Then . . . and now

President’s Message A Decade. My 10 years at Pitzer have not at all felt like a decade, rather just seconds, a moment. Life here is intense and filled with constant growth and change. The momentum does not slow enough, it seems, to ever allow a decade to elapse. ¶ And yet it has become such for me as president. And the timeline for Pitzer College has become four decades. ¶ When I first arrived, the TV series “thirtysomething” had gained popularity, and I often played off the title when talking with constituencies about the challenges of Pitzer growing to that age, along with the dangers of moving past an energetic and experimental youth. I felt then and still feel that for Pitzer to ever lose its difference, its freedom to innovate, take risks, and to be passionate about social justice would be to lose its soul. As Pitzer is about to become “fortysomething,” its soul is ever-constant. ¶ But with constancy of soul have come positive signs of middle-age and history-making. Most significantly, our alumni are maturing. While our incoming students do not get older, our graduates do. As they do, they are taking the lead more and more in moving Pitzer College into the future. ¶ Alumni now constitute more than 30 percent of the Pitzer College Board of Trustees. What energy they bring, what insider knowledge and what dedication! Along with great parents and friends of the College, Pitzer-educated members have now assumed the stewardship of the College. ¶ The Alumni Association has grown to now embrace 12 chapters internationally, hosting nearly 100 events each year. By connecting Pitzer graduates with each other, a wonderful web is being woven that will undergird all aspects of the College. ¶ And it is a Pitzer graduate who has given the College the largest single gift it has ever received, $3.28 million. ¶ Youth will always be the focus as well as a distinguishing mark of the educational innovation of Pitzer. But mature alumni caring enough to return to nurture and preserve that youth is the necessary condition for Pitzer thriving in its next decades. ¶ In stepping down from the presidency, I will leave behind some achievements that can be measured with statistics. But the most significant statistic is the number of alumni who have come home. Thank you. — Marilyn Chapin Massey
Vision Quest

President Marilyn Chapin Massey, who shares a passion with Pitzer students for society and its causes, will be leaving the College in June. Since her arrival in 1992, Massey has guided Pitzer from regional to national prominence and enhanced the College’s reputation for cutting-edge interdisciplinary studies that blend academics with hands-on community experience and social justice.

Our Founder

Founding President John W. Atherton, who passed away on Oct. 30 at the age of 85, is remembered by Albert Schwartz and other members of the founding faculty.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Trustee Peter Stranger shares his thoughts on presidential transitions.

CAMPUS NEWS

Mark Twain scholar Laura E. Skandera Trombley selected as fifth president; Pritzkers give $2.5 million for scholarships; Campaign materials win accolades; A year of fundraising successes; Pitzer, Claremont McKenna to share $2-million grant from Freeman Foundation; Irvine grant will help change the face of diversity; National Wildlife Federation names Pitzer as a leader in environmental studies; Students helping young offenders move into literacy; Pitzer among America’s most progressive colleges.

FACULTY NOTES

Profile: Phil Zuckerman is the son of “Gidget.” Notes: Film by Pitzer Professor Alex Juhasz featured at Sundance; Op-ed piece by Peter Nardi published in Newsday; Dan Segal receives Gilbert Award; Gregg Segal’s photo essay appears in Los Angeles Times Magazine.

ALUMNI NOTES

Alumni Careers: Three Pitzer alumnae strive for justice and fairness in their roles as judges.

Profile: Ruett Foster ’81, a crusader against gun violence, carries the Olympic torch.

IN MY OWN WORDS

Benjamin Shepard ’92 goes beyond the Pitzer Oral History Project.
Change is hard. Change is healthy. Change is inevitable. Change is unsettling, disruptive and can stall momentum; but, at the same time, it can re-energize, invigorate and open up new possibilities. And changes are underway at Pitzer with the passing of Founding President John W. Atherton, the retirement of Marilyn Chapin Massey and the appointment of Laura Skandera Trombley as Pitzer’s fifth president.

Marilyn’s decade as president coincides almost exactly with my tenure as a Pitzer trustee. And during this period, the College has evolved in many ways, physically, academically and in terms of its standing among the other Claremont Colleges and liberal-arts colleges in general. During my first tour of Pitzer, before I joined the board, I was shown beautiful facilities built by another college and was assured that Pitzer students could use them. Now, of course, we have our own superb facilities in Broad Hall, the Gold Student Center and the Edythe and Eli Broad Center.

The College has strengthened its faculty, its admission standards and numbers are stronger, and the number of students earning fellowships and scholarships for post-graduate work has steadily increased. Ten years ago, Pitzer, while not quite the black sheep of the Claremont community, was perhaps a shade of gray. And while we certainly remain “different” from the other colleges — and happily so — we have earned a substantially greater level of respect from our older siblings. Pitzer has also been recognized nationally as a leading example of an innovative institution, most recently by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) and by Project Pericles, which hopes to inspire other colleges to follow Pitzer’s example as an institution that instills in its students “an active and abiding sense of civic responsibility.”

The transition from Marilyn to Laura will take place with the campaign well past its mid-point, and even though we will, as it were, change horses mid-stream, the change will take place on a wide, stable sandbar, rather than in turbulent currents. In a world conflicted by terrorism, religious and racial conflict, with natural resources being consumed at an accelerating pace and the sustainability movement struggling to gain traction, a Pitzer College education has more relevancy than ever before. I thank Marilyn for her leadership, commitment and extraordinary contributions in getting Pitzer to where we are today. And I welcome Laura as our new president and offer my support as she takes the reins. — Peter Stranger

Stranger, who joined Pitzer’s Board of Trustees in 1992, has worked in advertising for more than 25 years, most recently as CEO of J. Walter Thompson West, overseeing that agency’s offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco. He was president of J. Walter Thompson Los Angeles from 1997 to 2000. A native of South Africa, Stranger graduated from Ealing College in London. He has worked in London, New York and Los Angeles.
Pitzer Picks Mark Twain Scholar as Fifth President

Pitzer's Board of Trustees has selected Laura E. Skandera Trombley, a noted Mark Twain scholar and chief academic officer at Coe College, a private liberal-arts college in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to succeed Marilyn Chapin Massey as president, beginning July 1.

“Laura impressed all of us with her confidence, energy, keen intelligence and deep commitment to the values of a liberal education,” said Susan Pritzker, who chairs the board, in making the announcement. “She articulates a clear vision for Pitzer’s future and demonstrates a remarkable resonance with Pitzer’s distinctive mission as a liberal-arts college. We look forward to Laura as a dynamic new president who will energize the community and lead the College along a path of bold imagination.”

Skandera Trombley, 41, Pitzer’s fifth president, serves as Coe’s vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, supervising the faculty as well as the registrar, academic-computer services, assessment, the college library and art galleries, and intercollegiate athletics. Like Pitzer, Coe College has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of America’s best national liberal-arts colleges.

“Pitzer College is an extraordinary institution of higher learning and I am deeply honored to join the community,” said Skandera Trombley. “The faculty, students, staff and trustees have all been most gracious and welcoming, and my family and I are looking forward to becoming part of the fabric of life at Pitzer and in the city of Claremont.”

Since joining Coe College in 1997, Skandera Trombley has ushered in remarkable growth and stability, hiring 33 percent of the tenure-track faculty, improving student retention and expanding the use of technology in teaching and learning on the campus. She also has played a key role in internationalizing the curriculum, increasing faculty-development opportunities, supervising reaccreditation efforts and reorganizing the long-range planning process.

In her tenure at Coe, Skandera Trombley has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, particularly in the development and execution of “The Coe Plan,” a distinctive co-curricular graduation requirement that puts emphasis on technology, leadership and academic practica. The plan has been recognized nationally as a model for liberal-arts institutions.

According to Coe’s web site, “The Coe Plan” helps students “draw a connection between [their] liberal-arts classroom education with a practicum experience such as an internship, study-abroad term, or research experience ... through a process of reflection, evaluation and incorporation to create a coherent collegiate experience.”

“Skandera Trombley’s experience and involvement in fundraising at Coe will be particularly useful to Pitzer, which launched its first major fundraising drive — a $40-million comprehensive campaign — last April,” Pritzker noted.

Coe launched a similar campaign, aimed primarily at endowment building, in October 1999. According to Coe’s web site, the College has already raised more than $42 million toward its $50-million goal. Skandera Trombley has been involved in every aspect of Coe’s campaign, from working with the president to set goals to cultivating major-gift prospects to making presentations to alumni and other constituencies.

Prior to joining Coe, Skandera Trombley held several posts at the State University of New York at Potsdam, beginning as an assistant professor in the English department in 1990. After five years in the classroom, she became special assistant to the president and director of the Teaching, Tenure and Promotion Assistance Program (TCAP). In her last two years at SUNY Potsdam, Skandera Trombley spearheaded the design and implementation of a mid-year term for the institution as assistant provost.

Also a noted Mark Twain scholar, Skandera Trombley has published four books, “Epistemology: Turning Points in the History of Poetic Knowledge” (1986), “Mark Twain in the Company of Women” (1994), “Critical Essays on Maxine Hong Kingston” (1998) and “Constructing Mark Twain: New Directions in Scholarship” (2002). Skandera Trombley, who is president of the Mark Twain Circle of America, appeared in Ken Burns’ documentary on Twain, a PBS special that aired in January. She also has an active scholarly interest in Chinese-American women writers and technology. This fall, she will be a guest editor of a special edition of Educational Technology titled “Knowing the Web.”

Skandera Trombley holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and a Ph.D. degree in English from the University of Southern California.

The appointment concluded a yearlong national search conducted by a presidential search committee chaired by John N. Tierney, a member of Pitzer’s Board of Trustees. Tierney is president and CEO of The DOCSI Corp. in Los Angeles.

“Pitzer’s search for its fifth president was easily the most inclusive search ever
Where the Twains Meet: Iconic Figure, Family Man

The Chronicle of Higher Education (excerpted)
Jan. 11, 2002

By Laura Skandera Trombley

Four years ago, I learned that [Ken] Burns was planning to make a documentary about Twain the way I usually gather information in Twain studies: namely, through conference gossip. I was sitting with my good friend Michael Kiskis, a professor of American literature at Elmira College in New York, in Elmira’s auditorium at the Third International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies when we heard from a fellow audience member that people would soon be contacted by the Burns crew, and we wondered out loud who they might be.

Certain individuals in Twain studies appear regularly in the media, and I assumed they would be the ones selected. Yet, to my surprise, I was called in addition to some, but not all, of the regulars. Dayton Duncan, the film’s co-producer, and writer of the script with Geoffrey C. Ward, phoned and told me that Ward had read my biography, “Mark Twain in the Company of Women,” and had urged Duncan to contact me. We spoke for quite a while that day and made arrangements to meet near Burns’ headquarters, in Walpole, N.H., to continue our conversation. On a sunny July day one year after the Elmira conference, we met in the town’s heavenly scented chocolate shop, and by the end of our conversation, I had agreed to be a project consultant...

It is a moonless August evening last summer, and I find myself sitting once again in the same Elmira auditorium watching an audience gather for a preview of the Twain documentary. For the past two days, the Fourth International Conference has been in full swing, with panels and exhibitions occurring all over the campus. The crowd pours through the doors. Filmmakers, scholars, fans, reporters, collectors, dealers, and impersonators are all there for the same reason: to hear Ken Burns speak and to see excerpts from this accomplished documentarian’s latest film. There’s a chance I’ll be included in this cut of the project, and not knowing whether I’ll be making my screen debut this evening makes me both nervous and curious...

The film skips in sequence to the section on Elmira, where Twain summered for 20 years with his family, and I hear my voice before my face appears. I’m just confounded, for lack of a better word, and my seatmate thoughtfully elbows me just in case my attention has wandered. When the film concludes, the audience gives it a cheering, standing ovation.

Afterward, we traipse outside, where sweet New York champagne awaits and friends come over to tease and congratulate me. I overhear people criticizing the film and realize that this is just the start. I walk over, greet Burns, and tell him that the experience of seeing myself was startling. He cheerfully responds, “Wait until 40 million people see you.”

Since August, I have seen the entire documentary, and it is visually stunning, informative, moving, and — dare I say it? — scholarly. The documentary’s running time is four hours, two hours per episode. The first episode follows Twain through his boyhood, his first book-length success, “Innocents Abroad,” and his composition of “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.” The second episode explores the private Clemens, surviving bankruptcy and family tragedies, and the worldwide fame, riches, and legacy of Mark Twain.
Pritzker Scholarship Enhancement Fund.

The gift will enable Pitzer to establish the Pritzker Scholarship Enhancement Fund, an endowment gift whose earnings may provide as many as 60 scholarships a year.

“A dynamic, inclusive and passionate student body is one of Pitzer’s greatest strengths,” said President Massey in announcing the gift. “But each year the College loses some of its best student prospects because their financial need exceeds our scholarship funds. The Pritzker Fund will have an enormous impact on our ability to recruit the students who will benefit most from a Pitzer education.”

The Pritzkers became involved with Pitzer College while their son, Joseph, was a student. He graduated in 1993. Mr. Pritzker is president of Hyatt Development Corp. Mrs. Pritzker, a trustee since 1990, currently chairs the Board. She has been active in the arts, education, civil rights and women’s issues for most of her life.

“We hope that the establishment of the Pritzker Scholarship Enhancement Fund will encourage the philanthropy of others,” Mrs. Pritzker said. “We are deeply committed to Pitzer College and to enhancing its ability to provide broad access to deserving students, regardless of their financial need.”
Alumni participation in the Annual Fund — the sole criteria used to gage student satisfaction by college guides like “U.S. News & World Report” — also is increasing impressively.

“When the percentage of alumni giving has been on the rise and currently stands at 33 percent, we are very committed to further improving the rate of alumni participation,” Manley noted, adding that a goal of 40-percent participation has been set for 2004. “Specifically, volunteer callers in our Phonathon are asking alumni to give to help move Pitzer from the 55th spot into the Top Tier, and Annual-Fund direct-mail literature is being designed to make similar appeals.”

Pitzer’s advancement team, working closely with the faculty, also are aggressively pursuing grants from philanthropic foundations. The result has been a swell of support for innovative Pitzer enterprises. These include $2 million from the Freeman Foundation to support new initiatives at Pitzer and Claremont McKenna colleges in Asian Studies; an anonymous $1.2-million contribution to the Pitzer in Ontario program; $1.5 million from the W.M. Keck and James Irvine foundations to establish the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues (CCCSI); $850,000 from the Irvine Foundation to fund an ambitious, five-year Campus Diversity Initiative; $150,000 from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to support a three-year campus-wide study of the “habits of mind” of a liberal education; and $125,000 from the State of California to launch an outreach program designed to improve instruction in Inland Valley public schools. The outreach program, the California International Studies Project (CISEP), a state-sponsored program aimed at improving the academic competency and teaching skills of K-12 teachers in world history and international studies, recently received a $217,000 renewal grant from the state.

Other grants have come from the Andrew Mellon Foundation ($164,166), the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation ($80,000), the Albert Penick Fund ($50,000), the Ahmanson Foundation ($45,000) and the Pitzer Family Foundation ($25,000).

The Campaign for Pitzer College is the most ambitious fundraising drive in the College’s history. It grows out of extensive institutional planning and is aimed at strengthening Pitzer by enlarging the endowment, building the annual fund and expanding support for special projects and programs. A progress report on these areas follows:

Increasing the endowment
Goal: $20 million
Raised: $14 million (70 percent)

Increasing funds for annual giving
Goal: $8 million
Raised: $5.1 million (64 percent)

Increasing funds for special projects and programs
Goal: $12 million
Raised: $8.5 million (71 percent)

Pitzer, Claremont McKenna to Share $2-million Grant from Freeman Foundation

Pitzer and Claremont McKenna colleges will share a $2-million grant from the Freeman Foundation, which will help support new initiatives in Asian Studies over a four-year period.

The grant will fund new research seminars; a proposed visiting scholar program; travel opportunities for students and faculty to study in Asia; community seminars and lectures; and outreach to local schools. The grant also will support lectures by Asian students from Claremont Graduate University. These students, in addition to sharing knowledge about their native countries, will participate in research teams.

“Trade links between the Inland Empire and Asia have expanded considerably in recent years, and China’s recent admission to the WTO signals Asia’s growing importance in world affairs,” said Jim Lehman, professor of economics at Pitzer. “The Freeman Grant, which gives the colleges crucial support for new courses, student and faculty research, and scholarly exchange, will allow us to leverage some of the path-breaking work we already have under way, for example in our study-abroad program in China and in our outreach to area high schools via the Claremont International Studies Education Project.”
Irvine Grant Will Help Pitzer Change the Face of Diversity

Pitzer has received $850,000 from The James Irvine Foundation to fund an ambitious, five-year Campus Diversity Initiative Project that seeks to build on the College’s excellent history of campus diversity while expanding concepts of diversity to better prepare students to respond to a changing world.

“To deepen, broaden and thoroughly infuse a dynamic and active appreciation of diversity among all constituents of the Pitzer community is the major goal of our initiative,” said Alan Jones, professor of psychology and dean of faculty. “Achieving this larger goal, however, will require continuing self-examination and prodigious effort over the long term. Therefore, we welcome the timely opportunity to partner with The James Irvine Foundation as we endeavor to take Pitzer to this next level of thinking and action.”

The Irvine Foundation grant will help Pitzer deepen the discourse about diversity and its significance; continue to diversify its students, faculty, staff and trustee populations; and to intensify — systematically — students’ educational experience of diversity.

Among the initiatives the College will implement to achieve these objectives are increasing the amount of scholarship aid available to attract students of color; developing targeted recruiting materials and programs; hosting faculty seminars and guest lectures on diversity; creating a new professorship in the Intercollegiate Department of Asian American studies; forming a student diversity leadership team to assist in developing seminars and other initiatives; and developing an online training module addressing diversity issues for all Pitzer employees.

“We envision a future in which Pitzer sets the standard among liberal-arts colleges in the presence and the depth of diversity, but especially in the methods for ensuring continual enhancement of diversity,” said President Massey. “This grant is a tribute to the members of our community, past and present. It signifies the great respect The James Irvine Foundation has for the work Pitzer has done and the promise it sees in the new directions we have mapped for the future. I am proud that Pitzer is seen as a leading light in advancing the practice of diversity and social justice in these times.”

National Wildlife Federation Names Pitzer College as a Leader in Environmental Studies


Environmental studies has been a component of the Pitzer curriculum since 1970. “Pitzer’s commitment to creating a sustainable future is reflected in its support of faculty and students engaged in environmentally oriented projects,” said Professor Paul Faulstich, convener of the College’s environmental studies program. “Pitzer strives to incorporate environmentally sound principles into the operations of the College and the education of our students.”

On Oct. 1, Pitzer’s College Council adopted a Statement of Environmental Policy and Principles: “Pitzer College strives to incorporate socially and environmentally sound practices into the operations of the College and the education of our students. Pitzer exists within interrelated communities that are affected by personal and institutional choices, and the College is mindful of the consequences of our practices. A Pitzer education should involve not just a mastery of ideas, but a life lived accordingly. We are thus committed to principles of sustainability, and dedicated to promoting awareness and knowledge of the impacts of our actions on human and natural communities.”

Based on responses from 891 colleges in the U.S., the NWF reports that “a surprising number of colleges and universities, of all types and sizes in all regions of the country, are taking a lead role in striking a balance between the needs of people and the environment,” said Julian Keniry, manager of the NWF’s ecology program. “The best campuses in this survey are providing a green compass for others to follow.”

Pitzer Students Helping Young Offenders Move into Literacy

True to Pitzer’s philosophy of enhancing individual growth while building community, the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues (CCCSI) has been reaching out to youths at a local probation camp since last summer.

The partnership with Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige in La Verne brings Pitzer students and young offenders together to improve literacy rates. At the camp, operated by the Los Angeles County Probation System, most of the students read at a fourth-grade level. The literacy project, linked to “Teaching in Prisons,” a service-learning course taught by Professor Barry Sanders, aims to have students reading at a 10th- or 11th-grade level. Studies have shown that raising literacy levels helps to reduce recidivism rates.

“I see the program getting better and better each week,” says Tim Jones, a post-baccalaureate Urban Fellow with CCCSI. “Our tutors are more confident, the students at the camp seem more comfortable and the administration continues to rave about our involvement. We are all committed to making sure the program continues through next semester and into the next academic year.”
Jones, along with CCCSI Urban Fellow Erin Gorman, administers the program, works collaboratively with Sanders and teaches at the camp.

Pitzer, seeking support for the program so that it may continue, recently submitted a Literacy Action Network Proposal. The program, which has tutors from Sanders’ class spend three hours per week in teaching sessions at the camp, uses an approach that differs from the usual reading and writing exercises. Tutors read stories, fairy tales and poems aloud to the students. This immersion in orality teaches the timing, pacing and rhythm essential to developing literacy, something most of the offenders were deprived of as children.

“I think it is important to work with juvenile offenders, provide them with resources, and attempt to divert them from further criminal activity before it may become too late for them to enjoy a fruitful life in our society,” says Bill Sias ’78, a trial attorney assigned to the Children’s Dependency Court. He also is a member of the L.A. County Probation Commission, a civilian advisory group charged with oversight of the Probation Department. He has been practicing law in Southern California for 18 years.

“My work on the Probation Commission is focused on creating opportunities and resources,” says Sias, a former president of Pitzer’s Alumni Association. “My relationship with Pitzer created an excellent opportunity to create valuable resources for the benefit of the minors in the local probation camps. At the same time, I thought it would be a remarkable experience for Pitzer students, as well as the faculty members, to become involved with a program at the camps.”

Pitzer Among America’s Most Progressive Colleges

A group of the youngest and most progressive colleges and universities in the nation met at Pitzer in December to discuss how each has transformed student learning, to share strategies and resources, and to develop a plan to help reinvigorate American higher education.

The work of the new Consortium for Innovative Environments in Learning (CIEL) is being funded by a $772,000 grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The meeting followed a year of conversations and planning among the participating schools.

Pitzer is one of seven progressive schools comprising CIEL. The other members are Arizona International College of the University of Arizona in Tucson (1995); Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisc. (founded in 1887, but revamped in 1973); The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. (1971); Fairhaven College at Western Washington University (1967); Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass. (1970); and New College of the University of South Florida in Sarasota (1960).

Most CIEL participants were founded in the ’60s and early ’70s, a turbulent era of pervasive social and political questioning and change. These fervent times gave birth to scores of new colleges, most focused on student learning and new pedagogies labeled “experimental” or “alternative.” In the ’80s and ’90s, student interests became more vocationally focused, enrollments shrank and funding dwindled at many American colleges and universities. While many progressive schools did not survive the changing times, others thrived.

“Innovative institutions, rather than being viewed as being on the margins of higher education, should be seen as leaders whose experiences can be adapted to other colleges and universities to improve student learning and institutional culture,” said Ted Pope, who co-directs the project with Edwin Clausen of Daemen College in Amherst, N.Y. Pope is director of academic programs and planning at Arizona International College. “Unlike in the past, when education was awash in resources and could afford to be snug in its intent and pedagogy, institutions of higher education today tout the need for student-centeredness, liberal learning, interdisciplinarity, civic responsibility, visual literacy, diversity, globalism, interactive learning, service and powerful assessment. These are all lessons that can be learned by drawing from the vast reservoir of experiences of more innovative institutions.”

According to the project directors, there have been three gatherings of “alternative” colleges in the past 20 years, but “they did not yield the deep dialogue and self-examination that will result from our proposed project, which will work with a greater number of alternative institutions and institutions inviting change.”

For maximum effectiveness, the three-year project will focus on program development, sharing and problem solving among the participants along with broad outreach programs aimed at sharing the lessons learned with a wider group of colleges and universities. These outreach efforts will include multi-media programs, a web site, exchange programs, partnerships, program review teams and summer institutes, Pope explained, “enabling others to learn, borrow and modify what is germane to their own development. CIEL institutions will construct and disseminate a collective picture of how specific innovations succeed in idiosyncratic environments, providing models for innovation that foster high-quality learning without pre-empting the uniqueness of individual institutions.”

The Pitzer meeting focused on the internal dialogue among participating institutions. Representatives from all seven institutions attended. Officials from Daemen College also attended. Daemen, which is redesigning its core curriculum, is serving as a pilot for CIEL’s Institutional Partners Program, the major outreach component of the project.

“For the exchange of ideas on innovation facilitated by the grant, each CIEL partner school has identified areas of powerful, student-centered learning it can showcase as models to other institutions,” said Carol Brandt, vice president for international programs at Pitzer and a CIEL representative. “Nationally known for its excellence in international and intercultural education, Pitzer will feature its successful field-based study-abroad programs, as well as its cutting-edge programs of community-based learning, neuroscience and media studies.”

FIPSE, a unit within the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Postsecondary Education, administers grant programs supporting innovative educational reform projects that can serve as national models for the improvement of postsecondary education.
Phil Zuckerman may be an authority on the sociology of religion, but he also knows something about what is considered a religion by many “dudes” and “dudettes.”

Zuckerman is the son of Gidget, the surfing icon.

“Gidget,” the novel, was based on the diaries of Kathy Kohner Zuckerman, who kept journals about growing up in Malibu in the 1950s. Her father, the late Frederick Kohner, penned the book that led to movies and TV series starring Sandra Dee and Sally Field, among others.

A part of Hawaiian culture for centuries, but known to Western civilization only since the late 18th century, surfing became popular culture shortly after the release of the movie “Gidget” in 1959. As “Surfer” magazine editor Sam George says, The Beach Boys may never have come along had it not been for “Gidget.”

Phil, 32, thinks the whole Gidget phenomenon is rather remarkable.

“It’s all pretty amazing to me — that my mother was the inspiration for an American icon,” says Phil, who stays busy helping his wife take care of daughters, Ruby and Flora. “The ocean is holy, so I’m glad my mother is part of that sacredness. I also like it when women in their 40s come up to me when they find out who my mom is … and say things like ‘I loved that book! I read it 20 times when I was young!’ Comments like that make me feel proud of my mom and my grandfather.”

Phil also says people aren’t always so supportive.

“Some people feel like Gidget ‘ruined’ the whole private beach culture down there in Malibu,” says the Claremont resident. “Sometimes people don’t always react so positively, but most surfers that I run into are impressed and like my mom.”

Kathy stopped surfing by the time Phil came along, but she recently returned to the sport.

“A couple of months ago, I went down to Malibu with her,” says Phil, who started surfing when he was 11. “She had her new board and paddled around in the calm water, but didn’t attempt any rides. … I hope she stands up soon. Wouldn’t that be great? Her mother was downhill skiing until she was 95. I hope my mom is surfing that long, too.”

So, who taught Phil to surf while his mother was on hiatus from the waves?

“No one taught me,” he says. “You can’t be taught how to surf. You just go out and do it and practice a lot. I would catch small waves, but I never became a real ‘surfer dude.’ I got into drama as a teen-ager. … Right now, I don’t get out much, really only a few times each summer. Poseidon will forgive me, I hope.”

In July, the directors of Pitzer's External Studies programs gathered in Claremont for a 10-day conference on Assessment of Intercultural Learning. Participants included Xiaomei Wang (China); Margie Donahue, Prakash Kandel, Prava Adhikary, Shova Prasain, Mark Flummerfelt, Peter Balvanz and Brent Willey (Nepal); Karen and Eduardo Rodriguez (Venezuela); Maria and Chris Lubensky (Ecuador); Franca Mora Feboli, Adriana Garcia, Andrea Olson (Italy); Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo, Daniso Mokgwathi, Miles Nolte (Botswana); Kathryn Bourgeois Asan, Ayse Gunduz Hsogor (Turkey); and Marie Sandy and Monica Ojeda (Ontario).

In February, CAROL BRANDT (English), LAKO TONGUN (political studies), ALAN JONES (psychology) and TOM MANLEY (political studies) gave a panel presentation on “Strategies and Pedagogical Models for Intercultural Education” at the second convocation of the Consortium for Innovative Learning Environments in Sarasota, Fla.


Calderon, along with 65 other leaders from the U.S., also was selected for the 98th American Assembly, held at Arden House, Columbia University. He collaborated on a published pamphlet titled “Racial Equality: Policies for the 21st Century.”

Additionally, Calderon completed a final report to the Executive Board of the American Sociological Association as part of a special task force on campus hate crimes.

Calderon also was selected as a final judge for U.S. Professor of the Year awards for community colleges, private colleges and universities. The awards are sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

He also was selected for a “Pedagogies of Engagement” conference at the Carnegie Foundation to dialogue on modes of teaching that connect the classroom to community service.

PAUL FAULSTICH (environmental studies) was Scholar-in-Residence at Pitzer this past fall, in which he worked on a project called “Worldview and Natural History.” He collaborated with students in a research seminar, which culminated in a conference where he and students presented their research findings.

Faulstich also was appointed to the West Coast Steering Committee for the nonprofit Education for Sustainability Network.

In February, he moderated the Oceania symposium at Claremont Graduate University for a conference titled “Apologetics: Mourning the Past and Ameliorating the Present.”

DAVID FURMAN (art) was visiting Artist-in-Residence at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff from Feb. 18-22, where he presented slide-lectures and worked with students in the ceramic process of mold making.

A featured four-page color photo article, “David Furman’s Icons of Morality and Perpetuity” appeared in the February issue of Ceramics Monthly. The article, written by Glen Brown of the Kansas State University Art History Department, acknowledges the references in Furman’s work to the 17th-century vanitas tradition, while recognizing that, at the same time, his work reflects contemporary human experience.

Furman’s 38th one-person exhibition opened in March at the Belger Foundation in Kansas City, Mo. His artwork also was included in museum exhibitions at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan. (Feb. 5-March 24); Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. (March 9-31); and the 21st-Century Ceramic Erotica at the Incubator Gallery, Kansas City, Mo. (March 3-29). His trompe l’oeil ceramic tin can and paintbrush sculpture, “Fat Boy; Homage to MW,” was included in the National Council for Education of the Ceramic Arts benefit auction “Regarding Clay,” which will benefit student scholarships in the ceramic arts.

Furman, a Getty Foundation grant lecturer for Service Learning and the Visual Art Department, is visiting Artist-in-Residence at the Copper River Foundation of the Ceramic Arts benefit auction “Regarding Clay,” which will benefit student scholarships in the ceramic arts.

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Alex Juhasz’s seven-minute film, “Naming Prairie,” was shown at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival in Salt Lake City, Utah, held during January. “Naming Prairie,” one of 79 shorts chosen from 2,100 submissions, is the third film in as many years by a Pitzer media studies professor to be chosen for the festival. Last year, adjunct professor Cheryl Dunye’s “Stranger Inside” was selected, and Jesse Lerner’s “Ruins” was screened in 2000.

“Naming Prairie” recounts the baby-naming ceremony of a lesbian couple, Hali and Margie Hammer, for their daughter, Prairie Evelyn Hutchinson Hammer. The couple’s family and friends also take part in the traditional Jewish ceremony, which is the female equivalent of a bris.

“What a surprise and honor to get into Sundance,” says Juhasz. “After years of making small, independent, activist videos that speak loudly to micro audiences (about AIDS or feminist film, for example), it feels really exciting to have made something that appears to speak to the larger world. Given the vast changes in the roles of gays and lesbians in American society, perhaps this suggests that my feature, ‘Dear Gabe,’ about contemporary families (including my own) will also be accessible to audiences outside the queer community.”

Just released, the hourlong “Dear Gabe” is a letter to Juhasz’s son “detailing the choices of six feminist friends as they construct their lives around children and career.” The film stars Juhasz, Dunye and Gabe’s older sister, Simone. Also featured are the stars of “Naming Prairie.”

Dunye and Juhasz are president and vice president, respectively, of Stranger Baby Productions. Juhasz has produced more than 15 educational videos, including the documentaries “Women of Vision: 18 Histories in Feminist Film and Video” (1998) and “Released: 5 Short Videos about Women and Prison” (2000).

Among the many awards Dunye has received, her 1997 film, “The Watermelon Woman,” produced by Juhasz, won Best Gay Feature at the Berlin Film Festival and Best Feature at Los Angeles OutFest. Her short, “Greetings from Africa,” was screened at the 1995 Sundance Film Festival.

“Stranger Inside” is about an inmate (Yolonda Ross) who searches for the mother she never knew. The film, which has been featured on HBO, won the Audience Award at the Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema and the San Francisco International Film Festival, and the Special Jury Award for Outstanding Achievement at the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Lerner’s “Ruins” is an experimental film that explores the recontextualization of Aztec and Mayan archeological objects as art. According to the Harvard Film Archive, “Lerner has probed the hybridity of Mexican culture. In this self-described ‘fake documentary,’ Lerner mixes a heterogeneous array of materials, including animated sequences, to challenge the historical reading of ruins in Mexico. Using appropriated sounds, fabricated artifacts, and constructed imagery, he comically commingles fake and real to explore the nature of archaeological research, the ascription of authenticity to art objects, and the creation of that fiction we call history.” Master forger Brigido Lara also is featured in the film.

In January, RONALD MACAULAY (emeritus/linguistics) presented a luncheon address titled “I’m Off to Philadelphia in the Morning: A Scotsman Looks at Dialect in America” at the American Dialect Society annual meeting in San Francisco.


LEE MUNROE (anthropology), reporting on phonetic-sonority research undertaken with John Fought (romance languages and literature, Pomona College), received the American Historical Association’s fourth Gilbert Award for his article “Western Civ’ and the Staging of History in American Higher Education,” which appeared in the June 2000 American Historical Review. According to the AHA, the award “recognizes outstanding contributions to the teaching of history through the publication of journal and serial articles.”

“The Dependent Gene,” a photo essay about Vegas’ forgotten strip shot by GREGG SEGAL (PACE), appeared in the March 10 issue of Los Angeles Times Magazine. Segal says he was intrigued by Fremont Street, a part of Vegas most people don’t see, and wanted to capture it on film “before it’s all swept away.” The piece was the fifth Segal has had featured in the magazine. He also was a recent contributor to Mother Jones’ online feature, “Debt to Society: The Real Price of Prisons,” as well as L.A. Magazine, Dwell and FHM.

Faculty Books

David Moore
W.H. Freeman/2002

Psychology Professor David Moore couldn't help but write his new book, “The Dependent Gene.”

“This idea started growing in my head and, before long, it’s like, ‘Get this out of me, now,’” says Moore, who has taught at Pitzer since 1989. “It was a story that had to be told. I just got increasingly frustrated by what I saw as the general public’s lack of understanding about genes and how they work and what they do.”

What came out of him is the “Developmental Systems Perspective: a comprehensive theory maintaining that genes alone cannot determine our traits,” according to a review by Publisher’s Weekly.

Moore, who says his book is “basically a theoretical statement,” has noticed his book popping up in the biology sections of bookstores. So how does a psychologist, and director of the Claremont Infant Study Center, make the leap to the brave new world of genetics?

“When you start studying babies, you get a whole different sense of the whole nature/nurture thing,” says Moore, who has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Harvard. “People often think that if a baby has a characteristic, it could not have been learned because the baby hasn’t had enough experience out in the world to learn anything. Working with babies, you start to discover very quickly that it doesn’t work that way at all. A baby has had nine months of life in utero, during which it has been having experiences that influence its characteristics.”

For Moore, the most difficult part of writing “The Dependent Gene” was deciding how to organize it.

“It’s an incredibly complex story,” says Moore, who confirmed another book might follow. “Because my goal was to reach the general public, I needed to do it in a way that was not too technical. Making it so that it was clear, but not simplified, was very challenging.”

Just before its mid-January release, the book already had gained attention from the media. Moore was interviewed Jan. 8 for “These Days,” a call-in show on KPBS 89.5-FM, a San Diego-based NPR-member station.
Vision Quest

In the decade since Marilyn Chapin Massey assumed Pitzer’s presidency, the College has risen to the Top Tier in academic reputation, has seen dramatic improvements in admission selectivity and the diversity of its students and faculty, and has doubled the size of its endowment — all while making strides as a leader in innovative teaching, intercultural immersion and social responsibility. Participant talks with Pitzer’s visionary chief and reflects on her accomplishments as she prepares to retire in June. By Denise Hamilton

Several years ago, the president of Pitzer College found herself trooping through an old Art Deco hotel some miles east of Claremont that had fallen on hard times and desperately needed renovation.

The hotel sat in the middle of downtown Ontario, a diverse, working-class city where Pitzer hoped to establish an innovative program that would blend academic research with community development, while teaching social responsibility.

As President Marilyn Chapin Massey and Professor Alan Jones surveyed the old hotel, they imagined restoring the building to its former glory as a headquarters for Pitzer’s ambitious program.

“The city of Ontario wanted someone to take it over and we dreamed of what we might do there,” Massey says. “Alan and I had grand visions of rebuilding it as art studios and alternative dorms with a wing as a President’s House. The reality in this vision was the knowledge that we would need to have a physical presence in a community in order for the program to work.”

In the end, a more workable space was found and Pitzer in Ontario settled into a house near the city’s downtown. Several years later, the program has been recognized nationally for its commitment to community-based education and serves as a model for colleges seeking to implement similar programs.

Massey’s visionary, yet ultimately pragmatic, approach to finding a headquarters for Pitzer in Ontario illustrates the leadership she has displayed in her decade as president. She’s not afraid to think outside of the box. But she also is a realist who knows what it takes to get the job done.

“Marilyn’s strength is in imagining the future and getting people to work toward the big picture,” says Susan Seymour, the Jean M. Pitzer Professor of Anthropology who worked closely with Massey from 1994 through 1999 as dean of faculty and vice president of academic affairs.

In the decade since Massey assumed Pitzer’s presidency, the College has risen to the Top Tier in academic reputation, has seen dramatic improvements in admission selectivity and the diversity of its students and faculty, and has doubled the size of its endowment — all while making strides as a leader in innovative teaching, intercultural immersion and social responsibility.
Pitzer's commitment to intercultural education has been strengthened under Massey’s leadership as well. The number of external-studies programs run by Pitzer also has increased impressively — from two to 11, including the site in Ontario. While there are also innovative programs in Parma, Italy and Wales, Massey is proud that most are in regions of the world that have been historically underrepresented in international education and under-supported in terms of economic development. Unlike many traditional study-abroad programs, Pitzer places students into the heart of a different culture, where they live with host families, study language intensively, participate in community projects and form friendships that often last long after the semester is over.

Pitzer has programs in Africa, China, the Middle East and Latin America. Its oldest program, in Nepal, sponsors a “hospitality house” in Katmandu that helps Sherpas from remote areas gain access to healthcare.

Massey saw this program for herself in the mid 1990s, when she spent time in Nepal, visiting with students and even traveling to a village area to have a traditional dinner, sitting cross-legged on the floor and eating with her hand Nepali style. For part of the trip, Massey also dropped her Western garb and cloaked herself in the traditional salwar kameez — the long loose tunic, pants and scarf worn by the Nepalese.

“She wanted to learn more about external studies,” Seymour recalls. “She experienced firsthand the very simple living our students have with families, and it gave her insight into the type of gut-level transformation that happens to our students.”
This kind of learning remains one of Massey’s passions.
“It’s extraordinarily important that students understand cultures that have been left off the screen,” Pitzer’s president says. “To do this, they need to become engaged with people who are different from themselves and who face different sets of issues. We’ve constantly kept a different kind of reality in front of our students, and it’s not hard because they’re open to it. We choose students who are already passionate about society and causes.”

The same could be said of the 60-year-old Massey herself, whose lifelong commitment to social equality and grass-roots community involvement has melded neatly with Pitzer’s founding philosophy.

“Marilyn has a way of bringing out the best in all of us,” says Peter Stanley, the president of Pomona College. “She’s the perfect partner: wise, steady, principled, generous and infectious joyfyl. She understands the life of the mind, and she loves young people. She’s made Pitzer — and Claremont — a much better place.”

Her mother was a music teacher who was the first to teach in segregated schools in southern Ohio, and Massey grew up with a deeply engrained sense of responsibility and conscience. At Marquette University in Milwaukee, she worked with Father James Groppi, a Jesuit priest, earning a bachelor’s degree in English and philosophy. She went on to earn a doctorate in the philosophy of religion, with distinction, and a master’s in interdisciplinary religious studies from the University of Chicago.

In the early 1960s, Massey went with fellow students into the American South to register voters as “freedom riders,” and
later was active in opposing the Vietnam War. Right after the National Guard massacre of unarmed students at Kent State in 1971, Massey had a terrifying moment in Chicago when the National Guard pointed a gun at her face.

“I had a baby at that time, and I remember looking down the barrel of that gun and thinking I might never see my child again,” Massey recalls.

In 1963 she went to Harlem to teach sixth-grade boys and learned about the deep systemic causes of oppression and racism in U.S. society. She saw firsthand the horrors of poverty.

“I had a kid who sat up all night with a BB gun to keep the rats off his baby sister,” Massey says. “It was a whole level of human suffering that I had not seen before. These were wonderful children, as were their parents. I came in as someone who was committed to religion, with high-flown ideals that I was going to instantly transform their lives, and hopefully, I had a positive effect. But I came out as a social and political scientist, knowing I needed to think that way to make a difference.”

When she first was offered the job at Pitzer, Massey admits she wasn’t keen on moving from New York, where she was vice president for academic affairs at Marymount Manhattan College.

But her husband, actor James Massey, was able to pursue his career in Los Angeles, and Massey relished the opportunity to guide Pitzer to new heights. Still, her New Yorker’s eye made her acutely aware of how Claremont, despite its pleasant environment, was a difficult setting for many students from inner-city schools because of its lack of high racial and ethnic diversity.

“It makes it a more challenging envi-
President Massey has deepened Pitzer’s commitment to cultural immersion by increasing the number of external-studies programs run by Pitzer from two to 11, including the innovative Pitzer-in-Ontario program. A majority of Pitzer students now take advantage of external-study programs, mostly in developing countries.

Pitzer’s commitment to community engagement increased significantly during President Massey’s tenure with the creation of Pitzer in Ontario, the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues (CCCSI), the Claremont International Studies Education Project (CISEP), Community-based Spanish and other innovative outreach programs.

The Grove House — the only structure added to the Pitzer campus between the presidencies of Atherton in 1970 and Massey in 1992 — was already here, but the Arboretum has grown up around it in the past decade as a valuable teaching and ecological resource.

Massey says that when she was first offered the job in 1992, what excited her most about Pitzer was its innovative curriculum and social commitment, and how different it was from most other universities.

“I’ve always been deeply involved and committed to civil rights and social justice in my life, and Pitzer is a highly challenging intellectual atmosphere,” Massey says.

The departing president says she is most proud of introducing new elements into the curriculum that build on Pitzer’s initial mandate and educational philosophy and that support faculty to do research and pedagogy in various communities and link social responsibility with pedagogy in the classroom.

As one example, Massey cites a program that blends the best elements of Pitzer’s study-abroad programs with the Ontario program. Called Community-Based Spanish, it takes Pitzer students into the homes of local Spanish-speaking families for immersion language studies.

“We drop students in the middle of a family in Nepal and let them learn Nepalese,” Massey says, “and my idea was to do that here with Spanish. They go and participate in the family and learn a lot more than just language. And the results are absolutely amazing.”

Massey says one of her most difficult problems at Pitzer has been dealing with the often acrimonious unionization battles of the food-service workers.
While understanding one position, I’ve had to represent the interests of the institution as a whole, and I hope I’ve done that with grace and honesty, but it’s been a hard one,” she says.

Working with the other presidents in The Claremont College consortium has been rewarding, but also required diplomacy.

“It’s a challenge, trying to constantly defend the financial and educational philosophy of Pitzer while being part of the Consortium,” says Massey, who has twice chaired the Council of Presidents, which she compares to “having a whole other presidency.”

But Massey is proud of her decade in leading Pitzer College to ever-more recognition, honor and commitment to its original founding principles.

“This College is the premier place in the United States for students to learn to be social entrepreneurs,” she says. “When I talk about the vision for the College, I speak of the need for a student to be driven by a deep social conscience and sense of responsibility, but also be creative and think of new ways that people can form themselves into groups for the benefit of all. Nothing is more important than hands-on experience in making some sort of change, miniscule as it can be, in a real community. That is the mark of our intellectual excellence. Our mission has always been there, but I’ve focused on it and, hopefully, deepened it.”

Denise Hamilton is a Los Angeles-based writer and novelist.
Making New Faces

A decade ago, President Massey opened her first academic year as Pitzer’s president with a convocation address titled “Making New Faces.” Her talk focused on the ability to make faces as a liberal art. As we prepared this, her final issue of Participant as president, she expressed to us her desire to leave the Pitzer family with the same message of hope, playfulness and defiance with which she entered it. “At the time, it seemed fun and appropriate to the Pitzer ethos to make this assertion,” she said. “In this serious year of terror and war, 10 years later, it seems important to the world and fitting to Pitzer to restate it.”

At Pitzer, one of the central freeing arts is the ability to make faces and to learn to make new ones. In her book, “Making Face, Making Soul/Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists of Color,” Gloria Anzaldúa describes the face as “the most naked, most vulnerable, exposed and significant topography of the body.” “Face,” she writes, “is the surface of the body that is the most notably inscribed by social structures.” Our faces are marked with instructions on how to be what we are supposed to be, how to live up to the images that our community, family, school, college want us to wear. The face is where social expectations are written and where we read people. Because the writing is not merely individual but also societal, we read worlds in faces.

But the face is not a mere tablet. It is an actor, an actress. It can make itself. We can make faces. In fact, I believe it is a fundamental human freedom to make a face.

Anzaldúa says, “for me, haciendo caras has the ... connotation of making gestos subversivos, politically subversive gestures, the piercing look that challenges or questions, the look that says, 'Don't walk all over me', or 'Get out of my face'."

Being free enough to make this sort of face and, equally important, to see and read the meaning of this sort of face, is vital.

A college should be a place where one is free to look at the previously unexamined and unquestioned — the unknown and the all-too-known — to look across the fence of another discipline to see as much and as well as we can.

When our looking is truly unfettered, we see that there are two relationships between knowledge and freedom. The first is the one we have always attributed to a liberal-arts education: the positive and direct relationship between growth in knowledge and growth in freedom, between truth and good. The second is that between the limits of knowledge and the lack of freedom. It is possible that if we do not pay attention to the partiality of our knowledge, if we do not name it for what it is, it will walk all over someone or get in her or his face. I believe that what guarantees that we remain sensitive to the second relationship — the limiting potential of our knowledge — is that we place no ban on looking and that we make and carefully read faces of resistance.

Reserving always the right to make the face of resistance, all of us should cultivate the art of tracing other faces on our own in order to understand deeply the individual and his or her social and cultural worlds. We all know how to do this, not just from our childhood, but from any time in our lives when we have wanted or been required to learn how to fit into a new culture or subculture — in another country, in a different social and economic strata, in a new college, in a new work role, in any place that is not our original home. There is no question that we possess this skill, this art, in a more or less developed way. What we need is the recognition that in the pursuit of knowledge, of the knowledge that frees, we are never finished with exercising that art. Our particularity is never the whole, and thus, we must keep on searching faces and through them crawling into skins that are not our own. —Marilyn Chapin Massey
“John was very high on the very short list of life’s genuinely good people. Yes, he combined both learning and intelligence, a rare enough alloy to be sure, and yes, those virtues were joined by personal charm, quick wit, and remarkable steadiness amidst the peculiar fires of a college presidency. Everyone knows this, of course, and everyone, quite sensibly, has always found it admirable. But there’s far more, I think: John had an unshakable sense of the need to do the right thing ... always.”
—Stephen L. Glass, John A. McCarthy Professor of Classics

“Pitzer was a very important part of his life. We were both grateful for the opportunity to start a new college in Claremont, and he definitely put his stamp on the College.”
—Virginia Atherton
Remembering
Our Founder:
John W. Atherton

“When I try to name those qualities of John Atherton’s character, a flow of words come quickly: wise, whimsical, hopeful, generous, modest, unceremonial, egalitarian, loyal, open to new ideas — even some strange ideas, and, perhaps, above all — trusting. He simply trusted his faculty and staff.” —Albert Schwartz, professor emeritus of sociology

“The last time I spoke with John Atherton, Jill and I and John were hiking from the parking lot in Claremont’s botanical gardens to the concert space where Lew Ellenhorn’s band was playing. Ginny was already seated and saving John a seat. We were always bumping into one another at some event — concert, theater, lecture — or an event very much like this.

“My relationship with John, and also with Ginny, is in two separate time periods. We’ve been friends for the last 15 or so years, since they returned to Claremont to the great good fortune of many of us; however, our relationship was quite different between 1965 and 1970 when I was a rookie instructor at Pitzer College and John was its founding president. In those days I don’t think I ever called him John; I certainly didn’t dream of calling him J.B. To me, at the bottom of Pitzer’s academic barrel, he was President Atherton — and — Ginny — was without doubt my First Lady.

“As I pondered about the loss of this friend, his life, I found it real easy to return to his presidential days when Pitzer College was young and I was much younger, and President Atherton seemed — well, old — as Presidents should be. I’ve been thinking a lot about what he was like as a President — as my President.

“Others who had more exalted positions at the College might offer different insights. But from my untenured proletarian vantage-point, John Atherton was a hugely effective President. In my opinion, he accomplished what every leader must surely hope for. He inspired us to make enormous commitments: commitments of time, of effort; commitments to the production of ideas — new courses, new programs, new forms of teaching, new ways of organizing. And perhaps the most important commitment of all — the giving of good will — even when the votes or a Presidential decision goes against you.

“It was quite amazing! President Atherton did nothing obvious, nothing with a heavy hand. He didn’t preach! He didn’t bully! He certainly didn’t bureaucratize us! Nor did he seem to use those famous twin tools of leadership: sticks and carrots (no carrots to use at Pitzer.) My guess is that John Atherton was a terrific president because he possessed certain qualities of character, which we simply found compelling — (like experiencing love).” —Ronald Macaulay, professor emeritus of linguistics

“Before I came to Pitzer I had never met the president of a liberal-arts college. Instead of the bullying dictator I had expected, John Atherton was very similar to [poet W. H.] Auden’s naturalist, ‘someone who studies the ways of creatures in their natural habitat and, if he interferes at all, confines his interference to establishing a personal relationship with them.’” —Ronald Macaulay, professor emeritus of linguistics

John W. Atherton presiding over Pitzer’s 1970 commencement ceremony.
“Let me give an example. I’ve never forgotten a moment in 1968 or 1969 — a big rally was being held on the CMC campus. It was called by African-American students to gather support for a Black Studies Program and Center, which President Atherton favored. He, along with each of the other presidents in Claremont, stood at the rally’s periphery — hands clasped behind their backs. As an African-American student leader approached each president, he unclasped his hands, showing that he already had the newspaper — and then engaged the young man in a discussion of some article.

“When I try to name those qualities of John Atherton’s character, a flow of words come quickly; wise, whimsical, hopeful, generous, modest, unceremonial, egalitarian, loyal, open to new ideas — even some strange ideas, and, perhaps, above all — trusting. He simply trusted his faculty and staff.

“I know I always felt trusted by him not because I was especially close to President Atherton, I wasn’t then — he showered trust on us all. He had a way of getting me (and others) to believe that what I did at the College really mattered for the well-being of the College — and moreover, he trusted me (and others) to know and do things that really mattered. I recall a faculty discussion about teaching. President Atherton said that classrooms and class times were reserved for the convenience of faculty and students. But we didn’t have to meet at the reserved place and time. If an instructor and students could devise a more efficient way of teaching and learning, try it out. It was a simple and quietly subversive idea, the kind of message that fostered a sense of opinions, a sense of possibilities — even a sense of play. During John Atherton’s presidency, I think that many of us experienced hard work as good fun.

“When John Atherton left Pitzer, it was too soon as far as I was concerned. Now you’ve done it again, John, too soon!”

The above tribute was presented at a memorial service for John W. Atherton, held on campus Nov. 17, 2001, by Albert Schwartz, professor emeritus of sociology. Professor Schwartz joined the faculty in 1965 and retired in 1995.

“Of the things that attracted me to the College was John. His view of life was lyrical, but he also had this steely resolve. He was able to walk a very fine line between a liberal faculty and students and a conservative board of trustees. He was able to mediate that extremely well.”
—Lew Ellenborn, professor emeritus of psychology

John W. Atherton 1916-2001

Pitzer’s founding president, John W. Atherton, who passed away on Oct. 30, 2001, at the age of 85, recalled in a 1979 Participant essay how the College moved from dream to reality: “Out of this heady atmosphere certain ideas began to crystallize,” he wrote. “I think the key words were ‘participation’ and ‘community.’ In one sense the idea reflected a deeply held conviction from our shared experience in American education.”

“When he founded Pitzer, he amassed an incredible cadre of top-notch intellectuals to be the school’s first professors,” said President Massey. “He went around the world to do that. His doing so has had a lasting impact on Pitzer.”

Dr. Atherton literally walked across the street, from the office of the dean of faculty at Claremont Men’s College (now Claremont McKenna), to begin “realizing” Pitzer College on the site of the old village dump “with nothing on it but rocks and sage brush,” he told the L.A. Times in 1970, the year he resigned his presidency.

Pitzer’s first academic year began in 1964 with a student body of 153 and a motto — Provida Futuri (Mindful of the Future.) During Dr. Atherton’s tenure, the student body grew to 650, and the number of faculty members went from 13 to more than 50.

Not only was Dr. Atherton steadfast in his commitment to the College, he also was able to successfully manage a community of people who felt they were running the institution, a direct effect of the participatory democracy that has become a way of life at Pitzer.

Dr. Atherton made an indelible impression upon Pitzer, and many say it was because he chose not to impress his own personality on the young college.

Dr. Atherton resigned his presidency in June 1970 to return to teaching col-
As we began our planning year from the two little offices in Pitzer North on the CMC campus, we discovered all over again that participatory democracy is untidy and that serious consultation takes time, energy and patience. The rewards were worth the effort. After all, George Benson and Bob Bernard did have some experience in starting new colleges, Russell Pitzer did have some wisdom in finance, Dorothy Avery, Carol Harrison and Ginny Atherton worked miracles with landscaping and furnishings, and there was no lack of helpful suggestions — even dire prophecies — from all our old friends in the other Claremont Colleges.

—John W. Atherton, “Reinventing the Universe: Recollections of the Founding of Pitzer College.”

During his retirement he wrote “Imperial Steel,” which tells the story of the Isthmian Steamship Company and the role it played in building the American economy and foreign trade from 1910 to 1956. Atherton was a member of the Steamship Historical Society of America and the National Maritime Historical Society.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., on Oct. 17, 1916, Dr. Atherton graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in English in 1939. He held an M.A. degree in English and American literature (1940) and a Ph.D. in English literature (1952) from the University of Chicago. He specialized in Victorian literature.

Dr. Atherton is survived by his wife, Virginia Richards Atherton, and three children: John, Jr., Thomas and Carolyn. He and Virginia were married in 1941.
Alumni Notes

1968

Sarah Harrison Dunn (Malibu, Calif.)
I have a 2 1/2-year-old grandson named Rider.

Louisa Martin (Mountain Center, Calif.)
Louisa had a show of watercolor paintings depicting Native American women from March 8-10, at the Living Desert in Palm Desert, where she will be an artist-in-residence.

1969

Heidi McNeal (Occidental, Calif.)
I have managed my husband's dental office for 20-plus years. Our youngest of four sons just started Cal Poly's School of Architecture. We also have a junior at the University of Oregon, a bachelor living in San Francisco, and a park ranger living in Glacier National with our two dear grandsons. We do boys in our family! They are each such a blessing!

Irene Halouchko Harwood (Los Angeles)
I received the Thesis of the Year Award from the Psychoanalytic Institute of Southern California. My paper on trauma, attachment and neurobiology was titled “To Move or Not to Move, To Love or Not to Love, To Become or Not to Become.”

1970

Karen Waldron Hiatt (Pismo Beach, Calif.)
I am teaching international trade relations at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo.

1971

Dorie Parsons Giragosian (Bakersfield, Calif.)
“Hi” to Nan Warhurst Jones ’72 and Sheila Sussman Thompson ’69.

Kathey Rupp Haas
(Huntington Beach, Calif.)
I retired from the travel agency on June 20, 2001. I have become a more active volunteer now, co-chairing the Orange County Pitzer Alumni Association chapter, and volunteering with SPCALA, including being a foster parent to kittens. Retirement is great!

Susan Tannehill (Felton, Calif.)
I have a new grandson, Sean. His big brother, Jason, is 4 years old.

1972

Reunion: May 3-5, 2002
Class Reunion Chair: Morris Graves, committee72@pitzer.edu

Holly Hidinger (Chula Vista, Calif.)
Come this August, I will have been married to Ron (HMC ’71/’72) for 30 years. My oldest son, Douglas, is attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as a freshman. He is set on becoming a mechanical engineer, instead of an electrical engineer like his dad. My younger son, Nathan, is an eighth-grader. He is in an accelerated program centered on foreign language and global studies. I am still a CPA, but focusing on my family and teaching at Southwestern College as an adjunct faculty member. Please mark your calendar for the reunion weekend. I want to see all my friends. We have 30 years of catching up to do!

Joan Karlín (Los Altos, Calif.)
I’m still at Stanford (almost 15 years), now in finance/administration for the student-affairs area — where I see Morris Graves regularly! My husband and I enjoyed dinner with Allen Greenberger in Chicago while visiting our daughter and her husband in November. Our son is a freshman at Boston University and sees Deborah Youngman — for which he and we feel very lucky.
Bruce Ross (Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.)
I celebrated the 10th anniversary of my firm, Bruce L. Ross & Company, on Jan. 14, 2002. Things are well with my wife (Randy Moskowitz ’76) and we look forward to seeing all other ’72ers at the alumni reunion in early May.

1973
Jeffrey McQueen (Leverett, Mass)
Morse Hill Outdoor Education Center just finished its second season of programs. We run a ropes course and outdoor activities that help people be nice to each other and love the outdoors. I’d love to hear from my old classmates.

1974
Deborah Norris (Napa, Calif.)
I live in Napa with my husband, Tony, and children, Elizabeth, 20, and Victor, 17. I work for the Napa County District Attorney’s Office as a legal secretary.

1975
Thomas Gibbs (San Anselmo, Calif.)
I coach a high-school girl’s soccer team for Sir Francis Drake High School. My daughter is a sophomore at the University of Puget Sound, and my son, Wesley, is in eighth grade.

Char Miller (San Antonio, Texas)

Kimberly Wilson-Jansma
(Short Beach, Calif.)
I have two kids at CMC, a sophomore and a senior. I recently wrote the French textbook: “Motifs.”

Susan Smallsreed (Portland, Ore.)
Having completed my M.L.S. (library science) in 2000, I’m finally making the switch to reference librarian and love it! I now work at the Gresham Branch of Multnomah County Library.

Anne Turley (Los Angeles)
2001 was a busy year. I freelanced for “Beyond Chance” and “Scariest Places on Earth.” I also was a staff editor for “In Search of…” and “Talk or Walk.” Stay tuned ...

1976
Helen Asbury (Cincinnati)
I am still practicing clinical psychology, which I love. We have two children, Allison, 9, and John, 6. I do a lot of board work for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

1977
Reunion: May 3 - 5, 2002
Class Reunion Chair: Jean Prinvale Swenk, committee77@pitzer.edu

1977 Reunion Committee
Did you realize that for most of us, we have spent more of our lives in the post-Pitzer era than in the pre-Pitzer era? For many of us, the memories of that time are still so vivid and the experiences so fresh. And, of course, our lives have changed in so many ways since we left. This May offers a wonderful opportunity to reconvene and reconnect; to both look back fondly and to be amazed at what has transpired in the interim. The members of the ’77 Reunion Committee hope to see every one of our former classmates at this year’s reunion celebration.

Jacki Anker (Santa Barbara, Calif.)
Looking forward to the (er, um, gulp) 25th reunion of the class of 1977! Oops, am I getting old? I forgot to check! Anyway, yours truly is still hanging out at the beach in glorious Santa Barbara. I am also still a shyster, I mean lawyer, going after businesses in Southern California. I will be traveling to Washington, D.C., in March in some vague attempt to get sworn in to the United States Supreme Court, in addition to Montana and Chicago in April and East Africa in August. Hope all is well with my fellow classmates!

Rhonda Forsyth (Phoenix)
I am living in Phoenix, and married to Christopher. We have a son, Andrew, who is 9. We feel very fortunate to spend our days with jobs we love (Rhonda in healthcare and Chris in telecommunications), and our evenings with Andrew and the Little League and Phoenix Boys Choir. We have a second home in Sedona, and spend our time hiking, playing and sweeping out the red dust.

Jean (Prinvale) Swenk (Escondido, Calif.)

1979
Gary Grossman (San Francisco)
I have been living and thriving in San Francisco since graduating from Pitzer.
Mablean Ephriam

Millions of Americans watch Mablean Ephriam ’71 sort out lost love and the law as the judge on TV’s “Divorce Court.”

“On the TV show I take a case, I deal with it for 30 minutes and I’m finished with the person,” she says. “I never have to think about it again. I get to sleep at night. I’m not waking up thinking, ‘Did I get that paperwork done?’”

But her busy private practice also meant long days, dealing with custody issues, dividing property and the heavy paperwork.

A person pleading guilty to cocaine possession might require five minutes of actual court time, though the lawyers would be spending much more time than that behind the scenes. These cases must be handled efficiently to leave time for trials, which can take several days.

Sanchez's Pitzer experience still helps her today. She majored in psychology and spent some time sitting in on group therapy for drug addicts among the women.

Yvonne Sanchez

A television show helped inspire Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Yvonne Sanchez ’77 to become a lawyer. She can't even remember the name of the show, but it involved a bunch of hip young law students running a storefront legal clinic.

This was in the eighth grade, mind you. It also helped that her big brother attended Yale's law school.

Today her work at the Superior Court in Whittier is not always glamorous, but it is challenging and fulfilling.

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at the California Rehabilitation Center in Chino. “I do a lot of that now” from the bench, she quips. “We have talks kind of like what I used to do at Pitzer.”

After Pitzer, Sanchez attended UCLA School of Law, and followed that with a brief stint as a computer programmer. She then accepted a job as a public defender for Los Angeles County. She was appointed court commissioner at the Superior Court in Whittier, and ran for judge successfully in 1992.

Sanchez lives in the area her court serves. She is elected by the people there. And sometimes cases hit close to home.

Sanchez recently had to decide a case involving two elderly men, both of them well known around town. One of the men was driving on a gray, drizzly morning and hit the other as he crossed the street, resulting in the man’s death.

Sanchez knew neither man personally, but the defendant was a Eucharistic minister in her church and was involved in the Eagle Scouts.

She found him guilty of vehicular manslaughter for failing to yield to a pedestrian in an unmarked crosswalk. The case drew a full audience each day and “was very, very traumatic for everybody,” says Sanchez.

Running errands or eating out, Sanchez sometimes encounters members of the public that she’s dealt with in court. But she hasn’t run into any trouble. As one man told her during a chance meeting out of court: “You were really nice.”

Debra Yang

Judge Debra Yang ’81 helps teach new judges at the state’s judicial college, and she wants them to learn to “raise the bar high and have high standards for yourself.”

It’s a lesson she lives in her own legal life.

She begins her workday at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Santa Monica at 8:30 a.m., then heads home at 6 p.m. to help the kids with their homework. Then she’ll start working again on cases at 9 p.m. and continue past midnight.

On top of that, she serves as president of the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles and has taught as an adjunct professor at UCLA’s School of Law. As of press time, she was considered a leading contender to be appointed as the new U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles, where she would run an office that prosecutes federal crimes in a region spanning seven counties.

Yang’s passion for public service was born at Pitzer.

As a double major in Asian studies and political studies, Yang got her first taste of how government works. She remembers then-Pitzer Professor Sherry Bebitch Jeffe bringing her and other students on a field trip to Sacramento to meet state legislators. “The great thing about Pitzer is that it initiated me to a lot of things I’d never been exposed to before,” says Yang. “It planted seeds that come to fruition at different times.”

Yang went on to Boston College’s law school, then served in private practice and as a law clerk to a U.S. District Court judge. She joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Los Angeles in 1990, prosecuting crimes ranging from kidnapping to securities fraud.

Her most emotional case there was prosecuting a parolee who kidnapped a woman, robbed her and forced her to perform sex acts. Then he left her in a motel room hundreds of miles from home. Yang won a conviction and the horrible case helped teach her to see things “through the victim’s eyes.”

Yang was appointed to a judgeship in 1997, and today she handles civil cases — lots of them. “The biggest surprise for me was the volume of cases,” she says. “Part of your responsibility is to move the cases along.”

That means she keeps notes on each case as it moves through the system. If an attorney says they need to interview five witnesses, Yang will write that down and follow up the next time that attorney appears before her. People describe her as “fair but tough.”

Yang has a passion for finding “just resolutions,” though she concedes that justice is not always served in the American system. However, her travels to countries ranging from Bulgaria to Mexico have shown her just how good the American system is in comparison to others.

So Yang chooses public service over making more money in private practice. “I feel strongly that you need to give something back,” Yang says. “It invigorates me.”
After practicing as a clinical psychologist for several years, I decided to take the plunge and undertake formal psychoanalytic training. I am now an advanced candidate at the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute and will graduate in June.

Regards to all my former classmates and to the teachers who inspired me, especially Peter Nardi, Dru Sherrod and Bob Alpert.

Cindy Ketchum (Redding, Calif.)
I'm now living in Redding, working as a district attorney and loving it. My daughter, Erin, 15, has just started high school. Sam, 10, is in fifth grade. The three of us are doing well.

Adi Liberman (Encino, Calif.)
After six years of service to Los Angeles council member and former City Council President Ruth Galanter, Adi Liberman has accepted the senior vice president position with Winner & Associates, a Publicis Consultants Company. He will work out of their Los Angeles office.

Bernhard Voelkelt
(Manhattan Beach, Calif.)
My hydropower plant in Germany finished its second year of operation with the production of 564,000 kWh of clean electricity, saving the atmosphere 564 metric tons of CO2. In addition, I was invited to participate in the California Energy Commission’s “Guidance to the California Climate Action Registry” work group. The work group’s goal is to collect data of greenhouse gas emissions and to make recommendations for reduction of such gases. I can be contacted at Bvoelkelt@aol.com.

1980

Cindy Bettison (Silver City, N.M.)
Hi everyone! I recently came back from a fabulous weekend held at and by Pitzer to honor Professor Sheryl Miller and her endowed teaching chair in biological anthropology and archaeology. What an incredible gift given by an anonymous alumna and her husband! I am still working at Western New Mexico University Museum, directing the museum and being a field archaeologist when the chance arises. I am also president of the Silver City Rotary Club (about 90 members strong) and became extremely active in local and international Rotary projects. I still love the vast openness of the West and I still think that New Mexico is the greatest place to live. Old friends, you are welcome to visit! There is a spare bedroom and the beautiful Gila Wilderness to explore. We are also very close to northern Mexico and the wonderful Sierra Madres.

Eleanor Childs (Philadelphia)
I work for the Montessori Genesis II School in Philadelphia, which has celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Mark Gaynor (Cambridge, Mass.)
I just finished my Ph.D. in computer science at Harvard, and am now teaching at Boston University School of Management.

Susie Miller (New York)
For those who are curious, after Claremont I resided in Washington, D.C., Denver, London and finally landed in New York, where I am nicely settled with my husband, Steve, our son, William, and two cats. Along the way, I procured a law degree and admission to the New York Bar, but have let them each languish as I spend my days raising another New York Yankees fan.

1981

Julie Fountain (Youngsville, N.C.)
Congratulations to Sheryl Miller. I was not an anthropology major, but I took as many of her courses as I could squeeze in to my curriculum. She is the epitome of a Pitzer professor — she does world-class research, but always puts the students first.
Alumnus, Crusader Against Gun Violence Carries Olympic Torch

Last year, Rhonda Foster ’82 picked up a form to nominate her husband, Ruett Foster ’81, as an Inspirational Torchbearer for the 2002 Winter Olympics torch relay. Her husband more than fit the requirements of a person who “has been a source of inspiration for his/her community” and “motivates others by encountering and overcoming adversity.” Unfortunately, she somehow had missed the deadline to enter his name. But January would bring good news.

“We received a call from an L.A. Times writer [Alan Abrahamson] who was one of the first people to cover our story in December ’97,” says Rhonda Foster, who chairs Pitzer’s Class of 1982 Reunion Committee. “He had nominated us to carry the torch for the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay, and we were accepted — however, it was only one spot. … So automatically, I said it was for [Ruett] to run.”

Ruett says there was a sense of nostalgia about carrying the torch.

“One of the things that was kind of heartfelt for me was that in high school, and for Pomona-Pitzer, I was a track man,” he says. “I had once even contemplated becoming an Olympian. The thing that was so wonderful is that I remember, when the torch traveled through South Central Los Angeles in 1984, the sense of pride I felt and how it must be such an honor. I never imagined that I would have that honor as well.”

For Ruett, whose team included Goldie Hawn and other celebrities, the experience was “just incredible.”

“For me to realize that there were 210,000 people nominated and 11,500 were accepted, and that I was one of the people who would carry the torch … it was an honor and an exhilarating experience for me,” says Ruett, whose family helped him to purchase the torch he carried as a souvenir. “I also was carrying with that flame great hope for the future. We really are the greatest country, and if we work together and love one another, we will overcome anything.”

Ruett has worked in the field of child welfare for several years. Last year, he took over the directorship of the Drew Child Development Foster Family Agency in South Central Los Angeles. The agency recruits and trains foster families toward the goal of keeping foster children in their own communities. He also is a Pitzer Alumni Association Board member and chair of community-service programs.

The Fosters’ story began on Dec. 8, 1997, when Evan Leigh Foster, 7, was killed by gang gunfire in an Inglewood, Calif., park. Evan was an outgoing, straight-“A” student who won numerous awards, including science fair honors and a good sportsmanship medal in soccer. The tragedy, which also left his little brother, Alec, blind in one eye, was yet another example of the senseless violence that plagues our society.

The three youths who shot Evan were arrested and pleaded guilty. They each received sentences of 20 or more years in prison, but not before sneering insults at the Fosters in the courtroom.

“We were devastated,” Rhonda told the Los Angeles Times in December. “I felt so much rage against the world.”

She says they turned to their faith for answers: “We both chose to trust and follow God and the inspiration He would give us to bring good out of evil.”

To help deal with their loss, the Fosters now work with California Youth Authority (CYA) inmates as part of the agency’s Victim Impact Program. The couple meet with the young men, telling their story to illustrate how much pain is caused by violence. These meetings are trying, but the Fosters are committed to helping young offenders improve their lives. Since becoming involved in the program, the Fosters say they have made an impact on some of the youths, with a number vowing to follow a different path in life.

The torch relay began Dec. 4 in Atlanta, where Muhammad Ali handed the torch to Peggy Fleming, the first runner. By the time the Olympic Flame reached Salt Lake City on Feb. 8, it had traveled more than 11,500 miles across 46 states.

Peter Vidmar, a 1984 Olympic gold medallist in pommel horse and team gymnastics, handed off the torch to Ruett:

“He said I was the hero and that he wants to remain in contact with me.”
A Buddha

By Amy Gerstler ’78

Awake among sleepers, he knows
the hypnotist’s loneliness. Robed in clusters
of bubbles, skull cup in his right hand,
he catches bitter milk that runs from
the world’s wounds and drinks it down
quickly. Cuddled in fetal sleep inside one egg
among hundreds, a salamander hums as her cells
multiply. The buddha simply whistles along.
No surprise to find him in the garden tonight,
up to his wrists in wet earth, among pistils
and stamens, an intricate cloud pattern
draping his loins. In the sky, bruised colors
collide. Seeds disperse on the wind while
snails mate in mud from yesterday’s rains.

Gerstler is a journalist and fiction writer who has had works published in numerous
magazines and anthologies. Her books include “Crown of Weeds” (Penguin, 1997),
“Nerve Storm” (Penguin, 1995) and “Bitter Angel” (North Point, 1990), which won the
National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry. A resident of Los Angeles, Gerstler works
as a graduate adviser at Art Center, College of Design in Pasadena, Calif. She earned her
B.A. in psychology and an M.F.A. in nonfiction from Bennington College in 2000. She
was nominated last year for the inaugural Phi Beta Kappa Poetry Award for most recent
Michel Fine (Portland, Ore.)
I have been working in the film industry for the last seven years. I am a set medic and am very happy.

1985
Steven Gonzalez (Seattle)
On Jan. 24, Washington Gov. Gary Locke named Steven Gonzalez to the King County Superior Court. Among the 51 judges, he will be the youngest and the only Latino. Gonzalez has worked most recently as Hate Crimes Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney’s Office. He also has served as a pro-tem judge on civil matters in Superior and District courts. Gonzales serves on the Washington State Bar Association’s court improvement committee and is a leader in the Hispanic Bar Association, representing indigent immigrants through the Northwest Immigrants Rights Project.

Francesca Manfredi (Santa Rosa, Calif.)
I am living in Santa Rosa, and have an 8-month-old named Inanna.

Gregory White (Long Beach, Calif.)
I was married to Maria on Oct. 16, 1999. We moved to Long Beach in July 2000 and on June 26, 2001, our son, Zachary Joseph White, was born. I have been in the securities industry for 16-plus years. I recently accepted a new position as a senior wholesaler for SEI Investments, wholesaling mutual finds on behalf of Highmark Funds. My geographic territory is Southern California, Nevada and Arizona.

1986
Becky Barton (Oak Park, Calif.)
I teach art and art appreciation at four different YMCA sites. Right now, my students’ art works are being displayed at the Reagan Library, where my husband is employed.

Susan Boyd (Houston, Texas)
Susan was married to Jim Boyd (Oklahoma State University graduate), whom she met at Heidi Smith Richmond’s (SCR ’86) wedding. Susan and Jim are living in Houston. Their beautiful little daughter, Jillian Marley Boyd, was born June 2000. Friends should e-mail Susan at theboyd@flash.net.

Kimberly Holl (Portola Valley, Calif.)
Married Peter Coberly (PO ’86), have an 18-month-old son, Neal, and a baby girl named Marle Coberly.

Karen Ozols Paradise
(Mountain View, Calif.)
We welcome with joy our new daughter, Emma Rose, born on Oct. 10, 2001.

Brian Rusler (San Antonio, Texas)
I am now working as an operations officer for the Air Force’s Logistics, Supply, Transportation, Contracting and Acquisitions and Recruiting School here at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. My position is roughly equivalent to that of the vice principal, and is tremendously rewarding as we train and educate approximately 14,000 students per year at campuses in Virginia, Texas and California.

Mike Simpson (Pasadena, Calif.)
My first child, a baby boy named Ozzy, was born on Sept. 12.

1987
Reunion: May 3-5, 2002
Class Reunion Chair: David Greensfelder, committee87@pitzer.edu

Leeshawn Cradoc Moore (Riverside, Calif.)
Leeshawn Cradoc Moore continues to work on her Ph.D. at Claremont Graduate University. She and her husband, Charles Moore, celebrated their son Messan’s Fourth Birthday on Dec. 22. While the party was for Messan, it also served as a mini-Pitzer and Pomona College reunion. Of course, the proud grandmother, Fannie Cradoc ’93, was in attendance. Nicole Cradoc Metoyer (PO ’94), Michelle Excel Jordan ’94, Edward (her husband) and Kamaria (her daughter) also attended the party, Wubet Terreefe ’99 and her son Patrick, Althea Williams ’99 and her son, Aaron, attended, too. All of these women are continuing to utilize their Pitzer education in dynamic and life-changing ways. Fannie Cradoc and Nicole Metoyer continue to invest in our future through teaching first- and second-graders at Madison Elementary School and Pueblo School in Pomona. Michelle Jordan works for the city of Inglewood and provides dynamic programs for at-risk students and parents. Althea Williams is impacting her community as a teacher. Wubet Terreefe, soon to be doctor, is continuing her graduate studies in UC Riverside’s psychology department.

1988
Tess Albert (Owings Mills, Md.)
I continue to keep in touch with a few of my classmates, but would love to read more about everyone else. My family keeps me very busy. I am a Brownie Girl Scout leader for my daughter’s troop, and the vice president of the board at my son’s school. I still work part time on top of all that being a mom requires.

David Blechinger (Fanwood, N.J.)
I have a second son, Devon, born July 15, 2000. We moved to New Jersey in January.

Tim Brennan (Anchorage, Alaska)
Tim Brennan and Stacey Brennan ’89 have two children: Alec, 3 1/2 years old, and Erin, 1 1/2 year old.

Lise Hewitt (San Francisco)
I became a newlywed in July. Happily married and enjoying my development work with the San Francisco Conservation Corps.
Lisa Lainer (Los Angeles)
We had our second child, a boy named Samuel Noah, on Sept. 5. His sister, Sophie, is nearly 3 1/2 years old. I continue to work part time as a psychologist in private practice in Los Angeles. I’d love to hear from my old friends.

Richard Wiedeman (Dallas, Texas)
My wife, Saskia Wiedeman, and I have a 2 1/2-year-old named Cloe and a 9-month-old named Rose.

Hayley Weinstein (Sherman Oaks, Calif.)
I have been married two years to Evan Weinstein. Currently working as a freelance casting producer.

1989
Laura Moen (Kenmore, Wash.)
I have two children, a 4-year-old and a 2-year-old. I am still a buyer in a bike store in Seattle. Friends can contact me at lauram@greggscycles.com.

Julie Flapan (Los Angeles)
We welcome our new baby girl, Ella Rose, to our world. She was born March 13, 2001. I also completed my doctorate in psychology from the Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology (CSPP) in August.

Naomi Weiss Glasky (Pasadena, Calif.)
Naomi and Mark are proud to announce the arrival of Jacob Benjamin in January.

David Mendeloff (Ottawa, Canada)
I recently joined the faculty of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Canada’s national capital. I was married last fall just before completing my Ph.D. in political science at MIT. Our beautiful 3-year-old Whippet, Sir Tristan, is shivering in anticipation of his first Ottawa winter.

1991
Brian Sturdivant (Oakland)
My new daughter, Erin, was born May 4, 2001. Hello to Professor Lako Tongun and Professor Stu McConnell.

Lisa Taplin (Bass Harbor, Maine)
I had a baby boy, Sean Benjamin Murray, on Aug. 6. He weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces. I am married to David Murray.

1992
Reunion: May 3-5, 2002
Class Reunion Chair: David Glickman, committee92@pitzer.edu

David Glickman (San Francisco)
Living in San Francisco with my wife, Kristin Kasper ’91, and recently joined Kontiki, an Internet startup that still has money! Looking forward to catching up with folks at the upcoming reunion.

Graciela Vega-Carbajal (Freedom, Calif.)
I recently married Javier Carbajal Herrera. I will be graduating this spring from CSUMB with a master’s in education. I will be completing a CD-ROM, which looks at poets, writers and visual artists of the Monterey Bay Area.

Gail Horwitz (New York)
Gail was married in the fall to Marshall Miller in New York City.
Kerry McCartney (Santa Monica, Calif.)
I recently completed my doctorate in education from UCLA Graduate School of Education in June 2001. I am now dean of institutional advancement at Marymount College in Rancho Palos Verdes. As a member of the senior staff, I oversee all fundraising, alumni relations and public relations aspects of the college. I continue to live in Santa Monica.

Amy Skramstad Morsman
(Minnetonka, Minn.)
We had a baby boy, Thomas Edgar Morsman, on June 19, 2001, and are enjoying our new life as parents.

1994
Samantha Garcia-Eggen (Pasadena, Calif.)
I had a baby, Marina Penelope, born May 19. Freya Prowe had a baby in September last year. Her name is Anja Margaret.

Amy Champ Spinetta (Plymouth, Calif.)
I was married in June 2001 and am very happy.

Cyndie McCartney (Upland, Calif.)
I switched school districts. I am now teaching second- and third-graders at Mount Baldy.

1995
Ramzi Abed (Dallas, Texas)

Lilia Hernandez Benjamin (Los Angeles)
I am still happily married, still gainfully employed, and my daughter is about to be 2 years old! How crazy is that? Did you think you were going to age so quickly? E-mail me at lilia@mediaone.net.

John Darnielle (Ames, Iowa)
I was signed to 4AD Records UK. My band, the Mountain Goats, has enjoyed much success since fondly remembered Monday nights at the Grove House. My second gig as a music critic has also been going well. I write for New Times L.A., Magnet, Neumv.com, and have my own weekly concern, www.lastplanetojakarta.com. I have been married since 1998. It is awesome. My wife, Lalitree, is so wonderful that it hurts to even think about it!

James Lippincott (Pasadena, Calif.)
After what felt like an extended vacation living at Lake Tahoe, my wife, Katherine, and I have returned to Southern California. I am happy to be back at Pitzer, where I am enjoying a new chapter in my career as the assistant director of alumni and parent relations. My e-mail address is: james_lippincott@pitzer.edu.

Elizabeth Rossof (San Francisco)
After finishing the Watson in the summer of ’96, I worked for a few months at home in Chicago and headed back down to South America for another five months. When I got back to the states, I took a job as a Spanish teacher in Marin County. I have since changed my job twice, but remained at the same school. I am now working as director of alumni relations and as associate director in the development office. I still get to teach twice a week. I am a counselor to eight kids and teach the seventh-grade human sexuality class. It is quite challenging, but I have developed a great relationship with my students. Each year I take my students backcountry camping in Yosemite for one week and, needless to say, it is my favorite week of the year. I have spent my summers traveling back to Mexico a few times. I went to England to watch Wimbledon one summer and, last sum-
mer, I spent a month in Cuba, which was amazing. This past summer I went to New Zealand to practice my new favorite sport, snowboarding. I love New Zealand! If there are any Kiwi/Pitzoids, please let me know. I am applying for a 12-month work visa, because I need to see that landscape in every season!

1998

Justin Anderson (Seattle)
I married Liza Schmitz on Aug. 17. I quit my job and am attending law school at the University of Washington.

1999

Emily Deming-Martin (New Orleans)
I got married June 9, 2001, to Joshua Martin.

2000

Shirley Ku (Fullerton, Calif.)
I left in November to teach English at an elementary school in China until next summer. If anyone is in Tianjin, China, look me up at CRIS Elementary.

Jeremiah Martin (Japan)
I am living in Japan, but I am hard to reach. I would love to hear from Pitzer. My e-mail address is: sciac1@yahoo.com.

Amanda Crosby '97 (New York)
Amanda Crosby died in February, after surviving an apartment fire for seven weeks with great courage. At Pitzer, Amanda was an avid environmental studies student and especially loved the Arboretum and Grove House. She was a member of her class’ five-year reunion committee and was looking forward to returning to Pitzer for Alumni Weekend in May. Amanda’s friends and family are establishing a memorial fund in her honor at the College. Those who want to send personal condolences or contribute to the Amanda Crosby Scholarship Fund should contact Susanne Faulstich in the advancement office at (909) 621-8130 or Susanne_Faulstich@pitzer.edu. Amanda is survived by her parents, John and Betsy Crosby, and her brother, Jay Crosby.

1996

Aaron Parral (Fullerton, Calif.)
Aaron received a master’s degree in the summer of 2000. He is an education and cross-cultural teacher at National University in San Diego. He started an annual tradition of field trips to Pomona’s theater department for a mime workshop, dance workshop and role-playing sketches.

1997

Reunion: May 3-5, 2002
Chair: Tiffany Lopez-Powell Huisman, committee97@pitzer.edu

Lisa Ameyna (Nairobi, Kenya)
After graduating from Pitzer in December 1996, I immigrated to Nairobi, Kenya, in East Africa approximately three years back. I am currently employed as client-service manager at Nairobi’s hottest radio station, KISS-100. It is a lot of fun. I would love to hear from other alumni, friends or students who are considering study-abroad programs in Kenya, relocating, etc. My e-mail address is: lisa@kissfm.co.ke.

Monique Olesniewicz (San Francisco)
Monique Olesniewicz and Eric Ott were engaged in October 2001.

Genanne Zeller (Greenbelt, Md.)
My husband, Ed Martini ’98, and I are in our fourth year in Greenbelt. I am director of client care for a software firm in Silver Spring. Ed is nearing the end of his Ph.D. program at the University of Maryland.

1998

Justin Anderson (Seattle)
I married Liza Schmitz on Aug. 17. I quit my job and am attending law school at the University of Washington.

1999

Fiona Spring (Santa Paula, Calif.)
I married Cameron Leggett on May 13.

2000

Devon Kaiser (Arcadia, Calif.)
After graduating in May 2000, I began a doctoral program (Psy.D.) in psychology at Azusa Pacific University. I am now in my second year. My emphasis is on corporate psychology with the hopes of one day serving as an internal psychologist for a business or major corporation. I miss Pitzer and would love to hear from everyone. My e-mail address is Devon_Kaiser@hotmail.com.

Emily Deming-Martin (New Orleans)
I got married June 9, 2001, to Joshua Martin.

2001

Shirley Ku (Fullerton, Calif.)
I left in November to teach English at an elementary school in China until next summer. If anyone is in Tianjin, China, look me up at CRIS Elementary.

Jeremiah Martin (Japan)
I am living in Japan, but I am hard to reach. I would love to hear from Pitzer. My e-mail address is: sciac1@yahoo.com.

Meghavi Shah (Portland, Oregon)
This year I’m taking the time to work on my writing to eventually get published. Some of my work can be found at http://estoyaqui01.tripod.com.

Lan Phuong Tran (Alta Loma)
I am currently in pharmacy school at Western University.

Shanna Young (Los Angeles)
Ernesto Clarke II ’98 and Shanna Young were married on Sept. 22, 2001. Their first baby arrived in January.

In Memoriam
Pamela J. Savic ’80, an educator who took pride in assisting children with special needs, died Dec. 6 of colon cancer. Dr. Savic devoted most of her career to the support of children. She covered the McMartin Preschool investigation and contributed to the “Generations of Violence” report while at KCET-TV in 1983. She taught at Union Avenue and Hubbard Street elementary schools before returning to graduate school, earning her doctorate in psychology in 1997 from the California School of Professional Psychology. She continued her interest in journalism for many years, authoring occasional articles and restaurant reviews for the Pasadena Weekly, including a notable piece on the Altadena Waldorf School.

Amanda Crosby ’97 (New York)
Amanda Crosby died in February, after surviving an apartment fire for seven weeks with great courage. At Pitzer, Amanda was an avid environmental studies student and especially loved the Arboretum and Grove House. She was a member of her class’ five-year reunion committee and was looking forward to returning to Pitzer for Alumni Weekend in May. Amanda’s friends and family are establishing a memorial fund in her honor at the College. Those who want to send personal condolences or contribute to the Amanda Crosby Scholarship Fund should contact Susanne Faulstich in the advancement office at (909) 621-8130 or Susanne_Faulstich@pitzer.edu. Amanda is survived by her parents, John and Betsy Crosby, and her brother, Jay Crosby.
present understood as history. After a crash course in oral history and general qualitative research methods, I got started. That same spring, as part of our historiography seminar, required of all history majors, we interviewed the faculty members about the search for the new president of the College. As part of a class that had witnessed Tiananmen Square and the fall of communism, many of us firsthand, the Pitzer Oral History Project was part and parcel of a process learning to live historically. Within a week of graduation, the Los Angeles Riots ushered us out and into the world. And the Oral History Project was but one of many innovative research methodologies we experimented with at the College. That spring, one group of anthropology students sat inside the quirky In-and-Out Burger on Foothill Boulevard, where stoned students stumbled by for munchies. They made a film about the experience. Another anthro student spent her weekends selflessly dedicated to “researching” the conditions at dance parties (or raves) in the warehouses of Los Angeles. The result was an ethnography years ahead of its time. Like the history project, they were examples of increasingly sophisticated methods to consider social phenomena utilized at Pitzer. After saying goodbye to Pitzer, I moved to San Francisco, ready to make use of those tools. While there was little work available for researchers or journalists, the AIDS epidemic’s grip on the city was unmistakable. After a year of temp jobs, I stumbled upon a position as a late-night clerk at an AIDS housing facility on Market and Van Ness. We lost three clients my first week. I had never been around so many people with so many stories, some about battling Anita Bryant in the 1970s, others about battles with ACT UP. One of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence moved out not long after I got there. She had too much living to do to stay in a facility with so much death. In those years before protease inhibitors, an urgency surrounded the need to bear witness to the catastrophe. The idea of a community-research project to capture some of these stories meandered through my mind during those long 12-8 a.m. shifts. I talked with my boss, who suggested I take out an ad in a local paper calling for interviews. It was an inspired idea. Over the next two years, I spent my days before and after work busing around town taping interviews with people with AIDS, ready to tell their stories before they ran out of time. Within months, many died. The peak year for deaths nationwide from the epidemic was 1995. To a certain extent, just taping the story of the member of a dying member of a cohort was an activist gesture in and of itself. In fall 1995, I moved to Chicago to study social work at the University. Once there, I learned about the Chicago research tradition from Park and Burgess to “Slim’s Table,” of which oral history was a key parcel. Borrowing from Pitzer and San Francisco, I learned to study the life story as a research document, as a text to be considered like any other. Yet there was more to the life story than this. Clifford Shaw had used the life stories of delinquents to help understand and shift the social conditions that contributed to delinquency. Like Shaw, I found it difficult to listen to these stories without being inspired to act. While such action was discouraged by pure “scientific” researchers, I couldn’t help but believe there was another route. By Fall 1997, the San Francisco life stories I had collected were published as “White Nights and Ascending Shadows: An Oral History of the San Francisco AIDS Epidemic.” I had moved to Manhattan, where I continued to work in AIDS housing; more than that, I had begun spending my evenings going to community meetings and organizing. Building on the lessons of Pitzer and Chicago, I had grown to recognize that the arguments, discussions and flyers one collected at such meetings could be used as research data and ethnographic field notes. It was an incredibly exciting time. Oral histories would come later. Unshackled by past ghosts, a new cohort of activists were building on Margaret Mead’s old adage that small groups are the only ones who have ever changed the world. On some days, these little groups locked themselves down to the offices of pharmaceutical companies; on others we performed guerilla theatre and were arrested inside the Disney Store, which seemed to be expanding to mall the public commons. The Seattle WTO protests of 1999 would culminate a decade worth of activism. Somewhere between ACT UP’s first action in 1987 and the Seattle protests, activism had undergone a profound transformation from defensive to offensive positions. Qualitative research and life stories were the most appropriate ways to document these shifts. This shift is the subject of my upcoming anthology, “From ACT UP to the WTO: Urban Protest and Community Building in the Era of Globalization,” to be published by Verso this fall. For me, oral history began with the Pitzer Oral History Project. The project was a way for me to begin living historically and recognizing this was something we could all shape. In the future, I believe that history undergrads could get involved. I certainly know no one has ever completed transcribing those 30 years worth of interviews. I would hope future history faculty and students would continue its significant mission of recognizing students play a role in shifting the ever-flowing present understood as history.

Benjamin Shepard is a social worker moonlighting as a social historian. By day he combines his work as a program director at an AIDS housing program with his doctoral studies in social welfare at Hunter/CUNY; by night he is involved in campaigns to save New York’s public spaces. Shepard is co-editor of “From ACT UP to the WTO: Urban Protest and Community Building in the Era of Globalization” (Verso, 2001) and author of “White Nights and Ascending Shadows: An Oral History of the San Francisco AIDS Epidemic” (Cassell, 1997). His work has appeared in Monthly Review, Working/IA: A Journal of Labor, Minnesota Review, Antioch Review, and three book collections, Hayduk and Mattsson’s “Democracy’s Moment: Reforming the US Political System for the 21st Century” (Romer and Littlefield, in press), John Berg’s “Teamsters, Turtles, and Others: Left Movements in the 20th Century” (Romer and Littlefield, in press) and David Colbert’s “Eyewitness to the American West: 500 Years of Firsthand History” (Penguin, 1999). He can be reached at benshepard@mindspring.com.
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