



ARTHUR DUBINSKY:
The Life and Times
of Pitzer College



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Organized by Ciara Ennis
Founders Room, McConnell Center, Pitzer College
January 21—May 17, 2014



Table of Contents

ARTHUR DUBINSKY: The Life and Times of Pitzer College

5

MINIATURES OF REALITY
Laura Skandera Trombley

9-109

PHOTOGRAPHS
The Life and Times of Pitzer College

9 Classroom



111

ARTHUR DUBINSKY: WHAT
WE KNOW OF HIS LIFE AND
TIMES AT PITZER COLLEGE
Stacy Elliott

17 Commencement



29 Construction



41 Dorms, Doors, Offices



114

Acknowledgements

51 Extracurricular



81 Governance



97 Special Events





Miniatures of Reality

LAURA SKANDERA TROMBLEY

1964, CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA—At the time, Pitzer College was more of a concept than a reality. The 11 founding faculty were working collectively with Pitzer's first president, John Atherton, to create a system of education that would go into effect in the fall of that year. There were enormous expectations, as Werner Warmbrunn, the College's first professor of history, recollected in our last conversation: "We wanted this to be a place where everyone was nurtured; we were trying to be so careful to get it right."

Watching this tumult of ideas, with aspirations being realized and theory put to practice, was Arthur Dubinsky, Pitzer College's "official" photographer who took photographs on campus from 1964 until his death in 1985, with the majority of his work recording the College's first decade. As Susan Sontag called out in her seminal essay, *On Photography*: "Photographed images do not seem to be statements about the world so much as pieces of it, miniatures of reality that anyone can make or acquire." This wonderfully curated exhibit by Ciara Ennis, Pitzer College Art Galleries director and curator, displays the earliest "pieces" of Pitzer College: a dream, a vision, a women's college, a progressive institution, the newest member The Claremont Colleges—all captured by this child of Russian immigrants, a street photographer who documented the plight of migrant workers.

March 27, 1965. Meeting with faculty, trustees and President John W. Atherton (1963-70) in the president's conference room in Scott Hall (1964). An architectural model shows Scott (1964), Fletcher (1965), Bernard (1966) and Avery (1969) Halls, along with an additional building, which was ultimately not constructed.

Over the years, Dubinsky took approximately 4,000 photographs of the people, buildings and grounds that constitute Pitzer College and we are indeed the fortunate inheritors of his photographic expertise. Some viewers will recognize friends and faculty, others will see ghosts of their younger selves. One realization that I had leafing through the images was just how small and fragile we were then. The first graduating Class of 1965 consisted of three women; the Class of 1966 boasted four; the Class of 1967, a robust eight. Yet we were a community of believers, as we remain today.

As you view this beautifully selected collection, look to the edges of the images as well as into the faces of the subjects, young and younger. You will see classic images of 1960s California culture, architecture and dress, and glimpse the seeds of a college that blossomed so fruitfully over the last half century. Enjoy and marvel.

September 21, 1964. Students discussing *More in Anger*, a collection of essays by Marya Mannes, in the Sanborn living room on Pitzer's opening day.





CLASSROOM:
The Life and Times
of Pitzer College







CLASSROOM: The Life and Times of Pitzer College



Page 9: December 1965. Carolers sing in a classroom.



Page 10: August 15, 1968. Students gathered in a classroom.

Page 11: April 24, 1965. Professor of Classics Stephen L. Glass (1964-2011) addresses students in a Greek mythology class. Poet and first commencement speaker James Dickey sits near the door.

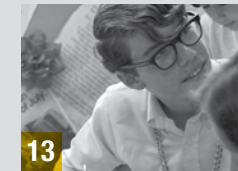


Page 12: February 18, 1969. Students in a life drawing art class with Assistant Professor of Art Dennis Parks (1968-74).

Page 13: August 15, 1968. These two pictures show unidentified students from The Claremont Colleges in a Pitzer classroom.



Page 14: March 19, 1978. A student in a classroom.





COMMENCEMENT:
The Life and Times
of Pitzer College









COMMENCEMENT: The Life and Times of Pitzer College



Page 17: June 6, 1965. Pitzer's first three graduates, Nicole Scheel, Katherine Gibbs and Marlene Allen Bates, stand as Dean Charlotte Elmott greets them during commencement.



Page 18: June 6, 1965. Pitzer's first commencement. In front of Sanborn Hall (1964-2008), keynote speaker James Dickey addresses the three graduating students.

Page 19: June 5, 1966. Pitzer's second commencement graduates, left to right: Fran Sibel, Pat Silver, Sarah Smith and Kassand Stephani in front of Sanborn Hall (1964-2008).

Page 20: June 11, 1967. Pitzer's third commencement.



Page 21: June 11, 1967. Pitzer's third commencement graduates, left to right: Taffy Squires, Shan Du Boisson, Johnna Davilla, Polly Jone, Judy Wallingford, Carolyn Wettergreen, Chris Kendall and Joan Zeifert.

Page 22: June 4, 1972. Pitzer's eighth commencement.

Page 22/23: June 4, 1972. Pitzer's eighth commencement.

Page 24: June 4, 1972. Faculty processional during Pitzer's eighth commencement in the Scott Hall Courtyard.

Page 25: June 4, 1972. Pitzer's eighth commencement.





CONSTRUCTION:
The Life and Times
of Pitzer College









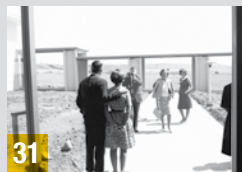
CONSTRUCTION: The Life and Times of Pitzer College



Page 29: August 25, 1968. Recently constructed McConnell Center (1968) with Holden (1965) and Sanborn (1964-2008) Halls on the left and right before the construction of Pellissier Mall (the Mounds).



Page 30: June 1964. Assistant to the President for Development and Director of Student Aid William E. Frenaye (1963-69), on the construction site of Sanborn Hall (1964-2008).

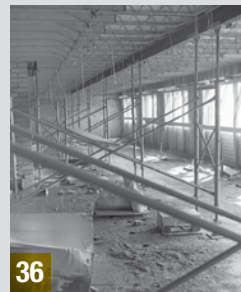


Page 32: September 16, 1965. Construction of Fletcher Hall (1965) and the Scott Hall Courtyard.



Page 32/33: September 26, 1968. Three students walk from Mead Hall (1967) toward Scott Hall (1964) across the not-yet constructed Pellissier Mall (the Mounds) on the first day of fall semester classes.

Page 34: September 21, 1965. A student walks toward Holden Hall (1965). Scott Hall (1964) and the construction of Bernard (1966) and Fletcher (1965) Halls are in the background.



Page 35: September 26, 1968. Newly built McConnell Center (1968). Pellissier Mall (the Mounds) under construction in the foreground.



Page 36: Left: March 19, 1965. Holden Hall (1965) under construction. Center: September 26, 1968. A “demilitarized zone” sign in the dirt on the construction site of Pellissier Mall (the Mounds) in front of Mead Hall (1967).



Page 37: January 28, 1969. Newly constructed stone fountain in Pellissier Mall (the Mounds).



DORMS, DOORS, OFFICES:
The Life and Times
of Pitzer College





Responsible Parenthood Only
LEGALIZE ABORTION

MORE FUN...
with YOUR GUNS
The Year Ahead

216

Students Get Better
Grades With Less Study

PLEASE

The law against
smoking is
enforced in
principle and
enforceable in
practice

USA VICTORIA
PARLA RIZA

CAMBRIDGE CORO
BYN BATHING

Just as a historical

Don't buy California grapes

Every California grape
you buy helps keep this
child hungry.

CHECK WHAT YOUR FAMILY HAS NOW
WITH WHAT YOU NEED FOR EMERGENCY



CAUTION
WATCH
YOUR STEP

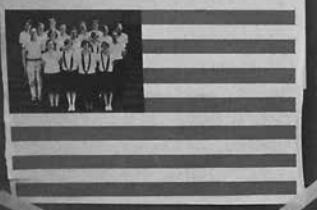
K 128



WARNING!
ARMED GUARDS
PATROLING THIS PROPERTY
PER CO.
ED 2-7846



THE AMERICAN DREAM:
Whiter Right to the White House



K 120

Martha
Starr



MEET
CADET CAPTAIN
LOUIE FRYER
PENN
MILITARY
ACADEMY

LAST YEAR HE...

WHAT IS YOUR SON'S FUTURE?

HELP KEEP
THIS PLACE
CLEAN

106

From College & University News Clippings
Saul
Alinsky
thurs. 11:00
McKenna
Auditorium
"the crisis
facing the
nation & cities"

JOHN
MURPHY
PHILOSOPHER - KING - IN-RESIDENCE
"I WISH IF WE COULD CONTROL... SOME
PROBINGLY MEY, THAT WOULD INCREASE
LARRY CONVICTION TO THE WHITE COMMUNITY"
A DIVISION OF CHOCOLATE PENNY
ENTERPRISES, INC.

DORMS, DOORS, OFFICES: The Life and Times of Pitzer College



Page 41: January 25, 1966. Professor of Political Studies and eventual Professor of Environmental Studies John R. Rodman (1965-2000) in his office.



Page 42: Spring 1969. A student in a dorm room.



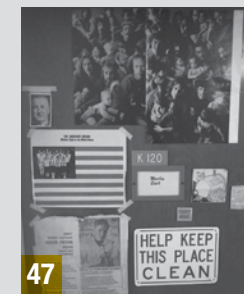
Page 43: February 1969. Collage from a studio art class.

Page 44/45: September 16, 1965. Associate Professor of Social Psychology Edward E. Sampson (1965-66) in his office.



Page 46: Left: January 28, 1969. Professor John R. Rodman's office door. Right: 1969. A dorm room door in Holden Hall (1965).

Page 47: Left: Spring semester 1969. A dorm room door in Holden Hall (1965). Right: January 28, 1969. Office door of Instructor in Political Studies John E. Murphy (1968-70).





EXTRA CURRICULAR:
The Life and Times
of Pitzer College









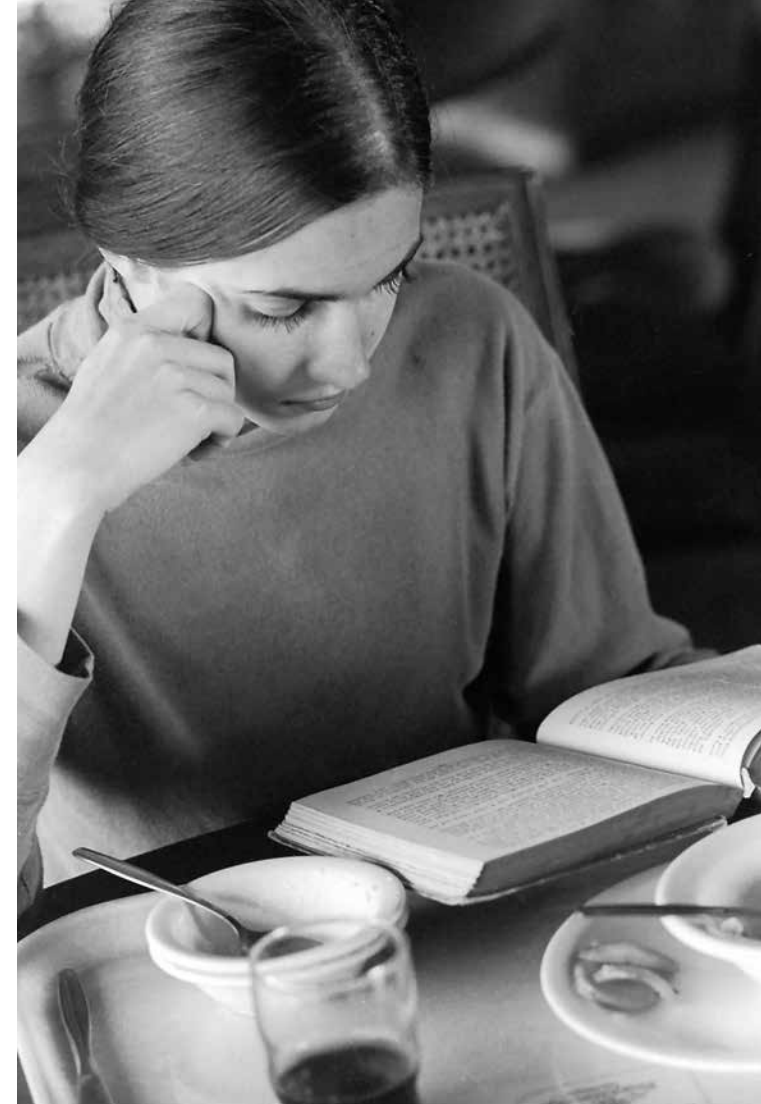
















EXTRA CURRICULAR: The Life and Times of Pitzer College



51

Page 51: February 4, 1966. Susan Hall '69 during a seminar/retreat at Mt. Baldy.



52/53

Page 52/53: December 1964. Students in Sanborn Hall (1964-2008) display a mock-up for a new design of Sound Off!, a mimeographed bulletin that was established during the first week of classes to ensure necessary communication throughout the Pitzer community. The first issues were publications from the Dean of the College—pertinent instructions and suggestions addressing the confusion felt by many during the College's first months. With time, Sound Off! became a means of free expression. As controversial issues arose, and strong opinions with them, it provided the opportunity to publish new ideas and views.



53

Page 53: April 24, 1965. A student on a motorcycle.



54

Page 54: February 4, 1966. Students at a seminar/retreat at Mt. Baldy.



54/55

Page 54/55: February 4, 1966. Students discussing governance during a seminar/retreat at Mt. Baldy.



Page 55: February 4, 1966. Mary Gibbs '69 leads students and faculty down a dirt road during a seminar/retreat at Mt. Baldy.



Page 56: February 4, 1966. Students at a seminar/retreat at Mt. Baldy.



Page 57: February 4, 1966. Assistant to the President for Development and Director of Student Aid William E. Frenaye (1963-69) with students during a seminar/retreat at Mt. Baldy.

Page 58: February 4, 1966. A student playing guitar during a seminar/retreat at Mt. Baldy.

Page 58/59: February 4, 1966. Instructor in Humanities Robert F. Duval (1965-76) speaks in a crowd of students along with fellow faculty member John R. Rodman (1965-2000) during a seminar/retreat at Mt. Baldy.



Page 59: February 4, 1966. A student at a first-year seminar/retreat on Mt. Baldy.

Page 60: 1969. Students with a sculpture during spring semester.

Page 61: February 20, 1968. Harriett Crosby '68, Jean Singer '71, and Yolanda Retter '70 working on a papier maché project with an unknown student in front of Mead Hall (1967).

Page 62: December 5, 1968. Professor of Art and later of Environmental Design Carl H. Hertel (1966-94) chats with students while Instructor in Sociology William Russell Ellis (1966-69) carries a child through an arched entry during a senior party.

Page 63: December 5, 1968. Instructor in Sociology William Russell Ellis (1966-69) plays the guitar for a group of students during a senior party.

Page 64: December 5, 1968. Students mingle during a senior party.





Page 65: December 5, 1968. Carol Ann Cozzens '69 with Instructor in Sociology William Russell Ellis (1966-69) during a senior party.



Page 66: December 5-6, 1970. Students in a Volkswagen bus during a student trip to the Mojave Desert.



Page 67: December 5-6, 1970. A band playing in Valyermo, Calif. during a student trip to the Mojave Desert.

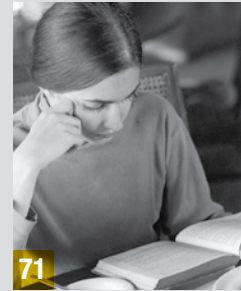
Page 68: December 5-6, 1970. Music and dancing during a student trip to the Mojave Desert.

Page 69: December 5-6, 1970. A group of students during a trip to the Mojave Desert.

Page 70: March 6, 1969. An unidentified man at a meeting of the Black Student Union in The Claremont Colleges' Students Center.



Page 70/71: February 9, 1972. Instructor in English Michael Renner (1968-74) and a student.



Page 71: January 14, 1974. A student in the McConnell Dining Hall (1968).



Page 72: January 14, 1974. Students on Pellissier Mall (the Mounds) in front of Sanborn Hall (1964-2008).

Page 73: October 12, 1971. First-year students Keith Cooper and Curtis Johnson.

Page 74: March 19, 1978. Students on campus.





GOVERNANCE:
The Life and Times
of Pitzer College











GOVERNANCE: The Life and Times of Pitzer College



Page 81: March 27, 1965. Meeting in the president's conference room in Scott Hall (1964). In the foreground is a building model showing Scott (1964), Fletcher (1965), Bernard (1966) and Avery (1969) Halls, along with an additional building, which was not constructed.



Page 82: September 29, 1964. Director of Student Activities Ann Willcox (1964) moderates Pitzer's first Town Hall Meeting. Pitzer established the Town Hall Meeting to allow students, faculty and staff to discuss policies concerning regulations, government and student life. Town Hall Meetings took place on Monday nights and were presided over by a moderator who was assisted by a parliamentarian and a secretary. During various meetings, the Pitzer community discussed an honor code, curfew and community government.

Page 83: March 21, 1965. Patricia Silver '66 (background) leads a House Council meeting. The House Council, a temporary governing body that dealt with both dormitory and institutional concerns, was composed of two student representatives from each of the eight corridors of Sanborn Hall (1964-2008) and one faculty representative.



Page 84: Late September 1964. Pitzer's first academic activity centered around Marya Mannes' controversial book *More in Anger*. In a review in *The New York Times*, William du Bois wrote that "to call these pages outspoken is putting things mildly." Having read it during the summer, the students participated in corridor discussions, here with Professor of History Werner Warmbrunn (1963-91).



Page 85: June 13, 1964. First Pitzer faculty meeting and planning conference at Claremont Men's College (now Claremont McKenna College). Pitzer President John W. Atherton (1963-70), faculty and staff sit around a large table with an architectural model of Pitzer's first academic buildings.



Page 86: September 8, 1965. Faculty meeting. From left: Professor of Biology Daniel A. Guthrie (1964-2010), Professor of Developmental Psychology Ruth H. Munroe (1964-95), Assistant Professor of Physical Education Lois A. Tidgwell (1965-69) and Instructor in Asian Studies Mary H. Israel (1965-66).



Page 86/87: March 17, 1969. Students in a Scott Hall conference room.



Page 88: November 1, 1965. Students and faculty gather for a Town Hall Meeting in the Sanborn living room.

Page 89: March 21, 1965. The House Council, a temporary governing body of Pitzer, was composed of two student representatives from each of the eight corridors of Sanborn Hall (1964-2008) and one faculty representative. Under the direction of Patricia Silver '66, seen here in the background at the end of the table, House Council dealt with both dormitory and institutional concerns.



Page 90: January 9, 1969. Professor of Political Studies and eventual Professor of Environmental Studies John R. Rodman (1965-2000) (standing) at a faculty meeting.

Page 91: September 8, 1965. Faculty meeting. Pictured from the left side of the table: William E. Frenaye (1963-69), Emilio J. Stanley (1964-67), Werner Warmbrunn (1963-91), Arthur Feraru (1965-71), Beverly W. Palmer (1965-67), Lois A. Tidgwell (1965-69), John P. Evans (1965-69), Miles C. Everett (1965-71), Daniel A. Guthrie (1964-2010), Ruth H. Munroe (1964-95) and Mary H. Israel (1965-66).





SPECIAL EVENTS:
The Life and Times
of Pitzer College











SPECIAL EVENTS: The Life and Times of Pitzer College



Page 97: February 22, 1966. Students line up on the sidewalk leading from Holden Hall (1965) to Scott Hall (1964) on Founders Day.



Page 98: September 26, 1968. President John W. Atherton (1963-70) with students in Mead Courtyard on the first day of fall semester classes.



Page 99: February 22, 1966. Faculty and students line up behind Scott Courtyard on Founders Day.



Page 100: February 22, 1966. Students line up outside Bernard Hall (1966) on Founders Day.



Page 101: August 15, 1964. Students in front of Scott Hall (1964).



Page 102 & 103: December 10, 1965. Pitzer President John W. Atherton and founder Russell K. Pitzer discussing architectural plans in the President's office.



Page 104: March 19, 1966. Pat Shreve '66, Pat Silver '66, Kassand Stephani '66, Chris Campbell '66, Fran Sibal '66, Fusako Takemasa '66 and Deborah Pierce '66.



Page 105: March 19, 1966. Senior students hiking up a hillside.

Page 106: February 22, 1966. Founders Day event in Scott Courtyard.

Page 107: December 5, 1970. Students on a Volkswagen bus during a trip to the Mojave Desert.





Arthur Dubinsky: What We Know of His Life and Times at Pitzer College

STACY ELLIOTT

I became acquainted with the photographic work that Arthur Dubinsky produced at Pitzer shortly after I was hired as the College archivist. One of my first tasks was to become familiar with the historic materials that had been gathered before I arrived. Among these materials were numerous plastic bins of negatives containing thousands of images and several hundred scans of these images that Laurie Babcock, Pitzer's web architect, had made in preparation for the College's 50th anniversary.

As I scrolled through the relatively small portion of scanned negatives, I was immediately captivated by the quality and variety of the work. And the deeper I looked, the more intrigued I became. A portrait of sorts began to emerge, a portrait of the beginnings and early development of a college, a portrait of a documentary photographer's visual affinities, a portrait of college life in the 1960s and 1970s, a portrait of the sensibilities of the founding faculty and administrators, and a portrait of the relationships between all of these separate entities.

But a portrait of the man who took all of these revealing photographs has been quite elusive. Even in the era of Google, I could find only scraps of anything resembling biographical material. I was able to confirm that Arthur Eugene Dubinsky was born in Chicago in 1925 to Jewish Russian immigrants. He graduated from Theodore

Photographer Arthur Dubinsky on April 14, 1966

Roosevelt High School in Chicago in 1942 and served in India with the US Army from 1944-46. He attended Northwestern University and University of California, Berkeley. He took documentary pictures in Times Square in the 1950s of Woody Guthrie and Ramblin' Jack Elliott. He took photographs of migrant farmworkers for *The Ground is Our Table*, a 1966 book written by Steve Allen, American television personality, musician, composer, actor, comedian and writer.

After speaking with several old friends and acquaintances, I learned that he possibly took photographs for the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, which was one of the two groups that merged to form the United Farm Workers of America; that renowned photographer Robert Frank probably developed and printed the photographs for his iconic book, *The Americans*, in a darkroom he shared with Dubinsky in the late 1950s; that he was definitely a good cook and a secular Jew.

What was also difficult, if not impossible, to find was any factual evidence about the portraits and relationships at Pitzer that I described above. For that part of Arthur Dubinsky's story, I'm afraid you will have to rely on observations and the signs I've seen to surmise the nature of these relationships.

Probably the most striking inference, in regard to Arthur Dubinsky, is the relationship he must have had with Pitzer's first President, John W. Atherton. I doubt that the relationship was ever formalized by something as conventional as a contract. I suspect it was more of an understanding along the lines of a gentleman's handshake of years past. And I arrive at this hypothesis from the photographs.

Dubinsky was brought in to photograph Pitzer from day one. He took pictures of the first faculty and trustee meeting, which was held in a conference room at Claremont Men's College (now Claremont McKenna College), because Pitzer didn't yet have an administrative building to hold its own meetings in. He took pictures of practically everything during those early years: students, faculty and administrators at work learning and teaching and at rest, classroom gatherings, retreats at Mt. Baldy, trustee meetings in Marina Del Rey, Pitzer Parents Association dinners in downtown Los Angeles, art events in the desert, student and faculty governance meetings, musical events, to name a mere few.

To be able to capture the variety and depth of events and happenings, not only on Pitzer's campus, but also many off campus, Arthur Dubinsky had to be invited in and along. He had to be embraced with confidence and trust. You can see that confidence and trust in the seemingly few restrictions there were on what he could or should photograph. What we have is an unfiltered, curious and observant eye, capturing and documenting everything he could about the place and the people in it. We can guess at the personal relationship that Dubinsky had with the faculty, administrators and students by seeing how invisible he is to them. The people in the pictures are relaxed, natural, mostly oblivious to being observed. This is easy and evident to see, and it can only speak of the acceptance of a man with a camera, embraced as part of the family.

All this openness and what today we would call transparency indicates that President Atherton and his faculty and administrators, and even their students, cared more about thoughtfully documenting and exploring and discovering what they were doing than controlling or prescribing or dictating the same. They allowed a photographer into the inner workings of the College, and basically said, "Show us what you see. Show us what we look like." That just seems so incredibly brave and adventurous and open.

It is wonderful and magical when there is a convergence of elements that work harmoniously together. There was something very complementary and mutually enhancing about Arthur Dubinsky, the '60s and '70s, Pitzer College, and President Atherton and his faculty and staff and students. With all of their wide-eyed, curious, experimental confidence, Dubinsky was able to create a body of work that is frank, honest and communicative, and therefore open and available for interpretation, excavation and education.

We owe a great debt and much admiration to all of these people. And gratitude, too, for showing us what Pitzer was and allowing us to be inspired by what Pitzer has become and could still be.

Acknowledgements

ARTHUR DUBINSKY: The Life and Times of Pitzer College

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The exhibition is supported in part by the Pitzer College 50th Anniversary celebration.

Image on right: March 19, 1966. Left to right:
Sarah Smith, Kassand Stephani, Fusako Take-
masa, Pat Silver, Deborah Pierce, Chris Campbell,
Pat Shreve and Fran Sibal.



With very special thanks to:

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