

DWOS 2018

Celebrity Dancer Photos and Bios



Elizabeth Alvarez, Anchor KUSI News

Elizabeth is an award winning, bilingual journalist who has worked in news since the late 1990s. She was born and raised in Southern California and graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a degree in Journalism. The California native began her career at KCBS-TV in Los Angeles as a news assistant. After that, she worked as both an anchor and reporter in Roswell, NM, El Paso, TX and Orlando, FL.

Elizabeth has covered some of the biggest stories to make national headlines. She reported on the ambush of the 507th Maintenance Company in Nasiriyah, Iraq during the 2003 invasion, bringing viewers up-to-the-minute information from the Fort Bliss army post. While working for the Fox affiliate WOFL in Orlando, she covered the disappearance of missing 2-year-old Trenton Duckett and the infamous Casey Anthony case. Elizabeth went on to anchor the morning news for KRQE News 13 in Albuquerque, NM and after three years, she comes to the nation's leading independent television station, KUSI-TV in San Diego, CA.

Elizabeth now anchors the most-watched morning shows in San Diego -- Good Morning San Diego on Saturday and Sunday.



Dr. Enil Bliesath

Dr. Bliesath is proud to serve her community as a dentist in Escondido. She was raised in Rancho Penasquitos, a suburb of San Diego. Dr. Bliesath is honored to be invited to participate in such an amazing event that celebrates her shared passion for the arts, as many of her past concert performances were hosted at the California Center for the Arts.

Dr. Bliesath attended the University of California, San Diego, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Physiology and Neuroscience. Her desire was to provide care to others. It wasn't until her sister, who was studying to become a dentist, invited her to stay with her and tour the school. It was during that visit that Dr. Bliesath fell in love with the artistry that is dentistry. It completely fulfilled her desire to connect with people and truly make a lasting difference. Dr. Bliesath received her Doctorate in Dental Surgery from the University of the Pacific, School of Dentistry, in San Francisco in 2007.

After 11 years in her practice, Dr. Bliesath continues to love dentistry and the impact it has on changing patients' lives one smile at a time. Her office is her second home and her patients are her extended family. She strives to provide quality dentistry with a respect for patients' financial limitations. Dr. Bliesath is driven to achieve continued academic excellence by learning new techniques in dentistry and attending continuing education conferences and seminars. She maintains an active membership in many professional dental associations, including: San Diego County Dental Society California Dental Association, American Dental Association Invisalign Certification, Cerec Certification Spear Education Study Club. Dr. Bliesath and her husband, Joshua, love the adventure they are currently on together, raising their two children, Nicholas, 7, and Lia, 5. She also thrives on community service, giving of her time throughout the Escondido community. Dr. Bliesath enjoys bringing smiles to everyone she has the pleasure of meeting. She also enjoys preparing a delicious Puerto Rican meal, listening to any orchestra with a strong French horn ensemble, and dancing in the living room with her kids.



Sandra DiCicco, CEO Grand Restaurant Group

Sandy is a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist whose career started at the young age of 11, when she started her own babysitting business, and opened her first bank account. By the age of 21, she owned her first restaurant. As Sandy began to grow and succeed, so did her desire to lead and help others. With the passion to create jobs and support families, over the last 30 years, Sandy has built restaurants, created product lines, purchased farms and built homes, creating hundreds of jobs all over the country.

Sandy's desire to give started as young as 8 years old. She would collect money to give to local charities such as Jerry Lewis Marathon for Muscular Dystrophy. Over the years, her love of children and the family unit was the driving force behind her dedication and contribution to many charities and organizations. She has built houses and donated lunches to Habitat for Humanity, worked in local soup kitchens, and has donated Christmas gifts to Children's Hospital. She dedicates her time reading to under privileged children and has even made the commitment of sponsoring 8 children a year. Those sponsorships range from paying for medical procedures and medications to college tuitions and living expenses; anything necessary for the success and wellbeing of those children.

Because she too, was once an entrepreneur with a dream, Sandy has aided many young people to build their own businesses. She not only invested in these young entrepreneurs financially, but continues to educate and support them along the way. Sandy is also a proud contributor to organizations such as San Pasqual Academy for Foster Teens, Right for Life, Palomar Hospital, K-Love, Escondido Community Center, The Boys & Girls Club Greater San Diego, Escondido Christian School, Rancho Santa Fe Community Center, Fresno Unified School District, Clovis Unified School District America Heart Association and Rady's Children's Hospital.

Though Sandy is a successful entrepreneur, she is a family woman first. The love for her family and friends is the driving force behind her work ethic and continued success. She is known throughout her businesses and the community, for her nurturing way and constant generosity. Sandy acknowledges, and is extremely grateful for her success, which leads her desire to give back to the community; because feeling gratitude and not expressing it, is like wrapping a present and not giving it.



Dr. Luis Ibarra

Dr. Ibarra is currently the Superintendent of the Escondido Union School District. With 26 years of school district experience he is the Chief Executive Officer of the District. The Escondido Union School District is the sixth largest elementary school district in California Serving over 16,000 students, the district works with over 1,500 employees, making EUSD the second largest employer in the City of Escondido.

Dr. Ibarra completed his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of California, San Diego and California State University, San Marcos in 2008. He earned his Master's in Educational Administration from Azusa Pacific University in 1995, and finished his undergraduate studies with a BA in Liberal Arts from California State University, San Bernardino in 1990.



Angie Lasagna, VP of Community Relations and External Affairs Mission Federal Credit Union

Angie Lasagna has more than 15 years of experience in the areas of marketing, media, public relations, events design and corporate philanthropy for financial institutions. She first started her career as a part time drive up teller at Grossmont Bank and soon worked her way through the ranks to new account, whereby within two years she was in the marketing department.

Before joining Mission Federal she had worked with Navy Federal starting in 2007 as the company's Member Outreach Manager. In this capacity, she supported the organization's strategic marketing

initiatives by developing and overseeing marketing campaigns and promotions including special events, fund-raising programs and community outreach in the Southwest Region, covering 7 states. Angie's responsibilities included business development, meeting with recruiters and high ranking military leaders, along with events management at large military events to meet the company strategic goals. She has received numerous honors and recognitions in her career and has been on the board and chaired for several nonprofit organizations. She is currently the Chairwoman for the Credit Union for Kids Committee and has served in this role since 2014. She was honored for her role as chair for Miracle Maker for Rady Children's Hospital in 2009 and also served for five years on the City of Hope Walk Committee. Angie was volunteer Chairman for the Temecula Balloon & Wine Festival for 11 years. From 2003 to 2005, she was a Top 10 Fundraiser for City of Hope. Angie was also a Top 10 Fundraiser for Kids News Day, Rady Children's Hospital in 2003, and earned a Top Walker Award for the March of Dimes. In 2001 she was presented with the California Bank and Trust All Star Award. Most recently Angie received another award from Rady Childrens Hospital in 2015 for Miracle maker. Currently, Angie is on the board for San Diego Council for literacy, School site Council Shoal Creek Elementary and Grant maker Make a Wish Foundation wish circle Miracle babies.



Dr. Albert Martinez

Al was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He attended the University of New Mexico with a degree in Biology followed by UNM School of Medicine, graduating in 1982. He moved to San Diego to do his residency in Pediatrics and became board certified in Pediatrics. Dr. Martinez entered private practice in Escondido and Poway with Children's Primary Care Medical Group. After 27 years in practice he changed his work affiliation and has been with practicing general pediatrics with Sharp-Rees Stealy Medical Group since 2012.

Al has been married to Natalie Harris Martinez since 1988 and they reside in Poway. They have two sons, Dan 26 and Steve 24. The Martinez' are attend the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Escondido where Al has been active on the Mission Committee for many years and served as an elder of the church.

Medial Mission work has been a big part of Al's life and he has traveled to several countries with Project Compassion as medical director and currently serves on the Project Compassion Board of Directors. Al also volunteers as the coordinator/medical director for Camp Reach for the Sky Day Camp since 1984. This camp provides camp opportunities for children with cancer and their siblings. Al's hobbies include hiking, fishing and gardening. He has also been an avid equestrian since childhood, riding Western, English, Dressage and trail events as well as jumping and riding for pleasure.



Cami Mattson Director, Charitable Giving The San Diego Foundation

Cami Mattson serves as Director of Charitable Giving for The San Diego Foundation. Mattson leads a team responsible for building assets to increase effective philanthropy across the region by helping donors make an impact in the community.

Previously, Mattson served as Director of Community Relations for Cox Communications, California. In her role, Mattson was responsible for the statewide strategic direction of the company's community relations efforts, including employee volunteerism, the Cox Cares Foundation and its corporate giving.

Mattson also served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego North Convention and Visitors Bureau for 21 years. She was instrumental in changing the organization from a city bureau to a San Diego North regional organization creating a distinct destination brand and increasing its revenue from \$300,000 to \$3.2 million. With over 10 public funding sources and 200 private sector members, Cami led the organization in making a collective difference to an underserved area producing over \$34 million in economic impact through visitor spending

Currently, Mattson serves on the advisory council for President Haynes of California State University San Marcos, serves as chairman of the board for Mission Edge and on the boards of San Diego Habitat for Humanity and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego.

Mattson earned a bachelor's degree in public relations/communications from Brigham Young University. She is a long-time resident of Del Mar and has been known to make treks to Mount Everest and Kilimanjaro.



General Manager, Escondido Materials/Weir Asphalt Construction

Matt Pound was born in Manassas, Virginia and moved to San Diego when he was a young child. Matt attended high school at Orange Glen where he participated in football, basketball, ASB, and baseball (subject to debate). Following high school, Matt attended Palomar College where he played two years for the football program before transferring to Tusculum College in Tennessee on a partial football/academic scholarship. Following a few life changes, Matt returned to San Diego where he finished his college career online, graduating with a BBA in Marketing from American Intercontinental University. Following graduation, Matt worked as a substitute teacher at Mission Hills High School while also coaching football and basketball. In 2007, Matt made a career change and ultimately found a passion for the construction industry after working with the great men and women of Wyroc Materials, Titan Transportation, Marathon

General, and Hanson Aggregates before joining the Weir Family as GM of Escondido Materials. Matt has been dedicated to doing all he can to make a positive impact to his community and industry, currently serving as the chair of the Economic Development Committee and on the Board of Directors for the Escondido Chamber of Commerce as well as several construction industry association committees.

Matt and wife Jennifer have been married for 9 years and have 2 daughters Peyton (8) and Aubrey (6). Matt spends his spare time at lots of soccer and softball games while also trying to do just enough to make sure he has a “happy wife, happy life”.



President Pudgil & Company

Darren Pudgil is a native San Diegan. He's a graduate of Chula Vista High School and San Diego State University, where he earned a degree in Journalism.

After spending many years working in politics for the likes of San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and future California First Lady Maria Shriver, he started his own public relations firm, Pudgil and Company, whose clients today range from the San Diego Tourism Authority to American Medical Response to Newland Communities.

In his spare time, Darren enjoys boating in San Diego Bay, socializing in the Gaslamp Quarter where he now lives, and telling anyone who will listen about his football playing days at Chula Vista High School.

He's a long-time member of Friends of Journalism and Media Studies at San Diego State, which provides resources to help the university's journalism students. He's also donated his time to help put on the first two Dancing With Our Starts fundraisers.

Darren is very excited to be participating in this year's competition as a contestant where he hopes to bring home one of the awards – or at least not to end up on America's Funniest Home Videos.

While far from being a professionally-trained dancer, as a teenager he did spend many, many nights south of the border gliding across the dance floors of Tijuana, Mexico. *Ladies and gentlemen, are you ready for some foot work?*



Doug Shutz, Escondido City Treasurer

"Douglas has resided in Escondido for the majority of his life. His family has lived here for decades and has deep ties to the Escondido community. Douglas and his wife Natalie have 2 daughters, Tasha and Macie. He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Certificate in Financial Planning from Pepperdine University. He currently serves as the City Treasurer for Escondido and runs a Wealth Management practice and has worked in the financial industry for more than 10 years.

Douglas is actively involved as an Assistant Scout Master with a local Boy Scout troop and is also a member of the Escondido Sunrise Rotary Club. Douglas has also served as a trustee on the Board of Directors for the Escondido Education Foundation for 2 years. In his spare time Douglas enjoys surfing, movies and spending time with his family."