The Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability at Pitzer College Press Conference

November 19, 2012
Los Angeles Press Club

Principal Program Speakers

Laura Skandera Trombley is the fifth president of Pitzer College. In the eleventh year of her presidency, she is known by the Pitzer community for her extraordinarily high level of energy and devotion to the College.

Under her leadership, Pitzer’s academic and co-curricular programs have flourished with an infusion of research funding for faculty and students and the creation of several new academic centers and majors. She has overseen a radical transformation of Pitzer’s campus, expanding its drought-tolerant landscaping and spearheading 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 attended Pepperdine University at age 16 and, after earning her bachelor's with a double major in English and humanities, graduated summa cum laude from Pepperdine with a master's in English. She received her PhD in English from the University of Southern California.

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Nicholas Pritzker P’93 is the co-founder of the Clean Energy Trust, a non-profit dedicated to developing clean energy that sponsors the Clean Energy Challenge. Former vice-chairman of the board of directors of Conservation International, Nicholas Pritzker co-founded Tao Capital, which invests in tech and alternative energy businesses. Pritzker joined the Hyatt Hotels Corporation in 1978, led its real estate and development efforts for many years, and served as vice-chairman of the Board until his retirement in 2009. Pritzker received a BA in 1968 from Lake Forest College in Illinois and a law degree in 1974 from the University of Chicago.

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Susan Pritzker P’93 has been a trustee of Pitzer College since 1990, serving as chair of the board from 1998 to 2005. Throughout her life, she has supported the arts, education and human rights. With her husband Nicholas and their four children, Susan Pritzker co-founded The Libra Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting human rights, environmental sustainability, social justice and drug policy reform. Former chair of the board of directors of the Chicago Foundation for Women, Pritzker is a board member of Mother Jones. She is the vice president of the Board of Directors of Urban Gateways, an arts-in-education organization in Chicago.

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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 non-profit 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.
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Environmental Expert Panel Speakers

Paul Faulstich ’79, P’15 is professor of environmental analysis at Pitzer College. Faulstich’s research lies in a broad 'human ecology' that advances the position that diversity, interdependence and whole systems are fundamental to humans and to the health of the planet. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses that explore human relationships with the non-human environment. He has been a Watson fellow, a research associate at the East-West Center, a senior Fulbright scholar, a visiting scholar at Flinders University in Australia, a cultural specialist with the US Information Agency and a visiting fellow at the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University. A 1979 graduate of Pitzer College, Faulstich returned to teach at the college that served him so well as a student. He holds a PhD in anthropology from the University of Hawaii and a MA from Stanford University with specializations in cultural ecology, indigenous ecological knowledge and the ecological dimensions of human ideologies.

Lance Neckar P’12 is the founding faculty director of the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability at Pitzer College. At the Robert Redford Conservancy, he will create teaching, research and engagement opportunities around environmental imperatives in Southern California. A professor of environmental analysis in the new Sustainability and the Built Environment track, Neckar integrates the concept of sustainability into a multidisciplinary approach to understanding and reimagining our human-made surroundings. He is co-editor of the Landscape Journal and the recipient of the American Institute of Architects Education Honor Award. Neckar came to Pitzer from the University of Minnesota, where he was department head and professor of landscape architecture. He received a master of landscape architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and a research master's degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Joel Reynolds is the Natural Resources Defense Council’s Western Director. He joined NRDC as a Senior Attorney in 1990, after ten years with the Center for Law in the Public Interest and the Western Center on Law and Poverty, both in Los Angeles. Since 1980, he has specialized in complex law reform litigation, arguing cases on behalf of environmental and community organizations at all levels of the federal courts, including the US Supreme Court. He has led several of NRDC’s largest campaigns, ranging from campaigns to protect the gray whale birthing lagoon and World Heritage Site at Laguna San Ignacio in Baja California to reducing ocean noise pollution and stopping the Pebble Mine in southwest Alaska.

He has twice been selected California Attorney of the Year in the environmental law category and was recently appointed Chairman of the Board of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, one of the largest land trusts in California. He is a frequent contributor to the opinion pages of major media such as the Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor, Huffington Post and other leading newspapers in California. From 1986 to 1990, he was an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California Law Center. He received his JD from Columbia Law School.