



## SEEN IN AFRICA

Working at "the crossroads of style, culture and purpose," Mark Leibowitz, '98, helped create a limited-edition book about South Africa produced by Well Souled. Among others, he photographed Mr. Mbatha, a KwaMashu township tailor known for brightly patched pants. Well Souled is a brand brainchild of Mitali Shah, whose venture explores style in an exotic travel destination with the goal of supporting indigenous social initiatives. For the \$110 South Africa book—312 pages of photography and fashion and travel narrative—20 percent of sales will go to AIDS projects there. Future books are planned for India, Brazil, Turkey and Vietnam.

## Kids in the Campaign

Sameera "Sparrow" Righton is a busy political blogger, even though she's imaginary: "A Muslim girl in the White House," Sparrow is a Republican president's daughter created by author Mitali Bose Perkins, '84. Sparrow's story—adopted as a Pakistani orphan when she was 3, educated in international schools, now 16 and an aspiring journalist—has unfolded in two young-adult novels: *First Daughter: Extreme American Makeover* and *First Daughter: White House Rules* (Dutton).

Former poli sci major Perkins covers the '08 election's First Kid hopefuls at [www.sparrowblog.com](http://www.sparrowblog.com). Recent posts charted the increase in campaigning by Chelsea Clinton, '01, and noted that Caroline Kennedy, "who lost her Dad when she was four days short of six years old, wants six-year-old Sasha's Dad to be the next President."

After her first book was written, Perkins realized that John McCain's youngest child, Bridget, 15, was adopted from Bangladesh. She offered to scrap her storyline and was relieved when the McCain campaign did not object to it.

Sparrowblog aims to be impartial and upbeat, because what Perkins roots for most is America's system. "I've traveled in a lot of places where there is no freedom, no peaceful transfer of power. I cheer for the process."

## Short Takes

**Ron Fedkiw**, associate professor of computer science, and Industrial Light and Magic collaborators **Frank Losasso**

**Petterson**, PhD '07, and Nick Rasmussen won a technical Academy Award for their work simulating fluids in motion.

• **Kathleen Chalfant**, '66, is co-starring with Mary-Louise Parker through March 23 in *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at Playwrights Horizons in New York City. • *The Distant Land of My Father*, a novel by **Bo Caldwell**, '77, is the communitywide reading selection for Silicon Valley after having been the choice of Pasadena last year. • Celebrating Women, an exhibit by **Paola Gianturco**, '61, is on display at the Field Museum in Chicago. Photojournalist Gianturco's new book is *Women Who Light the Dark* (powerHouse, \$45); it benefits the Global Fund for Women. • The Fair Use Project of Stanford Law School's Center for Internet and Society is helping defend RDR Books in a lawsuit seeking to block publication of *The Harry Potter Lexicon*.