

PITZER COLLEGE

The Participant

Vol. 50 No. 2

Fall 2017



Pitzer's Radiant Nature



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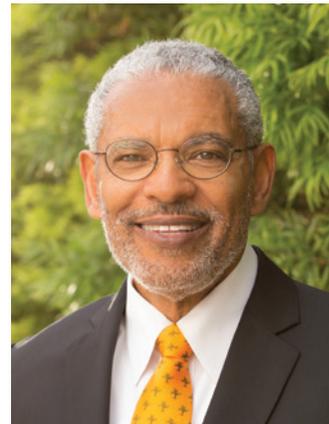
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pitzer College is unique in its appeal to restless intellectuals and pragmatic idealists. We each approach Pitzer with vision and confidence in the unseen. These qualities bind us to our fellow students, faculty and staff. And these qualities make possible one of our greatest strengths as a community: our eagerness to innovate in our pursuit of engagement, knowledge and understanding. From arts and humanities to biological and mathematical sciences, we come to this extraordinary college and advance our individual destinies together.



On September 9, the Pitzer College Art Galleries' long-anticipated *Juan Downey: Radiant Nature* exhibition opened to praise from visitors and art reviewers. Recognizing that Pitzer is positioned at the intersection of activism, innovation and engagement, Galleries Director Ciara Ennis co-curated this exhibit of rarely seen work from pioneering video and interactive artist Juan Downey. His early works from the late '60s to early '70s created new ways of experiencing art and ideas. Their effect on viewers, regardless of age or background, establishes a sense of the enduring present in diverse eras characterized by torrents of change. The exhibit erases the years between Downey's early creations and our experience of them today.

As I engaged each artwork one to one, I sensed Juan Downey's presence, communicating across time. And I sensed that Downey and Pitzer share much in common. We are each the products of innovation and radiant natures.

Pitzer's first four-year class, the Class of 1968, experienced the same sweeping social changes that inspired Juan Downey. During this time, pathfinding students courageously enrolled in an unknown, untested college—Pitzer College—and, in their way, innovated a new model of liberal arts college education. I hope Downey is aware of the transformative effects of his early innovations, created when Pitzer College was itself a radical innovator.

Melvin L. Oliver
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The Participant

Fall 2017

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ON THE COVER: Detail view of *Life Cycle: Electric Light + Water + Soil → Flowers → Bees → Honey*, 1971/2017, Juan Downey; *Radiant Nature* at Pitzer College Art Galleries. Courtesy of the Estate of Juan Downey

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.

 **PITZER
COLLEGE**

A MEMBER OF THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES



12



28



33

26



18

1 President's Message

Melvin L. Oliver

3 Pitzer Pathfinder

Philip K. Frykman '90

4 Class of 2021

6 Pathfinding College Trustees Align Endowment with Values

8 Around the Mounds

11 Pitzer's Charter Class of 1968

12 Juan Downey: Radiant Nature

Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA at Pitzer

16 How to Read El Pato Pascual

Jesse Lerner's PST: LA/LA exhibition on Latin America and Disney

18 Written in the Stars

Meet Keck Dean Ulysses Sofia

20 Pitzer Field Notes

23 In Memoriam

Professor Harry Senn

24 New Faculty

25 Davis World College Scholars

26 Sagehen Sports

28 Alumni for US Congress

29 Class Notes

33 Pitzer Participant

Louise Beaudette Thornton '68



Look for the Participant Plus button and visit www.pitzer.edu/participantplus to view supplementary multimedia content.



When Philip K. Frykman '90 treats his young patients, innovation improves lives and offers hope.

After graduating from Pitzer College in 1990, Frykman attended medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where he simultaneously earned an MD and a PhD in molecular genetics. Among his many honors, he is also a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Frykman is an associate director of pediatric surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and co-founder of the Global Pediatric Surgical Technology & Education Project. He has led pediatric surgical missions with a team from Cedars-Sinai to China.

Frykman's research has improved the diagnosis and surgical treatment for children with Hirschsprung disease and anorectal malformations. And with a colleague, he developed the Frykman-Kimble Stimulator, a low-cost muscle stimulator for the repair of complex congenital colorectal conditions, in use across 40 countries and counting.

Frykman took the path less traveled and is setting a new standard for pediatric surgery in Los Angeles and around the world.

Follow your passion



PITZER COLLEGE

PATHFINDER

*Philip K. Frykman, M.D., Ph.D.
Pediatric Surgery*

First Days for First-Years



This August, Pitzer's new students moved into their dorm rooms and set out on orientation adventures to kick off what President **Melvin L. Oliver** called "an exciting year of growth and discovery."

"I encourage each of us to embrace this extraordinary opportunity and come together in search of learning in a spirit of generosity and shared commitment," said Oliver in his welcome.

Hajar Hammado '18, president of the Student Senate, echoed the same sentiments at Convocation 2017 when she told Pitzer's new students that "everyone's path through this school is different, but we are all united as a community."

"Here at Pitzer, we learn not only about issues that matter, we learn how to take action and define what it means to be a change agent," she said. "So make the most of your time and start changing the world today."



See you soon!

FAMILY WEEKEND IS COMING!

Pack your orange and white and join us for a fun-filled weekend of unique tours, faculty presentations and opportunities to hear from campus leadership.



SNAPSHOT

PITZER CLASS OF 2021

262 First-Years

3.89

Average GPA

16.7%

First-Generation
College Students

37.4%

Students of Color

53%

Female

45%

Male

2%

Another Gender

30

States Represented

11

Countries Represented

68%

Outside of California

12%

International Students

FUN FACTS

Prior to Pitzer, members of the Class of 2021

- created an all-terrain wheelchair
- taught English in a rural school in India
- launched a health clinic in LA
- co-founded an educational initiative for underdeveloped schools in China
- developed recycled paper using casein from milk
- started and ran their own businesses

PITZER ALSO WELCOMED

21

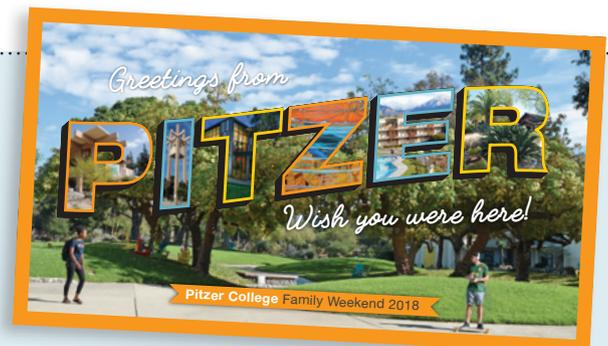
Fall Transfers

5

New Resources Students

Join the Festivities: February 16-19, 2018

To register and for more information on this event,
visit www.pitzer.edu/FamilyWeekend.





Pitzer College has taken a bold step ahead for the health of the planet while providing an example of creative financial stewardship for other small colleges.

This fall, Pitzer and investment firm BlackRock, Inc. announced the first-ever global equity index fund that is both Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)-focused and fossil fuel free. In doing so, Pitzer models how a small college with a relatively small endowment can develop an investment approach that is both socially responsible and financially sound, a move that *The Chronicle of Higher Education* said “could be pivotal for other colleges and nonprofits with similar values.”

Comparable colleges in size and endowment took note. How did Pitzer honor its values without diminishing its \$135 million endowment? The answer: creative thinking and a campus-wide effort.

The story begins in 2012, when a student group, led by Jess Grady-Benson '14, saw the devastating impact of Hurricane Sandy, especially on the poor and people of color. The students held the fossil fuel industry responsible for helping create the climate change that intensifies such disasters. Building on their student base, Grady-Benson's campaign attracted allies throughout The Claremont Colleges. Hundreds of students, faculty and staff marched to demand that the colleges divest from fossil fuels.

In spring of 2013, the Pitzer student group approached Pitzer's board of trustees and requested that they eliminate all fossil fuel stocks from the College's endowment.

This was not surprising—Pitzer students actively embrace the College's core values, which include environmental sustainability and students' meaningful participation in college governance.

What might be surprising is how seriously the trustees' investment

committee weighed the students' request.

“I was initially skeptical,” said investment chair Donald Gould. “I think most investment professionals are when asked to in any way restrict the available universe of assets they can invest in.”

He had the summer before the next board meeting to research the opportunities and risks of such a move and to brainstorm possible strategies. By the October 2013 meeting, he had reached two conclusions.

First, the College could not rule out the proposal on its merits.

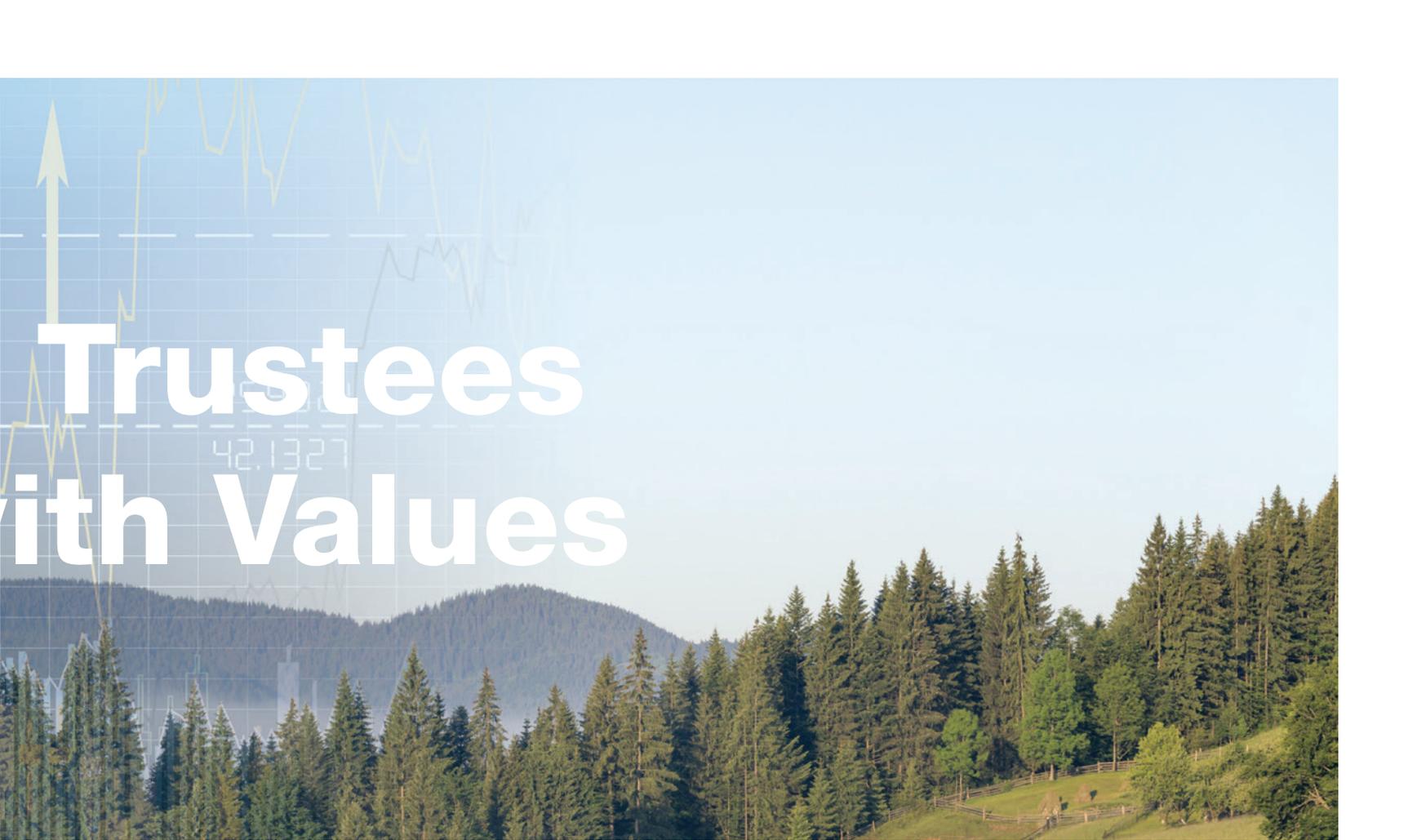
Second, Gould believed that the proposal was a matter for the full board, as it represented a major policy decision for the College as a whole. Robin Kramer '75, then board chair, ordered the formation of a campus-wide working group composed of students, faculty, staff and board members, chaired by Gould.

“The working group was a stroke of genius,” said Gould. “It forced all of us to see the issue through the eyes of the other constituencies. Students are passionate, and proudly so, about the issue, but students don't wake up in the morning thinking about the endowment, the spending rate, the budget.”

One main area of discussion was the possible impact on portfolio return and risk if the College eliminated a significant asset class from consideration. While the working group concluded that any impact would be negligible, the same could be said of almost any single industry segment. “Removing multiple industries from your investment menu would seriously impair diversification,” Gould noted, “so divestment isn't something one can do lightly or often. It has to pass a very high bar.”

The group found that climate change met that high bar. They also dismissed the slippery slope argument (“If it's fossil fuel companies today, what's it going to be tomorrow?”), concluding that the job of the board is to deal with issues as they come up, each on its own merits.

Another consideration was Pitzer's impact on the fossil fuel industry. If the College sold its fossil fuel stocks, oil companies wouldn't care, as someone else would buy them. The key for Pitzer was to call attention to the College's actions.



Trustees with Values

“We have a duty to speak out on the most critical issues of our time,” Gould said. “Yes, it is important to sell these stocks for internal consistency and alignment, but publicly doing so hopefully helps move the needle in the policy debate.”

Ultimately, the working group concluded that the College should align its actions with its values. To invest in fossil fuel stocks is to bet on the future success of the oil industry’s mission, which is basically to explore, extract, sell (and see burned) all the fossil fuel possible. “That is antithetical to the future that Pitzer envisions for the world,” said Gould.

After six months of intensive meetings, the working group recommended to the board a comprehensive climate action plan that went beyond divestment of fossil fuel stocks. They wanted the College to focus on broader and deeper levels of environmental sustainability than it already had achieved through its 50 years of leadership in environmental practices and curriculum.

In 2014, the board voted yes on divestment and adopted a climate action model. Grady-Benson received word of the vote while attending a national student divestment conference at San Francisco State University. “It felt amazing,” she said, “especially to hear about the vote in front of 200 other students who were fighting for the same thing.”

The board’s investment committee got to work and was able to achieve 99 percent divestment from fossil fuel stocks by the end of 2014. However, to eliminate the last 1 percent was a challenge: that would have required restructuring almost 80 percent of the endowment’s stock portfolio, as the remaining fossil fuel stocks were held as small allocations within mutual funds.

The investment committee then turned its attention to two remaining questions: How do we accomplish our ESG goal? How do we get rid of the remaining 1 percent of our fossil fuel stocks in the process?

“Pitzer’s trailblazing makes it easier for like-minded investors to align their portfolios with their beliefs.”

—Alex Bernhardt, Mercer

The committee worked with its investment consultant, Mercer, to create a mandate: start with a global stock market universe, eliminate all fossil fuel stocks, and then incorporate ESG principles into the remainder. And do this in a low maintenance index fund with a minimal tracking error from a set benchmark.

Mercer shopped that mandate to several investment firms. BlackRock, the world’s largest investment management company, teamed with MSCI, a leading index provider, to create a product that would meet Pitzer’s demands. “We got all we asked for,” said Gould.

The College became the founding investor in the MSCI ACWI ex-Fossil Fuels ESG Focus Index Fund B. The new fund uses a disciplined, quantitative approach to incorporate ESG factors in its portfolio construction while maintaining zero exposure to fossil fuel companies.

The new global equity index fund also eliminates the need for multiple managers focused on different subsets of the market. This cuts expenses by more than 50 percent, or in excess of \$200,000 annually.

Pitzer hopes that other small colleges and institutions will follow its lead. “Pitzer’s trailblazing makes it easier for like-minded investors to align their portfolios with their

beliefs,” said Alex Bernhardt, who heads Mercer’s Responsible Investment practice in the US. The fund is open to US endowments, foundations and nonprofits. Gould is hopeful BlackRock will one day offer a version to individual investors.

The initiative also drew praise from Pitzer College President Melvin L. Oliver. “Pitzer is known for responsible, ethical and innovative solutions to global environmental and social challenges,” he said. “We thank the board of trustees for its vision and leadership in this groundbreaking solution that empowers nonprofits to align investments with their values.”

Around the Mounds

News from Campus and Beyond



Winning Wordsmiths

Pitzer College Writing Center Fellows **Sophia Rizzolo '19** and **Hunter Sidel '19** led a workshop, "Identity and Improving our Ability to Reach our Peers," at the 2017 National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing in New York. Held in October at Hofstra University, the conference explored different ways college writing centers can connect with stakeholders on campus. Both Rizzolo and Sidel won grants for outstanding peer writing tutors.

Speaking of the Future

This fall, the Student Senate's Mindful of the Future Speaker Series brought leading thinkers and thoughtful leaders to campus to explore issues related to Pitzer's core values.



Alumnus **Michael Ceraso '14** (above) discussed electoral politics, and filmmaker **Kimberly Bautista '07** spoke about empowering survivors of sexual trauma. Anthony Portantino shared his experiences and perspectives as a California State Senator.



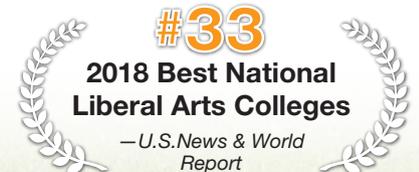
Willkommen and Bienvenue

Pitzer students lit up the stage in *Cabaret*, which kicked off the 2017–18 season of the Pomona College Theatre and Dance Department for The Claremont Colleges.



Pitzer in the Public Sphere

Alumni **Chance Kawar '17** and **Jennifer Lesorogol '17** met with Trustee Emeritus **Eli Broad P'78** (center) as part of their Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs in Los Angeles. Kawar and Lesorogol interviewed Broad about his redevelopment work in LA and his vision for philanthropy in Southern California.



Of Grassy Knolls and Moon Walks

Plots for power. Assassination schemes. Cover-ups. Conspiracy theories abound. Why? And when some conspiracies are real, how do you separate fact from fiction? Professor of Philosophy **Brian Keeley** led the Munroe Center for Social Inquiry fall speaker series “Conspiracy Theory-Conspiracy Fact,” which brought experts from around the country to campus to explore the appeal, validity and propagation of conspiracy theories.

How Many Americans Agree?

60% JFK Assassination
25% “Birther”
25% “Truther”
21% Roswell
20% Vaccines
9% Fluoride
6% Moon landing

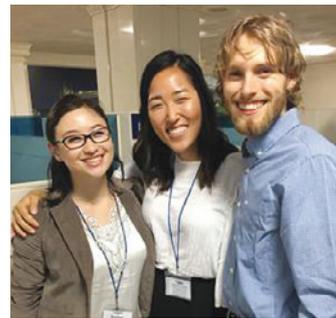


Joseph Uscinski,
co-author of *American
Conspiracy Theories*



EMERGING Scholars

In September, Pitzer threw a welcome dinner for the newest Claremont Colleges students from EMERGE, a Houston-based nonprofit that helps underserved high school students thrive in the country’s top colleges. **Carlos Perrett ’18**, who was the first student at the 5Cs from EMERGE, organized the event. Perrett also pursued the nonprofit’s mission of serving underserved students by running for a school board seat in his hometown of Houston.



Greetings from South Korea!

Pitzer alumni and 2017–18 Fulbright Fellows **Rebecca Nathan ’17**, **Kristen Park ’17** and **Andrew Lydens ’17** (L–R) paused for a picture during the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program placement ceremony. Park said that Pitzer got a shout-out for sending more Fulbrighters to South Korea this year than any other college.



#18
Best
Campus Food
—2018 Princeton Review
Best 382 Colleges

#3

Most Active Student
Government

—2018 Princeton Review
Best 382 Colleges

#20

Great
Financial Aid

—2018 Princeton Review
Best 382 Colleges

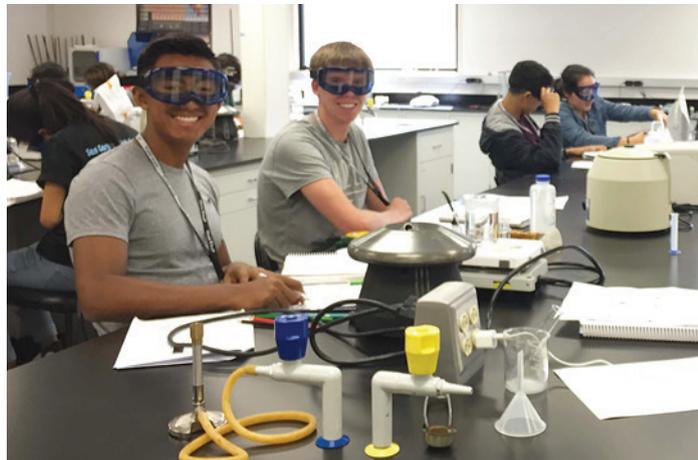
There Goes the Sun

Pitzer's Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability partnered with Tongva Elders to hold an eclipse-viewing party on August 21. Elders shared traditions and songs created to scare away the moon and bring back the sun, while astronomer Glenn Miller explained the science behind the celestial phenomenon.



Sea Change

What does the future hold for California's largest yet fastest-shrinking lake? In October, the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability hosted a panel discussion, "The Salton Sea: Salinity, Shrinkage, Solutions," as this year's John D. Sullivan Memorial Lecture. The panel of experts explored the environmental challenges facing Southern California's Salton Sea.



Sci-Wise

The fifth annual Keck Summer Science Immersion Program in August introduced incoming students to college-level science courses through hands-on lab work and field trips to the Griffith Observatory, Bernard Field Station and California State University, Los Angeles.

Latinx Healthcare in the 21st Century

Suyapa Portillo '96, Pitzer alumna and assistant professor of Chicano/a-Latino/a transnational studies, co-organized the intercollegiate speaker series "Latinx Healthcare in the 21st Century," bringing community healthcare practitioners and researchers to The Claremont Colleges to explore the challenges of providing healthcare and forging a safety net for the working poor and people of color.



Bamby Salcedo, president and CEO, TransLatin@ Coalition

Pitzer's Pioneers

Have you ever wondered how Pitzer managed to lure students to its campus in 1964? Pitzer was a brand-new college with just two buildings, Scott Hall and Sanborn Hall, and only 16 designated faculty members offering a grand total of 30 courses.

It's true that being part of The Claremont Colleges meant that students heading to its newest member were being folded into a well-established entity with a multitude of respected professors and many joint programs. But still ... one can't help thinking about the recruitment process. David R. Goodsell, Robert G. Rogers and Emery R. Walker, all admissions officers from sister colleges Claremont Men's College (now Claremont McKenna College) and Harvey Mudd College, were tasked with making Pitzer, in all of its as-of-yet to be formed-ness, appealing and desirable.

Turns out it wasn't so difficult. "Come build a college!" was the invitation extended to root out the young women who might want to take part in what that exciting declaration implied. Eight hundred and sixty-three young women responded and, after much deliberation, 153 ready-and-willing students were admitted that first year.

The founders of Pitzer College launched an in-progress institution as part of its design. Faculty and administrators welcomed new students to a shamelessly unbuilt campus. They walked amongst gravel and construction equipment for their entire four years on campus. In many of the early College publications and literature, from *The Participant*



to the first *Annual Report of the President*, these young women were called "pioneers."

These pioneers spent countless hours attending weekly "Town Meetings" and sitting on every single committee and council that they and the faculty and staff deemed necessary and important for the development of the best possible educational environment. This was each community member's responsibility. The students did all that while successfully completing their required courses and then some.

These young women, the charter class of Pitzer College, attended to the herculean task implicit in the call to "Come build

a college!" and attained an education that stretched far beyond their classroom walls.

And so, on the cusp of the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Pitzer, we recall Professor Emeritus of Classics Stephen L. Glass's words in his 1968 commencement address: "And now that you are graduating and I need no longer fear for the sensitivities of those who will succeed you, I would like to say directly that you are and will continue to be something special to us; that we do esteem you most highly; that you are women of considerable stature in our eyes; and that it is indeed a very great pleasure to know you."





Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA
Latin American & Latino Art in LA

Radiant Nature

Pitzer College Art Galleries and LACE's exhibition of rarely seen work by Chilean-born artist Juan Downey



Juan Downey: Artist and Pioneer (1940–93)

Juan Downey, a pioneer in video and interactive art, was born in Chile in 1940. He moved to Paris in 1963, relocated to Washington DC in 1966, then settled three years later in New York City, where he created performances, installations and video art. Downey is primarily known for his multi-channel video series *Video Trans Americas* (1973–76) and *The Thinking Eye* (1974–89), which critique Eurocentric views of Latin American identity. Downey died in New York in 1993.

Installation view of *Juan Downey: Radiant Nature*, curated by Robert Crouch and Ciara Ennis, Pitzer College Art Galleries, Claremont, CA, September 9 – December 8, 2017.

ELECTRONIC

The Electronic Sculptures were the first series that Juan Downey created in Paris to Washington, D.C. in 1967. While in Paris, he had been mentored in Op and kinetic art by the collective Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel (GRAV) championed the use of technology as way to create multi-channel works with color, light, and moving objects – that permitted viewers to interact with their works rather than merely observe them. Although using the technology of Electronic Sculptures incorporated technology to achieve a new aesthetic, the works are rooted in Op and kinetic art, triggering recognition, perception, light effects, and other electronic phenomena that encourage interaction and evaluation. Drawing from second order cybernetics, Downey is establishing an interface between artwork and audience that exists. Thus, many of the Electronic Sculptures incorporate viewer feedback systems. The viewer's ability to affect the work also reflects Downey's challenge to the traditional hierarchies of artist, art object, and viewer.

SCULPTURES

Las Esculturas Electrónicas fueron las primeras obras que Downey realizó en Washington D.C. en 1967. Durante su estancia en París, Downey fue mentorado en el Op Art y arte cinético del colectivo Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel (GRAV) promueve el uso de la tecnología para crear ambientes interactivos de color, luz y objetos en movimiento que interactúan e interactúan con sus obras en un uso de tecnología interactiva. A pesar de incorporar tecnología, las Esculturas Electrónicas de Downey incorporan un enfoque interactivo que permite una mayor interacción y evaluación. A través de la retroalimentación, Downey se esfuerza por establecer una interfaz entre el espectador y la obra de arte. Así, muchas de las Esculturas Electrónicas incorporan sistemas de retroalimentación del espectador en la obra de arte. Así, Downey desafía las jerarquías tradicionales de artista, obra de arte y espectador.

1967-71

Juan Downey: Radiant Nature, a joint exhibition by Pitzer College Art Galleries and LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions), became a part of Los Angeles art history when it opened in September in Claremont and Los Angeles. *Radiant Nature*, which explored works the Chilean-born artist Juan Downey created between 1967 and 1974, was part of the Getty-led Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative.

With support from the Getty Foundation, co-curators Ciara Ennis, director of Pitzer College Art Galleries, and Robert Crouch, Pasadena Arts Council executive and artistic director, spent years researching Downey's early, often ephemeral works, many of which hadn't been seen for decades. One reviewer said the subsequent two-part exhibition was "guaranteed to change the way you think about the function of art."

In their introduction to the exhibition catalogue, Ennis and Crouch write that Downey's decades-old artwork "has much to offer us today in our technologically networked, environmentally precarious and socially fragmented world." Their introduction is reprinted on the following pages to give readers a glimpse into the early works of Juan Downey and possibly a new perspective on our own era.





Introduction

Robert Crouch and Ciara Ennis

JUAN DOWNEY: *RADIANT NATURE* examines the interdisciplinary practice of Chilean artist Juan Downey, who was distinguished by his experimental and collaborative approach to artmaking. Downey's work stands in contrast to the discipline-specific approaches that dominated the art scene in the US and Europe during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Unconstrained by artistic conventions, Downey merged disparate practices—performance, dance, kinetics and installation—as well as privileged interdisciplinary approaches, experimentation and collaboration as the most valuable aspects of his work.

Juan Downey: Radiant Nature focuses on three bodies of work that, though not as widely exhibited, were foundational to Downey's practice and infuse in various ways the later multichannel videos projects for which the artist is better known. Exploring connections between technology and social relations, energy and the environment, Downey's Electronic Sculptures (1967–71), Happenings and Performances (1968–75) and Life Cycle Installations (1970–71) demonstrate not only a thematic unity, but also a consistency of purpose. Hardwired into their conceptual, material and intellectual frameworks is the necessity of audience participation; conceived as vehicles for interactivity, works from each of these series were conceived to be played with rather than merely observed. The Electronic Sculptures, for example, stand dormant and incomplete until activated by viewer-participants, whose spontaneous interactions often brought a destabilizing element into the typically hyper-controlled gallery environment. Participation was also essential to Downey's Happenings, social art works loosely organized around sets of instructions, as well as to his Performances, where the presence of the audience filtered into the unfolding action of work in various ways. The Life Cycle Installations propose nonhierarchical systems of organic and nonorganic components, often incorporating exchange and participation from nonhuman elements.

Central to Downey's interest in participation was the potential of technology to transform social relations as well as forge new modes of



Installation view of *Information Center, 1970/2017*

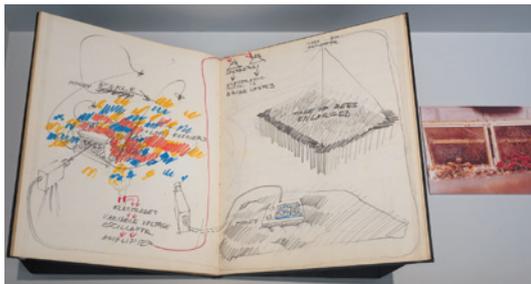
communication between organic elements or environments and machines or machine systems. The organic and technological aspects of his work were conceived as relational, operating in tandem. And, in their potential to be altered by feedback, Downey's works incorporate ideas from second-order cybernetics; participant-viewers interfacing with the Electronic Sculptures, for example, may trigger an array of outcomes—sounds, colored lights, projections—depending on their actions. Expanding on these efforts by incorporating the world beyond the gallery walls, Downey imagined participants in his Happenings and Performances as part of an unpredictable, amorphous system in which performers, video cameras, closed-circuit televisions, laser beams and viewer-participants were equal elements. The global implications of the Life Cycle Installations are perhaps even further reaching, as their systems of interdependence between machinic and organic elements, including plants and animals, demonstrate Downey's belief in the potential of cybernetic systems to solve environmental issues by facilitating more equitable relationships between humans, technologies and ecologies. For Downey, rather than facilitating degradation or destruction, technology enabled cooperation, empathy and elevated consciousness.

Much of Downey's work was produced with the support of, or in collaboration with, visual artists, performers and musicians as well as his own family members. He was especially connected to New York's avant-garde dance community, working closely with Carmen Beuchat, Suzanne Harris, Cynthia Hedstrom, Rachel Lew and Judith Padow. Downey's interest in fusing technological and social systems was ultimately grounded in a deeply held politics informed by both his personal background and the concerns of his generation. Though he emigrated to Paris in 1963, he remained connected to his home country of Chile, where social unrest culminated in a US-backed coup d'état in 1973, which resulted in the assassination of democratically elected, socialist president Salvador Allende. His time in Paris and New York was spent among artists and others engaged in antiwar, civil rights, labor and



Detail views of *Electric Light + Water + Soil*
→ *Flowers* → *Bees*
→ *Honey, 1971/2017*

Pages from one of Juan Downey's journals
Courtesy of the Estate of Juan Downey



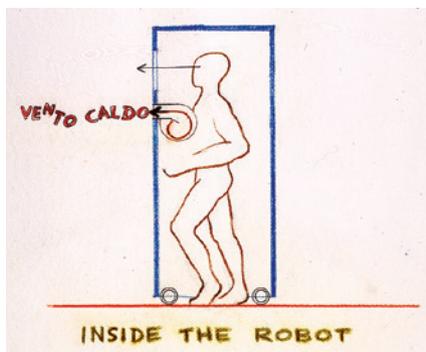
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other issues. In Paris, Downey was particularly affected by the interactive kinetic environments of the collective Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel, which used technology to integrate viewer and work. Although formally distinct, Downey's early sculptures share many of the same concerns, which above all attempted to transform a passive, receptive audience into an active, thinking one through playful encounters

and, in doing so, strip away familiar power hierarchies between viewer and artwork. Ultimately, Downey viewed participation as a political act.

Downey also made works that were overtly political and less playful, though still reliant on action and participation. *Doing Things Together: Imperialistic Octopus* (1972) and *Chile Si, Junta No* (1974) addressed the collusion of multinational corporations with government agencies in propping up right-wing military juntas in South America and elsewhere through collaboration and protest. Similarly, *Boycott Grapes* (1969) was made in support of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee's campaign for improved migrant worker conditions, while *Make Chile Rich* (1971) advocated for the worldwide use of Chilean soil, with its high concentration of nitrates, as an alternative to the chemical fertilizers used in industrialized farming.

Downey's Electronic Sculptures, Happenings and Performances, and Life Cycle Installations draw attention to the richness of Downey's early work. Innovative and visionary, these series blur disciplinary boundaries and stretch the limits of their respective fields. Downey's frequent collaborations with New York's avant-garde dance community, for example, prefigured a contemporary interest in similar interdisciplinary approaches. Downey's use of new media in contemporary performance—electromagnetic sensors,



Inside the Robot, 1970
Courtesy of the Estate of Juan Downey

About Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA

The Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative is a far-reaching exploration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles. Led by The Getty, it involves more than 70 cultural institutions across Southern California, from Los Angeles to Palm Springs, and from San Diego to Santa Barbara. It runs from September 2017 through January 2018.

Major support for *Juan Downey: Radiant Nature* was provided through grants from the Getty Foundation. Additional support was provided by Dirección de Asuntos Culturales; Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Embassy of Chile; Pasadena Art Alliance; Estrellita B. Brodsky; and Consulate General of Chile in Los Angeles.

portable video cameras and surveillance technologies—as a means to choreograph the movement of the body, audience or group of individuals, further underscores the prescience of his practice. In particular, Downey's inclusion of sound in his work constituted a radical approach for artists working in the 1960s and 70s. His experiments were as innovative as those of the avant-garde electroacoustic collectives and composers that were working concurrently in the US and Europe, though the absence of his work in contemporary sound art studies is conspicuous. Groups such as the San Francisco Tape Music Center, founded by Morton Subotnick and Ramon Sender, or Pierre Shaeffer's Groupe de Recherches Musicales in France, centered their production on the recording, editing, manipulation and playback of audiotapes. Similarly, Downey's Happenings and Electronic Sculptures relied on audience interaction to activate the recording and manipulation of audio, such that his works were not only experimental, but also collaborative and interdisciplinary.

Sound played a major role, for example, in *Electronic Urban Environment* (1969), performed as part of the Avant-Garde Festival in Washington DC. For this work, Downey placed seven measuring devices to monitor changes in radiation, electromagnetic energy and sound at a number of cultural institutions around the National Mall. The data were fed into seven oscillators, which in turn modulated their frequencies. Downey's use of electronic information to modulate the tonality of his instrument has striking parallels with a forerunner of the modern synthesizer, the Buchla Music Box created by Don Buchla—an electronic device Subotnick helped develop in order to make it impossible for him to compose traditional tonal music. Both the Buchla Music Box and *Electronic Urban Environment* can be considered symbiotic cybernetic devices that require active participation through organic or electronic stimulation to modulate a set of parameters to produce the desired aesthetic experience. But while the Buchla can ostensibly be performed by anyone in any properly equipped studio or concert hall, *Electronic Urban Environment* can only exist in the context of the Washington DC cultural institutions for which it was made. The wealth, and political, and cultural power of these institutions necessarily inform a reading of the work, prompting the question, "What is the sound of power?"

For Downey, an artwork was more than just an object—it was a mechanism for social organization as well as a focal point for a cybernetic system. His early oeuvre, specifically its focus on technology as a means of producing more socially and environmentally conscious relationships between the organic and artificial, has much to offer us today in our technologically networked, environmentally precarious and socially fragmented world.



Performance view of *Energy Fields* at 112 Greene Street, New York, 1972
Courtesy of the Estate of Juan Downey



Disney's Latin America and Latin America's Disney

Cinderella and Snow White drown their sorrows with Frida Kahlo. Minnie Mouse caresses an image of Che Guevara. A two-headed Mickey Mouse smiles as the centerpiece of a faux pre-Columbian art object. A familiar cast of characters appear in unexpected ways in *How to Read El Pato Pascual: Disney's Latin America and Latin America's Disney*, an exhibition co-curated by Pitzer Professor of Media Studies **Jesse Lerner** and artist Rubén Ortiz-Torres.

Part of the Getty-led Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative, *How to Read El Pato Pascual* builds on two historical points of reference. In 1941, as America stood poised to enter World War II, the US government asked Walt Disney and a group of his employees to embark on a “goodwill tour” of Latin America—a trip that resulted in the Disney films *Saludos Amigos* and *The Three Caballeros*. Thirty years later, Chilean writers Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart published “How to Read Donald Duck,” an essay that Lerner describes as “a post-colonial critique of the imperialist subtext of certain Disney comic books.”

“The exhibit brings together the works of 50 mostly Latin American artists who, informed by these references, appropriate iconography or other elements from the Disney Corporation and use them in their art practice,” said Lerner, who also co-curated the Los Angeles Filmforum’s PST: LA/LA project, *Ism, Ism, Ism: Experimental Cinema in Latin America*, which explores nearly nine decades of Latin American experimental films.

Media outlets from the *Los Angeles Times* to *The Wall Street Journal* covered *How to Read El Pato Pascual*. *The New York Times* called the exhibition, which Lerner and Ortiz-Torres researched over the course of three years, an “ingeniously thought-out” show that exceptionally and accessibly captures “the hemispheric dynamic” between Latin American art and Southern California.

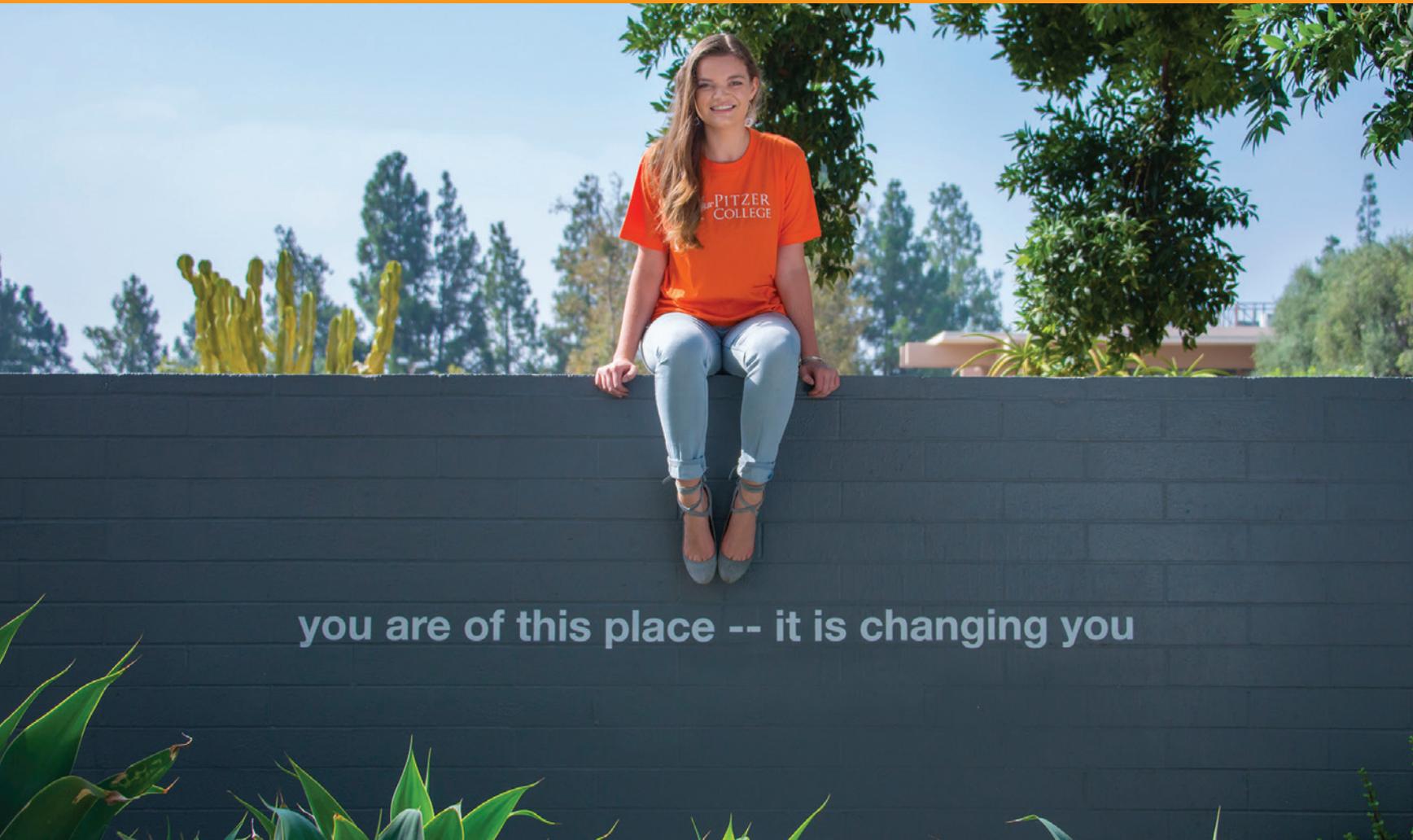
How to Read El Pato Pascual runs through January 14, 2018, at the MAK Center for Art and Architecture in West Hollywood and the Luckman Fine Arts Complex at California State University, Los Angeles. *Ism, Ism, Ism* is at multiple venues, including MOCA and the Hammer Museum.

The New York Times called the exhibition an “ingeniously thought-out” show that exceptionally and accessibly captures “the hemispheric dynamic” between Latin American art and Southern California.



“Pitzer has given me the confidence to pursue what’s important to me and believe that I can truly make a difference in the world.”

—Sydney Warren '18, a public policy major who hopes to pursue a career in US and China relations



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A Stellar CV

- Weinberg Family Dean, W.M. Keck Science Department, 2017–present
- Director of NASA District of Columbia Space Grant, 2015–present
- Associate Director of Goddard Planetary Heliophysics Institute, 2011–17
- Associate Dean for Research, American University, 2011–17
- Chair and Professor of Physics, American University, 2009–17
- Inaugural William and Diana Deshler Endowed Chair, Whitman College, 2008–09
- A.E. Lange Award for Distinguished Science Teaching, Whitman College, 2003
- PhD, astronomy with concentration in physics, University of Wisconsin-Madison; BA, astronomy, Wesleyan University

Written in the Stars

Meet Keck Science's New Dean, Astrophysicist Ulysses (call him UJ) Sofia

At 9:32 a.m. on July 16, 1969, Ulysses J. Sofia, not yet three years old, stood on the grounds of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, holding his father's hand as Apollo 11 lifted off in a billow of yellow-orange heat, launching humankind's first lunar landing. The ground shook as Sofia's father leaned down and said to his son, "Remember this. You're going to want to remember this."

Sofia, who became the Weinberg Family Dean of the W.M. Keck Science Department in July, describes this moment when people ask him why he became an astrophysicist, then insists that witnessing the beginning of “history’s greatest adventure” didn’t seal his destiny. Nor was it his ever-supportive but never pushy astrophysicist dad. No, it was a great teacher, a colleague of his father’s at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center who gave Sofia his first job in high school—a summer gig crunching satellite data.

“He was really good at explaining things and asking for my thoughts,” Sofia says. “He taught me how to play with data, how to see data as a code you have to figure out. I thought it was the most fun thing in the world. That was the beginning.”

The kid who decoded data went on to become an award-winning teacher and educator dedicated to making science accessible to all. Like his father before him, he is an astrophysicist who has worked with NASA—his scientific shtick, as he calls it, is solar variation and the interstellar medium, which Sofia sums up as “the stuff between stars.”

Sofia’s teaching and research are fueled by a contagious curiosity about things both celestial and terrestrial. He’s traveled

all over the world, visiting family in Venezuela, working with graduate students in India and climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. NASA once sent him a thank-you note for his work on the Hubble Space Telescope project. A flag that flew on the Space Shuttle Discovery now has a slightly more staid docking



Fun Fact: Dean UJ Sofia’s first co-authored paper in the *Astrophysical Journal* drew on research he conducted while still in high school.

station on his office wall at Keck. He is an expert in ultraviolet spectroscopy who also has a penchant for patterned shirts and Marvin the Martian figurines.

Nearly 50 years after he saw humans reach for the moon, Sofia is at the launch of his own great adventure, leading the joint science department of Pitzer, Scripps and Claremont McKenna colleges. Below are edited excerpts from a conversation with Dean Sofia about his thoughts on the next era at the W.M. Keck Science Department.

Q & A

Why is science education important?

Science affects everybody’s life these days, in ways big and small. Global climate change, genetically modified foods, nanotechnology, driverless cars—they’re all science. If you’re in economics or policy or ethics, science is a huge part of what you do, too. It’s everywhere, it’s not this esoteric thing that a few nerds do for a living.

What drew you to the Keck Science Department?

A lot of what we’re talking about in science right now is the interface of different disciplines, and Keck has been doing that really well for years. On top of that, Keck students come from very different colleges with varied backgrounds and mindsets to work in the same classrooms and combine their ideas. Everybody is catching up to Keck, as far as I can see.

Keck is also part of an exceptional set of liberal arts colleges. As an undergraduate, I transferred to Wesleyan University from a research university and discovered a whole different world of learning: an emphasis on exploration, small classes, professors who really engaged with you. Within my first semester, I knew that I wanted to work at a high-quality liberal arts institution.

What are some of your immediate goals for Keck?

From day one, I have been talking with faculty about our priorities for an expanded and renovated science building. Those discussions

always focus on what will benefit the students the most. The newly constructed portion of the building will primarily house teaching labs. We’re also creating additional spaces for students and faculty to collaborate and adding offices and laboratories so we can hire more professors.

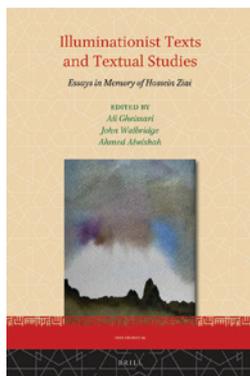
As we talk about the layout and design of our science facilities, we’re talking about how we build on the intrinsic interdisciplinarity of what we do here—we don’t want one section for chemistry, one section for biology, one section for environmental analysis, one section for physics. We’re going to mix it up so we can keep that cross-talk going. It’s Keck Science 2.0.

What non-academic advice do you give college students?

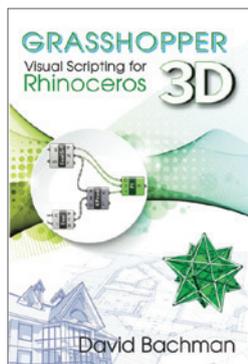
College years are the years you define yourself. Part of that is education, but a lot of it is asking the big questions: Who am I? How am I going to live in the world? How do I set my priorities? It’s all about learning how to be an adult and defining where you’re going in the future. You have to explore everything. I also encourage students to learn to be comfortable with failing. Probably more than half of research is learning that if an experiment doesn’t turn out the way you want it to, the negative result tells you something—it’s all information. There’s always something to learn.

Pitzer Field Notes

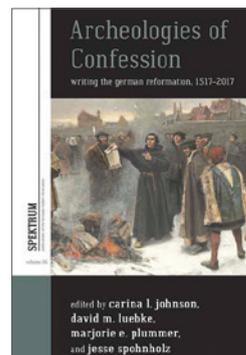
New Books by Pitzer Professors



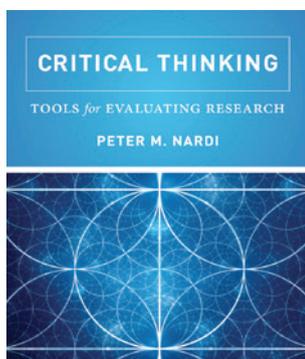
Illuminationist Texts and Textual Studies, an anthology of essays co-edited by Associate Professor of Philosophy **Ahmed Alwishah**, is dedicated to the memory of the late Islamic philosopher Hossein Ziai. Alwishah also contributed a chapter to the volume and co-authored articles for *Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy, Volume 4*, and the historical journal *Arabic Sciences and Philosophy*.



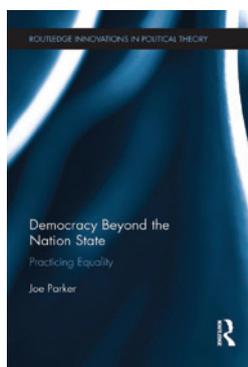
In *Grasshopper: Visual Scripting for Rhinoceros 3D*, Professor of Mathematics **David Bachman** shows readers how to model objects with a visual programming platform and fabricate three-dimensional pieces with a 3D printer. He also held a solo exhibition of 3D-printed and multimedia sculptures, *Pattern, Symmetry, Growth and Decay*, which opened at MorYork Gallery in Los Angeles on November 10.



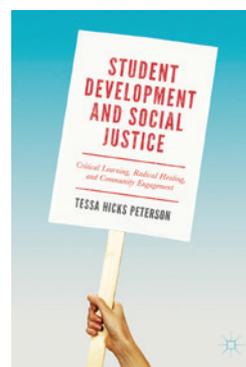
Archeologies of Confession: Writing the German Reformation, 1517–2017, a collection of essays co-edited by Professor of History **Carina Johnson**, examines the formation of religious identities during the Reformation in Germany and explores how religious plurality was excised from historical memory. A reviewer describes the anthology, published by the Berghahn Books series Spektrum, as “invaluable.”



Professor Emeritus of Sociology **Peter Nardi's** *Critical Thinking: Tools for Evaluating Research* helps students learn how to analyze and interpret vast quantities of information in a rapidly changing world. The concise 168-page volume was published by the University of California Press. The fourth edition of Nardi's book *Doing Survey Research: A Guide to Quantitative Methods*, based on a course Nardi taught for more than 30 years at Pitzer, is forthcoming from Routledge.



Professor of International and Intercultural Studies **Joe Parker's** *Democracy Beyond the Nation State: Practicing Equality* asks how democracy can “serve all rather than the few” through assemblies and consensus rather than elections and centralized hierarchies. Published by Routledge in their Innovations in Political Theory series, Parker's book examines “horizontal democracies” around the globe to illuminate how they practice, rather than preach, equality.



Associate Professor of Urban Studies **Tessa Hicks Peterson** provides practitioners with tools to prepare students to engage in effective community-campus partnerships for social change in her new book, *Student Development and Social Justice: Critical Learning, Radical Healing and Community Engagement*, published by Palgrave Macmillan. Peterson is Pitzer's assistant vice president of community engagement.

Scholar Awards



Assistant Professor of Mathematics **Jemma Lorenat** won the International Commission for the History of Mathematics' Montucla Prize, which is conferred every four years to the author of the best article by a junior scholar in the journal *Historia Mathematica*. Her article, "Figures real, imagined and missing in Poncelet, Plücker, and Gergonne," examines three nineteenth-century mathematicians' interpretations of the same geometric figure.



Zhaohua Irene Tang, professor of biology, was awarded a \$412,415, three-year National Institutes of Health grant for her project "Novel Functions of LAMMER-related Kinases in Gene Expression." The grant is an NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award, created, in part, to expose undergraduate and graduate students to hands-on research. The award will support Tang's research into the causes, and prevention, of human disease.



Adrian Pantoja, professor of political studies and Chicano studies, won the 2017 Ted G. Jelen Award from the American Political Science Association for his co-authored article "God in the Barrio?: The Determinants of Religiosity and Civic Engagement among Latinos in the United States," which appeared in the APSA journal *Politics and Religion*. He also provided commentary in *La Opinión* on the US Senate run by Pitzer alumnus **Kevin de León '03**.



Professor of Sociology and Secular Studies **Phil Zuckerman** won the Council for Secular Humanism's 2016 Selma V. Forkosch Best Article award for his *Free Inquiry* article "Secularism and Social Progress." His op-ed "The Trump administration's alternative Christianity" ran in the *Los Angeles Times*, and he was named to the editorial board of the new journal *Secular Studies*.



Faculty News



Michael Ballagh, associate vice president of Pitzer's study abroad and international programs, co-wrote "Education as a Tool of Public Diplomacy: A Tale of Pragmatic Interventions and Factional Politics in Iran and the United States." The article, published in *Public Diplomacy Magazine*, draws on Ballagh's 2015 visit to Iran with a delegation of US higher-education representatives.



Professor of Political Studies and Dean of Faculty **Nigel Boyle** shared lessons learned from teaching courses on soccer at Pitzer, as well as in prisons in California and Uganda, in his article "Teaching History and Political Economy through Soccer," which appeared in the journal *Soccer & Society*. Boyle also gave a talk in November at the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong about Pitzer's education initiatives in Southern Californian prisons.



Assistant Professor of Neuroscience **Thomas Borowski's** research with Pitzer alumnae **Ruth Karpinski '16** and **Audrey Kolb '14** and neuroscientist Nicole Tetreault was published in the journal *Intelligence*. The findings in their paper, "High intelligence: A risk factor for psychological and physiological overexcitabilities," were reported by media around the globe, including the *International Business Journal*.



Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Chicana/o Latina/o Studies **José Calderón's** book chapter "Transformative Community Engagement" was published in *The Cambridge Handbook of Service Learning and Community Engagement*. Calderón was also appointed chair of the American Sociological Association (ASA) Public Understanding of Sociology Committee and delivered a talk on coalition building at ASA's annual meeting in August.

Faculty News (cont'd)



Associate Professor of Biology **Melissa Coleman** was featured in a *Current Biology* Q&A about her work as a neuroscientist and recent developments in her field. Coleman studies how the nervous system produces defined behaviors and researches the cooperative behavior of plain-tailed wrens in Ecuador. Her courses include Foundations in Neuroscience and Neuroscience: Systems.



Associate Professor of Environmental Analysis **Brinda Sarathy**, director of Pitzer's Robert Redford Conservancy, talked about the need for California to go carbon free in the *Press-Enterprise* article "Why Inland area leaders are pushing for carbon-free energy." California, she said, "continues to light the way at a truly historic crossroads."



Intercollegiate Media Studies Director of Production **Stephanie Hutin's** video *Rooms*, described as "a contemplation of loss, memory, presence and absence," premiered at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in summer 2017. Her video *Belong* made its debut in November at the Nitehawk Shorts Festival, which highlights exceptional short-form film and videos.



Associate Professor of Economics **Emma Stephens** became editor-in-chief of the journal *Agricultural Systems* in July. She is also author of a book chapter "Food Shortages: The Role and Limitations of Markets in Resolving Food Crises during the 2012 Famine in the Sahel," which will be published in the forthcoming volume *Scales of Scarcity in the Modern World, 1800–2075*.



Assistant Professor of Organizational Studies **Barbara Junisbai** joined PONARS Eurasia, an international network of social scientists who are experts on post-Soviet Eurasia, in March. This fall, PONARS Eurasia published her policy memo "What Makes 'Ardent Democrats' in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan?," which she co-wrote with two other experts on post-Soviet countries, including Associate Professor of Sociology **Azamat Junisbai**.



Associate Professor of Political Studies and Pitzer alumna **Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99** discussed the state of affairs in California on NPR affiliate KPCC's *Take Two*, where she provides regular expert political commentary. Author of *The Devil is in the Details: Understanding the Causes of Policy Specificity and Ambiguity*, VanSickle-Ward is working on a new book, under contract with Oxford University Press, about birth control policy.



Professor of Environmental Science **Donald McFarlane** and a team of scientists used a drone boat to map the bottom of a 130-degree volcanic lake in Costa Rica that is three times more acidic than battery acid. The journal *Eos* published his co-authored article, "An Autonomous Boat to Investigate Acidic Crater Lakes," and highlighted the project again in its piece "Thirteen Innovative Ways Humans Use Drones."



Professor of Creative Studies **Albert Wachtel's** short story *The Basement*, which explores the havoc wreaked by best intentions gone awry, appeared in the *Broadkill Review*. He also co-authored a *BuzzFeed News* op-ed, "We Made Allies of Our WWII Enemies. The Same Can Happen with North Korea," with his son, Jonathan, former director of communications for the American Mission to the UN.



Professor of Psychology **David Moore** penned "The potential of epigenetics research to transform conceptions of phenotype development" in the journal *Human Development*. Moore, the director of the Claremont Infant Study Center, also co-authored "Babies and math: A meta-analysis of infants' simple arithmetic competence," which was published in *Developmental Psychology*.



Professor of Asian American Studies **Kathleen Yep** co-authored "Decolonizing community engagement: reimagining service-learning through an ethnic studies lens," which appeared in *The Cambridge Handbook of Service Learning and Community Engagement*. Yep also gave presentations on faculty political engagement as well as student development and social justice. She serves on the advisory group of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Your Path to Our Health project.



Remembering French Professor and Folklorist

Harry Senn

— 1939–2017 —

Anne Turley’s favorite Pitzer classroom was Professor Harry Senn’s living room. In the ’70s, students in Senn’s senior seminar met at his home on Harvard Avenue to speak in French about French literature while sampling French cheese. “I felt so sophisticated,” Turley ’75 recalls. “I thought this was what college should be about.”

Senn, who taught French and folklore at Pitzer from 1970 to 2004, died from pancreatic cancer on July 4, 2017. He is remembered by his students and colleagues as a soft-spoken, widely read and endlessly curious man who was both a polyglot and a polymath. His classes ran the gamut from Introductory French to courses on modernism in literature, science and the arts. He studied Victor Hugo, Jungian psychology and Transylvanian tales of vampires and werewolves.

“He followed his interests wherever they took him, which made it really delightful to work with him,” said Professor of Political Studies Sharon Snowiss, who co-taught classes with Senn for decades, including a prescient interdisciplinary exploration of the future called *Year 2000: Utopia or Oblivion?*

Snowiss said Senn helped develop Pitzer’s International and Intercultural Studies Field Group to bring another dimension to global studies, emphasizing the importance of different cultures rather than state-to-state international relations. He also served as a European Studies adviser and took students to study Breton folklore on the windswept coast of northwestern France.

A cosmopolitan and continental-minded Midwesterner, Senn first studied French to fulfill a language requirement in college. Then he fell in love with the language of love. After earning his BA and MA from the University of Minnesota, Senn won a French Government Assistantship, followed by a Fulbright—the first of three he would win over his career—to teach in France. He received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

As a teacher and a student, Senn sought to understand more than a tongue’s taxonomy; he delved into the tales we tell ourselves—across

cultures and countries—to help us make sense of the world. Senn once told the *Los Angeles Times* that he was fascinated with folklore because “it shows that we as human beings are related.”

In 1975, Senn landed his second Fulbright grant, this one to research folktales in Romania. For half a year, he and his family lived in the eastern European country, where he visited villages to interview people about local legends and their beliefs in the supernatural.

“He wasn’t looking for vampires and werewolves,” said Barbara Senn, his wife of 53 years. “Then he began listening to Romanian villagers’ stories, and that is what he heard about over and over again.”

Senn would go on to earn another Fulbright Research Fellowship and two International Research and Exchanges Board grants to study folklore in Romania. Both in and out of the classroom, he became known as an authority on the otherworldly. His book *Were-Wolf and Vampire in Romania* was published by a division of Columbia University Press in 1982. In October 1986, he was interviewed more than 20 times over two days by radio stations covering the occult appeal of Halloween.

Drawing on his interest in human nature, Senn began practicing as a licensed marriage, family and child psychotherapist in the ’90s. A specialist in anger management, he wrote *Constructive Anger: Retooling Our Anger Hammer*, a book published under the name Anthony (his middle name) Senn in 2005.

Turley wasn’t surprised that her college French professor became a practicing psychotherapist. “He was always so curious and interested in everything,” she said. “He made you feel special.”

In 2015, Turley had lunch with Senn during her 40th class reunion. It had been four decades since they last broke baguette together, but the words—mostly in English this time—flowed freely. They spoke about everything from his trips to Machu Picchu to their common interest in Shamanism.

“I could have talked with him for hours,” Turley said, summing up the feelings of students, colleagues and clients whose worldviews were widened by the French professor with an ear for accents and a talent for storylistening.

Meet Pitzer's Newest Professors...



Steffanie Guillermo
Assistant Professor of Psychology

PhD, MA, University of Colorado, Boulder
BA, Lehigh University

Steffanie Guillermo's research centers on the impact of race on social cognitive processes, particularly in relation to perceptions of racial groups stereotypically associated with threat. She examines why people show biases in the attention they pay to faces of racial minority group members and the extent to which these biases relate to attitudes linking outgroup faces with threat. Guillermo's work has appeared in the *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* and the *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, among other publications. Her courses at Pitzer include Introduction to African American Psychology and Social Psychology.

Jessica M. Kizer
Assistant Professor of Sociology

PhD, MA, University of California, Irvine
BA, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Jessica Kizer's teaching and research interests lie at the intersection of race, ethnicity, inequality and the family. Her research investigates how the different dimensions of race are related to social inequality across the US population and among siblings. She has published in *American Behavioral Scientist*, *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* and *Socius*. An article in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* is forthcoming. Her research on racial identification and classification has been featured on NPR. At Pitzer, she teaches the Sociology of the Family, Race and Ethnic Relations, and Quantitative Methods.



Amanda Lagji
Assistant Professor of English
and World Literature

PhD, MA, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
BA, Dickinson College

Amanda Lagji's research focuses on twentieth-century global Anglophone fiction and postcolonial theory and criticism. Lagji's work has appeared in *African Literature Today* and *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*, and was recognized with a Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship Honorable Mention award. Her book project *Waiting for Now: Postcolonial Fiction and Colonial Time* explores the importance of waiting to time-consciousness in the contemporary postcolonial world. Lagji's courses at Pitzer include World Literature in an Oceanic Context and Postcolonial Studies for the 21st Century.



World Scholars Share Global Vision

Pitzer hosted a luncheon this fall for The Claremont Colleges' newest Davis United World College (UWC) scholars, whose cross-campus commute for the intercollegiate reception was just the latest leg of much longer journeys.

"We come from all corners of the world," said Prince Chabveka '19, a Pitzer Davis UWC scholar who grew up in Zimbabwe and studied at a United World Colleges school on Vancouver Island before coming to Claremont in 2015.

Most Davis UWC scholars are international students times at least two—the majority grow up outside the US then complete their last two years in high school at one of 16 UWC international schools. After graduating with an International Baccalaureate degree, the scholars enroll in a partner college or university in the US, where they receive \$10,000-a-year scholarships. Multilingual and multicultural, many UWC scholars earn their college degrees in English, which is often not their first—or sometimes even second—language. Some add an extra layer of intercultural experience by studying abroad during their college careers.

Pitzer became a Davis UWC Scholars Program partner college—one of 94 in the US—in 2014. Today, the College is home to five Davis UWC scholars from five different countries. In addition to Chabveka, Maria Carla Condori Bazan '20 grew up in Argentina and graduated from a UWC school in Singapore; Robert Bettinger '19 is Austrian and studied at the UWC school in New Mexico; Sisa Tixicuro '19 is from Ecuador and studied at the UWC in Canada; and Merve Tozluclu '21 is from Turkey and attended the UWC school in Singapore.

Chabveka says Davis UWC scholars bring outside perspectives to issues in the US and around the world. He has talked with classmates about a devastating mudslide in Sierra Leone that received little US media attention and brought up examples of Russian criminal networks in a course on the

sociology of gangs. At one lecture, UWC scholars quizzed an ambassador from Finland with in-depth questions about the European Union.

"We have all these different experiences that lead up to different questions," Chabveka says.

Pitzer's partnership with the Davis UWC Scholars Program also makes all students at the College eligible for \$10,000 Projects for Peace prizes, awarded for exceptional grassroots summer projects that promote peace. Pitzer students have won a Projects for Peace prize each year since 2015.

During the luncheon in September, Michael Ballagh, associate vice president for study abroad and international programs, delivered the keynote speech and wrapped up his remarks by thanking the Davis UWC scholars for the "value and wisdom you bring to The Claremont Colleges' classrooms.

"Your presence is extraordinary," he said.

Davis UWC scholars at Pitzer's fall luncheon. There are 36 Davis UWC scholars, representing 21 different home countries, at Pitzer, Claremont McKenna, Pomona and Scripps colleges.





Back-to-Back Conference Crowns

The Sagehens **Men's Water Polo** team repeated as SCIAC Tournament Champions and SCIAC regular-season champions after defeating Whittier College 9-7 in the conference tournament and tallying a 13-1 conference record. Pitzer senior and goalkeeper **Daniel Diemer '18** was named SCIAC Tournament MVP and SCIAC Athlete of the Year.

Milestone for Mitchell

Men's Soccer goalkeeper **Ben Mitchell '18** tallied his 200th career save in September. Mitchell ranked among the top five SCIAC goalies, with more than 50 saves, and was named First Team All-SCIAC. The Men's Soccer team fell to Redlands in the SCIAC semi-finals.



The Fantastic Fore

Sagehen **Golf** players no longer need to hit the road to practice their putts. Pomona-Pitzer Athletics Department unveiled a golf practice area on the Pomona College campus in September. The new facility includes a 5,500-square-foot green surface with seven holes, two authentic sand hazards and a simulated rough and fairway.



Women's Cross Country finished #4 at the SCIAC Championships, with two runners in the top five and three more, including **Maddie Bennet '19**, in the top 50. The team finished 6th in the NCAA Division III West Regional Cross Country meet.

The Pomona-Pitzer **Volleyball** team won an American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award in July. **Natalie Martin '18** was one of three players honored on Senior Night. Volleyball ended its fall season at 8-20 overall.

Mike Morgan was hired as the new head coach for the Pomona-Pitzer **Women's Tennis** team in July. Prior to becoming a Sagehen, Morgan spent 11 years building a dynasty as the head of Middlebury College's women's tennis program.



Just Don It!

Show your team spirit! Pomona-Pitzer Athletics' new NIKE sports apparel is ready for action. To score the Sagehens swoosh, visit www.eastbayteamsales.com/teamstore and use the team code OFTSPPA1.



Three Alumni Voice Pitzer Core Values in Spirited Runs for US Congress



Three Pitzer College alumni hope to make changes in the US Senate and House of Representatives. They seek election in 2018 by focusing on climate change, public education and affordable healthcare, among other key issues.

Kevin de León '03, currently president pro tempore of the California State Senate, will face Senator Diane Feinstein in the Democratic primary election for the US Senate this spring. Two alumnae are also running to represent their districts in the Democratic primaries for the US House of Representatives: **Kara Eastman '93**, for Nebraska's 2nd District, and **Debbie Mucarsel-Powell '92**, for Florida's 26th District.

De León, the son of a single immigrant mother, became the first in his family to graduate from college when he earned his degree from Pitzer in politics of education. Before entering politics, he served as community organizer, taught English as a second language and advocated for public schools.

He was elected to the California Assembly in 2006 and to the California State Senate in 2010. In 2014, he became the first Latino in over a century to head the State Senate. In that role, De León led California's battle against climate change and its efforts to create a clean energy economy. His bill to prevent sexual assault on college campuses was the first law in the nation to require affirmative consent, earning him recognition from *Marie Claire* as one of the "ten biggest supporters of women's rights in US government." *Ms. Magazine* selected his "yes means yes" measure as the most significant legislative victory on behalf of women for 2014.

Eastman, a trained social worker, is president and CEO of Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance and vice chair of the Board of Governors of Metropolitan Community College, the largest community college in

Nebraska. She has made healthcare, the economy and education the focus of her campaign.

Eastman, who majored in sociology at Pitzer, says she's running for office "because our community needs someone to stop the assault on public education, cuts to healthcare, rollbacks of health-protecting regulations and the elimination of EPA programs that protect kids from lead poisoning."

Mucarsel-Powell immigrated to the US from Ecuador as a young girl with her family. She earned a scholarship to study political science at Pitzer and went on to receive a master's degree in international political economy from Claremont Graduate University.

For the last 20 years, Mucarsel-Powell has worked for nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting the environment, improving the lives of underserved communities in Miami-Dade and increasing healthcare access for more Floridians.

Now, Mucarsel-Powell wants to give back to her community as a congresswoman. "Pitzer was a turning point in my understanding social justice issues, as well as race and gender issues. The close relationship between students and professors guided me in being more politically engaged," she said.

With Pitzer's core values actively embraced by students and alumni alike, expect more Pitzer alumni to seek public office in the years ahead.

Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99, Pitzer associate professor of political studies, says, "Interacting with alumni who have gone on to work for campaigns or run for office themselves reinforces what drew me to Pitzer as a professor—working with students who are deeply politically engaged and want to make a difference in their communities."

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

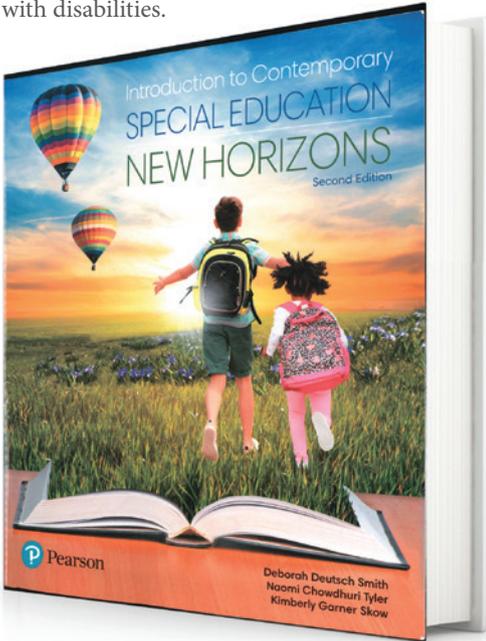
Class Notes

2000s

2010s

1960s

'68 **Deborah Deutsch Smith** co-authored the second edition of *Introduction to Contemporary Special Education: New Horizons*. Released in summer 2017, the textbook is an interactive approach to special education that fully engages today's digital-native students and presents a straightforward introduction to the professional practices, trends and research that define contemporary special education in this changing field. Smith is a professor of special education at the School of Educational Studies at Claremont Graduate University and the director of IRIS-West, a federally funded national center that provides online interactive modules and other training materials for the education of students with disabilities.



1970s

'70 **Camille Lombardo** was designated by Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) as one of 2017's Women of the Year. She earned her MBA from Pepperdine University and has served for 25 years as executive director of Friends of the Observatory, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the Griffith Observatory.

'72 **Ramelle Pulitzer** joined the board of trustees at the Norman Rockwell Museum, where she is also a docent. Pulitzer, who majored in history and art at Pitzer, has served as executive director for an arts organization, taught art appreciation at Winston-Salem State University and owned an art gallery featuring artists of North Carolina.

'75 **Jeff Gottlieb's** *Los Angeles Magazine* article "Profit at a SoCal Non-profit?" won the Los Angeles Press Club's Southern California Journalism Award for best investigative magazine piece. Gottlieb received the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for public service for uncovering corruption in the City of Bell.



'76 **Houston Putnam Lowry** married Carole Lessard in July 2016.



'77 **Devon Hartman**, the president and CEO of the nonprofit Community Home Energy Retrofit Project (CHERP), has launched Claremont Locally Grown Power, a CHERP program dedicated to making Claremont a net-zero energy city. The initiative also aims to create clean energy jobs, stimulate the local economy and address environmental issues.



'77 **Conrado Terrazas**, district director and special events producer for Los Angeles City Councilmember Gil Cedillo, served as executive producer of the dual-language production of Disney's *Aladdin* musical, which ran in September at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. He is also producing *Beauty and The Beast* at CASA 0101 Theater in Boyle Heights.

Share Your News With Pitzer!

New job? Published a book? Got a promotion? Climbed K2? Tell us about it!

Email: alumni@pitzer.edu
 Mail: Pitzer College Office of Alumni Relations / Class Notes
 1050 N. Mills Avenue
 Claremont, CA 91711

*Submissions may be edited for content and length.

'79 **Janet Suslick** works as a medical journalist at the scientific journal of the Swedish Dental Association. She keeps fit by riding her bicycle to work in Stockholm's Old Town, doing Swedish aerobics and kayaking near her home on Lake Mälaren in Stockholm, Sweden. She has two adult sons, Joakim and Daniel Pejer.



1980s

'84 **John Landgraf**, the CEO of FX Networks and FX Productions, was inducted into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame in New York, NY, on October 16. The Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame honors the pioneers, innovators, stars and shows that have made significant contributions to the industry.

'84 **Kathy Mansfield Matera**, a professor of chemistry at Elon University in North Carolina, was named the Japheth R. Rawls Professor for Undergraduate Research in Science. Matera previously received Elon College's Faculty Teaching Award, and she has been named both the A.L. Hook Emerging Scholar in Science and Mathematics and the Dr. Gerald L. Francis Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

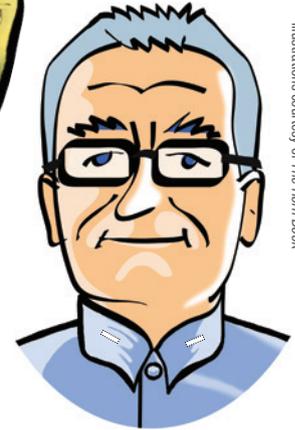
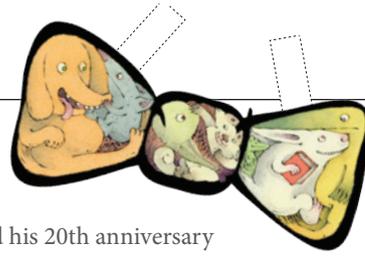
'88 **Parker Douglas** was one of only four attorneys selected to serve as a 2017–18 Supreme Court fellow. He began his one-year term in the Office of the Counselor to the Chief Justice in September 2017. Prior to his appointment, Douglas was the chief federal deputy attorney general and general counsel in the Office of the Utah Attorney General.

1990s

'90 **Jared Holum** was named president of Perkins & Co, the largest locally owned accounting firm in Oregon. Holum, who joined Perkins & Co in 2003, has also worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers and Portland-based communications and technology organizations.



'78 **Roger Sutton**, one of the country's leading experts on children's literature, celebrated his 20th anniversary as editor-in-chief of The Horn Book, Inc., which publishes journals dedicated to children's and young adult literature. His staff marked the occasion by creating "A Tribute of Ties"—a printable collection of bow ties in honor of Sutton's sartorial signature. Sutton also presided over the 2017 Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards, where he caught up with former Pitzer professor (now Bates College professor) Sue Houchins, who, he says, "taught me how to love and write about literature."



Illustrations courtesy of The Horn Book

'90 **Kenneth Semko**, a Santa Monica Police Department captain and 26-year employee, was named interim chief of the department. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and has completed management programs at Northwestern and Harvard universities.



'94 **Max Brooks**' latest book, *Minecraft: The Island*, hit the *New York Times* Best Sellers list. A movie based on the book—which was inspired by the popular video game—is in the works with Warner Bros.



'94 **Leticia Gutierrez-Lopez** was appointed associate vice president for campus health and wellbeing in Cal Poly Pomona's Division of Student Affairs, having previously served as the director of counseling and psychological services at Cal State Fullerton. After Pitzer, she earned her doctorate of psychology and master of arts in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology.

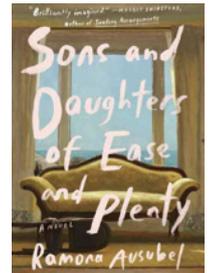


'96 **Batya Goldberg** serves up coffee-rubbed spare ribs and arugula bennys as the chef at BLVD Wine Bar in Queens, NY. Goldberg, who has cooked healthy gourmet food all over the world, says her passion is "to create beautiful, unique dishes with unusual ingredients."

'97 **Kinda Kayyali** founded and runs Sincerely, San Francisco, an online gift company offering local goods from Bay Area merchants. With this venture, she combines her love for gift-giving with her love of all things San Francisco, where she has lived for more than 15 years.

2000s

'01 **Ramona Ausubel**'s second novel, *Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty*, was named an NPR Best Book of 2016.



'01 **Crystal Lopez** was promoted to principal of American Canyon High School in the Napa School District, becoming the first woman and the first Hispanic to lead the school.

'01 **Trifari (White) Williams** was nominated for an Emmy in the Outstanding Unstructured Reality Program category as the supervising producer for A&E's *Born This Way*, which follows a group of young adults born with Down syndrome.



'03 **Annemarie Cortez** is an instructional literacy coach in the Corona-Norco School District, a master teacher for the Teacher Education Program General Education at Claremont Graduate University and co-founder of CNUSEdChat, a podcast for educators and families covering matters within K-12 education.

'03 **Zach Putnam** is pursuing a graduate degree in multimedia journalism at the University of Oregon. He won a 2017 Student Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Video Reporting for producing a short documentary, *The Kenton Lead Blob*, about lead contamination in his Portland neighborhood.

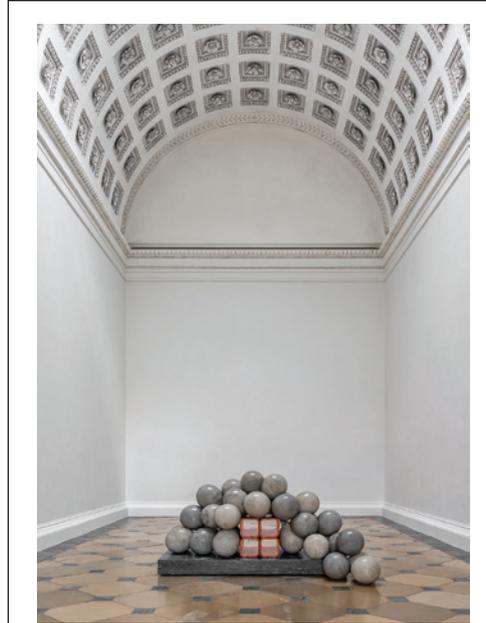
'04 **Brandon Castillo** of Plano, TX, started the Deep Ellum Outdoor Market, featuring local products, live music and food trucks, in 2010 in an effort to bring activity and foot traffic to the Deep Ellum neighborhood east of downtown Dallas. An experienced entrepreneur, Castillo also manages his family's medical practice and serves as the operations manager of ASH+LIME, a planning and design firm that balances infrastructure needs with the human experience.



'04 **Daniellah Salario** owns Assisting Hands Home Care in Arlington Heights, IL. The company provides seniors with individualized services, day-to-day activities and other needed assistance. Currently pursuing a master's degree in gerontology, and already possessing a master's degree in adult education, Salario has taught English as a second language in Chile, Costa Rica, South Korea and elsewhere around the globe.



'07 **Nick Lopez** serves as the assistant director of admissions at Claremont Graduate University, overseeing admission and recruitment for the School of Social Science, Policy & Evaluation. He holds a master-degree rank in Kung-Fu San Soo and has been teaching self-defense classes at Claremont McKenna College for the past eight years.



'06 **Kathleen Ryan's** first museum exhibition opened at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna this April. Her commissioned sculpture, *Bacchante*, described as "a cascade of bursting ripe, oversized grapes ... tethered by raw stainless steel chains and cast in polished concrete," was on display in the museum's Theseus Temple. Earlier this year, *Art in America* called Ryan's first solo exhibition at the Ghebaly Gallery in Los Angeles "a nostalgic but sobering love ballad ... speaking to the beauty found in the fluctuations of nature, industry and culture."



'08 **Sarah Zellweger**, creator of SZ Blockprints, had her collection released by J. Crew earlier this year. Known for its handmade prints created in India, SZ Blockprints is committed to giving back to the community in Jaipur, where the prints are crafted. SZ Blockprints purchases support initiatives that educate and empower girls and women in India.



'09 **Jessica Babcock** celebrated with fellow alumnae **Michele Hatchette '09** and **Morena Calvo '09** at her wedding on September 17, 2016. The trio studied abroad on the Pitzer exchange program in Leon, Spain, and have kept in touch ever since.

'09 **Harrison Weinfeld** and Daniel Zucker (PO'10) served as staff writers for *Blood Drive*, a "grindhouse horror/comedy" series on Syfy. They also wrote and produced an episode of The CW series *The Messengers* and have penned scripts for a number of companies, including The Kennedy/Marshall Company and CBS TV Studios.



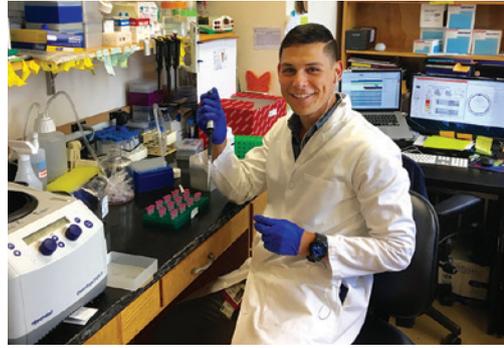
2010s

'10 **Lauren Chriqui**, a media studies major, recently launched Jabber Haus, an agency that connects brands and influencers across social media by offering talent management, branded content, revenue opportunities and brand development to engage online communities.



'11 **Leslie Ching Chau** married Tommy Chau in Honolulu, HI, in June 2017.

'14 **Alfredo “Freddy” Valencia**, who is pursuing his PhD in chemical biology at Harvard University, was awarded a 2017 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship. The fellowship is given to exceptional doctoral students with the potential to be leaders in their fields and the desire to advance diversity and inclusion in the sciences. Valencia also co-authored a paper that was published in the journal *Nature Genetics*.



'11 **Andrew Cohn** earned his second Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) West Assistant Coach of the Year award for the Sagehens. Cohn, who became assistant coach of the program in 2014, has helped the Sagehens maintain a top-ranked program and was honored as the ITA National Coach of the Year in 2015. The Sagehens were the 2016 ITA Indoor National Champions and finished as runners-up this past season.

'11 **Brittany Fair**, a neuroscience graduate student in the Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, was hired by CNN International's



branded content studio, Create, to help develop Costa Rica's new tourist identity with a focus on intersecting science and travel.

'11 **Zakary Hoyt**, who double majored in environmental studies and organizational studies at Pitzer, earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Portland State University in June. Hoyt is now working with a structural engineering firm in Vancouver, WA, while pursuing a master's degree in structural engineering.

'11 **Maura Stonberg** and **Alex Ferre** '12 were married on July 22, 2017, at Valley View Farm in Haydenville, MA. Ferre is the executive director at ALMA Life Sciences Foundation in La Jolla, CA, and Stonberg is a speech and language pathologist in the San Diego Unified School District.

'14 **Jarrod Gaut** was one of two naturalists who led a three-mile “Toll Road Trek” with City of San Clemente representatives to educate the community about the environmental impacts of a possible toll-road extension. A former Sagehens water polo star, Gaut played professional water polo in Europe before returning to Southern California.

'15 **Carlos Alvarez** and **Melissa Hernandez** '15 became engaged on November 19, 2016. They celebrated at The Last Bookstore in Los Angeles.



'15 **Lydia Froncek** is using her academic and artistic background to launch a project with Ley Line, her Austin-based band. Ley Line recently toured in Brazil and worked with local organizations to foster cross-cultural connections through music and storytelling. The band will release a visual album that combines footage from their travels with original music recorded along the way.



'15 **Karen Kandamby**, an organizer with the economic justice coalition California Partnership, kicked off the Latinx Healthcare in the 21st Century Speaker Series at Pitzer with her talk “Re-imagining Healthcare: Fighting for Single Payer in California, What’s at Stake for Latinx Communities?”



'16 **Dawn Barlow**, who double majored in organismal biology and environmental analysis, works as a research associate at Oregon State University. As part of her master's project, she documents her research and experience with the Alaska Whale Foundation.

'16 **Ruth Karpinski** was the lead author of the paper “High intelligence: A risk factor for psychological and physiological overexcitabilities,” published by the journal *Intelligence* and co-authored by **Audrey Kolb** '14, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience **Thomas Borowski** and neuroscientist Nicole Tetreault.

'16 **Enrique Romero**, who taught English in Mexico as a 2016–17 Fulbright fellow, joined the Fulbright Commission in Mexico as a program officer with the US-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange, which administers the Fulbright-García Robles Fellowship.



'17 **Elizabeth Weinlein** is serving as a FEMA Corps member for the Atlantic Region. FEMA Corps, which responds to national disasters, is part of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps program.

In Memoriam

William Henry “Bill” Keppel '71 of Portland, OR, passed away on March 21, 2017, after a battle with cancer. A psychology major at Pitzer, Keppel received his MD from Oregon Health Sciences University in 1979 and worked at Portland's Providence and St. Vincent Hospitals in addition to operating a private practice. In his twenties, he designed and built a house and then wrote a book about the experience.



Pitzer Participant

LOUISE BEAUDETTE THORNTON '68 and Pitzer College found each other at just the right moment in 1964—when both were embarking on bright, uncertain futures. Pitzer consisted of only two buildings, and Thornton was starting a transformative student career at what would become one of America's leading liberal arts colleges.

"I like to be involved in the beginning of something," she recalls.

And in the middle of something. Thornton's ongoing involvement with Pitzer has ranged from serving as the Alumni Association's first president to rallying efforts to honor the College's founding faculty with an outdoor amphitheater.

In 2017, Thornton and Pitzer came together again when Thornton, who established her own estate-planning company, pledged a planned gift to support the College's Firestone Center for Restoration Ecology in Costa Rica. Her gift will fortify an endowment that ensures an enduring future for the Firestone Center.

A planned gift, tailored to your estate-planning needs, is an ideal way to support Pitzer College and strengthen your legacy.

Louise Beaudette Thornton, like so many of her fellow alumni, lives the values of the Pitzer College experience long after her graduation.



To learn more about planned giving and how you can help Pitzer students, please contact Senior Director of Advancement Stephen J. Tanenbaum at 909.607.3731 or stephen_tanenbaum@pitzer.edu



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Enjoy a weekend of fun, fellowship and a few surprises. Reconnect with Pitzer classmates and friends from Harvey Mudd, Pomona and Scripps colleges. Yoga, omelette and pasta bars, a beer tasting and a celebration dinner await.

Visit www.pitzer.edu/alumni/alumni-reunion-weekend and make plans now to Come Home to Pitzer!