

PITZER COLLEGE

The Participant

Vol. 47 No. 2

Summer 2014





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Summer 2014

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“Ba de ya—golden dreams were shiny days”

—Earth, Wind & Fire

What a year we enjoyed! Pitzer is all of 50 years old now and we celebrated from coast to coast, from sea level to 14,505 feet at the top of Mt. Whitney, from Hong Kong to Hancock Park. The year left us with indelible memories and great gratitude. We owe many thank-yous: to our 50th Anniversary Committee for coming up with ideas for art exhibitions, faculty and alumni panels, and a class on the College’s history; to our supporters who helped us exceed the \$50 million goal of our *50Forward* Campaign; to our Orange and White Ball Committee for creating the best party Pitzer has ever thrown (and that’s saying a lot!) so we could all get our groove on to Earth, Wind & Fire. And thank you to our

students, faculty and staff, who give us so much to celebrate, contemplate and anticipate every year—from our first to our 50th.

Our 50th Anniversary Commencement featured an alumni parade 49 years in the making, a beautiful poem by Professor Brent Armendinger, a rousing call to action by our keynote speaker Van Jones and words of appreciation for our long-tenured lecturer emerita Jenifer Onstott. And Kathleen Kile ’97 created special stoles for Commencement and the beautiful dress—made from orange and white plastic trash bags—that I wore to the Ball.

This May, we also acknowledged the retirement of two of our longest-serving trustees, Margot Levin Schiff P’90, P’95 and Lisa Specht. They have generously given their time, wisdom, creativity and resources to the College for more than two decades, with Margot joining the board in 1987 and Lisa joining in 1993. They were both elected trustee emerita this year.

Even as we looked back during the anniversary year, we thought forward, creating our groundbreaking Fossil Fuel Divestment-Climate Action Model and a new program to support students studying science, technology, engineering and math. Today, as we get ready to welcome our newest faculty and students for the coming year, we remain true to our motto, *Provida Futuri* (Mindful of the Future).

And here’s the best part, we’re just getting started!

My Best,

Laura Skandera Trombley
Pitzer College President

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In Appreciation

For their decades of dedicated service and leadership to the Pitzer College Board of Trustees

MARGOT LEVIN SCHIFF P’90, P’95

Trustee from 1987 to 2014; Elected Trustee Emerita 2014

LISA SPECHT

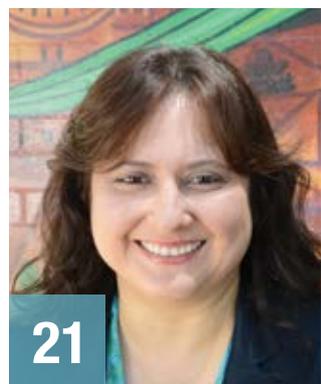
Trustee from 1993 to 2014; Elected Trustee Emerita 2014



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The Participant

Summer 2014

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ON THE COVER: The gold cover celebrates Pitzer's golden anniversary.

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.



FIFTY

FROM
STARDOMWE
FEET
FROM

When Claudia Lennear '06 sings, you may hear the soundtrack of your own life. Her vocals underscore many unforgettable moments of the last 45 years.

That's her on Ike and Tina Turner's "Proud Mary," on Joe Cocker's "Mad Dogs & Englishmen," on Stephen Stills' iconic "Love the One You're With" and at the Concert for Bangladesh with George Harrison and Eric Clapton. She inspired the Rolling Stones' "Brown Sugar" and David Bowie's "Lady Grinning Soul."

Lennear attended Pitzer as a New Resources student and earned a degree in French. She now teaches at Mt. San Antonio College. This year, she was back in the spotlight as one of the unsung backup singers from the '60s and '70s featured in the 2014 Academy Award-winning documentary *20 Feet from Stardom*.

Lennear followed her passion and set a joyful tone for rock 'n' roll music.

Follow your passion



PITZER
PATHFINDER

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



Pitzer College divestment press conference at the Los Angeles Press Club. (L-R) Professor Brinda Sarathy, student Jessica Grady-Benson '14, Trustee Robert Redford, President Laura Skandera Trombley and Trustee Donald Gould

Investing in the Future

Pitzer's Divestment from Fossil Fuels

On April 12, 2014, Pitzer College made history. “Pitzer College once again demonstrates how change begins and what a mindful future looks like,” President Laura Skandera Trombley declared as the College revealed its bold plan to divest its endowment from fossil fuels and drastically reduce Pitzer’s carbon footprint. Pitzer became the first college in Southern California to divest from fossil fuels and, at the time of the announcement, the college with the largest endowment to do so.

President Trombley, along with Trustees Robert Redford and Donald Gould, Associate Professor of Environmental Analysis Brinda Sarathy and student Jessica Grady-Benson '14, introduced Pitzer’s breakthrough model to reporters, guests and a worldwide webcast audience during a press conference at the Los Angeles Press Club.

Pitzer College’s new integrated Fossil Fuel Divestment-Climate Action Model is a comprehensive plan that:

- divests more than 99 percent of the College’s endowment investments in fossil fuel stocks by December 31, 2014
- develops an environmental, social and governance policy to guide endowment investment decisions
- creates the Pitzer Sustainability Fund within the endowment to make environmentally responsible investments
- targets a 25 percent reduction of the College’s carbon footprint from current levels by the end of 2016
- establishes a Campus Sustainability Taskforce to bolster on-campus measures to promote sustainability

This initiative was sparked by a group of student-activists led by Grady-Benson, who persuaded the Board of Trustees to create a climate change working group composed of students, faculty, trustees and staff. Beginning in October 2013, the group explored the many strategies Pitzer could use to expand its environmental commitments. Ultimately, the group designed a model that divests the College’s financial holdings in fossil fuels and encourages the entire campus to increase its sustainability efforts.

“I continue to marvel at Pitzer College’s ability to take risks that pay off and go where many other educational institutions dare not go,” Redford said. “With student-activists as a galvanizing force, today’s announcement makes Pitzer the first college or university in Southern California to divest, and the first to come up with an innovative solution that other organizations can model.”

During the press conference, President Trombley issued an invitation to other institutions in higher education: “Come join the party. It’s so much fun to do the right thing.”

Three weeks later, Stanford University announced its plan to divest from coal mining companies. Who will be next?

To watch the press conference in its entirety, visit:
www.pitzer.edu/divests

Pivotal Moment for Pitzer Science

New \$600,000 NSF Grant Supports STEM Students

Pitzer is a great place for science. And it's getting better. With a substantial new five-year grant awarded by the National Science Foundation and an innovative program behind it, Pitzer is positioned to attract the top science students in the nation, according to Professor of Chemistry Thomas Poon, principal investigator.

The \$602,422 grant supports the Pitzer College MECHANISM for Success in the Sciences Program, which will provide up to \$8,000 annually in scholarship support to talented students who demonstrate financial need and who plan to major in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) discipline. The first of two groups of eight students will begin the program in fall 2015.

As important as financial support is to college students, personal support and mentorship is also vital, especially for the first-generation and underserved students the program aims to engage. "Once students make it to college, it's a misconception that they're all set for academic life," says Poon. "MECHANISM—which stands for Mentors Enable, Connect, Help, Advocate, Nurture, Intervene, Sustain and Motivate—is designed to help these students adjust and thrive during their undergraduate careers."

To personally guide the scholarship recipients, MECHANISM's co-principal investigators—Vice President for Academic Affairs Muriel Poston, Associate Dean and Professor of Chemistry/Environmental

Science Katie Purvis-Roberts, and Associate Professor of Sociology Roberta Espinoza—plan to follow three key focus areas in Espinoza's book *Pivotal Moments: How Educators Can Put All Students on the Path to College*. The areas are: building trust, mentoring and advocating, and transmitting academic knowledge.

"We're developing programs for students to promote mentoring relationships with faculty that can provide them with the necessary support to successfully immerse themselves in their STEM disciplines," said Espinoza. "For example, we will teach them how to network, conduct research and present at academic conferences. These skills are going to be crucial in completing their BA degrees in a STEM field and having successful careers after they graduate."

In addition to offering personal guidance, the project is designed to replace the loan and/or work-study portion of a student's financial aid package with scholarship support, lessening MECHANISM scholars' debt and giving them more opportunities to participate in study abroad and community engagement projects.

"The combination of all that our program has to offer and the hallmark benefits of a Pitzer education will result in an amazing college experience for our scholarship recipients," said Poon.





New study abroad program for first-year students kicks off at Pitzer's Firestone Center in Costa Rica

Early International Immersion

In March, twenty Pitzer first-year students skipped a Fort Lauderdale-style spring break to spend a week in Costa Rica living with local families and studying Central American ecology, economy and culture.

Nationally, only 3 percent of undergraduates who study abroad are first-year students. Through Pitzer's Costa Rica Study Program 2014, 8 percent of Pitzer's Class of 2017 took classes and conducted hands-on research at the College's Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology, a 150-acre field station and reserve in southwestern Costa Rica.

Students donned knee-high snake gators to venture into the low-land tropical forest to identify plants with Dean of Faculty Muriel Poston, a plant biologist. They learned about land-use issues while visiting a palm oil plantation with Suyapa Portillo Villeda, assistant professor of Chicano/a-Latino/a transnational studies. They explored the social, economic and environmental impact of tourism with Associate Professor of Environmental Analysis Melinda Herrold-Menzies and Adrian Pantoja, professor of political studies and Chicano/a-Latino/a studies. They discussed how to take care of their own wellbeing, both at home and abroad, with Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Carlisle and Community Engagement Center Assistant Director Tricia Morgan. The new program drew cooperation from all corners of campus, with 14 professors and staff members, including two vice presidents, traveling with Pitzer students to Costa Rica.

"This trip is giving me a taste of what study abroad is like," said Reynaldo Culannay '17 on his third day in the Central American country. "Coming here has opened this door and let me view other horizons."

The Costa Rica Study Program, organized by the Institute for Global/Local Action & Study (IGLAS) and the Office of Study Abroad and International Programs, was part of the Global Local Mentorship Project. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Bringing Theory to Practice Project, this initiative was designed to strengthen students' academic and psycho-social development by pairing faculty mentors with first-year students who are fast-tracked into community engagement and study abroad programs. At Pitzer, 78 percent of students study abroad by the time they graduate, compared to 9 percent nationally.

On their first day in Costa Rica, some students were nervous about spending a week living with local families they didn't know; by the end of the trip, they referred to their Costa Rican hosts as mom and dad, brother and sister, aunt and uncle. Lillian Horin '17 said she not only tried her first bowl of duck soup at her host family's table, she sampled a distinct pace and way of life.

"I feel like having a different culture within you, even if it's only for a week, really changes the way you view the world," Horin said.

From the Archives

Summer is upon us, and that brings not only the end to another academic year, but also the close of Pitzer's 50th Anniversary celebration. Anniversaries usually spur some introspection, and this occasion was no different. The anniversary inspired two new classes: Professor of History Stuart McConnell's *The History of Pitzer* and Professor of Environmental Analysis Lance Neckar's *Pitzer's Campus: Beyond 50*. These courses explored the evolution of the College over five decades and examined the mid-century design of the built environment where we all work, teach and learn.

The creation of the Pitzer College Archives is perhaps the most tangible evidence that a half-century of existence does indeed deserve some self-examination and reflection. Taking stock of the accomplishments and achievements of the College is a sure sign of institutional maturity. And the commitment to this endeavor of gathering, preserving, arranging and making available the legacy of Pitzer College was entrenched even further this spring with the construction and opening of a dedicated space to house the Archives.

The Pitzer College Archives is now nestled in Mead Hall in the crook of the Lucian Marquis Library's arm. This new space welcomes anyone interested in perusing Pitzer's history and provides a kind of beacon for all of the various communities connected to the campus. The Archives sends out a message that the College is invested in collecting and documenting the stories and evidence of its evolution in the past and into the future.



Archivist Stacy Elliott (center) in the Pitzer College Archives



MYSTERY ITEM

Do you know?

This baseball cap was found in a box of items that was left a couple of years ago at the Claremont Colleges Library. We believe the cap belonged to the late Michael Woodcock, professor emeritus of creative studies—his last name is stitched on the back. If you know anything about this cap, please contact Archivist Stacy Elliott at archives@pitzer.edu.



PREVIOUS MYSTERY PHOTO SOLVED!

The photograph shows (L-R) an unidentified woman, **Pamela Dickey '73**, Honor Morley and **Norah Morley '73** walking through a found-art assemblage constructed by students in Valyermo, CA, in December 1970. This event was the culmination of ART20 - Mixed Media/Assemblage taught by visiting artist Gordon Wagner, a pioneer in assemblage art.

Thanks to Norah Morley for providing information about the photo.

If you are interested in visiting the Pitzer College Archives or donating "Pitzeriana" to our collection, please contact Archivist Stacy Elliott at archives@pitzer.edu or 909.621.8810 to make an appointment.



274 Graduates...

22% were double majors

30% had minors

14% were science, technology, engineering and math majors

75% studied abroad

13% designed their own majors and graduated with degrees in:

- Healing as a Form of Resistance
- The Culture and Labor of Food
- Technology and Social Change



Top 10 Majors

1. Psychology
2. Special/Self-Designed
3. Environmental Analysis
4. Economics
5. Sociology
6. Political Studies
7. Media Studies
8. English & World Literature
9. Human Biology
10. Anthropology



CLASS Next of 2014: Chapter

Alfredo Valencia → Harvard University's chemical biology PhD program

Samantha Morse → UCLA for a PhD in English

Evan Slovak → University of Pennsylvania Law School

Emily India Richter → Johns Hopkins University for a master's in public health

Dahnya Nicole Hernandez-Roach → Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC

Rachel Silbert → The Climate Group in London

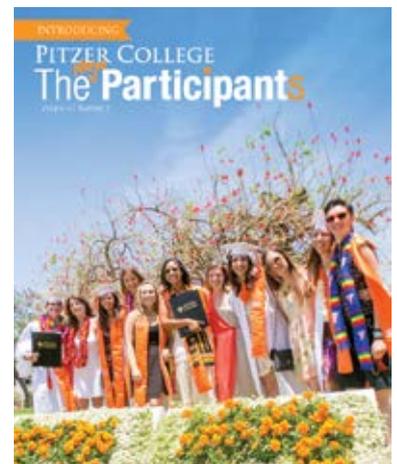
Justine Oesterle → Ecosystems lab at JPL in Pasadena

Vanessa Gonzalez → Lingnan University in Hong Kong

Braden Holstege → Payden & Rygel investment management in Los Angeles

Annelise Stabenau → Nordic by Nature in Berlin

Kelsey Frenck → American University in Cairo



www.pitzer.edu/Participants

For more about the Class of 2014, visit



**Benjamin A. Gilman
International Scholarship**

Patricia Doan '16
Allison Donine '16
Anh Tran '16

Capital Fellowship

Shiyana Gunasekara '14
Nicholas Romo '14

**Community Water
Solutions Fellowship**

Jeremy Brecher-Haimson '14
Robert Little '15

Coro Fellowship

Megan Dooley '10
Shiyana Gunasekara '14
Aidan Lukomnik '14
Adam Mandel-Senft '11
Romarilyn Ralston '14

**Debating for Democracy
Competition**

Eli Erlick '17
Nicholas LaCivita '15

**Doris Duke
Conservation Scholarship**

Allison Donine '16

Fulbright Fellowship

Alaitz Aritza '14
Adria Arko '10
Samantha Bromley-Coolidge '14
Evelyn Byer '14
Katherine Cabrera '14
Zavi Engles '14
Danny Feinberg '13
Shiyana Gunasekara '14
Mayse Jarbawi '13
Minji Lee '14
Benjamin Levine '14
Zoey Martin-Lockhart '14
Natalie Mendoza '13
Samantha Morse '14
Elizabeth Pedersen '14
Autumn Pham '14
Nicole Pilar '14
Alexander Rawding '14
Claire Thoman Tedford '14
Cesar Vargas '14
Sarah Wright '13
Mia Yamashiro '14

Congrat

Harvard National Model United Nations

Braden Holstege '14
Benjamin Levine '14
Elizabeth Pedersen '14

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program

Harisimran Paton '14

Joint Mathematics Meetings Outstanding Presentation

Karly Brint '14

Lingnan University Teaching Fellowships

Sophia Baldwin '14
Vanessa Gonzalez '14

Napier Award for Creative Leadership

Marcela Jones '14

Newman Civic Fellowship

Maria Rodriguez '15

Princeton in Africa Fellowship

Emily India Richter '14

Princeton in Asia Fellowship

Sophie Howard '14

Summer Research Opportunities Program

Rocio Medina '17
Gabriela Nevarez '15
Charles Yates '15

Teach For America

Lillian Barrett-O'Keefe '14
Danielle Frankel '14
Andrea Gochi '14
Noemi Larrondo '14
Elizabeth Pedersen '14
Madeleine Ranson '14

Udall Foundation Scholarship

Morissa Zuckerman '16

US Teaching Assistantships at Austrian Secondary Schools

Autumn Pham '14

culations

to the Pitzer College 2013-14 student & alumni award winners!

The Niche of The New

When Pitzer College was founded in 1963, everyone associated with the new college tried to imagine what the future would look like. Architects Theodore Criley and Fred McDowell designed a campus of Jetsonian dynamism and openness, with buildings in geometric shapes and public spaces that meshed the indoors and outdoors in a uniquely Californian idiom. The cutting edge of technology in 1963 was closed-circuit television, so classrooms were duly wired for broadcast. The future of instruction was thought to lie with the social sciences and their promise to solve social problems through objective research and inquiry. Thus, Pitzer's original faculty and curriculum were weighted toward fields such as sociology, psychology, anthropology and political studies—fields that the older Claremont Colleges had neglected or embraced only grudgingly. Pitzer's niche was The New.

As to the future of campus life, the irresistible tide of 1963 was toward informality and social leveling. The inherited world of higher education was one of powerful presidents ruling “megaversities,” hidebound departments, top-down instruction and the separation of students from faculty. As one California State University, Los Angeles instructor wrote in 1969 of the way students and faculty ate on opposite sides of the cafeteria, “It’s as if there was a bad smell.” Pitzer set out to change that picture. The original Pitzer faculty members declined to organize themselves into departments. Instead, the College tried lumping people together into interdisciplinary “Group A,” “Group B” and “Group C”; soon, these evolved into what were colloquially called “clots” and then into “field groups”—a usage still opaque to outsiders. In governance, “town meetings” marked by



participation and egalitarianism were envisioned as replacements for academic elitism. And, in social life, students and faculty interacted at events ranging from a bacchanalian grape stomp to an informal “salon” in Lucian Marquis’ living room to a regular Friday afternoon softball game.

Fifty years later, field groups are still with us. So are some buildings, though TV instruction didn’t quite pan out (at least not yet—beware the Internet). The softball game is long gone, as is the grape stomping—victims of soccer and a raised national drinking age, respectively. Some say that participatory governance is gone too, though one heard the same complaint in 1972. What endures is not so much structures, but a spirit of playfulness, incompleteness, unfixity. “I’m surprised the place is still here,” said one returning alum in 1991. “It never felt permanent.” But then, permanence is the enemy of the new.

—Stuart McConnell, professor of history



Rock and Roll Hall of Famers **Earth, Wind & Fire** brought their signature funk and fun to Pitzer’s Orange and White Ball on May 3, 2014



Professor **Halford Fairchild**, in citrusy sartorial splendor, with a guest at the ball

Learn more about Pitzer’s history—visit the Pitzer Interactive Timeline
www.pitzer.edu/timeline



Paul Ranslow, past interim president of Pitzer, at the dedication of 2014 Hall



WE HAD A BALL!

Pitzer College held 50th Anniversary celebrations all year with special events both on campus and in far-flung locales



Students and alums wish Pitzer a Happy Birthday with President **Laura Skandera Trombley** and master of ceremonies **Charles Shaughnessy P'12, P'17**

Fifty years ago, Pitzer was the rambunctious youngest sibling of The Claremont Colleges. This year, it celebrated its golden anniversary, no longer a kid but still agelessly inquisitive, asking and answering the whys of the world.

Pitzer threw birthday parties across the country, from the top of Mt. Whitney to the shores of Seal Beach. Campus art exhibits reflected on the College's past, new murals commemorated the half-century milestone, lectures focused on the future, the first African-American instructor at The Claremont Colleges talked about his time at Pitzer and Kohoutek continued its decades-long tradition of bringing music to the Mounds.

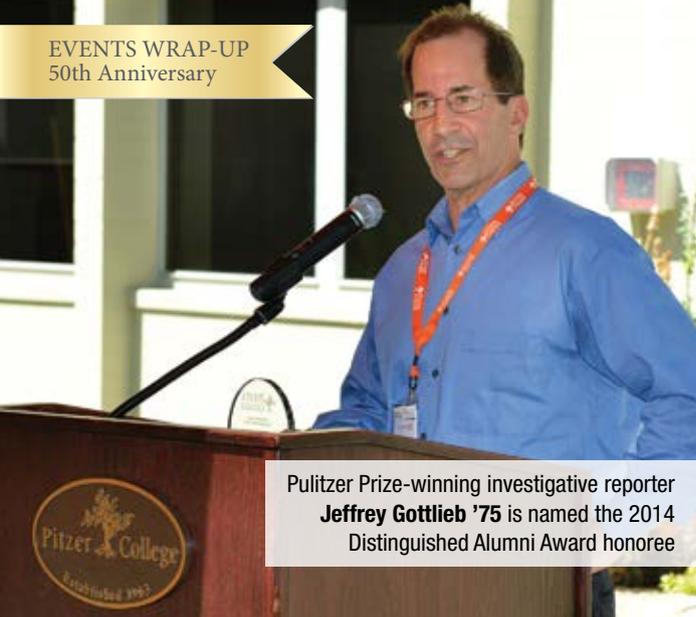
On May 3, more than 2,000 Pitzer people donned everything from orange tuxes to top hats for the Orange and White Ball. The party started with the dedication of 2014 Hall and word that the 50Forward Campaign exceeded its \$50 million goal. Story-high stilt walkers led party-goers to the Mounds, where students and alums took the stage, playing music, performing magic, singing Happy Birthday. As night fell, Earth, Wind & Fire turned Commencement Plaza into a "Boogie Wonderland," bringing Pitzer's Golden Anniversary to a trumpet-filled, technicolor close.



Marilyn Chapin Massey, Pitzer president from 1992-2002, joins the 50th festivities



Alumni, family and friends celebrate Pitzer's special birthday with students, faculty and staff



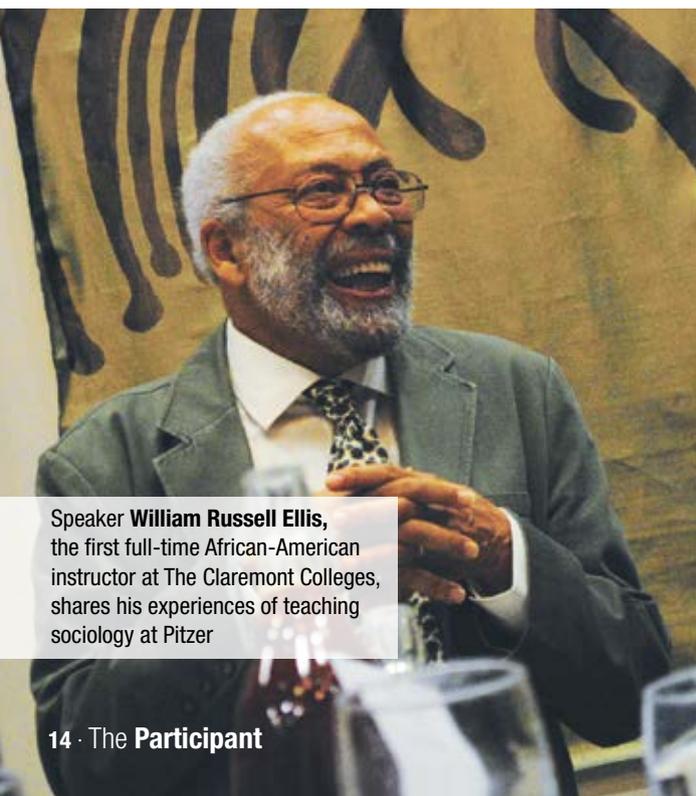
Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter **Jeffrey Gottlieb '75** is named the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree



Sociologist **Brianne Davila '04** is honored with the 2014 Young Alumni Achievement Award



Participants in **Pitzer's First Years: The Women of the '60s** panel share their experiences at the College



Speaker **William Russell Ellis**, the first full-time African-American instructor at The Claremont Colleges, shares his experiences of teaching sociology at Pitzer



Artist **Paul Santoleri's** 50th Anniversary 23-by-140-foot mural *Bridges of Change* covers the entire south wall of McConnell Center

To kick off the 50th, President Laura Skandera Trombley and Pitzer students, alumni, family and faculty summit Mt. Whitney after hiking 185 miles on the John Muir Trail in summer 2013



EVENTS WRAP-UP
50th Anniversary



Alumni represent Pitzer's graduates through the decades at the 50th Anniversary Commencement

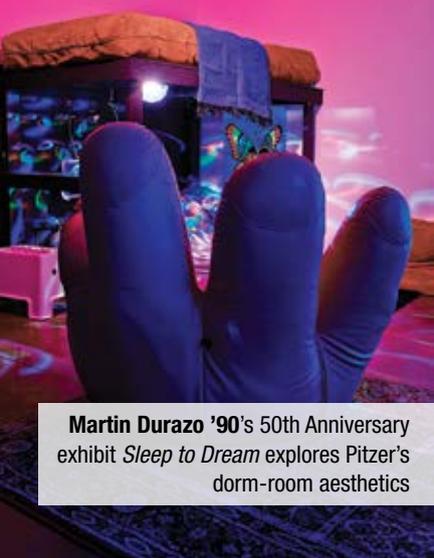


Professors **Sheryl Miller**, **Stuart McConnell**, **Char Miller '75**, **Lance Neckar**, Archivist **Stacy Elliott** & Professor Emeritus **Lew Ellenhorn** discuss Pitzer's early years during an Alumni Reunion panel



Former Trustees **Maureen Lynch '77** & **Jill Baskin '77** with Emeriti Professors **Peter Nardi** & **Rudi Volti** (back row) and **Debra Wall '77** & **Rita Lynch Speck '77** at the renovated President's Residence, the first single family residence in Claremont to earn LEED certification

EVENTS WRAP-UP
50th Anniversary



Martin Durazo '90's 50th Anniversary exhibit *Sleep to Dream* explores Pitzer's dorm-room aesthetics



50th birthday parties are held around the country from San Francisco to New York City



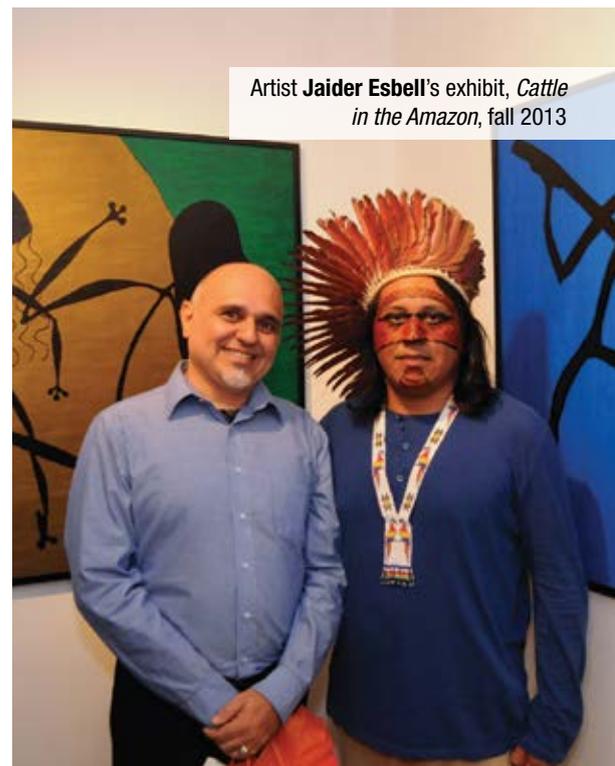
Book launch of *The Pitzer College 50th Anniversary Engaged Faculty Collection*, showcasing the College's community-based teaching, learning & scholarship; with support from the Rose Hills Foundation, the Community Engagement Center opens its new offices in Scott Hall during the anniversary year



Arthur Dubinsky's *The Life and Times of Pitzer College* 50th Anniversary exhibit depicts the College through the eyes of photographer **Arthur Dubinsky**



Lisa Nakamura delivers the Atherton Lecture, part of the Munroe Center for Social Inquiry's 2013-14 series "Technology Changes"



Artist **Jaider Esbell's** exhibit, *Cattle in the Amazon*, fall 2013



Pitzer parents celebrate with their students during Family Weekend 2014



Discussing fellowships during the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board's fall 2013 visit



Crossing the finish line at the Campus-to-Coast 50th Anniversary bike ride on October 5

Accepting the Charges

So then we crawled into our voices
far enough to find out
that our voices existed
before we did. The here below us
spun itself into the world
inside us, a shakiness
we learned to carry
with our question marks
for feelers.

20,000 breaths
floated in and out
of John Atherton in 1963 and
somewhere in the midst
of all this breathing
he said the here inside us
is here to change the universe.

On an average day
100 tons of rock and dust
from space will bleed its shiny
waywardness into our atmosphere.
In an average year 28.1 inches
of sky will get heavy enough
to land on the land without knowing
which country it belongs to and the sensation
of longing and belonging will get heavy in the eyes
of the average human being and fall
between 6 and 64 times.

This year, approximately
7 new stars will begin sounding out
the letters of their names in their far-away
hello. On earth,
total military spending will reach
\$1.756 trillion
and someone's grief
will multiply and the sea
will rise by 3 millimeters
and it's impossible
not to be changed.

Off the coast of Iceland it is
1963 and a volcano wakes an island
from its long fugue
of water. Just south of Salinas
it is 1963 and a freight train collides
with a bus and 27 migrant farmworkers
stop breathing and someone is buying groceries
and someone is picking up the telephone and
someone is accepting the charges
because it's impossible
not to change the universe.

Off the coast of 1963
the locks go slack on Alcatraz
and in Birmingham Martin Luther King
is bending the bars and the idea
of America collides with the fact of America
and someone collides with love,
tugging and tugging on gravity
and it's impossible
not to be changed by this.

It is 1963 and William Carlos Williams
and Sylvia Plath and Medgar Evers and Patsy
Cline and Tristan Tzara who said *I am aware
of the stream that has no language and my hours
are married to shadow and you can kill a man
but you can't kill an idea and sitting around
the house playing the wife and the mother is driving me
crazy and I've perforated the nerve
by the clear frozen lake* — each a separate
utterance but it's 1963 and he and she
and he and she and he are falling down together
inside us at the age of 79 at the age of 30 at the age of
37 at the age of 30 at the age of 67
falling down. And it's impossible
to not be changed by all this falling
so we learn to hoist the ladder
from the dream.

The first push-button telephone
is made available in 1963
and someone is calling us collect from gravity
from our very own birthday
to confirm that we exist.
Someone is digging a here down deep inside us
and we accept the charges.
Someone is watching their sweat and hope
fall into us like rain inside
a drought to summon the cloud of us.
We spread ourselves into that weather
to confirm that it exists.

— Brent Armendinger



Associate Professor for
English & World Literature/
Creative Writing Brent
Armendinger wrote this
special poem in celebration
of Pitzer's 50th Anniversary
and presented it at the
2014 Commencement



THANK YOU

to the **7,500+** alumni, parents & friends who helped raise more than **\$50 million** to support the Pitzer College experience

50 
FORWARD

PITZER COLLEGE
50th Anniversary Campaign

\$15.7 million

to strengthen academic programs such as



Robert Redford
Conservancy for
Southern California
Sustainability



Institute for
Global/Local
Action & Study



Mosbacher/Gartrell
Center for Media
Experimentation
and Activism



Ferré/Marquet
Vaccine Research
Center



\$8.8 million

to increase student financial aid



\$500,000

to increase student internships
& research awards



\$12.5 million

to the Annual Fund

\$12.7 million

to improve student life experience
and critical facilities such as



Gold Student Health & Wellness Center



Grove House



Green Bike Program



Residence Halls



A Powerful Advocate

At 18, **Eli Erlick '17** has become the kind of advocate she needed a decade ago when she realized she was transgender. “It was difficult,” Erlick said. “I was eight. I was extremely unhappy being forced to live as a boy. I didn’t know anything about being queer or being trans. I didn’t have any access to resources or information.”

Growing up outside a rural town in Northern California, Erlick felt isolated. Her parents thought she was going through a phase that would pass, and many of her classmates refused to recognize her gender identity.

Things began to change when she hit her teens. Her parents came to accept her identity, and she found support outside of her hometown, first through conferences and online forums, and now at Pitzer.

“It’s been so amazing being around a strong queer community every day,” she said.

Erlick is the director of Trans Student Equality Resource, a youth-led organization dedicated to improving the educational environment for trans- and gender-nonconforming students, who are twice as likely as their non-LGBTQ peers to experience verbal harassment,

exclusion and physical attack at school, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

Over the past year, Erlick has spread the word about how important it is to respect transgender people’s identities through media outlets such as the *Los Angeles Times* and *Huffington Post*. She championed a new California law that protects transgender students’ rights. In March, she and Nicholas LaCivita ’15 won a national Debating for Democracy competition for a letter they sent to US Congresswoman Judy Chu advocating a similar federal bill.

The transgender activist frequently addresses conferences and recently gave a keynote speech at the Bay Area Youth Summit in San Francisco. If she could speak now, as she does to youth across the country, to her eight-year-old self, she knows what she would say:

“I would tell myself to be proud of who I am and not to allow anyone to silence me. As the years progress, I am more and more proud to be a queer trans woman, and being at Pitzer has finally allowed me to incorporate this pride into my education.”



A Passionate Idealist

Suyapa Portillo Villeda '96 engages her students with stories of strong working-class women. How they played a part in union organizing. How they were integral to strikes. How they survived.

Portillo's research comes from the heart—and from her own life.

She grew up in a Honduras village, playing under hanging tobacco leaves strung by her father, a rural farmer and school teacher. When her parents divorced in the early '80s, her mother brought her and two brothers to the United States to escape political violence and find work.

Her mother joined a local union and took Portillo to meetings, immersing her in the world of social activism.

"I sat in a corner listening. Union folks were my child care," Portillo says.

Her mother encouraged Portillo to pursue higher education, an opportunity her mother hadn't had. Always a strong student, Portillo chose Pitzer College as an undergraduate and discovered how scholarship and activism could come together. She took classes on the labor movement, feminism and race in the US and Latin America.

After graduation, she was an organizer for social justice in the

garment industry in Southern California and later a field organizer for labor unions.

A PhD from Cornell University followed. Then a Fulbright-Hays grant led her back to Honduras, where she began her current research on banana workers from the 1940s to late 1950s—a critical time for the development of the labor and women's movements in Honduras. She has gathered extensive oral histories from these men and women for an upcoming book.

Hired by Pitzer in 2012 as an assistant professor of Chicano/a-Latino/a transnational studies, Portillo has found the right place for a passionate idealist.

"I was looking to teach and mentor students in a place where I could immerse them directly in social justice work," she said.

"Professors did that for me when I was a student. Pitzer is a great place for engaged teaching."

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Over the past year, Pitzer faculty have delved into DNA, parsed poetry, shared their expertise with the global media, published all over the world and won national teaching awards.



Professor of Mathematics Judith V. Grabiner's book *A Historian Looks Back: The Calculus as Algebra and Selected Writings* won the prestigious Mathematical Association of America's Beckenbach Book Prize



Professor of Psychology Leah Light was elected president of the American Psychological Association's Division 3: Experimental Psychology



Professor of Spanish Ethel Jorge was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese



Professor of Media Studies Ming-Yuen S. Ma's book *Resolutions 3: Global Networks of Video* won the Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2014 Best Edited Collection Award



Dean of Faculty Muriel Poston was named a 2014 American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow, along with **Professor Emeritus of Philosophy James Bogen**



Associate Professor of English & World Literature/Creative Writing Brent Armendinger and **Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies Todd Honma** held a poetry and tattoo workshop with poet and J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board Chairman Tom Healy.



Associate Professor of Biology Jennifer Armstrong received a \$450,000 three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to research chromosome structure and gene expression.



Assistant Professor of Political Studies William Barndt explored why liberal arts colleges increasingly describe themselves as national institutions in his talk “How To Get a Job Anywhere: The Nationalization of Our Liberal Arts Colleges” at Claremont McKenna College.



Associate Professor of Art Timothy Berg was awarded a Center for Cultural Innovation 2014 Artists’ Resource for Completion grant for his project *A Gilded Age*.



Associate Professor of Sociology Alicia Bonaparte was awarded a 2014 summer residency in Jamaica by NLS, and her research on midwives was featured on KPFK’s *Feminist Magazine*.



Professor of Linguistics Carmen Fought discussed conversation starters and regional differences on KPCC and in the *Washington Post*.



Assistant Professor of Biology Sarah Gilman won a \$688,041 NSF CAREER research award. The five-year grant will support her project Thermal Stress and Intertidal Zonation: The Neglected Role of Food Supply.



Associate Professor of Environmental Analysis Melinda Herrold-Menzies presented at conferences across the country, including the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, CHINA Town Hall Meeting of the National Committee on US-China Relations and Re-envisioning Nature: Mini-Conference in Preparation for the 2015 “Seizing an Alternative” Conference.



TIME selected **Assistant Professor of Art Tarrah Krajnak’s** book *South Sound* as one of the best photo books of 2013.



Professor of Media Studies Jesse Lerner’s work *Spanish Caprice* was exhibited at the Huntington Library from August 2013 to January 2014. He also spoke at a conference in Berlin and authored several book chapters for publications in Mexico and the United Kingdom.



Professor Emeritus of Linguistics Ronald Macaulay contributed book chapters to *Sociolinguistics in Scotland* and *The Handbook of Language Variation and Change*.



Research Professor of Anthropology Lee Munroe, one of Pitzer’s 11 founding faculty members, co-authored “Development of Perspective Taking in Relation to Age, Education, and Industrialization: A Four-Culture Study” for *Cross-Cultural Research*.





Professor of Political Studies and Chicano/a-Latino/a Studies Adrian Pantoja provided expert commentary to *La Opinion* for a story on President Barack Obama's State of the Union immigration proposals.



Professor of Chemistry Thomas Poon released *Introduction to Organic Chemistry, 5th edition* and spoke at Yuanpei College of Peking University this spring.



Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Colin Robins co-authored a paper on soil dating techniques in *Quaternary Geochronology*.



At Scripps College, **Assistant Professor of Biology Lars Schmitz** discussed his ongoing research into the evolution of eyes.



Assistant Professor of Academic Writing Andrea Scott was awarded a joint German Academic Exchange Service and German-American Fulbright Commission Fellowship.



Professor of Anthropology Claudia Strauss discussed an anthropological approach to parsing public opinion in her talk, *Making Sense of Public Opinion about Immigration Reform and Obamacare*, at the Claremont Colleges Library.



Assistant Professor Emerita of Writing Jacqueline Levering Sullivan authored *A Less Than Perfect Peace*, a sequel to her award-winning *Annie's War*.



Associate Professor of Political Studies Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99 examined why some laws are vague while others are written in unequivocal language in her new book, *The Devil Is in the Details: Understanding the Causes of Policy Specificity and Ambiguity*.



Assistant Professor of Chicano/a-Latino/a Transnational Studies Suyapa Portillo Villeda '96 gave a first-hand account of irregularities during the Honduran presidential election for a CNN story.



The Globe and Mail quoted **Professor Emeritus of Sociology Rudi Volti** in an article on Google's self-driving car.



Professor of Sociology Phil Zuckerman debated the question, "Does Christianity or secular humanism provide a better foundation for civil society?" at Adventure Christian Church and discussed secularism in NPR's story "Sunday Assembly: A Church for the Godless Picks up Steam."

Great Connections

Jenifer Onstott gets people to open up and talk. With a warm smile, bright blue eyes and unassuming manner, she has been putting Pitzer College students at ease for the past 29 years as an instructor in teaching English as a second language. The pioneering force behind the College's International Scholars Program, Onstott was named Pitzer's first lecturer emerita when she retired this spring.

Onstott's goal throughout her teaching career has been to advance communication.

"Good communication begins with trust," she says. "I develop trust by never criticizing. I have high standards, but I don't criticize." She also listens intently. "I'm a real observer of the human condition."

Her accomplishments at Pitzer are vast and her influence is profound. She came to Pitzer as an English language professor in 1985, helping make the Program in American College English one of the finest pre-collegiate ESL programs in the country. She designed an innovative language immersion and content-based curriculum for the International Scholars Program (formerly the Bridge Program) and ultimately became its academic director, working with thousands of students from a hundred countries around the world. She also crafted the curriculum for a teacher-training course for graduate language teaching assistants at The Claremont Colleges and for a community-based pedagogy course for undergraduates. She brought her expertise as lead instructor for Pitzer seniors applying for Fulbright Fellowships—contributing greatly to Pitzer's extraordinary success in this international program.

"A brilliant language teacher and advocate for interculturalism, Jenifer has focused her professional career on the broader education of our international students," said Michael Ballagh, associate vice president of study abroad and international programs. "While markedly self-effacing, she remains one of the most brilliant intellectual minds I have ever encountered on Pitzer's campus. I, and many others, owe her no small debt for her wisdom and never-ending grace."

Onstott's retirement plans include travel and relaxation, although she doesn't rule out volunteer work to foster international connections.

"I truly believe international peace will come through authentic intercultural communication," she says. "My small part is to inspire people from different cultures to interact and value each other's points of view."



A Year for the Record Books

This past academic year, Women's Water Polo won the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Championship for the third year in a row. Women's Lacrosse qualified for the NCAA Championships for the first time and set a school record for most wins in a season. Men's Cross Country earned its first NCAA West Regional Championship in 31 years, and both Men's Basketball and Men's Swimming had their best seasons in a decade.

Men's Basketball

Adrian Brandon '15, Joseph Eyen '15, James Xavyr Moss '14 and Nicholas Nordale '17 helped the team finish 18-8, its highest win total since the 2003-04 season.

Women's Basketball

Basha Brulee-Wills '17 was one of the SCIAC's top newcomers, earning second-team all-league honors and tallying a team-high 10 double-doubles. Ruth Shapiro '15 served as captain on a young team that included Dana Brozost-Kelleher '16, Kacie Hitomi '17, Amelia Hummel '16 and McKenna Vanderkley '17.

Cross Country

With Paul Messana '17 as a top runner, the men's team edged Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) during the 2013 regionals to land its first NCAA West Regional Championship in three decades. On the women's team, Camille Matonis '15 earned All-SCIAC honors, finishing 16th out of 118 runners.

Football

Pitzer student-athletes covered all corners of the field with defensive back Nicholas LaCivita '15, tight end Sean Mulcahy '16, offensive lineman Colton Coss '17, nose tackle Luc Dark-Fleury '16, linebackers Andrew Kurtz '16 and Julian Roberts '17, and defensive backs Isaac Richard '16 and Brandon Zemp '17.

Women's Lacrosse

Lacrosse qualified for the NCAA Championships for the first time after racking up 16 wins this season. Jana London '14 led the SCIAC in goals with 68 and was named a first-team All-West Region attacker for the second year in a row. Sarah Markowitz '16 ranked second for team goals, Aubrey Douglass '16 led the team in assists, and Zoe Brown '15 started every game on the team's defense, which ranked No. 1 in the SCIAC. Kaitlin Jones '14, winner of the Judie and Frank Fenton Award for Athletic Leadership, and Rachel Kessler '14 served as team co-captains with London, who won the 2014 Most Outstanding Athlete Award.

Women's Soccer

Sara Ach '15 helped the team earn a record-setting 13 wins this season and finish a close second in the SCIAC.

Softball

Ashley Morello '15 earned second-team All-SCIAC honors and became only the sixth athlete in team history to earn all-region accolades from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

Men's Swimming and Diving

The team finished second in the SCIAC with Kyle Dalrymple '17 setting school records in the breaststroke, William Thorson '16 contributing to medley relay records, Eirik Hansen '15 and Timothy Hardman '17 ranking among the team's fastest freestyle sprinters and Andrew Wright '16 serving as the top distance freestyle swimmer. Dalrymple won the 2014 Daley Award for Athletic Achievement.

Women's Swimming and Diving

Dawn Barlow '16, the team's top diver, freestyler Cayla Nishizaki '17 and breaststroke swimmer Margaret Pettibone '15 helped the team finish second in the SCIAC.

Men's Tennis

The team advanced to the NCAA regional finals and ranked as high as No. 10 nationally. Christopher Wiechert '14 was named first-team All-SCIAC for the fourth year in a row and earned All-America honors in doubles. Jacob Yasgoor '17 was named Intercollegiate Tennis Association West Region Rookie of the Year and was selected first-team All-SCIAC.

Women's Tennis

The Sagehens reached the NCAA regional finals and hit No. 6 in the national rankings. Marie Fleming '16 was a top singles player before suffering a season-ending injury, while Claire Willey '14 provided the clinching win in the SCIAC quarterfinals and contributed an 8-1 doubles win during the NCAA regional finals.

Men's Track and Field

Paul Messana '17 earned All-America honors and SCIAC's Newcomer of the Year award after he went undefeated in the 800 meters against Division III opponents, racing to the 15th fastest time in the regular season and finishing 8th in the 800 during NCAA DIII National Championships. Bennett Kopperud '16 won the SCIAC title in the 400-meter hurdles. Gregory Hook '14 and Messana were part of a 4x400 relay team that finished second in the SCIAC with the No. 2 time in program history.

Women's Track and Field

Rhea Jayachandran '16 finished third at the SCIAC Championships in the 100-meter hurdles and moved into third in Sagehen history. In her first season as a Sagehen, Kaile Sauro '17 had the fourth highest score in program history in the heptathlon and sailed into the top 10 in the high jump.

Volleyball

Ellen Yamasaki '15 and Samantha Quesada-Diaz '17 helped the team qualify for the NCAA Division III Championships for the first time since 1997.

Men's Water Polo

Jarrod Gaut '14 closed out his career by earning first-team Division III All-America and first-team All-SCIAC honors, while Stephen Vint '15 earned second-team All-SCIAC honors.

Women's Water Polo

The team defeated CMS to win the SCIAC Championship for the third straight year. Alyssa Woodward '15 led the Sagehens in scoring for the third year in a row with 86 goals and was a first-team All-SCIAC selection. Ahsha Earwood '17 started as goalie during her first season, and sisters Carter Grant '15 and Hope Grant '17 combined for 44 goals.

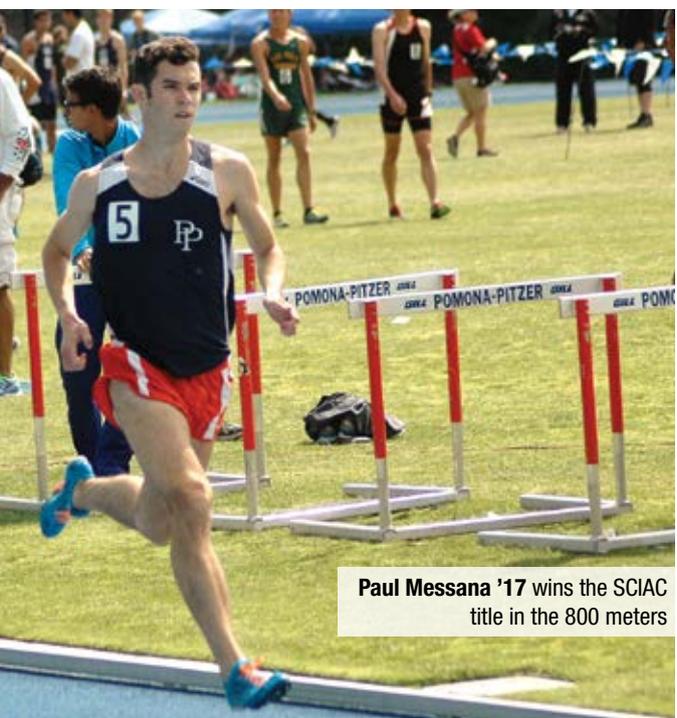




Women's Water Polo wins its third consecutive SCIAC Championship with a 7-4 win over CMS on April 27, 2014



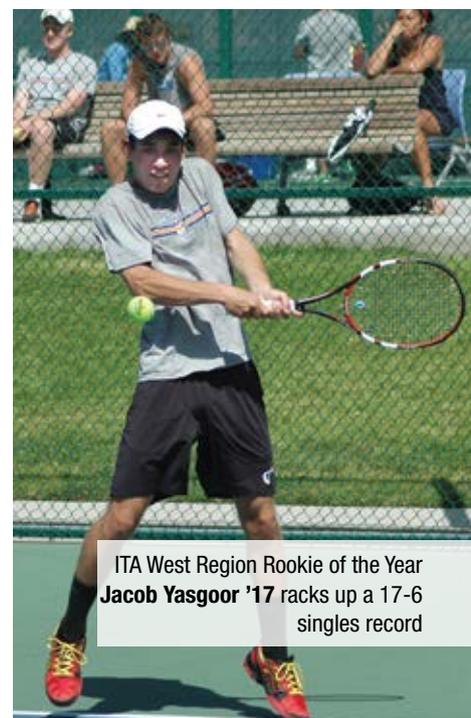
Basha Brulee-Wills '17 leads Women's Basketball in double-doubles & ranks third in both team points and rebounds



Paul Messana '17 wins the SCIAC title in the 800 meters



Dawn Barlow '16 ranks second in Sagehen history in the one-meter springboard



ITA West Region Rookie of the Year
Jacob Yasgoor '17 racks up a 17-6 singles record



Kyle Dalrymple '17 sets a team record in the 200-yard breaststroke at the SCIAC Championships with a 2:06.56



Kaitlin Jones '14, Jana London '14, Kyle Dalrymple '17 and Christopher Wiechert '14 win 2013-14 Sagehen Student-Athlete Awards

1960s

'68 **Margreta Dunn Klassen** is a licensed clinical, counseling and adult development psychologist at Newport Psychology Group, whose offices in Costa Mesa, CA, serve the surrounding communities of Huntington Beach, Irvine and Newport Beach.

1970s

'71 **Sheilah O'Brien** retired from the State of Oregon, having spent the past 17 years introducing Toyota's lean process improvement methods into state government. Her career took her to New Zealand, Washington DC and Monterey, CA.



Sheilah O'Brien '71

'73 **Betsy Tirk Coleman** participated in the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program, which enabled her to travel through Israel and Palestine studying artists and art organizations to learn how artists and communities work together in a time of crisis.

'76 **Patresha Mandel** launched the nonprofit Tikkun Olam Nicaragua, with which she leads teams of medical professionals to treat the poor and underserved communities in the rural mountains of Nicaragua.

'78 **Lori Brooks-Manas** has worked at the University of California, Berkeley in the Central Information Systems and Technology Department since 2006. Previously, she worked in information technology at the University of California, San Francisco for 17 years, spent her early career as an ESL instructor and worked in Japan. Brooks-Manas is enjoying her life in the San Francisco Bay area with her teenage daughter.



Patresha Mandel '76

1980s

'80 **Barbara Hutchins Sinor** published her sixth book, *The Pact: Messages from the Other Side*, in April 2014.

'82 **Russel LeDonne** is pursuing a master's degree in counseling at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte after many years of teaching. He expects to complete his degree by May 2015.

'83 **Anthony Guardino**, an attorney with Farrell Fritz, was appointed to the board of Touro Law Center's newly formed Institute on Land Use and Sustainable Development Law.



Anthony Guardino '83

'85 **Natasha Goodwin Prime**, along with **Nick Taylor '85** and **Liz Prics PO '90**, founded the Young People's Place, a nonprofit organization that provides games, arts and crafts, yoga and homework assistance to teenagers in South Pasadena. Members of the organization's board of directors include **Laura Tilem '08** and **Linda Kopperud P'16**.

1990s

'90 **Martin Durazo's** colorful artwork commission was installed at the El Monte MTA station in February 2014. In celebration of Pitzer's 50th Anniversary, Durazo had a special exhibition on campus that explored dorm room aesthetics, using his own personal objects merged with found and collected artifacts from Pitzer's archive.

Victor Sanchez celebrated his birthday while also honoring the life of the late **Inger-Stewart Soto '92** with **Candice Bryner**, **Catherine Caporale**, **Augie Porras '91**, **Denise Armijo SC '90**, family and friends. During this on-campus



Hope Demetriades '91

gathering in January, they also enjoyed reminiscing and sharing memories about their time at Pitzer.

'91 **Hope Demetriades' solo exhibition, *The North Stars: Canonizing the American Abolitionists***, made its debut in Sierra Madre, CA in February 2014. The exhibit features works depicting US abolitionists as saints.

Elizabeth Watts Goddard began work at the Chapman Cultural Center as the executive director of the Spartanburg Art Museum in South Carolina.

Seth Leibsohn finished his first marathon in Casablanca, Morocco, in October 2013, less than a year after recovering from a heart attack. He is training to run in future marathons and improve his time.

'92 **David Glickman** launched Lively, a company dedicated to helping older adults live independently through the use of technology.

'93 **Sarah Rudinoff**, an actress, writer and singer, was featured in *Seattle 100*, a book about cultural leaders working and living in Seattle. *Seattle 100* was adapted into a PBS documentary, *Portrait of a City*, and Rudinoff was one of eight musicians highlighted in the film.

'96 **Matthew Cooke** won the Best Writing Award from the International Documentary Association for his film *How to Make Money Selling Drugs*. His documentary also won audience awards from the Champs Elysées and Newport Beach film festivals.



Peter Harper debuted on the music scene with the release of a self-titled album in October 2013.

Annemarie Jacir's film *When I Saw You* won the NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at the 63rd Berlin International Film Festival.

Erin McDowell earned an MS degree in recreation from San Francisco State University in 2011. The following year, she went on tour as a supervisor with Cirque du Soleil. In May 2013, she gave birth to her first child, Flora London, with her longtime partner, Daniel Bateman. McDowell and her family happily reside in San Francisco and travel the world.

'99 Griselda Suarez and her wife, Amy Eriksen, celebrated the one-year anniversary of their restaurant, Sliced & Diced Eatery, which recently received the first Fresh and Fair Award from the City of Long Beach. They helped cofound the Three Sisters Garden in Long Beach, and Suarez currently works at California State University, Long Beach as a lecturer in Chicano and Latino Studies.

Rachel VanSickle-Ward, associate professor of political studies at Pitzer, welcomed son Gabriel Alexander Fromer into the world in December 2013.

2000s

'00 Jamie Asaka was inducted into the Washington State Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Melissa Flores Anderson married James Anderson, a San Jose State University graduate, in summer 2013. After completing a master's degree in print journalism at the University of Southern California, Flores began working as the city editor at the *Weekend Pinnacle* newspaper in Hollister, CA. She has received numerous California Newspaper Publisher Association awards and was honored last fall at the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners Conference for

outstanding library media coverage. Flores also writes for HealthyCal.org, an online nonprofit news site focused on California health issues.

'02 Benjamin Cotner won the US Documentary Directing Award at the Sundance Film Festival for co-directing *The Case Against 8*, a film following the legal battles to overturn California's Proposition 8.

'05 Kelly Smith Erickson joined the Urban Hillside's real estate team at Keller Williams Los Feliz as the in-house graphic designer, marketer and administrative partner. She is also a community activist and volunteer in Echo Park and other northeast Los Angeles communities.

'06 Claudia Lennear's work in the music industry was profiled in *20 Feet from Stardom*, which won the 2014 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature and the Best Documentary prize at the 29th Annual Film Independent Spirit Awards.



'07 Kimberly Bautista, recipient of the inaugural Pitzer College Young Alumni Achievement Award in 2013, premiered her documentary, *Justice for my Sister*, in October 2013 as part of the 16th Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival.

Jake Heller, co-founder of Casetext, a website that democratizes legal information by making it free and accessible, was featured in *Forbes Magazine's* 2014 "30 Under 30" as a young leader in law and policy.



'08 **Jordan Passman**, founder of ScoreAScore, a website that matches composers with companies or individuals looking for music for a project, was highlighted as a young leader in the music industry in *Forbes Magazine's* 2014 "30 Under 30."

Eddie Pickett is working in undergraduate admissions at Tufts University, collaborating with the university's diversity and access teams alongside **Alyshia Silva '12**.

'09 **Jake Ahles** and **Max Block** launched their project, The FareTrade, a new platform to connect artisans, chefs and the food community.

Alejandra Gillette-Teran married Manu Narayan on September 14, 2013 in Malibu, CA. Celebrating with them were **Nel Smiley**, **Zac Miller**, **Camille Frazier SC '09**, **Olivia Sajjadih**, **Emma Perlmutter**, **Maggi Massad**, **Monica Miller '08**, **Saiba Chadha '07** and **Blake Ulrich '07**. Gillette-Teran works as an executive search consultant for nonprofit organizations in Los Angeles, where she lives with her husband.

Leanna Guillermo and **Adam Williams '12** are engaged to be married in April 2015. Williams proposed in Healdsburg, CA, surrounded by family and their dog, Sheldor the Conqueror.

Noreen Lysette Barcena was named to the Mexican American Bar Association's executive board in February 2014. She lives in Monrovia, CA, with fellow Pitzer alumna and long-time friend **Lisette Mendez** and has her own law practice in East Los Angeles.

2010s

'10 **Steven Liang's** documentary, *A Better Life*, was one of three winners of an AbelCine grant, which provides \$33,000 in filmmaking resources for completing the film. Liang remarked that his education at Pitzer in the media studies department was instrumental to his growth as a filmmaker. **Yasi Razvan** and friends created Volio, a community empowerment app that will make it easier to connect volunteers with organizations seeking assistance.

'11 **Sylvie Froncek** helped launch Wunderbike, a free community bike-sharing program in Wellington, New Zealand.

Mika Solo will be pursuing a master's degree in education policy and management at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in fall 2014.

'12 **Brooke Marcy** works for Teach For America in Lynwood, CA.

'13 **Mitchell Felton** took a position in the University of San Francisco's Advancement Office, working closely with students, faculty and staff to fundraise for the school. In early 2014, he became a member of Pitzer's Alumni Board.

Lisette Gracial opened a new yoga studio, the Yoga Unit, located across the street from Pitzer College.

Danielle Johnson was honored on the *Ellen DeGeneres Show* for her work at the Detroit Achievement Academy with Teach For America.



Alejandra Gillette-Teran '09

In Memoriam

Juliette Alsobrooks '94

(January 13, 2014):

Alsobrooks was an author and resident of the Los Angeles area. She authored, with physician Paul Fleiss, *Your Premature Baby Comes Home*. She is survived by her mother, Eleanor, and family members Ernest and Michael.

Lane Haywood '68

(February 28, 2014):

A lifelong teacher and community volunteer, Haywood taught elementary school for 25 years after receiving teaching credentials at Simon Fraser University in Canada. Her travels took her to many Spanish-speaking countries with her husband, Pomona College graduate Craig Besinque. In Nicaragua, they volunteered at schools with Kay Gerard '68 and her husband. Haywood was an advocate for community food issues, health care and environmental education and preservation. She is survived by her husband and children, Craig, Sylvie and Alex; and her siblings, Susan Haywood '70 and Tom Haywood '79 and their families.

Inger Stewart Soto '92

(January 9, 2014):

A multiple-business owner in the Inland Empire area, a skilled reviewer and litigation expert and a former rehabilitation counselor, Soto passed away from pneumonia complicated by the H1N1 virus. He was an enthusiastic sports fan and an active member of the Pitzer alumni community. Soto is survived by his wife, Stephanie; mother and stepfather, Linda and Moustafa Aly; brothers Douglas Rodrigues and Adam Aly; sisters Amina Aly, Erica Soto Nedza and Sonia Soto; and many grandchildren.

Scott Studenmund '12

(June 9, 2014):

A Green Beret with the United States Army, Scott Studenmund '12 was killed in action in Gaza Valley, Afghanistan. A starter on the Sagehens Football team, he was known as fearless and funny, a man with a quick wit and deep sense of humility. He is survived by his parents, Woody and Jaynie, and his sister, Connell.

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.

Your Legacy is A Student's Future

My sister, Susan Brock, graduated from Pitzer College in 1970 with a degree in psychology. The education that she received served her well and enabled her to help many people throughout her career. To honor her memory, I made a provision in my living trust to create the Susan Brock Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

—Mike Brock



To learn more, contact Pitzer's
planned giving specialist
Stephen Tanenbaum at
909.607.3731 or
stephen_tanenbaum@pitzer.edu

Hilda and Mike Brock

Pitzer Participant

This spring, the leadership of Pitzer College's Board of Trustees symbolically changed hands when chairperson-elect **Shahan Soghikian '80** presented outgoing chair **Robin Kramer '75** with a life-sized bronze model of Abraham Lincoln's hand.



Robin Kramer '75

"I offer you this firm hand in a velvet glove to signify the wonderful balance in your style of leadership," Soghikian said, adding that Abraham Lincoln "led with compassion and strength, just like you."

Soghikian took over the post on July 1 after Kramer finished serving the maximum allowable two consecutive three-year terms.

In 2008, Kramer became the first Pitzer graduate to chair the Board of Trustees. President Laura Skandera Trombley called their six-year working relationship "productive and joyous."

"When Robin assumed the mantle as our first alumna board chair, it was a sign that the College was beautifully maturing," Trombley said. "I am anticipating a terrific collaborative and industrious tenure with Shahan, our first male alumnus board chair."

During Kramer's tenure, Pitzer set and met many major goals, including establishing the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, completing the *50Forward* Campaign, raising the College's national profile and creating a multifaceted model to address climate change that Kramer calls "a long-term course in which there are no bystanders."

Kramer has never been a fan of standing idly by.

"There's so much need in the world—at the end of the day, who else will be a part of helping its repair but us?" she said.

At Pitzer, the political studies and journalism major was a student representative on the Faculty Executive Committee, edited *The Claremont Colleges' student newspaper* and joined Claremont Students Against the War.

Her undergrad activism was far from a phase. She went on to become chief of staff to Los Angeles Mayors Richard J. Riordan and Antonio Villaraigosa—the first woman to fill this position in the second largest city in the US. She has held senior posts with The Broad Foundation and California Community Foundation, served as executive director of the Coro Foundation and is the current executive director of Reboot, a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening Jewish culture and identity. She joined Pitzer's board in 1999.

Kramer said she's "totally delighted" that her successor as chair is a fellow alum who shares her passion for continual improvement.

"Shahan has a keen eye, a very analytic and winning way, a great sense of humor and a determination to leave the campsite better than he found it," Kramer said.

Soghikian brought his keen eye and winning ways to the Pitzer board nearly a decade ago, when he joined in 2005. The co-founder and managing director of the investment firm Panorama Capital, Soghikian is a financial expert who specializes in consumer- and technology-oriented investing.

At Pitzer, Soghikian formed a band with his then housemate and now fellow trustee Steven Scheyer '80, P'10 called The Stiffs, "as in corpses," Soghikian said. The biology major and pre-med student counts Professor Emeritus of Biology David Sadava as one of his most influential teachers. Soghikian established an endowed scholarship in Sadava's name two years ago.

After graduating from Pitzer, Soghikian worked in research at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland before shifting gears to focus on finance, earning his MBA from UCLA in 1987. He has been involved with a wide range of investments in consumer, communications and technology companies, served as a director of more than 30 companies and as a partner with JPMorgan Partners and Panorama. Soghikian chaired the investment committee on Pitzer's board from 2009-13.

Soghikian says participating in the governance and leadership of his alma mater at this stage in his life has been both rewarding and, appropriately, educational.

"When you're away from an academic environment then come back, you really enjoy the intellectual challenge of being on a college campus, the diversity of thought and the opportunity to engage openly in debate."

Members of the board begin each year by reading and discussing a book. Most recently they read *Moneyball*, an account of the Oakland A's use of statistics, which spurred an ongoing conversation about what measures matter in higher education.

"The measures that exist are generally income-related, but that's not the goalpost many of our grads measure themselves by," Soghikian said. "We have to learn how to measure and leverage part of the uniqueness of Pitzer, and that is how our students affect the world."

When Kramer arrived as a student at Pitzer in 1971, she thought *provida futuri* meant "provide a fruit tree." To her, it was a beautiful metaphor—a young college, itself a seedling, dedicated to cultivating young minds. Today, she finds the motto's correct definition, "mindful of the future," even more fitting.

"The job of the Board of Trustees is to always look forward," Kramer said. "And there's no better place than Pitzer to be pushed to be mindful of the future."



Shahan Soghikian '80



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