Fall 2008

3 a note from president trombley
4 a note from trustee russell m. pitzer
6 sustainable travel
   henry ’91 and margaret ann ’94 escudero in panama
   aaron ’94 and jenny ader brill ’94 in colorado
10 sustainable cooking
   wendy van wagner ’04
   jenn louis ’93
14 alumni profiles
   jay barnes ’83
   ali hangan ’97
   evan kroh ’05 and patrick mitchell ’06
20 class notes
22 pitzer ’12
   jose barriga
   max goodwin
   shannon mccarthy
   lindon pronto
25 jay barnes ’83
   ali hangan ’97
   evan kroh ’05 and patrick mitchell ’06
31 international programs
34 a winning year for sagehens
35 what’s new on campus?
36 faculty publications/recognition
38 meet new faculty members

The Office of Public Relations thanks Cody Klock ’12, Participant photographer.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am so impressed by the Pitzer College alumni and students featured in this issue of The Participant. Environmentalists, scientists and activists, a dancer, firefighter, educator and magician—they reflect the wonderful gifts, diversity and commitment of the entire Pitzer community.

Forty-four years ago, Pitzer College held its first commencement in front of the original Flora Sanborn Hall, and bid a fond farewell to the class of ’65, which consisted of just three students—Marlene Bates, Katherine Gibbs and Nicole Scheel. The total number of students that first year was only 153. There were only 11 tenure-track faculty, including Steve Glass, professor of classics, who is still a full-time member of the teaching faculty.

Flash forward to fall 2008, and the original Sanborn Hall is gone. In its place stands the new Flora Sanborn Hall, distinctive for its sustainable features and for the two design awards it won for its innovative architecture. This year, we also welcomed 258 first-year students and have the largest number of faculty in our history—72.

While we have certainly grown as an institution since those early years, we still believe, in the words of the first president of Pitzer, John Atherton, that “our mandate is to change the universe.”

At Pitzer, we continue to work hard everyday to build on our strengths while continuously renewing the College. The classic Pitzer College education, thanks to our communal efforts, will become an ever richer and more sophisticated gift to future students and alumni. This gift continually unfolds and represents our motto, PROVIDA FUTURI, mindful of the future.

I know you will enjoy reading this issue of The Participant as much as I did, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best regards,

Laura Skandera Trombley
President
My Experience with Pitzer College

Prefatory: In the early 1960s, when my young family visited my grandfather, Russell K. Pitzer, sometimes delegations of distinguished looking gentlemen, usually led by Robert Bernard, would come to visit. They would disappear into my grandfather’s home office along with my father, Kenneth S. Pitzer. After a while I learned that they were discussing starting a new Claremont college and that there was concern that not enough money was available. In due time, they settled upon a plan and Pitzer College was begun.

The beginning: In 1964 the first two buildings, named after my grandmother and my step-grandmother, were ready. An opening ceremony was scheduled at the north end of the Sanborn Hall parking lot. My father had written his comments in a short letter, but could not attend, so I read the letter for him. Folding chairs were set up in the parking lot with a row for the speakers on top of the embankment. A student in the original class, Deb Deutsch, was the guide for my grandfather and me and showed us to our places. My grandfather was getting on in years and didn’t want to give a speech so he sat in the front row in the parking lot. At my turn, I read the letter and added a few remarks.

In succeeding years, I attended a few meetings and events at the College and I was surprised how rapidly traditions developed: extensive student and faculty participation in deciding College policies, the spirit of social responsibility, things that seemed unlikely to have originated with the founders of the College.

Student Experiences at Liberal Arts Colleges and Research Universities: In my years as a trustee, I have heard enthusiastic discussions from parents about how their son or daughter has thrived at Pitzer College. I have heard faculty members at Pitzer College speak enthusiastically about their small classes and lots of faculty attention as the only effective way to teach.

What alternative is there? I have spent 40 years teaching at a large research university. The classes in my department are generally large (250-300) for freshman and sophomore courses and small for higher-level courses. When I teach a freshman course, I have a moderate number of assistants (graduate students, some advanced undergraduates) who meet with the students in laboratory and discussion sections of 25. We teach about 3500 students at a time in all courses. We have so many assistants that by holding their office hours in a chemistry help room, the room can be open 40 hours a week. I have heard a number of parents and students speak enthusiastically about education at Ohio State, including comments on the wide variety of programs and activities, and for a few, the opportunities to do research using equipment not available at other types of colleges or universities. No doubt there have been other students who didn’t care for the large-lecture format and never made it to the smaller classes at higher levels.

Many other comparisons can be made, but perhaps the useful conclusion is one that has often been made previously: this country benefits greatly by having a variety of types of higher education institutions. Now that some groups are pushing out international higher education rankings, more countries seem to want to adopt many of the characteristics of our colleges and universities, including the variety.

Some students will do well at any type of college or university, but others are quite sensitive to the type of institution. Everyone involved in students’ choice of college or university should continue to be sensitive to the latter possibility.

I feel fortunate to be involved with and committed to, in different roles, both a liberal arts college and a research university.
While at Pitzer, Henry ’91 and Margaret Ann ’94 Escudero daydreamed of “moving someplace far, far away and running some sort of farm,” said Margaret. Today, they own La Loma Butterfly Farm in Panama. Aaron ’94 and Jenny Ader Brill ’94 travelled to New Zealand while at Pitzer, discovered club field skiing and recreated the backcountry experience at Silverton Mountain in Colorado.

Ecotourism—travel that appeals to the ecologically and socially conscious—is one of the fastest growing sectors of the tourism industry. Essential to ecotourism is minimizing the environmental impact of a destination’s design and construction.

“Our students are taking the skills and knowledge they developed and nurtured at Pitzer to create a principled lifestyle, a synergistic and proactive intellectual approach to problem-solving,” said Paul Faulstich ’79, professor of environmental studies.

The Brills do not think of Silverton Mountain, ranked first in the U.S. in steeps and powder by Skiing Magazine, as a resort. There are no restaurants, rooms or groomed runs and only one chairlift (recycled from Mammoth). There is no running water or bathrooms—just outhouses.

“We work where we live. We basically live outside, free from all of the pressures.”
—Margaret Ann Escudero ’94
“We were really frustrated at the ski industry turning a blind eye to the environment,” said Jenny. “We tried to put the focus back on nature.”

Advanced Silverton skiers board a double chairlift to the steepest and highest ski area in North America—13,487 feet. The mountain, left in its natural state, offers skiers deep powder on steep terrain.

“A good skier wants few people, lots of mountains, lots of powder snow like in the wilderness,” said Aaron. “We make the best quality experience in the most natural environment without clear cutting.”

La Loma Butterfly Farm and Jungle Lodge consists of three cabins built with naturally fallen trees and decorated with locally produced furniture. Named one of the best small eco-lodges in Latin America by Food and Wine, the Escuderos grow or locally source what they serve. Their water comes from the creek, their power from solar panels. All of their employees are locals. (Both of the Escuderos mothers are alums—Maria Escudero ’02 and Catherine Gillen Ann ’69.)

The Escuderos contribute to their community with help from their guests. One sends $300 every month for the local children to attend school. Another, a vet, brought $6,000 in goods to cope with ticks and fleas. He later helped the Escuderos secure a grant from the World Veterinarian Project. The Escuderos also help local growers sell chocolate to a British chocolatier.

Margaret and Henry welcomed a son in July. “It is an ideal place,” said Margaret. “We work where we live. It’s a really peaceful and tranquil environment. We basically live outside, free from all of the pressures. There’s no traffic so he can just run free.”

—Jill Walker Robinson

“We tried to put the focus back on nature.” —Jenny Ador Brill ’94
Wendy Van Wagner ’04 and Jenn Louis ’93 use environmentally sustainable, organically and locally grown products to prepare delicious, healthy cuisine.

Van Wagner’s passion for cooking and teaching was triggered by her Pitzer experience. “Almost nobody knew anything about cooking outside of ramen noodles and microwave popcorn,” Van Wagner recalled.

After Pitzer, Van Wagner earned a certificate in nutrition education while working at Edible Schoolyard, a program for junior high students in Berkeley, CA. “We taught kids the basics of growing vegetables and cooking healthfully,” she said. “It was at that point I realized I wanted to open a cooking school.”

Van Wagner advertised her cooking classes on Craigslist. Her first class attracted five students, and her enrollment grew from there. “I teach my students both about cooking and nutrition,” Van Wagner said. “I try to lead them towards healthier lifestyles by example. With my cooking techniques, healthy can also be delicious.”

Working closely with her brother, Tim ’07, who manages an organic farm, Van Wagner will soon open her catering business and cooking school, In the Kitchen.

“I try to lead students towards healthier lifestyles.” — Wendy Van Wagner ’04
A Pitzer triple major, Jenn Louis discovered her passion for cooking while working for Outward Bound, a nonprofit organization. “I was always interested in social outreach, so Outward Bound seemed like the ideal opportunity for me. The only problem was that they wanted to hire me as a chef, and I didn’t know how to cook,” Louis said.

She found she really enjoyed preparing meals for large groups of ravenous people, so she attended Western Culinary Institute in Oregon. Louis later founded a catering business, Culinary Artistry, which features produce directly from the farm.

Louis, like Van Wagner, has a new venture. “I had always been against owning a restaurant—I thought it was too risky. But because of the success of Culinary Artistry, I feel up to the challenge,” she said. Last year, Louis and her husband opened a restaurant in Portland.

“We decided to call the restaurant ‘Lincoln’ because of its log-cabin feel combined with the comfort and authenticity of fresh and local cuisine. Even the tables were made from dismantled tobacco houses and chicken coops in Kentucky. Our food is simple, our dress-code is nonexistent and everything on the menu is quintessentially and honestly American,” she said.

—Liz Hedrick ’09

“Our food is simple and everything is quintessentially American.” —Jenn Louis ’93
After almost two decades with an investment company, Jay Barnes ’83 cast everything aside to begin the LiveCooler Foundation, a nonprofit that donates energy-efficient light bulbs to low-income families.

“I was increasingly restless. I shocked everyone, thinking ‘I need to leave and do something else.’”

Through LiveCooler, Barnes purchases energy-saving bulbs and coordinates with nonprofit housing organizations to install them. They decrease electricity use by 26 percent, families save money and the atmosphere is spared carbon dioxide.

“Even if you’re a cynic, you can still see that this low-income family is getting a reduction in their electricity bill,” said Barnes. So far, LiveCooler has helped about 1,500 families, primarily in New England and Washington, D.C. Recently, a Boston radio station donated funds to purchase and install 6,000 bulbs to neutralize the impact of vehicles traveling to a concert it sponsored. Barnes’s organization also partnered with the Massachusetts Democratic Party to offset emissions from delegate travel to the national convention.

Though Barnes feels the crunch of choosing social responsibility over a corporate salary, especially with two young children, he doesn’t regret his decision. “At Pitzer, the education you receive is by no means ‘go out into the world and maintain the status quo.’ I’m finally tapping into the training I received,” Barnes said.

—Brenda Bolinger
Ali Hangan ’97 attended four high schools before dropping out and leaving home at 16. He later took the GED and joined the U.S. Army. “I was sort of a wayward teen,” said Hangan. “So it’s an irony that I became a teacher.”

During his service in the Army, Hangan’s father mailed him a copy of Frederick Douglass’s My Bondage and My Freedom, and he was moved to turn his life around. “That story really spoke to me,” he said. “If this person could be a slave and become a statesman, then I could be a dropout and become successful.”

Hangan’s father, Clabe, was the first in a family of sharecroppers to graduate from high school, and he later earned a degree from the University of Redlands. He helped desegregate San Bernardino schools—he founded a Freedom School as an alternative to the public schools. The school district, needing state funds for the absent students, integrated the schools.

Hangan followed his sister, Margaret ’89, to Pitzer. He said faculty members like Judith Grabiner, Alan Jones, Rick Worthington and Trevor Campbell encouraged him to explore ideas and improve his writing.

To honor his father, Hangan co-founded the Clabe Hangan Institute for Young Scholars at Simona Middle School in Pomona to help close the achievement gap for African American students. “They’ve taught us that no matter what race you are, you can accomplish what you want,” said Maxine “Max” Ledet, an eighth-grader.

“Pitzer is progressive,” said Hangan. “The school is about trying to make humanity better. You have an environment that nurtures you.”

—Jill Walker Robinson

“I was a wayward teen. It’s an irony that I became a teacher.”
They’re probably off curing cancer somewhere,” is often said of promising science students, but how many truly are on that path? Evan Kroh ’05 and Patrick Mitchell ’06, former Pitzer roommates, perform research at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. They recently coauthored an article published in an academic journal—the findings on blood-based cancer detection are considered important to the scientific community.

Mitchell attributes his recent accomplishments to his hands-on undergraduate experience. “The Joint Science Center is unique—it prepares aspiring scientists to work in actual research labs. I work side-by-side with PhD’s and I never feel intimidated,” he said. While at Pitzer, Mitchell also spent a summer researching at Stanford University. He now plans to earn a PhD and hopes to study infectious diseases in less developed countries.

Kroh is currently studying for the MCAT exam and will focus on traditional Chinese medicine and osteopathy. “I’m open to working anywhere in the world as long as I know that my efforts can have a genuine impact on people’s lives,” Mitchell said.

—Liz Hedrick ’09

“My efforts can have a genuine impact on people’s lives.” —Patrick Mitchell ’06
Class Notes

Share your accomplishments and milestones. Send them to alumni@pitzer.edu or Pitzer College, Office of Alumni Relations, 1050 North Mills Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711-6101. They may be edited for content and length.

1960s

'68 Marsha Tadano Long (Olympia, WA) and her husband Andrew (CMC ’68) moved to Carmel from Fresno. Their daughter lives in the Bay Area and their two sons live in Los Angeles: Mark (CMC ’99) and Adam (CMC ’01). They will become grandparents in November.

'69 Judy Tresas (Irvine, CA) is the new president of the Pacific Sociological Association, a professional society with 1,100 members.

1970s

'74 Susan Valdez (Chula Vista, CA) remarried and, through her husband, became an “instant grandmother.” Her other activities include teaching ESL and editing a British middle school textbook series.

'75 Daniel Donnan (New York, NY) tells us it was only yesterday that he was standing in the sun, wearing his cap and gown—and wondering what he was going to do next. Now he has a 19-year-old daughter attending the New School.

1980s

'80 Melissa Gates Claman (New York, NY) and Lisa Zito Baker ’83 (Alachua, FL) reunited to travel to Norway and Sweden. Melissa and her husband have two children and she is a part-time attorney. Lisa lives with her husband and is a writer and activist.

'81 Nancy Longatan (Bacolod, Philippines) lived in various rural areas in North Luzon and recently settled in Bacolod. She teaches an online class in cross-cultural communications. Visit her Web site: livingabroad.onlinelcasses.com.

'83 Shawn A. Coleman (Granada Park, CA) is an environmental scientist who has engaged in sustainable business practices for 20 years.

1990s

'91 Bryan Gibb (Washington, D.C.) is the director of education for the Association for Financial Professionals. He earned an MBA from George Washington University. He regularly spends time with Stephen Dignan ’91 and Seth Leibsohn ’91. Gibb is on the Pitzer Alumni Board and a fundraiser for the Obama campaign. He encourages his Pitzer friends to contact him when in Washington, D.C.

'93 Graciela Vega-Carabajal (Watsonville, CA) is a girl Graciela and her husband, Javier Carabajal, announce the arrival of their second child, Karliani.

'95 Marc Brody co-founded TheWebbies.com, the first online guide to the best Webisodes on the Internet. Marc is also a member of Pitzer’s Board of Trustees.

2000s

'01 Jennifer Bodine (San Diego, CA) and Nathan Anderson were married on September 27, 2008.

'02 James R. Killigrew (Los Angeles, CA) presented his short film, Manos Partidar, at the Hermosa Beach Shorts Festival. James wrote, directed and starred in the film.

'03 Lindsay Smallwood (Oakland, CA) works with a nonprofit organization that serves adults with developmental disabilities. She recently purchased a home in Oakland, visited with Rebecca House ’03 (formally McPherson/Palmer) and her husband, Joseph Smith, at her home in Portland, OR. Following the initial surprise, a good time was had by all.

'04 Molly Weinstein (Timpe, AZ) is engaged and completing her last year of law school.

'05 Jennie Marble (Chicago, IL) completed her MA and fellowship in speech/language pathology and is working with Jewish Child and Family Services.

'07 Lakshmi Eassey is studying in Germany on a Fulbright Fellowship and was interviewed on German TV on the U.S. elections.

'08 Amy Graner (Los Angeles, CA) teaches in the inner city of Los Angeles and recently married Mike Messina. Amy continues to write and one of her poems was published last year.

'09 Yuki Lin (San Francisco, CA) was selected as a coordinator for international relations for the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program.

'10 Joshua Lipkowitz, a Shakadak Café co-founder, is on a Fulbright Fellowship, working and learning on an organic farm in Brazil.

Jeanne Wachter ’75

President, Pitzer College

Fall 2008
Jose Barriga ’12
Los Angeles, CA

Jose Barriga’s internship application was rejected several times—but he was persistent. “My junior class was involved in LA County’s AIDS Walk.” Barriga said, “I became determined to work for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA), but every time I sent them an application they told me I was too young.”

Finally, after eight months, Barriga earned a position as an APLA intern.

“I participated in group sessions with AIDS patients,” Barriga recalled. “The stories people told were often very personal and intense. It was hard—listening to one heart-breaking story after another.”

Barriga thinks his work for APLA galvanized him to become more involved in AIDS awareness education in Los Angeles.

“At Pitzer, I’m determined to continue with this type of work. I chose Pitzer because of its dedication to social responsibility, and helping my community is truly what I love to do,” Barriga said.

—Liz Hedrick ’09

Rmax Goodwin ’12
Los Angeles, CA

Rmax Goodwin used misdirection and deception to get into Pitzer College. A magician, he employed his heightened perception of human nature to convince a trusting group that his exceptional powers were reflected not only in his act but also in his intellect.

“I want to pursue the study of magic through philosophy, psychology and anthropology,” he said. “The core of magic is understanding people and how they think.”

Rmax has been performing magic in Hollywood for three years and is proud of never using “fake” equipment. “I like to deceive my audience in an honest way,” he said.

At 15, Rmax was accepted to perform with Hollywood’s Magic Castle Junior Program. He was among 12 selected to perform in their Future Stars of Magic Week.

A “close-up” magician, Rmax performs tricks right in front of his audience. “What the eyes see and the ears hear, the mind believes. It’s wonderful to know that I’ve not only fooled but also entertained my audience.”

—Liz Hedrick ’09

“The core of magic is understanding people and how they think.”

“It was hard—listening to one heart-breaking story after another.”
The summer after high school graduation, Lindon Pronto helped contain a raging wildfire near Reno as a member of a wildland firefighting hand crew. “It was probably the most intense experience of my life,” Pronto recalled. “I joined an understaffed crew. At one point there was a wall of flames on three sides and a cliff on the other. I worked 40 hours straight.”

Pronto earned basic fire certifications while in high school and spent his gap year fighting fires in California, Utah and Nevada. He was almost always the youngest in his crew. Despite grueling night shifts, harsh conditions, relentless hikes into fire zones and life-threatening experiences, Pronto will continue to take courses so he can earn a spot in a type-1 (“hotshot”) hand crew. “They are the most respected and physically fit firefighters,” Pronto said. He will do this in addition to his environmental studies coursework at Pitzer.

“Ultimately, I want to work as a sustainability consultant, so my real-world experience combined with my studies at Pitzer will be invaluable,” Pronto said.

—Liz Hedrick ’09

In a rowdy, smoke-filled pub in Ireland, a ten-year-old Shannon McCarthy bravely donned her hardshoes, stepped on stage and began the traditional Irish step-dance. Shannon began practicing and performing Irish step-dance when she was nine, dancing competitively in both hard-shoe and soft-shoe style dancing. Shannon would dance side by side with a competitor, performing the reel, treble jig, hornpipe or slip jig. “There was no way to be distracted by the other girl,” Shannon said. “When I danced, I was in a different world. As soon as the music started I was in the zone.”

No longer a competitive dancer, Shannon misses the friendly rivalry. She looks forward to debates at Pitzer with people she knows will remain friends despite their different opinions. Shannon is also excited to teach steps to anyone at Pitzer who wants to learn.

“There’s nothing for me like hearing an Irish reel and knowing exactly what to do with my feet,” Shannon said. “I hope that everyone can be part of a similar experience.”

—Liz Hedrick ’09

Shannon McCarthy ’12
Seattle, WA

Lindon Pronto ’12
Auburn, CA

“I joined an understaffed crew. At one point there was a wall of flames on three sides and a cliff on the other.”

“There was a wall of flames on three sides and a cliff on the other.”
Look inside Priya Saxena’s medicine cabinet. You will not find Tylenol or Advil. You will find brightly colored spices—homeopathic remedies she believes are as effective today as they were for her Indian ancestors.

Priya is a future member of Pitzer’s linkage program with Western University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine—she will study full-time at Pitzer for three years, and continue at Western University’s medical school for four years.

“I always knew I wanted to go into healthcare,” Priya said. “But it wasn’t until recently that I decided to be a doctor of osteopathy rather than a medical doctor. I like that osteopaths look at patients as whole people rather than just symptoms,” Priya said. Doctors of osteopathy are certified doctors who practice with a non-Western philosophy.

In her pursuit of a medical degree, Priya shadowed a dentist, a pediatrician and a heart surgeon. “I thought what the cardiac surgeon did everyday was phenomenal,” she said. “But I could never see something so profound as routine the way he did. I want to have real relationships with my patients, I’m going into medicine not only to make people better, but also to make them happy. That’s what healthcare should be about.”

—Liz Hedrick ’09

Lynn Rampe graduated from high school a semester early, and headed off to a gap year in Argentina.

“I was adopted from Brazil, but grew up in Maine and always wanted to travel in South America.”

Traveling on an American Field Service Scholarship, Lynn’s studies were conducted in Spanish, and her program included homestays. Her experience with one was eye-opening.

“My host mother was very traditional,” Lynn said. “She didn’t believe that women should have the same status as men even though she was the head of her household.” Despite her frustration, Lynn was sensitive to the differences between her upbringing and her host mother’s beliefs.

“I learned to pick my battles,” Lynn said. “Sometimes I asked my female Argentinian friends why they couldn’t go to college. Other times I didn’t interfere because I knew there was nothing I could do.”

At Pitzer, Lynn wants to study international relations and is most excited about the opportunity to study abroad again—this time in France, Indonesia or Japan.

“After my time in Argentina, I realize Americans believe what works here will work everywhere else. Now I know that’s just not true.”

—Liz Hedrick ’09

“I learned to pick my battles.”

“I want to have real relationships with my patients.”
Miriam Stiefel is a vegan and a boxer. Miriam began boxing to get in shape, but quickly developed a passion for the sport. At 17, she joined the USA Boxing Association and adopted a rigorous daily regimen to prepare for competitions.

“I often get into this out-of-body mode when I box,” she said. “I get a huge adrenaline rush when I know that I have to either duck or punch to avoid a broken nose.”

Miriam attributes much of her personal development to her training. “Boxing has allowed me to focus not only on fitness, but also on endurance and posture,” she said. “It has given me self-confidence and allowed me to come out of my shell.”

Of Pitzer, Miriam says, “I’m especially excited to do one-on-one independent studies with professors.” Miriam’s professors need not fear—outside the ring, Miriam is humble and introspective. “I like knowing that I’m strong and can defend myself,” she said. “But I hope that I’ll never have to use my boxing skills in real life.”

—Liz Hedrick '09

As a runner for NBC’s Today Show during the Beijing Olympics, Justin Spitzer incurred the icy stare of American gymnast Nastia Liukin and watched American soccer fans flood the field after the team’s gold-winning victory over Brazil.

Spitzer’s stint at NBC followed his gap year in China where he worked for a company that specializes in skateboarding and snowboarding—two of his own passions.

Born in Hong Kong, Spitzer lived in Singapore and mainland China, and moved to California at 14 to attend boarding school.

Spitzer’s experience in China solidified his goal of going into business in southeast Asia. It also inspired him to design his major—international economics with an emphasis on China.

“My job with NBC assured me that if I suddenly had to leave college, I could support myself,” Spitzer said. “It’s wonderful to be back in a college community, but it’s also comforting to know that I’m capable of surviving in the world.”

—Liz Hedrick '09

“It’s comforting to know that I’m capable of surviving in the world.”

“It’s comforting to know that I’m capable of surviving in the world.”

—Liz Hedrick '09

Justin Spitzer ’12
Shanghai, China and San Francisco, CA

Miriam Stiefel ’12
Bothell, WA
Pitzer Alumni College Abroad

Pitzer will plant its first Alumni College Abroad program at the Firestone Center in Costa Rica, March 8-14, 2009. Alums will participate in upgrading the seedling nursery, monitoring bamboo growth, deciphering symbols on petroglyphs, touring the mangroves by boat, zip lining through the rain forest next to toucans and watching the sun set over the Pacific. Register by December 1, 2008 at www.pitzer.edu/gateway/alumni/CRTrip.

Pitzer Study Abroad Collaborates with Claremont Colleges

The Tropical Restoration Ecology Program, a project of Pitzer’s Firestone Center in Costa Rica, is working with Harvey Mudd and Pomona Colleges to design, build, deliver and install a wind turbine. Designed and built by the Global Engineering Clinic at Harvey Mudd College, the turbine will be transported to Costa Rica with the inaugural Alumni College Abroad program in March 2009.

Additionally, three Claremont professors joined the Costa Rica program—Rick Hazlett and Juan Araya of Pomona College, and Paul Steinberg of Harvey Mudd College. They will work with Paul Faulstich, Melinda Herrold-Menzies, Donald McFarlane, Cheryl Baduini and Alvaro Redondo Brenes of Pitzer College as regular teaching or research faculty.

Study Abroad Updates

- Pitzer adds to its 35 study abroad opportunities: Lingnan University, Hong Kong and Singapore Management University.
- In Fall 2008, Pitzer College launched its first faculty-to-faculty exchange. Professor Siegmar Schmidt from the University of Koblenz-Landau and Professor Nigel Boyle from Pitzer traded jobs, houses and even cars!
- Pedro Morquera from Spain is at Pitzer to do graduate level study in sociolinguistics in collaboration with Professor Carmen Fought.
- Mathias Purr from Germany joins the Pitzer community thanks to Pitzer’s exchange program with the University of Koblenz-Landau.
- Pitzer College will host its first Lingnan Foundation Scholar in spring 2009. Professor Karen Yu will study Pitzer’s successful approach to intercultural education under the mentorship of Carol Brandt, vice president for international programs and fellowships.

Seventy-two percent of Pitzer’s class of 2009 will have studied abroad, compared to about 2 percent nationally.
Pitzer College

Congratulates Its Student and Alumni Award-Winners

2008 Fulbright Fellows

In 2008, Pitzer College received more Fulbright Fellowships per capita than any other college or university in the U.S.

- Betty Avila ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Italy

- Kirsten Brewer ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea
  Study Abroad: Spain

- Holly Carpenter ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to Thailand

- Dan Chinburg ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Ecuador

- Lakshmi Eassey ’07
  English Teaching Assistantship to Germany
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Botswana

- Matt Kane ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Botswana

- Josh Lipkowitz ’08
  Research Award to Romania
  Study Abroad: Brazil

- Courtney Moffet-Batteau ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to Germany

- Lan Nguyen ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to Andorra
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Ecuador
  Costa Rica Summer Health Program

- Mauricio Pantoja ’08
  Becario Fulbright-García Robles del Programa de Negocios Binacionales Generación in Mexico
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Italy

- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
  Mary Munoz ’10
  Claudia Sandoval ’10
  Sappho Su ’10

- Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs
  Sara Faroqhi ’08

- European Union Center of California Scholarship
  Yogi Canay ’09
  Alexandra Carwell Engle ’09
  Christopher Castaneda ’08
  Samuel Jubelirer ’09

- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship
  Ruth Arviso ’08

- Kemper Scholarship
  Asia Bennett ’11

- Neuroscience Fellowship
  Allison Sargy ’07
  Aimee Zisner ’10

- Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Fellow
  Mariko Ferronato ’07

- Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship
  Shatara Ford ’09
  Kevin Shih ’09

- Ronald E. McNair Scholarship
  Fernando Caderon ’09

- Britanny Ekile ’10
  Christian Lopez ’10
  Liliana Sanchez ’09
  Elizabeth Williams ’10

- Rotary Ambassadorsial Scholarship
  Milan Burke ’08
  Patrick Leue ’08
  Leah Newman ’08

- Thomas J. Watson Fellowship
  Adam Forbes ’08

2008 Fellowships & Scholarships

- Erika Echeverri ’08
- European Union Center of California Scholarship

- European Union Center of California Scholarship
  Yogi Canay ’09
  Alexandra Carwell Engle ’09
  Christopher Castaneda ’08
  Samuel Jubelirer ’09

- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship
  Ruth Arviso ’08

- Kemper Scholarship
  Asia Bennett ’11

- Neuroscience Fellowship
  Allison Sargy ’07
  Aimee Zisner ’10

- Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Fellow
  Mariko Ferronato ’07

- Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship
  Shatara Ford ’09
  Kevin Shih ’09

- Ronald E. McNair Scholarship
  Fernando Caderon ’09

- Britanny Ekile ’10
  Christian Lopez ’10
  Liliana Sanchez ’09
  Elizabeth Williams ’10

- Rotary Ambassadorsial Scholarship
  Milan Burke ’08
  Patrick Leue ’08
  Leah Newman ’08

- Thomas J. Watson Fellowship
  Adam Forbes ’08

In 2008, Pitzer College received more Fulbright Fellowships per capita than any other college or university in the U.S.

- Betty Avila ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Italy

- Kirsten Brewer ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea
  Study Abroad: Spain

- Holly Carpenter ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to Thailand

- Dan Chinburg ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Ecuador

- Lakshmi Eassey ’07
  English Teaching Assistantship to Germany
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Botswana
  Pitzer Exchange in England

- Matt Kane ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Botswana

- Josh Lipkowitz ’08
  Research Award to Romania
  Study Abroad: Brazil

- Courtney Moffet-Batteau ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to Germany

- Lan Nguyen ’08
  English Teaching Assistantship to Andorra
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Ecuador
  Costa Rica Summer Health Program

- Mauricio Pantoja ’08
  Becario Fulbright-García Robles del Programa de Negocios Binacionales Generación in Mexico
  Study Abroad: Pitzer in Italy

- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
  Mary Munoz ’10
  Claudia Sandoval ’10
  Sappho Su ’10

- Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs
  Sara Faroqhi ’08

- European Union Center of California Scholarship
  Yogi Canay ’09
  Alexandra Carwell Engle ’09
  Christopher Castaneda ’08
  Samuel Jubelirer ’09

- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship
  Ruth Arviso ’08

- Kemper Scholarship
  Asia Bennett ’11

- Neuroscience Fellowship
  Allison Sargy ’07
  Aimee Zisner ’10

- Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Fellow
  Mariko Ferronato ’07

- Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship
  Shatara Ford ’09
  Kevin Shih ’09

- Ronald E. McNair Scholarship
  Fernando Caderon ’09

- Britanny Ekile ’10
  Christian Lopez ’10
  Liliana Sanchez ’09
  Elizabeth Williams ’10

- Rotary Ambassadorsial Scholarship
  Milan Burke ’08
  Patrick Leue ’08
  Leah Newman ’08

- Thomas J. Watson Fellowship
  Adam Forbes ’08
2007-08: A Winning Year for Sagehens

Water Polo  
- Women’s team won second straight Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Championship and ranked first in division
- Men’s team won SCIAC for the first time since 1980

Tennis  
- Women’s team won SCIAC Tournament; finished fourth in NCAA Team Championships

Soccer  
- Women’s team ranked fifth in SCIAC
- Men’s team ranked sixth in conference

Track & Field  
- Women’s team finished fifth in SCIAC

Cross Country  
- Men’s team tied for third in conference

Softball  
- Women’s team finished with 21 wins, the most in program’s history

Golf  
- Men’s team had best finish in 10 years

What’s New On Campus?

Scott Hall Lawn Landscape Renovation  
As part of Pitzer College’s commitment to creating a more sustainable campus, the lawn in front of Scott Hall is being replaced with drought tolerant plants arranged to showcase California’s native habitats and plant communities. This project was initiated by students in 2007 and is being implemented by students in the Eco-Logical Landscaping class this year.

McConnell West Entry  
A new entry to McConnell Center opened in October 2008. It provides a new circulation scheme, simplified pedestrian access and increased ADA accessibility to the building. The new area visually highlights the building entry, provides new seating and uses drought tolerant plants and materials more suited to Pitzer’s locale and environment.

New Bike Racks  
In response to student calls for more bike parking on campus, Pitzer recently added 40 new bike racks to accommodate up to 80 bikes, located near Mead Hall, Holden Hall and Sanborn Hall. By the end of 2008, an additional 40 racks will be purchased and installed as well.

Old Sanborn Hall Demolition  
On July 3, 2008, Sanborn Hall was demolished. The residences lost in the demolition were replaced by the rooms in Pitzer’s three new Gold LEED-Certified halls, opened in 2007.
Faculty Publications


Professor Paul Faustich, environmental studies, published "The Fine Art of Doodling" in Rock Art Research.

Visiting Assistant Professor Dawn M. Kaufman, joint science department, co-authored "Changes in Ecosystem Function Due to Extreme Rainfall Events in Grassland: Implications for Responses to Climate Change" in Global Change Biology.

Assistant Professor Brinda Sarathy, environmental studies & international/intercultural studies, co-edited Partnerships for Empowerment: Participatory Research for Community-Based Natural Resource Management. She authored "The Marginalization of Pineiros in the Pacific Northwest" published in Society and Nature Resources. She co-authored "Guest Workers or Unauthorized Immigrants?" in Policy Sciences.


Professor Albert Wachtel, creative studies, authored "Against Entropy: Baseball, Art and Life" in the Huntington Beach Art Center Catalog.

Associate Professor Andre Wakefield, history, published "The Fiscal Logic of Enlightened German Science" in Knowledge and Its Making in Early Modern Europe.

Associate Professor Emily Wiley, joint science department, co-authored Current Protocols: Essential Laboratory Techniques.

Assistant Professor Kathleen Yep, sociology and Asian American studies, published Dragon’s Child: A Story of Angel Island.

Professor Phil Zuckerman, sociology, was quoted in the New York Public Library’s 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing.

Faculty Recognition

Assistant Professor Brent Armandinger, English and world literature, curated Marginal Bodies: Illness, Disability and Queer Community at the 2008 National Queer Arts Festival.

Visiting Instructor Martha Barcenas, Spanish, presented "Indigenous Literatures and Pedagogies: Nahual and Mayan Epistemologies, Oral Wisdom Traditions and Eco-Narratives" at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Conference.

Professor Nigel Boyle, Peter and Gloria Gold Professor of Political Studies, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Germany. He is teaching comparative politics and researching the Hartz labor market reforms. He was quoted in a German newspaper on the U.S. elections.

Professor José Zapatá Calderón, sociology and Chicano studies, received a renewal of a Partnership in Service Learning Grant from the Glikbarg Foundation. He was named to the Program Committee for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Assistant Professor Philip Zuckerman, sociology, was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship for her work to reform indigent defense, reduce juvenile incarceration and improve prison conditions.

Professor Claudia Strauss, anthropology, gave a talk “A (Mostly) Baedekerian Analysis of U.S. Immigration Discourses” at the Third Annual Language, Culture and Mind Conference in Denmark.

Professor Dana Ward, political studies, presented a paper, “Alchemy in Clairens: Kropotkin and Pirsch and the Origins of Anarcho-Communism,” at the Third International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Prato, Italy. He also chaired a panel on anarchist pedagogy at the First Anarchist Studies Network Conference at Loughborough University, UK. Panel participants included Pitzer students Quinn Casal, Brian Orser and Zak Hoyt.

Professor Linus Yamane, economics and Asian American studies, presented “Asian Americans, Glass Ceilings and PhDs” at the 2008 Western Economic Association Meeting.

Assistant Professor Melinda Herrold-Menzie, environmental studies, was quoted in Alcance: Kropotkin and Pirsch and the Origins of Anarcho-Communism, at the Third International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Prato, Italy. He also chaired a panel on anarchist pedagogy at the First Anarchist Studies Network Conference at Loughborough University, UK. Panel participants included Pitzer students Quinn Casal, Brian Orser and Zak Hoyt.

Professor Philip Zuckerman, sociology, was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship for her work to reform indigent defense, reduce juvenile incarceration and improve prison conditions.

Assistant Professor Susan Phillips, environmental studies, was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship for her work to reform indigent defense, reduce juvenile incarceration and improve prison conditions.

Professor Judith Grabiner, history and philosophy, presented "The Intellectual's Ethos" at the New York Public Library's 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing.

Assistant Professor Annie’s War

Assistant Professor Kathleen Yep, sociology and Asian American studies, was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship for her work to reform indigent defense, reduce juvenile incarceration and improve prison conditions.

Professor Claudia Strauss, anthropology, was quoted in the New York Public Library’s 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing.

Professor Judith Grabiner, history and philosophy, presented "The Intellectual’s Ethos" at the New York Public Library’s 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing.

Society without God by Professor Phil Zuckerman, sociology, was reviewed on Salon.com and Slate.com.

Associate Professor Jesse Lerner, media studies, published “Delinquent Barards: The Films of Jesse Lerner” at the Anthology Film Archives in New York, N.Y.

Writing Center Founder and Director Jackie Levering-Sullivan was chosen for the 2009 Kentucky Bluegrass Awards Master List for her book Annie’s War.
Meet New Faculty Members

Alicia Bonaparte has a PhD and MA from Vanderbilt University and a BA from Spelman College. She received several awards, including a Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship, a Dissertation Enhancement Award and the Vanderbilt Interdisciplinary Community Health Fellowship.

Bonaparte’s current working papers are: “The Impact, Origins and Socioreligious Beliefs of Granny Midwives on South Carolina Plantations” and “Efficacy of the Village Birthing Project.” She recently presented “Medicalizing Birth and De-Legitimizing Granny Midwives: Physicians’ Usage of Opinions to Establish Authoritative Knowledge in Birthing Work” at the 2008 Midwest Sociological Society Meeting. Previous to joining Pitzer College, Bonaparte taught at Augusta State University, Vanderbilt University, Volunteer State Community College and Tennessee State University.

On her work at Pitzer, Bonaparte said, “I look forward to being able to have an active pedagogy so that students and I can collaboratively learn together.”

Brinda Sarathy has a PhD and MA in environmental science, policy and management from the University of California, Berkeley and a BA from McGill University. She received a postdoctoral fellowship from the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States. Sarathy won a number of awards including the Morris K. Udall Dissertation Fellowship, Ford Community Forestry Fellowship, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship and a Human Rights Fellowship.


Of joining Pitzer College, Sarathy said, “I’m excited to be here! I especially look forward to being able to have an active pedagogy so that students and I can collaboratively learn together.”

Brent Armendinger has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Michigan, where he received an Avery Hopwood Award and the Michael R. Gutterman Poetry Prize. He completed his undergraduate work in literature and multi-ethnic studies at Bard College.

His chapbook, Archipelago, is forthcoming from Newm Press. Recent poems have appeared in The Diagram, Cut Bank, Fourteen Hills and Pantheon West Review. Armendinger comes to Pitzer from San Francisco, where he was a featured poet at several reading series. He also curated a symposium at the 2008 National Queer Arts Festival: Marginal Bodies: Illness, Disability and Queer Community.

Armendinger’s current projects include a book-length manuscript, Ghost Maps, and a collection of text and image collaborations with the artist Benjamin Fife. He is also beginning a series of poems composed on the inside of store-front windows.

Armendinger previously taught at the University of Michigan, City College of San Francisco and New College of California. He looks forward to working with Pitzer students, saying, “Our students are independent thinkers, and the risks they take in their writing nourishes my own. I treat them seriously as artists and intellectuals.”

Timothy Berg holds a BFA, magna cum laude, from the University of Colorado and an MFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. He has received numerous awards, including two Colorado Council on the Arts Grants, a Bemis Center for Contemporary Art Residency and a Project Grant from the Aesthetic Technologies Lab. Berg will present a paper at the College Art Association Conference in the spring.

Berg has exhibited his works nationally and internationally, including in Dubai, Sweden, Denver, Miami, New Orleans, Philadelphia and New York City. His sculpture, Tip of the Iceberg (Precious Cubes) was recently exhibited in New York, his solo show, All good things..., opened in New York City in November and he exhibits in Miami in December.

Berg previously held positions at Louisiana State University and Ohio University. Of Pitzer, Berg says, “I most look forward to working with Pitzer students. I have been very impressed with them.”
The greatest pleasure I have as president of Pitzer College is the ability to say YES.

The reason I am able to say YES to our students is because of contributions to our Annual Fund where every dollar raised goes to support the transformational education students receive at Pitzer College.

Provida Futuri,
Laura Skandera Trombley, President

The Annual Fund relies on support from the entire Pitzer community. With our shared advocacy and support, together we will continue, in the words of Pitzer’s Founding President John Atherton, “to change the universe.”

Make your 2008-2009 Annual Fund contribution today.
Please visit www.pitzer.edu/fall2008.
In 2008, Pitzer College received more Fulbright fellowships per capita than any other college or university in the U.S.