A note from President Skandera Trombley

Dear Friends,

In this issue of The Participant, we celebrate Pitzer students, staff and graduates—activists, organizers, advocates—who have dedicated themselves to practicing one of Pitzer College’s core values: social responsibility. As American activist Cesar Chavez taught us, “Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot unempower the people who feel pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future, and the future is ours.”

Throughout their time at Pitzer, students engage in social responsibility both in and out of the classroom. They work closely with their advisers to plan academic programs that meet our social responsibility objective, which they can fulfill by participating in a study abroad program involving an internship or community service, taking a directed study with an experiential component or taking a full-credit course involving community service, community-based fieldwork or a community-based internship.

For the last 12 years, a significant force for change has grown in stature and influence on the Pitzer College campus. Founded in 1999 by Dean Alan Jones, the Community Engagement Center (CEC, formerly The Center for California Cultural and Social Issues) was founded in 1999 by Dean Alan Jones and now facilitates more than 30 community partnerships through which Pitzer students bridge their academic course content with action research performed at local nonprofit organizations such as Camp alfalfa-Paige, a youth incarceration facility/high school; Prototypes, a center providing services for women in need; and the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center, which advocates for workers’ rights in Southern California. Pitzer students, numbering in thousands in total, donate over 100,000 hours to community service annually, much of it through the CEC.

Two of my favorite Pitzer alumni, Rhonda ‘82 and Ruett ‘81 Foster, brilliantly practice Pitzer’s values and display their commitment to social change on an ongoing basis. Rhonda and Ruett are the parents of two beautiful boys, Evan and Alec. Tragically, Rhonda and Ruett lost Alec at age seven to gang violence, and they turned their grief into a crusade to protect the members of their community and to prevent future senseless tragedies. For their efforts, they have received multiple awards, including the 2011 KGET-TV Local Heroes Award and the 2007 Changing Lives Award.

This issue of The Participant, which highlights graduates who work to make a difference, only scratches the surface in terms of revealing the many Pitzer alumni who are agents of change in their communities. You will read the inspiring stories of a community organizer, a civil rights worker, a mayor’s aide and an environmentalist. Their stories are instructive, brave and they represent the very best of Pitzer.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and I hope to see you at the College’s 47th Commencement Ceremony on May 14 and at Alumni Weekend 2011—June 10-12.

Presida Futurum,
Laura Skandera Trombley
President
Pitzer Celebrates the Class of 2011

May 12  Seniors v Staff/Faculty Softball Game
Senior/Faculty/Staff Party

May 13  Commencement Rehearsal
Baccalaureate Ceremony
President’s Reception

May 14  Class Photo
Senior Art Exhibit
Commencement Ceremony

www.pitzer.edu/commencement

Spring 2011

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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.

The Participant is made from recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. Pitzer College encourages the use of recyclable and renewable materials.
Since the founding of Pitzer College in 1963, social responsibility has served as a core value through which students learn to be responsible local and global citizens.

In 1999, Professor Alan Jones, now dean of faculty, established the Community Engagement Center (CEC, formerly The Center for California Cultural and Social Issues) to embody those values. The Center now facilitates more than 30 community partnerships through which Pitzer students are granted opportunities to bridge current classroom curriculum with hands-on field work at organizations such as Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige, local Native American tribes, the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center and Prototypes Women’s Center.

The CEC operates an academic enrichment program through its partnership with Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige, a Los Angeles County juvenile detention facility and high school. Pitzer students incorporate poetry and spoken word lessons that culminate in the biannual “Borrowed Voices” events during which Camp students perform their own poetry on the Pitzer campus. Pitzer students have an opportunity to share their academic skills while learning from the perspective of urban youths.

The Community Engagement Center has established partnerships with local California Indian tribes, including the Gabrieleno/Tongva, the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel and the Ohlone. Through these partnerships, students are allowed to share in indigenous tribal traditions, ceremonies and history while helping tribal members through grant writing and fundraising events that have empowered them with computers, wellness classes and equipment resources. “Pitzer students bring their enthusiasm and imagination to this partnership and we hope through their experiences, our indigenous knowledge and culture will be protected and passed on to the next generation,” said Robertjohn Knapp, an Ohlone/Seneca spiritual adviser and elder. In 2009, the CEC launched the Pipeline Program, an on-campus summer school that helps Native high school students prepare academically for college while strengthening their connection to Native culture.

For the past 12 years, the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center (PEOC), Pitzer students, faculty, CEC staff and day laborers have developed programs that enhance laborers’ skills. Students teach English as a Second Language and computer workshops, launch advocacy efforts for fair wages and organize fundraising events. “Teaching ESL at the PEOC is a win-win situation,” said Stephanie Hyland ’12. “Teacher and student alike get to learn about another culture and a new language.” This partnership introduces Pitzer students to the
struggles of recent immigrants, and students develop research and analytical skills useful in improving real-life problems. “The partnership has raised the visibility of day laborers in the region, which has magnified the power of the day laborers’ voices as they defend their rights and dismantle negative stereotypes of immigration,” said Suzanne Foster ’00, executive director of PEOC.

The Prototypes Center for Innovation in Health, Mental Health and Social Services is a nonprofit agency that helps women and their families confront substance abuse, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, domestic violence and other traumas. Pitzer students work with Prototypes clients on art, performance, gardening, tutoring and day care. Pitzer College faculty and students host workshops on writing and self-expression that lead to an annual performance of The Vagina Monologues.

Pitzer students donate over 100,000 hours annually to community work, contributing significantly to change in the region. Pitzer students are changed too. In a 2009 survey a significant percentage reported that their capacity to express empathy (90%), to recognize and value the assets and strengths of communities (84%) and to apply critical theory to address community needs (77%) were enhanced moderately or greatly by their experiences.

“I am impressed by, and always look forward to seeing more ways in which Pitzer College can, through research and critical engagement, address the root causes of injustice that necessitate our service-learning programs,” said Tessa Hickey-Peterson, CEC director. “I look forward to watching Pitzer students, our Center and the College as a whole continually learn what that looks like in action as we articulate our notions of ‘social responsibility’ in a context of shared burdens and social-change goals with our local communities.”
Rhonda ’82 and Ruett ’81 Foster have made it their life’s mission to eradicate youth violence and uplift incarcerated youth.

In 1997, the Fosters founded the Evan Leigh Foster Foundation to honor the memory of their seven-year-old son who was killed instantly in the midst of a gang-related shooting. Their son Alec, 14, was also wounded in the shooting. They visit youth prisons throughout Los Angeles County, and run workshops on violence prevention, imbued with their personal experience, prayer, compassion and forgiveness. “We were shaken, but not destroyed by our family tragedy,” explains Ruett. “Our sensibilities were still intact, and it was as if the shaking from the horrific dealings activated a type of social justice serum in us that allowed us to respond with love.”

Both Rhonda and Ruett, acquaintances at Pitzer who later reconnected, say that their experiences at Pitzer contributed to their response to the loss of their son. Rhonda was a psychology major and now works as a case manager for Community Build and the Gang Reduction Youth Development Program of Los Angeles. She fondly recalls performing in “The Pit” with African-American friends who lived with her in the Cultural Arts Corridor, signing and initiating petitions for causes on campus and classes such as her freshman seminar “The Impact of Change” taught by Professor Sheryl Miller. “The Pitzer environment is distinctive in fostering its students to embrace the idea that we can make a difference, to have the courage to choose a unique approach to address the challenges that life brings, encouraging us to use our voice to impact those around us in a positive way,” says Rhonda.

“I came into my own at Pitzer,” explains Ruett, a dance and psychology major. “I grew up in the inner city and didn’t fit in ‘regular’ society. But Pitzer was so welcoming and empowered me to live who I was powerfully, in an abundant way.” Following graduation, Ruett earned a master’s degree in dance therapy from UCLA and, after years in social work and ministry, now serves as senior pastor of the Community Bible Church in Culver City, CA. There, he and Rhonda also partner with the Culver City Police Department in their Juvenile Diversion Program to provide self-esteem training and family reconciliation opportunities for first-time offenders and their families.

The Fosters have been recognized for their public service and advocacy work, recently with the KCET and Union Bank 2011 Local Heroes Award, the 2007 Pitzer College Distinguished Alumni Award and the 2007 Changing Lives Award from the Heman G. Starks Correctional Facility. Rhonda serves on the board of Women Against Gun Violence, and Ruett serves on the board of the Office for Restorative Justice of the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

“We’re not just giving back to society,” explains Ruett. “We’re reaching in, pulling out these young people who are perpetrating violent acts, most of whom are responding to unresolved grief from violence perpetrated against them by family members, to teach human responsibility and the truth that each person has an important role in society.”
Pamela David ’74

Pamela David ’74 is a civil rights champion and devoted community organizer.

An “unrepentant” child of the ’60s, David began working for antiewar and students’ rights groups in Chicago while still in high school. “I chose Pitzer because of the engagement of professors and students with the issues at hand,” says David.

At Pitzer, she continued protesting the Vietnam War and ultimately was arrested as part of the Claremont 23 for blocking the entrance to a local draft site. But it was her volunteer work for welfare rights for coalmine workers in rural Kentucky during her sophomore year that cemented her lifelong commitment to activism. The program, led by Folklorist-in-Residence Guy Carawan, involved a home-stay with a mining family and training at the Highlander Center, a community education school that prepared Rosa Parks for her bus sit-in.

“Pitzer gave me the confidence to take risks, and to know my values and live them,” recalls David. “It was an amazing time when you felt that you were part of a broader social movement and that you could change the world.”

After graduating from Pitzer with majors in education and psychology, she earned a master’s degree in educational psychology at Stanford and eventually became a lead organizer in the pivotal 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and was adviser to the Reverend Jesse Jackson during his 1988 presidential campaign, writing his policy statements on gay and lesbian rights and AIDS policy. She worked for three San Francisco mayors on community and economic development issues before taking on her current post of executive director of the Walter & Elise Haas Fund, a San Francisco-based foundation that assists in a multitude of local and social causes.

David continues to volunteer and, as the co-chair of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which helps train the next generation of activists. “It’s a lot of work, but not a chore,” she says. “I do it out of an obligation to myself and to my sense of community. Lending my history is part of my evolution.”

By Michele Botwin Raphael ’92

Quinn Delaney ’76

Quinn Delaney ’76 is committed to ending racism in our country and creating a racially just society.

The founder and president of the Akonadi Foundation, Delaney works to dismantle structural racism. The organization examines what perpetuates racial disparities, and has awarded close to $30 million in grants to groups working for racial justice. “I’ve seen many successes, particularly at the local level,” says Delaney. “The challenge is how to amplify and multiply those successes so that we can all begin to see how we could live in a world without racial oppression.”

An art history major at Pitzer, Delaney says her process of looking at the interconnectedness of various institutions that cause racial tension grew out of her studies at Pitzer. “The field of philanthropy is known for working in silos: there are education funders, environmental funders, health funders. I try to work across the sectors, zeroing in on where we can leverage the intersections to create change,” says Delaney. “That’s pure Pitzer.”

The late Professor Werner Warmbrunn influenced her most. “His approach was to look at everything that was happening: leaders, people, economy, literature, art,” says Delaney.

Before founding the Akonadi Foundation in 2000, Delaney served as the chair of the Northern California affiliate of the ACLU for five years, and she has also served on the boards of the Oakland Museum of California, the Tides Foundation, the Family Violence Law Center and as a Pitzer trustee. She received a law degree from the University of Houston and practiced public interest law, before opening an aerobics studio and taking time off to raise two sons. Her husband, Wayne Jordan, a real-estate developer and secretary-treasurer for the foundation, is active in local, state and national politics.

“It is a great achievement to have elected a black man as president of the United States,” says Delaney. “But there remains a lot of work for all of us to do to create a truly just and equitable world.”

By Michele Botwin Raphael ’92
Gilbert Gonzales ’03 changes people’s lives every day.

As senior director for the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Economic and Business Policy, Gonzalez is directly responsible for bringing new jobs and businesses to the city and saving those at risk. Whether it’s negotiating contracts with Intuit, Lucky Brand and Costco—garnering $180 million in capital investment and creating 950 local jobs—or preventing a family-run towing company from going under, Gonzalez is committed to helping others. “At the end of the day, someone will have a job, be able to buy Christmas presents, be able to pay for school for their kids,” says Gonzalez. “It’s those stories of small business owners that are really exciting. You see your work right in front of you.”

It wasn’t so long ago that Gonzales changed—and perhaps saved—his own life. Raised in a gang-infested area of Fresno, his family struggled when his single mother went into a two-year coma after a motorcycle accident. Homeless at age 15 and again at 17, he dropped out of high school and worked at a truck stop to support himself and his two brothers. Encouraged by a former football coach, he earned his GED and attended junior college before coming to Pitzer, where he received financial aid and work study to cover much of his tuition.

Upon graduating, Gonzales worked as the Irvine Diversity Urban Fellow at Pitzer’s Center for California Cultural & Social Issues (CCCSI), now the Community Engagement Center, where he created “Borrowed Voices,” a literacy program for incarcerated youth, which has since flourished to include over 500 students and has received significant national grants. He went on to work for the California State Senate and several real-estate investment companies before joining the Mayor’s Office.

The recipient of the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs in 2003 and the Avery China Fellowship in 2004, Gonzalez was awarded a Marshall Memorial Fellowship this year, which will allow him to engage elected officials in Germany, Poland and France and bring back ideas to Los Angeles. Gonzalez also sits on several boards and is the incoming president of the Pitzer College Alumni Board of Directors.

“Pitzer is my family and has shaped me into who I am,” says Gonzalez. “I’m honored to be part of a passionate, caring community that shapes the world.”

By Michele Botwin Raphael ’92

Mark Moore ’93 is a citizen of the world.

The founder of the Earthville Network, Moore works to build sustainable development, creative collaboration and global community in India, Vietnam, the Middle East, Europe and the United States. The seeds for Earthville were planted nearly 20 years ago when Moore traveled to Nepal as a Pitzer student volunteer. “The Nepal program was one of the most powerfully formative experiences I’ve had outside the womb,” says Moore. “Living with a farming family in a tiny mud hut, I was smitten by the kindness and tenacity of the villagers who, despite material impoverishment, were more radiantly joyful and generous that I’d ever imagined humans could be.”

Moore was also struck by Nepalese traditions of living in harmony with nature. “This set me searching for neo-indigenous solutions: how would traditional wisdom suggest we adapt the old recipes for sustainable living to the new and rapidly changing world we live in today?” says Moore.

Back at Pitzer, Moore continued organizing the annual music festival Kohoutek and other arts events. He graduated with a double major in political studies and creative production, and returned to Nepal. Four years later, with Dara Ackerman ’93 and friend Scarth Locke ’93, he launched the first Earthville project, the Dharamshala Earthville Institute (DEVI), in the Indian Himalayas. DEVI is a community-service, volunteer placement, cross-cultural exchange and personal growth organization managed by Tibetan refugees and lauded by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The Earthville Network has expanded with more than a dozen collaborations and initiatives including the Sulha Peace Project, Human Family Peace Project nurturing relations between the Middle East and the United States; the Lotus and Lightning project supporting the Vietnam Fund for Education, Music and Infrastructure, and the nonprofit CreatioNation music label funding altruistic and artistic endeavors. Their latest ventures include the Earthville Orchards, a carbon-offset and green jobs program that sponsors tree planting in India, and the Dharmayana Institute for Compassionate Living, a model campus that provides eco-restorative jobs and education for local Himalayan villagers.

“My aspiration is to keep expanding this global village network and creating more and even better opportunities for people to connect and serve.”

By Michele Botwin Raphael ’92
Angela Sanbrano ’75

A political activist and leader of immigrant rights groups, Sanbrano has dedicated her life to improving conditions for Latino communities in the US and Central America. Born in the border town of Juarez, Mexico, Sanbrano grew up in El Paso, TX, with her parents, eight siblings and extended family. As a psychology major at Pitzer, she was inspired to become an activist and value her cultural roots. Later, while earning a law degree, she encountered Salvadoran refugees fleeing the civil war and recognized the need to build a solidarity movement to “prevent a Vietnam-type war in Central America.”

In 1985, Sanbrano was elected executive director of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and traveled throughout the US working to end intervention in Central America. After the civil war ended, she moved to El Salvador, where she lived for two years and founded the International Solidarity Center. “I needed to see how the country would go from war to peace, and the process reinforced my commitment to democracy,” explains Sanbrano.

Returning to the US, she was named executive director of the Central American Resource Center, the largest Central American community center in the US. She later assumed her current post as president of the National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities, which strives to advance immigrants in the US and their home countries. Under her leadership, the organization received a 2010 MacArthur Foundation Award for Creative and Effective Institutions.

Sanbrano continues her connection with Pitzer as part of community coalition with Professor José Calderón and students called “Pomona Habla/Speaks” aimed at stopping discriminatory traffic enforcement policies in Pomona. “The involvement of Pitzer students in community efforts makes a real difference, especially to people who have been oppressed and disenfranchised.”

By Michele Botwin Raphael ’92

Constance Blaine Van Eaton ’69

For more than two decades, Van Eaton performed for children and adults in ICU wards, rehabilitation centers and rest homes in Colorado. As a volunteer with her Medicine Band, she rocked patients in her arms while singing to them. The effects were profound. Patients recovering from traumatic brain injury, stroke or spinal cord injury responded by smiling, trying to sing along, crying and even dancing. Some patients in comas opened their eyes. Intrigued by the impact of music on brain chemistry and healing, “I became addicted to the connection I found with the most intensely injured,” says Van Eaton.

She could not have known that the challenges of trauma patients would one day become her own. En route to a meeting in 2001, her car was hit by a truck and she sustained a head and spinal cord injury. Still focused on her recovery, Van Eaton plays the piano to promote dexterity in her arms and hands.

Van Eaton remains involved with A Better World, a charitable music production company she and her husband founded in 1985. Through their Denver at the Apollo program they have worked with hundreds of local inner-city youth. “Music is a powerful way to reach young people. In so doing, we hope they will carry on the torch toward making a better world in their unique way,” explains Van Eaton.

Van Eaton became aware of social and community needs as a student at Pitzer. A double major in chemistry and sociology, she especially valued the discussions about “realities that were not so comfortable about our world” in cultural anthropology classes taught by Professor Lee Munroe. Her heightened appreciation for individuals’ cultural backgrounds and values, she says, later served her in her professional work.

As she continues her recovery, Van Eaton and her husband are developing their latest venture, Live Interactive Visual Immersion Entertainment Shows (LIVIES™), slated to premiere soon. Utilizing innovative, experiential technology in a dome-like structure, the musical shows intend to “create a greater consciousness for a better community and a better world.”

By Michele Botwin Raphael ’92
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Jennifer Mackley lived in France for several years and now works at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC. She has three grown children.

Diana Douglas Zschieche, with her husband, recently purchased a geodesic dome and runs a woodworking business. She also completed a summer internship as a chapter chaplain and now works as a chaplain for a hospice group. She continues to write, and performs poetry.

JudgeMalbeauneEphramgave the keynote address at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s 41st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Fund Banquet Gala.

Susan Feniger was named Planned Parenthood Los Angeles Child of the Year and she was also honored at the First Annual Human Dignity Awards Dinner organized by the Program for Torture Victims. Her restaurant, The Border Grill, was praised in Eating Las Vegas, 50 Essential Restaurants.

Amy Rosen was named to President Obama’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability and her essay, “Davos 2011: The Final Hours,” was published in May 2010. Optionally, Rediff.com said, “Rosen’s blog offers one of the most illuminating, thoughtful and comprehensive accounts of the Davos World Economic Forum.”

Jackie Anker completed a half marathon and swimming trip in 2009, and is currently working on her SCUBA certification.

Jean PrivaileSwier, MD recently moved from San Diego to the Bay Area. She works with Connections Academy, which establishes and operates virtual at-home public schools.

David H. Wells launched Photo Synex, a premium online service that connects aspiring photographers with professionals who provide them with critique.

Cathy Lewis published Small Pieces: Stories of Mexico/Pequeños Pecados: Cuentos de Mexico, which contains stories from the states of Oaxaca, Veracruz, Jalisco, Guerrero, Chiapas and San Luis Potosi.

Elizabeth Russell was named chief executive officer of SCAN Health Plan Arizona.

Kathryn Field retired as deputy county executive officer in Riverside County in August 2010.

Barbara Sinor, PhD,authored Tales of Addiction and Inspiration for Recovery, published in May 2010.

Benjamin Goldfarb was quoted in a USA Today story on electric cars.

Joanne McGrady has been married for 34 years and has two children, Devon and Savannah. She earned an MA in 2006 and completed the Disney half-marathon in 2010. She trained for the 2011 Marathon Los Angeles with Team 2 AID, part of the AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Elizabeth Russell was named Local Hero by KCTV-TV.

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Kathryn Bautista Wolters established the Mosbacher/Gartrell Center for Entrepreneurship.

The Huffington Post published an essay, “Davos 2011: The Final Hours,” was published in May 2010. Optionally, Rediff.com said, “Rosen’s blog offers one of the most illuminating, thoughtful and comprehensive accounts of the Davos World Economic Forum.”

Kathleen Williams was a participant in the 2011 Global Action Forum, and operates virtual at-home public schooling. She received grants from the Elizabeth George Foundation and the City of Seattle, and won Yaddis’ 2010 Wallace Residency for a Distinguished Writer.
2000s

’00 Lauren Johnson founded the Orange County Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, a progressive bar association committed to human rights in the law.

’01 Ashley Denault and Christian Nagy were married in June 2010. They live in Providence, RI, where Ashley is a policy analyst at a nonprofit organization.


Tuan Mai and Sasha Mountakhs announced the birth of Liem Channing Mai in September 2010. They live in Oakland where Mai is a physical therapist and Mountakhs is an elementary school teacher.

Crosby Nance was promoted to senior social media manager at Red Door Interactive.

’02 Rashelle Chase married Justin Hibbard in December 2010 in Hawaii. Several Pitzer alumni celebrated with them at a reception in January 2011.

Jenny Krissneng teaches maifu and dance at a Montessori school in Medellin, Colombia, and modern dance at EAFIT University also in Medellin. In 2011, she toured with the Asheville Contemporary Dance Theater throughout Colombia, dancing and coordinating children’s outreach visits.

Margaret Ogie and husband Noor Othman announced the birth of Idri Kasahai in November 2010.


Carolyn Winick joined the Peace Corps and is stationed in Tonga.

Nate Adams and Liz Copland were married in August 2009 with two generations of Pitzer alumni in attendance.

’09 Hilary Bernham-Baker and William Bernham-Baker were married in Oakland, California in October 2010. In attendance were Erin Tyner Egel 09, James Bensonek 09, Filipa Nacados Gomez 09 and Rachel Vanderson, former Grove House director.

Fernando Calderon will complete an MA in Higher education at the Claremont Graduate University in May 2011.

Chandler Denison earned an MS in wildlife science from the University of Missouri, and married Lena Westra.

Alison Gray Skinner and husband Charlie welcomed their daughter Maya Lucy into the world in March 2010. Alison is currently working on an MBA at the University of Washington.


’05 Alison Skinner and her husband are expecting a baby in March.

Kelly Smith was recently hired as a fundraiser for E4NY’s Echo Park Patch, and will write a series, “Think Echo Park.” She will marry William Erickson ’06 in April 2011.

’06 Matthew Turzo received an MBA from Imperial College Business School.

Narjahan (Bruce) Boulden welcomed the arrival of Beau Boulden.

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Rory Cox appeared on NPR’s Latino USA to discuss her research in Nepal as a Fulbright Scholar.

Chase ’08 married Alia Sassanella on October 21, 2010.

Casey Hood, along with Class of 2009 members Quinn Casal, Kira Topik, Morgan de Santo, Jeremy Brandner, Sarah Cohen and Just Lisnethr, visited Rory Cruz in Nepal on the Fulbright Scholarship.

Samuel Jubelirer and Katherine Hassan were married in January 2011 in Pasadena, CA.


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Margaret Ogie and husband Noor Othman announced the birth of Idri Kasahai in November 2010.

Stephen Piacentini and his wife Emma welcomed Charlotte Marie Piacentini in December 2010.

’04 Hilary Bernham-Baker and William Bernham-Baker were married in October 2010.

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.
What’s new at Pitzer?

Mosbacher ’72 Supports Pitzer Media Studies Program

Diane “Dee” Mosbacher ’72 MD, PhD donated $1.5 million to establish the Mosbacher/Gartrell Center for Media Experimentation and Activism and the Mosbacher Fund for Media Studies at Pitzer College.

The Center, named for Mosbacher and her long-time partner Dr. Nanette Gartrell, will be located in Pitzer’s new Platinum LEED-Certified mixed-use residence halls, scheduled to open in fall 2012. The Mosbacher Fund will support the Center’s guest speakers, workshops, film/video festivals, curriculum projects, community outreach and faculty/student research, among other activities.

Of her gift, Mosbacher said, “I’m thrilled that Pitzer College is involved in not only artistic filmmaking but filmmaking with purpose. I hope this program will allow students to experiment with filmmaking with an activism standpoint and learn how to successfully craft the message to reach its target audience.”

Mosbacher is the founder of Woman Vision, a nonprofit organization that promotes tolerance and equal treatment of all people through the production and use of educational media, including video. She directed and produced Straight from the Heart, which was nominated for an Academy Award. Mosbacher is also a practicing psychiatrist in San Francisco.

Ahmanson Foundation $1 Million Gift

Pitzer College was awarded two grants totaling $1 million from the Ahmanson Foundation in support of the College’s Media Studies Program.

In December 2010, Pitzer broke ground on four new residence halls. The new buildings, to be directed and produced Straight from the Heart, which was nominated for an Academy Award. Mosbacher is also a practicing psychiatrist in San Francisco.

A state of the art space for the media studies program will be located in a new platinum LEED-certified multi-use facility that will open in fall 2012.

Generous Gift from Gloria Gold P’74

Gloria Gold P’74 donated $1 million to Pitzer, in support of the renovation of the Gold Student Center.


The Gold’s many gifts to Pitzer College include funds for the Gold Student Center, which opened in 1985, the Peter and Gloria Gold Scholarship and the Peter and Gloria Gold Professorship. They also contributed a major gift to Phase I of the College’s Residential Life Project, which opened in 2008.

Construction Begins on New Mixed-Use Residence Halls

In December 2010, Pitzer broke ground on four new residence halls, launching Phase II of its Residential Life Project. The new buildings will house 308 students, the Mosbacher/Gartrell Center for Media Experimentation and Activism, the Office of Study Abroad, seminar rooms, a digital photography lab, an art gallery and the Pitzer archives. It will also include a demonstration kitchen, three apartments for live-in staff, faculty-in-residence and a visiting faculty member. Study rooms and lounges, along with decks, balconies and other outdoor spaces will be incorporated.

Some of the sustainable features include collection and use of solar energy, a gray water reclamation system, low-flow water fixtures, drip irrigation and drought-tolerant landscaping. Before construction began, the College employed a botanist and a biologist to ensure the identification, protection and relocation of sensitive flora and fauna in the area.

Once completed in 2012, Pitzer will be able to house approximately 93 percent of its students on campus, up from 74 percent, and the College expects to be awarded a platinum LEED rating for the project, the highest designation possible.

More information, architect renderings, floor plans and pictures can be found at www.pitzer.edu/offices/facilities/construction_projects.

Elders-in-Residence Program

In February, the Community Engagement Center (CEC) at Pitzer launched the Elders-in-Residence Program, which was the brainchild of Pitzer students and local Native American elders. Each Friday afternoon during the semester, an elder is available to all students, staff, faculty and community members to answer questions and offer support. The Pitzer campus sits on the ancestral lands of the Gabrieleño/Tongva Band of Mission Indians, and the region is home to several other Native American tribes.

Organized by Scott Scoggins, the CEC’s tribal liaison and urban fellow, spring 2011 participating elders included Julia Bagpiy of the Gabrieleño/Tongva Band of Mission Indians, Robertjohn Knap of the Cherokee/Creek, Lorene Sisquoc of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe and a descendant of the Mountain Cahuilla of Southern California.

The Elders-in-Residence Program complements Pitzer’s Native Pipeline to College, which brings Native American high school students to campus for a three-week summer school course designed to prepare them for success in college, and its partnership with the Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, which works with tribal members to educate the community on their rich heritage.
Munroe Center Launches “Schooling in Mass Societies” Series
The Munroe Center for Social Inquiry (MCSI), directed by Daniel Segal, the Jean Pitzer Professor of Anthropology and Historical Studies, continued its programming in spring 2011 with “Schooling in Mass Societies,” a semester-long series of public lectures and related events on current debates about educational policy and the study of schooling.

Other events in the series included:

“The Birds, the Bees and the World: How Sex Education Encircled the Globe,” Jonathan Zimmerman, New York University

“Should Affirmative Action Be Based on Race or Class?” Richard Kahlenberg, the Century Foundation

“How Television Thwarted Busing for School Desegregation,” Matthew Delmont, Scripps College

“A New War on Poverty: On Equality and Opportunity in America,” Jonathan Kozol, The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America

Pictures and videos from MCSI events can be found at www.flickr.com/pitzercollege and www.youtube.com/pitzercollege.

Green Bike Program Celebrates First Decade
Founded by students in 2001, Pitzer’s Green Bike Program (GBP) is student-run and promotes cycling, bike safety and sustainability at The Claremont Colleges. The GBP encourages eco-friendly transportation by organizing biking events, giving bike repair lessons and free access to bikes and bike tools.

Launched by Joey Haber, Gus Porter and Fritz Rice, with support from Professor Albert Wachtel and funding from the EcoCenter, the GBP has been providing free loaner bikes and free/low-cost repairs for a decade. At the end of each semester, the GBP refurbishes bikes confiscated by Campus Safety and later raffles them at no charge. Students get free bikes and the bikes are saved from the landfill.

The GBP typically has between 12 and 20 active members who work in the shop, located between the Gold Student Center and Atherton Hall. They normally service about 10 bikes a day—the usual problem is a flat tire—and maintain a fleet of 10 day-use bikes and eight for Friday afternoon bike-polo matches.

President Trombley Paperback Released
On March 7, 2011, the paperback edition of Mark Twain's Other Woman: The Hidden Story of His Final Years was released by Vintage/Anchor. This is President Trombley's fifth book.

Mark Twain’s Other Woman uncovers the carefully hidden truth of Twain’s last years and the vital role played by Isabel Von Kleek Lyon, his personal secretary. In Twain’s final decade, Lyon was his constant companion. She handled his finances and schedule, nursed him through illnesses, ran his household and traveled with him.

Yet, Twain forced her to marry a man she did not love, fired her, bought her a house and took it back, publicly denounced her and blackmailed her. Obsessed, Twain wrote about Lyon for hours every day.

Through Lyon’s hidden papers, journals and letters, Mark Twain’s Other Woman uncovers the secrets Lyon held—and Twain’s efforts to silence her—and details their close and ultimately destructive relationship.

The hardcover edition of Mark Twain’s Other Woman sold out, and President Trombley traveled the country speaking about the book and Pitzer College.

Ten Years of Center for Asian Pacific American Students
Founded in 2001, the Center for Asian Pacific American Students (CAPAS) plays a vital role in campus life, contributing to the College’s social engagement and diversity.

Launched by students, CAPAS was assisted by a grant from the Irvine Foundation in 2002, and in 2003 founded its newsletter, annual open house and Asian Pacific American and Senior Recognition Dinner, among other programs that have continued.

Other CAPAS accomplishments include raising funds for tsunami relief in partnership with the American Red Cross, hosting the Fil-Am benefit for typhoon survivors and establishing the annual Filipino American History Month and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrations. In 2009, CAPAS was named one of the “Top Ten Colleges for Asian American Pacific Islander Students” by Asian Pacific Americans for Progress. CAPAS is directed by Stephanie Velasco Potero.

Said President Laura Skandera Trombley: “On behalf of the entire Pitzer community, I thank CAPAS for its many contributions, those from the last ten years and those to come.”

The CAPAS ten-year commemoration book and video can be found at pitzer.edu/capas.
Event Wrap-Up

On November 3, the Claremont Colleges Entertainment Mafia celebrated their third anniversary with a gathering at the Downtown Independent Theater in Los Angeles. The event featured a talk and Q&A with John Landgraf ’84, president and general manager of FX Networks.

On November 5, the Latino Student Union held their Dia de los Muertos Benefit Dinner, featuring food, art, music and the group Danza Azteca.

The Second Annual Mini Festival of Recent Asian American Films was held on November 5-6. Organized by students in the “Asian Americans in Media” course, taught by Associate Professor Ming-Yuen S. Ma, the festival also featured discussions with filmmakers.

The Second Annual Costanoan Rumuen Tribe 5K Race was held on November 6. Co-sponsored by Pitzer’s Community Engagement Center, the race benefited the Costanoan Rumuen Wellness Center in Pomona. The race was followed by a festival featuring performances, food and information booths.

On November 11, Dr. Michael Tobias, president and CEO of the Dancing Star Foundation, gave a talk on “Thinking About Sustainability: Ethics, Economics and the Biology of Nations” and screened the documentary “HotPoppo. Tobias is the recipient of the Courage of Conscience Award and the Parabola Focus Award.

Throughout the fall 2010 semester, the Fletcher Jones Language and Culture Lab presented “Food on Film,” a bi-monthly screening of cinematic perspectives on food. Films screened included Like Water for Chocolate, Eating Raoul and Eat, Drink, Man, Woman.

On November 29, Cecilia Garcia, a Chumash medicine woman, gave a lecture and demonstration on “The Healer and Healing Plants: A Creative Relationship.”

On December 2, Jim Hoste, professor of mathematics, spoke on “Like Water for Chocolate, Eating Raoul and Eat, Drink, Man, Woman.”

On November 30, VanClief was featured on six seasons of HBO’s Def Comedy National Poetry Slam Finalist, performed at Pitzer College on November 30. VanClief was featured on six seasons of HBO’s Def Comedy National Poetry Slam Finalist, performed at Pitzer College on November 30.

On November 29, Cecilia Garcia, the Chumash medicine woman, gave a lecture and demonstration on “The Healer and Healing Plants: A Creative Relationship.”

On January 24, the Pitzer Literary Series, organized by Assistant Professor Brent Armendinger, brought Sesshu Foster to campus. Foster received the 2010 National Book Award, the 2009 Asian American Literary Award for Poetry and the 2006 Believer Magazine Book Award. He is the author of World Ball Notebook, Atomic Aztex and City Terrace: Field Manual and teaches in East Los Angeles.

On January 24, the Community Engagement Center presented “Promote American Indian Access to Higher Education!” which gathered activists to develop strategies and take action promoting higher education for Native Americans.

On January 26, “Rethinking the War on Terror: Gender, the Law, Immigration, State Terror and Economics” was held in cooperation with the Intercollegiate Women’s Studies Program of the Claremont Colleges and co-organized by Professor Joseph Parker. This was the first in a series of events, which included discussions and/or film screenings on “Gender and the War on Terror,” “Legal Issues and the War on Terror,” “ Stateless Terror in Honduras,” “The War on Terror and Immigration” and “The Economics of the War on Terror.”

On January 28, “The Politics of Race, Immigration and Ethnicity Consortium,” co-organized by Professor Adrian Pantoja, was held, featuring research by eleven scholars from around the country.

On February 1, Pitzer welcomed Amy Wilentz, author of The Rainy Season: Haiti—Then and Now and Canada in Haiti After the Earthquake.”

On February 3, alumni and members of the Class of 2011 gathered to network and socialize. The event featured alumni with careers in media, community activism, the environment, public service, education and public health. See the photos at www.flickr.com/pitzercollege.

On February 8, Richard Kahlenberg, senior fellow at the Century Foundation, speaking on “Creating the Schools We Need.” On March 1, Shaili Shankar discussed “Style and Language Use Among Youth of the New Immigration,” and on March 8, Richard Kahlenberg, senior fellow at the Century Foundation, spoke on “Should Affirmative Action Be Based on Race or Class?”

Three Shows at Pitzer Art Galleries

The Pitzer Art Galleries, curated by Clara Evans, exhibited three shows during the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters. The fall exhibit, Bas Jan Ader: Suspended Between Laughter and Tears, was mounted in collaboration with the Claremont Museum of Art and brought together video, photography, installations and archived material of Bas Jan Ader, a conceptual artist. An award-winning documentary about Bas Jan Ader and a panel discussion was also held. This exhibit will travel to Museo de Arte Zapopan in Mexico in summer 2011.

Photographs can be seen at flickr.com/pitzercollege.

In spring 2011, the Galleries were home to two exhibits: Kimball 1901- and Worker. Kimball 1901- featured stop-motion animation on video and silk-screen printed anagrams to create a portrait of the artist’s absent neighbor through a lifetime of her discarded books and abandoned parlor piano. Worker, by James Gilbert and Jennifer Vanderpol, was the fifth installment in the Galleries’ Emerging Artist Series. It paid homage to the artists’ mothers and their anonymous Los Angeles garment district counterparts in the 1960s. Performance-based, it included sculptural elements, video and audio and an anthropomorphosculpture of used clothing.

Exhibit catalogues can be found at www.pitzer.edu/offices/galleries.
On February 9, Edgar Heap of Birds, artist and professor of Native American studies at the University of Oklahoma, joined the Pitzer community for a Visiting Artist Lecture.

On February 9, the 2011 Spanish Language Film Series was launched with a screening of Novia Que Te Vea. Other films shown in the series include El Norte, The Visitor and Morena Yol, Maria Elena Eres de Garcia, La Ciudad, Machuca and Volver.

On February 11, the Second Annual Pitzer International Extravaganza was held. Organized by the Office of Study Abroad, the dinner brought together Pitzer study abroad alumni, new domestic and international exchange students and Pitzer faculty and staff.

On February 18, Pitzer welcomed parents and family members to campus for Family Weekend. Events included a student photography exhibit, a state of the college address by President Laura Skandera Trombley, "Parent College" sessions and a walking tour featuring Pitzer’s sustainable landscaping. Find pictures at www.flickr.com/pitzercollege.

On February 19, Pitzer hosted an exclusive production of Steve Allen’s “Meeting of Minds,” featuring Charles Shaughnessy P’12 (The Nanny) and Barbara Bain (Mission: Impossible).

On February 23, Pitzer welcomed Juan de Lara ’95 to discuss “Remapping Social, Economic and Racial Justice in Inland Southern California.” He is an Andrew Mellon Teaching Fellow at the University of Southern California and a Rhodes Scholar.

On February 25, the 2011 Nonprofit and Public Service Career Fair was held on the Pitzer campus. Open to all 5-C students, the Fair welcomed employers like the American Red Cross, City Year, the Fund for Public Interest, Green Corps, the Peace Corps, the Housing Rights Center and the US Department of State.

On March 2, Casey Scieszka ’06 returned to campus to discuss and sign her book, To Timbuktu, which chronicles her travels as a Fulbright Fellow and beyond.

On March 7, Pitzer welcomed Vanessa Hidary, the “Hebrew Mamita,” for a spoken word performance followed by an open mic session. This event was sponsored by the Feminist Coalition, Hillel, Social Activities Committee and the Jewish Student Life Committee.

On March 9, Chef Kristine Kidd discussed and signed her book, Weeknight Fresh & Fast: Healthy Meals for Every Night of the Week and offered a special menu from the cookbook.

On March 10, Angelica Salas of the Coalition for Human Immigrants Rights led a discussion on “ICE Raids and Latina Immigrant Workers,” sponsored by Women’s Studies, Chicano Studies and the Campus Life Committee.


On March 26, the Fourth Annual Rockabilly Festival was held on campus, organized by the Latina/o Student Union.

See more pictures of these events and others at Flickr.com/pitzercollege. Videos of some events are available at YouTube.com/pitzercollege. For more information on Pitzer events and news, please visit www.pitzer.edu.
Faculty Publications


Brett Armendinger (English and world literature) co-authored “A la Ramalheira do Encherê: Só Carregas,” which appeared in Court Green and authored “This Is What I Have Been Made For” published in Oral.

Michael Ballagh (Office of Study Abroad) co-authored “The Enhriovene Engineer: Culturally Immersive Study Abroad Programs for Engineering Students,” published in the Institute of International Education Network.


Nigel Boyle (political studies) wrote “What Soccer Teaches Us About Europe, and What European Studies Teachers Us About Soccer,” published in Connections: European Studies Annual, the journal of the Rocky Mountain European Scholars Consortium.

José Zapata Calderón (anthropology) presented “Connections: European Studies Annual” in the US” at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference.

Melinda Herrold-Menzies (art and art history) co-authored “The Hidden Story of No-Fix Years,” released as a paperback by Vintage in March 2011.


Faculty Achievements

Bill Anthes (art and art history) was invited to lecture at the Department of American Studies and Native American Initiatives at the University of Notre Dame. His talk was entitled “Edgar Hoop of Birds at Home and Abroad.”

Brett Armendinger (English and world literature) presented “Disappearing Acts, or Unbelonging in the Archive” at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Conference.

Michael Ballagh (Office of Study Abroad) presented “Igniting Change: The Goals of Foundation Funding to Institutions of Higher Education in the U.S.” at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference.

Mila Banerjee (psychology) launched a blog, “Childmuse,” covering academic views on developmental psychology.

Martha Barcones-Moradian (Community Engagement Center) presented “Capitalizing on Ethnicity: Agency and Activism through Enlisted Democratic Societies” in Diversity and Democracy: Civic Learning for Shared Futures.

Carmen Fought (linguistics) wrote “Contact and Ethnicity,” published in The Handbook of Language Contact.

Judith Grabiner (mathematics) wrote A Historian Looks Back: The Calculus as Algebra and Selected Writings, published by the Mathematical Association of America. She also authored “How to Teach Your Own Liberal Arts Course,” published by the Journal of Humanistic Mathematics. Brief Writing in Mathematics, 2010, included Grabiner’s article “Why Old Lagrange ‘Prove’ the Parallel Postulate?”


Alexandra Juhász (media studies) authored Learning from YouTube, a video book published by MIT Press.

Susan Seymour (anthropology) presented “Silencing: The Study of Male Pregnancy Symptoms,” published in the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography. Co-authored “Re-valorizing Indigenous Knowledge” in Cross-Cultural Research. She was appointed to the Haimo Teaching Award Committee by the Mathematical Association of America.

Martha Barcones-Moradian (Community Engagement Center) presented “Capitalizing on Ethnicity: Agency and Activism through Enlisted Democratic Societies” in Diversity and Democracy: Civic Learning for Shared Futures.

David Moore (psychology) co-authored “Neural Re-Use as a Source of Developmental Horizonts” published in Behavioral and Brain Sciences and “Imental Rotational of Dynamic, 3-Dimensional Stimuli by Three-Month Old Infants” published in Frontiers in Human Neuroscience.

Lee Munroe (politics) authored “What Soccer Teaches Us About Contemporary Europe,” at the Rocky Mountain European Scholars Consortium Annual Conference.


Laura Skandera Tomley (English and world literature) authored Mark Twain’s Other America: The Hidden Story of No-Fix Years, released as a paperback by Vintage in March 2011.


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Alternative Projects Conference at the University of Southern California. He lectured on “Modernism’s Ruins: Appropriations of Ancient Mesoamerica” at the Getty Research Institute. Lerner’s work was exhibited at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Antimatter Film Festival in Canada, the Morelia International Film Festival in Mexico, the Dejongh Museum in San Francisco, and at San Francisco State University, and was a part of Vanguardia Esteticista: Soporte de la Estetica Revolucionaria at Pincelada Diego Rivera in Mexico. Lerner also was awarded an Andy Warhol Foundation/Arts Writers Grant.

Ming-Yuen S. Ma (media studies) participated in a panel discussion on issues of Asian Pacific Islanders in cinema, organized by API Equality. His work was exhibited at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center part of “Queering Vol. 2” as well as in 2010 Xentric at the Center of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona. Ma’s was interviewed for “On the Loose: FREEWAVES and 20 Years of Media Arts,” a book and DVD. He served as a respondent on the panel “Asian Gay Circuits: Rerouting Media, Mobilities and Intimacies” at the Eighth Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference.

Milton Machuca (Spanish) organized and presented “A Country Auction: Then and Now,” an invited roundtable session (Visual Anthropology) at the 190th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. He also presented “Upe! Of GIS and Anthropology” at the 190th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association and “Economic Knowledge, Capitalist Mythologies—Regarding Supply and Demand, for Instance” at the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Michigan.

Rudy Volfi (sociology, emeritus) chaired the panel “Technology across Borders” at the Society for the History of Technology Conference and served as the discussant.

Albert Wachtel (creative studies) will conduct a seminar on the fiction of James Joyce at Universitat Koblenz-Landau from May 16 to June 11, 2011.

André Wakefield (history) participated in “A Roundtable Discussion of The Disordered Police State by Andre Wakefield” at the German Studies Association Annual Meeting. He was invited to present the papers “Leibniz and the Universal Local” at the Earth Sciences Global Workshop at York University in Toronto and “Matter, Mechanism and Nomici” at the Alchemy and Economy Workshop at the Huntington Library in Pasadena.

Phil Zuckermaan (sociology) presented “Atheism, Secularity and Social Well-Being” at the Center for Inquiry, “Samfund Uden Gud,” at Ega Gymnasium in Denmark, “Religion in Denmark and the USA” at Viby Gymnasium in Denmark, “Why is Denmark So Irreligious” at A.P. Møllers Gymnasium in Germany, “Contemporary Apostasy” at the University of Aarhus and “Atheism and Religion in Denmark” at Folkuniversitet in Denmark.
ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND
COME HOME TO ROOST
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Visit pitzer.edu/alumni for schedule and registration information.