of them press each other and open up. They were able to challenge each other in a way that only genuine friends can, because there’s no judgment there. I felt Bruce’s vulnerability got the president to open up in a way that we haven’t seen since his memoir, “Dreams From My Father.”

### What’s so interesting about podcasts is their intimacy. They’re conversations, even though they are edited.

The intimacy of podcasting is my favorite part of the medium. It’s almost as if you have friends in the room, people who are sparking ideas and inspiring you to question your own ideas.

### What is the goal of Higher Ground Productions? Is there something that they and you feel is needed in the podcast world?

President Obama and Michelle Obama started Higher Ground Productions as an extension of their own set of values. They are storytellers, and it was a natural next step for them to release film, TV and now podcasts as a way to continue amplifying the stories that deserve to be told and listened to. Everything that we do aligns with the Obamas’ value set, which is taking the long view of history, taking the high road, being hopeful and optimistic, engaging with your community, and amplifying diverse stories.

### Is all of that close to your heart?

Absolutely, this is a dream. Ten years ago, I could have never imagined that this would even be a job to aspire to. The fact that there



can be mission-driven work within it is the perfect mix of everything that I value and love.

### Can you describe the grounding that led you to this point?

I grew up in Orange County, California, and my parents are both immigrants. My dad came from India. My mom came from Mexico. Both landed here in the ‘80s and met because they were neighbors in Santa Ana. My mom was a preschool teacher’s assistant. That was her way of ensuring that I could get a private school education. I think my dad offered my

mom a ride to work one day, and it went from there. So, I come from an immigrant household with two completely different languages, different foods, different cultures. The Orange County that I’m from is not the OC that most people are familiar with. I grew up right next to Little Saigon, near Westminster. There was a fusion of cultures.

### What languages were spoken in your house growing up?

Mostly English and Spanish, a little bit of Hindi. My mom only speaks to me in Spanish still.

## MOHAN’S PODCAST

# A LIST

### ON BEING WITH KRISTA TIPPETT

This gentle and thought-provoking podcast sits at the intersection of spiritual inquiry, science, social healing and the arts. The show explores the meaning of life with some of the leading thinkers of our time.

**THE ATLAS OBSCURA PODCAST** This daily podcast offers a much-needed spark of curiosity and wonder as every episode takes listeners on a journey to explore the world’s most unexpected and surprising places.

**THE DAILY** It’s hard to keep up with the news when there’s so much going on! The Daily from The New York Times makes it easy by going deep on one of the biggest news items of each day. The show is accessible and short, and keeps listeners informed.

**STILL PROCESSING** Jenna Wortham and Wesley Morris discuss and analyze culture in the broadest sense. They have great chemistry and offer thoughtful and engaging commentary on everything from celebrity apologies to confronting the use of the N-word in entertainment.

**THIS IS UNCOMFORTABLE** Conversations about money can get messy! Hosted by Reema Khrais, This is Uncomfortable, from Marketplace, digs into the ways money affects relationships and shapes identities, highlighting individual stories of people dealing with impacts and repercussions of having or not having money.

### FAR FLUNG WITH SALEEM RESHAMWALA

After being cooped up inside for so long, we can all use a little bit of an escape. Far Flung journeys across the globe and brings the ideas that shape each location to life through reported pieces from local journalists and creators.

**CALL YOUR GIRLFRIEND** Best friends Aminatou Sow and Ann Friedman live on opposite sides of the country but the distance doesn’t keep them apart. Each week, they call each other to discuss current events, culture and what’s on their minds.

### And what was the food like?

It definitely was a fusion. At Thanksgiving dinners, we’d have Mexican food, Indian food and a turkey. It’s funny: Now I’m grateful for that, but I remember being sad as a kid that I didn’t have all American kinds of traditional food.

### Did you experience racism?

I definitely was well aware of that. Micro aggressions were common.

### When did you start getting into music?

When I was a little kid, I loved the Beatles, the Beach Boys and ‘60s girl groups. I still love girl groups. As I got to middle school, my tastes changed, and I started listening to KROQ. But it was really when I was 14 that I started discovering independent music that was made by people my age or slightly older than me in my own neighborhoods. I had a friend who was a student at the University of California, Irvine, and she had a radio show on KUCI. She invited me to be a guest DJ. It was the most exciting feeling ever to be on the radio. That was the moment I decided I wanted to do college radio. KXLU was actually a pretty big decision factor for wanting to go to LMU. I already loved listening to the station; it was the coolest station. I remember getting my acceptance letter and the next day emailing the general manager of KXLU and asking, “I’m an incoming freshman, how can I have a radio show?”

### I’m noticing a trend here, that when you want something, you don’t hesitate: You send an email. Is that how you got the Higher Ground job and the Crooked Media job?

It’s very serendipitous how everything panned out. I got my job at Higher Ground Audio because my boss and I had worked together previously at MTV News. When he got the job as head of Higher Ground Audio, he called me up because he was building out a team. My experience at Crooked Me-

dia had given me all the skills that I needed to be able to take this on. I was developing new shows, executive producing podcasts and thinking holistically about building a network. Those were the kinds of skills that I needed at Higher Ground.

When I was at LMU, I didn’t realize that I was building that foundation. I was at KXLU, and I also worked at the Center for the Study of Los Angeles, working on research around local elections, learning a lot about local policy, being around conversations about politics, leadership, how change happens and how people engage in their communities. At the time, I thought it was one or the other: work in music and radio, or work in politics. I didn’t see a way for all of my interests to connect.

### Working for women has also been very important in your work and activism, and, of course, now you’re working with Michelle Obama, and that is a very woman-powered podcast.

That’s a common thread in my life. I like to be inspired by hearing about how other women live and make their lives. Something that’s really important to us at Higher Ground is providing opportunities and bringing other people up. For Mrs. Obama’s podcast, every single episode started with an up-and-coming female artist.

### Do you have any podcasts that you’re trying to develop?

I have a lot. I’m just not allowed to talk about them. I’m working on many things that I’m very excited about right now, that reflect the values of the company and tell stories that I really believe in and have been wanting to tell for many years.

### What advice do you have for students who are graduating now?

My advice would be to follow your enthusiasm and to find the things that really awaken you and make you excited. Do whatever you can to get involved in those spaces, whether that’s volunteering doing internships or not being afraid to start in entry-level positions. Collaborate with friends and do the things that make you feel alive and give you a sense of fulfillment. The perfect dream job may not exist yet, but as long as you’re following your passions and are working on the things that inspire you, I do believe that everything will fall into place. I had no roadmap. I just followed the things that made me excited.

Bruce Springsteen and former President Barack Obama got together for an eight-episode Spotify podcast series, “Renegades: Born in the USA,” produced by Higher Ground Audio. The series was released in April 2021.





# THE CLASS OF

# COVID

“CHANGE IS NEVER EASY,” Michelle Young says. “But the right changes can have a truly profound and positive impact on our communities, our country and the world.”

Young is the dean of the LMU School of Education and a professor of educational leadership and policy. She — and alumni of the SOE — are well-versed lately in change and impact. Considering the plethora of industries, institutions and vocations that were radically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, K-12 schools and education in general are at the top of a crowded list.

But, what if we knew in March 2020 what we know today? What would schools in the United States have done differently?

“We would have a well-thought-out plan for moving quickly and effectively to distance learning,” Young says. “We would have invested in the provision of high-quality technology for all children, full access to broadband for all children and wrap-around systems of support — food services, counseling, special education, tutoring. We would have identified ways to individualize learning for students — even virtually — early on. And we would have organized and supported ways for students to engage in socially distanced, masked, physical and intellectual activity outside in small pods led by a trained educational professional.”

## The same COVID-19 crisis that brutally revealed flaws in the nation’s education systems may lead to ways to improve them.

By Jeremy Rosenberg

Illustrations By The Heads Of State

How much of the dean’s prescription already is in progress? Like so much else during the past 500 days or so, society seems to have more questions than answers. Will education see the impact of the pandemic-era experience for years to come? Will it shape today’s elementary school students all through their remaining secondary and college-level educations? What is the role of technology? Was COVID-19 the only fundamental problem to deal with?

Matt Hill Ed.D. ’18 is the superintendent of the Burbank Unified School District in Burbank, California. He resets the early pandemic-era scene: “We were very similar to other school districts in Los Angeles County. The pandemic started spiking on March 13, 2020, and we decided to close schools. Our spring break was the next week, so we thought we could close for just a couple of weeks, have a couple of weeks online learning. We quickly realized that we had to completely pivot.”

His district, like others, went completely to online distance learning throughout 2020 and into spring 2021. Recently, the district completed the school year with students either maintaining distance learning or in a home-and-school hybrid.

The question of “where” students were learning was also a question about “how.” Hill’s students who needed Chromebooks and hotspots received them, such that the superintendent can state, for the moment at least, “We no longer have a digital divide in Burbank.”

There are other pandemic-era improvements — or “learnings” — that the district plans to keep: a continuing emphasis on mental health and social-emotional learning, leveraging online courses where appropriate, virtual field trips, and increased student agency and empowerment.

“I’ve really seen a lot of shift in pedagogical practices in the past year. I’ve seen more student creativity, more ownership,” Hill says. “When you have first-graders developing Google Slides and posting on Google Docs, it just expands their world.”

Adds Hill: “I think we underestimate how we have a group of digital natives who can really thrive in that kind of environment. And now that we’re embedding that more in our curriculum, I think it is going to help in-person teaching a lot more.”

Jocelyn Velez M.A. ’11 is principal of PUC Community Charter Elementary School in Sylmar, California. Her first pandemic semester was conducted entirely online. During her second, 25% of the students were on campus. Laptops and hotspots for students were standard, although due to high demand in general, tech ordered in August sometimes didn’t arrive until December.

Meanwhile, some parents or grandparents of her students needed to be taught Laptop 101, including how to turn on the machines. School personnel would get on the phone with family members, talking them through the process. “Our teachers were not just teaching to students anymore,” Velez says. “They were teaching to grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and even younger siblings. It became this family affair.”

Educators had been trying to keep families involved prior to the pandemic, but not having students in the classroom heightened the need, and families felt the same. “Engagement with our community and parents has drastically increased,” Hill says, citing, for instance, the use of video tools to host meetings and town halls. “We saw higher attendance rates for parents because we were meeting parents and families where they were, rather than saying, ‘You have to show up to a PTA meeting at 10 o’clock in the morning on a Wednesday,’ which isn’t realistic for most families.”

Are anecdotes like these emblematic of national trends? While pandemic-era research continues, educators





compare notes. Big picture, what is Velez hearing? “The term we’re hearing a lot is, ‘learning loss,’” she says. “That’s the huge term that came about in the last year.”

Previous research demonstrates a “summer slide,” Velez says. “Students take a dip of approximately two levels during the summer because they’re not being exposed to educational programs or resources or anything that has to do with academics.”

With the pandemic era’s acceleration of online learning and movement towards device-access equity, Velez sees a ladder. “This is our opportunity to provide those pieces so that they’re equipped,” she says, “and perhaps down the road, we won’t see that huge summer slide that we’ve been seeing for decades.”

If the past year-plus opened up longer-term opportunities, it also spotlighted intense and fundamental challenges — not only for students, and not only those caused directly by COVID-19.

Martinique Starnes ’02, Ed.D. ’15 is director of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice at the Westside Neighborhood School in Los Angeles.

“In an effort to properly educate students in the midst of a global pandemic, educators found themselves consumed with trying to keep their heads above water,” Starnes says. “Even beyond logistics, which were excellent or poor depending on what resources were available, the impact of illness, death, isolation, sadness, lack of resources, little to no faculty/student engagement and lack of motivation has and will have a lasting effect on students. And although the focus on students is important, we cannot and should not ignore how this past year and a half has impacted our faculty and administrators.”

Supporting educators is essential, Starnes says. “Otherwise, the impact on school and students will be severe and irreparable.”

Starnes also points out that it is crucial to acknowledge and understand that COVID-19 isn’t the nation’s — nor the world’s — sole ongoing existential crisis.

“There is a lasting trauma faced by students of color that has manifested from consequences of the pandemic, including financial insecurity, exposure to illness and death, isolation, fear of becoming sick, evictions, and deportations,” Starnes says. “Additionally, there is also trauma inflicted on our children stemming from the consequences of the ‘twin pandemic’ — the racial reckoning of 2020, from a heightened awareness of racism and bias to constant exposure to media that feature people of color being harmed and killed. More detrimental is the detail that racism even exists.”

Young has similar concerns. She points to an increasing trend of addressing and understanding racism. Schools are seeking to add staff to help the scholastic community cope with trauma — whether COVID-19-related or otherwise. Further, one says that “blended learning” — a mélange of virtual, digital and distance learning — is

likely to continue to grow, bringing a more customizable path to education that could counter the “shortcomings of a one-size-fits-all approach.”

That means a reexamining of some of the most central elements of the American education system. “While our education system, which moves groups of students through a graded system of levels based foremost on age and secondarily on a combination of factors that relate to ability or assumed ability, has served some students better than others since its inception, relatively little has been done to address those shortcomings,” Young says.

Change is possible, she continues. “The approaches and interventions being proposed, adopted and discussed today

### **Research and theory are one thing, but crafting and implementing universal policy can be daunting, particularly when the U.S. Secretary of Education is not the nation’s principal.**

by educators, educational researchers and education policy makers focus on the need to be more student-centered, the individualization of learning, and the importance of social and emotional well-being. And these are not being pulled out of thin air. They are supported by research on child development, brain science and learning theory.”

Research and theory are one thing, but crafting and implementing universal policy can be daunting, particularly when the U.S. Secretary of Education is not the nation’s principal. “The U.S. has long been resistant to federal- and national-level approaches to education,” Young says, “which is why we have 50-plus different state/territory systems further complexified by local control. That said, the infusion of federal funding is a proven way to implement education changes.”

During the pandemic, government policy and stimulus helped administrators such as Burbank’s Hill to purchase devices and other much-needed tech items. “We were lucky the federal government and the state government gave us a lot of money to focus on closing this digital divide,” Hill says. “Now let’s focus on how to make sure it stays closed, because these devices are going to wear out in three-to-five years.”

Students, in general, can be incredibly resilient. And sometimes adults are as well. How can the experience of the pandemic on education lead to a better educational future? Hill, for one, sounds realistic, and optimistic.

“Some students are struggling right now,” he says. “We need to focus on them and help them get back to where they were, but then see a new model that’s going to support kids in the long-term in a better way.”

**Jeremy Rosenberg,** a frequent contributor to LMU Magazine, is a Los Angeles-based writer, editor and consultant. His “Under Spring, Voices + Art + Los Angeles” received the first California Historical Society Book Award. Rosenberg’s writing has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, in OC Weekly, at KCET.org and elsewhere. Follow him @LosJeremy.



# Cougar Town

L.A.'S NATIVE BIG CATS ARE RISKING THEIR  
LIVES TO GET ACROSS THE 101.

BY EVELYN MCDONNELL  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATTHEW TWOMBLY



LIBERTY CANYON WINDS THROUGH the blackened hills of Agoura, California, with verdant optimism. The Woolsey Fire leapt over this creek bed in 2018, and on a spring day, the sage, thistle, rosemary, willow, alder and oaks paint an impressionist tableau of vivid green splashed with mustard, violet and vermilion. It's an Edenic V-necked valley, a sweet spot for nature to thrive — except for the sound of that perennial L.A. complaint, traffic.

The Ventura Freeway, California 101, splits Liberty in two. Four hundred thousand cars a day pass through here, their roar never completely dying. The state of California

WHILE A FEW COUGARS SEEM TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CROSSED THE 101 IN SEARCH OF MATES, OTHERS HAVE DIED TRYING.

built the highway through the Santa Monica Mountains to connect the San Fernando Valley to the Pacific beaches. In doing so, it may have written the death warrant for one of this land's oldest, most secretive, once hated but now celebrated creatures.

Long before the commuters, the hippies, the rock stars, the film crews, the ranchers, the missionaries — maybe even before the Chumash — mountain lions have called this rugged coastline their home. They were once the apex predator. Now, they may be our victim. More than 20 pumas have been killed on the 101 since 2002, the year researchers began studying the mountain lions of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Cars, rodenticide, fire and ranchers are picking off this panther population. But the biggest threat is a genetic time bomb: Ringed in by the ocean, the city and the highways, the cats have been forced to interbreed. Mutations discovered by scientists this past summer indicate that the clock is ticking for these animals. Cougars need hundreds of square miles to call their own. The lions of the Santa Monica Mountains are running out of space and time.

But not if we can help them.

An extraordinary movement has grown around this strip of land. A coalition of government agencies, nonprofits, Hollywood luminaries, local residents, and cat ladies and gentlemen worldwide are raising \$87 million to build the lions, and all their animal friends, a bridge over the 101. One couple in Kansas donated half a million dollars to the Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing. Leonardo DiCaprio has his whole foundation involved. In May, the Annenberg Foundation announced a \$25 million challenge grant for the pumas. With \$44 million raised so far, they hope to break ground by yearend.

Los Angeles has gone cougar crazy.

*Puma concolor* is the second largest cat of the Americas and the only “big cat” found in the United States outside of the southwest border areas, where you can sometimes find jaguars. (“Big cat” is not an official scientific term, and if it were, mountain lions break the mold: They can't, don't and won't roar, preferring silence, or the occasional purr, squeak or scream.) Like an actor playing characters, the mountain lion is known by more names (40) than any other species, including panther, catamount, painter, puma and cougar. However, this feline shuns the limelight — hence one of my favorites of its many anti-stage names: ghost cat.

The handsome face, lithe body, giant paws and long bushy tail of the puma have captivated me since I was a kid. A house cat in a big cat's body, cougars are the American heartthrob: silent, athletic, powerful, but soft and cuddly, too. They are not flashy like tigers or bossy like African lions. Free of manes, tufts, stripes or spots (except as kittens — and OMG, they are the most adorable kittens), there is something plain-spoken, proletarian, downright democratic about panthers. They're like characters in a Sam Shepard play, or the late playwright/actor himself: rugged, resourceful, renegade. Found from Canada to Patagonia, they are literally all-American. Obligate carnivores, if they don't eat red meat, they die. Cougars are 150-pound ambush predators, who purr.

For me, they are not just a totem American animal; they are also a symbol of California, one of the Western states where cougars still thrive, and that is my native territory, too. Born in Glendale, I moved to Wisconsin when I was 4. Growing up, I remained deeply connected to the land of my birth. By imagining, in the games I played with my childhood friends in small-town Midwestern yards, that I was a mountain lion, I could also relocate myself out West, to the mountains, deserts and sea, where I belonged.

Sometimes dreams come true, and 10 years ago, I finally came home. And then, to my amazement, so did the man



of my dreams: a lean, muscular, quiet but deadly single feline male, the most famous eligible bachelor of the Hollywood Hills, P-22.

Like a legend who has turned reclusive, P-22 was first caught in the flash of a bulb in 2012. He tripped a camera



placed by rangers in the wilds of Griffith Park, and lo, there he was, *Puma concolor*, adult male. The Griffith Park cat was the 22nd animal identified in the scientific study of the area. The P stands for puma.

Griffith Park is a 4,210-acre green polygon in the middle of Los Angeles visited by 10 million people a year. It's home to the L.A. Zoo, the Griffith Observatory, the Autry Museum of the American West and, it turns out, enough wilderness to hide a lion. The discovery of a wild carnivore living in the middle of America's second biggest city was big news, to the public and to the experts.

“There's no way that's true,” Beth Pratt recalls thinking when she first read about P-22 in the L.A. Times.

As the person in charge of building the National Wildlife Federation's California office, Pratt needed to find out more. She called Jeff Sikich, the National Park Service biologist who, along with biologist Seth Riley, is in charge of the Santa Monica Mountains panther study. He took her on a backwoods tour of P-22's terrain, which may sound glamorous but, as Pratt says, “meant crawling through poison oak to look at rotting deer carcasses.” At first, she thought, “Oh, mother of god, get this cat out of here. But as Jeff talked about it, I had this life-changing moment: If this is the only way this cat can have a life, it's not my call; it's his.”

Once she was convinced P-22 was no mythical Sasquatch, Pratt had one question for Sikich: “What can I do to help?”

“Well,” the ranger responded, “there's this little wildlife crossing we need built.”

No one knows for sure how or when P-22 got to Griffith Park. He had to cross the 405 freeway and the 101, and pass through city streets and backyards like a, um, cat burglar. Having arrived, he seems to be in no hurry to leave his publicly funded bachelor pad. He survives on a steady diet of the park's deer population and, apparently, the occasional koala; in 2016, one was found mauled at the zoo. While the typical male panther will wander 100 miles to find a mate, P-22 seems to have chosen solitudinous survival over the procreation urge.

Who needs sex when you're a social media star? Angelinos keep swiping right on P-22's profile. There are multiple Twitter and Facebook accounts for the elusive beast — playing hard to get is the ultimate love game, after all. There is a P-22 stuffed animal (funds go to the wildlife crossing) and a virtual P-22 Day, on Oct. 23 this year. P-22 in particular, but also his entire feline family, has captured the imagination of Angelinos. Dubbed by Pratt “the Brad Pitt of the cougar world,” he is the ambassador and symbol of wildlife's changing relationship to urban spaces.

**THIS PAGE**

P-22, a male mountain lion, was photographed by a camera placed in Griffith Park by park rangers in 2012. He soon became an iconic symbol of the effort to protect native wildlife in Los Angeles.

**OPPOSITE**

A proposed wildlife bridge at Liberty Canyon, in Agoura Hills, California, would allow cougars and other wildlife to pass over U.S. Route 101.

“It’s been really exciting to see how many people have rallied around these animals, especially P-22,” says Sikich. “It’s this large carnivore living among millions of people; that alone sparks people’s interest. It’s a great survival story. Their elusive nature and their adaptability have kept them here: You find them in high elevations, the desert and large developments. I like knowing they’re out there; it gives you a sense of excitement. It is a testament to what we’ve been able to do with conservation in the area.”

Like any romantic protagonist, P-22 symbolizes hope, but also an existential quandary: If a female panther doesn’t somehow wander into Griffith Park, his genes will die out

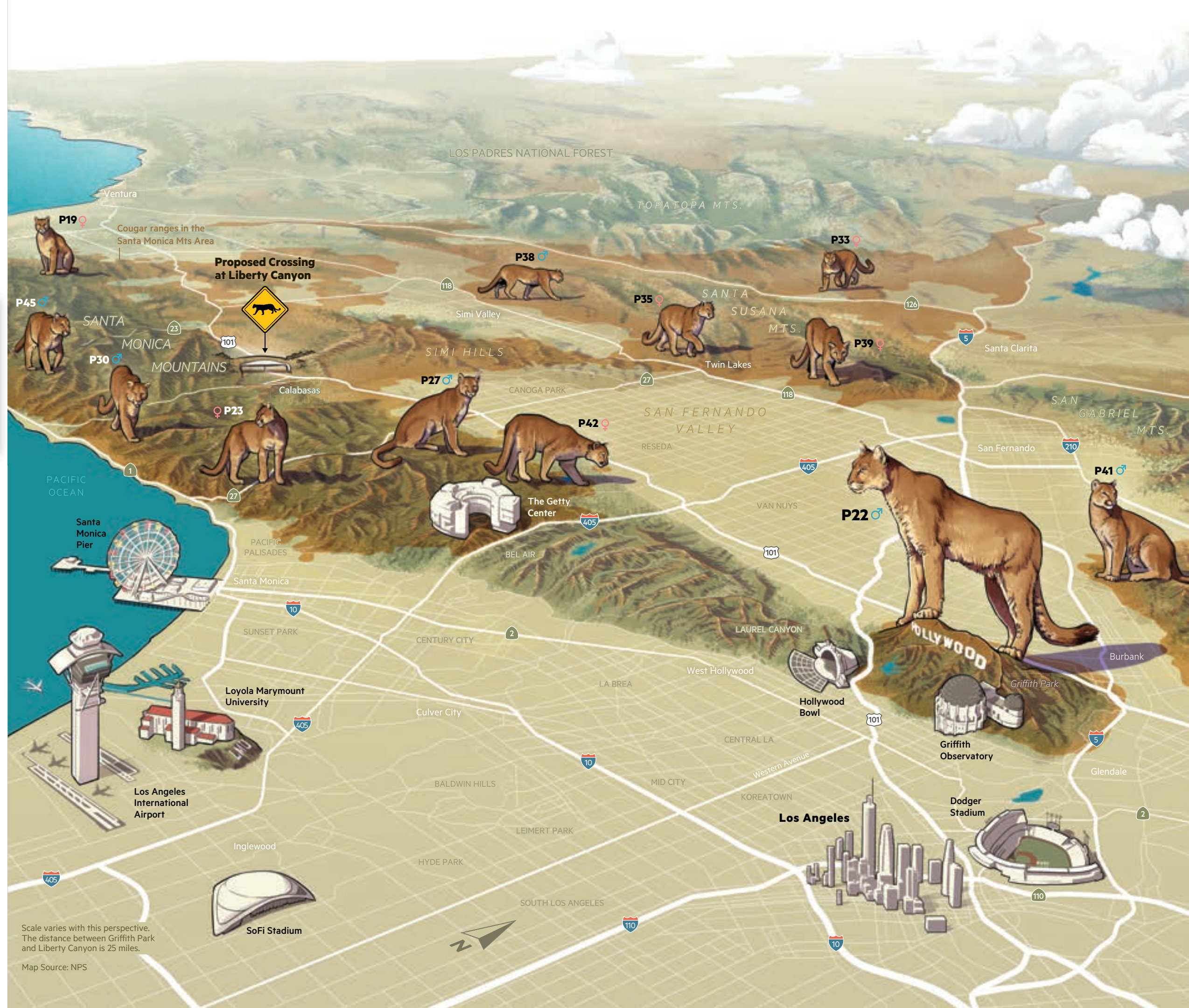
COUGARS NEED HUNDREDS OF  
SQUARE MILES TO CALL THEIR OWN.  
THE LIONS OF THE SANTA MONICA  
MOUNTAINS ARE RUNNING OUT OF  
SPACE AND TIME.

with him. All the Santa Monica Mountains lions face this extinction crisis. While a few cougars seem to have successfully crossed the 101 in search of mates, others have died trying. Those who remain trapped in the hills have turned to in-breeding, which causes genetic damage. In the case of P-81, trapped and tagged last summer, this is a kinked tail and undescended testicle. These animals face the same genetic catastrophe that almost wiped out their similarly stranded cousins, the Florida panthers. In short, if they can’t get across that highway and mix up the gene pool, these magnificent creatures are doomed.

“P-22 is the relatable victim on the scene. He gets people’s hearts to understand what the cougars are facing,” says Pratt, who now heads Save LA Cougars, the branch of the National Wildlife Federation that raises money for the 101 wildlife crossing. “He’s a game changer in people’s perception of where wildlife should be and our relationship to nature. We have to get over the notion that city people don’t live with wildlife; they do.”

Fortunately for the cougars, one of the things Angelenos like almost as much as a sexy bachelor sob story is the prospect of building something new and momentous. Wildlife crossings have been constructed everywhere from Europe to Washington to Temecula, but the proposed 101 bridge, 165 feet wide by 200 feet long and covered in terrain, will be the most ambitious, and expensive, of its kind. Twenty percent of funds will come from public conservation efforts; the rest are private donations. Hopefully by 2023 some young male puma looking to establish his own territory will cross over from the Los Padres National Forest to the north and, you know, get lucky.

**Cougars and Their Predators**  
The native habitat of L.A.’s mountain lions is laced with freeways and shared with millions of humans. But the cats’ range is increasingly segmented by freeways and squeezed by encroaching development. Some cougars die crossing freeways. Loss of territory leads to in-breeding and decreased genetic diversity. Several cougars depicted in this illustration, in fact, now are confirmed dead: P23, P27, P33, P38, P39, P41. A proposed wildlife crossing near Liberty Canyon likely would reduce pressure on the population, effectively increasing their range.



Scale varies with this perspective. The distance between Griffith Park and Liberty Canyon is 25 miles.

Map Source: NPS



## Beach Volleyball Raises the Net

LIONS TAKE THIRD IN NCAA TOURNAMENT AFTER CLAIMING THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT WCC TITLE

THE LMU BEACH VOLLEYBALL program, not quite a decade old, set a standard for the history books this season. The 2021 team won its second straight West Coast Conference championship, earning LMU's first NCAA championship tournament invitation. At the NCAA tourney, held in Gulf Shores, Alabama, LMU, seeded No. 5, finished third and chalked up an upset victory of No. 1 UCLA along the way. When the tournament ended, LMU was ranked No. 3 in the nation, its highest ranking ever.

The remarkable 2021 season, said Head Coach John Mayer, began with the players aiming at a high goal: "To make it to Gulf Shores. No LMU team had ever done that. They wanted to do something that had never been done before."

Among the things never done before was hauling in a slew of WCC awards. Selina Marolf and Reka Orsi Toth were named American Volleyball Coaches Association Second Team All-Americans. Emma Doud was the WCC Defensive Player of the Year. Jessie Prichard and Savannah Slattery were named WCC Pair of the Year. Madi Firnett took WCC Freshman of the Year honors. Mayer won his second consecutive WCC Coach of the Year award.

**Net Gain**  
LMU's NCAA tournament performance in May earned the team a No. 3 ranking at the end of the season, a program record.

**IN THE FUTURE, LMU PLAYERS FINALLY WILL EXPERIENCE A HOME-COURT ADVANTAGE, WITH STUDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT, AND THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A FAN BASE.**

Finally, Assistant Coach Karissa Cook was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association "Thirty Under 30" list of standout young coaches.

For Mayer, one of the season's highlights was winning the WCC title. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, his team played the entire regular season on the road with no games at their home courts at Dockweiler State Beach.

"We didn't have any home matches all year," Mayer explained. With trips to Stanford, Cal Poly, Florida State and Grand Canyon University, the team always played in front of opposing fans. "Most of the time, fans were yelling at us, heckling us." But the WCC tournament had long been scheduled for Dockweiler. "It was a nice moment for all of us to have the tournament at a place where a lot of the LMU community came out to watch and the five seniors who lost a season to finish with a home event."

That will change next season, with new beach volleyball sand courts planned for the LMU campus. Four courts are to be completed at Drollinger Field by September, when practice for the next season begins. LMU has been the only ranked team with no home courts, Mayer says, a significant recruiting disadvantage. In the future, his players finally will experience a home-court advantage, with student and community support, and the program will have an opportunity to build a fan base. Just as important, a top facility will help recruiting immensely. "We want to continue to work with players like Emily Day '10, Savannah Slattery '20 and Betsi (Metter) Flint '13," Mayer says. "Those sorts of players are attracted to LMU, and we want to continue to bring them to LMU."

For more information about the beach volleyball project, contact Brian Luft, associate athletics director for development, at bluft@lmu.edu.

## Golf 2020–21 Ascends The Leader Board

IN THE MOST UNUSUAL of seasons, LMU golf in 2020–21 notched a performance that was its best in 15 years, says Head Coach Jason D'Amore '08. The 2006 team won a conference title and a spot in the NCAA championships. D'Amore should know: He was a crucial contributor to that team's success, too.

Led by redshirt junior Gavin Cohen and freshman Riley Lewis, LMU this year recorded a season to remember. "We set seven records for the LMU golf program," D'Amore says. "Guys set individual records, and some of the team records we set smashed other records. It was the second-best year in the history of LMU golf."

The LMU team won back-to-back team titles for the first time since 2006–07. LMU won the individual title in three consecutive tournaments, also a program first.

At season's end, Cohen and Lewis competed in the NCAA regional finals. Cohen finished the year with the best single-season individual scoring average in program history, topping the standard set by Brian Locke '09 in 2007. Lewis finished his first season with the program's best freshman campaign, averaging 71.42 strokes in his 36 collegiate rounds. Lewis was named WCC Freshman of the Year; Cohen, Honorable Mention All-Conference.

D'Amore says the team's success during the pandemic was especially significant but for a surprising reason: They played, unlike other athletes whose seasons were canceled. But that presented an unexpected psychological obstacle to be overcome.

"The guys felt a little bit of weight on their shoulders as the only sport that was representing LMU in a competitive environment," D'Amore explains.

But D'Amore says the team accepted the challenge: "It provided them an opportunity to figure out if they would fall backward or fight through it. But they did. They put their heads down and did everything to grind through it. Everyone just really wanted to play good golf. They didn't let anything get in the way of that."

## Getting to Buy-In

AARIKA HUGHES, NEW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH, SAYS THE PATH TO SUCCESS IS BUILT ON CULTURE AND PRODUCT.

AARIKA HUGHES, LMU's new women's basketball head coach who was hired this past April, takes the lead seat on a Division 1 bench for the first time in her career. But she brings a notable pedigree to the assignment.

Hughes previously helped lead three programs: USC, New Mexico State University and University of New Mexico. In her five years at NMSU, the Aggies made two trips to the NCAA tournament while claiming two Western Athletic Conference titles. In four seasons at USC, where she also starred as a player and was team captain, Hughes helped sign two recruiting classes that were ranked nationally in the top seven and that included three McDonald's All-American players.

Her work was noticed. The Athletic magazine named Hughes among its top 21 assistant coaches for 2021, and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association named her among its "Thirty Under 30" top coaches.

Hughes says that defining the LMU program under her tenure began the day she was hired — laying a culture known for "doing things the right way." Still just months into her tenure, that starts with phone calls and meetings with returning players as well as recruits and their parents.

On the court, Hughes aims for an up-tempo style of play that emphasizes defensive skills, defensive rebounding and turnovers, combined with athleticism. Developing recruited players after they are on campus will be a focal point for success, she says.

Just as important to identifying one's path to success is understanding how a sport evolves. The game of basketball is in flux, she says, with more emphasis on pace, long-range shooting and defense. That the men's professional game has changed is obvious, but the NBA's evolving style of play also is shaping the game across the board.

"The NBA is always the leader in how the game evolves," Hughes says. "The professional women's game is catching up, and the men's college game is starting to catch up. We're starting to see it in the women's college game, as well."

"Right now, in order to compete, you have to have an ability to get shots," Hughes explains. "Playing at the three-point line has become extremely valuable, so being able to extend defenses while playing at a high pace is important. Decision-making, playing the pick and roll and the physicality of the game also are ways the game has evolved."

Hughes is just as analytical about what may be her important task ahead.

"The greatest challenge is putting a product on the floor that will make people come out and watch," she says. "There are a lot of things to do in Los Angeles: Lakers, Clippers, USC, UCLA, Chargers, Rams, Dodgers, soccer. What are we going to do to make people buy in? My job is to make sure that the product out on the floor is worth putting out there, and to make this program something that people want to be part of."



# KRUMPE TIME



## FORMER U.S. PLAYER HAS PUT LMU SOCCER ON THE U.S MAP AS COACH. ILLUSTRATIONS BY BEN KIRCHNER

PAUL KRUMPE SAYS his best team is his most recent, his 23rd: No. 7 in the nation, undefeated in the regular season, and owners of the WCC title and automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

As head coach of LMU soccer since 1998, Krumpe has brought home hardware. This past season's WCC title is the program's third. The program's first, in 2010, also was his. Krumpe collected his third WCC Coach of the Year title this season as well. And his teams have made eight NCAA tournament appearances.

Authenticity is one of Krumpe's greatest traits, says Mathes Mennell, head coach and director of athletics at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina, who was LMU associate head coach from 2006-15.

"Every coach is different, but the great ones are authentic," Mennell explains. "Paul is one of the most steadfastly authentic people I have ever met in my life. His ability to stay true to his core beliefs is the one thing I think is most impressive."

Krumpe's coaching has helped nine of his players earn pro jerseys. "At his core," Mennell says. "Paul is a teacher who recognizes the 'what could be' in his players and pushes them to get there. Paul allows his players to be themselves, within the construct of the team dynamic."

## PAUL KRUMPE'S ALL-TIME LMU ELEVEN



### KRUMPE STAT SHEET

**23**

Paul Krumpe's LMU 23-season tenure starts in 1998; his first season includes three Top 10 foes.



**3**

The 2010 team claims the first of LMU's three WCC men's soccer championships.



**3**

Krumpe is a three-time WCC Coach of the Year award-winner.

**8**

The Lions make eight NCAA tournament appearances.



Krumpe's career win No. 200 clinches the 2020 WCC title.

**200**

**8**

The Lion program produces eight All-Americans.



**9**

Nine alumni of LMU soccer go on to wear pro jerseys in MLS and Liga MX.

**2**

Rafael Baca '11 and Gerardo Lopez '21 make the MAC Hermann Watch List.



CONVERSATION

SPORTSLINE

**4.20 All-American—Women**  
Senior Alena Sanchez is named first-team All-Conference team by water polo's Golden Coast Conference. In June, she is named Honorable Mention All-American by the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches. Tara DeBrabander takes a spot on the WCC All-Conference freshman team. Sophomore keeper Madison Davis is a second team selection, and senior Melyssa Moore an honorable mention.

**4.22 All-American—Men**  
Senior Joseph Shaw is named an honorable mention All-American selection, the 38th in the water



polo program's history. Shaw finishes third in scoring in the WWPA with 25 goals and fourth in points with 35

**5.2 Soccer Hardware**  
Men's soccer makes its second consecutive NCAA tourney appearance after winning the WCC championship. Four of five WCC post-season awards go to LMU: Goalkeeper of the year, sophomore Jacob Jackson; Offensive Player of the Year, sophomore Noel Caliskan; Defender of the Year, senior Gerardo Lopez; and Coach of the Year, Paul Krumpke. Caliskan is named a second-team All-American by United Soccer Coaches.

**5.10 LMU vs. USA**  
The softball team takes on the U.S. Olympic Softball Team in an exhibition held at Smith Field. USA gets the win, 9-1.

**5.29 Track First**  
Senior Roc Johnson is the first Lion in program history to qualify for the NCAA 3,000-meter Steeplechase event. At the competition in College Station, Texas, he shaves 13 seconds off his previous career-best time and finishes his career as the LMU program record-holder.

**6.2 Closing Relief**  
Junior relief pitcher Holden Christian is named to the WCC All-Conference First Team by conference coaches.

**TAIRIA FLOWERS** was named LMU softball's head coach in 2020. Few new hires bring more credentials than Flowers did: assistant coach, USA Softball Women's National Team; member of the U.S. national softball team (2001-08) that earned Olympic gold and silver medals (2004, 2008); two-time All-American and a national championship at UCLA (2003); named to the Pac-12 Conference's All-Century Softball Team (2016); and Big West Conference Coach of the Year (2015). We asked Flowers to look back at the 2021 season.

**How were your goals for the first season affected by the pandemic?**  
To be successful, you've got to get to know each other, figure out what motivates everybody and find out their "why." In a pandemic, you don't get to have those conversations, interact or create those team-building experiences as much. I would say you have to resort to the CliffsNotes method of getting to know your team. That's been our mode of operation.

**In 2020, the pandemic outbreak halted your CSUN season at mid-point. What lessons did that experience provide when you came to LMU, where you started the job while in the pandemic?**  
The biggest lesson as a coach, and hopefully for the players, was to not take your time on the field for granted. Coaches told me when I was younger that you never know when your last game is going to be. We had to step into that mind-frame at LMU as well. Enjoying the moment and the opportunity to be together was more of my focus.

**During the 2021 season, your team played five games against Pac-12 teams that were ranked in the top five nationally at the time. Are those games a measuring stick of the program, or are they useful in showing you what your players are capable of individually?**  
It's a little bit of both. For us to be the best, we have to play against the best. So, we want to figure out where we are on that scale and where we can be better. Any time we step on the field, we remind ourselves that it's not about the shirts in the other dugout. It's about whether we can be our best selves right now. Sometimes a team plays to the level of the competition: You play harder against better teams, and sometimes you play down when you don't. But our goal is to keep a consistent approach whether we're playing the No. 2 team or No. 300.

**You've experienced the highest success at every level of the game. Do the personal accomplishments of a coach put her university more on the radar of high-performing student athletes when recruiting?**  
I'd like to think so. One selling point for us as coaches is that we've been where these student athletes are trying to

go. We can relate. Mysha Sataraka, my assistant coach, and I can say we also struggled to balance softball and school while trying to be the best. I do think that's a draw for recruits, and so is being able to say we did that at the highest level. Also, Christian Conrad, our pitching coach, coached at the highest level with the junior national team, and at Florida State and Oregon. We've seen [what winning looks like], and that's what we want to accomplish here. We hope recruits know that that's what we're looking for.

**What are the most important elements of your LMU pitch to a highly recruited high school player?**  
We try to keep it pretty simple: what the university offers in terms of class sizes, the degree that recruits are going to get, the location and what we're trying to accomplish here — a premier program on the West Coast. That's an easy sell.

**Since there are very few professional softball opportunities, what do you want your players to take with them when they walk off Smith Field for the last time?**  
They should take the work ethic they got from being part of the team and the experience of being leaders and having empowered one another. When they go out in the real world, I want them to realize, as they do on the softball field, how good they are and what they can contribute to future programs, their family and everybody they meet.

**What was it like to put on the national shirt for the first time?**  
That was amazing. On the national team, you're playing in front of thousands. And you're their team — it doesn't matter what university they went to or what state they're from, you're their team. Everyone is there to support you. When I heard the crowd chant "USA!" that was just an amazing feeling.



LMU NEWS

Diagram Tairia Flowers

# Olympic Softball Handicap

When the Olympic Games in softball kick off this summer in Japan, six teams will vie for medals: Australia, Canada, Japan, Italy, Mexico and the United States. Softball has not been an Olympic sport since 2008. Japan won the gold medal, defeating the United States 3-1 in Beijing. The U.S. and Japan are perennial powers. In four Olympiads since 1996, the U.S. has claimed four medals (three gold and a silver), while Japan has taken three (gold, silver, bronze). Tairia Flowers, LMU's softball coach and assistant coach with the U.S. Olympic team, wore the U.S. jersey from 2001-08, and she owns gold and silver medal Olympic medals. We asked Flowers to give us the rundown on the Olympic softball competition.



This team most recently won bronze at the 2018 World Championships in Chiba, Japan, and silver at the 2019 Pan Am games in Lima, Peru. They've earned their reputation for strong pitching and timely hitting. Some members of the 2008 Canadian Olympic team will suit up again for the Tokyo games. **Lauren Bay-Regula**, a left-handed pitcher, is a two-time Olympian who retired from the game, had three children and is now making a comeback.

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The reigning world champions. The U.S. roster includes two standout pitchers, **Monica Abbott** (2008), the first player to sign a million-dollar softball contract, and **Cat Osterman** (2004, 2008). Head Coach Ken Eriksen led the U.S. to a gold medal in 2004 in Atlanta. Assistant Coach Laura Berg is the only U.S. softball player to have played in all four Olympiads.

CANADA

While the Italians are not a consistent powerhouse, they have **Erika Piancastelli**, a catcher who can hit. Piancastelli was an All-American player for McNeese State University. She was a four-time Conference Player of the Year in the Southland Conference. Piancastelli is an Italian-American born in Italy, and she's the second member of her family to wear the Italian colors: Her mother played for Italy in 2000.



ITALY



MEXICO

The Tokyo games will be Mexico's first appearance in Olympic softball. But their team will not be a surprise. Several players have spent time in the USA program on national or junior national teams. **Sierra and Sydney Romero**, sisters who were standout players at Michigan and Oklahoma respectively, took the field in exhibition games this spring. Mexico, in fact, came to Smith Field for two scrimmage games against us in early April. Though we put up a good fight, Mexico left with two wins, 5-2 and 5-1.

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The host country enters the games as reigning Olympic champions, by virtue of their 2008 gold medal performance. Japan's strengths are pitching and an offense that puts pressure on the defense. **Yukiko Ueno**, who pitched Japan to their gold-medal victory in 2008, is known for her velocity and for having the "world's greatest change-up."

AUSTRALIA

Known as the Aussie Spirit, the Australians have medaled in every Olympiad, earning four (two silver, two bronze) along with the United States. A mainstay in international softball, they won bronze medals in international world championships in 2012 and 2014, and they've earned a reputation for pitching and power at the plate. **Stacey Porter**, for example, was an Olympian in 2004 and 2008. She hits for power and has tons of international experience.



THE GOLD MEDAL MATCHUP

**Team USA** is the most well-rounded, with pitching, power and speed, but in the end, the title can come down to one swing. In 2008, we went into the championship game undefeated, and **Japan** had only one loss — to us. But the championship game is all or nothing.





## Networking Pride

LIFE, FROM ONE PERSPECTIVE, is all about giving and receiving. Rarely are giving and receiving mutually exclusive. They start at birth, and never cease.

A few months into the pandemic, in July 2020, the offices of Alumni Engagement and Career and Professional Development launched The Pride, an online mentoring platform based on just that kind of exchange.

The Pride links alumni, faculty and staff with students and alumni who are navigating or preparing their career paths. For students and young alumni, the program connects them with LMU community members who have agreed to offer career advice, mentorship or opportunities in the workplace. But The Pride offers advantages across the board, from students beginning to plan their careers to the graduate starting a first job or an older alum who wants to relocate.

Alumni, faculty and staff members may choose their availability and level of participation based on their schedule, everything from offering ongoing consultations to occasional chats over coffee or on the phone.

Participants can reach out to fellow Lions by region, profession or interest. A recent graduate planning to move across the country can tap into a local network. A professional planning a career change can find advice from others who have made the transition. Participants also can join groups defined by affinity: a group for veterans, friends of the LMU library or those devoted to philanthropy, and more. Or someone may crowd-source an important question about industry trends, or simply: “How can I learn to be a better networker?”

“It’s never too early for students to explore their career identity. All LMU

### Join The Pride

Nearly 4,000 LMU community members — students, faculty and alumni — have registered with The Pride. To learn more about the opportunities offered through The Pride and to join, go to [ThePride.lmu.edu](https://ThePride.lmu.edu).

students gain access to The Pride as soon as their first year at LMU,” says Branden Grimmert, associate provost for Career and Professional Development. “Speaking with alumni helps build their confidence in networking, and when alumni say yes to these requests, they are modeling what it looks like to give back to LMU.”

A recent feature of The Pride is a Projects component. An alum seeking someone with particular skills for a defined project can search The Pride for those who may be able to help. For a student, that may result in an important real-world experience, much like an internship provides.

Lisa Piumetti Farland ’87, M.Ed. ’93, executive director of Alumni and Parent Engagement, believes The Pride offers LMU alumni an opportunity. “Our alumni love engaging and supporting our students, who are seeking guidance, now more than ever,” she says. “The Pride makes it easy to connect with our students from anywhere in the world.”

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN S. DYKES

### TIMELINE

- 8.30 Classes Begin**  
After more than a year of limited access to campus, the university resumes in-person instruction, co-curricular programs, support services and campus housing at full capacity.
  - 9.14 Mass of the Holy Spirit**  
The campus community celebrates the start of a new academic year with the university’s traditional Mass of welcome.
  - 9.18 Attorneys for Others**  
Help prepare a hot, to-go breakfast for people who are homeless and hungry in downtown L.A. at the St. Francis Center. The project is a cooperative monthly effort between the LMU Loyola Law School Alumni Association Board of Governors and the St. Francis Center. Go to [www.lls.edu](http://www.lls.edu).
  - 9.23 Climate Justice**  
Farhana Sultana, professor of geography at Syracuse University, will discuss climate justice as part of the 2020–21 Bellarmine Forum on Climate Change, Justice and Health. Go to [bellarmine.lmu.edu](http://bellarmine.lmu.edu).
  - 10.7 L.A. Twilight**  
“Twilight: Los Angeles 1992,” a look back at the L.A. protests and unrest of 1992, starts its two-weekend run. The work, by actress, playwright and teacher Anna Deavere Smith, explores the impact of the events surrounding the beating of Rodney King.
  - 11.13 Piano Virtuoso**  
Wojciech Kocyan, professor of music, performs his annual piano recital in Murphy Recital Hall. Kocyan is the winner of the Xi International Chopin Competition and the Paderewski Piano Competition. Go to [cfa.lmu.edu](http://cfa.lmu.edu).
  - 11.19 President’s Convocation**  
President Timothy Law Snyder, Ph.D., gives his annual “state of the university” address about the university mission, goals, progress and challenges.
  - 12.10 Classes End**  
The fall semester classes come to an end and, at the conclusion of exams, the Christmas holiday begins for students.
- ➔ For a complete listing of university events, go to the Events Calendar at [cal.lmu.edu](http://cal.lmu.edu).

### CONVERSATION

**ERIC TONG MBA ’93** is co-founder of *Seatopia Collective*, a subscription-based business offering sustainable farm-raised seafood direct to consumers. *Aquaculture, as it is known, is responsible for more than 50% of the seafood consumed in the United States, with the remainder being wild-caught. Tong earned a master’s degree in business administration from the LMU College of Business Administration.*

**Seatopia doesn’t raise the fish it offers but purchases fish from regenerative aquaculture farms. Are your sources international?**

Yes, we have seven farms that are all international. We have Atlantic salmon and Atlantic halibut from Norway, kanpachi from Baja, Mexico, steel-head trout from Tasmania, Pacific king salmon from New Zealand, rainbow trout from England, and scallops from Peru. Also, we’re in conversations with a few new farms, some from the U.S.

**There are significant issues in labeling and chain of custody verification in the fishing industry, leading even to mislabeled dishes you might order in a local restaurant. Do those concerns exist in aquaculture?**

They do for some large, commercial fish farms, but we’re working exclusively with regenerative aquaculture farms that adhere to or exceed certification processes, including Best Aquaculture Practices and those of the Aquaculture Stewardship Council as well as the Seafood Watch program at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. They’re super focused on sustainability, types of feed, low-density pens, humane practices, etc. They’re on low

Fish-In, Fish-Out (FIFO) diets, high in algae-based Omega-3s, and safe from environmental or commercial toxins. Our farm partners never use preventive antibiotics, hormones, unethical practices or GMO brood stock. We also test samples from every lot for the presence of the “big four metals” — cadmium, lead, arsenic and mercury. Less than 0.0 parts per million of mercury are found in our fish, ensuring super clean, high Omega-3 protein.

**Are some fish a challenge for aquaculture while others are well-suited?**

Fish such as tuna are difficult because they’re predator fish, and they need more space to swim. But salmon, trout, halibut and kanpachi work well in aquaculture.

**Is artisan aquaculture a niche industry or do you foresee growth in the coming years?**

It’s definitely going to grow. It’s growing now. Trends and market data have shown over the past 12 months that people are more comfortable buying seafood online, especially from companies having full transparency of their supply chain. Sustainable farms

will garner greater awareness by the public, and Seatopia gives consumers a viable way to enjoy high-quality, clean seafood in the comfort of their homes.

**Sustainability is a concern in the farming of the fish you sell, but what does responsibility mean in shipping the product?**

We’re committed to shipping our product in a plastic-free box. We use a compostable, thermal-insulated cooler. The bags and labels our seafood are sealed in are compostable as well. We use biodegradable ice-gel packs. We print on hemp paper. Our outer box uses soy inks. Above and beyond that, we donate 1% of our sales to the preservation of Marine Protected Areas. We’re a start-up, so that 1% is not sizable yet, but we hope that in the future we can do great things with those donations.

**What is the biggest challenge you face as a start-up — identifying supply sources or breaking through a crowded home-delivery marketplace?**

We’ve done an outstanding job on the former — partnering with the best farms and expanding our offering with more species. At the beginning, we wanted to ensure that the user experience — from the out-of-box experience to cooking and tasting — met the mark. We think we’ve achieved that. Now, we’re trying to scale. That’s where the challenge comes in. We’re trying to be scrappy with our marketing dollars working with influencers and ambassadors, running various promotions, and setting up affiliate programs. Being a small company with two people, the biggest challenge for us is to get more eyeballs to our website, [seatopia.fish](http://seatopia.fish), and create more brand awareness. Every two weeks, we’re growing. But soon we’re going to raise capital, which will allow us to increase brand awareness and drive more sales at an exponential level.



# MOVING Home

DEAR LMU, I arrived here in Atlanta some years ago full of the idealism of a newly returned Peace Corps volunteer who served in Africa and grounded in the discerning hopefulness that the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in France imbued in me. Atlanta would be just the place to jump into a second round of graduate work with both feet, while keeping my dreams aloft just minutes from the “World’s Busiest Airport” should I ever want or need to leave. I calculated that Atlanta could keep me entertained and enriched. After all, this city has a rich pre- and post-Civil War history, especially as a backdrop for the work of Civil Rights icons such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Congressman John Lewis and Ambassador Andrew Young.

Weekdays were filled with analyses and papers. Weekends included reflection at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, treks to the World of Coca Cola, forays to peanut farms and pecan orchards, jaunts to retrace the childhood of Flannery O’Connor — procrastination masquerading as cultural enrichment. Certainly I did not anticipate that my years here would turn into decades or evolve into consulting on public health initiatives with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or even lead me to the local Jesuit parish and its ministry of resettling refugees.

I began graduate studies with a vague notion of continuing to live a life of honing and offering my gifts as a person for others. But I did not necessarily set out as a social scientist knowing that I would teach or practice in public health. I could scarcely have imagined the scenario I’ve experienced this year. I’ve worked with other specialists to address a social issue — COVID-19 — that would both keep me and everyone I know grounded here but also unite us with brothers and sisters across the globe, whether over shared suffering or in communion through streamed celebrations and liturgies.

From small villages to big cities, I have called several places my home. Some places have nice weather; some have beautiful topographical features; some have rich history; some have memorable food. All places have people worth encountering and a moment in time in which to choose to be present. I am no longer concerned about where I should be or how long I might stay here; my focus has shifted to being where I am. —**Monica LaBelle ’96**



# THE HOUSE THAT PAM BUILT

ON FEB. 24, 2020, Greg Boyle, S.J., M.A. '85, delivered the homily at the memorial service for Pam Rector, director of LMU's Center for Service and Action. To a congregation that filled every seat and spilled out onto the steps of Sacred Heart Chapel, Boyle said, "She never cared to circle the wagons, only to widen the circle, to draw the family circle large, spacious and expansive. For Pam, there was no need for an 'in crowd' since everyone was in."

Rector, who earned a bachelor's degree (1977) and two master's degrees (1979, 1982) at LMU, returned to campus in 1998 to lead what would become the Center for Service and Action. For the next 20 years, she directed the center in a way that seemed almost as if no truer words than Boyle's description of her had ever been uttered in the chapel. Work for social justice and service to the community have become hallmarks of an LMU education. In 2019, LMU was ranked No. 3 among U.S. universities for "Students Most Engaged in Community Service." Pam's role in establishing that reputation would be hard to overestimate.

Her vision for CSA was straightforward: build a community for service-based learning experiences. Within the Division of Student Affairs, CSA's offerings — including Alternative Breaks, service organizations, El Espejo, Special Games, ServeLA programs, and more — put students in direct personal contact with marginalized and oppressed people and communities both in Los Angeles and around the globe. The thousands of students who have participated in CSA have fostered kinship with others, leading to intellectual inquiry, moral reflection and social action.



Pam Rector, right, with her daughter, Grace.

**"SHE WAS CONNECTIVE TISSUE — SHE JOINED US TOGETHER."**

To honor Rector and amplify her impact, LMU has launched an effort to raise a \$1 million endowment for the center, which will be named the Pam Rector Center for Service and Action. The endowment allows the center to build capacity to provide transformational experiences for LMU's students that will inspire them, in the words of President Timothy Law Snyder, Ph.D., to "create the world we want to live in."

Boyle, one of Rector's close friends, described her as someone who not only led but brought people together. He said, "Pam saw wholeness in people. She understood the illusion of separation, which is why she constantly created family and community. She was connective tissue — she joined us together."

Your gift will be a tribute to the woman who gave Lions the gift of CSA and an endorsement in the future of the Pam Rector Center for Service and Action. Please join us in this effort to honor one of LMU's great community members. Go to [giving.lmu.edu/rector](http://giving.lmu.edu/rector).

CONVERSATION

*When CAMILLE BRYAN '20 graduated, her parents, Louise and John Bryan, established a scholarship at LMU. But, in an unusual twist, they asked their daughter to name the scholarship and define its criteria. Camille named it the Bianca Red Arrow Memorial Scholarship for her late friend and classmate Bianca Red Arrow, who passed away suddenly in her sophomore year in fall 2017. Bryan is a graduate student at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in Monterey, California, and lives in Washington, D.C.*

**When your parents set up the scholarship, they allowed you to define its criteria. Did that surprise you?**

I didn't know what went into defining a scholarship, but I wasn't surprised. My parents have always talked to me about the necessity of giving back to the places, the foundations, groups and people that have built you, loved you and helped you grow. This is the first very large step in doing so.

**Why did you name it for Bianca Red Arrow?**

We bonded over being new freshman together in the fall of 2016, a politically volatile time for the country. Bianca was the embodiment of adventure, joy, light and love. She made a lasting impact on my college and life experience. As much as I'd like the scholarship to be named the Camille Bryan Scholarship for International Relations, there wasn't any part of me that was not going to name it for Bianca.

**How did you decide on the criteria that a recipient must meet to receive the scholarship?**

I felt this scholarship should be a merit scholarship in the International Relations program, because that's what I majored in. Because the scholarship is named after a friend who died, I didn't want it to go to someone who didn't need it or deserve it. The scholarship will always go to someone who is smart, works hard and wants to change the world — someone like Bianca.

**Someone may say that a student interested in international politics should attend a university in Washington, D.C., or New York, where most of the players are located. Did you feel geographically limited by studying international politics on the West Coast?**

Even though L.A. is not known as a federal government hub, people are deeply invested in the issues. Los Angeles is one of the greatest cities in the world, and when I found that LMU had just started an International Relations program I felt it was the perfect place.

**Were there any professors in particular who were mentors to you?**

Tom Plate, who is the Distinguished Scholar of Asian and Pacific Studies in the LMU Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, is one. I interned for him with the Asia Media International magazine and took a couple of his classes. We read "On China," by Henry Kissinger, which is a book I still have and impacted my political thought greatly. Professor Plate wrote my letter of recommendation to get into grad school. Also Jodi Finkel, professor of international relations and political science in BCLA, was influential. She taught my Introduction to Comparative Politics class, which was an incredibly difficult class. She also taught my senior seminar class, Comparative Human Rights. They are totally different, but they shaped my political education like nothing else did.

**What do you hope the scholarship will achieve or bring about?**

First, the cost of higher education is increasing, but cost shouldn't be a barrier to going to a good university and achieving success. People need money to go to college, and if I can support that in any way I'd love to. Second, I'd like to support the International Relations program and increase the number of wildly intelligent students who will make it even better. Third, I was blessed to attend LMU on a merit scholarship. When you get a merit scholarship, you have to write a letter to the donor telling them how the scholarship changed you. I remember writing those letters. I look forward to reading that letter and seeing the impact of this scholarship, and to meeting the recipient and explaining who Bianca is and what she did for her family, her friends and LMU.



## Guarding the Guardians

With the U.S. onset of the COVID-19 crisis in early 2020, students who entered college while homeless or who had been in foster care were especially threatened. At LMU, some at-risk students had lost jobs, had no home to return to, or suddenly faced food insecurity.

In 2013, LMU established the Guardian Scholars Program, a project of the Division of Student Affairs, to support current and former foster youths, emancipated minors, and homeless and independent students. The program focuses on post-graduate success planning, career preparation, leadership development and co-curricular engagement. But needs changed during the pandemic: How was a student with no home base, for example, to continue her or his studies, online or not?

"The Guardian Scholars Program stepped in to help students who needed to stay on campus and made funds available to help pay for groceries, school supplies and improving its students' study environment," says Gabriela Arana, assistant director of Student Success.

This past spring, the LMU University Advancement division launched Boundless, a crowd-funding campaign for several programs, including the Guardian Scholars. The effort netted more than \$50,000, with the Guardian Scholars accounting for more than \$18,000 of the total. The campaign complemented foundation gifts. The Angell Foundation, a supporter since 2013, and the Mark Hughes Foundation also gave lead gifts to the project just as the impact of the pandemic was becoming clear.

"GSP has helped in so many ways and not only showed me that there are other students in the same boat, but that there are people looking out for me," Lucille Njoo '21 says.

# Harmonizing

SHE WAS WEARING her purple Abercrombie & Fitch tee.

He had on puka shells — it was a phase — and that red and white short-sleeved collared shirt.

They were both music minors. She, a freshman just in from Reading, two hours up past Sacramento. He, a junior, from Nebraska and Minnesota and mostly Claremont.

She had been hurt before, in high school. She wasn't looking for a relationship. He wasn't interested in casual dating. He walked up to her after class, fidgeting, so nervous and friendly.

Growing up, she listens to everything: musicals, country, boy bands, '80s music. When she drives north to visit home, he makes her CDs. When they're back in her dorm room alone, they play them and dance. She saves all the playlists.

And look, if you think you know where this story is heading next, and that direction is toward Barbra Streisand, then take a bow.

If you don't know who Barbra Streisand is, or don't know her music, then go watch some clips. It's cool, our protagonists can wait. They are slowly, happily getting to know each other. After Consort Singers class, Tuesdays and Thursdays, they talk. During full choir, on Thursdays nights, they position themselves so they can sneak looks at each other.

And they ride the bus together to and from Staples Center, for rehearsals, because this is September 2000, and Streisand is throwing herself a farewell tour. The LMU Concert Choir joins Babs for three songs. One is titled, "On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever)":

*You'll feel part of  
Every mountain, sea, and shore  
You can hear from far and near  
A world you've never, never heard before*

He writes and sings pop songs, too. Starts a band with friends. They play for three years. Before he meets her, his songs are full of longing; after, relief.

Sure, they have a couple of rough patches. They break up for a while. She has a health scare. He graduates and moves back home, a little lost. His dad hears about PLACE Corps — you get a teaching credential and a master's in education, then go teach where the archdiocese needs you.

He enrolls, moves back near campus. He would take a warehouse job to be near her, but teaching turns into a calling. She becomes general manager at a chain of spas. Both of them glow, though, from that light within.

Nine years in, he proposes. Her father officiates. Music means so much to them. His brother sings "Out to See." Her sisters sing new lyrics to a Coldplay song. Her father sings "You Can Close Your Eyes," the James Taylor number he sang when he proposed to her. Later, she sings it to their babies.

Twenty-one years later, they are still together. Finishing each other's sentences. Laughing throughout a long interview. Gazing at each other. Two great kids, 5 and 7 years old. The house in Hawthorne, after years of living even closer to the bluff.

He sits down, takes out the acoustic. Debuts an original. A little Ben Harper, a little Jack Johnson — remember the puka shells — a little Beach Boys. He sings it again during this interview. She puts her arm on his, gently.

*So here we are / at the start of a life we'll live together //  
And with compromise / we will thrive regardless of the weather //  
Is this where you tell me you're scared? / well I'm not, we're a lock, and I've never felt*



*better prepared //  
Plus, my luck is known to all the world /  
my luck at meeting such a girl //  
Tho nothing's perfect / some things are  
worth it //  
And I can't wait to get started //  
No I can't wait //  
No I can't wait.*

At the wedding, hearing this for the first time, she's crying. Who isn't crying?

Today they make up songs with the kids. The youngest is like mom — amazing voice, shy about performing. The eldest is more like dad — happy in a spotlight. One of the kids comes into frame, dressed for ballet class. Life is good. It's time to go.

Here's to Alyssa Jahnke '04 and Chris Jahnke '02, M.A. '05. A duet, in perfect harmony. —Jeremy Rosenberg

**Jeremy Rosenberg** is the author of "Under Spring, Voices + Art + Los Angeles," which received the first California Historical Society Book Award. He has written for the Los Angeles Times, OC Weekly, KCE.T.org and elsewhere. Follow Rosenberg @LosJeremy.

## DISPATCHES

**1968**  
**Trish (Johnson) Evans** [LibArts] published her first novel this past October. "Katy's Ghost" is about a former teacher, haunted by a phantom, who learns to move beyond fear and toward acceptance.

**1969**  
**Amata C. Radewagen** [LibArts], delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives representing American Samoa, was named to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in January 2020.

**1977**  
**Debra B. Davenport** [CFA, GradCFA '81] was elected to the board of directors of the Phoenix Conservatory of Music in Phoenix. She is currently the CEO of Brand Urbanity and the Davenport Institute LLC, with offices in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Los Angeles.

**1979**  
**Annette (Radaich) Walker** [SciEng] is president of City of Hope Orange County, a cancer research and treatment center in Newport Beach, California.

**1980**  
**Chemin Bernard** [SFTV] was awarded Emeritus Member Status by the Casting Society of America in September 2020 for her "remarkable contributions to the organization, the profession, and the art of casting." She gave Jada Pinkett Smith her first lead role on "Moe's World" and casted Terrence Howard in "Tall Hopes."

**Al Quattrocchi** [CFA], principal and creative director of Tornado Creative, wrote "The Corbina Diaries," a book about sight fishing for corbina in Southern California's shallow surf waters. In 2017, he was awarded the Ross Allen Marigold Complete

Angler Award by the Pasadena Fly Casting Club.

**1981**  
**Scott Stanley** [SciEng, GradSciEng '84] was named to the National Science Board, the governing body of the National Science Foundation. He was appointed by President Donald Trump. Stanley is vice president of technology of Techno Planet, an aerospace company.

**1983**  
**Roger Memos** [GradSFTV] directed and co-produced his first documentary, "Marsha Hunt's Sweet Adversity," a 10-year project. An actor who was blacklisted in the 1950s, Hunt went on to work for humanitarian causes during the next five decades.

**1984**  
**Lynell George** [LibArts], author of "A Handful of Earth, A Handful of Sky: The World of Octavia E. Butler," received the Distinguished Journalist Award from the Los Angeles chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists on Dec. 2, 2020.

**1985**  
**Sam Lagana** [LibArts], who has been the "Voice of the Rams" as the public address announcer for the Los Angeles Rams professional football team, will take the post of president of Sherman Oaks Notre Dame High School in July 2021. Lagana has been associate vice chancellor at Pepperdine University since 1992.

**Kim O'Neill** [SciEng] took the post of assistant dean of Kutztown University's College of Business in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, in August 2019.

**1986**  
**Angela Clarke-Louque** [GradEd], who

is a professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Technology at California State University, San Bernardino, gave a speech at the May 2020 Riverside County Office of Education's Parent Engagement Virtual Summit.

**1987**  
**Denise Contis** [LibArts] was named EVP and Head of Content for Primetime at CNBC in September 2019.

**1989**  
**Lorcan Barnes** [LibArts] purchased Lester Consulting Group, which provides management and fundraising counsel to nonprofits, after working for 24 years as president of Catholic high schools in Dayton, Ohio, and Sacramento. He and his wife, Patti, who have lived in Sacramento since 2004, have three grown sons: Jimmy, 26, Jack, 23 and Pat, 21.

**Thomas Delaney** [LibArts, LLS '92] was elected president of the California Judge Association, effective September 2020. Delaney is currently the association's vice president and chair of the judicial outreach committee.

**1989**  
**Don Hagedorn** [LibArts] self-published his first novel through Amazon in August. "Ellie Says It's Safe! A Guide Dog's Journey Through Life" follows a guide dog puppy from birth to a match with a recent college graduate. Their continuing life story illustrates how lives of visually impaired people are improved through the love and courage of guide dogs.

**1989**  
**Heather Buchta** [CFA] has written a young adult novel called "Beyond the Break," which was published by Penguin Teen, imprint of Penguin Random House.

**1990**  
**Matthew Airey** [GradBusAdm], who has worked in technology, finance and consulting, published a book in August titled "Steadfast

**1993**  
**Maria Lourdes (Lou) Calanche** [LibArts] was named to the five-member L.A. Police Commission by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti in August 2020.

**1997**  
**Louis Bronstein** [LibArts] is assistant director of Federal Government Relations for the University of California, Irvine. Before joining UCI, he was a policy advisor to former Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell [SciEng '64] and the manager of Government Relations for John Wayne Airport.

Awareness: Reflections and Life's Takeaways."

**1992**  
**Christiana Daisy** [SciEng, GradBusAdm '03] was appointed as Executive Manager of Engineering/Assistant General Manager at Inland Empire Utilities Agency, which is headquartered in Chico, California, in October 2019.

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**Shonda Buchanan** [LibArts, GradLibArts '03], literary editor for the Harriet Tubman Press, wrote "Black Indian," a memoir of her family's African American heritage and American Indian roots. The book was published in 2019 by Wayne State University Press.

**2001**  
**Candice Kelsey** [GradLibArts] is a writer whose first book of poetry, "Still I Am Pushing," was published in March 2020 by Finishing Line Press. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and three children.

**2001**  
**Christian Ehlers** [LibArts, LLS '01] was named a Red Cross Neil Allgood Award winner by the Los Angeles Region American Red Cross in June 2020.

**2001**  
**Lisa Donohue** [GradBusAdm], chief marketing officer of CycleBar, an indoor cycling franchise fitness company, was interviewed in Authority Magazine in August 2020 about her ideas about leadership and her career path in the fitness industry.

Angelino's" in July 2020 (Post Hill Press). The book is influenced by her career as a publicist and her personal escapades around the world.

**1999**  
**Tamara LaSeon Bass** [CFA] is writer, star and co-director of a new film released in January 2021 called "If Not Now, When?" Among other projects, she was writer, director and executive producer in 2015 for several episodes of "All That Matters."

**D.J. Mitchell** [LibArts] published his first non-fiction book, "The Soul of an Addict: Unlocking the Complex Nature of Addiction." The book is written for nonaddicts who want to better understand addiction. Mitchell's LMU degree was in theological studies, and he analyzes addiction in terms of its similarity to religion in the life of the addict.

**2000**  
**Father Roland Berngel** [GradEd], who was born in Cameroon, was named parochial vicar in January 2021 of 10 churches in the Diocese of Portland, in Maine.

**2001**  
**Maximilien Fetaz** [BusAdm] was named a shareholder in the Las Vegas office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. He practices in the firm's litigation department and represents clients in state and federal courts.

**2001**  
**Annalisa (Gross) Schwartz** [LibArts, GradEd '09] took the post of principal of Paularino Elementary School in Costa Mesa, California, in July 2020.

**2001**  
**Allison (Nassour) Leanos** [BusAdm, GradBusAdm '09] began

a new job in November 2020 as manager of social media for the City of Hope, in Duarte, California.

**2003**  
**Jacob Padrón** [CFA] was named to the advisory council of the New England Foundation for the Arts in December 2019. He is the founder and artistic director of The Sol Project, which produces the work of Latinx playwrights.

**2004**  
**W. Jameson McFadden** [LibArts], president of Wellington Shields & Co., was elected to the Flowers Foods Inc. board of directors, a post that took effect Jan. 4, 2021.

**2005**  
**Bishop Moses Chikwe** [GradEd], auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Owerri in southeastern Nigeria, was released unharmed, along with his driver, five days after he was kidnapped on Dec. 27, 2020. Chikwe spent 15 years in Southern California while studying for a master's degree at LMU and a doctorate in education, working at parishes in San Diego and Los Angeles.

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**2008**  
**Megan (Cardwell) Godfrey** [GradEd] won re-election to the Arkansas House of Representatives in November 2020. She was first elected in 2018. She is an educator who has taught English as a second language to students.

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# LOVE'S LOSS



*For many months, we have confronted grief and tragedy that no one imagined just two years ago. In Memoriam is a regular feature of this magazine, but with this edition we know that some members of the LMU alumni community, including some whose names appear on the opposite page, passed away because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We asked Eddie Siebert, S.J., rector of the LMU Jesuit community, to offer an Ignatian reflection on the unprecedented crisis we have been experiencing. —The Editor*

THIS PAST SPRING our country passed a terrible milestone: 500,000 dead from the coronavirus. How do we make sense of this staggering number? Consider this: More Americans died as a result of the pandemic in a single year than were killed in all of World War II. The loss is catastrophic. Even now, with help on the way, systemic injustices — intentional or not — guarantee that the wealthy and connected have easier access to the vaccine than the more disadvantaged. Faced with such devastation and inequity, I keep coming back to Tolstoy’s haunting question: “What then must we do?” To honor the dead, it is right and proper that first we grieve. The Lamentations and Psalms in the Old Testament can help us voice our communal anger and sense of brokenness. As children of the risen Lord, we must work for justice and equity and build Christ’s kingdom from the rubble of tragedy. But how? As followers of Ignatius, we know it’s essential to discern before we act: listening to the movement of the Spirit in our hearts, looking to the greater good. Only then will we know that our response comes from God. —Eddie Siebert, S.J.

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Henry Lopez</b> [LibArts '43] on Jan. 24, 2021                 | <b>Robert Flaherty</b> [BusAdm '55] on Oct. 10, 2020              | <b>Leslie Wiggins Jr.</b> [LibArts '66] on Nov. 3, 2019                 | <b>Jacquelin (Keane) Fernandez</b> [BusAdm '79] on Aug. 19, 2020 |
| <b>George Carroll, S.J.</b> [LibArts '44] on Oct. 23, 2020        | <b>Joseph Montagna</b> [SciEng '56] on Aug. 6, 2019               | <b>Henry Johnson</b> [SciEng '67] on Dec. 12, 2019                      | <b>Louis Libbey</b> [LibArts '79] on Jan. 25, 2020               |
| <b>George Jennison</b> [LibArts '44] on Nov. 8, 2020              | <b>John Sims</b> [LibArts '56] on May 10, 2020                    | <b>Nestor Kusnierz</b> [SciEng '67] on June 26, 2019                    | <b>Timothy Foxworthy</b> [LibArts '81] on Dec. 29, 2019          |
| <b>Vincent Migliazzo</b> [SciEng '48] on Jan. 6, 2020             | <b>Robert Press</b> [BusAdm '57] on May 10, 2020                  | <b>John Rodriguez</b> [LibArts '67] on April 30, 2020                   | <b>George Montgomery III</b> [LibArts '81] on Dec. 14, 2020      |
| <b>Charles Hovorka</b> [LibArts '49] on Aug. 17, 2020             | <b>John Erlinger</b> [SciEng '58] on Jan. 29, 2021                | <b>Frank Sabatasso</b> [LibArts '67] on Aug. 29, 2020                   | <b>Tomas Guerra</b> [SciEng '82] on Feb. 5, 2021                 |
| <b>Raymond Appel</b> [LibArts '50] on Sept. 23, 2019              | <b>Robert Kerslake</b> [BusAdm '58] on March 9, 2021              | <b>Timothy Johnson</b> [BusAdm '70] on Feb. 9, 2021                     | <b>Brandon MacAller</b> [LibArts '83] on July 16, 2020           |
| <b>Henry Goodman</b> [LibArts '50] on March 13, 2020              | <b>Jerry Mook</b> [BusAdm '58] on Dec. 18, 2020                   | <b>Gretchen Short</b> [LibArts '70] on Aug. 20, 2020                    | <b>Timothy Hock</b> [LibArts '84] on March 3, 2021               |
| <b>Robert Denni</b> [LibArts '51] on Dec. 24, 2019                | <b>Michael Ricci</b> [LibArts '59] on Jan. 10, 2021               | <b>Walter Hogan Jr.</b> [LibArts '71, LLS '75] on June 30, 2020         | <b>Kerry Hamilton</b> [LibArts '90] on Dec. 26, 2020             |
| <b>Garth Hintz</b> [LibArts '51] on Dec. 17, 2019                 | <b>Peter Sullivan</b> [LibArts '59, LLS '67] on Jan. 31, 2021     | <b>Michael McClain</b> [LibArts '71] on Jan. 9, 2021                    | <b>J.D. Murray</b> [CFA '94] on Dec. 28, 2020                    |
| <b>Otto Klingler</b> [SciEng '51] on Jan. 20, 2021                | <b>John Grundhofer</b> [LibArts '60] on Jan. 24, 2021             | <b>Robert Gentner</b> [SciEng '73] on Aug. 17, 2020                     | <b>Christopher Burns</b> [LibArts '73] on Aug. 17, 2020          |
| <b>Lawrence Vanni</b> [LibArts '51, LLS '59] on Feb. 2, 2021      | <b>Jerome Dimaggio</b> [LibArts '61] on Oct. 12, 2020             | <b>John Quinn</b> [SciEng '73, GradSciEng '75] on May 25, 2020          | <b>Silvester Kainga</b> [LibArts '99] on March 7, 2020           |
| <b>Richard Johnston</b> [SciEng '52, GradEd '56] on Jan. 16, 2021 | <b>H. Guido Meindl</b> [LibArts '61] on Dec. 28, 2019             | <b>Andrew Rivera</b> [CFA '73] on May 3, 2020                           | <b>Charles Hattendorf</b> [BusAdm '01] on Dec. 29, 2019          |
| <b>Victor Chavez</b> [LibArts '53, LLS '59] on Oct. 30, 2020      | <b>Robert Buechler</b> [SciEng '62] on Sept. 29, 2019             | <b>Theresa (Shannon) Nagrone</b> [CFA '75] on Nov. 23, 2019             | <b>Claudio Basaez</b> [LibArts '04] on Nov. 23, 2019             |
| <b>Richard Kerns</b> [BusAdm '53] on Dec. 15, 2020                | <b>Kathleen Hegener</b> [BusAdm '62] on May 27, 2020              | <b>Kurt Teubner</b> [LibArts '75] on Oct. 13, 2019                      | <b>Karen (Kolb) Cermak</b> [LibArts '06] on July 17, 2020        |
| <b>Thomas Burr</b> [LibArts '54] on March 6, 2021                 | <b>Martin Merlo Jr.</b> [SciEng '62] on Aug. 19, 2020             | <b>Kim Dahmen</b> [CFA '76] on Feb. 16, 2020                            | <b>Lauren Carey</b> [CFA '11] on Oct. 13, 2019                   |
| <b>Alfred Ingram Jr.</b> [LibArts '54] on Dec. 20, 2019           | <b>John Dalton</b> [SciEng '63] on Aug. 9, 2020                   | <b>Clare (Collins) Marquardt</b> [GradEd '76] on Jan. 17, 2020          | <b>Kerry Welsh</b> [SciEng '23] on May 29, 2021                  |
| <b>Timothy Lefevre</b> [SciEng '54] on Oct. 26, 2019              | <b>Elaine (Bailey) Malouf</b> [LibArts '63] on Jan. 13, 2021      | <b>Donald Alvarado</b> [LibArts '77] on Sept. 5, 2020                   |  |
| <b>Guy Wilson</b> [BusAdm '54] on April 16, 2020                  | <b>J. Michael Welch</b> [LibArts '64] on Nov. 2, 2020             | <b>Pam Rector</b> [LibArts '77, GradEd '79, GradEd '82] on Feb. 5, 2020 |  |
|   | <b>William Winter</b> [BusAdm '64] on Dec. 5, 2019                |   |  |
|   | <b>James Thompson</b> [LibArts '66, GradCFA '68] on Dec. 19, 2019 |   |  |

# THE BONES OF St. Peter



of relics can strain even the most pious person's willingness to accept the authenticity of them all.

Years ago, when I was teaching at Fordham, in order to demonstrate to the students that idea of a "Catholic imagination," I asked the archivist of the New York Province of the Society of Jesus if we could borrow a selection of their relics. He didn't disappoint, lending us a chunk of the table from the Last Supper and the bones of various saints — one of them an entire femur. "But is any of this true?" more than one student asked. "Maybe, maybe not," I answered, "but what difference does it make if it helps you find holiness in your world and your life?" (I didn't tell them that I almost laughed out loud when I puzzled through the Latin text attached to one item and realized it was "a fragment of the wedding veil of Mary the Mother of God.")

So, it was with excitement but also a fair amount of skepticism when, in Rome in 2016, I got a chance to go on a Scavi Tour, a trip deep under the altar of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to see the purported tomb of St. Peter, chosen by Christ to lead the disciples and the nascent church. While the site has been identified with Peter's crucifixion and burial for almost two millennia, only in the 20th century did serious archeological work begin under the basilica.

The cynic in me knew that the conclusion of the tour was going to be "Voila! There he is!" Romans know their audience. But what if, what if?

The first thing I realized is that archeologists in the 1940s must have been very short and very skinny. (I am neither.) The tunnels are narrow and cramped, and the humidity is artificially kept high to preserve artifacts. A second realization is that archeology is a painstaking, laborious, often frustrating endeavor, because everything you discover leads to 10 other discoveries. When archeologists dug into the first-century room where Peter was supposed to be buried, they found an entire mausoleum.

But they found something else off to the side, too. A niche in the wall with a body inside. It had been wrapped in expensive purple cloth, a sign of status and reverence in ancient Rome. Depending on whom you ask, the bones from the feet and hands were missing, an indication of crucifixion (the Romans, civilized gentlemen, crucified Peter upside down, for kicks).

On the Scavi Tour, you peek down from above, and you don't see much. But then there it is, a little niche in the wall, with some Greek writing from the first century nearby.

"Here is Peter."

Is it him? Maybe, maybe not. Our return up was by a different way, and when we reached the surface, it was inside St. Peter's Basilica, packed to the gills with pilgrims and tourists and Mass-goers and every other creature in God's great zoo.

And the cynical old journalist in me thought, what the hell, why not? "Peter is here."

James T. Keane '96 is a senior editor at America magazine and previously was an editor at Orbis Books. Keane's writing has appeared in Philadelphia Weekly, U.S. Catholic, Busted Halo and elsewhere.

**AS THE ITALIANS SAY, "SE NON E VERO, E BEN TROVATO!"**

THE MOST REVERED RELIC in the Church of San Silvestro in Capite in Rome is the head of John the Baptist, who, according to all four gospels, was beheaded by King Herod. Awkwardly, the most revered relic in Amiens Cathedral in France is ... the head of John the Baptist. There is an old tale that an Italian tour guide, when confronted by this impossibility, said: "They have the head of John the Baptist as a baby. Ours is his head as an adult."

The story is probably apocryphal, but as the Italians say, "*se non è vero, è ben trovato!*" (Rough translation: "Even if it's not true, it should be.") But it gets to the heart of a contradiction in the way we treat relics. On the one hand, they are an important part of Catholic faith, both as connections to our past saints and because of the sacramental imagination that is so central to Catholicism — the idea that the holy can be experienced here on earth in physical and spiritual ways. On the other hand, the sheer proliferation and redundancy

## Lens RFK's Final Journey

In June 1968, Robert F. Kennedy's body was taken by train from New York to Arlington National Cemetery, outside Washington, D.C., for burial. Look magazine photographer Paul Fusco documented the one-day journey. As a photographer, I'm struck by how Fusco's images capture the hope and grief of Americans.

— Jon Rou, LMU Magazine photographer



ILLUSTRATION BY GERARD DUBOIS