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Alumni notes

CMCAA President's Message

Every year the Claremont McKenna College Alumni Association sponsors a Senior Class Dinner to welcome graduating seniors into the Alumni Association. It is an event full of revelry, humor, and, of late, CMC Jeopardy! Being surrounded by so many smart, dedicated, and industrious soon-to-be alumni is invigorating. It is far better than a motivational seminar and costs a lot less, demonstrating yet another benefit of volunteering for CMC. On behalf of all CMC alumni, congratulations to the Class of 2009 and welcome to the Alumni Association.



To the families of these graduates, "Thank you!" Thank you for entrusting CMC with one of your most cherished persons and for supporting the College. Your involvement strengthens the CMC Community. I hope that your relationship with the College does not end at graduation but continues over the years to come. Via the Parent Network, you have a standing invitation to all alumni events.

CMC's commencement is quickly followed by the annual CMCAA Honors and Awards Dinner. Each year the Association recognizes amazing individuals who have given much to the world and CMC. This year's recipients are Ray Remy '59, George C.S. Benson Distinguished Achievement Award; Marc Massoud P'89, Jack L. Stark Distinguished Service Award; Captain Jack Goddard '50, Eugene L. Wolver Jr. '51 Lifetime Service Award; and two new Honorary Alumni: Bonnie Snortum, director of the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum, and David Edwards, manager of the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum. These individuals have given much to make CMC the place it is today.

When not celebrating the success of graduates or contributions of award recipients, the Association continues to provide programming for the alumni community. Chapter events with a focus on networking have become quite popular and a series of smaller gatherings have been organized recently around that very topic. The Association is looking forward to a weekend of relaxation and conversation in Beaver Creek, Colo., at the first-ever Alumni Athenaeum. Finally, at the end of summer, a series of New Student Parties will welcome future alumni to CMC.

To ensure you are invited to participate in the CMCAA programs, please be sure the Association has your updated contact information, especially your e-mail address. Visit www.cmcaa.org to access your profile information or find resources for alumni.

Crescit cum commercio civitas,

Ryder Todd Smith '96

rydertoddsmith@hotmail.com

P.S. – My thanks to the many alumni who offered their opinion on my choice to fix my 2000 Accord versus upgrade to a new BMW 3-Series. Apparently cars provoke strong opinions within our alumni community.

Past Power Networking Events

March 4 Irvine

Ryder Smith '96,
Jessica O' Hare '00, and
Kyle Theodore '91

April 1 Irvine

Ryder Smith '96,
Jessica O' Hare '00, and
Kyle Theodore '91

April 22 Los Angeles

Tiffany Williams '05 and
Brittany Ruiz '08

May 5 Irvine

Ryder Smith '96,
Jessica O' Hare '00, and
Kyle Theodore '91

June 3 Encino

Polina Friedland Bernstein '98

June 4 Irvine

Ryder Smith '96, Nicole
(Tripepi) Smith '96, and
Kyle Theodore '91

June 10 Los Angeles

Tiffany Williams '05 and
Brittany Ruiz '08

June 10 New York

Sue (Matteson) King '85

June 24 Mountain View

Mike Kimball '81 P'10

June 25 Santa Monica

Katie Hall '05 and
Amy Nelson '05

Power Play

New CMCAA networking events address economic downturn with conversation and connections

At a Corner Bakery in Irvine, early in the morning, a handful of CMC alumni sat around a table and promptly pulled out their business cards. They introduced themselves and their professions and got straight to it: finely tuned networking, bold and stripped of irrelevant chitchat. Over cups of coffee and breakfast platters, SVPs shared corporate details, a COO and CFO traded connections, and a CEO offered advice to an intently listening graduate student—who hoped one day also to be identified by an acronym. This was power networking: a purposeful social gathering with a forthright business edge.



Alumni gathered for an hour of conversation, networking, and breakfast in Los Angeles.

The idea behind this breakfast, a blend of a chapter event and speed dating, came to CMCAA

President Ryder Smith '96 and CMCAA Chapters Chair Jessica O'Hare '00 when they realized that the slow economy had driven alumni to CMCAA events in larger numbers. Not wanting to ignore so great an opportunity, they addressed the change in a tactful and timely manner. "We had macroeconomic pressure to act quickly," says Smith, "and recognize that alumni have a heightened interest in expanding their professional relationships."

Building on the inaugural breakfast, networking events have continued to spring up around Southern California and are beginning to spread across the country. To find or plan an event in your neighborhood, please contact James Lippincott, associate director of alumni relations, at james.lippincott@cmc.edu. "These Power Networking events are starting to catch on nationally," says Lippincott. "Because general interest is so high, we've seen much success."

For more information and a complete list of upcoming events, please visit www.cmc.edu/alumni/events. —Peter Jung '10

Brian Davidson '08 reconnects with classmates.



Brunch Bunch

Class of 2008 reunites for a champagne fete at Collins

Recent CMC graduates do some fascinating things, from being educators overseas to laborers in corporate offices, and have much to share about their first year away from the College. At a time when both undergrad memories and career experiences are fresh, the one-year reunion brunch, hosted by CMCAA and held in conjunction with commencement, is a perfect outlet for newly minted alumni to exchange strategies of beating the nine to five grind or to show off a new language learned from teaching abroad. This year the Class of 2008 gathered in the Green Room of Collins Dining Hall before cheering alongside the friends and families of the Class of 2009 as its members crossed the divide between college life and the real world.



Collette Hooper '08 lends a hand with nametags.



Angie Pfeiffer (left), assistant director of alumni relations, staffs the check-in table.

Parent Network Board

The Parent Network Board approved the slate of officers for 2009-10 as recommended and presented by the nominating committee. The new board represents 19 returning and 22 new members. Judge John Doyle P'11 P'13 will serve as the Parent Network president.



Doyle is an alumnus of Harvard University and the Hastings College of the Law, and a former U.S. Navy officer. A former assistant United States attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (Los Angeles), he was appointed to the Municipal Court by Gov. Pete Wilson in April 1996 and became a Superior Court judge when the Municipal Court and the Superior Court were unified in 2000. He currently sits in the Glendale Branch Court. Doyle's wife, Carol Chase, is a professor of law at Pepperdine Law School. They have three children: Warren (POM '08), Meredith '11, and Harrison '13.

Under the direction of outgoing Parent Network President Jan Soderstrom P'09, the Parent Network implemented programs including the Ask a Parent initiative, ConnectED notification system for parents, LinkedIn group, regular communications to the parent community, and various on- and off-campus events. Soderstrom will continue on the board as a Northern California representative.

2009 – 2010 Parent Network Board

POSITION	NAME	STUDENT(S) NAME/YEAR
President	John Doyle P'11 P'13	Meredith Doyle '11, Harrison Doyle '13
Vice President, Programs	Alice Hudson P'05 P'12	Clare Hudson '05, Emily Hudson '12
Vice President, Communications	Robin Meyers P'10	Ethan Meyers '10
Co-Vice President, Parents Fund	Linda Meyer P'10 Jill Mullen P'12 *	Matthew Meyer '10 William (Max) Mullen '12
Southwest Regional Representatives	Betty Arkell P'10 Val Davia P'10 Rhonda and Michael Dern P'10*	Elizabeth Arkell '10 Cory Davia '10 Courtney Dern '10
Northwest Regional Representatives	Robert Amkraut P'10 Terri and Jim Hotvedt P'12* Linda and Stan Munro P'12* Suzanne Paulus P'09 P'12* Chris Raftery P'12* Jan Turner P'12*	Mollie Amkraut '10 Maren Hotvedt '12 Mark Munro '12 Benjamin Paulus '09, Clinton Paulus '12 Jillian Raftery '12 Trevor Beltz '12
Midwest Regional Representatives	Ann Desai P'11 and Spencer Desai '87 P'11* Vicki Johnson P'12 and Mark Johnson P'12* Joan Lebow P'12* Linda Meyer P'10 Margo Soule and Thomas Schult P'11* Joy Soll P'12 and Bruce Soll '79 P'12*	Kaitlyn Desai '11 Taylon Johnson '12 Ellen Lebow '12 Matthew Meyer '10 Linden Schult '11 Jason Soll '12
East Regional Representatives	Eileen Cosentino P'11 and Andrew Cosentino P'11 Cynthia Hallenbeck P'12*	Andrew Cosentino '11 Erica Libby '12
California Representatives	Diane Anderson P'11 Leon Corcos P'11 Debbie Goldberger P'12 and Gary Goldberger P'12* Betty Irvine P'10 Jan Soderstrom P'09	Jacquelyn Anderson '11 Samuel Corcos '11 Stephanie Goldberger '12 Melissa Irvine '10 Matt Moore '09
Members at Large	Lynn Bastien P'11 Carol Chase P'11 P'13* John Heffernan P'11 Patricia Otoy P'10 Lila Samia P'10	Samantha (Sam) Bastien '11 Meredith Doyle '11, Harrison Doyle '13 Grant Heffernan '11 Tiffany Otoy '10 Brianna Riggio '10

* indicates new incoming member



Tyler Benner '07, with KiSik Lee, has written *Inside the Archer* (Astra Archery, 2009), a look into high-level competitive archery that details the careful movements involved in shooting with hundreds of photos, diagrams, and exercises. This is the second book written by Lee, who has coached nine Olympic gold medalists. His first book, *Total Archery*, has sold tens of thousands of copies and is available in five different languages. The book is available at www.AstraArchery.com.



That's Entertainment

MARC CAMPUS

P.R., Perseverance, and Personality

Kat Garcia '03, owner-partner, Davis Public Relations

Partner-owner in her own public relations firm at only 27, Kat Garcia '03 attributes her quick rise to leadership to a flair for out-of-the-box thinking. “Early on,” she says, “I realized I really could jump off and do something completely different.” (For example, her economics-accounting major didn't stop her from writing a book of poetry as her thesis.)

Since graduation, she has made swift moves.

“As a graduate going into one of the worst economic years—at the time,” she says, “I took the first job offered to me, but I wasn't there very long.”

Soon after leaving her first post, she took a job with a boutique P.R. firm in Encino, where she developed the skills to take her P.R. abilities even further. Soon she was representing global clientele in the television industry.

Eventually, Garcia took over the work of her former boss, proving that she could step up and take on larger responsibilities. Within three months, clients were raving about her.

She credits Maggie Plunkett, formerly of the CMC Office of Public Affairs and Communications, as a strong source of her leadership lessons. “She was the one person,” says Garcia, “who was able to give me the sort of advice I use even today when hiring my own assistants and interns. I call them little Maggie truisms.”

As a practical public relations guru, Garcia's talents have been recognized by burgeoning 5-College networking groups. Specifically, the Claremont Entertainment Mafia—a group that seeks to connect alumni of all of The Claremont Colleges who are involved in the entertainment industry—reached out to her, asking her to sit on their advisory board.

Where will she be in five years?

“That puts me at 32,” says Garcia. “I still want to be working for myself and I'd like to keep my agency at a boutique size.”

Though she sees a few more clients and staff members in her future, she wants to be comfortable, too. “I'm not out to conquer Hollywood and build an empire. I want to enjoy my life and travel.” – **Lori Kozlowski '00**