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Dedication & Celebration

On September 24, 2007, the Pitzer College community celebrated the grand opening of three new eco-friendly residence halls. Turn to the center of this issue to see a special photo spread of the event.
from the EDITORS

IN UPHOLDING Pitzer College’s commitment to environmentally sound practices, we make every effort to incorporate into The Participant and other publications the sustainable use of resources. As the editors of the College’s alumni magazine, we have a responsibility to demonstrate that good design and environmental stewardship are compatible with each other and are beneficial to all.

We have long used recycled-content paper and vegetable-based inks to print The Participant and are pleased to announce that the magazine is now a Forest Stewardship Council certified publication. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international nonprofit organization that brings people together to find solutions that encourage responsible stewardship of the world’s forests. The FSC promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world’s forests and forest products.

FSC certification ensures that the paper used to print this magazine contains fiber from well-managed and responsibly harvested forests that meet strict environmental and socioeconomic standards. This certification process also audits the “Chain of Custody” of FSC-certified products through the printing process assuring that purchasing, inventory management and manufacturing protocols are maintained and followed. For example, our printer, Dual Graphics, uses renewable and sustainable vegetable-based inks exclusively. Certification permits our use of the FSC logo solely on printed products meeting the rigorous standards set by the FSC.

Sustainable living is integral to a Pitzer College education. As you read the stories in this issue, you will learn how the College community is living its motto: Provida Futuri—Mindful of the Future. We hope you will be inspired by the efforts made at Pitzer and by the responsibility we share to preserve and honor the Earth.

Susan Andrews
Editor

Emily Cavalcanti
Managing Editor
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 inter-reliant 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 humanity and the rest of nature.

—Adopted in 2002 by the Pitzer College Council

The paper used for The Participant is 25-percent preconsumer and 25-percent postconsumer recycled paper. It is printed with vegetable-based inks and aqueous-based coatings that contain fewer volatile organic compounds than conventional inks.
FIVE YEARS OF TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

LAURA SKANDERA TROMBLEY BEING MINDFUL OF OUR FUTURE

AN ACTION-PACKED FIVE YEARS of remarkable leadership sums up Laura Skandera Trombley's presidency at Pitzer College from 2002 to the present. Her accomplishments touch upon every area of the College from campus improvements, to academic program expansion, to fiscal growth, to institutional stature.

Her presidency began with a resounding vote of confidence by the Board of Trustees who established a scholarship fund named in her honor for first-generation students. Her work at the College continues to attract the notice of the Pitzer community, her colleagues and the media. Trombley was named one of five “rising star” college presidents for her close connection with students and faculty and for being a leader who knows that moving ahead is about working together. Nowhere is this better exemplified than in Trombley’s leadership in the planning and implementation of a five-year strategic plan that will be completed a year early.

In five years, Pitzer College has soared in multiple areas. The endowment has more than doubled, surpassing $110 million (an increase of 144 percent) and included the largest gift ever received by the College; student applications continued to break records yearly; and the admission acceptance rate has moved from 56 percent to 26 percent making Pitzer one of the most selective colleges in the country. The College’s first-ever comprehensive campaign finished early exceeding the $40-million goal; the recent $18-million Residential Life Project campaign also finished early and over the goal; and leadership, alumni and parent giving has increased dramatically. Pitzer College was ranked among the top fifty liberal arts colleges for the first time this year by U.S. News & World Report, and the College became the West Coast leader in adopting an SAT-optional policy in 2002.

Highly focused, energetic and enthusiastic, Trombley has transformed ideas into action and affected significant change by working together with the Pitzer community. To this end, Trombley uses a hands-on style of leadership for ease of accessibility and transparency to Pitzer’s students. From Trombley’s open office hours to talk about what is on their minds to serving late night snacks with her vice presidents during finals week, students know that their president is genuine in her concern for their education and future. She ardently believes that education best begins with a conversation between students and their professors, and that this exchange should continue long after the students graduate from the College.

For four of the five years, Pitzer students have been awarded the highest number of prestigious Fulbright Fellowships per capita.

Laura Skandera Trombley is Pitzer College's fifth president.
among all colleges and universities in the country. The percentage of students studying abroad has increased to 70 percent with many students studying in more than one destination. The doubling of overseas opportunities to more than forty domestic and international exchange programs has been a major factor.

The number of faculty members has increased during Trombley’s tenure. She has focused on maintaining small class sizes, with a 10:1 student faculty ratio to be reached by 2008-09, while strengthening faculty salaries and research funds.

A hallmark of her presidency and the theme of this issue is the building of three new residence halls that are pending Gold LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council—the culmination of countless hours spent by members from all Pitzer constituencies, especially the students. With the completion of the second and third phases of the Residential Life Project, Pitzer stands positioned to become the first college in the nation to replace all its residence halls with Gold LEED certified buildings.

Phase II and III of the Residential Life Project will include a new Media Studies facility, classrooms and seminar rooms. Other campus improvement projects include the renovation of Avery Auditorium and a new entryway to McConnell Center.

What has always fascinated people in and outside of academia is Trombley’s scholarly work on Mark Twain. A creative as well as a strategic thinker and an internationally renowned Twain scholar, she has plenty to say on the topic. Her discovery of one hundred lost Twain letters when she was a graduate student and subsequent twenty years spent as a Twain scholar was the subject of a 2005 front-page story in the Los Angeles Times. She has recently completed her soon-to-be published fifth book titled Mark Twain’s Other Woman.

Ever aware of the importance of community and civic engagement, Trombley is an active member of numerous local and national organizations including the Claremont Rotary. Additionally, she is the vice chair of the Association of Governing Boards Council of Presidents and a commissioner to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). In 2006 Trombley joined the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, a high-visibility effort to make campuses more sustainable.

Articles have been written about and by Trombley that focus on balancing a high-demand lifestyle as a college president with that of being a mother to her son Sparkey. In all of her roles—president, wife, mother, Twain scholar—her husband Nelson has been both a supportive as well as an active partner.

As the College community nears its fiftieth anniversary in 2013 and reflects on the numerous individuals who have contributed to its greatness, Laura Skandera Trombley will most certainly be among them.

—SUSAN ANDREWS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS
STUDENT AWARDS

Coro Fellow

NICK KISLINGER '07 HEADS TO ST. LOUIS

NICK KISLINGER '07 was elected to participate in the 2007-08 Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs. He is currently based at the Coro Leadership Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and will take part in a series of internships, interviews, public service projects and seminars.

Kislinger, a self-designed major in organizational ecology, created the Dining with Democracy lecture series. As the student representative on the development committee of Pitzer College’s Board of Trustees, the founder of the Prison Stress Management and Rehabilitation Training (SMART) Program at the Afflerbaugh/ Paige Juvenile Camp in La Verne, California, and the recipient of the Kalick Community Service Award, Nick was an innovative, enthusiastic and engaging student leader. As a Coro Fellow he hopes to build upon his skills with a career in public service as his goal.

STUDENT AWARDS

Rotary Ambassadorial Fellow

MILAN BURKE '08 TO STUDY AT SWEDEN'S MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

MILAN BURKE '08 has been awarded a 2008-09 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to Malmö University in Sweden by the Rotary Club of Windward Oahu.

Burke completed a project on the Amazigh (Berber) indigenous language in public schools while studying abroad in Morocco. While there, she traveled to Sweden, where she found a surprising number of Middle Eastern immigrants and came to understand their fragile relationship with the Swedes. The tension opened Burke’s eyes to the increasingly acrimonious attitudes and subsequently, increasingly austere laws, on immigration in Northern Europe.

At Malmö, Burke will complete her master’s degree in international relations or immigration and ethnic relations. Upon her return, she will make a presentation to the Hawaiian Rotarians on the immigration of Middle Easterners to Sweden. She plans to go on to a graduate program in law.

STUDENT AWARDS

Pearson Teacher Fellow

LINDA LUNA '07 TEACHES IN NYC

LINDA LUNA '07 has been selected as a Pearson Teacher Fellow. She is among a select group of graduating seniors to become one of just twenty-four Fellows across the United States.

The Pearson Teacher Fellowship was created through a unique partnership between Jumpstart and Pearson to help passionate and dedicated college graduates continue their efforts in achieving Jumpstart’s mission of working toward the day that every child in America enters school prepared to succeed.

Luna participated in Jumpstart as a first-year and sophomore student at Pitzer and during her senior year was a Jumpstart team leader. A theatre major, Luna hopes to one day open a children’s theatre company. She is eager to share her love of learning with children as a Pearson Teacher Fellow.

Luna will be teaching preschoolers (ages three to five) from low-income communities in New York City using the skills she acquired during her four years at Pitzer. After completing her two-year Fellowship, Luna plans to pursue a graduate degree in applied theatre.

Listen to Pitzer Podcasts at www.pitzer.edu/podcasts
Laura Beckman '10, Sarah Ching '10, Jessica Shiu '09 and Chris Phillips '09 help WASEDA exchange student Chie Tatsumi (center) move in.

WELCOME WEEK

A Brand New Home  STUDENTS MOVE INTO GREEN RESIDENCE HALLS

IN THE EARLY morning hours of August 30, the very first student residents of Atherton Hall began opening their doors. Pitzer students and staff welcomed the newcomers and pitched in to help first-year students and their families with the move-in. In September, the last students to occupy old Sanborn Hall relocated to their new rooms in Pitzer Hall and the new Sanborn Hall. Read more about student life in the new residence halls on page 24.

CAMPUS EVENT

Sojourner Truth Lecture

FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN CYNTHIA ANN MCKINNEY

THE INTERCOLLEGIATE Department of Black Studies of The Claremont Colleges welcomed Cynthia Ann McKinney as the twenty-third keynote speaker of the annual Sojourner Truth Lecture on October 11 at Pitzer College. McKinney, an internationally renowned advocate for human rights, voting rights and government accountability, was elected as the first African American congresswoman from Georgia.

In her first term as congresswoman, McKinney was appointed to the Armed Services Committee and the International Relations Committee. She sponsored the Arms Transfer Code of Conduct to prevent the sale of U.S. weapons to dictators. During her second term in 2004, she worked on challenging and controversial issues, including a critique of the 9/11 Commission Report and advocated on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The Sojourner Truth Lecture was established in 1983 and honors the achievements and contributions of outstanding women from the African Diaspora. The lectureship is sponsored by Pitzer, Pomona, Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Scripps and Claremont Graduate University.

LAST SPRING a short scene of the movie Lions for Lambs, directed by Robert Redford, was filmed on Pitzer’s campus. This fall Redford selected several colleges nationwide to hold advanced screenings of his movie including Pitzer College, Harvard, the University of Chicago, USC and UCLA. Pitzer's screening occurred on October 25 at Laemmle's Claremont 5 Cinema and at Redford's request was followed by a 30-minute discussion of the movie moderated by Professor of Political Studies Dana Ward. Lions for Lambs, starring Robert Redford, Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise, is a powerful and gripping story that digs behind the news, the politics and a nation divided to explore the human consequences of a complicated war.
PITZER ART GALLERIES

Q&A with Ciara Ennis
DIRECTOR & CURATOR OF PITZER ART GALLERIES

This fall Ciara Ennis took over as director and curator of Pitzer College's art galleries including the Nichols Gallery and the new Lenzner Family Art Gallery in Atherton Hall. In addition to this role, Ennis is teaching a first-year seminar titled Curating: Past & Present and will also teach Studio Practice during the summer session. Megan Daniels '08 asked Ennis a few questions about her new job and art at Pitzer.

What is your educational background?
I grew up in London and earned my bachelor of arts in painting at Norwich School of Art. After studying painting at the Kunstkademie Karlsruhe for two years, I attended Central/St. Martins School of Art before pursuing my master's in visual arts administration, curating and commissioning contemporary art at the Royal College of Art.

Which galleries have you worked for in the past?
After graduating from the Royal College of Art, I went on to work as project coordinator (and later became project director) at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. I had the extraordinary opportunity of working directly with Chief Curator Paul Schimmel who taught me everything I know about curating. I later worked as associate curator at the Santa Monica Museum of Art and for the past two years I have turned my attention to large-scale thematic exhibitions at UCR/California Museum of Photography.

What attracted you to Pitzer College & what do you hope to accomplish here?
Because the galleries are fairly new (the Lenzner Family Art Gallery opened in September of this year) they don't have much of a history, which is really exciting to me. It presents an incredible opportunity and challenge to create a vibrant contemporary art program that not only exists within Pitzer, but also has its own identity outside the 5Cs. Pitzer is a unique environment. I've never worked in a place like this, where everyone seems genuinely happy to be here, it's extremely rare.

My aim as director and curator of Pitzer's art galleries is to create exciting and engaging contemporary art spaces that demonstrate a wide variety of aesthetic and narrative viewpoints. I strive to present exhibitions of the highest quality that uplift, educate and challenge, and to show art that increases the public profile of the gallery and Pitzer through innovations and risk-taking. I want students to feel that these galleries are theirs and that they don't always have to go to L.A. to see what is going on in the art world.

NICHOLS GALLERY & LENZNER FAMILY ART GALLERY

Antarctica

NOVEMBER 17, 2007 - JANUARY 12, 2008

Taking place simultaneously at the Nichols and Lenzner Family Art Galleries, Antarctica will be the subject of the largest photographic exhibition ever shown at Pitzer College. This exhibition, the first curated by Ciara Ennis at Pitzer, brings together the work of three extraordinary artists: Joyce Campbell, Anne Noble and Connie Samaras. Their collaborative work explores the subject of Antarctica, the coldest and most extreme continent on Earth. Each artist's work approaches the subject with differing yet interconnected critical frameworks. The result is a rich transcultural dialogue that seeks to serve as the de-exoticism of a landscape that has been romanticized, idealized and rendered epic.
David H. Wells, Untitled (South Asia Project), 2006

NICHOLS GALLERY

Globalization: Choices & Changes
SEPTEMBER 7 - OCTOBER 20, 2007

IN THIS EXHIBITION Annu Palakunnathu Matthew and David H. Wells '79 approach the topic of globalization in India in different ways. In The Virtual Immigrant, Matthew explores the fluidity of identity and the dislocation of call center workers in India who technologically "migrate" during their workday. In The Newly Global and the Eternal, Dualities in South Asia, Wells investigates interactions between local culture and globalization's forces for change.

LENZNER FAMILY ART GALLERY

Humanitas
INAUGURAL EXHIBITION
SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 31, 2007

FOCUSING ON individual and collective identity, Fredric Roberts' photographs taken in India, Cambodia, Bhutan, Myanmar and China explore the complex narratives and entwined relationships between people and the places where they live. Exuding compassion and unusual empathy, Roberts' powerful color works elegantly capture the disparate cultures, elaborate rituals and ever-shifting landscapes that he encountered along the way.

DINING WITH DEMOCRACY

The Speaker Series That Serves Up Open Discussion Between Students and Leaders for Social Change

THE PURPOSE of Dining with Democracy is to facilitate discussion, debate and dialogue about important contemporary political and social issues in a participatory atmosphere, and to bring the leaders of today to inspire the leaders of tomorrow. After the lecture, the guest speaker continues the discussion with students, faculty and staff over an intimate dinner.

OCTOBER 25
THE YES MEN
Criticizing the Powerful with a Middle Finger and a Smile

Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonanno are two guys who couldn't hold down a job until they became reps for the WTO, George W. Bush, Halliburton, Dow Chemical and the U.S. federal government. Now they are the Yes Men, and they use humor, truth and lunacy to bring media attention to the local and global misdeeds of their unwilling employers.

DECEMBER 6
Will Parrish
How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Oppose the Bomb

Will Parrish has been the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Youth Empowerment Director since 2005. He is a community organizer, activist, researcher, writer, public speaker and facilitator.

Join us on January 24 for John Hueston's lecture, "How I Trounced Ken Lay: The Timely Demise of Enron."

All discussions take place in Avery Auditorium at 4 p.m.
It seemed to me too many folks were awful sad and lonely or else angry about something, like the war hadn't truly ended. Little bits and pieces of it were still stuck in everybody's craw like a tiny bit of fish bone. Not nearly enough to choke you to death but enough to make your throat raw.

JACKIE LEVERING SULLIVAN, founder and director of Pitzer College's Writing Center, celebrated the publication of her first novel, Annie's War (Eerdmans Books), with a reading, book signing and ice cream social at the Grove House on October 12.

The novel, for children ages eight to twelve, begins one year after World War II. Eleven-year-old Annie worries about her father, who was declared missing in action, and her mother, who believes that her husband is dead. Then Annie's appendix bursts, and she is stuck in the hospital for more than a month.

During her stay, Annie gets an unusual visitor—President Harry S. Truman. Though everyone insists he is a figment of her imagination, the president offers Annie the friendship and support she desperately needs.

Annie faces more family tension when she is sent to recuperate at her grandma's house. Grandma has taken in a new tenant, Miss Gloria Jean Washington, a young black woman fleeing discrimination and her own sad past. Annie's Uncle Billy, a bitter WWII veteran, is furious because he doesn't want a "colored" so close to home.

With the help of Mr. Truman, Annie tries to understand her uncle's behavior, her father's absence and Miss Gloria's sorrow. She begins to realize some wounds of war never heal.

During the reading, Levering Sullivan explained her creative process and why she chose to write the book. She initially began Annie's War as a story about a girl trying to help her family cope with the aftermath of WWII, but soon found that she was actually writing Annie's story to satisfy her own curiosity about how the real Miss Gloria came to be such an important part of her family.

As a young girl Levering Sullivan spent her summers in Walla Walla, Washington, with her grandmother and her housekeeper Gloria. Levering Sullivan would pass countless hours with Gloria at the Corner Grocery that was attached to her grandmother's house and going to the movies. "When I close my eyes and think about Gloria, I can still feel the soft touch of her hands cupped around my face," she said.

During the '40s, a time when prejudice was commonplace, Levering Sullivan recalled how her grandmother ignored her neighbors' attitudes and gave Gloria, a black woman, a home and a job. Many years later, a conversation with her aunt rekindled the affection and admiration she felt for her grandmother's strength of character and she began to write.

"This book started with images of my grandmother and Gloria in the Corner Grocery. There were happy images, though I know the time was not always so happy for all of us," she said. "Later in the process, I was writing at a time when we found ourselves in another war and I thought this story might resonate with young readers who have been touched by the conflict in Iraq."

Pitzer College's Writing Center Jackie Levering Sullivan

Pitzer College, Associate Professor of Political Studies and Chicano Studies Adrian Pantoja and Claremont Graduate University Assistant Professor of Politics and Policy Jennifer Merolla led the Politics of Race, Immigration and Ethnicity Colloquium (PRIEC) held at Pitzer College on September 28. PRIEC is an ongoing series of meetings that brings together faculty and graduate students from the West Coast to discuss their research related to race, ethnicity and immigration. "While this conference typically meets at large research universities such as UCLA or USC, I invited the participants to hold their meeting at Pitzer College," Pantoja said. "There was a general consensus that this was one of the best PRIEC conferences and the participation of Pitzer students greatly contributed to its success. The participants are looking forward to a future meeting at Pitzer."
Learning from YouTube

The first college course entirely about, and primarily occurring on YouTube was taught by Professor of Media Studies Alex Juhasz this fall at Pitzer College. The ground rules were simple and few. All the classwork and assignments (reading, writing, viewing and video production) occurred on and about YouTube. Juhasz and her class caught the attention of the news media and were featured in numerous newspaper articles as well as television and radio broadcasts. Visit www.youtube.com/mediapraxisme to learn more.

September 20, 2007
CNN American Morning
Kiran Chetry interviewed Professor Alex Juhasz and Miranda Perry '08.

September 28, 2007
Professor Juhasz was interviewed on Fox and Friends weekend edition.

Faculty members have experimented with posting lectures and course material online before, and some have argued that YouTube is a helpful tool for academics, but the devotion of an entire course to the Web site and the all-access pass Pitzer is providing puts the liberal arts college on another plane.

"It's a class like I've never taught before and a class like I'm not certain has ever been taught before," Juhasz says during her introductory video.

You'd expect that a professor teaching a class on and about YouTube would be a huge booster of the site. But not Juhasz. She says she is "underwhelmed" and "unsatisfied" by much of the content, which she describes as spoofs of pop culture references that she just doesn't understand.

Juhasz's main critique of the site is its architecture. Academics strive to make connections across disciplines, she says, but YouTube makes it difficult to provide context (often in the form of links), and to carry on complex conversations beyond the small space given for comments below the video.

Still, as a professor of Media Studies, she says ignoring the site is impossible. Instead, she wants students to draw their own conclusions after spending a semester working entirely within the framework and constraints of YouTube.
Pitzer College was named as one of the best colleges in the United States by the 2008 edition of the Princeton Review's "The Best 366 Colleges." Pitzer undergraduates tend to be "passionate, creative, dynamic and socially involved." Pitzer students possess a love of learning and also enjoy a wealth of entertainment and enrichment options. A student is quoted as saying, "Pitzer is about constantly questioning the status quo and the mainstream, constantly thinking about better alternatives or creative solutions, and constantly reevaluating the way you see yourself, your community and the world around you."

**Pitzer in Top 50 of Nation's Liberal Arts Colleges**

Pitzer College ranked forty-ninth overall in the nation among liberal arts colleges in U.S. News & World Report's 2008 edition of "America's Best Colleges." Improving from fifty-first place from the previous year, Pitzer's rankings reflect continued strong placements in all categories, particularly among academic quality, reputation, selectivity and endowment.

"While we are pleased that our college continues to perform well in the annual U.S. News & World Report rankings, our Admission Office recommends that prospective students explore their options on numerous levels beyond the college ranking books," President Trombley said. "The right fit for prospective students translates into matching the mission and core values of the college."

**Borrowed Voices Awarded Grant**

The California Council for the Humanities awarded a California Story Fund grant to the Borrowed Voices: Sharing the Stories of Incarcerated Youth project sponsored by the Pitzer College Center for California Cultural and Social Issues. The California Story Fund is an ongoing program of California Stories, the Council's multiyear initiative to connect Californians and foster understanding by uncovering personal and community stories that tell the true story of California.

**Money**

Claremont: One of America's Best Places to Live
August 2007

Praising the city as a "right-knit community with top notch schools," *Money* magazine ranked Claremont No. 5 on its annual list of "America's Best Places to Live."

**VISIÓN LATINA**

"La Muerte: Extensión de la Vida para Latinos"
July 25, 2007

The fact that death is seen as an extension of life has its roots in indigenous cultures, both the Mayan and Aztec, shared Martha Barcenas, professor of Spanish at Pitzer College. "Remnants of these beliefs have stayed with us," added Barcenas. "With the imposition of Christianity, death is thought of as [a process of going] toward the other life while one awaits the resurrection. This is a historical matter, how we now feel about death—a returning to life, a rebirth."

**Beyond the Books**

Pitzer College has been selected for the Beyond the Books' Guide to Service-Learning Colleges and Universities. Selected institutions have demonstrated a significant track record of integrating community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

**Pitzer Students Contribute 100,000 Annual Service Learning Hours**

Pitzer College, a member of Campus Compact, contributed to the clocking of 277 million hours in campus-organized service programs by 1,000+ institutions nationwide during the 2005-06 academic year.
In this episode, which aired on September 24 on HGTV, the Begleys visited Pitzer College to see the new sustainable residence halls. President Laura Skandera Trombley took Ed Begley Jr. and Rachelle Carson around the buildings to show them all of the green features. From Dutch doors to cross ventilation in the rooms, Ed and Rachelle were impressed.

NBC 4 Los Angeles featured Pitzer's new residence halls on their August 31, 2007, 5 p.m. news report as part of their “Going Green” segment.

Visit www.pitzer.edu/sustainability to read more & view video clips.
THIS FALL Pitzer College welcomed 243 new first-year students. They faced tough competition in securing their spots in the Class of 2011: Pitzer received 3,744 applications for the 2007-08 academic year, the largest number in the College's history, and only 26 percent of the applicants were offered admission. The eight first-year students profiled here are just a few of the amazing students whose achievements and personal convictions made them stand out from the rest of the pool. Whether it's spinning fire, volunteering in Nepal or belting out lyrics on stage, these students' range of interests and goals are fascinating, and we know you will enjoy getting to know them.

WHOOSH. As sizzling flames weave around his body and warm his sandy feet, Devin von Stade experiences the soothing, yet exhilarating power of fire-spinning. But for him fire-spinning is more than a hobby, it's a philosophy.

"Fire, like so many aspects of life, is never fully understood, never fully controlled, but through my experience with fire performance I have learned that regardless of how uncontrollable an energy may appear to be, if you are willing to lead it, to move with it, you can direct it on a chosen path," Devin said.

Devin's chosen path is to examine the way life and people work by pursuing pre-med studies in human biology and physiology. Likewise, he is fascinated by mechanics and built his own computer, so when one part malfunctions he knows exactly how to fix it. This interest in the way things work also led him to volunteer at a wheelchair refurbishing center and to compete in the USFIRST Robotics competition.

Acknowledging that his exposure to different cultures has played a significant role in his life and education so far, Devin hopes to build upon his diverse cultural experiences while at Pitzer. He has already traveled to South Africa, Thailand, Japan and Nicaragua, to name a few, and earned his scuba diving certification in Belize.

Devin believes Pitzer is the perfect college to carve out a balance of academics and student life. "Having a well of knowledge to pull from helps me in every activity I do," he said. "Whether it is sailing, writing a paper or just talking to someone new, I find that creating a broad range of experience is greatly advantageous."

—EMILY CAVALCANTI

Devin von Stade
Portland, Maine
ELIZABETH TESFAYE bid farewell to her parents and two big brothers, and ventured out of the closely knit community of Inglewood, California, to Claremont. Elizabeth's family emigrated to the U.S. from Ethiopia, and the transition to college has been particularly emotional.

"Being the first in my family to attend college has always been my motivation to continue towards higher education," Elizabeth said. "I'm pretty determined."

Elizabeth is a pre-med student and plans to merge her interest in psychology with her medical ambitions. The freedom Pitzer offers its students by having educational objectives instead of general education requirements was especially attractive to her in accomplishing this goal.

"I've always wanted to help people. I think today, medicine is more ‘here you go, here's your medicine,' not the emotional and psychological part of it. I want to mix these together and see how much I can actually help someone."

In high school, Elizabeth co-founded and was elected president of a group called Young Women of Unity that serves young women in the community through health education, tutoring and fundraisers for breast cancer. Elizabeth plans to join the Pitzer Feminist Coalition.

"In Ethiopian culture women are not identified as intelligent or capable of making decisions like men. Women are known to be submissive, passive, as well as compliant," Elizabeth said. She learned in school this was not her prescribed identity.

"I became motivated to speak freely about my thoughts and beliefs. There were clashes between the attitude and behavioral patterns I was raised to follow and the new possibilities I learned women were capable of accomplishing."

—Jessica Schwartz '08

JESSE MEISLER-ABRAMSON will be able to tell his grandchildren how he drove to high school in upstate New York fifty miles each way. And maybe it wasn't uphill both ways in a blizzard, but it was on free fuel. With rising gas prices and a heightened awareness of the environment, Jesse chose to convert his car to run on used vegetable oil.

After watching an independent documentary on global warming, Jesse said to himself, "Wow, that is serious stuff. I've got to do something." He bought a used car and paid $1,500 to have it converted to run on vegetable oil. Jesse went to a local restaurant that agreed to put their used vegetable oil into a fifty-five gallon drum he left there.

"They just throw the used vegetable oil in it for me. They would have to pay to get rid of it otherwise," Jesse explained. The conversion process takes minimal time and effort. "In the basement of the restaurant, I hold open the valve and watch the used vegetable oil spew down and out of the drum and into my five-gallon bucket. Then, I take the oil home to be filtered and stored in my family's garage. I just pump it into my car and drive. And it's free, which is the best part."

The grease-car has become a hobby for Jesse—cooking is another. Jesse hopes to start a cooking club at Pitzer, as well as contribute to the Colleges' green community as a member of the Ecology Center.

—Jessica Schwartz '08
AS THE OLDEST of three siblings, Maricela Ledezma has always aspired to be a strong role model at home and in the community. Now as a college student she is lending her talents to the Jumpstart program, which helps prepare preschoolers for their futures.

"In high school I did a lot of community service and nearly all of it involved children. I tutored at my library and volunteered at a children’s art museum as well as volunteered at a daycare center. When I heard about Jumpstart I thought it was a great opportunity."

Maricela discovered Pitzer through a college fair, and applied despite previous plans to go to a large university. She describes her visit, "I just got this feeling that I belonged here. Everyone at Pitzer was really warm and passionate about learning."

With plans to pursue a career in pediatric medical care, Maricela is enthusiastic about the Joint Science Center. She has also signed up for a number of activities, from Capoeira to camping with Pitzer Outdoor Adventures, from salsa dancing to Pitzer’s new surfing club.

"Pitzer can be as big or as small as you want—I like that. With the 5Cs connected there are so many opportunities."

—JESSICA SCHWARTZ ’08

SHAWN CAMPAS

NOVATO, CALIFORNIA

STUDENT ATHLETE

Shawn Campas strives to translate his work ethic on the athletic field to his performance in the classroom. "Being a member of a team has taught me that perseverance and hard work are essential ingredients for success," he said.

Shawn, who plays running-back, credits the camaraderie with his Pitzer-Pomona football teammates with easing his transition into college this fall as he adjusts to campus life and takes courses in microeconomics, psychology and Spanish.

It is his first-year seminar though that has really captured his interest. The course, La Familia, which focuses on the role of the family for Latinos living in the U.S., has helped answer many of the questions he has about his own family and their Latino heritage. "Before coming to Pitzer I didn’t realize how beneficial a liberal arts education could be for me," he said.

Shawn, son of Shawn Campas Sr. ’84, is proud to follow in his father’s footsteps. He shares, however, that his decision to attend Pitzer was entirely his own. After visiting the College, he was struck by the diversity in the people he met and the opportunities afforded by the 5Cs. In addition to playing on the Sagehen football team, Shawn also hopes to join the baseball team in the spring and to get involved with Student Senate and PAct.

—EMILY CAVALCANTI

MOHAMMAD NASIR

BOTHELL, WASHINGTON

A SEATTLE-AREA native, Mohammad Nasir is a self-proclaimed coffeehouse junkie who loves listening to music, sampling new cuisine and watching independent films. He truly thrives on all the city has to offer, but is also concerned about how to reconcile urban living with the natural environment.

"I am interested in issues of urban sustainability and energy conservation. Eventually, I would like to work with city planners and help to lobby for changes that encourage urban growth while also preserving and respecting the environment," he said.

Mohammad believes that his Pitzer education will keep him humble and aware that life is not just about taking, but giving. The son of Pakistani immigrants, he witnessed the great sacrifices his parents made to carve out a better life for their family in the United States. "I admire my parents’ hard work and commitment and how they made the very best of the opportunities afforded to them here."

Mohammad was the first sibling in his family born in the U.S. and therefore finds his identity is somewhere in the middle between Pakistani and American. As a Muslim, observing the month of Ramadan, in particular, has made him more aware of the privileged lives many Americans lead and how we should be grateful for what we have, but also acknowledge and assist those around the world who may be suffering.

"Growing up in an environment where iPods, cellular phones and receiving a car for your birthday are the norm, we seem to forget the millions who live off bread made from grass, who are orphaned, who don’t have clean water, who don’t have what we have," he said. "Ramadan has influenced me greatly and allowed me to accept hardship in life, be appreciative and realize that there is much worse beyond my bubble."

—EMILY CAVALCANTI
JYOTI GAUTAM
HONOLULU, HAWAII

SINCE SHE was a child Sara Vander Zwaag has dreamed of performing on Broadway. She admits, whether it's acting, singing or dancing, she is addicted to the stage and the rush of an audience staring back at her.

"Through acting I explore the depth of my connection to others through emotion. On stage I can sing as loud as I want without fearing criticism," Sara said. "During dance I let the world sweep me away and leave all concepts of reality on the ground."

Sara knows that at Pitzer her artistic talents will continue to be nurtured. Impressed by the campus murals and artwork, she admires each student's choice to confidently display his/her work for all to see. A painter herself, Sara finds artistic expression a must.

"I can't imagine my life without painting—where a simple coat of paint can forgive any mistake, and a blemish can quickly become a mark of beauty," she said. "When my paintbrush hits the palette, my brain instantly starts to sort itself out."

Sara is eager to see the direction her art will take as Pitzer helps to expand her world view. "I look forward to how the courses I take and the people I meet here will open my eyes to things I didn't notice before and make me a more well-rounded individual," she said.

—EMILY CAVALCANTI

BORN IN Kathmandu, Nepal, Jyoti Gautam and her family moved to Hawaii when she was two years old and she grew up "Americanized" as her parents would say. Sixteen years later she returned, alone, to her roots in Nepal and was overwhelmed with the drastically different way of life she encountered. Yet her myriad experiences during this seven-week trip, including volunteering at a pre-primary school, inspired a powerful revelation.

"Helping Nepal is not a duty, but a choice and I choose to participate. My dream is to return to Nepal and start an organization that will teach the new generation the salience of peace, egalitarianism and charity," Jyoti said. "I choose and aspire to help Nepal be a country I want to revisit."

With an interest in psychology and sociology, Jyoti found the college best suited to further her participatory role in society is Pitzer. "A certain kind of harmony exists at Pitzer—the College believes and hopes with you to affect positive change," she explained. "Pitzer's openness gives students freedom, but also immense responsibility." Jyoti plans to continue her community service work by joining Claremont After School Programs (CLASP), a nonprofit organization that offers after school tutoring and mentoring for students from grades one through six.

Jyoti finds that when she wants to focus on her own thoughts and goals, though, she hits the pavement. An avid runner, she has completed the Honolulu Marathon twice, the second time finishing eighth in her division. "For me running is a type of meditation, it helps me become more attuned to my individual self and my place in this world."

—EMILY CAVALCANTI

SARA VANDER ZWAAG
BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA
Before Pitzer College could begin building green, it had to get a little dirty. Since the College's new residence halls were to be constructed on a challenging piece of real estate—an old landfill—the first step was to unearth everything buried there prior to the '50s. Massive amounts of construction debris and soil were removed properly to revitalize the landscape and recharge the aquifer for the retention of storm water.
What this initial challenge at Pitzer demonstrates is that truly green practices must go beyond the surface. Remnants of the past must be “dug up” and old ways and habits purged and transformed for the greater good of the land and each other. Creating a greener future is about high-performance buildings, drought-tolerant landscaping and alternative transportation, to name a few. Effective action to address the complexities of climate change must go beyond campaigns and slogans and identify specific targets for minimizing climate-altering gas emissions.

The U.N. World Commission on Environment and Development has defined “sustainability” as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Ever mindful of the future, Pitzer has always held the environment and a sustainable future as central concerns in its commitment to environmental balance and social justice. The College recognizes that any definition of sustainability is complex and inherently interdisciplinary, encompassing nearly every aspect of life. In 2002 the College Council formally adopted its Statement of Environmental Policy and Principles to integrate socially and environmentally conscious practices into college operations and the education of its students. Action must be taken and Pitzer continues to lead the way with the conception and completion of the College’s environmentally friendly residence halls.
Built to the Highest Standards

According to the Pew Center for Global Change, the energy services required by residential, commercial and industrial buildings produce approximately 43 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Since most of the electricity in the U.S. is generated by burning fossil fuels, the greatest contributor to climate change, the construction of new buildings presents the perfect opportunity to implement a comprehensive emission reduction strategy.

Four years ago, a group of dedicated students, faculty, staff, trustees and administrators gathered in the Founders Room in McConnell Center to discuss the College’s vision for student housing. From the beginning, the community engaged in a series of discussions about what practical dimensions and environmental goals they wanted the buildings to embody, what they wanted them to stand for, and what kinds of integrative community functions they wanted them to fulfill. “We were determined to imagine new buildings that would embrace our commitment to community and diversity and symbolize sustainability,” President Laura Skandera Trombley recalled. “At the time, examples of environmentally sustainable buildings were still relatively rare and it was inspiring to take this first step in rethinking how our presence as the leading institution of conscience occupies and impacts the space that supports us.”

Turning to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a coalition of leaders from across the building industry, Pitzer relied on the standards established by the USGBC’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) to guide the project. LEED’s goal is to set a design guideline “to promote full building design, and to establish a market value for the green standard.” LEED provides a tool (the Checklist) and a certification process to give some guidance and structure to “green” building by establishing performance goals and industry standards.

The LEED process assigns points in six categories: Sustainable Site, Materials & Resources, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Energy & Atmosphere and Innovation & Design Process. In addition to the energy and atmosphere requirements for a building, there are opportunities for responsible design that move beyond the energy focus, but which have energy implications. For example, in the Material & Resources category, 80 percent of the building materials were manufactured within 200 miles of the project site, which reduced the amount of nonrenewable resources consumed for transportation.

Pitzer has designed and built Phase I of its new residence halls to the LEED Gold-level standard and upon completion of its three-phase construction project in progress, Pitzer will likely become the first college in the nation to have all Gold LEED-certified halls. “Pitzer has the opportunity, in launching into a green building campaign, to really ‘walk its talk’—to experiment with cutting-edge technology, to demonstrate what is possible and to have students experience that we can live in more sustainable ways and enjoy it and do better in it,” President and Founder of Natural Capitalism L. Hunter Lovins ’72 said. “This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for the College.”

Green Bike Program

Founded by Pitzer College students as part of a class project in 2001, the Green Bike Program (GBP) seeks to counter Los Angeles’ renowned car culture by encouraging bike riding. The GBP urges students and the community to rely on an alternate and low-impact means of transportation by making bikes accessible to Pitzer students, faculty and staff and providing on-campus maintenance for all Claremont University Consortium bike riders.

At the end of each semester, Campus Safety confiscates abandoned bikes left on campus. Usually, these bikes end up in a landfill, but thanks to the GBP, they are refurbished and raffled off to students each semester at no charge. All students, staff and faculty from the 5Cs—not just GBP bike recipients—can bring their bikes to the shop for repairs. The GBP even makes use of unusable parts (including everything from wheels, frames and pedals to nuts, bolts and washers) by giving them to art students to use in their work.

The shop is currently located in the Holden Hall basement, but will soon have a new home next to the Gold Student Center, fulfilling a Sustainable Site credit toward Gold LEED certification for the new residence halls.

For more information on the Green Bike Program visit www.pitzer.edu/student_life/gbp.
The Atherton Hall green garden roof system is an extension of the existing roof that includes a high-quality waterproofing and root repellant system, a drainage system, filter cloth, a lightweight growing medium and plants. Among other benefits, green roofs help deal with stormwater runoff and reduce energy use by insulating buildings.

Lighting can account for anywhere from 20 to 50 percent of a building's total energy use. Compact fluorescent bulbs are used throughout the halls and the amount of exterior lighting is minimal to reduce light pollution while still maintaining security.

Photovoltaic (PV) roof panels provide fifteen kilowatts of renewable energy daily. PV panels absorb the energy of the sun and convert that energy into electricity. PV systems generate electricity without any heat-trapping gas emissions. They also generate power most effectively at times when power demand is usually the greatest—hot, sunny days.

All of the residence halls are constructed of building materials made of recycled content including structural steel, concrete, gypsum board, carpeting and insulation.

Green cleaning products are used by custodial staff for common rooms and these products are also available for students to use in their individual rooms.

Rainwater percolates through the permeable asphalt. This process filters impurities before it reaches the stormwater system. The color of the sidewalks, staircases, entries and landings were all reviewed and selections exhibit the site's hardscape adherence to appropriate reflectance.
activism and idealism and these buildings will stand as a permanent testament to our collective efforts.”

**A Revisioned Southern California Landscape**

Pitzer is situated at the edge of the desert in a semi-arid environment and uses both imported water from the Feather and Sacramento Rivers in northern California as well as local water from Mount Baldy to support its campus. The city of Claremont receives approximately 4.2 billion gallons of water annually and Pitzer claims roughly 33 million gallons each year. The means of transporting water from northern California is a highly energy intensive process. In comparison to the 650 kilowatt-hours it takes to transport one acre-foot of local water from Mount Baldy, it requires 2,580 kilowatt-hours to obtain one acre-foot of imported water from northern California.

Built on an alluvial fan, the area regularly experiences water shortages and many surrounding communities have already imposed severe water restrictions. As water becomes scarcer, it is crucial to consider more efficient methods of using and acquiring water.

In Spring 2005, Professor Emeritus of Political Studies Jack Sullivan and the students in his Politics of Water course compiled a study on water conservation at Pitzer. Recognizing the opportunity to be on the cutting-edge of ecological awareness and education through the implementation of water conservation in the new residence halls, several class groups made early recommendations for indoor and outdoor water conservation efforts as well as waste water and stormwater management.

With outdoor water consumption accounting for 70 percent of water usage in Southern California, the student group focusing on outdoor water conversation encouraged the College to incorporate landscape, hardscape and irrigation systems that best fit the campus’ semi-arid climate. For instance, the group encouraged the use of drought-tolerant native plants since they do not threaten the delicate desert ecosystem and can survive with little or no maintenance.

The use of native plants is the first step in xeriscaping, in which plants are grouped and planted in areas according to the light and water requirements of each. Xeriscapes also contain mulch that reduces the evaporation of moisture from the soil and stormwater runoff among other benefits. Another method for minimizing stormwater runoff is the use of porous concrete and asphalt in hardscaping, thereby allowing rain to drain through the pavement and recharge the ground water.

Many of these class recommendations have now come to fruition with the completion of the new residence halls. Reduced site disturbance has been achieved by preserving a green belt area around the halls that is equal in size to the footprint area of the buildings. Many of the paths that connect the halls are composed of permeable asphalt. Drought tolerant plants are incorporated into the landscape and irrigation is minimized by using a high-efficiency irrigation system and climate-based controllers.

To coincide with its green building efforts, Pitzer has continued Professor John Rodman’s plan to revision the entire campus landscape to be more akin to the natural environment,
allowing for the conservation of resources and costs. Consistent with the master campus landscaping plan, beginning in August many non-native and non-drought-tolerant plants on campus were significantly trimmed or removed. Some removal areas have been reserved for student projects and other areas have been replanted with cacti, succulents and other drought-tolerant plants by Arboretum Director Joe Clements and his staff.

Previous low-impact plantings have already saved significant amounts of water and costs at Pitzer. After a bed of perennial flowers in front of Broad Center was converted to cacti and succulents, water usage for that area was reduced by 80 percent. Similarly, the lawn of the President’s house was replaced with desert plants in summer 2005 and the water bill for the property has since decreased by 62 percent.

**Leading the Way**

Pitzer has always been a college that takes chances, being bold where others might choose a more conservative path. The three green residence halls stand as a collective testament to the College’s progressive environmental and community ideals. Not only does Pitzer’s physical structure communicate these values, but the College’s curriculum continues to affect change in the world at large.

The Environmental Studies field group has prepared students for graduate work and careers in teaching, public policy and administration, law, environmental sciences, international affairs, and the nonprofit sector. An interdisciplinary program focusing on the interaction between the human and non-human components of the biosphere, Environmental Studies strives to apply the diverse orientations of the social sciences, humanities and physical sciences to environmental issues.

Students in the Theory and Practice in Environmental Education course participate in the Leadership in Environmental Education Partnership (LEEP) and have the exciting opportunity to teach elementary school children from diverse backgrounds about ecology and environmental concerns in the Claremont community. During the Spring 2007 semester, students in the Building Sustainability course compiled and presented a class assessment of Pitzer’s sustainability efforts and made recommendations for further initiatives. A number of students also study at Pitzer’s Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology in Costa Rica, established in 2005. The program features local collaborative resource management, a focus on human and tropical ecology, the study of reforestation and sustainable agriculture/permaculture practices, and community-based education including intensive language and culture studies.

“What we have created in our external environment has now been extended to our internal environment in our residence halls,” President Trombley said. “This is truly a defining accomplishment in Pitzer’s history and its future.”
First-year student Eric Dauenhauer strolls down the exterior hallway of the new Sanborn Hall on his way back from an afternoon Media Studies class. As the Santa Ana winds tousle his hair a bit, Eric notices that the top-half of Terra Michalowski's Dutch door is open and he pokes his head in. “Hey, you wanna go to dinner later?” he asks. “Sure, I’ll stop by your room in a bit,” she replies.

The architect’s idea of incorporating Dutch doors was well received by the entire Pitzer College community and this feature is perhaps the best example of the buildings’ green and community features uniting. By swinging open the top half of their Dutch doors, students not only allow for increased cross ventilation and thereby less energy consumption, but they also invite fellow classmates to say “hello” while still maintaining a level of privacy.

With the opening of the new residence halls, Pitzer has entered a new era of its relatively short existence, paving the way for a bright future built upon its strong social and environmental values. Yet when it comes down to measuring the results of this long-time-in-the-making project, it’s all about the students and their experiences. As a senior and first-year mentor who lives in the new complex, I would like to share what the buildings’ greenness really means to us and highlight some of my observations of how student life has changed.

A building can only be as environmentally friendly as is appropriate for its use. In the case of the new Atherton, Sanborn and Pitzer Halls, I think that a good balance was reached between implementing green features and satisfying students’ needs and lifestyles. As a matter of fact, most of the green features are incorporated so well that they have seamlessly become a part of our daily lives. For instance, if a window inside one of the rooms is opened, the air conditioning automatically shuts off. Features like this demonstrate that it’s not hard to change the way buildings are constructed while still retaining the same levels of luxury and functionality.

Speaking of luxury, I would like to stress what an improvement these residence halls are for students’ daily lives. First, they are aesthetically pleasing. Gone is the bland, white-walled military barrack look of the old
Sanborn Hall. Students admire Atherton, Sanborn and Pitzer Halls’ colorfully-painted walls and doors, a style that reflects well against our desert landscape. Nearly every time I show people around they exclaim, with a twinge of yearning in their voices, “Wow, this place looks like some sort of resort hotel!”

They are not too far off from reality. After all, it can be easy to forget about midterms and homework assignments when lounging by the pool on a warm, sunny day, surrounded by the new halls, watching your friends walk along the outdoor hallways on their way to join you. Had enough sun? Hop down to the lower level of the Gold Student Center right behind you and get a workout in at the newly-improved fitness center. Time to eat? The dining hall is just around the corner.

Even more important than dramatic improvements in luxury, the new residence halls have created an improved social climate for the first-year class. The long profiles of Atherton, Sanborn and Pitzer Halls and their rectangular placement around the Gold Student Center allow one to see nearly every hallway of the other buildings and the entire inner courtyard from most places within the complex. This facilitates fluid movement and interaction among students who live in each hall. Furthermore, the hallways feature inward-facing benches, providing a great place for students to hang out.

The addition of approximately twenty-five naturally-lit common study rooms throughout the new residence halls adds to the community feel and function. Another drastic difference is the addition of the faculty-in-residence program, raising student-faculty interaction to a new level.

The new residence halls are also helping to further push the quality and diversity of the student body. They are a major selling point for bright, motivated prospective students who share Pitzer’s environmental and social values. My mentee Pablo Veliz ’11 even told me that the new residence halls were the tipping point in his decision to come here rather than another top-tier liberal arts college.

It’s one thing to preach sustainability and another to practice it. Of course, Pitzer has been practicing sustainability in many different forms for decades, but these new residence halls are the most visible and dramatic proof that we are serious about our commitment to the environment, and people are taking note. The recent storm of media exposure that the College is receiving is excellent for spreading the word about us and what we are all about, helping open up the pool of potential applicants. It makes me feel great to say that I live in one of the country’s first soon-to-be Gold LEED certified residence halls, and I know that this sentiment is shared among my fellow students living here as well.

—ALEC LENTZ ’08
RESIDENTIAL LIFE PROJECT

Dedication & Celebration

With a backdrop of the San Gabriel mountains and gorgeous Southern California weather, the completion of Phase I of Pitzer College’s Residential Life Project was celebrated on Monday, September 24, 2007, in the interior courtyard of Pitzer’s three new residence halls. A large crowd of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members were joined by environmentalists Robert Redford and Ed Begley Jr. to celebrate the official opening of these beautiful and sustainable buildings.

The College's new residence halls were named in honor of: Flora Sanborn, wife of the College’s founder Russell K. Pitzer; John W. Atherton, the founding president of Pitzer College and his wife Virginia; and Kenneth S. and Jean M. Pitzer, two of the College’s earliest benefactors and son and daughter-in-law of Russell K. Pitzer. In addition to celebrating the College’s commitment to sustainability, this event honored the three lead donors who made these dedications possible: the Pitzer Family Foundation, led by the grandchildren of Russell K. and Flora Sanborn Pitzer; Susan and Nicholas Pritzker P’93; and Peter and Gloria Gold P’74.

In addition to Redford and Begley Jr., speakers at the event included President Laura Skandera Trombley, Pitzer College Board of Trustees Chair Gene Stein, Professor of Environmental Studies Paul Faulstich ’79 and Convenor of Student Senate Ben Kramer ’08. The event culminated with a laser light show of texture and color planned and executed by trustee and alumnus Marc Broidy ’95 in collaboration with Vanessa Rundle ’08.

Pitzer’s new buildings are expected to earn Gold LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the highest ever awarded for residence halls.
Jacob Brooks '09 enjoys a buffet-style dinner made from organic and locally grown foods. In addition, all of the event's cups, plates, napkins and utensils were biodegradable and were composted, along with food waste.

Pitzer trustee and alumnus Marc Broidy '95 and Vanessa Rundle '08 prepare for the grande finale light show. A feature story focusing on their efforts appears in the December issue of Live Design.

Cameron Kinslow '11, Carmen Blatt '11, Terra Michalowski '11 and Eric Dauenhauer '11.

For more information regarding the Residential Life Project and other green initiatives on campus, please visit www.pitzer.edu/sustainability.
Kenneth S. and Jean M. Pitzer Hall

Pitzer College Trustee Emeritus Peter Gold and his wife, Gloria, have tirelessly supported the College for over three decades, since their daughter Melinda was a graduate of the Class of 1974. The Golds have provided extraordinary leadership and shown their dedication to the mission of the College in many ways, including naming the Peter and Gloria Gold Student Center on campus and by creating an endowment for the Peter and Gloria Gold Professorship. Most recently, the Golds made a lead gift to the new Kenneth S. and Jean M. Pitzer Hall in honor of the Pitzer family's legacy at the College.

Pictured at left the Gold and Pitzer families.

John W. and Virginia R. Atherton Hall

In 2005, then-Board Chair Susan Pritzker (right) pledged a gift to pay tribute to the College's founding president, the late John W. Atherton, and his wife Virginia (left) by naming a new residence hall in their honor. President Atherton was called to lead the College in 1963 and aided by Virginia, he created an academic environment where faculty and students were empowered.
Flora Sanborn Hall

Pitzer College was founded in 1963 by Russell K. Pitzer, a California citrus magnate, philanthropist and visionary. The first residence hall on Pitzer's campus, Sanborn Hall, was named in honor of Flora Sanborn, Russell Pitzer's wife, in recognition of her lifelong interest and involvement in education. The original Sanborn Hall will be demolished this year to make way for a new Joint Science building, but the Pitzer Family—led by Flora's grandchildren Russ, Ann and John—generously enabled construction of a new Sanborn Hall by providing major funding from the Pitzer Family Foundation, established by their parents Kenneth S. and Jean M. Pitzer. Currently, both Russ and Ann Pitzer serve on Pitzer's Board of Trustees and continue their family's legacy of supporting outstanding education.

“Actually the most important and difficult task was creating the circular pattern in the white tiles,” recalled artist Monika Scharff, “even though this is the element of the mosaic that one should not see, it’s imperative that perfect symmetry be achieved.”

Scharff used ten shades of Venetian opaque glass tiles—five white, four orange and one black—to create the new mosaic that adorns the floor of the new Admission Office lobby in Pitzer Hall. Over approximately six weeks, Scharff crafted the mosaic in twenty-six sections and then it was installed in Pitzer Hall over two days.

“Actually the most important and difficult task was creating the circular pattern in the white tiles,” recalled artist Monika Scharff, “even though this is the element of the mosaic that one should not see, it’s imperative that perfect symmetry be achieved.”
Professor Lêda Martins leads Tara Beatty '08 and Marcus Berkowitz '08 on a research expedition to Brazil where they examine the daily lives of the Macuxi and learn how these indigenous people live in the Amazon.
Seu Jerônimo’s home was a beautiful structure made of wooden poles and walls layered with palm fronds. The dirt floor was tightly packed and protected by a high thatched roof. The surrounding grass had been burned to keep the yard clean. Just off to the side there was a well and a palm-frond structure for showering. The sun beat down on everything.

"After I arrived at my host family’s home in the Macuxí villages of Boqueirão and surveyed my surroundings, I kept waiting for something to shock me," Tara Beatty ’08 recalled. "When would they do something that I would be alarmed by? I waited and waited and nothing ever happened. Over time I learned that the Macuxí are made up of individuals who each have a story, a family and a daily pattern," Beatty said. "I suppose I would have said that before, but now I really know it."

Indeed, tracking the daily patterns of the Macuxí was the crux of the research project. Led by Assistant Professor of Anthropology Léda Martins, Beatty and fellow Pitzer College student Marcus Berkowitz ’08 traveled to Brazil during the Fall 2006 semester to investigate the nuances of the Macuxí’s day-to-day lives in relation to their natural resources.

Supported by a National Science Foundation grant, Martins and the students joined the efforts of the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, which planned to conduct a survey of the social-economic aspects of three Macuxí villages and their use of natural resources. Those villages, Boqueirão, Aningal and Manguêira, which are located around the ecological reserve of Maracá, served as the control sample for their project.

Martins, Beatty and Berkowitz concentrated in particular on how the Macuxí’s hunting practices and what they ate were indicative of their relationship to the natural environment. By inquiring into the Macuxí’s hunting patterns, they were also able to examine larger questions such as how the market economy of the surrounding towns and the presence of cattle ranchers affected the Macuxí’s use of natural resources.

Since these Macuxí villages are part of a large portion of the unstudied and largely unmanaged Guyana Shield forest-savanna transition, studying the indigenous peoples’ living habits is crucial to the preservation of the land and its resources. The area, which varies from dry savannas through wet forests to mountainous forest habitats, represents one of the last wilderness areas on Earth.

For this key ecological area, the future of biodiversity in the Amazon lies in the hands of indigenous peoples like the Macuxí.

The Macuxí

The Macuxí, a Carib speaking people, are agriculturalists and hunters who live in the Mount Roraima region of the state of Roraima in Brazil’s Amazon Rain Forest. This area is in the northeast of the state near Brazil's border with Guyana and Venezuela. Not including those who live in urban centers, there are approximately 20,000 Macuxí in Brazil and approximately 10,000 in Guyana. Rather than living in the forests, they prefer to use the forest for gardening and hunting purposes only and build their houses in the open spaces of the savanna.

In the 1940-50s the Macuxí territory was heavily colonized by private cattle ranchers who erected fences at will and took possession of enormous properties that either encompassed Indian villages or severed Indian villages from their gardens and hunting territories in the forests. Since the ranchers were at odds with many of the Macuxí’s traditional hunting practices, which included burning the savannas to push the animals in different directions, the ranchers went to great lengths to maintain complete control over the land. As a result of these conflicts, the ranchers, with the assistance of the army and state police, and impunity of the local government, waged a campaign of intimidation and destruction against the Macuxí.

Beginning in the 1960s the Macuxí organized a fight for their rights and to expel the ranchers. After more than thirty years of struggle, indigenous peoples including the Macuxí celebrated the final recognition of their title to their ancestral land of Raposa Serra do Sol in the northernmost Brazilian federal state of Roraima in 2005. Brazilian President Lula signed the presidential decree that assigned a territory measuring nearly 2 million hectares to 15,000 indigenous Brazilians. The research conducted by Martins, Beatty and Berkowitz occurred in small Macuxí territories outside this large reserve where the presence of cattle ranchers is still felt.

Preparation for the Field

"You have to understand that these students did something that is so difficult—to go to the Amazon and live and do research among Amazonian Indians is extremely complicated—legally, politically and logistically," Martins said. "The Macuxí territory
was the last large territory to be recognized by the Brazilian government and it was one of the most controversial territories in Brazil. There was enormous political pressure not to demarcate the territory. So what we did was very precious.

The first obstacle Beatty and Berkowitz had to overcome was physically entering the country with an appropriate visa. With assistance from Vice President of International Programs Carol Brandt and the Pitzer Study Abroad program, an exchange agreement between Pitzer College and the Federal University of Roraima (UFRR) was signed, which granted Beatty and Berkowitz undergraduate students visas to study and conduct supervised research in Brazil.

Once Beatty and Berkowitz arrived in Roraima in July 2006, they immediately began working on their fluency in Portuguese and resided with host families in the town of Boa Vista. They spent approximately two months in Boa Vista acquiring proficiency in Portuguese and familiarity with regional issues. During this time Martins and the students started working on the specific anthropological methodologies to be used in the Macuxi villages.

Martins and the students began to plan the survey in the three Macuxi villages in September, and in October they made their first trips to the villages to obtain permission from the leaders and village members to conduct the research. Due to internal politics within the villages, Martins had the students conduct research in Boqueirão and Aningal, while she worked alone in Mangeira.

**The Interviews**

As Martins drove them into Boqueirão for the first time, Beatty and Berkowitz admit they were terrified. They had packed their suitcases carefully with outdoor gear like quick drying zip-off pants, but they still had no idea what awaited them. Their first stop was the house of the village headman. He greeted them with a toothless grin as they piled out of the truck and invited them to sit on benches in front of his house. "My stomach was all knotted up and it seemed like everything was taking so long, but I soon learned that time runs at a different speed here," Beatty said.

Beginning in Boqueirão, the students stayed with Macuxi families, each student in a different household for three weeks. Beatty and Berkowitz were paired with students from the local school who accompanied them on most of the research activities, including interviews and household visits. The core researchers greatly assisted the Pitzer students, helping them understand the Portuguese spoken by the Indians, finding the houses to visit (Macuxi communities tend to spread out over a large area) and integrating them into the community.

In Aningal, the arrangements were different. The students were not paired with other students from the village since the school was in recess. They did not stay in family households, but rather stayed in the center of the village for one week. The core of the research plan, however, was the same: they divided the households among themselves and visited each to conduct the interviews in the same way as they had done in Boqueirão.

While in Boqueirão and Aningal, the students’ daily routine began with waking around 5:30 a.m. and visiting two or three households in the morning before people left their houses to gradually gain the trust of his interviewee after nearly eight hours.

What was the Macuxi's sense of humor like? How much eye-contact should they make? At first the students felt impatient and wanted to plow through the interview questions, but with Martins’ guidance they learned to adjust their expectations. They had to slow the pace of the interview and adapt to the cultural intricacies of each household. Martins urged them to enjoy a bowl of farinha and milk, when offered by a family, or try bananas from their gardens. One method Beatty used to establish a more relaxed manner was pulling a small piece of thatching from a home’s roof and playing with it whenever possible to keep her hands occupied.

"By watching Professor Martins’ example, we were able to learn the tempo of conversation with the Indians,” Beatty said. “We learned how to make an interview flow: when to change the order of questions and when to ask for more detail. This close work with a faculty member gave us much more confidence in our own work. She was able to bring the theoretical aspects of anthropology to life.”
The Survey

At first these twenty-year-old American students with basic Portuguese language skills felt awkward asking villagers whether they preferred anteater to armadillo. To them this seemed like a fair question, but they soon learned that it was not. No one in their right mind ate anteater, but everyone loved armadillo. Yet, they still asked the question to probe if anteater had ever been eaten in the past.

The biggest challenge for the students was crafting a survey that acknowledged such obvious preferences, prioritized research interests, and combined questions in a non-repetitive fashion that still captured the various angles of all parties involved. Were they hunting the same animals as their parents? Which animals did they previously think tasted terrible, but had now assimilated into their diets as other animals disappeared?

“We certainly learned how to work within serious research constraints when formulating our questions,” Berkowitz stated. “We only had so many questions that could be asked, because otherwise the participants might get restless and not answer the questions as well as possible. We had to cover a variety of topics and at the same time be culturally sensitive to the Macuxi’s knowledge of Portuguese and level of comfort when discussing certain issues,” he said. In order to solicit genuine answers, rather than coaxing their interviewees, the students aimed to be as creative and specific as possible with their questions.

Together they constructed a ten-page survey in Portuguese that generally asked what resources the Macuxi relied on from the Amazon. In addition, they used a series of thirty-two cards with pictures of different animals and went through one by one and asked which the Macuxi ate and which they didn’t. They also drafted questions that probed the Macuxi’s taboos regarding food. The Macuxi have a spiritual connection to food, that is they believe that all animals in nature have a father/mother. Macuxi shamans still connect with these spirits to attract and expel certain kinds of animals from the territory. For the Macuxi, though, their spirituality is very difficult to talk about. They keep their beliefs very private and cringe from sharing them for fear they will lose the support of Christian groups.

The Results

“I discovered how fascinating research is,” Beaty continued. “Research is really about going out there and living something, loving it and caring about it. And figuring out how you can make that interesting and applicable to other people’s lives.”

In Summer 2007, Martins and the students returned to Roraima to share their research with the Macuxi community. They put together a database in Spring 2007 and meticulously coded the data collected in the surveys. They had not yet drawn final conclusions from their data upon returning to Brazil, but they considered this an opportunity for the Macuxi to respond to the data and to help clarify any points of confusion. The most important component to returning was that they had promised to present the results, and it was crucial for them to follow through.

“The fact that we went back will set a precedent for how the Macuxi deal with future researchers,” Martins said. “Even though we worked in only three villages, I think the word will spread throughout the area. I believe we established a new history of how to best work with indigenous communities.”

This fall Martins and the students have been conducting a careful, correlative analysis of the data and are beginning to draw interesting conclusions about the Macuxi’s use of natural resources. For example, for the Macuxi the manner in which hunting takes place and the spiritual practices undertaken therein are spoken of differently based on each individual’s faith. Those Macuxi of either Protestant or Catholic faiths speak of the spiritual act of hunting differently. Most Protestant Macuxi admit they no longer ask permission from the “guardian” or spirit of each animal species to hunt and their spiritual link to the forest seems to be disappearing. Catholic Macuxi, on the other hand, have found their faith more accommodating of their traditions and many continue to seek the permission of the animal spirits to hunt.

Results such as these fit into the larger debate regarding indigenous peoples and their relationship to the natural environment. From the ’60s until the mid ’80s indigenous people were seen as the saviors of the rainforest and its natural resources, but by the late ’80s indigenous people began to be seen as destroyers of the environment. Some researchers concluded that indigenous people would exploit their environment for personal gain as soon as they had the opportunity. So it is within this highly polarized debate that Martins hopes their conclusions will contribute and offer a more balanced, realistic account of what the relationship entails. •

—EMILY CAVALCANTI
Our desert curator extraordinaire

It is 97°F under the sun's sweltering gaze in Claremont, but this does not deter Joe Clements, director of Pitzer College's arboretum, from enthusiastically extolling the merit of succulent plants and drought-tolerant landscaping.

For many of us, xeriscape (a landscape approach that uses drought-resistant grasses and plants, efficient watering systems and proper maintenance practices) is a relatively new term. But for some like Joe, who formerly served twenty-two years as the curator of the desert garden at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, it has long been a lifestyle. "Cacti are really growing in popularity. People have latched onto the idea that they look good all year round," Joe was quoted recently as saying in the Los Angeles Times.

Since Joe's arrival at Pitzer in 2001, the campus landscape has become increasingly desert-like and distinctive among lush pruned yards in a community of Jacaranda tree-lined streets. "Pitzer has more than thirty families of succulents of which there are at least forty representatives (genera) from the aloe and agave families alone. We have many Mediterranean natives as well as some endangered species. The Huntington Botanical Gardens may be the only other place in California that has forty or more," Joe said. "The campus is sprinkled with plants from every continent except Antarctica."

Walking through the Pitzer campus, Joe points out the mundane and the not so mundane succulents that live among us and provides both the Latin and the nicknames of each. As I tried, to no avail, to jot down notes to remember each, Joe casually mentioned that there are approximately 20,000 varieties of succulents.
"I have always spent a great deal of time in the local deserts and have a true appreciation for succulents as a desert geologist," Joe said. "Succulents are special plants that have had to adapt to desert conditions as demonstrated by their spines."

Many of us, especially those who hail from other parts of the country, generally think of cacti as tall or round green plants with clusters of spines (some of which have a foreboding look and a do-not-touch façade). Yet, flowering cacti come in all shapes, sizes and a range of spectacular colors. The Pitzer campus contains Pink Clouds, Fairy Dusters, Blue Paloverdes, Birds of Paradise, Boojum Trees and rosette-shaped succulents—to name only a few of the many water-saving wonders that surround us.

"Our goal is to create a sustainable campus with a mixture of natives, succulents and Mediterranean-type plants," Joe said. "These plants are drought tolerant, sustainable and water-wise. As our stock continues to build over time, it will become less costly to replenish these plants."

On another heat intensive day, I visit the L.A. County Fair to listen to Joe give a public presentation on how to propagate succulents through cuttings and seeds. Those in attendance quickly take note of Joe’s expertise and delight in his knowledge and casual conversational approach in front of an audience. They want to know what to plant, how to plant, and when to water a succulent garden. Their questions are answered and they leave inspired to create or enhance a little drought-resistant magic of their own.

Joe currently serves on the national board of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and is listed as a consultant in the Sunset Western Garden Book.

—SUSAN ANDREWS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

did you know?

- Many cacti have spines that are modified leaves and a specialized organ called an areole.
- Some cacti look similar to rocks and some have spines to protect them from being eaten.
- The succulent named Sempervivum ("Live Forever") comes from Eastern Europe and can survive temperatures well below 0°F.
- Tequila comes from a type of agave that exists on our campus—the Agave tequilana.
- Water is stored in a cactus’ stems, leaves and roots.
- Some succulents can survive without water for up to two years.
- Succulents often assume a shape, such as a ball, to store up water for that “Rainless Day.”
- All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti.
- There are a number of succulents, Haworthias, Baby Toes, Peperomia and Lithops, to name a few, that actually have clear windows on their leaf tips to store as much light as possible.
- Saguaro cacti can grow to more than thirty feet tall and can store as much as one ton of water. Some succulents can be smaller than one inch in diameter.

Mammillaria gominispina
"Pincushion"

Calliandra californica
"Fairy Duster"

Echeveria hybrid

FALL 2007 31
A cloud of sawdust descends upon my head as I find myself supporting a ladder where my friend Patrick is precariously perched with a running chainsaw five meters in the air.

How did I go from a small liberal arts college to hopping from farm-to-farm doing manual labor for room and board in New Zealand? Some may say that a BA will do little more than make you a hit at parties, but for the young wayward soul it does heaps more. As Pitzer graduates we journey out in the world to change it for the better. We are encouraged to make a difference in society.

Many people are familiar with the program dubbed WWOOF, the acronym being pronounced like a dog barking stands for Willing Workers on Organic Farms. It is through this host network that Patrick Leue '06, Chris Prochnow '06 and myself have found ourselves lending helpful hands to a variety of environmentally friendly New Zealanders. The WWOOF network is designed as an organic farm exchange. WWOOFers give a half-day of labor in whatever capacity the host needs and in return receive room and board—in many ways it's a skills as well as cultural exchange. The benefits are endless, as your experience depends entirely upon your interaction with the family.

In our experiences, work may last anywhere between two and six hours. Sometimes you work until the job is done, and other times you spend the entire morning listening to a lonely farmer share his thoughts about hot houses and organic certification. More blessing than burden, the work often adds something new to your repertoire, perhaps a crash course in construction skills or feigning knowledge of proper pruning techniques. Whether family farm or large scale, most hosts operate as organic. Maintaining the environment is important here as well, and thus the term "sustainable" is often discussed.

I do not intend to rub fellow environmentalists the wrong way, but the term sustainability is oftentimes misunderstood these days. Sure, we would all like to be able to maintain our natural resources, but it seems no matter what we try to do, Mother Nature still suffers. Efforts to utilize our natural gifts for progress will almost always destroy ecological stability, yet it is our duty to minimize our impact.
Aha! This is why I'm here. I'm sick of reading about theory, debating amongst naturalists and arriving at dead-end conclusions. I came here to stand at the front lines of what should be a global fight to retain the few resources that remain. Well-known environmental educator David Orr derived two contrasting theories, technological and ecological sustainability, as necessary for a ecologically minded society to preserve and support its natural gifts. The technological approach seeks to use experts and agreements to slow our destruction of the environment, whereas the ecological slant explores alternatives to our current catastrophic course.

It is this second ideology that drew me to WWOOF in New Zealand. My desire to see alternative practices and harmonious living has proven fruitful. Learning the importance of gumboots and drying time for cement were our first lessons, but contributing to the lifestyles of people living with nature instead of against it has been the most important lesson. The hands-on ecological approach to simple living can be found everywhere in New Zealand. It seems that most New Zealanders recognize the environmental threat and are actively involved to stop the destruction of the planet. It has been this host network that has opened up our eyes to a more important way of living.

Our first hosts were based on an off-the-grid cooperative in the north of Coromandel. No power lines invaded the 700 acres of the sanctuary and all homes were romantically lit at night by solar power. Untreated water from a fresh spring and tea heated over wood stoves at night kept our bodies hydrated. In the glory days of the co-op, we were told a garden flourished upon the hillside. As an increasing number of people settled the land, however, they began to take more pride in their own gardens and focused communal energy on native bush rehabilitation. Today little community is found because it is just too difficult to find work out in the country.

When we traveled southeast to Opotiki, a family of three welcomed us to their home. The husband was a small-scale organic farmer and proponent of organic certification for those practicing, but not able to afford it. They maintained a healthy lifestyle with nature both in business and at home. It was stunning how much he reused; all his produce was shipped in boxes otherwise destined for waste bins.

The farm where I write this doubles as a spa for wealthy wine lovers in the area. Here in Marlborough, where the October winds could tip a cow, we see the unfortunate impact of aesthetics on our local environment. Linda claims to be organic, but uses Round-Up on her driveway. She maintains that a certain level of aesthetics is needed on her farm for clientele, and though there are other methods to remove weeds, this is one thing that Linda refuses to sacrifice. I know, it seems contradictory, but quandaries like this persist. How can someone be environmentally conscious, but still use dangerous weed controllers? This is a balance each of us must achieve.

After weeks of hard labor (and many more to come), I have come to regard New Zealand more like the latter host. They strive for a healthy relationship with nature, but struggle to rethink practices like farmed pine forests and flocks of sheep that will destroy the land. Yet there are pockets of alternative methods that exist here, just like in the U.S., in which people think green and live accordingly.

Buying locally, designing with nature, reviving native flora and fauna, and conserving water are some major examples of what many pride themselves upon these days. But during the past few weeks I've focused less on my interest in environmentalism and more on the purpose of living. It has boiled down to one simple outlook and Patrick put it best on this quest: People are too concerned with how they live, and not why.

We need to ask ourselves why we are living. The environment is not a separate entity, but a part of our being—it nurtures us from birth and provides us with everything we need to survive. Many Americans, however, are consumed merely with how they live and are not willing to sacrifice certain luxuries. Yet, living a sustainable life should not be about loss, it should be about discovering how empowering it is to have an impact upon the world. We must achieve a balance with our environment and psyche. We must step back from our lives, prioritize our values and live in a way that appeases our conscience, both socially and individually.

—ALEX PAGE '06
What's on our plates?

How often do you walk through the produce section of your local supermarket and note where the apples were grown? or the broccoli? or the peaches? You may be surprised to learn how much of what you are eating is grown thousands of miles away.

According to the WorldWatch Institute, a think tank based in Washington DC, food in the United States now travels between 1,500 to 2,500 miles from farm to table, as much as 25 percent farther than two decades ago. Rather than being picked early so it can be transported great distances, locally produced food retains the intense flavor that comes from being picked at the height of freshness and also helps reduce the immense amount of non-renewable resources used to transport produce.

At Pitzer College it is no secret that the key to a dramatically flavorful and environmentally sound meal is harvesting ingredients locally and in fact the College does so right on its campus. In 1994, Professor John Rodman and a dedicated group of volunteers created the Pitzer organic garden. A portion of the Mead Hall parking lot was jack-hammered and soil was filtered to transform the space. Rodman taught principles of sustainable agriculture and the project encouraged College community members to become more connected with the source of their food.

In 2006 Pitzer's organic garden was expanded to include an area north of the orange tree grove. With the help of several community garden work days and ten tons of compost donated by Vons grocery store, the new expansion offers a communal growing area as well as individuals plots.

Pitzer students, faculty, staff and community members produce a vast and varied array of food, flowers and herbs. Community gardeners harvest extra produce and herbs from their plots each week and share it with the community.

Above: The Pitzer community enjoys locally grown food as part of Bon Appétit's Eat Local Challenge on September 25. Below: Executive Chef Archie Escobar prepares a vegetable stir fry with ingredients that were grown ninety miles from Pitzer's campus.
To support the organic garden, devoted students collect food waste from preparation and post-preparation in McConnell Dining Hall to create nutrient rich compost. Approximately three-hundred pounds of food waste per day are diverted from the dining hall and several times each week compost piles are made by combining food waste with organic matter and the correct amount of moisture. Instead of relying on synthetic fertilizers that yield negative production and transportation effects, organic compost provides the ecosystem necessary to grow nutritious food while also decreasing the demand for landfill space.

Another group of environmentally conscious Pitzer students also started the Shakedown Café, a student-run eatery on campus, which serves only organic and locally grown foods. The Shakedown opened in Spring 2007 in the Gold Student Center and now perfectly complements the green and community aspects of the new residence halls that surround it.

Along with wholesome food, the café's managers also strive to make eating at the Shakedown a true experience in art, music and discussion. Another favorite destination for delicious food is the Grove House kitchen, which offers a daily menu of homemade lunch entrees, sandwiches, bagels, freshly baked cookies, coffee, tea and an assortment of fresh juices.

Furthermore, Bon Appétit, the management company that runs the McConnell Dining Hall, issued an "Eat Local Challenge" on September 25 and the College community was quick to rise to the occasion. As a cook stirred the brightly colored organic beet and vegetable stir fry with ingredients from Tamai Family Farms in Oxnard, California, ninety miles from campus, Pitzer's students, faculty and staff moved through the lines to savor this and many other lunch selections made completely of food from within a 150-mile radius. Bon Appétit has also established a company-wide initiative called "Farm to Fork." The goal is to offer seasonal and regional products from local farmers on a daily basis and to indicate these items on menus so individuals may specifically choose dishes featuring local ingredients.

By making a concerted effort to grow and consume local and organic food, the Pitzer community is helping to sustain the Earth and its resources as well as the health and well being of each individual.

—EMILY CAVALCANTI
This fall, as Pitzer College's faculty continues to expand, the College welcomed three new tenure-track faculty members: Erich Steinman (Sociology), Emma Stephens (Economics) and Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99 (Political Studies). Rachel is the second Pitzer graduate to join the faculty after Professor of Environmental Studies Paul Faulstich '79.

What is your proudest achievement in your career thus far?
Envisioning and creating a collaborative course with members of the Makah Indian Nation of Washington State. As the grey whale came off the endangered species list in the 1990s, the Makah prepared to resume their traditional practice of whaling. They also have a treaty in which the U.S. promises to respect their right to whale. As the Makah prepared to whale, they received a tremendous racist and, really, colonialist backlash, including death threats. In this context, I spent a year developing a relationship with the tribe as well as with people involved in American Indian issues at the institution where I was teaching. The following year, I taught a course examining Indian rights and the racialized reaction to the Makah whaling. It involved meeting with members of the Whaling Commission, the Tribal Chair, elders, the teacher who oversaw the building of the canoe, some opponents of the whale hunt, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists and others. The meetings with the Makah took place during a field research trip on their Neah Bay reservation (on the most northwestern tip of the forty-eight continuous U.S. states). The issues were complex and fascinating, and I know it really changed many of my students lives. I taught the course twice.

Pitzer is a perfect fit for me. The freedom to be innovative inside and outside the classroom, to promote interdisciplinary discovery, to encourage and support students' own passions and interests, to grapple with messy but incredibly stimulating intellectual and moral questions, are all central components of my ideal job. I've taught big lecture classes at a large university, and small seminars at another elite university, and Pitzer is the perfect mix of innovation and tradition for me.

Education: PhD, Sociology, University of Washington; MA, Sociology, University of Washington; BA, Government and International Affairs, Augustana College


Research Interests: Social movements; political sociology; culture; institutional theory; law and society; American Indians and indigenous peoples; race and ethnicity; public policy; and sexuality, sexual orientation and gender

What are your hobbies/interests outside of academia?
My singular favorite activity is dancing. I'll dance to all kinds of music. I enjoy a form of modern dance called contact improvisation, where small numbers of people move together and explore movement, connection and creativity. It's challenging because of the other people involved—you never know what they are bringing. It makes me more aware of what I am bringing to a dance at any particular time.
I am thrilled to be back at Pitzer. As a Pitzer alumna, I know how active students are in defining their education here, and how they thrive in an environment where they are valued, challenged and encouraged. As a professor, I am excited about teaching and conducting research at an institution that places such a premium on intellectual rigor, social responsibility and participatory learning.

Rachel VanSickle-Ward

Assistant Professor of Political Studies

Education: PhD, Economics, Cornell University; MA, Economics, Cornell University; BSc, Physics, McGill University

Current Courses Taught: Principles of Macroeconomics and Development Economics

Research Interests: Welfare of subsistence farmers in developing countries; links between credit market frictions and smallholder marketing patterns; impact of social networks on technology adoption; and income dynamics, economic history and simulation modeling

What is your proudest achievement in your career thus far? In graduate school, I was heavily involved in an interdisciplinary project designed to address poverty among rural smallholder farmers both from an economic and biophysical perspective. For my part, I participated in building a simulation model around this approach and was responsible for sharing the model with researchers in Kenya, where the project was based. I feel that we developed a sophisticated research tool that was also of great practical use for people in the field. I was proud to be part of a such a project that had these characteristics, which are sometimes difficult to achieve simultaneously in research on development.

What are your hobbies/interests outside of academia? I like to cook, bike to work, travel and go to live sporting events, especially ice hockey (I am from Toronto).

Emma Stephens

Assistant Professor of Economics

Education: PhD, Political Science, University of California, Berkeley; MA, Political Science, University of California, Berkeley; BA, Political Studies and English, Pitzer College

Current Courses Taught: Introduction to Public Policy; Research Methods in Political Studies; California Politics; and Women in Politics

Research Interests: Public policy; American politics; California and state politics; women in politics; and constitutional law and legal politics

What is your proudest achievement in your career thus far? Coming back to Pitzer.

What are your hobbies/interests outside of academia? I am a pop culture junkie and enjoy live theater, movies and curling up with a good New Yorker article. I also love the outdoors and cheering on Sacramento and Bay Area sports teams.
Professor of Psychology Leah Light received the 2007 Baltes Distinguished Research Achievement Award from Division 20 (Adulthood and Aging) of the American Psychological Association (APA). A Pitzer College faculty member since 1970, her areas of expertise include human memory and cognition with a specialization in memory and aging.

The Baltes Distinguished Research Achievement (DRA) Award, sponsored by the Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation, is Division 20’s most prestigious award. It has been established to honor researchers who have made exceptional theoretical and empirical contributions to the psychological science of aging. Light was presented with a plaque and a monetary award at the annual APA convention in August and will deliver the Baltes DRA Award Address at next year’s convention.

“The Pitzer faculty are justifiably proud of the life achievements of their colleague Leah Light and wish to extend to her their congratulations on the occasion of her winning the prestigious Baltes award,” Dean of Faculty Alan Jones said. “Her ongoing contributions to the study of human memory in the context of aging are significant and noteworthy and her commitment to productively engaging undergraduates in her research program has been an inspiration to all of us,” he continued.

Light has previously served Division 20 of the American Psychological Association as president (2004-05), secretary, member-at-large and chair of student awards. She is a fellow of the American Psychological Association (Divisions 1, 3, 20), the Association for Psychological Science and the Gerontological Society of America. She served as editor of Psychology and Aging, a journal of the American Psychological Association, from 1998 to 2002, and is currently a member of the APA Publications and Communications Board.

Bill Anthes, assistant professor of art history, was an invited lecturer for the 18th Annual Oscar Howe Memorial Lecture on American Indian Art at the University of South Dakota. He also gave a lecture and graduate seminar as a visiting scholar at the University of Arizona School of Art. Anthes was an organizer and presenter for a session titled “Keywords for Native American Art History/Criticism” at the Native American Art Studies Association Conference. He presented a paper titled “Acee Blue Eagle, Traveler” at the Southwest Art History Conference XIX.

Jennifer Armstrong, assistant professor of biology, has published articles in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Current Protocols in Essential Laboratory and PloS Biology. Armstrong also received a National Science Foundation RUI grant for her project titled “Analysis of the role of CHD1 in chromatin structure and transcription.”

Sumangala Bhattacharya, assistant professor of English and World Literature, participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities one-month summer seminar titled “Adaptation and Revision: The Example of Great Expectations” held at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Nigel Boyle was named Peter and Gloria Gold Professor of Political Studies. He also gave a presentation titled “The Institutional Capacity of the Irish State: Development Planning, Infrastructural Planning and Training Policy 1987-2007” at the Political Studies Association of Ireland conference.

Advanced Calculus DeMYSTiFieD

BY PROFESSOR DAVID BACHMAN

David Bachman, assistant professor of mathematics, published Advanced Calculus DeMYSTiFieD with McGraw-Hill in June 2007. Beginning with an overview of functions of multiple variables and their graphs, this book covers the fundamentals without spending too much time on rigorous proofs. Next, the text moves through more complex topics including partial derivatives, multiple integrals, parameterizations, vectors and gradients, so students will be able to solve difficult problems with ease. They can also test themselves at the end of every chapter for calculated proof that they’re mastering this subject.
José Calderón, professor of sociology and Chicano Studies, published an article titled “Operation Return to Sender: A Historical Pattern of Immigration Raids” in the July-August issue of Relay: A Socialist Project Review published in Toronto, Canada. He gave a presentation for the Leadership Sin Limites program at the University of Georgia. Calderón was the keynote speaker at a banquet sponsored by the Pueblo United for Economic Justice Building Leadership through Organizing. He was also a panelist for two sessions titled “The Politics of Immigration Raids” and “Teaching Connections: Critical Pedagogy, Multiculturalism and Service Learning in Diverse Communities” at the American Sociological Association conference. He has been appointed a member of the program committee for the association’s 2009 conference. Calderón was interviewed about the immigration rights movement for the program Enfoque Latino on KPFK.


Judith V. Grabiner, Flora Sanborn Professor of Mathematics, gave two talks titled “Mathematics for the Liberal Arts” and “Why Did Lagrange ‘Prove’ the Parallel Postulate?” at the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) annual meeting. She is also serving on a MAA committee to prepare an official poster on women in mathematics.


Milton Machuca, assistant professor of Spanish, gave a presentation titled “A Conversation about Language Teaching and Social Justice” at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Meeting.

Jessica McCoy, assistant professor of art, had an art exhibition this fall titled “Dreams” at the Fanny Garver Gallery in Madison, Wisconsin. She was also a finalist to present her design proposal for the Metro Expo Line in Los Angeles.

Peter Nardi, professor of sociology, was interviewed as part of a panel discussion on the recent Senator Larry Craig scandal for KNPR’s show State of Nevada.

Adrian Pantoja, associate professor of Political Studies and Chicano Studies, published an article with Louis DeSipio titled “Puerto Rican Exceptionalism?: A Comparative Analysis of Transnational Ties Among Puerto Rican, Mexican, Salvadoran and Dominican Migrants” in the August 2007 issue of Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization and Representation. He gave a talk titled “Patterns in Authorized and Unauthorized Latin American Immigration to the United States” for the League of Women Voters in Pasadena and Claremont.


Andre Wakefield, assistant professor of history, published two articles in edited volumes: “The Fiscal Logic of Enlightened German Science” in Knowledge and Its Making in Early Modern Europe (University of Chicago Press, 2007), and “The Practical Enlightenment: German Cameralists and Yankee Economists” in Jenseits der Diskurse (Vandenhoek & Ruprecht, 2007). Wakefield presented papers at the annual meetings of the History of Science Society, the German Studies Association and the American Historical Association. He has also been invited to present a series of lectures next summer on “Science and State in Early Modern Germany” at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris.

Rudi Volti, professor emeritus of sociology, published a review of the movie Cars in the spring issue of the Journal of Transport Studies.

Michael Woodcock, professor emeritus of art and Creative Studies, exhibited his artwork at three shows: “Locus One” at the Claremont Museum of Art, “The 19th Los Angeles Printmakers Society Exhibition” and “East in Eden” at Cal Poly Pomona. Woodcock’s work has also been recently added to the permanent collection of the Claremont Museum of Art.

Benjamin Gilman International Scholars

LOLLY BECK PANCER '09 and Springsong Cooper '09 were awarded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships for Fall 2007. Beck Pancer is pursuing the School for International Training (SIT) program on Public Health and Community Welfare in Salvador, Brazil. Cooper is studying on the Pitzer in Darjeeling: Nepali Studies program in Kalimpong, India.

Beck Pancer has created a self-designed major in Global Health and Social Justice at Pitzer and is minoring in Spanish. She believes all human beings are part of a single world community and the artificial border lines that separate us should not divide us. "I will live this philosophy with my home­stay families by developing personal connections and opening my mind and my heart to learn from them and see the world from their point of view," Beck Pancer said. "I will work alongside disadvantaged communities to develop the agency necessary for them to affect the positive change they wish to see."

Cooper is an International and Intercultural Studies major with an interest in conflict resolution. "While studying abroad, I feel it is necessary to jump wholeheartedly into a new culture and to accept that one may have to step out of his or her comfort zone," Cooper noted. "Uncomfortable experiences of unfamiliarity are good for personal development and allow one to gain a more thorough understanding of new cultures," she said. "This can be an intimidating experience but is always rewarding and enriching in the end."

Preguntando Nuestro Derecho a Turismo

CAITLIN PIERCE ’09 debuted her documentary, Preguntando Nuestro Derecho a Turismo (Questioning Our Right to Tourism), at the 2007 Niche Film Festival in Portland, Oregon, in August. While completing the Pitzer in Ecuador: Intensive Language and Culture study abroad program in Spring 2007, Pierce created the film as part of her independent study project.

"I am interested in human rights and social justice issues, and I wanted to uncover the real story behind community tourism in Ecuador. My original question was: How do tourists justify their presence in the community?" Pierce explained. "It was very interesting to explore how values change within the communities with the introduction of capitalist culture. Before money, no one is poor. The poor only exist in a capitalistic culture," she said.

Pierce decided to make a film because she was drawn to the accessibility of the medium. She interviewed approximately twenty tourists in the indigenous market and focused on indigenous communities around Cotacachi, which is north of Otavalo. Pierce credits the "rural experience" component of the Pitzer program with helping her make contacts within the community and conduct interviews with local families.

"Pitzer has helped me think about everything I do and that each person affects things—that it is our choice whether we want to affect things in a positive or negative way," Pierce said. She is majoring in anthropology and Media Studies as well as minoring in production and Spanish.

Namaste, Dumelang, Hola, Ni Hao & Ciao

FROM PITZER'S STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM DIRECTORS

This July the directors of the Pitzer study abroad programs gathered in Claremont for a conference titled "Releasing the Imagination: Study Abroad for the Liberal Arts and Sciences." Front row: Margie Donahue, Nepal; Maria Lubensky, Ecuador; Carol Brandt, Claremont; Elena Feboli, Italy; Jamie Francis, Claremont; Isabel Aguillo Chaves, Costa Rica; Frances Mora Feboli, Italy Back row: BB Shrestha, Nepal; Xiaomei Wang, China; Amelia Gonzales, Italy; Michael Donahue, Claremont; Moagisi Mogalakwe, Botswana; Chris Lubensky, Ecuador; Milton Machuca, Claremont; Daniso Moigwethi, Botswana; Neva Barker, Claremont; Scoorje Kayashe, Nepal
PITZER COLLEGE

Family Weekend & Scholarship Auction 2008

SAVE THE DATE!
February 15-18

All parents and families of Pitzer College students are invited to campus for this annual event. Family Weekend offers a wonderful opportunity for parents and families to spend time with their sons and daughters while engaging in lectures and other exciting activities with Pitzer faculty and staff. In conjunction with Family Weekend, the Fourth Annual Scholarship Auction will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, February 16.

Family Weekend will begin with a Welcome Reception in Pitzer's new green residence halls on Friday, February 15. The bulk of the weekend's programming will take place on Saturday beginning with registration at 9 a.m., followed by a series of Parent College lectures with Pitzer faculty and an afternoon conversation with President Trombley. Sunday's programming includes field trips led by Pitzer faculty and staff to areas near L.A. There are no formal activities planned for Monday, February 18, but all parents are encouraged to attend regular Pitzer classes with their students. A full schedule of courses will be provided during registration.

For more information & a complete schedule of events visit www.pitzer.edu/family_weekend.

PACK YOUR Residential Life Project Celebration and Dedication Green Bag™ for some sensational shopping at our Scholarship Auction held during Pitzer College's Family Weekend this February!

As a former director of admission, I know the importance of having adequate funding for scholarships; there are always more qualified students than monies available. Pitzer's Cocktail Party and Scholarship Auction is a lively and fun way to raise scholarship funds as well as to have an opportunity to meet and mingle with students, faculty, staff, other parents, and President Laura Skandera Trombley. Music, California wine and hors d'oeuvres are yours to enjoy while you stroll the silent auction tables and bid madly on your favorite live items.

I volunteered for the Parent Leadership Council for the simple reason that our daughter, Allie, loves Pitzer. Pitzer has allowed her to make personal connections with professors who have broadened her ability to learn and question, design a curriculum that meets her needs and have interaction with a dynamic, diverse student population. I chose to chair the auction committee because I want to see our scholarship fund grow. Your participation will help make Pitzer a better place by offering more and larger scholarships.

The auction committee is looking for unique items that all of us would like to bid on. In particular, we would appreciate items that we can package into great get-aways or must-haves for the home. What you might think is a small item can put the finishing touches on an outstanding auction opportunity. Please feel free to offer us an item that you feel has value.

If you should have any questions concerning the 2008 Scholarship Auction or Family Weekend, please do not hesitate to contact me at sbcaanne@hotmail.com or Director of Parent Programs Tanya Johnson-Ruffin at tanya.johnson-ruffin@pitzer.edu.

Sincerely,

Anne Ludlow
2008 Scholarship Auction Chair
Summer Celebration
ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND 2007

Photo 1: Sheri Tsukamoto '03, Ariel Gordon '03 and Kent Lee '02
Share your accomplishments and milestones with Pitzer College alumni by sending your Class Note to:

Pitzer College, Office of Alumni Relations, 1050 North Mills Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711-6101 or e-mail alumni@pitzer.edu.

Please make sure to include your full name (including maiden name) and class year along with your updates, announcements and/or photos. Your Class Note will be edited for content and length.

69 Carolyn Fuelle (Nevada City, CA) and her husband, Bob Murley, are living between San Francisco and their new home in Nevada City, in the heart of California "Gold Country." She hopes to locate other Pitzer alumni in the area.

75 Curtis Schaeffer (Alexandria, VA) has been working in Bolivia for the past three-and-a-half years managing a democratic initiative project.

Anne Turley (Los Angeles, CA) recently visited with her first-year class roommate, Julia Porter ‘75. Julia and her husband, John Griffith (CMC), who now reside in Natick, Massachusetts, visited Claremont for a tour of Pitzer and the other Claremont Colleges with their daughter, Caroline. Anne enjoyed spending time with Julia and her family in Laguna Beach, California. (See photo on page 47.)

83 Zoe Sheli Sameth (Berkeley, CA) performed in Temporary Illusion (excerpt from Taste of Enlightenment) last May at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts in Berkeley, California. Her performance garnered accolades through the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Special Recognition Awards and won first place for Best Actress.

Margaret Nissenson Hayward P'11 (Santa Barbara, CA) is very excited because her daughter, Olivia Hayward is a first-year student at Pitzer this year. She will be the eleventh member of her family to attend a Claremont College. Margaret would love to hear from Pitzer alumni at mhayward4@aol.com.

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Be a Career Adviser to Pitzer Students

Are you in a job or career that would be of interest to students or fellow alumni? Would you like to help Pitzer students connect with the working world or help other alumni with their career transitions? If so, consider becoming a Career Adviser. You can assist in a variety of ways depending upon your time, availability and interests. You might serve as a resource for other job seekers, provide informational sessions and mock interview opportunities, or visit the campus to speak with Pitzer students. Fill out a Career Adviser form online at www.pitzer.edu/offices/career_services/form_emailers/career_advisor.asp or contact Career Services at (909) 621-8519 or at careerservices@pitzer.edu.
Neil Norton (Decatur, GA) recently visited Professor Emeritus Allen Greenberger in Chicago, Illinois, where they visited Frank Lloyd Wright homes, Chicago neighborhoods, parks and more. Neil has also found his “own little bit of Pitzer in Decatur, Georgia, where all ideas are accepted as long as you are willing to implement them.”

Branon Wheeler (Davidsonville, MD) met with Shi'i Shaykh from Iraq during a trip to the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies at the U.S. Naval Academy. (See photo on page 47.)

Pamela Larsen (Hood River, OR) is enjoying life with her two daughters Sofie (6), Fiona (3) and husband, Rob. With much excitement and anticipation, they are planning to relocate to China for two years.

Jared A. Holum (Lake Oswego, OR) is a partner in an accounting firm and has three boys: ages eight, six and fifteen months. He has been married to his wife Julie for nearly fourteen years.

Nicole Bernheimer (Brooklyn, NY) gave birth to daughter Alice on February 12. They recently moved to Brooklyn, New York.

Bryan Gibb (Washington DC) was hired as the new director of education and training products at the Association of Financial Professionals (AFP) in Washington DC. He also serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors as the vice president of the Alumni Fund.

Molly Schaffer (Santa Monica, CA) recently had a role on NBC primetime TV show, The Black Donnellys. She plans to continue her work in theater, television and film. In September, she married Michael Balsley in Santa Monica, California. Her son Ben started kindergarten this fall.

Mailani Cook Veney (Lincoln, NE) has been quite busy with her husband, three kids, two jobs and earning an MBA. She has also started a new technology company, Heated Concrete Solutions, LLC. “Pitzer was a great launching pad for my life!”

Amity Sandage (Santa Cruz, CA) and family enjoy living in Santa Cruz, California. Her husband Koen works at the Monterey Bay Aquarium while Amity decided to take a break from work to spend more time with their son Sage (5), and daughter Tara (2). Her Nepali sister, Pabitra, from the Study Abroad program of Fall 1990, visited her last year.

Chau Phan (Reseda, CA) was married in August and plans to reside in Long Beach, California. “Go Sagehens!”

Kate Post Spitser (Venice, CA) and her husband Andrew Spitser welcomed their baby girl, Maya Jean, on June 19 at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, California. After spending the last twelve years working on various TV shows, most recently with FOX’s MADtv, Kate plans to take a break and focus on raising her new daughter. (See photo on page 47.)

Support the 2007-2008 Pitzer Annual Fund

Why give to the Annual Fund?

An immediate impact:
The Annual Fund allows alumni, parents, and friends to make an immediate impact on current students, faculty, and staff, enhancing all aspects of academic and campus life.

Foundation and corporate support:
Annual Fund alumni participation is a frequently used factor that is weighted heavily by foundations and corporations when determining whether or not to support Pitzer. Every gift to the Annual Fund is instrumental to the College receiving substantial contributions from local and national corporations and foundations, making a greater impact than you may realize.

Visit: www.pitzer.edu/giving  Call: (877) 357-7479  Annual Giving/Pitzer College  1050 N. Mills Ave. Claremont, CA 91711
Calling

All Energy HOGS

Pitzer's efforts to better protect our environment should come as no surprise to anyone affiliated with this institution. Since the school's conception in the socially turbulent 1960's, Pitzer has consistently taken a socially responsible approach to both its operations and to the education of its students. Indeed, social responsibility is one of six educational objectives established by the College, and over the years the school's efforts to emphasize this objective has garnered Pitzer national acclaim from the likes of Mother Jones Magazine, Diversity Digest and the National Wildlife Federation, just to name a few.

As a 1991 graduate of Pitzer's Environmental Studies program, I gleam with pride over the fact that the College has voluntarily chosen to make the environment a priority. I also have a strong inkling that most of the Pitzer's graduates tend to follow suit. I know that in my personal life, I have taken voluntary steps to reduce my environmental footprint by making energy-conscious choices in the products I buy, building a worm composting box in my backyard, replacing every bulb in my house with a compact florescent bulb, and driving a hybrid car.

These are values that my Pitzer education helped instill in me.

Unfortunately, not everyone, including our own governmental leaders, has demonstrated the leadership that Pitzer, its students and its graduates have on the issue of environmental sustainability. Indeed, given the opportunity to develop real, honest and binding strategies to cut energy consumption and protect our environment, our governmental leaders seem to have opted instead for gimmicks aimed at distracting the public from an utter lack of political initiative to get us out of the global environmental mess we find ourselves. Take for example the federal government's cartoon "Energy Hog" designed to discourage the public's energy use (www.energyhog.org) or the State of California's "Flex Your Power" advertisements that seek to persuade individuals to spend their own money to replace home appliances (www.flexyourpower.org). These campaigns seem to place the blame for global warming squarely on the shoulders of the American public. And while the guilt we should all feel for our over-consumption is clearly justified, the effect of these government campaigns is probably close to nil in the overall scheme of global energy use.

So while the voluntary efforts of socially minded institutions and individuals certainly must be applauded, given the likely seriousness of the current environmental situation (and even if you only believe half of the science out there on global warming, it is serious), more must be done. It is imperative that the public vehemently react to the government's torpid policymaking. Indeed, it is time for Pitzer faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as all socially minded "energy hogs" to fight for government policies that, among other things, mandate that all existing public facilities, and all new private and public construction in California incorporate the type of environmentally friendly measures that were voluntarily implemented on our campus.

It has been twenty-five years since Professor Paul Shepard asked the question, "Why does society persist in destroying its habitat?" Paul at the time had one answer—society is mad. Well, the actions of some of us suggest that this madness has not completely taken over. But for those of us still sane, the call is clear—convince our leaders to change course once and for all. Let us, Pitzer, once again heed this call.

Mike Harris '91 is an environmental attorney with the South Coast Air Quality Management District in Los Angeles. He currently serves as vice president of nominating and strategic planning on Pitzer's Alumni Board. In Spring 2008, he will be a visiting assistant professor of law at the Vermont Law School, the country's foremost environmental law program.
Q. What influence has a Pitzer education had on your career choice and your professional interests?

We were encouraged to create our own majors, so I combined comparative anatomy and physiology with Daniel Guthrie, psychology courses and physical anthropology with Bob Sharer and cultural anthropology with you. I then joined Sharer's archaeological dig in El Salvador where I became fascinated with Latino urban life, which led to my doctoral fieldwork on medical systems (Culture, Politics and Medicine in Costa Rica) and later public space (On the Plaza: The Politics of Public Space and Culture) in Costa Rica, and housing and community (Children of the Urban Poor, with F. E. Johnston) in Guatemala. Living in a rural hacienda with barbed wire and a guard later emerged as a chilling image in my research on gated communities (Behind the Gates: Life, Security and the Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America).

The interdisciplinary focus nurtured by Pitzer faculty also led to my participation in the PhD program in medical anthropology at University of California, Berkeley, and my current position in the PhD programs of environmental psychology, anthropology and Women's Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. My first job at University of Pennsylvania was in multidisciplinary landscape architecture and regional planning, city planning and anthropology. Crossing disciplinary boundaries has provided the ability to contribute to conversations where anthropologists are usually not heard.

Q. Perhaps you recall that when you were a senior, I had you read Marvin Harris' Rise of Anthropological Theory, a book much maligned in anthropology. Has it harmed you in any way?

The only harm might be that I developed an intolerance for history and ethnography that does not expose its theoretical claims and for turgid anthropological writing.

But I also learned that I prefer a public anthropology that addresses contemporary problems. The focus of my American Anthropological Association presidency will be "engaged anthropology," which I hope to promote through a Commission on World Anthropologies, an initiative for teaching anthropology K to 12 and increasing inclusion for practicing anthropologists.

Q. What are your plans for future research?

As director of the Public Space Research Group, I am completing an ethnographic study of middle-class co-ops in New York City. The project began when European colleagues asked why I thought that private gated communities reinforced exclusion and increased social isolation, when co-ops—also a form of private governance—are perceived positively. We are finding that co-op residents feel safer than gated residents because they live with "people like themselves," but they also share some of the negative aspects of gating. Moral minimalism, an increase of "laissez-faire" racism and a lack of representation contribute to co-ops not being necessarily more democratic places.

I am also writing a book titled Toward an Anthropological Theory of Space and Place based on my past fieldwork. I argue that anthropology requires an embodied theory of space and place, as well as one that traces the social production and social construction of places. It draws upon my work on plazas, parks (Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity, with D. Taplin and S. Scheld), privatization of public space (Politics of Public Space, with N. Smith) and on the new emotions of home.

My latest project, however, is taking me in a new direction. In Pitzer style, I have become a ceramic artist with a Web site (www.Artist.net), galleries (The Crazy Monkey, and New Century Artists), and a new circle of artist friends on the East End of Long Island. I think it is this career that will carry me into a distant future where I hope my intellectual, emotional and aesthetic talents will blend.
PHOTO POLICY
Digital photos should be 300 dpi in resolution or a print of the photo can be mailed. All original photos will be returned. Please be sure to identify everyone in the photo. Photos are selected based on quality and space availability.

Photo 1: India Hernandez, daughter of Robert Hernandez '06 and his wife Dana, has fun with the Residential Life Project Celebration and Dedication Green Bag™ invitation. • Photo 2: Jake Reid '01 and his wife Jassone Serrano were married in a fifteenth-century castle in Frias, Spain. (see Class of '01) • Photo 3: Devon Kaiser '00 and her husband Steven Farley were married in Pasadena, California. (see Class of '00) • Photo 4: Maya Jean, daughter of Kate Post Spliter '95 and her husband Andrew (see Class of '95) • Photo 5: Brannon Wheeler '87 with Shi'i Shaykh in Iraq (see Class of '87) • Photo 6: Anne Turley '75 and Julia Porter '75 at Laguna Beach (see Class of '75) • Photo 7: Megan Ogle '02 and her husband Noor Dphrepaulezz were married in the Angeles National Forest. (see Class of '02)

96 Peter Harper (La Verne, CA) had a sculpture exhibition titled "An Uneasy Calm" presented by Rico Garcia Fine Art and the Wildgift Movement in September.

97 Alexis Akagawa (Minneapolis, MN) works at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) and Walker Art Center in Minnesota as the international student adviser and off-campus studies program coordinator. Through her position at MCAD, she successfully lobbied the Minnesota State Legislature for a bipartisan resolution supporting the importance of international education in building a strong economy, broadening world views and fostering diverse college environments.

98 Alisa Ruby (Santa Monica, CA) resides in Santa Monica with her fiancé, Dr. Isaac Bash. She has a psychotherapy practice in Beverly Hills and is a regular columnist for L.A. Family Magazine as well as a doctoral candidate for PsyD. Through her current work, Alisa specializes in singles issues, couples counseling, addiction recovery, eating disorders and positive psychology.

99 Brendan Karg and Zelinda Welch '00 (Redondo Beach, CA), Pitzer College sweethearts, plan to marry July 19, 2008, at the Pacific Unitarian Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Brendan is a practicing studio artist as well as a ceramics, sculpture and surfing teacher at Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. Zelinda is a student at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business and is working at Sharp Electronics Solar Energy Solutions Group.

00 Devon Kaiser (West Los Angeles, CA) was married on September 15 to Steven Farley, a Pomona College graduate. In attendance were several Pitzer College alumni, including Nick Standlea '01, Jessie Franzetti Standlea '01 and Sabrina Abu-Hamed '00. Devon is a clinical psychologist specializing in psychological assessment and Steve is completing his general surgery residency at UCLA. (See photo above.)
Michael Martinez (Laguna Beach, CA) and wife Julia welcomed new son, Lucas Jeremiah Martinez, to their family on Mother's Day. At 8 lbs. 11 oz., Lucas is “healthy and growing like crazy,” Michael is currently working at First American Corporation as a project manager.

01 Jake Reid (Portland, OR) wed Jasone Serrano on July 7 in Frias, Spain, at a beautiful fifteenth-century castle. (See photo on page 47.)

Meghavi Shah (Monterey Bay, CA) now lives in Monterey Bay where she teaches first grade elementary classes and loves it.

02 Alina Bennett (Columbus, OH) is currently completing her second year toward her master’s degree in Women’s Studies at The Ohio State University. This past spring and summer she was a presenter at the Multiple Perspectives Disability Conference and the National Women’s Studies Association Conference. Most recently, Alina had a book review published in the fall issue of Disability Studies Quarterly (www.dsq-sds.org).

Megan Ogle (Glendale, CA) married Noor Dheepanazee on July 7 in the Angeles National Forest. The couple currently lives in Glendale, California, and plans to move back to Megan’s childhood home in Maui. Megan teaches kindergarten with Joey Booty ’02 at New Heights Charter School in South Los Angeles, California. (See photo on page 47.)

Elizabeth Angelini (Northridge, CA) will teach this fall for California State University, Northridge’s special education program. To accommodate her new schedule, she will depart from her position at the Help Group Organization as a substitute and teacher’s aide and says, “The experience has been unbelievably rewarding and challenging. Teaching youngsters with autism and seeing them progress as a result of dedication and encouragement from the educators gives me great satisfaction.”

Mark Pointan and Andrea Williams (Pueblo West, CO) were engaged in August after seven years of dating. Andrea and Mark live in Denver, Colorado, with their two dogs, Buddy and Bella. Andrea recently completed her master’s degree in social work and is working as a family therapist for a local nonprofit. Mark is a global wealth manager for Morgan Stanley. They plan to wed in summer 2008.

03 Michael Lissner (Berkeley, CA) has been promoted to the assistant manager of Data Systems at Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Department, Community Services Bureau.

Ben Kane (Littleton, CO) married Lydia Wingo in June. Ben is in his third year of divinity school at Vanderbilt University and is a youth minister in Nashville, Tennessee, at a Presbyterian church.

04 Matthew Turzo (Cape May Court House, NJ) graduated from the Hopkins Nanjing Center, China, and will be working at Shanghai-based street wear company, Eno. Matthew would love to have visitors in China.

05 This award, the highest honor bestowed upon a graduate, will recognize an alumna/us who has brought honor and distinction to Pitzer College through her or his outstanding achievements. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes: work an alumna/us has done in the community, service to her or his alma mater, and occupational achievements an alumna/us has accomplished through her or his career.

For more information visit www.pitzer.edu/award or call (909) 621-8130.
IN MEMORIAM

Yolanda Retter '70

ACTIVIST, ARCHIVIST AND SCHOLAR

YOLANDA RETTER '70, an activist, archivist and scholar who devoted the last four decades to raising the visibility of lesbians and minorities and preserving their history, died August 18, 2007 at her home in Van Nuys, California, after a brief illness.

"Yolanda was surrounded by the women she chose and was very peaceful—deservedly so. Everyone knows she left a legacy." Yolanda's longtime partner Leslie Golden Stampler said. "She left many with broken hearts but hopefully not broken spirits. Very few people are without a Yoli story to tell. No one would say 'Yoli, who?'"

After graduating from Pitzer College with a degree in sociology, Yolanda worked briefly as a prison guard at the California Institution for Women in Corona and managed a halfway house for displaced women in Los Angeles.

"When it was close to her graduation, Yolanda told me that she planned to work as a guard at the California Institution for Women," Madeline Pinsky Walker '73 recalled. "At first I was taken aback, thinking what a tough situation she was putting herself into. Then I thought, if anyone can do it, Yolanda can. I think of that as a summary of her life—if Yolanda set her mind on something, she would get it done. I'm glad I had a chance to know her."

Yolanda also learned cabinetmaking and became a licensed airplane mechanic before returning to school in the '80s to earn master's degrees in library science and social work from the University of California, Los Angeles. At the University of New Mexico, she received a doctorate in American Studies.

Yolanda was a pivotal advocate for lesbians during the early years of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. She helped organize lesbian history repositories at the University of Southern California, University of California, Los Angeles and in West Hollywood. For the last four years, she was the librarian and archivist for the UCLA Chicano Studies Resource Center, where she was instrumental in expanding holdings related to Latinas as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

A memorial service was held on September 29, 2007, at Metropolitan Community Church in West Hollywood.

"I was there out of respect for and in recognition of the amazing way her life exemplified Pitzer College values: scholarship, freedom, creativity, leadership and social responsibility," Lauri Devine '71 said. "Yolanda lived these things. She really made a mark, and an important one."

Morgan Stewart '70 (formerly Marylynn Slayen), a close friend of Yolanda's, shared these words that Yolanda wrote before her surgery: "Don't fantasize, don't catastrophize, don't even publicize. As the Beatles (and others) have put it, all you need is love. So send plenty of that. Keep it spiritual." •

Donations in Yolanda's memory may be sent to: The Yolanda Retter Fund, c/o Law Offices of Karen Mateer, Esq., 618 South Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106

JOIN US FOR SPRING 2008 CHAPTER EVENTS
INCLUDING LOS ANGELES, HAWAII, NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO & MORE!

From networking activities to gatherings with Pitzer professors, social events to educational opportunities, dinners and private tours, the Pitzer Alumni Association sponsors chapter events that are held across the country and around the world. Join us at an event near you!
FOOTBALL
With a standing of 2-6 (1-5 SCIAC), the Sagehens played each game competitively, defeating Lewis and Clark and the University of La Verne. For a young squad, the Sagehens have done well thanks to quarterback Jacob Caron ’11 and cornerback Eddie Pickett ’08.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
The Sagehen volleyball team finished the season at 12-11 and 7-7 in SCIAC. Ruchi Patel ’10 was one of two Pitzer-Pomona players named to the All-SCIAC First Team.

MEN’S SOCCER
The men’s soccer team ended the year with a 5-12-1 overall record and a 4-8-1 sixth place conference finish with two players named to the All-SCIAC Second Team.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
A young Pitzer-Pomona women’s soccer squad finished with an 8-6-2 overall record, and a 5-5-2 conference record. Fielding a team with ten first-years and seven sophomores, the Sagehens took fifth place in the SCIAC regular season. Three Sagehens were honored with All-SCIAC selections, including Angie Martinez ’09 who took home All-SCIAC Second Team honors.

MEN’S & WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
The men’s team tied for third in conference with a 4-3 record and two runners were named to the All-SCIAC Second Team. The women’s team finished fourth in SCIAC with a 4-3 record with two runners joining the All-SCIAC First Team. Pitzer-Pomona runners on the All-SCIAC teams competed in the NCAA West Region Meet in Portland.
Heading into the SCIAC Championships the Sagehens stood at 14-17 overall and 6-1 in conference losing only to Redlands in a tough 10-9 battle. Facing Redlands again in the championships, the Sagehens were victorious, winning 13-10. This was the first men's water polo SCIAC championship win since 1980. Pitzer students on the team include Sand Bertman '10, Grant Cooper '09, Mark D'Avino '10, Jason Henshall '10, Michael Mueting '08, Pavid Rudolph '10, Eric Salassa '08 and Matthew Ward '11.

Neil Patel '07: Willamette Bearcat

Neil Patel '07 has gone from being a student athlete to coaching them. Patel was hired as the head coach for the men's tennis team at Willamette University.

Patel graduated from Pitzer with a BA in economics and Political Studies, and honors in both majors. He played for the Pitzer-Pomona tennis team for four years, placing #1 in doubles and #3 in singles play. In 2007 Patel was Division III Doubles All-American and finished the season ranked #10 in the country in doubles. He was also named Pitzer's Most Outstanding Male Athlete this spring.

"My years on the team really changed my life," Patel said.

One moment in particular that stood out for Patel was last year when the Sagehens played Pacific Lutheran College. "They came down to the 'Hen House' and we went out there and demolished them 7-2," Patel said. "It was an old-school Sagehen stomp and it was amazing to see our team rise up against a higher ranked team."

Patel sees his age proximity to his players as an asset, helping him relate to their concerns as athletes and students. "I can understand the pressures of going to an academically challenging school and trying to balance that with a sport," Patel said. "I think Pitzer allowed me to have that experience and now I can better understand my players."

—JESSICA SCHWARTZ '08

David Knowles '07: Wolfenbüttel Duke

David Knowles '07 signed with the Wolfenbüttel Dukes to play professional basketball in Germany's Second Division Pro B league. Knowles, who plays point guard, began regular season with the Dukes in September.

"Playing pro ball here in Germany is great because in this particular city and area it is basketball that is more popular than even soccer," Knowles said. Wolfenbüttel is located in north central Germany, approximately fifty miles east of Hanover and two hours west of Berlin.

Knowles is grateful for the opportunity he had to play on the Pitzer-Pomona basketball team and believes that this experience greatly prepared him for a professional basketball career after college. "Having a chance to be guided by Head Coach Charles Katsiaficas changed my perspective on the game and made me a better player and potential coach myself," he stated. Knowles, who was named team MVP, received the Judi and Frank Fenton Athletic Leadership Award this spring and previously received the 2005-06 Daley Athletic Achievement Award.

A Political Studies major and sociology minor, Knowles notes that his Pitzer College education provided him with a "level-headed" perspective by which to approach his experience abroad. "I believe Pitzer has stirred in me a desire to take advantage of this situation by learning as much as possible—soaking up the cultural experience and using it all to further myself and my ability to contribute positively to our global society," he continued.

Knowles' current career goal is to continue playing basketball for as long as possible and to learn foreign languages. Eventually, he would like to coach basketball or start his own sports agency or management group made up of friends and fellow SCI graduates.

—EMILY CAVALCANTI
Pitzer College Green Wear

Read more on page 23 about Pitzer College’s new bamboo and organic cotton-blend t-shirts.

Available in Men’s & Women’s Sizes Small, Medium, Large and Extra-Large