

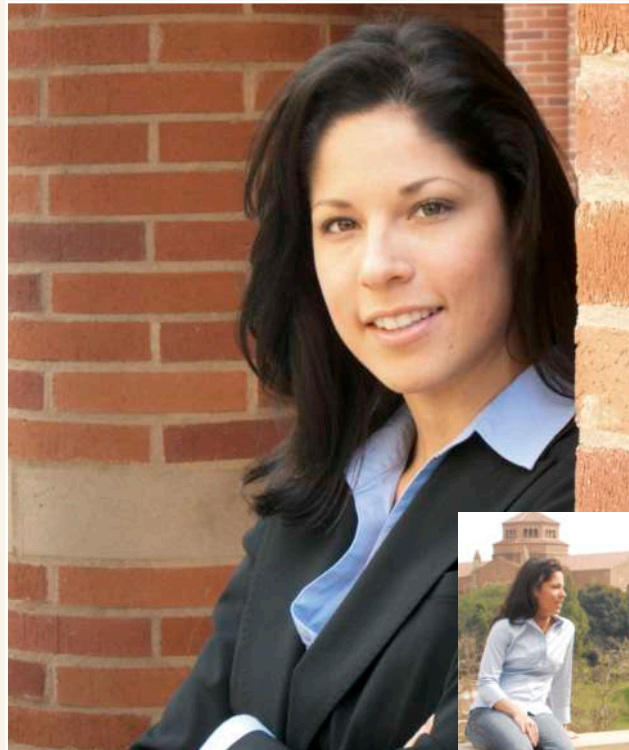
From Runaway to MBA:

Documentary Tells Student's Inspiring Story

At the age of 12, Carissa Phelps ('07) was abandoned by her mother in the lobby of the juvenile hall center in Fresno, Calif. For the next two years, the troubled runaway survived a life on the streets, and at her lowest point, was driven, unimaginably, into prostitution.

Determined to change her circumstances, Phelps sought the help of teachers and mentors, and was able to persevere through high school – and college. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Fresno State and today is pursuing a dual degree at both Anderson and UCLA's School of Law.

Phelps' compelling and inspirational journey from juvenile hall to Anderson's Korn Hall is the subject of a documentary produced by her classmate and close friend, David Sauvage ('07). With a background in writing and directing, Sauvage is generating interest in the film by shopping a trailer that features eye-opening interviews with Phelps and her mother. He is financing produc-



Carissa Phelps ('07).

tion, in part, with a Wolfen Award presented by the Harold and Pauline Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.

When asked about the project, Phelps explains that although she's apprehensive about opening

up to the world, she hopes her story will "inspire more adults to reach out to kids who want to turn their lives around — but just don't know how."

Another goal of the documentary is to show children from troubled backgrounds how far they can go if they apply them-



Below: David Sauvage ('07) (center) directs Carissa Phelps ('07) (left).

selves. "I want to give kids a chance to know that I'm the same as them and they could be the same as I am today," Phelps told

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– Carissa Phelps ('07)

the *Fresno Bee* in a recent article.

Sauvage and executive producer Mario Ramirez are working to meet the August 2007 deadline submission for the Sundance Film Festival.

To learn more about the project, contact Sauvage via e-mail at david.sauvage.07@anderson.ucla.edu.