

# Pitzer



**President's Message** *Our Vast Global Reach* The Kingdom of Nepal, draped on the rim of the majestic Himalayas, is a land of sublime scenery, time-worn temples, extreme poverty, astonishing religious and cultural diversity, and some of the best walking trails on earth. Nepal and its people — from those living along the crooked streets of the remotest villages to those who dwell on mountainsides eclipsed by Mt. Everest — have played an important role in educating generations of Pitzer students. Founded by Pitzer faculty in the 1970s, the Pitzer in Nepal program has combined from its inception cultural immersion in Nepalese communities with service to those communities. Since that time, the city streets and village lanes of China, Ecuador, Italy, Turkey, Botswana, Costa Rica, Wales, Venezuela, and Ontario, Calif., have become the footpaths of learning for the majority of our students. Today, Pitzer directly administers 11 external studies programs on five continents. In these programs, staff, faculty and students embrace the notion that moving out of your own culture and deeply into another vastly different in language and custom from your own can forever change your view of the world and your place within it. The world never looks quite the same when the lens through which it is viewed has been altered by new perspectives. The ability to put oneself in the place of someone from another country, culture, status or gender may prove to be the trait that defines an educated person in the 21st century. This skill, combining cognitive and emotional intelligence, is of the highest level and in the highest demand in all sectors and all societies. ¶ Pitzer is a national leader in external studies, particularly when it comes to this innovative approach to international study. Sometimes Pitzer's scale, when compared to a large university, might seem to relegate the College to a small sphere of influence. But Pitzer's unique model has had influence far beyond its size. This is true for two reasons. The first is the excellence of the model itself. The second is the intensity of the effect it has had on our students. They, in turn, have gone on to change institutions and systems out of the vision they acquired at Pitzer sites around the world. ¶ Unlike many other colleges and universities, even those of greater wealth, Pitzer extends the opportunity to all of its students, whether on financial aid or not, to study in off-campus communities. In many cases, financial aid is limited to the home campus, but our home campus must extend beyond its physical boundaries. Pitzer has resisted being parochial from its founding, and supporting students who choose to expand their intercultural understanding is at the core of our continued resistance. ¶ Inviting students from around the world to Pitzer also has been critical to our internal studies. This year we have two students from Ankara, Turkey, who have come from Middle East Technical University, the institution that hosts students in the Pitzer in Turkey program. They join Pitzer's other current international students from Canada, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Thailand. ¶ Pitzer's scale may be modest, but its global reach is vast. I invite you to read more about this reach in this wonderful edition of Participant.—**Marilyn Chapin Massey**

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### A World of Difference

One of Pitzer's driving philosophies is that learning is what happens when students immerse themselves in a foreign culture and experience the day-to-day realities of its citizens. But experience is only the raw material of Pitzer's external studies programs. The academic alchemy begins as students probe their encounters, analyze them, transmute them into poetry and stories and keenly insightful examinations of societal values, cultural differences and what it means to be an American living abroad. By Denise Hamilton

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### Far From Home

It's not easy being an international student. Common tasks are small hurdles for Pitzer's foreign freshmen. That's not even taking into account the overwhelming responsibility of adapting to a new language and education system, either alone or with little familial support. Does that stop them from coming? Hardly. Ambitious and seemingly resilient, Pitzer's international students each year account for roughly 6 to 8 percent of the campus' student body. Here, we profile three current international students. By Alissa Sandford

**On the Cover:** Illustration by Elaine Dalton of Lucerne Valley, Calif. The collage represents the rich images that Pitzer students return with after studying abroad. "The arrangement of elements is per the golden mean spacial division to suggest the study and measurement of the world, its proportional relationships and differences, as well as the universal aspects that all cultures share in common. This might be the loaded image that comes to mind when each student experiences that transformative moment in their life when the pieces come together and they get the whole picture," Dalton says. Dalton is a fine art painter who splits her time between working as an editorial illustrator/infographics designer for the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, doing free-lance illustrations and creating her own art. Where natural forms are used in her creations, she literally grows her own subject matter in her garden and photographs the products for use in illustrations.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The city streets and village lanes of Nepal, China, Ecuador, Italy, Turkey, Botswana, Costa Rica, Wales, Venezuela, and Ontario, Calif., have become footpaths of learning for the majority of Pitzer students.

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Exposure to cultures different than our own provides opportunities to challenge and expand our own narrow view of the world and to face ourselves and our beliefs about others.

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Ben Ball '98 discusses the meaning and importance of journeys of discovery.

Dear Readers:

I didn't have the opportunity to study abroad while I was in college. When I finally was able to travel outside the United States, I did a very brave thing: I went to Paris alone for a month. I did not speak a word of French.

It wasn't until I stepped off the airplane and began wandering around the Charles de Gaulle Airport, unable to find the train into the city, that I truly realized how brave (or stupid) I was to have embarked on this adventure. I quickly learned two French phrases, which I employed at every turn: *Je ne comprends pas* and *Parlez-vous Anglais?*

Needless to say, a month in Paris is hardly the same as a semester or year spent immersed in community life in Nepal, Botswana, China or Ecuador. Still, my sojourn provided many opportunities for self-discovery, a fair amount of cultural immersion (I rented an apartment in a French neighborhood) and more than a few "defining" moments. I did a lot of walking; existed on cheese, bread and wine; visited just about every museum the city had to offer; and filled an entire journal with writing, sketches and mementos. I also earned the distinction of being possibly the only American woman who's ever traveled to Paris and *lost* 10 pounds.

These were among my most important discoveries: The stereotypes about Parisians being snooty are untrue — waiters, shopkeepers and strangers on the street were friendly and eager to help; the Pizza Hut in Paris delivers wine and Häagen-Dazs as well as pizza; nothing in Paris is open from 2 to 4 p.m. or on Sunday (except the little market around the corner run by Middle Easterners); traveling alone in a foreign country is freeing, exhilarating, intimidating and sometimes very, very lonely.

The point of all this is that exposure to cultures different than our own provides opportunities to challenge and expand our own narrow view of the world and to face ourselves and our beliefs about others. This is one of the jewels of a Pitzer education — an unwavering commitment to fostering in students an intercultural understanding that goes beyond the typical liberal arts rhetoric. We explore the many facets of that jewel in this issue of Participant, from cultural immersion in external studies programs to the importance of integrating foreign citizens into the student body to the lasting impact this value has had on our alumni. I invite you to read on.

Nina Mason  
Executive Editor



# In the News

## MODERN-DAY RACISM MASKS ITS UGLY HEAD

By Halford H. Fairchild

*Los Angeles Times*

Sept. 11, 2000

Fairchild is a professor of psychology and black studies at Pitzer College.

There are those who assert that racism is obsolete and not a contemporary problem. But racism is a current event; only its expression is more disguised and subtle. And it requires intervention. ...

Racism in contemporary world affairs is disguised, and it is what some refer to as symbolic racism, modern racism or aversive racism. These eschew the old-fashioned, red-neck ideology of white supremacy and black inferiority and instead espouse support for the ideals of equality in human affairs. Yet these ideals of equality are discordant with the preference for the status quo of white privilege.

Thus aversive racism is manifested in opposition to programs and policies that seek to undo white privilege or provide advantages to blacks on the basis of historical discrimination. ...

We see the ravages of racism at work in the appalling statistics of HIV/AIDS in Africa and among African Americans. We see the life-and-death consequences of old-fashioned and modern racism in the rates of infant mortality among Africans and African Americans, as well as their much higher rates of preventable deaths



Fairchild

from hypertension, heart disease, cancer and violence. ...

Although the proportions of African Americans in the middle and upper classes have increased, so too has the proportion of African-American children reared in poverty. The presence of African Americans in the higher echelons of corporate America, government and the military is about one-tenth of what one would expect given a system of true equal opportunity. ...

We must develop and propagate social and institutional norms and values that reject racism — conscious and unconscious — and advance true equal opportunity.

## MAN FIGHTS TO SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES

*Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (Ontario, Calif.)*  
Aug. 25, 2000

David Perez Jr. of Pomona consistently tells young adults two things: Do something positive with your life and always give it your best shot.

His uncle Carlos Marquez was dissatisfied with his 14-year-old nephew's attitude and inability to choose positive peers. So, he suggested that young David go to Tony Cerda and the Pomona Athletic League to find discipline and strength of character. ...

In 1976, Perez and his younger brother, Carlos, joined Cerda's boxing program, established to keep youngsters out of trouble. The program, a scholarship to Damien High School in La Verne and mentoring by such educational and community leaders as James Bell, Cal Poly Pomona vice president emeritus, ultimately saved his life.

Now Perez, associate dean of students at Pitzer College in Claremont and a community mentor to many, fights to save the lives of other children and make college a viable option for them. ...

Perez, 38, remembers when Pomona school officials gave him the option of Park West Continuation High School or expulsion for excessive fighting. "Save me,"

he said in a fervent appeal to the Fathers of the Sacred Heart.

"My parents couldn't afford the tuition to Damien, but somehow the (priests) came up with the money for me to go," he said.

"The school was all boys. No girls, no distractions, no hormones perking. I was never a gang-banger, but I was always in the wrong place at the wrong time and associating with numbskulls. It was either school and college for me or my folks were going to have to bury me." ...

In 1990, he was administrative intern to Robert Naples, Cal Poly's associate vice president of student affairs, when he applied for two jobs at The Claremont Colleges. He was chosen for both: Latino student recruiter at Pomona College and Pitzer College's director of early academic outreach.

"I took the Pitzer job because of the opportunities to work with mostly middle- and high-school students," he said. "I wanted to plant the seed in their young minds that college is a viable option." ...

Perez said he has been fortunate to be blessed with role models who helped him stay strong.

"You can't keep knowledge to yourself," he said. "That's selfish and it serves no purpose. I've been blessed. The blessings come from people who mentored and helped me. They come from helping other young people find the inner strength and resources to realize their goals."

## PITZER COLLEGE STUDENTS PITCH IN

*The Press-Enterprise (Riverside, Calif.)*  
Aug. 16, 2000

It was social responsibility that brought 16 college students from Claremont to Temecula this week to toil on two homes for Habitat for Humanity.

That and a sense of leading by example.

The students from Pitzer College are "resident assistants," dorm supervisors, who

set the standard for good behavior and citizenship for their younger charges.

So it was off to Temecula for a day of hanging walls, working on the interior utility rooms and building platforms for washers and dryers.

"It's important to put your time where your mouth is," said Rosy Hughes, 19, a political studies sophomore from Yuba City. "If we expect to see other people volunteering, it's important to point to what we've done. We don't want to sit in class and just talk about doing things."

Hughes said she has volunteered in the past, building homes for Habitat for Humanity in Northern California. Fellow construction workers-for-a-day Jamie Burns and Gia Scott-Heron also are veteran volunteers.

Burns, 18, worked at a shelter for battered women in Minneapolis, the city she calls home. Scott-Heron, 20, of Los Angeles, points to work she has done with sickle-cell anemia kids and delivering food to the homeless.

"Today, I get to say I helped build a home," said Scott-Heron, a junior studying English/creative writing. "You don't get to say that every day."

Burns, a sophomore studying English and world literature, said: "It is especially satisfying to see tangible evidence of your work, to see the house actually go up."

By Tuesday, the roof trusses and sheeting had gone up, as had parts of the interior walls. Work is scheduled to wrap up by Aug. 26.

## READY TO MAKE SOME NOISE

*Los Angeles Times*  
Aug. 15, 2000

LOS ANGELES—As hundreds of people gathered Monday in Staples Center to celebrate the Democratic Party and its candidates, David Mendoza of Glendale took to downtown streets to denounce the politicians and their practices.

The 22-year-old Glendale High School

graduate was among the crowd of protesters calling on Vice President Al Gore to focus on "Human need, not corporate greed" during a rally at Pershing Square and subsequent march on Staples Center, where the 2000 Democratic National Convention began Monday.

"Money speaks more than votes," Mendoza said during a break from demonstrating. "People feel their voices aren't being heard by their political representatives."

The events were put together by D2KLA, an activist group coordinating the protest efforts of numerous organizations during the four-day Democratic convention.

Mendoza, who began working with the group in April, said D2KLA was asking Gore to keep Occidental Petroleum Co. — in which the presidential candidate is a stockholder — from drilling on land in Columbia inhabited by a native tribe. ...

It was the student activism he witnessed and took part in while at Pitzer College that led him to work with D2KLA, Mendoza said.

## MEXICO WILL GET THE CHANGE IT NEEDS

By Harry P. Pachon  
*New York Newsday*  
July 5, 2000

*Harry P. Pachon is president of the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute and professor of politics at Pitzer College.*

Mexico's first national election of the 21st century has brought dramatic — and perhaps permanent — changes in the Mexican political system. After 71 years of dominating Mexican politics at all levels of government, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) lost not only the presidency, but its plurality in Congress. ...

But change will not come overnight, especially when you consider the serious issues that confront the new president,



Pachon

Vicente Fox, of the right-of-center National Action Party (PAN). ...

Perhaps the biggest issue facing Fox is the vast emigration of labor over the past several decades. While we here in the United States view this phenomenon as an illegal immigrant problem, Mexico regards it as the loss of motivated and entrepreneurial workers who, in an ideal Mexican economy, would be adding productive value to the country. ...

For the United States, the pluralism and democratic movements in Mexico are a welcome development. Mexico is joined to us at the hip by an 1,800-mile border. Yet we Americans have traditionally known more about European politics than the politics of our next-door neighbor, who represents more than 90 million people and is our nation's second largest trading partner.

The winds of change have swept over Mexico. It is now time for those same winds to change American attitudes toward how we view our neighbors to the south.

# Campus News



Rodman

## Arboretum to be Named for John Rodman

"Without John Rodman, there would be no Arboretum at Pitzer College." This sentiment is echoed by alumni, faculty, students and staff. It is a truism here at Pitzer: John Rodman's passion is as deeply rooted in the Arboretum as the plants themselves.

To honor Rodman's many years of service and commitment, Pitzer College has announced its intention to name the Arboretum the John R. Rodman Arboretum. In conjunction, the College has established the John R. Rodman Arboretum Endowment Fund to ensure the Arboretum's future as an educational resource. A newly formed Arboretum



A number of faculty, staff, alumni and other supporters helped spruce up the Arboretum during a special weeding day this summer. Photo by Sheryl Miller.

Advisory Committee will assist with this effort.

"The John R. Rodman Arboretum offers us a space to think and dream," says Martha Crunkleton, Pitzer's dean of faculty. "It provides a great source of beauty that blesses all of us in many ways."

Rodman, who joined Pitzer's faculty in 1965, has consistently played a pivotal role in the design and preservation of campus landscaping. He first planted and pruned, then he politicked — to expand the gardens, to have them formally recognized, and to request a long-term plan for their preservation. And in between, he continued to plant.

"It has certainly been John's vision that the College would take responsibility for the Arboretum and perpetuate it after he has retired," says Professor of Anthropology Sheryl Miller, who has worked closely with Rodman on Arboretum projects throughout the past three decades.

Although Rodman retired from teaching environmental studies and political studies last spring, he continues planting on campus as director of the Arboretum, a position he's held since 1988.

"[The Arboretum] is what I have enjoyed over a long time," Rodman says. "There's a lot of work involved in continuing what we've done in the past."

In 1988, the College approved Rodman's proposal to formally create an Arboretum. Planting, however, began in the '60s, a time when there was a growing awareness of environmental issues. It flourished in the '70s when Pitzer created its environmental studies program.

The Arboretum consists of 15 distinct areas. Among these are a desert garden, the Eunice Pitzer Wildflower Garden, a sage

garden, a citrus grove and a vegetable farm. The ecologically sound Ellsworth Garden uses a mere one-eighth the water needed to maintain an equivalent amount of turf. The Intercultural Garden hosts plants from afar, native to the regions where Pitzer offers External Studies programs, including Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The Strip is planted with native California species.

The area known as the Arboretum Natural Area (a.k.a. the Pitzer Outback) consists of more than six acres of alluvial scrub and a mixture of coastal sage scrub and chaparral. It is considered to be one of the most endangered types of ecosystems in California. The Woodlands Area, with its representations of three regional plant communities, was designed by a student as part of his senior work.

Several disciplines make direct use of the Arboretum, including art, anthropology and environmental studies. The Arboretum has been used for a Native American guest lecturer's class session on medicinal uses of plants in the course Science and Alternative Medicine, taught by Sharon Snowiss, professor of political studies, and Mario Maldonado, Luce Associate Professor in Brain, Mind and Medicine. "Plants and People," a course created by Miller and Rodman, still utilizes many parts of the Arboretum.

One of the primary goals of the newly formed Arboretum Advisory Committee is to ensure Pitzer's plant life remains well-integrated into the academic program, says Richard Chute '84, who is chairing the committee.

Chute brings his experience with both budgets and plant life to the committee: He is director of development at the nearby Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. As a student, Chute assisted with Rodman's study of the Arboretum, and he was among the students who helped replant The Strip when a portion was accidentally bulldozed in the early '80s.

"Since I was a part of that early student group, I always had an interest in what was going on in the Arboretum," Chute says.

The advisory committee is helping Rodman develop a mission statement for the Arboretum. The committee also will help create a comprehensive budget and work with Advancement to increase the funding for the Arboretum.

## Special Workers Learn Skills, Help Keep Pitzer Clean

The Pitzer College facilities department is getting a helping hand these days — and giving one at the same time.

For the past two years, workers with disabilities from Casa Colina — and more recently, from the L.A. County Work Ability program — have helped Pitzer's facilities staff keep our campus clean. The workers assist in many ways: dumping trash cans and ash trays; removing cobwebs, gum and graffiti; cleaning carpets and windows in Mead Hall; and pressure-washing paved areas, including Gold patio and entrances to the buildings.



Esther Sawyer, who works at Pitzer through the Casa Colina program, cleans the tables outside Broad Center. Photo by Dick Oosterheert.

The Casa Colina workers are supervised by program staff and paid by the College. Pitzer's facilities staff supervises workers from the County program, so their services are free to the College. Both programs offer people with disabilities a chance to learn the basic skills needed to get a job.

"We look at it as a win-win situation," says Jim Gates, director of facilities at Pitzer. "It allows us to do more things and get more things done. It's a good resource and it helps [the program participants] because they're in an environment where they can see they're appreciated."

Esther Sawyer, 30, gets up at five every morning. She travels from Azusa to Claremont, then, along with others from Casa Colina, helps clean up Pitzer from 6:30 to 10:45 a.m., Monday through Friday. She says she's gotten used to waking early by going to bed by 9:30 each night. "When you guys are off partying, I'm in bed," she says with a laugh.

Sawyer, who has worked at Pitzer since last October, most enjoys "meeting all the different types of people" at the College. Among her many duties, she dusts, picks up and dumps trash, removes gum, and cleans tables — taking great pride in her work. "I make sure every single table is nice and neat," she says.

Pitzer and Harvey Mudd are the only two Claremont Colleges currently involved with the Casa Colina program, says Jerome Andrews, senior job coordinator at Casa Colina. Three program participants and one Casa Colina supervisor work at Pitzer every weekday morning from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m.

"People with disabilities don't have the same opportunities, employment-wise, that other people do," says Andrews. "They're interacting with people in a job like most of us do."

Some of the workers from the County program have disabilities, while others are students from alternative high schools in Claremont, Pomona and Walnut.

"We give them an area and a responsibility, and it gives them something to be

proud of," says Mark Crawbuck, custodial manager, whose staff helps supervise the County workers.

A few years ago, the facilities department began researching work assistance programs. It was believed that by using such a program, the department could better utilize its own limited staff.

"At the same time, we thought if we could find programs like this, it would fit into [Pitzer's] philosophy of social responsibility," says Gates, adding that the program is a great success story.

"[The program participants] are so happy when they come in the morning," says Grounds Manager Dick Oosterheert, whose staff helps supervise the County workers in his department. "It's good for our morale — it makes you stop and think, 'This is a good place to work and I'm glad I have a job.'"

## Pitzer Establishes CISP Site

Pitzer recently received \$125,000 from the State of California to launch an outreach program designed to improve instruction in Inland Valley public schools.

The funds will enable Pitzer, in cooperation with Scripps College and Claremont Graduate University, to establish in Claremont a regional site for the California International Studies Project (CISP), a state-sponsored program aimed at improving the academic competency and teaching skills of K-12 teachers in world history and international studies.

The Claremont International Studies Education Project (CISEP), as the new CISP site has been named, will be based at Pitzer and will offer programming and services to area school districts. Particular attention will be given to low-performing schools in the Ontario-Montclair, Pomona Unified and Chaffey Joint Union high-school districts.

"Colleges and universities are playing



Boyle

important roles in the advancement of international and intercultural education in the post-secondary realm," said Nigel Boyle, associate professor of political studies and faculty director for the CISEP project. "But as the current CISP campuses are demonstrating, far more can be accomplished through a broader alliance of educators working to create an environment conducive to the teaching and learning of international studies. We believe the CISP site in Claremont, through the rich set of intellectual and technological resources it can offer, will expand and strengthen such an alliance. The Claremont project will improve in measurable ways the quality of instruction offered to students in the area at all levels."

According to Boyle, CISEP will help teachers expand their knowledge of international studies and world history, while showing them how to apply that knowledge in the classroom to meet State Board of Education-approved academic content standards in History-Social Science.

CISEP programs will seek to improve academic content knowledge among area teachers through a series of seminars and workshops; develop leadership skills among exemplary teachers; build partnership with low-performing schools; act as a resource center and information hub for teachers of international studies throughout the region; and develop a framework for evaluating the project's effectiveness.

As the lead institution, Pitzer will provide the administrative headquarters for

CISEP. Faculty leadership also will come from the other Claremont Colleges.

"Pitzer's emphasis on international study (over two-thirds of our students participate in study abroad) makes it a natural home for the CISEP site," Boyle said. "In addition, the European Union Center of California at Scripps College and Claremont Graduate University's highly regarded teacher's education program provide superb resources for the site and its activities."

## Fall Starts on High Notes

President Massey welcomed the community at the start of the fall semester by announcing good news in two areas key to Pitzer's continued strength and vitality: admission and fundraising. "Both of these areas have a significant and direct impact on the quality of the academic enterprise and the future well-being of the College," the president wrote in a community-wide memo on the first day of fall classes.

In admission, the number of freshman applications for Fall 2000 increased by 22 percent over the previous year's pool. The College admitted 56 percent of its 2,087 applicants. Sixty-one percent of the freshman class comes from outside California. States with the highest representation include California (87), Washington (28), Oregon (17), Illinois (12), Hawaii (8), Massachusetts (8) and Texas (8).

"These are phenomenal improvements in Pitzer's admission picture and are the result of superb recruiting and much hard work by Arnaldo Rodriguez and his entire staff in Admission and Financial Aid," the president said.

President Massey also reported the receipt last summer of several grants to support reflection and innovation in Pitzer's academic programs. Following are highlights of some of them:

Pitzer was awarded \$150,000 by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to support a three-year campus-wide study of the "habits of mind" of a liberal arts and

sciences education. Over the next three years, the Pitzer community will examine the form and substance of its learning experience. Using faculty study groups and workshops, guest-speaker programs, a study of best practices at other institutions and dissemination of findings at all levels — from the microcosm of the individual classroom to the macrocosm of the overarching curriculum — faculty from every discipline will examine how the learning experience aids in the development of habits of mind and tools for effective, socially responsible participation in today's multi-faceted world.

"Through identifying the habits of mind that comprise a Pitzer education, our faculty will come to appreciate better their individual and collective contributions as teachers," President Massey noted. "Our students and their parents will know better how four years at Pitzer might benefit them and what they will need to do to realize that benefit."

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded Pitzer and Harvey Mudd a \$170,000 planning grant to promote international/intercultural learning through the use of technology. Over the two-year period of the grant, the colleges will work collaboratively to pilot a series of mostly course-based projects that use the web and other digital technologies. The projects will be aimed at incorporating significant international/intercultural dimensions into the curriculum, particularly in those areas where they usually have not been present, such as the sciences.

"Through the collaboration, we hope to concentrate the complementary strengths that Pitzer brings from its study abroad and language programs and that HMC has in technology on developing and testing instructional practices that can benefit other areas of the liberal arts and sciences in Claremont and beyond," President Massey wrote.

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation has awarded Pitzer \$75,000 to advance teaching and learning through the develop-

ment of multimedia classrooms. The project involves equipping five strategically located classrooms with consolidated systems of audio-visual and computer presentation equipment.

"It's wonderful to begin a new academic year with so many successes and such promise for an exciting and prosperous future," the president's memo concluded.

## Prize-Winning Poet Joins Participant Staff

Doug Anderson, whose newest book of poetry was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, has signed on as poetry editor for Participant.

Anderson replaces Gary Córdova, who left Pitzer in August to become senior executive assistant to the president at Willamette University in Salem, Ore.



Anderson

Anderson teaches composition and creative writing and works as a writer/editor in the external relations office at Pitzer. His first book of poetry, "The Moon Reflected Fire," earned him the prestigious Kate Tufts Discovery Award for Poetry. His second book, "Blues for Unemployed Secret Police," earned him a publishing grant from the Eric Mathieu King Fund of the Academy of American Poets, as well as the Pulitzer and NBA nominations.



Dashew falls off an elephant during a visit to Nepal.

## LEEP Gets AOL Grant

Pitzer's Leadership in Environmental Education Partnership (LEEP) recently received a \$7,500 Interactive Education Initiative Grant from the AOL Foundation, the philanthropic arm of America Online. It will be used to support the further development of the LEEP student-maintained web site.

Through the web site, LEEP hopes to reach a wider audience, solicit more grants, send a student-centered message about the importance of being environmentally conscious and instill within the participants a sense of pride in their efforts, according to Paul Faulstich '79, associate professor of environmental studies and founding director of LEEP.

The grant was submitted collaboratively by Faulstich and Tom Cooper, principal of Sycamore Elementary School, which takes part in the program. Of the approximately 1,000 applicants, LEEP was one of 33 recipients.

## Alumna Visits Pitzer in Nepal

Business recently took Leslie Dashew '70 to Nepal. Dashew, who is the president of Human Side of Enterprise and a partner in the Aspen Family Business group, was developing a training program for Nepalese professionals to assist family businesses when she learned Pitzer had a program in

Nepal. She immediately arranged a visit.

"I was not prepared for the intensity — the deep involvement of Pitzer and its students in the country, or the generosity of spirit offered to me and in service to the country," says Dashew, who recently became a Pitzer College trustee. "The afternoon and evening spent with Pitzer folks was a highlight of my trip."

Dashew had the opportunity to observe Pitzer's campus in Nepal, which she describes as "quite small and well integrated into the community."

She adds: "The cluster of buildings includes several classrooms with tables low to the floor, a kitchen that would fit into most dorm rooms, and a dining room that has a simple, almost oriental feel."

She visited Hospitality House, a residence Pitzer created to shelter and assist villagers who come to Kathmandu for medical care. Students and faculty founded the residence when they noticed natives from small villages were getting lost in the city and in the healthcare system here, and often had no place to stay.

Dashew, who also had tea with a family that was hosting a Pitzer student, observed the different way students learn in Pitzer's study-abroad programs: "Here, students are immersed in Nepali community life: not allowed to speak English, living in a home that, while lovely, is extremely simple by our standards — dirt floors, no indoor toilets or running water. The family demonstrated the generosity of spirit that we found characteristic of the Nepalese in general and of the Pitzer program."

*Poetry*

## **Supper and the morning after**

*By Marie Rounsvell '01*

We will tear it from the sky,  
One hand on each wing.  
We'll pluck the crow together,  
Celebrate our clever failure.  
We'll fix what's wrong with us,  
But I won't let you do it alone.

You don't know how like I do.

Break crow's flight with bow.  
Carry crow like the burden she is  
not.  
Pluck at her,  
She's smooth underneath.  
Make her naked black.

Veil the tile floor with onyx leaves,  
Cover my red shoes.  
Black-out table, cloth, and food.

I'll dig the hole in the living room  
floor, but I'll leave you  
To design the fire she needs.

*Rounsvell is from San Diego and is  
majoring in English and World  
Literature.*

*Poetry*

## **Yellow Apples**

*By Ben Mirov '03*

This is what I want to do.

The boy swings the bat around  
In a tight arc.

The father pitches yellow apples that  
Explode as they are hit.

The two stand with the apples bursting between them.

There is nothing else; there is no art in  
Any of it. It is anti-art. It is the thing  
That makes us feel ridiculous in famous museums  
Standing beneath  
All the gold-gilded hubbub.

Thus,

I become shadow-like  
In the world they inhabit;  
Tucked away,  
    Folding uselessly  
Into myself  
In the shape of a poem.

Apples exploding like or as fireworks.

*Mirov, an English and World Literature major from Redding, Calif., has been writing poetry since the eighth grade.*



# The Potter's Clay



Furman poses with students from *Fe y Alegria* middle school in Montenegro, Lima, Peru, in front of the tile mural they designed.

When ceramist David Furman arrived in Peru to carry out the work of his Fulbright Fellowship, his most daunting challenge wasn't the language barrier.

It wasn't the chaotic 45-minute bus ride, either, which took him each day from his modest basement apartment to downtown Lima. And it wasn't the work of the fellowship itself — working with 11- to 15-year-olds, many of them raised in abject poverty, to create a beautiful tile mural in a low-income community on the outskirts of Lima.

When Furman arrived at the *Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes*, his most pressing concern was that there simply weren't any work spaces for his students. No functioning potter's wheels, and even more important, no work tables — and no place to buy them, either.

To build classroom work tables in the United States would have been a snap — a trip to Home Depot, followed by a lengthy day of skilled labor. But in Lima, the process took 10 days, with trips to several *ferreterias*, or hardware stores, the plywood supplier and the *madereria*, or lumberyard.

"They don't have two-by-fours, or four-by-fours," Furman pointed out. "They had

wood brought in from the jungle — I mean, huge logs — and they'd cut it the way you want, in a way that would give OSHA a heart attack.

"Then you'd have to hail down a taxi cab, tie it to the roof, with the driver's left arm on top and my right arm on top holding it in place, wheeling your way through downtown Lima until you got to the National School of Fine Art."



*Fe y Alegria* students design tiles for their mural project.

For more than 25 years, Furman has been encountering the unexpected during his trips to Central and South America. He has seen bitter teacher strikes, university shutdowns and a student population that sometimes viewed manual labor — like the basic work of building a kiln — as beneath their class status. For the veteran Pitzer College professor of art, the challenges seem to make the trips more appealing.

"You can't go with the expectation that it's going to be like the United States," explained the 55-year-old La Verne resident, speaking from his home nestled in Live Oak Canyon. "But struggling through it, and enjoying it, and having fun with it only augments your sense of accomplishment once it's completed."

Furman spent the first two months in Lima, a sprawling city of 8 million, teaching college students to create and install two murals on their campus. Then he devoted another two months to helping those students serve as mentors to impoverished children attending middle school. Throughout the fellowship, he imparted his love of the tile-making craft and the pre-Columbian images that grace the art of ancient Peru.

"He loves all the old pottery and the weavings and has a huge knowledge of the history of art in Peru," said Kathryn Miller, Pitzer associate professor of art, a colleague who received many e-mails from Furman during his time abroad. "He could easily teach a great art history class on Peru [which he does, from time to time]."

Furman's passion for the pre-Columbian pottery of Latin America was stoked more than 25 years ago, a year after he joined the Pitzer College faculty. It was in 1974

that Furman saw a photograph of a mochica pot, with its line drawings of a mythic battle at sea.

Fascinated by the ceremonial vessel — which predated the Incas by more than 1,000 years — yet frustrated that he could not see the images on the other side, Furman photocopied the page and booked a round-trip ticket for Lima. During spring break, he traveled to the museum where the piece was housed and asked the director if he could see the rest of the vessel's tale.

It was a request the director had never heard before. Yet he gave Furman access to the pottery in the museum and even a week's worth of technical assistance.

"He said, '*El gusto es mio* — I'm at your service,'" Furman recalled. "You can come to the archives. You can study the pottery, handle the pottery.' That was the beginning of a love affair that has lasted 25 years."

Furman has traveled to Latin America numerous times since. As the years have passed, he has become more and more interested in using ceramics to reach students who haven't been exposed to art.

The turning point may have come in the mid-'90s, when Furman was asked to take part in the Ontario Teen Center, a facility where Pitzer College students and faculty advised students from working-class backgrounds. Furman helped found the Ceramics Project, which provided a space — three days a week, four hours a day — for children to throw pots, work with clay and find their own creative voices.

During those years, Furman ricocheted from the solitary environment of creating art to the classroom to the communal existence of the Teen Center, where he worked with kids whose older brothers and sisters were already joining gangs or selling drugs. The surprise, said Furman, was that it was so satisfying.

"I've had artwork at the Whitney, at the L.A. County Museum of Art, and other interesting venues in that world," he noted. "It's not that it isn't important, but there are other issues that are meaningful, too."

By 1999, Furman had laid plans for a return to Lima, to create a similar program that inspired college students to introduce art to much younger — and needier — students. The proposal, titled "Building Community Through the Collaborative Art Process," would take him back to the country he loved.

Despite his familiarity with the culture, there was an adjustment period for Furman

and dozens of college students. The rhythm of the classes at *Bellas Artes* was much too informal, with Furman realizing that he would never accomplish his goals without some strict guidelines. Unlike other teachers at the school, Furman refused to let the students walk in and out of the room whenever they pleased, have friends visit the classroom for a chat, arrive late, or leave the class early.

"They said, 'Whoah,' at first. But ... all throughout the semester, students kept wanting to join the class."

Indeed, by the end of the session, Furman had three classes totaling 73 students. The burgeoning army of would-be ceramists was assigned to create 420 brightly colored tiles that would form the murals at *Belles Artes*, known in English as the National School of Fine Arts. Half the tiles would feature pre-Columbian designs, while the other half would feature images from contemporary Peru.

Other transitions had to be made — namely, his daily commute. Furman got a bus rider's view of Lima, watching in amazement as cars turned right from the left-hand lane and veered left from the right-hand lane. Motorists ignored stoplights, while some banged their hands on the outsides of their cars (when their horns didn't work) to convey their outrage.

Within a month, Furman had been in three accidents — luckily, none of them serious.

"A bus would hit a car, a car would hit a bus, a bus would hit a bus," Furman said. "One time, I was on a bus and another bus sideswiped it, and the two guys got out and started duking it out."

The third month of the fellowship led Furman and his students out of downtown to Montenegro, an impoverished area on the outskirts of Lima. Montenegro was a bustling *pueblo joven*, a newly-formed community populated by the poor, most of whom had come from the highlands of the Andes Mountains, fleeing the Shining Path guerrillas.

Shacks made of corrugated tin and cardboard lined the dusty hills and barren landscape. Families could not afford to buy toilet paper; they struggled to make a living by selling Chiclets and cigarettes. It was there that Furman's students served as mentors, advising more than 200 middle-school students on a second round of tile-making and mural assembly.

The project brought color and a new

craft to the children of *Fe y Alegria* No. 37, a middle school whose name means faith and happiness. With their college-age mentors, the students learned about firing and glazing and painting. Despite their economic disadvantages, the children took an immediate interest.

"The outcome, of course, was unbelievably successful," said Furman. "All these students who had never worked with tiles or art or color, given the barrenness of the environment they lived in, just blossomed like flowers. And now the 5-by-22-foot mural is up at the school, in the central courtyard.

"The only problem I had," he added, "was keeping everyone from yelling with excitement so no one could hear anything. It was great. And I like noise."

Furman spreads out the photographs of the mural, the images of children who painted each tile, in the dining room of his home, which was once a Girl Scout cabin, built in the 1930s at the base of Southern California's San Gabriel Mountains.

With its Huichol yarn paintings and *retablos* (religious paintings) from Central Mexico, the home recalls cities and countries far away from the rural edges of Los Angeles County.

His fellowship behind him, Furman now has had the luxury of a sabbatical, which has allowed him to describe the fellowship to audiences in Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas and Missouri. He is preparing for an exhibit of his own work on the East Coast, as well as a return to teaching in the spring semester.

But he is already laying plans for a return to Lima, where he hopes to carry out another service-learning class. For now, he takes satisfaction from the e-mails he receives from student *Limeños* like Mauricio Gutierrez, describing how the students of *Bellas Artes* are helping to create more murals in Montenegro and have even headed south to work with children in the fishing community of Pisco.

"Not only have my students learned the mural process and have experienced mentoring the kids, providing them with their first art experience, but they're carrying on without me. That," he added, "is the cherry on the ice-cream soda."

—David Zahniser

Zahniser, a 1990 graduate of Pomona College, is a staff writer for the *Daily Breeze* in Torrance, Calif.

# Faculty Notes

Over the summer, **DARCY BUERKLE** (history), along with some artists and young people from around the country, ran the National Meeting of Youth Against Intimate Partner Violence at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Meeting in Portland, Ore. In November, she joins the board of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an activist body whose members are chosen to represent a caucus. Buerkle will serve as the national representative for the Caucus for Children and Youth Advocacy.

Buerkle also was a visiting scholar this summer at UC Berkeley, where she served on a panel of respondents at a conference titled "Seeing the Difference: On Death and Dying."

**JOSE CALDERON** (sociology/Chicano studies) was interviewed by Sandra Enos, a professor of sociology and justice studies at Rhode Island College, for "A Multicultural and Critical Perspective on Teaching Through Community," which appeared in "Cultivating the Sociological Imagination," edited by Edward Zlotkowski (American Association of Higher Education, 1999).

In May, Calderon published a review of Michael Jones-Correa's "Between Two Nations: The Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City" in "Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews." His article, "One Participant's View of Cuba," based on his experiences at a conference of American Chicanas/os and Cuban academics from the University of Havana, was published in "Critical Sociology" in 1999.

He led a 10-day Faculty Development



Calderon

Institute seminar titled "Boundaries and Borderlands" at Brown University in July. The conference was sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

**HAL FAIRCHILD** (psychology/black studies) was recently elected national secretary of the Association of Black Psychologists. He continues to serve as editor of *Psych Discourse*, the monthly news journal of the association. In August, Fairchild presented a paper, "Countering the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Africa: A Call to Action," at the annual meeting of the Association of Black Psychologists in Accra, Ghana (West Africa).

**PAUL FAULSTICH** (environmental studies) chaired an international symposium on "Rock Art and Ecological Knowledge," held during July in Alice Springs, Australia. Following the conference, he conducted field research on Aboriginal environmental management in Australia, and on indigenous management of coral reefs on Rarotonga (South Pacific).



Faulstich and Tiger Japaljarri inspect the trunk of a mulga tree to determine its appropriateness for crafting a boomerang. Photo by Susanne Faulstich.

Faulstich's article "Globalizing Wilderness: A Perspective on Traditional Ecological Knowledge in an Interconnected World" appeared in the book "Personal, Societal, and Ecological Values of Wilderness," 2000.

**JULIA MICKENBERG** (history) presented a paper on "Children's Literature and the



Banjo Jungarrayi, a key consultant in Faulstich's field research in Australia, exuberantly dons a Pitzer College t-shirt.

Cultural Front" at a national History of Childhood conference held in Washington in August.

She is currently writing an entry for *Girlhood in America: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO American Family Series) on "red-diaper girls" and is working on a video project for the Los Angeles Children's Museum on kids in L.A.

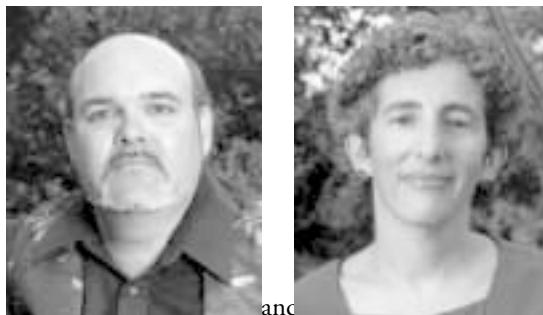
**KATHRYN MILLER** (art) and some of her work were featured in an article on eco-art published this summer in "Whole Earth" magazine.



Miller

**HARRY PACHON** (political studies/Chicano studies) is the co-author of a book, "Here to Stay: Latinos and U.S. Latin American Policy," published by Rowman and Littlefield (August 2000). He also co-authored an article in the September issue of *PS: Political Science and Politics* entitled "Latino Participation, Partisanship and Office Holding."

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials recently honored Pachon for his groundbreaking research on U.S. citizenship in the Latino



and  
Strauss, assistant professor of anthropology.

Keeley holds a B.A. from the University of South Alabama, a M.Sc. from the University of Sussex (U.K.), and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from UC San Diego. Keeley's specializations include philosophy of neuroscience, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of science.

Strauss holds an A.B. degree from Brown University, and A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. Her academic interests include cognitive anthropology; psychological anthropology; language, culture and society; race/class/gender variations in the U.S.; social theory and culture theory; and the anthropology of policy.

New to the visiting faculty are Jennifer de la Ossa (psychology), Shari L. Dworkin (sociology) and Julia L. Mickenberg (history).

Designated Pitzer appointments this year from the Joint Science faculty are Jacqueline Bennett (chemistry), Adam Landsberg (physics), Thomas Poon (biology), Marion Preest (biology) and Bruce Yazejian (biology).

## Faculty Books

*Du Bois on Religion*  
Edited by Phil Zuckerman  
Altamira Press, 2000

W. E. B. Du Bois shaped 20th-century America to an extent rivaled by few others. The first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1895, he helped create the discipline of sociology and was one of the founders of the NAACP. Martin Luther King Jr. called Du Bois "a gifted discoverer of social truths." But until now, little academic attention has been paid to his insights on religion or to how religious commitments shaped his views of race, rights and justice.

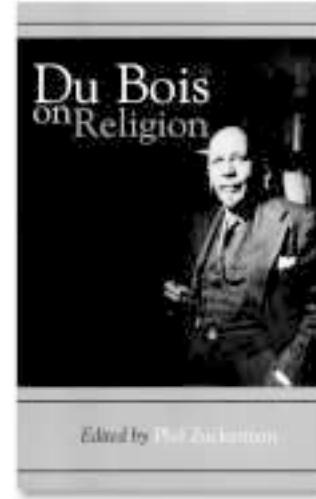
Phil Zuckerman, assistant professor of sociology and a specialist, like Du Bois himself, on the sociology of religion, here

rs together Du Bois' writings on religion and makes a compelling case for Du Bois to be recognized among the leading sociologists of religion. "Du Bois on Religion" includes selections from such well-known works as "The Souls of Black Folks" to poems, prayers, stories and speeches less widely available. Brief, helpful



Zuckerman

introductions preface each of the 26 selections. A general introduction traces Du Bois' move from church-attending Christian to relentless critic of religion and evaluates Du Bois' contributions to the study of religion. "Du Bois on Religion" is an important text for sociologists or for anyone interested in the history of race and religion in the United States.



community by designating its naturalization assistance and civic participation activities as the Harry P. Pachon Civic Education Program. During naming ceremonies, Hispanic elected officials in Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Miami and Chicago passed resolutions in recognition of Pachon's nearly 20 years of leadership in enhancing the civic participation and political empowerment of the nation's Latino communities.

An article by **SUSAN SEYMOUR** (anthropology) titled "Child Care in India: An Examination of the 'Household Size/Infant Indulgence' Hypothesis," will be published in November in a special issue of "Cross-Cultural Research." The publication, dedicated to the late **RUTH MUNROE**, includes papers originally prepared for a symposium in Munroe's honor for the International Congress of Cross-Cultural Psychology.

This summer, **RUDI VOLTI** (sociology) completed the fourth edition of his book, "Society and Technological Change," and the second edition of "The Engineer in History." He also served as the discussant for a session on technology transfer at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, held in Munich, Germany.

An essay titled "From Cross to Swastika: The Theology of Hate" by **AL WACHTEL** (English) appeared in the May/June issue of "Midstream."

## Pitzer Welcomes New Faculty

This fall, Pitzer welcomed two new members of the full-time faculty, three new visiting professors and five faculty members assigned by Joint Sciences.

Newly appointed in tenure-track positions are Brian L. Keeley, assistant



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# *A World of Difference*

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**One of Pitzer's driving philosophies is that learning is what happens when students immerse themselves in a foreign culture and experience the day-to-day realities of its citizens. But experience is only the raw material of Pitzer's External Studies programs. The academic alchemy begins as students probe their encounters, analyze them, and transmute them into poetry and stories and keenly insightful examinations of societal values, cultural differences and what it means to be an American living abroad. By Denise Hamilton**

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For one student, the transformative moment came when he got hopelessly lost in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare, then discovered he knew enough Shona to get directions and chat with shopkeepers.

For another in Shanghai, it unfolded subtly as she looked out the window of her concrete dorm each dawn and saw the old people practicing the ancient art of Tai-Qi.

A third recalls the dismay he felt when a dirty Nepalese child grabbed his arm and begged for the cracker he was munching. Although he was hungry, the student handed it over, then grew resentful when the child asked for more.

"I could not bring myself to eat what I had left," he wrote. "I was overwhelmed by profound guilt and shame at the fact that I had even become angry."

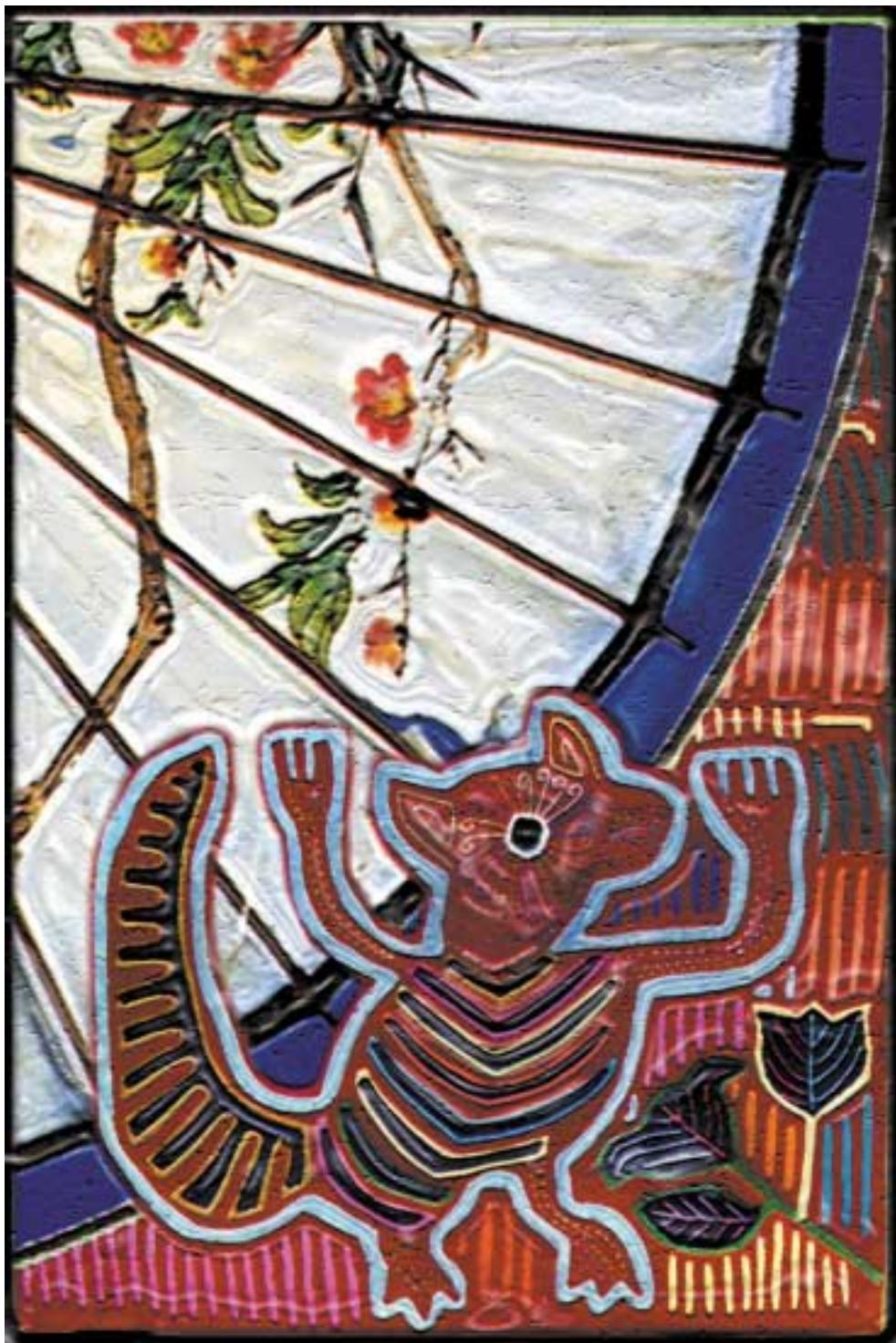
Why the visceral response? "In their innocent faces, what I am really seeing and hearing is my own voice ... my own discomfort at being a white person who is recognized as a foreigner wherever I go," the student wrote. "We are seen as the 'haves' and they see themselves as the 'have-nots.'"

None of these encounters occurred in a classroom. Yet, they have everything to do with education. A Pitzer education, that is. One of Pitzer's driving philosophies is that learning is what happens when students immerse themselves in a foreign culture and experience the day-to-day realities of its citizens.

For Pitzer students abroad, experience is only the raw material. Then the academic alchemy begins as students probe their encounters, analyze them, transmute them into poetry and stories and keenly insightful examinations of societal values, cultural differences and what it means to be an American living abroad.

But writing isn't all they do. Students in Pitzer's study abroad programs in Botswana, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Ontario, Turkey, Wales and Zimbabwe also take core academic classes. They receive intensive language instruction. They live with host families. They complete internships and month-long independent study programs on topics that range from teen pregnancy in Venezuela to the changing role of Italian women.

But the cornerstone of the experience is the field book, a portfolio of descriptive



and analytical writing in which students process and reflect upon their experiences. They write essays based on focus questions, stories drawn from experience and letters home. They also interpret what they've learned via poetry, music, art or performance. A program staff member reviews each field book regularly, providing feedback and further discussion.

Pitzer believes academics and cultural immersion go hand in hand.

"We don't see them as separate," says

Carol Brandt, vice president of Pitzer's international programs and head of external studies. "By using field books and core courses, we help students process things that happen to them while they're immersed. We have them read about it, write about it, talk about it, discuss it with each other. We are very aware of what's happening to them."

Brandt says this dovetails neatly with Pitzer's educational philosophy of promoting cultural understanding, social responsibility and interdisciplinary learning.

The program is exceedingly popular. More than half the student body spends a semester abroad. In the 26 years since the program began, 1,100 students have studied at 240 sites on six continents. This is possible because Pitzer also sends students to programs run by other institutions. Additionally, more than 110 students from other colleges have participated in Pitzer's study-abroad programs.

Indeed, according to the Institute on International Education, Pitzer College ranks in the top 15 among U.S. colleges and universities of any size in terms of the percentage of its students who study abroad. Pitzer educators believe study abroad is hardly a frivolous idea but rather necessary in today's global economy, where many employers require international experience and foreign-language skills.

And while 75 percent of all American undergraduates go abroad to Western Europe, more than half of Pitzer students opt for programs outside of Western Europe and English-speaking countries. Ben Ball '98 is typical.

"I didn't want to go to Europe because everyone went there. Turkey sounded interesting," says Ball, who is attending the Tufts Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy this year.

In his semester abroad, "I was forced to come to terms with the fact that Americans don't rule the universe and that Turkish farmers, most of the time, were far more clever and smarter than I. It made me feel really small, which was very useful. When



Gayla Hamik-Beckley '02, who recently spent time in China studying massage, holds Chinese massage books and a massage pillow that she obtained during her trip. Photo by Marissa Roth.

I came back to Pitzer, I was far more interested in my studies and my grades shot up."

## Successful Blueprint

The first Pitzer external studies program was launched in 1974 by a group of Pitzer professors who developed Pitzer in Nepal and began sending a handful of students every other year. By 1988, students were going every semester and, in 1993, the College added a second Nepali site to meet demand.

For Pitzer educators, Nepal provided a successful blueprint in four key areas: It created opportunities to live with local people in home-stays, study the language in immersion, pursue independent study and internships relevant to the students' interest, and interact with local citizens. Students routinely returned energized by their experience and eager to put their own cultures and privileges in perspective.

But it wasn't until the late 1980s that educators decided to make foreign study a crucial part of the College's curriculum and educational mission. The results were dramatic: The number of Pitzer students going abroad jumped from less than 40 in 1987-88 to 110 by 1990-91. The College has currently set that number as a cap due

to fiscal, enrollment and program restraints, but hopes to raise it soon.

Pitzer pays close attention to what students and faculty want. For instance, faculty and students were keenly interested in studying in Sub-Saharan Africa but had few options. So in 1990, Pitzer and Scripps joined to develop a site in Zimbabwe. The newly freed Nelson Mandela was a featured speaker that first year. When Scripps bowed out of operating off-campus programs in 1997, Pitzer took it over.

By contrast, there were plenty of study-abroad programs in Italy but none that used the Pitzer criteria. So in 1992, the College opened its own program in Parma.

In 1995, the school launched one of its most ambitious and unique programs: Pitzer in China. Students take classes at East China Normal University in Shanghai, live with Chinese roommates and study in three key areas: language, culture and history, and traditional Chinese medicine.

The last has become one of the program's biggest calling cards. Students learn about herbology, acupuncture, moxibustion, and *tuina*, Chinese therapeutic massage. They visit clinics and hospitals to observe how doctors treat patients. While students aren't allowed to use needles in China, they get hands-on experience in Chinese massage by practicing on each other.

That was certainly the draw for Gayla Hamik-Beckley '02, who was vaguely familiar with alternative medicine but had little academic grounding in how it worked. For her independent-study project in Shanghai this past spring, Hamik-Beckley researched the traditional treatment of lower-back pain, an ailment from which she suffers.

Across the globe, Pitzer programs are constantly fine-tuned based on the exigencies of the site, student evaluations and faculty reviews. Proposed programs must be approved by the External Studies committee, and courses undergo the same scrutiny as those taught in Claremont.

More than one-third of the Pitzer faculty has visited one or more of the sites, evaluated new programs, and developed or augmented existing classes. For example, a Pitzer faculty member is developing a health and healthcare option in the Nepal curriculum. Site staff also visit Claremont for extended workshops and training.

Realizing that America itself is increasingly diverse, in 1996, Pitzer added "Pitzer in Ontario." The domestic external-study program is centered in Ontario, a multicultural city near Claremont. The program has proved popular with returning study-abroad students.

For example, Trailokya Aryal '00 followed up his China semester by living with a struggling Taiwanese family in Ontario and observing their cultural clashes firsthand.

"It helped me see how Chinese people live in the United States," Aryal said. "The parents spoke only Chinese and the son didn't speak any, so it was really interesting."



A student makes pasta in Parma, Italy.



Griffin



Brandt



Manley

## Field Book is Key

At the center of the Pitzer study-abroad program is the “field book,” an educational tool designed by Tom Manley, now vice president of external relations, and developed with the help of Carol Brandt and the external studies field staff.

“There isn’t another study-abroad program that has a field book or this kind of reflective, critical writing and thinking,” says Greg Kulacki, director of external studies operations, who has some perspective on the matter. Before coming to Pitzer this year, Kulacki ran study-abroad programs in China for the Council on International Educational Exchange, a nonprofit group that provides study-abroad opportunities in 30 countries worldwide.

While most Pitzer students undergo “life-changing” experiences abroad, Manley says many find it hard to articulate them or connect them to more theoretical studies of the culture. The field book helps unlock the floodgates.

“We’re trying to challenge them to do some of that critical thinking while they’re still in the country. This helps students to consciously work through some of the very complicated emotional and intellectual is-



A student dances at a village welcoming ceremony in Nepal.

sues of understanding another culture,” Manley says. “Writing is the best way to do that. You have to slow down and think about things instead of just reacting.”

It was a provocative essay question in the field book, for instance, that led the Pitzer student in Nepal to confront feelings of race, privilege and wealth that were extremely uncomfortable and unsettling when considered through the prism of a Nepali child beggar.

A student in the Zimbabwe program who adored science took time to consider how traditional African healers without access to Western laboratories were searching for an AIDS cure using plants and other alternative treatments. In Harare, an estimated one in four Zimbabweans is infected with the HIV virus.

Another Pitzer student was hit by a visually haunting image that summed up the socio-economics of Zimbabwe as she walked through her village and saw “dark empty houses of sons who had long since left Chiweshe to work and live in Harare.”

Food became a symbol for another student in Zimbabwe during her month-long homestay with a rural family. She found she could not stomach *sadza*, the cooked cornmeal grits that form the staple of the rural diet, yet feared offending her family by not eating it.

“The way I felt every night when

Trailokya Aryal '00 speaks with a boy at a squatters camp in Tijuana, Mexico.

## Setting the PACE

Foreign students sign up for Pitzer's PACE program to learn English. What they get in the bargain is a crash course on the American way of life that reverberates for years and even decades to come.

"Pitzer opened my mind to appreciating different cultures," says Jose Mota, a Venezuelan scholarship student who attended PACE in 1990 and later graduated from Harvey Mudd College. "It was the first time I had exposure to a large number of nationalities and, because the style of Pitzer education was very liberal, I adapted and modified my social values very quickly and became more tolerant."

Mota, who now works for Shell Oil Co. in the Netherlands, was among the 30 to 50 international students who enroll in PACE each year. Many are from Asia and the Middle East, with a smattering of Europeans and South Americans. They can stay one

semester or three, and some, like Mota, become regular Claremont students once their English reaches the advanced level. Last year, 15 of Pitzer's graduates started out in PACE.

To qualify, students must have a good basic level of English, although most come with much more. After testing, they are placed in one of four levels of English classes. In addition to intensive language instruction, there is a social science seminar that includes field trips to American schools, hospitals, courts, companies and museums.

Many foreign students are surprised by the format of class discussions, especially those from the Middle East and Asia where formal lectures are the norm, says Jill Schimpff, an ESL teacher with PACE who just retired after 21 years of teaching. She recalls a Middle Eastern student who rushed into her office, demanding to know if the man with his feet propped up on the desk was really the professor. The student was horrified to learn that he was, since exposing the soles of one's feet was a great offense in the student's country.

PACE students can live in the dorms with Pitzer roommates (or live with host families), eat in the dining hall, study in the library, and generally enjoy all the rights and privileges of Pitzer students. Schimpff recalls a young woman from Zaire who was living in the dorms when she learned that her father, who had been president of the Zairean Senate, had died.

"She went through a traditional mourning period; there was a lot of wailing and crying, and it was a cultural experience for all of the students who were in the dorm with her," says Schimpff, adding that the Pitzer students were very supportive.

While most students range in age from 18 to 22, Schimpff recalls a Guatemalan doctor in her late 40s who worked for the foreign-aid agency World Vision, which was paying her way.

"They were interested in having her become a regional supervisor, but she had to have better English," Schimpff said.

The ethnic make-up of the student body fluctuates with the international economy. During the Asian economic crisis, enrollment from that region plunged. While the program is evenly split between men and women, those from the Middle East are usually male, since they are sponsored by their governments.

But sometimes a sister or a wife will accompany the male students abroad and enroll too.

"One Saudi woman I can remember, she was very interested in talking about politics when we read the book 'Animal Farm,'" Schimpff says. "She probably hadn't had that experience at home."—Denise Hamilton

*Ambuya* (grandmother) placed the bowl of *sadza* in front of me was the way a hiker feels when she first looks at the mountain she will climb, or a writer stares at the empty page, or an architect fixates on the land where his building will stand. *Sadza* was both my dreaded enemy and the means in which I could please *Ambuya* and the rest of the family."

The field books are full of humor and cultural gaffes. One Pitzer student jumped out of bed at 6 a.m. wearing her sweatpants to help her Zimbabwean *amai* (mother) and *sisi* (sister) sweep the yard.

"I bent my tired body down to the ground, proud to remember to stand while cleaning. I don't know how many minutes passed before the light bulb went on upstairs and I quickly ran over to *sisi* trying to explain to her that I needed to go inside my *imba* (hut) and fetch my *zambia* (skirt) ... Women do not wear pants in this culture."

A student of Italian descent was surprised to find her media-generated image of traditional families upended when she met independent women in Parma, Italy, raising self-reliant daughters. But she sympathized with her host family's daughter, who studied constantly because "she knows that in order to compete with men in the future Italian job market, she will have to be higher qualified."

A trip abroad also can be eye-opening for students used to American living standards. Since Pitzer doesn't just pick well-off families to host home-stays, students in the developing world may find themselves living with three generations under one roof and sharing a bed with a host "brother" or "sister."

"All the things they take for granted in daily life can be such a challenge here," says Mingfei Gao, program director for Pitzer College in China. "As a field director, my role is to help them understand it."

But close quarters also can breed compassion. Tim Jones '00, who attended Pitzer in Italy and then a second program



Schimpff



A student converses in Spanish in a shop in Merida, Venezuela.

in Costa Rica, was one of three Pitzer students evacuated from Nicaragua during Hurricane Mitch. Concerned about the devastation, the three students started a relief effort from Costa Rica that raised \$20,000 in three weeks. Jones continued his Latin explorations with a trip to Cuba last spring and is now considering a career in international law.

Another Pitzer student, Judd Walson '93, attended Pitzer in Nepal and interned at Pitzer's Hospitality Program, a health outreach run by program alumni which helps remote villagers avail themselves of healthcare services available only in Kathmandu. The experience led to others — Walson is now starting a general medicine and pediatrics residency at Duke University.

## Giving Back to Communities

Since community service is an integral part of the Pitzer experience, faculty wanted to incorporate it into external studies programs so students could "give back" in concrete ways. Students in Nepal have set up the Hospitality Program and helped faculty and villagers in the Himalayan village of Simigau engineer and construct a clean water system.

In the Zimbabwean villages of Gweshe and Howard, where Pitzer students learn the Shona language, they help with renovation projects and farm work.

In Venezuela's *Escuela de Barro* (meaning "school of clay"), Pitzer students learn how to build adobe architecture and then repair edifices of cultural and historic significance in a 500-year-old community designated as an international heritage site by UNESCO.

There are lessons to be learned even when community service projects fail. Ben Ball was supposed to help rebuild a library in the Turkish village where he lived, but found upon his arrival that it was being used to store a bumper crop of onions.

Says Ball, "The Turkish way of refusing things is to say, 'Hmm, that's interesting and let's study the matter further.' We went in there thinking we were going to impose our aims on the village, but they were very cool to the idea."

Pitzer's desire to strengthen ties between the College and its host environments also has led to successful academic exchanges. Consider Aryal, 22, a Nepali who learned about Pitzer from his father, a professor at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu who also lectures in the Pitzer College in Nepal program.

"He told me, 'Son, that's the best school you can ever dream of going to,'" recalls Aryal, who was accepted into Pitzer four years ago and graduated this year after spending a semester in China. For him, the Chinese experience helped dispel stereotypes.

"You hear that Chinese are really rude, that they don't talk to foreigners, they're all Communists. But when I went there, I



A student speaks in Chinese with a man on a street in Shanghai, China.



found it wasn't true," Aryal recalls. "People were really friendly and warm and wanted to participate in political discussions."

Upon his return, Aryal added Chinese Studies to his organizational studies major. Now he's living in Washington and applying to Johns Hopkins University for graduate school.

"Pitzer really helped me understand who I am," he says.

## Defining Moments

For many students, the trip abroad changes their life in extremely direct ways.

Recalling the elation he felt upon arriving in Zimbabwe in 1994, Clarence Griffin '97 said, "For the first time in my life, I was in a country where if you look at an institution, from the president to the street sweeper, everyone looked like me. It was very exciting as well as not something you can observe in the States."

Griffin is in a unique position to assess the program: After attending Pitzer in Zimbabwe in 1994, he returned in 1997 to work as the Zimbabwe program assistant for Pitzer, became fluent in Shona and married a Zimbabwean woman. Griffin says one of the most useful things students learn is how to decode the news.

"When you're in that place and you're watching CNN, it looks completely foreign to what you're experiencing. You

learn to sift through information and not just accept it as the truth."

Griffin also retained close ties with his home-stay families, who consider him a son. When his adopted parents had disciplinary problems with their own boys, they would send the youths to Griffin for a straightening-out talk.

Griffin saw firsthand the toll that political unrest, high inflation and unemployment took on Zimbabwe. At one point, he was even kicked out of the country for four months due to a visa snafu.

During the run-up to recent national elections, the political situation grew increasingly unstable as black tenant farmers began seizing the properties of white landowners.

Meanwhile, a new crop of Pitzer students headed to neighboring Botswana this fall, where Pitzer has relocated the Zimbabwe program — at least for now. There, the transformation from green newcomer to seasoned traveler will begin anew.

Ball recalls the day it all fell into place for him. It was winter, the ground in his Turkish village was frozen solid and the farmers spent their days in the teahouse playing cards. Ball was sitting at a table, playing too, when a man standing behind him assumed this 6'3" foreigner didn't speak Turkish and began telling the other players what cards he held.

"I turned to the guy and said in Turkish, 'What are you doing? You're telling everybody my cards,'" Ball recalled. The table erupted in laughter and the cheater was laughed out of the teahouse.

"When I went, I didn't even know how to say yes and no," Ball marvels. "But I heard so many foreign languages spoken at the Pitzer dining hall that I felt I had to learn another language and go abroad. Now I'm reading Turkish books and my master's will probably be on Turkey. Pitzer gave me such a great opportunity." \*

*Hamilton is a free-lance writer who formerly covered higher education for the Los Angeles Times.*



Gao



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# Far From Home

It's not easy being an international student.

Common tasks such as filling prescriptions, setting up a bank account, using the yellow pages or getting a driver's license are small hurdles for Pitzer's foreign freshmen. That's not even taking into account the overwhelming responsibility of adapting to a new language and education system, either alone or with little familial support. Does that stop them from coming? Hardly. Ambitious and seemingly resilient, Pitzer's international students each year account for roughly 6 to 8 percent of the campus' student body. Last May, the College graduated 15 international students from nine different countries. **By Alissa Sandford**

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There are several ways an international student might discover Pitzer. Some come from private, international high schools that keep tabs on which American colleges offer ESL (English as a Second Language) programs. Others may hear about Pitzer when the College's representatives visit schools in other countries, especially Asia.

The inspiration to leave the familiar comforts of home and drop anchor in Claremont are highly personal to each student. Carol Brandt, vice president for international programs, thinks she knows Pitzer's appeal: "We send a lot of our students abroad to study, and we expect them to be received by caring, welcoming people to help with the culture changes," she says. "And we also have a strong responsibility to create that same supportive, specially-oriented environment here, designed just for them."

What are the benefits of having international students studying at Pitzer? "They are exceptional models of language-learning and adjusting to other cultures," says Brandt. "And it's also good to have non-Americans in on class discussions. It helps us to have fewer ethnocentric conversations."

Following are three profiles of current foreign students:

## Kritiya Chindaphorn

Talk about a survivor (wink wink, nudge nudge).

Back when senior Kritiya Chindaphorn was enrolled in a San Francisco high school, she and fellow classmates went on a 27-day hiking trip to Death Valley. Yep, just like the crew that battled it out on TV's "Survivor" series, Chindaphorn and her friends got a little gritty around the edges and learned the true meaning of thirst.

"We couldn't take a shower for 27 days, and we had to find our own water," says Chindaphorn.

That was then, this is now. And in the present day, she's just doing all she can to survive life's collegiate marathon. Chindaphorn enters her senior year this fall, continuing a major couched in psychology and organizational studies. How exactly the Bangkok-born Chindaphorn plans to put those studies into use is still a mystery at this point, she says.

"I knew I wanted to do something related to people, and that's why I chose psychology," she says. "And also, I chose organizational studies because I wanted something related to business."

Presuming that she will graduate in a year's time, she sees herself working on a magazine, or on the staff of an advertising agency.

Pitzer's policy of letting students declare their own majors (with faculty approval, of course) is what won her over to the College after high school. Chindaphorn moved to the U.S. four years ago, joining her older sister in San Francisco. Her younger brother lives in Monterey, but Mom and Dad live in Thailand, where they have a distribution business. (By the way, both her parents studied abroad in the U.S. Dad went to the University of Southern California; Mom attended California State University, Fresno.)

On picking Pitzer for herself, Chindaphorn says, "I wanted a school environment that was somewhat similar to my high school: liberal and laid-back. So I asked my school counselor, and she said [Pitzer] was really good for someone who didn't really know what they wanted to do in the future," Chindaphorn says with a laugh. "What's really cool about Pitzer is that you can create your own major and do whatever you want to do."

Chindaphorn says she doesn't miss much about Bangkok other than the food, so now that she's sub-leasing an apartment off campus, she's taken up cooking. "Thai food, you know, homemade stuff!" she says, laughing. She's also found some good Thai fast-food places around campus to dine at.



Musangu

As for hobbies, Chindaphorn likes reading and traveling and she'll go as far as her dollar will stretch. Her musical taste is "jungle savvy," and if she's going to the movie theater, she's going to spend her money on "stupid comedies," she says. Two favorite recent movies were "Next Friday" with Ice Cube, and Spike Jonze's, "Being John Malkovich."

Chindaphorn's dream? "I just hope that my parents, or my family back home, can accept whoever I am. That's actually my dream."

## Job Musangu

It's not like Mom used to make in Africa, but in a pinch, the fast-food chicken and rice at El Pollo Loco bridges some of the gap between Southern California and The Democratic Republic of Congo. That's where Job Musangu, a sophomore majoring in pre-law, was born and raised until 1999's civil uprisings. The war has divided the people and split many families, including his own.

Musangu gained legal residency in the United States last year and since has been living with a host mother while studying at Pitzer. He starts his second year at the College this fall, with eyes fixed on law school once he graduates.

"My father holds a master's degree," says Musangu, explaining his ambitious nature, "and I've always tried to outdo him. And I guess I've always been expected to be a little over-educated, to try to make even more than my father did. He left the village when he was a kid to go to town, and go to school. So I guess for me, I just looked at that and thought, 'If he could do that, then I could do better than him.'"

Musangu also realized early on the value of speaking English, and eventually that appreciation for the language drew him to Pitzer.

In Africa, Musangu enrolled in an ESL course at the American Cultural Center, an extension of the American Embassy. Only American natives teach classes.

"I made a lot of friends there," he said. "And some of my friends that are even here, in the U.S., were American natives, but they grew up in the Congo."

The class was going well, but Musangu says it was constant interaction with English-speaking natives over the course of several years that yielded his proficiency in the subject. One of them was a young woman from North Carolina, who would bring him books and magazines in English to read.

Musangu was laying the groundwork for studies abroad, and then he found Pitzer.

Specifically, he needed a college that offered ESL classes. And of the five Claremont College campuses he read about, Pitzer was the only one that did.

Another reason he liked the school?

"I was looking also for a school where I would feel comfortable to stay," he says. "And I wanted a school that was big enough where the curriculum was challenging, but at the same time, would be in a way supportive of my special

needs as an international student."

When he's not studying, Musangu is usually catching up on the latest John Grisham novel ("The Firm" is the first book I read by him, and since, I have been hooked!), or talking on the phone with a family member. Half his family relocated to Zambia, and half to Canada.

He also enjoys traveling and is grateful to his host mother for buying him a car. ("Without it, I might not have been able to be here," he says). They sometimes travel together; other times, he ventures out with friends, or flies by plane alone.

His absolute favorite city so far is San Francisco. "I think it's the most beautiful city in America," Musangu says. "It has that European charm, and it's small and clean and has a lot of museums."

For the time being, Musangu has no plans to return to Africa, though he does get homesick sometimes.

"I am a legal resident here, so I don't have to go back," he says. "At the same time, I would love to go back home. But even in present circumstances, with the civil war and political turmoil, I cannot try to go home."

## Jeff Tsai

It's not a brainteaser, it just sounds like one: Jeff Tsai likes the "Five C," but he hates the "Big Three."

What he's talking about? Fellow Pitzer students might know: The Five C is the nickname for the five Claremont Colleges. And the Big Three? That's just shorthand for rap, country and pop music, all of which Tsai stays away from when listening to the radio. He likes rock and classical, and if you want to know who his favorite composer is, it's Mozart. As far as bands go, Tsai digs Smashing Pumpkins.

Tsai has had six years of living in the U.S. to whittle his tastes in American culture. Originally, he is from Taiwan. In his last year of middle school for musically and academically gifted students, Tsai left Taiwan on his own and settled with family



Tsai

friends in the Los Angeles suburb of Artesia, eager to take advantage of the educational opportunities here.

At the time, he could barely recite the English alphabet, let alone communicate with English-speaking students.

"I went through the whole culture shock," Tsai says. "The first few months were really tough. I didn't know anyone here, and I didn't really speak any English. And my grades were horrible in the first semester (of high school). Except for, like, math, which I did really well in."

Living in Artesia was not helping matters, as the city houses a high immigrant population, and English was not the first language spoken. So from there he moved to Chino Hills, settling in with a Christian host family. "I didn't really have any friends, nothing that would keep me out late," he says. "They took me in, so that was when I really started to learn the language."

The road to Pitzer was not a straight path. While in high school, Tsai's mother back home was diagnosed with cancer, al-

ready in the late stages. His priorities changed, and he decided to hasten his studies. So he enrolled at the DeVry Institute for engineering.

"And then things got a little better," says Tsai, about his mother. "But I felt like I was not being challenged enough at DeVry. I missed learning about history, English and philosophy. That's when I decided to transfer to a liberal arts school."

His best friend from high school told Tsai about the Five C. And being that Tsai plays violin, he also was anxious to learn more about Claremont's music programs.

The path Tsai took at the College is called a three-two management-engineering program. He completed his first three years of study at Pitzer and started at Columbia University in September. That will give him his engineering degree in another two years.

With her cancer in remission, Mom visited Tsai this summer, and he took her to some good Chinese restaurants. But once she left, it was "back to junk food," says Tsai: hamburgers from the Pitzer dining hall.

Tsai just finished participating in the College's Language Institute (formerly SILC), learning French. ("You know how they say French is like the romantic language? I just thought it had exotic qualities," he says.)

Tsai says his mother really worried when he first came to the U.S., with him being so young and alone. What he misses about home is the smell of Taiwanese desserts, wafting from the kiosks set up in his metropolitan hometown of Kaohsiung, the second largest city in Taiwan.

Tsai sums up his life goal: "I want to work as a computer or electrical engineer for a few years, then hopefully travel around for a little bit; maybe start my own company."

*Sandford is an entertainment writer for the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin in Ontario, Calif.*

# Alumni Notes

## 1968

### **Laurel Chamberlain** (Mt. Baldy, Calif.)

Have left the East Coast and started a new life near Claremont ... a very rustic cabin on Mt. Baldy. Many changes, many opportunities. Any and all come visit. Former goat farmer, horse breeder and chicken/egg entrepreneur seeks employment in greater L.A. area.

### **Betty J. Houbion-Greenwood**

(Vernon Hills, Ill.)

The Houbion-Greenwood family continues to be actively involved in community matters. John fights for improved municipal services, without additional taxes. He still works as a senior scientist for Abbott Laboratories. Raney turned 21 in June. We took a cruise to celebrate. She's majoring in international relations at the University of Cincinnati and looks forward to graduate work, possibly at Boston University. Betty continues coordinating the Shiney Garden (which received a wonderful write-up in an earlier issue of Pitzer Alumni Notes). The Garden had 60 minutes of fame. It and its young gar-

deners were featured during a full hour on NBC Chicago Morning News. Betty recently saw fruition of a longtime project: launch of Earth Flag, a school-based recycling program, in India. She will also present her resolution on genetic engineering at an international conference in Canada next year. This year, she serves on the board for the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education. As for work, she takes on various projects, and periodically teaches an undergraduate course in multicultural dimensions and facilitates at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. The family's dog, Macklind, makes sure that everyone goes for daily walks.

## 1969

### **Ann Lawson Bilodeau** (Palo Alto, Calif.)

My daughter, Katie, is a senior in college. It has been interesting comparing her experience at Amherst with mine at Pitzer. I have been volunteering for a couple of local organizations (a library friends group and a non-profit that works to plant trees and maintain the health of "the urban forest" in our city) and traveling with my husband, Ken, while we still have the energy.

### **Christine Rosso** (Chicago)

In June, I was appointed chief of the Illinois Attorney General's Public Interest Division, where I supervise the Antitrust, Civil Rights, Disability Rights, Veterans' Affairs and Public Utility bureaus. For the last seven years, I have headed up the Antitrust Bureau (working hard on the Microsoft case, among others). My daughter is just starting her sophomore year at Georgetown, and my son is starting his senior year at Kent School in Connecticut. My nephew is a junior at Pomona, and my son has indicated a possible interest in Pitzer. My husband, David, a partner at Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, has been traveling a lot to Italy, and I get to join him on occasion, so I

am in the process of becoming an Italophile.

## 1970

### **Melinda Byrd** (Topeka, Kan.)

Melinda "Mindy" Byrd, Psy.D., graduated from the Menniger Postdoctoral Training Program in clinical psychology at the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences on June 17 at the Menninger campus in Topeka. She was among 23 residents and trainees graduating from the school in its 54th year. After completing her undergraduate degree at Pitzer College, she received her master's degree from UC Irvine, and her doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego. Previously, she interned at Bayview Hospital in San Diego.

## 1971

### **REUNION: April 27-29, 2001**

### **Lessie Wady Caballero** (Los Angeles)

Became the principal of Hamilton High School in Los Angeles this fall.

### **Mablean Ephriam** (Los Angeles)

Judge Mablean Ephriam was honored with the Sheila James Kuehl Leadership Award by the Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children on Sept. 23 at their annual dinner-dance in Los Angeles.

## 1973

### **Carol Hecker Davis**

(South Hamilton, Mass.)

After 19 years of operating my own business, I have finally moved into the 21st century with a web site. It has taken six long months to organize, but hopefully it will be worth it. This summer before my oldest son goes to college, we took a fantastic trip as a family. We spent six weeks visiting New Zealand, Australia,

### All Alumni are invited to come home to Pitzer for **Alumni Weekend April 27 to 29, 2001.**

Join faculty, students and your fellow classmates for a special return to Claremont. In addition to the annual Alumni College taught by current and emeriti faculty, special reunion activities are scheduled for the classes of '71, '76, '81, '86, '91 and '96.

For more information, contact Greg Saks in Alumni Relations at (909) 621-8130 or [Greg\\_Saks@pitzer.edu](mailto:Greg_Saks@pitzer.edu).

Bali and Oahu. It was a wonderful time, but the details were a bit daunting beforehand.

## 1974

### Laura Peirce Raymond

(Palm Springs, Calif.)

After five years here, I'm still enjoying living in Palm Springs with John, husband of 15 years, and our sons, Alex, 11, and Zachary, 6. Alex is starting the dreaded middle school this fall, and Zach will be entering first grade. I can't help wondering where the time went! I love working as a prospect research consultant for nonprofits, and can always use more work, so keep me in mind. John is the director of redevelopment for the City of Palm Springs, doing well and enjoying it (at least most days). If you ever come to Palm Springs, give us a call — we'd love to hear from any Pitzer alums!

## 1975

### Mike Christie

(Gilroy, Calif.)

I've moved into a new position at Hewlett-Packard. I'm now program manager in the Advanced Technology Center of the Middleware Operation in the Software and Services Organization. When I figure out what that means, I'll let you know. My wife, Terry Cobb, is western regional sales manager for Elpac Power Systems. Since the company is based in Irvine, she has the luxury of working out of our home in Gilroy when she's not traveling in the 13 Western states, four provinces of Canada and two states of Mexico, for which she is responsible. She is impatiently awaiting the arrival of her new aquamarine PT Cruiser, which she ordered in May. We figure if she gets it by Thanksgiving, she'll be doing well.

### Anne Turley

(Los Angeles)

I just got a new job on a new show called "House Calls." It is a reality show about a therapist who makes house calls. Here

in L.A. it will be on UPN (Channel 13 in L.A.) in the daytime, and it varies from station to station across the country. I am one of the avid editors. It is a positive show and the therapist actually gets to the bottom of things.

## 1976

### REUNION: April 27-29, 2001

### Erika Cautman Bartelstein

(Chicago)

I got married in June 1999 and am still happily married more than one year later! We've just moved into a fabulous new coop, which we love. My interior design business is booming and life in general is beautiful!

### Houston Lowry

(Avon, Conn.)

I was recently appointed to the Free Trade Area on the Americas Expert Committee on Electronic Commerce.

### Liz Milwe

(New York)

I am continuing to teach dance at Sarah Lawrence College and to choreograph dance films, two of which can be seen on IFilms.com, an interactive film web site. My husband, **Peter Wormser '75**, continues his architectural practice in New York and recently finished a new space for Virgin Records in L.A. We still live in SoHo and have three sons.

## 1977

### Jacki Anker

(Santa Barbara, Calif.)

"Hi" to all Pitzer alumni and my fellow classmates of '77. Still working hard and playing hard in beautiful Santa Barbara, Calif. My law practice keeps me hopping all over Southern California. Living on the beach isn't too bad, either! I went by the campus recently and was amazed at all the changes. It isn't the way it was back in the day!

### Suzon Forscye-Moore

(Cambridge, UK)

Have been living in Cambridge, England, since 1986. I am looking forward to be-

ginning my Ph.D in law at the London School of Economics. It will be nice to get out of the house. Husband Jim Moore has just finished his Ph.D thesis about the musical revue.

## 1978

### David Schneider

(Mill Valley, Calif.)

Moved back to the Bay Area after working as a "quant" in Pennsylvania. I work as a "buy-side" investment firm in San Francisco. I have rediscovered why I came back — Bud's French Chocolate Ice Cream — not available on the East Coast.

## 1979

### Adi Liberman

(Encino, Calif.)

I'm very pleased to announce that our son, William Moses Liberman, was born on Aug. 26. Everyone is doing well and big sisters Hannah and Emma are ecstatic about baby brother, but of course, they have no idea of what is about to hit them.

### Noah Rifkin

(Williamsville, N.Y.)

Noah Rifkin has been named vice president of policy and legislative affairs by Veridan Engineering, a division of Veridan Corp. He will be responsible for managing the company's portfolio of legislative and policy issues. Noah also will continue to serve as the director of strategic business development for Veridan Engineering's transportation sector and director of strategic planning and partnerships for the Center for Transportation Injury Research (CenTIR) at the Calspan UB Research Center (CUBRC). He also is on the faculty of the department of emergency medicine at the School of Medicine and Biochemical Sciences for the State University of New York at Buffalo.

### Janet Suslick

(Stockholm, Sweden)

Janet Suslick is still a "Swedish" journalist in Stockholm. **Lori Koppel, Ruth Abney**

(continued on pg. 30)

# Alumni Careers: Working Abroad

A Pitzer diploma doubles as a passport for many graduates who find their own way around the world. That's certainly the case for three political science alumni who have traveled very different paths, from the bicycle-clogged streets of Hanoi to the breathtaking island of Corsica to a traditional village in Germany.

## Jason Rush '90: From Denver Courtroom to Hanoi Slums

Jason Rush '90 first tasted overseas life as a Pitzer student traveling to Ecuador and then Nicaragua. These trips filled him with vague visions of someday living abroad. But he also had a love for the law, which won out temporarily.

After graduating Pitzer, Rush worked with Trial Lawyers for Public Justice as a law student, tackling issues ranging from toxic waste to civil rights. Then came the real world, with big student loans to pay off, as a trial lawyer for a Denver law firm. He hated the long hours, pressure to bring in the bucks and a courtroom culture of constant conflict.



Rush

Enough. In 1998, he quit and set off to find a new direction, visiting a cousin working in Vietnam.

Out of financial necessity, Rush initially worked for an American corporate law firm in Hanoi — the very thing he hoped to escape. But soon he landed work as a consultant for charitable groups. Now he works for UNICEF, reporting on its successes and failures, writing for its web site and fund raising.

He recently traveled around the country reporting on UNICEF efforts to help HIV-positive children and the relief agency's program to relocate kids who live and work in a slum located in a huge garbage dump.

After work, adventures await in a



Jason Rush ascertains the damage at a flooded area of the Mekong Delta. He has been involved in several flood relief efforts in this region.

bustling city where people spend their free time in the streets instead of home. "It really gets the blood pumping," he said. "It's harder to fall into a rut here."

And to his surprise, Rush may find himself using his legal skills again in Vietnam. He's helping Swedish Save the Children to set up legal aid centers to provide services such as public defenders for poor children. The larger goal is to help Vietnam develop a separate juvenile justice system, which right now is very limited.

"The work I'm doing here is probably more meaningful than any work I've done in my whole life," he said.

## Bernhard Voelkelt '79: Putting His Pitzer Education to Work in Germany

Bernhard Voelkelt '79 left Germany to attend Pitzer at the prompting of his father, who encouraged the young man to broaden his horizons. Voelkelt did just that. After college, he stayed in Southern California, but his career choices were eclectic and international: working for Lufthansa airline and importing European luxury cars.

Then, unexpectedly, Voelkelt was called on to help his father in the German village of Breuberg, about 70 miles south of Frankfurt.

Believing in the future of green power, Voelkelt's father had bought a small hydroelectric plant back in 1981. Winter floods damaged the plant in Christmas 1993, and Voelkelt returned in 1995 to help with repairs, even though he had no engineering background.

"Pitzer students are adaptable," he said. "We can tackle any situation."

The floods had damaged the channels that direct water into the turbines that generate the power. Repairs were finished last year, but then the Voelkelts had to face an equally vexing problem.

The hydroelectric plant is the largest of



The Voelkelt's hydroelectric power plant. The plant was reactivated on November 30, 1999, after standing still for almost five years.

its kind in the region, producing up to 600,000 kilowatt-hours of clean power a year. It makes a significant contribution to the region's efforts to meet emission standards agreed to at Rio de Janeiro and Kyoto, Voelkelt said. Instead of supporting the project, politicians on the county level and the German IRS are making it difficult for Voelkelt's family to operate the power plant.

In order to counter the political opponents — they can rely on a 50-year-old power monopoly — Voelkelt drew on the insights gained through his joint political science and psychology major at Pitzer. He never expected to use that knowledge in such a direct way.

He determined a public offensive, parallel to the cumbersome process through the German legal system, would be required to protect the power plant and the

family's interests. So he's turned to the court of public opinion.

Voelkelt became involved with a respected environmental organization as a county board member and with the German Green Party. He leads school children on tours of the plant, frequently appears in the regional newspaper and has broadened his activism to other environmental issues such as contamination of groundwater. For his work on the power plant, the county Greens nominated him for the county environmental award for 2000.

"My knowledge in political science allowed me to look through all the schemes," he said. "The only way to break these power circles is by going public. And slowly, it's beginning to work."

Soon, he hopes to return to California and continue with a few more constructive projects, and to "catch up on life."

## Tina Serianni '86: Always in the Air

Ride the wind. Catch the updraft. Go a little higher each time. That's what they teach at the paragliding school Tina Serianni '86 runs with her boyfriend on the island of Corsica. And that's how she lives her life.



Voelkelt

For a decade, she and Olivier Leonetti have built their adventure sports business on the French Mediterranean island known for terrain ranging from sandy beaches to steep peaks capped with snow in winter.

As if that weren't enough, she also works part time as a flight attendant for Swissair, with a schedule that has her in Rio one week, Miami another.

Riding a "747 or a piece of Kevlar plastic, I'm always in the air," she said. "It just depends when and where."

Serianni grew up around the world. Born in Boston to Italian-American parents, Serianni lived in Italy, Holland and Switzerland in her youth. Pitzer was an important stop in her life of flight. She developed friendships with other European students that remain strong today.

After college she worked grinding, low-wage jobs in Los Angeles and New York and was miserable. Then she saw the ski flick "Fire and Ice" and took off to St. Moritz in Switzerland. There, she worked as a ski instructor and met Leonetti, who was just as much the adventurer.

In time, they returned to his native Corsica to open the small paragliding school, starting with a hut on the beach and borrowing no money. (Paragliders, in case you've never tried, ride the wind harnessed to a wing-shaped canopy that looks like a parachute.)

Building their business wasn't always a breeze. For several winters, they lived without electricity or heat in the mountains, running a rudimentary ski resort.

Today, their booming enterprise offers everything from climbing to windsurfing. During the peak summer season, their instructors guide upwards of 500 participants daily in activities around the island.

Who knows where the wind will carry them next. Someday, Serianni and Leonetti would like to continue their adventures without all the responsibilities of running a business. "We'll see when the time comes," she said. "If you look into the future, you never live." —Mark Kendall

## Gary Berkson's Opus



Berkson

Conductors, like other artists, rarely achieve renown in their own country, absent the patina of a foreign tour of duty.

Yet achieving acclaim at home was not why Gary Berkson '74 relocated from the U.S. to become conductor of the Gothenburg Opera, Sweden's second-largest opera house, in 1979.

He quickly progressed to the more prestigious Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm, ascending the conductor's podium for several world premieres of modern works over 12 years.

With the exception of a three-year self-imposed experiment as an itinerant conductor, Berkson's move abroad has proved permanent. It took him nearly a decade, though, to accept his Swedish life and quit chafing over the dark Nordic winters and other distinctions.

"I like working in Europe," says Berkson, 47, who grew up in Los Angeles. "It's a different mentality. In the U.S., everyone becomes pigeonholed. In Europe, everyone does everything."

Not only has a home in Sweden allowed Berkson artistic freedom to serve as a guest conductor from Hamburg to Bilbao, the region's egalitarian attitude about opera has proved self-satisfying as it ensures that his endeavors are not just appreciated by the elite.

Since opera is rooted in European culture, opera houses are nearly as ubiquitous as cinemas and their performances applauded by mainstream crowds in blue jeans. "It's not for the upper crust," Berkson says, pointing out that nurturing artistic appreciation is an expected civic service. Last year, the Swedish Opera gave 40 performances of a children's opera at schools.

Audiences acknowledge the maestro for his leadership with baton in hand. But most of the work of conducting takes place offstage, searching for repertoire or summoning the right musical interpretation in rehearsals. Opera further complicates a musical score with singers, scenery, lighting and another language.

"Often, you don't have to be very positive about Verdi or Puccini, because everyone loves them," points out Margarita Ridderstrom, the Swedish opera's principal prompter. Interpreting a modern composition absent a recording history is a much bigger challenge, she says. "Gary's never been afraid of it."

Nor was he afraid to strike out on his own as a free-lance conductor, an experience he found artistically stimulating but which left him personally unhappy with its rootlessness. In 1994, the Swedish Opera lured Berkson back as its artistic manager, supervising the house's 200 ballet and opera performances annually. He also is free to work as a guest conductor.

Berkson started playing piano at 4, though no one else in the family — his father, a plumbing supplier, and mother, who held various jobs, and two siblings — showed any musicality. When he first entered college at Harvey Mudd, two years after the U.S. moon landing, math intrigued him more than music, but he concluded music had more career versatility than math. "I can't stand on street corners doing computations with a slide rule," he remembers.

After switching to Pitzer, he took advantage of the College's open curriculum. Berkson, along with another music major, Carol Fine, crafted their own classes, such as substituting "orchestral literature" for the standard English lit course. Fine and Berkson were Pitzer's first students to graduate as music conducting majors. He went on to the Juilliard School of Music's conducting program.

Berkson's very first post-graduate gig for the Miami Opera was conducting Verdi's "Macbeth" without a single orchestra rehearsal. It worked. He stayed three years.

He still craves the adrenalin of performing without rehearsing, which occurs frequently when he works as a guest conductor. "The minute for me it becomes a job, I'm quitting." —Andrea Adelson

and other old friends — get in touch if you read this! I can be reached at [Suslick@yahoo.com](mailto:Suslick@yahoo.com).

## 1980

### Silver Calzada (Upland, Calif.)

Hello class of 1980. My children, Max, 8, and Alexia, 5, are wonderful. I take them to Pitzer often. Max says he would like to attend. Alexia says she is fine at Upland Elementary School. I have just finished my first year as a tenure-track professor at Mt. San Antonio College. I also am a partner in a consultant/coaching firm called "Extraordinary People." I would love to hear from friends and foe alike. My e-mail is [mivid@post.harvard.edu](mailto:mivid@post.harvard.edu).

### Barbara Hartz (Lake Arrowhead, Calif.)

Last February, I was elected to be the first female president of the Southern California Harley-Davidson Dealers Association. The association was founded back in 1929 and is the oldest and largest Harley-Davidson dealers association in the world.

### Stuart Smith (Long Beach, Calif.)

I am living in Long Beach, happily married to my wonderful wife, Jackie, with two great adult kids. Heather is a sophomore at CSU Long Beach, and Jason is a webmaster for a construction company and was married last year to our new daughter-in-law, Maria. I've been working for the L.A. County Sanitation Districts doing health and safety for almost eight years and Jackie is an office manager for a commercial real estate company. I'm still flying, but not skydiving (I quit while I was ahead!). I am starting construction of my second experimental airplane this fall. Most of our life revolves around work, hanging out with our kids and our weekend house on a mountain in Tehachapi. We had a great time at the reunion last spring and hope to keep in touch with our friends.

## 1981

### REUNION: April 27-29, 2001

### Carrie Johnston (Baltimore, Md.)

I now have a team of social scientists working with me across the country, trying to re-establish trust between residents and the "feds" at high-risk environmen-

tal projects. Contact me if you need some advice for a problem in your area. My favorite project remains the chemical munitions excavation project at APG in Maryland (see [www.lauderickremoval.org](http://www.lauderickremoval.org) for more information). Last March, I went to Chelyabinsk, Russia, with the Department of Energy to conduct a first-ever Community Involvement and Risk Education Workshop for federal and regional officials. Take all of the U.S. nuclear accidents of the 1950s and put them along a river in Russia, and you have Chelyabinsk. The amazing thing is that in the 1950s, many villages were evacuated and fences were put up along the riverbank, but no one was allowed to ask why until 1996! I am now living at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, so if you are visiting "Charm City" and want to get together for dinner, e-mail me at [cjohnston@theitgroup.com](mailto:cjohnston@theitgroup.com). P.S. Watch for the Ravens to be in the Super Bowl this year.

## 1982

### Lynn Perls (Albuquerque, N.M.)

Brenda Broussard and I announce the birth of our daughter, Zoe Broussard Perls, on June 9. We are astonished and blessed by her beauty, strength, charm and good health — all evident even at the age of three months. I continue with my private practice of law in Albuquerque, though at a slower pace while Zoe joins me at the office. We visited with **Susan Potter** and **Carolyn Lyons (PO '83)** and their daughter, Olivia, who joined us in San Diego for a few days in August. We've run into **Lynne Canning '81** from Santa Fe at Democratic Party events; and are still in touch with **Kathy Bracy**, who has moved to Seattle. Lynn can be contacted at [perls@flash.net](mailto:perls@flash.net).

## 1983

### Russ Le Donne (London)

My family and I are enjoying living in Europe. We spent a week cycling through northern Holland in June and another week pedaling through Funen and the southern islands of Denmark in August. I also managed to squeeze in a solo hike of the notoriously challenging northern section of Corsica's GR20 trail.

**Maureen Schaaf** (Corpus Christi, Texas) I have entered The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) as a religious sister.

## 1985

### Richard Chute (Ontario, Calif.)

**Jodi Olson '86** and I are happy to share that our daughter, Phoebe Elizabeth Chute, was born on March 7.

### Kevin Frandsen (Los Angeles)

After working for nearly 15 years in the legal field, I recently started a master's program in counseling psychology at Ryokan College. I am really enjoying being back in school and am looking forward to a new and rewarding career.

### Drew Kronick (Maplewood, N.J.)

Still living in Maplewood. Our family continues to grow. My wife, Kathleen, and I had our fourth child. Tate Joseph was added to our existing family of Hannah, 7, Shane, 5, and Austin, 3. I started an Internet company in January. The company is called deliverENow.com. We provide innovative technology and logistics solutions to the retail community. Our system allows retailers to let the consumer order from their favorite retailer that operates web sites and stores and have new merchandise delivered within HOURS as opposed to days. Anybody in the N.Y. area, come on by! Talked to **Alex Kaiser**. He is doing great. He lives in a suburb outside Chicago and he has three boys with a baby girl on the way. Also, **Gary Silverman** ("Cub" for those of you who knew him) is doing well. Believe it or not, Gary finally got married. Gary lives in Chicago.

### Chandre Kipps Nicholas (Altadena, Calif.)

Austin (now 7) and I just moved back to the Pasadena area from Wichita, Kan. "There's no place like L.A. There's no place like L.A." (Click heels while saying this ...) Lime Twig is thriving (too well, thank you) and continues to grow and expand into new markets. High stress. I'm looking forward to having boxes unpacked and for life to slow down just a tad. Most of all, I'm thankful that the last year is behind us and that Austin and I are healthy and happy.

### Tamsin Sickinger (Darien, Conn.)

Just sent my second child on the school bus this week to start kindergarten! Big day in our family. **Diana Stein** recently left D.C. and has moved to NYC, so hopefully we will be seeing each other a little more often than every 10 years. Spent a great evening with both her and **Katharyn Pinder** last spring in the city. Sorry to have missed the reunion in Claremont, but if anyone is ever in this area, please give a call.

## 1986

### REUNION: April 27-29, 2001

### Alexandra Davis (Billings, Mont.)

My husband and I moved to Billings in search of space and time as Colorado was becoming increasingly crowded and busy. I left the Colorado Attorney General's Office to work for the Department of Interior. While I am still doing water law, I now represent four federal agencies: the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Montana water rights adjudication. The gist of the job is protecting the federal water rights. We adopted two beautiful kittens in July, Sasha and Sophie, who are very fun. We spend our free time canoeing, hiking and getting outdoors as much as possible.

### Luis J. "Lou Jack" Martinez

(Bakersfield, Calif.)

Luis is now serving as the lead evangelist for the Bakersfield Ministry of the Los Angeles International Church of Christ. He recently spoke to more than 1,000 people in attendance at the Bakersfield Centennial Garden & Convention Center on Aug. 27. His wife, Cathi, and he now have two children: L.T. (who is in first grade) and Christine (who turned 1 on April 28). To contact him, please call (661) 663-8044.

### Susan Pratt (Santa Fe, N.M.)

I am in the midst of being a "ghostly warrior" in John Carpenter's latest horror flick called "Ghosts of Mars" with Ice Cube to be released in the fall of 2001. If you're into looking at really gory prosthetics and lots of "blow 'em up" scenes — go for it. I'm having fun even though we're shooting from dusk till dawn!

## The Family Zoo



Margaret Ann and Henry Escudero with their dog, Bear.

After marriage, Ann traded London's culture for life in the country and a position helping run her in-law's private zoo, Drusillas Zoo Park. Her father-in-law started the East Sussex zoo in the 1920s as a place where drivers could stop for tea and gaze at gardens filled with parrots and monkeys. By the 1960s, Ann's husband, Michael, and his brother were in the process of turning the zoo into an educational center for children.

"We survived because we were very small and concentrated on having smaller animals. No lions or tigers," says Ann, who sold the zoo about three years ago to retire. "We owned it for 40 years, and we loved it. It was a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week job. Anything could happen at any time of the day ... If the animals weren't doing something funny or interesting, the kids were."

With animals such as penguins, lemurs and crocodiles, the zoo draws more than 300,000 visitors each year.

While Ann settled in the UK, her daughters yearned to spend time in the U.S. Her oldest, Margaret, received her degree in sociology from Pitzer in 1994, and her youngest, Emily, studied in Colorado and now works in New York.

After graduating from Pitzer, Margaret Ann moved to Denver, where she studied for her master's degree in museum studies and, continuing her mother's interests, worked for a children's museum. Her boyfriend, Henry Escudero '91, an anthropology major, joined her and worked as a research analyst for an insurance company. After four years, they moved to England.

Escudero, who received his master's degree in medieval archaeology in London, says he doesn't see himself returning to the U.S. anytime soon.

"I like the lifestyle in Europe," says Escudero, who was born in Peru. "The pace is a bit slower. People's perceptions of the rest of the world are a bit broader."

The two keep in touch with friends and family across the world. Escudero helped organize an alumni event in London last spring, and the couple recently visited Escudero's mother, Isabel, in Pasadena. (Isabel Escudero, who is Italian, is a New Resources student at Pitzer majoring in linguistics.)

As for their fate, it is still being decided.

"After a couple of months of being in the States, while at Pitzer, I did realize how significantly different the two countries were," says Margaret Ann. "I did experience a bit of culture shock. I think we would like to keep our options open for where we move next. We both like to move around a lot." —*Susan McCormack*

## 1987

### Charles Fracchia (El Cerrito, Calif.)

Julie Algazi and I were married on Aug. 9, 1999, at the Brazilian Room in Tilden Park, in Berkeley, Calif. **Jeanmarie Boone** was present at the wedding.

## 1988

### Anne Babineau (Saunderstown, R.I.)

Our first child, a girl, Allison Rose Babineau, was born in February 1999. Anne is staying home with Allie and doing freelance work from home, while John commutes to Raytheon in Portsmouth, R.I.

### Carolyn De Witt (Encino, Calif.)

After nearly seven-and-a-half years together, Teri and I were married May 20. With 100 family and friends present, we exchanged wedding vows at sunset in California's beautiful Newport Harbor aboard the yacht Just Dreamin'. A dinner cruise and reception followed. Pitzer alumnus **Rick Kemp** was my anchor, "Best Man" and toastmaster. Pitzer friend **Minda Painschab** also took my side as "Best Woman." Teri and I were delighted that Jill Benton and Al Schwartz were aboard to share our happy day as well.

### Cynthia Kirk (Napa, Calif.)

My husband, Charles, and I just bought a house in Napa. I work in wine packaging and design and Charles is the chef at Acacia Winery. We are loving our life here. Immersed in the wine culture. I would love to hear from Pitzer people. My e-mail address is ckirk@tapptech.com.

## 1989

### George Illes (Costa Mesa, Calif.)

Happily married with two daughters. Always wanted to one day be surrounded by women!

### Rick Duque (Claremont, Calif.)

Rick returned to California from Taos, N.M., to take the position of athletic director at the Webb Schools in Claremont.

### Anne Klemperer

(Zutphen, The Netherlands)

I have been working for the last three years as a researcher at the Center for

Higher Education Policy Studies at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. I love my job! Before moving to the Netherlands, I completed a Master of Arts in higher education from the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. A few years ago, I married Raimund Jaeger from Germany — we met in 1988 during my junior year abroad at the University of Sussex in Brighton, UK. We are expecting our first child in October 2000. We are looking forward to raising him or her in a tri-lingual environment.

### **Marni Rozet Neighbors**

(Santa Barbara, Calif.)

Troy and I recently moved to Santa Barbara with our 5 1/2-year-old son, Josh, and our 2-year-old, Nicolette. We are managing our family-owned vineyard, and Troy is currently writing epic and comedy screenplays. This year marked our first harvest of wine grapes, which will be used in wines made by Edmunds St. John and Turley Wine Cellars. In addition, Troy and I will have our own wine label, Muse Cellars.

## **1990**

### **Lorraine J. Martinez** (Oakland, Calif.)

Recently completed a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Washington in Seattle. Started a postdoctoral fellowship at UC Berkeley on Sept. 1, in the psychology department.

### **Beth Gura Polese** (Manchester, Mass.)

Many thanks to my many Pitzer friends who supported my successful run in the Boston Marathon on April 17. Through your support, I raised more than \$4,000 for the American Liver Foundation! If you find yourself heading through Manchester, let **Will Polese '89** and me know.

### **Gregg Silver** (Toluca Lake, Calif.)

Wow, the past 10 years have really flown by! I am currently the director of operations for Universal Studios/CityWalk, where we have just opened an exciting new expansion, including 30 new restaurants, nightclubs, retail stores and entertainment venues. Come visit me on the Coolest Street in America! I live in beautiful Toluca Lake, still single (but looking), and still as active as ever, playing

softball and golf regularly! Go Sagehens ... beat CMC!

### **Adam Nash Gould** (Houston)

I am currently brokering commercial real estate in Houston, loving my 2 1/2-year-old son, Samson Nash Gould, and dreaming various pipe-dreams. A recent turn of events has landed me back in bachelorland, to which I am thoroughly unaccustomed. Anybody who can teach an old dog some new tricks (some of you excluded ... and you know who you are) is strongly encouraged to contact me! I have been fortunate enough to have kept in contact with some really special friends from the class of '90 who have all helped me through a tough time. That's what it's all about! Love to all of them and to those who I have missed. Most especially to **Sarah Steffee** ... wherever you are. You are not forgotten, but then, you know that!

## **1991**

### **REUNION: April 27-29, 2001**

### **Edward Damutz** (New York)

I married Whiz Liames on May 13, 2000.

### **Stephen Dignan** (New York)

I opened a store in the East Village, where I sell gifts, aromatherapy, personal-care products and elegant handcrafts from around the world. I am making plans to expand my company to fresh flowers in classic arrangements, botanical aromatic and flower essences, extracts, oils, and natural and organic fashions and accessories, in addition to Tibetan and Himalayan art and artifacts. I give 50 percent of my profits to Tibetan orphans and refugees.

### **Linda Rouse** (Richmond, Va.)

Linda and Kirk Richardson were married Oct. 30, 1999, in Charlottesville, Va. Linda received her M.A. from Texas A & M, and is a Ph.D. candidate at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. The couple plans to reside in Richmond.

### **Zander Sprague** (San Francisco)

I am living and working in San Francisco. I love being in the Bay Area again, and I see lots of Pitzer folks often. I look forward to seeing more of you, so give me a call at (415) 596-3240!

## **1992**

### **Michael Corbin** (Mission, Kan.)

Greetings Pitzer friends! I am currently setting up eBookstores for publishers and online publications. My homepage is still MirHouse.com and my e-mail is Michael@mirhouse.com.

### **Charles Flood** (Houston)

I married Janet Roush of Houston on the beach in Akumal, Mexico, on March 11. I am working as a criminal defense lawyer in Houston with the firm Flood & Flood (just in case any Pitzer alums get in trouble).

### **Karla Held** (Houston)

I'm living a stable life in Houston for the second year in a row. I teach Spanish at the fifth-, sixth- and eighth-grade levels and coach soccer. This summer, I studied Spanish in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and went to Puerto Escondido and Zihuatanejo to buy a surfboard and surf. I also completed a NOLS outdoor educator course in Wyoming and chased bears. Please feel free to contact me during my extended stay in the U.S. I can be reached at (713) 587-8876 and my e-mail address is karlaheld@hotmail.com.

### **Mychal Heather Rosenbaum** (Wyncote, Pa.)

Mychal was awarded the title of Rabbi and the Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters degree from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College at their June 11 ceremony, which was held at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park. She holds both a teaching credential and an M.A. in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School. Mychal received both the Stein Prize for contributing to the field of Women's Studies and Judaism, and this year's Schein Education Fellowship. Mychal will be a rabbi at the Princeton Jewish Center.

### **Christopher Schooler** (Denver)

One semester away from finishing my Master's in Architecture and Planning from the University of Colorado at Denver. Currently researching grants and fellowship opportunities for post-graduate travel. I can be reached at cpschool2@yahoo.com.

## 1993

### **Erica Coleman** (Edinburgh, Scotland)

After being out of touch so long, I just wanted to say that I am in my final year at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland, and intend to go into general practice in Britain next year.

### **Angela Ragusa-Stengler** (Oceanside, Calif.)

The new and exciting news around here is that we are expecting our second baby in February 2001. Our first born, Mark Jr., will be 3 in November.

## 1994

### **Amy Champ** (Plymouth, Calif.)

I am a research analyst at The Center For Digital Government. I am happily engaged to Michael John Spinetta, who works at Charles Spinetta Winery. We live on a ranch in Shenandoah Valley, east of Sacramento.

### **Brian Lee** (Claremont, Calif.)

I am a third-year medical student.

### **Kathryn Finn Sensaman** (Peoria, Ariz.)

My husband and I were recently named one of the five most politically influential couples in Arizona by a Scottsdale magazine. Paul is the press secretary to the Arizona Speaker of the House and I am in government affairs for Southwest Gas Corporation.

### **William Springer** (Miami)

I am back in school earning my MBA from the University of Miami. I can be reached at wbspringer@hotmail.com.

## 1995

### **Sarah Brysk** (San Diego)

I received my master's degree in social work from San Diego State University in May 2000. I took the summer off, working as a floral designer (my other profession) while I look for social work jobs here in San Diego.

### **Jonathan Casper** (Greeley, Colo.)

I just married Patty Patzko, who was a PACE student at Pitzer when we met. We had a wedding party in Denver on Aug. 5. I am the head men's tennis coach at the University of Northern Colorado, and have two classes left to finish a

master's in sports management. Hope all is well in Southern California.

### **Marc Garcia** and **Jennifer Van Liew Garcia** (Glendale, Ariz.)

The family is fantastic. Jeni is pretty much at home now looking after our son, Gavin, who is more than a full-time job. We are extremely thrilled to report that she is pregnant and should deliver at the end of February. Still working at the Greater Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau. Promoted June 1, 2000, to director of multi-cultural affairs. Professionally and at home, things just couldn't be better. Jeni and I hope to hear from you soon.

### **Kate Post** (New York)

Kate is working at Oxygen Media, booking and producing guest segments for a fashion and style show. After living in New York City since graduation, she has realized it's time for some California sunshine and is hoping to relocate to the Los Angeles area sometime in December.

### **Brinley Schwartz** (Los Angeles)

After spending two years in Japan teaching English, Brinley returned to California to first work in the cable industry, and then got her MBA from UCLA's Anderson School in 1999. She is now working for CBS Television in the interactive Internet department.

### **Zach Taub** (Japan)

Zach is still living in Japan (three years and counting). He was married May 20 in a traditional Japanese Shinto-style wedding. If you want to get in touch with him, drop a line to sfrenzy@mac.com.

## 1996

### **REUNION: April 27-29, 2001**

### **Nicole (Lamphere) Hohmann** (Evanston, Ill.)

I got married in March of this year to an incredible man, Mathew Hohmann. Some of my Pitzer buddies — **Annemarie Jacir, Juliet Page, Batya Goldberg** and **Amy MacWilliamson** — witnessed the event. Since marriage, we moved to the 'burbs (Evanston). I am helping develop Evanston Northwestern's Integrative Medicine program and, in my free time, am studying for my boards for acupuncture. Thinking about Ph.D programs, thinking about starting a family ... and getting out of the 'burbs.

### **Monica Partridge** (San Marino, Calif.)

I recently left my position at Universal Music Group's Global e, the division responsible for the secure distribution of Universal music content over the Internet. Interested in pursuing a career that offers more flexibility and creative expression, I am now writing, working on my second screenplay and a novel, and hope to sell something by the end of the year in order to have some money for other projects!



Peter Hunken '96 rinses off his wet suit and long board in Isla Vista, Calif., after a day of surfing Sands Beach near the University of California, Santa Barbara.

### **Graciela Duenas Serrano**

(Baldwin Park, Calif.)

I'd like to send a special "hello" to the class of 1996 and to let everyone know that I have been happily married for the last three-and-a-half years and enjoying our first baby, born last summer

### **Christopher Trinacty** (Providence, R.I.)

Hey all! I moved to Providence several months ago and will be starting my Ph.D. work here at Brown University. I'd love to hear from friends in the Boston/New York area. E-mail me at [trinacty@earthlink.net](mailto:trinacty@earthlink.net).

## 1997

### **Catharine Nance** (Chicago)

I am currently working at the Turkish Consulate in Chicago. I held an exhibition of some of my photos taken in Turkey at Middfest International in Middletown, Ohio, for their Turkish Cultural Festival in October. Hope all my Pitzer friends are well! My e-mail address is [catharinendance@hotmail.com](mailto:catharinendance@hotmail.com).

### **Tiffany M. Lopez Powell** (Phoenix)

I am engaged to **Chris Huisman (PO '97)** and we are getting married in January 2001. We are planning to stay in Phoenix because that's where it's at! I can be reached at [TPowell@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:TPowell@mag.maricopa.gov).

## 1998

### **Shelley Brown** (North Hollywood, Calif.)

I am currently a producer for "Divorce Court" and Fox's new court show, "Power of Attorney."

### **Gail Cugno** (Claremont)

After graduating from Pitzer, I went to San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science. I was awarded a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree in May. I began applying for jobs in mid-May ... as soon as I knew I passed the culminating requirement, I was offered a position in an academic library that pays 20 percent higher than the national average for MLIS graduates in June. Four days after landing the job, I received more good news ... I had won \$20,000 in a local radio contest (K-CAL FM, Redlands, 96.7 FM). The contest was easy: Listen to rock

music and make a list of 10 songs in a row. Each list was an entry after it was verified for accuracy and to avoid duplication. They had approximately 60 to 75 entries. While some others had double or triple the amount of entries I had, I guess I was just lucky! Thanks to the cash, I am now driving to work in my new truck!

### **Christina Frausto** (Alta Loma, Calif.)

After leaving Pitzer, I decided to stay in Claremont to pursue my graduate degree in history at CGU. I am also busy working full time here in Claremont as administrative assistant to the Claremont Research Institute of Applied Mathematical Sciences.

### **Bryn E. Kanter** (Phoenix)

I am in my first year of law school at Arizona State University College of Law and loving it! Go Sun Devils! Also, I'm a bridesmaid in the wedding of **Tiffany Powell '97** and **Chris Huisman (PO '97)**.

## 1999

### **Angie Carrillo** (Ahwatukee, Ariz.)

Hello everyone! I am currently living in the Greater Phoenix Area and am in my second year of the Teach For America Program. I teach sixth-grade bilingual science and reading.

### **Willy Lenzer** (Washington)

**Creed Pettit** and I visited **Ed Castellon** this past summer while he was working in

## Alumni Council Update

About four years ago, I received an invitation to a Pitzer Business Networking Event in Los Angeles. Figuring that, as a partner with a law firm, it was a good idea to find new ways to network, I decided to attend. I hadn't had much contact with Pitzer or Pitzer alumni over the years, but at that meeting (and several subsequent meetings), I met some great people, including Meg Perry (former Alumni Council president). After talking with Meg and others about how there seemed to be no connection or relationship between Pitzer and its alumni, Meg offered me an opportunity to change that perception by getting involved with the Alumni Council.

Over the past two years, the Alumni Council has made great strides in increasing the communication between alumni, the College and students. Based on discussions with the Alumni Council, the administration and trustees, we have come to the conclusion that alumni need to be reconnected with each other and the College (students, faculty and administration). A relationship needs to be developed through communication, activity, information and technology. For the next year or two, the Council has set the following goals: 1) Improve communication and amplify the sense of connection among alumni, the alumni council and the entire campus community and 2) Help shape and support the College vision.

Pitzer is more than 37 years old, and we have thousands of exceptional alumni with much to offer the College, current students and fellow alumni. We also have trustees and an administration that I believe are genuinely interested in what alumni have to say, in what they can offer the College and in making them part of the planning process.

I challenge those of you who have not had much contact with Pitzer to get involved — do something! The Alumni Council committees conduct their meetings via telephone conference call, so you can get involved without ever leaving your living room or office. If you live in a city with a Pitzer regional community, go to an event, or contact the person in charge of the local organization. If you or your employer will meet with, interview or provide internships to students or other alumni, let us know. If you don't know what you want to do, e-mail me, [andyg@greenbass.com](mailto:andyg@greenbass.com), or Greg Saks, [greg\\_saks@pitzer.edu](mailto:greg_saks@pitzer.edu), and we will find something meaningful for you to do. We have a great opportunity to play a substantial role in shaping the future of Pitzer College. I look forward to working with you and meeting you over the next two years.

*Andy Goodman '81  
President, Alumni Association*

## Get Involved!

For information on the regional chapter near you, contact **Joe Chatham**, National Chapter Chair, at (818) 597-0424 or jlchatham@earthlink.net, or **Greg Saks** in the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.

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it's 75 percent done! On all my bios for my writing pieces, I'm always proud to write that I received a B.A. in writing from Pitzer College.

### Kathryn Mercurius

(Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.)

I am very proud to be an alumna of Pitzer College from the class of 1999. I have missed all my professors and friends. However, I am enjoying my new home and grandson, who is now 5 years old. Hello to professors Alan Jones, Jose Calderon and Jeff Lewis.

## 2000

### Silvia Rodriguez (Elk Grove, Calif.)

On a personal note, I moved to the Sacramento area during the summer because I am engaged to be married next spring. I miss the Los Angeles area. On the professional side, the new California Department of Child Support Services hired me as a policy analyst. On the academic side, I am in search of law-school scholarships and will try to enter law school in fall 2001.

### Daniel Williams (Anahuac, Tex.)

I will be living and working in Anahuac for the next two years. My new job is at a catfish farm/fish fertilizer plant. I will be working on quality control and overseeing the extraction of the raw fish material from the fish tanks before it is moved to the fertilizer plant for processing. I had originally planned to work in public-interest politics with the Public Interest Research Group, but luckily I had a conversation with an old teacher of mine who reminded me that jobs like that don't pay much and I'd be working with politicians all day. So I decided to hop on the next Greyhound bus out of Elgin and ride it 'til the end of the line. Next thing I knew, I was in Anahuac. My parents aren't too happy, but they just want me to follow my dreams. I can't wait to hear how everyone else is doing. Well, the generator for our trailer is about to run out of gas, so I need to turn the computer off. Take care, and I'm looking forward to seeing the next issue of the Participant. Peace through fertilizer.

Puerto Rico implementing a computer program for Norvect Baret. His bilingual education at Pitzer really proved itself worthy. During our time in Puerto Rico, we attended a monthly company party where Ed received the Employee of the Month award! Ed is back in L.A., while Creed is still working for Excite@home's international division. As for myself, I am still finding my time best spent when I devote myself to "Nesta."

### Linda Lewis (Long Beach, Calif.)

Since graduating, I've been published in Baybury Review, Poetry Motel, two anthologies (one to come out in 2000 called "Lessons at the Gate" and another to

come out in 2001 called "?" by Red Rock Press) and in the L.A. Times (opinion section.) I've led writing workshops at O.A.S.I.S. (a gay/lesbian/transgender/bisexual high school in Long Beach) and at the Gay and Lesbian Center in L.B. Over the summer, I worked at odd jobs (Census 2000 and an Adventure Store) in hopes that my writing would put lobster on the table. It didn't/isn't, so I'm working at Premiere Education Charter School in Long Beach teaching at-risk kids. One of my "satellite" teaching spots is Boys Town, which the students have recently renamed Girls and Boys Town. My passion — at Pitzer and always — is writing. One day I'll write that novel. Hey,



**In My Own Words** *Discovery is the hallmark of humankind.* For centuries, adventurers have traveled to the far corners of the earth in search of new ways of life, new mountains to climb and new fortunes. Recurring in stories from all cultures are the characters who, despite the comfortable surroundings of home, seek their fortune in a strange and bizarre setting. Setting out to conquer, convince, or even merely observe something different, the adventurers find

themselves humbled by the grandness, the complexity, the virtue of that which they once considered beneath their notice. For the adventurer, the return home can be as transformative as the journey itself. For as they set out to escape the bounds of ordinary life, so they often return to turn that ordinary life on its head. The adventurers — mavericks and mystics who return from time in the desert with a song, a story, a dream — offer the society to which they return what it so desperately needs: perspective. ¶ Some of the most poignant pictures of the previous century were of the Earth rising on the horizon of the moon — a blue orb specked with white, brown and green. That was, I would argue, one of the final voyages of true discovery taken by humankind. Not since those photos etched themselves on our collective consciousness have we sailed off into the sunrise, wildly leaving our comfortable world behind in search of new horizons. Yet, in a strange way, that final voyage of discovery in the old sense contained within it the seeds of the new age of discovery. Those photos of the Earth contain a difficult and perhaps terrifying message. They tell us that humankind can no longer run away from itself in search of perspective. The perspectives to be discovered in the new age will be found not from without, but from within. It is from the finite contents of this speck in the universe that we can (and indeed must) find a nearly infinite variety of people, thought and action. ¶ The new adventurers are not those who travel away from the hustle and bustle of the ordinary world, they are those who travel within it. ¶ The new search for perspectives is a search within the vast data banks of our collective existence. The visionaries of tomorrow will not discover new worlds — they will discover the old, contemplating how words like *Inter-net* and *global-ization* apply to those whom the previous age of discovery inextricably linked. They will discover, as I did, the nature of American religious politics in a smoky Turkish coffee shop. They will find, as others have, the secret to muscle aches in the back alleys of a Chinese agricultural town. They will rejoice, as many did, at pottery designs in the jungle villages of Venezuela. The new age of discovery is a journey not to the outer limits of the known universe in a search for something different. The new age of discovery is an exhilarating journey into the wilds of the known universe for the perspective that has always eluded our grasp — our own. —**Ben Ball '98**





## Save the Date

A major event  
and announcement  
will take place  
on Alumni Weekend  
April 27-29, 2001

Please mark your calendar now  
and make plans to be part of  
this important moment in  
Pitzer College history.

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