

IRAQ VETERAN

War Story

FIGHTING WORDS: “I thought if I didn’t put this story out on paper, then it would be something that was glossed over as Americans paying Iraqis to fight for them, and what did these guys sacrifice their lives for, then?” says Tom Daly ’04 about *Rage Company*, a memoir of his experience as a marine in Iraq (Story, page 42).

'Baptism by Fire'

Tom Daly '04 embarks on a personal mission to find meaning in the sacrifices of his fellow marines in Iraq.

By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

TOM DALY '04 WAS LITTLE MORE THAN TWO years out of Rochester when, as a newly minted Marine lieutenant, he set out on a life-shaping tour of duty in Iraq's most turbulent region, Al Anbar province. After attending Rochester on an NROTC scholarship, Daly, the son of a marine who had never seriously envisioned any other career, began training to become a field artillery officer. In September 2006, he sailed out of San Diego as part of a Marine expeditionary unit that would be stationed in Kuwait.

In November, the mission changed. The unit would enter Iraq. And there, it would help carry out Operation Squeeze Play: an effort to root al Qaeda out of their Anbar strongholds, the cities of Rutbah, Haditha, and the provincial capital, Ramadi.

As he writes in a new memoir, *Rage Company: A Marine's Baptism by Fire* (John Wiley & Sons), a frustrating and often fruitless effort by U.S. forces to outwit and defeat al Qaeda became a strategic alliance with former enemies—secular Sunni

militias who had found a common interest with the United States in defeating the terrorist organization.

Daly is now a project manager at the ITT Corp. and lives in Auburn, N.Y., with his wife, Aimee, and daughters, Clara, 2, and Elise, 3 months. The memoir began as a personal project to find meaning in a mission in which three marines—friends Anthony Melia, Clinton Ahlquist, and Steven Chavez—lost their lives. Sailing back from Iraq, he says, “many of the marines were questioning the purpose of their sacrifice.”

Daly concedes it was a hard question to answer. But nothing helped him clarify his thinking more, he says, than reports that the United States was turning the corner in Iraq by paying Sunni militias to do its fighting. Daly had just come from a joint mission with exactly those militias.

“They rose up and fought al Qaeda out of a determination to defeat them,” says Daly of the movement now referred to as the Anbar Awakening.

“I thought if I didn't put this story out on paper, then it would be something that was

glossed over as Americans paying Iraqis to fight for them, and what did these guys sacrifice their lives for, then?” says Daly, who argues that the American presence was critical to the war's momentum in early 2007.

While the story of the Anbar Awakening has been widely reported, Daly, both a forward observer and an intelligence officer, recounts his journey much as he experienced it: day-by-day, with all the complexity of a mission full of shifting alliances, disguised combatants, split-second decisions, and imperfect information.

Bing West, an author and an assistant defense secretary during the Reagan administration, writes in a foreword to the book, “*Rage Company* is a straightforward, honest account of what U.S. soldiers and marines do when placed in a hostile urban area.”

Three years after his deployment, as the violence in Iraq continues, Daly, reflecting on his experience handling intelligence, argues that the outlook is often better than it seems.

Factional violence, he says, “is easily picked up by the news cycle. However, the daily grind of hunting down, capturing, or killing militants, or the flipping of tribes to our side, is easily overlooked or simply too classified to even be released.”

In the News

JONATHAN LUNINE '80 ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Jonathan Lunine '80, a professor of planetary sciences and of physics at the University of Arizona, has been elected into the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors awarded in the fields of science and technology. An expert in the formation and evolution of planets, brown dwarf stars, and other celestial bodies, Lunine has made significant contributions to spacecraft technology and space exploration.

HUGO SONNENSCHNEIN '61 HONORED FOR WORK IN ECONOMICS

Hugo Sonnenschein '61, the Adam Smith Distinguished Service Professor of Economics and president emeritus at the University of Chicago, has earned international recognition for his contributions to economic theory. In June, Sonnenschein, a Rochester trustee, received the Frontiers of Knowledge Award in economics, finance, and management from the BBVA Foundation. BBVA stands for Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, and is a global financial services group based in Bilbao, Spain. Sonnenschein shared the award with one of his former students, Andreu Mas-Colell, the secretary general of the European Union Research Council.

ROCHELLE STEINER '97 (PHD) NAMED DEAN OF USC FINE ARTS SCHOOL

Museum, gallery, and public art curator **Rochelle Steiner '97** (PhD) has been named the new dean of the University of Southern California's Roski School of Fine Arts. A graduate of Rochester's doctoral program in visual and cultural studies, Steiner is the former director of the Public Art Fund in New York City. In that role, she helped secure the commissioning and installation of several notable contemporary works in public spaces throughout the city, including “The New York City Waterfalls,” a series of large and striking outdoor waterfalls by Danish artist Olafur Eliasson that was on display in 2008.

JAMES JIMENEZ '75, '76S (MBA): 'SUPER LAWYER'

Los Angeles business and real estate attorney **James Jimenez '75, '76S** (MBA) has been designated a top California lawyer by *Southern California Super Lawyers* magazine. A national umbrella group, *Super Lawyers* magazine honors no more than 5 percent of attorneys in any state with the special status. Super Lawyers are selected based on peer nominations and professional achievements. Jimenez has been practicing law in California for three decades, founding his own firm, the Pacific Business Law Group, in 1988.

At Kent State, Aiming High

Kent State University President Lester Lefton '74 (PhD) leads the institution through two major milestones in 2010.

By Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

FIVE YEARS AGO, **LESTER LEFTON** '74 (PHD) was the provost and senior vice president of academic affairs at Tulane when Hurricane Katrina struck, bursting levees and flooding the New Orleans university.

"It was life-altering," Lefton says. Within days of the arrival of students for the fall semester, the university closed, and he, the president, and a handful of other officials relocated to Houston, where they prepared the transition into a daunting and unpredictable future.

"We had a lot of changes take place," he says. "But if I ever wanted a crash course in how to run a university, and how to manage crises, it was certainly the Katrina experience."

A year later, Kent State University, seeking its 11th president, figured Lefton would be up to the job.

A vast organization, Kent State enrolls almost 40,000 students who are spread across its main campus in Kent, Ohio, and seven regional campuses. It plays an increasingly important role in the economy of northeastern Ohio, a once-flourishing region struggling to emerge from a long decline following the collapse of its steel industry.

One of Lefton's earliest, and biggest, successes was in offering a home at the university's then nascent research park to AlphaMicron, an expanding high-tech green manufacturing company founded by three faculty members from Kent State's Liquid Crystal Institute. The company had outgrown its facility in Kent and was on the verge of moving out of town. In 2009 the *Kent Record-Courier* declared the company's new home at Kent State's Centennial Park a "triple win for the community," crediting Lefton for making the research park—and hence the company's home—a reality.

For many American baby boomers, however, Kent State is less likely to conjure up images of liquid crystal technology than it is

the memory of May 4, 1970. That's the day the Ohio National Guard fired into a crowd of students, some of whom were protesting the Vietnam War, killing four and wounding nine others. The shooting became a watershed moment in post-World War II American history.

This year, Lefton shepherded the Kent State community through the 40th anniversary of that tragedy during a year that also marked the university's centennial celebration. "What happened at Kent State in the



aftermath was not particularly good," Lefton says of the 1970 shooting. "They tried to sort of forget about it."

This year, he says, "we have embraced May 4th," while driving the point home that the anniversary and the centennial are inextricably related to Kent State's mission as a major research and teaching institution.

"The lessons of Kent State are about civil discourse, and open dialogue, and free speech," he says. "We've embraced May 4th as a teaching moment—to learn, to inquire,

▲ **VISIONARY:** A long-time professor of psychology, Lefton studied at Rochester's Center for Visual Science. "Rochester is where I learned to have academic aspirations," he says.

and to reflect." The two-day commemoration featured guest speakers and roundtable discussions, as well as a ceremony to mark the listing of the site of the shooting on the National Register of Historic Places.

It's an approach well-integrated with Lefton's overall message that while Kent State primarily serves a regional population, it's also an open, diverse, and cosmopolitan institution. Lefton's initiatives include expanding international student exchange programs and opportunities for

students to study abroad.

He's also set higher standards for faculty, which has led to an overall increase in funded research.

Lefton is overseeing the development of a downtown hotel and conference center that he hopes will enhance the ability of faculty to run national conferences and, Lefton believes, better connect students to the town. "I'd like Kent to resemble Ann Arbor or Ithaca more than it does right now," he says of the "college towns" of the University of Michigan and Cornell.

Michigan, in particular, is a model.

"We see ourselves looking more like the University of Michigan 10 years from now than we do a local community college. We're not there yet; but that's our goal." 📍

So You Want to be a Flamenco Dancer?

Rebecca Thomas '98 makes a career out of an improvisational art form.

Interview by Karen McCally '02 (PhD)

REBECCA THOMAS '98 WAS SPENDING A SEMESTER in Grenada when she encountered the captivating art form of flamenco—a combination of music and dance that would inspire the native of West Hartford, Conn., to return to Spain several more times.

Now, with formal training at Madrid's renowned Flamenco Academy Amor de Dios as well as a year of ethnomusicology under her belt, Rebeca Tomas, as she's known on the stage, makes her living in Manhattan as an up-and-coming flamenco dancer, choreographer, producer, and educator.

What is flamenco dancing?

Flamenco is an art form, a combination of music and dance, that started in the south of Spain hundreds of years ago, from a mixture of cultures that included Spanish Christians, Sephardic Jews, Arabs from North Africa, and Gypsies who came over from India. The most notable thing about the dancing is the footwork. We use heeled shoes with nails. There's lots of handwork as well. And a lot of suffering and pain that you see often on flamenco dancers' faces, which comes from the suffering of the Gypsies and the Arabs and the Jews. A lot of this is expressed in the voice and the lyrics. But then that's interpreted—the emotion of it—in the dance. It's also very improvisational. I don't rehearse a lot with my musicians. I just go out there. There's a lot of back and forth, like in jazz, between the musicians and the dancer.

How did you get into flamenco dancing?

I went abroad for a semester. I was majoring in psychology and I was studying in Grenada. I went to a flamenco show there, and I was dumbfounded. I was on a program where we had to keep a journal. And I wrote in my journal: "I have to do this. I have to know this. I have to be a part of this." So I started classes. I was a musician, and the footwork was amazing. And in flamenco dancing, as a dancer, you're a musician.



What does your family think of your career choice?

At first they were nervous. I went back to Spain, to Madrid, and took more classes. But then I got to a good enough level that the dance program at Rochester invited me to do a lecture and demonstration. And because I had studied ethnomusicology I

▲ **DANCE PROGRAM:** Improvisation plays an important role in flamenco dancing, Thomas says. "There's a lot of back and forth, like in jazz, between the musicians and the dancer."

could talk about flamenco in addition to dance it. That's when my parents realized I could actually do something with it.

So you don't have a day job?

No. This is my career. I teach and I do a lot of arts education. Flamenco is such a cultural art form that there's a lot of demand for it in schools. I can go to schools and give workshops and give performances and teach kids about it. And I do gigs. I can show up with just two musicians and just dance on a floor and people want to see it. **R**

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KUDOS

University Honors Alumni at Commencement

Alumni from Arts, Sciences and Engineering, the School of Medicine and Dentistry, the Eastman School, and the Simon Graduate School of Business were recognized by the University for their professional accomplishments during this spring's commencement ceremonies.

Vincent Lenti '60E, '63E (MA), Cathy Jones Minehan '68, and Arthur Moss '62M (Res) were awarded the Charles Force Hutchison and Marjorie Smith Hutchison Medal, the University's highest alumni honor.

A member of the Eastman School's piano faculty since 1963, Lenti served for 26 years as director of the Eastman Community Music School. The author of articles on church music and liturgy, he also is the Eastman School's historian.

After almost 40 years in the Federal Reserve System, Minehan retired in 2007 from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, where she had served as president and chief executive of the Boston Bank and was a member of the Federal Open Market Committee. She chairs the executive committee of Rochester's Board of Trustees.

Moss is a professor of medicine and founder and former director of the Heart Research Follow-up Program at the Medical Center. He's widely recognized for his contributions to the study of coronary disease and heart-rhythm disorders.

Linda Birnbaum '67 and Richard Thaler '74 (PhD) were each awarded an honorary doctor of science degree, and **Robert Keegan '72S (MBA)** received an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Birnbaum directs the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Toxicology Program. An authority on environmental chemicals, Birnbaum oversees a multidisciplinary research program designed to understand the environmental contributors to disease.

Thaler, the Ralph and Dorothy Keller Distinguished Service Professor of Economics and Behavioral Science at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, is a pioneering theorist in behavioral economics. A codirector of the National Bureau of Economic Research's behavioral economics project, he directs the Center for Decision Research at Chicago.

The chair of the board of directors of the



HONOREES: Cathy Jones Minehan '68, Vincent Lenti '60E, '63E (MA), and Robert Keegan '72S (MBA) were among the alumni recognized this spring.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Keegan served as CEO and president of the company for the past seven years. He's credited with helping transform Goodyear's operations and products and successfully integrating its tire brands in Europe.

Young-Kee Kim '90 (PhD), a professor of physics at the University of Chicago, received the Rochester Distinguished Scholar Medal. Since 2006, she has served as deputy director of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.