

# PITZER COLLEGE

SPRING 2007 ■ MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

THE PARTICIPANT

*focus*  
*on*  
**diversity**



# PITZER COLLEGE

MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS **THE PARTICIPANT**

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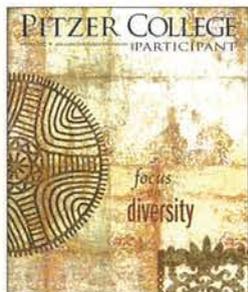
Stephanie Guerra

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Pitzer College is a nationally top-ranked undergraduate college of the liberal arts and sciences. A member of The Claremont Colleges, Pitzer offers a distinctive approach to a liberal arts education by linking intellectual inquiry with interdisciplinary studies, cultural immersion, social responsibility and community involvement.

*The Participant* welcomes comments from its readers. Address letters to Pitzer College, Office of Public Relations at the address above or send an e-mail to [participant@pitzer.edu](mailto:participant@pitzer.edu).

## on the COVER



On the cover, artist **Stephanie Dalton Cowan** incorporates the cultural elements of a shield and decorative motif with an organic abstract painting. The warm hues of ochre yellow and earth brown were selected to create a sense of timelessness and history.



Pitzer Hall facing south



View from fourth floor of Atherton Hall

# THE *excitement* BUILDS

MORE ON PAGE 38 ABOUT THE RESIDENTIAL LIFE PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION



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### *focus on* DIVERSITY

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Two wings of Sanborn Hall facing east

FABIAN NÚÑEZ '97

## Chicano Latino

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

PITZER COLLEGE HELD its third annual Fabian Núñez '97 Chicano Latino Scholarship Benefit at the Univision Headquarters near downtown Los Angeles on April 27. The Scholarship, established in 2004 in honor of Pitzer alumnus Fabian Núñez, is the College's first scholarship designed specifically for Chicano Latino students, providing a wonderful opportunity for the Pitzer community to celebrate the College's diversity while honoring Núñez for his commitment to education and social justice.

More than 120 guests turned out for the Benefit, which included a reception and program hosted by Univision's President and General Manager Jorge Delgado and Channel 34 News Anchor Teresa Quevedo. Among this year's speakers were guest of honor Fabian Núñez, President Laura Skandera Trombley, Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina P'09, California State Assembly Member Kevin de León '03 and Pitzer College Trustee Cynthia Telles as well as lead donors Andres Irlando of Verizon and Fernando de Necochea of Southern California Edison.



**2006-07 Núñez Scholars** Back Row: Alejandro Sanchez '08, Candy Navarro '07, Christopher Acosta '07, Zoe Alvarez '07, Sara Hinojos '08, Tim Campos '10 and Sergio Donis '07 Front Row: Claudia Ramirez '08, Brittany Dávila '10, Sandra Gonzalez-Gutierrez '09 and Claudia Sandoval '10 Not Pictured: Laura Dominguez '09, Christopher Galarze '09, Nelson Jimenez '09, Michael Lopez '09 and Justin Weitzel '09



Cynthia Telles, Andres Irlando, Fernando de Necochea, Gloria Molina P'09, Kevin de León '03, Jorge Delgado and Fabian Núñez '97

The program also included a ten-minute video created by Media Studies major Kimberly Bautista '07, which featured 2007 Núñez scholarship recipients Christopher Acosta '07, Zoe Alvarez '07, Tim Campos '10, Brittany Dávila '10, Laura Dominguez '09, Sergio Donis '07, Christopher Galarze '09, Sandra Gonzalez-Gutierrez '09, Sara Hinojos '08, Nelson Jimenez '09, Michael Lopez '09, Candy Navarro '07, Claudia Ramirez '08, Alejandro Sanchez '08, Claudia Sandoval '10 and Justin Weitzel '09.



Dean of Faculty Alan Jones, Speaker of the California State Assembly Fabian Núñez '97, President Laura Skandera Trombley and California State Assemblyman Kevin de León '03

Since its inaugural year, the Núñez Scholarship has grown significantly, providing opportunities for approximately thirty students, sixteen of whom were awarded scholarships this year. The Scholarship has also grown in terms of corporate sponsorship, with more than twenty corporate donors joining the Benefit Committee in 2007. This year's Benefit was a tremendous success, raising more than \$250,000—a 67 percent increase over 2005-06—and bringing several new sponsors on board, including Altria Corporate Services, ConocoPhillips, E & J Gallo Winery, General Electric, Plaza Mexico, Reynaldo's Mexican Food Company and SE Corporation, among others.

To find out more about the Fabian Núñez '97 Chicano Latino Scholarship and to make a gift, visit: [www.pitzer.edu/clsbenefit](http://www.pitzer.edu/clsbenefit).

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### A FOND FAREWELL TO PITZER'S

## Class of 2007

ON A BEAUTIFUL, clear and warm May day, Pitzer College held its forty-third commencement, and at the ceremony's conclusion we bid a fond farewell to the wonderfully accomplished Class of 2007. Their time spent at Pitzer was marked by momentous happenings, both for the College as well those occurring in a more global context.

This class attended College during a time when the United States has been a nation at war. Natural disasters such as the tsunami that affected coastal communities across Southeast Asia, as well as events closer to home, including Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans as well as the California wildfires that struck in the fall of 2003, have all occurred during the past four years. Higher education also was indelibly affected by the horrific tragedy this spring at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In the midst of these events, Pitzer students came together and took action by visiting affected places, protesting, and sending messages of hope and encouragement.

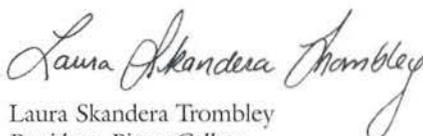
In their time spent here, Pitzer students have traveled the globe studying the world in all its beauty and conflict. They worked with Americans in New Orleans displaced by Hurricane Katrina, taught children to read in our Jumpstart program, contributed to community partnerships in Ontario and Pomona, and designed new environmentally sustainable residence halls. Students participated in Student Senate, worked with incarcerated youths at Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige, and were deeply involved with the Pomona Day-Labor Center.

As part of the Class of 2007's legacy, they will leave behind beautiful cactus gardens that they designed and planted as well as murals and other forms of public art. Our student athletes also distinguished themselves in athletics winning twelve SCIAC championships in baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's cross country, women's soccer, tennis, and water polo.

In addition to their engagement with the critical issues that face our world, the Class of 2007 is remarkable for its academic accomplishments. Among our graduating seniors we have a Watson Fellowship winner, a Truman Fellowship winner, Kemper Foundation Scholars, and a USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Service Award honoree. For the past four years Pitzer College has been, per capita, number one for Fulbright Fellowships awarded to colleges and universities in the United States and this year out of twenty-four Fulbright finalists, eight have already been awarded, with six alternates.

For the first time at commencement, three seniors were selected as speakers, Lakshmi Eassey, Sergio Donis and Alexis Spencer Notabartolo, who powerfully addressed the audience and their class: "We cannot allow the differences among us to prevent us from finding common ground. The great thing about being a student here is that difference does not equal division. People come to Pitzer with different ethnic, gender, socio-economic and family backgrounds, but it is in such diversity that the Pitzer education is forged."

My hope for the Class of 2007 is that they never become immured to the injustices and tragedies of their generation and that they never lose their appreciation for all the beauty and hope that surrounds them. Pitzer's motto is *Provida Futuri—Mindful of the Future*—and I trust this class will mind our collective futures well.

  
Laura Skandera Trombley  
President, Pitzer College

PRESIDENT'S CHARGE TO THE CLASS OF 2007

# A LIFELONG *intellectual dialogue*

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE AND HONOR to issue my charge to the Class of 2007. Seniors, this is one aspect of our work together that is most special, and I have reflected on just how much is at stake in this stage of our conversation.

The Pitzer College culture is devoted to initiating a lifelong intellectual dialogue, and together we have reached this critical moment in our relationship, your graduation. I have complete confidence that you, the members of the Class of 2007, will heed my charge:

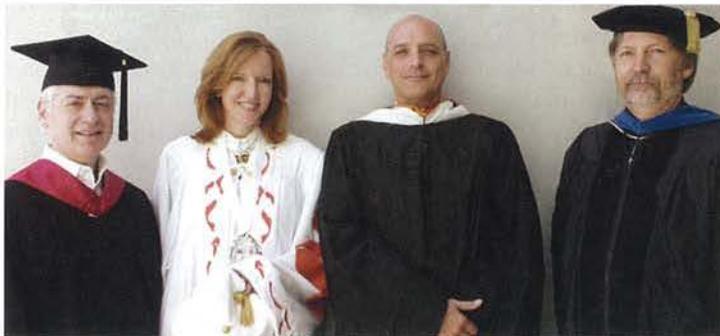
*I charge you to understand, engage, demonstrate, listen and fight!*

*understand* the importance of intellectual engagement and how meaningful a life of thought and reflection can be;  
*engage* actively in the political process including all discussions where matters affecting humanity are debated and decided;  
*demonstrate* in every social quarter the importance of a critical awareness, and the necessity of taking an active role;  
*listen* with compassion to the fears of those who disagree with you and  
*fight* with all your intelligence and dignity for that in which you believe.

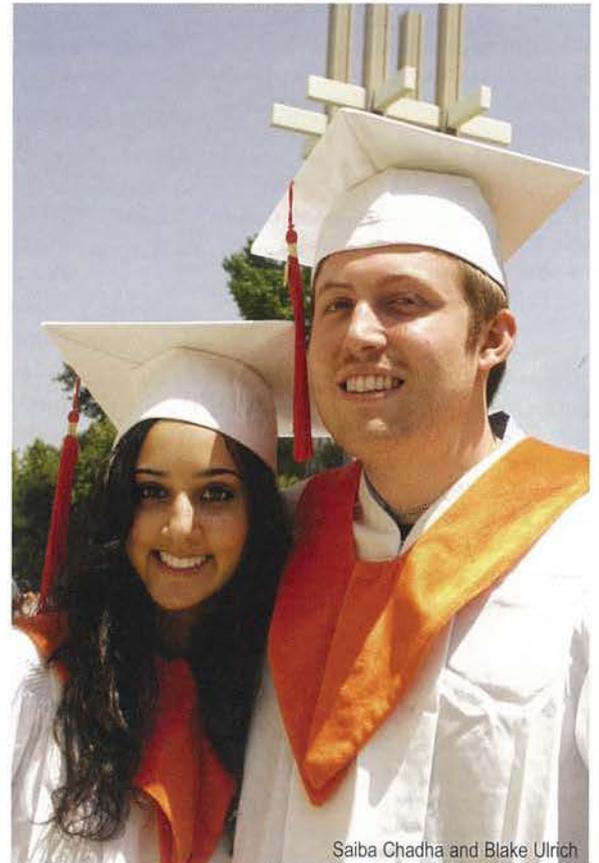
Together we, the members of the Pitzer community who will remain here, and you, the members of the Pitzer community who steadfastly carry our tradition into the wider world— together we shoulder the responsibility of giving life to our motto: *Provida Futuri—Mindful of the Future.*

We are proud to have been part of your early career knowing how one life lived in the present has an extraordinary effect on the life we will all share in the future. Dear friends, I present to you the Class of 2007.

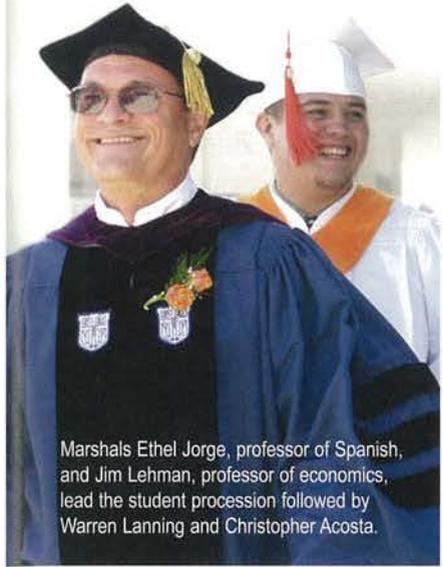
—PRESIDENT LAURA SKANDERA TROMBLEY, MAY 13, 2007



Board of Trustees Chair Eugene Stein, President Laura Skandera Trombley, 2007 Commencement Speaker Eric Schlosser, Dean of Faculty Alan Jones



Saiba Chadha and Blake Ulrich



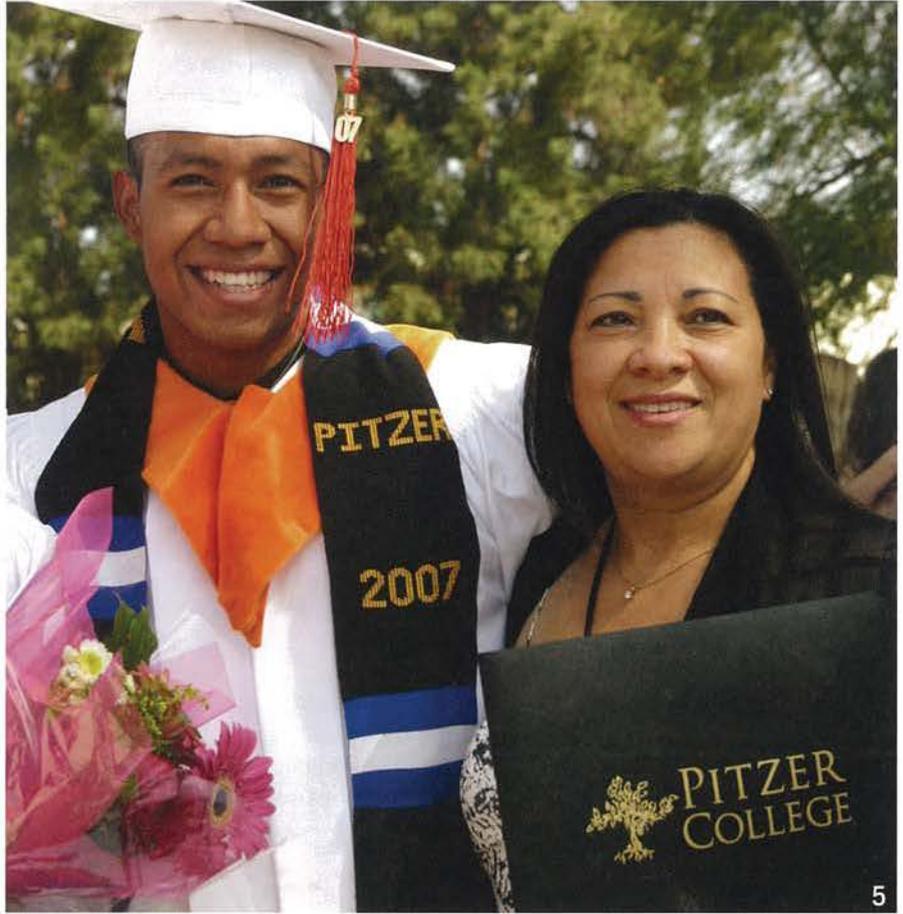
Marshals Ethel Jorge, professor of Spanish, and Jim Lehman, professor of economics, lead the student procession followed by Warren Lanning and Christopher Acosta.



1



2



5



3



4

1. Lakshmi Eassey along with Sergio Donis and Alexis Spencer Notabartolo were selected as Senior Class Speakers. 2. New Resources graduates Adam Colgrove, Lisa Rojas and Jamie Weber outside Mead Hall 3. Alice Chang and Rhea Landicho 4. Sara Tedla and Sky Shanks 5. Brian Paz and his mother

To view video clips of the Commencement Speaker & Senior Class Speakers visit [www.pitzer.edu/multimedia](http://www.pitzer.edu/multimedia)



# FUTURE PLANS



## for the Class of 2007

### *Riva Bacquet*

MAJOR: INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND POLITICAL STUDIES  
I am moving to Argentina in September to teach English for a year.

### *Kimberly Bautista*

MAJOR: MEDIA STUDIES AND SPANISH  
I will be working on a master's in social documentation at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

### *Alba Boren*

MAJOR: INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND POLITICAL STUDIES  
I am headed to graduate school to earn a teaching credential and a master's in education.

### *Kyle Buika*

MAJOR: ECONOMICS AND MATHEMATICS  
I will be pursuing a PhD in economics at Boston College.

### *Yazmin Chavira*

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY  
I will be joining the Teach for America Corps. in New York City.

### *Sabrina Ereshefsky*

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY  
This summer I will be working at Camp Judea in the Blue Ridge Mountains. I'm also planning on doing research related to psychology or neuroscience during the next year and applying to graduate school in psychology.

### *Sarah Fang*

MAJOR: HUMAN BIOLOGY  
In the fall I am going to Tanzania to work in a volunteer program called Students for International Change (SIC). I will be setting up self-sustainable clinics in rural towns outside of Arusha as part of a HIV/AIDS awareness campaign.

### *Serina Farrell*

MAJOR: ART AND ART HISTORY  
During the summer, I will be working at a summer camp in Maine as an art director. Then I plan on moving back to San Francisco to hit the art scene and save up some money to travel.

### *Sarah Gasperini*

MAJOR: POLITICAL STUDIES  
I will be attending Chicago-Kent College of Law in the fall.

### *Sam Gelinis*

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY  
I will be completing a DC Teaching Fellowship.

### *Nicholas Gold*

MAJOR: BIOLOGY  
I will be working as a lab technician at the University of Colorado, Boulder.



“ People who say you can't change the world are just too lazy to try. Of course you can change the way things are. And if you don't believe that, you will always be at the mercy of those who do believe it. ”  
 —from Bestselling Author and Reporter Eric Schlosser's Commencement Keynote Address



**Jake Heller**

MAJOR: ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL STUDIES  
 I will be attending Stanford Law School.

**Devin Humpal**

MAJOR: ANTHROPOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES  
 I will be working for City Planning in Sacramento.

**David Knowles**

MAJOR: POLITICAL STUDIES  
 I will be playing basketball professionally in Europe.

**Elisa Mao**

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY  
 I am planning to earn a teaching credential as well as a master's degree in education at Claremont Graduate University.

**Paul McGinnis**

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY  
 This summer I will be taking the LSATs and getting certified to teach ESL classes. In August I will be moving to Salta, Argentina, to teach English.

**Mary B. Mengedoth-Brennan**

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY  
 I will be working as a budget officer/manager for IRIS West at Claremont Graduate University.

**Candy Navarro**

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY AND SPANISH  
 I will be attending the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the fall.

**Shilen Patel**

MAJOR: INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND POLITICAL STUDIES  
 I will be doing marketing for the China Broadway Network in New York.

**Glen Rice**

MAJOR: SOCIOLOGY  
 I will either be attending Seattle University School of Law or working for an organization called YouthCare, which provides services for homeless youth in the greater Seattle area.

**Elizabeth Tiller**

MAJOR: MEDIA STUDIES  
 In September I will start my MLitt in European Cinema at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

**Timothy Van Wagner**

MAJOR: ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY AND DESIGN  
 I will be working on an organic farm in North Carolina.

**Steve Villagra**

MAJOR: INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND POLITICAL STUDIES  
 I will be working as a paralegal in an Orange County firm this summer and will be taking the LSATs.

**Adam Vogel**

MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY  
 I will be attending Roosevelt University in Illinois to pursue a master's in PsyD.



Remember to keep in touch with your alma mater and share your future endeavors with us at [participant@pitzer.edu](mailto:participant@pitzer.edu).





ANDREW BARTNOF '07

ANITA DESIKAN '07

PATRICK MILLER '07

MORGANA MATUS '07

“Our Fulbright scholars reflect the global perspective of the College’s curriculum, the excellence of its study abroad programs and the high scholarship of its students”

—President Laura Skandera Trombley

# FULBRIGHT

## *Fellows for 2007-08*

### **Andrew Bartnof '07**

Andrew Bartnof has been awarded a Fulbright teaching assistantship to Indonesia. Bartnof is a double major in English and World Literature and philosophy and studied on the Pitzer in China program as a sophomore and then on an exchange with the University of Koblenz-Landau in Germany during his junior year.

### **Lauren Birnbryer '07**

Lauren Birnbryer has been awarded a Fulbright teaching assistantship to Indonesia. Birnbryer, a double major in psychology and sociology, studied on the Pitzer in Ecuador Intensive Language and Culture program.

### **Anita Desikan '07**

Anita Desikan, a double major in biology and psychology, has been awarded a Fulbright teaching assistantship to Malaysia. She studied on the Pitzer exchange program in Turkey.

### **Morgana Matus '07**

Morgana Matus has been awarded a research Fulbright to Norway, Pitzer’s first-ever nominee/winner for Norway. Matus is an Environmental Studies major and Religious Studies minor. Her proposal is titled “Gods and Fjords: Religion and Environmental Stewardship in Norway.” She studied on the Pitzer in Costa Rica program.



DAVID SAETANG '07

ALEXIS SPENCER NOTABARTOLO '07

JONATHAN TIGERI '06

LAUREN BIRNBRYER '07

**Patrick Miller '07**

Patrick Miller has been awarded Pitzer's first-ever research Fulbright to Japan. His research proposal is titled "A Good Clean Fight: Japanese Brazilians and Identity Formation via Sport." Miller studied abroad in Japan.

**David Saetang '07**

David Saetang, an English and World Literature major, has been awarded a Fulbright teaching assistantship to Korea. Saetang studied language and culture in the Pitzer Summer Study in Japan program.

**Alexis Spencer Notabartolo '07**

Alexis Spencer Notabartolo has been awarded a research Fulbright to Georgia. Spencer Notabartolo studied on the Pitzer in Italy program in Spring 2005. A Political Studies major, she will be researching the formation of public opinion of international organizations, specifically NATO.

**Jonathan Tigeri '06**

Jonathan Tigeri has been awarded a research Fulbright to El Salvador. Tigeri studied on the Pitzer in Italy program in Fall 2004. Currently, he is a Post Baccalaureate Urban Fellow at the College.

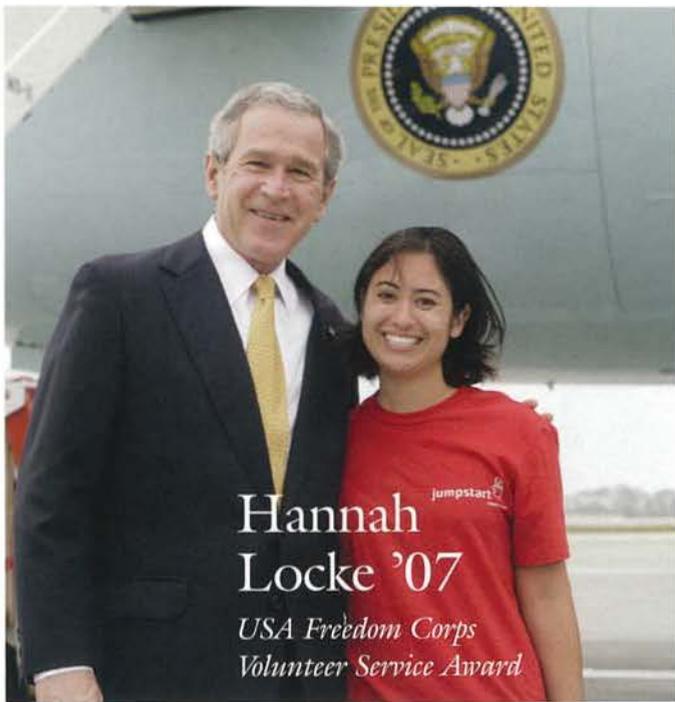
**Daphne Churchill '07**

In addition to these Fulbright Fellows, Daphne Churchill, whose self-designed major was Urban Intercultural Studies, has been awarded a French Ministry of Education award for 2007-08. This award is secured through the Fulbright competition but administered by the French government. Churchill studied abroad in Touraine, France, and developed a strong interest in multicultural education. She has been assigned to Corsica for the 2007-08 academic year.



DAPHNE CHURCHILL '07

Alumni may apply for Fulbrights through the at-large pool or through Pitzer College. It is advantageous to apply through Pitzer as proposals will be reviewed and nominated by the Pitzer Fulbright Committee. Nominees will be phone-interviewed by the Pitzer Fulbright Committee as part of the review process. The proposal must be submitted through Pitzer to be officially recognized by the Fulbright Program as an award associated with the College. Alumni wishing to apply should contact Fulbright Adviser Nigel Boyle at [nboyle@pitzer.edu](mailto:nboyle@pitzer.edu).



**Hannah  
Locke '07**  
*USA Freedom Corps  
Volunteer Service Award*

## student AWARDS

Hannah Locke '07 received a USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Service Award in April from President Bush in front of Air Force One at Los Angeles International Airport. Locke was selected in recognition of her high level of service in the Jumpstart program. Locke, a psychology major from Seattle, Washington, plans to pursue a career in social work.

Pitzer Jumpstart Site Coordinator Karen Magoon said, "Even among the service-oriented students at Pitzer College, a school that emphasizes social responsibility as one of its core values and was recently named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Award Honor Roll, Hannah Locke's exceptional service ethic stands out." Locke, who is in her third year with Jumpstart, where she has consistently put in more than 300 hours each year, is also the campus coordinator for Teach for America.

## Matt Herceg '07

*Thomas J. Watson Fellowship*

Matt Herceg '07 is one of only fifty college seniors nationwide to receive the prestigious Watson Fellowship, which funds a year of travel and independent inquiry. Matt is Pitzer's twenty-sixth Watson Fellow. His project's title is "Film and Football Mythopoeia: Capturing/Creating the Beautiful Game."

Herceg is a Media Studies major who plans on attending graduate school in journalism/film with long-term plans of being an independent media maker or an alternative media theatre owner.

Herceg will complete his Watson in Denmark, Brazil, Argentina, Ghana, Austria and Switzerland. He participated in the Pitzer in China study abroad program.



## Ben Rubin '10

*Kemper Scholarship*

Ben Rubin '10 is looking forward to his sophomore and junior summers when he will be fulfilling his duties as a Kemper Scholar.

The program is designed to encourage outstanding liberal arts college students to prepare for careers in business. The program includes scholarships, meetings with business leaders and two paid summer internships: one with a nonprofit agency and one that is designed by the students themselves.

Rubin is the College's fourth student to be named a Kemper Scholar. Current Kemper Scholars at Pitzer are Sandra Gonzalez-Gutierrez '09, Jackie Martinez '08 and Mauricio Pantoja '08.



**Jamilah King '07**  
*Union Semester Fellowship*

Jamilah King '07, a double major in English & World Literature and Black Studies, has been awarded a Union Semester Fellowship from City College of New York.

Union Semester is an intensive academic and internship program for both undergraduate and graduate students. Internships are thirty-two hours a week and students attend four classes each week. King and other fellowship winners will earn a certificate in Labor Studies after completing their internships.

Her long-term goal is to teach and write professionally; within the next two years she plans on pursuing a master's degree in journalism.



## Randy Gomez '08 and Sara Hinojos '08

*Ronald E. McNair Scholarship*

Sara Hinojos '08 and Randy Gomez '08 are both double majors with Sara majoring in sociology and Chicano Studies and Randy in sociology and art. Hinojos and Gomez studied abroad in Parma as part of the Pitzer in Italy program. They are also active in many of the same collegiate activities, including the Chiapas Support Committee, Chicano Latino Student Affairs (CLSA), and the Latino Student Union. Gomez also served on the Student Senate's Judiciary Board and assisted in the after-school Heroes program as well as the Pomona Day-Labor Center. Hinojos also sat on the Student Senate's Diversity Committee, and participated in Heroes and the Pomona Day-Labor Center.

While Hinojos plans to pursue a professorship in Ethnic Studies, Gomez is interested in either completing an MFA or MBA program. Hinojos and Gomez along with the other selected McNair Scholars will present their research at two different conferences. The McNair Scholars Program was created in honor of Ronald E. McNair, an African American engineer, scientist and astronaut whose life tragically ended in 1986 while aboard NASA's Challenger space shuttle. The scholarship award includes a six-week summer session at Claremont Graduate University and a stipend.

Visit [www.pitzer.edu/spotlight](http://www.pitzer.edu/spotlight) to read more about these and other student achievements.



## Nurjahan Bruce '07 and Yazmin Chavira '07

*Teach for America's 2007 National Corps.*

Nurjahan Bruce '07 and Yazmin Chavira '07 have been selected to be a part of Teach for America's 2007 National Corps.

Bruce, a sociology major, may pursue a three-year master's program at UCLA while completing her Teach for America commitment. Her assignment will take place within the Los Angeles Unified School District where she will be working with special-education students.

Chavira, a psychology major from Houston, Texas, will earn her master's in education in two years. Her Teach for America assignment will take her to a charter school in South Bronx. She looks forward to working at a charter school based on her own positive experience at a Houston KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) school.

Both graduates hope to effect change in educational reform.

## Matt Berry '07

*Princeton-in-Asia Teaching Fellowship*

Matt Berry '07 has been awarded a prestigious Princeton-in-Asia Teaching Fellowship to Thailand (Phag Nga) from Princeton University. Berry is one of eighty fellows awarded nationally in 2007 by Princeton University to research posts, schools, NGOs and businesses in approximately fifteen Asian countries.

Berry studied in the Pitzer in Botswana and Pitzer in Costa Rica study abroad programs. His other collegiate activities include serving as a senior interviewer in the Office of Admission, a trip leader for Pitzer Outdoor Adventures (POA) and as a volunteer for the California Youth Authority in Chino. Berry, who self-designed his major in politics and community development, is the second Pitzer student to receive this award.





# around the MOUNDS

RECENT HAPPENINGS AT PITZER COLLEGE

## Salon Evening Supports Scholarship

PITZER'S PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL GATHERS AT THE BROAD ART FOUNDATION

THE PITZER COLLEGE President's Council is comprised of leading community members who lend their unique skills, talents and resources to Pitzer College. They are ambassadors for Pitzer and assist President Laura Skandera Trombley in sharing the richness of this wonderful institution.

For the third consecutive year the Council gathered with guests in a salon-like setting to support a very

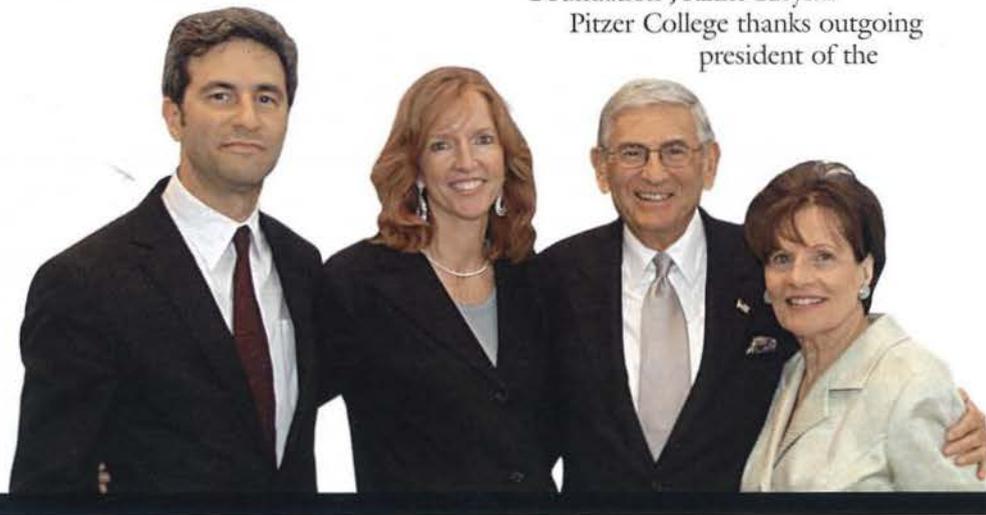
worthy cause—the Pitzer College President's Council Scholarship. This year's salon was hosted by Emeritus Trustee Eli Broad P'78 at his private art collection with speaker Michael Govan, director and CEO of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

Guests enjoyed a reception followed by a conversation and tour of the collection with Govan and Director and Chief Curator of the Broad Art Foundation Joanne Heyler.

Pitzer College thanks outgoing president of the



President's Council Linda Briskman P'05 for her dedicated leadership during the past year and welcomes new President Victoria Mudd, a visiting professor at Pitzer and an Academy Award-winning documentarian of *Broken Rainbow*.



Top: President Laura Skandera Trombley, President's Council Scholar Chantelle Williams '08, 2006–07 President's Council President Laura Briskman P'05 (Scholars not pictured: Tad Peters '07, Edward Pickett '07 and Lakshmi Eassey '07) Bottom: Linda Briskman, President Trombley, 2007–08 President's Council President Victoria Mudd Left: Director and CEO of LACMA Michael Govan, President Trombley, Emeritus Trustee Eli Broad P'78 and Edythe Broad P'78

## Dining with Democracy

THE DINING WITH DEMOCRACY series concluded this spring with philosopher Brian Johnson, author Brian Swimme, positive psychologist and author Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, sports physiologist Joel Kirsch, Founder of the Transformative Institute Scott Sherman and President of Young and Successful Media Corporation Jennifer Kushnell.

Visit [www.pitzer.edu/podcasts/dwd.asp](http://www.pitzer.edu/podcasts/dwd.asp) to listen to lecture podcasts.





Top: Professor Halford Fairchild, Harold A. Jackson Jr., Professor Emerita Agnes Moreland Jackson and Ruett Foster '81 Bottom: Jennifer Williams '02 and Jai Phillips '02

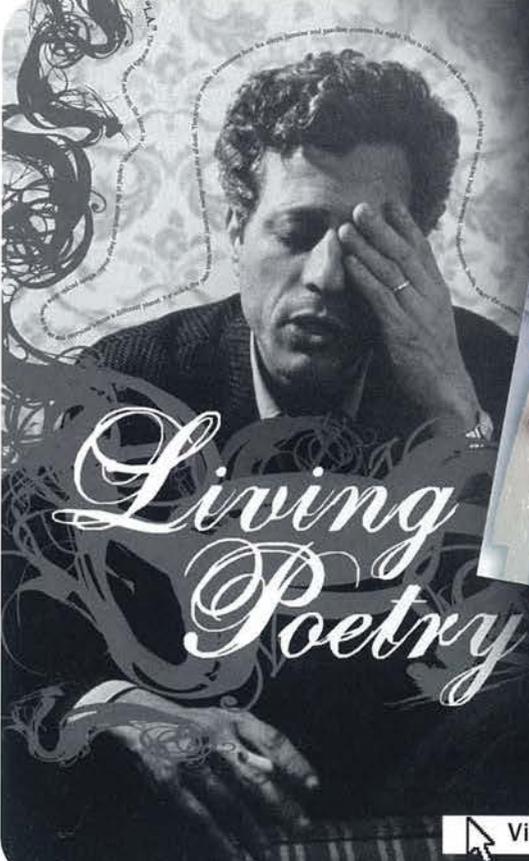
## Our History, Our Future

AFRICAN AMERICAN ALUMNI, Black Studies alumni, students, faculty and staff gathered at the home of Professor of Psychology and Black Studies Halford Fairchild on April 26 for an evening of dining, networking and conversation with Professor Emerita Agnes Moreland Jackson and Alumni Association Board Member Ruett Foster '81, among others.

As part of the event a special announcement was made that Pitzer College alumna Quinn Delaney '76 has made a generous gift to Pitzer in the amount of \$750,000 in support of the Residential Life Project and Professor Jackson. Jackson was the first tenure-track African American professor at Pitzer and was instrumental in establishing the Black Studies and Women's Studies Departments for The Claremont Colleges.

"We are grateful to Quinn Delaney for her generous gift to the largest construction project since the College's founding and for recognizing a distinguished and deserving member of our community, Professor Emerita Agnes Jackson," President Laura Skandera Trombley said.

## Poetry Reading Honors Bert Meyers



BERT MEYERS (1928–1979), former English and World Literature professor at Pitzer College, was one of the leading poets of the proletarian literature movement in the United States during the twentieth century. To mark the publication of his collected works, *In a Dybbuk's Raincoat* (University of New Mexico Press, 2007), a group of renowned poets and essayists read from his work on the evening of April 4. Bert Meyers wrote these poems between 1947 and 1979. Prior to his death at the age of fifty-one, Meyers determined what he considered his best work; following his death Meyers' widow and son added to the collection, all of which now appears in *In a Dybbuk's Raincoat*. Readers included Professor of English Al Wachtel; Garrett Hongo, Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet; Daniel Meyers, son of Bert Meyers; Anat Silvera, artist and daughter of Bert Meyers; Jack Miles, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and essayist; Maurya Simon, professor at the University California, Riverside; and Cynthia Tuell, lecturer at UC Riverside.



Visit [www.pitzer.edu/podcasts/index.asp](http://www.pitzer.edu/podcasts/index.asp) to listen to the Reading podcast.



## Charlie Woo & Paula Pretlow P'08

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

CHARLIE WOO is the chief executive officer for Megatoys, a Los Angeles private toy manufacturing, import/export, wholesale and retail company. In 1999, Megatoys was honored with the “Minority Manufacturing Firm of the Year” award by the City of Los Angeles, and was recognized as one of seven outstanding businesses by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce in 1998. Woo’s professional affiliations are as follows: member, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (Chairperson in 2001); president, Workforce Investment Board of the City of Los Angeles; member, Advisory Committee to Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe on International Trade and Investment; member, Advisory Board to the California Assembly Select Committee on Asia Trade; and former commissioner, California Commission for Economic Development. Woo received both his bachelor of science degree and master of science degree in physics from the University of California, Los Angeles. Woo’s charitable service is extensive throughout the Los Angeles region.

Paula Pretlow, whose son is a member of Pitzer’s Class of 2008, is senior vice president of client relations for Capital Guardian Trust Company in San Francisco. Pretlow earned her master of business administration and her bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University. Currently, Pretlow serves as president of the College’s Parent Leadership Council and is a member of its Residential Life Project Fundraising Committee. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Making Waves Education Program and a former member of the Larkin Street Youth Services Board of Directors.



## ILLUSION of EXPERIENCE

GEORG BURWICK '97 EXHIBITS WORK IN THE NICHOLS GALLERY



ILLUSION OF EXPERIENCE, which ran from from March 3 to 28, featured new and unseen work by Georg Burwick '97. Burwick’s work employs concepts of time, space and memory using photography, video and installation techniques to mediate between the viewer’s

personal experiences and constructed representations. Within the technological history of photography, and subsequently film, practitioners have examined the relationship between the reality of their images and the borders of human perception. Using this approach as the basis for his exploration, Burwick focuses on the space between the screen and the viewer, challenging the viewer to reexamine commonplace objects and situations.

Burwick majored in German Studies and visual arts at Pitzer College. He received his master of fine arts with an emphasis in installation and video in 2001 from the University of Chicago. His work has been shown in various galleries and museums across the United States. Currently, he is the curator of digital media at the University of California, Riverside/California Museum of Photography.



PITZER COLLEGE welcomed Rebecca Shehee as vice president for advancement on May 14. Shehee comes to Pitzer with a wealth of fundraising experience in both the nonprofit and corporate sectors. Previously she

## Rebecca Shehee

NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

served as managing director of development at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena.

She has also served as director of major gifts for Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, senior development officer for foundation and corporate giving at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles and director of development for the Alliance for Children's Rights in Los Angeles. In addition to her fundraising experience, Shehee has served as director of administration for the American Civil Liberties Foundation in Los Angeles.

"I am delighted to be coming to Pitzer College as vice president for institutional advancement. Pitzer is a unique institution, and I wholeheartedly embrace its inspiring mission and values," Shehee said.

"Rebecca Shehee brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this fundraising leadership position along with a deep understanding and appreciation for the core values of our college," President Laura Skandera Trombley said.

## Weapons of Musical Dissent

MULTIETHNIC MUSIC FOR PEACE, UNITY AND CHANGE

THE W.M.D. MULTIETHNIC music festival, which took place on April 7 on the Mounds, was organized by the Latino Student Union, Center for Asian Pacific American Students, Black Student Union, Asian American Student Union, Muslim Student Association, ITIHAD and EKTA. Performers included Quetzal, La Paz, Jay Legaspi, Thao Nguyen, Rudy Francisco, Beau Sia and The Philistines. Attendees were asked to bring monetary donations, non-perishable food and toiletries for Citrus Freeze Relief Efforts through the 5Cs and the community.



Robert Redford and President Laura Skandera Trombley

ROBERT REDFORD FILMS AT



ROBERT REDFORD and his crew shot scenes for his upcoming film, *Lions for Lambs*, at Pitzer College in January. The film stars Tom Cruise and Meryl Streep as well as Redford, who also directs the film. The plot consists of three overlapping stories: a professor who mentors a student, the experiences of two former students stationed in Afghanistan and the interaction between a reporter and a congressman. The film is due for release in November 2007.

# An Outstanding Production

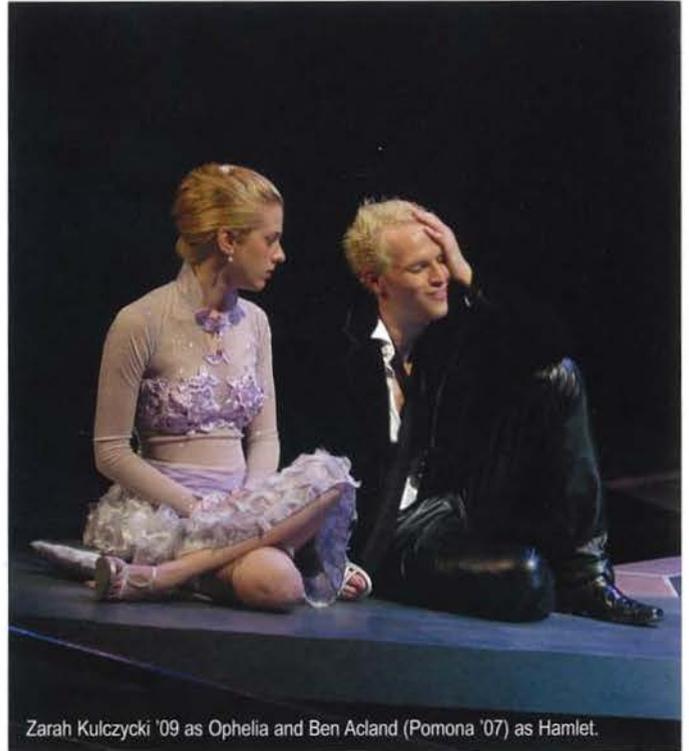
HAMLET PRODUCTION  
WINS SIX AWARDS

THE APRIL PRODUCTION of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* by the Pomona College Theatre Department for The Claremont Colleges has won six Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) awards.

During the play's four-day run, Zarah Kulczycki '09, who played Ophelia, and Ben Acland (Pomona '07), who played Hamlet, were recognized for Meritorious Achievement in Acting by the regional ACTF adjudicator, Dr. Terry Smith. This qualifies the two actors to advance to the regional competition next February to compete for the Irene Ryan Award, an important, nationally recognized acting award. Winners of the regional award are qualified to go to the national event in Washington DC.

Smith said in his critique, "This was the best production of *Hamlet* I have ever seen at a college."

The entire show of *Hamlet* also received a Meritorious Award for Ensemble. Other award winners for the production included Angel Herrera '07, Meritorious Award for Set Design and Kev Tutunjian '07, Meritorious Award for Design for puppet and ghost design.



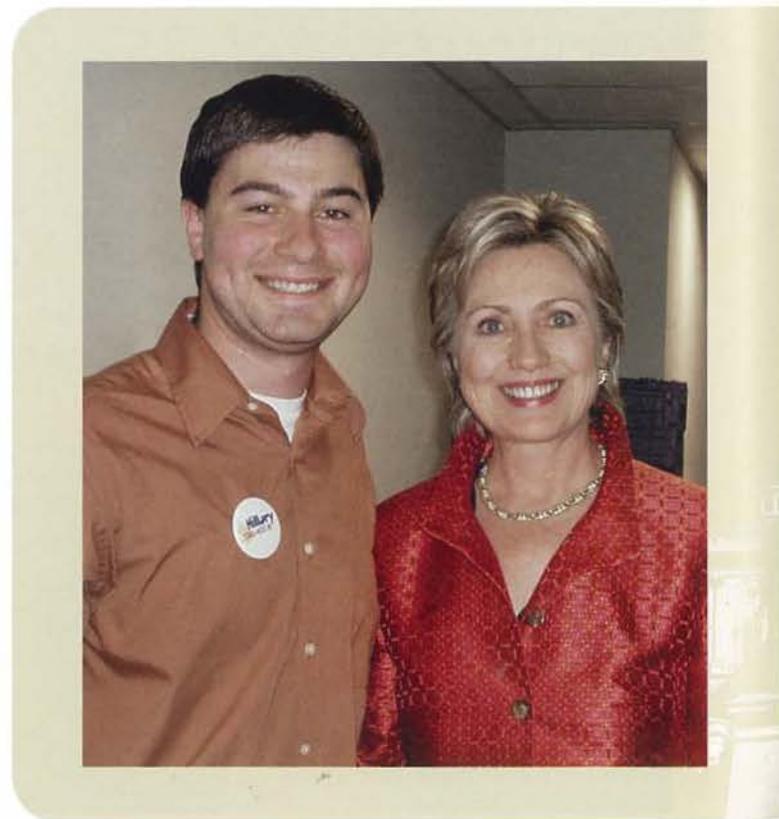
Zarah Kulczycki '09 as Ophelia and Ben Acland (Pomona '07) as Hamlet.

*save the date*  
**SEPTEMBER 24**  
*A Day to Celebrate our Sustainable Building*

DEDICATION OF  
NEW GREEN RESIDENCE HALLS

4:15 p.m. - Guided Tours of New Buildings  
5:30 p.m. - Buffet/Picnic-Style  
Dinner & Entertainment  
6:45 p.m. - Grand Ribbon Cutting & Dedication Ceremony  
Remarks by President Trombley, Robert Redford & Special Guests  
7:45 p.m. - Grand Finale

\*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE





Marisol Arreola '07



## Sí Se Puede! PITZER CELEBRATES CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY

DOLORES HUERTA, co-founder of the United Farm Workers (UFW), gave the keynote address for the César Chávez Celebration on March 29. Lunch was served outdoors on the Mounds and the 5C Mariachis provided live entertainment. As part of the festivities, students who traveled with Professor José Calderón to La Paz over spring break as part of his Rural and Urban Social Movements class and met Huerta and other members of the UFW presented a mural they painted in her honor. “Before hearing Dolores Huerta speak on César Chávez Day, I was unaware of the positive influence that she would have on my daily experience as a female,” said Rechelle Naylor '08. “If a woman of color can establish herself and succeed in a culture that stresses racial differences and prejudicial beliefs, then I too can use the same tools to create social change.”

## Dan Mitchell '08 Goes to Washington

STUDENT INTERNS IN SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON'S DC OFFICE

**Major:** Political Studies

**College Activities:** Democrats of The Claremont Colleges, Student Senate and Student Investment Committee

**Hometown:** Palo Alto, California

**Career Aspirations:** Public Service

**How were you selected for this intern opportunity?**

I applied and was accepted to work initially for Friends of Hillary, Senator Clinton's Senate re-election campaign. Shortly after I began working, the Senator launched her Presidential Exploratory Committee. Luckily, I had placed myself in the right place at the right time working for the right people.

**How has the internship affected your future plans?**

Living and working in Washington DC has been a tremendous experience. I've had a front-row seat observing how the governing process works, its triumphs and failures, and also an in-depth look at how we choose who governs us. After working in the center of politics I am aware of so many more opportunities that exist for young people looking

to make a difference in America through public leadership—from working on Capitol Hill to campaigning across the country to lobbying on K Street. This experience has opened my eyes to all these possibilities.

**What are the takeaway lessons/tools/information that you learned during this experience?**

More than anything, I have learned the importance of truly believing in your cause and candidate. Campaigning is hard work, and often it is not glamorous, but if you believe passionately in the end goal, the work becomes fun.

Teamwork is also essential. One of the main reasons I've had such an enjoyable and successful experience is because I've had the opportunity to work and learn from an outstanding group of professionals, some of the best in their field.

# in the NEWS

PITZER COLLEGE IN THE HEADLINES

## Forbes

### "Finding The Balance: Laura Trombley"

March 19, 2007

I had never experienced exhaustion before I became president. In my first year, there were times I would be so tired I could hardly move. Being president is a 24-7 job, and there's such a draw on your energy that you have to really be mindful that you're not running a sprint, you're running a marathon.

## University Business

### "The Innocents Abroad"

May 2007

Carol Brandt from Pitzer College notes that arranging for students to stay with host families while abroad is a good safety strategy; often the family will keep an eye on the student. This type of arrangement is "one of the best ways of immersing deeply in the culture," she adds. Language skills, even just the ability to say please and thank you, are also viewed as a layer of protection.

## THE NEW YORKER

### "Atheists with Attitude"

May 21, 2007

Reviewing a large number of studies among some fifty countries, Phil Zuckerman, a sociologist at Pitzer College, in Claremont, California, puts the figure [of atheists] at between five hundred million and seven hundred and fifty million. This excludes such highly populated places as Brazil, Iran, Indonesia and Nigeria, for which information is lacking or patchy.

## TRUSTEESHIP

President Laura Skandera Trombley was featured in the March/April 2007 issue of *Trusteeship* as one of five college presidents in an interview-style article titled "In Search of Integral Leadership." *Trusteeship* is a prestigious publication of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

## Los Angeles Times

### "Anarchists' Presence Dwindles in L.A."

May 5, 2007

"There would be no advantage to starting trouble at a march dealing with immigration," said Dana Ward, a political psychology professor at Pitzer College, who maintains an archive on the history and theory of anarchism. "It would just bring bad publicity."

## San Francisco Chronicle

"It is huge," said Laura Trombley. "In a way it is kind of affirming. When you are this selective, people begin to certainly rethink their conception or perception of the institution."

### "Small Colleges Raise the Bar on Admissions"

April 7, 2007

Pitzer College . . . is one of the private campuses that has seen a huge jump in interest from students and subsequently has become much more selective.

Ten years ago, it accepted 65 of every 100 applicants. This year, it took 26 students out of every 100, down from 38 in 100 just last year. Its average SAT score has increased too, from 1,206 last year to 1,323 this year.

## THE CHRONICLE

### "Building a Better Trustee"

May 11, 2007

President Trombley discusses how during the past few years, she, with the Board's guidance, has introduced two new tools that have been particularly helpful in keeping trustees apprised of the College's performance as well as their own—the institutional dashboard and the trustee report card.

### Professor José Calderón in the News

"Jornaleros Cuestionan Redada," *La Opinión*, January 27, 2007 ■ "Speakers Call for Other Ways to Help Illegal Immigrants," *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, January 28, 2007 ■ "National Chávez Center," *Vida en el Valle*, March 28, 2007



Pitzer College has been named to the first-ever President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This distinction recognizes students, faculty and staff for helping to build a culture of service and civic engagement in our nation.

## *national college* RECOGNITION

For more awards information visit [www.pitzer.edu/recognition](http://www.pitzer.edu/recognition).



Two senior members of Tantiing village traveled to Pokhara to be the first to welcome Pitzer in Nepal Director Margaret Donahue back to Nepal.

*Jaya*  
LONG LIVE NEPAL!  
**NEPAL!**

Four years ago, the Pitzer in Nepal program established an alternative site in Kalimpong, West Bengal, a culturally and linguistically Nepali region of India. The political situation between the Monarchy and the Maoists was heating up in Nepal, making it more difficult to continue the study abroad program there. Little by little, all study abroad programs in Nepal closed. Ours survived in diaspora, providing continuity of academic offerings and employment for staff whose commitment to the College has spanned thirty years. One year ago, a people's movement in Nepal brought more than 100,000 protesters into the streets of Kathmandu, forcing the Monarchy to cede some of its constitutional powers and initiating a peace process that has led to the development of a new secular democracy in Nepal. Four months from now, Pitzer in Nepal will be back in Nepal for the Fall 2007 semester while continuing the program in Kalimpong as a second site given the burgeoning enrollment for the program from both Pitzer and students from other colleges and universities. The Pitzer in Nepal students will witness history in the making.

## THE PITZER STUDY ABROAD WORLD COMES TO CLAREMONT

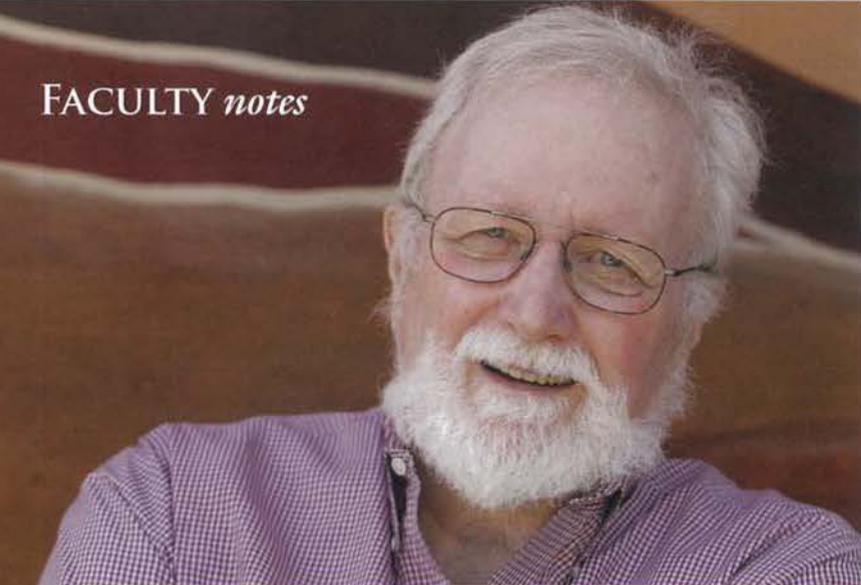
This July and timed with Summer Celebration Alumni Reunion Weekend, the directors of the Pitzer study abroad programs will be in Claremont for a conference titled "Releasing the Imagination: Study Abroad for the Liberal Arts and Sciences." We will welcome Margaret Donahue, Prakash Kandel and Soorja Kayastha from Nepal; Franca Mora and Elena Feboli from Italy; Daniso Mokgwathi and Moagisi Mogalakwe from Botswana; Isabel Argüello Chaves from Costa Rica; Xiaomei Wang from China; and Maria Lubensky and Chris Lubensky from Ecuador. A study abroad reception with alumni, faculty, staff and students is scheduled as part of Summer Celebration on July 21 at 5 p.m. on the Mounds.

With a \$21,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to Professor Donald McFarlane, Pitzer in Costa Rica will bring thirteen biologists and one specialist in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to the Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology this summer. They will establish longitudinal undergraduate research projects that contribute to the biological baseline assessment for the property. Though Costa Rica is home to many biological field stations, the Firestone Center is the only one that focuses on undergraduate research in tropical restoration ecology, thanks to the restoration vision of donor Diane Firestone. Coming from Middlebury, Rhodes, Vassar, Denison, Furman, Pitzer, Scripps and Pomona colleges, the scientists will work on projects in hydrology, soil geochemistry, dragonflies, pollinator fauna, stream ecology and mathematical biology.

## THE FIRESTONE CENTER *Claims a Unique Ecological Niche*



Professor of Environmental Studies Paul Faulstich conducts research on petroglyphs with students at the Firestone Center.



PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL STUDIES  
**JACK SULLIVAN**  
*Retires*

Pitzer College faculty, staff, alumni, family and friends gathered on April 23 for a dinner honoring Professor of Political Studies Jack Sullivan. Professor of Political Studies Nigel Boyle emceed the evening, which included numerous tributes to Sullivan and his more than thirty years at the College.

“Jack’s guidance has helped me take a methodical approach to addressing societal problems and work towards finding solutions, both large and small,” said Meredith Henry ’01, who now works for The Midnight Mission on Skid Row in Los Angeles.

Over the years, Sullivan has served Pitzer in a wide array of roles including dean of faculty and dean of students, among others.

“Whenever the College had an important task that required a wise head and a steady hand, Jack has been the go-to guy for thirty-two years,” said Boyle.

As a political scientist, Sullivan has written important books on both international relations and public policy, as well as many articles on other issues such as ethnic minority health outcomes and AIDS education.



**Thomas Poon**

Thomas Poon, associate professor of chemistry, with co-authors J. Sivaguru, C. Hooper, H. Saito, M. Solomon, S. Jockusch, W. Adam, Y. Inoue and N. J. Turro, published an article titled “A Comparative Mechanistic Analysis of the Stereoselectivity Trends Observed in the Oxidation of Chiral Oxazolidinone-Functionalized Encarbamates by Singlet Oxygen, Ozone and Triazolinedione” in the November 2006 issue of *Tetrahedron* (Symposia-in-Print). Poon gave four presentations at the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Chicago. Chinese and Japanese translations of Poon and W. Brown’s *Introduction to Organic Chemistry* were published by Tsang Hai Book Publishing Co. and Hirokawa Publishing Co., respectively.



**Bill Anthes**

Bill Anthes, assistant professor of art history, gave a lecture titled “Native Modern: American Indian Painting” at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He also received a Rockefeller Fellowship in Theorizing Cultural Heritage from the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage for his proposal titled “Red Earth, Flat World: Theorizing Native American Cultural Heritage in a Global Age.” Anthes published two chapters titled “Cultural Controversies” and “Native American Art Centers” in *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*, edited by A. Cayton, R. Sisson and C. Zacher (Indiana University Press, 2006).



**Paul Faulstich**

Paul Faulstich, professor of Environmental Studies, wrote a chapter titled “Sacred Places” in *MANA: The Power of Things* (2007). He also gave a presentation titled “Sustainability: Perspectives from Human Ecology” at the Humanities Roundtable held at Stanford University. Faulstich has been appointed to a two-year term on the Fulbright Association’s Institute of International Education national screening committee.



**Kathleen S. Yep**

Kathleen S. Yep, assistant professor of Asian American Studies and sociology, was selected as a Faculty Fellow for the California Campus Compact-Carnegie Foundation Faculty Fellows Service-Learning for Political Engagement Program. Only twenty-five faculty members from across the state were chosen for this honor. As a Faculty Fellow, Yep will be working with other colleagues from a wide variety of disciplines over the next two years to create, implement and reflect on service learning in at least one of her courses with the goal of increasing students’ understanding, skills and motivation for political participation. Yep also gave a presentation titled “Conversations with my Grandfather: Angel Island, Immigration and Racialized Incarceration” at the Chinatown Library in Los Angeles.

**John Norvell**

John Norvell, visiting assistant professor of anthropology, gave a talk titled "Faces and Friends: Twenty-odd Years of Online Communities" as part

of the Community Conversations lecture series held at Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee.

**Melinda Herrold-Menzies**

Melinda Herrold-Menzies, assistant professor of Environmental Studies, gave a presentation titled "Boating on the Sea of Grass:

Western Development, Tourism, Resistance, and Local Empowerment" at the Annual Meeting for the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco.

**Rudi Volti**

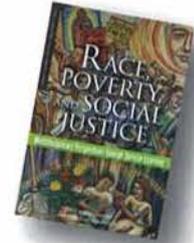
Rudi Volti, professor emeritus of sociology, published an article titled "Mass Motorization in Spain" in the autumn 2006 issue of the *Journal of*

*Transport History*.

**Tessa Hicks**

Tessa Hicks, instructor for the Pitzer in Ontario program and the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues, published an article titled

"Humanizing the Other in 'Us and Them'" in *Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice*. She gave a presentation titled "Identity Labels and the Performativity of Race" at the Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference at Portland State University. Hicks received a grant, with L. Arguelles and T. Dolan, from L.A. County's Children Family Council for their proposal titled "Family Economic Success in Los Angeles: A Participatory and Narrative Research Project."

**PITZER FACULTY BOOKPLATE****José Calderón**

José Calderón, professor of sociology and Chicano/a Studies, published the edited volume *Race, Poverty, and Social Justice: Multidisciplinary Perspectives through Service Learning* (Stylus Publishing, 2007). Calderón co-authored the fourth chapter with G. Cadena titled "Linking Critical Democratic Pedagogy, Multiculturalism and Service Learning to a Project-Based Approach." Calderón also compiled and edited with G. L. Ochoa syllabi and instructional material for the sixth edition of *Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies in Sociology* (American Sociological Association, 2007).

**David Furman**

David Furman, professor emeritus of art, had an opening reception for his figurative and sculptural ceramics, his forty-second one-person exhibition, at the Armstrong

Gallery in Pomona, California. The American Museum of Ceramic Art purchased "The Retirement Dinner" for their permanent collection. His work was also recently exhibited in "Small Favors II" at the Clay Studio in Philadelphia, the Venice Art Walk at Bergamont Station, Santa Monica, California, and the NCECA Figurative Invitational Exhibition at the Amaco Gallery in Indianapolis. Furman's artwork was featured in the May issue of *Art Ltd./West Coast Art+Design*, and the May issue of *American Art Collector*.

**Judith V. Grabiner**

Judith V. Grabiner, Flora Sanborn Pitzer Professor of Mathematics, will publish her article titled "Why Should Historical Truth Matter to Mathematicians?: Dispelling Myths and Promoting Maths," in the *Bulletin of the British Society for the History of Mathematics*. She also gave invited talks for the British Society for the History of Mathematics, the Oxford History of Mathematics Group and the University of Lancaster Statistics Mathematics Group, among others, this spring while a visiting scholar at the University of Leeds, England.

**Michael Woodcock**

Michael Woodcock, professor emeritus of Creative Studies, exhibited his artwork at two shows: "New Year in Black and White" at the I-5 gallery in Los Angeles and "Ink and Clay 33," the annual national juried exhibition of prints and ceramics at Cal Poly Pomona. Woodcock's work has also been recently acquired by the Center for the Study of Political Graphics in Los Angeles and the Phoenix Art Museum in Arizona.

**Carmen Fought**

Carmen Fought, associate professor of linguistics, presented the keynote address titled "Does a Smile Mean Friendship to Everyone?: Language Use in the Multicultural Classroom" at the 13th Annual Graduate TESL/ Linguistics Symposium at Arizona State University. She also gave a presentation at the Los Angeles Unified School District's Closing the Achievement Gap Conference.





**T**he 2006–07 academic year has proven to be an important one for the Intercollegiate Departments of Chicano/a Studies, Black Studies and Asian American Studies. In the fall of 2006, the Council of Presidents voted to approve a plan for the external evaluation of these departments. Such a decision has a profound impact on the ways in which these departments can evolve. In the wake of this decision, the three departments can submit requests for faculty positions directly to the Academic Deans Committee consistent with the strategic plans set for their respective departments. For too long, these departments have had to staff their curriculum through partial appointments and through volunteer labor from faculty members who hold their primary positions with other field groups or departments. This new organizational structure stands as clear recognition of the fact that the disciplines of Chicano/a, Black and Asian American Studies warrant full, departmental status with the requisite tools to develop and define their respective curricula. Given the outstanding faculty that currently comprise these departments, this development can only be a positive for Pitzer and its sister colleges in Claremont in reinforcing a fine reputation for scholarship in these disciplines.

—ALAN JONES, DEAN OF FACULTY

*focus*  
*on*  
**diversity**

*Chicano/a Studies, Black Studies & Asian American Studies*

# Peleoneiras

## Women and the Latino Struggle for Justice

THEY ARE WORKERS and mothers who mobilize their communities. They march at the front of the line. They are willing to risk it all to provide for their families. As research on labor mobilization and Latinas has shown, Latinas are not passive as is oftentimes assumed, they are truly *peleoneiras*, or fighters, with an active voice in union campaigns and grassroots organizations in the United States and beyond. For instance, in the U.S., struggles by Chicano and Latino farm, cannery and garment workers, among others, have always included strong women as have other movements in El Salvador, Argentina and Mexico, to name a few.

According to Associate Professor of Gender and Feminist Studies and Chicana Studies Maria Soldatenko, who has followed the Justice for Janitors (JfJ) campaign in Los Angeles since 1994, “Women are the expressive voice of the union; they integrate their families and children into labor mobilizations and become radicalized in the process of participating in the struggle.”

Beginning in Pittsburgh in 1985, Service Employees International Union’s (SEIU) Justice for Janitors movement, has worked to provide better wages, basic benefits and job security for janitors by pressuring building owners to improve conditions. More specifically, Latinas in the janitorial occupation dominate the private sector in L.A. where lower wages are the norm and benefits are rarely granted. They are often made to feel as if they are merely part of the background, so JfJ campaigns strive to bring about improvements by reclaiming public spaces when they march and asserting a Latino presence. Based on her fieldwork beginning when she observed



“ In some instances, women transformed themselves from silent submission to outspoken militancy in all aspects of their lives. ”

tically employ their emotions at meetings to yield the desired result. In other instances, Latinas have invited priests to bless their marches and thereby have a moral authority condone their actions.

“Women not only led and made decisions, they also learned to negotiate with cleaning contractors and became impassioned public speakers. Many women are at the forefront of union campaigns, and they assert themselves with poise. In some instances, women

janitors in their campaign at the Warner Center in Woodland Hills, California, Soldatenko has found that Latinas participate differently in politics. She noted that they, unlike men, are not afraid to tactically

transformed themselves from silent submission to outspoken militancy in all aspects of their lives,” Soldatenko said.

With Latinas occupying key leadership roles in the JfJ campaign, they have helped to craft effective strategies that incorporate their cultural repertoire in demonstrations. “This does not necessarily mean that union leaders have outlined a plan with the use of that repertoire in mind,” Soldatenko pointed out. “However, the end result has been to make use of a long tradition of marches, processions, fiestas and carnivals in Latin America. By using language and music familiar to the union membership, JfJ mobilizes Latinos effectively.”

Demonstrators create a spectacle that includes street theater, dance and humor as well as chants, slogans and songs (in both Spanish and English)—all of which invite spectators’ attention and media coverage. In particular, Soldatenko has seen how the media loves to capture images of women and children at these marches and the women in turn use this to their advantage. “Women know that pictures will be taken and that the video cameras will be focused on them, and they also know how to respond,” she said.

Through her fieldwork with JfJ in L.A., Soldatenko has witnessed firsthand the Latinas’ initiative and dedication to securing better working conditions and thereby a better way of life for their families and others. While some may have been shy when she first met them, Soldatenko saw how once Latinas discovered their true power, there was no stopping them. ■

—EMILY CAVALCANTI

# coast-to-coast

## & in-between

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR of Political Studies and Chicano Studies Adrian Pantoja first connected with Pitzer College as a visiting lecturer from 2000 to 2001. Since then he has taught, researched, published and received grant awards in Illinois, Connecticut and Arizona before returning home to California and Pitzer College.

“The Hispanic population and the rise of the Hispanic electorate is a hot topic in political science today,” Pantoja began. “By 2050, Hispanics will represent one quarter of the U.S. population. Right now our population is much larger than most Latin American countries,” he added.

Passionate about his research and the meaning behind the numbers, Pantoja asks, “But what are political consequences of this population?” He continued, “It is really an interesting time to be a political scientist in this field and there are many questions as to what exactly it means to be a Hispanic or a Latino and who exactly makes up this population.” Latino is the preferred term in California, but Hispanic and Spanish is widely used in other parts of the U.S., Pantoja added. Mexicans represent the majority of the 37.4 million



Hispanic population in the U.S., followed by Central and South Americans (14.3 percent), Puerto Ricans (8.6 percent), Cubans (3.7 percent) and other Hispanics (6.5 percent).<sup>1</sup> Thus, tremendous diversity exists within the Hispanic population.

It is obvious to those who study the population and interact with them that there is great diversity among ancestry groups in terms of political attitudes and behaviors. Differences are also found between first-, second- and third-generation Latinos, according to Pantoja.

“There is also diversity in terms of socio-economic status. The political outlooks differ

between middle-class Latinos versus those who are working class or struggling/living in poverty, so all of these social demographic characteristics have an impact in the diversity of the Hispanic population. There is greater diversity in terms of political attitudes among Hispanics than there are among African Americans who are strongly aligned with the Democratic Party. That’s not the case with Hispanics; partisan support varies across ancestry groups and across electoral cycles. For example, in the 1996 presidential election Dole won about 20 percent of the Latino vote, while in their respective

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, June 2003



elections both Reagan and George W. Bush captured more than 34 percent of the vote.”

Hispanics have the political advantage of being concentrated in states with large numbers of electoral votes. According to Pantoja, these states—California, Texas, Florida, New York and Illinois—must be won in order to capture the presidency, and a candidate cannot afford to lose any of these.

Pantoja said there are reasons why Republicans coming out of Texas and California are different

stereotypes. You can speak to a handful of Latinos and gather a rich amount of information, but this tells you very little about Latinos generally. Political scientists need to know about the population as a whole. Also, there are many times when the data does not support my assumptions or ideological leanings and that’s a good thing. Quantitative analysis allows others to replicate and challenge my findings. If we have different numbers, we figure out how to reconcile different findings.”

“ It is really an interesting time to be a political scientist in this field and there are many questions as to what exactly it means to be a Hispanic or a Latino and who exactly makes up this population. ”

than Republicans from Wisconsin or other midwestern states; the rhetoric has to be different because the Republican Party cannot afford to alienate this large body of Hispanic voters.

Pantoja is an advocate of quantitative scholarship: “During the last decade or so much of what was known about this population was impressionist and seen through stereotypical lenses. As a quantitative scholar, I want to challenge some of these

The first major contribution to Latino politics in terms of surveys occurred in 1989 with the Latino National Political Survey (LNPS). This was a major breakthrough as Mexicans, Cubans and Puerto Ricans were surveyed for comparative purposes. The survey results broke stereotypes: Latinos were fairly conservative on a number of issues including bilingual education and immigration and those and other findings upset many of the so-called Latino leaders.

As one of the top scholars in the nation working in the field of Latino politics, Pantoja believes that he is making the biggest contribution in the field by studying the racial diversity of the Hispanic population in terms of phenotype and self-identity. For example, among the Hispanic population approximately 50 percent in the 2000 U.S. census self-identified racially as “white” because the racial category is separate from the ethnic category. Interestingly, close to one million Latinos self-identified as “black.” Little is known about how Latino racial identities impact their socio-political attitudes and behaviors.

Pantoja looks for his research to inform and educate. He stated that in the U.S. the black-white binary has dominated race relations from the time of its founding, but asks about the groups that do not fall into this black-white binary and questions where Hispanics, Asians and many others fit in. “These individuals are neither black nor white. The U.S. has grappled with the black-white binary for generations, and because these middle populations have been relatively small, it has not really defined American politics. That will change,” he said. ■

—SUSAN ANDREWS

from

# \$57 to scholar, activist & teacher

IN THE EARLY '70s, after completing his bachelor's degree, Professor of Sociology and Chicano/a Studies José Calderón caught a bus from Colorado to Delano, California, with only \$57 in his pocket. Most impressed by the strategies of César Chávez, he traveled to "Forty Acres" and the night he finally arrived Chávez was speaking and said something that truly affected the rest of Calderón's life. "That night Chávez talked about how you only have one life to live," Calderón recalled. "And that the highest level of living is using your life in service to others. He said 'I assure you that if you use your life in service to others you will have really lived—compared to the average person you will have lived a thousand years.'"

So began Calderón's long trek toward finding a way to combine the role of activist with that of teacher and researcher, his goal being to develop courses and research methods that would make his students feel as inspired to service as he was upon meeting Chávez. "If we are serious about creating a diverse and engaged democracy, we have to begin where we have the most influence," Calderón said. "Our classrooms can be examples of top-down bureaucratic decision-making or they can be spaces where the students are free to share their perspectives, to question the literature, and to use research methodologies that are applied in the community."

Calderón's classroom pedagogy strives to connect the classroom with



participatory experience—academic theories with on-the-ground reality. In his Restructuring Communities course, students participate in a service-learning collaborative with the Pomona Day-Labor Center. For instance, one semester students and day laborers investigated why countries throughout the world benefit from cheap immigrant labor but refuse these individuals basic human rights; students relied on class readings and library research, and the workers on their analyses from Spanish-language



## Q&A

with Michele Siqueiros '95

**Why did you choose to major in Chicano/a Studies?**

Pitzer College was really the first opportunity that I had to critically understand myself as a Chicana in the United States. As a second-generation Mexican American from Los Angeles who spent every summer in Mexico with relatives and grew up bi-cultural in every way, it was through Chicano/a Studies that I was able to truly understand the contributions, sacrifices, challenges and opportunities for my community. I was always proud of my heritage, but Chicano/a Studies helped me put this into context. I used this knowledge to empower myself and to dedicate myself to work that values the diversity that each of us brings to the table and promotes the advancement of all communities.



José Calderón sits in the Farmworker Memorial Garden located behind the Grove House. The garden was planted in 1995 in honor of UFW member Brother Pete Velasco and the partnership between Pitzer College and the farm workers. It features a sign made by a farm worker from La Paz and César Chávez roses that were donated by farm workers after winning unionization rights in the rose industry.

newspapers and their lived experiences. “Because of their experiences, my students came to understand that the academy and the community of Pomona were not bifurcated but interrelated,” Calderón said.

In fact, it was Calderón’s class, alongside Fabian Núñez ’97, that was instrumental in establishing the Center when the City of Pomona passed an ordinance in 1997 that prohibited “the solicitation of or for work on any street or highway, public area, or non-residential

parking area.” Ultimately, students used the evidence they gathered as part of their research to show local government that permanent residents were also among those who solicited work on the street, as well as to help draft grant proposals that continue to fund the Center.

“In working with immigrants, students carry out service but they also attend

“It’s all about reciprocity—in exchange for the goodwill and knowledge shared by the UFW members, students contribute their own unique set of skills and insights.”

weekly meetings with the workers,” Calderón observed. “It is in these meetings that dialogue occurs and where the issues that workers are concerned about come to the forefront. It is here where action research is used in finding solutions to these problems. . . . It is here where the immigrant and student participants join together in common actions to raise their voices and to ensure that their voices are heard.”

Similarly, in his Rural and Urban Social Movements course, students join

together in common action as they study the United Farm Workers (UFW) in depth. Students spend the first half of the semester studying social movement theories and the historical foundations of farm workers’ unions in the United States. During spring break the class travels to the central headquarters of the UFW in La Paz to carry out service projects and observe firsthand how the union works.

“It’s all about reciprocity—in exchange for the goodwill and knowledge shared by the UFW members, students contribute their own unique set of skills and insights,” Calderón pointed out. “The Pitzer students’ presence and actions is perceived as a gift by the UFW community. In return, every student who has ever gone to La Paz as part of their spring break, always leaves with the gift of a life-changing experience.” ■

—EMILY CAVALCANTI

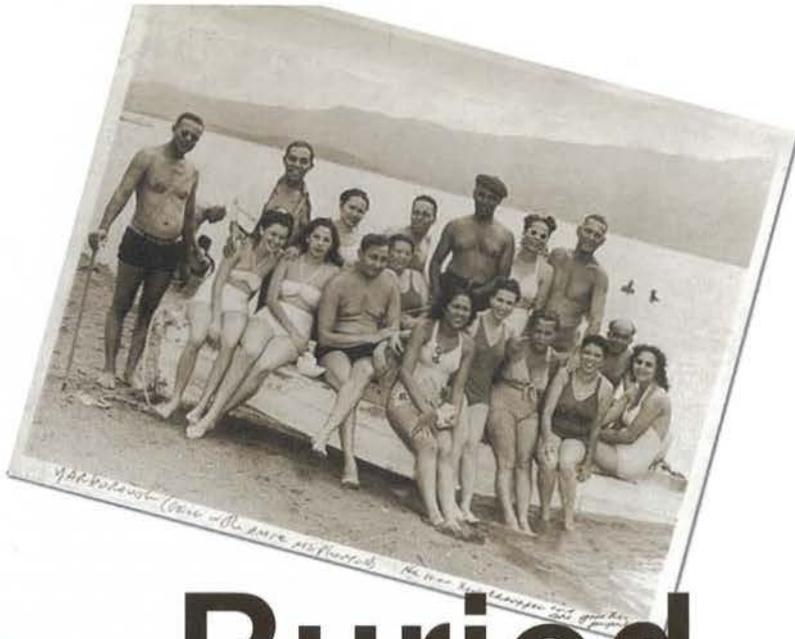
#### **Describe your current occupation and how what you learned as a Chicano/a Studies major helped you achieve success.**

Currently, I serve as associate director for the Campaign for College Opportunity. The Campaign was founded to make sure that California keeps the promise that every eligible Californian has the chance to go to college. I am an advocate for higher education because getting a college education changed the trajectory of my life. As the daughter of an immigrant who worked her entire life as a seamstress, I truly appreciate the opportunities that having a college degree brought my way. I have the flexibility of having choices in my career path, of being well prepared for the jobs I seek and, more importantly, doing good work that helps serve others—at its core this is clearly what I’ve learned from Pitzer College and as a Chicano/a Studies major.

#### **What was your most memorable course in Chicano/a Studies?**

My thesis work in Chicano/a Studies included research on the tracking of Latino students at a local high school in Alhambra. It was clear that most students in honors or in the courses required for college were not Latino even though they were a majority of the student population. This research was not surprising, but still disturbing. Unfortunately more than ten years later we continue to see huge disparities in college-going rates for students of color. At the Campaign for College Opportunity, we are sponsoring the Early College Commitment Act (Senate Bill 890), which ensures that students and their families, beginning in middle school, understand that if they prepare for college, California will save them a spot and provide those in need with financial aid.

For more information visit [www.collegecampaign.org](http://www.collegecampaign.org) or contact me at [michele@collegecampaign.org](mailto:michele@collegecampaign.org).



# Buried Treasure

Discovering  
Los Angeles  
through  
its  
African  
American  
Past



Photos courtesy of the Walter Gordon/  
William C. Beverly Jr. Collection

PITZER COLLEGE was the location for The Claremont Colleges Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies (IDBS) annual conference. This year's theme, "Buried Treasure: Discovering Los Angeles Through Its African American Past," brought together more than one-hundred attendees, including scholars, students, community leaders, museum officials, heritage organizations and archives managers, to discuss little-known aspects of Los Angeles' African American heritage important to the development of the region. The conference was organized by Visiting Professor Susan Anderson.

A highlight of the event was the participation of audience members, exhibitors, and representatives of organizations that preserve and disseminate African American heritage in L.A. Such representatives included the Dunbar Economic Development Corporation, Our Authors Study Club, the League of Allied Arts, the Southern California Library, Facing History and Ourselves, the Black Resource Center of the County of Los Angeles Public Library, the African American Society of Long Beach, the University of Southern California, the Friends of Allensworth San Diego Chapter and Eighth and Wall. Representatives of the offices of Assemblywoman Karen Bass and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry also attended. The conference was covered in stories by reporter Kitty Felde, who broadcast over two days on NPR affiliate radio station KPPC in Pasadena, and received mentions in the *Los Angeles Times*.

The morning session kicked off with a welcome by Anderson and IDBS Chair and Professor of Psychology and Black Studies Halford Fairchild. The keynote address by University of California, Riverside, Historian Ralph Crowder was titled "Inside and Outside: Self-Trained Historians, Black

Intellectuals and the Rescue of African American History” and explored the pioneering black history advocacy and collecting activities of John Edward Bruce (1856–1924) and Arturo Alfonso Schomburg (1874–1938)—namesake of the famous Schomburg Research Institute of the New York Public Library—and why they are relevant for the L.A. region today.

The morning panel, moderated by Scripps College History Professor, Rita Roberts, scrutinized “More Than Fleeting Impressions: Preserving Physical Monuments to the Black Experience.” Panelists Alison Rose Jefferson, associate historian, Historic Resources Group, and Alma Carlisle, cultural heritage commissioner, City of Los Angeles, presented a background of preservation activities in L.A.’s historically black neighborhoods including how historic preservation practices have changed, and images of landmark buildings including one-hundred-year-old Phillips Chapel, CME, African American Firefighters Museum, the Dunbar Hotel and Lady Effie’s Tea House.

Following lunch, the afternoon began with a multimedia presentation and talk by Sue Hodson, curator of literary manuscripts for the Huntington Library. In “Don’t You Want To Be Free? African American Classical Arts In a Divided Society,” Hodson examined three Huntington Library collections comprising the papers of poet Langston Hughes, donated by the Miller family; composer and author Harold Bruce Forsythe; and the First Negro Classic Ballet, founded by Joseph Rickard. Participants were able to learn about the thriving classical arts scene in the early twentieth-century African American experience in L.A. and encounters with a white arts structure that disparaged black involvement in the

fine arts. Officers of the League of Allied Arts, founded in 1939 in L.A. by Juanita Miller and Dorothy Johnson with their friend Langston Hughes, contributed to Hodson’s discussion. Speaker Daniel Widener, assistant professor at the University of California, San Diego, explored “The Afro-Asian City,” examining the interconnected

“ [The conference] brought together more than one-hundred attendees, including scholars, students, community leaders, museum officials, heritage organizations and archives managers, to discuss little-known aspects of Los Angeles’ African American heritage important to the development of the region. ”

history of Japanese, Japanese American and African American communities in southern California.

The day’s final panel, “Archives and Collections: Reclaiming and Reframing the Los Angeles Story,” included presentations of current research by Judge William C. Beverly Jr. (ret.), director and founder, Eighth and Wall; Christopher Jimenez y West, program manager, history, California African American Museum;

and Lorn Foster, professor, Pomona College. Judge Beverly discussed his oral history project documenting the vitality of community life and leadership on L.A.’s “Eastside” or Central



Professors Susan Anderson and Halford Fairchild

Avenue area. Jimenez y West presented from his dissertation regarding the post-WWII rise in African American political strength, leading to the emergence of figures such as Tom Bradley, Billy Mills and Gilbert Lindsay on the Los Angeles City Council in 1963. Foster detailed his research into the role of eight historic black churches in social mobility and civic influence of African Americans starting at the turn of the twentieth century. Students from Anderson’s class, African American Utopian Imagination, 1877–1917, led the question and answer period.

The conference concluded with closing remarks by Anderson. Participants were encouraged to consider why, in the words of Nobel Laureate novelist, William Faulkner, the past isn’t past. Anderson spoke about “Contemporary Meaning and Urgency in the Black Historical Project,” and the importance of regions like Los Angeles helping America regain all of its history. ■

Visit [www.pitzer.edu/podcasts/index.asp](http://www.pitzer.edu/podcasts/index.asp) to listen to the Conference podcasts.



the  
memoirs of  
*Alice B.  
Jones*  
aka Mrs. Rhineland

Professor of English  
& World Literature  
and Black Studies  
Laura Harris  
Shares her  
Creative Process  
and a Passage  
from her Novella

ALICE B. JONES was the defendant in a highly publicized 1924 case in which the plaintiff, her new husband Kip Rhineland, sued her for annulment on the grounds of race fraud. Jones stood accused of passing as Spanish/white Cuban to trick her white New York aristocrat husband into marrying her. Scandalous sexual secrets were revealed at the trial; Alice was asked to disrobe for juror

inspection; she never testified for herself. Though she outlived her husband, Jones did not provide later insight into the events that regularly graced the front pages of newspapers. However, Jones used Rhineland as her surname for her headstone some sixty years later, an only and last retort of sorts.

At the core of this early twentieth-century American spectacle was confusion in the understanding of how Alice and her family racially identified themselves. In fact Alice's parents were both from England, the mother of white English descent and the father of black West Indian descent. They and their children seemed to either not comply or not comprehend American black-white binaries; rather they apparently occupied a hybrid space, moving through both white and black American worlds in ways that marked them as suspect in both racial worlds. Were they passing, and as what, and how did they actually identify themselves were some of the fraught questions at the core of the annulment trial.

Based on archival research and with a good dose of fictional license, my novel creates her memoirs posthumously. My first introduction to this case was during my dissertation research, and subsequently I read *Love On Trial: An American Scandal in Black and White* (Earl Lewis and Heidi Ardizzone, 2001) which bases all of its analyses of

the saga on newspaper accounts and no trial transcripts. Why? Because these historians claim that the original court documents were lost in a courthouse fire. However, when I went to the Association of the Bar of the City of New York 4th Floor Library on West 44th Street, there, with the help of a rigid but skilled legal librarian, I found the original two-thousand-page court transcript.

As I was excitedly sifting through the pages of the first volume and right before I was planning to inquire about photocopy privileges with the competent librarian, a Rhineland love letter, one of the scandalous, unprintable ones, disentangled itself from its evidentiary status to break down in a few tender pieces of ancient paper-skin at my feet. The letter caused me to recognize Alice's vulnerability, to see an unexamined reflection of the joy and loss, the love and politics, in her story. Now I recall this slow-motion magical letter moment in the legal library as the narrative hook that drew me in and wrapped my mind around Alice's story of social betrayals, of her sexual deviances, of her racial indifferences, of her class aspirations. I eyed each ghostly letter piece as it landed; and then I crouched down to read this soft flutter of evidence as it lay in yellow-winged circles on the smooth, cold granite floor.

That was when the idea for the memoir began to take shape for me as a writing project. Intellectual process excites me greatly but often all that matters in the ivory tower is the end product, the heavy theoretical text about narrative rather than the capacity of narrative itself, a truth stranger than fiction, to linger tantrically, to proffer meaning indeterminately, atemporally and imaginatively. This is the kind of art and intellectual insight I hope writing the fictional memoir allows me to humbly create and offer up to my audience and readers.

—LAURA HARRIS, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH & WORLD LITERATURE AND BLACK STUDIES

*Is it how well you love or how well others love you, how much you love or how much others love you, that measures one's final worth to humanity?*

I lack any talent at memorizing the basic syntax of life's clichés which make day-to-day living so bearable; this is why like a schizophrenic out for a walk I am always fast-pacing it away from a very unbearable living indeed. Certainly I am a woman who has done, had, both sides of love. Ultimately I became to the furtive public eye a woman who loved well though not necessarily much thus I did not deserve to be well or much loved in return. If one seeks to understand anything of love at all, common sense advice or proclamations proffering love as facile comfort must be pulled away like so many thickened skin layers of an ossified philosophical inquiry: What, then, is the measure of love?

These are the thoughts that twirl in my head as outside it dust floating in the eastern sunlight mirrors this thought movement. I hide under the sheets till late morning. You should know about me that I once declared I never want to have to get up early again. Thoughts about love trouble me almost every morning for quite some time now so that I tend to remain prostrate before them. In order to sort them I must remain as still, as hidden, as submissive, as much a disinterested corpse as possible, so simultaneously heavy and tenuous is this love-trouble. For quite some time now I wake up every morning to a familiar morning, the one right before trial, where I was meanly agitated yet full of joy towards the source of my agitation, really I was. For quite some time now though I cannot sleep past 5 a.m. I stay in bed until noon caught like an absurd character in a plot where every day is the same day, time and view, and the character is caught in an unsolvable dilemma. Every morning has become that morning, I wake into it, relive it, before coming to into this day's reality, almost.

—FROM HARRIS' THE MEMOIRS OF ALICE B. JONES (AKA MRS. RHINELANDER), A NOVELLA



## with Amy Stelmach Frey '93

### **Why did you choose to major in Black Studies?**

Rather than focusing on “generalized culture” in the United States, I was eager to learn how other populations of people understood the world. I came from a large diverse urban high school to a small college that was different and felt that I did not fit in. The largest “other” population at my high school was African American. I became interested in Black Studies with guidance from Professor Agnes Moreland Jackson. The rigorous courses I took at the Colleges helped me learn about my adolescent years in Berkeley, study abroad in Kenya, and synthesize what I learned from my Black Studies, philosophy and Women's Studies courses.

### **Describe your current occupation and how what you learned as a Black Studies major helped you achieve success.**

I am now vice principal at Berkeley High School and I use what I learned from my Black Studies major every day. Through Black Studies, I learned what people in education are now calling “cultural competency,” which is a buzzword to describe the ability to communicate well with people of other races and socio-economic statuses. The literature, law, philosophy, economics, religion, music, history and primary documents that I read about white people, slavery and the Pan African Diaspora have enabled me to talk with families about their hopes, fears and challenges in a way that ties together all of these.

Understanding Black Studies has given me the fortitude to confront people on their racism. I have sat in countless meetings and

challenged people's motivations when they talk about “those” students who are “trouble makers,” or “don't do their homework,” or “read at the fourth-grade level” and don't want to have “those kids” with “their kids” the “smart, committed, good kids.” I won't stand for it. As a vice principal, I'm in a position to support teachers in deciding which kids are actually causing trouble and finding additional support for them, instead of taking them out of a rigorous learning environment. Black Studies has informed my education philosophy so that I believe all kids, no matter their races or socio-economic levels and to some degree skill levels, can become better world citizens by being in classes together.

### **What was your most memorable course in Black Studies?**

There were three. Through the Intercollegiate Department of Black Studies I took Sidney Lemelle's seminar course covering economics, slavery, resistance, history and women, and it was an experience I won't forget. I also took Sue Houchins' Interstices course in which I learned I had to “get over myself”—I had to take myself out of the center of the discourse and take ownership of having helped perpetuate the “other” in my life. Then there was Professor Jackson. She helped me write my thesis word-by-word, page-by-page. She helped me get the thoughts that had been stewing in me for twenty-one years into a readable format. I owe all of them any success I have had, as well as any success any of my students have had. It was because of them, that I have been able to reach and shape lives.

BLACK STUDIES, African Studies, Pan-African Studies, African American Studies—for Professor of Sociology and Black Studies Dipa Basu, whatever the title, Black Studies is fascinating for this very reason, it is *named*. According to Basu, the case is often made that routine ways of learning particularly at the high-school level are grounded in “White Studies,” which is simply not named. So what Black Studies provides is a toolkit by which to examine—through the lens of blackness—history and the way groups, social problems and institutions are studied.

“Black Studies is a discipline that denaturalizes power, debunks mythologies about the African Diaspora and demystifies power relations,” Basu explained. “And it’s also interdisciplinary—it troubles the boundaries of different disciplines.” She



# Rendering *the* invisible

“ We’re having a conversation, should it be called Black Studies, African Studies, African Diasporic Studies, etc. What does this labeling represent? ”

views Black Studies as a radical approach because it speaks to power by questioning what the object of our study is: Who is speaking on behalf of those people? Why aren’t those people allowed to speak for themselves? In other words, it truly renders visible the invisible.

Similarly, Basu has observed the significance of invisibility in her study of black entrepreneurship. Since levels of self-employment are often indicative of an immigrant group’s success, her research began with critiquing theories of entrepreneurship first in England and then in the U.S., where she incorporated her interest in the hip hop music industry. “Even though they don’t have much human or social capital, I thought it was interesting how young African American people, particularly men, use

a kind of sub-cultural capital. They use their knowledge of music, aesthetics and networks to build businesses up,” Basu said. “If you look at the resources available to entrepreneurs, the resources young African Americans bring are different comparatively to those other groups might bring in order to succeed in business.”

Basu believes what is so often overlooked in entrepreneurial research and the sociology of entrepreneurship is this almost invisible type of entrepreneurship that is about social networks and equally essential to doing well in business. One of the dangers she notes though, is that as the general population begins to see the demonstrated value of social networks, they start to assume if certain individuals like Russell Simmons, who co-founded the hip hop

label Def Jam, are successful then why can’t everyone else achieve the same. “It’s great that some black entrepreneurs have done well but if we really look at the power dynamics we see that Def Jam, for instance, is actually owned by a multi-national corporation,” she noted.

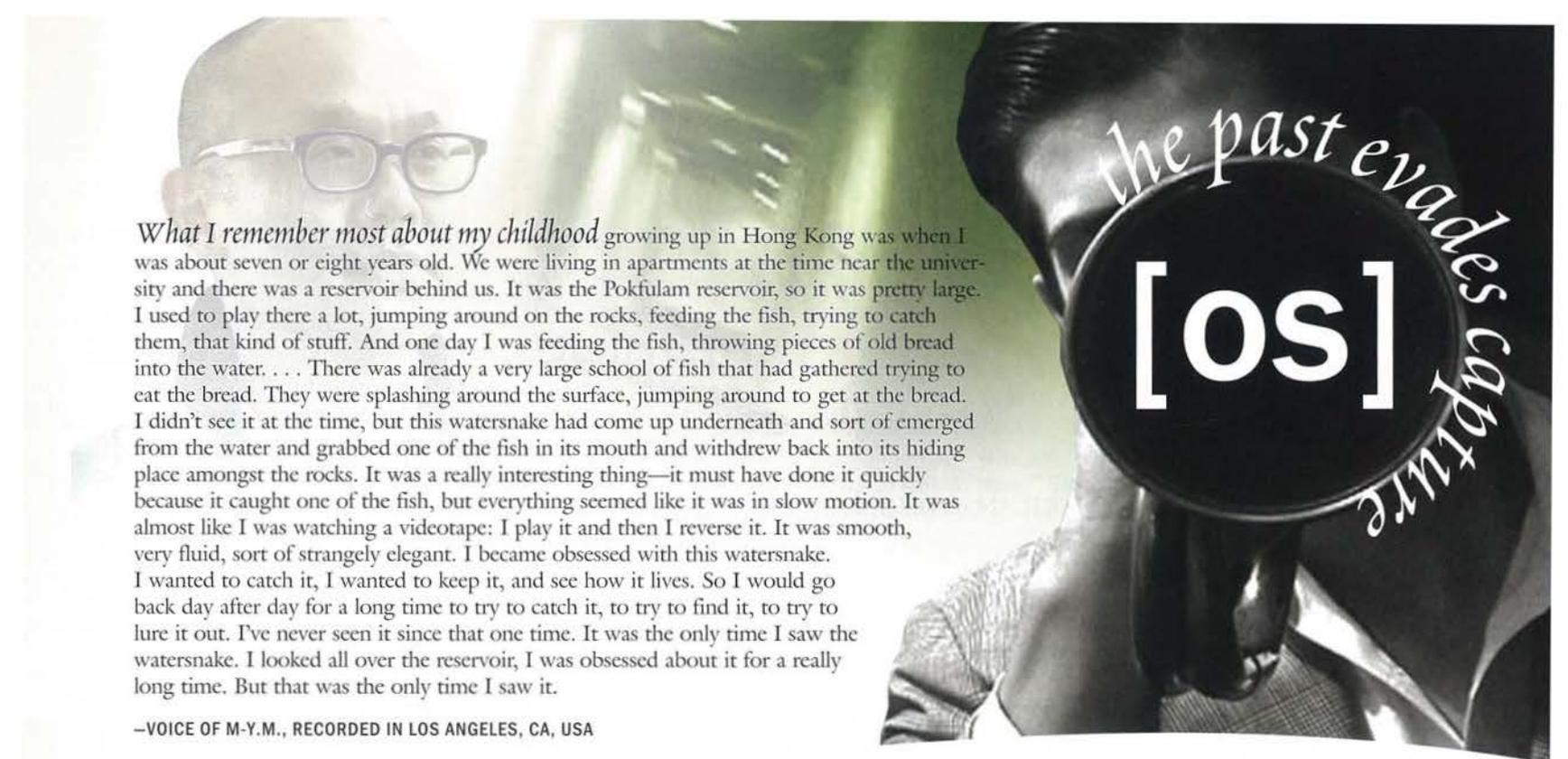
Basu reveals that recently she has started to use a different set of theoretical tools to look at entrepreneurship from much more of a political economy view. “I think the work is important because a lot of hip hop research has looked at the cultural representation, at

the lyrics, looked at the videos, but I think a cultural critique has to be based in a material context and a certain history,” she said. “I think it is important to not only look at the way that the text is analyzed and how it’s analyzed by different audiences, but also to look at who really controls it. Who has the power to say we’re going to sell this and not this, or we like what you’re doing but you have to change it to fit a

certain market sector?”

As a South Asian woman in the field of Black Studies who has lived in many different places throughout the world, Basu asserts that Black Studies is also important to her because it goes beyond a focus on African Americans in urban spaces to encompass discussions ranging from the globalization of hip hop to blackness in Central and South America. “We’re having a conversation, should it be called Black Studies, African Studies, African Diasporic Studies, etc. What does this labeling represent?” Basu questioned. “For myself, it is a vehicle to critique, to engage and to trouble the way we think about knowledge and the objects of knowledge.” ■

—EMILY CAVALCANTI



*What I remember most about my childhood* growing up in Hong Kong was when I was about seven or eight years old. We were living in apartments at the time near the university and there was a reservoir behind us. It was the Pokfulam reservoir, so it was pretty large. I used to play there a lot, jumping around on the rocks, feeding the fish, trying to catch them, that kind of stuff. And one day I was feeding the fish, throwing pieces of old bread into the water. . . . There was already a very large school of fish that had gathered trying to eat the bread. They were splashing around the surface, jumping around to get at the bread. I didn't see it at the time, but this watersnake had come up underneath and sort of emerged from the water and grabbed one of the fish in its mouth and withdrew back into its hiding place amongst the rocks. It was a really interesting thing—it must have done it quickly because it caught one of the fish, but everything seemed like it was in slow motion. It was almost like I was watching a videotape: I play it and then I reverse it. It was smooth, very fluid, sort of strangely elegant. I became obsessed with this watersnake. I wanted to catch it, I wanted to keep it, and see how it lives. So I would go back day after day for a long time to try to catch it, to try to find it, to try to lure it out. I've never seen it since that one time. It was the only time I saw the watersnake. I looked all over the reservoir, I was obsessed about it for a really long time. But that was the only time I saw it.

—VOICE OF M.-Y.M., RECORDED IN LOS ANGELES, CA, USA

IN *[os]* THE STORIES are left to the storytellers. The only requirement is that they share their strongest memories of growing up in Hong Kong and that these stories have a beginning, middle and end. They are identified by their initials and locations and we come to know them only through their voices.

Ming-Yuen Ma, assistant professor of Media Studies, began working on *[os]*, the final video in his *Xin Lu* project, by collecting stories from a group of Chinese gay men who had similar life experiences as himself growing up in Hong Kong and now living abroad. The memories these men recount range from stealing comic books to bonding with family members during typhoon season to taking a tram ride back to Hong Kong's western district.

Running parallel to these voice recordings are images of architectural ruins from around the world—the “Panorama” kiosk in Hollywood that has since been demolished, the submerged wreckage of the USS *Arizona* in Pearl Harbor, the disused immigration station at Angel Island in California, scaffolding and a temple in Hong Kong's central district and many others. The interplay between disembodied voices and dream-like travel images

leads to the recognition that these men's memories, located in a specific time and place, are actually fluid. “It's about identity and identity politics,” Ma said. “That is recognizing that your identity is not fixed in one position—most literally and metaphorically—it's really much more about a journey and mobility than about being stationary.”

“ I'm really interested in exploring different ways people look back in time, essentially try to imagine, remember or represent things that do not exist anymore. ”

Not only is memory malleable, but it is also haunting as the video attests to with repeated disruptions in the form of a reality TV-style tour of the reputedly haunted Roosevelt Hotel as well as stylized black-and-white classic Hollywood-like scenes. At first the piece plays with the idea of haunting as a metaphor, but once an actual ghost appears, Ma reveals, a clash between the metaphor and the actual phenomenon emerges. “The ghost wants in, wants to be heard, so you have to give the ghost space to try to talk, to hear his story,” Ma said. The forum in which the ghost is heard in the film is through scripted scenes of imagined conversations that take place

in a series of voice-mail messages.

Furthermore, Ma integrates re-recorded Mandarin pop songs from 1930s Shanghai to amplify the nostalgic content of the stories, images and ghost. Through all four elements, “the film excavates the personal and the collective, the colonial and the transnational, the traumatic, the wistful, the queer,

and the spectral to tell intersecting stories about our desires to return to the past,” Ma noted.

Ma's own story, transcribed above, is the last to be heard. And just as the watersnake eludes his capture, so the viewer finds that memories and identity inevitably also evade capture. “I'm really interested in exploring different ways people look back in time, essentially try to imagine, remember or represent things that do not exist anymore,” Ma said. “The piece is about the interaction of all these different elements—how they bounce off one another, layer over each other, how they intersect.” ■

—EMILY CAVALCANTI



# Beyond cookie cutter therapies

## Understanding Asian American Mental Health

THE STUDY OF ASIAN AMERICAN mental health emerged in the 1970s due to the widespread lack of appreciation among mental health professionals of the importance of culture in effectively treating many Asian American clients. In the '70s, I believe the majority, or at least a distressingly large minority, of professionals assumed that precisely the same therapies that were beneficial to many upper-middle-class, white Americans would be equally effective for treating immigrant Asian Americans. In recent years, however, it has become clear to most that cultural sensitivity should be a major consideration in the treatment of Asian Americans.

Cultural sensitivity is especially crucial in treating those who were born and raised in an Asian country. Methods that work for white Americans clearly do not always prove helpful in the treatment of Asian Americans. For example, therapists are taught that if they demonstrate visibly and audibly their emphatic resonance with the emotionally distressed client that enhanced conversation will result. Yet, with a Japanese immigrant client, the therapist's visible empathic tuning with the client can stop the client's flow of speech in its tracks. In Vietnamese, there is no good translation for the English word "depression"; a culturally knowledgeable therapist who speaks Vietnamese needs to engage a depressed Vietnamese client in treatment by focusing on the client's desire for relief of the somatic, physical symptoms (e.g., lack of energy, aches and pains).

Although there is now nearly universal acceptance of the belief that mental health practitioners should be "culturally competent," we can only crudely characterize the key ingredients of cultural competence, so cultural competence training has limited effectiveness. Because Asian Americans are extremely heterogeneous—there are more than fifty separate ethnic groups, including Pacific Islander Americans, speaking more than thirty

languages—characterizing the necessary ingredients for working with all these groups is daunting. Moreover, teaching therapists who have received cultural training to avoid the stereotyping of Asian American clients is a problem yet to be solved.

Biological research on differential response to drug treatment is an important emerging area. On average, people of Asian ancestry tend to require lower doses of many psychotropic medications, and it appears that this is at least partly a result of differences in the liver (differences due both to genes and to diet). There is great heterogeneity in the dosage needed among Asian Americans, just as there is among Euro Americans. However, there are—on average—ethnic differences that are important to keep in mind.

One of the major debates in the field is the extent to which scientifically supported treatments (for example, interpersonal psychotherapy for depression) are appropriate for ethnic minority clients if the treatments have not been specifically tested for effectiveness within those ethnic groups. So far, the evidence—based mostly on Latinos and African Americans—suggests that empirically supported treatments, when properly adjusted for culture, have effects with ethnic minorities that are comparable to those achieved with whites. Some



practitioners rail against such treatments, viewing them as "cookie cutter therapies" that are applied blindly, with ethnocentric assumptions built in. Others, I think correctly, argue that empirically supported treatments are usually flexible systems that can be successfully adapted by a truly culturally competent therapist. The key is to preserve the major effective ingredients of the therapy while at the same time culturally adapting the details of delivery in a way that fits the cultural values of individual clients.

People with mental health problems are often stigmatized in the U.S., but, on the whole, this sort of stigmatizing is even stronger among immigrants from Asian countries. Yet, certain ethnically-targeted agencies, such as Asian Pacific Family Center, have successfully engaged Asian Americans with mental health problems. So, although the ascendancy of the idea of cultural competence resulted in part from scientific and clinical research, it also resulted from the way that Asian American clients voted with their feet. They fled culturally incompetent agencies and embraced ethnically sensitive agencies where they felt at home, culturally respected and understood. ■

—RICHARD TSUJIMOTO, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

"I ALWAYS HAD AN INTEREST in Asian American Studies, but there were no courses in Asian American Studies when I was in college," Linus Yamane, professor of economics and Asian American Studies explained. "I always had a lot of questions about the experience of Asian Americans, but I never had the opportunity to explore them."

One of Yamane's first priorities upon arriving at Pitzer College in 1988 was to expand the curriculum in Asian American Studies. Although there had been courses and departments in both Black Studies and Chicano/a Studies at The Claremont Colleges for more than twenty years, there were no courses in Asian American Studies. With the help of a Ford Foundation grant, Yamane was able to read most of the scholarship in Asian American Studies during the summer of 1989. Among other things, he went to the University of California, Berkeley, and bought all the reading packets for all the Asian American Studies courses there.

Based on his accumulated readings, Yamane, along with Associate Professor of International and Intercultural Studies Joe Parker and Jack Ling (dean of students at the time), taught an interdisciplinary course that covered Asian American history, psychology, sociology and more in the spring of 1990. It was the first course in Asian American Studies at The Claremont Colleges in about a decade. While this course is no longer offered in the same form, it has been replaced by a breadth of Asian American Studies courses offered through the Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies established in 1998. "Since 1990 the field of Asian American Studies has exploded, and I can no longer keep up with everything in the field," Yamane said. "There are graduate programs in Asian American Studies, and you have to focus on your subfield."

Yamane's desire to further Asian American Studies has always been a personal quest. While previously seeing himself as a self-confessed geek with a penchant for science and mathematics, his focus on Asian American Studies has allowed him to explore his identity and grow as a human being.

"In the late '90s I was sitting in on one of Garrett Hongo's readings, and I began feeling really jealous," Yamane recalled. "Why does he get to write about his life, and I just write about numbers?" But he realized that he was tenured, and could really write about

type is dangerous because it suggests that everything is fine. "Many assume that because Asian Americans do well in school there's no problem," he said.

Despite his personal interest in the field of Asian American Studies, lately Yamane has strictly taught economics courses. "At heart I'm just an economist," Yamane concluded. Nevertheless, his scholarship in economics still focuses on Asian Americans. He has recently completed a paper on Asian Americans and their rates of promotion, and his most current work compares non-English-speaking immigrants from both



## a personal Quest

Furthering Asian American  
Studies at Pitzer College

anything he wanted to write about.

As an example, Yamane wrote a short essay titled "Model Minority," an autobiographical account of his undergraduate experience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that concludes with his later discovery of another Asian American who, under incredibly similar conditions, killed herself. The title is of particular importance to Yamane as a myth he seeks to eliminate.

The "model minority" stereotype is dangerous because many Asian Americans do not fit the stereotype. So you see some Asian Americans wearing T-shirts that proclaim "I suck at math." But even for the Asian Americans who seem to fit the stereotype, the stereo-

Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, hoping to isolate cultural and racial differences in the study of the experience of American immigrants.

Yamane's hope is that his contributions have allowed the field to grow at the College, but for the most part he now entrusts the evolution of Asian American Studies curriculum to his younger colleagues. "The senior faculty have to make way for the junior faculty," he said. "We have to grow or die. We always have to be hiring new junior faculty like Kathy Yep and we have to ask them: 'Where do you want to take this field? Where should this field go?' The vision I had when I came here is complete." ■

—SAM GREENE '10

# The Story of the Hong Wah Kues

How Inequalities Are  
Reinforced and Mediated  
through Sport.

IN 1939, SIX CHINESE AMERICAN male basketball players from San Francisco temporarily escaped the Chinatown ghetto and saw the country. For two seasons, this professional Chinese American basketball team, known as the *Hong Wah Kues*, played basketball on the barnstorming circuit around the United States and Canada. Playing approximately one hundred games in eighty days, they competed against local teams and other traveling teams such as the African American Harlem Globetrotters, the white ethnic Bearded Aces and the Native American Sioux Travelers-Warriors.

basketball in San Francisco's Chinatown from 1930 to 1950. The project features five different stories—a playground, a championship amateur women's team, the *Hong Wah Kues*, and a pair of brother and sister sports icons. While these stories speak to Asian American history in several ways, this work takes the specific experience of Chinatown basketball to explore the broader theoretical question of how inequalities are reinforced and mediated through sport. The research analyzes the links between sport and power by looking at how race and gender are constructed through basketball.

“

Connecting an everyday story with an analysis of contested power dynamics is at the core of Asian American Studies and amplifies Pitzer's values of anti-oppression/diversity, academic excellence and social responsibility.

”

Described by the newspapers as “the tiny oriental rug cutters,” the gendered and racial spectacle in the media coverage of these traveling men's basketball teams were used to reinforce the subordination of African Americans, Chinese Americans and Native Americans. While the Chinese men were depicted as disembodied and sneaky, the Native American men were reduced to a “noble” male warrior spirit and African American masculinity was framed as overly embodied, hampered by supposed innate laziness. In contrast, white masculinity was portrayed as a balance of body, mind and humanity.

My research draws from stories like the *Hong Wah Kues* and examines

Sport is a fascinating area of study because it is everywhere. From young girls playing street hockey in the suburbs of Pennsylvania to kids kicking a soccer ball on the beach in Bali, sport is a global phenomenon. Since athletics are accessible and omnipresent, they are often seen as free of politics and symbolic of democracy and meritocracy. Supposedly, athletes can leave their race, gender or socio-economic class in the locker room and just compete, free from politics and power dynamics.

Despite the popular myths about sport, many scholars have shown athletics are deeply embedded with politics. Academics, such as Pierre Bourdieu, Michael Messner and C. L. Cole, have



argued that athletics do not just reflect society but also shape it. My research explores the question of how sport is used to strengthen and contest structural inequalities.

The key aspect to the research is highlighting the relationship between structural domination and individual agency. While the *Hong Wah Kues* were orientalized in the mainstream media, the tour created an opportunity to temporarily sidestep racial barriers and move outside of their segregated existence in Chinatown. By traveling to the Northwest, the Midwest and Canada, the Kues learned how whites viewed Chinese and how Chinese were positioned with respect to highly segregated black-white relations and Native American-white relations. Through this physical mobility, they gained a sort of epistemological mobility into the multiracial landscape of the United States. In a sense, the same medium that objectified the *Hong Wah Kues* also created space for them to assert themselves as second-generation Chinese American men in the highly segregated late '30s. While playing basketball did not eradicate political and economic inequalities, it was a space to imagine and practice freedom temporarily.

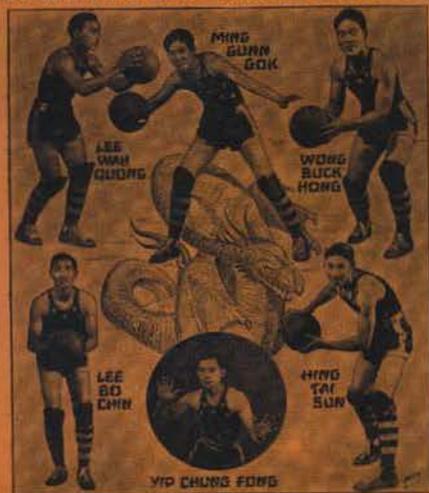
This research began while sorting through a shoebox of photos and letters at my grandmother's house. A tattered postcard sent in the late '30s from one of

# WAR!

## GRANGEVILLE TO BE ATTACKED

FLASH, San Francisco—A strong aggregation of Chinese calling themselves the "San Francisco Hong Wah Kues" are headed for Grangeville, Idaho. Advise strong support by all people in your territory.

### These Are the Chinese Invaders



**Tuesday, Jan. 2, 8 p.m.**

"AIR RAID" SHELTER AT GRANGEVILLE — GYMNASIUM  
SEE THIS BATTLE! All Seats 40c

the *Hong Wah Kues* to my grandparents was as a point of departure to examine broader themes such as the political function of embodied cultural practices. Students taking Pitzer Asian American Studies classes, such as my sport sociology class, use hidden stories to explore and revise social theories such as Michael Omi and Howard Winant's racial formation, Chela Sandoval's oppositional consciousness or Antonio Gramsci's hegemony. Connecting an everyday story with an analysis of contested power dynamics is at the core of Asian American Studies and amplifies Pitzer's values of anti-oppression/diversity, academic excellence and social responsibility. ■

—KATHLEEN S. YEP, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AND  
SOCIOLOGY

## Q&A with Wesley Wu '94

### Why did you choose to major in Asian American Studies?

The early '90s were an exciting time for Asian American Studies at The Claremont Colleges. Professors Jack Ling and Linus Yamane were teaching The Asian American Experience, the first Asian American Studies course at the 5Cs in about a decade. Increasing numbers of faculty with some degree of interest in Asian American Studies were being recruited into various departments, and the opening of the Asian American Resource Center at Pomona College positively contributed to the increasing need to include Asian American Studies as a field of study. At that time, nobody had majored in Asian American Studies on any of the five colleges (that I knew of), and there was no better place to do it than Pitzer. Assembling twelve courses and taking every Asian American Studies course offered not only gave the field representation from the student side, but proved that it was indeed possible and viable.

### Describe your current occupation and how what you learned as an Asian American Studies major helped you achieve success.

I am currently a human resources consultant with Towers Perrin. I believe a Pitzer liberal arts education provided me with a broad framework with which to face both life and my career. Asian American Studies at Pitzer gave me the ability to redefine myself—I became informed about how culture and ethnicity are shaped. Growing up, my brother and I were a close approximation of the model minority, and we operated within that stereotyped framework. Pitzer was the beginning of my personal redefinition, but the process of my personal defining took many more years. The knowledge I gained from Asian American Studies gave me the wherewithal to undergo a reshaping of my professional self.

### What was your most memorable course in Asian American Studies?

I'll never forget Joe Parker sending me into my first class: The Other Speaks Back with Dorinne Kondo at Pomona. My first exposure to Asian American Studies was a whirlwind of ethnic and cultural politics mixed with post-structuralist theory barely discernable as English. To say I was in over my head was a gross understatement. Somehow, I got through it with a basis for the rest of my learnings and a zeal to continue on. Learning that there is an underlying politic that surrounds and shapes our experience as Asian Americans cemented my desire to pursue Asian American Studies as a major, and I began my journey in clarifying who we are and where I fit.

# THE *excitement* BUILDS

RESIDENTIAL LIFE PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION



Rendering of Pitzer Hall with Admission Plaza

THERE IS A LOT OF EXCITEMENT building throughout the campus about the new residence halls rising around Gold Student Center. By now, most everyone has noticed the complex of three- and four-story edifices, which are approaching their final configuration.



Joan Wilner, former Pitzer trustee, and Lynn Harris White '70, former member of Pitzer's Board of Trustees, tour the new residence halls with Director of Campus Facilities Larry Burik.

The main structures are in place, and the construction crew is working on the decks, balconies and exterior corridors. All the roofs are on, and the exterior finish work has begun. Simultaneously, they are proceeding with the interiors, including the electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems, walls, fixtures and flooring.

The project is on schedule, with completion slated for early July and occupancy in Fall 2007. In fact, after designating RA and mentor rooms, 250 beds have been reserved for first-year students of the Class of 2011. And during the recently completed room draw conducted by the Office of Student Affairs, twenty-one singles and eight doubles in the three new halls were reserved.

Besides the student rooms themselves, there are other kinds of spaces incorporated into this project. The new Office of Admission will move to the first floor of Pitzer Hall, the

building adjacent to the East Mesa parking lot. The first floor of Atherton Hall (facing the Pitzer Service Road) will feature several academic spaces, including a music room, an art gallery, two art studios and a "smart" classroom, in addition to a new mail room.

On the second floors of all three buildings there will be four apartments (one two-bedroom and three one-bedroom) to be used by housing staff, faculty-in-residence and visiting faculty. Scattered throughout the project are three communal living rooms, a community kitchen and twenty-five study rooms and lounges, including a computer lab. A new space for the Green Bike Program is also included.

It is expected that the \$18 million fundraising goal will be reached soon, with more than \$17.5 million already received or pledged. An annual Faculty & Staff Campaign began in April, with an emphasis on



Burik points out the green features of a student lounge in Atherton Hall.

contributions for brick pavers to be placed in the new Admission Plaza. There are four sizes and styles of bricks available, ranging in price from \$100 to \$2,500, and they can be engraved with a message of the donor's choice.

A public celebration and dedication ceremony is tentatively planned for September 24 to inaugurate the new halls and thank all the donors and others who have contributed to this major effort.



PITZER COLLEGE  
*family weekend*  
& SILENT AUCTION  
2007

**Clockwise from top left:** Jonathan Sachs P'09, a parent volunteer, and others survey a table of Silent Auction items.; Students and parents enjoy the first-ever Family Weekend field trip to Chinatown in Los Angeles.; Victoria Martinet '09 and her family; Stanley Berrin '10 and his parents



PITZER COLLEGE WELCOMED hundreds of parents and families on campus for its third annual Family Weekend on February 17. In typical Southern California fashion, the weather greeted parents from more tepid regions with sunshine and clear blue skies—a welcome change for many East Coast parents escaping frigid temperatures and snow storms.

Saturday's agenda included a welcome brunch and special lectures from professors during the early part of the day, and a welcome reception and Silent Auction in the evening.

On Sunday, parents and students had the opportunity to travel to Olvera Street and Chinatown in Los Angeles as part of the first-ever Family Weekend field trips.

Rounding off the weekend were hard hat tours led by Director of Campus Facilities Larry Burik, which gave parents the opportunity to see the progress of the Residential Life Project and learn more about the College's green building initiatives. Sunday evening was enjoyed on the apron outside of McConnell Center where the Grill Masters served up a hearty barbecue dinner.

This year's Silent Auction, which benefits the Parents Association Scholarship Fund, raised \$50,000—a success that wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of Pitzer parents, alumni, students and friends of the community who donated and bid on auction items online and at the live event. To top off the evening, The Claremont Colleges' a cappella group, "Shades," brought the house down with their modern renditions of classic songs.

Hundreds of hours of volunteer service provided before and during the event by parents, students, alumni, faculty and staff are what made this event such a success. We thank you and look forward to hosting the fourth annual Family Weekend in 2008.

Hundreds of hours of volunteer service provided before and during the event by parents, students, alumni, faculty and staff are what made this event such a success.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 29-31: Parent Orientation Activities

September 2: Residence halls open for returning students at 10 a.m.

September 4: Classes Begin

October 22-23: Fall Break

November 22 & 23: Thanksgiving Break

December 14: Final Day of Classes

December 17-21: Final Exams

For other important dates visit [www.pitzer.edu/parents/important\\_dates.asp](http://www.pitzer.edu/parents/important_dates.asp)



# SPRING SPORTS

## *highlights & stats*

### Baseball

Winning twenty-nine games, the men's baseball team took its first Southern California Intercollegiate Athletics Conference (SCIAC) Championship since 2003. The team went on to compete in the NCAA tournament, where they defeated Austin but fell twice to Texas Lutheran.

### Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team captured its first title since 2003. With a 5-4 victory over rival Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) on May 5, the team advanced to the quarter-finals of the 2007 NCAA Division III Women's Tennis National Championships, but fell to Williams College 5-2.

### Men's Tennis

With a record 11-12 overall and 6-4 SCIAC, the men's tennis team was victorious over Whittier in the SCIAC Championships, but fell to Caltech and CMS. The doubles team of Neil Patel '07 and Jeff Jablonski advanced as an alternate team for the NCAA Division III Men's Tennis Championships.

### Women's Water Polo

After defeating Redlands in the finals of the SCIAC Championships 7-6 and winning their conference with a 10-0 SCIAC record, the women's water polo team advanced to the National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship. They defeated Wagner to earn seventh place in the Nationals.

### Softball

The softball team finished the season with a record of 15-24 overall, 8-16 SCIAC. The team enjoyed success this season by sweeping games against Occidental, Menlo and Whittier colleges, among others. The season drew to a close with a two-game win over CMS.

### Men's & Women's Track and Field

The men's track and field team finished 4-2-1 at the 2007 SCIAC Multi-Dual meet. The Sagehens defeated Cal Lutheran, Caltech, La Verne and Whittier, but fell to cross-campus rival CMS and Redlands, and tied Occidental, 80-80. Pitzer-Pomona's women's track and field team finished a superb 6-1 at the 2007 SCIAC Multi-Dual. The record is a mirror-image of last year's 1-6 finish—making this the best one-year turnaround in SCIAC history in the mid-2000s.

### Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team had an excellent season with a 10-2 record. This is the first year in which the team competed as a varsity sport.

### Club Sports

Club sports at The Claremont Colleges also enjoyed a successful season. The men's volleyball team, the Coyotes, competed for the first time in the Northern Division of SCIAC and qualified for the NIRSA (National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association) National Playoffs. The Claremont Colleges team finished in fifth place out of forty-eight Division II teams. Drew Lowell-Brit '08 and Benjamin White '08 were both awarded honorable mentions for their tournament play. In addition, the men's rugby team finished out the season with a 5-4 record.

### Student-Athlete Awards

Student-athlete award winners this year included: Andrew Jacobson '08 (soccer) received the Daley Award for Athletic Achievement; David Knowles '07 (basketball) received the Judie and Frank Fenton Award for Athletic Leadership; Jenny Medvene-Collins (soccer) received the Most Outstanding Female Student Athlete of the Year Award; and Neil Patel '07 (tennis) received the Most Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year award.



Michael Joannides '08



Noelle Heise '07



Emily Gallichotte '10

# Summer Celebration

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND  
July 20-22



## HONORING PITZER COLLEGE GRADUATES 1965-2007

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED

**IT IS EASY BEING GREEN!**  
New Green Residence Hall Tours

**INTERNATIONAL FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL ON THE MOUNDS**  
The Mountain Goats (John Darnielle '95) • Erica Chase '06 (formerly of Erica and the Dreamfight) • Tom Freund '93 • Djam Karet (Gayle Ellett '84 and Chuck Oken Jr. '81)  
• Old Bull (Eric Rasmussen '96)



**CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH WITH PRESIDENT TROMBLEY**  
Honoring Emeriti Faculty

**INTERACTIVE SESSIONS WITH PITZER FACULTY MEMBERS**

Barry Sanders, Professor of English and the History of Ideas •  
Phil Zuckerman, Professor of Sociology • Werner Warmbrunn, Professor Emeritus of History  
• Mita Banerjee, Professor of Psychology • Rudi Volti, Professor Emeritus •  
Adrian Pantoja, Associate Professor of Political Science and Chicano Studies

**QI GONG DEMONSTRATION** by Professor Sharon Snowiss  
**TAI CHI CLASS** by Jonathan Snowiss '01



**FOURTH ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD DINNER  
AND PRESENTATION TO HARRIETT CROSBY '68**

**BICYCLE TOUR ON GREEN BIKES  
WITH PROFESSOR RUDI VOLTI, PROFESSOR JIM LEHMAN  
AND STAFF MEMBER JIM STRICKS**



**Come one, Come all!**

For online registration, schedule, accommodations, information and more,  
go to [www.pitzer.edu/summercelebration](http://www.pitzer.edu/summercelebration) or e-mail [jean\\_grant@pitzer.edu](mailto:jean_grant@pitzer.edu)



Create  
CONNECTIONS

Rediscover  
FRIENDSHIPS

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THE TRANSFORMATION

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](mailto: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 should be written in first person and may be edited for content.

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.

**68 Pam Pattison Boulding** (*Olalla, WA*) We, Magical Strings with Celtic harps, hammer dulcimers, violins, cello, percussion, storytelling, dancing and more completed our 28th annual Celtic Yuletide Concert tour in the Northwest amidst storms and full houses with our entire family. My four sons travel from the east to perform with us every year and have blessed us with five darling granddaughters who also perform with us on stage. Our daughter, Brittany, who just completed graduate studies at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles as a violin student, can be heard this spring performing with the St. Louis Symphony and the Oakland Symphony, among others. When not on the road performing concerts and school programs with my husband, Philip, I am teaching music in the Seattle-area Waldorf Schools, finishing a third year of eurythmy training in Portland, Oregon, running the School of Magical Strings and Magic Hill Summer Harp and Dulcimer Camp and leading a creative life on our little farm. We went to the East Coast in April for our 28th

annual spring performing tour and would love to come to your area. Perhaps someday we can bring our Magical Strings to Pitzer to share our music and visit the place that gave me strength and imagination for creating such a fulfilling and wonderful life. [www.magicalstrings.com](http://www.magicalstrings.com)

**71 Diantha Douglas Zschoche** (*Vista, CA*) The year ended with a personal milestone for me. After a few years now of sending out my poetry for consideration and participating in different poetry readings I was asked to be the feature poet at my local group, The Village Idiots in Vista, California. This was as per the "Prayer of Jabez" expanding my territory out of my comfort zone but turned out to be a great growth experience. It was also the impetus for me to self publish a chapbook of my Christmas poems, titled *A Winter Nights Tale*.

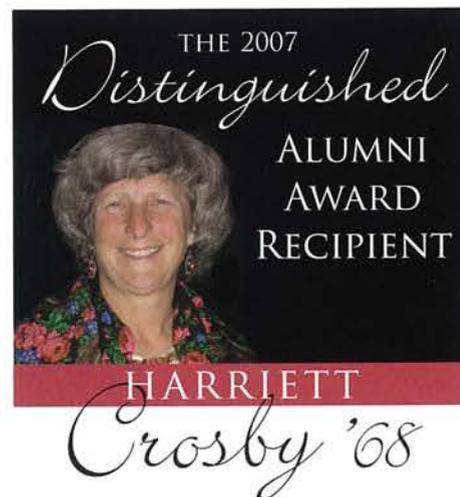
**72 Christine Malina-Maxwell** (*Meyreuil, France*) My dearest friend Rosa Casarez '73, whom I met at the



**Margreta Dunn Klassen '68**

I am currently a clinical psychologist affiliated with the Newport Psychology Group, providing mental health services in Orange County. On April 13, I presented a paper at the annual meeting of the California Psychological Association. The research in this paper, titled "A Journey to Wellness: Following Sexual Molestation in Adolescence," is

a longitudinal study of a woman addressing her recovery from sexual molestation in adolescence. I continue to be inspired in my field by the knowledge that I am helping my patients cope with the emotional problems they bring to me.



Activist, adventurer, Jungian analyst and teacher Harriett Crosby '68 has devoted her life to social, environmental and political justice. Her extraordinary journey has taken her from the hallways of our nation's Capitol to the top of the world's highest mountains.

After graduating from Pitzer, Harriett earned her master's degree in psychology from Temple University in 1977, followed by studies at the C. J. Jung Institute in Zurich.

An avid traveler and mountaineer, she has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Rainier. During a series of trips to Ecuador, she started a wildlife rescue center. She has traveled several times to India, including a trip at the behest of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to research Tibetan folk tales. For six summers she trained with a Lakota medicine man on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Since 1980, Harriett has owned and managed Fox Haven Farms, an ecological learning center in Jefferson, Maryland. In 1983 she co-founded ISAR, the Institute for Soviet-American Relations, a nonprofit organization providing support for nongovernmental environmental activists in the former Soviet Union.

She serves on many boards and is a familiar face in political circles in Washington DC, where she works with Quakers to prevent the escalation of war in the Middle East.

beginning of my first semester at Pitzer in 1969 in our Mexican American Psychology class, passed away on February 9, 2007, after a short, brave fight with cancer. To my knowledge, Rosa was the first Mexican American woman to get into Pitzer College from Compton near Los Angeles. She was full of ambition to make a difference in this world. Rosa overcame many obstacles to finally succeed at fulfilling her dream of becoming a teacher in her own right and tenure-track professor in educational psychology at San Francisco State University—none of which would have been possible without the very special time she spent learning and having her dreams nurtured at Pitzer all those years ago. To honor her memory, the Rosa Casarez Scholarship Fund has been set up to help other young, underprivileged Mexican American women come to Pitzer and recognize their dreams just as Rosa once did.

**Jeanie Wakeland** (*New York, NY*) In March 2005, my husband and I moved here to the Big Apple because he is heading a major contract for his employer. We decided if we were going to leave our home of twenty-five years in Walnut Creek, California, we would move to Manhattan and live in the big city. After freelancing for the first year, I got a job last summer as news editor of a chain of weekly newspapers in Queens. I'm glad we came here, and also look forward to our eventual return. One other note: our son, David Von Bergen, now twenty-three, graduated from George Washington University in May and was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant after completing a four-year ROTC program through nearby Georgetown University. He will complete his officer training program at the end of March, and is likely to go to Iraq this summer.

**75 Jeff Gottlieb** (*Hermosa Beach, CA*) I'm an assistant city editor at the *Los Angeles Times*.

**76 Houston Lowry** (*Avon, CT*) I was selected as a "Super Lawyer" in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Business Litigation and International Law by the editors of *Connecticut Magazine*. I dined with the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators with the Lord Mayor of the City of London on January 31 at Mansion House.

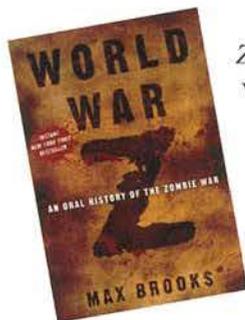


## PITZER ALUMNI BOOKPLATE

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

### World War Z

*An Oral History of the Zombie War*



**Max Brooks '94**, the author of the parody *The Zombie Survival Guide* (2003), tells the story of the world's desperate battle against the zombie threat with a series of first-person accounts "as told to the author" by various survivors around the world. Surprisingly, in one of the accounts, Claremont serves as the setting for one of humanity's last stands against the living dead.

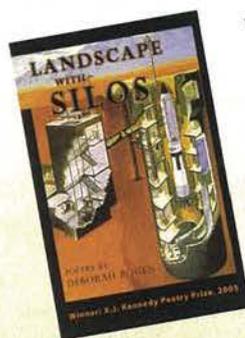
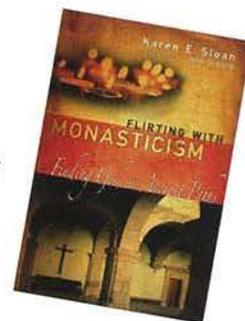
Crown, 2006 ■ 352 pages ■ \$24.95

### Flirting with Monasticism

*Finding God on Ancient Paths*

In her first book, **Karen Sloan '98** weaves together two stories of love and commitment: her exploration of monastic spirituality set against the yearlong journey of a novice class of men preparing to join the Dominican order. Each step leads to new ways to pray, a deeper experience of Christian community and closer communion with God. The book also includes several stories based on Sloan's years at Pitzer College and is illustrated by **Lila J. Damico '98**.

InterVarsity Press, 2006 ■ 163 pages ■ \$13.00



WINNER OF THE 2005 X. J. KENNEDY POETRY PRIZE

### Landscape with Silos

Although her North Dakota roots provide the backdrop for some of these poems, **Deborah Bogan '90** now lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she runs free fiction and poetry workshops for talented, over-worked academics.

Seismologists say things are stable  
but we know different.

Feel the laws?

They dog the heart like hunger  
at the offramp, like drunks  
at Union Station,

like rain that chants

no money. No money.

No money.

Texas Review Press, 2006 ■ 80 pages ■ \$12.95

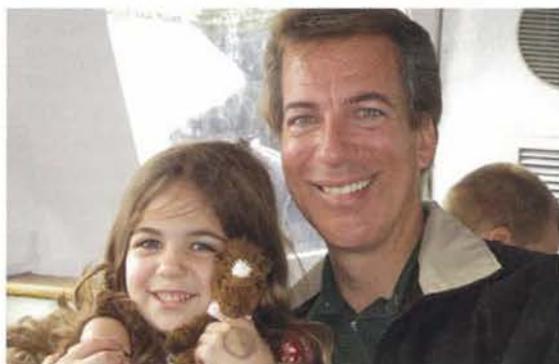
an excerpt from  
L.A.'s  
Millennial  
Love Song

# ALUMNI EVENTS

## Spring

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!



### PITZER & SCRIPPS WHALE WATCHING TOUR

On March 17, Pitzer College alumni joined Scripps College alumni for a whale watching tour in Newport Harbor, California. Alumni enjoyed watching grey whales, sea lions and marine birds while catching up with old college friends.

### 7C WORLDWIDE HAPPY HOUR NIGHT

On March 14, GOLD (Graduates Of the Last Decade) alumni from all seven Claremont Colleges gathered at locations around the world for networking and cocktails. Locations included Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Tokyo, London, Madison, Santa Monica, New York, Costa Mesa, Scottsdale, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Diego, Portland, St. Louis, Sacramento, Seattle, Palo Alto and Washington.

**78 Candace Barker Bergmann** (South Pasadena, CA) As I turned 50 this year, I've given thanks for my education at Pitzer. My years at Pitzer helped me to set my priorities and goals. I enjoy living in south Pasadena, California, with my family, and my career choice that gives me six weeks paid vacation each year.

**85 Edward Holmes** (Columbus, OH) Many thanks to the New Resources Program.

**87 Chris Trautman** (Phoenix, AZ) I formed Trautman, Dupont Law Offices, PLC in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Leeshawn Cradoc Moore** (Riverside, CA) On May 12, 2007, I will receive my PhD in education from Claremont Graduate University.

**88 Marco Saenz** (San Marino, CA) It is with great regret that I inform the Pitzer community that Cheryl Barlow '88 passed away after a very long but valiant battle with cancer. She died at home

in Calgary, Canada. Cheryl was a wonderful classmate and remained close to many of her fellow Pitzies over the last nineteen years. She will be greatly missed.

**Ellen Glikbarg Shea** (San Carlos, CA) My husband Tom and I are living in San Carlos with our three kids, Patrick (eight), Kevin (four) and Casey (nine months). I am working part time singing and teaching and spend a lot of time playing with the kids. Love to hear from anyone. [glikhshea@yahoo.com](mailto:glikhshea@yahoo.com).



**THE POLITICS OF INTEGRATED MEDICINE WITH PROFESSOR SHARON SNOWISS**

Alumni from the Bay Area Chapter of the Pitzer College Alumni Association gathered on March 8 in San Francisco at The Empress of China restaurant. Over forty alumni enjoyed authentic Chinese cuisine and conversation as Professor Sharon Snowiss talked on the Politics of Integrative Medicine.

**90** **Ayamanatara (Shirley Brown)** (*Santa Clarita, CA*) I am currently practicing Shamanism as part of a thriving healing and teaching practice in southern California. My third book, a book of daily reflections, is due to be released in the summer of 2007 through Hunt Press. My events can be found on my Web site at [www.ayamanatara.com](http://www.ayamanatara.com).

**Don Kramer (Seattle, WA)** I am back in the U.S. after a couple years in Armenia with the Peace Corps. I am currently working on a masters of public administration degree at the University of Washington in Seattle, with a focus on health/social policy. The program and city are great, but I miss small town life in the mountains.

**91** **James Foley (Scottsdale, AZ)** Hoping to get in touch with my one-time roommate Jerry and my friend Caroline, who may be in Vegas—loved those far-reaching dining hall discussions.

**92** **William S. Mitchell (Los Angeles, CA)** I am married with a four-year-old daughter, Livia Cole Mitchell. Living in Los Angeles since 1995. Doing great, life is great.

**93** **Kerry McCartney (Nashville, TN)** Seven months living in Nashville and counting. I now work as associate dean for development for Peabody College, Vanderbilt's school of education and human development. I'm really enjoying it here in Nashville—there is so much to do and I'm taking advantage of it! Going to lots of events: Grammys, Latin Grammys and CMAs. Erica Coleman '93 (who lives in England) came with me to the CMAs during her visit last October. (*See photo on page 47*)

**94** **Sheri Warshauer Riskind (New York, NY)** I have been married eight years to my husband, Mike, and we have a beautiful eighteen-month-old daughter, Eve.

**95** **Jonathan Casper (Raleigh, NC)** Patty Casper (a former PACE student who I met at Pitzer) and I just celebrated the birth of our first child, Kali, on December 13. I am an assistant professor at North Carolina State University. Patty is learning her new job (formerly an elementary art teacher—thanks to David Furman) as a stay-at-home mom. (*See photo on page 47*)



**Steven Scheyer '80**

PRESIDENT & CEO OF ASCENDIA BRANDS

Steven Scheyer '80 was named president and chief executive officer of Ascendia Brands, Inc., headquartered in Hamilton, New Jersey. Scheyer joins Ascendia Brands with more than twenty-five years of consumer product experience across a broad range of retail channels.

## Dinners Celebrate Achievements



**2007 Asian Pacific American/Islander Graduates:** Ylissa Aquino, Yusra Bokhari, Saiba Chadha, Vincent Chen, Alice Chang, Genevieve Cheng, Anita Desikan, Susette Grosveld, Andrew King, Rhea Landicho, Donna Lau, Marisol Lazaro, Hannah Locke, Robert Mah, Elisa Mao, Patrick Miller, David Saetang and Cheryl Lin

### Asian Pacific American/Islander Senior & Alumni Dinner

### Asian Pacific American/Islander Senior & Alumni Dinner

Mark Lim '93, an outreach consultant, spoke at the fifth annual Asian Pacific American/Islander (APA/I) Senior and Alumni Dinner. The APA/I Dinner honors the accomplishments of Pitzer's graduating Asian Pacific American/Islander seniors.

### Chicano/Latino Student & Alumni Dinner

Joaquin Calderón '99 was the special guest speaker and Brittany Dávila '10 the student speaker for the eighth annual Chicano/Latino Student and Alumni (CLSA) Dinner on April 16. The CLSA Dinner is co-hosted by the Latino Student Union (LSU) and celebrates the achievements of Pitzer's Chicano/Latino community by bringing together current students, prospective students and alumni as well as faculty and staff.

### LSU Executive Board and CLSA Dinner Speakers:

Natasha Carrillo '09,  
Liliana Sanchez '09,  
Claudia Sandoval '10,  
Joaquin Calderón '99,  
Candy Navarro '07,  
Brittany Dávila '10 and  
Brenda Gonzalez '09



**96 Kim Richman (San Francisco, CA)** I married my boyfriend of eight years, Richard Leo, on July 23 in Santa Barbara (Suzan Pour-Sanae '97, Andrea Robicheau '97 and Mita Sen '95 were in attendance). We bought a house in San Francisco and work at the University of San Francisco, where I am a professor of sociology and Legal Studies and Richard is a professor of law. My book, *Judging Families*, about gay and lesbian custody and adoption rights, is being published by New York University Press and should be in print in 2008. Would love to hear from other alumni in the Bay Area: [kdritchman@usfca.edu](mailto:kdritchman@usfca.edu). (See photo on page 47)

**97 Edwin Gomez (Ontario, CA)** I was appointed elementary school principal at Lytle Creek Elementary School in the San Bernardino City Unified School District. Life could not be better. Very blessed and very content with all aspects of living. For any former Pitzer friends or acquaintances that I knew, keep in touch: [Edwin\\_91762@yahoo.com](mailto:Edwin_91762@yahoo.com).

**98 Trista J. Eaden (Chandler, AZ)** All is well and calm in the Valley of the Sun. After being in the corporate sector for more than six years, I left that field to work for the Phoenix Public Library system as a library assistant. It was an interesting transition but I truly love what I do now. I received my masters in information

resources and library science from the University of Arizona in May. I look forward to furthering my career in librarianship with great anticipation and euphoria. Most importantly I would like to give love, peace and blessings to my dear sisterfriends Tashia, Ellisa, Leah, Petrina and Mecca for their enduring friendship and camaraderie in these latter years. I am so proud of you all. Continue to live life to the fullest and without regret. Also a big hello to Jason "Country Time Pink Lemonade" Lowery and his wife, Melissa, Celeste, Derek, Damon and Peter.

**Karen Sloan (Los Altos, CA)** I was ordained as a Presbyterian minister on November 26. Janet Bower '76 led the prayer of ordination.

**99 Sonia Rodriguez Melendez (Montclair, CA)** I hope this note finds you all happy and in good health. As for me, I got married and have two children. I met my hubby, Jose Melendez, out here in Upland, got married on February 14, 2004, and had our son, Jose Angel Melendez, on September 28, 2004. Almost exactly two years later we had our daughter, Rosa Maria Melendez, on September 29, 2006. Life is hectic, but good! I am still teaching at Baldwin Park High School and living in Montclair.

**00 Veronique Questel (Long Beach, CA)** I married Csaba Bereczky in New York City on September 2, 2006. I am currently teaching the sixth grade at the Waldorf School of Orange County.

**Trillium Sellers (Warren, VT)** Even though I played lacrosse all four years at Pitzer, I have since moved on to a different sport: golf. I am now working seasonally at the Jim McLean Golf School in Miami during the winter and Sleepy Hollow Country Club located outside of NYC in the summer. I am an LPGA member and very close to gaining my PGA class A member status. This month I visited legendary golf instructor Bob Toski and spent the entire day with him watching him teach. It was inspirational to see one of the most outspoken figures in golf history up close and personal. While at Pitzer I was always proud that many of the star athletes on just about every Pomona-Pitzer team were from

## class notes PHOTOS



Photo 1: **Kim Richman '96** at her wedding to Richard Leo (see Class of '96) ■ Photo 2: **Robert Smith '04** at the Peace Corps headquarters in Accra, Ghana (see Class of '04) ■ Photo 3: **Trillium Sellers '00** and LPGA Tour player, Carin Koch from Sweden (see Class of '00) ■ Photo 4: **Jonathan Casper '95** with his wife Patty and daughter Kali (see Class of '95) ■ Photo 5: **Kerry McCartney '93**, Diane Sawyer and Melissa Adams (see Class of '93) ■ Photo 6: **Joel Harper '95** and Professor Emeritus of Creative Studies Michael Woodcock at the opening reception for the Claremont Museum of Art

Pitzer. I hope that Pitzer still values athletics the way they did while I was there.  
(See above photo)

**04 Matt Hermsen (Seattle, WA)** Shannon Russell '03 and I will be getting married this July in Carmel, California.

**Robert Smith (Axim, Ghana)** I am currently serving in the Peace Corps in Ghana, West Africa. I left for Africa in September 2005 and will serve as a Peace Corps volunteer until December 2007. I spent three months training in-country in northern Ghana, then was assigned to a site in the coastal village of Axim. I work with Ghanaians in the field of small business development. While at Pitzer I participated in the Pitzer in Nepal program and believe this experience helped prepare me for the challenges of the Peace Corps life in Africa.  
(See above photo)



## Yolanda Romanello '05

CGU'S HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

Yolanda Romanello '05 received the Humanitarian of the Year award from the School of Education at Claremont Graduate University (CGU) on March 21. Romanello, a master's student at CGU's School of Educational Studies, also planned for a day of reflection on our behaviors and impact on our environment at CGU on April 28. She arranged for Ed Begley Jr., among others, to speak at the event. In addition, Pitzer College's President Laura Skandera Trombley welcomed Begley and spoke briefly about the College's dynamic environmental policy program. According to Romanello, "It was a day to see if we can rethink our way of thinking and living."

# Birthright

Amanda Sher '02 reflects on her unforgettable trip to Poland & Israel

*I know it's a cliché, but I really did have the adventure of a lifetime. I was one of seventy-seven participants that traveled to Israel and Poland on the March of the Living's Birthright trip. Taglit (birthright in Hebrew), is an international program that gives Jewish people ages eighteen to twenty-six a free trip to Israel. My trip went to Poland for five days, where we visited several death camps, ghettos and other significant Jewish areas in a country that was once 30 percent Jewish. Seeing the death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Majdanek was an overwhelming and, quite frankly, traumatic experience. I find myself still haunted by what I witnessed.*



I always envisioned Auschwitz in black and white, so I was surprised to see the dark red brick buildings that lined the rocky dirt paths inside the camp. Walking through the infamous gates was surreal, knowing that I was traveling on the same path as so many before me. The difference was that I knew what lay behind the gates, and what the fate was for those who entered during World War II.

The most intense part of that visit was walking through the gas chambers. Touching the walls, seeing the scrape marks, you could only imagine what went through the minds of literally millions of Jews. That was perhaps the strangest part—even though we were physically present at the camps, we still found ourselves saying, “I can’t imagine.”

We visited the death camp Majdanek. When we got there, it had just stopped raining, the ground was frosty and the wind was blowing. Up until this moment on the trip, the wintry weather hadn’t really bothered me. Each time that I would shiver or blow my running nose, I reminded myself that the people that were subjected to live in this place had a lot less than I did. This is an issue we talked a lot about on the trip. In order to understand their suffering, do we need to suffer as well? A rabbi that lived in one of the ghettos in Lodz, Poland, said that you can’t understand suffering in the comfort of your own living room. That day at the camp, I was very far from my own living room.

We walked through the camp, mostly silent, listening to our guide describe the realities of the camp. Then we went to the shoe room. If you’ve been to a Holocaust Museum, or even a camp, you’ve seen this before: a mass display of shoes that were collected from the prisoners as they entered the concentration camps. But this was an actual barrack filled with metal crates that went to the ceiling, all filled with shoes and shoes and shoes. The crates lined the walls, with two additional columns in the middle of the room that went all the way to the back of the barrack. The faint light from the dreary day only illuminated the room so much, and after walking back several feet, you were immersed in the darkness and surrounded by all of the shoes. There just aren’t words to describe the emotions I felt when I was in this room—trust me, I’ve tried to find them, and I just don’t think they exist.

After five extremely emotional and powerful days in Poland, we were all overjoyed to travel to Israel. We left Poland on December 31 and arrived in Israel in 2007. It seemed fitting that we spent the last five days of the year experiencing our history, and now we were about to spend the beginning of the new year in our homeland. This was my second time visiting Israel, and this time it really felt as if I were returning home. And that’s part of the uniqueness of Israel—that a foreign nation can seem so familiar

Above: The Sea of Galilee and Amanda Sher '02 with the country of Syria behind her

and so much like a motherland.

We spent the first two days in Israel in the north in a war zone—we actually went to the borders of Lebanon and Syria, as well as the Golan Heights. I actually saw yellow Hezbollah flags. Sitting atop Mt. Bental, looking ahead at the country of Syria, I was struck by how beautiful this land was, and how senseless the fighting over it seemed.

My favorite part of the trip was the integration with the Israeli soldiers. Sixteen soldiers, ages nineteen to twenty-one, joined us as civilians, which is a staple of the Taglit program. They fought in last summer's war and shared so many stories of that experience with us.

Israeli youth's reality of war is vastly different from our impressions. I never understood how it could be an honorable duty to serve in their army. But for them, it's tradition. It's what their parents and older brothers and sisters have done. When American high school students are filling out college applications, Israeli high school students are picking out which unit they want to join after boot camp is over.

It's very easy to sit in the United States and hear about the conflict in the Middle East and think that we understand what is going on. It's easy for some to criticize Israeli tactics and

judge the choices they are making. But in war, there are never good choices. That is just a reality of war. And for Israel, a country that is literally surrounded by its enemies, they are fighting just to survive.

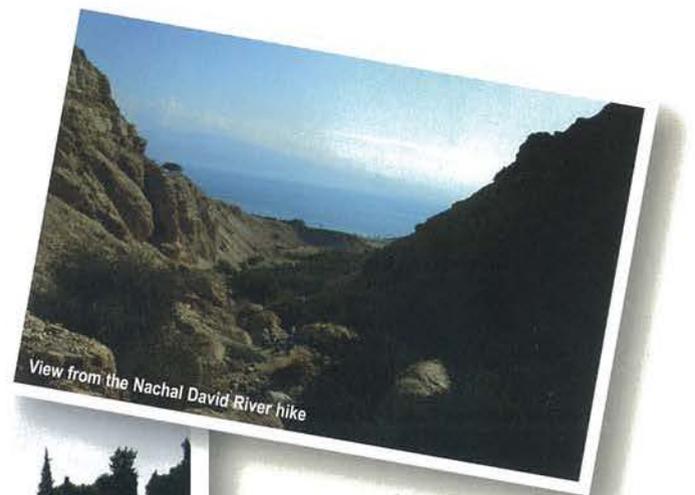
I've always been anti-war, but I have also always been pro-Israel, and it was on this trip that I was able to reconcile the two seemingly opposing positions. Visiting the borders and talking with the people that are actually fighting gave me a much clearer sense of why it is so imperative that

Israel fights back. Look what happened to us when we didn't—we were almost exterminated. Israel goes to war in order to defend its existence. This is an Israeli's duty, and it's an honor for them to participate in that fight.

As a law student at Saint Louis University School of Law, a Jesuit institution, I don't often have the opportunity to spend time with other Jews. That's part of why I didn't want the trip to end. I didn't want to leave the seventy-six other people who are the only ones that will truly understand how life changing this experience was. I recommend that all Jewish youth take advantage of this free gift. It's the best gift I've ever received. ■

—AMANDA SHER '02

A rabbi that lived in one of the ghettos in Lodz, Poland, said that you can't understand suffering in the comfort of your own living room. That day at the camp, I was very far from my own living room.





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