AFRICA Symposium

This fall, Pitzer College hosted an Africa Symposium that brought together leading figures in the social sciences, humanities and arts to address an eclectic array of issues concerning the African continent.

Charles Burnett, recognized as one of the finest living American film directors in the tradition of African American artists like Ralph Ellison, Paul Robeson, Muddy Waters and Sarah Vaughan, gave a screening and discussion of his newest fiction film “Najuma: Where Others Wavered” (2006, work-in-progress) about the national liberation struggle that led to the democratic elections and independence of Namibia. This two-hour epic was financed by the government of Namibia, which led to the first major Namibian film.

Jeff Opland, a leading scholar of Xhosa literature (one of the leading ethnic groups in South Africa of which Nelson Mandela was a member) gave a presentation on his project to revive the literary heritage of Nontsizi Mgqwetho—a major female Xhosa poet who published about one hundred Xhosa poems in several newspapers in the 1920s and whose intellectual and political heritage had tragically disappeared from South African cultural history.

Driss Maghraoui, an internationally prominent historian of North Africa and Islam, examined the history of the Maghrib, the Islamic world of northern Africa, and focused on the theme of “secularism” in Morocco. Maghraoui’s presentation was that “secularism” has never been a purely abstract principle. Instead, it has been linked to particular social forces and projects in particular historical contexts, and it has been received as such. More specifically, at key moments in North African history, “secularism” was made to serve as a symbol of European superiority—and concomitantly, rejections of this historically specific form of “secularism” must be recognized as rejections of Eurocentrism and racism, and not as a rejection of some ideal form of “secularism.”

The acclaimed Senegalese film-maker, Moussa Sene Absa, gave a screening of his feature film, “Madame Brouette” (2002), which focuses on the plight of poor Senegalese women. The acclaimed Senegalese film-maker, Moussa Sene Absa, gave a screening of his feature film, “Madame Brouette” (2002), which focuses on the plight of poor Senegalese women. In subsequent presentations to a series of first-year seminars, Absa reinforced the themes of empowerment of women as a critical element of addressing the economic, cultural and political ills that confront sub-Saharan Africa.

The symposium was organized by committee member Assistant Dean of Faculty, Michael Ballagh, Professor of English and World Literature Ntongela Masilela, and Director of International Exchanges Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo.

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Our Rich Educational Environment

Travelling South on Claremont Boulevard, make a right on 5th street, and you will see a beautiful garden of cactus and drought resistant plants. You may not realize it, but this is your first visible sign of Pitzer College. Last fall, Professor Melissa Herrold-Menzie taught a course titled “Doing Natural History,” for which one of the assignments involved working with students and our grounds staff to create a new garden space on campus in agreement with the College’s master plan for landscaping.

After parking and venturing toward the center of campus, if it is a sunny day (and naturally most of them are in Claremont), chances are there will be a class sitting on the Mounds engaged in an avid discussion with their professor. During the class break, students might opt for a quick trip to our citrus grove north of the Grove House to pick an orange for a snack. Of course more traditional classroom locations can be found in our academic buildings, although the kind of pedagogical styles practiced there will range from lecture to seminar format, to student-led discussions and lab research.

Now, I’ve just described what you will find on the Pitzer campus; combine these experiences with action research projects and films that students produce with their professors in the cities of Ontario and Pomona as well as downtown Los Angeles and we have a regional emphasis. On an international level, Pitzer students are conducting community and independent student projects and acquiring language proficiency through immersion and practice.

In all, whether it is indoors or outdoors, local or global, Pitzer students are part of a rich educational environment that is designed to both challenge and inspire form, and always conducted in partnership with superbly talented faculty. Enjoy this special issue of The Participant in which students, current and former, share their experiences with you.

Laura Skandera Trombley
President, Pitzer College

from the editors

As you may notice this issue of The Participant looks a little different—we thought it was time for a new shape and fresh look.

Covenants: Our sincerest apologies to Noah Kiffin ‘78 for misspelling his name in our Fall 2006 issue.
JUMPSTART, a national education nonprofit organization with a strong presence on the Pitzer College campus, is among the forty-three winners of the 2007 FastCompany/Monitor Group Social Capitalist Awards who are entrepreneurs who “change the world.” This marks the fourth consecutive year Jumpstart has received this prestigious award.

“Our program is very fortunate to have had Pitzer College as a resource since 2000. Not only does Pitzer offer a comprehensive curriculum that focuses on social responsibility and community service, but the commitment of Pitzer’s students to making a significant, lasting impact in their community has allowed the program to grow into new sites and has allowed Jumpstart to utilize a diverse student body,” Jumpstart Program Site Manager Karen Magoon said.

The program honors nonprofits, or “social entrepreneurs,” across the nation that combine creativity and ingenuity with business solutions to address the most challenging social problems today, ranging from poverty in developing nations to unequal education access, homelessness, unemployment and substance abuse in the United States.

Today, one in three children in America enters school unprepared to succeed. To address this school readiness crisis, Jumpstart recruits and trains college students to work one-on-one with at-risk preschool children and their families to give them the support these young children need to succeed in school and in life. Pitzer College’s Jumpstart program currently engages forty-five students (twelve-five are Pitzer students) from The Claremont Colleges in service to 126 preschool children. College students commit to serving 300 hours with the program over an entire school year and work with children attending Vista Head Start in Claremont, Easter Seals Child Development Center in Upland, and Ontario-Maple Head Start in Ontario.

‘Mini-Movie Mogul’

ZACHARY MILLER ’09 WINS JEEP COMPASS IN VIDEO COMPETITION

“A MINI-MOVIE MOGUL in the making,” that is what the Boston Globe has dubbed Zachary Miller ’09. Miller directed, wrote and produced the eighteen-second commercial, which won Jeep’s Free Your Thoughts video competition. “The students involved in the process were great and their talent contributed to the commercial’s success and popularity among the viewers who voted,” Miller said. Pitzer College students who assisted Zac throughout the film production process include Kimberly Bautista ’07 (set production assistant); Carter Rubin ’09 and Gordon Anderson ’10 (music composers); Magee Clegg ’09 and Pete Melief ’09 (talent). Miller plans to sell the Jeep Compass to pay his actors and crew and use the rest to fund his next project.

To view Miller’s winning video visit www.freeyourthoughts.com.

JAKE HELLER ’07, the second-ever recipient of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship at Pitzer College, was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship and the only liberal arts college student interviewed for this prestigious award in the state of California. Heller was also a finalist for the prestigious Marshall Scholarship. Heller has been accepted to Stanford and Harvard Law Schools.

ECO ART EXHIBITION, NICHOLS GALLERY

CREATING GREEN ART

AT THE MOST BASIC LEVEL, the environment can be described as a collection of organic and inorganic systems functioning together to sustain life. Art is a uniquely human representation and expression of the interaction with these systems. The Eco Art Exhibition, which ran from January 16 to February 2 was a sampling of the many ways in which the natural environment is represented in contemporary artwork. Through a variety of mediums, the natural environment was transformed from a neutral network of external processes into works of beauty, political statement and intellectual conception.

The exhibition served as a home for many different types of works, ranging from traditional watercolor and photography to objects and furniture. The exhibition artists included Jennifer Bennett, Edward Cao, Nichole Carlson, Julian Duron, Dennis Hayes, Robert P. Hernandez ’86, Jeremy Johnson, Doug LARocca, Alexandra Manu, Morgana Matus ’07, Chris Musina, Michael Nikolas, Justin Oatfeller, DavyI Pérez and Nelson Trombley.

Morgana Matus ’07, the exhibition’s organizer, is a senior Environmental Studies major at Pitzer College. Through a lifelong dual interest in science and the arts, she has pursued studies in biology, sociology and art history. By attending a liberal arts college, she is able to examine the intersections between seemingly separate disciplines and create a more well-rounded and inclusive view of the natural environment.
Organically Grown

PITZER COLLEGE CELEBRATED the expansion of its organic garden and the donation and delivery of ten tons of compost with a special community gardening day on November 11. The garden expansion will facilitate increased production of organic food to be donated to community events, the Grove House and the student dining hall. The new section will provide communal growing areas as well as individual plots, which campus staff and other community members can use to grow food for their families.

To improve the quality of the soil in the organic garden, Adam Forbes ’08 submitted a proposal on behalf of Pitzer to VONS’s Refuse & Recycling Manager, Curt Smith, to secure the fruit, vegetable and green waste compost. “VONS annually recycles nearly 100,000 tons of waste material in an effort to preserve valuable landfill space and improve the quality of the environment,” Smith said. He continued, “I was impressed by the Pitzer student’s explanation of how the students get together biweekly and establish work parties in their garden.” Forbes and Tim Van Wagner ’07, active managers of the organic farm, view the Pitzer organic garden as a place where knowledge and action drive positive change.

“Through our efforts to produce local organic food, we are working to ensure the health of our environment for those living now and those to come. The food we produce and space we create is integral to a healthy lifestyle and the creation of a sustainable community,” Forbes and Van Wagner said.

The special work day in Pitzer’s organic garden included lunch provided by the Grove House and live music by The Sugar Mountain Mama Serenade.

Dining with Democracy

A lecture series aimed at bringing today’s leaders to Pitzer College to inspire tomorrow’s leaders. Unique to the program is the interactive discussion following the lecture with small groups of students, faculty, and staff over a meal at the Grove House.

Making a Living Making a Difference

Fritz Haeg, Architect

On February 2 Fritz Haeg spoke about his initiatives that seek to support innovative art and design, cultivate and nurture communities, improve the natural-human environment and to make connections and relationships between people and places that have been isolated or ignored by contemporary society.

Values in Action

Dr. Don Beck

On February 7 Author and Management Consultant, Dr. Don Beck discussed his recent trip to Palestine and his negotiations with Fatah and Hamas leaders among other interesting topics.

A Glimpse of Winter

On the morning of January 12, the Pitzer College campus was covered in a dusting of hail. Such inclement weather is a rare occurrence in Claremont, and remnants of the overnight storm soon melted in the afternoon sun.
Robert A. Walton has been elected as Chief Executive Officer for Claremont University Consortium (CUC) and will assume the position on July 1, 2007. Walton has been vice president for finance and business at The College of Wooster, in Wooster, Ohio, since 1999. At Wooster, he oversaw an annual operating budget of $90 million and was responsible for managing all non-academic services and functions, including auxiliary operations, information technology, human resources, contract management and management of the college’s endowment. During Walton’s term as vice president, more than $92 million in capital projects were initiated or completed, including renovation and new construction. In addition, Walton has served as the college’s representative to key collaborative efforts, including the Operating Committee of the Ohio Five Colleges, Inc. (Wooster, Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, Oberlin and Denison).

Walton has both bachelor of science and master of library and information science degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

IN 2007, CLAREMONT CELEBRATES the hundredth anniversary of its incorporation as a city. While it was an important milestone in the development of the community, Claremont had a history before it officially became a city in 1907. The land, which is now Claremont, was part of the Mission San Gabriel and the native Americans who lived here were part of the Shoshone of the Great Basin area. In 1884, when the land was secularized, this area became part of the Rancho San Jose that included present day Claremont, Pomona, La Verne, San Dimas and parts of Glendora and Walnut.

In 1887, the Santa Fe Railroad set up a new route into California following the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Claremont was one of the towns established by the railroad hotel and made Claremont a permanent home. In the 1920s, the group plan for The Claremont Colleges was inaugurated—“a group of institutions divided into small colleges, somewhat like the Oxford type, around a library and other utilities which they would use in common.” In 1925, Claremont Graduate University was founded and was followed by Scripps College (1926), Claremont McKenna College (1946), Harvey Mudd College (1955), Pitzer College (1963) and Kek Institute of Applied Life Sciences (1998).

Surrounding the Colleges and the downtown village grew a very successful citrus industry, with thousands of acres of orange and lemon trees and beautiful houses and ranch buildings made of native fieldstone. The end of World War II brought major changes to the town—citrus trees came down and housing tracts took their place. The population grew but still reflected the values of early Claremonters—the importance of education, a spirit of volunteerism and a strong connection to its past.
“Career Couch: The Dos and Don’ts of Looking for Work”
November 12, 2006
Be succinct and, above all, truthful. As tempting as it may be to embellish your materials, Karen Suarez, director of career services at Pitzer College in Claremont, California, said the most successful applications were those that convey a frank and concise image of who you are: “An application should stand out because of skill and experience,” Ms. Suarez said. “If it stands out for any other reason, it probably needs to be toned down.”

“Anti-War Movement Deserves Some Credit”
Tom Hayden
November 26, 2006
Because the anti-war movement remains voiceless in the coming debates, the only recourse is to prepare widespread demonstrations and ground organizing in the key presidential primary states, to make it impossible for any candidate to become president in 2008 without pledging to end the war and occupation. If there is no peace movement, there will be no peace.

“Budding Bromance”
November 18, 2006
“... the event was organized by Pitzer students, day laborers and Jose Calderon, a Pitzer professor of sociology and Chicano/a Studies. “It is an example of collaboration,” said Calderon, who is also president of the Inland Valley and San Gabriel Valley Latino and Latina/o Roundtable. “Most important, it is part of an ongoing effort to present a more realistic and positive portrait of the immigrant and day laborer community.”

“Cuestionan designación de ciudad santuario”
(They Question the Designation of the City as a Sanctuary)
November 9, 2006
Dr. Nardi believes that friendships differ more within than between the genders—that ethnicity, class, education and sexual orientation all have a larger impact on friendship than being a man or a woman. Generally, the genders value friendship for the same reasons, and define a friend in the same way: by the social support they offer and the trust they keep. Those findings just don't often make their way into academic journals.

“Motherly Advice: One college president’s vision for guiding her son through the college selection process”
Laura Skandera Trombley
December 6, 2006
“I always find that sort of annoying,” says Peter Nardi, a sociologist at Pitzer College in Claremont, California, who has written several books on male friendship. “What is it about our society that says that talking over coffee has a higher score on the intimacy scale than if you play a golf match for five hours?”

“Budding Bromance”
February 3, 2007
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“The Latino Vote is Key to the Comicios”
November 16, 2006
(They Question the Designation of the City as a Sanctuary)

“Some Credit”
November 26, 2006

“I think Los Angeles is going to be the contemporary art capital of the world,” [Broad] says. “When the Broad Contemporary Art Museum opens at LACMA, Los Angeles will have more gallery space for contemporary art than any other city in the world.” The Broad-funded, $60-million structure will be finished in about a year, he says.

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(They Question the Designation of the City as a Sanctuary)
His Eminence: Bob Albert

IN READING AND REFLECTING upon Professor Emeritus Bob Albert's latest publication, the form of address historically used for high nobility, “His Eminence,” comes to mind. Both the style and the content of Bob's work and teaching at Pitzer College give cause for great praise, respect and celebration. The impetus for this article is the publication of his latest chapter, “The Achievement of Eminence as an Evolutionary Strategy,” in The Creativity Research Handbook, Volume 2, edited by Mark Runco.

The appearance of this chapter constitutes an important landmark in the extensive and significant body of work produced by Bob during a research career that has spanned nearly fifty years. During the course of that career, he has dedicated himself to elucidating the nature of, and antecedents to, human creativity and eminence. He is widely recognized as a prominent figure in the creativity and eminence fields having authored a number of books and more than sixty research articles on the subject.

A measure of the esteem with which Bob is viewed by his professional colleagues is demonstrated by his election to the presidency of Division 10, Psychology and the Arts, of the American Psychological Association. Bob’s soon to be published chapter carefully examines the complex interactions of specific genetic, epigenetic, family and cultural variables that manifest themselves in the expression of human creativity. He argues on a number of fronts that extraordinary creativity, although rare, is not random. Rather, it emerges from the precise interaction of key developmental variables both genetic and environmental.

The chapter also makes a powerful argument that creativity itself has conferred powerful selective advantages throughout the course of human evolution.

I can only add to Jamie’s words a personal note that when I arrived at Pitzer College in the mid-80s as a young and very inexperienced teacher, it was Bob who took me under his wing and mentored me in the sometimes obscure ways of Pitzer College. He was and is a friend and confidant and he even volunteered to help coach my children’s soccer team. For his many contributions and kindnesses over the years, Pitzer College is proud and fortunate to have Bob Albert as a member of our emeriti faculty.

—ALAN JONES, DEAN OF FACULTY

Since we are taking the opportunity to recognize Bob as a first-rate scholar, we would be remiss in not also adding a presentation titled “Post-Studies/Post-Indians: Contemporary Indigenous Artists in the Transnational Field” at the International Symposium on the Arts in Society held at New York University in February. Anthes’ book, Native Modern, was reviewed on November 10 in the Santa Fe New Mexican.

Bill Anthes

Bill Anthes, assistant professor of art history, presented a paper titled “Post-Studies/Post-Indians: Contemporary Indigenous Artists in the Transnational Field” at the International Symposium on the Arts in Society held at New York University in February. Anthes’ book, Native Modern, was reviewed on November 10 in the Santa Fe New Mexican.

Martha Barcenas-Mooradian

Martha Barcenas-Mooradian, visiting instructor of Spanish, presented several papers at conferences across the country: “Working with Homeless Persons and Teachers: A Wisdom Tradition and Spiritual Capital Approach” with Lourdes Arguelles, Hawaii International Conference on Education • "Alternative Methodologies to Minimize Foregone Language Anxiety," American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Southern California Chapter, Irvine Valley College • "A Brief History of the Inclusion of Spanish in the American Curriculum,” American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Southern California Chapter, Irvine Valley College • "Incorporating Environmental/Ecological Issues into Religious Education Programs: A Pioneer Pilot Cour se for OLA Church, Claremont, California,” International Conference on Youth & Education, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi • "Exploited and Abused Mayan Children in a Global Tourist Context: Implications for Educational Practice” with Lourdes Arguelles, International Conference on Youth & Education, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi • "Uncovering Cancun’s Disparities through Wilkins’ Magnifying Glass" with Lourdes Arguelles, 16th Annual Pacific Southwest Women’s Studies Association Conference, Occidental College. Barcenas-Mooradian is also project research associate for the U.S. Latinos in Islam: A Narrative Study Project conducted at Claremont Graduate University.

José Calderón

José Calderón, professor of sociology and Chicano/a Studies, wrote an entry titled “Rose M. Calderón” for Latinos in the U.S.: A Historical Encyclopedia, edited by Vickie L. Ruiz and Virginia Sanchez Korral. The Pitzer College Pomona Day Labor Center Partnership received a one-year $5,000 grant from the Gilkspur Foundation. Calderón also appeared on Radio Campesina’s “Despierta Y a Campesina” on November 20, December 18 and January 8 to discuss the elections in Mexico, immigration policies and California and national election results. Calderón was mentioned in the June 22, 2007 edition of the Los Angeles Times. Calderón also appeared on Radio Campesina’s “Despierta Y a Campesina” on November 20, December 18 and January 8 to discuss the elections in Mexico, immigration policies and California and national election results. Calderón was mentioned in the January 13 Claremont Courier for having organized opposition to President Bush’s decision to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq. Elected to a two-year term, Calderón will serve on the American Sociological Association’s Committee on Sections.

Paul Faustlich

Paul Faustlich, professor of Environmental Studies, was featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education’s special report titled “The Sustainable University: In Search of the Sustainable Campus.” He rang in the new year on the Hopi Reservation in northern Arizona, while conducting research on Native American ceremonial dances and shrines.

Victoria Mudd

This fall, Victoria Mudd, visiting lecturer of Media Studies, taught a first-year seminar titled Documentaries and the Politics of Dissent, and also co-taught a class with Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies Gina Lamb titled Media Arts for Social Justice. Mudd and Maria Flora won the Best Documentary Feature Academy Award for Broken Rainbow in 1985.
Equation: Intercultural Learning and Science Study Abroad” with Scot Gould, Eckard Helmers, Kaj Jansson and Mustafa Balci (exchange ’06).


Ming-Yuen S. Ma

Ming-Yuen S. Ma, assistant professor of Media Studies, completed the fourth and final video in the Xin Lu series, “A New Chinese Cowboy” (video). This project was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the College of Communication at American University. The video was appointed as the best short film in the 2006 ‘Truck’ video festival in Toronto, Canada. The video was also screened at the ‘Out of the Mainstream’ video festival in Los Angeles (USA) and the ‘Truck’ video festival in Toronto (Canada). The video was also selected for the ‘Best of the Best’ video festival in Toronto (Canada). The video was also selected for the ‘Best of the Best’ video festival in Toronto (Canada). The video was also selected for the ‘Best of the Best’ video festival in Toronto (Canada). The video was also selected for the ‘Best of the Best’ video festival in Toronto (Canada).

Gina Lamb

Gina Lamb, adjunct assistant professor of Media Studies, had the following three papers published in the January issue of “The International Journal of Media and Culture.” The three papers are: “The Use of Digital Video in Media Studies” (Volume 2, Number 1, 2006) • “The Use of Digital Video in Media Studies” (Volume 2, Number 1, 2006) • “The Use of Digital Video in Media Studies” (Volume 2, Number 1, 2006).

Kathryn Miller

Kathryn Miller, professor of art, received a $55,000 grant to design and install a public art project for the City of Ventura between Fall 2007 and Spring 2008. Miller’s work was exhibited in a show titled “Earthly Concerns” at the University of San Francisco during Fall 2006 and at the Bissinger Conference in San Rafael, California in October 2006. An article written by Linda Weintraub about two of Miller’s art projects (“Seed Bombs” and “Subdivisions”) will be published in a textbook titled Global Warnings: 22 Approaches to Eco-Art.

Ronald Macaulay

Ronald Macaulay, professor emeritus of linguistics, has been appointed an honorary senior research fellow in the department of English language at the University of Glasgow for the next three years.

Carol Brandt

Carol Brandt, vice president for international programs, published his article on the recuperated factory movement in Argentina, “Occup, Resist and Produce: Workers Take Control in Argentina” in Divergences 1, No. 4 and it is available online at http://divergences.be/article.php3?id_article=212.

Rudi Volli

Rudi Volli, professor emeritus of sociology, was given a talk titled “Ancient Futures: Modernization and Tradition in China” at the International Conference on Constructive Postmodern Thinking and China’s Modernization held in December.
After being in Beijing for a short while, almost 2 weeks right now, I realized that I did not have enough knowledge to do many of the cultural excursions, cultural activities, and what not. I would like to eventually have enough time, language skills, and guts to be able to fully experience China. While trying to find an immersion activity to do, I saw the example in the syllabus about learning a Chinese song. To make a long story short, I learned that my roommate, Xiao Jie, loves Avril Lavigne and Wong Fei…. We had a music swapping night where I gave her some of my Avril Lavigne songs, and she gave me some of her Wong Fei songs. Because of this, I asked her to teach me her favorite Wong Fei song as one of my immersion activities. The song is Ni Kuai Le Suo Yi Wo Kuai Le. (You’re Happy so I’m Happy). Xiao Jie was kind enough to write out the lyrics to the song for me. After writing the lyrics, she read it to me first and then we read it together. Then, she went line by line, explaining and interpreting the lyrics to me, going into detail about the meaning in the song that someone who did not know Chinese would not get. It was very refreshing to learn the meanings behind certain words. Everything became clearer to me.

Reading & Rewriting the World

PAULO FREIRE AND DONALD MACEDO note in Literacy: Reading the Word and the World that “Reading the word is not preceded merely by reading the world, but by a certain form of writing it or rewriting it, that is, of transforming it by means of conscious, practical work.” Pitzer College students are rewriting their own worlds as a result of their conscious, practical work in communities abroad. The community is their classroom. The curriculum is an intellectual loom on which students connect lectures and readings by local experts, homestays, internships, study trips and community-based research projects into a new understanding of place and themselves.

—CAROL BRANDT, VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
WHEN ASKED HOW SHE CAME TO BE A WRITER of children’s books for nine- to twelve-year-old children, Susan Hall Patron ’69 responded, “To paraphrase Judy Blume, writers for kids seek an inner child to tap into. My inner child seems to be about ten or eleven.”

During a time in the marketplace when most of us transition between jobs every few years, Patron has been a very satisfied librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library for thirty-four years—a place she described as both beautiful and nurturing. The Los Angeles Public Library is also where it all began for Patron. Her elementary school library was uninspiring to her, but a librarian from the Los Angeles Public Library visited her fourth grade class and unlocked incredible treasures to her in the form of books. After school that very day, Patron rode her bike to a local branch of the library and thus began her passion in life.

Another inspiration occurred at the age of eight when Patron began to be a reader. Her fourth grade teacher read E. B. White’s Charlotte’s Web aloud. She was impassioned by this powerful story and decided that she wanted to try to create books that would also have a strong effect on others. Patron’s father was encouraging and supportive of her writing from the very beginning. He advised her well and told her to eavesdrop. “This is one of the secret techniques of writers, along with keeping a special notebook to capture telling moments,” Patron said.

The Higher Power of Lucky, the contemporary fiction novel that won her the coveted Newbery Medal Book Award, took ten years to complete. Patron credits her editor, Richard Jackson, who noticed her work and invited her to contribute to The New York Times. Patron continued, “The heart of my book that led to its completion resulted from my mom passing away a couple of years ago.”

“He is a wonderful and very patient man,” Patron said of the editor. “He is a friend to me in every sense. I love him for his friendship and support.”

The Higher Power of Lucky, her sixth book, was chosen from among some 10,000 children’s books published in 2006. The amazing book focuses on the protagonist, Lucky, who is an amalgamation of Patron’s imagination. Lucky is a charming and intelligent ten-year-old who seeks control in an adult-controlled world. Lucky, too, is an eavesdropper.

The award is presented by the American Library Association (ALA). “It’s amazing to receive this award after having participated in the Association as a librarian and having worked on some of its committees for more than twenty years,” Patron said. “I’m so happy to have been chosen.”

Will there be sequels? Patron is about three-quarters finished with a companion novel. This bodes of great reading to come for both children and adults alike. Patron, an English major, graduated from Pitzer College in 1969. “The spirit of Pitzer was exciting, like the times themselves—the feeling that one can make a difference. I also valued the smallness and intimacy of the College along with its town meetings,” she explained. Influential to her education at Pitzer were Professors Esther Wagner and Steve Glass. And the visiting Irish poet, W. B. Yeats, led to Patron’s senior year abroad in Dublin, where, she said, she “started to figure out how stories and storytelling and literature are the keys to unlocking the world.”

—SUSAN ANDREWS

Glimpses into the Pitzer-style of learning that is transformative both in and out of the classroom

When one regards Pitzer College’s academic programs in their aggregate, there is no question that our students benefit from a curricular and unique array of programs and courses that underscore a curriculum that provides personally transformative experiences. What other institution can claim such a dynamic and successful melding of interdisciplinary, and contextually focused education programs as has been developed at Pitzer? For instance, a recently implemented program is a thematic link to the academic content of a course held on the Pitzer campus with a course to be held in one of Pitzer’s study abroad sites. These “paired courses” have enormous potential to heighten student awareness of how local and global socio-cultural context shapes and defines the content area explored during class. In the following pages, current students as well as alumni provide glimpses into the Pitzer-style of learning that may encompass curating an art exhibition, leading an outdoor education class, establishing a Web exchange across two countries or integrating rap and rhyme into the classroom.

—ALAN JONES, DEAN OF FACULTY
By the Work of Their Hands

Often times when anthropology is mentioned the first thing the subject calls to mind is an exotic custom or a culture that is found far away from our own. So frequently that is exactly what anthropology students get to learn and they end up leaving aside, without any exploration, the wonderful cultures that have flourished in our own country. Thankfully there are classes at Pitzer College that defy this model, including Professor of Anthropology Sheryl Miller’s Museums and Material Cultures course.

In the short time that we had as a class we set out to learn about the culture of the Pennsylvania Germans—their history, their struggles and how they came to settle in Pennsylvania. We divided our class into four different subgroups, in which each group studied one aspect of the Pennsylvania German culture. Thus it happened that one group learned about the tinsmith’s work, another group examined textiles and their uses, another studied woodworkers and how items like the Conestoga wagon used on the Oregon trail were created, and yet another group studied the wide-ranging work of the blacksmith from the utensils in the home, to the nails that held up that home.

After weeks of intensive study sessions, our groups decided how the artifacts that we studied so closely should be displayed in the Nichols Gallery. It was refreshing to move beyond the classroom to create an exhibition that would show others the beauty of this culture, which has continued to thrive in the U.S. despite many hardships. The creation of the exhibition was a unifying experience for the class and it also tied us to our professor. It was as if we became a small family and Professor Miller and her husband were there to guide us and help us when we got stuck on a detail concerning the display. They also assisted us with ensuring that the exhibition was enjoyable and cautioning us against overloading our audience with excessive explanations.

The other component of the class that I really found enjoyable was the opportunity to be the curator. At first it was somewhat nerve-wracking to assume this role, but Professor Miller reminded us that to be successful as curators all we had to do was try to express what we found to be interesting. And from that point we ended up giving the visitors a more personalized and interactive experience with the materials we displayed. Looking back at the time that we all shared, I’m glad that I decided to take the class because I got to contribute something to the community and at the same time I learned about the responsibility that curators undertake when they are in charge of an exhibit.

—CLAUDIA RAMIREZ ’08

To make the most ordinary tools objects of beauty—it says something about how we can work to create of our lives a work of art. Thanks for the imagination.

—DI, AN EXCERPT FROM THE EXHIBITION GUESTBOOK

Professor of Anthropology Sheryl Miller with her Museums and Material Cultures students.
In the oral tradition of Pitzer students past and present, Professor Sanders’ legacy and appeal was reinforced through a barrage of stories and testimonies I’d heard on one night. Ironically, these “tales” were told as a few of us sat on the porch of the Grove House. And I soon became aware that Professor Sanders was directly responsible for providing us with that little “piece of Pitzer heaven. Having learned what I had during that evening’s “pow wow,” I hoped that this Professor Sanders might take pity on a junior such as myself, who had waited until the last minute to add one final course to my skimpy class schedule. The following morning was the first time I had the pleasure of meeting the endlessly smiling eyes of the Professor. When I knocked on his door, he answered with speed, without having to even beg him for the class, he simply smiled and said “Need a class, dude? Let me sign that thing.”

Orality and Literacy was a very interesting and challenging class, but not in the conventional sense. It wasn’t about composing 500-page papers or being forced to assimilate into a society that was often foreign to me. What I found was that most Pitzer professors and the classes they taught were very inclusive when it came to helping us learn how to think. Professor Sanders’ course was instrumental in helping me understand how to view and understand culture by examining the way in which we communicate.

For me, an actor, this type of information is like a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. To be more specific, Professor Sanders began a discussion in which he juxtaposed theatrical performance to religious ritual. Having been raised a Catholic, it soon dawned upon me that there were some parallels. Even though I hardly find Catholic Mass entertaining (and certain plays for that matter) many of the components for relaying a message and telling a story are included. Professor Sanders alludes to the fact that in both contexts there is an audience, there are “story-tellers” and in many cases the experiences require group participation. In a theatrical performance, the actor can use the dialogue in a script in a similar fashion that a priest would use the Word to engage the congregation during Mass. In the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, the Last Supper is rem-MCed during every service with the consecration of the Eucharist and the wine into the flesh and blood of Christ respectively. Not to mention that many of the anecdotes in the Bible were audibly told and in some ways performed to its writers before they were transcribed.

This was a simple concept that was right in front of me for most of my life, but for some reason it didn’t become so clear until Professor Sanders broke it down. From that moment on, wherever I would hear someone exclaim that a play or movie was “preachy” I had to laugh out loud. I thought of that little lesson in the Orality and Literacy class. Interestingly enough, I still find that some people do expect or even attain some type of religious experience from watching a good performance just as much as folks go to church to hear the preacher crack jokes and hear the choir sing.

In addition to this epiphany, as well as other encounters I had with Professor Sanders, I found him to be a very charismatic and intelligent man. His genius was only amplified by his quick-witted humor. He stayed animated and never “taught.” Instead he engaged and invited. Professor Sanders, you are one heck of a teacher and you truly maximized my experience at Pitzer. Many blessings to you, Sir! •

—MATT HERCEG ’07

Before taking Nigel Boyle and Andre Wakefield’s History and Politics of World Soccer course I felt alone in my fervor and thought reading books about the economic systems of European football as opposed to baseball or the poetic musings of a Uruguayan football fanatic, or following the development of the Croatian football league in the years after independence couldn’t lead to any sort of scholarly, acceptable work.

On the first day of class, still a little skeptical about the seriousness of the subject in a collegiate setting, I glanced at the syllabus and saw readings from books that tackled the game in terms of American Exceptionalism to readings that compared the Dutch style of play to Piet Mondrian’s art as well as a lecture and discussion with former U.S. National Team Head Coach Steve Sampson. This brief look at the syllabus was enough to get me excited, but the enthusiasm, humor and academic rigor Nigel and Andre brought into the classroom every day hammered home that soccer is an interesting lens through which one can view many different aspects of the modern and contemporary world.

Throughout the semester we were encouraged to fall in love with the sport, a difficult task for some, and to scrutinize the way in which politics and history inform the sport. For me this meant writing about the break up of the former Yugoslavia using soccer as a flash point for conflict and in relation to the stagnation of Balkan sporting talent. After taking this class, a madhouse of joy grounded in the often brutal reality of soccer’s role in political and historical systems, I understood that I could take my passion and use it to mold my future; applying for a Watson Fellowship with a soccer focus, working towards soccer journalism, and living unabashedly as a soccer fanatic. •

—BRUCE GERARD BROWN JR. ’98

A slightly frazzled Professor Barry Sanders makes his way through the courtyard toward his classroom, while sipping on his morning beverage. “What’s on his mind this morning,” I think to myself. Is he contemplating today’s lesson concerning the true significance of Beowulf’s demise? Maybe he’s mentally preparing for a proposal to commence his latest grassroots project. Perhaps he merely wonders whether or not he rewound the videotape containing a documentary on “Coney Island.” One can never quite tell with Professor Sanders.

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—BRUCE GERARD BROWN JR. ’98
This year’s Media Arts for Social Justice (MASJ) screening was an inspiring display of Pitzer College students’ eagerness to apply theory learned in the classroom to practice in the surrounding community. Under the instruction of Gina Lamb and Victoria Madd, visiting assistant professors of Media Studies, seventeen students collaborated with various organizations in the Los Angeles and San Bernardino areas.

In December, we invited the site directors and participants of our community-based projects to a screening we held of our final products. Students were involved in an array of impressive projects, ranging from a documentary video in response to a controversy at a private school in Pasadena that erupted over the school’s push for a screening of a family diversity educational video so as to create support for students who come from gay families, to an empowerment project with the organization Girls and Gangs, in which a young woman was guided by Pitzer students in documenting her life and family and creating an autobiographical video.

For my community-based project, I taught photo and video classes with Kate Goodwillie and Elliot Scherto to young women involved in the Spanish Trails Girl Scouts in Pomona. We met at their community center on a weekly basis. During the MASJ screening, Kate and Elliot presented the video we worked on—a portrait of the girls’ learning processes. The video utilized images the girls had taken with the Polaroid and disposable cameras, their oral accounts of what inspired them to take the photos and other footage the girls had taken.

So I remember the sense of freedom and joy I felt as a first-year at Pitzer College, when on a particularly temperate autumn day, Professor Al Watchel coaxed my Survey of British Literature course out onto the Mounds where we all sat cross-legged and dreamy-eyed as his lecture on Sir Gawain and Green Knight seemedly came to life. And who can forget sneaking blood oranges from the orchard with Norma Rodriguez during a break in her Theories of Personality class, which was often held at the Grove House’s outdoor classroom. Moving beyond the walls of the institution to march in a protest alongside Hal Finchchild or José Calderón, was more than just practicing what we preached but it was feeling the breeze on your face, the earth beneath your feet and knowing you were young and alive.

At Pitzer, the outdoor classroom was an integral part of our education. It was the rule rather than the exception. These were the moments where epiphanies were reached. Removed from the four walls and the blackboard backdrop, our professors became just people that we could talk to. What better way to create a teachable moment. Somehow in nature, learning becomes more natural.

When I graduated from Pitzer and pursued a teaching career, I strived to create the same environment for my students. I had been teaching for seven years in a fairly traditional school arguing with administrators about taking kids on weekly walks into the community and making use of the empty planter boxes on campus for growing vegetables, when I finally applied to Sycamore Elementary. I had admired this little school ever since Rich Tsujimoto’s Internship in Psychology had placed me there my junior year to work with children challenged by ADHD. I found the campus teeming with students who were learning outdoors. Any given day you would find the lawn littered with students reading quietly under the shade of a tree, children congregated in the courtyard to rehearse presentations, planting organic gardens on the patios, and writing reflective pieces at the picnic tables.

Lucky for me, my enthusiasm for Sycamore Elementary’s unique style was embraced as I joined the teaching staff. My first year at Sycamore, I was asked to chair the Leadership in Environmental Education Partnership (LEEP) for our school. Since I was a Pitzer alumna, my principal thought that I might enjoy reconnecting with the College through the LEEP program in which Pitzer students instruct elementary children in Environmental Studies at the Bernard Field Station on a weekly basis. Safe to say, I jumped at the chance.

—MELISSA LALONE JACKSON ‘97

In high school, I practically worshiped my creative writing teacher because he often wrote our hall passes that allowed students to leave the dank confines of the English building to sit under a tree and compose poetry. But he was the lone rebel in a sea of traditional pedagogues.

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—KIMBERLY BAUTISTA ‘07

Winter 2007
Later, Namkung became a student in one of Fairchild’s psychology classes, and following the semester’s “rap-ups,” the two decided to collaborate on a rap together. When the suggestion was made that Namkung write a piece for Pitzer College’s first annual Love-In, an event organized by Fairchild’s first-year seminar, War and Peace, Namkung agreed to write a rap only if Fairchild collaborated with him.

Namkung selected the beat for the rap, and the topic was chosen based on the theme of the Love-In. The two met in Fairchild’s office where they wrote and discussed their rap until the final draft of “Make Love, Not War” was finished.

“I had never imagined that I would be writing a rap with one of my professors. However, I feel like we have a close relationship that has a lot of friendship qualities in it, so it was much easier and less awkward than I would have expected,” Namkung recalled.

Namkung also learned about politics and peace-making from Fairchild in the process of writing their rap. “Working with someone on writing a song on a topic like war allows me to learn a lot, which is especially valuable when that person is as knowledgeable in the area as Fairchild is,” Namkung explained.

Fairchild’s interest in the rapping medium derived from a history of studying the rap culture and those it affects most. “I have an unquenchable thirst for freedom and liberation and improving the lifecircumstances of African Americans. As such, I am one who is more than frequently dismayed at the content of popular music, particularly rap and hip-hop,” Fairchild noted. He admits that there are a few conscious rap and hip-hop artists, but most are “promoted by the powers that be and the mass media that take us to a low level of thought, language and function.” As an African American psychologist, Fairchild realized the problem of ever-increasing profane, violent, and misogynistic messages that popular music seems to promote, and instead decided to utilize the medium to convey more positive messages.

“I wanted to think about demonstrating alternatives. Different ways of presenting information. Keeping it real, but also tapping into the popularity of rap and hip-hop and the linguistic invention inherent in rhyme,” Fairchild explained. “And so I thought for years about doing something of a more positive nature, and I thought about doing poetic biography.”

Fairchild’s first opportunity to practice this form of rapping was in 2003 when he was asked to introduce President Laura Skandera Trombley at her inauguration. At the proposition, he wondered, “Wouldn’t it be cool if I could make it rhyme?” He was given Trombley’s biography, and created a rhythmic introduction for the new president. “And it worked, and once I did that [I noticed] it was kind of a challenge to tell a real life story and make things rhyme . . . but it worked with her introduction, and [so] I put my thoughts to putting the biography of Sojourner Truth together,” Fairchild reflected.

In Fall 2004, Fairchild successfully produced his first CD titled A Woman Named Truth: Sojourner Truth, a compilation of rhymes written and performed by Fairchild, set to various types of background music. Fairchild noticed that the use of rhyme to describe a person or experience was a very unique way of stretching and enhancing the mind. “As a psychologist and as a teacher and as a writer, I found the task of writing in rhyme to be an interesting, almost otherworldly experience,” he described. Fairchild had found a creative outlet unlike any other he had used before. He explained that psychologically it is unique to most academic outlets because, “It’s a right-brain activity, the way neuropsychologists and psychologists talk about specialization.”

The use of rhyme as an expression was so rewarding that Fairchild decided he could also encourage it in the classroom to benefit his students. He explained, “Because I found it to be a challenge—and a rewarding one—I started to incorporate the writing of rap as an assignment to students just as a final end-of-the-course exercise in which they would rhyme out what they learned.” Fairchild clarified that rap does not figure into his classes very prominently throughout the entirety of semesters, but almost all of his students are asked in the end of their courses to present a “rap-up.”

In asking his students to write in rhymes, Fairchild takes classroom learning to a unique level. “I do it as an alternative way of thinking, an alternative way of creative expression . . . and people come up with some really creative things. I think it’s a great exercise,” he concluded.

Not only has Fairchild helped his students, but they have helped him as well. When Namkung and Fairchild worked together to write “Make Peace, Not War,” Fairchild admits to having not only taught Namkung about war, but also having learned from Namkung quite a bit about the rapping medium. “He really showed me how to write in a way that had more beat to it, and gave me a better sense of style and rhythm,” he explained.

Both Fairchild and Namkung expanded their learning experience by bridging the gap between professor and student to create a rap that followed Eichfeld’s vision, for utilizing the musical form to impart a positive message. Their collaboration illustrates how communication between faculty and students fosters transformative academic growth.

—JAMIE SMARTHOUT ‘09

**TIME to Rap-Up**

Jeremy Namkung ’09 first met Professor Halford Fairchild when he was assigned to Fairchild’s first-year advisee group. As the advisees introduced themselves, Namkung mentioned that he liked to rap, but was too shy to perform on the spot. Fairchild, however, introduced himself last by performing his own autobiographical rhyming piece, and so from the first time they met both were aware that they liked performing this type of material.

Jeremy Namkung ’09 is one of many students who have benefited from Professor of Psychology and Black Studies Halford Fairchild’s use of rap in the classroom and beyond.
GRACED WITH BEAUTIFUL California weather, the first phase of the Residential Life Project has made tremendous progress. The College’s three new residence halls have really begun to take shape this winter. As a reflection of Pitzer’s commitment to sustainability and environmental education, Pitzer is pursuing the highest level of “green” possible for the Residential Life Project, and expects to receive Gold certification under the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system next fall.

Over the last two years, literally thousands of design decisions have been made concerning every conceivable aspect of the Project—ranging from paint color choices, to plant materials for gardens, to sustainable interior furnishings. In the next few months, construction of the halls will be completed and staff from the offices of facilities and student affairs will begin the process of readying them for occupancy by students in Fall 2007.

Fundraising for the Residential Life Project is also continuing to make strong progress this year, with $17.4 million received to date in cash or pledge commitments. This puts Pitzer more than 97 percent of the way toward its fundraising goal of $18 million. During the next few months, the College seeks to complete its fundraising campaign through a number of exciting initiatives.

Among these is the Amphitheater Fund, which will provide for an outdoor amphitheater in honor of Pitzer’s Founding Faculty. Led by Pitzer College Trustees Susan Pitzer P’98 and Deborah Deutch Smith ’69, with assistance from Louise Thornton ’68, the College is looking to raise $380,000—one-third of which has already been committed. Smith noted, “Pitzer is fortunate to have so many living Founding Faculty still teaching full- and part-time at the College and also actively engaged in the life of the institution. This newly developing section of campus provides us with the chance to honor the Founding Faculty who made such a difference in most of our lives.”

For more information visit www.pitzer.edu/rlp, and watch the construction process live by Webcam at http://134.173.115.201:8040/.

You are invited to purchase a piece of Pitzer College’s new residence halls—literally! The beautiful Admission Office courtyard will be surfaced with attractive brick pavers, offering you an opportunity to make a real impression on the College’s future. You may choose one of four sizes and styles of bricks to be engraved with your name or the name of someone you would like to honor. Bricks are a great opportunity to congratulate a recent graduate, to honor a family member or loved one, to pay tribute to a favorite professor or to celebrate your Pitzer experience. Bricks will be available for a limited time only and will be installed by the end of the fall 2007 semester. Once installed, you will be sent information about the location where it has been placed. You will also be listed in the Residential Life Project section of the Honor Roll of Donors.
AS A RESULT OF MATTHEW-RYAN deciding to attend Pitzer College, I have learned never to underestimate the power of events to influence our children, even at the very earliest stages. Matthew-Ryan’s first visit to Pitzer College was while he was still in utero in 1988 when we attended a Pitzer College reunion. Since that time, we as a family have had occasion to visit The Claremont Colleges for various events including concerts and lectures. For approximately a year and a half we traveled around the country investigating various colleges. Once all of the applications were completed and the subsequent acceptances arrived, we left the decision completely up to Matthew-Ryan as to where he wished to attend college.

We did not feel it was appropriate to argue for or against any college, as all of the colleges he was accepted to were fine institutions. More importantly, Matthew-Ryan had the opportunity to visit The Claremont Colleges where he was able to observe the campus, the students, the dormitories and the surrounding landscape. Additionally, Matthew-Ryan was very impressed with the Pitzer studentshe met while attending College Day.

Matthew-Ryan is our eldest child and of course the first one to attend college. Though we miss seeing him on a daily basis, our sadness is tempered by the fact that he has adjusted well to Pitzer College. It is a small campus and Matthew-Ryan has been able to have a variety of experiences during his time here. Additionally, Matthew-Ryan has had the opportunity to travel around the country and has been able to see the world from a different perspective.

We look forward to Matthew-Ryan living and growing through the Pitzer experience and thus renewing our own hopes and enthusiasm for the future.

—TANYA ‘78 & CARL-ERIC BENZINGER, PARENTS OF MATTHEW-RYAN BENZINGER ’10

I ALWAYS SAY WHEN YOU’RE raising a child the days pass slowly and the years pass quickly. Especially now that our son, Nick, is about to graduate from Pitzer. It seems like yesterday that he cut the power cord to the light beside his bed because he “wanted to know what electricity looked like.” I suppose we shouldn’t have been too surprised that wanting to know, to see for himself, would lead him to volunteer as a counselor at a camp for kids orphaned by the wars in the Balkans on an island off the coast of Croatia.

He was an high school then and we traveled often as a family with Nick as the navigator. Still, Cathy and I wondered if we were mad to let him fly there alone. We lay in the dark watching the clock and when he called at 3 a.m. and asked, “Dad, did I do well?”, we cried.

Nick began at a college out East, but midway through his second year he felt something was missing. So, he left and traveled until one of his teachers provided the piece of the puzzle he was looking for.

He told Nick about a small college with an innovative faculty and the resources of a large university that encouraged its students to be engaged in their education and their community. That college was Pitzer College. Nick called Arnaldo Rodriguez. They met. And two months later he joined the class of 2007.

Nick immediately felt right at home: first fashioning a major in Organizational Studies, then applying what he learned to create the Prison SMART program to work with gang members at the Afterbaugh/Page Juvenile Camp.

Last September, with President Trombley’s enthusiastic support, Nick founded the Diving With Democracy lecture series. Before Nick introduced Ralph Nader at the inaugural event, Dean of Students Jim Marchant introduced Nick by saying he was able to take his vision and through his creativity and determination turn it into a reality. Nick would say that’s because Pitzer has encouraged him to see life’s challenges as opportunities and to follow his passion fearlessly. Which is why he’s applied for a Coco Fellowship that’s designed to train leaders in public affairs.

As for Cathy and me, Pitzer’s been everything we hoped it would be and more. We’re happy to say Nick’s younger sister, Coco, feels the same way. She’ll be entering in the Fall as a member of the class of 2011. Thank you Pitzer, you’ve done very well.

—EDDIE KISLINGER & CATHY WATERMAN, PARENTS OF NICK KISLINGER ’07

Above: Cathy Waterman and Eddie Kislinger with their children, Coco, Claire and Nick, in Jaipur, India
Left: Tanya, Matthew-Ryan, Carl-Eric and Carina Benzinger

Winter Sports
Men’s Basketball (Overall: 11-7, SCIAC: 5-3)
Women’s Basketball (Overall: 4-14, SCIAC: 1-7)
Men’s Swimming and Diving (Overall: 1-1, SCIAC: 1-1)
Women’s Swimming and Diving (Overall: 0-2, SCIAC: 0-2)

Spring Sports Preview
Baseball
Men’s Tennis
Women’s Tennis
Softball
Women’s Water Polo
Women’s Lacrosse
Golf
Men’s and Women’s Track & Field

As for Matthew-Ryan, he has been a true original. He is a student leader, a talented musician, and a passionate advocate for social justice. He is an inspiration to all of us.

—JANNA ‘76 & CARL-ERIC BENZINGER, PARENTS OF MATTHEW-RYAN BENZINGER ’10

Winter 2007
Remembering

Professor Ellin Ringler-Henderson

Professors Agnes Moreland Jackson and Tom Ilgen remember their colleague and friend

Among the Wonderful Things about Pitzer College is the absence of formal departments and the practice of randomly assigning faculty offices that make it possible, even likely, that one’s closest faculty friends will be those who cultivate very-different scholarly terrain. As it was with Ellin, a student of literature, and me, a student of international politics. We became acquainted in 1985, my first year at the College, when we served together on a personnel review committee. With Ellin’s participation and guidance, the experience of evaluating a young colleague taught me that I had come to an institution that valued good teaching and effective student mentoring above all else. Good scholarship, while important, did not compensate for mediocre classroom performance and indifferent academic advising. Our early service together also taught me that my prose could benefit from Ellin’s careful eye and pointed comments, always graciously offered. As the years went by, Ellin and I developed a friendship deepened by her interest in politics and mine in literature. She regularly pressed me for opinions about the failures of American policy abroad or the lack of political leadership at home. In her life away from the College, she became something of a political activist, engaging local causes such as homelessness in Laguna Beach and support for the arts and art education in Idyllwild. For me and for my wife, Ellin was the consultant that shaped our literary world. She routinely and generously compiled the lists of books that must be read. And so we did, and asked for more. Ellin also believed that one’s role as an educator extended beyond the classroom and she took an active interest in the lives of her students both at Pitzer and later as young adults. She participated actively in events for Pitzer alumni and was a favorite among those returning to the College for alumni weekends. When she retired from teaching in the 90s, she remained close to the College and former students. While she took on new challenges in Laguna Beach, spent time with family and traveled widely, she never lost her desire to teach. During a wonderful weekend in Idyllwild just last spring, she talked enthusiastically about a course on great works of English literature that she was offering to adult students at the University of California, Riverside. It required a long and difficult drive but she was clearly moved and energized by the opportunity to introduce these older students to classic texts. And they were surely moved and energized in turn.

During Twenty-Nine Years of working together in the English field group at Pitzer College (starting in 1968-1969 when I was in Claremont as a part-time guest lecturer in Black Studies), Ellin and I shared our complementary expertise in British and American Literature. We also worked hard to bring Women’s Studies to the College—Pitzer leading the way as it has done in all things truly progressive in our academic and town and gown community. In addition to our wonderfully giggly times, our colleagueship was a solid blend of knowledge, love of learning and students, support of a beloved institution, and a deep and abiding love of animals. I’ll always remember Ellin with great affection, and will continue to support the Pitzer scholarship in her name.

—Professor Emerita Agnes Moreland Jackson

Alumni, students, faculty and all members of the Pitzer College community are invited to read and share remembrances of Professor Ringler-Henderson at www.pitzer.edu/tribute.

Fabian Núñez Chicano Latino Scholarship Benefit
April 24, 2007

Congratulations ’06 ’07 Núñez Scholars!

The Fabian Núñez ’97 Scholarship was established in Spring of 2004 and named in honor of California State Assemblyman and Speaker Fabian Núñez, in recognition of his commitment to social justice and education. Alumni, parents and friends of Pitzer College came together in support of the Fabian Núñez ’97 Scholarship in 2005 and 2006 at Univision corporate headquarters in Los Angeles. The Benefit has been enormously successful and we hope to build on that success in 2007.

We invite all members of the Pitzer community to attend this year’s event on April 24, 2007, and we welcome and appreciate your continued support for future Fabian Núñez scholars.

For more information, contact Associate Vice President for Advancement, Nadine Francis, at (909) 621-8130 or by e-mail at nadine.francis@pitzer.edu.

www.pitzer.edu/clsbenefit
The Participant

CLASS notes
Share your accomplishments and milestones with Pitzer College alumni by sending your Class Note to:
Pitzer College
Office of Alumni Relations
1050 North Mills Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711-6101 or e-mail alumni@pitzer.edu
Please make sure to include your full name (including maiden name) and class year along with your updates, announcements and/or photos. Your Class Note should be written in first person and may be edited for content.

Next deadline: April 15, 2007

CLASS notes

The Higher Power of Lucky
Susan Hall Patron ’69 takes us to the California desert community of Hard Pan (population 43). Ten-year-old Lucky Trimble eavesdrops on 12-step programme meetings and will be making the move just before Christmas. I’d love to hear from my former classmates, so drop me a line at steven.murane1@us.army.mil.

Pleasure on the Run
Six stories of Dr. Ireneusz Ren Blaneo ’70 offers six sensational stories where twists and turns and the innate irony of life take on new meaning.

Writers Club Press, 2002
164 pages • $15.95

Sweet Affection
The latest EP/CD from bassist Tom Freund ’93, Sweet Affection, encompasses three new songs from the studio along with a live set recorded at a Sweet Relief Benefit in Santa Monica, California.

Surf Road Records, 2005
A album • $10.00

Pitzer Alumni Bookplate

CLASS notes

Pitzer College Alumni

Winter 2007

34

Marie Moretti ’73

Winer 2007

The Participant

CLASS notes

The Participant

CLASS notes

The Participant

CLASS notes

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NEW YORK CITY RECEPTION
On November 2 Pitzer College alumni and parents joined President Laura Skandera Trombley for an evening reception at the New York City home of Robert Siegel and Susan Kargman, parents of Charley Siegel ’07. President Trombley shared some of Pitzer’s accomplishments and gave a recap of recent campus events while alumni and parents enjoyed a beautiful selection of wine and hors d’oeuvres.

Top left: Makiko Young ’97 and Trustee Marc Broidy ’95
Top right: Jeanie Wakeland ’72 and Susan Bentley ’89
Bottom: Stephen Dignan ’91, Jin Hee Jung Dignan, Andrew Finver ’92 and Anthony Smith ’93

NEW RESOURCES POTLUCK BUFFET
On November 9 the Los Angeles Chapter of the Pitzer College Alumni Association invited Pitzer alumni for a festive evening of creative cuisine, sangria, art and entertainment. Held at Café Tu Tu Tango, more than sixty alumni and friends attended to hear from special guests Victoria Mudd, Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and visiting lecturer at Pitzer and Shannon Coggins ’03, Marketing and Promotions Manager for NBC Universal Television Distribution. President Trombley also spoke to the audience about campus happenings and the upcoming Summer Celebration in July 2007.

Top left: Professor Peter Nardi and Shannon Coggins ’03
Top right: Phillip Thompson ’13 and Peggy Blake ’13
Bottom left: Carrera Urzua ’05, Rich Anshaw ’98, Professor Brian Busief, Fernando Ortega and Deborah Price ’04
Bottom right: Steve Fenton ’92, Gregg Silver ’90 and Will Lenzner ’99

CAFE TU TU TANGO
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Top left: Professor Peter Nardi and Shannon Coggins ’03
Top right: Susan Daehees ’78 and Susan Brooks Wanner ’78 & P’01
Bottom: Esther Hutchins, Kyle Schroeder ’06 and Marc Cuevas ’04

SAGEHEN TAILGATE PARTY & HALL OF FAME DINNER
Pitzer’s Sagehen alumni joined President Trombley for a tailgate party on the lawn of the Pomona Rains Center before the CMS vs. Pitzer-Pomona homecoming football game. Attendees enjoyed burgers, cold drinks and caught up on old times with former teammates. After the Sagehens’ victory over CMS 31-14, Pitzer College hosted the 49th Annual Athlete Hall of Fame dinner for the first time. Three of the six Hall of Fame inductees were Pitzer alumni: Mike Bartman ’95 (tennis), Ellen Dinsenbacher-Blankenship ’93 (soccer and track & field) and Pat White ’86 (baseball).

Top left: Steve Fenton ’92, Gregg Silver ’90 and Will Lenzner ’99
Bottom left: Alexander Smith, Dean of Students Jim Marchant and Mark Smith ’75

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Bottom left: Alexander Smith, Dean of Students Jim Marchant and Mark Smith ’75

Bottom right: Alexander Smith, Dean of Students Jim Marchant and Mark Smith ’75
85 Peter Dunay (New York, NY) I am a fund manager still living in New York City.

86 Paul Hubler (Huntington Beach, CA) It is with great sadness that I report that Bob Anwyl, who attended Pitzer from 1982 to 1985, passed away of natural complications from the rarest form of brain tumor. We will continue to look for opportunities to work with the Governor and legislative Republicans to form partnerships instead of partisanship,” said Hubler. “We learned from this election that the citizens of California reward bipartisan progress, and we will continue down that path as we move our state forward.”

87 San Diego, CA The newest addition to our family is an enormous Goldendoodle dog. He is one-year-old. The kids (Kelsey, thirteen and Alexander, nine) love him! All else is the same. Enjoying visiting with old pals in September. Dave Chamberlain ’88, Mike Gonsell ’88, Debi Hutchens Ballard ’88 and I went to the Buffalo Run to celebrate our fortieth birthdays!

88 Tess Jackson Albert (Tucson, AZ) The newest addition to our family is an enormous Goldendoodle dog. He is one-year-old. The kids (Kelsey, thirteen and Alexander, nine) love him! All else is the same. Enjoying visiting with old pals in September. Dave Chamberlain ’88, Mike Gonsell ’88, Debi Hutchens Ballard ’88 and I went to the Buffalo Run to celebrate our fortieth birthdays!

89 Asia Rosefsky (Margateown, NJ) Hello all. I have moved around a bit since the old Pitzer days. I lived in Atlanta, West Palm Beach (until a couple of small rain storms came to visit) and now in West Virginia. I am married and have a two-year-old daughter named Sarah. She is a Mountaineer’s fan, and no matter how hard I try, I just can’t get her to cheer for the Mountaineers! I currently work for a company that makes fingerpier equipment, and spend a lot of time at the FBI headquarters here. I also travel quite a lot for work.

90 Elizabeth Watts Dunbar Goddard (Grande Rapids, MI) I received my MA in art education in 2000 from the University of New Mexico. I am a syndicated writer, professional artist and run an art therapy program at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art in Grande Rapids, MI. I am relying on my interdisciplinary liberal arts education from Pitzer just as much as ever. Thank you.

91 Jessica Hurley (Oakland, CA) In 2006 I won an Emmy for Best Educational Program/Special “Be Inspected, Not Infected” (FOX6), which followed young students getting tested for STDs for their very first time. I continue to produce video/DVDs and conduct artist interviews for greened music/activist festivals including Earthdance (the world’s largest music festival/dance for peace); The International Gathering of Elders 2006; and “Reggae on the River.” I also produced a new show on treasure hunting for the Travel Channel that premiered in December—my favorite trip: hunting for civil war relics on a battlefield camping in Virginia.

92 Patricia Musick ’92 McAuny, Van Clare & Phillips, a law firm with offices in Kansas City, Kansas, St. Louis, Missouri, and Roeland Park, Kansas, appointed Patricia Musick ’92, to manage their new Springfield, Missouri office. Music unlocks her practice from Springfield to St. Louis, Missouri, primarily focusing on workers’ compensation defense, public institutions and civil litigation.

93 Kevin de León ’03 California State Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez ’97 was formally elected for a two-year term as Speaker for the 2007-2008 legislative session in November. The vote was unanimous. He is now the longest serving Speaker since the era of term limits began in 1994.

94 Ruben Pacheco (Tucson, AZ) I am living in Tucson, AZ and working as an advisor/teacher in a middle school, grades 6-8. I was married two years ago to my beautiful wife Monica. Life has been good and I can’t believe it’s been more than ten years since my days at Pitzer. I regret losing touch of my old friends from back in the day, and would love to hear from you. If you’re ever in these parts “mi casa es tu casa.” Peace.

95 Jordan Kurland (San Francisco, CA) I am living up in San Francisco where I moved in early 1995. I’ve continued down the path that I began at Pitzer of working in the music business. I ran my own company called Zeitgeist Artist Management and my clients include Death Cab for Cutie, the Postal Service, Bob Mould, Piter and fellow Pitzer alumni, Matt Nathanson. I also co-produce a festival in the Bay Area called Noise Pop (www.noisepop.com). I’ve been married to an amazing woman, Tara, since 2002. No kids just yet. Feel free to drop me a line at jordank@zeitgeistmanagement.com.

96 Brian de León ’03 California State Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez ’97 was formally elected for a two-year term as Speaker for the 2007-2008 legislative session in November. The vote was unanimous. He is now the longest serving Speaker since the era of term limits began in 1994.

97 Cloistide Johnson (Davis, CA) I am working on my master’s of public health at UC Davis and expecting a baby soon! My e-mail address is cloistide.johnson@ucdavis.edu.

98 Airy Reich-Brinerton (Davis, CA) I graduated with a degree in physics and a 3.2 degree in engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Since then, I have been working as an environmental engineer in northern California, specifically with water quality protection. I got married in 2001 to Simon Pittfield, who owns a fencing academy. I received my master’s degree in environmental engineering from UCSD in 2004, with an emphasis on salt contamination worldwide. Simon and I are currently expecting our first child in June, and we are ridiculously excited about it. In the meantime, we are the parents of two smart rats and a cockatiel.
The Participant

Rosalind Sabet (Ontario, CA)
I am teaching sixth grade at Hawthorne Elementary; also direct an Egyptian dance/drum program at schoolsite; we perform at conventions, EXPOs, cultural events and the L.A. Fair (3 years).

Jeanne Gural (Somerset, NJ)
I am a staff ecologist at Rutgers University.

Melissa Baker (Monrovia, CA)
I've taken the plunge to start working on my doctorate in marriage and family therapy and it's going pretty well.

Rebecca Rhodes House (Pasadena, CA)
I can't believe it's been three years, though a lot has gone on in my life. After graduation, I continued to live in Southern California to be close to friends and because I started dating a wonderful guy from church. In fact, in October 2005, Joseph House and I were officially wed in Las Vegas, Nevada. Alumni Lindsey Smallford '88 and Aimee Worth '88 attended our wedding. Currently Joe and I are very happy living in our Pasadena apartment with the puppy we adopted last March from the local ASPCA. My husband does cancer research at USC, and I am also at USC getting my teaching credential and master's degree. I graduate next June, ready to teach in my own classroom next fall. Keep in touch! (See photo on page 41)

Matthew Cooke '96

After graduating with honors in Film and Video Studies from Pitzer College and working as a production assistant for Pitzer alumna Jana Sue Memel '75, Matthew Cooke '96 decided to get a "waiter job" so he could have time to develop a creative career in film. Little did he know that his aspirations would lead him to edit and produce the 2007 Oscar-nominated documentary, Deliver Us from Evil.

In 1997 Cooke opened a design studio in his Culver City garage where he built Web sites for Capitol Records and created motion graphics for an array of broadcast clients. After raising more than $6 million through AOL/Time-Warner and Intel for their broadband search engine, Ramptr.com, Ramptr was licensed by MediaOne in 1999 for their Road Runner network. For his design work, Cooke and his team earned a "Best of the Web" Award from Print Magazine.

After the dot-com crash, Cooke taught at Otis College School of Design and in 2002 he founded the Saturday Creative Group, a creative production studio collective that he still runs today. His clients have included Coquette Productions (David and Courtney Arquette), Ralph Edwards Productions and Frank the Plumber where he helped design concert animation and rear projection graphics for Prince, Incubus and others.

Cooke founded the Saturday Music Group (SMG) in 2003, which has remixed two singles for Beck and produced national commercial campaign sound tracks for Nike, Energizer, Subway, VHI, Ziploc, Paramount Pictures and Comcast. Cooke also completed a feature screenplay based on the true story sequel to the Falcon and the Snowman in 2005; the script is currently being packaged at International Creative Management (ICM) where he is represented as a screenwriter, producer and director.

In 2006 Cooke joined forces with CNN Producer Amy Berg, as editor and producer for the feature documentary, Deliver Us from Evil, about the sex abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. The film won numerous awards and made more than forty critics' 2006 "best of" lists before being honored this year with an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary.

Cooke continues to live in Hollywood where he works as a filmmaker and freelance creative director.

Julia Osha (London, England)
I just graduated from the London School of Economics with an MSc in gender and social policy (surprise, surprise). I focused on feminist and postcolonial theory, post-modernism, with a study of immigration and gendered access to mobility. Pitzer's curriculum, professors and friends no doubt a contributing factor to this interest! (See photo on page 41)

Molly Weinstein (Scottsdale, AZ)
Hello Everyone! Well, sadly I finally left Pitzer, and am now in my first year of law school for immigration in Arizona. It's true, law school sucks, but Pitzer taught me to fight the good fight. 2004 people, make your gift to Pitzer this year! The more Pitzer people there are in the community, the easier our jobs will be in the future to make the world a better place.

Matthew Cooke '96

FILMMAKER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Class notes

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Michael Moreno (La Jolla, CA)
I worked for twenty-six months in Iraq for the U.S. government as a security policy adviser to the Iraqi government. I am currently at Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs studying international security policy for a master's of international affairs degree.

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THE FIRST VISIBLE SIGN OF
Learning
AT PITZER COLLEGE

As part of her course titled “Doing Natural History,” Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Melinda Herrold-Menzies and her students along with grounds staff worked together to plan and create a new campus garden that adheres to the College’s master landscaping plan. Read more about Pitzer’s rich educational environment in the President’s Column on page 3.