

Association of Northern California. The award recognizes Pastorino as the year's top performer in sales among all Northern California newspapers including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, and the *Sacramento Bee*.

1979 **Connie Cagahastian-Triggiano** is executive director of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Chicago. Formerly, she worked in marketing and advertising in the Philippines and has also taught communications management.

Carson English, MA, has been named vice president of Cashin Company and manager of the real estate firm's Palo Alto office. **Br. Lawrence Humphrey, MA**, is the director of the Office of Mission at St. Mary's University of Minnesota (Winona), and has been selected as a doctoral candidate at The Catholic University of America. **Jessie MacLeod** recently published *Canary in the Courtroom*, her story of being poisoned

by a pesticide and the resulting civil action against the pesticide company. **Timothy A. Simon, JD '82**, was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the Public Utilities Commission.

1982 **Col. Thomas Glodek, EdD**, recently published *The Advisory Team*, a book highlighting untold stories of the Vietnam War.

David Keepnews is an associate professor in the School of Nursing at Adelphi University in New York. He also serves as editor of *Policy, Politics & Nursing Practice*, a peer-reviewed journal focusing on nursing and health policy. **Judy C. Miner, EdD**, has been appointed president of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills. **Joseph Warren**, a former Newport Beach resident and sea captain, has published a new book, *Territorial Drama*. Warren and his wife, Greta, have three adult children, Erica, Kim, and Noah.

1984 **Bishop John C. Wester, MA**, has been appoint-

ed by Pope Benedict XVI as head of the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

1985 **Anita Grier, EdD**, was elected president of the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees. This is her third term as president. **Scott True** works for the Internal Revenue Service and lives in Miami.

1986 **James Hudson, MBA**, was appointed chief financial officer for Engineering/Remediation Resources Group in Concord in May. **Philip Stathatos** and his wife, Lisa, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this year. Stathatos owns Classic Garden Products, Inc., an importing company in Los Angeles. He recently completed the MBA program at Claremont Graduate University.

1987 **Patricia Costa Tague, MA**, lives in Louisville, Ky. with her husband, Michael, and

Author Spins Tales of Love and Hope

While other authors might bristle at being called a “beach read,” Jane Porter, MFA '94, takes it as a compliment.

“I love being called a vacation read,” said Porter. “I don’t mind being the feel-good author.”

After all, Porter reasons, women often have enough stress in their lives without reading dark, tragic novels. Sometimes, she said, a lighter, uplifting read is exactly what they need. Porter has written 25 Harlequin romance novels as well as several straight fiction novels aimed at women, including the recently released *Odd Mom Out*.

She had been writing for years before beginning USF’s MFA in Writing program, but had never been published—she credits the program with providing her with the push she needed to make that leap. Not only did the program teach her about different writing genres, but it also honed her skills in such critical areas as character development, plot, and pacing. Porter also learned the critical role audience plays in any type of writing.

“It opened my whole mind that you’re not just sitting in your attic by yourself creating stories,” she said. “You have to be writing these for someone else.

You have to have something to say that’s relatable.”

Porter soon found that women related to her romance novels, with their mythic, larger-than-life characters such as Greek tycoons and Italian vintners, and eventually sold her first book to Harlequin. She has since become one of the publisher’s regular writers.

“With the romance novels, something I didn’t understand initially is that the woman is empowered,” Porter said. “She is the hero. She is empowered to find the right person, but she has to work for it, too. It’s a choice.”

The success of her romance novels also empowered Porter to write straight fiction. They may not have the same “all tied up with bows” endings as her romance novels, but Porter said the novels still provide readers with a sense of hope, love, and the overall goodness of the world. That’s precisely the message she hopes to convey to readers—that anything is possible and that women of all ages deserve to pursue their dreams and to be happy.

“If I can say to girls, whether they’re 12 years old or 60 years old, that ‘You matter,’ then I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing,” said Porter. **USF**



Kira Stewart Photography

Jane Porter, MFA '94, has published a new book, *Odd Mom Out*.