

# ***TITULAIRE***

## **The NEWSLETTER for the AGO PALOMAR CHAPTER**

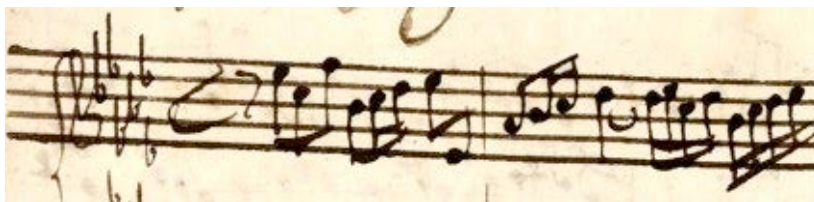
ISSUE NO. 218 (August 2026)

<https://agopalomar.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/agopalomar/>  
<https://www.agohq.org>



Organists David Ball and Dr. Emma Whitten at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, Illinois (July 8, 2026)

# A Note from the Dean



Dear Palomar AGO members,

Summer is definitely here, with warmer temperatures and hints of monsoonal moisture.

The Palomar AGO Board has been working on a list of programs for the coming year. There will be lots of notice about each of them in the coming months, but I am including an overview in my note. Our first event, the Hymn-Playing Master Class and Lunch, should be a wonderful opportunity for the organ teachers among us to get their students involved. Kimberly Bedell is in charge of this event, and she has done a wonderful job of organizing the event.

The other Fall 2026 event is a hymn-singing concert at Vista United Methodist Church. There will be more details forthcoming.

Four student members of our chapter attended Pipe Organ Encounters in Utah and California. There are photos of them in action, and more to come in future *Titulaires*.

Henry Doktorski and Emma Whitten recently attended the AGO national convention in St. Louis. Henry has a very informative report on his experiences there.



# Hymn Playing Master Class and Organ Pipe Demonstration

Save the Date!

On Saturday, September 19, 11:00 am-1:00 pm at San Marcos Lutheran Church, 3419 Grand Ave., San Marcos, CA, we will be having a hymn playing Master Class and demonstration of the inner workings of a pipe organ followed by lunch. The Master Class will open to all organists of any age or experience level. More information will be forthcoming via e-mail, or contact Kimberly Bedell, [markkim@me.com](mailto:markkim@me.com). If you find yourself looking for an accessible setting of a hymn suitable for leading congregational singing, here are some suggested resources.

- Any volume of “Easy Hymn Settings” Michael Burkhardt, published by MorningStar. Volumes include Advent/Christmas, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and General (4 sets).
- Any volume of “Easiest Hymns”, published by the Leupold Foundation
- Hymns Made Easy Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Kimberly Bedell sends a personal invitation:

Dear Palomar AGO Friends and Teachers,

You're invited to a fun, hands-on morning of music, learning, and community! Join us as we explore hymn playing together, connect with fellow church musicians and organists from around the area, and enjoy a relaxed time of sharing ideas. We'll even have a small playable pipe organ for everyone to try, and lunch is on us!

Attendance is free (donations are always appreciated) and everyone is welcome—choir members, guitarists, vocal and instrumental musicians, family, friends, and anyone who enjoys church music. Please RSVP to me by September 14 so we can be sure to have plenty of lunch for everyone.

If you'd like to play in the master class, you'll prepare one hymn of your choice and receive personalized coaching based on your goals, questions, or anything you'd like to improve. Whether you're looking for practical approaches, fresh ideas, or a little extra confidence, this is a supportive place to learn.

The registration fee to play is \$15, and registration is due by September 1. Please include a clear copy of your hymn along with your name, address, email, phone number, and a check payable to Palomar AGO. Mail everything to:

Kimberly Bedell  
1043 Eider Way  
Oceanside, CA 92057



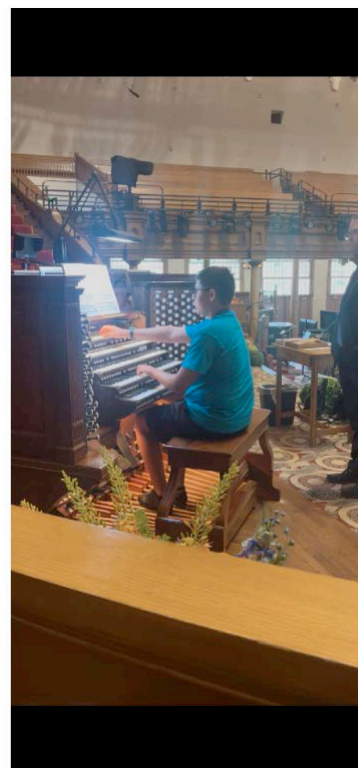


# Four Palomar Scholarship Recipients Attend Pipe Organ Encounters

We are pleased to report that four of our scholarship winners attended Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) this summer. From June 21-27, Ethan and Harold Parsons attended the Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) sponsored by the Los Angeles AGO Chapter, and from July 20-25, Annie Call and Santiago Hunt attended the POE in Provo, Utah.

Palomar Chapter member Dr. Emma Whitten, Associate Organist at Christ Cathedral and Director of Music at Community Church Congregational in Corona del Mar, played the Los Angeles POE faculty recital at the First United Methodist Church in Glendale on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. In Utah, guest artist Isabelle Demers, Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, performed in recital for the Utah POE on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Annie and Santiago, along with other organ students and their families, stayed at the Timp Lodge in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountain Range. Students received daily practice time and organ lessons given by Utah Valley Chapter members. They played pipe organs at Brigham Young University and in Salt Lake City, including Temple Square. The first picture shows celebrity guest artist Isabelle Demers with Santiago Hunt. The second picture is Santiago Hunt playing the organ at Temple Square. More photos and hopefully testimony from students will appear in future *Titulaire* issues.



# AGO National Convention in St. Louis

Two members of Palomar AGO attended the AGO National Convention held in St. Louis Missouri from July 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026: (1) Dr. Emma Whitten, Associate Organist at Christ Cathedral (formerly Crystal Cathedral) in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange County, California and AGO Palomar Chapter Board Member at Large. Emma performed a joint organ duet recital with David Ball at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, Illinois, and (2) Newsletter Editor Henry Doktorski who attended simply to have some fun and take photos for the *Titulaire*.



[The Gateway Arch.](#)

Henry explained:

It's always a treat for me to attend the AGO conventions and I look forward to them every year. I get to hear a lot of great music performed by superb musicians on memorable organs. It's quite an inspiring experience for me.

During this convention I got to meet Michael Barone, the host of Pipe Dreams, the weekly public radio show about the organ and organ music.

I was extremely impressed with Gospel organist Dr. Eurydice Osterman, who played a sensitive Gospel-style rendition of "Amazing Grace," with a striking augmented chord in measure two, which I will attempt to replicate at House of Prayer Lutheran Church the next time I play that hymn.

Also noteworthy to me was carillonneur Carlo Van Ulft's recital at the Chapel Carillon at Principia College, Elsah, Illinois. You can hear part of his recital on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/utnkoXrs444>.

I was especially excited to hear our friend Emma Whitten perform at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville, Illinois. Emma wrote a little something:

From July 6-10, nearly 900 organists from across the country gathered in St. Louis for the AGO 2026 National Convention. The convention officially began with a Grand Opening "Celebrate America" concert at Principia College featuring organist Jan Kraybill and the US Air-Force Band of Mid-America. The following days were filled with an abundance of workshops and recitals.

Personal highlights included Tuesday afternoon recitals by Janet Yieh and Bryan Anderson, who premiered an engaging commission by Gwyneth Walker entitled *One Land*, with each movement celebrating a particular region of the American Guild of Organists - highly recommended!

On Wednesday, I was honored to perform with David Ball at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville, Illinois, a large Gothic Revival cathedral inspired by Exeter Cathedral in England. Our program included duets and music for two organs highlighting the Christopher Soer organ's two consoles at the far ends of the cathedral. It was wonderful to see Henry Doktorski there representing the Palomar chapter!

And finally on Thursday evening, Chelsea Chen offered a spectacular closing concert for the St. Cecilia Recital at Manchester United



Methodist Church, featuring music of J. S. Bach, Max Reger, Ola Gjeilo, and a newly commission-ed work by Jonathan Dove inspired by both Bach and Messiaen: *Toccata, Birdsong, and Jig*. The encore was Chelsea's signature "Super Mario Fantasia" depicting the sonic realm of the video game, complete with sound effects - a hit with the entire audience, but especially the next generation of young organists!

Following are some photos from my trip to St. Louis. To see the full schedule of events, please visit: <https://web.cvent.com/event/fdadaa37-8ca8-48de-ba86-373c87010edc/websitePage%3A6e12c009-3562-4eb4-8899-9e944836e4f7>."



The Casavant (2013) 76 ranks/ 3 manuals at First Presbyterian Church, Kirkwood (July 8).



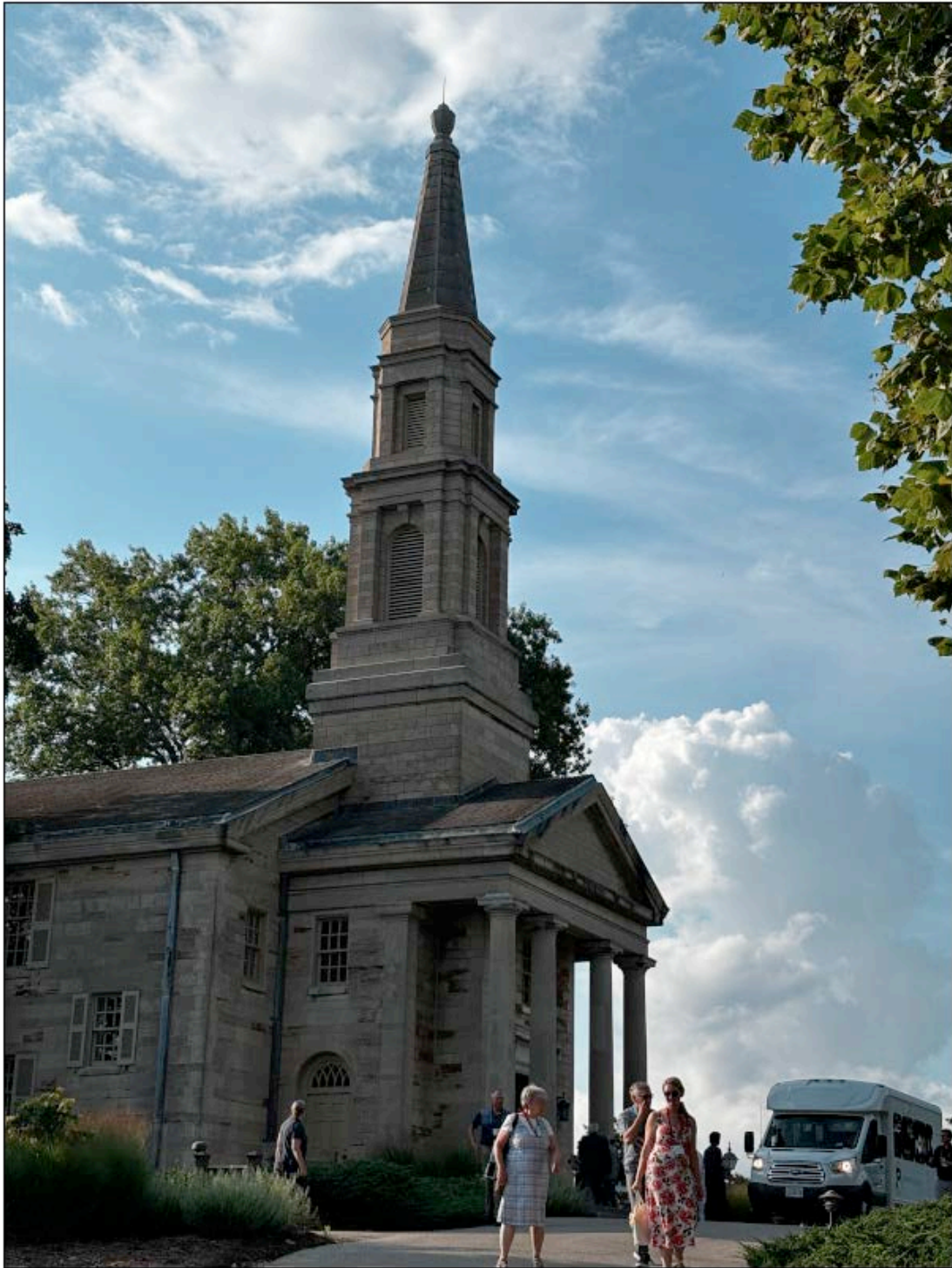


The setting sun turns the arch from silver to gold.





**Dr. Eurydice Osterman at the organ console of Eighth Church of Christ, Scientist, St. Louis, Missouri.**



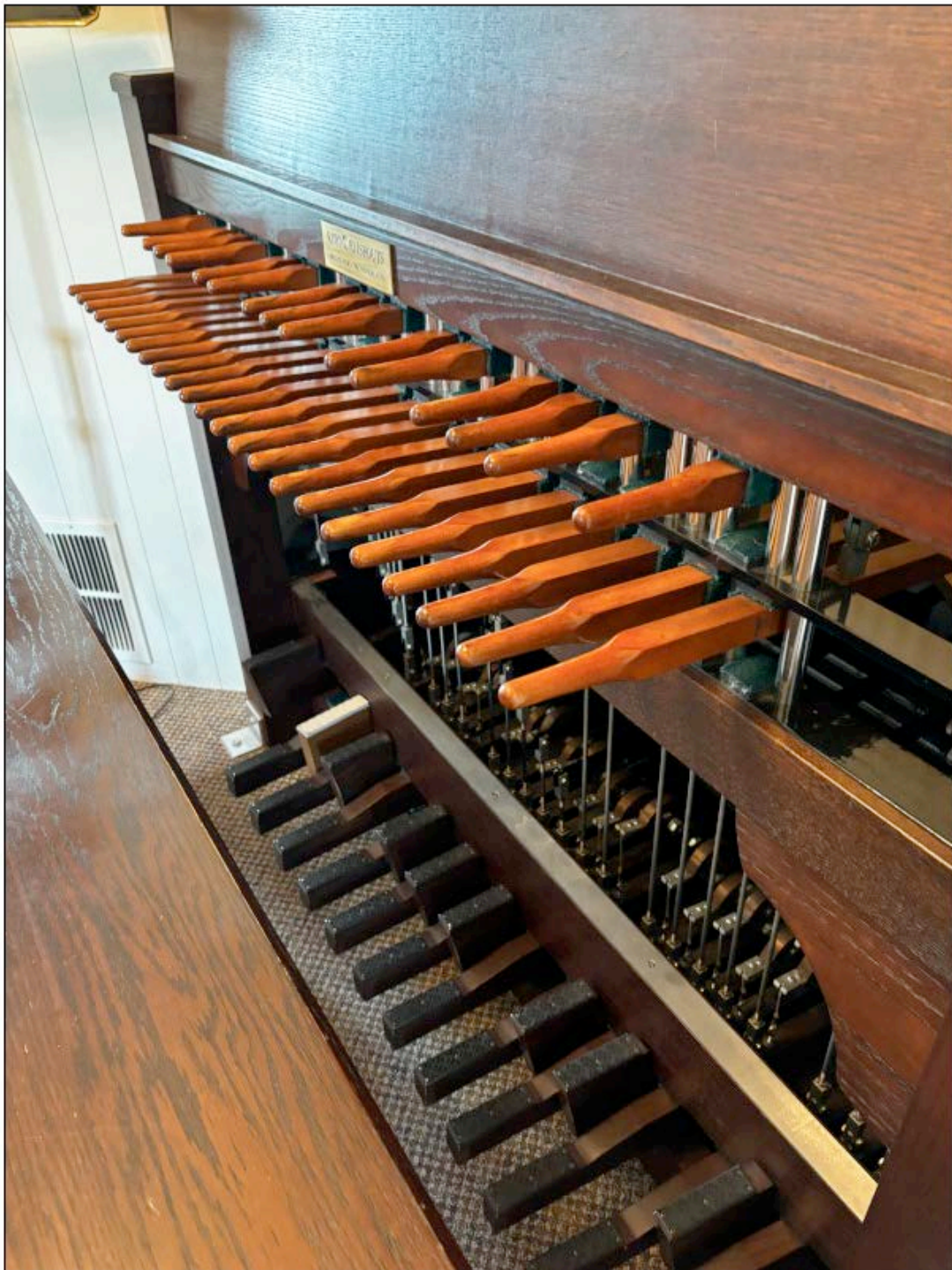
**The Chapel at Principia College, Elmhurst, Illinois.**



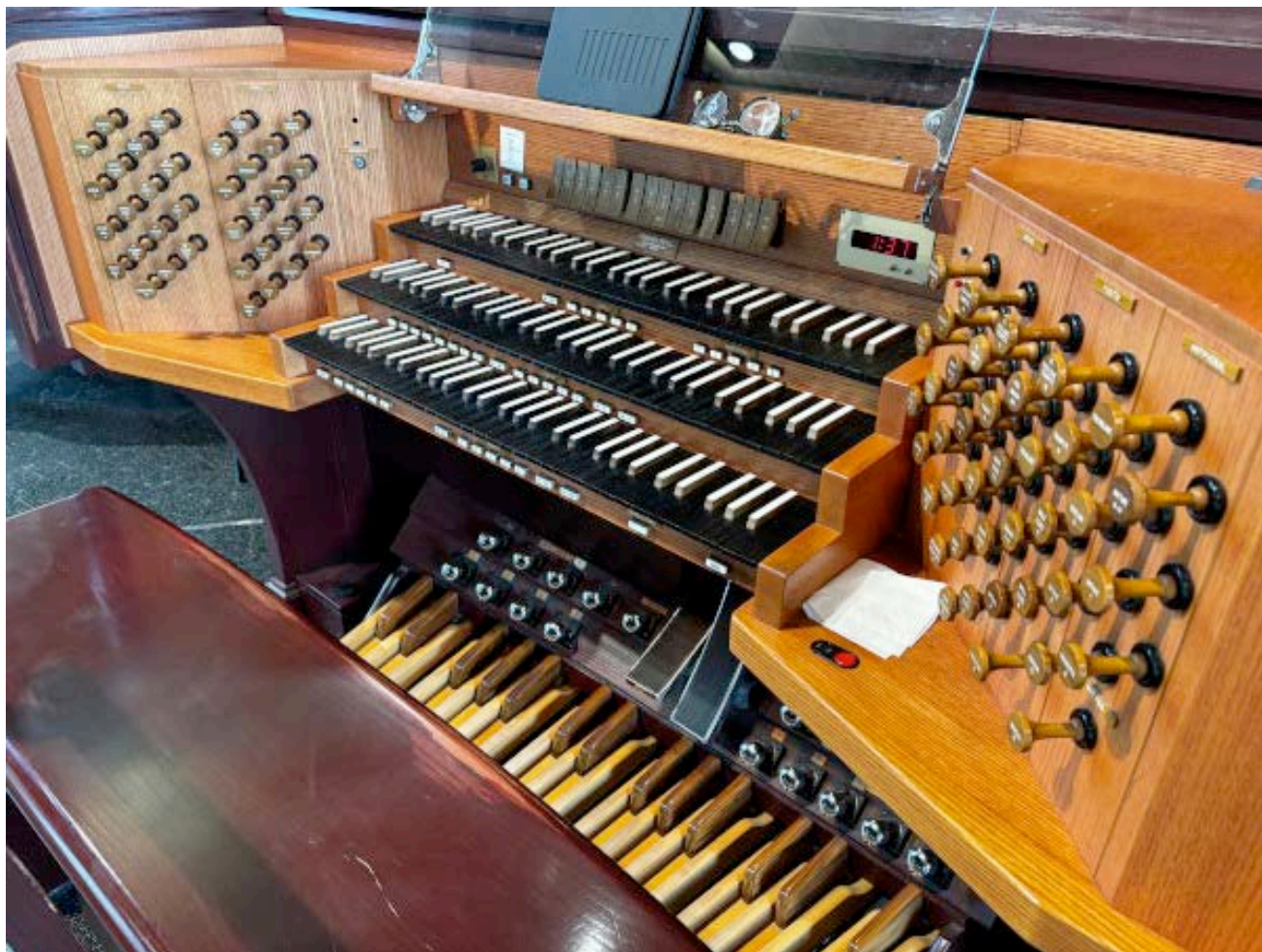


**Carillonneur Carlo Van Ulft at the Chapel of Principia College, Elsah, Illinois.**





**The carillon console at the Chapel of Principia College, Elsah, Illinois.**



Casavant (1998) 73 ranks 3 manuals at Concordia Seminary Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus ( July 9).

# Palomar Chapter Programs (2026-2027)

**Saturday, September 19, 2026** - 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

HYMN-PLAYING MASTER CLASS AND LUNCH

San Marcos Lutheran Church

3419 Grand Ave., San Marcos, CA

**Sunday, November 8, 2026** – 4:00 p.m.

HYMNS TRIUMPHANT Concert

United Methodist Church of Vista

490 S. Melrose, Vista, CA

The San Luis Rey Chorale and other singers present a program of favorite hymns accompanied by piano and organ.

**January/February 2027** Organ Concert with Dr. Emma Whitten and Students

Precise date and location TBA

**March 2027** - Annual Scholarship Concert at Trinity Episcopal Church, 845 Chestnut St. Escondido

Precise date and location TBA

**April 2027** - Annual Members Recital

Precise date and location TBA

**May 2027** - Scholarship Auditions

Precise date and location TBA



# **PALOMAR CHAPTER AGO**

## **2026-2027 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES** (updated August 2026)

### **OFFICERS**

Dean: Dr. Michael Munson

Secretary: Carol Graham

Treasurer: Cheryl Holzer

### **BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Henry Doktorski

Emma Whitten

### **COMMITTEES**

#### **Endowment Fund Committee**

Carol Graham

Cheryl Holzer

#### **Education Committee**

Carol Graham, Chair

Kimberly Bedell

#### ***Titulaire* Newsletter editor**

Henry Doktorski

#### **Webmaster**

Adam Ferrara

#### **Program Committee**

David Lewis

#### **Placement Committee**

George Butterfield, Chair

First, visit the following link: <http://www.agosd.org/jobs/job-listings.html> This will take you to the San Diego Chapter AGO's website Job Listing page. Here you can 1) view current job listings for San Diego and Palomar Chapters, 2) post a job vacancy, and 3) contact George via email or phone with any placement questions. Please note there is a nominal \$35 fee to post a job listing.