

Founding Pitzer faculty member sets sights on retirement

It's the end of era for Pitzer College. Professor Stephen Glass, who is the last of 11 founding faculty members, has retired at the age of 75.

The classics & classical archeology professor has seen it all during the last 48 years at the school. From the beginning days of establishing a college council to the current transformations at the college, Professor Glass was there to witness every moment.

Professor Glass said he's either the first or second faculty member ever hired at Pitzer College. He even asked John Atherton, the first president of Pitzer College, if he was the first faculty member hired.

"He said, 'I don't remember,' so that was the end of that," Professor Glass said.

The Los Angeles native began his journey in Claremont back in the 1950s. Before Pitzer even existed, he graduated from Pomona College in 1957. A few hours after the ceremony at Big Bridges, he married his fellow graduate Sandra Dunkin in a ceremony at Little Bridges. A college graduate and a husband, his new life was about to begin.

After graduating, he went off to the University of Pennsylvania to study classics archaeology. He and his wife spent time in Greece before taking his first teaching job at the University of Kansas Department of Classics and Classical Archaeology.

Four years later, at the age of 28, he became aware that Pitzer College was opening and he decided to apply for a faculty job.

"Pitzer College was founded as a liberal arts college for women with a circular emphasis on the social and behavioral sciences," Professor Glass said. "There was no other directive about the nature of the college."

Pitzer College was established in 1963. There were only 2 buildings at that time: a dorm and a classroom building.

"As far as you could see beyond that, there were rocks and dirt," he said.

The 11 founding faculty members and some part time faculty were given the enormous task of "hammering out the bare bones of a curriculum and some basic rules."

"Essentially what they said was, 'Hey, guess what, we are now a member of the Claremont Colleges and we have to open a college in 3 months and there's nothing on the table,'" Professor Glass said. "We deliberately deferred any discussion about the nature of the college, waiting until the students arrived so they could be a part of that discussion," he said.

When the inaugural class did show up, Pitzer faculty and students began a series of town hall meetings to discuss the future of the college. For the first 2 years, Professor Glass was elected the moderator of those meetings and remembers them well.

In those early years, it was determined students would have a greater role in college affairs than at any other college. They helped decide everything from what language the diploma would be written in, Latin, to the faculty who



COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff
Pitzer College classics Professor Stephen Glass admires the honorary doctorate degree he received during commencement last month. Professor Glass, who retired this year, is the last of the founding members of the college.



Pitzer College classics Professor Stephen Glass gives a lecture on wine tasting and appreciation Saturday at the college. Professor Glass is retiring from the college after 47 years of service.

would work there and the speakers at graduation.

"We reasoned that if you intended students to go out into the world and undertake responsibilities of considerable weight, they should take on responsibilities of considerable magnitude while they were here," Professor Glass said.

Over the years, the professor has conducted research in the areas of architecture, Athenian topography and the study of sites and structures involving athletic activity: Olympia, Delphi, Delos and Corinth

As he enters retirement, Professor Glass is looking forward to experiencing new things in life that eluded him over the years.

"Things I haven't done, things I haven't read, things I haven't seen, wine I haven't drunk. Just filling in such blanks as I can," he said.

The college community that he dedicated his life to will certainly miss him.

"Steve Glass reminds me of the leading Roman lyric poet during the time of Augustus, Horace—intelligence, loyalty, wit and grace," said Pitzer College President Laura Skandera Trombley. "In my view he's a blessed man who I hope in retiring from the daily life of teaching at Pitzer does so like Horace's exceptional guest, *uti conviva satur*, with the joyful experience of his academic life."

Professor Glass's last day as a Pitzer College faculty member will be June 30.

—Tony Krickl

Pomona College professor explores women as scientists

Laura Hoopes, a professor at Pomona College and also a writer of a textbook of molecular genetics (**Genetics: A Molecular Approach**, Macmillan, 1981), was on BlogTalk Radio on Tuesday to talk to Andrea Newsome about her memoir **Breaking Through the Spiral Ceiling: An American Woman Becomes a DNA Scientist**.

A five star review of the book, which was written by Barbara Bailey, a member of the California Writers Club Inland Empire Branch, has been on The New Book Review at www.TheNewBookReview.blogspot.com as of this Monday. This book has been ranked in the top 5 Amazon bestsellers for biographies of scientists.

Also, Ms. Hoopes writes for the journal *Nature*

our town

about women in science, advocates for equal pay for women, and encourages young women to go into science. To learn more, visit to www.lauralmayshoop.com.

Summer reading at the Claremont Library

Children can sign up for the Claremont Library Summer Reading Program at the Children's Desk, teens ages 12 through 18 can register at the Adult Reference Desk, or all youth can participate online at www.colapublib.org/srp. This year's theme is "One World, Many Stories." Each program is to encourage

young readers to complete books over the summer to win prizes. To redeem incentives, turn in reading logs Tuesdays and Thursdays between 12 and 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 12 to 5 p.m.

Every Thursday, kids 3 years and older are invited to play bingo to win prizes. 2 to 3 p.m. Free. Claremont Library, 208 N. Harvard Ave., Claremont. 621-4902.

Parents and their children up to age 5 can participate in Preschool Story Time featuring stories, songs, games, and art activities. Fridays and Saturdays at 11:30 a.m.

The Claremont Library is located at 208 N. Harvard Ave., Claremont. 621-4902.