

WASC Questions for Mentors
12/12/07

Questions to critique:

- 1. How has the community changed now that the first-year students rooms face outside corridors vs. the inside hallways they had in Old Sanborn?**

I think there's more of a difference between those who are extroverts and introverts. The shyer students tend to keep their doors closed (in the new complex) but in Old Sanborn there seemed to be more exchanges of greetings and interactions. There seems to be more awareness of what's going on throughout the entire first-year class because of the open layout of the new dorms which is really good because in Old Sanborn students seemed somewhat limited to their own immediate hall.

The current first-year students are in a unique situation in which they started the year in different dorms and then moved. In many ways the time they spent in Old Sanborn was some of the most critical socially for freshman and so once they had moved to the new complex many friendships had already been established. Therefore this year's class is not a good measure of the effects of the new dorms on the community and overall social situation. That aside, I can make some guesses as to what might be occurring as well as add what I have gathered from talking with first year students. I personally like the hallway feel of Old Sanborn; it is one of the reasons why in year's past I chose to go to Holden rather than Mead. I like the social feel of walking back at any hour of the night and finding people out in the hall chatting and hanging out. Because it gets cold at night rarely do you ever find people hanging out in the hallways in the late night hours in the new complex. Even in the day people do not lay out in the halls as they did in the old dorms. If the weather is not enjoyable, the open social environment found in warm hallways is very different in the open halls of the new dorms. I think there is less cohesion and friendships within the halls than the old dorms, but that could also have to do with this year's situation. I know that in years past students have made facebook groups for their halls and really felt a sense of camaraderie in regards to their hallmates. Having friends across the complex is made easier than in Old Sanborn, however, because it is less secluded than in year's past and the windows above the doors allow anyone to easily step outside their door and look across the complex to see if their friend is awake and in their room. In some ways this may possibly lessen the formation of tight exclusive groups that form in the beginning of the school year and lead to what some people have complained about as the "clickish" nature of Pitzer. One thing that is different for the overall Pitzer community is the seclusion of the location of the new complex and its location farther away from the Mounds. The Mounds have always been the center of campus. Now it is a little harder to say what exactly is the center of campus. The Mounds are still central in one way and the Shakedown/pool area is central for the new complex. I will be interested to see if the Mounds become a hangout area for primarily upper classmen living in Holden and Mead or if they remain a central location for all class years to gather and socialize. The whole structure also makes it hard to do Secret Santa. After asking some of my mentees what they thought, they wanted to add that the openness of the new dorms makes it much easier to get caught. I also have heard of some freshman complaining about how all their actions are visible and some times they wish they could just leave their dorms without everyone knowing what they are up to. Even though there are some differences socially, I absolutely love the new complex. I think that it is beautiful, open, and I love the environmental aspect. I personally love the pool and

Shakedown/GSC as being in the center of campus. It does give it the feel of a resort or hotel, but it also provides a common area in which anyone can hang out, study, socialize and be outdoors at the same time.

I initially thought outside corridors would have a negative effect on the first-year student's bonding, but I was proven wrong. Though it may have been difficult to feel a sense of community for the first few weeks, I think that the outside corridors ultimately allowed the first-year students to bond with their whole class, and not just the people in their hall. In Old Sanborn, there was very much a division within the students by halls or by floor, but this never seemed to be the case with the new dorms.

Greater taking advantage of the pool. Greater taking advantage of the Shakedown and Gold Student Center. Increased outdoor physical activity such as skateboarding and sports playing within close proximity to the dorms. Decrease in student partying in dorms due to the high perceptibility of sound travel throughout the buildings and out to the outdoor hallways. (This can be thought of as a perception of a decrease in the feasibility of partying in secrecy). Less hanging out in hallways, i.e., less sitting and standing in hallways for extended periods of time chatting/socializing.

I find it damaging to more introverted or shy students; going outside is a larger step than into a hallway, and entering a study room with people already inside of it feels like intruding. My introverted mentees spent their time in their rooms watching videos.

Now that the students are able to walk outside and see where everyone else is, I believe it opens up friend circles. No longer are first-years only friends with the people on or near their hall, because now all halls are visible from all the other halls.

there was more sense of community and "hominess" to the old dorms because everyone would gather in the halls late at night and talk while sitting on the floor or at the ends of the hallways, or even at the service desk. since room doors faced one another, there was always a chance of seeing someone when you walked out of your room, and the rooms felt closer together and more connected as well. in the new dorms, though we are technically a community and home, it just doesn't feel the same because the second you walk out of your room, you are outside and there is not necessarily a place to congregate when it's raining for example. everyone is in their rooms because it's cold during the winter months. it tends to be the same people that meet outside on the benches for the most part.

The students are less likely to spend long periods of time out in the halls at night in colder weather, but the outdoor halls mean that students can see who is where. The students are also able to talk to those out in the courtyard without necessarily leaving their doorway. The flow from one part of the building to another is much easier and less maze-like.

I see people hanging out in the hallways much less because of the outdoor halls, whereas in the old dorms people were wandering around and hanging out in the halls frequently. But we can also now see directly into the courtyard from the hallways, which makes it easier to spot friends outside and venture out of the dorms. The outdoor halls also put us at the mercy of the elements, so you'll see lots of open doors when the weather is nice, and lots of closed ones when it's cold.

Well the students have become a bit more social. In old sanborn, you only knew the people that lived in your hall and sometimes you did not know the people who lived in another hall. But with the new dorms everyone hangs out with each other no matter if they live in different buildings or floors.

There is much more awareness of each other than before, which means seeing your friends and more often and also just seeing acquaintances more often too. I think it makes the 1st-years feel more cohesive as a class than before. I often see large groups clustered about here and there, which may not have been as prevalent as before. At the same time, students have decreased privacy, since they can be seen and heard more than before. However, I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing.

There is less hall interaction. It seems like first-years just go to their friend's room and hang out vs. just hanging outside the rooms on the hall. However, there is more bonding with the entire class as a whole since they can scream at each other all the way across the complex. I would say that the outside corridors are great for first-years who are social. With the outside corridors it is easier for a first-year to hide in his/her room without ever having to interact with anyone nor having anyone really notice.

-It may be harder to meet people initially since you can't see across the hall into other people's rooms, and the rooms are very soundproof, so they are inherently less social outside suites. Suites themselves, however, are more social, since the connecting bathrooms are much larger and conducive to students walking through and socializing.

The class is a lot more unified and involved. While the halls last year had significant internal bonding, this did not stretch across the building. With the first-year students in the new dorms, the hall way is not a determinant of which students they are friends with. Also, the outside hallways are nice for all students to say hello and check in on each other. Last year, I would say this activity was fairly limited within students on one hallway.

2. How has the health of first-year students been affected by the change from Old Sanborn to Motel 4?

Sound doesn't travel as well in the new dorms so they don't get caught as much but I think there is just as much drinking involved as there was in Old Sanborn. I think because there is a better sense of community, though, students are behaving more responsibly and looking out for each other.

I am not really sure how the health of the students has been affected. I think that it could possibly have improved due to the cleaner environment, but it is extremely hard to tell. My own health has been better than usual, but that could be due to many factors.

From what I could see, and from my own experience, the health improved dramatically. As a freshman in Old Sanborn, I got sick frequently, as did many other students. I didn't get sick once this year, nor did I hear of any freshmen getting ill frequently.

Often, I have been impressed with the apparent active effort to keep their rooms clean and organized, that is, cleaner and more organized than I have seen other dorms in the past. I think

this may be the result of living in rooms that are new and modern, a phenomenon that brings about an enhanced desire for respecting the buildings and for preserving their new quality. Yet I have not seen all the rooms, so I may be wrong. My perception may be skewed by the fact that I have witnessed no vandalism to the dorms first-hand.

Not at all, as far as I can tell.

I believe that the move, if anything, just made the first-years appreciate what they have a little more. At this point they have completely forgotten what life was like before the new dorms, I doubt it had much effect at all.

i don't believe there has been a significant impact on health, more on social aspects. i think it's easier to see the level of activity because you can instantaneously see everyone who is out and about in the complex, and what's going on where.

I assume that health-wise the rooms have better lighting, for the most part, and more consistent temperatures, making the over all comfort better. I don't really see health being a factor.

People always get sick living in a dorm environment, especially as freshmen. (I got sick 5 times my first semester last year.) But because sickness is such an individual thing, I don't think the dorm change has a huge effect on it. If anything, I would think the health is better in the new dorms because of the ventilation frequently circulating the air. (My air filter needs cleaning way less often than it did last year, which is nice.)

The only health problem with the new dorms has been the air conditioner, it is always blowing air and depending on the configuration of the room, sometimes that air blows directly onto the students, so they could be prone to becoming sicker. Of course, it does not help that our weather can at times go from hot to cold and back to hot.

They are probably healthier now since they don't have to face those wretched old tiny little mold-covered smelly bathrooms anymore. However, I the AC/heater issues are not good - I think I may have gotten a cold from being in a heat-less room for too long!

Most students were neutral to the move. They were patient while in Old Sanborn and excited once they finally got into the new dorms.

-Since the dorms are largely outdoors, residents must walk outside much more often, which forces them to be out in the sun more, but also forces them outside when it is smoggy or cold out.

No more nasty drips coming from the ceilings!! There has to be some health improvement in that! I think the health of the students has not been affected. None of my mentees have complained about being sick all the time because of the outside hallways. I would say the natural light and natural air flows in the dorms also makes people happier.

3. How has the increase in study space affected first-years academically?

There has definitely been a boost in academic activity because these study spaces are visible that students have a better sense of how much work other people put into their classes. Because of the general competitive nature of students here, there seems to be good peer pressure to study hard (be in the study rooms) and do well.

I so often see study halls empty that I am not sure that they are being made use of as much as they could be. On the other hand, I live in Pitzer Hall, one of the last halls to be finished and the study halls were finished even later in the semester. I actually think that starting the semester with all the study halls finished will impact the students differently so I will be interested to see how the new study rooms impact students in coming years. This week during finals I have actually seen a great increase in the use of the study rooms and therefore have very high hopes for them.

I can only imagine it affected them positively. I know for a fact it benefited upper-classmen, who use the study rooms more often than those in Mead or Holden.

I have been tremendously pleased in observing how much students, of all graduation classes, have taken advantage of the new study spaces. I have rarely seen students studying so much in clear view. As a matter of fact, it has not been uncommon for me to find many of the study rooms so crammed, causing me to look around for a while before I find a quiet place to settle down to my work! In general, the study rooms are adequately comfortable. But I have been disappointed by two things: first, the lack of sturdy, comfortable furniture in the rooms (and moreover the total lack of furniture, which seems to fail to maximize the space efficiency that the rooms potentially offer); and second, the lack of soundproofing in the rooms, which appears to possibly be a result of poor wall construction and insulation in the new dorms. The study rooms could greatly benefit from more furniture, such as comfortable reading chairs, and desks with book storage shelves, such as those lining the walls in the Mead Marquis Library. In regard to the latter point, as a general rule, sound travels through the new dorms with a highly perceptible magnitude, making what should be a simple task— finding quiet places to study— more difficult.

I'm seeing larger groups studying, but nothing too appreciable.

My room is directly next to a study room, so I see inside every time I go to or from my room. There is always someone in there. Whether they are doing better academically or not I can't tell because I have no base, but the rooms are constantly being used.

I honestly don't know how their study habits have been affected. I'm assuming that with more space, more students are able to utilize the rooms. I know that I see a few of the same rooms being used on a regular basis, especially with finals week. Actually I have seen all of the rooms filled this week. I don't know how much has changed from the old dorms because we were there in the beginning of the semester when there wasn't too much studying to be done, so I didn't really see the study rooms being utilized in the old complex.

While there is more study space, the furniture is still reaching appropriate. I have witnessed some general use of Atherton and the western end of North Sanborn more than any other because they were the first finished, and habits die hard. Also, the Atherton study rooms are across the hall rather than down the hall, or up the stairs, so they are more convenient.

I think, again, that it depends on the student, and whether he or she is the kind of student who tends to take advantage of study rooms. I think that the nice new study rooms we have promote good study habits for those who work well in groups and need common places to meet, and I have seen more study groups this year than last year (Though I'm not sure if it's a direct result of the study rooms or not).

The first years seem to use the study rooms a lot more than they were used in old sanborn.

It has probably helped a little, since students don't have to go very far when they can't study in their rooms. However, the study rooms SUCK!! They are extremely space-inefficient, have poor wireless access, and are often too cold or hot. What they need is large wooden tables which take up the entire little rooms of the study rooms, like in conference rooms. More chairs too!

I see tons of students utilizing the study spaces which rarely ever happened in the one study room and living room in Old Sanborn. It at least appears that students are studying a lot and it's a lot easier for a group to get together and study.

The study space is a huge improvement over other dorms – students can compartmentalize their social lives from their academic lives more easily, have a quiet study space away from a noisy and social room, and study in a more isolated place much closer than 5C libraries.

I use the study rooms almost every night and every night it is more or less the same group of students in that room. This is a nice bonding experience as well as a way to get to know people you don't necessarily have classes with. In terms of academics, I think the students benefit from having so many different locations to study, both for group and individual studying. Personally, the study rooms have been really helpful for getting my work done without distractions and close to my room. I would think many of the first-years feel the same way.

4. How has the improvement in room conditions in Motel 4 affected student's academic or social mindset?

There seems to be more of a mindset of deservedness. I definitely think it was a good idea that the first-years had the opportunity to live in the old dorms for a few weeks to realize the difference in living conditions and have a greater appreciation for what's new this year. The improved room conditions also allow for greater self-expression (except for the fact that making holes in the walls is frowned upon).

I think they might think they are being respected more by having such improved living conditions that in turn they respect others more as well. One of my mentees says that there are more distractions every time he leaves his room and it can be more distracting academically. He also says that he gets distracted from wanting to change the temperature all the time.

Probably positively. I noticed that this year's freshman class was more academically oriented than the previous class, but I cannot say for sure if that is due to the improvement in room conditions. I did notice that people spent more time studying in their rooms, however.

I think the effect has been two-fold. First, many students have obviously benefited from the increase in study space, as mentioned above. It would be unsurprising to me to learn that first-year students academic performance has climbed due to the simple fact of having additional sound places to study conducive to study focus. Second, however, it appears that in a reverse direction, some students may have experienced a slump in academic focus due to the social excitement presented by the arrangement of the new dorms. While as aforementioned, I have seen many first-year students being incredibly productive with their studies, I have at the same time noticed some first-year students so drawn by the social distractions of the Shakedown and the pool that at times I become concerned about their academic productivity. The close integration of social centers and study centers appears to have confused the separation of these two aspects of student life. For example, it can be difficult to study in a study room that is only yards away from the pool, amid the distraction of the carrying sound of laughter, voices, and steps.

I see no change.

I don't think it has. Students don't really care how nice their dorms are. Even the sanborn dorms could be made to look nice.

Personally, i have been very happy to stay in my room and work, it's a very warm, nurturing environment, and i never want to leave. this may be why i don't see the freshmen in study rooms, because they enjoy working in their rooms as well. as for social aspects, my friends love coming to my new room! and i feel the same about the freshmen. i always see people coming in and out of rooms, visitors knocking on doors, and doors open with groups of students in rooms hanging out. i feel that students really enjoy and take full advantage of the wonderful rooms!

See above. I think that within the rooms, the students are a little more likely to walk through the bathroom since it is more friendly to share and they are clean enough that the attitude isn't 'get in, get out.'

I think people are more likely to hang out and study in their rooms and their friends' rooms, due to the increase in comfort in our dorm rooms. However, it is also easier for quieter students to spend all their time in their room.

The study rooms in the new dorms seem to be more inviting and a place where you really want to study. The ones in old sanborn were kind of closed off and wall off, but the new study rooms have a lot of space and a greater atmosphere for leaning.

Students, myself included, feel more dignified living in these rooms than the old ones. Therefore, we feel like we're actually getting more value out of our tuition than before, which might be causing some to study harder. Socially, the openness might make some feel like they need to join others in their weekend pursuits, simply because they are more aware of what's going on around the 5Cs.

I would say that the new room conditions have had little affect socially and academically.

It has made the first years recognize more easily how special Pitzer is, and what a privilege it is to live and study here.

I think the improved room conditions have really helped to strengthen the social lives of the students. I don't see a lot of exclusive groups of friends and there is a lot of unified bonding. In terms of academics, I would say that it might be hard to get work done here since so much of the social life is going on at the new dorms. But there are plenty of other places to study as well as inside one the study rooms.

5. Has there been an impact in vandalism due to living in Motel 4?

Yes, in the old dorms there were several incidents where students vandalized because there was the common-held image that they were living in a dump. But now, I rarely see/hear of anything. One thing I have seen is that there is less of an effort to clean up after using common/public rooms because of the sentiment I mentioned earlier, of deservedness.

I imagine there is less vandalism because people are proud to be living in these beautiful new dorms and want to take care of them, but I do not know for sure.

I don't think we can assume that the acts of vandalism that occurred this year were influenced by living in the new dorms. I think a lot of the vandalism was in response to the "greenness" of the dorms, however.

None that I have noticed. I gather the general impression that students want to respect the new dorms and keep them in new quality for as long as possible.

I don't think I've seen any vandalism of note, but that will only keep up as long as the dorms still look nice. Once they start lapsing in aesthetic quality, the vandalism will probably start again.

Yes. But the vandalism is not coming from the first-years. It's coming from the upper classmen who do not approve of the direction the school is heading in. It appears Pitzer is trying to be more like Pomona, but they don't like Pomona, they like Pitzer. Even if we do have "untrue" stereotypes.

I think the fact that these dorms are so new, people don't want to vandalize. i haven't seen any vandalism, neither in or out of rooms. i think students have a general respect for the living environment, and since we had to deal with all of the madness in the beginning of the year, we are all that much more grateful for these amazing rooms.

I don't think that vandalism has really been much on the mind of students in Motel 4. The students seem to live in a bit of a dreamland where certain things (unwanted guest and theft) seem implausible. I think the worst issues are lack of respect of the kitchen and other students with whom the laundry room is shared.

Our doors are now heavy and automatically locked, so I have heard of fewer break-ins. In the old dorms, people left their doors unlocked because of the false security the indoor halls provided, and things were stolen and strangers would sometimes wander into rooms. I think students are less inclined to make the new, pretty dorms any less pretty. Although we did have that incident the first night in Atherton with the fire extinguisher... but I don't see graffiti or vandalism or signs of wear like I did in the older dorms.

I do not think that there has been an impact on vandalism; I would like to think that the first year students are considerate of the nice building that they are living in.

Not that I know of.

Vandalism has gone down greatly since Old Sanborn. The students seem to be aware that they need to keep these dorms new as long as possible. Most have the students have been very responsible with the new dorm space both inside and outside of their rooms.

N/A

I don't think so.

6. Has the nature of roommate conflicts changed due to living in new space?

It seems to be about the same.

I also am not sure about the answer to this question. I know that there was roommate conflict among my mentees both in the new and old dorms, but I am not sure that the living space has changed the nature of the conflict.

I'm not sure the nature of roommate conflicts have changed.

Not that I have noticed. As far as I'm concerned, roommate conflicts stem from simple disagreement in lifestyles of the two individuals, not from the format of living arrangements. However, I have observed first-hand a mentee and friend become incredibly frustrated by his discomfort with a roommate and the apparent incapability of the residence life staff to respond and find him a suitable alternative.

I see no change.

I have not noticed any difference from last year.

I have only encountered one roommate conflict, but that began in the old dorms, and seemed quite natural, as for different personalities. I don't think the new space fosters any new conflicts, that wouldn't arise naturally otherwise.

I have heard little about roommate conflicts, but also didn't seem to encounter too much other years either.

I think the biggest change in living space that affects roommate conflicts is the bathroom. The new bathroom setup keeps roommates from waking each other up due to showers or blowdryers, and also makes it much more difficult for one person to hog the bathroom. I think this has been a very positive development for roommate situations.

No the conflicts still remains the same, people sometimes just do not get along due to differences in personalities and living styles. If anything the bigger rooms, especially the bathroom, can create more conflict because then it become more evident how different people are.

I don't think so.

I would say yes off hand. Since there are study rooms near by to escape to there is plenty of space to get away from each other when a break is needed.

I think the nature of the dorms has made it easier for students to “get away” from their roommates if necessary by going into the other suite, going to a study room/living room, going to the GSC/pool, etc. Since a common issue with roommates is ‘getting sick’ of each other, this is helpful overall.

I would say the nature of roommate conflicts has changed. Students are a lot more tolerant of issues with their roommate just because so many of their friends are close by and there are the study rooms and other close places to go if they need to get away. Also, I think that there might be more suitemate conflicts as opposed to just exclusively roommate conflicts just because the bathroom is a much larger shared space than before. However, from the problems that I have heard from first-years, they are very patient and willing to work with the person they have the issue or issues with. Most of them do not want to go talk to Sheldon just because it is much less of a big deal as it would be if they were stuck on a lone hallway with that person.

7. What social patterns have emerged from the first-year students living in Motel 4 that is different than when they lived in Old Sanborn?

People seem to know most of their classmates than they did before just because of the openness of the new dorms. I'm sure there will be a change in social patterns once the weather gets warmer, but it seems that people hang out in their rooms more in the new dorms than in the hallways as they did in the old dorms.

See answer to question 1.

As described above, I think the social interactions of the first-year students have become much less exclusive. First years don't seem to have the same loyalties to halls as previous classes did in Old Sanborn.

Greater taking advantage of the pool. Greater taking advantage of the Shakedown and Gold Student Center. Increased outdoor physical activity such as skateboarding and sports playing within close proximity to the dorms. Decrease in student partying in dorms due to the high perceptibility of sound travel throughout the buildings and out to the outdoor hallways. (This can be thought of as a perception of a decrease in the feasibility of partying in secrecy). Less hanging

out in hallways, i.e., less sitting and standing in hallways for extended periods of time chatting/socializing.

There is little sense of a “hall” community, as there was before. Students organize into groups based on interest or proximity, but not in blocks.

The first-years spend a lot of time being social outside. Skateboarding has become a large scene on campus because of the nature of the courtyard in the middle of the complex. People hang out there when they don’t have any work and are just looking to be social.

I don't see as many people gathering in hallways and talking late at night. people are in their rooms. i used to see people at the service desk or at the vending machines but since there is no service desk and the vending machines are in the tv rooms, students don't gather there. the biggest difference is really only the fact that students disperse to their rooms, rather than general gathering areas.

There is less hostility over using the TV room or and finding a common room that is available is easier.

All the new dorms face a central courtyard, and the old dorms were divided into separate halls. I think this makes it easier to get to know students from other dorms and hallways, since all the rooms face the same central location, and divisions are much less obvious.

Well as I mentioned before, they seem to be a bit more united as a class because they are bound to know more people in one of the other buildings. However, at the same time they are more prone to hang out in their rooms, as opposed to in old sanborn where people would hang out and talk in the hall way. Furthermore, in old sanborn one would be able to see what everyone was up to in their hallway, meaning you could see who had their door open and who did not. In the new dorms, you are not able to see that.

They hang out in big groups more often. They probably visit each other more too.

The students in Motel 4 don’t identify themselves by hall. In Old Sanborn it was common to say, “ I live in A2 or C2.” This doesn’t seem to be true this year. In general, Motel 4 has a greater sense of community then did Old Sanborn.

People are less united as a floor and a hall, and more open to hanging out with anyone based on personality, not proximity, since everyone is so accessible.

As I stated before, the class is much less exclusive and more unified because they can all see each other. There really is a sense of family within the whole complex. However, this has limited the intense hall relationships that some students (including myself) experienced last year when living on a hallway in Old Sanborn.

8. How has the new environment changed student's attitude towards respecting their living space?

There's a definite attitude change. They seem to want to show off their space by decorating their rooms (benches outside their rooms) and keeping things in good shape.

I think students respect their living space much more than in the old dorms and therefore take better care of their rooms, and are more motivated to keep them clean and take care of them. I also think that by feeling more respected by being allowed to live in such beautiful dorms, that respect is likely to spread out to other areas of life.

Because everything is new, students naturally respect their living space much more. Old Sanborn was already so gross when people moved in, no one really cared about respecting it.

Often, I have been impressed with the apparent active effort to keep their rooms clean and organized, that is, cleaner and more organized than I have seen other dorms in the past. I think this may be the result of living in rooms that are new and modern, a phenomenon that brings about an enhanced desire for respecting the buildings and for preserving their new quality. Yet I have not seen all the rooms, so I may be wrong. My perception may be skewed by the fact that I have witnessed no vandalism to the dorms first-hand.

Basically, see 5; it looks nice, so people are afraid to mar it. Once it gets marred, they'll get more lax.

Yes. It was harder to respect Sanborn knowing that it was already falling apart and that it would be knocked down shortly anyway, the new dorms seem very permanent, and thus more respectable.

Again, I think everyone appreciates these new dorms and generally tries to keep them damage free and fairly clean. everyone likes a new thing, and tries to keep it as new as possible.

I think that in terms of their own rooms, students are probably not defacing anything. But, unfortunately, I do not believe student have more overall respect. Chairs are left strewn about, the kitchen is not cleaned up, posters are torn and left with trash along the fences. There seems to be a lack of caring about propping building doors and fully closing room doors.

The new dorms are new, beautiful, and not about to be knocked down. Old Sanborn residents seemed more ready to mess up the building, since it was already falling apart a little bit. Now, especially with regards to room condition reports, it is much more obvious and less excusable for a student to make the building look any less nice.

I do not think much has changed; there are some kids who are happy to be where they are and think it a privilege. Others see it as a right and think that they deserve to live in the really nice buildings.

I think overall we respect our dorm more than before.

Students are much more respectful to their living space than the student's in Old Sanborn. A lot of them are looking for ways to improve the living space instead of destructing it.

In general, students are very respectful of the new dorms and take pride in them. The new dorms have unified the freshman class socially, while somewhat isolating them from the other Pitzer students.

Students might be a more respectful to the space just because it is so new and Old Sanborn was so rundown but I feel like people still don't pick up their garbage in the study rooms all the time and leave their laundry all over the place in the laundry room. So basically, there is more respect for the buildings and the rooms but students, especially first-years, are going to be first-years and leave trash and cigarette butts in places they know they don't belong.

9. How has the design of the new complex affected community?

It has made the first-year class closer but has also separated them from the rest of the school.

Jeremy and other first-years that I have talked to think that the new complex is much closer as a whole, not as individual halls. He greatly appreciates this setting because of how easily accessible all the rooms are. Also see answer to #1.

I think it the Pitzer community was very skeptical of the new complex and I believe that everyone is still trying to reconcile with them.

In general, I feel like the lack of enclosed spaces creates a feeling of deeper divisions between individual hallways. This is an issue brought to attention, most notably, due to the separation of rooms into three stories, as opposed to just two.

The answer to 1 sums up my views fairly nicely; introverts are more excluded, but otherwise things are similar.

It affects the community by making it more visible. More visibility means more hype, and I believe because of the new complex it appears that this class is more social than previous years.

The fact that the buildings all face inwards automatically creates a sense of community and openness, because you can see everyone and everything going on. i feel as though we are a bit separated from the rest of the school in the sense of distance, and somewhat facing our backs to the rest of campus. but i definitely feel we are a home due to the accessibility of everyone's whereabouts and activities.

Because the hallways are open, the students sometimes have difficulty understanding that open still needs to be cognizant of safe.

Having all the dorms face one central courtyard creates a closer community that is not divided by hall (like Old Sanborn).

Well the GSC has become a really big part of the community for the first years as well as the pool. Especially, the Shakedown has become a popular hotspot for the first year students.

It has brought people together more.

The freshmen community as a whole is closer than last year. Also, I see a lot of freshmen getting to know more upperclassmen than last year as well. I don't really know if this is related to living space of the new dorms or if it is just the nature of the freshmen class.

I would say a lot of the community is still learning to love the new dorms. The GSC is much more of a center of campus but the mounds and Grove House still hold their own. I think that the community is a lot more conscious about the college's impact on the environment now that we have these dorms. The Eco-Center has been a lot more active this year than it was last year and there is a lot more thought put into other locations and structures on campus.

10. What are the methods for creating community that are used in Motel 4 that are different from the methods used in Old Sanborn?

The general layout with such great visibility.

I think that a large amount of the community is centered around the pool and GSC area. Holding events here will receive much greater attendance than in year's past. Also, not having one common area for the whole dorm such as the common area in Old Sanborn means that holding dorm meetings with the entire dorm will be different. I think that the new amphitheater is meant for such purposes but once again, because it is not finished, as far as I know, a central meeting location does not seem to exist.

Activities are much more focused on including the freshman class as a whole, as opposed to events sponsored by specific halls.

The enhanced uses of the Shakedown, the pool, and the Gold Student Center as very visible gathering places are the most apparent novel methods for creating community. In addition, the many study rooms have provided places for students not only study, but carry out conversation: perhaps these study rooms are even conducive to deepened *intellectual* discussions among students.

Events are now held outside where they can be viewed and heard from almost all rooms at once, and informal gatherings that start can snowball in size as people join with others they know.

Again, visibility.

One can see everyone from practically any point in the complex and that makes you feel like you are surrounded by activity or just general hustle and bustle, which is a comfort in some sense. you don't feel as though you are ever alone, and there is always something to see. old sanborn was very divided, so you never knew if there was something going on in a different hallway, but here, students bond with others that they may not have met because they live in a different hall. in the old dorms, people got close with their hall mates, but here, since it's all so open, everyone mingles with everyone; there are no tangible restrictions.

The space is set up differently. There are more students. The freshmen are surrounded by mentors and RAs.

The layout of the new dorms largely contribute to the community within them.

The design of the new buildings makes it a more open environment.

Not sure.

The methods are pretty similar to Old Sanborn, except for the fact that mentors live on the same floor as their mentees. However, since the freshmen class seem to be interacting with each other outside of their halls I would like to see some sort of change in the way that the community is created or enhanced.

The GSC/pool plays a much more prominent role in hosting community events and gatherings.

Instead of the hallways, the students gather in the courtyard. Also, the benches on the hallways are great gathering places for students to socialize or study. As a mentor, I have tried to create community on my hall, but have faced some resistance just because the students are reluctant to bond with solely their hall because they are good friends with so many other people that do not live near them. Also, I think the faculty in residence have really tried to create a community by inviting professors to salons on Sunday nights with students to try to get them more involved in the academic community.

11. How has the dutch door affected the first-year community in terms of atmosphere?

It has created a venue for more interactions between shy students more outgoing students. Greater sense of openness overall (in warmer weather).

I greatly enjoy this type of door. I use it as much as I can, but the weather is a major factor in whether or not it is used. Recently it has been difficult to use it at all. When the weather is just the right range of not too hot or not too cold, then I believe these doors will be used the most. Not only do they help ventilate the room temperature, but they provide an interesting social element in which the students in the rooms are able to be more social and available for interaction, but rather than having the doors completely open, there is still a slight barrier in which the students maintain their own personal space.

I think it has made all the difference in improving the atmosphere of the new complex. Without that addition, I don't think first-years would have settled in with their neighbors as well.

The dutch doors seem to have been utilized less than I had previously imagined. The dutch door does provide the attraction of being able to be in one's room while still not completely shut away from the world. The dutch door can be a great way of indicating to passersby that one is in one's room but available and/or hoping for visitors. In this sense, the dutch door can be a valuable tool to the mentor wishing to point out that he or she is in his or her office and open to discussion. To me, the most positive function of the dutch door has been the ability to allow a breeze to come through my room. The dutch doors are great in providing ventilation and keeping the dorms from becoming as stuffy as they have traditionally been in Old Sanborn/Mead/Holden.

In theory, it creates more openness, but until the warmer months come around and people actually keep the things open, I can't make an informed judgment.

I'm not sure if it has added anything new other than a way to leave your door secretly unlocked. In the past people just opened the door if they wanted to be available or open.

When it was warmer outside, students had their dutch doors open and there was definitely a greater sense of community and togetherness. It felt as though everyone was outside even though they actually weren't.

I think they are convenient to use, but that if they didn't exist, the students probably wouldn't change their behaviors and interactions much.

Many students leave their dutch doors open to show when they are in and open the social environment. The dutch doors provide an opportunity for a much more social atmosphere.

Not much. Some kids use it and other do not. It has been the same like it was in old sanborn, some kids left their door opens and some did not. Now instead of leaving your entire door open, you just leave the top part open.

You can choose how social you want to be - leave it open and allow people walking by to say hi, or keep it closed and focus on your schoolwork. Unfortunately not enough people keep theirs' open.

I love the dutch door! It is a must have with outside corridors. It is a way to engage with others even while you are studying in your room. It's nice to have someone stop by and say hello.

It has improved the first years knowing each other's names and casual socializing, which is a nice thing overall. It is a nice but not major improvement over regular doors.

I love my dutch door. I think that the dutch door is a great way to stay connected with other students but not fully invite them in for the distraction. However, now that it has reached the winter time, much less doors let alone dutch doors are open since it gets pretty cold at night.

12. How has the mixture of upper-class students throughout the halls affected our first year students and vice versa?

The upperclassmen (excluding mentors) seemed to separate themselves from the freshmen. There was hardly any mixture.

I enjoy living with freshmen and hearing how students are adjusting to college life. I think that it is so much better for the mentor program as a whole. I think that mentors especially, can act as a form of link between the first-years and the upperclassmen. I have not thoroughly discussed the issue with too many other upperclassmen except other mentors, but from what it appears, I think that both first-years and those in other classes benefit and get to meet a broader range of students. This would be an interesting topic to investigate further.

Truth be told, the upper class students have kept themselves separate (and vice versa). I don't think either group has affected the other very much.

None at all that I have noticed. Mentors aside, the upper-class students living in the new dorms are such a small population that they have hardly become a noticeable force in the social life of the new complex. In general, I have noticed a healthy amount of class unity among the first-year class, which can also mean a certain degree of social isolation from other classes. With few exceptions, I think people are just happy making independent social decisions at Pitzer: Pitzer students mostly appear people have friends in a diversity of locations, and have the mobility to seek social interaction in different locations as they wish. This is all a matter of personal social curiosity and social assertion.

I don't ever see the upperclassmen and first years mixing, so probably not at all.

I think it's been good for first-years to see that upperclassmen do exist outside of the dining hall. Last year I hardly knew any upperclassmen because I had no interaction with them. Now the upperclassmen too are more visible.

i haven't really witnessed any effect. it seems that all of the upper classmen are on the highest floors, or they are in Atherton, so they are in a sense divided. I don't really see the first years communicating with upper classmen too much.

I'm not sure that many older students have any interest in interaction with the freshmen, so that limits the freshmen's ability to get to know the older students.

I have not seen a very noticeable amount of interaction between upperclassmen and freshmen living in the new dorms, but it's also hard to tell what year someone is in just by looking at them. There are definitely a few freshmen friends I've made in the new dorms who I thought were older when I first met them.

I do not think that there has been much interaction between the upperclassman and the first years that live in the new buildings. At least, I have not really seen any.

I'm not sure how it affects the first years, but I enjoy living amongst 1st years because I feel they are a very good class and generally very good people. It would be nice to have more upperclassmen around, but a lot are willing to come over and hang out, partly out of curiosity of the new dorms. And I can always just go across the street to Mead if I want to hang out with more upperclassmen.

It has been great for the freshmen class to be living with some upper classmen. In Old Sanborn there was such a distinction between freshmen and older students. Perhaps this is the reason that the freshmen class has been getting to know more upper classmen, which is great. They seem to be less intimidated and seem to feel more welcomed into the community.

I think they have a mellowing, grounding effect on the first-years, who sometimes need reminding that the dorms are a place to live as well as party and go nuts.

I think the upper-class students living in the dorms, especially in Atherton, have little or no interaction with the first-year students. I would say that the mentors and RAs have the most interaction with the first-years but this is their job.

13. Has there been a change in the first year class now they are all in the same building instead of being split between two?

Definitely more cohesion. Students in Holden were definitely ostracized by their Sanborn classmates in the past. Good to see that's been eliminated.

It could just be that Atherton was able to move in earlier, but in some ways it feels as if Atherton is a little more removed from the main complex and that it in some ways the first-years there remain the equivalent to the first-years who were placed in Holden. The situation is definitely not to the extent of previous years, but in some ways it feels as if the first-years in Atherton might be slightly more secluded from the rest of the first-year class. This could just be my observation though. That being said, I do think that there is greater cohesion in the freshman class as a whole and especially because this complex is removed from the rest of campus, the first years seem to be pretty tight as a class.

Definitely. There is a much stronger sense of community and class bond than in previous classes.

Not much. (Look at my answer to the above question.) To some extent, I feel like first-year students living in Holden have always been somewhat isolated from social interaction elsewhere. But given that there are still first-year students in Holden, I don't think this has changed much. I do believe that the new complex serves as a highly welcoming and friendly environment even for those living in other edifices.

Probably, but I can't say.

Yea, the Sanborn-Holden situation was pretty lame for the first-years who were stuck in Holden and wanted to be with more first years than upperclassmen. I think the new dorms are better for that situation.

Split between two in the sense of old sanborn and Holden or between old and new sanborn? I'm assuming the former, when I say that there is a great difference because I was one of the students in Holden last year, and I didn't really get to know my class until this year. I never felt connected to my class because I was never in any of those halls with them. I think having the freshmen in one complex is a great benefit to them because they get to know one another, then in the years following, they can branch out and get to know other students. If between old and new sanborn, then I don't think there was a significant impact, it was too short of a time period.

There is more interconnectedness, yes, there is not a sub-culture of the "Holden-ites."

Because the first-year students are different each year and I only have seen last year's class and this year's class, I don't think I can accurately attribute any differences I have seen to the number of buildings.

Well there is a more cohesive feel to the class. They are all more united and can see each other more often.

Yes, they are more cohesive as a class and know more of each other.

The freshmen class is closer than last year.

Definitely: as a freshman who lived in Holden last year, I can say that it is a HUGE benefit to all the freshmen that they are all together.

As I stated earlier, the first year class is much more unified and involved in the Pitzer community.

14. How has the implementation of the Faculty in Residence program affected student's academics and the overall climate of Motel 4?

It doesn't seem as though that has had much of an impact on the lifestyles of the students. I definitely love having you as a neighbor though! :)

I think that having faculty and their families living in the new dorms is a good idea. It brings the children of faculty to our community, which is a great change of pace for many college students who are surrounded with their same age group day in and day out. I also have heard many students talking with the faculty residents in the courtyard and halls. I think that this improves the academic experience and also shows that professors are people too and experience all the things a normal person does. I like the idea, however I have been asked on multiple occasions if it is acceptable to knock on their doors to ask questions about exams or papers. I think that it could be beneficial to share the rules of how and when they would like to be approached in either an orientation or on a board outside their door.

I'm not sure it has affected it very much, if at all.

I have gathered a small degree of students feeling "weirded out" by this arrangement. But that's about it: a feeling without such considerable frustration that it would lead to any protest. I think the adjustment probably confronts the faculty more than anyone, because they must adapt to greater noise, and of course, an adolescent schedule dominated by late nights.

I doubt it's changed the academics, but personally I feel much more grounded when I see a family living nearby, and one of my mentees babysits Oliver and Eric Steinman's toddler. It may help make professors seem more accessible.

If anything I think it makes life a little awkward because there is a small child running around a college campus while students are drinking and yelling and being generally rowdy in nature. And living amongst authority can feel like you're always being watched. And no one likes being watched, even if they aren't doing anything wrong.

I have not felt any effect with the faculty in residence program at all, academically or overall.

I don't know if many students take advantage of that. I haven't been able to fit it into my schedule.

I feel that the Faculty in Residence program gives the dorms a greater tie to Pitzer's academic community. One of the faculty apartments is right across from my dorm, and when I open the door I can sometimes see the family (including a small child) playing in their living room. It reminds me of how much of a family Pitzer itself can be.

I think that some students have enjoyed it especially those who take classes with the teachers.

I don't think it has in any way.

The Faculty in Residence have not done that much. I would have liked to see them do more and make themselves more accessible to students.

I have barely seen any Faculty, and would like them to be more integrated.

I would say that one of the faculties in residence has really made the effort while the other one hasn't so much. Having a family here has really influenced the climate of the dorms to more of a family rather than a group of young adults living together. Also, the programs put on by the faculty in residence have really tried to incorporate the freshman into the academic climate at Pitzer, which I think has helped a good deal of first-year students.

15. What types of community have evolved in the open courtyard?

Smokers know each other, pool frequenters as well. The late night soccer players have gotten to know each other too. It's nice having that open space, but with the grassless hill/valley there's not much that can be done there. I would definitely support a movement to fill that up with grass.

The open courtyard is very different than the Mounds because there is very little grass. I think that the wood chip material is not conducive to sitting on or hanging out and socializing on. It is for this reason that such areas are not as commonly social gathering places as the Mounds. The grassy areas that do exist, however, are gathering places, especially when the sun is out. Almost any day in which the weather is remotely warm enough to be outside, you will find people out by the pool, talking, studying, listening to music or sunbathing. I thoroughly enjoy this aspect of the new dorms and think that beneficial social interactions take place around the pool.

What types of community have evolved in the open courtyard? A skating community and a smoking community. There isn't much else to do there, it is an awkward space.

Sports, Skateboarding, Sitting and chatting (during good weather days), Hookah smoking.

See the part of 10 regarding community building activities and informal groups.

Again, the skateboarding community seems to have grown. Which is great, skateboarding is exercise for the mind and body. Even people who don't skate seem to enjoy being outside watching the skaters and talking or playing guitar. At the beginning of the year some students

used to set up amps on the balconies of the study rooms and play music that could be heard throughout the whole complex, which I thought was great, but that seems to have died down.

I've seen students throwing footballs or kicking a soccer ball, or just sitting on the new benches smoking. Also, if there is already a small group outside talking, there is a greater chance for others to come out and join because they can see that there are people outside. Again, it is that sense of community and being able to see everyone that leads to greater group activity.

There are skateboarders that take over and support each other through just hanging out, and there have been music sessions that entice on-lookers. There have also been issues where the noise level simply gets too loud in the courtyard because people forget that they can be heard in every room.

The open courtyard is a wonderful central location to hang out in (during nicer weather, usually). Many freshmen gather in the courtyard from their respective dorms, and it also gives the Shakedown and Gold Student Center much more publicity. During welcome week, most of the freshmen in my hall went to the GSC every day in large groups to work out or swim. It's nice to see more students taking advantage of the facilities we have available because they are so accessible.

An open and dynamic community, who is unified.

Skateboarding and big groups hanging out.

The courtyard hasn't made as big of a change in the freshmen class but having the pool right outside has. I see a lot of them hanging out by the pool and this is another chance for freshmen to interact with upper classmen.

The first years have really used much of the space available to them, especially the northeast courtyard where there is the most cement. It would help Pitzer Hall socially if there were a larger area to congregate outside on the south courtyard.

A lot of smokers use the open courtyard. However, it has also become a place where students play and make music, do homework, sit in the sun, and talk on their cell phones. Mainly it has become a social gathering place.

16. Is there anything else you would like to share regarding the first-year students experience in the new residence halls that you haven't had the opportunity to share?

There is definitely a good sense of community in the new dorms - though different and in some areas difficult to compare to the old sentiment in old sanborn. In the old dorms there was a sense of "we're all suffering together so lets make this fun" but in the new dorms it seems as though the students have been able to move past that and find commonalities among themselves besides living conditions. Mentor groups living together has also been great because there's seems to be a good core group that students can fall back on, with their mentor nearby.

I don't think so. I feel honored that I was able to live in such beautiful, environmentally-conscious, splendid new dorms.

I think it will be a strange transition for freshman to move into holden and mead next year, they've been very spoiled with the new complex.

I think that some first-year students have become so attached to this new complex, in all of its luxury, that they are uncomfortable about the inevitable fact of having to eventually move into the older buildings. In total, though, I feel like we are fortunate and blessed to live in such comfortable student dormitories, and should simply be grateful for their amenities. Any student conscious of the poor quality of living structures that must be confronted by so many of the world's other citizens should realize this, and be happy!

We shouldn't hold OVA Time in the common rooms; they're quickly filled with RAs, and students are wary of them or don't like them, so the common rooms never get used, even when RAs aren't there. It would be better to move it to a study room.

Students don't like the mulch. The fences that are supposed to enclose the dorms are a joke. They make it hard for us to get in, but anyone who had any malicious plans would have no problem whatsoever getting in. As is, it's just some random point where we have to use our card again. They are useless at this design.

WE LOVE MOYA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Not that I can think of.

My hall is a little different, because I live on first-floor Atherton. The Atherton freshmen have also never lived in Old Sanborn. They never experienced the lack of air conditioning in the middle of a heat wave, or the living room overnights with the other first-year students. But even so, they have become close with each other and with students in other dorms. I definitely believe that we have an amazing group of first-years this year, and some of them will make amazing mentors next year. :)

No response.

I think the dorms are a great upgrade to the College. The minor maintenance problems are very annoying, though - HVAC, paint, doors not closing and locking all the time, etc. I think that Bailey needs to pay for these damages.

No response.

Their positive impact on Pitzer can't be overestimated.

As a mentor, living with the first-years on their hallway has really helped me to maintain a connection with my mentees as well as other first-year students. I see each one of my mentees at least once a day which has been a significant improvement to the one time I saw my mentor (during welcome week). Also, I feel like a lot of the first-years look to me as friend and older

sibling rather than a figure of power. I really, really (can't stress enough) how much I enjoy this. Always being in the position to answer questions or go to lunch or play a card game is why I signed up to be a mentor and living with my mentees is the only way to accomplish this.