

Alumni Notes

Angela Brown (*English*) is a teacher for the Chesterfield County Public Schools. She lives in Colonial Heights, Va.

Tom Towle (*Liberal Studies*) is a director of network services at Fielding Graduate Institute. He resides in Montecito.

'95 Rayleen Murillo (*Business Administration*) is an office manager at UCLA.

Douglas Rosien (*Business*) is the director of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He is a resident of West Lebanon, N.H.

'96 Norilyn Seril (*Psychology*) of Westbury, N.Y., is a senior staffing associate at Forum Personnel Inc.

DeAnna Ratliff (*Pan-African Studies*), a Fresno County resident, is the owner of 3-D Creations.

Debra Stephens (*Child Development*) is a special education teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Hope Vasquez (*Business Administration*) is an accountant/auditor for the County of Santa Barbara.

Marci Wormser (*Journalism*) is an education reporter for the Daily News, Antelope Valley section.

'97 Jack Chen (*Business Administration/Finance*) is a director of sales and marketing for SEG, Inc.

Hyojeong Kim (*Biology*) is a post-doctoral fellow at UC Riverside. He is a Riverside resident.

Peter Kim (*Marketing*) of Stevenson Ranch is the president of Jireh TV Media.

David Seto (*Civil Engineering*), a Sunnyvale resident, is a transportation engineer for Caltrans.

Yuovene Whistler (*Family and Consumer Sciences—Child Development*) is a program coordinator for Crystal Stairs, Inc.

'98 Hiran Amerasinghe (*Journalism/Public Relations*) is an IT manager for the Child & Family Guidance Center.

Kassandra Macon (*English*) of Pacoima is a bus coordinator for Audiences Unlimited, Inc.

In the case of **Olympia LePoint**, a 1998 Cal State Northridge mathematics graduate, it was mother who knew best. LePoint's mother urged her to go into mathematics, a field in which the Boeing engineer has made her mark.

A systems safety and reliability engineer with Boeing's Integrated Defense Systems in Canoga Park, LePoint in February was named a Modern Day Technology Leader at the 2003 Black Engineer of the Year Awards ceremony in Baltimore, Md. The honoree was selected from a national field of candidates.

Her mother, Pamela LePoint, was in the audience.

The leadership award will join others on LePoint's shelf. In 1999, she received Boeing's Company Growth and Innovation Award. That was followed in 2001 by the company's Engineers' Council Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award for Propulsion Systems Design for Reliability. Last year, the Northridge resident won Boeing's Technical Excellence Award.

What exactly does a systems safety and reliability engineer do? Simple. LePoint analyzes conceptual rocket engine designs, and assesses which designs have a higher probability of catastrophic failure. In short, she's a rocket scientist.

Perhaps LePoint's mother could not have foreseen that job assignment for her daughter, but a confident Olympia early on told childhood friends she could be a rocket scientist, or a professor, or a consultant who examines socio-political and environmental issues.

On weekends, LePoint puts on her mentoring cap. In a program sponsored by the DuBois-Hamer Institute of CSUN's Pan African Studies Department, she prepares Canoga Park area high school students for college by teaching in calculus and trigonometry workshops.

"I'm able to show them the key tools for survival," she said, "and in return they give me the energy to keep going."

LePoint studied piano and theatre at Hamilton High School's Music Academy, but was guided by her mother into a career "everyone can use, for hundreds of years." In August, the engineer will earn her master's degree in applied math at CSUN, after which she will pursue a doctorate in statistics.

"Statistics allow you to put together puzzle pieces," she said, "to identify the patterns in any environment and to determine the cause and effect relationships." ■



Linda Swihart (*Spanish and BCLAD Credential*) is a teacher and teacher advisor for the Los Angeles Unified School District. She lives in Saugus.

'99 John Paul Castro (*Business*) is a contractor for Jaguar Consulting.

Audric Tenney (*Civil Engineering*) is a water resources engineer for the California Department of Water Resources in Sacramento.

'00 Luis Jimenez (*Business Administration—MIS Option*) is a vice president of operations for Focus Multimedia.

Vikki Lyons (*Journalism*) is a media buyer for Movo Media.

Minh Quach (*Sociology*) is a children's social worker for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

'01 Samuel Casad (*Communication Studies*) is a financial consultant for AXA-Advisors, LLC. He lives in Agoura Hills.

Adam Chirchick (*Psychology*) is a manager of the market development center at AutoStiegler Mercedes Benz.

Robert Montesdeoca (*Business Administration*) is a finance specialist at Countrywide Home Loans.

Jung Mi Oh (*Business/Finance*) is a note officer for California Chohung Bank.

Alma Ramirez (*Business Administration*) is a market research associate for J.D. Power and Associates.

Dion Troupe (*Entertainment Management*) is a music producer for Joyful Noise Recording.

Adrian Zamudio (*Art*) is a substitute teacher for the Guadalupe Joint Union School District.

'02 Gabriela Acosta (*Sociology Counseling & Interviewing*) is a program assistant for TTI America Inc. She resides in Palmdale.

Danelle Boone (*MS Counseling*) is a career counselor at UCLA.

Joel Claghorn (*Economics*) of Plainsboro, N.J., is an economist for the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Kristopher Forsythe (*Business Finance*) is an administrative manager at Chatham Street Financial Services Inc.

Alan Medzoyan (*Business Administration*) is an associate subcontracts negotiator for JPL. He lives in Glendale.

Hector Segura (*Chicano/a Studies*) is a teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

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