Spring 2009

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A note from President Trombley

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Spring is always a special time for colleges and that holds particularly true for Pitzer. In May we will bid good-bye to the class of 2009, and just two weeks later welcome them back to join our annual alumni reunion on campus.

The alumni reunion is always a combined celebration of the individual and the College as a collective entity. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our Pitzer alumni and in this issue some of their personal stories are shared with you. There will be a host of wonderful events over the course of the weekend from which to choose, and in the afternoon quiet of the Mounds, alumni might even spot glimpses of their former selves ten, twenty and even forty years ago.

Joining alumni reunion may be some of our newest members from the class of 2009. With thirteen Fulbright Fellowships awarded to date, this forty-fifth graduating class positions Pitzer to retain its record of having the largest number of Fulbrights awarded per capita of any college or university for the seventh year in a row. Although this wonderful group of young people will be graduating into uncertain economic times, I am certain as Pitzer alumni they will go on to lead complete, fulfilled lives enriched by what is most important: close friends, a loving family and a commitment to positive social action.

This May is especially sweet for me as it marks my return to campus from my three-month sabbatical. Over the course of the past several weeks I’ve had the opportunity to enjoy much more time with my family and have reconnected with cherished friends. I have, after 16 years of extensive research, also wrapped up my soon to be published fifth book on Mark Twain. And I have been fortunate to take a number of trips, including one to racecar driving school. What I learned in driving school (where for the first time in my life I was encouraged to drive faster!) is that when driving it is key to never look at what is directly in front of you; instead, you should always look ahead. Looking only at what you are trying to miss insures that you will hit it. And while you may think squealing tires may be an indication of speed, actually it really means that there is less traction and consequently reduced forward motion. In short, those who move the fastest make the least amount of noise.

What I learned in driving school serves as an apt metaphor for the kind of strategic planning and vision that is needed during these difficult economic times. Today, more than ever before, our community of faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni, parents, friends and trustees must work together to maintain our core values and further the mission of Pitzer College: Provida Futuri—Mindful of the Future. We must always look ahead and strive never to lose our traction.

It is good to return, and, as always, I am both humbled and honored to be part of Pitzer College.

Best regards,
Laura Skandera Trombley
President
2008 Alumni Survey Results

Last year, Pitzer College surveyed 434 alumni on their perception of the College. How did you respond?

| Overall, alumni have a favorable view of Pitzer, especially in some areas: |
| 98% recognized Pitzer for its commitment to social responsibility. |
| 98% acknowledged its close student-faculty interaction. |
| 97% noted the College’s environmental responsibility. |
| 95% recognized the quality of faculty teaching. |
| 93% acknowledged the College’s interdisciplinary programs. |
| 92% noted the activism on campus. |

| Alumni rated the following areas of study as having the strongest academic programs: |
| Sociology | 76% |
| Psychology | 67% |
| Environmental Studies | 57% |

| When asked to compare Pitzer to other undergraduate institutions, respondents noted the College’s: |
| Commitment to social responsibility | 97% |
| Environmental sustainability | 94% |
| Intercultural understanding | 88% |

| When asked what about Pitzer College might be improved, alumni said: |
| Reputation | 10% |
| Diversity | 6% |
| Academic rigor | 5% |
| Alumni connections | 3% |

Alumni were asked for three or four words they associate with Pitzer College.

| The most frequently mentioned by all alumni surveyed were: |
| Liberal |
| Progressive |
| Fun |
| Innovative |
| Social Justice |

| The most frequently mentioned by pre-1969 graduates were: |
| Innovative |
| Progressive |
| Brave |
| Committed |
| Community |

| The most frequently mentioned by 1970s graduates were: |
| Innovative |
| Liberal |
| Progressive |
| Social Justice |
| Fun |

| The most frequently mentioned by 1980s graduates were: |
| Liberal |
| Challenging |
| Progressive |
| Social justice |
| Fun |

| The most frequently mentioned by 1990s graduates were: |
| Liberal |
| Young |
| Social justice |

| The most frequently mentioned by 2000 graduates were: |
| Liberal |
| Different |
| Progressive |
| Fun |
| Social justice |

Pitzer thanks all who participated in the survey!
A political science major, student government member and Sagehen linebacker, Todd Eachus ’85 is now majority leader in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

In his sophomore year at Pitzer, Eachus moved to Washington D.C. “Young and audacious, I walked into Congressman Jim Nelligan’s office and asked for a job,” Eachus said. Nelligan hired him that day.

Following graduation, Eachus returned to DC as a Congressional staffer. He later moved to Pennsylvania and won a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. In the House, Eachus improved access to affordable prescriptions for over 120,000 seniors, reduced Workers’ Compensation costs and fought to improve healthcare. In 2007, Eachus’s son, Ben, enrolled at Pitzer. “I tried not to influence his decision, but I was happy. The beauty of Pitzer is that it teaches you to think big, dream big and expand your horizons.”

—Liz Hedrick ’09

Dr. Juan Carrillo ’87 spends a lot of time alone with dead bodies.

A deputy medical examiner for the Los Angeles Department of the Coroner, Carrillo observes, “Everything you imagine about autopsies is true, but it is worth the sense of accomplishment when I discover something that contributes to a case.”

In addition to his work with the coroner’s office, Carrillo also consults with NBC, A&E and the Discovery Channel on forensics. He majored in psychological biology at Pitzer, and attended the USC Keck School of Medicine. “I knew I wanted to be a doctor, and I was fond of bugs and grossing-out my parents,” Carrillo said.

“There is nothing more relaxing than performing an autopsy alone early in the morning,” said Carrillo. “That may sound creepy, but I help take the irresponsible and criminally-minded off the streets.”

—Liz Hedrick ’09
avid Glickman ’92 is a principal and vice president of new business ventures with Stone Yamashita Partners, a San Francisco consulting firm. Glickman said, “We partner with businesses to help solve their largest and most complex problems.” He then co-founded FairAir and later joined SYPartners. Glickman also served as vice president of media and entertainment at Motricity, a wireless company. “I see myself starting another organization like CHALK or another company,” Glickman said. “I love something that gives you a sense of ownership.”

—Emily Cavalcanti

Brannon Wheeler ’87 is the founding director of the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies at the US Naval Academy. Established following 9/11, the center aims to reduce conflict by familiarizing graduates with different cultures. Wheeler noted, "Naval Academy graduates are often the first Americans an individual will meet.”

At Pitzer, Wheeler majored in history and religion, and later earned a PhD in Near Eastern languages from the University of Chicago. He observed, “Looking at education through a liberal arts lens is something that I took from Pitzer. It is not about being an expert but using what you learn in whatever you do.”

—Jill Walker Robinson

David Glickman ’92

“I love something that gives you a sense of ownership.”

Brannon Wheeler ’87

“Naval Academy graduates are often the first Americans an individual will meet.”

“I see myself starting another organization like CHALK or another company,” Glickman said. “I love something that gives you a sense of ownership.”

—Emily Cavalcanti
A member of the Secretariat for the United Nations Forum on Forests, Mita Sen ’95 says “We’re all realists and experts, and we believe that wide-scale change is possible.”

Sen attended college in India for a year, but applied to Pitzer to pursue something different. “I was attracted to American schools because of their flexibility and to Pitzer because of its environmentalism,” she said.

Sen earned an MA in resource economics and policy at Duke University and joined the United Nations as a program officer. “You can’t convince people to save the forest for the sake of the trees—you must convince them that it is in their interest to sustain the forests for the sake of themselves,” Sen said. “My job isn’t glamorous, but I know I am making a difference.” —Liz Hedrick ’09

Belle Brooke Barer ’01 creates jewelry that looks both organic and industrial, clustering gold and silver circles. She received the 2008 Mort Abelson New Designer of the Year Award, which recognizes emerging talent in the jewelry world.

In a small workshop in downtown Los Angeles, Barer and her sole employee hand craft each piece. “I try not to create representative art. I much prefer abstraction,” she said. Bags brimming shiny stones fill the space. The loft she shares with her husband, Jeff Koffman ’02, is nearby.

A photography major at Pitzer, Barer attended the Crucible, a school for fine and industrial arts, and then the Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts. In 2005, she launched her brand—now her pieces are available in the US and Canada. —Anne Burke

“We believe that wide-scale change is possible.”

“I much prefer abstraction.”

Mita Sen ’95

Belle Brooke Barer ’01
Erin Hayne ’01

“Touch is important. Laughter is important.”

Erin Hayne ’01 and her husband Nuno Gonçalves Ferreira designed a furniture collection that changes color in response to body heat. Users react with delight and relaxation. “It has a humanizing effect. Touch is important, laughter is important,” Hayne said.

Hayne and Ferreira design their “thermosensitive” products at the studio they founded in Mississippi in 2006. Their recent line, Swamp Collection, was featured at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

Hayne credits Pitzer with expanding her spirit of adventure. “Pitzer really nourished it. The professors’ trust gave me confidence to trust myself,” she said. Hayne anticipates possibly moving to Europe, saying “Our priority isn’t where and when, our priority is doing our artwork as best we can. Our main goal is to keep taking risks and keep learning.”

—Brenda Bolinger

Jennifer Williams ’02

“When Jennifer Williams ’02 was looking at colleges, she thought she wanted “a big school with a football team that played on TV,” she laughingly recalls.

On the advice of a friend, she toured Pitzer College. “I fell in love with it,” says Williams, a member of the Pitzer Alumni Board. “Everyone was so nice, open and helpful.”

At Pitzer, Williams was active in the Office of Black Student Affairs, and she graduated with a scholarship to Washington & Lee University School of Law. Williams now practices with Morris Polich & Purdy in Los Angeles.

A member of Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles, Williams notes that diversity in law firms is vital, saying “There are lots of black leaders. They are our clients, and they want to work with firms that are diverse.”

Williams is proud to be an example to minority students: “Sometimes people say, ‘Oh my gosh—you’re a lawyer? I say, ‘I am, I really am!’ ”

—Anne Burke
“Life after college isn’t so bad after all!”

I graduated from Pitzer in 2002 not really sure what I wanted to do. Pitzer had instilled ideals in me that I wanted to pursue—social responsibility and striving to create a sustainable future.

I had several jobs that left me unhappy and unfulfilled, but I finally found a job where I look forward to going to work, one that also shares many of the same principles as Pitzer.

I work for the City of Santa Monica coordinating their four Farmers’ Markets. Santa Monica has more Farmers’ Markets per capita than any city in Southern California. Produce sold there is usually picked within 24 hours of coming to market and travels an average of 150 miles. Conventionally grown food is picked long before it is ripe; travels 1500 to 2500 miles and spends up to two weeks in transit.

A guiding principle of the Santa Monica Farmers’ Markets is to accommodate as many California farmers as possible. This ensures the greatest variety of seasonal produce and a livelihood for small farmers. Many of the farmers practice sustainable agriculture.

Pitzer provided me with a passion and drive to make a difference. Working for the Santa Monica Farmers’ Markets allows me to support small family farms and provide a sustainable food source in my community. Life after college isn’t so bad after all!
Class Notes

1960s

1968 Ann Clary Judy has a son who is an equine surgeon, a daughter who works for a charter school and three grandchildren.

Mildred Erickson is beginning her third year with Gallery 110 in Pioneer Square in Seattle. Find her on Facebook.


Deborah Chansky chairs the 2009 Pitzer College Alumni Reunion. Her son, Mac Montgomery, is a member of the Pitzer class of 2009.

1970s

1973 Wendy Herbert volunteers as the poetry series coordinator and poetry prize administrator at GAZ Center for the Arts in Pomona. She is also a flute instructor with a private flute studio.

Terry Tompkins finished her LLM in bioethics at McGill University.

1974 John Chavez works with homeless and immigrant populations and with those who suffer from political and/or religious persecution.

Mary Evans Taylor retired from the Postal Service after nearly 32 years. Her favorite pastimes are travel and helping youth become better citizens.

1975 Daniel Doman races Porsches and is a Porsche Club of America instructor.

John Lee Evans was elected to the San Diego School Board.

Nancy Grant has worked as a licensed social worker for nearly 30 years. She is married with four adult children and two grandchildren.

Char Miller is director of environmental analysis at Pomona College and chairs the Environmental Analysis Program at the Keck Graduate Institute, where he is a visiting professor.

1976 Helen Aubry is a clinical psychologist, and is married with two children.


Thomas Waldman authored Not Much Left: The Board of Overseers of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

1980s

1980 Mark Gaynor accepted a position as an associate professor of health management at St. Louis University. He was previously at Boston University.

Brian P. Simon announces the birth of his daughter, Kayla Lillian Simon.

Ellen Weisbuch lives on the Spanish coast, teaches yoga and Middle Eastern dance, and creates high fired ceramics.

1983 Thomas Brock, recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award, co-authored a study on scholarships and low-income parents, a report that was covered by the Los Angeles Times and Time magazine.

1987 Ripley J. Lytle is managing partner of Monteiro Capital Management and portfolio manager of the Monteiro Money Strategies Fund. He was named one of the 10 Most Dependable Wealth Managers in California by Forbes Magazine and recently got engaged.

Lenny Rapozo is the director of parks and recreation of the County of Kauai.

1988 Douglas T. Calvin is completing a residency in emergency medicine, and will move to Hawaii to work as an emergency room physician. He and his wife are expecting their first child.

Jim (Kim) Haybrick says add to the Pitzerohana (family) around the world.

1989 Lisa Hart, a member of the Alumni Board, looks forward to seeing classmates at the 2010 reunion. She lives in L.A. and works in organization development and diversity.

Michael Navarro welcomes a daughter, Gabriella.

1990s

1991 James A. Cofman is a member of the Board of Overseers of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

Charlotte LaSalle, a documentary filmmaker, is directing a film on poet, activist and essayist June Jordan. She also founded Srevell Cinema, a non-profit organization.

1992 Karla Held recently moved to North Carolina for a teaching position.

1994 Patricia Munick joined the Board of Directors of McAnany, Van Cleare and Phillips. She is the first woman board member in the firm’s history.

Damon Leavell is director of corporate communications at The McGray-Hill Companies.

Michael Stephenson is a stay-at-home dad, raising his three sons with wife Heather. He’s currently an editor at the Los Angeles Times and Time magazine.

1996 Nicole Holmman practices acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine at the Integrative Medicine Program at the University of Chicago. She and her husband adopted a baby, Wesley Hayden Holmman.

Kimberly Richman authored Counting Change: queer Parents, Judges and the Transformation of American Family Law, published by NYU Press. She is an assistant professor at the University of San Francisco.

1997 Kathleen Kieff worked at Pitzer for over 20 years and still lives being around students.

Suzan Pour-Sanjan, a campaign coordinator for the Service Employees International Union, was quoted in the Los Angeles Times on Los Angeles County employees. She married in 2008, and the wedding was attended by Jessica Arzicella ’99, Stephanie Retter-Morrison ’97 and Kim Richman ’96.

1999 Olivia Olivier resides in Italy and is the marketing manager for a company that produces paragliding regenos.

Kiri Michaela Walsa is applying to medical school, tutoring organic chemistry and volunteering in the pediatric emergency department at Overeberger Children’s Hospital.

Griselda Suarez is a lecturer in the Chicano Latino Studies Department at California State University Long Beach and founded the Literary Foundation for Chicana, Latina and Indigena Women. She also co-produces Café Cultura in Long Beach.

2000s

2000 Shavn Hochul, an investment advisor and Big 12 football referee, was featured in a Bloomberg.com article.

2001 Brooke Fenster married Daniel Klein. Several Pitzer alumni attended Aja Barr ’01, Ed Gastelum ’01, Ashley Donahue ’01, Alice Jang ’01, Melissa Noile ’01, Jai Phillips ’02 and Eric Rice ’01.

2002 Nicola Kronenberg completed her MA and is a curriculum design specialist at Western Carolina University. She also dances professionally with the Asheville Contemporary Dance Theater.

Kimberly Richman authored Counting Change: queer Parents, Judges and the Transformation of American Family Law, published by NYU Press. She is an assistant professor at the University of San Francisco.

2003 Stephanie Brown teaches algebra to first-year high school students in Coachella, CA.


Michael Lissner is earning a degree at the University of California Berkeley School of Information.

2005 Dana Feagles is earning a degree in interior architecture and design at the University of California Berkeley.

Gaby Bertolucci teaches English at South Gate High School in Los Angeles. She recently travelled to Puerto Rico with Jennie Marble ’05.

2006 Carrie Burkle-Harr welcomed a baby in January, and is a development professional in Los Angeles.

Erica Pressberg, a professional musician, singer, songwriter and guitarist, is completing her first record.

Cassy Szecsius performed research in Malawi on a Fulbright Fellowship. Her graphic novel will be published next year and she co-founded a non-profit that creates and distributes books to Malian children.

Rebecca Tahkhaniti is earning an MA in public affairs at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas Austin.

2007 Ylissa C. Aquino was invited to join Phi Alpha, the social work honor society. She is earning an MA in social work at Loma Linda University.

Natasha Kaul is an extern to the Nevada Supreme Court’s Office of African American Justice, the Hon. Michael Douglass. She received a National Bar Association Scholarship and a commendation from Senator Nancy Reardon for her academic achievement and commitment to community service.

Heather Tilis runs a diversity program at PriceWaterhouseCoopers that won a Corporate Social Responsibility Award.

2008 Nate Adams joined Americares in Seattle and teaches homeless youth.

Tara Bracy won a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Indonesia. While at Pitzer, she attended the Pitzer in Brazil program.

Laura Beck-Pancer won a Fulbright Fellowship to teach in Indonesia. While at Pitzer, she studied abroad in Brazil.

In Memoriam

Joseph Cohen ’88 passed away in December 2008. A psychologist and sociology major, Cohen lived a music and was a talented soccer player. Donations in his memory may be made to Martha’s Kitchens, which feeds needy San Jose area residents.

Former Pitzer student John R. Hoage died in the line of duty in March. He was an officer with the Oakland Police Department for a decade.

Andrea Petrak Brothers ’78, aunt to Olivia Sagath ’01, passed away in April.

John Pottick ’84 passed away in 2008. A Hawiian native, Pottick was an avid surfer, skier and animal lover. Memorial donations may be made to the Island Valley Humane Society.
Julia Carr ’09, an environmental studies major, said, “The most outstanding part of my Pitzer experience was participating in its Costa Rica program. The opportunity was one-of-a-kind.”

While at Pitzer, Carr was also a member of the Sagehen varsity soccer team and active in the Student Movement for Real Change, which raises money and awareness for the impoverished worldwide.

Following graduation, Carr will join Willing Workers on Organic Farms in New Zealand, where she was born. “At Pitzer, I became interested in sustainable and organic agriculture,” Carr said. “I look forward to pursuing my passion while living sustainably.”

“My future plans are endless,” said Shatara Ford ’09. A political studies and sociology major, she will earn an MA in ethnicity and culture at Birmingham University.

“I am dedicated to improving the lives of people of color.”

“On the Pitzer campus, Ford was an active member of Pitzer’s Student Senate—in her senior year, she became president. “I feel very privileged to participate in something that gives students a major role in the future of the college.”

“I am dedicated to improving the lives of people of color.”

Julia Carr ’09
Environmental Studies

Shatara Ford ’09
Political Studies & Sociology

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Pitzer College

CONGRATULATES ITS 2008-09 AWARD-WINNERS

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships
Felicia Hunt ’10
Elizabeth Williams ’10

Collegiate Water Polo Association 2008
Women’s Varsity
All-America Team Member
Tamara Perea ’11

Fulbright Fellowships
Jeffrey Bandler ’09
Tara Beatty ’08
Laura Beck-Panner ’08
Owen Brewer ’09
Austin Brauner ’09
Magen Clegg ’09
Rory Cruz de Hayas ’09
Brian Dolphin ’09
Michelle Hatchette ’09
Alex Kenyon ’09
Joshua Lo ’09
Francine Mireles ’09
Jason Morales ’09
Yasuhiro Sekiyama ’09

Goldwater Scholarship
Allen Owen ’09

Huawei National Model United Nations Best Delegate Awards
Sol Edin ’10
Eleanor Green ’11
Alex Lentz ’09
Caroline Martin ’12

Hyogo Earthquake Memorial Research Institute Scholarship
Francine Mireles ’09

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Awards
Owen Brewer ’09
Austin Brauner ’09
Kemper Scholarship
Christopher Thomas ’12

Princeton in Asia Teaching Fellowship
Owen Brewer ’09

Robert Day Scholar
Melanie Quainte ’10

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship
Sonja Ferris ’09

SCIA All-American Football Team Members
Jacob Caron ’11
Steven Collisson ’12
Robert Montalvo ’10
Russell Oka ’10
Andrew Russell ’09

SCIA Athlete of the Week
Jacob Caron ’11

US Department of State Critical Language Enhancement Award
Owen Brewer ’09
Francine Mireles ’09

Owen Brewer ’09 receives four awards

Fulbright Fellowship to Taiwan
Critical Language Enhancement Award
Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Award
Princeton in Asia Teaching Fellowship
Congratulations, Owen!
At Pitzer, I learned from fabulous professors, who challenged and enlightened me,” said Olivia Sajjadieh ’09. Sajjadieh, a media studies major and gender studies minor, studied with the Pitzer in Italy program. She said, “After living abroad, I feel like I can accomplish anything!”

While at Pitzer, Sajjadieh was active on the Alumni Board, saying, “I saw that graduates remain true to the core values of the College. Pitzer gives its students the opportunity to think beyond themselves.”

On her life following Pitzer, Sajjadieh says, “I don’t know if I’ll ever find another place with such friendly, open people.”

“My mind has opened up at Pitzer more than I ever thought possible.”

“The Pitzer College
Forty-Fifth Commencement
May 16, 2009 • 10 a.m. - noon
Brant Clock Tower Lawn
Webcast @ pitzer.edu/webcast

STUDENT CLASS SPEAKER: Springsong Cooper
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: David Feldman, Writer, Comedian, Actor
STUDENT MARSHAL: Kathleen Yep, Assistant Professor
FACULTY MARSHAL: José Calderón, Professor
HONORED GUEST: Jim Marchant, Dean of Students

THE Pitzer College community congratulates the Class of 2009!
International Programs

Plant Biotechnology in Botswana
In spring 2009, Pitzer in Botswana students Julia Ghan-Jones ’12, Samuel Jones ’12 and Liana Presser ’11 studied crop development, led by Professor Larry Grill, director of Pitzer’s Vaccine Institute in Botswana and member of the Joint Science Department. This summer, they will research plant-produced vaccines at the University of Botswana, live with Botswanan families and study Setswana intensively.

First-Year Students at Pitzer’s Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology
This summer, six first-year Pitzer students will spend eight weeks conducting interviews, surveys and oral histories in Spanish for a Firestone Center project. Led by Andrew “A.J.” Dody ’09, Heather Hauk ’10 and Josh Lundbodth ’09, they will live with Costa Rican families and assist with the center’s restoration projects.

Pitzer Students Excel at Harvard Model United Nations
Four Pitzer students—Sol Estin ’10, Eleanor Green ’11, Alec Lentz ’09 and Caroline Martin ’12—received Best Delegate awards at Harvard’s National Model United Nations. Led by Lentz and Emily Hodkins ’09, the team represented Zimbabwe and was guided Professor Tom Ilgen, Pitzer’s Model UN faculty advisor.

Sagehen Update

Baseball
Won SCIAC title
Ranked first in division nationally

Cross Country
Women’s team placed second at the NCAA Division III West Region Meet
Madeline Kieselhorst ’09 named to All-SCIAC First Team
Men’s team named All-Academic Team by the US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association

Football
Jacob Caron ’11 named SCIAC Athlete of the Week
Jacob Caron ’11, Steven Collisson ’12, Robert Montalvo ’10, Russell Oka ’10 and Andrew Russell ’09 named to SCIAC All-Academic Football Team

Soccer
Four women’s team members named 2008 SCIAC All-Conference

Softball
Five team members named to the SCIAC All-Conference Team

Tennis
Women’s team finished fourth in NCAA Division III Team National Championship
Coach Ann Lebedeff named International Tennis Association National Coach of the Year

Track & Field
Women’s team finished fourth in SCIAC Championships; Mica Fein ’12 breaks school pole vault record

Water Polo
Three men’s team members named to Collegiate Water Polo Association 2008 Men’s All-America Team
Tamara Perez ’11 named to Collegiate Water Polo Association 2008 Women’s Varsity All-America Team
Coach of women’s team named Division III Coach of the Year by the Collegiate Water Polo Association

The Center for Social Inquiry
This year, Pitzer College launched the Center for Social Inquiry, directed by Professor Daniel Segal. The Center organizes public lectures and runs seminars for student fellows. The theme of the Center’s inaugural speaker series was “Global Issues in Public Health and Foods.” Its featured speakers and topics included:

- “AIDS in Africa” Helen Epstein, author, The Invisible Cure: Why We Are Losing the Fight Against AIDS in Africa
- “How Cancer Crossed the Color Line” Keith Walio, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor, Rutgers University
- “The Future of Medical Care” Dr. David Healey, author, Mania: A Short History of Bipolar Disorder

Exhibits at the Pitzer College Art Galleries
The Pitzer Art Galleries, directed by Ciara Ennis, launched several exhibitions this year.

- After Abu Ghraib by Clayton Campbell January 22-March 27, 2009

The Galleries’ summer 2009 schedule features:

- Babel: The Chaos of Melancholy July 2-September 11, 2009
  Kyungmi Shin will show a sprawling installation comprised of found materials.
- Emerging Artist Series #2: Karen Lohgren June 25-September 11, 2009
  Karen Lohgren creates a site-specific project for the Lenzer Family Art Gallery.

Auditorium Renovation
A top-to-bottom renovation of Avery Auditorium is underway, thanks to a generous gift from Robert Day. The new space will include a glass atrium, expanded performance and lecture areas, new seating and state-of-the-art technology.

Scheduled to reopen in spring 2010, it will be renamed the George Benson Auditorium, in honor of the late Dr. George Benson, a founding trustee of Pitzer and Claremont McKenna Colleges and a good friend of Day’s. In recognition of a gift from Eugene Stein, Pitzer College trustee, the auditorium’s new glass atrium will be named the Eugene and Marilyn Stein Atrium.

What’s New On Campus?
Martha Arguello, Intercollaborative Department of Black Studies, wrote "Talents, Brothers, Young Lords: A Common Cause: 40 Years of Struggle and Remembrance" published in Rhftva: Harvard Review of Latin America.


Paula Ennis, director curator of the Pitzer Art Galleries, contributed to Articles for Public Space.

Judith Graber, the Flora Sanborn Pitzer Professor of Mathematics, authored "You Look Like Poor’s "Parallel Parallelisation" published in the American Mathematical Monthly. Her article, "Who Gave you the Epikos? Causality and the Origins of Rigorous Calculus," which received the 1983 American Mathematical Association Lester Ford Award, was reprinted in Who Gave you the Epikos?


Tessa Hicks, interim director of the South California Cultural and Social Issues and visiting professor, wrote the introduction to BlackPanther 1968 by Howard Bingham, to be published by Amoons Books in June 2009.


The pictograph edition of Anne’s Alley by Writing Center Director Jacqueline Lavoolevson-Sullivan was issued by Eemirson Books.


Quantitative Methods in Sociology edited by Ronald Macaulay, Linguistics (emeritus), will be published this year. His review of (Style by Nicholas Coupland was published in the Journal of Language in Society.

José Calderón, sociology and Chicano studies, received a Drexmeaker Award from the Los Angeles Chapter of the California Alliance of African American Educators, founded by Debra Watkins ’76, Germaine (Jackson) DeCree ’93 nominated Professor Calderon for the award.


Laura Sanderson-Trombley, English and world literature, wrote "The Night I Almost Died" published in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The sixth edition of Society and Technological Change, co-authored by Rudi Voltsch, was published.

The Disorderly Policy State by Andre Wavefield, history, was published by the University of Chicago Press.

Bill Arents, art history, presented "Native American Contemporary Artists and International Biennial Cultural at the Art College Association 97th Annual Conference.

Brett Arndtinger, English and world literature, exhibited "I Hope for the Wind to See Through" at Frankentiart in San Francisco and gave a poetry reading at the Claremont Public Library. He was quoted in What On Ch-4-3-Gun War? An Essay on Sex, Risk and Subjectivity by David Hapern.

David Bachman, mathematics, published "Vindic Theory for Surfaces in 3-Manifolds" at the Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America.

Mita Ranjana, co-authored "Social and Emotional Development Intervention in a Southern African Prisene." The State for Research for Child Development Annual Meeting. Pizar students Megan to 10, Camille Macker 10; and Ollie White 10 co-authored the paper.

Marina Barcenas-Morisson, Spanish, presented "Ensuenos de Literaturas Indigenas in Centro Latorios de Migrantes: Um Programa Piloto in Sur de California" at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Meeting. She also discussed "Immigrants and Social Responsibility at the Community Level," at a Latino Heritage Month event organized by the Chirco Latino Student Affairs Office.

Timothy Berg, art, co-authored "Collaboration and the Convergence of Parallel Targets" at the College Art Association Annual Conference. His solo exhibition "It’s Good Things..." showed in New York and was reviewed in the New York Times. Berg’s work is included in The Maripol: A Nontraditional Approach to Class." "Scope New York." "Small Flowers." "Cultural Celebration" and "Scope Miami." He also spoke at the Richmond School of Design, Denison University, Loyola Marymount University and the California State University, San Bernardino.

Carol Brandt, modern language, literature and culture, presented "The Limits and Lawlessness of Civil Rights Teaching and a Learning in a Changing Context in International Education." at the Focus on Education Annual Conferences and "Passport to Local Citizenship: Sustainability, Balance and Reciprocity in Engaging Communities Again" at the Council for International Educational Exchange Conferences.

José Calderón, sociology and Chicano studies, contributed a chapter on immigration reform to a brief prepared for the Obama transition team. His column on the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and legacy ran in the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin and he was quoted in the Fontana Herald News on the president’s visit to Fontana. Calderon also spoke on "Remembering the Legacy of Cesar Chavez." at the Fourth Annual Teaching and Learning for Empowerment Conference, on "Lessons in Cultivating Leaders of Color in Civic Learning and Civic Engagement at the California Campus, Bridge-Bridge Leadership Retreat and on "Expectations and Possibilities under the Obama Administration in the Areas of Social and Economic Justice." at the Peace with Justice Center of the Pomona Valley. He spoke, with Congressman Joe Baca, the Congressional Hearing and Testimonials of Families of Immigrants.

Laura Sanderson-Trombley, English and world literature, chaired "Mark Twain and the Old" at Emira 2009: The Sixth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies.

Emma Stephens, economics, presented papers at the American Economic Association Annual Meeting and at the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin on the Bernard Field Station.

Minig-Yoon S. Ma, media studies, co-directed "Resolution 3: Video Praxis in Global Spaces," he discussed "Stepping in the Dark Art into Cinema by Gowers of Color" at the Focus Film Festival. "Quest for Color in Film," TV and Video. He was a panelist on a media arts panel sponsored by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. "What Do I Know," by Writing Center Director Paula Ennis, the Flora Sanborn Pitzer Professor of Mathematics, co-curated "Narrowcast Refreshing Global Video 1996-2008." This exhibit was cowritten in Afterimage: The Alternative Media and Cultural Criticism, the Floma Center and IE Weekly. She also curated "Emerging Artist Series #1: William Ransom" and "After Albus Chacon Closet Campbell," at the Pitzer Art Galleries. She co-curated "L.A. Freeways: 11B Festival of New Experimental Media from around the World.

Paul Fautch, sociology, was the forum speaker at the World Environment and Climate Outreach Meeting. He also spoke on the role of the American Curriculum of Eduction, and was quoted in the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin on the Bernard Field Station.

Rudi Voltsch, sociology, served as a dissertatus on Mobility in a European Context.

Andre Wakefield, history, was invited to speak at Cal State, the Huntington Library, Columbia University and the University of California Los Angeles.

Cara Ward, political studies, presented "Origins of Anarchocommunism" at the First Annual Los Angeles Anarchist Book Fair.

Kathryn Rep, sociology and Asian American studies, presented "Is Change Possible? Critical Pedagogies and Political Engagement at the American College and Universities Annual Meeting.

Tessa Hicks, interim director of the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues and visiting professor, co-presented "Engaged Scholarship Locally and Globally" at the American Association of Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting.

Ether Jorge, Spanish, presented "Language Pedagogy in a Local Global Context" at the 113th Annual Conference of the Pacific Atlantic and Modern Language Association and "Camul: A Comparison of Montevideo and Cadiz" at AATSP Capitol of Sur de California. She was named associate editor of Hispanic.

Annmarie’s Ward, writing center Director Jacqueline Lavoolevson-Sullivan, was nominated for a 2009-10 Children’s Crown Award. She received the Celebrate Literary Award from the International Reading Association and the Foothill Reading Council, and was the keynote speaker at the Foothill Reading Council.


David Moore, psychology, joined the editorial board of O&M Development Perspectives.

Edith Morris-Vazquez, English and world literature, received a grant from the National Humanities Center to attend the National Humanities Center Summer Literary Institutes and present "Reading Charles Bukowski’s Los Flores de mi Padre." She presented "La Casa de las Damas: Femin-mythification in Santo Domingo Prieto Today" at the Institute Hispanico. Vazquez also presented "I am lonely, lonely; art best of One Hundred Years of Solidarity. Williams as Lonely, Happy Genius" at the American Literature Association 20th Annual Conference and "William Carlos Williams and the Living: From Civas Nacional to the Third Binheimer Williams Society Conference. She became presiding officer of the Latina Literature Session of the Pacific Atlantic Modern Language Association.

Susan Seymour, anthropomorphism (emeritus), presented "Cosa Bu De OSE Officer in World War II" at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting and "Multiple Climates and Preservation inside" at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology.

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Assistant Professor Sumangala Bhattacharya joined Pitzer College in 2006. She has a BA in physics from Smith College, an MA in English from the University of North Texas and a PhD in English from the University of Southern California.

Bhattacharya recently presented “Epicurean Pleasures versus Home Cooking: Gastronomy Takes on Victorian Domesticity” at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies (INCS) Conference, “Between Worlds: Rabindranath Tagore and the Victorian Gothic” at the South Asia Studies Association Conference and “Consumable Spectacles: Famine and Modernity in British India” at the INCS Conference. She also received a grant to participate in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar “Adaptation and Revision: The Example of Great Expectations.”

Bhattacharya’s publications include “Coding Famine: Famine Relief and the British Raj in Rudyard Kipling’s ‘William the Conquers’” in The Studied Potatoes and Other Crises of Modernity” and “Kitchen Magic? Reforming the Victorian Kitchen with Alexis Soyer” in Consuming Culture: Food Fictions and the Consumption of Western Modernity in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century and “Between Worlds: Rabindranath Tagore and Victorian Gothic” and “Kipling’s ‘William the Conqueror’” in Humanities Summer Seminar “Adaptation and Revision: The Example of Great Expectations.”

Assistant Professor Jessica McCoy, art, was commissioned to create art for the Los Angeles Metro Exposition Line. Concept Narrative, consisting of 24 panels, will be installed at the Vermont Station. “Some riders will traverse the Vermont Station to access landmarks like Memorial Coliseum, the Natural History Museum and USC, but locals will ride the train every day,” McCoy said. “It is their station, and the panels will reflect the visual character of the neighborhood and those who live there.”

On campus, perhaps the most innovative class McCoy teaches is Food and Painting, which explores the connections between the culinary and visual arts. “We study cooking techniques and discuss the importance of craft and trained execution as it relates to painting,” McCoy said. She also serves as a faculty representative on the Alumni Board.

Some of McCoy’s recent work includes Dreams at the Fanny Garver Gallery and 360 Jackson Street in Pitzer’s Uncommon Practice exhibit. She has a BS, MA and MFA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Assistant Professor Rachel VanSickle-Ward ’99, political studies, is an expert on women in politics. Her other forthcoming publications include “Puerto Rican Exceptionalism? A Comparative Analysis of Transnational Ties Among Puerto Rican, Mexican, Salvadoran and Dominican Migrants” in Latino Politics: The State of the Discipline and “Latinos and the 2004 Election” in Latinos and the 2004 Election. She also recently presented “Feedback Relationships Between New Technology Use and Information Networks” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Information Networks Association. She has a PhD in economics from Cornell University and a BS in physics from McGill University.

Assistant Professor Emma Stephens, economics, studies the welfare of subsistence farmers in developing countries, especially the linkages between credit market frictions and marketing patterns and the impact of social networks on technology adoption and income dynamics. She earned a PhD in economics from Cornell University and a BS in physics from McGill University.

Stephens observes strong interest in her subject amongst Pitzer students. “There is a lot of interest in studying and understanding globalization at Pitzer, which definitely makes it fun to teach,” she said. “In the past year, a number of real-life situations have reinforced the material, which makes it more interesting.”

Stephens’s recent work includes “Feedback Relationships Between New Technology Use and Information Networks” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Information Networks Association. She also presented a paper at the Centre for the Study of African Economies Annual Meeting.

Associate Professor Adrian Pantoja, political studies and Chicano/a studies, is the proud owner of a 1954 Ford Customline and will teach American Car Culture in fall 2009. He said, “One of the reasons I love Pitzer College is that it encourages students and academics to be creative and make intellectual connections between their passions and academic scholarship.” While at Pitzer, Pantoja also worked closely with the Latino Student Union to create the Latino Rockabilly Festival.

Pantoja recently received a contract with Oxford University Press to co-author a textbook on Latino politics. His other forthcoming publications include “Puerto Rican Exceptionalism? A Comparative Analysis of Transnational Ties Among Puerto Rican, Mexican, Salvadoran and Dominican Migrants” in Latino Politics: The State of the Discipline and “Latinos in Arizona and the 2004 Election Night” in Latinos and the 2004 Election. Pantoja has a BA from the University of San Francisco and an MA and PhD from Claremont Graduate University.

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The Participant

Annual Fund support is so critical—without it, many important initiatives are impossible. It is clear where the College’s dollars can make the biggest impact—financial aid. This year the College is providing scholarships to roughly 50% of the student body, resulting in 24% less cumulative average debt than just four years ago (from $22,000 to $16,000 after four years of study).

At a time when economic conditions challenge everyone, the Annual Fund takes on new significance as it supports the continued growth of Pitzer College, providing the financial infrastructure needed to sustain academic programs and student scholarships.

Every gift, at every level, is immediately put to work supporting today’s students. Your contribution—no matter the amount—is needed!


Now more than ever, the world needs what Pitzer College offers!

Pitzer College Congratulates the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awardee

Nancy Judd ’90
Founder/Owner, Recycled Runway

Nancy Judd, environmental educator and artist, launched Recycled Runway seven years ago. While a recycling consultant, Judd recognized that fashion could be used to raise environmental consciousness. Today, her collection of elegant clothing created from recycled materials is exhibited throughout the United States.

Judd will receive her award at a ceremony during Alumni Weekend, May 29-31. Visit www.pitzer.edu/alumniweekend for more information.

Pitzer College Thanks Its Alumni Board Members

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72% of Pitzer students study abroad compared to under 2% nationwide.