The Participant

Fall 2009

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The diverse opinions expressed in The Participant are those of the individual profilees and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors or the College administration.

The Participant welcomes comments from its readers.

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.

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2009-10 pitzer events

Nov 2009
Alumni Association Reception & Museum Tour California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco
Changemakers: Navigating Contested Perspectives on Social Responsibility Pitzer College
Chicana/Latino Parents Reception Pitzer College
Sagehen Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Reception Pitzer College
Stick-Tree Planting Ceremony Pitzer College

Dec 2009
An Afternoon at Street Restaurant with Susan Feniger ’76, Celebrity Chef Los Angeles, CA
My Name is Spinoza Art Event Pitzer College
Pitzer College on the Road Parent Reception Chicago, IL
Pitzer College on the Road Parent Reception Seattle, WA

Jan 2010
Capitalism in Question (because it is) Opening Pitzer College
Donor Appreciation Reception Pitzer College
Localização, Localización, Ubicación Opening Pitzer College

Feb 2010
Family Weekend Pitzer College
Pitzer Mixer Pitzer College
Panel Discussion: Capitalism in Question (because it is) Pitzer College

March 2010
Alumni Abroad Trip Pitzer Freestone Center, Costa Rica
Center for Social Inquiry: Ching Kwan Lee, Author of Gender and the South China Miracle, and Marshall Sahlins, Author of Apologies to Thucydides Pitzer College
Chicana/Latino Student Scholarship Benefit Los Angeles, CA
Griffith Observatory Tour for Alumni, Parents & Friends Los Angeles, CA
The George C.S. Benson Auditorium Opening and Dedication Pitzer College
Stephen and Sandra Glass Lecture Pitzer College
GOLD Alumni Rooftop Reception Los Angeles, CA

April 2010
Center for Social Inquiry: Juliet Szecht, Author of Born to Buy Pitzer College
Center for Social Inquiry: J. Phillip Thompson, Author of Double Double: Black Mayers, Black Communities & the Struggle for a Deep Democracy Pitzer College
Claremont Colleges Young Alumni Happy Hours Worldwide Meeting of Minds Show and Reception Pitzer College
Murray and Vicki Pepper Lecture Pitzer College
President’s Council Reception Pitzer College

May 2010
Commencement Pitzer College
Donor Recognition Reception Pitzer College
President’s Reception at Telluride Mountain Film Festival Telluride, CO

June 2010
Alumni Reunion Weekend Pitzer College

Fall 2009

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Pitzer College thanks Board of Trustees members for their service.

A Fish Story

Last summer I went fishing.

But this was no ordinary fishing trip for me. It was a very different sort, a kind I had never previously done, a kind, in fact, that I thought I would never do. It was fly-fishing with professionals—one of them, my host, a major donor to the College—for wild Atlantic salmon in New Brunswick, Canada.

While I looked forward to the trip, I was concerned about my ability to actually successfully catch a salmon. After all, I was the guest of this donor, who had made all the arrangements. Determined not to disappoint, I spent the next fourteen hours (literally sunrise to sunset) standing in a canoe casting, casting, casting, stripping the line. Intensely focused for hours upon hours of casting, mending and stripping, just before dusk I caught a twelve-pound salmon. I watched as my fish arced over the water, I reeled it in, gazed upon it for fifteen seconds, then released it back into the Ristigouche. As I watched my fish shimmy upstream, my immediate thought was satisfaction that I had successfully accomplished what I had come to do. Then, holding my aching arm and looking at my blistered hand, I thought wearily about the next two days.

Yet setting out the next morning, for the first time on the trip, I began to more fully appreciate my surroundings: the azure sky, verdant forest, glittering river, eagles soaring overhead. I realized how little I had observed the previous two days while focused exclusively on competing with myself to catch a fish. I began to relax. My arms stopped aching, my thoughts turned to the beauty around you. I leave you with the greeting our guides offered every morning, “Tight lines. Tight lines.”

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I and that you continue to remain inspired by the importance of the intellectual and artistic journey.

Laura Skandera Trombley
President
Matt Nathanson ’95

“Music is never work—it is constant inspiration.”

Matt Nathanson ’95 released his first album, Please, as a junior at Pitzer. His sixth album, Some Mad Hope, recently produced the chart-topping singles “Come On Get Higher” and “Falling Apart.”

The singer-songwriter performed on Late Night with Conan O’Brien, The Late Show with David Letterman and Ellen, among other programs, and his songs were featured on NCIS, One Tree Hill and Scrubs.

The Massachusetts native has toured non-stop for the last decade, but says, “I absolutely love it. There have been some transcendent shows. Even though it seems like I work all the time, music is never work—it is constant inspiration.”

Nathanson attributes much of his artistic growth to Pitzer: “College was definitely the most fertile time for me. Where else could I design an independent study analyzing Bob Dylan and Lou Reed lyrics? I had such a strong support network at Pitzer.”

While at Pitzer, Nathanson also launched two successful long-term collaborations—with Mark Weinberg, his songwriting partner, and Bridget ’94, his wife.

On the road for two years straight, Nathanson wraps up his tour in Australia this fall. He looks forward to doing nothing except taking long walks with Bridget.

—Liz Hedrick ’09
Long before hundreds competed to be on *The Next Food Network Star* or *Top Chef*, Susan Feniger ’76 appeared on *Too Hot Tamales* and *Tamales World Tour* on The Food Network, with Mary Sue Milliken, her business partner.

Feniger received some culinary training while at Pitzer, working as a chef in McConnell Dining Hall. “Days flew by when I was cooking,” Feniger recalled. “It didn’t even feel like work.” She enjoyed it so much, she designed an independent study, spending her final semester at the Culinary Institute of America.

Following graduation, Feniger worked as a chef and traveled before opening City Café with Milliken in 1981. They later launched Border Grill and Ciudad. Their restaurants are serious about sustainability—they serve only sustainable seafood, offer plant-based dishes and procure local, organic ingredients.

In 1988, Feniger and Milliken founded Cool Comedy—Hot Food, which raises money and awareness for The Scleroderma Research Foundation. Feniger said, “I started this when my closest friend Sharon Monsky ’76 was diagnosed with Scleroderma.” Last year alone, the event raised over $500,000.

Feniger’s most recent accomplishment is Street, her first solo venture. Located in Los Angeles, Street interprets street vendor cuisine, with menu items like mung bean pancakes, Moldavian meatballs and Jerusalem bread salad. A new TV show is also in the works.

At home, Feniger cooks simply, visiting the farmer’s market for fresh ingredients. Her favorite thing to make? A cocktail!

—Liz Hedrick ’09
Combining her two passions—sustainability and design—Pitzer College 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient Nancy Judd ’90 created Recycle Runway, a company dedicated to creating fashion from trash.

Using materials like phonebook pages, crushed glass and fish scales, Judd assembles evening gowns and cocktail dresses that look as if they belong on a runway. “By making garbage beautiful, glamorous and sexy, I invite people to redefine their definitions of trash,” Judd said. “I strive to transform the concept of ‘waste’ into ‘resource.’”

Judd’s environmental focus was evident while she was at Pitzer. She organized a campus-wide recycling program, which later spread to the Claremont University Center and then to the City of Claremont.

Judd founded Recycle Runway seven years ago while the recycling coordinator for the City of Santa Fe. In 2007, Judd launched “The Airport Project,” which showcases her designs in busy US airports. In 2008, Judd created six dresses from discarded Obama campaign materials, which were exhibited at the Green Inaugural Ball. “The highlight is my ‘ObamaNo Coat,’ made from door-hangers,” she said. “It was on the front page of the Wall Street Journal and the Smithsonian is interested in it for their permanent collection.”

Judd recognizes that art alone will not change habits, but notes, “People need numerous exposures before they start to act differently. I believe that my artwork is one sign-post along the way.”

—Liz Hedrick ’09

Tim Schifter ’80

Tim Schifter ’80 is chair and CEO of Schifter + Partners, an accessories company he founded with Gwen Stefani, singer, songwriter and member of rock band No Doubt.

Following his graduation from Pitzer, Schifter started his fashion career at LeSportsac, which was founded by his father. He took the reins when his father retired, and grew LeSportsac into a $100 million company. Following its sale in 2006, he founded Schifter + Partners with Stefani.

It was at Pitzer that Schifter became interested in the business of fashion. He studied in Rome and observed, “I always appreciated fashion, but experiencing the Italian passion for great design brought it home for me on a large and profound scale.”

A husband, father and executive, Schifter says that his personal and professional lives are inseparable—both are centered around his love of art, culture and new experiences: “To be successful, you have to have a passion for what you do. As a father, I believe that the best thing I can do for my daughter is to introduce her to new experiences and people who excel at what they do.”

—Liz Hedrick ’09
Last year, Travis Adam Wright ’93 found his career at a crossroads. His Eagle Eye screenplay would later be produced and gross over $100 million, but the grinding Writers’ Guild strike led him to retrench. He opened his own publishing company, Beyond Comics, and taught himself illustration.

Wright encourages young artists through color-your-own-comic competitions, recalling something he learned at Pitzer: “Anyone can write, anyone can draw, anyone can do art.” Wright’s commitment to other artists led him to help found the Writers’ Guild American Indian Writers Committee. Part Cherokee, he hopes to ensure that American Indians are authentically represented.

At Pitzer, Wright helped found La Revue Illustrée and used his independent study projects “to delve into something and create a project out of it,” which serves him well as a writer and business owner.

Wright is writing a pilot for the Cartoon Network and hopes to write additional screenplays—but his focus will continue to be Beyond Comics. He recently hired Jake Wachtel, who also attended Pitzer, and is finalizing distribution deals in Europe and Asia.

— Carter Rubin ’09

In an out-of-the-way club on a nondescript LA street, Gabe Guerrero ’08, aka Tygerstrype, spins and mixes. Perched above the crowd, the DJ maintains and manipulates the energy.

Guerrero was involved in music while at Pitzer, playing bass with the band he formed with Fred Beebe ’08, Alden Towler ’08 and Matt Kane ’08. Guerrero and Towler also collaborated to found The Shakedown, the student-run organic café in the Gold Student Center.

Guerrero credits his peers and faculty for being positive influences, noting Professor Ntongela Masilela especially, who helped him develop a rigorous academic focus for his artistic interests, which ultimately took the form of a self-designed major, Collective Cultures of Music. Also while at Pitzer, Guerrero studied with the Pitzer in Darjeeling Program.

In addition to his DJ duties, Guerrero composes his own music—his current work blends sounds from a keyboard and vinyl records, combined with spoken word poetry and rap. He hopes to engage the world in a musical conversation—and get people on the dance floor.

— Carter Rubin ’09
Deborah Patton '69

Deborah Patton '69 founded an annual conference, Applied Brilliance, for America's top architects, poets, philosophers, geneticists and futurists. It aims to provide a theoretical foundation on which tangible structures can later be constructed.

"I believe that intellectual endeavors become important only when you ask, 'What does it mean?' and 'Why does it matter?,'" Patton said. "My father brought us up to solve problems," she recalled. "Instead of having normal conversations over dinner, he gave us insufferable logic equations to work out."

An art history major at Pitzer, Patton said, "My job is to help find the bridge between what is beautiful and what is useful. I truly believe that the answers to these questions are hiding in plain sight, but that it is up to holistic thinkers to connect the dots."

—Liz Hedrick '09

Honor Brodie '93

Honor Brodie '93 is the editor in chief of designer Tory Burch's Website and Style Guide.

"When Tory asked me to join her team, I was immediately drawn to it," Brodie said. "I have always been interested in taking fashion writing online."

Following her graduation from Pitzer with a degree in American Studies, Brodie was hired by International Creative Management, the talent agency. She then worked with InStyle magazine, moving up from senior writer to features editor to assistant managing editor. Brodie later took a position with Vanity Fair, where she coordinated the company's annual Oscar party and represented the magazine at all cover shoots.

"I truly believe that my Pitzer education was invaluable," Brody said. "I gained critical skills and it was such a warm, tolerant atmosphere."

Brodie has two young children and is married to John Brodie, editor in chief of Fortune. "Both my work and my family make me happy," Brodie said. "That's the key to doing well at both."

—Liz Hedrick '09

Cellin '80 & Garet '83 Gluck

Cellin '80 and Garet '83 Gluck launched P.I.G., an independent film production company, in 1998. Raised in Japan and Iran, the Gluck brothers attended high school in Canada, learning four languages along the way.

The Glucks were drawn to Pitzer because it could meet their diverse interests—in Cellin's case, engineering and Kabuki theater. "I could build a strong foundation in science and math, and graduate with honors in theater," Cellin noted.

After graduation, Cellin moved to New York City to pursue acting and later earned a degree in French literature from the Sorbonne. Garet followed Cellin to Pitzer, and landed a position with a Japanese television company following his graduation.

The brothers' paths realigned when they began work on the 1998 blockbuster Black Rain, starring Michael Douglas. "When I learned that a high-profile American film was being shot in Japan, I pestered them until they agreed to hire me," Cellin recalled.

Black Rain launched the Glucks' film careers—they worked on movies like Contact with Jodi Foster, Internal Affairs with Andy Garcia and Mr. Baseball with Tom Selleck.

Now in business for over a decade, P.I.G. has thrived, producing a wide range of feature films, documentaries and commercials. Their most recent project is the Japanese version of Sideways, slated for release in Japan in fall 2009.

—Liz Hedrick '09

Save the Date!

Second Annual Alumni Abroad Program
Pitzer College Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology, Costa Rica
March 6-12, 2010
Email jean_grant@pitzer.edu for more information.
Class Notes

1960s

1968
Deborah Deutsch Smith received the 2004 Distinguished Graduate Award from the University of Washington.

1969
Wendy Carroll represents wisdom and wellness publishers and authors, and worked six years serving low income families and seniors.

Sarah Lathrop Dukett has been editor and publisher of a bi-weekly local newspaper for ten years. She also works with Community Harvest, which grows and donates about 40,000 tons of vegetables annually.

Mary Ann Jackson Eger is a marketing/advertising/brand consultant and co-founder of Envision San Diego, a multi-media partnership.

Anita McCann is a fundraiser and serves on the Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival and the Grey Canyon Ranch Campaign Boards.

Judith Jennings Tress is a sociology professor at the University of California Irvine and her book, Dividing the Domestic: Men, Women & Housework in Cross-National Perspective, will be published by Stanford University Press. She was recently quoted in The New York Times.

1970s

1970
Margie Adams Leon is retired and works part-time for California State University Dominguez Hills and for the LA County Office of Education.

Susan Tamehill is an elementary teacher and an artist.

1972
Nancy Bueti retired from a 30-year career in social work and started a business specializing in aesthetic pruning and garden maintenance. She also volunteers at various organizations and schools.

Barbara Davison Lewington runs cross-cultural training programs for Fortune 100 companies.

1973
Linda Spiegel Allen is a program coordinator for The Jewish Chaplaincy at Stanford University Medical Center.

Patience Milrod litigates civil rights, land use and environmental planning cases for plaintiffs and petitioners, and also represents criminal defendants in federal court.

1974
Laura Pérez Raymond is a stay-at-home mom of two sons. She has done research for non-profits and volunteered with student exchange programs and theater groups.

Susan Valdez Schwards is a freelance magazine editor, Spanish tutor and substitute teacher. She also serves on the board of the Olympian High School Parents Association.

1975
Kimberly Wilson Janama directs the French language program at the University of California Los Angeles. Jana Monett is a film and television writer, director and producer.

Char Miller is the director of the environmental analysis program and the WJ. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis at Pomona College.

1978
Deborah Shelton is a health reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

1979
Jokin Schuch has built fine cabinetry and furniture since 1996, and is now focusing on custom kitchen design.

1980s

1980
Cynthia Bettison served as president of the Western New Mexico University Staff Senate and became a town councilor for Silver City. Her sister, Dr. Lori Bettison-Varga, is the new president of Scripps College.

1981
Debra Yang, partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and member of the Pitzer Board of Trustees, was named to the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners.

1983
Brooke Alberts-Gaier plays traditional Irish music and writes CD reviews. She has a teenage daughter and trades arts and crafts around the world.

Marc Augarten retired from career counseling and job development at Cal Poly Pomona. An artist, Augarten has held many gallery shows and writes poetry, memoirs and movie reviews.

Rendi Benitez, a businessman and former investment banker living in Australia and the Philippines, has been active in non-profits and the Jesuit Missions.

Lawrence Jones Gere was a candidate in the 2009 Cleveland mayoral race.

1985
Patti Grunther recently returned to the US after living and working in Italy for over 25 years. She named an MA in linguistics and now teaches Italian.

Rosa Liu Lundborg manages the Office of Special Services at the University of Washington Bothell, overseeing disability support, veteran’s services and immigration issues.

Tamsin Sickinger has been a stay-at-home mom for 16 years and was elected to town government, chaired the Parent Teacher Organization, volunteered with the League of Women Voters and chaired the board of a non-profit academic program.

1987
Karen Labby retired from fashion styling to raise three children and will soon return to work in either gardening or sustainability.

Robert Briones is a clinical psychologist with Student Counseling Services at the University of Southern California. He and his wife have three children.

Leah Messer Diehl is a landscape architect and stay-at-home mother of three. She is also a horticultural therapist and serves as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Therapeutic Horticulture.

1988
With Student Counseling Services at the University of Southern California, He and his wife have three children.

1990s

1991
Patti Grunther

1992
Karen Labby

1993
Robert Briones

1994
Leah Messer Diehl

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.

Reconnect with fellow alumni for a three-day intellectual retreat.

Save the Date / June 11-13, 2010

For more information, contact alumni@pitzer.edu.
In 2008 and 2009, Pitzer received more Fulbrights per capita than any other college or university nationwide.

**Fulbright Fellows**

*Jeffrey Bandler ’09*
English Teaching Assistantship to Malaysia

*Tara Beatty ’08*
English Teaching Assistantship to Portugal
Study Abroad: Pitzer in Brazil

*Laura Beck-Pancer ’08*
English Teaching Assistantship to Indonesia
Study Abroad: Pitzer in Brazil

*Austin Brawner ’09*
English Teaching Assistantship to Macau
Study Abroad: Pitzer in Italy

*Owen Brewer ’09*
English Teaching Assistantship to Taiwan
Study Abroad: Pitzer in China

*Magee Clegg ’09*
Research Award to the Philippines
Study Abroad: India

*Roxanne Cruz de Hoyos ’09*
Research Award to Nepal
Study Abroad: Pitzer in Botswana, Spain

*Brian Dolphin ’09*
Research Award to India
Study Abroad: Pitzer in Nepal

*Michele Hatchette ’08*
English Teaching Assistantship to Indonesia
Study Abroad: Pitzer in Botswana, Spain

*Alex Kenyon ’09*
English Teaching Assistantship to Malaysia
Study Abroad: Pitzer in Nepal

*Joshua Lo ’09*
English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea

*Francine Mireles ’09*
Research Award to China
Study Abroad: Pitzer in China, Pitzer Summer in Japan

*Jason Morales ’09*
English Teaching Assistantship to Spain
Study Abroad: Pitzer in Italy

*Yasuhiro Sekiyama ’09*
English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea

**Other National Award Winners**

*Barry M. Goldwater Scholar*
Allen Chen ’09

*Critical Language Enhancement Award*
Owen Brewer ’09
Francine Mireles ’09

*European Union Center of California Scholars*
Yigit Canay ’09
Alexandra Carswell Engle ’09
Amy Jasper ’10

*Getty Foundation Multicultural Undergraduate Intern*
Stefan Valleccillo ’11

*Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Award*
Austin Brawner ’09
Owen Brewer ’09

*Kemper Scholar*
Christopher Thomas ’12

*Princeton in Asia Teaching Fellow*
Owen Brewer ’09

*Robert Day Scholar*
Melanie Gularte ’10

*Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar*
Sonya Fierst ’09

*Thomas J. Watson Fellow*
Brian Dolphin ’09

**Congratulations to the Pitzer College 2008-09 Student Award Winners!**
Save the Date!

Pitzer College Family Weekend

February 12-15, 2010

student performances / faculty-led sessions / art exhibitions / live music / landscape tours /

Visit www.pitzer.edu/family_weekend for more information and to RSVP.

2000s

'00 Lauren Johnson serves as a deputy public defender at the Orange County Public Defender's Office. She is working with the Santa Ana YMCA to develop the first gang violence prevention program in Santa Ana.

'01 Adrienne Cohen has been teaching English as a Second Language in Brooklyn, NY and will soon begin her PhD in anthropology at Yale.

1990s

'90 Nancy Judd received the Pitzer College 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award and her work was featured in the Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal.

'91 Susan Borchers is a business owner, director and teacher atrollable School of Music, in Howard County, MD.

'92 Julia Escareno is an intellectual property specialist focusing on domestic and international trademark prosecution, domain name and copyright infringement.

'93 Kimi Richman is the communications professor of sociology and legal studies. Kimi also fundraises and volunteers for her son's school.

'94 Edris Alizai was accepted to the Michigan State University Emergency Medicine Residency Program.

'95 Jessy Kronenberg completed a master's degree and a curriculum design specialist for Western Carolina University. She also works with US Teens Global Work's Travel and continues to dance professionally with Asheville Contemporary Dance.

'96 John Lee received an Educational Internship Grant from the Southern California Horticultural Society.

'97 James Lippincott and his wife Katherine welcomed Fiona Grace Lippincott on September 20, 2009.

'98 David Graber is editor-in-chief of kapital.com, a Web application for negligee investors. He serves on the boards of The New World Foundation, Panelist Media, Performance Space 122, Alley Theater Company and Brother Jimmy's Restaurants.

'99 Heather Ross owns an agency that promotes office buildings to the entertainment industry for location filming. She is also a writer and fundraiser.

'00 David Neubert is an intellectual property specialist focusing on patent and copyright infringement.

'01 Lauren Johnson serves as a deputy public defender at the Orange County Public Defender's Office. She is working with the Santa Ana YMCA to develop the first gang violence prevention program in Santa Ana.

'02 Ashley Walsh is an actor, producer, writer and model.

In Memoriam

Nancy Judd received the Pitzer College 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award and her work was featured in the Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal.

'03 Elizabeth Angelini is enjoying the challenge of teaching students with special needs.

'04 Kevin AUsmus covered the World Baseball Classic in Tokyo, the only American journalist from a US newspaper.

'05 David Graber is editor-in-chief of kapital.com, a Web application for negligee investors. He serves on the boards of The New World Foundation, Panelist Media, Performance Space 122, Alley Theater Company and Brother Jimmy's Restaurants.

'06 Kimi Richman is the communications professor of sociology and legal studies. Kimi also fundraises and volunteers for her son's school.

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Tomas Andreani ’13
Providence, RI

Tomas Andreani is quickly becoming known on campus as “the cook.” He uses his residence hall kitchen to produce delicious Indian and Italian dishes. “Food brings people together and is a piece of living history that can be shared with other people,” he said.

While in high school, Andreani served as a translator during a medical mission to Honduras during which 36 surgeries were performed in a single week. He also competed nationally as a freestyle skier and wrestled on the state-level.

While at Pitzer, Andreani hopes to find a way to bridge his culinary passion with a global cause.

Matthew Robertson ’13
Mill Valley, CA

While in high school, Matthew Robertson traveled to Zambia and helped a community access clean water. He produced his first documentary during this trip, hoping to raise awareness of African health and social issues.

“The film asks youths to educate themselves by being aware of what’s out there in the world and make a choice of how they can help,” said Robertson.

Robertson serves as a trustee for the One Earth One Spirit Fund, established by his mother and late father. The fund supports those who work to alleviate suffering worldwide. After graduation, Robertson hopes to turn the Fund into a nonprofit organization.

Hallory Sindelar ’13
Phoenix, AZ

Hallory Sindelar began ice skating at seven. At her final competition, her team took first place, defeating the Chinese team. Sidelined by a back injury, Sindelar focused on community service and academic success.

With her church group, Amore, Sindelar built houses in Mexico each Thanksgiving. She also served as secretary and then president of the Society for Women Scholars, a high-school academic club. Sindelar founded the first Arizona high school chapter of the National Student Peace Alliance and also actively participated in the Key Club, National Honors Society, Human Relations Diversity Council and her school’s Mentor Program.

Victoria Morales-O’Conner ’13
Eugene, OR

Victoria Morales-O’Conner hosted an hour and a half program, Por Que No, on the Eugene, Oregon public radio station. The program was designed to help youth connect with their Latino heritage through music. Morales-O’Conner began her on-air career at 15, when she announced the local events every Sunday, in English and Spanish, during her dad’s radio program, Ahora Si.

Morales-O’Conner hopes her radio program gave back to her community, saying, “My family and I were very lucky to have the support we received.”

She plans to major in English literature at Pitzer and then attend law school to study immigration law.

Tomas Andreani
Providence, RI

Matthew Robertson
Mill Valley, CA

Hallory Sindelar
Phoenix, AZ

Victoria Morales-O’Conner
Eugene, OR

Pitzer thanks Cody Klock ’12, Participant photographer!
Art and Expression at Pitzer College

Pitzer’s open and welcoming environment encourages creativity and expression, which is cultivated before students even begin their Pitzer classes, and is carried through their post-Pitzer lives.

During orientation, Pitzer students may select an arts and culture trip, which might take them on a tour of downtown Los Angeles art galleries or East Los Angeles murals. When they register for classes, their art and art history choices are deep and engaging. Course offerings might include Mixed Media, Food and Painting, Wheelthrowing, Mexican Visual Cultures, Africana Cinema, Representing the Metropolis and Old New Media.

Students are guided by an engaged and dedicated art and art studio faculty. Bill Anthes recently received the Graves Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Teaching, Tim Berg is an award-winning ceramicist whose work has shown internationally, Ciara Ennis received a European curatorial residency, Jessica McCoy was commissioned for an installation in a new Los Angeles subway station, Kathryn Miller’s photography has been exhibited internationally—and Steve Glass is one of the most beloved professors in Pitzer history.

Around the Pitzer campus, the community’s creativity is apparent. The Pitzer Art Galleries, curated by Ciara Ennis, stage multiple exhibits every year, and seniors exhibit their work annually. The campus is dotted with murals by both professional muralists and students and the Sick-Amour living art installation (a student project) was recently inaugurated on the Mounds. Artist Nancy Judd ’90 was honored at this year’s Alumni Reunion. Poets and writers teach master classes and hold readings, and culturally significant films and documentaries are screened.

Many Pitzer alumni continue the creation and expression fostered by their time at Pitzer, contributing to their communities in new, unexpected and compelling ways and reflecting Pitzer’s motto, provida futuri—mindful of the future.
What’s New On Campus?

CCCSI Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary
In December 2008, over 100 supporters celebrated the achievements of students, faculty, staff and community partners who invested in social responsibility research and service with CCCSI for the last ten years.

The evening included a research symposium, community fair and reception. At the reception Alan Jones, dean of faculty, and Lourdes Arquelles were honored. Jones founded CCCSI and Jones and Arquelles co-founded CCCSI’s Pitzer in Ontario Program. Also honored were Professor Jose Calderon, day laborers from the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center, Gil Gonzalez ’03, Meredith Abrams ’11 and over 30 faculty members who have collaborated with CCCSI. The evening was supported by the Weingart Foundation.

Costa Rica Alumni Abroad Program Inaugurated
On March 8-14, 2009, alumni inaugurated the Alumni Abroad Program with a week at the Pitzer College Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology in Costa Rica. The group hiked the rainforest, ziplined through the trees and built a bamboo fence for a local school. Attend next year’s trip on March 6-12, 2010. For more information, email jean_grant@pitzer.edu.

Chicano Latino Student Scholarship Benefit
Five new Fabian Nuñez ’97 Scholarships were presented at the Universal CityWalk Rumba Room on April 30, 2009. LA County Supervisor Gloria Molina P’09, California State Assemblyman Kevin de León ’03 and activist/organizer Joaquin Calderón ’99 were honored for their contributions to the Latino community.

Alumni Reunion 2009
Alumni Reunion Weekend, May 29-31, 2009, informed and inspired alumni under the guidance of Reunion Chair Deborah Patton ’69. Speakers included Andre Wakefield, professor, and Bridget Baker ’82, trustee and president of NBC Universal Networks Distribution. Congratulations to Nancy Judd ’90, who received the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award. Save the date for Reunion 2010, June 11-13, 2010. For more information, email alumni@pitzer.edu or visit www.pitzer.edu/gateway/alumni.

Senior Class Gift Competition
For the fourth consecutive year, Pitzer seniors won the Claremont College Senior Class Gift Competition, achieving 100% participation. To encourage the class to reach 100% participation, Rene Benitez ’84 offered to contribute $5,000 and Dean of Students Jim Marchant pledged to get an orange Mohawk. The Class of 2009 raised $14,600, which will fund a Senior Class Scholarship and renovate the Green House Outdoor Classroom. Thanks to Toni Martinek ’09 and Jason Morales ’09 for leading the class to victory.

Alumni Film Screened
In September, Pitzer College held a VIP screening of The Invention of Lying, produced by Oly Obst ’02. The film, which stars Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner and Jonah Hill, is Obst’s producing debut. Previous to the screening, a reception was held in Nichols Gallery.

Study Abroad Update
Summer 2009 saw the completion of two innovative intercultural global-local projects that will reinforce Pitzer’s socially responsible engagement with global communities.

Professor Milton Machuca, working with two recent Pitzer grads, conducted ethnographic research with six first-year students near Pitzer’s Firestone Center of Restoration Ecology. Larry Grill, professor of biotechnology, and Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo, director of international exchanges, collaborated with the University of Botswana to establish a new vaccine research project. Additionally, Grill assisted three Pitzer students with their research on Botswana’s agricultural productivity. In both cases, the groups lived with host families while developing their Spanish and Setswana language skills.

Sick-Amour Living Art Installation
On November 11, the Pitzer community planted the Sick-Amour Tree, a living art installation. Los Angeles artist Joel Tauber launched this project when he noticed a large sycamore tree in the Rose Bowl parking lot. Surrounded by asphalt, hit by cars and starved for water, he began caring for it and eventually got the Rose Bowl clear space around it and protect it from cars. He planted the seeds it produced and replants the “baby trees” in prominent places in California to represent sustainability, hope and growth.

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Recruited in 1963 by Pitzer's first president, John Atherton, Warmbrunn helped design academic programs with the other founding faculty members. As a historian, Warmbrunn recorded Pitzer's history by founding an archive where important papers, announcements and documents are preserved. His legacy also includes the creation of the central bookstore for the Claremont Colleges.

Warmbrunn was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1920. He and his parents escaped Nazi Germany to the Netherlands in 1936. Five years later, he immigrated to the United States. After graduating from Cornell University, Warmbrunn taught at the Putney School in Vermont. He later earned a PhD from Stanford University and served as director of its International Center.

In 1973, Warmbrunn received a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship to continue his research of Belgium under German occupation during World War II. He wrote hundreds of articles, reviews, journals and books. His publications include *The Dutch Under German Occupation* and *The German Occupation of Belgium*. In recent years, he was active in the Claremont Democratic Club and was a senior author of the “Claremont Manifesto,” published in 2008.

A passionate and committed teacher, Warmbrunn received the 1985 Pitzer College Alumni Association Academic Excellence Award. He became a professor emeritus in 1991 but continued to teach courses.

He is survived by his wife, Loretta; daughters Erika and Susan; stepchildren Linda Schone, Wes Fretter, Dianna Davis and Cynthia Fretter; and grandchildren Andrea, Breanna, Zach, Matt and Lindsey.

A campus memorial for Warmbrunn was held on October 28, 2009. Donations in honor of Warmbrunn can be made to Pitzer College and will support a scholarship in his name.

**Remembering Professor Werner Warmbrunn**

“In those roiling days of the 1960’s, and in that lively but uneasy first year of Pitzer’s existence, we all needed a calming force. And so it happened that whenever our faculty or town meetings turned fractious – they inevitably did so – it was Werner Warmbrunn who would rise to his feet and quietly announce, “Friends, I sense a consensus.” Always those same words, and following them, wonderful to relate, a consensus almost always ensued. He wasn’t much older than his colleagues, true, but I always think of Werner as the older, wiser statesman that we all needed in those perilously incipient times. That Pitzer not only endured but prevailed, owes much, surely, to Werner’s warm and cool sagacity.” —Stephen Glass, John A. McCarthy Professor of Classics
Ahmed Alwishah received a PhD and MA from the University of California Los Angeles and a BA from Baghdad University. He earned several awards including a Postdoctoral Fellowship from Stanford University and a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship from UCLA.

Alwishah co-authored *Ibn Kammuna Al-Tanqihat: A Thirteenth Century Text on Natural Philosophy and Psychology* and his article, “The Arabic Liar Paradox,” will be published in Vivarium later this year.

Alwishah previously taught at Stanford University, the University of California Los Angeles and the California State Universities at San Bernardino and Los Angeles. On joining Pitzer, Alwishah said, “Pitzer College emphasizes core principles that foster a balance between academic excellence and social responsibility. These principles are consistent with the fundamental values of my teaching philosophy and will inspire my work.”

David Hansen is the new dean of science for the Joint Science Department (JSD). He has a PhD in chemistry from Harvard University and a ScB, magna cum laude, in biochemistry from Brown University.

Hansen has published numerous research projects and articles—his latest, “Recent Developments in the Molecular Imprinting of Proteins,” appeared in Biomaterials.

He most recently was on the faculty at Amherst College, where he was awarded the Association of Amherst Students Distinguished Teaching Award. On joining the Claremont Colleges, Hansen said, “Housing biology, chemistry and physics, the Joint Science Department is the embodiment of interdisciplinary science and the future of science education. JSD is poised to grow even stronger, and I am honored to have been chosen as its new dean.”

Fuchun Jin has a PhD and MA in economics from Ohio State University. He received a MA from Nankai University of China and a BS in mathematics from the University of Science and Technology of China.


Jin taught at Peking University and Calgiate University. In 2006-07 he was a visiting professor at Pitzer, and said of Pitzer students, “Working with students at Pitzer is like getting a taste of the future.”

Azamat Junisbai has a PhD and MA in sociology from Indiana University. He received several awards, including the J. Stuart and Dagnar K. Riley Graduate Fellowship, the Social Science Research Council Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship, the National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant and the US Department of State Title VIII Research Scholarship. He received his BA, summa cum laude, from Kazakh State University in Kazakhstan.

Junisbai co-authored "Social Stratification and Cultural Consumption in the US" in Poetics and “False Consciousness” in the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology. Junisbai most recently taught at Indiana University. Of Pitzer, he says, “I am most excited about working with Pitzer’s active and socially engaged students.”

Harmony O’Rourke holds a PhD and AM from Harvard University and a BA from Macalester College. She won several awards including the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award and a Foreign Area Language Scholarship.

Her conference presentations include “Distance, Dependence and Authority,” “Socio-Economic Change and a New African Political Agenda” and “Disparities and Knowledge Systems.”

O’Rourke previously held positions at Harvard University and Macalester College. On teaching at Pitzer, she said “I have heard wonderful things about the students and I have great expectations for the learning environment in my classes.”

KaHlaia Thomas has a PhD, a MPH and a MS from San Diego State University and a MA and BA from California State University San Bernardino. She received several awards including an American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship, an American Psychosomatic Society Minority Initiative Award and a UCLA-Cousins Center Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Thomas co-authored several articles, including “The Relationship Between Fatigue and Cardiac Functioning” in Archives of Internal Medicine, “Which Measures of Obesity Are Related to Depression and in Whom” in Psychosomatics and “Fatigue Varies by Social Class in African-Americans but Not Caucasian-Americans” in the International Journal of Behavioral Medicine.

On joining Pitzer, Thomas said, “I am thrilled to be able to work with faculty and students who have a track record of community service and intercultural studies that speaks for itself.”
Bilbrough (art history) authored "Indian Time at Fairwinds," published in Ethnography: Cultures in Flux.

David Bachman (mathematics) wrote "Connected Sums of Unstable Hesargard Splittings are Unstable" published in Geometry & Topology.


"Reconceptualizing Fidelity of Implementation" by Stacy Brown (mathematics) was published by the Journal for Research in Mathematics Education.

José Calderón (sociology, Chicano/a studies) wrote "Pursuit of Inclusion: Citizenship Acquisition among Asian Immigrants" in "Immigrant Political Incorporation in Europe and the US."


Barry Sanders (anthropology) authored "Green Zone: The Environmental Cost of Militarism."

Laura Skaurdno Tromby (English and world literature) authored Mark Xuan’s Other Woman: "The Hidden Story of Mark Xuan’s First Love," to be published in spring 2010.

Erich Steinman (sociology) reviewed Explaining Contemporary Federal Indian Policy in the Indigenous American Journal.


Burke Scott Williams (chemistry) co-authored "Reversible Carbonation of an (N,N,N’-Piperazine) Complex and Direct Evidence of Migratory Detour." "Reductive Elimination and Dissociative C-H Hydride Abstraction from Ph2H Triplet and Methanofuran Complexes" in Organometallics and "EMAC: A Cyber-Enabled Community of Practice for Improving Inorganic Chemical Education" and "JEE-WISE: An Integrating Teaching and Learning Community" in the Journal of Chemical Education.

Kathleen Yop (art) authored Outside the Frame: When Basketball Aligned the Chinese Playground.

Phil Zuckerman (philosophy) presented "Neurophilosophy" at the Champalimaud Foundation Neuroscience Programme at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência.

Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo (international and intercultural studies) presented "Building a Comprehensive Response to the Challenges of Globalization" at the Association of American Colleges and Universities Conference with (Tessa Hicks) and "Study Abroad: Reinventing Globalization for Social Change" at the Association of International Educators Conference.

Cara Ennis (art) was selected to attend the Third Annual European Course for Contemporary Art Curators in Milan, Italy. She curated Emerging Artist Series #1: William Ransom, After Abu Ghraib: Clayton Campbell, Rabbi: The Chaos of Mediterranean and Emerging Artist Series #2: Kareem Loonan at the Pitzer College Art Galleries. Ennis co-curated LA 19. Cultural, Collectives & Coexisting at the 18th Street Arts Center.

Paul Faustlich (environmental studies) serves on the editorial board of Culture Critique.

Carmen Fought (linguistics) was quoted in the Los Angeles Times on English/Spanish speakers and in the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin on an increase in Spanish speakers in San Bernardino County.

Judith Graber (mathematics) presented "Why Proof? A Historian’s Perspective" at the National Taiwan Normal University and "Women in Mathematics" at the Encouraging Diversity in Graduate Education Lecture Series.

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Mary Hatcher-Skews (chemistry) was the lead principal investigator on a National Science Foundation Grant to acquire a spectrometer. Co-principal included Thomas Poos, Anna Wenzel, Burke Scott Williams and Andrew Zanella (chemistry). The instrument, purchased with a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation, is located in the Department of Chemistry at Chaffey College. It will be a valuable tool for students and researchers alike, providing valuable information about the structure and properties of materials at the nanoscale.

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Jesse Lerner (media studies) received a City of Los Angeles Fellowship from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. He served as the documentary programmer for the Festival Internacional de Cine de Morelia and curated El Espacio de la Modernidad at the Museo de la Ciudad de Querétaro. He screened Video Cocktails at the College Art Association Annual Meeting and Twenty Years Ago Today at the Japanese American National Museum. Lerner presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, the 53rd Congress of Americanists, Museo Amparo, the Visible Evidence Art Conference and the Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung der Universität Bielefeld.

Leah Light (psychology) was named chair-elect for the American Psychological Association Publications and Communications Board, and she chairs the Association’s Electronic Resources Advisory Committee. Light was a grant reviewer for the National Institutes of Health and serves on the editorial boards of Psychology and Aging and the Journal of Experimental Psychology.

Ming-Yuan S. Ma (media studies) produced “Kim Lu Vide Bus Tour” for the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and was a panelist on “Seeing in the Dark” at the ignite the Fuse Conference and “Get on the Bus!” at the Art and the Academy Conference.

Tracy Bago MacLean (media studies) received a grant from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences to support theatrical motion picture production internship.

Peter Nardi (sociology) was quoted in the San Diego Union-Tribune on male friendships.

Adrian Pantoja (politics and Chicano/a studies) received a Blais Challenge Fund Grant to support “Accessing the Hispanic Threat Hypothesis” with Jennifer Menocal. He presented papers at the Annual Meetings of the Southern Political Science Association, Western Political Science Association and American Political Science Association, as well as at the National Conference on Latino Politics, Power and Policy and the Georgia State University Immigration and Human Rights Symposium. Pantoja was quoted in the Christian Science Monitor on prison riots, on ESPN.com on fighting and in the Georgia State University Immigration and Human Rights Symposium.


Edith Vasquez (English and world literature) presented “‘La calle de Las Damas: Fem-Mythification in Santo Domingo Poetry Today” at the International Symposium of Literature.


Laura Skandera Trombley (English and world literature) received the 2008 Chief Executive Officer Leadership Award from District VII of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She was a panelist on an Arthur Hirsh Dart Foundation panel on sustainability and foundation funding and chaired “Mark Twain and the Child” at the Sixth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies.


Andre Wakefield (sociology) presented posters “Non-Pharmacological Interventions in Childhood Autism” and “How Closer Online Two to Colleagues Can Change an Inorganic Chemistry Course” at the 237th American Chemical Society National Meeting. He co-presented the poster “Mechanistic Investigations of C-C Bond Formation Processes Involving an [NCP]PtMe2 Pincer Complex” at the Gordon Conference in Organometallic Chemistry.


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