

ALUMNI PROFILE

From Trojan Hall to City Hall

Tom Levyn '71, JD '74 learns from his successes. The three-term Beverly Hills mayor recalls that when running for USC sophomore class president, he hit the campaign trail early each morning, handing out pencils imprinted with his name to bleary-eyed dorm students. "I found that I liked to campaign," says Levyn, "that I liked getting up early and introducing myself to as many people as I could." He also won the election.

Years later, when he ran for Beverly Hills city council, that same hands-on campaign strategy – inscribed pencils included – succeeded again.

Levyn's Trojan experiences inspire his political life in other ways. He credits USC's Urban Semester Program, for which he studied all aspects of urban environment, as the inspiration for "Team Beverly Hills," a community-building leadership program he spearheaded. And a *Daily Trojan* editorial written years ago, noting that class president Levyn always "kept his promises," still motivates the real-world politician today. "I've always tried to live by that editorial," he says.

Today, as a lawyer and managing partner of Agapay, Levyn, & Halling, Levyn combines hefty mayoral duties with client responsibilities, a delicate juggling act. He starts each workday at 6 a.m. and spends up to seven nights a week representing his city. He savors every second. "I don't think there's one thing I'm doing that I don't want to do," he says.

The glamorous reputation of Beverly Hills has attracted some impressive visitors, and as mayor, Levyn has hosted presidents, prime ministers and kings. In 1999, *Fortune* magazine sponsored its CEO forum in Beverly Hills, the smallest city ever to host the event.

Yet despite the A-list of residents and guests, Levyn puts endless effort into making the city accessible to people of all income levels. He championed a balanced budget of \$228 million with 1,100 employees while negotiating the first successful labor agreement between the city and the police and fire departments that did not reach an impasse. In 1994, he pushed through city council, against much resistance, a weekly farmer's market, a successful event that led to the creation of other free street festivals, including the yearly "Pie-esta" pie-baking contest.

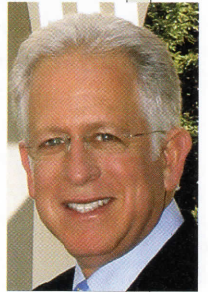
Tom Levyn debates activist Erin Brockovich about the oil fields at Beverly Hills High School during a May edition of "Newsnight" on CNN.



Between juggling public- and private-sector responsibilities, Levyn makes it a priority to spend time with his family. On Valentine's Day of this year, he married his wife Allison, who has three children: Alexa and Zachary, who live with the couple, and Eli, a freshman at Santa Barbara City College. Levyn's daughter, Stacy, attends Beverly Hills High, and his son, Adam, is an economics major at Princeton.

When asked about future political aspirations, Levyn laughs. "I can't imagine a better position than mayor of Beverly Hills," he says. "I get to live here, work here and work with an extraordinary staff in a wonderful community that wants to participate."

– Laurel DiGangi



organization. • **Ralph Wescott** was awarded the Chairmans Club top sales honor in Ondeo-Nalco's IIS division. He and his wife, Ann, and children Claire and Spencer live in Litchfield County, Conn.

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Marcus Allen was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in August. The former USC tailback and Heisman Trophy winner spent 16 years in the NFL and was the first player to end his career with 10,000 yards rushing and 5,000 yards receiving. • **Christopher Frost** recently received comprehensive training as a forensic hypnotist. He continues to work as a behavior specialist with differently abled individuals. He lives in Chester County, Penn. • **Ronnie Lott** was inducted into the College Hall of Fame in August. The former All-American safety helped USC to the 1978 championship and played in the 1979 and 1980 Rose Bowls.

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Barbara Fitzsimmons MS, EdD '85 is the director of curriculum and instruction for the North Kingstown, R.I., school department. • **Rad Domingo** MS was selected the 2002–2003 Teacher of the Year by the La Quinta Middle School in the Desert Sands (Calif.) Unified School District. He has taught math for 10 years and also served as the student government advisor and athletic director. • **Carol (Fulton) Heffernan** MS is teaching physical

education to grades seven to 12 for the Department of Defense Schools in Stuttgart, Germany. • **Greg Holford** MFA created and directed the night display "Christmastime Magic" for Universal Studios Japan. His indoor display in Phuket, Thailand, "Fantasea of a Kingdom," recently won "Best Tourist Attraction in Thailand" for the fourth straight year.

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Yvette Sanchez-Owens was promoted to police administrator for the Los Angeles Police Department. She is the commanding