



Kasey Ryan (third from left) is a member of the USC Women's Rowing Team that won first place in the NCAA varsity four race this year. Her father, Mike Ryan, was a starting guard on USC's national championship football team in 1972.

Like father, like daughter: A generation apart, both are now NCAA champions

When Kasey Ryan decided to study nursing, there was no question which college she would attend.

Her father—Mike Ryan, starting guard on USC's National Championship football team of 1972—had always dreamed his children would attend his alma mater, USC.

"I was born with a little USC flag in my hand," 22-year-old Kasey said, laughing.

But what her dad never imagined is he would one day be able to compare NCAA championship rings with his daughter. Still, that's what happened in May when Kasey and a four other members of the USC Women's Rowing Team won first place in the NCAA varsity four race—taking the national title from favored East Coast colleges.

"There's a real special bond between Kasey and I," Mike Ryan said. "Not that many people have the opportunity to experience that. A lot of people try, but to be a national champion is a rare event. I was so happy she was able to experience that. And I'm looking forward to getting a picture of us wearing our championship rings together."

Although she's always loved sports, Kasey Ryan didn't set out to join the rowing team. But her broad shoulders and strong 5'11 frame caught the attention of USC rowers and coaches, who convinced her to sign up in her sophomore year.

That decision set her off on a tough quest that peaked at Lake Lanier in Gainesville, Ga., where her teammates helped her achieve—by three seconds—the rare honor of being a daughter-father NCAA championship pair. It was a real team effort that extends from the Health Sciences Campus to the rowing training center in San Pedro.

Not only did she have to complete the rigorous training for the USC Women's Rowing Team; Ryan also had to meet the rigid demands of the USC Department of Nursing Program, which requires a full-time commitment from its students. Nursing school was so demanding, Ryan had to leave the rowing team for her junior year.

"It was kind of sad, but my main commitment is to nursing," Ryan said. But thanks to cooperation between her mentors in the nursing department—Linda Searle Leech and Lynette

Mariman—and USC Women's Rowing Coach George Jenkins, Ryan returned to the team for its "Cinderella" season.

The nursing school helped divide Ryan's semesters so she studied nursing in the fall and took other undergraduate courses in the spring, when she concentrated on rowing. Jenkins gave Ryan a scholarship to help pay the expenses of an extended college stay.

"She's a good kid," Jenkins said. "We were glad we could get her back. Her nursing commitments were tough, but

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See **RYAN**, Page 4

A wild flight to China

For USC team, crisis in the air is prelude to medical marathon

Operation Walk's missions to faraway lands to perform hip and knee replacement surgeries are always hectic, but for USC's Jeri Ward and Martha Desantis, the 13-hour flight to China for the group's most recent mission must have seemed like a medical marathon.

Ward and Desantis were part of an advance team that flew to China on Oct. 25 to prepare Beijing Friendship Hospital for an Operation Walk medical mission. The non-profit organization sends surgical teams around the world to provide treatment to patients with arthritis and other debilitating injuries who do not have access to life-improving care.

For Ward and Desantis, the medical mission began shortly after takeoff.

First, an American tourist fell and knocked herself unconscious. Ward and Desantis sprang into action—taking the emergency out of the hands of unprepared China Eastern Airlines flight attendants.

The flight crew even put the decision on whether to divert the flight to a nearby airport on Ward and Desantis.

Both patient and the USC advance team decided an emergency landing was unnecessary, but Ward kept a close watch on the woman for several hours.

Then, an elderly passenger suffered a massive heart attack in the bathroom. Ward, a former ER nurse, and Desantis, a physician's assistant, performed CPR, but the man was beyond help. He died on the plane. Again, the USC orthopaedic team took charge of the situation—even caring for the deceased passenger's hysterical wife.

"It was an eventful flight," said Ward, patient care coordinator at the USC Center for Arthritis and Joint Implant Surgery. "We didn't sleep a wink with all that going on."

There was little time to rest on the ground. Since Operation Walk missions provide state-of-the-art care not available in the countries they visit,

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Nursing awards dinner to be hosted by star of 'ER'



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

Ellen Crawford plays nurse Lydia Wright on the TV show, "ER."

Actress Ellen Crawford—not Julianna Margulies—is the star from NBC's hit TV series "ER" who will be on hand to honor USC students at the third annual Nursing Scholarship Dinner on Nov. 20.

Crawford portrays ER nurse Lydia Wright on the show. Last week, *HSC Weekly* erroneously reported that Margulies, who plays nurse Carol Hathaway on the series, would attend. In actuality, Crawford will present nursing scholarship awards to students at the banquet.

The Department of Nursing Program, which is hosting the event, would like to thank board member Melvin Witten, president of Witten Consulting International, for bringing Wright as the banquet's honored guest.

The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with USC President Steven Sample and his wife, Kathryn, greeting guests at a social mixer. Dinner, featuring the wines of Ironstone Vineyards, begins at 7:15 p.m.

The banquet will be held at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, 9500 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills. The cost is \$100 per person.

Tickets are available through University Events at (213) 740-1744.

For the victims of violence, VIP program offers refuge and hope

Psychologist Catherine Koverola sits in a non-descript bungalow plunked down in a parking lot near the soon-to-be demolished pediatrics hospital.

As if sharing a secret, Koverola leans in and says, "This is the most exciting place to be on Earth."

The portable building is a primary site for the LAC+USC Violence Intervention Program (VIP), which provides a wide variety of services to victims of family violence and sexual assault.

In contrast to the bland exterior, the inside of the bungalow brims with the bright colors of children's toys, hand-made art and — Koverola insists — hope.

"This is a place of healing," said Koverola, director of mental health and research at the program. She and the other staff members work hard to make that healing happen for hundreds of women and thousands of children each year.

Some clients have been known to come and simply sit in the cheerful waiting room. "We've had women tell us, 'This is the only place I feel safe,'" said Mary Morahan, the program's coordinator of clinical training.

Along with the program's founder Astrid Heger, USC professor of pediatrics and executive director of VIP, Koverola and Morahan oversee much of the day-to-day operations of the center.

In 1984, Heger founded the LAC+USC Center for the Vulnerable Child (CVC), which has earned international recognition for its work with abused and neglected children.

In 1995, the CVC expanded to treat more victims of abuse, including adults and teens who have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault. Today, whenever members of the LAC+USC emergency room staff treat someone who might be a victim of family violence, they can contact VIP. Day or night, program staff and volunteers respond to these calls for help.

"Domestic violence is an issue for as many as 50 percent of women who arrive at an emergency room for treatment," Koverola said. Of these, she estimates that about 12 percent are actually receiving treatment for injuries caused by this abuse. Yet, many women are afraid to say anything. They may receive medical treatment only to return to a dangerous situation and more injuries at home.

To increase physician awareness of the issue, Morahan trains first-year medical students how to recognize signs of abuse.

In addition, the program staff have developed



Mary Morahan (left) and Catherine Koverola display a doll used in play therapy with children recovering from abuse and neglect.

and distributed a reference card to help health care workers identify potential victims. The pocket-sized card carries a stern reminder:

"It is your responsibility to screen all female patients age 14 and older for a history of domestic violence."

Leaving an abusive relationship is not easy, and

space in a shelter and then give them tokens for the bus or a voucher for a taxi to get them there," Morahan said.

Beyond intervening in a crisis, staff members provide continuing mental health care. They also help clients access legal services, deal with the child welfare system and enroll in job training

Domestic violence is an issue for as many as 50 percent of women who arrive at an emergency room for treatment

sometimes practical matters, like no money or no other place to go, make it seem impossible. VIP attempts to remove as many of these roadblocks as they can.

"In order for a woman to leave a violent relationship, she needs much more than simply medical care and mental health services," said Koverola, noting that it takes most abused women an average of seven attempts to finally leave a violent partner.

VIP provides "wrap-around services" to make it easier for clients to escape sometimes life-threatening situations.

"I think of that as us wrapping our arms around them," Morahan said.

Morahan notes that women have turned up at the program's door, terrified, with kids in tow and little else. "If a woman and her kids show up, we give them food, we give them clothes, find them

programs.

Since it opened, the program has grown rapidly. Last year the staff was treating about 30 women and 15 children each month. By June of this year, staff members were seeing 125 women and 90 children per month.

VIP staff has also grown to include six mental health professionals, two psychological interns, eight Master's of Social Work interns and a psychiatry/RN intern. They have also recruited local volunteers to help provide 24-hour coverage.

VIP has begun to offer its services at three local schools, including Murchison Elementary School, El Sereno Middle School and Wilson High School.

They also teach parenting classes and run a number of different support groups for victims.

In the future, VIP plans to build an on-campus shelter for the women and children they serve.

Considering the nature of the work they do, VIP



The staff and interns of the LAC+USC's Violence Intervention Program provide 24-hour response for victims of family violence.

tries to practice a kinder, gentler kind of management. Emotional burn-out is a very real possibility for people working with clients who have been grossly abused.

"Listening to these stories, there's a real potential for staff to become traumatized, what's called vicarious traumatization," Morahan said.

That's why the program has instituted a rule that each worker has a "self-care" plan. The staff plans a fun event once a month and a weekly meeting provides a safe place for staff to talk.

Besides hearing harrowing stories of violence, workers may also feel disheartened when clients return to an abusive relationship, despite the workers' best efforts to help them get out.

Yet, sometimes miracles happen. "We do see transformation," said Koverola, citing the many times when they have seen clients bloom with their help.

Koverola is especially inspired by her work with children at the center. "We feel very committed that [this generation] is where the violence is going to stop," she said.

To find out more about VIP, or to make a donation for the holidays, please call Gina Sinatra at 226-3961.

—Eva Emerson

Swede taste of success for USC neurosurgeon

Michael L. J. Apuzzo, professor of neurological surgery and holder of the Edwin M. Todd-Trent H. Wells, Jr., Professorship in Neurological Surgery, will travel to Stockholm next month to be honored with the prestigious Olivecrona Award. Named after Herbert Olivecrona, one of the fathers of modern neurosurgery, the Olivecrona Award is traditionally presented by the ambassador of the honoree's home country at the Karolinska Institute, home of the Nobel Prize Foundation.

Apuzzo will travel to Sweden Dec. 4, where he will also present the keynote lecture, "Surgery of Masses Affecting the Third Ventricular Chamber." He will expand on the applications of microsurgery

and its role in treating brain lesions. This award puts Apuzzo's name high in the pantheon of USC neurosurgeons who have furthered the frontiers of the discipline in recent decades.

Established in 1976 to laud the neurosurgeon who makes the greatest impact on the discipline worldwide, the list of previous honorees of the Olivecrona award and lectureship reads like a veritable "Who's Who" of international neurosurgery.

What's more, the award isn't made every year — in fact only 18 have been presented in the Olivecrona's 22 year history — which makes Apuzzo's achievement all the more remarkable.

"I feel flattered and humbled by the news," said

Apuzzo. But the news reflects the USC surgeon's burgeoning reputation in the field of deep brain surgery. Apuzzo has previously been honored by the World Health Organization and the World Federation of Neurosurgical Sciences in Madrid, where Queen Sophia of Spain presented him with the Sixto Obrador Medal. Apuzzo has also received the plaudits of the neurosurgery world for his book, "Surgery of the Third Ventricle." The second edition of the book—which came out earlier this year—has made such an impact that it was likely one of the main reasons for Apuzzo's nomination for the award. Apuzzo is also editor of the influential surgical journal *Neurosurgery*.

—Paul Dingsdale

HSC Weekly

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WALK: Three days and 20 surgeries later, USC team returns exhausted, but pleased

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there are always dozens of patients with serious problems lined up for total hip and knee replacements.

Friendship Hospital in Beijing was no exception. Chinese physicians saved their most serious cases for the 24-member Operation Walk team, led by Lawrence Dorr, director of the Center for Arthritis and Joint Implant Surgery at USC University Hospital and an international leader in joint replacement research.

"Their technology seemed about 30 years behind us," Ward said. "But the doctors and nurses were very smart and eager to learn."

In three days of surgery, the Operation Walk team performed 20 total hip and knee replacement surgeries. While Dorr addressed a gathering of Chinese physicians, the Walk's nurses and physical therapists trained their local counterparts in post-surgical care and rehabilitation.

Ward said the Chinese surgeons were



Pictured above is a group photo of the Operation Walk members along with their Chinese hosts and several patients who underwent joint replacement surgeries.

Left, anesthesiologist Robin Chorn demonstrates to a Chinese medical team how to administer an epidural.

trip, the Operation Walk team members were treated to a weekend visit to the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China.

The mission was a success. And—fortunately—the flight home was uneventful.

—Phil Davis

amazed that many of the Operation Walk patients were able to stand on the same day of their surgery. In China,

patients are not allowed to stand for days.

"It was neat," Ward said. "People

were coming from all over the hospital to see these patients get up."

Despite the hectic pace of the 9-day

Physical therapy instructor receives research honor

Kim O'Connor, assistant professor of biokinesiology and physical therapy, has received a research publication award from the California chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association recognizing her work examining the effects of motion on cartilage.

O'Connor received the award at the association's Oct. 3 annual meeting in Sacramento. She was the sole recipient of the award, which is given out each year only when there is a qualified recipient.

"I feel quite honored to have been

recognized and I was surprised because normally the association recognizes clinical research. The research I did was much more basic," she said.

O'Connor's work with rats, whose legs were elevated so they could not walk on them, compared the cartilage in

joints that were immobilized versus those that were free. Her findings suggested joints that bear no weight suffer destructive losses of cartilage thickness when they are immobilized compared with those that are free to move.

—Jon Nalick

Open house for Maternal-Child HIV unit draws 150

About 150 people stopped by to visit the LAC+USC Comprehensive Maternal-Child HIV Management and Research Center at its Open House on Nov. 12.

The center opened its doors to the public for four hours to showcase its medical mission to care for families struggling to live with the HIV virus.

Center employees gave tours to show off bright and cheerful exam rooms—decorated with colorful pictures painted by the clinic's pint-sized patients—and a toy-filled children's playroom, a favorite place for kids at the clinic.



Andrea Kovacs

The clinic was started

with a handful of volunteers by USC pediatrics professor Andrea Kovacs in 1988.

In the last decade, the center has expanded into a full-service, multi-disciplinary health care center, backed by the expertise of the USC Department of Pediatrics.



Childrens Hospital Los Angeles social workers Mollie Robinson-Miodovski (left) and Brenda Diaz (right) were among the visitors at the open house for the LAC+USC Maternal-Child HIV Center.

The clinic's 600 regular patients have access to everything from state-of-the-art prenatal care to psychological counseling.

Clinic researchers also conduct pioneering research into the treatment and care of mothers and children living with the HIV virus.

One recent milestone: It's been 22 months since a child of one of its HIV-infected patients was born with the virus.

Kovacs credits this wonderful statistic to a strict regimen of multi-drug treatments and patients who have learned to follow the prescribed drug

regimen.

The center is located on the second floor of the Health Research Administration building at 1640 Marengo Street.

For more information about the clinic or its mission, call 226-2200.

—Phil Davis

USC physician assistants win accolades at conference

Students and faculty of the Primary Care Physician Assistant Program made a splash at the 22nd Annual California Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) Conference last month, earning awards and recognition for their knowledge, leadership and scholarship.

While at the conference, held Oct. 16-18 in Palm Springs, two USC teams walked away with both first and second place honors in the CAPA/Kaiser Medical Challenge Bowl, a competition of medical knowledge. First place winners were Robert Higham, Mira Lenzini, and Chenoa Diehm; second place went to Eric Jostock, Margarita Hernandez, and Teri Pitman-Conder.

Diehm, co-president of the PA senior class, also won a CAPA scholarship, recognizing her scholastic ability, community service, and professional leadership.

Additionally, John Mabee, a physician assistant at LAC+USC Medical Center who teaches pathophysiology, was chosen as 1998 CAPA Educator of the Year. His award recognized his knowledge of human physiology, enthusiastic attitude and concern for students' success.

—Jon Nalick

Calendar



Jon Nalick

AWARDS—At a reception recognizing their outstanding academic achievements, 35 students received the Dean's Scholar Award on Nov. 12 at the Edmondson Faculty Center. The award honors the top 10 percent of second and third year medical students.

USC neurologist helps honor longtime caregiver

In recognition of National Caregivers Week, neurologist Cheryl Waters honored Patricia Takeshita with the second annual SmithKline Beecham Caring Hands Award. The award was established in 1997 by the National Parkinson Foundation (NPF) and SmithKline Beecham to recognize the contributions of outstanding Parkinson's disease caregivers.

Waters presented the award on Nov. 16 at the NPF's Center of Excellence at the USC Division of Movement Disorders, also known as the Parkinson's Clinic.

For almost 30 years Takeshita has served as the primary caregiver for her



Patricia Takeshita received the "Caring Hands" award for 30 years of dedication to helping her husband, Sam, who has Parkinson's disease.

husband Sam, a long-time patient at the Parkinson's clinic. The award recognizes her dedication and commitment to improving her husband's quality of life.

More than 25 million Americans care for a friend or family member suffering from a debilitating illness such as Parkinson's disease. According to the National Family Caregiver Association, more than 60 percent of all caregivers suffer from depression, accompanied by physical problems and feelings of isolation and frustration. Many caregivers are providing more than 21 hours of care per week.

The award is presented annually on both a local and national level to individuals whose dedication and commitment have resulted in improved quality of life for people affected by Parkinson's.

Pathology faculty win national leadership posts

At a recent meeting of two of the leading professional societies for pathologists, USC faculty earned accolades and were recognized for outstanding work in the field, reports department chair Clive Taylor. Other USC pathologists were elected to national leadership positions in the organizations.

"It's remarkable that USC is so well represented and prominent in the three major pathology societies," said Taylor.

The American Society of Clinical

Pathologists and College of American Pathologists presented Robert Pierre, professor of pathology, with the 1998 AGCP Distinguished Service Award. The award was given in recognition of Pierre's standing as a world authority on pathology and his significant contributions to the society.

Janice Nelson, professor of pathology, was elected to a second term as Commissioner of Continuing Education, the lead volunteer to plan and produce education programs for the society.

Bharat Nathwani, professor of pathology, was one of seven individuals awarded the 1998 CCE Distinguished Service Award. Nathwani was selected by a national nominating committee for his study of blood-borne and lymph node diseases, as well as his teaching.

Joining the clinical pathology board will be Russell Brynes, clinical professor of pathology, who was elected as an at-large member.

Brynes has donated much of his time to society activities over the years, helping to improve hematology education and to develop Check-Path, a means of assessing laboratory workers' competency.

USC Pathology Professor Stebbins Chandor is now in line to lead the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. He is president-elect and will take over the duties of president in the Fall of 1999.

Chandor has been a fellow with the organization for more than 30 years and previously served on the board of directors.

Chandor is also Los Angeles district commissioner for the College of American Pathologists Laboratory Accreditation Program.

In other recent news, Carl Treling, clinical associate professor of pathology, was recently elected to the board of the College of American Pathologists.

RYAN: Rower sees future as ER nurse

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we were able to help her out with a scholarship so she could row for another year."

Ryan still had the task of balancing her studies, long commutes to rowing practice in San Pedro and her work in the ER at Huntington Memorial Hospital.

"It's been pretty intense, but I don't regret a day of it," Ryan said.

She's currently finishing up her nursing studies and plans to pursue a career as an ER nurse. She loves the rush and challenge of the emergency room. After such a hectic academic and athletic life, she wants a job that maintains that fast pace.



Jon Nalick

Kasey Ryan

But before she joins the working world, Ryan fully intends to savor her final season of rowing. The team is poised to do well again.

"I'm going to enjoy every moment of it," Ryan said.

—Phil Davis

Friday, Nov. 20

Open Enrollment for Staff Benefits. Nov. 2 – Dec. 4. Personnel Office, KAM 409. Info: 740-6037

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. "Robert Farber: A Retrospective," satellite exhibit on display until Dec. 12. CSC. Info: 442-1144.

Monday, Nov. 23

11:30 a.m. "Tyrosine Kinase Signaling and Control of Cell Cycle Genes," We Li. Univ. of Chicago. PSC 104. Info: 224-7473

1 p.m. Molecular Biology Seminar. "Macro-Scale or Nano-Scale Isothermal DNA Amplification for Genetic Analysis and Immunoassay," Paul Lizardo, Yale Univ. Hedco Neuroscience Aud., Room 100, UPC. Info: 740-5557

Tuesday, Nov. 24

8 a.m. Neurology Conference. "Management of Spine Neoplasms," Tom Chen, USC. Troy Room, Univ. Hospital. Info: 226-2639

9 a.m. New Staff Orientation, KAM 308. Info: 442-1010

Noon. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. "Prospects for In Utero Gene Therapy," W. French Anderson, USC. Norris Tower 7th Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 865-0800

4 p.m. Molecular Biology Seminar. "Making a Difference: The Asymmetric Division of Stem Cells in the Germline," Haifan Lin, Duke Univ. Hedco Neuroscience Aud., Room 100, UPC. Info: 740-5557

Wednesday, Nov. 25

8:30 a.m. Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Conference. "Myxedema Coma," Jonathan Lopresti, USC. GNH 11-321. Info: 226-7923

Noon. Cell and Neurobiology Seminar. "Sound Localization in Humans and Owls," Mark Konishi, Caltech. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-2116

Monday, Nov. 30

11:30 a.m. Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology Research Seminar. "Regulation of DNA Replication and Cytokinesis by Protein Phosphorylation," Wein Jiang, Salk Institute. PSC 104, Room 104. Info: 224-7473

Noon. "Breast Cancer Epidemiology: Tradition vs Innovation," Leslie Bernstein, USC. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: 442-1134

Tuesday, Dec. 1

9 a.m. New Staff Orientation, KAM 308. Info: 442-1010

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Noon. Cell and Neurobiology Seminar. "Axonal Transport in Peripheral Nerve Function and Dysfunction," Kim Topp, UCSE. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-2116

Thursday, Dec. 3

Noon. Health, Behavior and Aging Colloquium Series. "Filial Piety and Well-Being of Older People in China," Merrill Silverstein, USC. Andrus Gerontology Center, Room 224, UPC. Info: 740-8242

Upcoming event: USC Spectrum will present Derf Reklaw on Friday, Jan. 15 at noon in the HSC Quad. Reklaw is known as a master drummer, flutist, saxophonist, composer and vocal innovator.

Notice: Deadline for calendar submission is 4 p.m. Tuesday to be considered for that week's issue. Please note that timely submission does not guarantee an item will be printed. Send calendar items to *HSC Weekly*, DEI 2510 or fax to 442-2832, or e-mail to hscwkly@hsc.usc.edu. *Entries must include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location and a phone number for information.*

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