



MORE THAN ONCE I heard Bill Arce say that one of the necessary parts of a complete education is participation in competitive team athletics. “Batting 1.000,” in the summer magazine, restates that thought quite well. I share that view, particularly with respect to my personal experience in the international natural resource development business. I preached “It takes a team to build a job” more than once to my son Matt, who is becoming quite successful in the domestic construction business.

I ALWAYS KNEW Brigitte Nguyen (“Raising the Steaks”) as an open, intelligent, and friendly classmate who I, with a fair degree of confidence, foresaw accomplishing a great deal. I have to admit ashamedly that I was incorrect. She has accomplished, and continues to accomplish, more than I could have imagined.

Brigitte’s bold decision to follow her passion rather than what she originally thought she was “supposed to do” truly resonates with me. It also shows that a CMC education can lead us anywhere



Bill Arce, founding director of the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps athletics program, takes in the CMS Alumni Baseball Game.

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I was concerned with the direction CMC was taking, namely producing youngsters that were good at going to school but possibly not much else. Anybody who has been out there in the real world knows that it takes more than scholastics to produce success. I suspect that CMC has learned something from Bill Arce as demonstrated by his former students.

—FRANK MYERS '62

our energies, intellect, and ambition will take us. Granted, I love food maybe a bit much, so I’m a tad biased, but I think she represents Claremont McKenna with as much aplomb as any head of state could ever hope to. I continue to follow her various culinary exploits and look forward to her rematch with Harold. I do not want a pimiento burger. I want whatever Brigitte’s cooking.

—CHRIS FENDER '03

THAT WAS A FINE PIECE on Bill Arce. Well-deserved homage to an exceptional person.

—KEN COLE '60

I WANTED TO EXPRESS how much I enjoyed reading about Brigitte’s endeavors in *CMC*. I’ve lived vicariously through her since she graduated in 2003. It all started when she used to visit Career

Services and comment on my decorated cakes (which I do on the side). Although she gained a consulting job through our recruiting program, she has always expressed an interest in cooking: that became a huge connection between the two of us.

You can just imagine how excited I was to see her on the cover of the summer magazine. I dropped what I was doing and just read her story from start to finish. What a refreshing way to make my day!

Thank you so much for selecting such a unique career story. Doing so has benefited our department to demonstrate how CMCers can follow their dreams and be all they can be!

—SANDRA AGUIRRE
CMC CAREER SERVICES CENTER

cooking in our apartment and I was always amazed to see how she could whip up stuff from seemingly random ingredients. As much as I know our more senior alumni have done, I love seeing coverage of the amazing things that recent grads are doing as well. It’s pretty inspirational.

—ALISA DECKER '03

I WANTED TO WRITE a quick note to let you know how much I enjoyed the feature article, “Raising the Steaks.” The fact that Brigitte is talented in so many ways (from cooking to accounting) is a lesson to us all: to always try to expand our horizons and dream big! Brigitte’s story is an example of the truly innovative and multi-talented individuals CMC attracts.

—ELISA ADELMAN '03

I LOVED SEEING the article about Brigitte and her recent successes with the Food Network and the National Chicken Cooking Contest. Brigitte and I were roommates for three years in L.A. right after graduation; she loved

THE COVER STORY about Brigitte Nguyen is a fabulous article. Reading about a CMC grad who found success by following her passion reminded me of a course that most seniors take: Theories of

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the Good Life. After almost four years of studying, interning, and preparing ourselves to begin our careers, the class challenged us to pause and consider what really matters in life. While virtually every student enjoys the class and aspires to pursue happiness and avoid the pitfalls of materialism and the pressures of the real world, very few graduates actually follow those theories. It is no surprise to me that those who do, like Brigitte, find great success, because CMC selects and educates extremely bright and driven individuals. Brigitte is a great example and role model to current CMC students and alumni. I hope the article inspires the CMC community as it did me.

—MEGAN BROTHERTON '04

BEING A SENIOR in the apartments comes with great perks: having my own room and quiet place definitely was worth the wait. Another perk is breaking from the meal plan and using a full kitchen. However, my initial joy in being able to cook for myself wore off a bit when I realized I didn't have a single recipe. My roommates and I take turns cooking for the group each week. When my turn arrived I planned to default to the traditional hamburgers and fries. Then, a few days before our meal, the cover of the online CMC magazine caught my eye. It included the award-winning recipe for Chinese Chicken Burgers, created by CMC's own Brigitte Nguyen. I decided to take the leap and try gourmet cooking. To my

surprise the recipe was fairly simple to follow, and a lot of fun to make. The burgers were a huge hit, and the smell of the ingredients had my neighbors feeling pretty jealous. It felt great that although I'm not part of the



Chef Brigitte Nguyen '03 and friends on location at the Holly Hill Inn in Midway, Ky.

meal plan on campus, I could still rely on CMC resources for a delicious meal idea!

—T.J. MOSS '10

NICE JOB on the summer 2009 issue. I particularly enjoyed reading about the alumni award winners as I recognized each name and they were clearly deserving of such honors due to their continual involvement in the life of CMC. I also enjoyed seeing the variety of careers our alumni pursue, proving once again a CMC degree is as versatile and practical as the individual who holds it.

The mention of Heather Antecol as the newly installed James E. Boswell Professor of Economics also reminded me of a question I have had for a long time: The Berger Institute has held interesting talks on balancing work and family over the years. However, what I don't understand is how CMC reconciles supporting the Children's School and the Berger Institute at the same time. As far as I can tell, the Berger Institute advocates for a family-friendly work environment. However, the Children's School is not at all conducive to a working parent's schedule. When I moved to Claremont a few years ago I couldn't even consider it both because of cost (one of the more expensive in town) and the hours. They open at 8 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. I should be at work by 8 a.m. and can't leave until 5 p.m. (or later sometimes). And those hours include their "extended care." The vacation schedule is also prohibitive as they appear to close whenever the College is on break. The Children's School has more

days off than my generous vacation allowance, so what would I do with the kids?

The school itself is darling, and clearly an environment designed to promote positive learning. Please, make this treasure accessible to the many working families who help keep CMC running on a day-to-day basis. The current policy doesn't fit my CMC expectations: effective leadership, practical application of theory to practice, or efficient use of resources. (And I bet the Kravis Leadership Institute would have a comment about how happy workers mean less turnover, etc., so it would possibly save CMC some money too!)

—HOLLY (McCORD) DUNCAN '92

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK. Address all correspondence to magazine@claremontmckenna.edu. All letters should include the author's name, class year, and daytime contact information. Letters may be edited for length, content, and style. Opinions expressed within Letters are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the College.
