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Pitzer College Board of Trustees

Pitzer College thanks Board of Trustee members for their service.

2010-11 Pitzer Events

Sept 2010
7-C Worldwide Happy Hour, Various Locations
Chicago Botanic Gardens Reception and Tour, Chicago, IL
Dining with Democracy, Actor/Artist Adrie van Woermadt, Pitzer College
Discussion with Artist Hierve Constant, Pitzer College
Saint Francis Yacht Club Reception, San Francisco, CA
State of the College Address, Pitzer College
Work-Large Exhibit, Pitzer College

Oct 2010
5-C Alumni Power Breakfasts, Los Angeles, CA
The Business of Fashion, New York, NY
Gene Simmons P.10 & P.14: The Medium and the Message, Pitzer College
Here is Always Somewhere Else Screening, Pitzer College
Meuse Studie Cinemathieke Lecture, Pitzer College
Stephen and Sandra Glass Annual Humanities Lecture, Pitzer College
Telluride Mountainfilm Festival Screening, Pitzer College
Visiting Artist Lectures, Pitzer College

Nov 2010
Actually Existing Democracies (And Why They Are So Little Democratic), Pitzer College
Claremont Entertainment Media Anniversary Party, Los Angeles, CA
Thinking About Sustainability Screening & Discussion, Pitzer College
Meuse Studie Cinemathieke Lecture, Pitzer College
Pitzer Preview Days, Pitzer College
Reggae Fest, Pitzer College
Seapine Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Pomona College
Visiting Artist Lectures, Pitzer College

Dec 2010
5-C Classical Music Night, Carnegie Hall, New York, NY
A Taste of the Holidays with Chef Susan Feniger '76, Street Restaurant, Los Angeles, CA
Meuse Studie Cinemathieke Lecture, Pitzer College

Jan 2011
Sustainable Design Reception, San Francisco, CA

Feb 2011
Dedication of George O.S. Benson Auditorium, Pitzer College
Family Weekend, Pitzer College
“Meeting of Minds” Show and Reception, Pitzer College
Pitzer Mixer and Networking Reception, Pitzer College

March 2011
Alumni/Parent Reception, Seattle, WA
Parents Abroad Trip to Frontiers Center, Costa Rica
President Laura Shandlin Trombley Discusses Her Book, Los Angeles, CA

April 2011
Admitted Student Days, Pitzer College
Alumni/Parent Reunion, Boston, MA
Women’s Tea, San Francisco, CA

May 2011
Commencement, Pitzer College
Faculty and Staff Gift Celebration, Pitzer College
Senior Class Gift Campaign Celebration, Pitzer College
Telluride Mountainfilm Festival Reception, Telluride, CO

June 2011
Alumni Reunion Weekend, Pitzer College

Please visit www.pitzer.edu for additional event information.
A note from President Skandera Trombley

Dear Friends,

This edition of the Participant was 46 years in the making. As an institution, part of our identity has been that we are the youngest of the Claremont Colleges and continually in the midst of creating ourselves. While that internal development will always be part of our journey as a College, we respect our traditions and values.

Although still a young institution, Pitzer can proudly point to generations of students, faculty, staff and trustees. This Participant celebrates these legacies.

In the beginning there was our first family, the Pitzers. Russell K. Pitzer, a philanthropist and citrus rancher, founded the College in 1963 as the sixth Claremont College institution. His son Kenneth Pitzer, who was the president of Rice and Stanford Universities, was elected to the Pitzer Board of Trustees in 1966 and was appointed a life member in 1974. Today, the Pitzer family is still part of our community. Two of our founder’s grandchildren currently serve on Pitzer’s Board—Russell M. Pitzer since 1988 and Ann E. Pitzer since 2006.

The Pitzer family legacy is reflected throughout the College’s history and on campus today: Mary Romo ’76 sent both her children to Pitzer. William Sheinberg ’83 was followed by daughter Storey ’12, and Ellen Harper ’87 by Joel ’95 and Peter Harper ’96. Nancy Goldfarb-Pope ’78 and Benjamin Goldfarb ’81 William Sheinberg ’83 and Storey Sheinberg ’12.

Gar Lauerman ’14 emulated Marc Lauerman ’74, his father. Alvin Ko ’14 took the advice of his sister, Shelly Ko ’10. Sara Garcia-Dehbozorgi ’14 is one of four Pitzer family members—her grandmother, mother and aunt all attended Pitzer!

This issue shares the stories of those who welcomed members of their family into the Pitzer family. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Provida Futuri,
Laura Skandera Trombley
Mary Romo ’76 launched her community commitment at Pitzer. Son Reies Flores ’99, a teacher, and daughter Sonia Flores ’03, a social worker, followed her example.

Mother and children recall common experiences at Pitzer including strong relationships with faculty. “The mantra of the school has been steady and the faculty remain the guiding force,” says Reies. In fact, Reies and his wife Jenny even chose to be married by Professor Phil Zuckerman in 2003.

Mary, who majored in anthropology, notes that Pitzer’s innovative course offerings and strong faculty helped her cultivate her research and critical thinking skills. These abilities helped her build her career as a professor of Chicana/o history.

Reies, an English and world literature major, says Pitzer offered him an environment that allowed him to explore different ideas and philosophies. While at Pitzer, he says he gained confidence in his decision-making abilities. He teaches at Franklin High School in Los Angeles and develops community-based projects for high schoolers.

Sonia, who double majored in sociology and Chicano studies, believes that Pitzer’s strong sense of community and diverse student body fostered her independence and reinforced her commitment to social responsibility. She also developed the confidence to expand her academic goals. She is a psychiatric social worker at Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

“My proudest achievement is being the parent of two beautiful and loving individuals, both Pitzer graduates.” — Mary Romo
The Harper family has deep roots at Pitzer College. Ellen Harper ’87 and sons Joel ’95 and Peter ’96 attended Pitzer, and husband and father Leonard held various administrative positions including dean of students.

Ellen, who double majored in anthropology and dance, chose Pitzer for its “guided freedom” approach. “The College provided me a well-rounded degree and worked with me to create a degree that aligned with my passions,” she says. “With the guidance of my professors I decided I wanted to share my passion through teaching.” She later earned her PhD from Claremont Graduate University and taught in different grade levels from elementary school to California State University San Bernardino. She now runs the Folk Music Center in Claremont.


Peter, who majored in political science at Pitzer, helped to change the landscape and culture of the campus when he and a group of students painted murals across campus walls in 1995. He credits studying abroad in Zimbabwe as a life changing experience that continues to inspire his artwork. His current project, “Faces of Life,” features the faces of 365 strangers from all walks of life cast in bronze. It explores “grouping”—where the human mind stops distinguishing individual traits of race and gender.

“I didn’t push them to go to Pitzer, but I knew it would be a good fit,” said Ellen. “Social responsibility and social justice were important to them and I knew their voices would be heard.”
Nancy Goldfarb-Pope ’78 and Benjamin Goldfarb ’81 are from a close family, so no one was surprised when Ben decided to follow Nancy to Pitzer. “My family was so happy with the education I was receiving, so it made perfect sense,” said Nancy.

Both Nancy and Ben were attracted to Pitzer’s intimate community, accessible professors and distinctive curriculum, and both credit Pitzer for helping them adapt their passions into corporate careers.

Nancy, the senior vice president of human resources at Paramount Studios, says, “I didn’t realize organizational studies could translate to the corporate world until my professors encouraged me to think out of the box. I feel like it helped me be a trailblazer in the human resources field. At the time, there was no such thing as a human resources major.” While at Pitzer, Nancy majored in organizational studies.

Ben is the founder and CEO of AltUse.com, a repository of alternative uses for everyday products. He believes Pitzer opened his eyes to green living and the role it would play in the future. “I learned about alternative energy and did projects with solar panels in the late ’70s and early ’80s at Pitzer,” notes Ben. “Thirty years later, these are hot topics.”

Both siblings name Professors John Rodman, Sharon Snowiss, Ann Stromberg, Rudi Volti and Dean of Students Joe Mark among their mentors. “Most students can say they had one great mentor in college, but how many can say they had several?” says Nancy.

“Most students can say they had one great mentor in college, but how many can say they had several?” —Nancy Goldfarb-Pope
William Sheinberg ’83 graduated from Pitzer College with a degree in psychology and sociology. Almost three decades later, his daughter, Storey ’12, will wear the same white commencement robe to receive her degree in music and sociology.

Bill and Storey both chose Pitzer because of its intimate class sizes, accessibility of the professors and unique approach to higher education.

Bill says, “I educated Storey about Pitzer and why I believed it would offer her precisely the educational and community experience that I felt she was looking for. I wouldn’t have done so had I not believed with conviction that Pitzer would be a perfect match. Not a week goes by without Storey reminding us how much she loves Pitzer.”

Bill credits Pitzer for helping him develop successful business strategies that include cultural and individual understanding. He is a partner in The Bubble Factory, an entertainment company, and a member of Pitzer’s Board of Trustees. Bill founded The Bubble Factory with his father, Sidney Sheinberg, and his brother, Jon. Sidney was a member of Pitzer’s Board of Trustees from 1980-1998.

Storey studied abroad in Italy during the fall 2010 semester. She heads her own band, and plans to pursue a career as a recording artist. Of Pitzer, she says, “My family thought Pitzer would be an excellent school for me, and it turned out to be a wonderful decision.”

“Not a week goes by without Storey reminding us how much she loves Pitzer.”
—William Sheinberg

William Sheinberg ’83
Storey Sheinberg ’12

feature

The Participant

Fall 2010
Class Notes

1970s

'70 Betsy Brown Brauer’s new book, You’re Not the Boss of Me, was featured in the Palawan Post.

'72 Carol Holton was named the pastor of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Rome, Ga.

Christine Malina-Marxwell is still based outside of Aix-en-Provence in France.

'74 Jeff Gutlieb, a reporter with the Los Angeles Times, broke the City of Bell salary scandal story.

'76 Blanca Zarranz, an attorney and honorary consul of Mexico, was named to California American Water’s board of directors.

1980s

'80 Cynthia Ann Bettison was elected mayor pro tem of Silver City, NM.

'81 Rosemarie Stollenmaier Gattiker has lived in Alberta, Canada for 25 years and recently retired from the University of British Columbia.

'82 Bridget Baker, president of NBC Universal TV Networks Distribution and member of Pitzer’s board of trustees, was profiled in the Los Angeles Times.

Thomas Perls was quoted in the New York Times about his genome research.

'85 Lisa Smith-Putnam’s talk show, Back Home with Lisa Smith-Putnam, was picked up for a second season.

1990s

'86 Dr. Yoon Jung Park returned to the US after 15 years in Africa, and hopes to join a Washington DC university research center.


'90 Martin Durazo exhibited his work at the 19th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica, CA which was positively reviewed by the Los Angeles Times, and had a solo exhibit at GSI Gallery in Los Angeles, CA.

'91 Michael Harris authored “Environmental Delegative Democracy and the Search for Administrative Legitimacy,” published in the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform. He also wrote a column about the BP oil spill for High Country News.

Robert Magnuson Smith’s novel, The Grasshopper, won the Pirate’s Alley Faulkner-Wideman Competition.

Shingo Francisco’s art was exhibited at the Hotel Casa Del Mar in Santa Monica, CA.

Kara Held lives in Asheville, NC, teaches Spanish and is a freelance photographer.

'93 Kate McCaulley Nitti and her husband live in Maryland with their two daughters, Brooke, 5 and Paige, 4.

Leslie Moskwitz Weilberg, owner of ArtLab Creative, was recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who.

'94 Greg Bryan was profiled in the Palawan Post.

'95 Namzi Abood wrote and directed Astral, a thriller currently in post-production.

'96 Annmarie Jacir was selected to work with director Zhang Yimou as part of the 2010-11 Rolex Mentor and Protege Arts Initiative.

'97 Lauren Dolgen was named senior vice president of series development for MTV.

'98 Jesse Astor joined Lightstone Securities as vice president and northwest regional director.

Hayden Hamilton was profiled by Fortune about his company, which markets Indian pharmaceuticals to Americans. His company GreenPrint Software was featured in the Chicago Tribune.

Creed Pettit, who was a member of the football team, was inducted into the Sagehen Hall of Fame.

Omair Sajid completed his studies in business, and operates Yellow, a chain of apparel stores in Pakistan. He also manages a leading musical act, Laal.

2000s

'00 Eric Dugan, who was a member of the men’s soccer team, was inducted into the Sagehen Hall of Fame.

Devon Kaiser Farley and her husband welcomed a daughter, Alexandra. They are enjoying every day with their future Sagehen!

Benjamin Godsil co-curated an exhibit at the New Museum in New York City.

'01 Amanda Day Alonso was featured in the San Jose Mercury News about a science education program she founded at Lynbrook High School. She was also mentioned in a New York Times column by Thomas Friedman.

An article by Crosby Notick was published in O’Day’s.

'02 Gilbert Gonzalez received a 2011 Marshall Memorial Fellowship. He works with the City of Los Angeles in its Office of Economic and Business Policy.

'03 Matt Henigian ’03 and Barra Adler ’02 were married in June. More than 20 Pitzer and Pomona alumni took part in the celebration.

'04 Benjamin Demarchelier opened Lausé Gourmet Bar in NY, NY.

Jeffrey Lamb and Erica Alexakis ’05 were married in July. There were more than 20 Pitzer College alumni at their wedding.

'05 Erica Alexakis and Jeffrey Lamb ’04 were married in July. There were more than 20 Pitzer College alumni at their wedding.

Christopher Wheeler was awarded a Nancy Johnston Memorial Scholarship.

'06 Elana McDermott was profiled by Gazette.net.

Casey Scieszka co-wrote Ti-Timbuktu, a graphic novel.

2010s

'10 Solomon Estin, Fullbright Fellow, was profiled in the Claremont Courier.

Amy Jasper published “The Upside of Cyprus,” a blog chronicling her Fullbright year in Cyprus.

James Kang was drafted by the Boston Red Sox. A short film by Jeffrey Katz, A Just Life, was screened at the San Diego Film Festival.

Richard McKinney, who received a Peace Corps placement, was featured in the Claremont Courier.

Benjamin Rubin was awarded a Capital Fellowship. He will work full-time in California’s executive branch and attend graduate seminars.

In Memoriam

Gayle Carlethiel ’88 passed away in June. In her final days, she told her daughter that when she felt sad, she thought about her garden, the forest or going on a bird-watching walk. A memorial fund was established in her honor.

Susan Benzon Tuccio ’79 passed away in November 2009.

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.
The Chronicle of Higher Education ranked Pitzer College #1 in Fulbright Fellowships among all US liberal arts colleges and fifth overall.

In the 2009-10 academic year, Pitzer students and alumni were awarded a record 23 Fulbright Fellowships.

Pitzer students and alumni have been awarded more than 100 Fulbright Fellowships, sending students and alums to 46 countries over 46 years.

2009-10 Fulbright Fellows

- Clinton Attaway '10, Hungary
- Danielle Brown '08, Uruguay
- Josh Brown '10, South Korea
- Chris Coughlin '10, South Korea
- Hannah Dittrich '10, Malta
- Solamon Estin '10, Colombia
- Elena Fanjul-Debnam '10, Indonesia
- Heather Haik '10, Indonesia
- Stephanie Hyland '10, Costa Rica and Nicaragua
- Amy Jasper '10, Cyprus
- Jennifer Johnson '10, Slovakia
- Misa Kabashima '10, South Korea
- Caitlin Lacey '10, Thailand
- Steven Liang '10, Taiwan
- Elizabeth Lipschultz '10, Moldova
- Kate McCrary '10, Spain
- Nick Perry '09, South Korea
- Maya Rosas '10, Mexico
- Yasuhiro Sekiyama '10, South Korea
- Sean Sullivan '10, South Korea
- Olivia Werby '10, Malaysia
- Elizabeth Williams '10, Malaysia
- Eleanor Wolf '10, Peru

Other 2009-10 National Award Winners

- Jemima Barrios '13, Bank of America Boston Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Award
- Marie Claire Burt '12, Collaboration Fellow
- Lizette Coja-Urena '11, Public Policy & International Affairs Fellow
- Kymberli Corprue '13, Smiley 100 Young Leader of the Decade
- Solamon Estin '10, Harvard National Model United Nations Best Delegate; Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar
- Jeremiah Gregory '11, Getty Foundations Multicultural Undergraduate Intern
- Misa Kabashima '10, Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Awardee
- Cody Klock '12, Critical Language Scholar
- Simon Lee '11, Skidmore Scholar
- Yuki Sugawara Lin '08, Asia Pacific Leadership Program Fellow
- Richard McKinney '10, Peace Corps
- Brianna Moffitt '12, UCB Crohn Scholar
- Alex Friedlander Moore '10, Teach for America Corps
- Taylor Aston Nielsen '10, Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Awardee
- Benjamin Rubin '10, Capital Fellow
- Sean Sullivan '10, Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Awardee
- Kari Todd '12, Kemper Scholar
- Delaine Ureña '09, Getty Foundations Multicultural Undergraduate Intern
- Stefan Vallecillo '11, Getty Foundations Multicultural Undergraduate Intern
- Eleanor Wolf '10, Critical Language Scholar
- Christopher Young '11, Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar
Gar Lauerman ’14 became interested in Pitzer when his father Marc ’74 sought out his alma mater at Gar’s eighth grade college fair. During a family visit to California a year later, Gar and Marc visited the campus.

Gar was drawn to the intimate and relaxed atmosphere of the campus. “I would have felt lost in a big school,” he says. He also appreciates that Los Angeles—with its concerts, sporting events and beaches—is so close.

An avid hockey player since childhood, Lauerman is considering starting a club team, saying, “I like that I could leave something behind for future students. We can help shape the College.”

Gar is interested in communications or public relations, but has not yet declared a major. “At Pitzer, I have the freedom to discover what I like and what I want to do,” he says.

Sophie Tweed-Simmons ’14 begins her Pitzer College experience just as her brother Nick Tweed-Simmons ’10 finds his at a close.

Upon visiting the campus, she noticed the College’s relaxed yet challenging environment. “Pitzer is its own little world. It has its own language and vibe,” she says.

Tweed-Simmons, a skilled volleyball player, chose Pitzer over several Division I institutions. “The Sagehens are student-athletes, not athlete-students. Academics come first here,” says Tweed-Simmons. She hopes to compete in Association of Volleyball Professionals open tournaments for as long as possible and continue coaching at a girls’ volleyball club in Southern California.

Sophie Tweed-Simmons ’14 intends to major in computer engineering and hopes to design for Apple in the future.

“Pitzer’s friendly atmosphere is unique.”

Sarah Garcia-Dehbozorgi ’14 is the fourth member of her family to attend Pitzer. Her grandmother, Cynthia Garcia-Eggen, her mother, Cynthia Dehbozorgi ’90, and her aunt, Samantha Garcia-Eggen ’94, all preceded her to campus.

As a little girl, Garcia-Dehbozorgi would take walks on campus with her mother. Later, she realized how at home she felt at Pitzer and decided to attend for its small class sizes, accessible professors, environmental consciousness and social responsibility.

“The students play an important role in the school not only as pupils, but also as individuals with passion,” says Garcia-Dehbozorgi.

She plans to major in biology or chemistry and hopes to become a veterinarian.

Alvin Ko ’14 took some valuable advice from sister Shelly Ko ’10 when applying to college.

“I heard about Shelly’s experience at Pitzer and how she was fortunate to have the many resources that the school provided,” says Ko. “Every time she spoke of the College, she used only positive words.” While at Pitzer, Shelly majored in biology and participated in the Pitzer in Japan Program.

Alvin visited the campus three times, each-time making new friends, before making a final decision. “Pitzer’s friendly atmosphere is unique. I was convinced that I could not go wrong with my decision to come here,” he says.

Alvin plans to major in biology and attend graduate school after earning his BA.

“Pitzer’s friendly atmosphere is unique.”
What’s new at Pitzer?

Alumni Reunion 2010
In June, the alumni association hosted a wonderful reunion weekend with Singleton Cox ’94 as reunion chair. The festivities included the annual Groove at the Grove House and Green Parrot Party. The Nichols Gallery featured the art work of more than 20 Pitzer alumni. The distinguished alumni award was given to Bridget Baker ’92, the president of TV Networks Distribution at NBC Universal and Pitzer trustee. Save the date for this year’s reunion—June 10-13, 2011.

Chicago Botanic Garden Reception and Tour
On September 14, more than 40 parents, alumni and friends gathered for an evening at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Participants enjoyed a discussion and a behind-the-scenes tour of the LEED Gold Certified building.

Pitzer Art Galleries Exhibits
In summer 2010, the Pitzer Art Galleries presented Writ Large, an exhibit focusing on text-based art. During fall 2010, Bas Jan Ader: Suspended Between Laughter and Tears exhibited videos, photography and installations from Bas Jan Ader, conceptual artist. The Business of Fashion
In October, Pitzer hosted a reception and discussion on fashion, business and design at the River Club of New York. Panelists included Tim Schiffer ’80, who partners with Gwen Stefani on her L.A.M.B. line, and Honor Brade ’93, editor in chief of ToryBurch.com.

Dining with Democracy
The Dining with Democracy speaker series brought Alfre Woodward, actress and activist, to campus in September to discuss her work combating HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

2010 State of the College Address
On September 20, President Trombley gave the annual State of the College Address in Benson Auditorium. In her address, titled “On the Threshold,” President Trombley discussed recent Pitzer accomplishments including its record number of Fulbright Fellows and its recent and future capital projects, including the McConnell East Entry, Commencement Plaza and Phase II of the Residence Halls. She also welcomed new members of the Pitzer community—the Class of 2014, and new faculty and staff. A video of her speech can be found at YouTube.com/pitzercollege.

Munroe Center Colloquium
On November 13, the Munroe Center for Social Inquiry hosted “Actually Existing Democracies (And Why They Are So Little Democratic)” with guest speakers Lisa Hajjar of UC Santa Barbara and Daniel HoSang of the University of Oregon. The Munroe Center is headed by Daniel Segal, Jean M. Pitzer Professor of Anthropology. During spring 2011, the Center will present a semester-long series of events on “Schooling in Mass Society.”

New Residence Halls Ground Breaking
In December 2010, Pitzer will break ground on two new residence halls, launching Phase II of its Residence Life Plan. With a planned opening of fall 2012, the new halls will be LEED Platinum Certified.
Artists and friends gathered at the Writ Large exhibit in Nichols Gallery.

2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards and Trustee, Bridget Bales, ’02 with Claudio Chavez, ’86, president, of the Alumni Association.

The First Annual Festival of Flavors featured cuisine from the Grove House, the Pa-Stop & Pantry, Bates and McConnell Dining Hall.

President Trombley cheers on the Sagehen women’s soccer team at a meet in October.

Kayri Havens of the Chicago Botanic Garden with Jeanne Mason ’82, Trustees Steven Scheyer ’80, P’10 and host Jenny Gilchrist P’12.

President Trombley continues her book tour.

Award-winning filmmakers Beth and George Gage taught a master class, part of Mountainfilm at Pitzer.

2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards and Trustee, Bridget Bales, ’02 with Claudio Chavez, ’86, president, of the Alumni Association.

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President Trombley cheers on the Sagehen women’s soccer team at a meet in October.

A piece from the Bas Jan Ader exhibition, fall 2010 in the Nichols and Lenzner Galleries.

The Sagehen men’s water polo team was ranked first in the nation in pre-season and mid-season polls.

A piece from the Bas Jan Ader exhibition, fall 2010 in the Nichols and Lenzner Galleries.

Timothy Schifter ’80 with the winner of a L.A.M.B. bag, Dominique Festa ’10.

New Joint Science Modular Units opened in fall 2010.
Sagehen Fall Sports Update

The Sagehen sports teams were off to a solid start this fall—the men’s water polo team is nationally ranked, the women’s softball team received accolades for their academic success and all Sagehen student-athletes were recognized for their hard work on the field and in the classroom. Additionally, two Pitzer alumni were inducted into the Sagehen Hall of Fame.

The Sagehen Hall of Fame received two new Pitzer inductees: Eric Dugan ’00 and Creed Pettit ’99. Dugan, who majored in environmental studies, was a four-year letter winner and the Most Valuable Player each year he played on the soccer team. He earned four straight First Team All-SCIAC honors and twice won SCIAC Player of the Year honors. He was awarded four straight NSCAA All Far West First Team honors and named twice to the NSCAA All American Team. In his first year on the squad, Dugan helped lead the team to the SCIAC Championships.

Pettit, who majored in organizational studies, was a four-year starter and earned Second Team All-SCIAC honors as a first-year. He played on the defensive line all four years. Pettit served as team captain in his senior year. Of Pettit, Coach Roger Caron says, “He was a leader through his actions on and off the field. His intensity during practice is what made him such an effective player.”

Dugan and Pettit were honored at the 53rd Annual Induction Ceremony in Edmonds Ballroom on November 6, 2010.

In other Sagehen fall news, the men’s water polo team was ranked first in the nation by the Collegiate Water Polo Association and is comprised of students, alumni and professors from all the Claremont Colleges.

The Sagehens, fielded by Pitzer and Pomona Colleges, participate in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Teams include soccer, basketball, baseball, track & fields, golf, tennis, water polo and swimming and diving.

Go Sagehens! Chirp!

Class of 2014 is Academically Strong, Diverse

The newest members of the Pitzer community are impressive—a third of the 2010 entering class graduated from high school with a 4.0 GPA or higher, and 55% were in the top 10% of their high school class.

Also, the Class of 2014 is among the most ethnically diverse ever enrolled at Pitzer—34% are from under-represented groups. Pitzer is one of the most diverse liberal arts colleges in the country—it was ranked fifth in racial diversity among the top fifty co-educational liberal arts colleges nationwide by the 2010 U.S. News & World Report.

Nine percent of the class is the first in their family to attend college, and 61% are from outside California. The major geographic areas represented, in order, are New York, Illinois, Washington, Massachusetts and Oregon.

Thirty-five percent of the entering class receives financial aid, and Pitzer is committed to meeting 100% of every student’s demonstrated financial need. Pitzer has successfully reduced the average amount of indebtedness of its students. Over the past five years, the average cumulative debt after four years of study decreased 25%, from nearly $22,000 to $16,000.

For the first time, all members of the entering class participated in Pitzer’s Orientation Adventure Program, which is organized and led by current Pitzer students. Trips and activities this year included high-country backpacking, kayaking around Catalina, a tour of Los Angeles food and coffee culture, a bikeride along the Pacific coast, Sespe River fishing, a social justice tour and sailing to Catalina.

Within the first-year cohort, nine received a Presidential Service Award, 11 were student body or class presidents, nine were editors of their school paper, literary magazine or yearbook and 62 were captains of a sports team. Two have a blackbelt. There is also an internationally ranked Yo-Yo player, a Latin American election monitor, a concertmaster, a disaster service worker, a falconer, a professional swing dancer and a children’s book illustrator.
Members of the Class of 2014 participated in a new tradition at Pitzer College—Orientation Adventures. Previously voluntary, these trips and activities are now mandatory for all entering students in response to positive feedback from participants, parents and trip leaders.

Pitzer’s first Orientation Adventure trip—hiking in the Sierras—was held in 1998. Later, a surfing trip was added. This year, there were 16 Orientation Adventures organized over six months. Trips were designed and led by 88 current students, and allowed all 283 new students to get to know their new classmates and enjoy four days of fun and activities before the academic year began.

The Cuyamaca Backpacking Trip featured a visit to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park in San Diego County and hiking through desert forests, swimming in lakes and outdoor grilling. There were also backpacking trips to the High Sierras, Jennie Lakes and the Los Angeles County mountains. The High Sierra Adventure covered a seven mile hike each day at an elevation of 10,000 feet on the Sierra Crest at Kearsarge Pass, near pristine alpine lakes and towering granite pinnacles.

The LA Food and Coffee Culture Trip featured four days of visiting farmers markets, art galleries, cultural food centers and coffee shops in the greater Los Angeles area. Students and leaders explored, cooked and ate their way through LA! Also LA-focused, the Social Justice in Action Trip explored “invisible” sides of Los Angeles and introduced students to volunteer opportunities. It included an event with spoken word artists, tours of graffiti and murals and talks with community activists.

Dean of Faculty Alan Jones led the Sailing to Catalina Trip. Sailing on the Getaway, the group visited ports and coves and toured Catalina Island. Students helped sail the boat, navigated through nighttime waters and cooked onboard. The Southern California Surf Trip featured comprehensive surf instruction from surf pros, as well as day hikes and camping along the coast.

New students and trip leaders agreed that the Orientation Adventures were a great way to start the year. One first-year student said, “We learned that learning is a lot more than information from a book. This opened my eyes to the world and helped me understand that it is not all about what I read and what grade I get—it is about how I use information and experience to better myself and the community.”
Michelle Berenfeld earned her PhD in classical archaeology and art, her MA and her BA in art history from New York University. She won several awards including the Brown University Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation/World Monument Fund Grant.

Berenfeld’s work has been published by the American Journal of Archaeology, Icon Magazine and the Journal of Society of Architectural Historians. She has presented papers at conferences around the world, from Canada to China. Since 1994, she has led excavation projects in Egypt, Jordan and Turkey.

Berenfeld has taught at Brown University and Pratt Institute. Of her new position at Pitzer, she says “As an archaeologist, I am particularly excited about exploring the physical world of the ancient Greeks and Romans with Pitzer students.”

Geoffrey Herrera holds a PhD and MA in politics from Princeton University. He received numerous awards including a Lindback Minority Junior Fellowship and Princeton University President’s Fellowship.

Herrera is the author of Technology and International Transformation: The Railroad, the Atom Bomb and the Politics of Technological Change and spoke at conferences such as the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association.

He previously taught at Johns Hopkins University, Swarthmore College and the University of Pennsylvania. Of Pitzer, he said, “I want to teach at a school with smart, dedicated and interesting students. Pitzer is such a place, obviously, but its additional commitment to social responsibility is deeply appealing to me.”

Sarah Gilman received a PhD in population biology from UC Davis and a BS in earth systems from Stanford University. Gilman has won numerous awards from the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Energy and the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography.

She was most recently published by Trends in Ecology and Evolution and the Journal of Experimental Biology, and presented at the annual meetings of the Ecological Society of America, the Western Society of Naturalists and the Gordon Conference on the Metabolic Basis of Ecology.

“I previously taught at the Joint Science Department as a visiting professor, and I am looking forward to the energy and enthusiasm that Pitzer students bring to the classroom,” says Gilman.

Congratulations to Professor Judith Grabiner, recipient of the Lester R. Ford Award from the Mathematical Association of America.

Professor Grabiner is the only person to receive this award four times.
Faculty Publications


Phil Zuckerman (sociology) wrote Atheism and Secularity and "Atheism, Secularity and Well-Being" in Sociology Compass.

Ahmed Alwishah (philosophy) presented "Avicenna on Mantle Language" at the 27th Annual Joint Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science, and "The Study of Islamic Philosophy in the US" at the Editors' Conference.

Brent Armendinger (English and world literature) wrote Undergraduate "Life in the Mines" in Osiris. He also published book reviews in Isis, Technology and Culture, The Journal of Modern History and Central European History.


Faculty Recognition

Ahmed Alwishah (philosophy) presented "Avicenna on Mantle Language" at the 27th Annual Joint Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science, and "The Study of Islamic Philosophy in the US" at the Editors' Conference.

Brent Armendinger (English and world literature) read his poetry at Books and Bookshelves in San Francisco and at Amy Adler’s Echo Park Studio.

Jennifer Armstrong (biology) co-presented a poster, "The CHD1 Family: A Model for the Study of the Cardiovascular System" at the 51st Annual Drosophila Research Conference. She served on a grant panel for the National Science Foundation.


Melinda Herford-Menzies (environmental studies) authored "Peasant Resistance Against Nature Reserves" in Reclaiming Society: The New Social Activism.


Jesse Lerner (media studies) co-authored "Native American Artworks at the Claremont Colleges." He also presented "Leibniz in the Mines" in Osiris.

Phil Zuckerman (sociology) wrote Atheism and Secularity and "Atheism, Secularity and Well-Being" in Sociology Compass.

Ahmed Alwishah (philosophy) presented "Avicenna on Mantle Language" at the 27th Annual Joint Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science, and "The Study of Islamic Philosophy in the US" at the Editors’ Conference. He chaired a panel at the International Society for Iranian Studies Conference and served as an external referee for the Stanford Encyclopedia.

Bill Anthes (environmental studies) presented "Native American-Artworks at the Claremont Colleges" at the Tribal Nations, Indian Communities and Higher Education Conference.

Brent Armendinger (English and world literature) read his poetry at Books and Bookshelves in San Francisco and at Amy Adler’s Echo Park Studio.

Jennifer Armstrong (biology) co-presented a poster, "The CHD1 Family: A Model for the Study of the Cardiovascular System" at the 51st Annual Drosophila Research Conference. She served on a grant panel for the National Science Foundation.

All for the Best: Optimizing in the History of Science at the Mathematical Association of America Ohio Meeting.

A. Juhász (media studies) screened The Osti at film festivals in Seoul, Seattle, Toronto, Los Angeles, New York and Tokyo. It premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival. She presented “Queen(y)thTube” at the Digital Media and Learning Conference, “The Future of LGBTQ Film Studies” at SCMS: Queer Mentoring: Contradictions of a Process Archive at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting; “YouTube’s Iconic Free Fall” at the College Art Association Annual Meeting; “Revolution on YouTube” at Berkeley; “The Corpus of Corpus” at UC Riverside and “Publishing Learning from YouTube” at Brown University. Juhász gave keynote addresses at Simon Fraser University and the University of Iowa, and also gave remarks titled “Activism, Art and the AIDS Crisis” at Harvard University.

A. Ratti (art) presented “Documentary and Its Double” at Ambulante; “Extasis Tzompantli” at the Museo Estudio Diego Rivera in Mexico City; and “El Impacto de la Modernidad” at the Museo Cinematografico; “El Impacto de la Modernidad” at the Museo Amparo and “Hector Garcia and the Mexican Street” at the Latin American Studies Association Conference. Lerner was quoted in the Los Angeles Times and Reforma.


J. McCoy (art) received an On-Bow Artist Residency from the Art Institute of Chicago, a Purchase Award from the Woodbury Art Museum and the Carter Sexton Award from Viva Art Center. She exhibited her work at the Sebastapol Center for the Arts; The Lab in San Francisco, the Marco Logden Gallery in Chicago; the Santa Cruz Art League, the Viva Art Center in Los Angeles, the National Watercolor Society Gallery in Los Angeles; the Mills Pond House Gallery in New York, the Presidio Officers Club Exhibition Hall in San Francisco, and the Woodbury Art Museum at Utah Valley University. Her piece “Miegir” appeared in Visual Overture Magazine and her piece “Frenzies” was reviewed in the Utah Valley Daily Herald.

B. Rudi Volti (sociology, emeritus) presented “Old the Maelst Promote of Worker Innovation Contribute Anything to China’s Present Technological and Economic Successes?” at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. He serves as book editor for Transfers: New Mobility Studies.

A. Wakefield (history) presented “Lebaniz and the Wind Machines” at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Switzerland and “Earth, Wind, Water and Mining Machines: Lebanon” at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting.

A. Gutierrez (chemistry) was a recipient of the MTLE and Academic Commons Community Contribution Award. She co-presented “An Inversion of Reductive Elimination Reactivity from Two Isomeric Ph (IV) Complexes,” a poster, and “VPFE: Virtual Inorganic Pedagogical Educational Resource,” a poster, at the 239th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society. She also co-presented “The Virtual Inorganic Pedagogical Educational Resource: A Community for Students and Teachers of Inorganic Chemistry,” a poster, at the Middle-Atlantic Discovery Chemistry Project Meeting; “Blurring the Line Between Repository and Social Network” at Educause, and “An Inversion of Reductive Elimination Reactivity from Two Isomeric Ph (IV) Complexes,” a poster, at the Organometallics Gordon Conference. Scott Williams also co-organized a two-day poster and symposium session at the 239th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society.

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Pitzer students and alumni have been awarded more than 100 Fulbright Fellowships, sending students and alums to 46 countries over 46 years.