

## Pitzer College

### Fossil Fuel Divestment-Climate Action Model Press Conference

April 12, 2014

Los Angeles Press Club

#### Speaker Bios



**Laura Skandera Trombley** has been president of Pitzer College since 2002. Under her leadership, Pitzer's academic and co-curricular programs have flourished with an infusion of research funding and the creation of centers such as the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability at Pitzer College. She has overseen a radical transformation of Pitzer's campus, including the construction of eight mixed-use residential buildings that have earned either LEED Platinum or Gold certification—the US Green Building Council's highest ratings. During her tenure, Pitzer's endowment has increased by 151 percent and the College has received more Fulbright Fellowships per 1,000 students than any other college or university in the US. President Trombley earned her BA in English and humanities and her MA in English from Pepperdine University and her PhD from USC.



**Robert Redford** is an ardent conservationist and environmentalist, a man who stands for social responsibility and political involvement, and an artist and businessman who is a staunch supporter of uncompromised creative expression. He is recognized the world over for the roles he has played and the projects he has directed or produced throughout a distinguished stage and film career. Redford has nurtured more than a generation of innovative voices in independent film and documentaries through his nonprofit Sundance Institute and Film Festival. His life-long passion for nature and issues of justice has resulted in Redford being widely acknowledged as a highly effective and dedicated political and environmental activist.



**Donald Gould** is the president and chief investment officer of Gould Asset Management, which he founded in 1999. He has a broad understanding of financial asset management, gained over three decades of industry experience. Gould is recognized for his continued development and application of innovative investment strategies designed to meet the needs of real-world investors. Gould holds a BA in economics from Pomona College and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He is a visiting lecturer in portfolio management at the Robert Day School of Economics and Finance at Claremont McKenna College. A trustee of Pitzer College since 2006, Gould is chair of the Pitzer College Board of Trustees' investment committee and the Climate Change Working Group.



**Brinda Sarathy** is associate professor of environmental analysis at Pitzer College, where she teaches US environmental policy, California water politics and environmental justice. In 2013, Sarathy was asked to be part of the William R. Gianelli Water Leaders Class, a selective one-year program sponsored by the Water Education Foundation, which educates emerging community leaders about water issues. Sarathy received her PhD in environmental science, policy and management from the University of California, Berkeley, and held a post-doctoral position at the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States. Sarathy is the author of *Pineros: Latino Labour and the Changing Face of Forestry in the Pacific Northwest* and her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Forestry*, *Society and Natural Resources* and *Policy Sciences*, among other publications.



**Jess Grady-Benson '14** is an environmental analysis major and music minor at Pitzer College. In the fall of 2012, she co-founded the Claremont Colleges Divestment Campaign and serves as the strategy coordinator for the team of 30 active members. Last summer, she traveled to Istanbul, Turkey as a member of the US team at Global Power Shift and helped ignite the UK Fossil Free movement at the People & Planet Summer Gathering. This year, she serves as the student representative for Pitzer's Climate Change Working Group. Her research on the fossil fuel divestment movement will culminate in a senior thesis that seeks to illuminate the possibilities and limitations of divestment as a tactic for climate justice. After graduation, Grady-Benson hopes to continue organizing around climate and economic justice issues. She is a 2013 Udall Scholar and a Mellon Foundation Environmental Research Fellow.