



WOODBURY BUSINESS INSTITUTE

Where Your Legacy Begins
Summer 2026 Newsletter



A New Chapter: Woodbury University's School of Business Is Now the Woodbury Business Institute

Dear Students, Alumni, Colleagues, Family Members, and Friends,

We are delighted to share an exciting milestone in our journey. Following the finalized merger between Woodbury University and the University of Redlands, the Woodbury University School of Business now continues its legacy as the Woodbury Business Institute (WBI), a distinct and dedicated unit within the University of Redlands' School of Business & Society (SBS). This new chapter builds on everything that has always made our community special, while opening the door to even greater opportunities ahead.

What Stays the Same

Rest assured, the exceptional education you've come to expect from us remains fully intact. Our MBA program and our BBA majors, Fashion Marketing, Management, and Marketing, continue to be guided by outstanding faculty, delivering the insightful, real-world learning our students rely on. Beloved traditions like our rotating Executive in Residence, the Creative Minds Conference, our Thought Leader Series, as well as our cherished Alumni Reunion will all continue as vibrant parts of the WBI experience. We're also pleased to confirm that our AACSB and ACBSP accreditations, which open doors to professional and continued educational opportunities after graduation, remain fully safeguarded.



What's New, and Exciting

Joining SBS unlocks meaningful new possibilities for our entire community. Students can look forward to expanded study-away opportunities, a broader range of program choices, more diverse course concentrations, and access to an even richer pool of highly qualified faculty. We remain firmly committed to the high standards you know us for, and we're already planning new programs and offerings for the near future.

Leadership Update

As part of this transition, **Dr. Jennifer Madden**, Dean of the School of Business and Society, assumes overarching leadership across all SBS units. **Dr. Joan Marques** steps down as Dean of the former WUSB and returns to the faculty following a well-earned sabbatical in Fall 2026, after which she will take on the roles of Director of WBI and Senior Associate Dean of SBS. During Dr. Marques' sabbatical, WBI will be proudly led by **Dr. Wendy K. Bendon**, who will also remain a leading analyst in the areas of Marketing and Fashion Marketing.



Dr. Jennifer Madden



Dr. Joan Marques



Dr. Wendy K. Bendon

We are truly excited for what lies ahead, a future filled with growth, new partnerships, expanded opportunities, and continued excellence. Thank you for being an essential part of our stakeholder community, both now and for all that's still to come.

With warm regards and great anticipation,
The Woodbury Business Institute

Summer Speaker Series 2026: *Lead From Where You Are*

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS | WOODBURY BUSINESS INSTITUTE

2026 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

Lead From Where You Are

The Mindset that Moves With You



Joan Marques, Ph.D., Ed.D.
Dean | Director
Professor of Management
Woodbury Business Institute

**WEDNESDAY
AUG. 12, 2026**
Live at 3:00PM PST

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS | WOODBURY BUSINESS INSTITUTE

2026 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

Lead From Where You Are

The Relationship Between Change and Trust



Michael Ritterbrown, Ed.D.
Vice President of
Instructional Services
Glendale Community College

**FRIDAY
AUG. 14, 2026**
Live at 3:00PM PST

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS | WOODBURY BUSINESS INSTITUTE

2026 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

Lead From Where You Are

Leadership is a Decision, Not a Destination



Sharon Townsend, DSW
Executive Director of
Development & Alumni
Affairs
University of Redlands, Los Angeles

**MONDAY
AUG. 17, 2026**
Live at 3:00PM PST

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS | WOODBURY BUSINESS INSTITUTE

2026 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

Lead From Where You Are

Leadership Across Generations



Kevin Sanford, Ph.D.
Chair & Professor,
Department of Business
Administration
Los Angeles Valley College

**WEDNESDAY
AUG. 19, 2026**
Live at 3:00PM PST

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS | WOODBURY BUSINESS INSTITUTE

2026 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

Lead From Where You Are

The Power of Emotional Intelligence



Jennifer Madden, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Business &
Society
University of Redlands

**FRIDAY
AUG. 21, 2026**
Live at 3:00PM PST

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS | WOODBURY BUSINESS INSTITUTE

2026 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

Lead From Where You Are

On Mentoring and Being Mentored



Frank Aguirre, Ph.D.
Chair & Instructor,
Department of Business
Administration
East Los Angeles College

**MONDAY
AUG. 24, 2026**
Live at 3:00PM PST

As has been our tradition over the past eight years, the Woodbury Business Institute (formerly Woodbury University School of Business) organized its popular Summer Speaker Series, this

year under the overarching theme, "Lead From Where You Are."

As can be read from the thumbnails above, the individual speakers, all strong academic leaders, selected subjects that were aimed at personal and professional growth and resilience.

Topics covered:

- ***The Mindset that Moves with You*** – Dr. Joan Marques
- ***The Relationship Between Change and Trust*** – Dr. Michael Ritterbrown
- ***Leadership is a Decision Not a Destination*** – Dr. Sharon Townsend
- ***Leading Across Generations*** – Dr. Kevin Sanford
- ***The Power of Emotional Intelligence*** – Dr. Jennifer Madden
- ***On Mentoring and Being Mentored*** – Dr. Frank Aguirre

We thank the speakers who spontaneously agreed to participate and contribute to this series of insightful and timeless presentations.

An Overview of the 5th Annual ***Business Alumni Reunion***



On June 10, 2026, we celebrated our 5th annual business reunion. Woodbury Business alumni from the 1950s up through 2026 spent some quality time together and enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere adorned with a series of highlights. Jeff Neumeister, CPA and Adjunct Faculty, shared some insightful observations on the value of a Woodbury Business education and how that becomes of high use in life; Mariya Palanjian, alumna and VP of Marketing at UR, provided an excellent overview of the merger with the University of Redlands, and Jack Condon, Entrepreneur and Adjunct Faculty at Woodbury, ran a lively raffle announcement show.

The alumni awards formed a wonderful highlight, with as recipients this year:

- ***Gary Kaloostian*** (Class of 1959: Flamekeeper award)
- ***Gayane Hovhanissyan*** (Class of 2023; Devoted Alumna award)
- ***Sheldon Eskin*** (Class of 1970; Devoted Alumnus award)
- ***Jocelyn Ramirez*** (Class of 2009; Distinguished Alumna award)

Bon Appetite treated the guests to a tasty dinner and dessert, while alumni shared fascinating stories, viewed and purchased beautiful African art, made bids on the attractive items at the silent auction, and took some sips at the wine-tasting event.

Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of this event. We look forward to seeing many of our friends again next year!



The Spring 2026 Alumni Advisory Council Webinar

Alumni Webinar

Wednesday, June 3rd
4:00 pm PDT
Free Access

Charbel Ghaby
RISQ CFP®
MBA, Class of 2014
Wealth Management Advisor,
WestPac Wealth Partners

Jeff Neumeister
CPA/ABV, CFE, CMA, MACC,
MBA, Class of 2011
Managing Partner,
Kelly+Partners

**New Tax Laws, New Rules,
New Opportunities**

→ [BIT.LY/WUSB-webinar](https://bit.ly/WUSB-webinar)

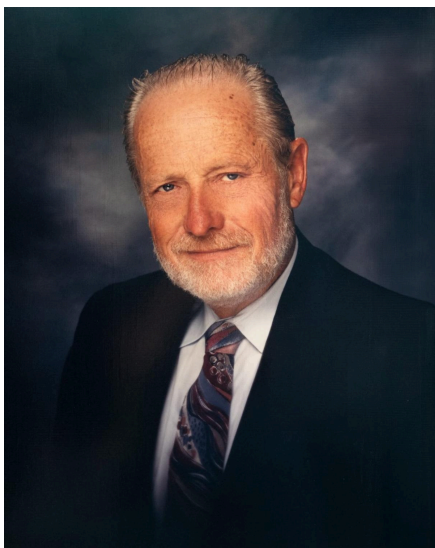
On June 3rd, two dynamic alumni joined forces to present a well-attended webinar on changes in tax laws and what those mean for the taxpayer.

One of the much-appreciated highlights in this presentation was the clear review of “The Big Beautiful Bill,” which refers to the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (H.R. 1), a major 2025 U.S. reconciliation bill that became Public Law on July 4, 2025, covering tax cuts, spending changes, and broad federal program revisions.

Charbel and Jeff have been praised for their selfless initiative to inform our alumni, friends, and stakeholders at large on topics that interest them and can help in making wiser decisions to safeguard their pocketbooks.

Charbel Ghaby (MBA, 2014) is an insightful wealth management advisor with a rich entrepreneurial background, and **Jeff Neumeister** (MBA, 2011) is an experienced forensic expert and consultant in accounting, financial advisory, and litigation support services.

Farewell to a Great Friend of the Woodbury Business Community



Dr. Walter W. Mosher Jr., long-time Advisory Board Member of the Woodbury University School of Business and Member of the Institution's Board of Trustees, peacefully passed on May 14.

Dr. Mosher was best known as the founder of Precision Dynamics Corporation (PDC), a pioneering healthcare identification company whose innovations helped revolutionize patient safety and modern hospital identification systems worldwide. Through his work developing and advancing patient identification wristbands and related barcode and RFID technologies, Walt's contributions became integrated into hospitals and healthcare systems across the globe, helping improve patient care and reduce medical errors for countless millions of people.

Born in California, he pursued engineering studies at University of California, Los Angeles, where his lifelong passion for innovation, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship flourished. Dr. Mosher was widely respected for his intellect, leadership, generosity, dry sense of humor, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others. He was a generous supporter to and a kindhearted but passionate advocate of the former Woodbury University School of Business. He will be missed!



Woodbury Business Institute Launches
Summer Entrepreneur Bootcamp



This summer, the Woodbury Business Institute welcomed 22 aspiring entrepreneurs - a mix of community members and students from Woodbury University and the University of Redlands spanning majors well beyond business - into its first-ever Build Your Own Business: 8-Week Entrepreneur Bootcamp. Held Tuesday evenings in a hybrid format from May through June, the program was made possible by a generous grant from the Community Foundation of the Verdugos (CFV).

Initiated by Dr. Joan Marques (Director, Woodbury Business Institute), and led by faculty members Dr. Paul Sabolic and Dr. James Spee, the Bootcamp paired interactive lectures with hands-on guidance in marketing, opportunity identification, and business plan development. Each week featured a guest lecture from a Woodbury Business Institute Advisory Board member, giving participants direct access to the stories and lessons of real, practicing entrepreneurs.

Twelve participants completed the full eight-week journey, each earning a Certificate of Completion and a business plan built around their own passions. The response was deeply personal: one participant's mother shared that her son gained newfound confidence in pursuing his entrepreneurial ambitions, while an international MBA student described how the program broadened her vision for ventures she hopes to launch back home.

Every participant received a laptop to support their coursework, and nine additional laptops were secured for next year's cohort - ensuring this program's momentum, and its impact, carries forward. The Bootcamp is a testament to what's possible when community and campus come together - turning ideas into action, one entrepreneur at a time.

MBA Capstone Team Delivers Strategic Consulting Proposal for St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store



Students in the Woodbury Business Institute's MBA capstone course, Strategic Management Consulting (MGMT 682), partnered with the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Los Angeles** to help reimagine the customer experience at its Thrift Store. Under the guidance of faculty supervisor Dr. Paul Sabolic, the team of Erandy Miranda Peregrino, Isabella Kirakosian, Silvia Chaparyan, Talar Zaki, and Cassie Urena took on the challenge of enhancing the store's signage and boosting foot traffic through a strengthened community presence.

The students grounded their work in direct fieldwork, beginning with an initial client meeting on July 9, 2026, followed by an in-person walkthrough of the store on July 11 to assess its existing signage and customer flow firsthand. From there, they developed a comprehensive four-phase proposal: research and assessment, a signage revamp strategy, a preliminary social media marketing plan, and a coordinated implementation phase bringing both efforts together to drive foot traffic and elevate the overall shopping experience.

The project reflects the kind of real-world, client-facing consulting work that defines the MBA capstone experience — giving students the opportunity to apply strategic management principles to a mission-driven organization actively serving the Los Angeles community, while delivering genuine, actionable value to a nonprofit partner.



From Lemons to Land: The Cilgia Halprin Story

There is a particular kind of resilience that cannot be taught in a classroom. It has to be lived, tested, and earned one difficult decision at a time. Cilgia Halprin's life is a testament to exactly that kind of resilience, and it is a story we are proud to share with our community.

Cilgia, a Woodbury alumna from the 1950s, was born in Switzerland during the Second World War, the daughter of two tailors. Scarcity and rationing defined those early years, and by the time she was four, her parents had separated. When her mother remarried and moved to Italy, young Cilgia stayed behind in the care of her grandmother.

At eight, she joined her mother in Italy and quickly learned what it felt like to be the outsider. It would not be the last time she had to adjust to a new country, a new language, and a new sense of who she was allowed to be.



In Italy, she attended a small local school, one that only went up to the fifth grade, and she was even trusted to help teach the younger children. But the bullying from her classmates eventually became too much, and she stopped attending school altogether.

Then came an unexpected turn. A godmother living in the United States offered to sponsor thirteen-year-old Cilgia, opening the door to an American education. Even that opportunity came tangled in bureaucracy, as officials debated whether she should be classified as Swiss or Italian. Eventually the paperwork was sorted out, and Cilgia enrolled at Virgil Junior High School on Vermont Avenue, a school with its own share of turbulence among students. She had already learned, through her years in Italy, how to keep her head down and endure. From there she moved on to Hollywood High School, and eventually to Woodbury College in downtown Los Angeles.

Life after school did not unfold smoothly. Her first job as a secretary ended in dismissal. She married at twenty, became pregnant, and stepped away from the workforce to raise her two children, a son and a daughter. Later, she worked part time as an assistant to a well-known architectural photographer, a job she enjoyed and excelled at, until the photographer's fiancée made her discomfort known and Cilgia chose to leave.

At home, the picture was no brighter. Cilgia and her husband had managed to buy a home in a desirable Los Angeles neighborhood, but underneath that appearance of stability was a husband whose compulsive gambling was slowly destroying everything they had built. The habit eventually cost him his career as an accountant and led to charges of embezzlement, despite his many affluent connections.

It took years before Cilgia found the courage to leave. She waited until both of her children were married and settled before she allowed herself to start a new life. With the help of a loan from a generous and understanding friend, she paid off the debts and began looking for a new direction. That direction turned out to be real estate.

Cilgia had always been drawn to the idea of land and property, and once she stepped into that world, one opportunity led to another. Her warmth and genuine interest in people won her the trust of partners who believed in her, and with each new relationship, her knowledge of the field deepened and her opportunities multiplied. She also went into business with her son, and with every deal, her confidence grew. She learned how to read people, how to negotiate, and how to recognize when a partnership was built on honesty and when it was not. Not everyone she met in business was kind or forthright and Cilgia encountered several difficult moments along the way, but she learned to navigate those moments with the same clear-eyed resilience that had carried her since childhood.

In time, Cilgia built a reputation as a skilled negotiator, and came to own properties across multiple states. Looking back, she sees every hardship, every disappointment, and every hard-won success as part of what shaped her into the woman she became.



When asked what she carries with her from her time as a Woodbury student, Cilgia points to a handful of enduring lessons: be kind and know how to connect with people, understand others and truly listen, turn the lemons life hands you into lemonade, persevere and stay honest, and help where you can while remaining meticulous in your work.

It is a story that reminds us why we do what we do. Behind every degree earned is a life still being written, and Cilgia Halprin's chapter is proof that resilience, patience, and an open heart can turn even the hardest beginnings into a legacy worth celebrating.

Picture above: Alice Rogers and Cilgia Halprin two alumni and long-time friends from the 1950's.

Frank Aguirre Completes Doctoral Studies

On June 11 2026, **Frank Aguirre** (MBA 2011), conducted a successful final thesis defense for his study "*Understanding the Transfer Pathways of Latino Male Business Administration Students at a Community College: Academic, Institutional, Environmental, and Cultural Influences*". The study was completed at Claremont Graduate University, School of Educational Studies.

Dr. Aguirre impressed his examiners and audience with his meticulous and passionate presentation and the ease and natural way he responded to questions.

In his daily life, Frank serves as the Chair of the Business department at East Los Angeles College. We are proud of the professional and scholastic accomplishments of Dr. Frank Aguirre.



Tom Baron: A Word of Gratitude



We recently learned that a major Woodbury Entrepreneurship supporter and sponsor, Mr. Thomas Baron, passed away. Tom Baron was a highly respected and beloved Woodbury Business Alumnus with a great sense of humor and a drive to share his success with today's generation. He did so by sponsoring the annual Baron Business Plan Dinner and Competition at Woodbury for many years. Mr. Baron was passionate about evoking and cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit in upcoming generations.

Upon graduating from Woodbury in the 1960's, Mr. Baron proudly served in the United States Navy

before furthering his education at California State University, Fullerton.

Tom had a successful career as a Realtor and Broker and earned the trust of clients, colleagues, and friends. He also devoted his time to the Boys & Girls Club of Irvine, mentoring young people and establishing a book club that inspired children to develop a lifelong love of reading.

On behalf of the entire Woodbury Business community, we thank Mr. Baron for his dedication to infusing the entrepreneurial spirit in many of our students over the years. He will be missed!



Woodbury Business Institute Faculty Shine at the 2026 Academy of Management Conference



This summer, Woodbury Business Institute faculty brought a strong (virtual) presence to the 2026 Academy of Management (AOM) Conference in Philadelphia, the largest global gathering of management scholars and practitioners. Across a packed conference week, WBI faculty and administrators had nine presentations accepted, reflecting the depth and reach of the Institute's scholarly community.

Dr. Joan Marques led the way with an impressive six accepted sessions: three symposia and three Professional Development Workshops (PDWs), exploring themes ranging from spirituality in teaching and organizational practice to conscious leadership amid global complexity.

Her sessions brought together anywhere from three to six co-presenters each, drawing collaborators from institutions across the United States, Canada, France, Sweden, India, Mexico, and the Netherlands.

Two of Dr. Marques' submissions received awards: "*Awakening to Intelligence: Human Wisdom and Artificial Capability in Service of Flourishing*" was awarded the Showcase Symposium Award by the Management, Spirituality and Religion Division of the AOM, and "*Conscious*

Leadershift: Toward Mindful Responsibility in the Face of Complex Global Challenges" won the Best Symposium in Management Education And Development Award from the MED Division.

Dr. Jennifer Madden contributed to a panel symposium titled, "*Workforce Reintegration as Social Repair*," which integrated Social Issues in Management perspectives on stigma, dignity, and institutional responsibility with Organizational Behavior research on identity reconstruction, emotional regulation, resilience, and adaptation to change, and Human Resources scholarship on workforce development, mentoring, and equitable employment systems.

Dr. Satinder Dhiman contributed to a presenter symposium and a PDW workshop. The symposium, titled, "*Searching for the Universal Corporate Governance Principles Through the Lens of Ancient Knowledge*", convened nine co-presenters exploring universal corporate governance principles through the lens of ancient knowledge, and the PDW on finding equanimity in disrupted times was shared alongside Dr. Marques and international colleagues.

Dr. Adam Wood and **Dr. Svetlana Holt** co-presented a PDW workshop, "*Cultivating Conscious Compassion in Business Education: From Mindless Empathy to Ethical Practice*," bringing a distinctly Woodbury Business Institute voice to the conference stage.

Altogether, the SBS-WBI faculty's sessions engaged collaborators spanning multiple countries, a testament to the Institute's far-reaching network of scholarly partnerships and its continued leadership in advancing wisdom-based, human-centered approaches to management education.

Dr. Wendy K. Bendoni's Summer of Global Connections and Student Impact

Dr. Wendy K. Bendoni had a remarkably active summer, expanding the Woodbury Business Institute's global reach through industry partnerships, student mentorship, and professional leadership.

At VivaTech, Europe's largest technology conference with more than 70,000 attendees, Dr. Bendoni connected with the head of sustainability at Tiffany & Co. (LVMH) and with Samsung's team developing biogenetic aging technology - both now collaborating on her Innovation Think Tank report. She also completed an Adobe training on the company's shift from assistive generative AI to collaborative Agentic-AI.

Closer to home, three Woodbury students are working directly with Renae Plant, Curator of the Princess Diana Museum and founder of The Princess & The Platypus Foundation, preparing pieces from her private collection: "Love Life Legacy," an upcoming exhibition at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.



One student reflected on the experience, sharing, "Being part of the Princess Diana exhibition has been an incredibly meaningful experience," and noting that the project has "beautifully brought together my backgrounds in marketing, business, social media, beauty, and creativity, while expanding my knowledge of fashion and vintage design."

Dr. Bendoni was also elected Member-at-Large for the Marketing Educators Association (MEA), joining leading marketing professors from across the country. MEA is the premier international organization for the professional development of the marketing professoriate, with a mission to

provide worldwide leadership in promoting the development and sharing of scholarship that enhances marketing education and advances marketing knowledge and practice.

Rounding out the summer, conversations with L'Oréal Luxe at VivaTech about merging scent experiences with data led to an introduction to media artist Refik Anadol. Dr. Bendoni later met with Anadol and his team at DATALAND in Los Angeles to explore future student collaborations. Together, these milestones reflect Dr. Bendoni's continued impact - connecting Woodbury students to leading global brands, technologies, and creative innovators.



Please consider supporting our student entrepreneurs by donating to the [student entrepreneurs support fund](#)! This fund honors and encourages the efforts of budding entrepreneurs, who are students at the Woodbury Business Institute, or are members of one of the Woodbury Business Institute-headquartered professional student organizations.



Emphasis on High Quality and Readily Applicable Education



AACSB
ACCREDITED

Granted to Less Than 5% of
Business Schools Globally



Rigor in Education and
Continuous Improvement



**WOODBURY
BUSINESS INSTITUTE**

Cultivating Innovative Leaders for a Sustainable Society





Try email marketing for free today!