Carlotta Allen Glackin ’72 is an Associate Professor of Molecular Medicine at the Beckman Research Institute of The City of Hope. Simply put, she is one of those people who actually is trying to cure cancer.

Carlotta specializes in pioneering research to understand molecular interactions and pathways responsible for cancer-induced bone disease. In her presentation at the School’s Science Lecture Series in April 2007, Carlotta described how she and her laboratory are developing novel therapeutics for invasive and metastatic breast cancer. It is Carlotta’s hope to create a method to block tumor metastases and kill the tumor cells to improve long-term survival in animal models. Carlotta believes this novel strategy will significantly decrease the toxic side effects of current chemotherapies.

Carlotta’s journey to Bishop’s is part of a family legacy begun by her grandmother, a member of the Class of 1917. Three generations of women in Carlotta’s family have graduated from the School including her great aunt in 1916, her mother in 1945, her sister in 1973, and three cousins in the 1970’s. Carlotta’s niece, Alexandra, Class of 2010, marks the fourth generation to attend the School. “I’m still using the writing skills, speaking skills, networking skills, and grant-writing skills that have stemmed from my Bishop’s education, and for that I am forever grateful,” observed Carlotta, who graduated from UCLA as a biochemistry major. She earned a second B.S. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, a Ph.D. in molecular biology from USC, and served a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at Caltech.

However, it is important to note that Carlotta has not found life without obstacles – when she and her roommate flushed an orange down a toilet and backed up all the plumbing at Bishop’s, she learned that some things in life just are not possible, even when you are the smartest person in the room. Carlotta’s work has resulted in speaking engagements around the world, and recognition in many corners. She was featured on a PBS program on Women in Science and is the recipient of the 2005 Woman of the Year Award from the Muses of the California Science Center.
Carlotta likes to think that anything can be done with hard work and perseverance, and her success has made her a role model for other Bishop’s students, and a source of pride for the School. For the brilliance of her scientific work and her commitment to help others, we present the Alumni Award for Distinguished Career Achievement.