

PITZER COLLEGE
The Participant

Vol. 46 No. 3

Fall 2013

Pitzer's Peak
Experience





Fifty 5C community members rode 50 miles from Pitzer to Seal Beach to celebrate the College's 50th Anniversary.



This year is much more than a milestone in the continuum of our community. 2013 is Pitzer College's best year ever.

Fifty years ago Pitzer College was founded with dreams, a two million dollar endowment, two buildings—one residential and one academic—11 faculty, three staff, a board of trustees and president, and 153 students from five countries. We have grown since those early days and strengthened—but we haven't lost our edge, our desire to find meaning in our work and to make our work meaningful to others.

To kick off our 50th Anniversary celebration, this summer I summited Mt. Whitney (proving miracles do exist) after hiking more than 185 miles on the John Muir Trail with my son Sparkey, Professor Brian Keeley, alumnae Lisa Geller '76 and Alyssa Solis '13, students Carter Grant '15, Sasha Heinen '15 and Lisa Hirata '16, and Pitzer parent Eric Radack P'14 to raise more than \$58,000 for first-generation student aid. We all came together to make the impossible happen. Like Pitzer, it was an experience of a lifetime. Jack Kerouac described why people do things like this in *Dharma Bums*: "Because in the end, you won't remember the time you spent working in the office or mowing your lawn. Climb that damn mountain."

Upon reflection, it was a strange choice, to climb a mountain as a way of celebrating Pitzer. There were several times on the trail that I wondered why I couldn't have just hosted a cocktail party or maybe a nice brunch. But there were other times when it seemed profoundly right, and not just for me and for my son, but as an expression of what makes Pitzer so remarkable. On the trail, I thought of how the contrast and collaboration between extraordinary effort, implausible resources and breathtaking vision mirrors the Pitzer story.

The celebration of our half-century mark has continued since the hike with our second endurance endeavor—a 50-mile bike ride from the campus to the coast—in October. Over the course of the fall semester and throughout the year, we continue the celebration with gallery shows, lectures, public art, scholarly panels and the culmination of our 50Forward Campaign and our Golden anniversary on May 3 with the best party you've ever worn orange and white to—a true Pitzer extravaganza with a parade, music, dancing, great food, sustainable décor and lots of surprises.

So I will end with Kerouac, whose work we read every night on the trail before falling into an exhausted sleep: "The secret of this kind of climbing, is like Zen. Don't think. Just dance along. It's the easiest thing in the world, actually easier than walking on flat ground, which is monotonous. The cute little problems present themselves at each step and yet you don't hesitate and you find yourself on some other boulder you picked out for no special reason at all, just like Zen."

Dance on into your next half century Pitzer College, dance joyously on.

Provida futuri!

Laura Skandera Trombley
Pitzer College President

CELEBRATE 50

EST. 1963

The Participant

Join us in honoring our past as we mark this milestone in Pitzer's history and look forward to the next 50 years. We are celebrating all year with art exhibits, lectures and panel discussions, historical photography displays, the Kohoutek music festival and a grand Pitzer Birthday Party: The Orange and White Ball in May.

The following are just a few highlights of our anniversary events. For a full list, please visit www.pitzer.edu/celebrate50

January 21-May 17
Sleep to Dream
A multi-media installation by Martin Durazo '90
Pitzer Art Galleries

January 21-May 17
**Arthur Dubinsky:
The Life and Times of Pitzer College**
Pitzer Art Galleries

February 4-April 22
**Munroe Center for Social Inquiry
Spring Series: Technology Changes**
Pitzer College

February 14-17
Family Weekend 2014
Pitzer College

April 25-26
**40th Kohoutek
Music and Arts Festival**
Pitzer College

May 2-4
Alumni Weekend 2014
Pitzer College

May 3
Orange and White Ball
Stephen L. Glass
Commencement Plaza

May 17
50th Anniversary Commencement
Stephen L. Glass
Commencement Plaza





22



26



33



25



6

1	A Letter from the President <i>Laura Skandera Trombley</i>	20	Scholar Profile <i>Ahmed Alwishah</i>
3	Pitzer Pathfinder <i>Max Brooks '94</i>	21	New Faculty
5	Introducing the Class of 2017	22	Events Wrap-up
6	Pitzer through the Decades <i>Fusako Ishibashi '66</i> <i>Philippe Cohen '75 & Cynthia Stead '77</i> <i>Steven C. González '85</i> <i>Alan Jackson '90</i> <i>Amber Carrow '03</i>	24	From the Archives
16	Faculty Profile <i>Kathryn Miller</i>	25	In Memoriam <i>Michael Woodcock</i>
18	Faculty Achievements	26	Student Affairs <i>Brian Carlisle</i>
		28	Class Notes
		33	Pitzer Participant <i>Dee Mosbacher '72 & Nanette Gartrell</i>

The Participant

Fall 2013

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ON THE COVER: Lisa Hirata '16, Alyssa Solis '13 and Sasha Heinen '15 on the Mt. Whitney summit. They hiked the John Muir Trail with alumni, a Pitzer parent, Professor Brian Keeley and President Laura Skandera Trombley.

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. Pitzer offers a distinctive approach to a liberal arts education by linking intellectual inquiry with interdisciplinary studies, cultural immersion, social responsibility and community involvement.



Maximilian “Max” Brooks ’94 knows about zombies. In fact, he wrote the book—three of them: *The Zombie Survival Guide: Complete Protection from the Living Dead*; *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War*; and *The Zombie Survival Guide: Recorded Attacks*.

After majoring in history at Pitzer College, Brooks wrote his way onto the creative team at NBC’s *Saturday Night Live*. Today, he is a *New York Times* best-selling author, writer, screenwriter and actor who also regularly lends his voice to some of television’s most colorful animated characters.

Brooks took the path less traveled and single-handedly resurrected *Zombie* culture.

Follow your passion

PITZER
PATHFINDER

Pitzer Alumni take the path less traveled...
and make a world of difference.

Alumni Reunion Our Golden Anniversary Celebrate with us!

Save the Date
May 2-4, 2014

Join us for our big birthday bash
and the Orange and White Ball
on May 3!

www.pitzer.edu/alumnireunion



Introducing: Class of 2017

This year, Pitzer welcomed 257 first-year students,
16 transfer students and 11 New Resources students.

Out-of-State: 58%
In-State: 42%
International: 11%

Admission Rate for
the Class of 2017:
14.5%

Male: 44%
Female: 56%
Ethnic Diversity: 40%

This class includes the largest group of international students in Pitzer's history.



These globetrotters come from:

China, Denmark, Hong Kong,
India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the
Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines,
Russia, Singapore, Spain,
Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and
the United Kingdom.



The Class of 2017 truly embodies Pitzer's spirit and values.

These students' accomplishments include:



Earning top
ranking as a
teenage skier
in China

Raising
\$200,000
for Syrian refugees

Becoming the
youngest Bikram
Yoga instructor
in the world



Driving 3,000 miles
from New York
to visit his
dream school—
Pitzer College



Serving as
a combat
medic in
Afghanistan



Tutoring Burmese
refugees



Founding the first gay-straight
alliance at his high school



1960s

Found in Translation

Picture a young Japanese woman in the early 1960s, studying abroad for the first time in Boston. “At that time, exposure to Western culture was very limited in Japan,” recalls Fusako Ishibashi ’66.

“This was my first culture shock, but I expected it to be different, and that was exactly what I wanted to learn and absorb.”

While visiting junior colleges in the area, the head of admission of newly minted Pitzer College offered Ishibashi a transfer scholarship to study behavioral sciences in Claremont.

“It’s funny to say that I experienced another culture shock coming to the West Coast from the East Coast,” Ishibashi says.

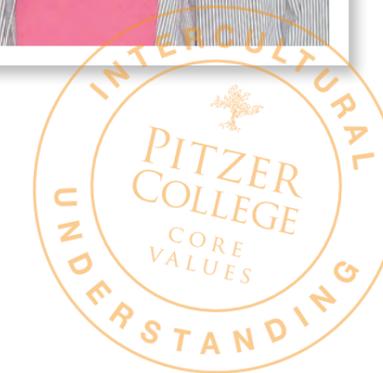
“In Boston, I was a conservative Japanese girl, treated as a guest from a faraway country. But it was completely different at Pitzer. I was not the foreign student requiring special care from others anymore; I was viewed as an independent woman, as just one of the students.”

Studying sociology, anthropology and psychology at Pitzer helped Ishibashi better develop her intercultural understanding.

“Through these studies, I was able to see that human beings are essentially the same all over the world regardless of the differences in country of origin, culture, history, race or environment,” she recalls. “All people smile and laugh when they are happy; when it is painful, people cry.”

After graduating from Pitzer, she leveraged what she learned into a position working in the US Embassy in Tokyo, hosting first ladies such as Rosalynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton. Currently, Ishibashi is collaborating with a prominent female social critic, Keiko Higuchi, to launch a national intergenerational shared housing project.

“Using everything in my background, including the study of behavioral sciences at Pitzer, intercultural studies and my Embassy experiences, I’m now challenged to introduce the intergenerational homeshare concept to fit the Japanese culture and people,” she notes. “Sharing and supporting each other regardless of the differences, either cultural or generational, is what we all seek.”



FEB 21, 1963

Pitzer founded as a women’s college

APRIL 16, 1963

John W. Atherton selected as Pitzer’s first president



AUG 28, 1963

MLK, Jr. “I Have a Dream” speech on Washington Mall



NOV 22, 1963

President John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, TX

1964

Pitzer co-sponsors Joint Science Program of The Claremont Colleges



FEB 9, 1964

The Beatles launch British Invasion on Ed Sullivan Show

JULY 2, 1964

Civil Rights Act signed into law, prohibiting sex discrimination

SEPT 20, 1964

First students arrive on campus

NOV 6, 1964

Dedication of Scott and Sanborn Halls



JUNE 6, 1965

First Pitzer Commencement held for three graduates

1966

Dedication of Bernard and Fletcher Halls

JAN 30, 1968

Tet Offensive begins against US forces in South Vietnam

1968

Chicano Students Organization founded

1969

First off-campus program held in Tuscarora, NV

1969

Mexican-American Studies introduced

1969

Anti-war demonstrations seize college campuses across US

JUNE 1969

Black Studies Center opens

Partners in Sustainability

Philippe Cohen '75 and his wife, Cynthia Stead '77, are a poster couple for environmental sustainability. Well before “green” and “sustainability” were buzz words, Cohen and Stead were committed to Pitzer’s environmental activities.

Today, Cohen is the executive director of Stanford University’s Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and responsible for the continuing ecological health of the Preserve and support of its research and educational mission. Additionally, he works with surrounding communities on environmental issues.

“A lot about sustainability practices means collaborating with people who have different skills and backgrounds,” Cohen says. “That interdisciplinary knowledge is at the heart of the Pitzer experience.”

Stead co-managed the University of California Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center for seven years with Cohen. She then raised funds for the University of California Natural Reserve System in Oakland, CA. While Stead now works with children at Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park, CA, she also remains involved with the Organization of Biological Field Stations.

Greatly influenced by John R. Rodman, who founded Pitzer’s environmental studies program, and Paul Shepard, past professor of natural philosophy and human ecology, Cohen and Stead joined forces with a team of faculty, staff and students to prevent the development of a proposed golf course that included lands that eventually became the John R. Rodman Arboretum. While sustainability was not officially part of the environmental studies lexicon at that time, Rodman and Shepard helped lay that groundwork through their commitment to multidisciplinary approaches that are at the heart of today’s green initiatives.

The Rodman Arboretum is now inextricably entwined in the unified, beautiful and welcoming environment that is the Pitzer campus. The drought-tolerant and native landscaping produces an environmentally responsible setting for a college located in the San Gabriel alluvial scrub country of Southern California.

“In day-to-day life, so many different systems are impacted by our choices,” notes Stead. “It’s important to see what we can change in our lifestyle or environmental footprint to improve sustainability.”



MAY 4, 1970

Four students killed by National Guardsmen at Kent State University

MAY 26, 1970

Robert Atwell appointed second president of Pitzer College



SEPT 1970

Pitzer College goes co-ed, admitting male students for the first time

FALL 1971

Communications (media studies) added as a concentration



1972

External Studies introduces Environmental Studies in Santa Fe Fieldwork and a program in France

JUNE 17, 1972

Five burglars arrested at DNC offices in Watergate complex; ensuing scandal leads to President Richard Nixon’s resignation

FALL 1972

Asian Studies added as a concentration

JAN 11, 1974

First Kohoutek Comet Festival

SEPT 1974

New Resources Program created



JULY 1977

The Grove House moves to campus

JULY 1, 1979

Frank Ellsworth becomes Pitzer’s third president





Citizen González

Before attending Pitzer, Steven C. González '85 didn't know much about the College—including exactly where it was located. Growing up in Claremont, he had heard about The Claremont Colleges. However, being the first in his family to attend college, he didn't fully understand the differences among the schools. He went to apply to the first campus he walked on to—Scripps—only to find that, as a man, he didn't qualify for admission. It was a fortuitous mistake.

Undaunted, he headed next door to Pitzer and eventually found his calling creating a lifetime commitment to social justice.

"The ability to have self-directed studies at Pitzer is not for everyone," he says. "But it was perfect for me. The smaller class sizes—there were only three students in my Modern Chinese History class—encouraged an intensive, personal exchange between students and professors that would be difficult to replicate anywhere else."

Although most students study abroad as juniors and seniors, González studied in Japan in his sophomore year. Today he speaks four languages: English, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese.

The first Mexican-American Supreme Court justice for the State of Washington and only the second person of color ever to serve on the court, González has always harbored a passion for social justice. He began his post-graduation legal career due to a Pitzer connection.

Then-Pitzer College President Frank Ellsworth introduced González to a friend at a law firm, where González became a paralegal before going to law school at University of California, Berkeley. Fast forward several decades to an impressive legal career. As a former judge of the King County Superior Court and assistant United States attorney, he's a recipient of the US Department of Justice's Superior Performance Award and the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service.

Among his many achievements, González helped develop Washington State's hate crime unit and was instrumental in prosecuting domestic violence and elder abuse cases.

"Just as I was mentored," he notes, "I continue to mentor others in the community."



FEB 8, 1980

Grove House dedication

APRIL 1981

Release of the 23-pound Osborne 1, considered the first commercially successful portable microcomputer

SEPT 25, 1981

Sandra Day O'Connor becomes first female US Supreme Court justice

NOV 30, 1982

Michael Jackson releases *Thriller*

1983

Pitzer installs solar panels on Holden, Mead and Sanborn Halls

JUNE 18, 1983

Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space



JAN 28, 1986

Space Shuttle Challenger explodes after liftoff

FEB 1986

Grove House kitchen and landscaping completed

MAY 27, 1986

Dragon Quest is released in Japan, setting the template for future role-playing video games

JULY 4, 1986

Statue of Liberty centennial celebration

1988

John R. Rodman Arboretum dedicated



APRIL 15, 1989

Tiananmen Square protests, ending in June 4 Massacre

APRIL 20, 1989

Temple Grandin speaks on campus

NOV 9, 1989

The Berlin Wall falls



Action Jackson

Alan Jackson '90 has a simple philosophy: Life is a smorgasbord if you live it right! The veteran Los Angeles chef and owner of 18 Lemonade restaurants (and a thriving catering company) credits his interdisciplinary learning experience at Pitzer as the start of his ever-growing business ventures.

"Pitzer took a risk on me... and gave me the runway to succeed," he says. "Pitzer taught me to think freely, but without action, it's just a fleeting tickling brain wave."

From the beginning, what Jackson found most surprising—and comfortable—about Pitzer was the sense of community on campus.

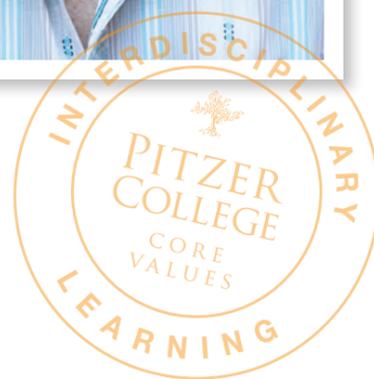
"It started right at admissions, where you were able to brush shoulders with teachers who engaged you," he notes. "It helped me to become 'me as an adult.' It's a school where a poetry teacher was able to awaken me to learning, and a historian was able to expand my mind about why things happen."

Jackson points to Professor Emeritus of Political Studies Dana Ward as a valuable influence on both his academic and professional careers.

"He believed that Reaganomics and Manuel Noriega were the end of the world. What he was saying really was get passionate, take a position and get behind a purpose."

As Jackson plans to expand his privately owned chain of Lemonade restaurants to Dubai, the visionary entrepreneur reflects on the value of interdisciplinary learning.

"Pitzer is a great quilt, and I believe that the people who come out of Pitzer are the sort of colorful, well-rounded people that the world cherishes."



1991

Soviet Union is dissolved, ending the Cold War

1991

The public gains access to the World Wide Web community

JUNE 12, 1991

Michael Jordan and Chicago Bulls win the first of their six titles in the '90s

SEPT 24, 1991

Nirvana releases *Nevermind* and takes Seattle's grunge music scene mainstream



APRIL 29, 1992

Los Angeles riots sparked by Rodney King trial verdict

MAY 2, 1993

Marilyn Chapin Massey inaugurated as Pitzer's fourth president

SEPT 1993

Broad Center and Broad Hall dedicated



MAY 10, 1994

Nelson Mandela sworn in as president of South Africa

APRIL 19, 1995

Oklahoma City bombing

1996

Mad Cow disease hits Britain



1997

Artist Paul Botello completes *Interhuman* mural on Mead Hall

JULY 1, 1997

Hong Kong returns to China

AUG 31, 1997

Princess Diana dies in car crash in Paris

JULY 26, 1999

The last Checker cab is retired in New York City





Citizen of the World

Every school day, Amber Carrow '03 engages her seventh grade world history students at Chemawa Middle School in Riverside, CA, by relating her experiences traveling the globe—and particularly her stint as an Earthwatch Foundation field researcher in Nova Scotia—to the different cultures, customs and events that have helped shape the world. This personal touch is one of the many reasons why Carrow was named California State Teacher of the Year in 2010.

She attributes her teaching achievements in part to the hands-on work she did at Pitzer mentoring fellow students and serving as a resident assistant, as well as to the opportunity she had to study abroad through the Pitzer in Nepal program.

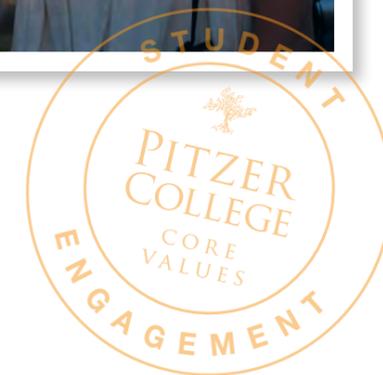
“As a third-world country, Nepal was completely different from Claremont. There was no electricity, no running water. Living there gave me a deeper understanding of other cultures and sparked my desire to visit every country that I teach about.”

As the only history teacher to participate on Earthwatch’s science-focused volunteer research team, Carrow was able to take what she learned at Pitzer about being a responsible citizen of the world and translate that into valuable instruction for her students. By regularly Skyping with her classroom and posting video updates, she demonstrated what it’s like to conduct in-the-field studies on climate change.

“It really changes the flavor of the classroom to be able to bring real-life insight to our studies,” Carrow says.

She hopes to return to Nepal soon, as well as continue her work to bring more engagement into Chemawa Middle School.

“Student engagement is such a unique aspect of Pitzer, and I look forward to helping create a deeper sense of involvement here at my school.”



2000+

SEPT 11, 2001

Al Qaeda executes multiple attacks against the US

OCT 7, 2001

US and allies launch strikes against Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan



OCT 23, 2001

Apple presents the iPod, offering “1,000 songs in your pocket”



JULY 1, 2002

Laura Skandera Trombley takes office as Pitzer’s fifth president



FEB 4, 2004

Facebook is launched

DEC 26, 2004

Massive earthquake hits Indonesia, triggering devastating tsunami

2005

First students study at Pitzer’s Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology in Costa Rica

JULY 2006

Twitter’s public launch

AUG 2007

Phase I of the Residential Life Project opens

2008

McConnell Dining Hall goes trayless

NOV 4, 2008

Barack Obama, first African-American president, elected



SEPT 17, 2011

First protest of Occupy Wall Street movement

AUG 2012

Phase II of the Residential Life Project opens



NOV 19, 2012

Pitzer launches the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability

Kathryn Miller pushes boundaries.

As professor of art and environmental analysis at Pitzer from 1993 to 2013, she and her students created innovative art installations on the Pitzer campus that astonished people—always making them think, often making them smile.

An inspirational teacher, she encourages students to find joy in their art.

Her two passions—art and science—coalesced in 1993 when she spotted the job description to teach environmental studies and art at Pitzer. Miller earned her BSc in biology from George Washington University, an MA in biology from Sonoma State University and an MFA from University of California, Santa Barbara.

“Pitzer was the first college open enough to combine disciplines. It was a perfect fit,” she says.

Paul Faulstich '79, professor of environmental analysis, recalls that Miller came to Pitzer with an established vision about melding art and the environment.

“Art and the environment are in vogue now, but Kathryn was fusing them in innovative ways before it became prevalent in the art world,” he says. “This work comes organically to her. Her art is a natural expression of her own intellect and creativity.”

Miller produced environmental art with an activist edge, expanding what art can look like. She and her students created guerrilla installations, sometimes bypassing the normal approval process. Once, Faulstich was surprised to see dozens of birdhouses around campus that students had made out of recycled materials.

“The installation said to me, ‘This campus is home to more than just students.’ It got you to question your sense of privileged place in the world.”

Another Miller campus exhibit involved a gelatin mold of a house with embedded seeds inside. As the seeds sprouted, the mold became a living, organic sculpture. Like the birdhouses, the project prodded viewers to rethink the evolving nature of living spaces and their own relationships with their dwellings.

Miller’s playfulness is expressed in her seed bombs, which she made in her early years at Pitzer. Formed from clay and filled with wildflower seeds, they are egg-shaped objects that fit in the palm of the hand. When tossed, they break apart, scattering seeds that eventually blossom and provide natural beauty. This is one bomb that makes life, not destroys it.

Miller’s latest installation is signage for the

Outback Preserve, three acres of native habitat on the northeast corner of campus. The project is tied to the College’s 50th anniversary. Miller is one of several on-campus artists President Laura Skandera Trombley invited to create works as part of the celebration.

Miller’s sign marks the entrance to a natural preserve. Made of metal with animal footprints on one side and human symbols on the other, the sign is whimsical and welcoming. It allows boundaries to flow naturally between the more formalized campus landscape and the wilder area.

Miller considers the Outback her favorite place on campus. Even with its packrat nests and natural scattering of debris, she finds it relaxing and inspirational. “Go there and listen to the birds,” she says. “You may even spot a bobcat.”

While Miller’s projects and installations sealed her legacy at Pitzer, it is her teaching that may last longer in the hearts and minds of her students.

“She opened the flood gates of my creativity,” says Janak Tull '13, a practicing artist who is applying to dental school. He describes her style of criticism as profoundly encouraging. He remembers her telling him, “I know you can do more, I want to see more.”

“Thanks to her, I’m still making art because I love it,” he says.

Robert Ramlow-Sachs '10, who majored in environmental analysis, says Miller helped students produce meaningful art. He recalls one class project where she asked students to design emergency pop-up shelters for climate change: “She made us think deeply. Rather than create a place just for survival, we might create a nice place, even a happy place.” Now a third-year architecture student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Ramlow-Sachs applies Miller’s lessons in careful design to his current work.

Miller continues to teach and inspire. Working with a neurologist in Santa Barbara, she plans to give art classes for people with early dementia. “Art makes them happy,” she says. “They reconnect and become engaged.”

Miller’s enthusiasm for breaking down boundaries has helped countless students feel the joy about to explode in their art.

Her artful liberation persists.



Kathryn Miller

Artist. Environmentalist. Provocateur.

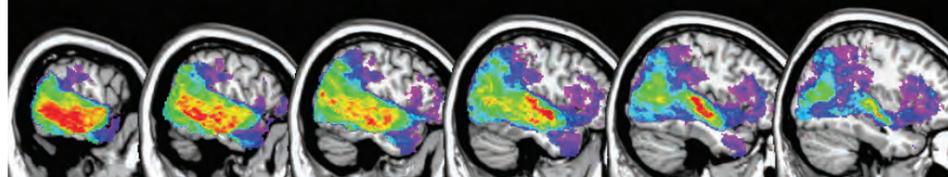
Funded by a \$600,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, **Associate Professor of Art History Bill Anthes** initiated a series of programs, including a public art installation by Edgar Heap of Birds.

CAIRO
TODAY YOUR HOST
IS
KUUKAMO
HOCK E AVE VI EDGAR HEAP OF BIRDS 2013

FACULTY FEATS

During the past year, Pitzer faculty have tracked dinosaurs, mapped synapses, told tales of shamans, pondered polynomials, and won grants and fellowships, all while teaching more than 180 classes per semester.

Assistant Professor of Psychology Timothy Justus received a GRAMMY Foundation grant to support his research on the impact of brain damage on language comprehension and music perception.



Associate Dean of Faculty and Associate Professor of Chemistry Katie Purvis-Roberts teamed with students to publish in *Atmospheric Environment*.



EMILY CHAO

Lijiang Stories

SHAMANS, TAXI DRIVERS,
AND RUNAWAY BRIDES
IN REFORM-ERA CHINA

Professor of Anthropology Emily Chao published *Lijiang Stories: Shamans, Taxi Drivers, and Runaway Brides in Reform-Era China*.



Associate Professor of Biology Jennifer Armstrong received a \$38,142 National Science Foundation grant supplement for her research into the structure of the chromosome.



Professor of Political Studies Nigel Boyle, Director of Intercultural Education and Pitzer Programs Michael Donahue and CISEP Director Michelle Dymerski received a \$66,000 Fulbright-Hays group grant to take Pitzer students, alumni and local school teachers to Nepal and develop related curriculum for US classrooms.



Assistant Professor of Sociology Roberta Espinoza's second book, *Working-Class Minority Students' Routes to Higher Education*, was published by Routledge.



Professor of Environmental Analysis Paul Faulstich '79 presented a paper about ecological restoration as an art form at the Savannah College of Art and Design.



Flora Sanborn Pitzer Professor of Mathematics Judith Grabiner was named an American Mathematical Society Fellow.



Professor of Media Studies Alexandra Juhasz launched a new model for online learning with Feminist Dialogues on Technology, a collaborative course that encourages participation both online and in the classroom.



Professor Emeritus of Sociology Peter Nardi released the third edition of his textbook *Doing Survey Research: A Guide to Quantitative Methods*, based on lecture notes for Sociology 101: Quantitative Research Methods, which he taught at Pitzer for more than 30 years.



Assistant Professor of Biology Lars Schmitz and a team of researchers uncovered evidence of the first giant marine predator to stalk the seas in prehistoric times.



Professor of Anthropology Claudia Strauss plumbed the depths of public opinion in *Making Sense of Public Opinion: American Discourses about Immigration and Social Programs*, published by Cambridge University Press.



Assistant Professor of Media Studies Ruti Talmor co-curated the exhibition *Glyphs: Acts of Inscription*, which included the photography of MacArthur Award winner Carrie Mae Weems.



Associate Professor of Political Studies Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99 co-founded the Southern California Law and Social Science Forum and organized its inaugural meeting, Law at the Fault Lines.



Assistant Professor of Chicana/o-Latina/o Transnational Studies Suyapa Portillo Villeda '96 appeared as an expert commentator in a *Huffington Post Live* segment "Homophobia in Honduras."



Professor of English and Creative Studies Albert Wachtel edited *Critical Insights: James Joyce*, a collection of in-depth essays about the Irish literary giant.



Professor of Sociology Phil Zuckerman shared his opinions and expertise with many media outlets, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post* and *Boston Magazine*.

This is a small sampling of the Pitzer faculty's recent work. For a full account, please see the *Faculty Report of Excellence 2012-13* at www.pitzer.edu/facultyexcellence.

“My goal is to complicate the level of discussion. Not always having definite answers leads to deeper thinking.”

— Ahmed Alwishah, assistant professor of philosophy



Provoking Thought

Ahmed Alwishah is a passionate and articulate assistant professor of philosophy who likes to frustrate his students.

After a lively class debate in which he has prodded students to defend their positions on the problem of personal identity, some trail him out the door to engage him further. “Wait! We haven’t solved the problem,” they say. But Alwishah often leaves students to pursue thoughts on their own.

“My goal is to complicate the level of discussion,” he says. “Not always having definite answers leads to deeper thinking.”

Alwishah is a specialist in Islamic philosophy who is working primarily on philosophy of mind and language in Islamic tradition. He will continue his research at Cambridge University’s Clare Hall College this spring as a visiting fellow. He plans to complete a manuscript, *Dialectical Disputation in the Quran*, that explores how dialectical disputation—a form of philosophical debate—plays a critical role in interpreting and understanding the Quran. While some have emphasized the value of linguistic and historical approaches to studying the Quran, Alwishah attempts to show that logical analysis is equally important for our understanding of the text.

“If we understand the logical structure of the dialect, that gives us a good understanding of the content,” he says.

The Iraqi native, now a US citizen, received his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Baghdad University. After the Gulf War and having participated in the 1991 uprising against Saddam Hussein’s regime, he fled Iraq to live in a refugee camp in the desert of Saudi Arabia for a year and half. He came to the US under political asylum. He pursued a master’s in philosophy from California State University, Los Angeles, and a PhD in philosophy from University of California, Los Angeles. He did post-doctoral work at UCLA and at Stanford University. He came to Pitzer in 2009.

He finds joy making the work of great thinkers relevant to today’s students.

“The questions we deal with—Who am I? What is reality? Do I have free will?—are ones students will deal with all their lives. You provide them with a set of arguments that motivate their thinking. Having these arguments makes students conceptually rich and provide them with a better understanding,” he says. “To me that’s the point of teaching philosophy.”

Meet Pitzer’s Newest Faculty

New professors bring their expertise to campus



William Barndt

Assistant Professor of Political Studies

Specialization: Politics of Latin America and the US; Corporations and Political Parties; Agrarianism
BA, Colby College
PhD, Princeton University

“I’m excited about my plans to take students abroad to Latin America as part of my research and teaching over the next few years—in fact, I’m laying the groundwork for a trip to Panama this coming spring break.”



Tarrah Krajnak

Assistant Professor of Art

Specialization: Photography emphasizing conceptual approaches and interdisciplinary research
BFA, Ohio Wesleyan University
MFA, University of Notre Dame

“I want my students to look at and make images with a sense of cultural awareness, social responsibility and criticality—these values are at the heart of a Pitzer education.”



Andrea Scott

Assistant Professor, Academic Writing
Writing Center Director

Specialization: Rhetoric and Composition; Writing Program Leadership
BA, Mills College
PhD, University of Chicago

“I design my classes to introduce students to the techniques and habits of mind of expert writers. Students become active participants in the development of knowledge. The distance we travel together is exciting because it’s driven by a spirit of discovery.”



GATHERINGS & GOINGS ON

During the past year, Pitzer participants held events all over campus, the country and the world.

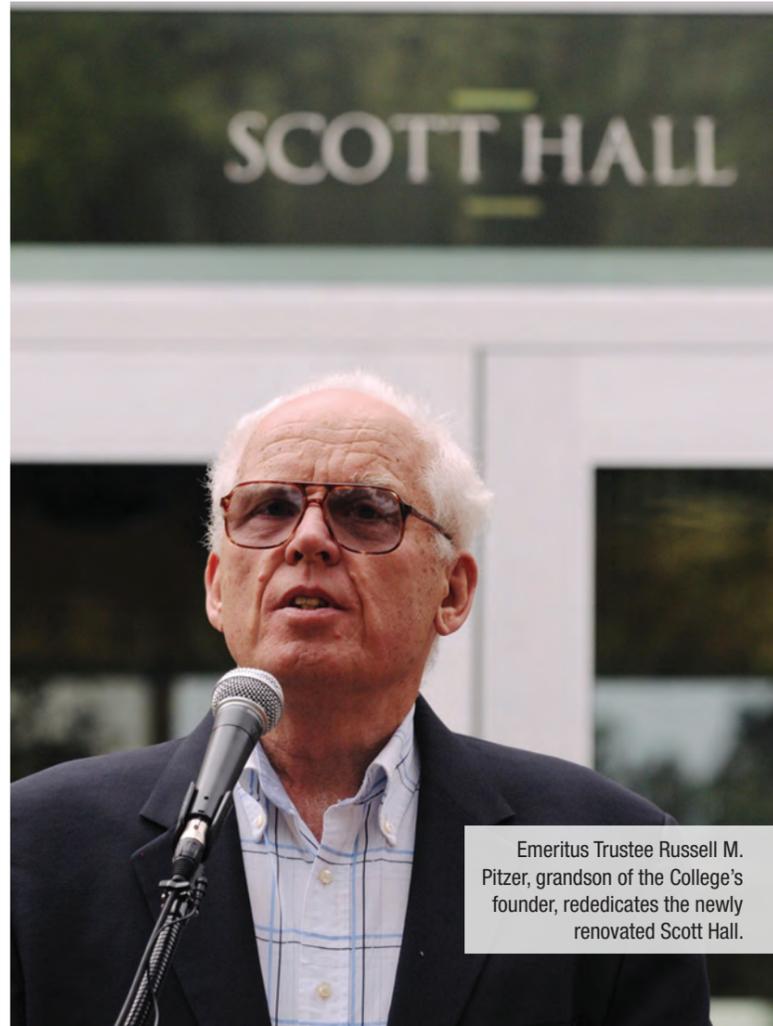
President Laura Skandera Trombley, Lisa Geller '76, Sparkey Trombley, Sasha Heinen '15, Eric Radack P'14, Alyssa Solis '13, Lisa Hirata '16, Carter Grant '15 & Professor Brian Keeley kick off Pitzer's 50th Anniversary on the John Muir Trail.



Kebinatshwene Moseielele (right), the chief of a village in Botswana that hosts Pitzer students studying abroad, and his son, Loago Moseielele, are welcomed by Claremont Mayor Opanyi Nasiali.



In the Outback Preserve, students in the Restoring Nature class plant a Coastal Live Oak that was presented to President Trombley during the rededication of Scott Hall.



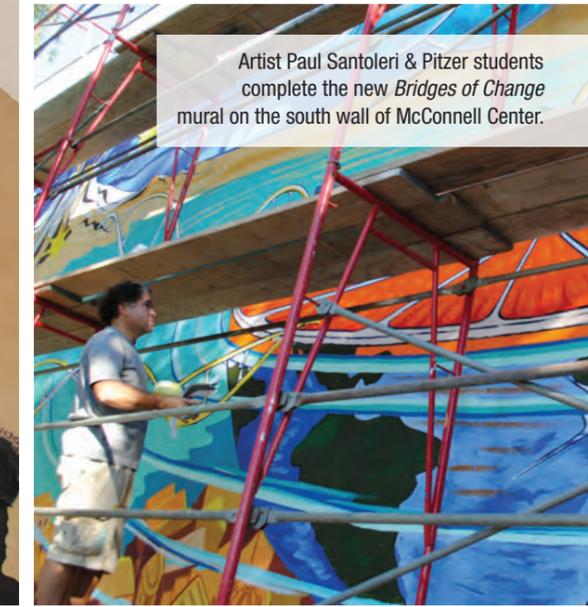
Emeritus Trustee Russell M. Pitzer, grandson of the College's founder, rededicates the newly renovated Scott Hall.



The exhibition *Glyphs: Acts of Inscription* opens at the Pitzer Art Galleries.



Vice President and Dean of Admission & Financial Aid Angel Perez braves 93-degree heat to compete in the New York City Triathlon in July.



Artist Paul Santoleri & Pitzer students complete the new *Bridges of Change* mural on the south wall of McConnell Center.



Evan Ryan, US assistant secretary of educational and cultural affairs, and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board visit Pitzer and Southern California for the first time.



Pitzer alumni share their transformative Fulbright experiences with a national audience via US State Department webcast.

From the Archives

A New Chapter for the Pitzer History Project

Have you ever wondered how Pitzer came to have so many incredible photographs from its early years? Wonder no more. The abundance of these outstanding images can be attributed to yet another visionary idea from the College's first president, John W. Atherton. Understanding that the birth of a college is something remarkable and fleeting, Atherton hired a photographer to come to Pitzer and capture the genesis and development as it was unfolding. This documentary street photographer was Arthur Dubinsky. And

President Atherton not only brought him to campus, he invited Dubinsky into planning meetings, committees and dinners—on and off campus—for more than 10 years. We have approximately 4,000 photographs that Dubinsky took of Pitzer's students, faculty, campus and events. You can look forward to an exhibition highlighting images from this collection in January 2014. Come, see the exhibit and appreciate what happens when a college president of vision and a documentary photographer with inspiration join forces.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Do you know?

We need your help! Can you identify the students and the story behind this 1968 photo? Contact Archivist Stacy Elliott at archives@pitzer.edu.



PREVIOUS MYSTERY PHOTO SOLVED!

Thank you to **Barbara Bradford '70**, **Coral Hoffman De Snoo '71**, **Diana May Walstrom '70** and **Deborah Deutsch Smith '68** for submitting information on the last Mystery Photo.

The photo probably shows the beginning stage of a papier mâché float for the Homecoming Weekend Parade, with **Yolanda Retter '70**, **Harriett Crosby '68** and **Jean Singer '71** standing on top of the car along with an unidentified student on February 20, 1968.

A call for Pitzeriana: If you have t-shirts, pins, mugs, posters, leaflets, commencement ephemera, video, audio tape or other memorabilia to donate to Pitzer's archival collection, please email archives@pitzer.edu.

“When I think of the art I admire, I am reminded that pictures can provide the artist and a few viewers with a moment of fleeting, precious clarity; a sense of community with the creator; and a brief trip home.” —Michael Woodcock, 1951-2013



Michael Woodcock Remembered

In June, approximately 300 people filled Pitzer College's George C.S. Benson Auditorium to remember Michael Woodcock, the artist and professor emeritus of creative studies who passed away in March. Students, colleagues, friends and family described how he shaped their imaginations and changed their lives, calling him a witty, compassionate, outspoken, cranky, loving man who was an ally, inspiration, collaborator, co-conspirator, father and husband. And a true teacher.

“He taught me to see, really see,” said poet and novelist Deborah Bogen '90.

In a drawing course Bogen took at Pitzer, Woodcock asked students to choose an object from the Grove House garden to sketch. The assignment seemed simple enough until he told them the drawing should take at least 20 hours.

Woodcock brought an uncommon touch to an unconventional campus when he joined the Pitzer faculty in 1989. He drove with students from Santa Monica to Chicago in vintage cars to study the culture of historic Route 66. He also hit the road with Professor of Art and Environmental Design Carl Hertel and a group of undergrads

to visit artist James Turrell's monumental Roden Crater project in Arizona. Woodcock retired from Pitzer in 2005.

“Whenever I begin a new project, my initial idea is to make it perfect,” he wrote of his work, which has been collected by institutions around the world. “However I fall short of that is my art.”

At the memorial, his wife, Julie Starrett, quoted Leonard Cohen's ode to imperfection: “Forget your perfect offering; There is a crack in everything; That's how the light gets in.”

“Our cracks were very apparent and so was all the love and the light,” she said.

Arts writer Christopher Michno '91 called Woodcock a generous teacher fueled by enormous energy and eclectic passions—he loved Alice Munro's short stories, Paul Klee's paintings and the St. Louis Cardinals.

“When talking about creative work, he frequently told me, ‘Put everything in,’” Michno recalled.

Woodcock put everything into his art, his family and his teaching. For so many, he made the road wider, world richer and education an incomparable, unpredictable adventure.



Brian Carlisle

Committed. Connected. Caring.

“Students gave me a lesson in being cool, Pitzer-style,” said Brian Carlisle. The new vice president for student affairs immersed himself in the whirlwind of student Orientation Adventures prior to the opening of fall semester: biking, swimming and playing games. But when it came to a game that required dancing, he said no, not wanting to make a fool of himself.

“Fred Astaire, I’m not,” he said.

A student good-naturedly kidded him: “Is it time to take away your cool card? You should know that whoever you are, wherever you come from, however you identify, you’re loved here—you’re cool. That’s the Pitzer ethos.”

He’s been learning from students ever since. “It’s what I love about this job. I never know who is going to walk in the door, what experience I am going to have and what students are going to teach me. They are amazing.”

Carlisle is a buoyant presence and enthusiastic student advocate on campus. He brings to Pitzer an extensive background in student affairs, with increasing levels of responsibilities, at Saint Louis University, University of California, Los Angeles, San Francisco Art Institute and, most recently, the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, where he served as dean of students for three years.

Among his many accomplishments, he secured funds for the Center for the Awareness of Sexual Assault at Eau Claire and instituted gender-free housing options. With the Pitzer community, he shares a commitment to social justice and environmental sustainability.

Carlisle discovered his aptitude and zeal for student affairs after years of hard work to prove himself.

He grew up in a trailer at the end of a dirt road in a small town in Alabama, the middle child of three brothers. He wanted more than the trailer park had to offer, so he turned to academics. His goal was to earn a PhD and teach mathematics at the college level.

His focus and commitment led him to community college, then to the University of Alabama, where he held three part-time jobs. There, an assistant director of financial aid changed his life.

Because she saw his dedication to work, she gave him jobs that made the most of his leadership skills and character. A turning point came when she told him about a degree in higher education administration focusing on student development.

“You should consider going into student affairs,” she said.

“That’s a real job?” he said, with delight.

After meeting with the chair of the master’s program, he decided: “This is what I want to do. I want to give back to students what I got from people who cared about me, who inspired me.” He received two degrees from Alabama, including a master’s in higher education administration, and eventually a JD from Southwestern School of Law.

A visit to Carlisle’s office in Scott Hall during the start of fall semester revealed his intense desire to inspire and help students.

His office is a calm oasis on a bustling campus. Lighting is subdued, wall colors are in tones of blue and gray, and chairs are comfortable. Being in his office immediately reduces stress and encourages conversation. It doesn’t hurt that the vice president has a wide grin, disarming Southern accent and playful nature. He also looks a good 10 years younger than he is.

He regards his close connection with students as essential. “My job is to be the bridge between the administration and the students. I help students identify their wants and then be able to turn those wants into reality. My goal is to find the right balance between current and future needs for students and help the College build from there.”

While Carlisle is a warm, welcoming presence for students, he does more than just listen to what students say. It’s what they don’t say that’s often the most important, he believes. “I was fortunate enough to be born with a keen ability to sense stress or distress in other people. I usually can help them.”

His ability to help students is aided, according to Carlisle, because of the quality of the students, who are open to discussion and change. “I think people underestimate how thoughtful, how caring our students are. It would be a big mistake to underestimate a Pitzer student.”

The man who wanted more than a trailer park could offer is now in a place where listening is an art form, where each individual is valued and where there are few limits on what he or she can become.

It’s a great fit.

1960s

'69 Irene Halouchko Harwood edited and contributed a chapter to the book *Self Experiences in Group, Revisited: Affective Attachments, Intersubjective Regulations, and Human Understanding*.

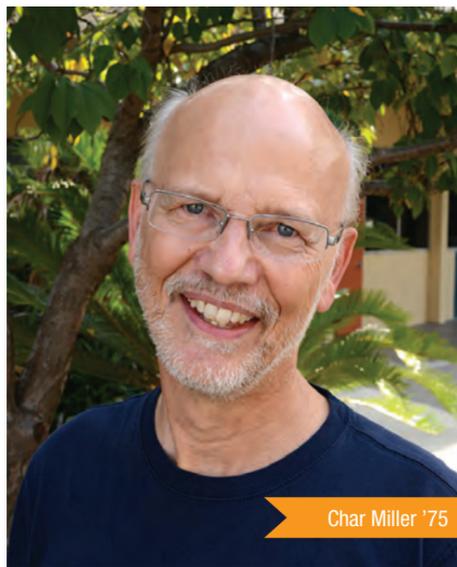
1970s

'70 Marianne Smith (pen name Goldsmith) wrote a biography titled *Bert Meyers (1928-1979): An Archival Memory*. Meyers, a poet and former Pitzer professor, served as Smith's adviser during her time at Pitzer.

'71 Diantha Zschoche is entering her third year as a hospice chaplain in San Diego County.

'72 Jeanie Wakeland teaches journalism at Ohlone College in Fremont, CA, and serves as the student newspaper adviser. Her son, US Army Cpt. David Von Bargen, got married at the end of 2012 and recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan, thus completing his third deployment to the Middle East.

'75 Char Miller, director of the 5C environmental analysis program and W.M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis, was one of eight Pomona College professors honored with the Wig Excellence in Teaching Award. This fall, he was also awarded the Pinchot Institute for Conservation's Pinchot Medallion for his contribution to environmental conservation.



Char Miller '75

'77 James R. Tippens and his wife, Nettie Lassiter, designed and helped build a new house that they moved into on April 1. "It's a small quirky house like you would expect a Pitzer grad to build," said Tippens.

'78 Nancy Watkins was featured in an art exhibit at the Keats-Shelley House in Rome earlier this year.



Guy DeWhitney '94

1980s

'83 Thomas Brock was named commissioner of the National Center for Education Research.

June Bloomfield Magilnick's daughter, Emily, was honored by the St. Baldrick's Foundation as a 2013 Ambassador.

'84 David A. Barrett was featured in *The American Lawyer* for work he completed for the National Football League Players Association in connection with the 2011 season's NFL lockout.

'85 Suzanne Haberland celebrated her 50th birthday with Susan Roberts McMaster '85 and Alison MacDonald Thomas '85.

'86 Deborah Sutcliffe and her daughter, a senior in high school, traveled to Southern California to tour colleges and was surprised to see Pitzer without Sanborn. Giving the 5Cs a positive review, her daughter may become a second-generation "Pitzoid."

Danny Shain's painting was displayed in a tribute to artist Karl Benjamin at the Long Beach Museum of Art.

'87 Dana Levin had a poem published in *The New York Times* titled "Morning News."

'89 Todd Simon recently wrote a book called *A Little Infinity*, which contains uplifting morsels of spiritual truths and vibrant nature photos.

1990s

'90 Catherine Caporale's PhD dissertation summary was highlighted in the *California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists* magazine, a publication for more than 30,000 psychotherapists in California. Caporale was also listed as an advisor-contributor in the newly released American Psychiatric Association's *Fifth Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.



Martin Durazo had artwork featured in an exhibition at the University of La Verne Harris Gallery earlier this year. His exhibition in celebration of Pitzer's 50th Anniversary will begin January 21 and run through May 17, 2014.

Anne Turner was appointed to the Human and Community Services Commission by the Claremont City Council and currently serves as the executive director for THINK Together, Los Angeles County.

Elaine Waldman gave birth to a baby girl and is living in Los Angeles.

'91 Tim Kopperud Christian married Matthew Paul Eastus on July 24, 2013, in a civil service at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Los Angeles. Gretchen Sigler Shanofsky '91 was in attendance, as was Pomona College alumnus David Zahniser. Well-wishers included Karen Steen '91, Kate Marble McCarthy '91, Molly Martell '91, Andrew Aiello-Hauser '89 and Beth Wellington '86.

Sandor F. Lengyel works as a firefighter/EMT in the Bay Area and writes an outdoor adventure blog, *CoasttoMountain.com*, about biking, surfing, skiing, hiking and mountain life.

Alexander Sprague is a speaker, author and coach for Sibling Loss. A second edition of his book, *Making Lemonade: Choosing a Positive Pathway after Losing Your Sibling*, was released in May 2013. Sprague aims to help other sibling survivors define their loss and not have it define them.

'94 Margaret Ann published an article in *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine.

Amy Champ earned a PhD at the University of California, Davis in performance studies with a designated emphasis in feminist theory and research. Her dissertation is titled *Feminism from the Inside Out: Women and Yoga in America*.

Guy DeWhitney married Alice N. Downey in Lake Tahoe, CA, during the annular eclipse on May 20, 2012. The vows began and were completed during the ring phase of the eclipse. They reside in Claremont.

'95 Adriana Garcia, her husband, Abel Navarrete, and their baby, Diego, stopped by Pitzer for a visit earlier this year.

James Lippincott joined the staff of Willamette University as the assistant vice president of alumni and parent relations.

'96 Matthew Cooke's new film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in May.

'99 Peter Mountford and his wife gave birth to a daughter, Anna, in 2010. Mountford's essay about being a stay-at-home dad was published in *Slate* magazine, and his novel, *A Young Man's Guide to Late Capitalism*, won the 2012 Washington State Book Award. His second novel, *The Dismal Science*, will be published in February 2014. Mountford also won the 2013 Seattle Magazine Spotlight Award for literature and serves as



Ariana Friedman Davidson '10

the writer-in-residence for the Richard Hugo House, a community writing center in Seattle, WA.

Griselda Suarez started an artisan food and catering company, Peppered Up Foods. Pitzer orange is one of the company colors. She also opened Sliced & Diced Eatery: Tortas, Melts and More with her wife, Amy Eriksen.

2000s

'00 Devon Farley and Pomona College alumnus Steve Farley proudly welcomed the arrival of their new son, Nicholas James, on January 26, 2013.

Eli Hastings published his second book, *Clearly Now, the Rain: A Memoir of Love and Other Trips*.

Elishia Holmes was promoted to senior vice president of production for Scott Free Productions.

'01 Ramona Ausubel released her latest novel, *A Guide to Being Born*.

Rachael A. Baker and her husband, Doug Wein '99, celebrated the arrival of their new baby, Calder Winter Wein, on January 16, 2012.

Shirley S. Ku welcomed son Wesley into the world.

Darren Perez and Scripps College alumna Christy Vega Perez welcomed the arrival of their first child, Flynn Vega Perez, on March 14, 2013.

'03 Kevin de León, a Democratic member of the California State Senate, was named Policymaker of the Year by the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities.

'04 Ryan C. Ausanka-Cruets became a father in 2012 to a happy, healthy son.

Lauren Regester welcomed the arrival of her daughter, Elodie Jane Regester, on December 26, 2012. Lauren Healy '04 was named godmother to Elodie, who loves her Pitzer onesie.

Lena Rudnick is directing a documentary in Palestine with the Manhattan Shakespeare Project, an all-female Shakespeare company that sent members to The Drama Academy in Ramallah to work with Palestinian drama students.



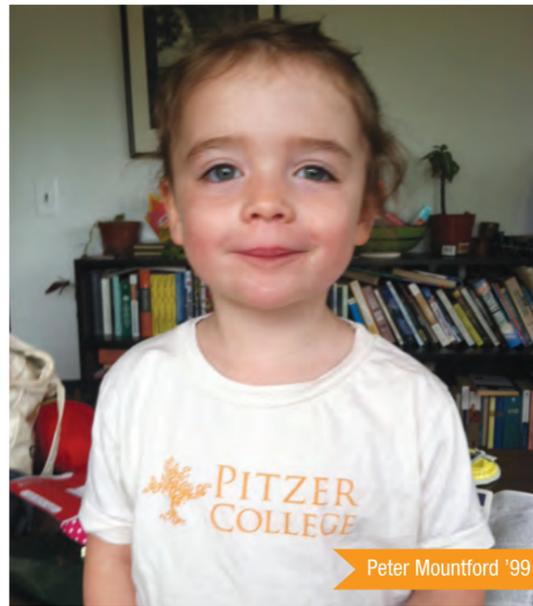
Kevin de León '03

Pitzer Babes

The progeny of Pitzer College alumni are destined for greatness



Zelinda Welch '00 and Brendan Karg '99



Peter Mountford '99



Darren Perez '01



Adriana Garcia '95



Lauren Regester '04



Helen Brenner Murphy '08

'06 **Angela S. DiLaura** is completing a combined bachelor's and master's degree program at Columbia University in order to become a women's health nurse practitioner. She also became engaged in 2011 and plans to get married in 2014.

Casey Scieszka eloped with her boyfriend and collaborator, Steven Weinberg, and then enjoyed a three-week honeymoon on the Greek islands.

Garett Staley, a licensed clinical social worker, works as program manager for a substance abuse treatment program in the San Gabriel Valley. She also teaches part time at Mt. San Antonio College and California State University, San Bernardino.

'07 **Kimberly Bautista's** documentary *Justice for my Sister* has won multiple awards, including Best Documentary at the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival, Best Foreign Film at the Nevada International Film Festival and Best Long-Form Central American Documentary at Icaro Film Festival in Guatemala.

'08 **Helen Brenner Murphy** married longtime boyfriend, Jon Murphy, on November 10, 2012, overlooking the Monterey Bay in Aptos, CA. The newlyweds honeymooned for a week in the Bahamas and make their home in Los Angeles.

Dayna K. Downing is completing her MBA, after which she will begin working on an MS in healthcare administration.

Matthew S. Kane graduated from the University of California, Davis, School of Law in May 2012 and subsequently passed the California Bar Exam and the Guam Bar Exam. He recently left a position with the Supreme Court of Guam to begin working as an associate attorney at a private law firm.

'09 **Noreen L. Barcena** passed the California Bar Exam on her first try.

Sonya Fierst has been living in Medellín, Colombia, for the past two years while pursuing graduate studies in international relations/political studies on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

2010s

'10 **Ariana Friedman Davidson** finished her Master's in Social Work at the University of Southern California and married Harvey Mudd College alumnus Marc Davidson. They live in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Friedman Davidson works as a counselor and pursues her license in clinical social work. Students from six Claremont Colleges attended their wedding, including Pitzer alumni **Brittini Stenmo '10** and **Kate Porter '10**.

Jennifer Johnson-Bell worked with Pitzer alumnus **David Straus '90** to organize a flagship TEDxYouthHollywood event. She also launched "Jennifer Julian Voiceovers" to provide premier voice-over services to the entertainment industry. Johnson-Bell plans to take the Foreign Service Officer test for the US State Department.

Aimee Zisner graduated from the University of Oxford in 2011 with an MSc in neuroscience. She is now working on her PhD in clinical psychology specializing in neuropsychology at Washington State University.

'11 **Nick Humphrey** completed a master's degree in sound design at the University of Edinburgh.

Steven Losco anticipates graduating from the Drexel University School of Public Health in 2015.

Paula D. Santos teaches three art classes for K-5 children at the Hana Arts Free Friday School. In addition to art classes, the nonprofit organization provides children with opportunities for theatre and music classes.

Helen Weeks is working toward a graduate degree in ecological teaching and learning at Lesley University.

'12 **Hannah Cornfield** was hired to work with President Obama's campaign as a full-time field organizer in rural Virginia, where she mobilized campaign volunteers.

Jennifer Sirkus completed a teacher residency program with Aspire Public Schools and obtained a full-time, first-grade teaching position in South LA. Over the last year, she co-taught kindergarten in East LA, earned her California teaching credential and received her master's degree in education.

In Memoriam

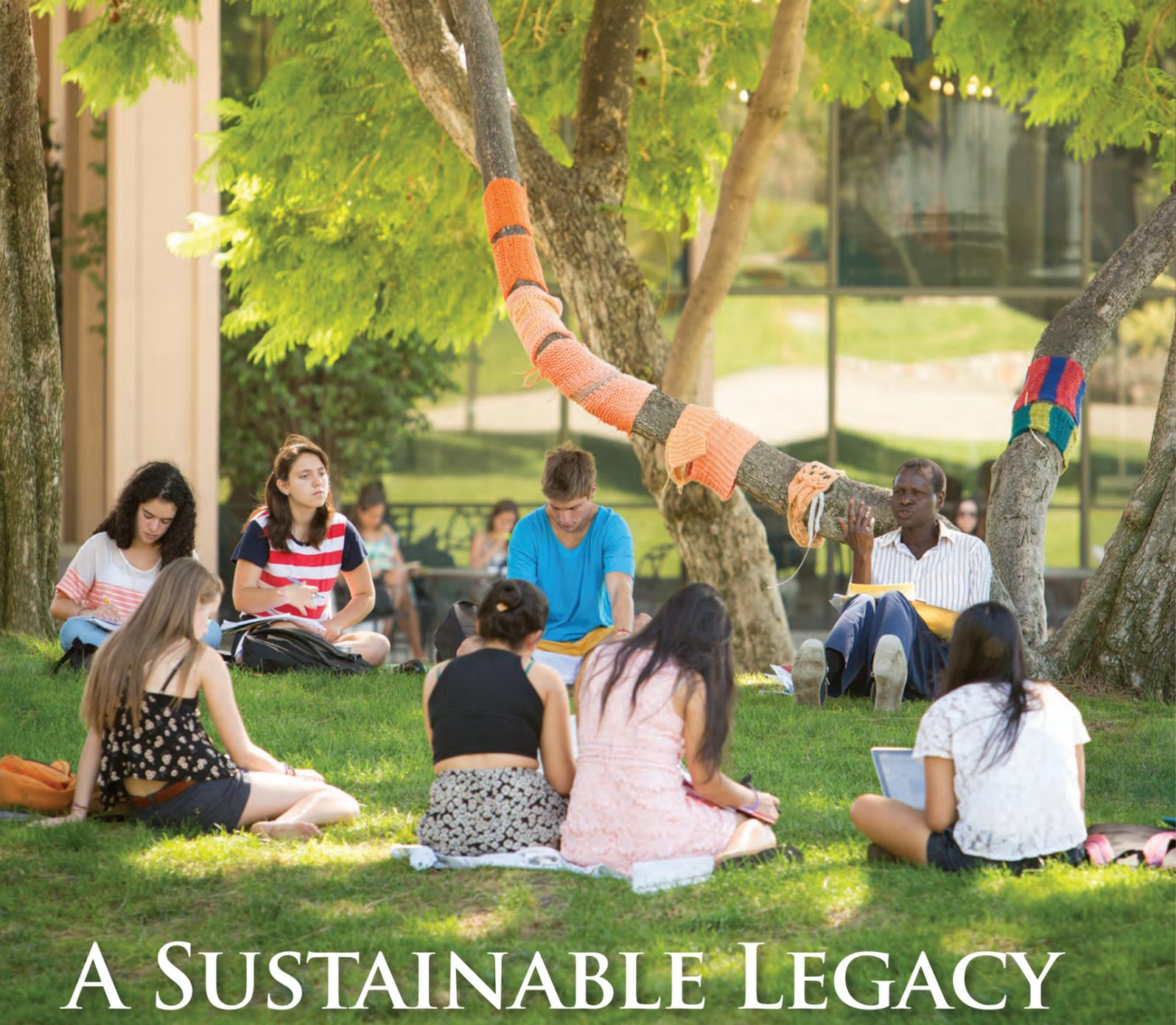
Margaret Carothers '70 (July 17, 2013)
Carothers, alumna and retired director of financial aid for Pitzer College, passed away after a short battle with cancer. She is survived by her sisters, Katherine Carothers and Alison Hetrick, and her brother, Thomas Carothers.

Nicholas R. Dusic '00 (June 11, 2013)
Dusic served as the director of public affairs/global sites (Europe) at the pharmaceutical company Pfizer and was the former director of the UK's Campaign for Science and Engineering. Dusic passed away from Burkitt's lymphoma, a rare and aggressive form of lymphatic cancer.

Hiliary Green '15 (August 2, 2013)
A native of Denver, Colorado, Green graduated from East High School. Pitzer faculty members and fellow students describe her as creative, thoughtful and full of life.

Andrea Heilbron '73 (August 1, 2013)
A resident of Santa Cruz for the last 41 years, Heilbron worked as a physical therapist for Courtney Associates and Dominican Hospital for 35 years. She died at her Soquel, CA, home after a 13-year battle with cancer. Heilbron is survived by her two sons, David and Patrick Heilbron Kingston, and her former husband, Dean Kingston.

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



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Pitzer Participant

Diane “Dee” Mosbacher '72 is a psychiatrist and visionary filmmaker whose documentaries show how education can overcome prejudice and transform lives.

Her film *Straight From the Heart*, nominated for an Academy Award in 1995, deals with religious parents coming to terms with their children’s homosexuality. *Training Rules*, released in 2009, addresses anti-gay bigotry in women’s sports, particularly on the Penn State Lady Lions basketball team. Mosbacher has directed and produced nine documentaries through Woman Vision, a nonprofit she founded in 1993 to promote tolerance and equal treatment of all people through educational media.

“The people in my films are change agents that show others how to create a better world,” she said.

In 2011, Mosbacher’s belief in the power of media to spark social change led her to donate \$1.5 million to establish the Mosbacher Fund for Media Studies and the Mosbacher/Gartrell Center for Media Experimentation and Activism at Pitzer College. The center is named in honor of Mosbacher and her partner of more than 30 years, Nanette Gartrell, a renowned psychiatrist and researcher. The gift includes an endowed fund to support guest speakers, workshops, faculty/student research projects and other programs.

“One of the best things to happen since I was a student at Pitzer majoring in psychology is the addition of the media studies program,” said Mosbacher, who earned a doctorate in social psychology from Union Graduate School and received a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine. “I’m happy to contribute to a department that encourages social justice activists to consider the use of media to reach a larger audience, while encouraging media makers to use their art to further social justice.”



Dee Mosbacher '72 & Nanette Gartrell



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