

FALL 2009

SANTA CLARA

FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

Do right
by the river

It's about adventure and environmental justice. And, for the clients of Patrick McVeigh '78, a 30 percent return on investment.

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Emory Magazine.**Thomas Plante** (AfterWords) is a professor of
psychology at SCU.**Sam Scott '96** ("Its own reward," "Pro kicks for a new
generation of Broncos") is an award-winning journalist
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assistant professor of political science at SCU. His
most recent interview for *SCM* was with Leon Panetta
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FROM THE EDITOR

Rivers we have known

It was the poet Gary Snyder whom I first heard try to answer the question "Where are we?" by speaking not in terms of towns or regions but rivers. We were in the Czech Republic, in the city of Brno, near the banks of the Svatka and the Svitava (not far from a dig where paleontologists recently unearthed a pit that appears to have been used by prehistoric chefs for barbecuing mammoths), tributaries to the Dyje that flows into the Morava that defines the border between Czechs and Slovaks and Austrians and flows into the more-brown-than-blue-Danube, which waltzes its way south to the Black Sea.

An interesting thing happens when you begin to speak in terms of rivers and their tributaries bubbling up from springs in the highlands—this liquid geography overflowing with metaphor and flowing down over millennia: We find connections thousands of miles upstream, with moments of stillness and thunderous roaring waterfalls and mile-wide deltas to come.

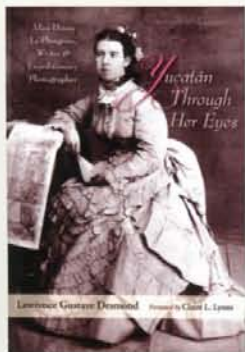
Wrapped around the cover of this issue of *SCM* is the Colorado River, majestic sculptor of one of the world's natural wonders, the Grand Canyon, offering lessons in beauty and wonder and humility in the face of creation. It's a river I have known in a few ways: from weeks in the Anza-Borrego Desert and the mistake of a saline lake there, the Salton Sea; and from years in balmy San Diego, whose thirst is quenched by that river, too, thanks to a brokered arrangement between states, since the river demarcates where Nevada and then California end and Arizona begins, before the river flows, much diminished, into Mexico and toward but no longer into the Gulf of California.

The first waterway I knew—*really* knew, intimately, washing through me and over me and tugging me downstream in an icy brown torrent of February ice melt—is a nameless brook on the fringes of Chicagoland. That rivulet flows into Grassy Lake, part of the Flint Creek Watershed, which pours into the Fox River, which flows into the Illinois River, a tributary of the mighty Mississippi on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. That nameless brook nearly killed me. Age 5: I stood on the slushy bank with my buddy Mike Maurer, the two of us hefting found tree limbs and lowering them into the water to test its depth. My stick lost its perch on the bottom, and I went in. Drifted downstream, around a bend. Caught hold of a root. Hoisted myself out with Mike's help. Stood shivering in the twilight, glad to be alive, and if not quite understanding how close I'd come to death, then at least grasping a thread of how close I had come to something terribly irrevocable.

I have known other rivers since then but none quite like that. And learned a little respect for the waters that have filled our glasses and slaked the thirst of crops, carried our commerce and swallowed our sludge, served as spawning grounds for salmon and trout, shimmered and caught fire. These sparkling arteries that were flowing tens of thousands of years before we built condominiums and zócalos and Jet Skis and post offices and dry cleaners. That will, if we care enough to make it so, still be flowing years hence when the Jet Skis have been replaced by personal jet packs powered by static electricity.

Keep the faith,

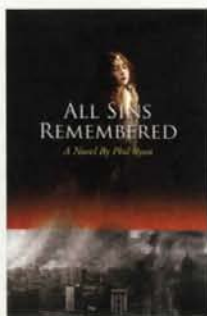

STEVEN BOYD SAUM
Managing Editor



When Alice Dixon wed archaeologist Augustus Le Plongeon in the late 19th century, it meant leaving behind the refinements of her London home for a life of exploration: In the Yucatán, the couple was the first to excavate the Mayan sites of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal. Dixon's story is told in *Yucatán Through Her Eyes* (University of New Mexico Press, 2009), by noted Mesoamerican scholar **Lawrence Gustave Desmond '57**, a research fellow at Harvard University and the California Academy of Sciences. In this biography, Desmond weaves historical narrative with Dixon's photography,

handwritten diaries, and notes, uncovering new insight into the life of one of the founders of Mesoamerican archaeology. **KP**

Phil Ryan '61 entwines a murder trial with the immigrant history of San Francisco in his first novel, *All Sins Remembered* (City Press, 2008). The slaying of a young socialite unearths the city's sometimes sordid and tragic past, including the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906. There's ample Hitchcockian suspense, and veteran mystery writer Max Byrd dubs Ryan's novel a "terrific debut." While Ryan may be new to novel writing, he has almost four decades of experience as a high-profile trial lawyer under his belt. **MG**



Beatitudes for the Workplace



Max Oliva, S.J. '61 has written *Beatitudes for the Workplace* (Novalis, 2009), which outlines how to create a more meaningful workplace environment based on the eight Beatitudes. Oliva, who specializes in spirituality in the workplace, has done research for the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics and is now an affiliate faculty member at Regis University. **André L. Delbecq**, McCarthy University Professor at SCU's Leavey School of Business, lauds Oliva for nudging business leaders

"toward a spiritual depth that increases their capacity to transform one of society's most important institutions." **KP**

Scott T. Pollard '81 and co-editor Kara Keeling lead a delicious scholarly foray in *Critical Approaches to Food in Children's Literature* (Routledge, 2008), the first volume to study the role food plays in children's literature. The collection of essays brings to bear a variety of critical approaches on an international buffet of genres, providing interpretive resources for teachers. On the menu: identity formation in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* and the etiquette of empire, currant buns in *Peter Rabbit*, the feast in *Madame Bovary*, and food, language, and power in *Captain Underpants*. **MG**

Critical Approaches to Food in Children's Literature



Ebrahim Rashidpour M.S. '83 has published a handbook in Farsi for counseling in the Persian-American community: *Reconcile with Life* (Metro Digital, 2008), which collects 82 of his short papers about psychotherapy. **SBS**

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Hear alumni read from their new books at santaclaramagazine.com.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



COURTESY MARGARET BRADSHAW

Margaret "Peggy" Bradshaw '72 was named executive vice president and chief banking officer of Bridge Capital Holdings in May. She oversees the bank's sales and client relationship functions. She is on SCU's Board of Trustees; this summer she was named vice chair of the board. She is also on the Advisory Board of the Bannan Institute for Jesuit Education. She is a past member of

SCU's Board of Regents and past board member and chair of Family and Children Services of Palo Alto.

Vincent Price '79 was appointed provost of the University of Pennsylvania in May. He has been at Penn since 1998 and has served as associate provost for faculty affairs, chair of the faculty senate, and associate dean of the Annenberg School for Communication. Previously he taught at the University of Michigan, where he served as chair and associate professor of communication studies and a faculty associate of the Center for Political Studies. A global expert on public opinion, social influence, and political communication, he is the author of *Public Opinion* (Sage, 1992), which has been published in six languages and is taught in courses around the world, and he is former editor in chief of *Public Opinion Quarterly*.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

ALUMNI ARTS

On screen



COURTESY SCOTT FREEMAN

A human face for AIDS

Scott Freeman '80 served as executive producer for the film *Pedro*, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and aired on MTV in April. The film follows the life of Pedro Zamora, who found out he had HIV at age 17 and died at 22. Zamora became a public figure when, in 1994, he was cast for the television series *The Real World: San Francisco*. President Bill

Pedro: on the big screen

Clinton credited Zamora with helping to bring a human face to the AIDS crisis in the United States. Freeman also serves as executive vice president for current programming at Bunim/Murray Productions, where he has worked for 15 years. **AKG**

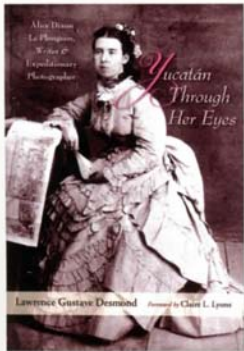
On stage

Did you do your homework?

Kathleen Rubin '82 directed the one-man show "Did You Do Your Homework?" this spring at the Beverly Hills Playhouse. The show ran January to August. It was written and performed by Aaron Braxton and chronicles his experience as a substitute teacher in an urban school in Los Angeles. **AKG**



COURTESY KATHLEEN RUBIN



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