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# 20 YEARS

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**They're young. They're smart. They're successful.** Our annual list of over-achieving professionals is here, and they could be among the best yet!

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# 40 under 40

ANNUAL

By Kelly St. John  
and Tamirra Stewart

## **Tim Hudson, a veteran Major League Baseball pitcher**

with the Atlanta Braves, once commented on the positive effect that young players were having on the team: "A lot of young guys with a lot of passion – it brings the fun back to the game." Indeed, the enthusiasm, optimism and tenacity of youth is contagious. It carries the potential to re-energize the aging and spread a sense of possibility and hope for the future. And, as you'll soon find out, Orange County is home to many young professionals with a lot of passion and a lot of talent, and their impact on the business community is great. There's 39-year-old Kevin Maggiacomo, president and CEO of Sperry Van Ness, which employs 1,000 people in 38 states and three countries. And there's Kelly George, who at 27 has already earned her master's degree, worked for the Pentagon and the Air Force, and has held the title of Miss Arkansas. They are among this year's 40 Under 40. Turn the page and be inspired.

## **under 40 on the web**

The OC METRO video team caught up with some of this year's honorees to talk about **life as a young, successful professional**. What inspires them? What's their next big challenge? And what do they hope for the future? You might find what they had to say surprising. Go to [ocmetro.com](http://ocmetro.com) to find out.

## Gloria Lee

Age: 32

Attorney specializing in residential and resort properties at Cox, Castle & Nicholson; [coxcastle.com](http://coxcastle.com)

When you talk about achievements, Gloria Lee could monopolize a conversation. "At Stanford, I had two majors, one minor and was working on a master's. I graduated with distinction," she says. "It was all fun. It's hard, though, to compare business achievements after college."

But let's try.

Lee will be inducted into the Orange County Asian-American Bar Association as one of the youngest presidents-elect. And in 2005, she became a founding board member of the Orange

County Korean-American Bar Association. "It's been so successful that I'm not as involved as I used to be," she says. "The support was incredible, and they just took off and ran with it."

She's always been an over-achiever. In high school, Lee did 2,000 hours of service for charitable organizations. She was raised in Placentia by her mother, at the time a single parent, and was accepted into the top colleges in the United States. "No one told me that I couldn't go to those schools," she says.



### PERSONALLY SPEAKING

**Where I live and why I like it:** Placentia. Everyone lives in Irvine, but I think Placentia is a hidden jewel. I'm proud to be a North County girl.

**My favorite weekend activity:** Spending time with my kids, who are 1 and 3. They keep me busy.

**What I wanted to be when I grew up:** A pediatrician. I love helping children, but I love the corporate world, too. My job still entails helping people and motivating them.

**Secret vice:** Dance reality shows and teeny-bopper movies. I watch the Disney channel even though my kids aren't old enough yet.