

# PITZER COLLEGE

Fall-Winter 2019

Vol. 52 No. 2

The **Participant**



## *Bringing Power*



## *to the People*



Frank Ellsworth  
Passing of Pitzer's Third President

Allen M. Omoto  
Orchestrating Academic Futures

Carmen Fought  
Language as Instrument of Identity

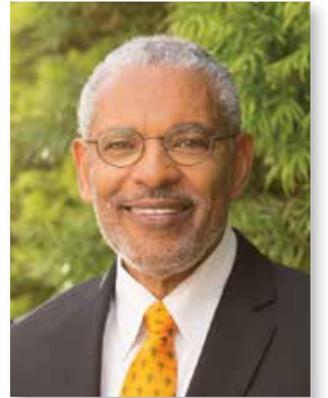


Students rock climb in the San Bernardino National Forest during 2019 Orientation Adventure.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### LEGACY OF LEARNING

Frank L. Ellsworth served for 12 years as Pitzer College's third president. His recent passing inspired me to reflect upon his contributions to the educational experience we know as Pitzer College today. Frank's presidency reminds us of the power of institutional vision and how each of us stands on the shoulders of those who have preceded us.



I am struck more by Frank's recognition of Pitzer's gifts to him than of his own contributions to the College. In his last president's message to appear in *The Participant* (Spring 1991), Frank wrote: "This college is distinctive in its willingness to grow, change and take risks. And in my time as president, I have had the opportunity to grow, change and take risks along with the institution in ways that would not have been possible anywhere else." As Pitzer's sixth president, I, too, have grown, been changed and discovered new wells of meaning and service to our College.

This transformative quality of the Pitzer experience for students, faculty, staff and presidents is one of Pitzer's strengths. Atherton, Atwell, Ellsworth, Massey and Trombley all knew it and cultivated it for us. I value this legacy. It is a privilege to work with students, faculty and staff to enrich our College's legacy of learning. Together, we will pass on a better Pitzer to those who come after us.

This issue of *The Participant* is full of stories, pictures and achievements that capture Pitzer's magic. I hope you enjoy learning about, for example, Devon Hartman '77's distinctive journey full circle back to Pitzer and his transformational project to reinvent the future for residents of Claremont and surrounding communities. I am inspired and energized by the distinctively pragmatic liberal education at the core of Pitzer's mission.

Thank you for your efforts to make Pitzer a meaningful experience, in which each of us finds the courage to continue learning, that is bold, practical and aspirational. This diverse intellectual community is a life-altering waypoint on journeys to brighter futures.

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Melvin L. Oliver  
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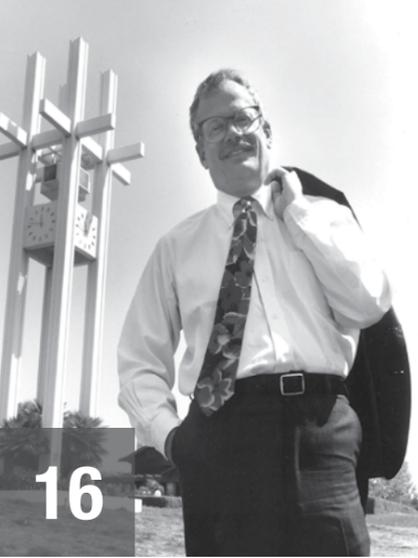
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# The Participant

Fall-Winter 2019

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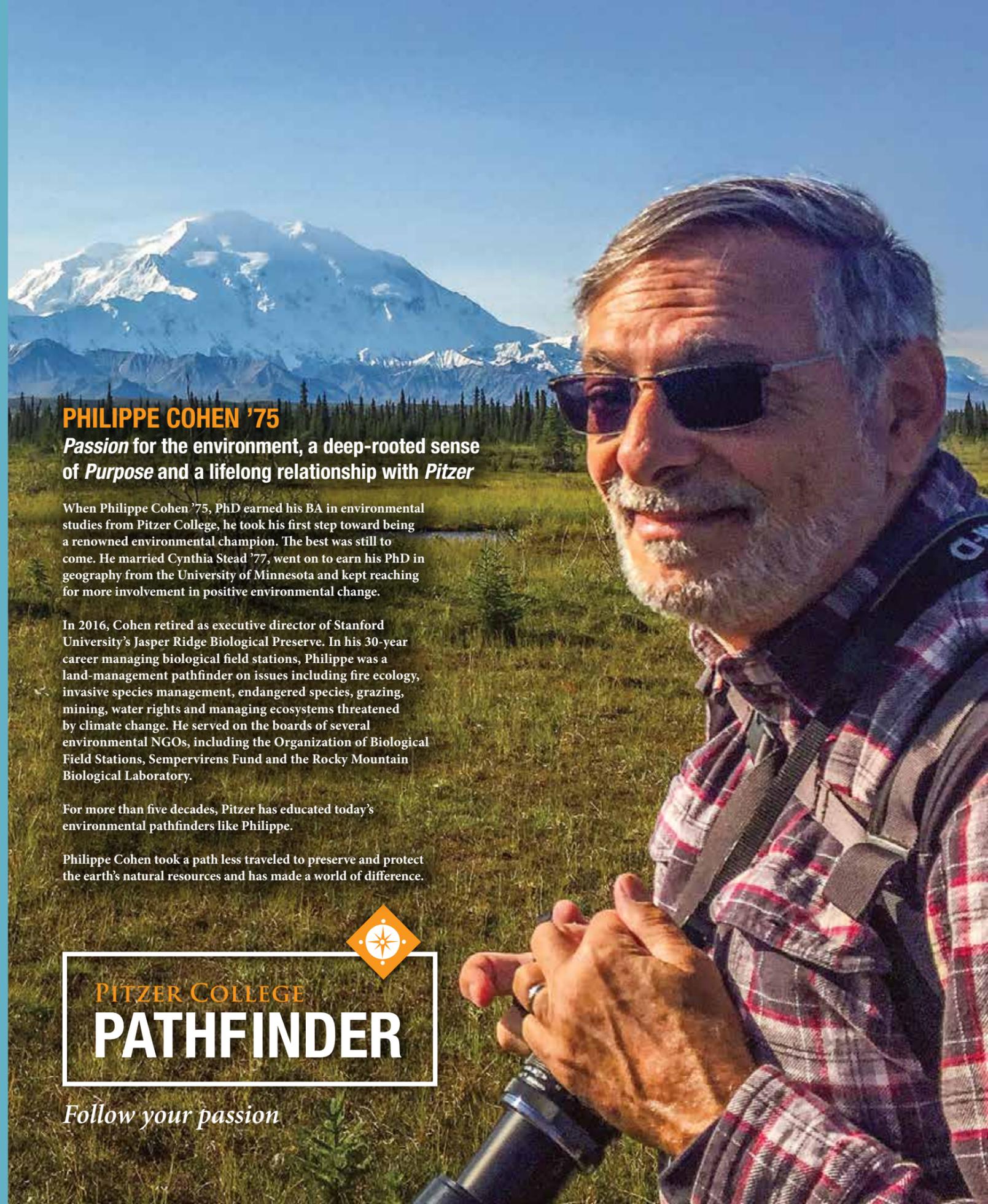
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On the cover: The feature story on "Bringing Power to the People" dives into alumnus Devon Hartman '77's plan to bring free solar power to low-income people, while creating jobs and boosting local economies.

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. *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.



## PHILIPPE COHEN '75

*Passion for the environment, a deep-rooted sense of Purpose and a lifelong relationship with Pitzer*

When Philippe Cohen '75, PhD earned his BA in environmental studies from Pitzer College, he took his first step toward being a renowned environmental champion. The best was still to come. He married Cynthia Stead '77, went on to earn his PhD in geography from the University of Minnesota and kept reaching for more involvement in positive environmental change.

In 2016, Cohen retired as executive director of Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. In his 30-year career managing biological field stations, Philippe was a land-management pathfinder on issues including fire ecology, invasive species management, endangered species, grazing, mining, water rights and managing ecosystems threatened by climate change. He served on the boards of several environmental NGOs, including the Organization of Biological Field Stations, Sempervirens Fund and the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory.

For more than five decades, Pitzer has educated today's environmental pathfinders like Philippe.

Philippe Cohen took a path less traveled to preserve and protect the earth's natural resources and has made a world of difference.



PITZER COLLEGE  
**PATHFINDER**

*Follow your passion*

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Visit *The Participant* online at [www.pitzer.edu/participant](http://www.pitzer.edu/participant) to view related videos and photos.



# Class of 2023

Each August, a new Pitzer year begins as we welcome our first-year and new students. Students from across the country and world arrived on August 24 ready to move forward in the latest stage of their academic careers. After they got settled in their dorms, the students departed for one of 12 different Orientation Adventure trips over three days, ranging from Pedal the Pacific to Histories of Activism. They met new friends and forged lifelong memories.

Hosting his first Convocation, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Allen Omoto greeted our newest students. "I'm new to Pitzer College, just like you," he said. "We want to welcome you, but also set the tone for what you can expect and what we expect of you in terms of your work and development as scholars, artists, activists and citizens, on campus and off campus. This work and development begin now and here on campus, but as our College mission articulates, it collectively should culminate in all of you becoming engaged, socially responsible citizens of the world."

Visit the online *Participant* for more photos from Move-In Day and Convocation 2019.



### Class of 2023 Snapshot

- 276** First-year students
- 3.89** Average GPA
- 26** International citizenships
- 16.2%** First-generation college students
- 39.4%** Students of color
- 13.7%** Admit rate



## 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.



**Join the Festivities:** February 14-17, 2020

To register and for more information on this event, visit [www.pitzer.edu/FamilyWeekend](http://www.pitzer.edu/FamilyWeekend).



# SUSTAINABLE EXCELLENCE: STRATEGIC PLAN 2025

FALL-WINTER 2019

A group of faculty representatives from the Faculty Executive Committee, Academic Planning and Budget Implementation committees, joined by vice presidents from academic affairs, finance/administration and student affairs, a student and a staff representative, convened to form the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. This committee is gathering, organizing and sharing information under the facilitation of Pitzer's Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Community Relations Jim Marchant.

Tapping into the work that led to the strategic plan's creation over the past two years, they are also reviewing draft initiatives that have emerged as potential items to be included in the implementation plan. At the same time, Marchant and other members of the group are meeting with campus constituents and key committees to provide updates on the process and to solicit input on possible items for the plan.

An informative 14-page brochure that provides context and gives life to the strategic plan was developed in October. It is available in print and online at [www.pitzer.edu/strategicplan2025](http://www.pitzer.edu/strategicplan2025).

Regular updates will be provided throughout the year as progress continues on the implementation plan.



## Around **the Mounds**

*News from Campus and Beyond*



### La Familia Cookbook

Students prepared a meal together on October 17 in Professor Norma Rodriguez and Visiting Instructor Maria Torres' First-year Seminar class, La Familia. Each student selected a family dish, interviewed the family member who prepared it and wrote a three-page narrative describing the history and significance of the dish. Each entry is compiled in a cookbook created for each member of the class.

### Meet & Greet

The Community Engagement Center, offices of the Dean of Faculty and Career Services kicked off the new academic year on September 4 with open houses the same afternoon. Since the offices are all in Scott Hall, they coordinated their events so attendees could visit each of the offices (and snack!) with efficiency. They highlighted their services to students, faculty and staff, and community members met and greeted new Dean of the Faculty Allen Omoto.



### Critical Environmental Justice

The Robert Redford Conservancy hosted critical environmental justice speaker David N. Pellow of the University of California, Santa Barbara. He spoke about how low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, already economically marginalized, are more likely to be threatened by public health and environmental risks, and the difficult but doable task of coming up with equitable solutions for all.

### Anime Hip Hop Pippin

The 5C Theatre fall production of Stephen Schwartz' *Pippin* in the Seaver Theater was a 21st-century reimagining influenced by anime hip-hop, with Pitzer students on stage and behind the scenes.



### Pop-Up Career Learning

Career Services hosted a series of pop-up events in Pitzer, Mead and West halls for students to learn about career topics, including job searches, internships, graduate schools, connecting with alumni and more.



## The Power of Art to Change Lives

Pitzer College Art Galleries fall exhibitions, *Disruption! Art and the Prison Industrial Complex* and *Ashley Hunt: Degrees of Visibility*, opened on September 14 and ran through December 6. The two complementary exhibitions looked critically at the social impacts of the American penal system, the aesthetics of mass incarceration and art's capacity to create change in the lives of individuals who are incarcerated. *Disruption!* curator Annie Buckley is the founder of the Prison Arts Collective, a statewide program dedicated to expanding access to the transformative power of the arts through collaboration and mutual learning. The opening reception featured a performance by artist Karla Diaz, reflecting her ongoing interest in social justice and the politics of food. As part of her "Prison Gourmet" project, Diaz featured a cooking demonstration with recipes created by people incarcerated in California using items from prison commissaries.



## Meet a Professor

The Pitzer "Meet a Professor" series gives students a chance to develop relationships with professors by learning more about their research, courses and life paths. On October 3, students met Assistant Professor of Psychology Marcus Rodriguez for an informal conversation over lunch. This series is hosted by Faculty-in-Residence and Associate Professor of Academic Writing Andrea Scott. This year, featured professors included Carina Johnson, Azamat Junisbai and Susan Phillips.



## New Look for Admission

The Office of Admission lobby in Pitzer Hall sports a new look, thanks to a summer makeover. When visitors walk in, they'll spot the reception desk right away and have more places to sit. Behind the desk, a newly painted gray wall emblazoned with the Pitzer core values is rendered in modern typographics. Outside, supergraphics on the windows facing the parking lot and banners on lampposts add a colorful and welcoming touch.



## Golden celebration for IDCLS

Alumni, 5C students, faculty and staff celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Intercollegiate Department of Chicana/Latina Studies (IDCLS). The community gathered for panels, a community altar building and performances.



## Swinging through the Decades

The Pomona College Jazz Ensemble, which includes student musicians from all the 5Cs, played *Blues to Bluegrass: Big Band through the Decades*, to a packed house in Pomona's Lyman Hall. Pitzer student Graham Brady '21 performed a saxophone solo.



## Running Start

During the first week of the academic year, the College welcomed students back to campus with events and fairs to give them a running start. Students learn about the troves of on-campus services and opportunities at the Student Club Fair and the Student On-campus Job Fair.



## 5C Turf Dinner

Each fall, the 5C Turf Dinner gives students a chance to explore the various clubs and organizations across the different campuses. This year, Pitzer dining services staff were decked out in custom-designed shirts and cowboy hats and served a western-themed menu.

## Swing by for Pitzer Swag

A new Pitzer Store is now open on the first floor of Broad Center. Pick up official Pitzer College gear in person at the store or online at [www.pitzer.edu/store](http://www.pitzer.edu/store).



# Q & A

## Getting to Know Allen Omoto

Allen M. Omoto became Pitzer College's vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty on July 1, 2019. A scholar of psychology, Omoto came to Pitzer from the Claremont Graduate University, where he served as associate provost for academic affairs.

Omoto takes on a key leadership position as Pitzer College enters the implementation stage of its Strategic Plan 2025. His challenge is to honor individual voices within a dynamic, engaged faculty while orchestrating the academic success and forward momentum of the College.

*The Participant* caught up with him recently in his Scott Hall Office, where he shared his views on his exciting new role—complete with his signature laughter, expansive hand gestures and big smile. Here are excerpts from the conversation.

### What do you do as the dean of faculty?

I oversee the academic mission of Pitzer College. I advocate for and work with faculty on curricular planning issues, on their own scholarly work and development, and on contexts and programs in which they engage students. I also oversee and work with cocurricular offices—Community Engagement Center, International Programs, the Writing Center. And, I work directly with students in many positive ways, such as assisting with advising, supporting student research and academic internships, and through Pitzer's well-developed internal and external award programs.

### Why are you and Pitzer a good fit?

My scholarship on civic engagement and social activism and my career trajectory fit well with Pitzer's educational model and mission. In terms of my history, I went to a small liberal arts school (Kalamazoo College) where I had a lot of immersive experiences as part of the curriculum, I studied abroad and did a senior individualized project—a deep dive into my major. So, my undergraduate experience incorporated several of the things we value here at Pitzer. Over my career, my research and professional service work also map onto Pitzer's core values.

### What is the best part of your job?

I love when I can help people make progress. Part of that is getting to know people and what they would like to do, then removing a barrier or by providing support—or a nudge when needed. I've loved the conversations I've had with Pitzer faculty and directors of programs about new ideas and initiatives. Creative forward thinking and problem solving are exciting to me.

### Can you talk about a problem you've helped solve?

A student, for a lot of life circumstances, had a difficult time completing their program. I reached out to faculty to make them more aware of the situation. When faculty knew more, they did what good faculty do: they helped the student. The solution involved allowing faculty to see the picture in a different way while still upholding our academic integrity and standards.

### How does psychology influence your work?

My intellectual home—social psychology—is about how people affect other people and how they are interdependent. Also, how people's thinking and action are impacted by social contexts and institutions. As a psychologist, I start with an interest in the person, but as a social psychologist, I think about how people connect to institutional structures, policies and practices. As an academic administrator, my focus is on people working with colleagues, within field groups, their discipline, the College as a whole, within the consortium and with links to professional networks and associations.

### If you could teach any class at Pitzer, what would it be?

Leadership and activism in civil society. This engages Pitzer's commitment to social responsibility and community engagement and directly connects to my own scholarly work. We encourage student engagement and activism, but we have a tension between activism and scholarly-informed activism. It would be helpful to have activism not only grounded in principles of social change but with awareness of policy contexts—not just “here's a need to be met.” Sometimes

activism needs to be in your face, but that isn't the end in itself—the change is the end, and how does that relate to our institutional policies?

### What is your goal with the faculty?

In the short term, to get to know them and what their scholarly work is about. My broader goal is faculty development, something that we often lose sight of in academic institutions. We focus a lot on student development, as well we should. But it's not as if the faculty are static—there is a career trajectory for all of them. I ask how they can meet their own scholarly, teaching and service goals and how I can help them do that.

### Did this lead you into psychology?

I think so. I was initially interested in prejudice and discrimination in graduate school. One of my first published articles is on ethnic stereotyping. My research over the years has focused on volunteerism—early on, about people working on the frontlines of the HIV epidemic in the late '80s. At that time, people were being kicked out of their homes and confronting a lot of stigma and prejudice. I researched why people step up and provide care for highly stigmatized people they don't know. The positive societal response to the HIV epidemic began within the gay community; it was more compassionate and other-focused, community-focused.



**“I try to solve problems in creative ways that are in the best interests of everyone.”**

### If you had not become a scholar, what other career path might have appealed to you?

Hmm. I could say aerobics instructor—but I've done that. I taught group exercise classes for over 20 years, but separately from my work as a professor and administrator. So, I'll have to say, “concert cellist.” I started to play cello when I was six years old and played all through high school and college. I had opportunities to play with chamber groups and even did a senior recital in college. I've just recently gotten back to it.

### What else would you like people to know about you?

Social justice is what is most important to me. Partly, that comes from my own lived experience as a gay man, part-Japanese, whose father's family was interned during WWII. My dad, a professor of art history, thought it was important to talk about internment. I learned how quickly your own rights can be abridged or taken away for the flimsiest of reasons. Being part of the only half-Japanese family in the community I grew up in, I was always aware of our difference. Then, when I started to come out, there was a feeling that I didn't really fit, with the stigmatization that goes with that. These life experiences, I think, are the foundation for my concerns about social justice.

This interests me because volunteerism and related actions don't necessarily fit an economic model of “people only do things for their own good.” In my work, I've also been interested in making room for heretofore unheard or silenced people and creating conditions that allow for full participation by underrepresented or marginalized people. That is a deeply held commitment and passion for me.

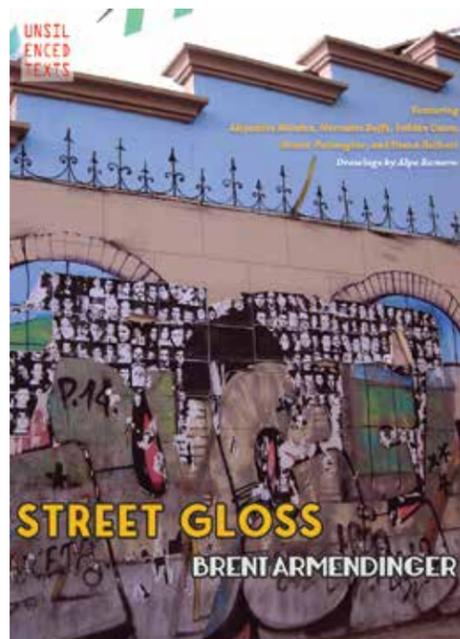
### How would you describe yourself?

I don't know if I would describe myself as an always positive person [laughs], but I try to take a positive approach to things. I try to solve problems in creative ways that are in the best interests of everyone.

After a contentious meeting that I led as president of a professional society, one of my board members said to me: “I feel you are like a conductor of a symphony. You are able to bring everyone into conversation and draw out things, really orchestrate the conversation around a difficult subject and bring us toward common agreed-upon solutions.” People have different strengths and parts they want to play. I think that the best scenario is when you can get all people working together towards the same end to create a beautiful symphony.



# Pitzer Faculty Field Notes



**Brent Armendinger** (English & world literature/creative writing) authored *Street Gloss*, a new book published by The Operating System in July 2019. A work of site-specific poetry and experimental translation, *Street Gloss* features Argentinian writers Alejandro Méndez, Mercedes Roffé, Fabián Casas, Néstor Perlongher and Diana Bellessi with artwork by Alpe Romero. His poem “The Afterforest” was published by *Conjunctions* in October 2019.

**Timothy Berg** (art) and Rebekah Myers’ sculpture *Turn a Blind Eye* was purchased by the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY, for their permanent collection.

**Darin Brown** (psychology) gave a talk at the Society of Psychophysiological Research in Washington DC titled “Understanding the reward positivity: Parsing reward, affect, and control.” Additionally, he published two scientific articles: “Decreases in

the late positive potential to alcohol images among alcohol treatment seekers following mindfulness-based relapse prevention,” published in *Alcohol and Alcoholism* in October; and “An EEG marker of reward processing is diminished in Parkinson’s disease,” published in *Brain Research* in November.

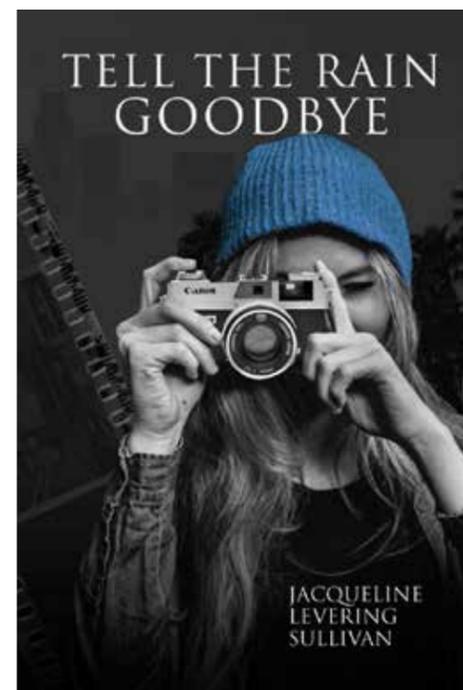
**José Zapata Calderón** (sociology and Chicano/a Latino/a studies, emeritus) gave 13 conference presentations and invited talks across the country, from the American Sociological Association meeting in New York to the Solidarity Center of the NAACP in California. He also celebrated the 25th anniversary of Alternative Spring Break, an annual program that takes an average of 25 Pitzer students to La Paz (Keene, CA) and Delano, CA. The program is in partnership with United Farmworkers and the Cesar Chavez Foundation.

**Gretchen Edwalds-Gilbert** (biology) gave a conference presentation on her Fulbright research, “Non-AUG Translation Initiation Results in Localization of Proteins Involved in RNA Metabolism to the Mitochondria,” at the International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology in Gothenburg, Sweden, in August 2019. She also led a workshop on how to succeed as a Fulbright Scholar at the Fulbright orientation in Warsaw, Poland, in September 2019.

**Ciara Ennis** (art, Pitzer College Art Galleries) penned the article “Animal Worlds, Storytelling, and the Aesthetics of Wonder” for *X-TRA Contemporary Art Quarterly*. She was a guest lecturer for Otis College of Art and Design’s Emerging Curators Program, and she took part in the Getty Executive Education Program for Museum Leaders, The Getty Leadership Institute.

**Paul Faulstich ’79** (environmental analysis) was part of a group exhibition, *The Artist’s Eye*, at Hillcrest Gallery in La Verne, CA, from July through September.

**Brian Keeley** (philosophy) spoke on “Auto-experimentation: Essential, foolhardy or both?” at the Tool Development in Neuroscience: A Science-in-Practice Workshop in Pensacola, FL, on September 27–28.

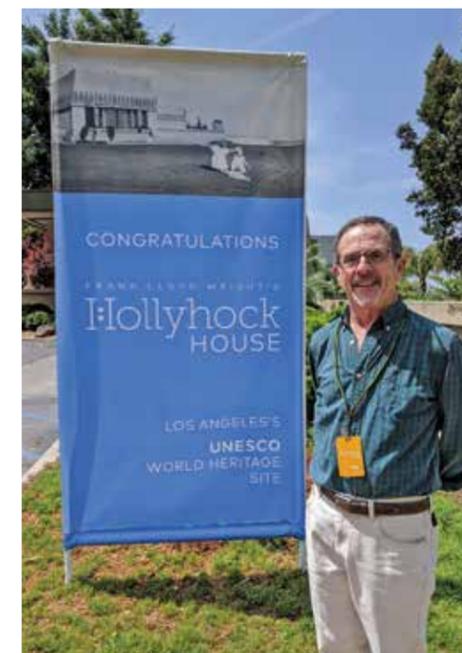


**Jacqueline Levering Sullivan** (academic writing, emerita) authored a new young adult novel, *Tell the Rain Goodbye*, which was released October 15.

**Aaron Leconte** (chemistry) received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop new, faster methods to understand and modify luciferase, an important protein used in biomedical imaging. Over the next three years, the \$362,752 award will fund 12 summer research internships for Keck Science students, materials for the research and a high-powered microscope for imaging live cells.

**Sarah Marzen** (physics) was awarded a \$600,000 grant for the next three years from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research for studying sensory prediction and bio-inspired machine learning. She also spoke on “How can we predict efficiently?” at the University of Southern California on October 14 and Harvey Mudd College on October 8.

**Donald McFarlane** (biology and environmental science) led a three-person team this August to map the bathymetry and thermal profile of the Boiling Lake, the second-largest hot lake in the world, located on the island of Dominica. A National Geographic Society research grant funded this research trip.



**Peter Nardi** (sociology, emeritus) is a docent at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House, Los Angeles’s first UNESCO World Heritage site. He educates people about its history and architecture.

**Tessa Hicks Peterson** (urban studies, Critical Action + Social Advocacy, CASA) is participating in Bringing Theory to Practice’s multi-campus collaborative initiative titled Partnerships for Listening and Action by Communities and Educators (PLACE). The project is supported by a two-year \$800,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This “collaboratory” brings together 11 colleges and universities in four communities across the country to develop sustained reciprocal community partnerships. She has also been selected as a member of the Leadership Cohort with Imagining America, and she joined Starting Over, Inc. as a new board member.

**Kathleen Purvis-Roberts** (chemistry & environmental science) received a \$100,000 grant from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to organize and lead a workshop for university faculty to collaborate with energy policy makers to support data gathering and analysis for energy efficiency and renewable energy policy development. This is in collaboration with the APEC Energy Working Group, Expert Group on New and Renewable Energy Technologies, and Expert Group on Energy Efficiency & Conservation.

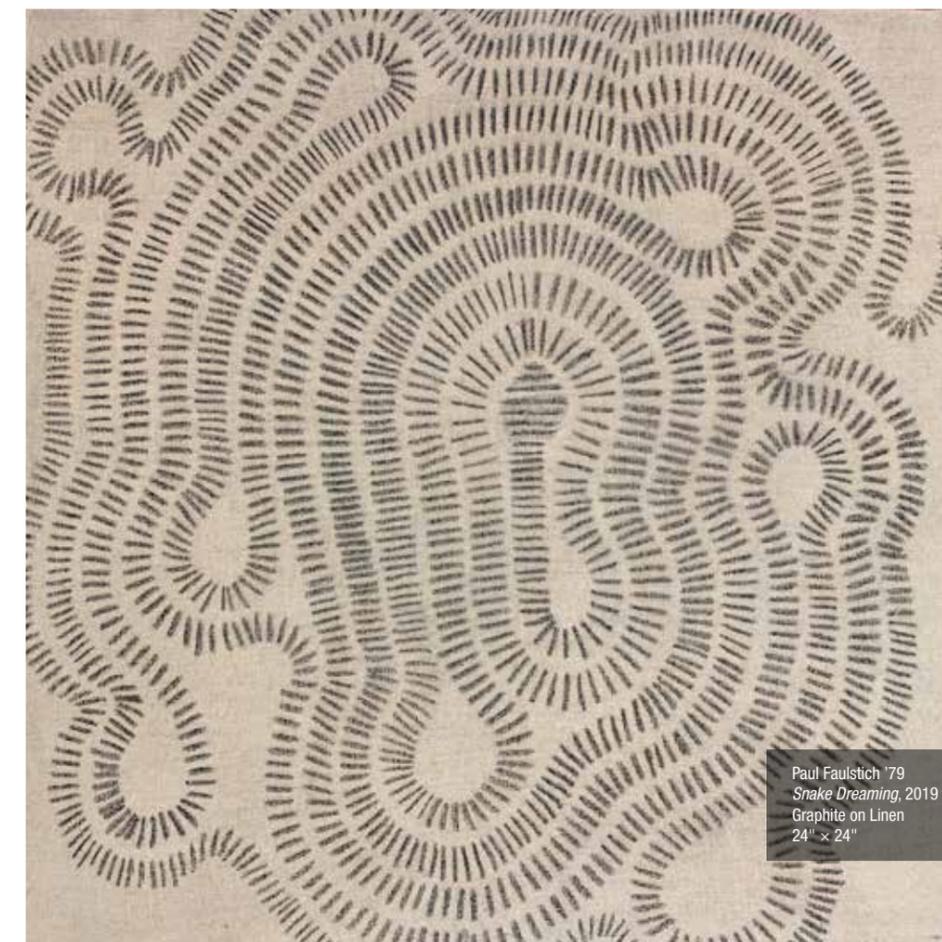
**Babak Sanii** (chemistry) gave two invited talks, “Scalable biomembrane manufacturing” at the University California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in June and also presented “Engineering Self-assembly: Lipid Films and Silicone Filaments” at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Sanii also spoke on “Roll-to-roll processing of supported lipid bilayers: flexible substrates, rapid-prototyped inking and shippable membranes” at the American Association of Advances in Functional Materials at UCLA.

**Brinda Sarathy** (environmental analysis, Robert Redford Conservancy) provided expert commentary for a *CBS News* segment on immigrant forestry laborers. She wrote “An intersectional reappraisal of the environmental justice movement” in Pitzer alumnus Char Miller ’75 and Jeffrey Crane’s new book, *The Nature of Hope: Grass Roots Organizing, Environmental Justice, and Political*

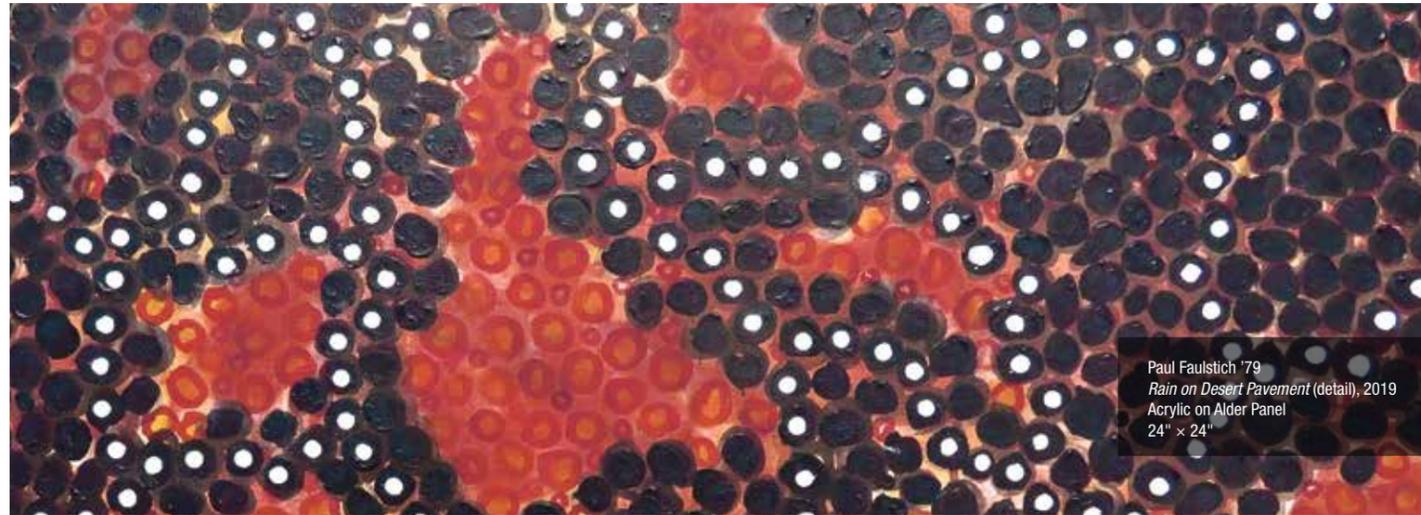
*Change*. She co-edited *Inevitably Toxic: Historical Perspectives on Contamination, Exposure, and Expertise*. The essays in the book consider the exposure of bodies in the United States, Canada and Japan to radiation, industrial waste and pesticides. It was selected as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2019 by the American Library Association’s *Choice* editorial board.

**Andrea Scott** (academic writing, Writing Center) was appointed to the liaison committee of the Council of Writing Program Administrators and the editorial advisory board of *JoSch: Journal der Schreibberatung*, a leading peer-reviewed journal for writing studies in Europe. She gave two talks in November at the Pacific and Ancient Modern Language Association Conference in San Diego: one on Austrian, German and Swiss research on the writing process and the other on contemporary representations of motherhood.

**Azamat Junisbai** (sociology) gave an invited talk titled “Political Values in Kazakhstan: Insights into the 2019 Transition” at the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at US Department of State in Washington DC on October 11.



Paul Faulstich '79  
*Snake Dreaming*, 2019  
Graphite on Linen  
24" x 24"



Paul Faulstich '79  
*Rain on Desert Pavement* (detail), 2019  
 Acrylic on Alder Panel  
 24" x 24"

**Timothy Justus** (psychology and cognitive science) published two peer-reviewed articles, "Remembering melodies from another culture: Turkish and American listeners demonstrate implicit knowledge of musical scales" in *Analytical Approaches to World Music* and "Toward a naturalized aesthetics of film music: An interdisciplinary exploration of intramusical and extramusical meaning" in *Projections*.

**Rachel VanSickle-Ward** (political science) explained the impeachment inquiry on NPR's Los Angeles-affiliate KPCC's *All Things Considered* on September 24.

**Albert Wachtel** (creative studies) wrote two blogs for *The Times of Israel* on September 8 and 16 on numerical antisemitism. He also wrote the introduction for Pitzer alumnus Joshua Corwin '19's forthcoming book of poetry, *Becoming Vulnerable*.

**Phil Zuckerman** (sociology and secular studies) had a new book published, *What It Means to Be Moral* (Counterpoint Press), penned an op-ed "Godlessness and Guns" for the *Los Angeles Times* and also gave two invited lectures, "The Moral Edge: Secularism and Ethical Progress" at the LogiCal Annual Conference and "Secular Virtues and Community Building" at USC.

## New Faculty



**Darin Brown**  
 Assistant Professor of Psychology

PhD, University of New Mexico  
 BA, MA, California State University, Los Angeles

**Darin Brown's** research interests include EEG signatures of frontal cortical function, emotion processing, reward and decision making, and computational psychiatry. Brown has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Susan Deese-Roberts Award for Outstanding Graduate Teacher of the Year 2019 and Psychology Annual Award for Best Graduate Teacher 2019 by the University of New Mexico.



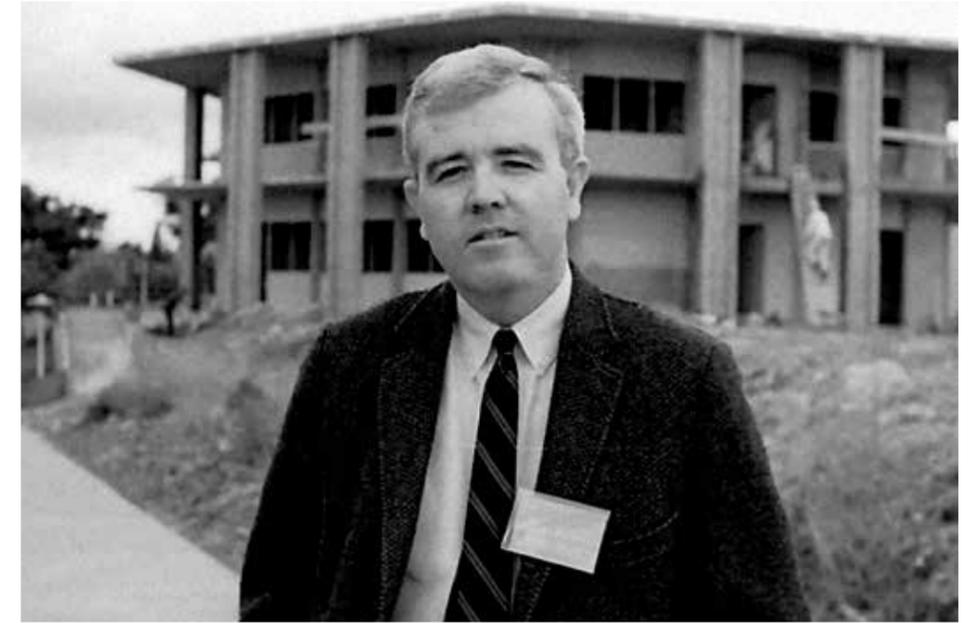
**Hanzhang Liu**  
 Assistant Professor of Political Studies

MA, PhD, Columbia University  
 BA, Smith College

**Hanzhang Liu's** research interests include comparative authoritarian politics and the political economy of development with a special focus on China. Specifically, she examines how various authoritarian institutions are deployed to mediate state-society relations. She also conducts research on authoritarian misinformation and women in politics in China. Prior to Pitzer, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Contemporary China at the University of Pennsylvania.

## Tributes

Former Pitzer faculty member, vice president and acting president **James B. Jamieson** died on September 18, 2019. He was 88. Jamieson joined the Pitzer College faculty in 1967-68 and held multiple positions at the College, including vice president of advancement from 1973 to 1983 and acting president from 1978 to 1979 during the presidential search and transition from President Robert H. Atwell to President Frank L. Ellsworth. Jamieson was the impetus behind Pitzer's New Resources Program in 1974 to provide nontraditional college-age students 23 years or older with a small liberal arts college experience. Jamieson is survived by his wife, Perry; his two sons, Jeff and Dalton; two grandsons; four step-granddaughters and several nieces and nephews. A celebration of life was held on November 2, 2019, at the Performing Arts Center San Luis Obispo at California State Polytechnic University.



**Daniel Guthrie**, who taught at Pitzer and the Keck Science Department from 1964 to 2010, died on July 1 surrounded by family. During his more than 45-year tenure, he was instrumental in setting up the Joint Science Department, where he served as the department's chair and helped plan the new Keck Science Center. He even served as Pitzer's lacrosse coach. As a professor, he specialized in comparative anatomy, animal behavior, introductory biology and environmental science and had a lasting impact on students interested in careers in biology, ecology and medicine. He authored more than 70 papers and studies in biology and led innumerable field trips both locally and abroad. He was a fellow for the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was active in the Southern California Academy of Sciences. He is survived by his three daughters, Kate Poaster, Ruth Guthrie and Winnie Larson, and their spouses; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Michael Goldstein**, professor of political science at Pitzer from 1975 to 1980, died on June 12. He was 73. At Pitzer, Goldstein's courses included Congress vs. the Executive: The Paralysis of American Government. He received the Pitzer College Alumni Award for Outstanding Teaching and spent academic years 1978-79 and 1979-80 on a fellowship at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington DC. He left Pitzer in 1980 to work at the US Commission on Civil Rights. After his departure from Pitzer, he and his wife remained generous donors to Pitzer, the Pitzer in Ontario Program and the Munroe Center for Social Inquiry. Until his retirement from teaching, he directed the University of California, Berkeley, Washington Program 2003-08 and received the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award. He is survived by his wife, Susan Nall Bales, and their son, Andrew.





# Frank L. Ellsworth

— Years at Pitzer: 1979-1991 —

Former Pitzer President Frank L. Ellsworth, professor of political science and the third president of the College, died peacefully at his home on Sunday, October 20, 2019. He was 76.

At age 36, Ellsworth was the youngest president ever appointed, in 1979, to head a Claremont College. During his 12-year tenure, he was known for his love of students, his upbeat personality and his work in strengthening Pitzer financially in both budget and endowment. He thrived on working with Pitzer students, alumni, faculty and staff. During the same period, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Case Western Reserve University (1981) and the Tree of Life Award from the United Jewish Fund (1991). The Tree of Life Award is the highest humanitarian award the Jewish National Fund presents to an individual each year. It recognizes community involvement, dedication to American-Israeli friendship and devotion to peace.

Prior to Pitzer, Ellsworth worked in many areas of higher education, including as an assistant director of development at Columbia Law School, director of special projects and professor of literature at Sarah Lawrence College, assistant dean of University of Chicago's Law School and an instructor of social science collegiate division at the University of Chicago.

Ellsworth earned his PhD in the history of education at the University of Chicago, his MA in literature at Columbia University, his MEd at Pennsylvania State University in 1967 and his AB in English and religion at Case Western Reserve University in 1965. He received honorary degrees from the Art Center College of Design, Southwestern University School of Law and Pepperdine University.

In spring 1991, Ellsworth recalled that one of his goals when he came to Pitzer in 1979 was "to help establish a multicultural educational program and environment that would foster intercultural understanding and respect."

President Melvin L. Oliver noted, "As we invest ourselves in these deeply held values today, I will think of Frank's words as they echo across the decades to the present."

In his last president's message to appear in *The Participant*, Ellsworth wrote: "This college is distinctive in its willingness to grow, change and take risks. And in my time as president, I have had the opportunity to grow, change and take risks along with the institution in ways that would not have been possible anywhere else."

Ellsworth left Pitzer in 1991 to become president of the Independent Colleges of Southern California for six years. After that, he served as vice president of Capital Research and Management Company and as interim president at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA, and Sofia University in Palo Alto, CA. He lived his dedication to social responsibility in his service on the board of Southwestern University School of Law and the Advisory Committee of the Japanese American Community Cultural Center in Los Angeles. He loved Japanese art and was an avid collector and scholar. He was the founder and chair of Global Partners Institute in Vancouver, BC, and worked closely with Pitzer parent Chikara Kurahashi P'00 from his Pitzer days to his final days. He was also on the Advisory Committee of the International College of the Liberal Arts (iCLA) at Yamanashi University and a Pitzer College Life Trustee.

Oliver recalled first meeting Ellsworth: "I met Frank at my inauguration ceremony in March 2017. I remember his presence at that critical moment in my Pitzer career and appreciated his support and gracious toast to my success. At Pitzer, we will remember Frank Ellsworth in so many ways, perhaps most notably, as we walk past the dedication plaque in The Ellsworth Garden outside the Grove House."

From the Archives



## RADICAL ROOTS of PITZER The Core Values Part 2 of 6: Environmental Sustainability

The term "sustainability" has come to be understood, in a broad and simple way, as the coexistence of the environment and humanity. Within that idea nests the primary elements of sustainability: economy situated inside society and society living in the environment. So, in the end, everything depends on environmental sustainability.

Scientists and average citizens alike have been trying for more than a hundred years to communicate the consequences of human impact on our planet and the seriousness of caretaking the environment. It took another 50 years for concerned and learned men and women of the academy to give birth to environmental studies as a discipline to explore, examine and analyze ecological and environmental issues.

Educating, encouraging and working towards environmental sustainability is a deeply aspirational goal. In that endeavor lies an understanding that the ultimate goal is contingent upon continents, and therefore countries, and therefore cities, and therefore communities, and therefore individuals. It's an

ever-tightening series of concentric circles in which you find yourself at the center. It is here, in developing an understanding of the self inextricably bound to the natural environment, that we find the seeds of Pitzer's Environmental Sustainability Core Value.

Those seeds are the triumvirate of professors John Rodman, Carl Hertel and Paul Shepard, who, understanding the limitations of the individual while believing in the power of the collective, created environmentally and ecologically spiritual, idealistic and actual experiences, endeavors and courses that sing out across our campus today.

The Pitzer Archives 2019–20 exhibit reflects on those seeds in the second of a six-part series exploring the roots of Pitzer's Core Values. It's especially relevant right now to turn our gaze toward the Environmental Sustainability Core Value, as our own Environmental Studies/Analysis field group, one of the first in the country, will turn 50 years old in 2020.

### MYSTERY PHOTO

Do you know...

anything about this photo? We know it took place after the geodesic dome was constructed in 1972 and before the Grove House was moved to campus in 1977. If you have any information, email [archives@pitzer.edu](mailto:archives@pitzer.edu)



Interested in a tour of *The Radical Roots of Pitzer*? Hearing Pitzer History Project interviews? Donating "Pitzeriana"? Please contact Archivist Stacy Elliott at [archives@pitzer.edu](mailto:archives@pitzer.edu) or call 909.621.8810 to make an appointment.

See more Pitzer Archive photos on Instagram and Facebook by searching #PitzerArchives.



**Carmen Fought**  
 Professor of Linguistics  
 Joined Pitzer: 1998  
 Education: PhD, University of Pennsylvania; BA, MA, Stanford University  
 Courses include:  
 • Race, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Teaching  
 • Language and Gender  
 • Topics in Sociolinguistics: Language, Ethnicity, and the Media

Pitzer Professor Profile

# Instrument of Power

Language is a tool we use so often that we forget how powerful it is. Carmen Fought does not.

A native Californian, the Pitzer College linguistics professor grew up bilingual and knew early on she loved languages. She followed high school French and Latin with studying Italian and Japanese at Stanford University.

Then she realized linguistics would allow her to go deeper into language’s nuances. Her specialty became sociolinguistics, the study of society’s impact on speech and communication.

“I think what has made my work meaningful ... is looking at something that other people might have dismissed as unimportant, irrelevant or something that isn’t the ‘right’ thing to study,” she says. “I really thought it was important to connect my work to the real world.”

Fought is often a source for national media because she’s frank, witty and comes bearing hard data. (And unsurprisingly, she can turn a phrase.) She’s liked by students for the same reasons.

One quote in the *Washington Post* concerned her research with former student Karen Eisenhauer ’13 on how infrequently Disney’s movie princesses speak compared to male characters, going back to 1937’s *Snow White*.

“We don’t believe that little girls naturally play a certain way or speak a certain way,” Fought told reporter Jeff Guo. “They’re not born liking a pink dress. At some point we teach them. So a big question is where girls get their ideas about being girls.”

Contrary to what you might presume, *Sleeping Beauty* spoke more in 1959 than Ariel, the flame-haired mermaid who revived the franchise in 1989. Of course, Ariel loses her voice, but females in the five Disney-princess features that followed her spoke even less.

In research presented in 2016, Fought and Eisenhauer analyzed every word of 12 Disney-princess films from 1937 to 2013, sifting them to see the percentage of male speech versus female; how often characters received compliments; and whether those compliments were based on a character’s appearance versus their abilities, performance or skills. It was unassailable data that mattered and made people think, so much so that the research was referenced on *Saturday Night Live*, put them on Disney’s radar, and led to Fought and Eisenhauer’s current book contract with Cambridge University Press. The title: *Language and Gender in Children’s Animated Films*.

Fought has documented such counterintuitive subtleties before, including her 2010 paper, “Language as a Representation of Mexican American Identity,” based on when Latinos became our largest minority ethnic group, with a population no longer centered in the Southwest.

“We are one of the few countries I can think of that does not actually value being multilingual,” Fought says. “I was part of a group of linguists who just wanted to get better information out there about language in these important communities, so that the richness of voices would not be lost.”

Visit the online *Participant* to watch a video profile of Professor Carmen Fought.



Pitzer Student Profile

# A Path to Community

Olivia Campion ’20 had made up her mind: She was going to college on the East Coast.

Campion grew up in California, so the honor-roll student and all-conference athlete had narrowed it down to either NYU or Wesleyan. Her must-haves for college were serious academics and a strong softball program.

It was a chance connection that kept her in the Golden State. As she approaches graduation and her final season at third base with the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens, Campion says visiting Claremont changed her ideas about both college and career.

She was a softball standout in high school, and in the fall of her senior year, she and her father, David, were at a recruiting tournament at Huntington Beach. Pomona-Pitzer Softball Coach JoAnne Ferguson was there too and started chatting with Campion’s dad. Things progressed. Campion visited Pitzer College and sat in on classes.

“I saw how engaged the student body was,” she says. Students were academically driven, but also pursued experiences beyond the classroom. Also, The Claremont Colleges consortium offered a range of opportunities that a single institution couldn’t. She enrolled at Pitzer.

By the second semester, Campion felt at home. Spring athletes return from winter break a week early to start training.

“Meeting the team and being in that environment again, I really felt connected,” Campion said. “It’s been great to cover the left corner with your best friend right next to you,” she says of shortstop Isabella Deatherage PO ’20. Lefty pitcher Alondra Reynoso ’20 is a mutual friend.

Campion is the recipient of the Jeffrey Robert Frum ’12 Scholarship.

Jeffrey was second baseman for the Sagehens and died in an accident shortly after he graduated. His parents, Jeff and Mardi Frum, not only created the scholarship in his memory, they also actively support the Frum Scholars, such as Campion. Her friendship with the Frums is a great example of Pitzer’s exceptional community, Campion said.

“They cared about me and my goals and really invested in me. But also, it made me feel like I wasn’t at Pitzer just for myself—other people wanted me to be here.” Over time, Deatherage and Reynoso also got to know the Frum family.

“We’ll look up and say, ‘OK, we’ve got to be good—the Frums are here,’” Campion said. And they were good: the Sagehens finished 2019 with a 31-12-1 record.

Campion intended to study neuroscience, but after exploratory courses demonstrated how organizational studies melded many disciplines, she changed her major. Also, organizational studies Professor Barbara Junisbai is among her favorites.

“She’s just extremely engaging, but you can identify with her,” Campion said. “Students see how amazing she is and then can find that in themselves.”

Campion interns at Trine, a Culver City marketing firm, where her main focus is the Herbalife24 Triathlon in Los Angeles. It’s prepared her for career opportunities, but she’s weighing whether to earn a graduate degree first. Her dream job? Open a marketing agency and work with professional athletes to develop nonprofit organizations.

“It’s an exciting time to be in the sports industry because diversity and inclusion initiatives are changing the landscape of sport for the better,” she said.

Visit the online *Participant* to watch a video profile of Olivia Campion ’20.



# Bringing Power to the People



**D**evon Hartman '77 is combatting global warming one community at a time. With a lifelong commitment to social justice, Hartman plans to empower local communities by supplying low-income households with inexpensive solar power.

Hartman heads the Claremont-based non-profit, CHERP, Inc. (Community Home Energy Retrofit Project), whose mission is to create local jobs, save money for needy residents and put funds back into the local economies, all while helping to arrest the devastating effects of climate change and environmental injustice. A formidable goal.

This isn't magical thinking. Hartman is an award-winning designer/builder for 35 years and an expert in strategic business development. Now, CHERP is making its audacious goals a reality.

CHERP, through its offshoot project Locally Grown Power (CLGP), has just launched the world's first nonprofit solar panel assembly facility in a strategic partnership between the cities of Pomona and Claremont, CA. With \$2.1 million in seed funding from the State of California, production is expected to begin in June 2020.

Each factory start-up will create 200 direct and 500 indirect living-wage jobs and provide solar energy free of charge to 6,000 of the lowest-income households in the two cities within the first two years of operation. The utility costs saved, estimated at \$80 a month per household, will be redirected back into the community as newfound disposable income—putting \$6.5 million per year back into the local economy—creating a 700% increase in regional economic expansion for every dollar expended on the project after 15 years.

“This is trickle-up economics at its best,” said Hartman. “You stimulate

the people at the lowest income levels first because they will go out and spend the money.” The CLGP facility will serve as a replicable prototype for future non-profit facilities across California, and ultimately across the country.

Hartman credits myriad key players in this endeavor, particularly a team of engineering students, including a Pitzer student who led one of the Harvey Mudd Clinic teams, another Pitzer alumnus who shared his knowledge of the solar energy industry with students and a prominent inventor who created the new, patented solar-panel technology that CHERP is licensing.

A series of awakenings inspired Hartman's journey to bring power to the people.



Students designed a solar plant factory to produce solar panels for CHERP under the direction of Harvey Mudd Professor of Engineering Kash Gokli. Front row, from left: Giulia Castleberg HMC '19, Jacquelyn Aguilera '19 and Priscilla Chu HMC '19; back row, from left: CHERP president and CEO Devon Hartman '77, Chris McElroy HMC '19, Nate Smith HMC '19 and Professor Kash Gokli

## Expanding His Focus

Hartman's worldview expanded at the speed of light during high school in Wichita, KS, as two of his best friends were killed in the Vietnam War. This event catalyzed his new-found civic awareness as the politics of war, civil rights and gender inequality set cities on fire and awakened a generation around the world.

With these socio-cultural issues as his focus, he enrolled at the University of Kansas, and soon realized that he was engaged in a lot of talking and demonstrating but was not doing much to create real change in the world.

So, Hartman dropped out of college and moved to Hollywood, CA, to help a Presbyterian minister open the first halfway houses, or crash pads, in the country for the thousands of young people on the streets who had run away from home seeking to create a better society and ended up on drugs and homeless. “Working to bridge the generational divide and reunite kids with their families was deeply satisfying, and I also learned the value of action over analysis,” he said.

Over the next four years, Hartman attended various colleges, taking diverse classes focused on his interests. Along the way, he moved to Colorado Springs to help open a residential treatment center for street kids and worked with local police departments to create diversion programs to keep juveniles out of prison. “Those were tumultuous cultural times—at the same time, both deeply creative and destructive—full of tremendous opportunity to heal serious cultural deficits,” he said.

**“I wanted to excite people about the fact that there are wonderful things to be done that can also fight global warming.”**

—Devon Hartman '77

## The Pitzer Experience

“I wanted to continue to help heal communities by becoming a clinical psychologist,” he said. This meant he had to commit himself fully to earning a degree. He found the perfect fit in Pitzer College, where he could create his own special major in psychology and political and social activism.

“The wonderful thing about Pitzer was I could study at the other colleges as well—psychology at Claremont McKenna, French at Scripps and philosophy at the School of Theology,” he said. “It was a really broad education, what Pitzer is known for.” He took French because he felt that if he was going to be a clinical psychologist, “the whole idea was to learn someone else's language, and what better way than learning another language for real.” His passion for the language compelled him to enroll in a Pitzer program in Paris, where he ended up staying for one and a half years.

## Architecture Called

The Paris study abroad experience redirected his life again when a Parisian acquaintance invited him to help restore his 500-year-old family castle in Burgundy. Since he'd already been doing carpentry and interior decorating to help put himself through college, he accepted. He apprenticed under a stone mason who instructed him how to ensure that every stone he placed and action he took on the structure would last another 500 years.

“I fell in love with architecture and craftsmanship,” Hartman said. “I decided that this hobby of mine—carpentry and design—should be my career.” When he returned from France, he went to night school in architecture and apprenticed himself to the best builders he knew in the area. He became a general contractor and opened his architectural design and construction company in 1979, seeking to re-unite the fields of architecture and construction in the United States based on the historic design/build model of cathedral builders in the rest of the world.

“That's what I did in Claremont for 35 years—working with my partner and best friend, Bill Baldwin.” They co-founded the highly successful, award-winning HartmanBaldwin Design/Build, a full-service architecture, construction, interior design and historic restoration company.



From left, Alan Williamson, CHERP director of solar installation; Hartman, CHERP president and CEO; Kent Kernahan, inventor and president, IdealPV

## Eye-Opener

In 2003, Hartman read an article by Ed Mazria, an architect in Chicago, who looked at different sectors in terms of energy. Mazria discovered that buildings use more energy and are more responsible for the proliferation of greenhouse gases on the planet than any other sector, including transportation.

“This was shocking,” said Hartman. “I realized that after 35 years, we had been creating beautiful award-winning buildings that were harming the planet, not helping. We had been building structures more to resemble cardboard boxes than thermoses. A cardboard box obviously takes much more energy to keep hot or cold, while a thermos takes very small amounts of energy.”

“There are a number of things you can do in design to make buildings massively more energy efficient. Then, if you have an energy-efficient building, the comfort level of the occupants goes through the roof and the indoor air quality becomes significantly better. People’s asthma and respiratory problems were going away when we retrofitted buildings for energy efficiency.”

## Efficiency First

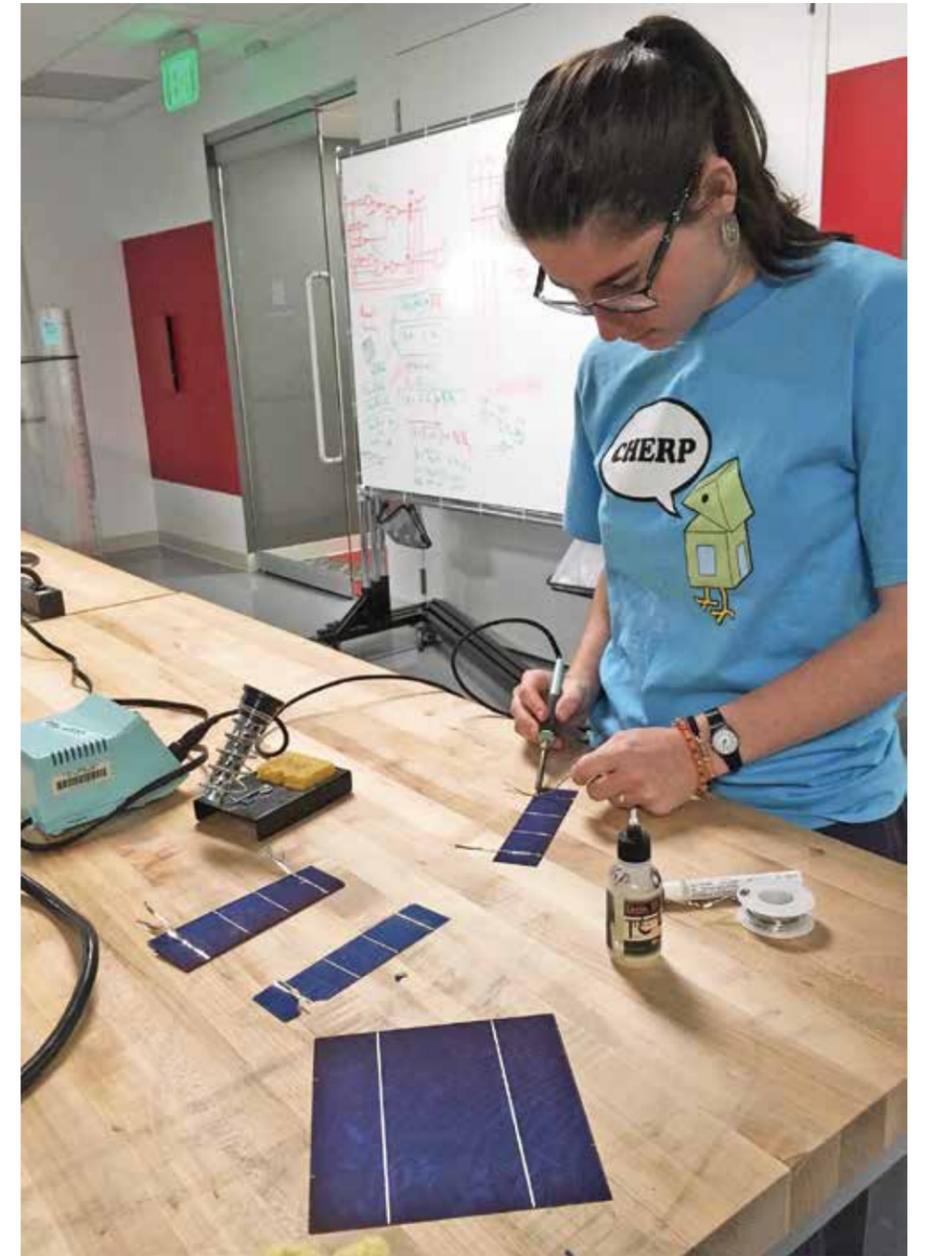
In 2010, Hartman redirected his own energy. He retired from his architectural firm to fight global warming. He started the nonprofit CHERP to eliminate the barriers to meeting national and local energy-efficiency goals. “I wanted to excite people about the fact that there are wonderful things to be done that can also fight global warming,” he said.

CHERP, with Hartman as president and CEO, focused on educating and engaging the community, retrofitting buildings and teaching builders and homeowners alike to “reduce before you produce.”

“You want to reduce the wasted energy in a building before you add solar panels,” explained Hartman. “Because if you retrofit your home to save, say 50% of your energy use, not only do you become more comfortable and reduce your energy bills, you reduce wasted energy. Then, when you put solar panels on your home, you need 50% fewer solar panels.”

“Renewable energy is not the panacea. Energy efficiency combined with renewable energy is how we’re going to bend that curve of global warming back down to tolerable levels.”

Hartman traveled the state, giving lectures on energy and global warming. Then, he met a man who would shift his life’s direction once again.



Students in Harvey Mudd College’s Clinic Program examine solar cells. From left, Smith, Castleberg, Aguilera, McElroy and Chu

**“Environmental justice is not just a moral issue—it’s an economic issue. And the fastest way to stimulate a local economy is to increase disposable personal income at the lowest income level. That’s what we can do with renewable energy.”**

—Hartman



**“One thing that  
CHERP does  
incredibly well is  
bring power back to  
the people.”**

—*Jacquelyn Aguilera '19*



Three Pitzer alumni from separate decades join forces in a project that aids local communities and fights climate change. From left, Jacquelyn Aguilera '19, Mark Goscenski '05 and Devon Hartman '77

**“What Devon has engineered  
is an extraordinary example  
of interdisciplinarity as  
applied to Pitzer’s core values.  
In one big virtuous circle,  
this project ties together  
environmental stewardship,  
economic development, scientific  
innovation and social justice—  
just remarkable.”**

—*Donald Gould, Pitzer College trustee*

## Serendipity Strikes

In 2015, Kent Kernahan, an inventor and serial entrepreneur from Montana with 74 patents to his name, was in town visiting relatives when he learned of Hartman’s talk to the Sierra Club and League of Women Voters in San Clemente, CA. Kernahan decided to go. Inspired by Devon’s presentation, he approached Hartman after the lecture. Sharing stories and similar goals, the two hit it off instantly.

Kernahan had had an awakening of his own several years prior. In 2011, at the bottom of the recession, he realized that venture capitalists had purchased every one of his then 55 patents and were monetizing them overseas. These were important, highly profitable patents—including some that affect most cell phones.

Kernahan believed that the US recession was caused, in large part, by the aggregation of business operations in multinational corporations over the last 50 years, with capital chasing cheap labor overseas and gutting local economies. He decided he would never again have one of his patents monetized overseas and that his next invention would be used to revitalize local economies. And so began his search for what that might be.

Understanding power electronics, Kernahan discovered there was an Achilles heel in solar technology that few were aware of.

“From the very first silicon cell, there’s been a problem with the way electrons are taken off that cell,” said Hartman. “Solar cells now tend toward ‘reverse bias,’ which creates hot spots, which in turn makes solar panels less efficient.” Kernahan went back to study Einstein’s original calculations for his law of the photoelectric effect. Kernahan discovered that if he inversed the relationship between conduction and voltage, he could eliminate the problem of hot spots and was issued that patent in 2015.

To fully exploit the absence of hot spots, Kernahan then re-designed the architecture of solar panels to simplify the wiring, eliminate materials, reduce costs and dramatically increase output. This also made the panels easier to assemble—perfect for a local, nonprofit setting. Kernahan ensured his new panel technology was protected under federal patent law and could not be monetized overseas; it can only be licensed to local nonprofits in US cities.

Kernahan had been looking for the right nonprofit to deploy his new solar-panel technology. His goal was to produce and install the panels in a local setting through a business model called Locally Grown Power (LGP), where profits would flow back into the community. As the two men talked in San Clemente, Hartman realized LGP could be CHERP’s capstone initiative.

The initiative became CHERP LPG, with Hartman as president & CEO and with Kernahan licensing the technology and sitting on the Advisory Board.

## Harnessing Student Power

CHERP needed a facility to produce the new solar panels. The Pomona School District offered an old warehouse building, but the factory still needed to be designed. Hartman turned to The Claremont Colleges—specifically Harvey Mudd College’s Clinic Program, where students solve real-world, technical problems for clients in industry and nonprofits. A team of five engineering students, including Pitzer’s Jacquelyn Aguilera '19, were charged with using Kernahan’s technology to design a solar-panel factory where local people could be employed, including at-risk youth, veterans, unemployed adults, volunteers and people with different abilities.

To proceed, the students sought advice and expertise in the solar energy industry.

As team leader, Aguilera located Mark Goscenski '05 when she was looking for resources on machinery. She found he was not only well versed in the area but also a Pitzer alumnus willing to share his wide breadth of industry knowledge. Goscenski represents companies that sell products to the solar industry and has visited most of the solar manufacturers in the US. He gave the students technical guidance on what equipment is essential and equipment specifications to improve manufacturing efficiency. He arranged for the students to visit a solar panel factory in Silicon Valley; the students also visited a factory in Mexico, made possible through Engineering Clinic Director and Professor Kash Gokli.

“It was a great opportunity for the students to learn the nuts and bolts of manufacturing,” said Goscenski, who parlayed his major in art history at Pitzer and study of German to engage in business development for European suppliers and US customers.

Because one of CHERP’s main goals was to create jobs to stimulate the local economy, the students designed the facility to maximize the number of people who could work there, while still maintaining the optimal layout for production. “We went over every cubic foot of the layout,” said Aguilera. “We took into account different motor abilities, even different heights of workers.”

Aguilera designed a station that could be used by someone in a wheelchair. “In manufacturing, accessibility isn’t always a priority,” she said. “Devon’s dedication around the needs of the community informed the design. We applied the manufacturing knowledge.”

“I feel blessed to have participated and chosen to lead part of this project,” said Aguilera, a first-gen student and child of immigrants. “One thing that CHERP does incredibly well is center on the communities most impacted by the climate crisis and, thus, bring power back to the people.”

## Bright Future

CHERP plans to have three factories in process by the end of 2020 and 10 facilities the year after; talks are already underway with several communities, including the City of Pasadena.

“Everything we do is designed to be replicable,” Hartman said. “We’re hoping for a viral expansion. The beautiful thing about starting in California is that we have a very rich legislative environment around these issues. There are literally billions of dollars stacking up at the state level to be spent on greenhouse gas mitigation, renewable energy and environmental justice. Twenty-five percent of all cap and trade revenue is earmarked under SB 535 to be spent on environmental justice issues. Just under SB 535, there’s \$2 billion earmarked to be spent on disadvantaged communities.”

Hartman expects little to no pushback from the for-profit solar industry, which sells to the top 20% of households based on income. “We’re not competing with the existing solar installation market.”

CHERP is a true social enterprise, which means that under its IRS nonprofit classification, it can also have some for-profit ventures. “We’ll actually sell solar panels to existing solar installation companies who would love to sell locally made US panels,” said Hartman. “They’ll be the best solar panels in the world, and CHERP’s profits from those sales will go back into the non-profit side of the company supplying panels for the lowest-income households.”

Part of Hartman’s enthusiasm is fueled by the strategic partnerships CHERP has with more than 50 local community organizations, including each of The Claremont Colleges; the University of La Verne; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; and the Pomona and Claremont Unified School Districts. But what pleases him most is the level of student involvement. “Part of the joy and my inspiration has been seeing early on that the students have always understood how important our mission is and are

willing to help. A lot of the success of CHERP has come because of our student interns,” he said.

Hartman believes that the time has come to strategically combine multiple initiatives that create an outsized synergistic impact. He pointed out that people have been working on parallel paths: in carbon mitigation, local economic expansion, environmental justice and technology.

“We’ve now reached a time where being able to pull all of the paths together into one strategic initiative will create tremendous synergies and outsized benefits in our local communities. We now have people around the world who are 100% committed to taking this global threat and turning it into an extraordinary opportunity to make huge cultural changes that affect hundreds of millions of people. CLGP will have a massive reduction effect on greenhouse gases, create thousands of jobs, bring back local economies and city centers around the country and seriously address our environmental justice issues, all at the same time.”

Hartman believes environmental justice is not just a moral issue—it’s an economic opportunity issue. And the fastest way to stimulate a local economy is to increase disposable personal income at the lowest household income level.

“That’s what we can do with renewable energy,” he said.

## Circle of Power

Pitzer College trustee and Claremont business leader Donald Gould, who is on CHERP’s advisory board, sums up Hartman’s work:

“What Devon has engineered is an extraordinary example of interdisciplinarity as applied to Pitzer’s core values. In one big virtuous circle, this project ties together environmental stewardship, economic development, scientific innovation and social justice—just remarkable.”





# Rah Rah Pitzer Fund



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# Class Notes

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

2010s

## 1970s .....

'79 **Karen Hochman Brown** presented the mixed-media and multi-media exhibit *Vexilla Florum*, which honored women who were the keepers of home and peace during times of war, this October at Gallery 825 in Los Angeles. Her next show, *Perceive Me*, runs from January 25 to February 25, 2020, at the Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery at California State University, Los Angeles.

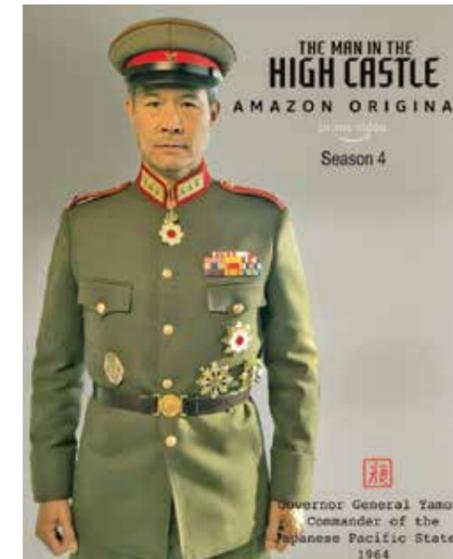


## 1980s .....

'81 **Ruett Foster** is pictured in front of a project at the Tehachapi Correctional Institution. Foster collaborated on this project with the artist JR, film producer and criminal justice reform advocate Scott Budnick and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



'82 **Bridget Baker** was elected as the first female director of LiveXLive Media, Inc., a live social music platform connecting “bands, brands, and fans.”



'84 **Bruce Locke** joined the cast of Amazon Prime's top-rated drama *The Man in the High Castle*. Based loosely on Philip K. Dick's novel of the same name, the series explores a dystopian world in which World War II had a different outcome. Locke was cast as Governor General Yamori, who held command over the entire Japanese Pacific States occupation.

## Share Your News With Pitzer!

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

Email: [alumni@pitzer.edu](mailto:alumni@pitzer.edu)  
 Mail: Pitzer College Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement / Class Notes

1050 N. Mills Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711

\*Submissions may be edited for content and length.

## 1990s .....

'91 **Kate Post Spitzer** received an Institutional Peabody Award for her work on *The Daily Show*. Spitzer joined the Southern California-focused Spectrum News 1 team in October 2019 as the guest producer for the new local channel, a sister station to New York-focused Spectrum News NY1.



'92 **Stephen Verbiscar-McCamman** accepted a fellowship at the Institute of the Americas at the University of California, San Diego. He will focus on developing international and regional policies for the cannabis industry in Latin America. Verbiscar-McCamman's scripted dramatic series about the role of cannabis legalization in the war on drugs is in development.

**Cristina Villalón** was featured in *Aspire Design and Home* magazine in November. Villalón is a leading designer in Puerto Rico and started her own architecture and interior design firm, Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón, with her husband in 2012. She is the first Puerto Rican designer to be featured by *Aspire*.

'93 **Patrick Gehlen** won a 2019 Emmy Award for Outstanding Special Visual Effects for his work as the previsualization lead on “The Bells” episode of *Game of Thrones*.

'99 **Griselda Suarez** was honored with an Excellence in the Arts and Culture Award by the Long Beach Hispanic Association. Suarez serves as the executive director and CEO of the Arts Council for Long Beach.



## 2000s .....

'00 **Jeanne M. Gural** was named executive director for The Wilderness Center in Canton, OH, in November 2019, joining the center from her most recent position as executive director of the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge in Medford, NJ. She will be responsible for the direction of the center's many education, conservation and community programs.



'04 **Marnie Benney** curated two group art exhibitions for the SciArt Initiative in 2019: *Networked*, which was on display at the Nook Gallery in Los Angeles during July and August, and *Weather the Weather*, which will run through January 10, 2020, at the New York Hall of Science.



'05 **Fraser Wirth** and his spouse, Karen Wirth, welcomed their son, Maxwell, in summer 2019. Maxwell joins his big sister, Harlow.



'06 **Katie Ryan** was featured in an article in *The New York Times Style Magazine* for her signature beaded-fruit sculptures.



'08 **Eddie Pickett III** was a contributing author in the book *Straddling Class in the Academy: 26 Stories of Students, Administrators, and Faculty from Poor and Working-Class Backgrounds and their Compelling Lessons for Higher Education Policy and Practice*.

'09 **Liliana Johansen**, a project coordinator and senior public administrative analyst at UCLA Health, is working with a team on The WISDOM Study, which seeks to identify the best way to screen women for breast cancer. The study aims to determine if personalized screening is better than annual mammography and learn how to improve detection while reducing over-diagnosis and false-positive readings.



Jason Engel '13 and Mattie Ross '12

'11 **Chris Gamel** participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions program over the summer, focusing on the study of desert and marine landscapes in Baja California. A senior instructor of science at Culver Academies in Culver, ID, Gamel is a graduate student in the Global Field Program at Miami University.

'12 **Christopher Jevsevar** was named an associate at Fisher Philips, a national labor and employment law firm that represents employers, at its San Diego location. Jevsevar earned his JD from Loyola Law School in 2016.

'12 **Katie Mudd** married Christopher Murillo on September 28, 2019.

'12 **Mattie Ross** and **Jason Engel '13** were married on August 23, 2019, in Colorado Springs, CO, with Ross's aunt, Stephanie Roderick, officiating. Ross and Engel met as Pitzer students and both worked for the College before moving to Colorado.

'13 **Kymerli Corpue** began a PhD program in English at Howard University in fall 2019 following completion of her MA in English at the College of Arts and Letters at California State University, Los Angeles. Corpue will focus on Afrofuturism, a philosophy and genre that infuses elements of African and black cultures and experiences into science fiction and fantasy.



'13 **Abby Kramer** and **Abe Sprague '13**, in a Pitzer College alumni love story, were married in June 2019 in Bodega Bay, CA.

'16 **Lindsey Burkart-Lima** recently married and had a baby named Rumi Rose. She and her husband, Amin Paryavi, started a consciousness-based company called ProVibes, a 360 digital marketing company specializing in social media marketing, video and course production, sound engineering and event management.

'17 **Kevin Jordan**, an All-SCIAC catcher on the Pomona-Pitzer Baseball team during his time at Pitzer, serves as a football analytics assistant with the Arizona Cardinals NFL team.

'18 **Sophie Reingold's** zine, *Bagel Love*, was published in *The Seattle Times*. *Bagel Love* explores the relationship between her family and bagels and demonstrates how they celebrate their ancestors, history and culture through their love of this boiled and baked bread circle. *Bagel Love* can also be found at [sophiereingold.com](http://sophiereingold.com).



Katie Mudd '12



Abby Kramer '13 and Abe Sprague '13



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...facing the unknown



This is...**PURPOSE**

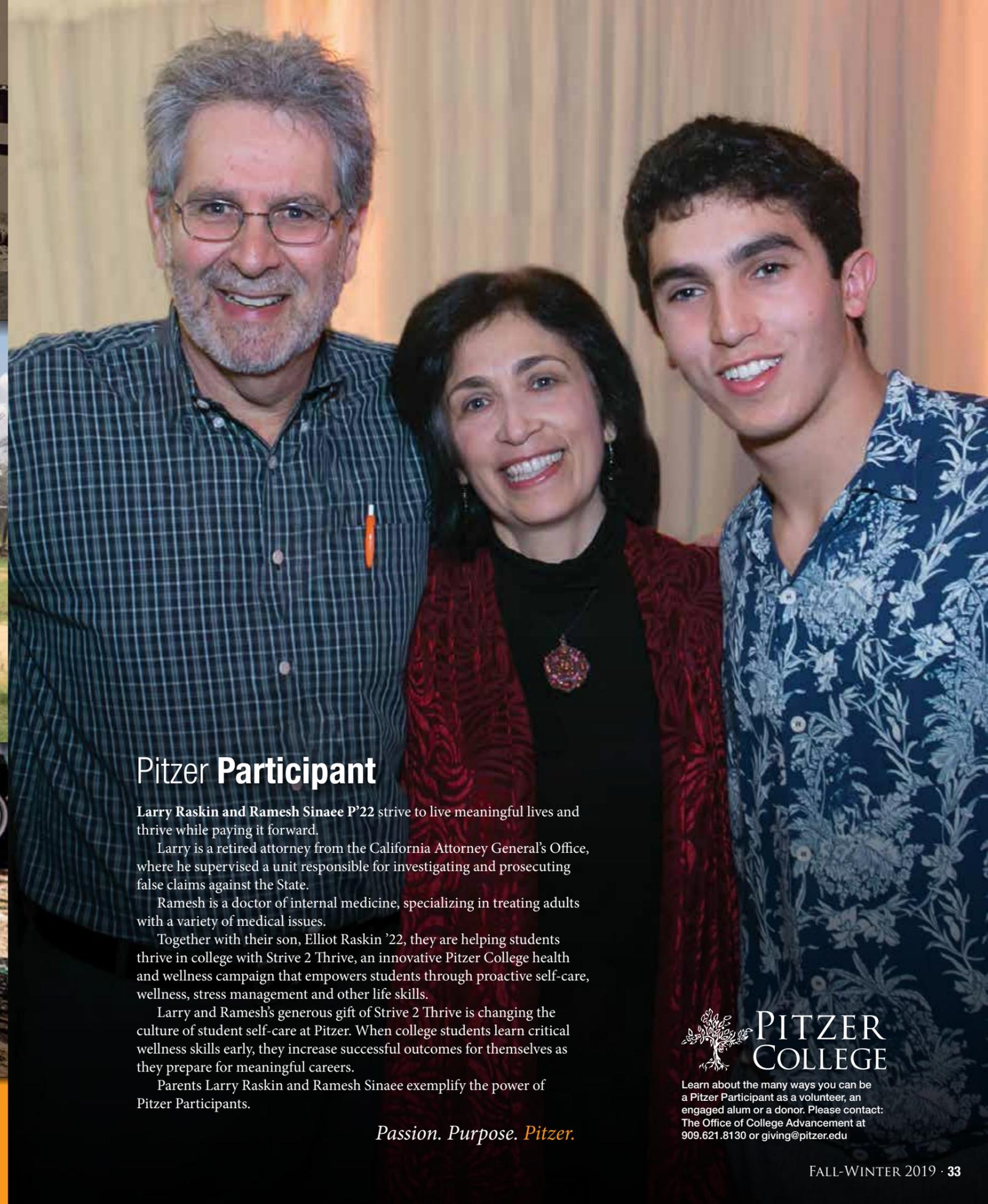
...standing up for intercultural understanding



This is...

...student engagement in action

**This is...**



## Pitzer Participant

Larry Raskin and Ramesh Sinaee P'22 strive to live meaningful lives and thrive while paying it forward.

Larry is a retired attorney from the California Attorney General's Office, where he supervised a unit responsible for investigating and prosecuting false claims against the State.

Ramesh is a doctor of internal medicine, specializing in treating adults with a variety of medical issues.

Together with their son, Elliot Raskin '22, they are helping students thrive in college with Strive 2 Thrive, an innovative Pitzer College health and wellness campaign that empowers students through proactive self-care, wellness, stress management and other life skills.

Larry and Ramesh's generous gift of Strive 2 Thrive is changing the culture of student self-care at Pitzer. When college students learn critical wellness skills early, they increase successful outcomes for themselves as they prepare for meaningful careers.

Parents Larry Raskin and Ramesh Sinaee exemplify the power of Pitzer Participants.

*Passion. Purpose. Pitzer.*



Learn about the many ways you can be a Pitzer Participant as a volunteer, an engaged alum or a donor. Please contact: The Office of College Advancement at 909.621.8130 or [giving@pitzer.edu](mailto:giving@pitzer.edu)



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