

THE SAGE

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MAY 16, 2008

Public Safety honor graduate is John Douglas

by Matt McClanahan
Sage staff writer



Photo by Matt McClanahan

John Douglas will represent the School of Public Safety as the honor graduate.

John Douglas was named the Public Safety Honor Graduate after pulling in the highest Grade Point Average in his class. According to Douglas he'll graduate with a 3.93 at the end of this semester.

The 38-year-old honoree is currently a United States Navy Police Officer and is assigned at the Naval Medical Center of San Diego.

When asked how he feels about being named the Public Safety Honor Graduate, Douglas said, "It feels pretty good. It's kind of a culmination of everything I've worked towards and I think it's a starting point for furthering my education."

Douglas, who joined the Navy in 1988, got his first security position when he reported back to the Navy on September 8th, 2001 – just

three days before the terrorist attacks. At this time, Douglas was a national security person assigned in the Middle East. A year later he switched ranks becoming a national military officer and that is where he says his career started.

Later this year, Douglas will be headed back to the Middle East where he will be doing mobile security operations for the Navy in the Arabian Gulf. He will be there for at least a year. "It's going to be tough because it will be my second separation from my wife in two years," Douglas said. The first time Douglas had to leave home he was assigned to a mobile hospital in Kuwait.

Douglas will be applying to the San Diego Police Department after he retires from the Navy.

According to Douglas, he

was able to maintain the highest GPA of his class through dedication but it didn't come without sacrifice. "It was pretty tough because I think my wife paid the brunt of it," Douglas said. "There were times where I would go to school four nights a week. I would get off from work and then I would have to go straight to school so there were many nights where she didn't see me."

Douglas contributes his success to adhering to the Navy values of honor, courage and commitment. Douglas had this to say to students who are following similar paths, "Set high goals for yourself. Never go through a day without learning something or having a chance to give something to someone else."

Former student to be honored as the Distinguished Alumni

by Maricel Guinto
Sage staff writer



Photo by Unknown

Monika Fitzsimmons is the 2008 Distinguished Alumni.

Former Miramar student Monika Fitzsimmons has been named as the 2008 Distinguished Alumni. Fitzsimmons was selected for this recognition because of her outstanding achievements before and after graduating from Miramar. While attending Miramar, Fitzsimmons maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average and multiple scholarships. She graduated from Miramar with an Associate Degree in Transfer Studies.

Fitzsimmons emigrated from Warsaw, Poland in 1989 and spoke no English. At Miramar she took English for Speakers of a Second Language (ESOL) classes and had the opportunity for higher education. Fitzsimmons said her "American Dream" started with Miramar Col-

lege. She had the passion to learn and also formed study groups and tutored others. Fitzsimmons says, "I owe a lot to Miramar College. Here, I met teachers who inspired me to keep learning and fed my hunger for knowledge."

Outside of college Fitzsimmons volunteered at Thornton Hospital in the emergency room. With her experience she wanted to pursue a career in nursing to make a difference in patients' lives.

"Miramar College allowed me to receive a base of strong knowledge so I could transfer to a university," she says. Fitzsimmons transferred to San Diego State University (SDSU) in 2004 and graduated Summa Cum Laude as the valedictorian of the School of Nursing in 2007. She received a health care nursing scholar-

ship from SDSU and was on the Dean's honor list since 2004.

Fitzsimmons is currently a registered nurse (RN) at Sharp Grossmont Hospital in the emergency room. "Nursing gives me the best opportunity to help others in challenging situations," she says.

Fitzsimmons says she is living the "American Dream." "I think all Miramar College graduates can live the American Dream if they aspire high and believe in themselves. Each of them is gifted in a unique way to make the most unbelievable dream a reality," she says.

Fitzsimmons will be receiving the Distinguished Alumni award at the commencement on May 21st at the La Jolla Marriott.

SD Police Chief Lansdowne to give commencement speech at graduation

by Stephanie Sargent
Sage staff writer



Photo by Unknown

Police Chief Lansdowne will give the commencement speech.

San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Chief William Lansdowne will give the commencement address during graduation services on May 21st.

Lansdowne has served as Chief of Police since 2004. He began his law enforcement career in 1966 with the San Jose Police Department, while also serving six years with the California National Guard. "I've had some very good mentors," said Lansdowne when asked about his decision to join law enforcement. He mentioned particularly his close interaction with the deputies of the Alameda Sheriff's Department.

"If I was going to mentor somebody, I would say that if you want to be in law enforcement your integrity is everything. You've got to have a

good education, you can't do drugs and you've got to have life experience. You've got to have experience dealing with people. I think you need good common sense, you can't take yourself too seriously, an ab-

See Graduation on page 4

In The News	
Opinions & Information..	2
Features	3
Entertainment.....	4

Opinion: *Live life to the fullest and follow your dreams*

by Stefanie Bressan
Sage staff writer



You should keep dreaming. Regardless of your preferred career, you should be all you want to be and more. Never let anyone take that away from you. Even more important, never let yourself forget it. Nothing is impossible. It is never too late. Time is all we need and time is all we have. Try to remember that whatever comes next is unwritten. Face all your challenges fiercely and give structure to your life methodically. Let every day be a brighter day.

There is no real secret to how to live life. It is something every individual has to discover for him or herself. Graduation is big step, yet there are numerous more ahead. So knock on every door. Take all the chances you can. Live dealing with the consequences of your choices, not with what could have been. Be every word you believe in. And for the graduates, my greatest advice is to "Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today," *James Dean*.

OPINION

The time has finally arrived--graduation. After years of non-stop study, projects, essays, tests and more, the reward is merely a blink of an eye away.

As students, you have come so far. Whether you are transferring or completed your education, graduation marks a milestone that leads to a new part of life. Graduation is about leaving something behind but taking what you learned with you. One should never be afraid of change. Let it modify everything but who you are. Only be afraid of not following your dreams, after all that is the force that makes one stronger.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Movie: Raise the Red Lantern • 3:00-5:30 pm, Room I-105 • FREE • Flex #46790. Directed by Zhang Yimou, screenplay by Ni Zhen from the novella *Wives and Concubines* by Su Tong

Starring: Gong Li, Ma Jingwu, He Caifei, Cao Cuifeng, Jin Shuyuan, Kong Lin, Ding Weimin, Cui Zhihgang
A young university-educated woman (Gong Li) becomes the newest wife of a feudal nobleman in 1920's China. The film explores the interaction among the wife, the other wives who all live in the nobleman's home, and the servants. All of the characters struggle to survive in an atmosphere of intrigue, lies, and competition. For more information, contact April Koch (619) 388-7537 or email akoch@sdccd.edu

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

2008 Miramar College Commencement • 4:00 pm, San Diego Marriott La Jolla, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive. For more information, contact the Evaluations Office, B-304, 619-388-7371

MONDAY, JUNE 2

Beginning of Summer Session • Enroll now for classes. Get started or continue on your educational path this summer. For more information, call 858-536-7844 or visit www.sdmmiramar.edu

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

California Primary • Don't forget to vote.

Campus Comments: "What advice do you have for the graduating class of 2008?"

by Maricel Guinto, Stefanie Bressan, Aaron Thom
Sage staff writers



Patricia Hsieh, President
"Congratulations for a job well done. I know it has been a long journey to complete all the requirements to accomplish your educational goal. It is a great accomplishment of your career advancement. I hope you take the advantage of everything you learned here at Miramar and be able to apply the knowledge. Extend your horizon and continue to learn. Life long learning is not a luxury, it's not a choice but it's a necessity."



Peter White, Vice President of Student Services
"Never think of your education as finished, whether you are in a university, job or traveling, you are always learning. Also never stop reading and always be open to change because it is usually for the better."



Wendy Stewart, Transfer Center Director
"Number one is just don't settle. Set your dreams on the bar high and don't let anybody discouraged you from what you want to achieve."



Sheryl Gobble, Professor of English for Speakers of Other Languages
"An education isn't meant only for oneself. It's to be shared. So find a cause and work to better your community."



Kevin L. Alston, Administrative Assistant
"Embrace technology, embrace diversity and go forth and try to use this in the business world."



Patricia Flowers, Professor of Biology
"Be a lifelong learner, never stop learning."



Sally Nalven, Professor of Child Development
"Go after your dreams and do not let anybody stop you."

THE SAGE

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preted to be those of the College District, its officers or employees.

The staff of *The Sage* welcomes reader comments. You can bring your letters to I-102/d. Letters to the editor should be signed and include a day and evening phone number for questions and verification. *The Sage* reserves the right to edit all submissions. Questions may be directed to the editor.

Art Walk features work by students

by Aaron Thom
Sage staff writer

On April 30, the Miramar Art Club (MAC) and 40 artists put together Art Walk. Works of art decorated the Leave a Legacy Plaza. Although rain threatened, the weather held out and many folks came out to see the variety of art displayed.

There were over 45 pieces of art varying from paintings of landscapes, realism, surrealism, portraits, sculptures and photography. Apart from the art there was free coffee provided by Starbucks and a memorial dedicated to Nikkio Maeva.

Throughout the event there were interactive activities. One was a texture box. The box was created by aspiring artist Eric Walters. The box had eight holes and in each hole was a different texture to feel but not see. Letting your imagination run wild with the possibilities of description were endless. Another was a secret box in which visitors wrote down their deepest secrets anonymously creating some very interesting comments.

The event lasted from nine in the morning until six in the evening. Event coordinator Garrick O'Connell said, "The turnout was amazing! I believe this was the most entertaining event to hit Miramar College."



Photo by Aaron Thom

Students, faculty and staff check out the art at Art Walk.

Miramar professor is appointed to the Citizen's Review Board

by Stefanie Bressan
Sage staff writer



Photo by Stefanie Bressan

Paralegal Professor Darrel Harrison is appointed to the Citizen's Review Board.

Professor of Paralegal Studies Darrel Harrison, has been appointed to the Citizen's Review Board by San Diego City Major Sanders. Harrison completed six months of training before taking his post on the Review Board.

The Citizen's Review Board is a voluntary position that consists of monitoring the activities of the San Diego Police Department by reviewing reports from Internal Affairs.

Whenever the Police Department's Internal Affairs division decides that a shooting, for example, is justified, the Review Board members have to check the same files, photographs, witness statements, evidence and general information and then they determine if they agree or disagree with Internal Affairs' conclusions. "It is to the public's advantage that someone is looking into these kinds of things," says Harrison. If for some reason the Board disagrees with the decision of the Internal Affairs, they provide a report to the Major's office for further review. "It is an opportunity for the police, knowing that we found something, that they can change their policies," says Harrison.

The approximate amount of hours dedicated to the Citizen's Review Board is 10 hours per week. The Citizen's Review Board has meetings that take place twice a month. Sometimes the meetings are public sessions and sometimes they are closed sessions. Additionally, the Citizen's Review Board meets for training or to review a case. Everyone can participate, regardless of age, sex or color. "It is a public service. They want cross section of everyone that is in the city," says Harrison.

69 scholarships awarded to students

by Sandi Trevisan
Sage guest writer

Nearly \$62,000 was awarded to 69 scholarship recipients on May 1st at the Miramar College Foundation's annual scholarship program. This year's campus-based Scholar Fest replaced the traditional Gala in an effort to attract more students and family members with a lower cost of attendance. Recipients, their families, scholarship sponsors, business friends, faculty and staff joined the celebration that included an awards ceremony, emceed by K.L. Alston, followed by a reception in the Leave a Legacy Plaza. Miramar music professor Channing Booth and the "No Coordination Trio" entertained guests as they enjoyed refreshments provided by the Miramar Cafe. An impressive student art exhibit, arranged by DeeDee Coppedge and Sue Dawe, welcomed all, and a raffle/silent auction, sponsored by the Classified Senate, enlivened the day. Miramar College flags, purchased by the Foundation, provided a dramatic addition to the Plaza.

Scholar Fest Event sponsors included: AFT Local 1931, USE Credit Union, SD-CCD Chancellor Constance Carroll, R.E. Bob Dingeman, Hawthorne Machinery Co. Scholar Sponsors included: Anthony Beebe, Brett Bell,



Photo by Alan Decker

Scholar Fest attendees line up to sample culinary delights.

Ashley Chang, Rev. Darrel Dunlap, Daphne Figueroa, Martin Hight, Patricia Hsieh, Dan Igou, Michael P. Lee, Miramar College Academic Senate, Sandra Slivka, Joan Thompson, Sandi Trevisan, Marty Walsh, Peter White, and Timothy Yeun. Additional donors included Marv Burd, Harvey Goodfriend, Menie Yee Lee, and Duane Short.

Foundation President Marty Hight was surprised by the attendance of his family at a VIP Donor Recognition Reception that preceded the awards ceremony. College President Hsieh presented Hight with an engraved award, recognizing his leadership of the Foundation for the past five years.



Photo by Alan Decker

Music Professor Channing Booth (rear) and his "No Coordination Trio" provided entertainment for the event.

Soccer changes one student's life

by Matt McClanahan
Sage staff writer



Photo by Unknown

Tammy Vaught got a new lease on life through soccer.

When everything seemed to be going wrong for 35-year-old Tammy Vaught, she decided to put her life in the hands of God. God, in turn, decided to put a soccer ball at Vaught's feet.

At one point, Vaught, who has a 6-year-old daughter, found herself living in a women's shelter trying to survive. "Every time I would make a plan and work hard towards it, something bad would happen," Vaught said.

While struggling through a tough situation, Vaught decided to go to church one day and the message she received was loud and clear. She needed a change and that's exactly what she got. "I changed my major, my direction and I decided to play soccer," Vaught said. "I knew that getting involved with soccer would help take away some of the things that I had been dealing with."

Interestingly enough, Vaught had never played soccer before in her life. The first time that she ever touched a soccer ball was a year and a half ago when she took a soccer class at Miramar College. When Vaught heard that Miramar would be having its first soccer team last year she decided to try out. "I figured, 'why not give it a shot

and see what happens,'" Vaught said.

"(During try outs) the girls were yelling 'touch line, base line, run down the line.' I had no clue what they were talking about. I didn't know the game of soccer at all," Vaught said laughingly. "I was hitting myself in the face trying to learn everything."

When it came time for Miramar women's soccer Head Coach Sean Bowers to announce the team, Vaught didn't make the cut. "Coach told me that I still had a lot to learn. I told him that I understood and that I would continue training with the team and help out wherever I could," Vaught said. "I figured that it just wasn't part of God's plan."

Or was it?

A couple of days later, two members of the Miramar soccer team tore their anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) just days before Miramar's first game and two other players were too sick to play. "One day before the first game, Sean (Bowers) came up to me and said, 'Congratulations, you're on the team!'"

Vaught wasn't just on the team. She was a starter. "To be honest with you, I didn't even understand the off sides rule at

the time," Vaught admitted. "When I thought that I might have a chance of getting on the team I figured that I would be on the bench a lot where I could actually learn the game. I laugh now looking back on it," she said.

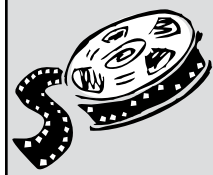
Vaught, who didn't commit a foul throughout the whole game, says that she now understands the rule and has improved her game tremendously by watching other players on the team.

While Vaught learns about the game of soccer from her teammates, her teammates learn about life from her. One of those teammates, 19-year-old Noelle Delgado, said, "We all talk to her about our problems and she is the one to give us advice. It's really cool having her on the team."

The 35-year-old says that she hopes her teammates realize they will have opportunities later in life where they shouldn't let their age get in the way. "I don't think that age should stop people from going after what they want. I think a lot of people get to a certain age and tell their self that they can't do it. It's really just a matter of your mind set," Vaught said.

Minutes before Vaught stepped onto the field to play in her first collegiate soccer game, Assistant Coach Jen Lalor-Nielson approached her and Vaught revealed how old she was for the first time. Vaught said, "She looked at me like a deer caught in headlights." Lalor-Nielson then responded back to Vaught warningly, "You know this is a lot of running!"

For Vaught, playing the game of soccer has been a life altering experience and perhaps a lot of running is exactly what she needed. "Working out with the team really got me to focus on my health. Soccer changed so many patterns for me. It just made a huge difference," said Vaught.



Movie Review: *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* is true to its title

by Stephanie Sargent
Sage staff writer

Ben Stein, best known for comedic dead pan delivery on his show *Win Ben Stein's Money*, is quite serious about the issues in *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*. It would have been nice if he let us in on the excitement. *Expelled* Whether the fault lies with the writers (Ben Stein, Kevin Miller, Walt Ruloff) or the director (Nathan Frankowski) is difficult to decide. One thing is for certain: this film makes you think.

Controversy stirred when PZ Myers, an associate professor of biology at the University of Minnesota, whose interview is featured in *Expelled*, was kicked out of a private screening of the film by producer Mark Mathis. He and other biologists interviewed in the film, like the famous Richard Dawkins (author of *The God Delusion*), have criticized the film since its release. In spite of the rather sinister buzz around *Expelled*, I chose to maintain an open mind.

Expelled begins with honorable intentions. Several case studies of professors who lost their jobs because of their support of ID are presented, although the details are somewhat vague. Yet, even at this early point in the film, my mind was stirring. I felt a strong desire to learn more. I sympathized and wanted to act on behalf of these free thinking intellectuals. Before I could get really riled, *Expelled* suddenly shifted gears. The evolutionists filed onto the screen, only to have their arguments treated with the kind of respect usually paid to Snidely Whiplash. I began to wonder if I could really trust this film.

And it only went down from there. Indeed, most of the facts raised by *Expelled*

are legit. They are simply misplaced or taken too far. Hitler's holocaust did borrow from social Darwinism, a practice that applies natural selection to human beings. Social Darwinism is a radical idea which sprang from Darwin's theory of evolution. However, to claim that Darwin's theory of evolution leads directly to social Darwinism is like saying eating hamburgers leads to cannibalism. Stein eventually admits that not all evolutionists are Nazis but this segment simply goes on too long. Do we need to know how many asylum patients the Nazis burned per-day to believe evolution might be a flawed theory? It only deepens the Snidely Whiplash complex.

Yet the biggest problem with *Expelled* is that it never lends enough credibility to either side. I do not believe anyone should lose their job because they want to investigate ID. On the other hand, I am still an evolutionist. The problem with ID as a scientific theory is that intelligence is extremely difficult to prove. A computer may appear to spite human beings by freezing at an inopportune time. Was intelligence a factor here? Now apply this question to the origin of life. Can you prove life sprang from an intelligent creator? Neither can Ben Stein.

As I left the theater, my greatest concern was for the professors who lost their reputations because of an idea. They were casualties of a debate that has raged since Darwin sailed home from the Galapagos. Once upon a time it was the Darwinists who lost their jobs because of their ideas. It is disturbing to think that a nation that claims to support new ideas is still allowing people to be unnecessarily punished for having such thoughts. If *Expelled* had stuck to this issue from the beginning, it might have been worthy of merit. *Expelled* is rated PG.



Restaurant Review: *Old Venice Café: a romantic setting in Point Loma*

by Andrea Malloyd
Sage staff writer

The Old Venice Café in Point Loma is a charming restaurant with great ambiance. Tables are decorated with white table cloths and candles surround the front dining room. You can choose to eat inside or outside.

While this restaurant has a beautiful and calming atmosphere, the wait staff was slow. We waited ten minutes to be seated, even though there was no line. However, we did get our garlic bread right away. The garlic bread was delicious. While eating bread you will get thirsty. We had to wait fifteen minutes for the waiter to get us glasses of water. At least it came with lemon.

As far as ordering drinks and food, there is a good amount of variety. Drinks range from iced tea for \$2.75

to wine for \$14 a glass. For appetizers you can choose from pesto baked feta, foccacia, ensalata caprese, magic mushrooms and sautéed shrimp and artichoke. If you want a less expensive appetizer, I recommend the magic mushrooms or the ensalata caprese for \$10.25. There is also a variety of salads including antipasto, Greek and walnut gorgonzola. Salads range from \$4.25 to \$14.50. If you are a pasta lover, you may want to budget your money because pasta dishes here range from \$10.50 to \$17.50, the most expensive dish being the gorgonzola penne.

For pizza fanatics like my dining guest and me, the pizzas are \$20 whether you order a large or a small pizza. We chose the gourmet special pizza topped with sausage for an extra three dollars, sun dried tomato, Greek olives, mush-

room, mozzarella, ricotta, Parmesan, jack, Romano, garlic, oregano, basil and pepperchini. I do not recommend eating the pizza with a knife and a fork. We tried it. If you use your fingers you will get the full effect of the mushroom, sun dried tomatoes and mozzarella. I thought I died and went to heaven. The pizza and iced tea we had along with it were good to the very last drop.

I recommend this place to people planning a dinner for an anniversary or special event because of the romantic setting. However, I do not recommend it to anyone who is on a strict budget because it may empty your wallet.

For more information call (619) 222-5888. The Old Venice Café is located at 2910 Canon Street, San Diego.

Graduation from page 1

solute must is you have got to have a sense of humor and most importantly you have to have compassion for people."

Lansdowne studied law enforcement at the University of San Jose. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 1973. During his six months of training to become a police officer he received a lot of hands on experience. One part of his training included riding with a full fledged officer, somewhat like an unpaid apprentice.

In 1994, Lansdowne became head of the Richmond Police Department, where he would stay for five years. According to his bio page on the City of

San Diego Website "homicides dropped by 50%" during his time in Richmond. "The appreciation, I think, that the community gives to law enforcement is unique," said Lansdowne. "It's been very rewarding to me and to my family too."

Of course the most difficult part of Lansdowne's job is saying good bye to fellow officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. "I've done that on seven occasions now," Lansdowne commented. However, he believes his job is worth the hardships. To Lansdowne law enforcement is one career choice "where at the end of your career you can say, 'I really made a difference.'"