Diversity at Pitzer: A Quilt of Many Colors
President’s Message  Time for a New Paradigm  Throughout human history, our academic paradigms have been dictated by the cultural traditions and social mores of the era. In medieval times, for example, when religion permeated all areas of life, the study of Christianity was honored as the highest discipline. In the 19th Century, when nation states were growing in strength, the study of European cultures and their roots was the academic focus of most Western universities. And, in the mid-20th Century, when US influence dominated many regions of the world, the study of Western culture, understood as European heritage, formed the core of curricula in American academies. ¶ “In the advance of civilization, it is new knowledge which paves the way, and the pavement is eternal,” said Willis R. Whitney, an MIT professor and director of the General Electric Research Laboratory, around the turn of the last century. Whitney, an electrochemical engineer, was no doubt referring to new scientific discoveries. But the sentiment can be just as aptly applied to cultural knowledge. A new paradigm is needed to pave the way for the advancement of civilization as we enter the 21st Century. And this paradigm, which has been gestating in many corners of American academe, including here at Pitzer, is characterized by the quest for knowledge from cultures outside the mainstream curricula. These may be unexplored cultures abroad or cultures hidden or ignored within the most evident layer of American culture, among them subcultures tied to gender, race and sexual orientation. ¶ Over the past decade, we have watched Marshall McLuhan’s prophecies about the Global Village unfold in startling ways. We enter the 21st century as true Global Villagers, hungry for new knowledge at a time when cultures and economies in all regions are so clearly bound together. As in all previous eras, academe must answer that cry with new paradigms to help make sense of this global society, to know the customs and stories of the people with whom we share our international neighborhood and to appreciate the true value of diversity among our neighbors. ¶ Fostering a community that recognizes diversity as fundamental to the mission and creativity of a community is a central goal at Pitzer. This goal is reflected in all aspects of college life—the student body, the composition of the faculty and staff, the breadth of the curriculum and the educational objectives. Such diversity enables the education for intercultural literacy, social responsibility, and coalition-building and citizenship skills that bridge the boundaries tied to race, socio-economic class, gender and sexual orientation. ¶ Students are best able to achieve a liberal arts education in a context that offers a diversity of approaches and worldviews. Students are best prepared for the rest of their lives—in a diverse world—when their college experience embodies that diversity. ¶ Pitzer excels in this mission. From its founding, it has done what the greatest colleges and universities have done—pursued the knowledge that sustains and transforms cultures. Pitzer has concerned itself with not only the heritage of ideas of freedom but with the social and cultural change necessary to make it reality where it is not. Pitzer has not shied from the inherent tension and conflict engendered by facing the need for social change and searching for the knowledge to effect it. ¶ There is little need to say how much the world would benefit from leaders who can listen to others radically different from themselves and construct social spaces where these differences build new, brilliant cultures. As you will read in this issue, our campus is alive with debate and advocacy around vital issues. Out of this energy are born new, necessary fields of knowledge as well as new, more just policies and practices. Our goal at Pitzer is to teach students that the road to advancing civilization in the 21st century will be paved through these new frontiers.—Marilyn Chapin Massey
Pitzer College Participant
Spring 2000
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Reaching Out

In its first year, Pitzer’s Center for California Cultural and Social Issues highlights the College’s longtime commitment to community service and social responsibility by embarking on projects that blend academic research with hands-on involvement in Inland Empire communities. By Denise Hamilton

A Quilt of Many Colors

Pitzer has long been known for the diversity of its course offerings, which opens students’ eyes by presenting a worldview beyond White America. But equally important, say faculty, students and alumni, the College encourages diversity indirectly by the very presence on campus of a multicultural student body and faculty. By Denise Hamilton

Giving Back

When we talk about diversity, the economic mix of the student body is probably not the first thing that comes to mind. But that’s precisely what Pitzer’s financial aid program strives to promote. Need-based scholarships ensure that the campus community is economically diverse, and that promising students who are willing to apply their talent and energy are able to come to Pitzer, regardless of their ability to pay. Here, we tell the stories of five such students. By Dave Zahniser

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We enter the 21st Century as true Global Villagers, hungry for new knowledge at a time when cultures and economies in all regions are so clearly bound together. Academe must answer that cry with new paradigms to help us make sense of this global society.

IN THE NEWS

Excerpts of recent news coverage of Pitzer College from local and national media.

CAMPUS NEWS

Football award honors Mike Aytch ’82; former Saudi oil minister speaks on campus; Participant goes digital; external relations office broadens possibilities; Mason promoted; Arboretum gets a facelift.

FACULTY NOTES

Ronald Macaulay profiled; Carol Brandt and Tom Manley present paper on community language learning; David Furman holds his 35th solo exhibition; Judith Grabiner writes for Encyclopedia of the Renaissance; Faculty Books: Susan Seymour’s “Women, Family, and Child Care in India: A World in Transition.”

ALUMNI NOTES

David Straus ’90 urges Pitzer freshmen to follow their dreams and to be the heroes of their own lives.

On the Cover: “Floating World,” a soft sculpture by Debra Kam ’79, was included in “Here and Now: New Hampshire Women Artists,” a juried exhibition held Jan. 28 to Feb. 29 at the Chapel Art Center, Saint Anselm College, Manchester, N.H. The show was sponsored by the Center’s Women’s Art Caucus. “Floating World” came out of working in my studio early in the morning,” said Kam, “when the changing light is one’s reward for getting up at the break of day.” In May, Kam will hold an open studio as part of her fellowship from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. For more details, e-mail the artist at nichols@nh.ultranet.com.
AN AMERICAN IN MEXICO
CHAMPIONS MIDWIFERY
AS A WORTHY PROFESSION

The Wall Street Journal
Feb. 15, 2000

SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE, Mexico—
Esperanza Martinez is a vanishing arche-
type. She is elderly and poor, and has only
a primary-school education, but she has
skill enough to have coaxed more than
1,500 babies into the world.

To Nadine Goodman ’79, an Ameri-
can-born public-health specialist, Mrs.
Martinez—known locally as Doña
Esperanza—is part of a tradition that offers
Mexico a humane and cost-effective model
for maternity care in thousands of remote
communities. In 1997, Ms. Goodman
opened Mexico’s first school of midwifery
here in this town 180 miles northeast of
Mexico City. Now, nine young women are
getting more than three years of clinical
training in delivering babies, combined
with apprenticeships under parteras such as
Mrs. Martinez who work with little more
than scissors and a bag of herbs. The school
expects to graduate its first class this fall.

“The professional midwife is the best
option for accompanying women in their
reproductive cycle,” says Ms. Goodman, a
43-year-old Columbia University graduate
who settled here 20 years ago. “But the idea
that good, low-cost service can be pro-
vided” by indigenous women “without a
college education really shakes things up
here.”

In fact, midwifery is a tradition that
certain Mexican government officials, as
well as the country’s leading obstetrics
organization, would prefer to see die out.
Though folk practitioners attend as many
as a third of the nation’s births, their ranks
are thinning, and the medical establish-
ment says there are enough doctors and
nurses to replace the more than 18,000
mostly rural midwives that remain.

While Ms. Goodman has received a
license from the secretary of education to
operate her school, health authorities so far
have refused to recognize its graduates as
professional midwives. Neither have they
agreed to find a place for them in the
country’s overwhelmingly state-run health
apparatus nor to designate a maternity
hospital Ms. Goodman opened here in
1994 as an authorized training facility. The
latter effectively prevents her graduates
from doing the mandatory social services
Mexico requires of all medical profession-
als.

In Mexico’s poorest regions, women are
still having lots of babies, and lots of those
babies are dying. In the country’s 70,000
rural municipalities, the birth rate still
stands at five per woman, and infant-and-
maternal-mortality rates are well above the
national average. Moreover, while Mexico
graduates plenty of doctors and nurses, few
of them want to live in rural areas, even
when required to do so as part of their
social-service obligations. As a result, many
village clinics are left unattended for
months on end.

That’s one factor that has influenced
Ms. Goodman’s vision. Armed with
master’s degrees in public health and social
work, she arrived in this arid region in
1981. Her original intent was simply to
learn Spanish, but she soon began offering
sex education and family-planning infor-
mation to local youth. Three years later, she
and her husband, Alejandro, a Mexican, set
up a nonprofit organization called Centro
para los Adolescentes de San Miguel de
Allende, or CASA, backed by a $3,000
grant from the International Planned
Parenthood Federation.

Since then, CASA has grown to include
a variety of reproductive- and environmen-
tal-education programs, outpatient medical
services, a maternity hospital, day-care
centers and the midwifery school. Over the
years, Ms. Goodman has raised more than
$15 million to support CASA’s programs
from donors including the Ford Founda-
tion, the David and Lucile Packard
Foundation and the Dutch chapter of Save
the Children.

Poetry
At Night
By Mona Ausubel ’01

You seem to want
to understand
each separate inch of me
like a child in new snow,
looking open mouthed at the sky,
trying to catch a single piece of that
soft cold beauty.

Ausubel grew up in Santa Fe, N.M.,
and currently lives in Berkeley, Calif.
At Pitzer, she is double-majoring in
cultural studies and creative writing/poetry.
Wouldn’t it be nice if, in the 21st century, rich and poor weren’t gouging each other’s eyes out, our schools weren’t crowded, toxic hellholes, our canyons and beaches weren’t paved and catching a plane didn’t entail a drive to Barstow? Here’s a sampling of people who are emerging from Southern California’s knotted web of money, PR and cronyism to take a stab at making the future work:

As political director for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, the local AFL-CIO, Fabian Núñez, 33, is a key to mobilizing 750,000 members into pressuring big business and government to “play a more responsible role in making sure that we have a better distribution of wealth.” Toward that end, Núñez scans the horizon for desirable candidates and lobbies legislators.

Núñez was born in San Diego and grew up there and in Tijuana, where his father moved the family of 14 to stretch paychecks from his job as a gardener in La Jolla. Núñez graduated from Pitzer College. He and his wife, a nurse, live with their two children in Claremont.

“You parents work two jobs and yet you open the refrigerator and there’s still nothing to eat,” Núñez told the Times. “There’s something wrong with that.”

Before becoming a union man, Núñez helped organize L.A.’s biggest street demonstration—a protest in 1994 against Prop. 187. He still fights for immigrant rights as president of the board of One Stop Immigration and has close ties to Hermandad Mexicana Nacional and the Central American Refugee Center.

“Unions owe Republican former Gov. Pete Wilson big time,” said the Times. “He galvanized them by trying to restrict their political activities. He then sent their way a new wave of first-time, immigrant, mainly Latino voters—prime targets of union organizers—with his fiery campaigns against illegal immigration.”

During the war with Wilson, Núñez ran the field for Gil Cedillo, the ex-county employees union chief who had first recruited Núñez for union work. The unions had tapped Cedillo to stand up to pro-187 Wilson by mobilizing thousands of newly registered Latino voters for an L.A. state assembly race.

“We find that the same issues that motivate union members also motivate new Latino voters,” said Núñez.

In a nonunion town like L.A., labor still wields political clout because of the relatively large number of unionized public employees, who vote often enough to keep politicians on their toes, and by the absence of a well-organized countervailing force. Referring to the 15-member L.A. City Council, Núñez says: “If the issue is important, we can count [on] eight.”

Núñez’s mission is to form alliances with civil rights, civic, religious and immigrants’ rights groups to turn the corporate world on its head. As Núñez says, “You talk about a minimum wage. How about a maximum wage? Wouldn’t it be nice if we put a cap on what we paid CEOs?”

The following list could be much lengthier, but from our checks with randomly selected high school counselors and other experts, here are a few recommendations for “great” but somewhat lesser-known colleges and universities:

(Harvey Mudd College, Pomona College, Pitzer College and Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. “These are all excellent schools within walking distance of each other. You can’t find a better group,” says Jan Taylor of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va.

Who else made USA Today’s list of lesser-knowns worth noting? St. Mary’s College, a public honors college in St. Mary’s City, Md.; Washington University in St. Louis; Loyola College in Baltimore; Elon College in the town of Elon College, N.C.; Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo.; Western New Mexico University in Silver City; Elmira College in Elmira, N.Y.; and Wheaton College in Norton, Mass.

(And just in case you were wondering, we didn’t leave Claremont McKenna College off the list—USA Today did.—Ed.)
Football Award Honors Mike Aytch

The plaque that greets visitors to the Sagehens’ football-team locker room is not an ornate piece of work. The honor that it brings is not a prestigious scholarship or a lucrative cash award.

In the eyes of its creators, the Mike Aytch Award has a deeper meaning. It honors a former Pomona-Pitzer player who was sidelined by a crippling car accident halfway through his sophomore year. The award honors a current player who demonstrates its namesake’s courage, determination and commitment to making the most of what you have.

The first Mike Aytch Award was presented this fall to Pitzer junior Jake Reid, an inside linebacker praised as one of the Sagehens’ strongest players.

Aytch, 39, attended the awards ceremony on campus in November with John J. Wyatt ’82, the friend who persuaded him to transfer to Pitzer and to join the Sagehen football team in the first place.

For Wyatt, it was the first time he’d been back to Pitzer since graduation. For Aytch, the event showed the power of a friendship made even stronger by tragedy.

“The memories of when I was in Claremont all came up—all the old friendships I had and the old stories of things that happened during my years here,” Aytch said. “I wished I hadn’t stayed away so long.”

“It was a blast,” Wyatt added.

To understand the painful road to Aytch and Wyatt’s 18-year return, one must know of the accident that started—and ended—everything. On Dec. 21, 1981, Aytch, Wyatt and a third Pitzer student, Bob Diaz, were driving home from Pitzer College in a lashing winter storm.

Wyatt and Aytch had known each other since they were counselors at a day camp in New York City. After high school, Aytch went to South Carolina State University and Wyatt came to Pitzer. When Wyatt learned his friend was dissatisfied with his choice, he convinced him to transfer to Pitzer.

During their cross-country trek, the three students took turns driving in their old station wagon, with one of them dozing in the back seat. At around 1 a.m., the car rounded a blind curve near Grove City, Pa., and suddenly came upon a big rig that was jack-knifed across the road. Diaz, who was driving, hit the brakes. The tires screeched on the slick asphalt, but it was too late. The station wagon slammed full force into the truck.

“Our driver had no time to react, but he did react,” Wyatt said. “Instead of taking the truck head-on, where it would have taken off the roof [of the station wagon], he swerved the car into the back wheels of the truck.”

The impact threw Aytch, who was sleeping in the back seat, against the front seat-backs, snapping his spinal cord.

Diaz did not return to Pitzer. Wyatt sustained a broken femur and Aytch found himself a quadriplegic, struggling to regain the use of limbs that he had always taken for granted.

With patience, determination and years of physical therapy, Aytch eventually regained some of his strength and mobility. He grew strong enough to feed himself, write short letters and use his right hand to mechanically control his wheelchair. He secured a job as a counselor at the Center for Independence for the Disabled of New York.

Throughout those years, Wyatt and Aytch stayed in close contact. Wyatt telephoned Aytch two or three times a week, and Aytch was the best man in Wyatt’s 1997 wedding.

“He was a lot of help after the accident,” Aytch recalled, “as far as treating me as an equal, not treating me differently than I was before my accident—just being a good friend and honest with me. Some people, when they see a person who’s in a wheelchair, act different. I’ve lost a lot of friendships because people didn’t know how to handle speaking to me.”

Last year, former classmate Tom Moore ’82 decided to do something more formal for Aytch, arranging for the football award in his name. When Moore and Wyatt revealed their plans for the award, Aytch was speechless.

“We played ball together and I think since his accident, he’s sort of been the forgotten person,” Moore said. “He had limited contact with the school, with the people that played sports, with the coaching staff. This was one of my ways of saying, ’You’re not forgotten.’”

Aytch and Wyatt traveled to Pitzer for the banquet in November. Both men got a chance to meet Reid, the first recipient of the Aytch award. Football Coach Roger
Caron praised Reid as someone with the quality of a Mike Aytch, “a tough kid who shows up every day and gets the most out of his talent that he can.”

Caron added: “Jake trains as hard as anybody in our program, year-round. He never misses practice.”

As for Aytch and Wyatt, they swore not to stay away from Pitzer for so long again. In fact, they’re planning to return for the homecoming game in Fall 2000. In the meantime, Aytch is undergoing 18 months of electrical-stimulation treatment in his legs to re-train the muscles. This could enable him to take advantage of future medical advances. If not, he says, the work is good for the psyche.

As always, Wyatt is inspired by Aytch’s determination and his positive outlook: “He’s so courageous. If you get to know this man and see what’s inside him, you’ll see his heart and his courage, his not letting his situation hinder him.”

“God must have been watching over me, to have such good people look out for me,” said Aytch, fighting back tears as he spoke of the award and his friendships with Wyatt and Moore. “I’ll give my whole heart to them.” —David Zahniser

**Former Saudi Oil Minister Speaks On Campus**

In an age of instantaneous global communication, developing nations are at risk of being colonized culturally by the West unless they engage in a discourse based on their own cultures, Hisham M. Nazer, former Saudia Arabian minister of petroleum and planning, told a standing-room only audience on campus in September.

“Non-Western intellectuals must not only participate aggressively in this era of power, but must also create a sophisticated discourse based on concepts derived from non-Western cultures,” Nazer told the audience of students, faculty and staff members. “The beauty of our world is mirrored by its cultural diversity. If one universal culture is at all possible, or even desirable, then it must be composed of the best of all cultures.”

Nazer, now an internationally known businessman, writer and educator, delivered his speech, based on his new book, “Power of a Third Kind,” as the Durfee Foundation Distinguished Visiting Fellow.

Nazer observed that the post-Cold War era leaves the field wide open for the West’s view of things to dominate. “If the West, in fact, controls the global electronic technology, controls the processes and the international institutions that manage world affairs, then it stands to reason that the thrust of this stage would be for the West to use its exceptional advantages to establish their political process and assumptions as universal, culturally transcendent frameworks,” he said.

“For 500 years intellectuals in the West have been persuading their constituencies that liberal democracy is the best form of government,” he said. But, he added: “The bipolar rationale that presented democracy as a better way of life than communism, and that relegated the priorities of the rest of the world to secondary position, and that gave the West the exceptionality for action it needed during the struggle, is no longer viable with the abrupt disintegration of the enemy.”

The antidote is for non-Western cultures to find their own voices, he argued. “It would require developing countries to put their own house in order, restructure their systems of education to allow for critical thinking, re-codify their thought to prepare for competing in a non-insular world, and institute out of their own cultures rights that would guarantee human dignity. They must be partners in the New World Order, not just recipients of dictated thought. To do that they should be able, out of the richness of their own

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To the winner, as they say, go the spoils. In this case, the winner (for the past five years) is the Pomona-Pitzer football squad and the spoils is a peace pipe that’s been passed between the Sagehens and the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Stags since the teams separated in 1959. Also stowed in the Sagehen trophy case the last five years is the drum passed by arch-rivals Pomona-Pitzer and Occidental since 1889. Shown here with the pipe, from left, are four powerhouse players from the 1999 senior line: Mike Neron, Willie Lenzner, Roger Ollono (Pomona), Jace Withy-Allen and Creed Pettit.
Nazer, chairman of the Nazer Group of Companies, based in his home city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, has been active in the development of higher education in Saudi Arabia and abroad, and has served on the boards of many Saudi universities. He joined Pitzer’s Board of Trustees in 1997. Nazer also is a life member of the Chancellor’s Associates at UCLA, and sits on the Board of International Advisors at Columbia University. Additionally, he is a Councillor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

His distinguished 38-year career in public service included tenure as the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources in Saudi Arabia from 1986 to 1995. During that time, he was instrumental in the creation of Saudi Aramco, the Saudi-American oil company that is the largest energy concern in the world, and served as its first Board Chairman. Previously, starting as a minister under King Faisal, Nazer was a driving force in the economic development of Saudi Arabia. Before that, he was a key player in the creation of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC.

As head of the Nazer Group, Nazer works closely with his family as they participate in the growth opportunities of Saudi Arabia’s private sector. With time now for reflection and study, Nazer has also taken on the long-dreamed challenge of putting his ideas and experience into books and articles for publication throughout the world. Known for his elegant and provocative speaking, he has also continued to address groups throughout the Middle East and the West.

The Durfee Foundation is named in honor of the late Dorothy Durfee Avery who, with her husband, the late R. Stanton Avery, established it in 1960. Since that time, the foundation has awarded more than $13 million in grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, history and community development, primarily in Southern California.

Participant Goes Digital

First a national award and now this! In November, the award-winning Pitzer College Participant became the first college magazine in Claremont to enter the digital age. The fall 1999 edition is now available in Portable Document Format (PDF) on Pitzer’s recently re-designed web site at www.pitzer.edu/news/events/participant/participant.html. The spring issue will join it there in the next few weeks.

You know those Gap TV commercials that were in heavy rotation last fall: “Everybody in leather,” “Everybody in vests?” The catchy music was mixed by a Pitzer alumnus.

Record producer Mike Simpson ’86 and partner, John King (CMC ’86), who are collectively known as the Dust Brothers, mixed the music for the three commercials, which feature 30-second snippets of Depeche Mode’s “Just Can’t Get Enough,” Madonna’s “Dress You Up” and Donovan’s “Mellow Yellow,” according to a story in the Sept. 10 issue of Entertainment Weekly.

Simpson and King, who have produced records for acts as diverse as Beck and Hanson as well as a cut for the soundtrack of “The X-Files” movie, initially wanted to star in a Gap commercial. “I really loved the LL Cool J and Run-DMC ones; I wanted to do something like that,” Simpson told Entertainment Weekly. “They finally called us and said, ‘You can’t be in a commercial, but we’d love to have you do the music.’”

Why the odd selection of music to sell the Gap’s McClothing? “It had to be songs that were in people’s consciousness,” commercial director Pedro Romhanyi told the magazine. “It would’ve been really obvious to do ‘Born to be Wild,’ but it’s hard to sing that.”

The Pitzer-Gap connection doesn’t end with Simpson. One of the featured actors is
L.A.-based singer Alex Greenwald, 19, lead singer of the band Phantom Planet. A onetime Pitzer student, he’s the spiky-haired head bop guy in the vests ad, Entertainment Weekly reports.

Pitzer Tops List of Gay Friendly Campuses

Pitzer College ranked No. 1 among national colleges in its acceptance of the gay community, according to surveys conducted by The Princeton Review and just published in the 2000 edition of the review’s guidebook, “The Best 331 Colleges.”

According to the annually updated guidebook, which is based on a survey of 59,000 college students, Pitzer surpassed all other colleges in its environment for gays and lesbians. The ranking means that “your students think that people are treated equally, regardless of their sexual orientation; not only students, but also faculty and administrators as well,” said Jeanne Krier, publicist for Random House/Princeton Review books in New York, which publishes the guide.

It was a distinction noted by the press. Bay Windows, a New-England-based weekly newspaper for the gay community, published a story reporting that Pitzer was “the nation’s top-ranked college for having a gay-friendly campus.” Bay Windows also reported that fewer than 10 percent of the nation’s colleges made it into the guidebook’s top 20 listings.

The gay ranking is one of 60 lists in the guidebook covering areas from academics to extracurricular activity to campus life.

Pitzer College also ranked high on other prestigious lists in the guidebook: No. 2 among colleges in the degree to which professors make themselves accessible; No. 2 among colleges in which students from different races and classes interact; No. 5 among colleges in which students are politically active; No. 6 among colleges with good town and gown relations; and No. 7 among colleges in which students say they are happy.

New Parents Day Brings Mom and Dad to Pitzer

New Parents Day brought more than 75 parents of first-year students to campus in October, where they got a taste of the experience their sons and daughters are getting at Pitzer College. The parents were welcomed by President Marilyn Chapin Massey and Bill Baker, co-chair of the Pitzer Parents Association whose daughter, Rachael, is a member of the class of 2001.

“Pitzer prides itself on enrolling a representative student body—students who will emerge as leaders for a wide spectrum of this country’s diverse citizenry,” Massey told the parents. “And we have a responsibility to ensure that your sons and daughters receive an education that will be meaningful to them, allow them to explore themselves and their world, and to prepare them to take their place in society, to make a difference. These are responsibilities I assure you we take to our hearts.”

During the day, parents attended faculty and student presentations. Professor Ann Stromberg talked about “Adventures in Teaching and Learning Sociology: Los Angeles and San Jose, Costa Rica.” Professor Paul Faulstich talked about “Building Community through Environmental Education.” Dean of Faculty Martha Crunkleton spoke on Pitzer’s unique academic environment.

After lunch in the dining hall, parents were invited to hear about Pitzer’s external studies programs. They also had a chance to tour the Bernard Field Station or to join Doug Anderson for a writing workshop. The afternoon concluded with “Groove at the Grove,” a community-wide reception featuring jazz by Andrew Beetley-Hagler ’02 and his band of students.

New Parents Day was one of several events for parents this year. In February, Pitzer, Pomona and Scripps colleges hosted a Family Weekend.

“Our burden as leaders of churches and universities...is to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed until there is justice in the land,” The Rev. Jesse Jackson told a crowd gathered to hear him speak on the mounds in early October. Jackson spoke at Pitzer by invitation of the Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies and the Irvin Landrum Jr. Justice Organizing Committee. Landrum, 22, was shot and killed by police during a routine traffic stop in Claremont last January. “We must stop the violence or be stopped by violence,” Jackson said.
Needy Kids Get “Shoes That Fit”

For the third straight year, students and staff of Pitzer’s Early Academic Outreach Program helped the College community help needy kids through the “Shoes That Fit” program, which collected clothing and other items for distribution to local schools in December.

“It’s a really good opportunity to help someone in need,” said Alicia Hernandez, the Pitzer junior who coordinated the program this year. Hernandez, a sociology and environmental studies major from Pitzer, Mason served as media spokesperson for the Pitzer Participant in 1998. She has presented workshops on media relations and web management for CASE and helped establish the Public Relations Association of Southern California Colleges in 1983. Mason has worked in academic public relations since 1978, holding positions at the University of Redlands, Whittier College, Rio Hondo Community College and Santa Ana College.

External Relations Broadens Possibilities

That’s external relations, not external studies. Pitzer now has two offices bearing “external” in their titles. The office familiar to us is the Office of External Studies, which since 1989 has coordinated study-abroad programs around the world. We now can add a new term to the College’s administrative organizational structure: the Office of External Relations.

For Thomas Manley, Pitzer’s new vice president of external relations, the goal of his office’s fund-raising initiatives are clear, even if the title still confuses some.

“Our mission is to establish strong relations with a broad spectrum of foundations and to form advisory boards of distinguished citizens to aid Pitzer in sustaining—and reinventing, in useful, meaningful ways—Pitzer’s delivery of learning,” said Manley.

To fulfill its mission, external relations is developing new systems to collect knowledge about foundations and grant opportunities. It is also working with faculty and trustees to develop fund-raising opportunities that are coordinated with the College’s needs and initiatives.
the commitment and support of external organizations will be furthered by establishing volunteer advisory boards for two of Pitzer’s centers, the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues (CCCSI) [see feature, this issue] and the Center for Intercultural and Language Education.

Manley previously served as Pitzer’s associate vice president for international and special programs and director of the Center for Intercultural and Language Education. Since 1991, he has been instrumental in securing more than $2 million in grants from foundations and other organizations to fund academic programs at Pitzer. He began his full-time association with Pitzer in 1981 as an ESL (English as a second language) and political science instructor, and has served as director of Japanese programs and director of external studies and special programs. Recognized nationally as a leading innovator in international and intercultural programming, Manley holds a master’s degree in Asian studies from Claremont Graduate University, where he is completing a doctorate in education. He holds a bachelor’s degree in history and education from Towson State University in Baltimore, Md.

Manley is joined by Cassandra Meagher, assistant director of Foundation Relations, and Nadine Francis, administrative director of External Relations.

Meagher came to Pitzer in late 1999 from Caltech, where she served as the principal writer and editor for the Administrative Process Engineering Project. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and English and a master’s degree in English from UCLA.

Nadine Francis, a Scripps College graduate, joined Pitzer in 1993 as on-site coordinator for the College’s field study program in Harare, Zimbabwe. She returned to campus in 1996 as a regional coordinator for Pitzer’s study abroad programs in Turkey, Italy, Venezuela and Ecuador.

Poetry

cynical moment

By Annie Carbajal Rosen ’02

Driving home
East from Pasadena,

we passed the Baby Vats.

Giant cauldrons
brewing

in their massive bellies
the shunt of curfew
and of legs
locked together
at the knee

Miller
trumpeted on neon spears

to my eyes
slipping in my nostrils
the heavy smell of hops

falls down my throat
into my blood
and brain.

Driving home
East from Pasadena,
in the shadow of the Baby Vats

I dreamt the muddy conception
of a generation

the seeds
sown
on sticky vinyl backseats
the clutch and thrust
of Thursday nights
millions of them
spent sucking Baby Vat Tonic
and
vomiting from the motion of boy riding girl.

sneak home
wipe down thighs and backseats
Junior and Little Suzy
Sleep.

Restlessly,
tumbling with gestation
of the Baby Vat Minions.

Driving home,
East from Pasadena.

we passed the Baby Vats.

An international-intercultural studies major, Rosen was born in Kaysville, Utah, and grew up in Seattle.
Faculty Notes

As deputy director of the European Union Center of California, NICEL BOYLE (political studies) is co-organizing (with David Lloyd of the Scripps College Humanities Institute) “In Migration: Immigrants, Racism and Public Policy in Europe and California,” a major conference to be held in Claremont March 30 to April 1. The conference will bring together scholars, policy-makers and activists from various European Union nations and California. Those attending will include Cem Ozdemir, the only ethnic Turkish member of the German Bundestag; Aly Baba Faye, a legendary leader of African immigrants in Italy; Antonia Hernandez, president of the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund; and Dolores Huerta of the United Farm Workers.

CAROL BRANDT (English for international students) was invited by Matsuyama Shinonome College in Ehime, Japan, to be the keynote speaker for a three-day conference on international education with Matsuyama faculty in May 1999. Her speech was titled “Intercultural Education and the Development of Critical Literacy.” Each year Matsuyama Shinonome College sends nearly 50 students to Pitzer on “study abroad in reverse” during the summer and early fall. In October, she presented a paper at a conference on teaching English as a Second Language in Seoul.

In June, Brandt and TOM MANLEY (political studies) presented a paper entitled “Community Language Learning” at the 51st annual national conference of the Association of International Educators in Denver. At the same conference, Manley presented a day-long workshop for directors of international education programs called “Study Abroad 101.”

MAYA FEDERMAN (economics) presented her research on how the availability of advanced placement courses varies by the racial composition of a school at a November conference titled “Constituency Building for Public School Reform.” The conference was held at the Ford Foundation in New York.

New and erotic ceramic explorations by DAVID FURMAN (art) are on view this month at the Frumkin/Duval Gallery in Santa Monica, Calif., and the John Natoulias Gallery in Davis, Calif. The Santa Monica exhibition opened Feb. 26 and closes March 25. The Davis show runs March 5 through March 31. Both are solo exhibitions (Furman’s 35th and 36th one-man shows) and pay homage to the teapot as a sculptural form.

Two of Furman’s ceramic sculptures, Real Illusion and Faber/Castell Cups, were recently acquired by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, bringing to five the total number of Furmans now in LACMA’s permanent collection. These works will be included in a major exhibition titled “Defining Moments: Color and Fire,” to be shown at LACMA from June to September before traveling to museums across the country. Furman’s work is featured alongside that of prominent ceramists from 35 countries worldwide in “Contemporary Ceramics,” a new book by Susan Peterson, published by Calman-King in London.

Furman, who recently presented slide lectures at the Oregon College of Art and Craft and the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and Taos, departs Claremont this month for Lima, Peru, where he will work with street kids on a number of ceramic-tile mural projects as a Fulbright Fellow. This is Furman’s third Fulbright Fellowship since coming to Pitzer.

JUDITH V. GRABINER (mathematics) has written the article on mathematics for the Encyclopedia of the Renaissance, published recently in six volumes by Charles Scribner, New York.

LEE MUNROE (anthropology) has written three entries for the new “Encyclopedia of Psychology,” published jointly by the American Psychological Association and Oxford University Press. He also published, with former students Robert Hulefeld, James Rodger, Damon Tomeo and Steven Yamazaki, an article titled “Children’s Aggression in Four Cultures,” in the February issue of the journal Cross-Cultural Research.

DANIEL SEGAL (anthropology and historical studies) presented a paper, “‘Western Civ’ and the Staging of History in American Higher Education,” to the American Studies program at SUNY Stonybrook on Nov. 8 and to the Department of History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, on Nov. 22. On Nov. 20, he participated in a panel discussion titled “The Future of Regional Anthropologies” at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association.
PHIL ZUCKERMAN (sociology) has signed a publishing contract with AltaMira Press for his book, “DuBois on Religion.” Publication is expected this spring.

Macaulay’s No Sumph in Linguistics

Ronald Macaulay, professor of linguistics, took the long way to Pitzer from his native Scotland, through Portugal and Argentina. But he made it, and liked it enough to stay 34 years. “I’m not one of the oldest inhabitants,” he says of his long tenure at the College. “I came in year two.”

Macaulay’s long career as a professor of linguistics, one of the founding faculty members of the linguistics program and former dean of faculty (1980-86) was honored in November when a distinguished group of linguists and scholars convened on campus for a conference in his name. The conference, organized by Carmen Fought, paid tribute to Macaulay’s contributions to the field and addressed issues in his own specialties, which include linguistic theory, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, language and education, and Scottish dialects.

After graduating from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, Macaulay taught English as a foreign language in Portugal from 1955 to 1960 and in Argentina from 1960 to 1964. It was in Argentina that he learned of a teaching position at Pitzer from founding faculty member Valerie Levy, who was an assistant professor of English. She persuaded Macaulay to apply, and he was hired.

Upon arrival in Claremont, “I didn’t really know what to expect,” he says. “I had no idea what a liberal arts college was before I came here. The emphasis on teaching and concern for students was something new to me... It took a little while to adapt.”


“I really liked Pitzer from the start,” he says. “It was the atmosphere, the way the College is horizontally organized, rather than hierarchically... and in those days, of course, all the faculty was new and rank was not important.”

Faculty Books

Women, Family, and Child Care in India: A World in Transition
Susan C. Seymour
Cambridge University Press, 1999

Susan Seymour’s study of a world in transition moves readers beyond the stereotypical image of Indian women as victims of oppressive cultural practices. Organized around a series of illuminating personal encounters taken directly from Seymour’s field notes, the book conveys a sense of the dignity and satisfaction that Indian women experience in their traditional roles. At the same time, Seymour shows how innovations like schooling and delayed marriage are profoundly changing the aspirations and circumstances of contemporary Indian women. Based on a 30-year longitudinal study during which Seymour followed the lives of 132 children from 24 Hindu families, the book examines the socialization of girls and the significance of women’s roles through the life-cycle in a society where the patri-focal extended family is predominant. Seymour’s long-term research makes it possible to examine the impact of recent urbanization and modernization upon groups of contemporary Indian women, whose voices and changing perspectives are captured in a series of intergenerational interviews that imply further change for Indian systems of family and gender.

“Seymour’s work will appeal to students and scholars in a broad range of disciplines, including anthropology, women’s studies and South Asian studies,” writes Stanley Kurtz of Harvard University on the book’s back cover. “The book is an ideal introduction to the texture of women’s lives in a modernizing Third World country.”
Reaching Out

In its first year, Pitzer’s Center for California Cultural and Social Issues highlights the College’s longtime commitment to community service and social responsibility by embarking on projects that blend academic research with hands-on involvement in Inland Empire communities.

By Denise Hamilton

Pitzer College and the Shamrock Cottages are both in Claremont, but that’s about the only similarity between the privileged intellectual enclave and the Cottages, a group home that houses teenage girls in trouble with gangs, crime and prostitution.

Yet each Wednesday night, Pitzer senior Beth Clark visits the tough teenagers of Shamrock Cottages, reading them Sandra Cisneros and Arthur Rimbaud and encouraging their own raw poems about “beer that throws you through a shower glass door” and “lips tracing the rhythm of the conga.”

“It takes a lot to get them to express themselves, and I realize I can’t save all of them, but it’s important just to be there,” says Clark, who conducted a 10-week writing workshop at Shamrock Cottages last fall that was sponsored by Pitzer. “They have absolutely crawled under my skin.”

The feeling is mutual. After the workshop ended, the young women approached Clark and asked her to continue even though her stipend had run out. She agreed, and the experience has been so rewarding she’s thinking of working with troubled teens after graduation.

Beth Clark and Shamrock Cottages were brought together by a novel new entity at Pitzer College called the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues. The Center highlights Pitzer’s longtime commitment to community service, responsible citizenship and applying classroom-learned skills to real-life problems.

But that’s merely the jumping off point. As the Center’s executive director Alan Jones sees it, CCCSI gives Pitzer a chance to develop these ideas in sweeping and yet grassroots ways for the 21st century.

“CCCSI is a natural outspring for us, of connecting the classroom to the community and moving beyond the traditional model of service or research, in which the campus goes out and studies the community under a microscope,” says Jones, a laconic professor who wears shoulder-length blond hair and boots. “We’re working alongside the community to give something back. We ask them what’s needed, then we do research and write grants to get funds.”

In its first year of existence, CCCSI has already embarked on 10 programs that blend academic research with hands-on involvement in the Inland Empire communities of Claremont, Pomona and Ontario. Some of the highlights: College students teaching environmental science to local schoolchildren; Shakespeare readings and performances for disaffected communities; a course called “Anthropology in the Community” showing students how to apply anthropological methods and perspectives to local community projects.

Jones says faculty are very careful to build an education dimension into the program so that students not only get direct experience working with, say, homeless adults, Holocaust survivors or disadvantaged children, but also produce academic projects on those topics.

Most of the programs are directed by professors who oversee students working as
interns or on extracurricular stipends. Often, students incorporate their work as academic research or fold them into larger studies by faculty supervisors. There is also the intangible benefit they receive from making a difference.

“It was a challenge that tore us up and edified us at the same time,” says Doug Anderson, the writing professor who supervised the creative writing workshops put on by Clark and other Pitzer students. “You’re up against a salvation fantasy—who much they don’t want help and how willing they are to hurt themselves. There’s a lot of testing that goes on. But most of them did pretty well.”

One of the most successful grassroots efforts by Pitzer faculty and students has been helping local activists create a Day Laborer Center in Pomona—a city that was initially so hostile to the plight of day laborers that it passed an ordinance making it illegal to stand on a streetcorner and wait for work.

Sociology and Chicano Studies Professor Jose Calderón, who has strong ties to the region’s Latino leaders, was among those who packed Pomona City Hall two years ago to protest the law and ask the city for help in creating a facility where workers could gather and be assured fair wages.

The city eventually provided $50,000 in start-up money and Calderón was elected to the Center’s board of directors. Soon up to 100 workers were congregating at the site, with up to 70% of them finding jobs on a daily basis. More than 100 workers have found permanent work through the center.
As part of their research, Calderón and students studied other centers to see what kind of services the Pomona facility could offer to local workers. They also queried the laborers and learned the men wanted information about citizenship and immigration, employment resources, medical clinics and immunization. High on the list was English language instruction.

As a result, several Pitzer students began teaching English-As-a-Second-Language classes at the site last summer thanks to CCCSI grants, showing up at 6 a.m. before the laborers left for their day jobs. One of those was Suzanne Foster, a 21-year-old Pitzer sociology major, who found that her interests in labor organizing, worker and immigrant rights, local community development, Spanish language and education all intersected at the center.

"Basically, everything I've ever been interested in my life meets at this one point," says Foster, who as a result of her experience is now thinking of pursuing a master's degree in community education.

For her, the program "gives a real face to what we're studying and allows us to apply what we've learned. This was the first time I saw the workers' struggles up front. I've become almost defensive when I hear people say that all day laborers are lazy or drunks. They're not. They're working for their families, they send money home, some of them have two and three jobs."

And that is one of the cross-pollinating goals of CCCSI, say its founders.

"Our students are always surprised when they come here and find people working two jobs and still not making it," says Jones. "It really dispels their notion about who's homeless or struggling in America."

CCCSI grew out of a task force that Pitzer put together several years ago to assess the social responsibility component of its educational mission. Eventually, the task force drew up a policy document with recommendations, and Pitzer's president used that report as the blueprint in writing a grant proposal to establish the Center.

Two large foundations recognized merit in Pitzer's proposal and decided to fund it generously last spring. They were the W.M. Keck and the James Irvine foundations, which provided $1 million in funds, allowing the College to begin realizing its ambitious and far-reaching ideas.

"In partnership with elementary and secondary schools, local community groups and other organizations, the Center will support the engagement of our professors and students in the hands-on study of the region's challenges," reads the CCCSI mission statement. "Our goal is to provide knowledge applicable to the region's social and cultural issues in the form of both high-quality longitudinal policy research, as well as innovative visions of constructive change."

After a steering committee selected the initial projects from students and faculty submissions, Pitzer launched CCCSI last summer with a handful of faculty and 12 students. That number has since grown to 30. Yet despite its big plans, CCCSI is still run out of Jones' faculty office for now.

"We're still laying the groundwork, trying to get a set of core projects that the Center can support," Jones explains. "But the funding is enabling us to do a lot of things the College has wanted to do for awhile."

One of those is sending students to conduct research and hands-on work at HOPE House in Ontario, a non-profit organization that provides motel vouchers, food, clothing, social services and referrals to homeless people in the Inland Empire. HOPE House has only three staff members to handle the needs of up to 500 clients and is woefully understaffed, according to executive director Teresa Barreras. Still, Barreras admits that she was skeptical that Pitzer College students could really help.

"I thought, let's see what's going to
happen here. But it turned out really, really good,” Barreras recently conceded.

Some students have written fundraising letters. Others have collected statistics to bolster the need for grants. One Pitzer student is designing a Web site for the facility. Senior Francisco Diaz, a political studies and history major, has done a variety of social service tasks in his months at the facility.

“I didn’t know how a non-profit worked, and I thought it was something I should do,” says Diaz, who grew up on the El Paso-Juarez border and adds that he didn’t realize so many people were poor and homeless in Southern California.

“I read about it in books but this internship has opened my eyes,” Diaz explains. “If it wasn’t for social workers, a lot of people would be left out in the cold. I’m even thinking of going into social work now,” Diaz explains.

Diaz also praises Jones: “He’s really involved and aware, he tries to help as much as possible.”

Across town at an after-school program for homeless children called Hug House, Pitzer students teach little ones to make clay figures and sand candles. They tutor and drill. Most important of all—they freely dispense love.

“Right away, they get my kids to relax, to feel comfortable, that it’s a safe zone,” says Gloria Hernandez, a homeless mother who visited Hug House one recent afternoon with her three children.

“The students are very involved and the kids love them,” adds Jackie Muller, the teacher’s aide at Hug House.

On a sunny December day, Tyrese Crawford, 29, a Pitzer history major, pushed Randye Lynn, age 6, on a swing. Crawford visits three times a week and says she’ll start volunteering when her internship runs out because she’s grown so attached to the kids.

As the little girl squeals and begs Crawford to push her higher, she curls her thin frame into a wide swing and announces “I love coming here, it’s my favorite place, my only comfy place.”

Crawford warns her not to go too high, then says softly, “I know how important little things are, like saying ‘I love you’ or ‘look how beautiful you are.’ Hopefully they can take that away with them.”

And those human connections are crucial to CCCSI’s mission. It’s clear that when Pitzer students reach out to those in surrounding communities, everybody benefits.

“We created this out of nothing,” Jones muses, watching Pitzer students play with the children of Hug House in the fading afternoon sun. “We’re hoping to eventually become the model for how other institutions might do it.”
Regaining Their Center

The office is out at the lonely end of Holt Avenue, far west of downtown Pomona, where the crowded thoroughfare begins to open up—almost like a rural road.

The place is reminiscent in many ways of an earlier time, though not that long ago, when agriculture dominated much of the San Gabriel and Pomona valleys.

On this night, Dec. 17, 1999—the first day of Las Posadas—they are having a party. Pitzer senior Susy Gandara is serving food, a good amount of pollo and frijoles. On the other side of the room, Pitzer juniors Heather Miller and Hector Ramirez are handing out toys—little plastic fighter jets and Legos—to the youngest children.

They are among the volunteer work force at the Day Laborers’ Center, which was established in Pomona a year and a half ago after the city passed an ordinance making it illegal for day laborers to stand on street corners, waiting for bosses to pass by and offer them work.

It’s no great surprise that most of the laborers are Latino males, undocumented, speaking little if any English, and struggling to find enough work to support an entire family back in Mexico. They cross the border looking for the promise of work, a bigger paycheck, a better future. They will do the jobs nobody else seems to want. Work consumes them; it’s their life here in California.

Along with the obvious necessity to get the workers inside, the goals of the center include labor organizing and community building. Volunteers, mainly Pitzer students interested in the larger issues of migrant labor and Mexican culture, do most of the office work. Ideology usually gives sway to practicality, however, for here, real lives are on the line.

Still, acculturation is not a black-and-white issue. The day laborer does not necessarily need to know as much about Southern Californians’ way of life as a normalized or native citizen. But ignorance can be pricey.

Pitzer senior Suzanne Foster, 21, teaches ESL classes at the center twice a week from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Along with language skills, she teaches the men things they need to know to survive in the new world around them.

“It’s a fairly hidden but widely used labor force, rife with abuses,” Foster explains, while sitting in a corner of the community room. She is out of the way of the families who have come for the party. Occasionally, a woman, man or child greets her with a smile; she knows each of their names.

Foster got involved because she was interested in the rights of the undocumented worker. “They’ve worked hard all their lives—it’s hard work, manual labor,” she says. “It’s hard, hard work.” She calls the men, the women, the children, her friends.

“Without the center, these men get used,” remarks Heather Miller, who’s handing out toys. “Consider this: If you’re not legal you think you don’t have rights. But you do. You have rights and you have resources here for you. Latinos are making up a majority here in Southern California. It is a culture we should be proud to have.”

Miller’s main focus at the center, where she’s been volunteering since October, is bringing health education to the men. She should have been on a study-abroad program in Venezuela, but she got amoebic dysentery shortly after arriving in that country—a dose of reality in many ways. Having lost 20 pounds in only one week, her acute parasitic problem gave her personal insight into health issues related to poor populations and the helplessness of not having proper medical treatment.

“A lot of the men here are undocumented and afraid to get help,” says Miller, who is working to bring other volunteers to the center to discuss health care, including mental-health care, issues. “Some are new to the country and don’t know their options. The idea is for me to be the person identified with coordinating medical help so they can come to me, know to come to me. I’d like to develop a centralized system here then get the men into a program with a primary physician.”

The evening is winding down. Two Pitzer women, Yolanda and Prya Diaz, are dancing the Jarabe Tapatio. They are joined by Jose Calderón Jr., the son of Jose Calderón, professor of sociology and Chicano studies at Pitzer. Professor Calderón has been integral in organizing the center and now serves on its board of directors.

The party ends with the traditional Las Posadas act of delivering the nativity figures to a home in the neighborhood. The gesture is repeated for the next nine nights, culminating on Christmas. It is reminiscent of the Holy Family and symbolizes the importance of giving shelter to those in need.—Gary Scott
A Quilt of Many Colors

Pitzer has long been known for the diversity of its course offerings, which opens students eyes by presenting a world view beyond White America. But equally important, say faculty, students and alumni, the College encourages diversity indirectly by the very presence on campus of a multicultural student body and faculty. By Denise Hamilton

Gay Studies is the type of class you’d expect would strike an emotional chord with students as they examine stereotypes and question assumptions. But Research Methodology? That bland, nuts-and-bolts course that so many students slog through?

For Peter Nardi, an openly gay professor at Pitzer, it was after a semester’s worth of research methodology lectures that he received one of the most poignant compliments of his career. It came as a personal letter.

“I just want to thank you for being a role model,” wrote a young man who had just finished Nardi’s class. “You helped me in ways you don’t even know, just by being who you are and living your life.”

The young man added that Nardi had empowered him to feel more comfortable and secure about himself, especially in coming out of the closet. The Pitzer professor thought that remarkable, since he had never discussed his homosexuality with this student and didn’t even know the young man was gay.

Pitzer has long been known for the diversity of its course offerings. But equally important, says Nardi, Pitzer encourages diversity indirectly by the very presence on campus of a multicultural student body and faculty.

“Leading your life in an open, diverse and honest way gives people the insight to do the same,” he concludes.

These days, the buzzword of diversity is on the lips of everyone from corporate bigwigs to nursery school teachers. But Pitzer has a head start on many of these institutions because it incorporated diversity into its framework as far back as its founding.

While the campus—like most in America—has struggled with issues of class and gender and ethnicity—it has, say students, alumni and faculty—made a concerted effort historically to recognize and promote tolerance and diversity.

“There was a healthy amount of class offerings on the topic, even before it became a hip thing, and I realized that Pitzer was ahead of its time. I had a lot of academic opportunities that other places didn’t have,” recalls Matt Davis, a 1991 graduate who now heads the diversity training team at Anderson Consulting in Chicago.

There are other ways to gauge the school’s commitment to diversity and tolerance. Pitzer was just named the most gay- and lesbian-friendly campus in the country by the Princeton Review of Colleges, which Nardi says is consistent with his own experience at the school.

And The Claremont Colleges’ Asian American Studies Program, which was spearheaded by students and faculty from Pitzer and Pomona, is the biggest and most comprehensive offered by any liberal arts college in the entire United States.

The minority experience at Pitzer varies with the individual. Laura Tamashiro, who grew up in Hawaii and attended a high school with only 10 white students, never considered herself a minority until she came to Pitzer. Then all of a sudden, she experienced culture shock. It took an Asian American literature class taught by Pitzer professor Janet
Clarke to make her realize her experience was shared by countless others.

Arriving at Pitzer after growing up in a heavily Latino neighborhood, Pitzer senior Silvia Rodriguez had the opposite experience. On top of that, she was a New Resource student, more than 10 years older than many freshmen, which initially made her feel uncomfortable and out of place.

“I wasn’t there to fool around,” recalls Rodriguez, a Guatemalan immigrant who dropped out of school after the ninth grade because she had to work. “I took education very seriously. I knew it was the only way out.”

With the support of other New Resource students and encouraging professors, Rodriguez put her trepidation aside. She cites sociology and Chicano Studies professor Jose Calderón as a special influence, adding that “I wanted a teacher I could talk to after hours, who could put a name to my face, someone who could mentor me. And all the teachers I’ve had at Pitzer have gone that extra mile.”

Rodriguez says she was especially inspired by a video documentary screened in one of her classes about a Central American schoolgirl in Los Angeles who suffers under Proposition 187. Through the film, Rodriguez relived her own childhood struggle of coming to the United States at 9 and being thrust into an English classroom where she was isolated from peers and teachers and grew alienated from education, which contributed to her leaving school at 14.

“I don’t know what happened to the little girl in the video but I saw a lot of strength in her, I’m sure she’s going to make it,” Rodriguez says, echoing exactly what her professors say about her.

Like Rodriguez, many students and professors recall specific moments at Pitzer that helped place their own personal experiences as minorities within a larger historical and cultural framework. Linus Yamane, a Pitzer economics professor, recalls assigning “The Joy Luck Club” and having students come up to him afterward, excited about a particular passage about mother-daughter relations because they’d had the exact same discussion with their own mothers numerous times.

“They’ve never had the opportunity to read that before, the history they learned in high school is basically about White America,” Yamane says. “So they think, hey it’s just me, or my mother’s just weird,” Yamane says.

Annemarie Lopez, who works at the International House of Pancakes to pay her Pitzer tuition, says Professor Halford Fairchild’s social psychology class and his counseling outside of class made her decide to stay at Pitzer.

“I want you to know that you really had and still have a big influence on my life here at Pitzer,” Lopez wrote to Fairchild. “It takes a lot for a teacher to grab my attention and get me excited about learning, but you did it.”

Ditto for Asia Barr, who studied African-American Psychology and Race and Ethnic Relations under Fairchild and found the discussions “enlightening.” For alumnus Davis, it was Professor Agnes Jackson, who “helped carve a diamond in the rough” and expected so much of him that he was afraid to disappoint her. Julie Flapan ’90, now a diversity trainer for the Anti-Defamation League, recalls Professor Harry Pachon as a great influence.

“So often there’s an emphasis on re-
recruiting professors of color as role models for students of color but it’s important for all of us to question our stereotypes and have people of color as role models,” Flapan says.

Of course, things could always be better. Fairchild rues the fact that Black Studies at Pitzer only has .8 FTE (full-time equivalent) faculty. However, “while our number in black studies may be relatively small...we have four black faculty at Pitzer, and that percentage is probably good in terms of national averages,” he adds.

As for minority students, many go out of their way to encourage other students of color to come to Pitzer. Rodriguez has recommended a student colleague for the New Resource program. Davis worked in the admission office at Pitzer during his years there and attended college fairs to recruit students.

Back then, Davis recalls, “You had to create your own venues for social and extracurricular activities. There was a whole core of us and we spent a lot of time just really hashing through what it meant to be African American at Pitzer.”

But with Pitzer’s blessing, they also took action by starting a 5-college magazine called “Harmony”—the name has since been changed to “Discord.”

“We had to go to all five campuses and make a pitch and a spiel for funding and Pitzer was one of the easier campuses we received funding from, there was never any resistance,” Davis recalls.

Some worry that Pitzer can’t recruit as diverse a student body as it might due to its limitations on financial aid.

“I’d like to see a larger endowment,” Yamane concedes. “Other colleges have endowments large enough to fund generous financial aid packages.”

Even though Pitzer is comparable to other small, private colleges in tuition, “the cost of a Pitzer education is...nearly obscene for those from more modest backgrounds,” Fairchild says, adding that financial issues often loom large for students of color.

Dedication Makes the Difference

The following is excerpted from remarks made by Danielle Smith, a Pitzer junior and president of the Black Student Union, at a Trustee Community Scholars luncheon in November. The Trustee Community Scholarship is awarded to a highly select group of committed and talented entering freshmen. The award of $10,000 per year is renewable for four years. Smith is the daughter of Tommie Smith, the Olympic athlete who shocked the world by raising his fist to signify human equality after winning a gold medal in the 200-meter race at the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City.

“When I first came to Pitzer, I felt overwhelmed and a bit confused as to what I was supposed to do. I knew there were ways for me to get out there and start meeting people and making a difference, I just didn’t know what, where, who, or how. I signed up with the Early Academic Outreach Program, working with elementary school children during their visitations, but I still didn’t feel like I was making enough of a difference. I found out that the Black Student Union, which once thrived on campus, had become inactive. It was then that I realized where I could start to make more of a difference.

“I took it upon myself to change the inactive status of the Pitzer BSU, and with the help of other African Americans on campus, who elected me as president, we revived this organization. Additionally, we were successful in getting the most money this year from Student Senate in the history of the organization, an increase of 500 percent in funding, to do more programming than has ever been done before.

“In addition to working on the level of organization, I felt that it was equally important for me to help other students on a more personal level. Having already learned that in order to satisfy questions, one must seek answers, I found out about the Pitzer mentoring program. I also found out about the Ujima program, which is a mentoring program for incoming students of Pan-African descent. I served my sophomore year as a mentor for both, and am currently a Pitzer mentor and the Ujima head mentor, responsible for running the programming, in addition to maintaining personal relationships with the 15 5-C mentors, as well as the 54 mentees. Now I am feeling overwhelmed for an entirely different reason!

“Throughout all of this responsibility, the one thing that I have and will always continue to have is dedication. Without dedication, nothing can truly be accomplished. In order to have dedication, you have to truly feel connected to that to which you are dedicated. I am not involved in these various activities because I feel obligated, or because I wanted to become popular. I am dedicated to the goal of making sure that everyone feels welcome, everyone feels comfortable, everyone feels like they belong right where they are, no matter where they come from or where society tells them they should be, through suggestive media. People who feel like they belong get involved and try to make a difference. People who feel like they belong become dedicated. It is because of this that I am dedicated to my activities. I am dedicated to helping others become dedicated by observing our dedication, and that is in reference to BSU, and the mentors of both programs. This is all in the hope that people remain dedicated and thus continue to create and maintain a community that nourishes the growth of everyone.” —Danielle Smith ’01
Fairchild has seen students drop out of Pitzer for several semesters to earn tuition money or transfer out altogether to less expensive institutions. Other students are barely scraping by and can’t afford to buy textbooks. On several occasions, Fairchild says, he’s bought books out of his own pocket for struggling students.

Arnaldo Rodriguez, vice president of admission and financial aid at Pitzer, says that students admitted to the college have 100 percent of their financial need met by a package of government grants, Pitzer grants, work study and loans.

While Pitzer kicks in $6 million of its own resources each year for tuition to needy students, Rodriguez agrees that figure could be even higher if the school had a larger endowment. Today, 65 percent of Pitzer students receive financial aid, with average loan indebtedness running $21,000.

“However, in some families, and particularly first generation, the whole idea of borrowing $20,000 for four years to put a son or daughter to college is absolutely appalling,” Rodriguez says. “Students have to overcome this and realize the investment they’re making in their education will serve them well in the future.”

And certainly, Pitzer offers unique opportunities. Calderón, who worked with Cesar Chavez after college, teaches a class in Rural and Urban Social Movements in which he takes students on a weeklong field-trip to the United Farm Workers headquarters in La Paz, where they live and work with farm laborers and meet living giants they have studied such as Helen Chavez (widow of UFW founder Cesar) and Delores Huerta.

“It’s being inclusive of groups that have been historically left out while not ignoring the classics,” Calderón says of his teaching philosophy. “Students learn diversity by learning about history and relating it to their actual lived experience. It leaves an imprint in their memory that lasts a lifetime.”

Occasionally, say professors of color, a white student will question the need for diversity or assert that the professor focuses too much on the subject. Fairchild recalls a white male student who felt that it was racist to emphasize minority concerns in a social psychology class. The student complained and Fairchild ended up showing the dean his syllabus to show that his class was well-rounded.

At the same time, non-black students often come up after class to thank him, saying his courses open their eyes by presenting a world view they had never considered before.

And that’s what Pitzer is all about. “People need to be confronted with the difference in other people to learn tolerance,” says Yamane. “The idea is that you need to learn the histories of other people before you can understand where they’re coming from.”
Poetry

i love her man

By Mary Jaramillo ’02

you be speaking like honey
like kentucky moonshine
like sugar in cream
without the coffee
i got those dimple-boy blues, you
got those winky-shy smirks
i’m gonna bite those lips off your face
you better stop
being so
goddamn beautiful

you be such a sin to covet
gonna pray myself to sleep
tonight
bless me in the bedroom bed
in milky silky noise-makin’ dreams

it’s looky no touchy?
(touchy me here,
touchy you there?)
lead me not into temptation
I can find it myself

Jaramillo has not yet declared a major,
but is interested in media studies and
creative writing. A lot of loan money is
riding on her indecisiveness, says the
resident of Montclair, Calif., who
wishes to set up camp on the moon
sometime.

Poetry

ever after

By Desirée Morales ’02

To tell the truth, Storyville was brutal.
Rapunzel was sick of this too-high tower
so far from grass
she hated endives
and cursed the dark garden
from whence she came

Rapunzel fumbled madly with
concise metal shears
smiling deliciously at lost myth
and fingering her newly-freed scalp

Rapunzel looked like a boy
Rapunzel could sing her way into anyone’s pockets
Rapunzel wouldn’t have a visitor for a very long time
she didn’t regret it—
she could climb out of the tower with her teeth

no more of envy for happy girls
with terse curls
her locks were brief now
and
she
felt
like the soul of wit

Morales is a creative writing major and a member of Poets in Distress, a 25-year-old
SLAM poetry group.
Giving Back

When we talk about diversity, the economic mix of the student body is probably not the first thing that comes to mind. But that’s precisely what Pitzer’s financial aid program strives to promote. Need-based scholarships ensure that the campus community is economically diverse, and that promising students who are willing to apply their talent and energy are able to come to Pitzer, regardless of their ability to pay. By Dave Zahniser

Over the last decade, Pitzer’s annual budget for scholarships has grown from $1.9 million to $5.5 million. Of this amount, $650,000 is supported by donations and endowed funds, while another $4.8 million (87 percent) is paid out of tuition revenue. Pitzer awards need-based scholarships to about 60 percent of its students to the tune of more than $6 million dollars a year. While these figures are compelling, they don’t tell the whole story of what scholarships can do. Simply put, scholarships have the power to open doors, to fuel dreams and to change lives. Below we give you the stories of five lives touched by need-based scholarships.

Elspeth Leech-Black

At a time when most students are fixated on term papers and gearing up for final exams, Pitzer College junior Elspeth Leech-Black is hammering in signs and lighting candles to raise awareness about AIDS.

Leech-Black helps organize the Dec. 1 World AIDS Day candlelight vigil and walk, which sends hundreds of participants across The Claremont Colleges along sidewalks lined with luminarias—candles inside open paper bags—and signs marking major events in the history of HIV.

“I’ll probably be setting up luminarias along the campus and setting up the AIDS timeline,” said the 22-year-old transfer student. “Last year it was raining and quite cold, and we were all out in the warmest clothes people own in Southern California.”

The human-biology major came to Pitzer part way through her college career, transferring from Smith College after deciding she liked Pitzer’s emphasis on social responsibility.

Leech-Black is a member of the Student AIDS Awareness Committee and has volunteered with the nearby Foothill AIDS Project. She hopes to have a career in public health, focusing on the global AIDS crisis.

Originally from Annandale, Va., Leech-Black plays a major role in Pitzer’s hiring decisions by serving as a student member of the Faculty Executive Committee and is active in student life as a resident assistant.

Leech-Black said she was taken with Pitzer from the moment she arrived. Although she had applied to three other of Claremont’s five undergraduate colleges, Pitzer won her over with its welcoming atmosphere and emphasis on community service.

“I ripped up all the other applications,” she said. “I fell in love with Pitzer.”
Akila Ramaswamy

When Pitzer College student Akila Ramaswamy advises a group of incoming freshmen, one of the first things she tells them about is the “Pitzer culture.”

For the 20-year-old junior, that culture is one that respects community service and makes it part of the institution. It is the reason she enrolled and the reason she volunteers each week as a tutor for low-income, low-achieving children.

“For me, the social responsibility aspect is a lot of (the college culture), whether it’s activism or tutoring,” Ramaswamy said. “I think that’s the biggest component of Pitzer.”

Ramaswamy came to Pitzer from Darien, Ill., a suburb southwest of Chicago. She serves as a mentor for first-year students and works with the College’s admission office to arrange on-campus visits for prospective students. Though she is interested in a career in medicine, she majored in psychobiology because she felt the psychology component would broaden her understanding of the human condition.

“You don’t get the full person if you’re just thinking of them as cells,” she said.

From her first year at Pitzer, Ramaswamy has been tutoring at the Vista Valle townhouse complex in neighboring Pomona. Much of her time is spent with Bernice, a fourth-grader who is especially behind in math.

It can be discouraging, she said, to see so many students who have been promoted to another grade level without even a basic grasp of reading or math. But there are rewards, too.

“Because we’re one-on-one, we know what [the students] aren’t really good at, and what they need help in,” said Ramaswamy. “I like the fact that I can be there for that one kid.”

Robert Montenegro

Robert Montenegro’s interest in a career in medicine began when he was a little boy in Boyle Heights, a Mexican neighborhood on the eastside of Los Angeles.

Whenever his Spanish-speaking grandmother fell ill, Robert helped her navigate the English-speaking world of clinics and hospitals. Trips to the doctor were a battle to translate the right words.

This year, the 21-year-old Pitzer senior returned to a medical environment as a student researcher from Pitzer College. His work centered on the effects of monolingualism on the quality of health care.

“Basically, I was working in a hospital observing the interaction between the doctors that didn’t know how to speak Spanish and the patients that didn’t know how to speak English—and observing the dangers that came out of it,” he said. “The patient wouldn’t understand the proper way in which to administer their children’s medicine, or the diagnosis would be incorrect.”

As he finishes his last year at Pitzer, Montenegro hopes to study both medicine and sociology at the graduate level, becoming a general practitioner, yet keeping an eye on public policy. After he finishes his studies, he hopes to return to Boyle Heights and open a family practice.
Montenegro’s research has yielded a $1,000 grant, in addition to the scholarships provided by Pitzer. His work with Pitzer professor Ann Stromberg allowed him to travel to Costa Rica, where he interned in an emergency room over the summer. He also spoke at a sociology conference in Chicago.

“That was really intimidating,” he noted. “But Dr. Stromberg helped me to be sure of myself and just present my paper comfortably. I met a lot of medical sociologists and they encouraged me as well. It was really motivating.”

Alexandra Bout

Simply put, Alexandra “Alex” Bout is not your average student. It’s hard to pinpoint the most impressive thing about the Pitzer College senior: Is it her life-altering decision to return to college at age 48? Her strength in coping with a degenerative eye disease? Or is it her ability to focus on her studies while raising eight children?

“By the time I graduate, I will be 50,” she said. “The second half of my life has yet to begin.”

Relying heavily on scholarships, Bout entered Pitzer College’s New Resources program, which targets students who are married or over the age of 23.

While taking a half-load at Pitzer, the sociology major attends two classes at nearby Mt. San Antonio College and works 15 hours a week at Casa Colina, a local rehabilitative hospital where she is a job coach. A resident of nearby La Verne, Bout specializes in horticultural therapy—gardening as a way of recovering from injury and illness.

“Anyone who’s chronically ill...needs to touch the earth and the green,” she said. “It’s such a healing experience. We’re so used to hitting keyboards and looking at computer screens. We forget to touch a lot of things in this world, so that we don’t forget where we came from.”

Bout suffers from retinitus pigmentosa, which renders her legally blind. She walks with a cane but has enough vision to read a handful of words at a time.

Bout is the mother of eight children, four of whom are still at home. The other four are college-aged and give their mother feedback on her term papers. In fact, Bout enrolled at Pitzer after realizing that one day, all her children will go out on their own.

“I decided there was more to do with my life than just keeping my own little home,” she said.

Domonique Rood

Lesbians, laundered shirts and a little-known protein lie at the heart of Domonique Rood’s senior thesis—a complex project that explores the degree to which scent drives sexual attraction.

Rood, a psychobiology major from Diamond Bar, Calif., will test to see if lesbians are more attracted to women with differing types of the MHC protein, typically secreted through sweat.

The results, said the 21-year-old, may deliver a jarring reminder about love and attraction. “These studies have implications that we’re not attracted to someone for their mind, or because ‘They’re so nice,’” said Rood. “Those things come later. But the initial attraction is scent. Something biological is controlling the things we think of as psychological, like attraction or love.”

Rood will ask 30 lesbians to wear freshly laundered t-shirts for 48 hours, then turn them in. Each member of the group will then be asked to rank a set of shirts on their pleasantness and sexiness. Using blood tests, Rood will determine whether the women were more attracted to women with a different sequence of MHC, or Major Histocompatibility Complex.

The project, said Rood, is modeled after a similar study conducted in Switzerland on heterosexual men and women. The men wore the shirts, and two days later, the women identified the garments whose smells they most liked. Rood said.

“The women would say they smelled like ex-boyfriends, like their current boyfriend, et cetera,” she said.

Rood is preparing the consent forms and looking for inexpensive antibody tests. If nothing else, her work has given her an unusual take on relationships. “Whenever I hear someone say, ‘He’s so nice and that’s why I love him,’ I laugh,” she said. “Because I think, ‘If you didn’t like his scent, you wouldn’t like him so much.’”
Alumni Notes

1968

Betsy Bamford (Cannon Beach, Ore.)
I'm on the planning commission and semi-retired, and best of all, I have a bright and good-humored 2-year-old granddaughter.

Kirsten Gronbjerg (Bloomington, Ind.)
Currently serving as associate dean for academic affairs for the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Roberta J. Kennedy (Sandy, Ore.)
1999 has been a year of great changes for me. After 29 years, Rich and I decided to go our separate ways and I started a new job at Centennial High School. Our kids are all doing great. Brian graduated from Willamette University in 1998, and is working as a financial manager for the city of Sandy. Darcy will graduate this June from Claremont McKenna College and Megan will graduate from Sandy High School. It makes me feel old! I would love to hear from other “old-timers”! My e-mail is robertak@teleport.com.

Louisa Mary Francis Martin
(Mountain Center, Calif.)
I have left teaching after 21 years to focus on painting (watercolors). This year's work is devoted to Native American women from 1880 to 1920, as they were being relocated into reservations. All those life-drawing classes during my Pitzer years are finally part of a new career! My husband, Jack, is building custom doors. Our daughter, Kate, is in high school, and Erin is a sophomore at Scripps. Hoping to hear from old pals!
E-mail: weeziemart@aol.com

Carolyn Reznikoff (Portland, Ore.)
I’m now the parent of a college student. Sasha is going to Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass.

1970

REUNION: April 28-30, 2000
Class Contact: Susan Price, phone: (310) 828-1448; e-mail: Pricewright@earthlink.net

1971

Dorie Giragosian (Bakersfield, Calif.)
Our family moved to Bakersfield six years ago. We live on the Kern River, with horses, dogs, cats and chickens. Katie was born in 1980, and graduated top of her high school class. She has been attending Bates College in Maine for the last two years. Gary works for Grimmway Farms (making those baby carrots seen all over these days). If any alumni get up this way, let us know. If there are any alumni living in the area who want to start up a South Valley Alumni Chapter, give me a call at (661) 399-2282.

1972

Terry Sue Holpert (Tucson, Ariz.)
Terry Sue Holpert, assistant dean for admission at the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona in Tucson, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC). The 18-member board comprises faculty and admissions professionals from the 180 member law schools in the United States and Canada. The board oversees the work of the Law School Admissions Council, which includes the development, scoring and reporting of the Law School Admissions Test, the evaluation of transcripts of all law-school applicants through the Law School Data Assembly Service and research and advocacy regarding law-school admission.

Jeanie R. Wakeland (Walnut Creek, Calif.)
I’ve been working as a reporter for two years for ANG newspapers, which includes the Oakland Tribune and Hayward Daily Review. My husband, Craig Von Bargen (HMC ’73), and I celebrated our 25th anniversary by taking a two-week trip this summer to Alaska. Our son, David, turned 16 in January.

Tom Moore ’82, Eric Rivas ’85, Luis Martinez ’86, Ross Roybal ’89, Dan Daley ’89 and John McGaha ’92 (left to right) were among those who attended a pre-game brunch hosted by President Massey during Homecoming Weekend.
Davetta Williams (Claremont)
I’m a field organizer for the Bill Bradley campaign in Waterloo, Iowa. It’s very exciting!

1973
Olivia Abraham (Philadelphia)
Olivia helped promote a Homelessness Marathon sponsored by the Kensington Welfare Rights Union in January 1999. Broadcast on national radio, the marathon solicited poems, stories and testimonies to educate America about homelessness.

Jill Cooper (Solana Beach, Calif.)
Life 26 years after Pitzer is good. Teaching 6- and 7-year-olds keeps you young! In my spare time, I garden, go to book-club meetings and watch in wonder as our kids, Elizabeth, 17, and Tommy, 15, develop into wonderful people. Karl Rudnick (HMC ’72) and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. Hello to Class of 1973 alumni!

Christie Mercer Platt (Washington)
I am living in Washington with my husband, Roger, and two great kids, Hilary and Benjamin. I am in private practice as a psychologist, specializing in psychoanalysis.

1974
Bob Greenberg (Pomona, Calif.)
I am now working in a new area of law. I work in the asylum arena (good for an ex-psychology major) representing mostly Sikhs from Punjab, India, and Christians from China. It is the most rewarding area of law in which I have worked.

1975
REUNION: April 28-30, 2000
Class Contacts: Davy Rosenzweig, phone: (212) 744-6699; e-mail: dmrosenzweig@
Alumni Careers: Banking on Wall Street

The most compelling lesson that influenced the careers of a handful of Pitzer graduates, who now earn their livelihood in financial services, was learning how to think independently. With college-born confidence to find their own paths each has proved a risk-taker within their vocations, willing to parachute into untrammeled territory. Their daring has paid off, earning them entrée into prestigious institutions, start-up enterprises and high-stakes jobs.

For Rene Benitez, who left his native Philippines for most of the '80s to be educated in the U.S., Pitzer’s tolerance for dissent made a lifelong imprint. From his perspective, “it was unheard of to challenge authority,” said Benitez ’83, an economics undergraduate and later a graduate student at Yale University.

As a writer for the college paper, he recalled frequently hounding former Pitzer president Frank Ellsworth, questioning the administration’s policy positions. In his final year, Benitez quit the paper to organize a senior gift, hoping to instill a gift-giving tradition among classmates. Ellsworth graciously invited Benitez to explain his idea at a Los Angeles Club meeting of the College’s trustees.

It was a potent message: the critic-turned-benefactor gained entry to the inner sanctum.

Today, Benitez is president of Manila’s Amalgamated Investment Bankcorporation, a boutique investment-banking firm that he revived with help from family and friends in 1996. His first post-graduate job was as an economic policy analyst for the World Bank in Washington, D.C. He then became a stockbroker, working for Shearson Lehman, tapping capital fleeing the Philippines’ Marcos regime. Returning home in 1995, he established a foreign stock brokerage for a Singapore bank.

Benitez credits Pitzer with honing his ability to examine a concept’s multiple facets. “In finance, this is called the downside risk,” he said. “At Pitzer, this is called a liberal arts education.”

For David Neubert ’88, an economics major who entered Pitzer solely at the serendipitous suggestion of a friend, college opened a door onto a higher plane. The son of a hotel bellman and receptionist who grew up in Monterey, Calif., Neubert recalls Pitzer as a nurturing place where faculty took their time to explain worldly insights to students.

“I had so many people who worried about me,” said Neubert, recalling professors Lee and the late Ruth Munroe, who opened their home to him after discovering he was living out of a car when his borrowed funds had run dry.

Participating in various student government committees proved a defining experience for Neubert. Among the hard-boiled lessons he learned was that organizations are shaped more by the relationships of players than by the merits of issues. He went on to graduate from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Saddled with $80,000 in student debt in 1990, Neubert chose Wall Street as the quickest pay-back route. He first restructured defaulted developing-country debt at what was then New York’s Chemical Bank, rekindling an interest in Latin America bred as a high school foreign-exchange student in Argentina.

That led to a Latin America stock-trading job at Morgan Stanley, one of Wall Street’s top-tier firms. Last year, at 33, he was put in charge of the firm’s global computer-driven trading and named a managing director, one of the firm’s youngest at the time.

Maureen Lynch ’77, an economics major and a Pitzer trustee, appreciates the College’s lack of orthodoxy for encouraging students to craft their own academic courses, which she sees as a mental exercise in independent thinking.

“That really helped me,” said Lynch, who after graduating first worked as an economic analyst and oil forecaster for Alan Greenspan, then an economic consultant. Her first Wall Street job was in research at the New York Mercantile Exchange. At the time, the commodity exchange was expanding its trading with a never-before-issued contract in energy futures. “There was no model, no old hand; there was nobody to ask,” she said.

Lynch, who went to parochial schools and grew up in Los Angeles, recalled with pride helping organize a still on-going Pitzer festival to mark Comet Kahouteck’s passage.

“It was very much a Pitzer thing to do.”

Now Lynch’s ethereal work is in cyberspace. Last year, she helped develop a private web site for information-hungry customers of Morgan Stanley, where she has worked in research since 1988.

Entering Pitzer in her junior year, Mary M. Miller ’75 initially felt like an “outsider” who didn’t fit within the network of friendships already woven by classmates that started as freshmen.

Her late arrival turned out gilded in the end. Miller, who had a sheltered upbringing in the Bahamas, attending an all-girls prep school and college, pushed away her sense of isolation by forcing herself to turn extrovert.

It’s a character trait that Miller has put to good use over the last five years, when she was among the first women and first foreigners to be appointed managing directors of UBS’s private banking unit. “When I went in ’93, it was unheard of and I had much effort to pave the way, especially as an American woman in a Swiss world,” said Miller, now in London after stints in Zurich, Hong Kong and Singapore. “The diversity of Pitzer has prepared me for living abroad.”

Of singular importance to Miller’s career were Professors Lee and the late Ruth Munroe. Though an application deadline for Capital University Law School in Ohio had long since lapsed, Miller prevailed on the couple to write a recommendation letter. “To
my good fortune, I got in,” Miller said, learning later that many applicants who complied with the deadline were not admitted. “It must have been a very good letter,” she said.

After law school, Miller worked in research on estate and tax issues for a Columbus law firm and as a trust officer for an Atlanta bank. A six-year stint as a management consultant was followed by a brief position with Bankers Trust before Miller joined UBS in 1991.

The adage about the apple never falling far from the tree fits Jeffrey Rollert ‘82—at least up to a point. Scion of Rollert, 40, also makes managing other people’s money his business. But, instead of working for a Wall Street powerhouse in a skyline downtown tower, Rollert is president of ALM Advisors, an institutional money manager in suburban Pasadena. The office is 10 blocks from the 1880 Victorian home Rollert shares with his wife, Kim, a civil engineer.

Rollert said college taught him to stretch for explanations beyond conventional notions. “It was more the professors than the work,” he said. “What was catching was they really liked what they did and passion is transferable.”

Pitzer was Rollert’s first experience outside his native Boston. The openness of its students and faculty was a welcoming contrast to the hierarchical cliques he grew up with. Even after graduation, Rollert never left.

He moved around Los Angeles doing stints in investment banking, as a bond trader, in securities research and later as a political economist for Arthur Laffer, the former Reagan advisor. In 1989, he started managing funds from foundations, pensions and private investors for a private investment advisor with a stagnant $30 million portfolio. Rollert bought out the founder five years ago. The pool now stands at $310 million and Bankers Trust rated one ALM client, San Bernardino’s archdiocese, as the country’s best performing foundation last year.

“Financial investing is managing a large amount of information,” Rollert said. “It’s just like Pitzer. The really good people are very creative, and creativity quickly comes down to the bottom line.” —Andrea Adelson

1976

Victoria (Milestone) Herr (Rapid City, S.D.)

I am a pathologist in Rapid City. I love the Black Hills of South Dakota. I have three wonderful kids, Jeffrey, 14, David, 12, and Rebecca, 9, and one wonderful husband, John, for 17 years. Hello to the ’76 Joint Science Alumni.

Maricela Mitchel (Agoura Hills, Calif.)

I had a son, Kelford Clark, in 1994. He has just begun kindergarten. I have been a full-time mom since his birth with a lot of volunteer responsibilities thrown in. My career prior to going on permanent maternity leave was as an officer in the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles’ office, focusing on major gifts. I worked there for two-and-a-half years. For 10 years prior to that, I worked for the Episcopal Church, nationally and locally; first with the Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief, then for the Bishop of Los Angeles. And, just out of Pitzer, I lived in Africa for almost three years. I resided in Kenya and South Africa, was active in the reconstruction movement in Uganda after Amin was ousted and in anti-Apartheid work for South Africa.

Susan Obrow (Los Angeles)

I have fallen in love and married Ed Jaffe, who I know from junior high school. We lost touch for 30 years until he recognized me at an opening at MOCA in Los Angeles. I have also celebrated my 10th anniversary at the Ahmanson Theatre, where I am the assistant producer.

1977

Elyse Weise (North Hollywood, Calif.)

Hoping my North Hollywood “American Dream” continues into the millennium.

1978

Bob Barry (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

A ceramic sculptor, Bob Barry transformed the lobby of the Central Library in Brooklyn, N.Y. into a rustic Maine retreat reminiscent of the country cabin of his family’s vacations—for an exhibition series, “Stories and Spaces,” presented by the Brooklyn Public Library and Long Island University last fall. During the exhibit, which opened Nov. 6, viewers could sit in an overstuffed chair and read library books lining the shelves or write down their own stories in blank books made especially for the exhibition. Funky yard-sale knick-knacks and hand-altered Polaroid photographs taken on an actual vacation completed the illusion. Two more installations created other unique private worlds that provided a place where individual and communal creativity could dialogue.

Alissa Okuneff Roston (Beverly Hills, Calif.)

Alissa recently was elected to the Beverly Hills Board of Education. She and her husband, Dr. Warren Roston, are the parents of three sons and a daughter.

Sam Russo (Placentia, Calif.)

Keeping busy teaching seven to 10 courses per semester, working in various union activities (as vice-president of El Camino College’s Federation of Teachers), and with four grandchildren (two in Victorville, Calif., and two in Fort Collins, Colo.)—all boys.

Sandra Slotnick (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.)

I am still working on my Ph.D. at Penn State in mass communications. In 1978, I married Ashim Basn (CGS ’78), who is vice-president of academic affairs at Marymount Manhattan College in New York. I run an ashram in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. I am still a “work-in-progress” (i.e., I still need some work), I am writing pretty good poetry in my spare time.

Sylvia Lee-Thompson (Appleton, Wisc.)

I am a director of health and social services with the AIDS Resources Center of Wisconsin, covering a territory of 17 counties in the northeast part of the state. It is challenging work. After an English major at Pitzer in 1978, I received a master’s degree in counseling in 1985 with an emphasis in community agency counseling. I spent about eight years working in domestic violence shelters, three directing a Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, and now five managing services for people living with HIV/AIDS. I am very grateful for my liberal arts education.
and would recommend it to anyone. I learned to think at Pitzer (and at Öberlin, where I spent my first two years of college). I am married (25 years this coming May) and have two sons, the oldest of whom just started college at University of Wisconsin, Madison, in computer engineering. Life is very busy, but I try to take time for plenty of reading, singing and connecting with friends. I remember Ellen Ringer, Harry Senn, Al Wachtel, Barry Sanders and Ann Stromberg especially. Hello, if they are still around.

1979

Eric K. Naeseth (Annapolis, Md.)
I wanted to share with you that I am still working here in the Washington area and enjoy living in Annapolis, Md. I currently am working for the Department of the Army as a civilian intelligence analyst and was promoted to lieutenant colonel, military intelligence, United States Army Reserve, on Sept. 30. As they say, the bottom line up front is that I’m doing well, along with a typical household of wife, two daughters, a dog and two cats. I would have liked to attended the 20th class reunion last April, and had planned on doing so until an unplanned international problem in Kosovo kept me busy for several months (no, I didn’t go there, but it still kept me professionally engaged).

Jeanne Ambruster Sherry (Flagstaff, Ariz.)
I am approaching my three-year anniversary in a biotech start-up called Interleukin Genetics and having great fun. Special thanks to Sadava and Eriksen who taught me many of the “concepts” I use every day—even if the “details” have changed! Our kids are now in high school and junior high school, and just keep on getting better!

Janet Suslick (Sweden)
In June 1999 I ran in the Stockholm Marathon, which is 42.2 kilometers. I am still a journalist in Sweden after all these years. But the future is less predictable now than it was 10, or even five, years ago! Until May I’m the editor-in-chief of the Swedish magazine Levamed Diabetes (“Living with Diabetes”), after that I don’t know what I’ll be doing. I separated from my husband Mats almost two years ago. We sold our house and moved to apartments two blocks away from each other. The boys, Joey, 6, and Danny, 5, live half-time with him and half-time with me. It works as well as is possible in reality!

Linda G. Stone (Houston)
I got married for the very first time to a wonderful man who had also never been married. Preparing for the wedding was an interesting experience. I was mistaken for the mother of the bride!

1980

REUNION: April 28-30, 2000
Class Contact: Stuart Smith, phone: (310) 830-2400, ext. 246; e-mail: ssmith@lacsd.org

Renee Iijima (Honolulu)
Renee has been named the sixth recipient of the prestigious Catharine E. B. Cox Award for Excellence in Visual Arts. Recognized first for her work in photography and more recently for constructions that combine photography and mixed media, Iijima considers personal themes related to family, memory, identity, mortality and heritage. Her work appears regularly in exhibitions in Hawaii in various juried, curated and invitational exhibitions sponsored by museums and organizations such as the Honolulu Academy of Arts, the Contemporary Museum, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and Image Foundation, an organization run by and for Hawaii photographers. She has also exhibited on the mainland, most notably in a 1994 traveling show, “ReViewing Paradise: The Ethnic Response in Contemporary Photography from Hawaii.”
**Cindy Irwin Munson** (Lacey, Wash.)
I’m happy working as a trainer for a company who provides Employee Assistance Programs for short-term mental health counseling for employees of corporations all across the country. I live near Olympia, the capital of Washington, in a new home with my husband and kitty-cat, April.

**1981**

**Joanne Stern** (Redondo Beach, Calif.)
I have been married to Anthony Stern for 13 years. We have two children, Devon and Savannah, who are our best productions to date. Devon, 9, is in fourth grade and Savannah, 4, is in preschool. I am going back to school in the spring to obtain my teaching credential. Alas, career burnout has set in. I am not enamoured by the legal or accounting professions at all. But on a more positive note, my personal life is wonderful. I would love to connect with **Cheri Olsen ’82**.

**1982**

**Susan (Feinberg) Blum** (Sausalito, Calif.)
Mike and I were married this past July. We bought a house in beautiful Sausalito, Calif., where we are raising our Airedale pup, Angus. I’m still working for A & E and am able to do so from my home. Mike is a financial consultant. We are very happy!

**Lana Bobele** (Ramah, N.M.)
I’m living in New Mexico doing my art and gardening.

**Lynda Brewer** (Los Angeles)
I’m very busily involved with relative caregivers in Mothers and Daughters Against Drug Abuse, as well as parenting four of my own grandchildren. I have a total of 16 grandchildren, ages 2 and 19.

**1983**

**Boyd Colt** (Lakewood, Wash.)
Working as the western region sales manager at Heath & Co. Signs Nationwide. I received my MBA in July.

**Julie (O’Hara) Dudziak** (San Diego)
I married Peter Dudziak on Oct. 23. Would love to hear from the old Y-100 gang. My e-mail address is peterandjulie@earthlink.net.

**Jim Gottlieb** (San Diego, Calif.)
I still refuse to grow up, spending much of my time traveling and taking undergraduate classes.

**1984**

**David A. Barrett** (Bethesda, Md.)
I’m practicing law at Latham & Watkins, and with my wife, Maria, just celebrated the birth of our second son, Jack (his brother Conner recently turned 2). My twin brother, **James Barrett**, also is an attorney at Latham & Watkins in D.C., and has two young kids, Thomas and Anna. My sister, **Susan Barrett ’82**, lives in Ellicot City, Md., and is raising two boys, Ben and Sam. I’ve recently communicated (or imbibed) with **Don Swan**, a successful entrepreneur living in Arizona with his wife, **Cindy Swan ’85** and their three kids; **Todd Eachus ’85**, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and father of three boys; and **Borg and Nancy Klein** (both ’83) have two sons and reside in Green Brae, Calif.

**Stephen I. Gassner** (Ontario, Calif.)
I have joined the family law firm of Gassner & Gassner, 100 percent devoted to resolution of family law disputes.

**Dennis Smith** (Long Beach, Calif.)
On Dec. 27 my wife, Leslie, and I hosted some alumni and their families for a gathering. In attendance were Brent Soderholm ’83, Wes ’83 and Laila (Furnea) Stroben, Peter Belardinelli, Chuck Smith, Steve Marsh and myself. Several of our children also attended. Since Chuck Smith lives in Houston, Steve Marsh in Cincinnati and Peter Belardinelli in San Francisco, it was an opportunity for friends who do not have the chance to see each other often to get together. It was a fun evening and we wish more of our Pitzer friends would have been able to join us.

**Chris Yoder** (Pasadena, Calif.)
Have moved from Claremont to Pasadena and finally killing the commute!

**1985**

**REUNION:** April 28-30, 2000

**Class Contact:** **Karen Buttdwicnck**, phone: (510) 525-3232; e-mail: greenbutt@earthlink.net

**Marka Carson** (New York)
In late July I made a radical move, trading the one-room school in the mountains of California for a one-bedroom apartment in the pavement of Manhattan. I’ve just completed my first semester of graduate school, pursuing my Master’s in Elementary Education at Hunter College, part of the CUNY system. It has been like leaving the planet to come here, but it’s wonderful to be in a place of such diversity and incredible arts! My kitty made the move with me, and we’ve settled in with my partner, Joe, a native New Yorker.

**1984: Among those attending an “unofficial” Class of 1984 reunion at the home of Dennis ’84 and Leslie Smith in December were (from left) Laila (Furnea) Stroben (holding Emma), Steve Marsh (holding Cameron and Tori), Dennis Smith (holding Blaire), Chuck Smith (holding Tim and Chad), Wes Stroben (back) and Peter Belardinelli.**
Andrew Smith (Stockton, Calif.)
I recently moved from the Bay Area to Stockton with my wife, Cynthia (Dobbs, PO ’87). We’re both at the University of the Pacific. I’m the associate director of the counseling center, and she’s a professor of English literature. After my great Pitzer experience, I’m really enjoying being back in a college environment!

Kelly (Lingerfeldt) Stille (Sonoma, Calif.)
This past June, I graduated with my Psy.D. degree in psychology. I also have four wonderful sons; a 20-year old step-son, a 3-year-old and 2-year-old twins. I produced a parenting videotape as part of my degree and as a result, I have a grant to develop six more similar videotapes. I will be working part time at the UC Davis Medical Center to complete these additional tapes. To add to all this, my husband sold his shares of his family-owned business and we moved to Sonoma to develop a vineyard and winery.

Kristina Serianni (Corsica, France)
I’ve been living in Corsica for 10 years and love it here on the isle of beauty. We’ve been running an extreme sport business here for seven years, which is going quite strong. Please visit our web site at http://www.altoire.com. I still keep a residence in Switzerland, where I work as a flight attendant for Swissair a couple of months a year. My parents still live in the Southern part of Switzerland. We live on a farm on the west part of Corsica and in the winter, we run a ski area on the island.

1987
Helen Bonnell-Cosner (Ontario, Calif.)
I graduated in June 1999 with a master’s degree in public administration from California State University, San Bernar-dino.

Kendall Cook (San Francisco)
The recent publication [Fall 1999 Alumni Notes] of my “change in sexual status” was certainly news to me, my sweet girlfriend, and my father, who had to double his heart medicine dosage after reading the fall issue of Participant. Yes, I am living in the Bay Area; yes, I am in the olive-oil business; but no, Greg is not my “life partner.” We can all thank Warren Doi (oh, sorry, I forgot that Warren was expelled from Pitzer and is currently the oldest student ever to attend Santa Monica City College) and Kip Lytel (yes, he is still bitter and distraught over losing his only love to Nash Bridges, and is currently trying to sell old and scandal-ous photos of her to the Enquirer) for the prank. If you care to touch base with me after these disturbing revelations, my real e-mail address is kendall@naturalfoodmerchants.com. (Yes, they made up that bogus hotmail account as well.) P.S. I just got back from Kip’s wed-ding in Bangkok. We all had a great time celebrating with Pichai (Teng) Chirathivat ’85 and others. You can see photos at www.hatcreekbrand.com.

Charles Anthony Fracchia Jr. (El Cerrito, Calif.)

Wintehn K.T. Park (Honolulu)
After working for one of the state’s largest law firms for several years, two friends and I opened our own law firm this past September. I would like to hear from any friends and Sagehen teammates.

Karin Labby (Los Angeles)
I am expecting my second child. My first child, Otis, is 2-and-a-half. We live in Los Angeles and still see a lot of Pitzer alumni, including Mark Morrison ’89, who has been staying with us on and off throughout the year when he is in town for work.

Allison J. Brown (East Islip, N.Y.)
After nearly a decade of traveling, I’m now on Long Island, N.Y., living with my partner, Susan, and our son, Peter. It’s sometimes strange here (they say “on” line, not “in” line) but I love the adventure of it! Life is grand and I am daily filled with gratitude and wonder! Peace to all old friends...my door is always open.

Kipley J. Lytel (Santa Monica, Calif.)
After completing my MBA at Claremont Graduate School’s Drucker Management Program, I chose to work in the investment-banking field. My focus is within the high-yield and distressed-securities segment. I work with a regional investment-banking firm headquartered in Beverly Hills. Received my Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) in September of
this year. Still actively in touch with many LA alumni. Send personal e-mail to kjlcapital@mail.com.

Sebastian Matthews (Asheville, N.C.)
I recently completed a book of creative non-fiction, and will be at Pitzer College as a visiting writer this spring.

1988

Doug Calvert (San Diego)
I was married last May to the most delightful and beautiful woman around. We met when we were both sailing down in the British Virgin Islands, where, naturally, we returned for our honeymoon. My wife, Rachel, is working in San Diego right now, and I am actually applying for admission to medical school. Pilgrim came to California for yet another “Dug and Jeff X-Mas Bash”. E-mail me at mangoon@hotmail.com.

Emily (Gist) Ketchen (San Francisco)
In September 1998, following a two-year round-the-world global project for Toshiba, I married Gary Ketchen in Scotland. Kim Zeising and Jill Crowell were bridesmaids. We relocated that year to Austin, Tex., where I worked for Dell Computer Corp. In the fall of 1999, we moved back to...San Francisco, where I am the vice president at Grey Advertising. We are enjoying the Bay Area and would love to hear from any fellow Pitzer grads! E-mail: eketchen@grey.com

Hector Martinez (Upland, Calif.)
Hector, director of college guidance for the Webb Schools in Claremont, was elected in May to serve on the Western Regional Assembly for the National College Board, one of six regional assemblies in the US. Hector was also elected to the board of the Western Regional Assembly sub-committee of the College Scholarship Service Committee. As a member of the scholarship committee, Hector will focus on financial aid programs and services to ensure students nationwide are provided with sufficient financial resources.

Beatrix Pont (Paris)
Just changed jobs a couple of months ago, left my government job in Madrid, Spain, and moved to Paris to do research on education and labor market policies at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Everyone can visit the web site at http://www.oecd.org.

Adam Rosefsky (Kennesaw, Ga.)
I was recently married to a wonderful woman named Linda who I met in Los Angeles. We moved to Atlanta last year and love it...Y’all.

Rick Wiedeman (Dallas)
I have landed a free-lance job as an editor for a mental health book, which should be reviewed in the Library Journal in the spring and published in fall 2000. The working title is “On Jesus, Zen Buddhism and Human Wholeness.” Yes, I know, the title needs work—but it’s a perfect fit for my diverse Pitzer education. On a more traditional note, I have started the MBA program at the University of Texas—that way, maybe I can afford to send my kids to Pitzer, because being a book editor sure isn’t the way.

1989

Colin Epstein (Oakland, Calif.)
I’m still in Berkeley making monsters for Tippett Studios. I can be contacted via e-mail at Colin@tippet.com.

Rick “Cabo” Martinez (Navato, Calif.)
Where do I begin? I feel so out of the loop that a lifetime has passed since I wrote in to Pitzer. My only true connection remains Hector Martinez. E-mail me at cabomed@msn.com.

Jennifer Sledge (St. Louis, Mo.)
I graduated from Washington University with my MSW in 1997 and have been working in research at Barnes-Jewish Hospital here in St. Louis for the past four years. My home is still Claremont, but I’ll be in St. Louis for a little while longer, I can be reached at jas4626@bjcmail.carener.org. I would love to hear from Pitzer alumni!

1990

Michelle Dowd (Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.)
I received a tenure-track position as an assistant professor of English at Chaffey College starting fall 1999. I am so relieved to have some stability in my career.

Anne (Backus) Hutson (Portland, Ore.)
My husband, Tom, and I are celebrating the birth of our son, Grant, born July 29, 1999!

Paula Rebecca Mendiola (Lansing, Mich.)
Becca finished medical school in Des Moines, Iowa. She finished her internship in Grand Rapids, Mich. In 2001, she will finish her residency in general surgery. She is currently a surgical resident.

Michael Stuart Pixley (Mountain View, Calif.)
Stuart and his wife, Tammy, welcomed a son, Benjamin Clay, on Dec. 16, 1999.

Sara (Swierstra) Van Straalen (Pleasant Hill, Calif.)
Sara and her husband, Frank, welcomed daughter, Claire, into the world on June 6, 1999.

Igor Cukovic (Samobor, Croatia)
My love to all long-lost friends. After getting an MBA at NYU in 1994 and working in NYC for the past few years, I have finally decided to move back to Croatia and settle down. In a few months, I will be opening a bar here in Zagreb. Anybody from Pitzer, especially the Green Parrot and the HO-Zone crowd, are more than welcome to stop by/crash. So hit the road. My e-mail is icukovic@yahoo.com.

Evan Margolin (San Francisco)
Just started a new top-secret Internet start-up, taking a break from making video games. Still living in San Francisco, and of course, still salsa dancing (and teaching) all over the Bay Area. Drop me a line at Evan@Margolin.org.

Lisa (Arbon) Blazer (San Diego)
My husband and I had our first child, Keaton, last spring. I’ve “retired” from teaching to be home full time, which I
am loving! I’d love to hear from Pitzer friends and can be contacted at LDBLAZER@aol.com.

Trish Corran (St. Louis, Mo.)
I am getting married on May 28. I practice in the area of school law for a firm in St. Louis. Erin Hendricks is one of my bridesmaids in the upcoming wedding.

Jessica Hurley (San Francisco)
I got a new job as producer, creative development, for Oxygen Media/Thrive Online in San Francisco. My e-mail has changed to jhurley@oxygen.com. A big “hello” to the “Floaties”!

Michael Sturtz (Oakland, Calif.)
I am the director/founder of a rapidly growing collaborative organization called The Crucible in Berkeley. This collaboration is a unique blend of volunteers, instructors, students and members of the local community. The Crucible is a non-profit active educational foundry, metal fabrication shop and sculpture studio that offers hands-on training in the industrial arts. We have had an overwhelming response from local artists and businesses. Most recently, Channel 5’s Evening Magazine did a story on us and we have been written up in the San Francisco Chronicle and the Oakland Tribune. Since our opening in January 1999, we have grown tremendously due to the dedication of our staff and support of the local arts and industrial community. Look us up at www.thecrucible.org.

Jon Vestal (Seattle, Wash.)
Jon and his wife, Yasuyo, welcomed their second child, Tyler, on Sept. 9, 1999. Son Matthew was born Sept. 29, 1997.

Kira Anne Wilson (New York)
Kira married Gordon Roberts Gould ’93 on Sept. 11, 1999 in Sonoma, Calif., at the Annadel Winery.

Alpha Selene Anderson (Fort Collins, Colo.)
I am delighted to report that I just married fellow Pitzer alum Jack Delap on Aug. 28, at my mother’s house in Western Massachusetts. Peter Coleman, Sarah Koenig ’90 and Kristin Miscall (Scripps ’92) were in attendance. We are living in Fort Collins, where Jack is in graduate school in wildlife ecology and I am studying for my dissertation exams and teaching writing. I can be reached at (970) 493-9308.

Monica (Chung) Lammers
(Gypsum, Colo.)
I got married on March 28, 1999. Since then, I’ve relocated from Illinois to Colorado. We are enjoying the mountains. My husband, Jim, and I are both teaching fifth grade in Eagle County, Colo. Living in the Vail Valley is certainly refreshing and eye-opening. We have had quite an experience so far distinguishing between tourists and locals. We are quickly becoming locals on the ski slopes of Vail.

Melinda Rennert (Honolulu)
I’m getting ready to move to Hilo from Honolulu where I bump into Ann Marie Russo ’88 every now and then. I’m in the middle of a master’s program in educational technology at the University of Hawaii. I still work at The Nature Conservancy and just returned from the wedding of Meredith Miller and Sam Chase ’90, which was filled with Pitzer alumni who have cut their hair and worked off that McConnell mac & cheese. Aloha and my e-mail address is melrenn@hotmail.com.

Christopher Schooler (Denver)
I am currently finishing my M.A. degree in landscape architecture at the University of Colorado. I am also working on a grant project investigating mining reclamation, graphic analysis and interventions for reclaiming toxically hazardous waste sites.

1993

Gordon R. Gould (New York)
Gordon married Kira Anne Wilson ’92 on Sept. 11, 1999 in the gardens of the Annadel Winery in Sonoma, Calif.

Daisy J. Lawrence
(Westlake Village, Calif.)
I am the executive director of Club Soda, an organization dedicated to “making Judaism fizz for Teens.”

Amy Skramstad (Minnetonka, Minn.)
I recently moved back to Minneapolis from Austin, Tex., where I completed my M.A. in Latin American studies. It was great to see old Pitzer classmates at the wedding of Andreana Ososki last fall. I’ll be getting married in Minneapolis in June.

Andrew Starbin (Burbank, Calif.)
I am living in Burbank, where I work for a company that restores and re-masters audio tracks for feature films. We have worked on some of the greatest movies of all time, including “Wizard of Oz,” “Gone With the Wind,” “Close Encounters of the Third Kind,” “A Clockwork Orange” and “North by Northwest,” to name a few. It is both fun and challenging, and I am very happy in this field.

Megan (Rose) and David Stolber (Seattle)
Megan and David welcomed their daughter, Samantha Rose Stolber, into the world on Dec. 5, 1999. Samantha weighed in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

1994

Amy Champ (Sutter Creek, Calif.)
Greetings on behalf of my African grandmother, Stella Chiweshe. We are planning a workshop with healers and musicians, in May. And we are still looking for participants. I would like to get the word out on the World Wide Web. Can you help me? Please forward to any female performers and/or healers who might be interested. You have to buy your own plane ticket, and pay a registration fee. The vibe is rising in 2000, I am sure of it! We are looking for 100 women from around the world. Donations greatly appreciated. Mucho amour and hope for our future, from your hostess for this uniquely down-to-earth millennial gathering, Amy Champ. Note: Several men have mentioned to me their interest in the festival, do please keep in touch with us because your ideas are certainly welcome. E-mail: Womens_voices@yahoo.com

Jack Hill Jr. (Alhambra, Calif.)
I am currently a graduate student at Cal State Los Angeles within the film and television program. After graduation I hope to return to the entertainment industry.

1995

REUNION: April 28-30, 2000
Class Contacts: Jennifer VanLiew Garcia and Marc Garcia, phone: (623) 587-9188; e-mail: mgarcia@phxcvb.org
Brett Bartman (Los Angeles)
I was married in November 1999. Living and working in Los Angeles for the Westfield Corp., which is the third-biggest shopping center developer in the world.

1996

Peter Hunken (Goleta, Calif.)
For the past two-and-a-half years, I’ve been living in Santa Barbara, Calif., where I began my own business as a photographer specializing in the wine and food business. I would love to hear from other alums. I can be reached at vinumimage@aol.com.

Nicole Lamphere (Chicago)
I’m getting married in March to Mathew Hohmann, who is from the Chicago area. He is working in the integrative medicine field and working towards a master’s in oriental medicine (one-and-a-half years to go). I wonder if there are other grads out there that are in alternative/integrative medicine?

Rob Thornhill (Nashville, Tenn.)
Rob Thornhill moved to Nashville from New York in August to seek his fortune in country music—not by singing and playing guitar, but by mining cyberspace. He is hoping to strike it rich on the Internet by targeting buyers of country music with a web site that allows visitors to see videos and listen to music. With his new company, cNashville, Thornhill joins a group of Nashville companies racing to stake their claim in electronic commerce. The former Internet marketing consultant is working to convince venture capitalists in New York to seed his new company.

1997

Tiffany Lopez Powell (Phoenix)
Chris Huisman (PO ‘97) and I got engaged in December. We plan to be married in early 2001.

Aaron Rhodes (Oakland, Calif.)
Loving the Bay Area. I’m singing with an a cappella group “jasonskares.” Working in film and television with a splash of web.... Life’s just getting interesting!

Multimedia Mission

Singer/actress Kate Peters ’74 has set out on a unique mission as a performer: to help humanize technology by sharing songs and stories through state-of-the-art multimedia tools.

A few years ago, Peters and her husband, Doug Simao, president of the consulting firm, Data Into Action, began to consider how their two fields—information technology and musical performance—could enhance one another. They asked themselves, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful to show how technology can bring us together rather than tear us apart?”

The result is “Sojourn,” a CD with enhanced CD-ROM that gives the audience not just a musical work but also transports them into an artist’s world. Released early in 1999, the CD features nine songs, from composers as diverse as Joni Mitchell and Johnny Mercer.

Entering the CD-ROM portion of “Sojourn” through a computer, viewers/listeners are ushered into a stylized house full of virtual rooms. Four downstairs rooms represent elements of Peters’ life and work: The story room contains journal entries and photos from her life and a link to her web site: www.katepeters.com; the theater contains stories and photos of her performing career; the education room is all about Team Cabaret, the program of self-discovery and performance that Peters conducts through local high schools; and “The Sandbox,” named for the performance venue where she holds some of her classes and shows, and contains video clips of performances and of the in-studio recording of the CD.

Also in the virtual house are nine upstairs rooms, each representing one of the songs on the album and featuring graphics, video clips, production notes and credits, and the songs’ lyrics.

Peters also created a live show, “Sojourn: A Concert for a New Age,” which she performed in the summer of 1999 at the Orange County Performing Arts Center and the Cinegrill in Hollywood. Like her CD/CD-ROM, Peters’ live show used multimedia technology in the service of music, storytelling, and connecting with the audience.

Peters’ zest for innovative was fostered by her education at Pitzer College. Arriving at Pitzer in the early ‘70s, she says was attracted to the school’s non-traditional spirit. “Going to Pitzer was one of the best things I’ve ever done. Pitzer helped me learn to think on my own,” she says. She received her degree in psychology, but also took an abundance of music courses on all of The Claremont Colleges’ campuses. She received her master’s degree in music from Cal State Fullerton and in the years that followed, had a family (she and Simao have four children), began teaching voice lessons privately and through universities, and performed whenever she could.

“My basic belief is that if I tell you my story, I’ll open you to your own story, which in turn reminds us all of our common humanity.” At her web site, visitors are invited to contribute their stories, with an emphasis on how technology has helped them to make personal connections.

By exploring her virtual world through her CD, CD-ROM, and web site, users have the opportunity to hear Kate Peters’ music as well as learn about her passions, her spirit, and her life’s stories. It’s a multimedia experience that she imagines we’ll be seeing more of in the near future.

But as technology continues to move full speed ahead, Peters encourages us to “remember that we’re human and that we can make technology work FOR us. Technology adds magic to a performance—and it can also do that for our lives.”

—Dora Dalton ’96
1998

Justin S. Anderson (Seattle)
I'm working for the City of Seattle Endangered Species Act team as a policy research assistant, working to save Chinook salmon—it's the perfect blend of politics and environmental policy. I'm also living (it up?) with Paul Abodeely '97, who has been studying Arabic like crazy as he is taking off to the Middle East for a year or so in a couple of weeks. As for myself, Liza and I are planning on going east in late June to hang out in Shanghai with Justin Gale and do some budget travel in Southeast Asia for the summer. But recently we've been struggling with trying to write the perfect law school personal statements. It was great to bump into a few Pitzer students during the WTO. My many thanks and hellos to Dana Ward.
Drop me e-mail if you are going to be passing through: justinanderson@email.com.

Mitchel Brim (Encino, Calif.)
Mitchel recently began his studies at Southwestern University School of Law. He is enrolled in the law school's day program, a three-year course of study leading to the Juris Doctor degree.

Katherine Carlsmith (Pasadena, Calif.)
I'm alive and kicking in Pasadena. I'm doing biorsearch at Caltech before going back for more school. I'm getting used to life on the outside! Say “hi” to me at scigirl@email.com.

Jordana Chernow (Los Angeles)
Jordana is currently on her Rotary Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She is studying international environmental public policy. After graduating from Pitzer, Jordana worked as the regional director at the National Federation of Temple Youth, southwest region from September 1998 to June 1999. Jordana led a National Federation of Temple Youth trip to Israel in the summer of 1999. She and her family will be honored by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) at the Fund for Reform Judaism event in the spring. As part of the UAHC tribute, the Chernow family will be honored for their groundbreaking work in outreach.

Courtney Crumley and Alisa Ruby (Topanga, Calif.)
Courtney and Alisa just moved to 10 idyllic and majestic acres in Topanga Canyon near Malibu, complete with waterfalls, creek and fruit trees. Many a Pitzer party will be happening, so be sure to let us know of your whereabouts.

Brynn Kanter (Scottsdale, Ariz.)
Starting law school in fall 2000.

Britta Lindvall (San Francisco)
I recently moved to San Francisco and said “yes” to my best friend and love of my life, Andrew Borene. We are planning the wedding for the summer of 2001. Please keep in touch! E-mail: b_lindvall@yahoo.com

Jon David Settell (Liepaja, Latvia)
I am working as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Latvia and would love to hear from old Pitzer friends! Send e-mail to jsettell@hotmail.com.

1999

Isabelle Ambrose (Bloomington, Ind.)
I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in education policy at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Stephanie Fox (Long Beach, Calif.)
I am currently attending USC graduate school in order to receive my master’s degree in clinical social work. I am also doing psychotherapy with domestic-violence victims.

Monica Nutty (Philadelphia)
I am attending the University of the Arts multimedia program.

Sanjay Unni (Helena, Ark.)
I hope y'all are doing well and if anyone is in the Mississippi Delta, please look me up. My e-mail address is unniSanjay@hotmail.com.

Kate Ware (San Francisco)
Currently attending UC Hastings College of Law.

In Memoriam

Peggy Stamps Bonkowski ’69 (Oxford, Ga.)
Margaret Evalyn “Peggy” Stamps Bonkowski, 51, died peacefully Aug. 5, 1999, of ovarian cancer. Peggy grew up in New York and California, but considered Oxford her second home because she regularly came with her brothers to visit her grandparents, Dr. Robert M. Paty and Katherine Paty of Oxford. Peggy met her husband Steve HMC ’67 while attending Pitzer. She did graduate work in education, and after teaching all the elementary grades, settled in as kindergarten teacher for many years in the Placentia Unified School District in Yorba Linda, Calif. She was selected to pioneer mainstreaming in California, being the first to have a Downs Syndrome child in...
her class, and later pioneered in how to absorb multi-language, multi-ethnic children in the kindergarten experience. For this work she received an honorary service award in 1993 and special education awards in 1992, 1993 and 1994 for her “dedication and timeless energy to educating students with special needs in the general education classroom.”

Joan Wu ’99 (Taiwan)
Born in Taiwan on March 7, 1975, Joan died in a car accident in Irvine, Calif., on Dec. 1, 1999. Joan and her twin sister, Phoebe, who graduated from Pitzer in February, came to the U.S. from Taiwan to pursue their undergraduate studies. Joan first came to Pitzer as a PACE student to study English, but liked the College so well that she stayed on to study sociology. She had planned to pursue a master’s degree in education and start her own school. While a student, Joan was active in the Doorways to Asia Program, which brought students from public schools in low-income neighborhoods to Pitzer for video-conferences with students in China. “Joan was a talented teaching assistant for the program and helped many a young American student learn to write in Chinese characters, pronounce their first words in Chinese and learn about Chinese culture,” said Carol Brandt, vice president for international and special programs at Pitzer. Joan’s parents, Chung Hsian Wu and Chiu Chu Wu, attended her graduation last May.

Chapter Updates

Bay Area
In January, more than 20 alumni reconnected at the Autumn Moon Cafe in Oakland to hear sociology professor Peter Nardi talk about his research and new book, “Gay Men’s Friendships.” In November, some 30 alums gathered at the Thirsty Bear Brewing Company in San Francisco for tapas, beverages and networking. Through the efforts of Kristin Kasper ’91 and Zander Sprague ’91, chapter co-chairs, more happy-hour alumni events are planned in the Bay Area this spring. The next scheduled Bay Area event is on Saturday, March 25, at Stanford University’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Phillippe Cohen ’75, who directs the preserve, will provide a special tour and presentation for Pitzer alumni.

New England
More than 20 alumni, ranging in class years from ’68 to ’99, turned out to enjoy gorgeous weather and great camaraderie at a backyard picnic at the home of Carol ’73 and Chris Davis in South Hamilton, Mass., in late September. In November, nearly 30 alumni and parents gathered at the Brookline, Mass., home of current parents Howard and Susan Levin to hear the latest Pitzer news from President Massey.
Chicago

In December, area alumni joined Professor Emeritus Allen Greenberger for a discussion titled “Whose Millennium is it?” at Chicago’s Pagoda Red. They later enjoyed the Pagoda’s unique Chinese, Tibetan and Southeast Asian antiquities.

North Los Angeles/Ventura County

Chapter meetings were held the first Thursday of the month at the Sagebrush Cantina in Calabasas. The regulars were joined by former classmates from the other Claremont Colleges for an informal happy hour.

San Diego

On Oct. 16, San Diego alumni and parents gathered at Pacific Beach to view “My Best Friend’s Wedding” right on the sand!

West Los Angeles

The West LA chapter held its kick-off event on Nov. 3 at Cava Restaurant on Beverly Boulevard. More than 50 alums reconnected, learned more about the new chapter and heard the latest Pitzer news from President Massey. Ari Bass ’91, Michael Colby ’80, Matt Karatz ’94, Stacie Carroll ’76, Julie Flapan ’90, Eileen Neuwirth ’98, David Strauss ’90, Jessica Clements ’95, Deborah Kallack ’78 and Ella Pennington ’81 comprised the organizing committee.

New York: Kate Post ’95, Singleton Cox ’94, Tom Moore ’82, John Wyatt ’82 and David Neubert ’88 were among the members of the New York chapter who met with Pitzer alumni director Greg Saks (not pictured) and alumni fund director Susanne Faulstich ’81 (third from right) at Neubert’s home in November.
In My Own Words  While at Pitzer, David Straus ’90 founded “Without a Box,” the five-college improvisational troupe. Upon graduation, Straus, a political philosophy major, received a Fulbright Fellowship to study political changes in Hungary. He later worked on the national advance team for Bill Clinton’s presidential campaign and served as assistant advance director for Diane Feinstein’s California gubernatorial race. In 1992, he entered the MFA directing program at UCLA. He has since founded a production company that has produced four feature films and a dozen short films. Straus, who lives in Los Angeles, was invited to speak to the freshman class last fall. The following is excerpted from that talk  I have three things I wish to convey: 1) Never forget where you came from and always search for the history of where you are, because only with an understanding of that history will you as individuals be able to create history; 2) Find the hero within yourself and base your actions and your words on those of your heroes; and 3) Never forget your dreams and aspirations. Each of you has the potential, through your dreams, not just to change the world but to create it anew. ¶ According to a 5,000-year-old Hassidic legend, there live in the world at any given moment 36 righteous people. These people save lives; their goodness and desire to help others overcomes all the obstacles they may face. In modern times, they could be schoolteachers, students, doctors, lawyers, actors, politicians or even a homeless person. Whoever they are and where ever they are, they work to make the world whole. ¶ It is said that their righteousness sustains the world. And there are always 36 in any generation throughout the world—a number associated with life in the Jewish tradition. Many of us possess some of these characteristics; whenever I meet someone who has this kind of generous heart, I am honored and humbled. But I must tell you a secret: No one knows who they are. Not even they know who they are! ¶ My second story is about a young man named Trevor, who was 13 and lived in Philadelphia when I was 18. One evening, Trevor saw a newscast about homeless people. When the program was over, he asked his parents if he could give the extra blanket on his bed to a homeless person. He and his father took a drive looking for someone to whom Trevor could give his blanket. Each night, Trevor found something else he wanted to give away. He then asked all his friends to help. Within weeks, Trevor and his 13-year-old friends had collected enough food and clothing to supply the homeless community for weeks. ¶ By the time Trevor was 16, his dream to help the homeless had grown, and there was a shelter in the center of Philadelphia called “Trevor’s Place.” Today, Trevor’s Place has two buildings and is home to 17 women and 53 children. Men and women come in and out of Trevor’s Place daily, receiving food, clothing and help finding jobs. Trevor was in seventh grade, but he had a dream. Where would those 53 children be today if Trevor did not have a dream and act heroically by taking action? ¶ Isn’t that all we can ask of each other? To look deep and discover that feeling, that inspiration? Maybe that is the true quality of a leader—that he or she is able to look within and find a role model. Maybe that’s what Charles Dickens meant when he wrote in “David Copperfield,” “Whether I shall turn out to be a hero of my own life or whether that station will be held by anybody else this story must show.” ¶ Who will be the hero in your life? ¶ One of my heroes is the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who, when asked what advice he would give to young students, said, “Let them be sure that every little deed counts, that every word has power, and that we can, everyone, do our share to redeem the world in spite of all absurdities and all the frustrations and all disappointments. And above all, remember that the meaning of life is to build a life as if it were a work of art.” ¶ Each one of you, individually, and as part of a group, may be one of those 36 who can change the world. ¶ I challenge you to dream. I challenge you to look deep within yourself and your neighbor, I challenge you to never give up.—David Straus ’90
Mixing it Up

A new mural adorns the south wall adjacent to the steps on McConnell Center’s west entrance. A collaborative student project, the 5-foot by 9-foot glazed ceramic-tile mural was a project this fall in Art 131, “Mixing it Up,” team taught by art professors David Furman and Kathryn Miller. Students first were asked to do individual drawings of desert flora, and then “marry” the best elements of each drawing into a group composition. The collaborative drawing was then transferred to 180 ceramic tiles and glazed by the class. Participants included seniors Loretta Abbot-Kennon, Diana Badeau, Syri Mongiello, Gavin Wall, Phoebe Wu, Adam Thurston (HMC) and Denise Su-Mans (Scripps); juniors Matt Backer (Pomona), Todd Hamilton, Sung-Yun Kim, Vivian Koo, Liz Richardson and Cristin Shively; sophomores Jennifer Malin, Ellen Panescu and Hadley Swope; and freshman Jeff Koffman.