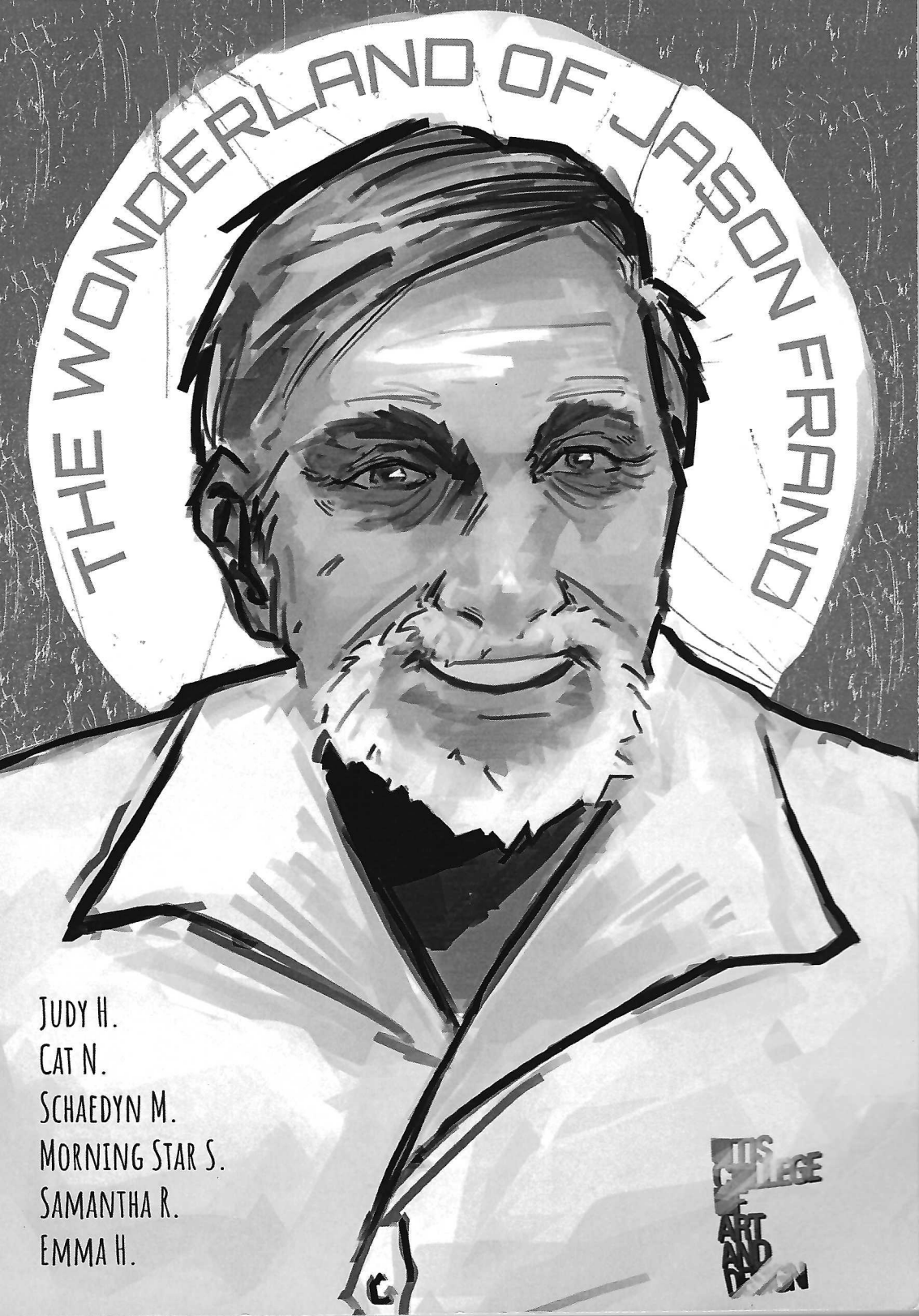


A BOOK INSPIRED BY TRUE STORIES



JUDY H.
CAT N.
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MORNING STAR S.
SAMANTHA R.
EMMA H.

IT'S
COLLEGE
ART
AND
DESIGN

THE WONDERLAND OF JASON FRAND

JUDY HENEGHAN
CAT NGUYEN
SCHAEDYN MCINTYRE
MORNING STAR SANSOLIS
SAMANTHA RIOS
EMMA HOLMSTROM

A BOOK INSPIRED BY TRUE STORIES

INTRODUCTION

“I'm just doing me. I'm me. I'm following my passions, my dreams, and my hopes.”

Jason Frand was born in Long Branch, New Jersey in 1942. He was only a one-year-old when he came to California. Jason grew up in the Los Angeles area and continues to live his life there. He is an accomplished husband, father, and grandfather who is now a retired math coach and former math teacher who has taught many minds throughout his professional career.

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“I’ve Been Very Lucky”

Cat Vu Nguyen

And indeed, lucky was Jason Frand.

How many people in this world can proudly say that they have been lucky in both love and career? Apparently, Jason can. Meeting his wife Lois at 24. Jet setting around the world together for six decades. Doing what he loves as a job. Really, Jason won the lottery. But amidst these heartwarming stories that he so fondly reminisced on, one could blink, and miss moments where “luck” sounded like an offense. And one needn’t look too far. Moments like these can be traced back to the beginning when Jason was still a little boy. And yet, the verdict, Jason’s verdict, is that he was lucky his entire life.



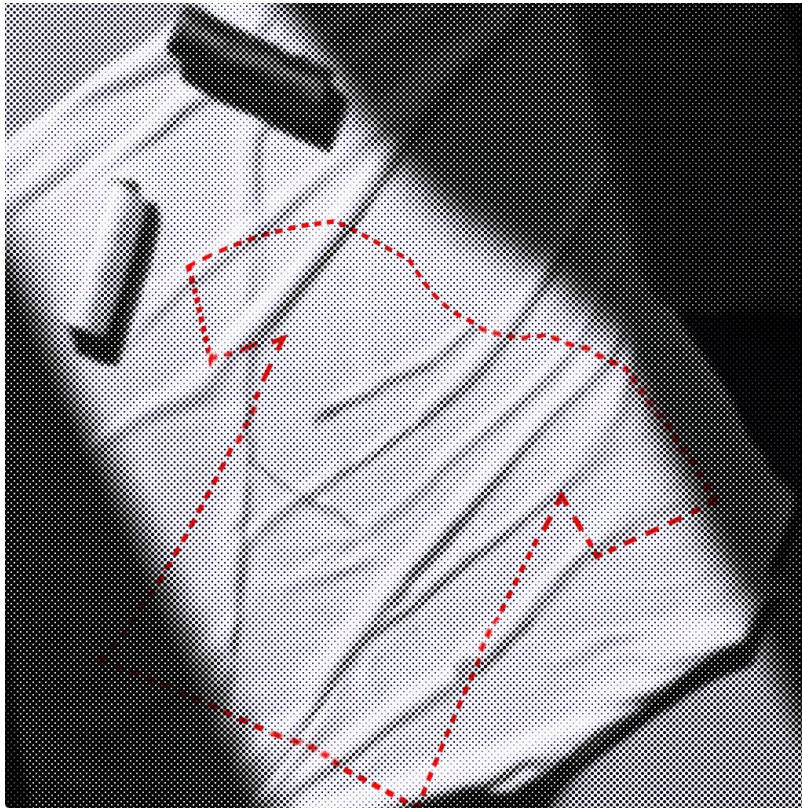
Cat Vu Nguyen | Digital | Procreate

Schmatta Business

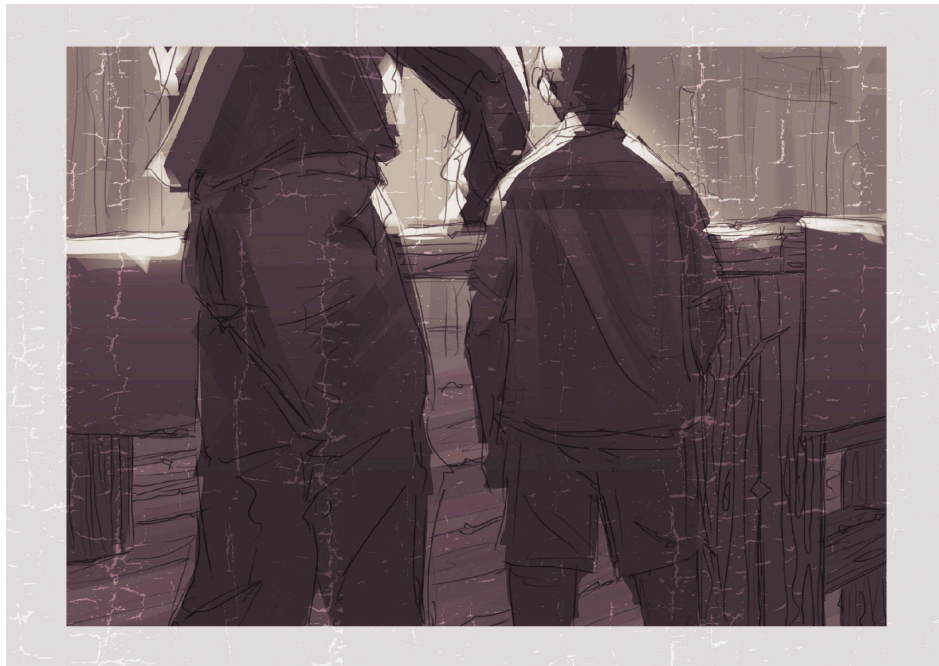
Schaedyn McIntyre

I found this story quite interesting as I've always had a soft spot for Los Angeles history as I, myself, am a third generation angelino. The fashion district nowadays is mostly fast fashion and wholesale fabric, called Santee alley. However, after doing a research paper on it based on Jason's interview, I found out more about the background of the garment district downtown.

"My father came through Ellis Island in 1928. I don't know at what point he got citizenship. He was a violinist and his family in Dubiecko, Poland were the local jazz band of their community. It was a klezmer orchestra and he played violin. When he came to America, he had a violin. My brother and sister got the music gene. I didn't get the music gene. I got the mathematics gene. I think I know where that comes from. He worked in the garment business, which was called the 'Schmatta Business', the Yiddish word for rags, garments. My father worked in the garment industry and he was a cutter. I used to go with him to work and I always thought I was going to be a cutter. In those days, they would lay out the material. The material comes in these big rolls and they would pull them out into 50-foot lengths on the table. Then they would have patterns and my father would go around and put the patterns on the material mathematically to minimize waste. Because when you cut, you want to have the maximum amount of usable. My father's job as a cutter -I think that's where I got my interest in math. Geometry as it turns out. Which was basically what he was doing."



Schaedyn | Digital | Photoshop



Cat Vu Nguyen | Digital | Procreate

That Lunch

Morning Star

Jason Frand recounts a jarring encounter with his mother during a lunch date, revealing a strained relationship filled with unresolved familial tension. Despite the seemingly ordinary setting, the conversation takes a disconcerting turn when Jason's mother unveils a disturbing photograph of him physically assaulting his brother. This encounter marks the final chapter in their relationship, leaving Jason haunted by unresolved questions and lingering feelings of estrangement.

“My mom came, and we had lunch, and she said she had just come back from Europe from visiting my brother and my two new nephews. She said, let me show you the picture I took to show your nephews. And it was a picture of me beating my brother up. She had this picture of me with my fist in my brother's face. So I said to her, ‘Why did you take that picture of all the pictures in the world? Why did you take that one to Europe? Why would you even take a picture like that? And she said, ‘no big deal.’ And I said, ‘You need professional help. And I'm not going to speak to you or see you again until you get professional help.’ So this was the early 80s, and she died I think 10 years later, That was the last time I saw her. That lunch. That lunch.”

The narrative unfolds against the backdrop of the early 1980s, a time when societal attitudes towards mental health and family dynamics were often different from today. Despite the passage of time, the memory of that fateful lunch remains vivid, symbolizing a rupture in the relationship that ultimately persists until the mother's passing.



Morning Star | Digital | Clip Studio Paint

Two Weeks

Schaedyn McIntyre

This was the beginning of the first interview with Mr. Frand. I believe that it really sums up his personality and his relationship with his wife, Lois, in a concise beginning to the story of how they met, and 50 years later are still together. My classmates and I, being born in a much different time, found it fascinating that they became engaged just two weeks after meeting. The impromptu nature of such a big decision for love just demonstrates the endearing quality of stories we got to hear from Jason.

“I had been offered a job in Thailand at an American school teaching math and the deal was that they would pay your airfare one way through the first year you were there, and if you stayed two years, they paid round trip. That sounded very appealing. I came down to Los Angeles to tell my family that I was signing a contract and going to leave for Thailand very soon after. My mother had badgered me like crazy about calling some girl she met. To get my mother off my back, I called the girl and I said, ‘Can you go out tonight?’ She said, ‘No, I’m busy.’ I said, ‘Can you go out tomorrow?’ She said, ‘No, I’m busy’ I said, ‘Well, how about if we go for a ride tomorrow afternoon, Saturday afternoon?’ I picked her up and we drove up to Ventura and then back to Los Angeles. In 1966, the Pacific Coast Highway had maybe ten houses the entire length. It was a wide open, beautiful coast. I came back to Los Angeles. I went up to Fresno. I said, ‘I’m not going to sign the Thailand job contract.’ Two weeks later, I asked Lois to marry me. Fifty-seven years later, I’m telling you this story.”



Schaedyn | Digital | Photoshop

The Clothing Line

Samantha Rios

Love stories in the media are usually portrayed in monumental ways. The plotlines are almost always flashy and intricate to garner and keep our attention. However, for Jason, loving and caring for someone was quite simple and easy to do. Not in ways that there was never an argument or two, but accepting and recognizing his feelings towards his wife Lois. The story of their beginning moments as a pair is one to be admired and a tale that has peoples' envy and will make anyone wonder if someday someone like Jason or Lois would appear in their lives.

Jason always seemed quite pleased whenever he spoke of Lois, casually setting up the timeline of their rather unique engagement.

"We got engaged in two weeks and we were married within ten weeks and one day."

Now how did he know that this girl was the one? With his quick reaction time to tying the knot, surely there had to be a moment of introspection before he popped the question.

He describes his upbringing briefly, how his mother collided consistently with any of the relationships he wanted to nurture. He admits that he became someone who rarely went out to make friends, much less to date. Contrasting Jason's experience, he describes Lois as one of the popular girls in high school who had more knowledge about love than he did.

"It's embarrassing to even say it out loud, so I had a very tortured relationship at home. When I went out with Lois, on that very very first interaction for both of us we communicated. We talked to each other. And I can remember, its really funny, I can remember, it was a Thursday night and I was out hanging clothes at my parents house in the backyard saying, I don't know if I love her or not, but I don't know what it is but I really like her and I would really like to get together with her more."

This is the part where everyone awwws and Jason's smile deepens.

“So while I was hanging clothes I was thinking about Lois!” he says.

Can a Clothing Line Visual go here? One of the visuals? Emma's amybe?

Some time after that, they arranged to meet again. The connection was undeniable and without missing a beat, he asked her to marry him two weeks later.

Jason's eyes light up when asked how that went, looking around as if he was walking into the memory itself. He remembers the location being in Marina Del Rey, Mother's Beach. The exact place where he asks the question was in the front seat of his car, parked where The Cheesecake Factory now stands. He prepared a ring that quickly? The answer was no. No, he did not have a ring. At least not one from a jeweler. All he had to offer was himself and after she said yes, he went to go buy a dime store play ring and at that time for Lois, that was all that was needed. Now that doesn't mean that symbolic piece of jewelry never made it to their fingers. His wedding ring is held as a prized possession to Jason.

“It's been off once, or twice in 60 years.” Jason held up his hand and motioned to his ring finger.

We couldn't help but collectively aww again.-- Should this be in italics - not in blue??

“But it's like any other relationship where it has its peaks and its valleys. And for me, it was a lot different than it was for her.”

He used his finger to draw the peaks and valleys onto the table, allowing a visualization of the highs and lows of marriage. He acknowledges the trials when in a relationship, especially when jumping from having next to no experience to being married. But I've never talked to a man who seemed so proud to speak about their significant other. I already liked Lois and I had never met her, she seemed to be someone who kept Jason whole, fulfilled, and complete. I enjoyed hearing about her through him. I hope love finds me as it did for Jason, unexpected but unwavering. That I will be able to realize what I want and go for it like he did, and I think many would agree.



Samantha Rios | Digital | Procreate

Romance in the Rain

Emma

Jason and Lois traveled constantly together, but one of their most romantic travels was during their honeymoon, at the Grand Canyon, and would be the first of many campervan travels.

“ We ended up buying ourselves a new Volkswagen van because we did a lot of camping. So on that trip with Lois, our very, very first night camping was at the Grand Canyon and it was pouring rain. And, and we put a little tarp, rain tarp up and I cooked dinner under our little tarp and it was very, very romantic”

“ We had a bottle of champagne and I remember we opened it and that I don't know about champagne, we put the cork back in afterwards and of course the cork came out. Yeah, we probably had some barbecued steak and beans with corn for dinner.”

As Jason mentions later in interviews, he proudly takes on the role of cooking for him and Lois, aside from the salads she prepares to go with their meals. As Jason explained to us, “She makes the *world's best* salads.”

Though the blue and white Volkswagen Camper Van created many memories for Jason and Lois, served as an on-the-go home for 6 weeks during their honeymoon travels, in 1979 on a trip to Disneyland with their kids, the van was stolen out of the Disneyland parking lot!



Emma | Oil on Panel



“ASIMOV!”

Cat Vu Nguyen

Whilst on the topic of career and luck, Jason casually mentioned how Isaac’s Asimov’s science fiction books had inspired him in his career of educational forecasting.

“And my major source of inspiration was Isaac Asimov science fiction books. So I would read science fiction books.”

When I say it caught me off guard, I really mean it. There we were, engrossed in a conversation with an individual who was seemingly enamored with math and logic, and yet, his biggest inspiration was fiction, science fiction, no less. But of course, I really should’ve seen this coming.

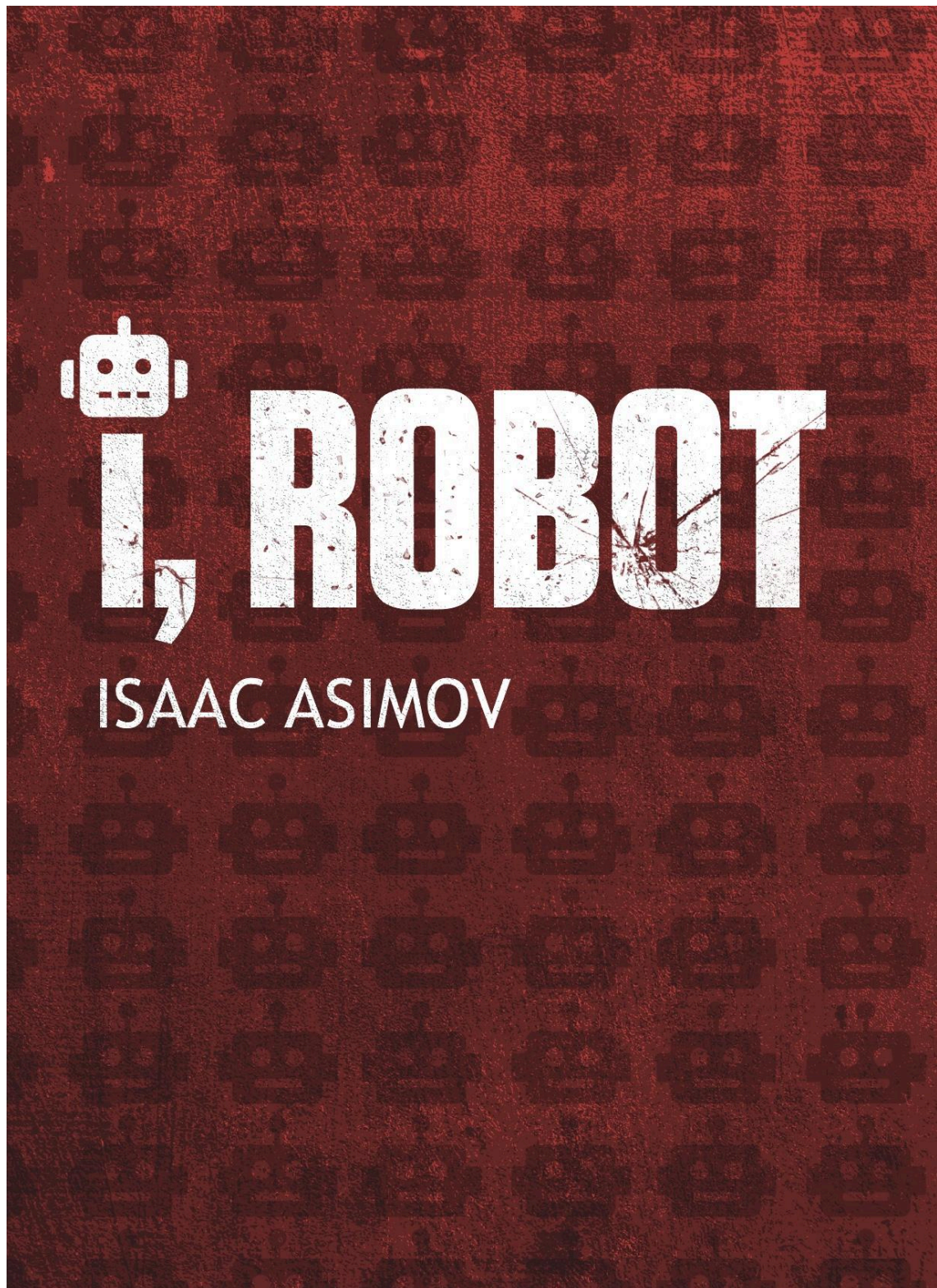
Now, science fiction is a genre where the “fiction” needs to be emphasized upon more than the “science.” All things considered, the “science” must not be baseless, and must be grounded in and built upon reality. There is a reason why science fiction is not a subgenre of fantasy, despite having similar adventurous tendencies.

Enter, Jason Frand. Before he was a man of science and education, Jason was a traveler first. Traveling since before he was even born, and then hitting the road with a partner he so dearly cherishes, there hadn’t been a single moment in which Jason wasn’t on the go. Traveling, teaching, researching, forecasting, they were not exclusive, they were intertwined.

After all, isn’t that what science fiction is about?

And when I heard that of all the eras that he would want to live in, he chose the future, I'm even more certain. Of all the eras. That's the kind of person Jason is. With all his knowledge, he's always going to choose to offer something to the future generation. A "lucky person," from his own words. The kind of educator who gives. For he believes what he can take has already been offered to him.

Jason Frand really is the embodiment of the genre.



Cat Vu Nguyen | Digital | Procreate

Changing Directions

Schaedyn McIntyre

Jason speaks about how his whole trajectory of his career changed when he chose to be a math teacher rather than a mathematician. I can relate to this as I had also changed what I wanted to do multiple times, and had originally been a painting major and switched to graphic design. One might think that teaching math and being in math are too similar to be that drastic of a difference but to Jason it changed the entire trajectory of his life.

“I was a substitute teacher while at Cal State LA and that was very very successful. Then I graduated from Cal State LA, the summer of 69, when I was 27. I ended up writing a master's thesis in Math which is very very unusual.”

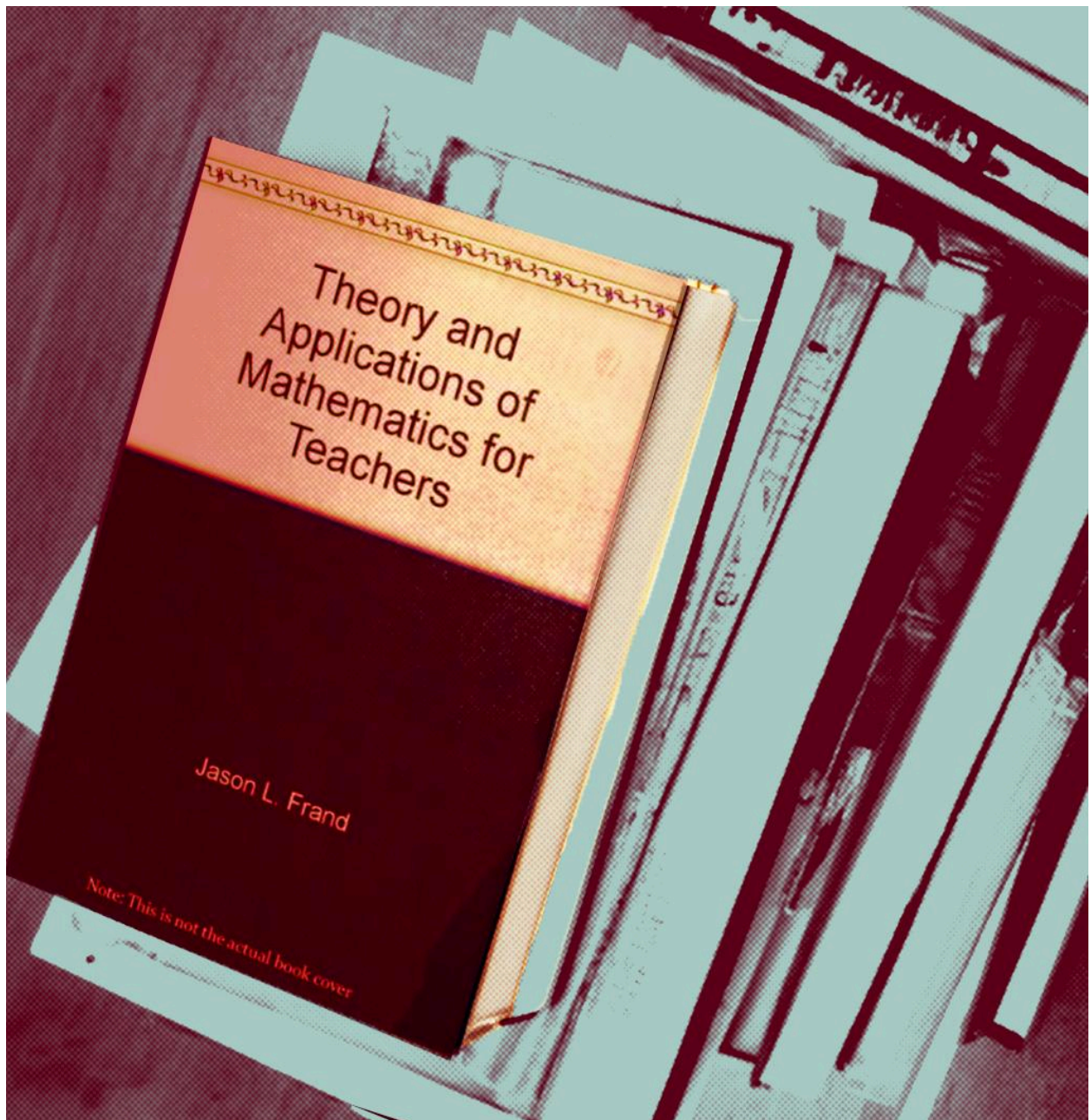
“And my advisor, he had invited somebody from Caltech to come hear my master's presentation. He wanted me to go to Caltech. I said, you know, that's not me, I'm not in that caliber. Some guy up at Berkeley came up with the idea to take university math people into the elementary schools and do stuff with the kids. Math stuff with the kids. And a professor named Evelyn - Evelyn Collins, was in this program- called Project Seed- and she gave a talk and I went to her talk and I was like, my God, this is incredible! I want to do that.”

“And I had written my master's paper and I resubmitted it to- to a math conference, and it got accepted. I went to this math conference up north, and after I gave my paper some guy came up to me and said, ‘uh would you talk to Lewis Lighthold back at Cal State LA and give him this message for me?’ And I said I knew the name but I didn't know who he was. And I said, ‘sure.’ Lewis had written a math book and he wanted me to give him the message about the math book. And I said to Lewis- when I met him, that someday I'd like to write a math book for teachers. A few weeks later he came to me and said, ‘Okay, I'm gonna be editing a series

of math books. Were you serious about wanting to write one?' And it was like... yes!"

"I mean I was 27 years old I could do anything, right?"

"And I went back to Evelyn, because she was doing this stuff in the elementary schools and I didn't know anything about elementary school or... math for teachers and we talked. Then we went to Louis and said, 'okay!' We ended up doing a proposal. We ended up writing a book. The book ended up going into second edition. And I ended up changing the whole direction of my life. It opened up a whole different world to me than what I thought."



Schaedyn | Digital | Photoshop

A New Age

Morning Star

Jason Frand reflects on his role as an educator during the emergence of word processing technology, particularly during the 1980s. He recounts his experience teaching courses in office automation and word processing, highlighting the novelty of these concepts at the time. Frand emphasizes the practical applications of technology in his teaching, focusing on real-world uses rather than the development of the technology itself. He distinguishes between being an application user and a developer, likening his approach to using tools like Microsoft Excel or Google Docs to solve practical problems rather than creating them. Frand's success as an educator stemmed from his ability to integrate technology into his teaching and encourage its use in both business and educational contexts.

***“And so for me, the big application was to be able to teach statistics with real numbers and give the students real applications. I pushed for those things. And then over the next dozen years, I taught the first ever course in what was then called ‘office automation’, where somebody would use a computer to do word processing. I mean, oh my god, ‘word processing’? That was a new word. Nobody had ever done word processing. And so you have to think about the mindset of the 1980s. Word Processing. It’s where you type on a computer, and you can edit it on the computer. People got hired as word processors, igh-level secretaries. And there were companies that built word processing machines. My focus was on the application of the technology, not the development of it. I never wrote a computer program to do any of those applications. I used those applications. And I pushed the use of those applications in looking for business applications and*”**

educational applications. We acquired a database management system. It takes a huge army of people to write a database management system. But I could teach a class and have students go away and create a spreadsheet. It's a fancy database manager spreadsheet. Google Sheets or Excel. A spreadsheet program, that's a database management system. And Microsoft has thousands of people writing code for Excel. That's development...

My success, I think, was because I was an educator who was looking for how to use this technology, not a technologist looking on how to make the technology snazzy and better and faster."



Morning Star | Digital | Clip Studio Paint

Kevin

Morning Star

Jason Frand reflects on the profound experience of being present for the birth of his son in the delivery room. He expresses awe at the miracle of birth and acknowledges the incredible journey it represents. Frand recalls the anticipation leading up to the birth, including preparations like attending Lamaze classes and ensuring their dog was cared for. Despite struggling to articulate the impact of the experience, he emphasizes the deep connection he feels with his son, manifesting in regular expressions of pride and affection. Frand describes participating actively in the birth process as integral to his identity and cherishes the enduring connection it fostered between them.

“And it was like, wow. Birth is an incredible journey and a beautiful miracle. We went to Good Samaritan Hospital, we were going to be in one of the early Lamaze birth experiences, and we had our dog in our car. The decision to opt for Lamaze birth, a natural childbirth method emphasizing relaxation and breathing techniques, reflects a conscious choice towards a more holistic approach to childbirth. It signifies a desire for a deeper connection and involvement in the birthing process, rather than a passive observer.”

“I give my son a hug almost every weekend. We go to breakfast once a week. And it's the pride, I say to him, I am so proud of you. I say it almost every week, because I really am proud of him. Seeing a new life come into the world was an incredible experience. Being in the delivery room and being an active part of the birth process was part of who I am, and I still feel that connection. That's a heavy connection.”



Morning Star | Digital | Clip Studio Paint

The Bear Chase

Samantha Rios

Jason's free spirit could not be contained, instead, it roamed many places and he allowed these experiences to shape how he views the world. As he explored with loved ones, camping here and there, he had many stories to share and enlighten us about. Mostly explaining how beautiful each encounter was and how unique the sights were.

Some of the sights however, included unexpected wild animals.

“One of the most fascinating trips we did was at Glacier Bay National Park up in Alaska. And Lois hated it because there was never enough food, and she eats ferociously.”

Everyone around him begins to laugh along with him as he lightheartedly expresses a memory of his wife.

“She left every meal hungry, very frustrated, but when we did this Alaskan trip, we had gone to a place called Lake Clark National Park. Which is another one of these isolated parks.”

“And we're coming back from one of our hikes, we came up against the mother and its cubs, and you'll love the video. Our guide was saying, ‘all right, just step back and let her pass, and I want her to know that when she encounters people, she should teach her kids to let us be, or turn around and go the other way’, and she turned around, went the other way!”

The whole table expresses their wonder with a collective ahh.

He doesn't show any signs of fear, expressing that during this whole experience he had his video camera rolling the whole time. Jason is the kind of person that understands that nature around him should be seen as wonderful instead of something to be scared of.

He goes on to continue and branch off from the story to speak on another experience that also contained a bear that he recorded, but this one was a bit more eager to interact with humans.

“So we had come from that experience to Glacier Bay National Park, and we were going on a hike to a Glacier, and because of my eyes, I couldn't do one of these walks on a five-foot or three-foot ledge to get to where we're going, so one of the guides took the other seven people, and the head lady, she stayed with Lois and I back towards by the stream, and this grizzly came along, and the instructions are, you should never run, and you get out your bear spray. Well, our guide, who's this ex-ranger, she's just running.”

Jason flings his hand forward to signify how fast this ex-ranger ran from the supposed threat.

The ranger, Lois, and Jason had fortunately found a large slanted rock, running up to it and quickly getting to the top to escape from the grizzly. Just when they thought they had found refuge, sitting down to catch their breath, the beast emerges and climbs the same rock they thought was safe.

“But then he stopped, and he sort of sniffed the air a few times, and then fortunately decided that we weren't really good food.”

When he was telling this story, Jason would look everyone in their eyes, smiling as he recounted the occurrence that others would see as scary or traumatizing, but for him, this was something more curious. As someone who is very introverted, hearing stories about wildlife never interested me or prompted me to go exploring, but as Jason talked about the grizzly he made the image seem beautiful. There was wanderlust in his expression that affected me and engaged me in the conversation. As I listened to his adventures I thought about the last time I went camping many moons ago. I was in sixth grade and everyone in my year had the chance to go into the mountains and experience a week of camping and enjoying the outdoors. I didn't necessarily dread it, but I wasn't jumping off the walls excited either. Jason and I are very different in this aspect, while he planned these instances, I was made to go. When I got there it was made known to all of us that we would be hiking... a lot, which I figured would be the worst part of the trip. It was also mentioned that finding animals on these hiking trails was rare and to not expect living organisms other than plants and trees. In all honesty, I didn't care much about seeing animals. I didn't see the appeal. That was until our trail leader stopped our group and motioned for us to be quiet. Since I was quite short I had to look between my classmates to understand why we stopped, and there it was. A deer sniffing at a tree that hasn't noticed all of us staring. It was probably one of the most loveliest sights I've ever seen, lasting at most a minute. What made this trip even more special is that luck was on our side, because on the following hike, we saw another deer walking along, not paying any attention to us but effortlessly catching ours. Nature had a way of being beautiful without even trying and I think Jason would agree.



Samantha | Digital



Because of You

Emma Jean

“... About 10 or 12 years ago, some woman, I don't know her name, but some woman came in from Europe and contacted the school and said she wanted to meet with me. And she was a fairly senior vice president of some multi-trillion dollar business, world, global business. And the Dean said, ‘No, we'd like to take you out for lunch.’ And she said, ‘I really, I just want to meet with Jason Frand.’ And I had been retired 10 years, and they found me. And she and I went to breakfast at the local cafe down the street from my house, and she just said, ‘I want you to know when I took your class, I knew nothing about this stuff, and my entire career was built because of you.’”

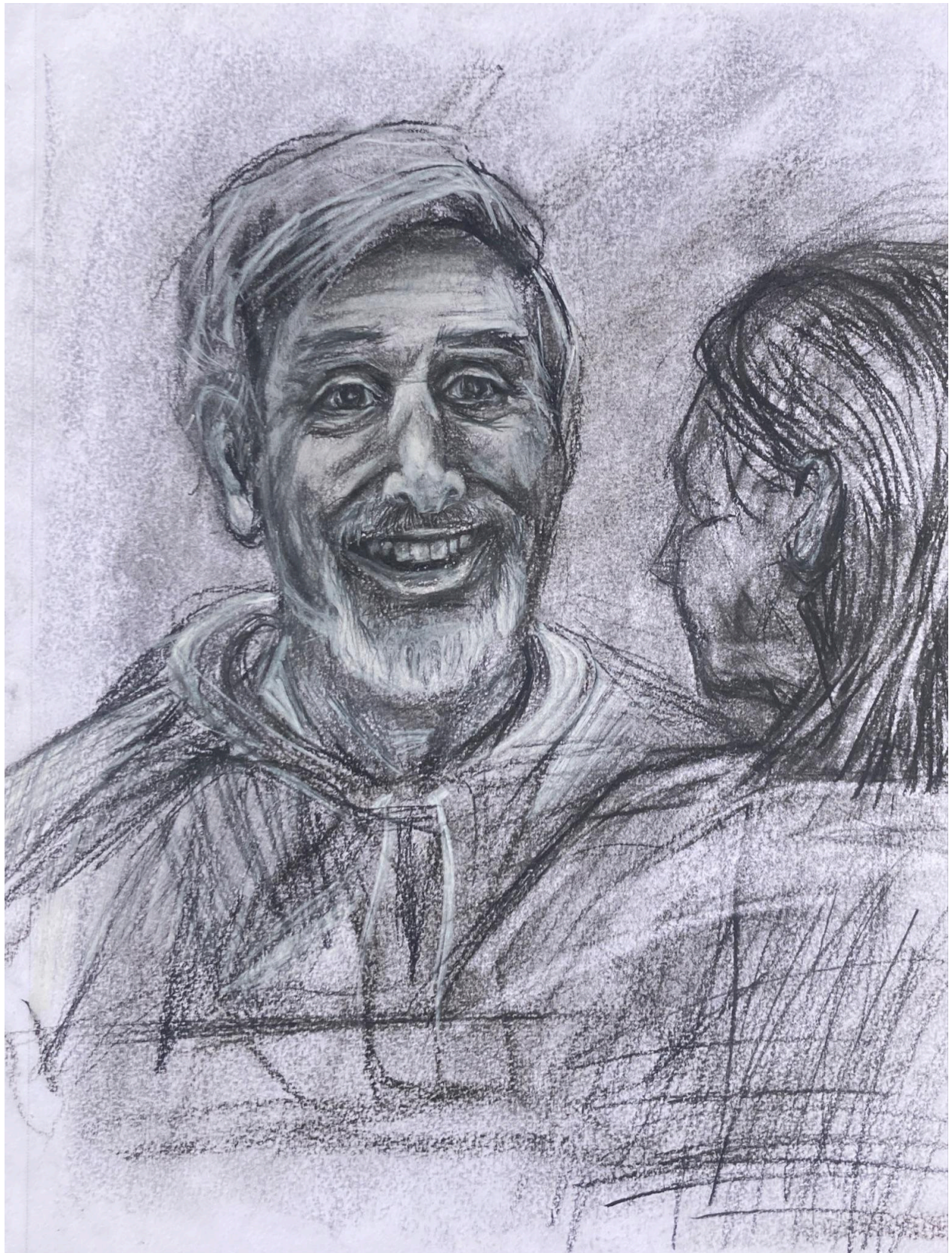
This was not an uncommon occurrence for Jason Frand, more so one of many. In fact, everywhere he traveled he'd run into a former student from his days working as a professor.

“And for a couple years there, I was like, I was very, very popular”,

Jason giggles with us,

“And for maybe a decade after that, when I would go on a trip some place, people I taught would come up to me at airports and say, ‘Hi, Professor Frand!’, because my students had literally scattered.”

As Jason would likely say, it's *phenomenal* to have touched so many lives without realizing, the ability to transform a person's trajectory in life is truly a gift.



Emma Jean Holmstrom | Charcoal

Legally Blind

Cat Nguyen

Prior to our first meeting with Jason, I suspected that none of us knew he had tunnel vision blindness, and apparently, not many people knew the story until he was professionally diagnosed in 1975, at the age of 30.

“I am very, very fortunate. I mean, when it's aggressive, a person's 100 percent blind by the time they're 10 or 15 or whatever. So, for whatever reason, I have had a very slow... I don't know, I've got to 81 and I can still see. I use a cane. We can talk about the cane and what it is you give up. You know, to accept it. I don't accept my reality. So, you know, getting a cane, letting people know that I use a cane is, you know, there's a whole bunch of crap there.”

It must have been terrifying knowing that your health condition had its limits and that you can put a date on when something deteriorates. Nonetheless, I am astounded everytime I hear this man speak, that he would always follow up with, “I’m lucky.”

“I’m lucky.”

“I’m fortunate.”

“I’m grateful.”

Was it because of hindsight? Was it because he truly felt lucky at the time? If I were in his situation, would I still utter the same sentiments? If I were him, would I still feel lucky?

We never actually got to hearing about all the nuts and bolts of Jason’s Tunnel Vision blindness in the two interview sessions, per se; however, we were lucky enough to have him follow up in a separate email.

The blindness, in his own words:

“RP simply put are freckles on the retina that block the light waves from getting to the rods and cones. If you look at an RP patient's retina, it appears to have yellowish wax over the rods and cones. The wax progresses from the outermost sides of the retina toward

the center, thus causing narrowing of the visual field, or tunnel vision.

RP begins when you are young and progresses through life. In aggressive RP, total blindness can occur in teen years or before. I am EXTREMELY lucky to have a VERY slowly progressing form and still have some central vision, like looking through a straw. My night vision is much worse and walking in low light areas, light the shade of a tree, even in the middle of the day, is always a challenge."

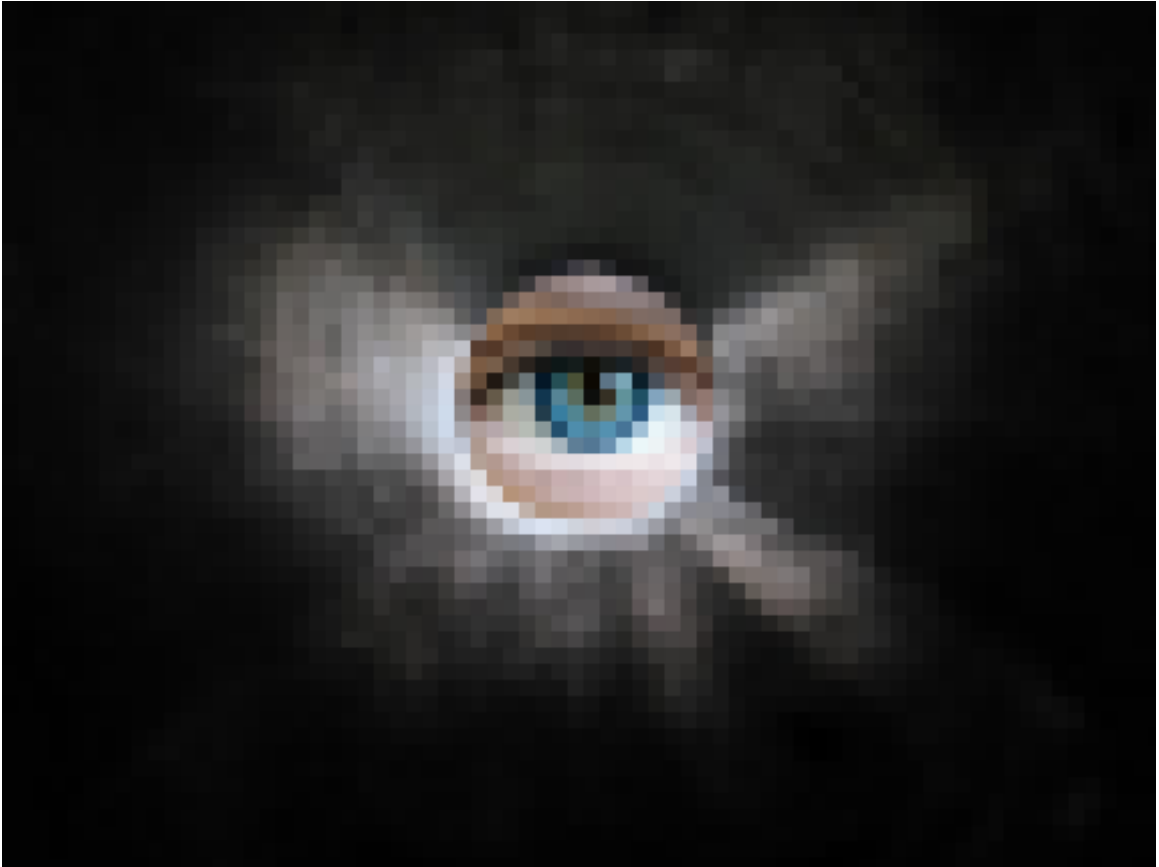
Jason was diagnosed with RP when he was almost turning 34 years old, 2 weeks before his oral exam for his PhD. Jason didn't believe that, though, he had always thought his vision had been the same since he was a child. In fact, he was always a clumsy little one growing up. Always walking into and tripping over things. It didn't change, however, when he became an adult. After all, he was just *clumsy*, wasn't he? But blindness was not clumsiness, and Jason wasn't just "rude" for not shaking somebody's hand when they offered it. No. He *couldn't* see. And it took 34 years for him to realize it. His diagnosis turned crisis when he couldn't drive any more in 1991, when his condition worsened.

"From 1991 until I retired in 2006, I spent considerable time almost every day looking for or arranging transportation to and from my home in Culver City to UCLA. My motto was 'For me to be comfortable asking, you must be comfortable saying no.' Lots of people said no. Taking a taxi was way too expensive. Bus options were to walk almost two miles to take the one direct Culver City to UCLA bus or ½ mile to take a transfer bus. I used the bus as my back up."

But then...

"Fortunately I was always successful."

Absolute shock. Absolutely in awe. I realized this was his outlook in life. A fleeting thought crossed my mind that he was gonna be fine, after all, with this mindset, but then I realized he *had been* fine. He *had been* great.



Morning Star | Digital | Clip Studio Paint

The Future is Bright

Samantha Rios

We've all heard of the concept of time travel. The fantastical idea of bending the past, present, and future. Time has a way of taking and giving, which is why I believe time travel is such a relevant topic no matter what age humans find themselves in. For Jason, he has also pondered about his role in the timeline.

A question was asked of him. If he had to choose, at what point in time would he want to live? He answered in writing, stating:

“There are many times I long for the good old days when we traveled the world without fear. But, watching 60 fourth and fifth graders engaging in complex math problem-solving being facilitated by 20 high school assistant coaches brought hope and emotional satisfaction beyond anything I’ve enjoyed for years. This wonderful feeling was reinforced by the email from a parent who said, ‘My fourth grader was reluctant to go and came home so excited she can’t wait until next week.’ So, in spite of all the turmoil, maybe the decade ahead is what I want to be a part of. I want the decade to evolve where my various students from over the decades take social, economic, political power, and bring about a utopian wonderful world so the reality for everyone everywhere is so much better.”

He chose the future. A choice a lot of people might find strange. The past holds memories that the future doesn't. The past is promised, so why would he choose the option of the unknown?

“There was never... a time that was easier or harder, they've all been different.”

He talks about what he looks forward to the most: us. Us meaning the newer and younger generations, classifying us as the future. His students were good examples of what the upcoming years hold. He constantly has

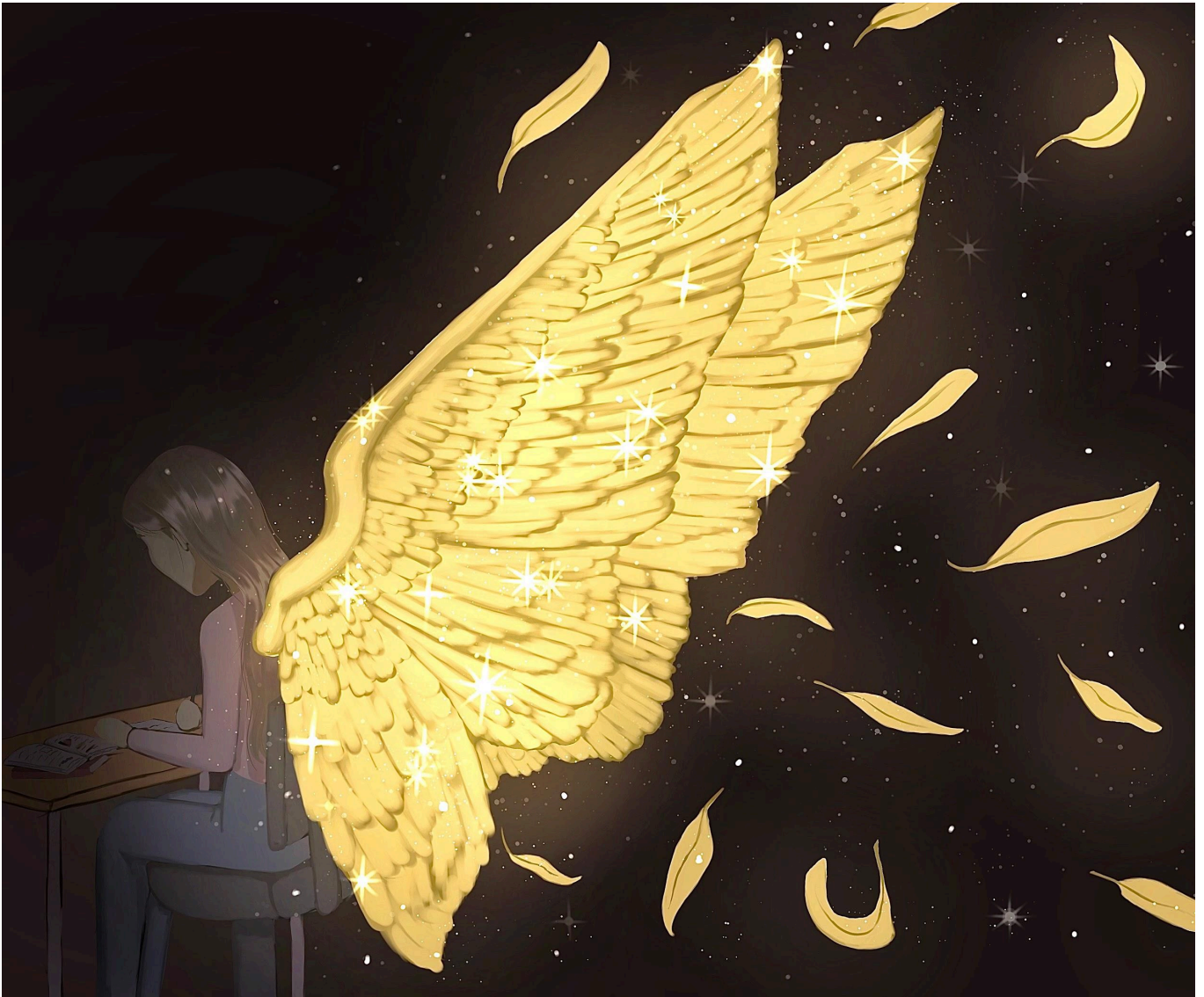
parents and old students finding him to thank him for how much he has changed them.

There was one specific student he thought about from time to time.

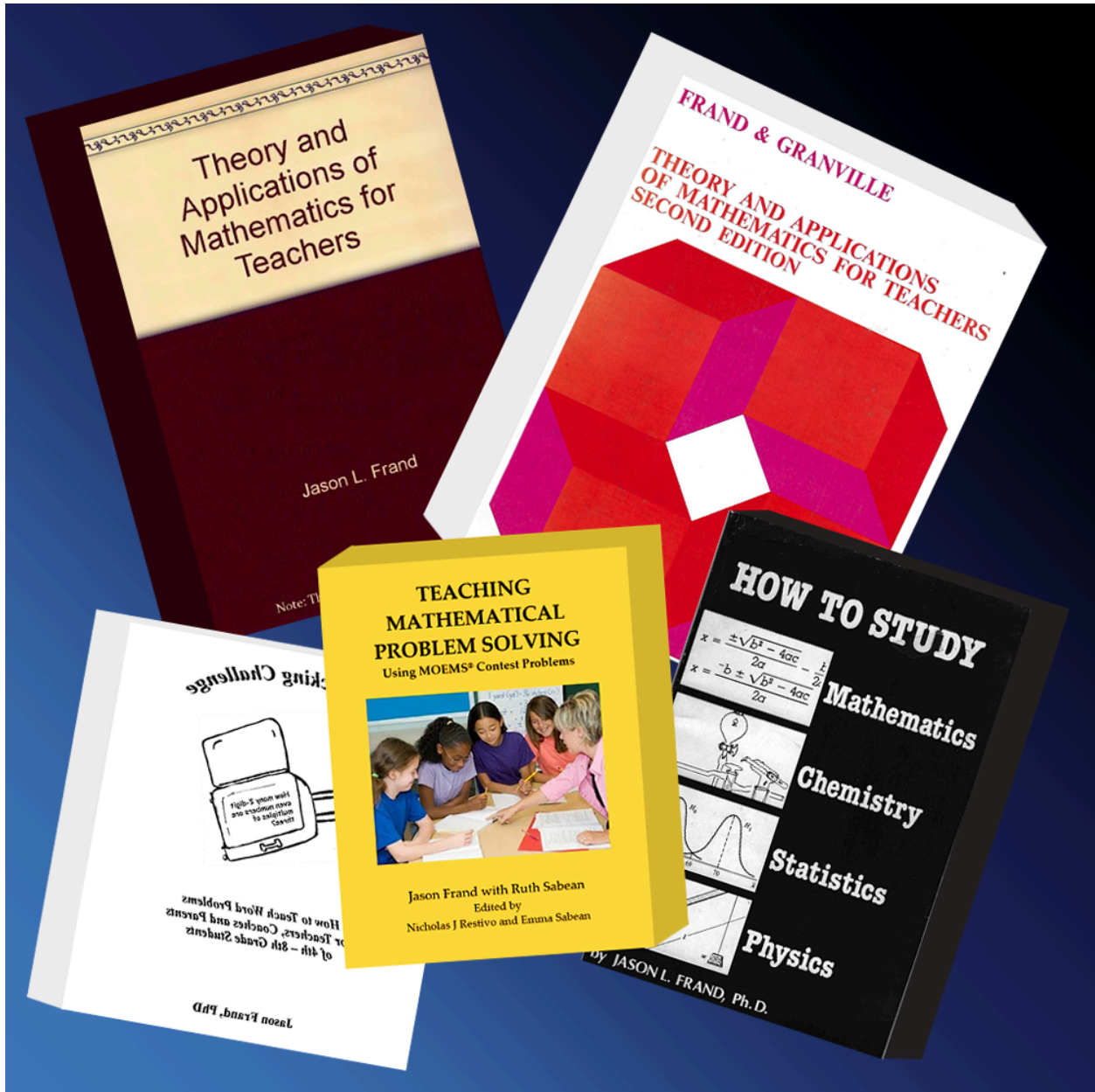
“There's a girl named Neha, who is now, I think, a graduate student. Last I heard, she was finishing up at San Diego State in chemical engineering. And her mother, Mira, became my right hand at running the math tournaments that I run because she said I gave Neha wings. And dedicated the next ten years. At my beck and call to repay me for what I give now. And I don't even remember who she is.” He laughs a bit.

For someone who has touched many lives and has molded them for the better, Jason is quite humble when thinking back to those years of teaching.

“I'm just doing me. I'm me. I'm following my passions, my dreams and my hopes.”



Samantha Rios | Digital | Clip Studio Paint



Morning Star | Digital | Clip Studio Paint

THANK YOU

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity to sit down and chat with you. Your willingness to share your time and vast wealth of knowledge from your many years of experience truly meant the world to me. Our interview was not only enlightening but also immensely enjoyable, and I walked away feeling inspired and enriched by the wisdom you imparted. Your insights have provided me with invaluable lessons that I am eager to apply to my own life journey. Thank you for your generosity, and kindness, and for being such a cooperative person during the interviews. I am genuinely grateful for the opportunity to learn from someone as esteemed and accomplished as yourself.

– Morning Star

Speaking with someone who had more knowledge and experience of the world made me feel a little uneasy at first, but after meeting you, Jason, I felt uplifted and rewarded. Given that you are such a great storyteller, you always knew how to respond to my questions before I even had to ask. I was engaged in listening to you speak since you had a lot of positive things to say. Things that I will remember forever. I loved writing about you, your kindness could be felt with every sentence I typed. I appreciate Jason for being himself and for having the courage to open up and share with us about your life. I hope my gratitude can be shown within this book just like your words live within us.

– Samantha Rios

Speaking with Jason and learning his story has been such a pleasure this past semester. As someone who grew up in Los Angeles as well, I love hearing the history of those generations who came before me. Jason was a delight, and his tales were always captivating. His approach and excitement for the future is tangible, just as his impact on his students and technology have and will continue to affect it. Thank you Jason for letting us learn about your life!

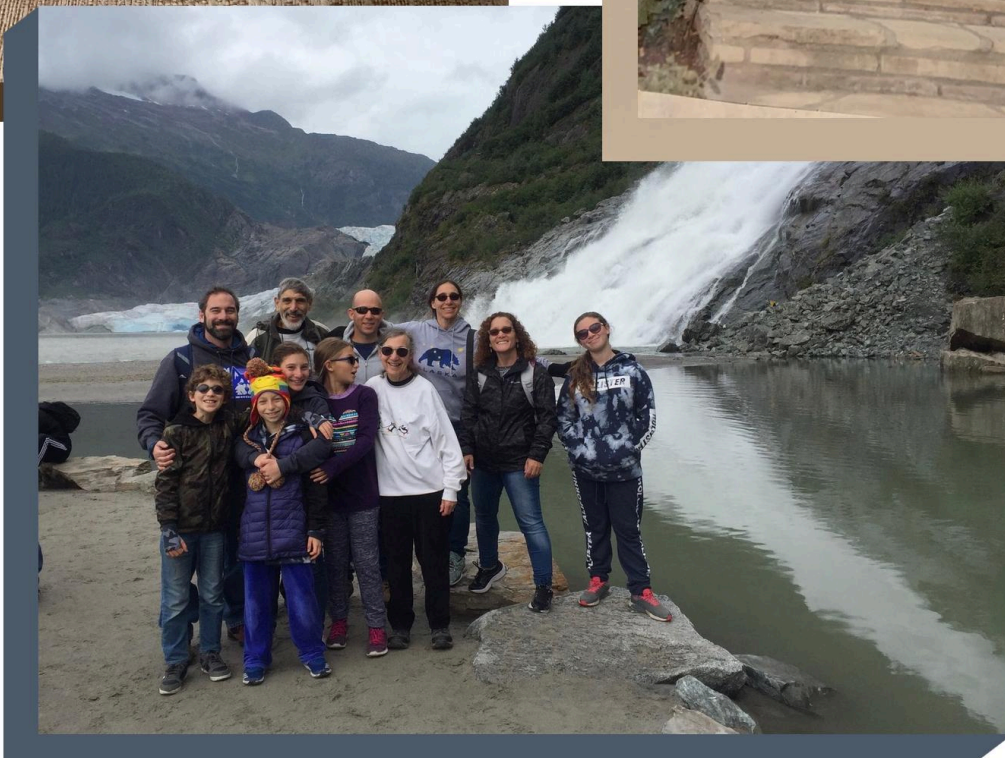
– Schaedyn McIntyre

Hi Jason! Thank you so much for telling us your stories and letting us translate them into an entire book! Even though I only got to meet you once, your outlook on life has certainly inspired me in many different ways, all positive, of course. I hope that you have enjoyed the book that we prepared for you, and once again, thank you for the amazing experience.

– Cat Vu Nguyen

Meeting Jason Frand was such a gift! I connected with his positive, ebb & flow way of life, the path that led him to unimaginable career opportunities and adventures. I aspire to lead a life where I can follow my passions, professionally and personally. Thank you so much for sharing your life with us!

– Emma Holmstrom





TRUE STORIES

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