we change the world
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from the EDITORS

CHANGE IS a popular word this year, although it is not new to the lexicon of Pitzer College. John Atherton, the first president of the College, brought forth the notion that Pitzer’s mandate is to “change the universe.”

Pitzer students initiate change on campus and in the community and continue to do so as alumni by impacting the world as informed citizens and becoming what Mahatma Gandhi called “the change you wish to see in the world.”

No matter what careers Pitzer graduates select—public service, law, teaching, social work, or nonprofit management, to name a few—they aspire to create a more humanistic and compassionate place for people to coexist and flourish.

Social and political activism have long been a hallmark of the Pitzer experience. Students learn to question what seems unjust and inequitable as well as to expend the effort to passionately bring about meaningful change through collective action and grassroots organization.

It is much easier to maintain the status quo than it is to compel change, but that is not the Pitzer way. The stories of Pitzer alumni and current students appearing herein offer only a small glimpse of the commitment and years of hard work that have driven change for a better world.

Susan Andrews
Editor

Emily Cavalcanti
Managing Editor

NOTE: Student artwork featured in the 2007 President’s Annual Report and Honor Roll included mosaic tile work by Daniela Fleischaker Suarez ’04 and a mural painting by Sonya Angelica Díez 98. Additional artwork was completed by students in the Mixing It Up: Advanced Mixed Media and Ceramics course taught by Professor Emeritus of Art David Furman and Professor of Art Kathryn Miller.
The Promise of Change

CHANGE IS a state of being that colleges know well. Each year, new students arrive and seniors graduate. New courses are continually added to the curriculum, tenure-track faculty are hired and senior faculty retire.

At Pitzer College, with our long-time emphasis on interdisciplinarity and field group structure, rather than the traditional model of separate disciplines and individual departments, change is actively encouraged and embraced. This should come as no surprise at an institution whose motto is Provida Futuri, Mindful of the Future. As Huck Finn might say, Pitzer College is a place where we are always looking around the next bend in the river to see what we will discover.

Pitzer College is at its finest when educating students to become well-informed, global citizens, enthusiastic about leading intelligent, socially responsible lives. Pitzer students are not intimidated by change, instead, after experiencing a transformational educational experience, it is our hope as alumni they will utilize their talents and intelligence to transform their communities and their world to create positive change.

In the most recent first-year survey, 93 percent of Pitzer students reported that they believe being a good citizen requires a responsibility to help others in need. Eighty-seven percent agreed that when they hear the phrase “social responsibility,” their first images are about doing something for others in the community, outside of the campus environment. Seventy-one percent of Pitzer seniors reported that it was essential that they work for social change in their careers, compared to 56 percent of seniors at their peer-group colleges.

In these early days of spring, the word “change” is heard nearly every day in speeches delivered by presidential candidates, and I expect their rhetoric will be a constant refrain as we move closer to the fall. Pitzer students are well prepared to create political change, with nearly 70 percent of seniors reporting that they envision themselves as being politically active beyond just voting.

Henry David Thoreau recognized a century ago that nothing is more important than this present moment: “In any weather, at any hour of the day or night, I have been anxious to improve the nick of time, and notch it on my stick too; to stand on the meeting of two eternities, the past and future, which is precisely the present moment; to toe that line.” This is the moment when the promise of change can be felt perhaps a bit more keenly than usual, and we are at the brink of making a decision that will profoundly affect us as well as future generations. It is my hope that this is a time when all the finest talents of our Pitzer undergraduates and alumni will be realized as they work actively to achieve a better tomorrow.
EUROPEAN UNION CENTER OF CALIFORNIA

In Print
STUDENTS' RESEARCH PAPERS PUBLISHED

THIS FALL RESEARCH papers written by Robbie Block '09, Jason Gorn '08 and Ricky Smith '08 were published in a book featuring the best papers from the Claremont—University of California Student Conference on the European Union held last spring.

More than forty students from eleven colleges and universities presented papers at the conference. Papers written by Gorn, Smith and Block as well as by Alexis Spencer-Notabartolo '07 and Jennifer Schmoll '09 were selected as the best on their respective panels.

In addition to having their papers published, both Smith and Gorn received partial scholarships to attend the EU Studies Summer Program in Brussels, Belgium.

Dennis Trotter
NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

DENNIS TROTTER began as vice president for advancement at Pitzer College in February.

Trotter brings to Pitzer a deep appreciation for and understanding of a liberal arts education. He has held high-level administrative positions at private liberal arts colleges across the country for more than twenty years, most recently as vice president for enrollment management and marketing and dean of admission at Franklin and Marshall College. He has also served as a research and planning consultant working with trustees, faculty and staff in admission, advancement, marketing and student services on higher education issues at colleges and universities nationally. In addition to his administrative experience, Trotter has served as a board member and dedicated volunteer at organizations that support needy families in his community.

Trotter earned an MBA from the University of Iowa and a BA from Whitworth University.
The Center for Social Inquiry

NEW INITIATIVE CROSSES DISCIPLINARY AND ACADEMIC BOUNDARIES

THIS DECEMBER the establishment of the Center for Social Inquiry at Pitzer College was announced with the Center’s programming scheduled to begin in the 2008-09 academic year.

During the past ten years Pitzer faculty members have raised the possibility of establishing a social sciences institute, akin to, but in no way duplicating, the Humanities Institute at Scripps College. Given that social phenomena and social policy issues cross disciplinary and academic divisional boundaries, the Center will necessarily incorporate perspectives from the humanities and natural sciences.

The Center will have a sustained thematic program for each year. During the Fall semester, the institute will host a one- or two-day symposium with a high-profile speaker to frame the theme for the rest of the year. In the Spring semester, the Center will combine a series of public intellectual events (guest speakers, films and panel discussions) on a bi-weekly basis with an undergraduate course component. Juniors and seniors from all field groups will be invited to apply to be “junior fellows” in the Center. In addition, the Center will oversee planning of an Atherton dinner each semester.

“We are delighted to now be able to realize this long sought goal,” Dean of Faculty Alan Jones said. “The establishment of the Center will enhance Pitzer’s ability to more deliberately fuse an ongoing public speaker series with the curricular goals of the College. In particular, the fact that student ‘fellows’ will have the opportunity to enroll in a seminar that critically examines the Center’s public events will be a wonderful new addition to the Pitzer curriculum.”

Dan Segal, Jean M. Pitzer Professor of Anthropology and Professor of Historical Studies, has been appointed to serve as the inaugural faculty director of the Center. This directorship will rotate on a bi- or tri-annual basis and the Center’s theme will change each year. Dean Jones commented that Professor Segal’s own commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship made him an ideal candidate to lead the Center in its early years.

The theme for the Center’s first year will be “Public Health and Food: Global Issues.” Segal will also establish an advisory committee comprising Pitzer colleagues whose scholarship connects with the proposed theme. The committee will help in planning the upcoming year’s program. In the future, the College community will be invited to suggest themes for upcoming years.

The Perfect Tune

MATT EASTLING '96 AND HIS MOTHER
DONATE A BABY GRAND PIANO

ORIGINALLY A GIFT from his father, John Eastling, to his mother, Karla, for Christmas in 1968, the Challen baby grand piano in Matt Eastling’s family found a new home in the Holden Hall Living Room this January. After learning of students' requests for another piano on Pitzer College’s campus, Matt and his mother Karla graciously chose to donate the piano in memory of John who passed away in 2000.

“When we heard that Pitzer was looking for a piano, we thought that it would be the perfect place for it to go,” Matt said, “We know my father would be happy that our piano has found such a place where it will have a positive impact within the student community of Pitzer.”

Left: Abraham (Jasper) Kosokoff ’10 and Briana Lassig ’10 enjoy listening to Kanae Takemoto ’10 play the newly donated piano in the Holden Hall Living Room.
**JANUARY 31**

**CHALMERS JOHNSON**  
"Can We End the American Empire Before It Ends Us?"

Author and Professor Chalmers Johnson's lecture kicked off the Spring semester for the Dining with Democracy speaker series. Johnson has written numerous books including, most recently, three examinations of the consequences of American Empire: Blowback, The Sorrows of Empire and Nemesis: The Last Days of the American Republic.

**FEBRUARY 20**

**AISHA S. AHMAD**  
"Women in Afghanistan"

Aisha S. Ahmad, a PhD candidate from McGill University, discussed her fieldwork in Afghanistan and led a discussion about ongoing women's sexual security issues including rape, forced marriage and bride-napping in the post-Taliban period. The event was sponsored by Itihad: Middle Eastern Student Union and the Pitzer Feminist Coalition.

**FEBRUARY 21**

**WANDA COLEMAN**  
"Wanda’s Wisdom, Wanda’s Words"

The Pitzer community joined together for dinner and a poetry reading with Wanda Coleman. Known as the unofficial poet laureate of Los Angeles and "the L.A. Blueswoman," Coleman is the author of nineteen books and the recipient of numerous honors. The event was funded by the Agnes Moreland Jackson Fund for Diversity, which pays tribute to the extraordinary contributions Jackson has made to the cause of diversity.

**FEBRUARY 21-23**

**HEATHER FLORES**  
Grassroots Gardening

Founder of Food Not Lawns, nationally renowned gardening instructor and community activist Heather Flores conducted a series of hands-on workshops in Pitzer's organic garden as part of the Reality of Food speaker series sponsored by the Campus Life Committee, the Pitzer Garden Club and the Ecology Center. She also shared expertise in ecological gardening, permaculture design and community organizing.

**SPRING SEMESTER**

**WRONG IS NOT MY NAME**

The Wrong Is Not My Name speaker series featured cultural critics, authors and artists who produce and theorize representations of race and sexuality in the black diaspora. During the Spring semester the series, sponsored by the Campus Life Committee, presented three guest speakers, a film screening series and a student research conference. The artists and intellectuals featured in this speaker series addressed both historical and contemporary dialogues within Black Feminist and Queer Studies as well as engaged other myriad liberatory social-political analyses and art practices.
**LATINO ROCKABILLY FESTIVAL**

The evening, organized by the Chicano/Latino Students & Alumni (CLSA), the Latino Student Union and the César Chávez Commemoration Committee featured custom cars, food and musical performances.

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**FEBRUARY 27**

**M-1**

“Hip Hop and the History of the Black Panther Party”

M-1, aka Mutulu Olugabala of the rap duo “dead prez,” organized and became the local president of the Brooklyn Chapter of the National Peoples Democratic Uhuru Movement and the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement.

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**MARCH 11**

**PETER HART**

“Unscrewing the Spin: Fairness and Accuracy in Our Media”

Hart is the activism director at FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting) and the author of *The Oh Really? Factor.*

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**MARCH 27**

**JOHN HUESTON**


Hueston was the lead prosecutor with the Enron Task Force and has been recognized by *Fortune* and *American Lawyer* magazines.

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**Evaluating the Dream**

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TEACH-IN**

**HELD ON JANUARY 25**

A RESOUNDING “no!” in Pitzer College’s Founders Room was enough to make one wonder who had the audacity to ask if America has overcome racism and actualized the hope of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Each of the speakers exposed facets of unactualized kinetic potential in American racial attitudes from the perils of anger to the court system, from recognition of women to the power of individuals to advance change.

The discussion began with Professor Emerita Agnes MorelandJackson noting that America is moving in the right direction, but we have not overcome, and it does not seem likely that we will. “I cry every time I try to sing ‘we shall overcome,’” Jackson admitted. “It is rooted in the belief that we won’t overcome.” She hopes others will find ways to fight the sickness of U.S. culture without becoming overwhelmed with rage. She has opted to stand in truth, and asks others to do the same.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Erich Steimann pointed out that the courts have rescinded their offer to be an ally to the cause of racial equality. The Supreme Court now allows racist action as long as it does not mention race, but forbids race-conscious remedies designed to counteract racial inequality. Steimann noted that the Court in *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District* (2007) turned the historical ruling in *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* on its head, adding that “This is not the colorblind society King was fighting for.”

The importance of grassroots work and women’s participation in the Civil Rights Movement was highlighted by Maria Soldatenko, professor of Gender and Feminist Studies and Chicano Studies. Particularly she focused on the effects of civil rights activist Ella Baker, “I want us to remember the women who participated and really critically look at how Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated today.”

Soldatenko and José Calderón, professor of sociology and Chicano Studies, wanted to celebrate King as a radical thinker who opposed the Vietnam War and aligned himself with the struggles of Third World people around the world against the U.S. empire. “Today there is something happening with people saying ‘we want change.’ It is similar to the Civil Rights Movement,” Calderón said. He added that movements produce leaders that best espouse its needs. Calderón identified in particular the need for reform in many aspects of present day culture. “Martin Luther King symbolizes the type of leadership needed today.”

—JESSICA SCHWARTZ ’08
PITZER ART GALLERIES

The Power of Seeing
ARTISTS SEEK TO REPRESENT ANTARCTICA

JOYCE CAMPBELL, Anne Noble and Connie Samaras each stole a bed away from a scientist in Antarctica in the name of cultural production. Or, at least, that is how many scientists saw it. Noble explained how the entire continent is devoted to science, and art is not seen the same way, despite the fact that both are rooted in observation.

"There is this idea that art just falls out of our fingertips," Samaras said. "Scientists consider failure an integral part of research. Artists are conditioned to see failure as a fall from grace."

Campbell and Noble traveled to Antarctica through New Zealand fellowship programs, whereas Samaras was funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation. Campbell and Noble said the expectation is that the artists arrive, become overwhelmed and inspired for two weeks, then return home and majestically create. The limitations on the photographers were numerous, from white out days, in which the world appears to be a blanket of white, to winds preventing the helicopter from leaving. All of these obstacles increased the already enormous pressure to produce.

Each artist brought with her a personal perspective and mental photographic reality constructed of what Antarctica would look like. Each hoped to challenge the romantic heroism so often associated with the extreme South Pole. The artists looked at how to represent observation, attempting to capture the essence of the overwhelming landscape that a mere 10,000 people have seen since its discovery.

Campbell approached her work from a sculptural background, and used handmade, person-sized prints because they required a physical involvement in development, all of which were designed to bring the visceral experience to her audience. The driving question in Noble's work was how a person comes to know a landscape through the photographic medium. Samaras' political perspective of the land showed how the world can be turned upside down by a trick of the light, a failure of the eyes.

Campbell connected her work to issues of environmental sustainability, and found Antarctica a logical place to approach the climactic system. She strove to "harness the language of the nineteenth-century painting epitomized by Antarctica." On her last day, Campbell stumbled across an anthropomorphic skull emerging from the ice that embodied her terror of what humankind is doing to the earth.

"The screaming ghoul figure was highly emotive, almost brashly terrifying," Campbell said. The harsh environment allowed her to face mortality in a general sense—of herself, the species, and the entire world—and was somehow able to be invigorated by the experience.

Noble's approach was more structural, and sought to challenge the preconceived expectations of her audience. She considered the role of context in perception, in which without a scale to compare, the observer is prevented from really seeing. Noble welcomed the white out days, and waited until she could see very little to begin photographing. Observing at that point "became this long sustained poem of seeing," Noble said.

"You get a hint of something so large, so much more than our puny eyes can perceive that one runs scared for the tiny heated hut of the ego."

Samaras battled "photo chatter," and the realization of the emotional impact the experience had on her, in addition to the expected physical one. "You get a hint of something so large, so much more than our puny eyes can perceive that one runs scared for the tiny heated hut of the ego," Samaras wrote in her journal. "It was really hard to see. I couldn't see anything because I could see everything."

The three artists' work gives their audience an opportunity to see observation, perception and representation challenged. As Samaras explained, there is no panorama, "No matter how many pictures are strung together with the same sight line, they would never equal the power of seeing there."

—JESSICA SCHWARTZ '08
ALUMNA Lizabeth Eva Rossof '95, who was featured in Takashi Murakami's 2007 selection of emerging artists in GEISAI, Miami, creates experimental art that is playfully provocative and visually arresting and includes collaborative performance, public intervention and site-specific installations.

Rossof's I Witness (2005-07) employs the unwitting collaboration of police officers and detectives versed in “composite drawing for law enforcement.” Unaware of their real identities, the detectives create portraits of high-profile political players based on Rossof's memory and power of description.

Similarly, I Bush: 1,000 Words for Bush (2004-08) uses guile and daring to elicit genuine reactions from strangers when shown the official presidential portrait of George W. Bush. Comprised of large-scale pop-colored posters that emulate Apple's hyper-seductive iPod marketing campaign, each poster displays one of the 357 responses made to Bush's image.

KNOWING FOR his mural-scale, lushly colored paintings, engineer-turned-artist Sandeep Mukherjee concocted an exhibition of paintings and drawings made specifically for the Nichols Gallery:

Restricting his palette to black and white, Mukherjee's three massive horizontal works, that function in concert as well as singly, allude to the natural landscape but never conspicuously. The paintings pivot back and forth between the tangible and the ethereal, pushing and pulling between figuration and abstraction. The result is a tension between the pastoral and fantastic that attracts viewers with its peculiar magnetism.

Spanning three walls, each enormous panel—the largest measuring thirteen feet wide—is made from a translucent vellum material resembling tracing paper. Mukherjee's meticulous process involves the use of acrylic ink that is painted, blown and dropped upon the surface of the works before being removed and reapplied. A sculptural aspect is created as the vellum is folded and creased into a series of pleats that weave their way across the surface in multiple directions suggesting a dissonant accordion. The effect produced—wide expanses of virgin vellum and fields of flat color with a jagged undulating surface—excites and confuses the tension of the surface, intensifying the kinship of the visual and the tactile.

Lizabeth Eva Rossof
JANUARY 30 - MARCH 22, 2008

Spell: Sandeep Mukherjee
FEBRUARY 2 - MARCH 22, 2008

Founding Faculty Amphitheater
THE FOUNDING FACULTY AMPHITHEATER just north of the new Sanborn Hall was completed in January. The space accommodates more than 300 attendees for concerts, talks and other events. The amphitheater’s inaugural event was President Laura Skandera Trombley’s State of the College address to parents and students during Family Weekend in February.
"The level of pollution that China is creating will be devastating to these monuments."

Associated Press
Melinda Herrold-Menzies, assistant professor of Environmental Studies, was quoted in a November 7 article titled "Coal's Other Victim: China's History," which discussed how China's ancient sites like the Leshan Buddha (right) are threatened by air pollution and acid rain, mostly from the burning of coal.

"It was great [...] to create a show that not only illustrated the success and efficiency of the residence halls, but also their beauty."

Vanessa Rundle '08 and Pitzer College trustee and alumnus Marc Broidy '95 were featured in a December article titled "Green Party," which discussed their production of a grand finale light show for the dedication of the new green residence halls.

Bridget Baker '82 in the Top Quartile of Women in Entertainment Power 100

The Hollywood Reporter recognized Bridget Baker '82, a Pitzer College trustee and NBC Universal Networks Distribution president, in their 2007 listing of the most influential female executives in Hollywood.

"He’s got a lower socioeconomic accent, the equivalent of our 'redneck' accent, but these women drape themselves all over him because of the way he talks—they think he’s sexy."

Carmen Fought, associate professor of linguistics, was quoted in a January 28 article titled "Celebrity Accents: It's All Very Tongue-in-Chic," in which she describes how Americans' bias for Brit-speak is illustrated in the British film Love Actually.

"We began this tradition four years ago. Many immigrants who are not able to spend Christmas with their families back in Mexico become sad or depressed; our goal is to help them avoid these feelings . . . Especially nowadays when many of them are not able to go visit and return like before," indicated José Calderón, who is responsible for the project and is himself a descendant of immigrants.
Residence Halls Receive Innovative Workplace Award

The newly built sustainable residence halls at Pitzer College were awarded the 2007 REMMYS Innovative Workplace Award by CoreNet Global's Southern California Chapter.

According to CoreNet, the award for Innovative Workplace was awarded to Pitzer College for what jurors called "an inspirational place of education through which many of our future leaders will pass." Another juror commented, "An innovative project like this has significant impact on sustainability because all of the students experience sustainable living firsthand everyday."

The criteria for the Innovative Workplace Award include the ability to integrate innovative approaches into a project; incorporation of core values and branding into design solution; evidence of cost reduction and/or improved productivity in a new workplace environment; depth of sustainability in the project; and uniqueness of the space solutions.

There were numerous nominees in this category including HOK, a global architectural firm; Gensler, a financial service company; and HMC Architects. Dean of Students Jim Marchant accepted the trophy at the December 6 ceremony held at the Warner Bros. Studio Lot in Burbank, California.

Mary Beth Garber ’68 Named Broadcaster of the Year

Mary Beth Garber ’68, president of the Southern California Broadcasters Association (SCBA), was named Broadcaster of the Year at the 2008 national Radio Advertising Bureau convention.

Garber has led the SCBA for ten years during which time the Los Angeles radio market has grown to be the largest in the world and the only one with annual revenues exceeding $1 billion.

During her tenure, she has co-produced, in conjunction with Arbitron, three behavioral studies about media usage and created the concept of "The Virtual Neighborhoods of Radio."

An early and vocal advocate of radio's continued importance as a twenty-first century medium, she has written and spoken throughout the country on the value of using radio together with the Internet to build stronger, more targeted marketing campaigns.

Garber has received numerous honors during her distinguished advertising and broadcast career including the Genii Award for Excellence in Radio from the American Women in Radio and Television, the 2007 Golden Buccaneer Award from PIRATES (Print, Interactive Radio and TV Education Society) for her philanthropic endeavors, and has been on Radio Ink magazine’s list of “20 Most Influential Women In Radio” since its inception in 1999.

A former Pitzer College trustee, Garber is on the Board of Directors of thinkLA, the Executive Board of the Los Angeles Media Marketing Research Council, the Board of Trustees of St. Francis Hospital Foundation and the Board of Variety Children’s Charity, Tent 25. She is a founding member of the L.A. ad industry charity, AIEP.

PODER
Martha Bárcenas-Mooradian Recognized in Mexican Business Magazine

Visiting Instructor of Spanish Martha Bárcenas-Mooradian was selected as one of 100 teachers of Mexican descent who teach at a U.S. university by Mexico’s business magazine Poder Y Negocios. Since 2001, she has taught beginning and intermediate Spanish grammar at Pitzer College in addition to serving as the director of the Fletcher Jones Language and Culture Laboratory.

Bárcenas-Mooradian remains connected with Mexico through her family and various projects. Currently, she is collaborating with her sister on a sustainability project near Cordoba in an indigenous village of 400 people who have no access to education or larger cities. “The fruits of education are amazing and results in wonderful consequences,” she said. “I work with indigenous communities in trying to make a better life for them and by providing them with new opportunities.”

The Chronicle of Higher Education
At Pitzer College, Cinder Block Gives Way to Swimming Pool
December 4, 2007

The Chronicle of Higher Education featured Pitzer’s new residence halls as part of its ongoing “Buildings & Grounds” blog series.

Pitzer College’s new, 318-bed residence-hall complex is designed to achieve a gold rating in the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program—an ambitious goal, to say the least. But its sustainable features aren’t what you notice first on a visit. What you notice first is how neatly the complex wraps around an older swimming pool and student center that are set amid attractive landscaping. Compared with Pitzer’s original cinder-block dormitories, built in the 1960s, the new complex is a luxury resort. Read more at chronicle.com/blogs/architecture.
Built from the ground up

Since being appointed executive director of the Pomona Day Labor Center, Suzanne Foster ’00 has seen her Pitzer studies come full circle as she continues to empower immigrant workers.
It’s 6 a.m. as Suzanne Foster ’00 pulls into the parking lot of HD Supply Repair & Remodel. She opens the black wrought iron gate that surrounds the Pomona Day Labor Center’s trailer and makes her way to her office holding a steaming cup of coffee. After greeting workers and staff, Foster begins answering the phone and adding men’s names to “the list” for possible employment.

By 8 a.m. she heads out to take one worker’s wife and developmentally disabled son to their appointment with a geneticist. The mother is very nervous and doesn’t really understand what is going on, so Foster comforts her as she struggles to translate words like “chromosome.”

When they return to the Center, David is waiting there for Foster. Last April when he was riding his bike home around noon, he was struck by a teenager who lost control of a stolen car during a police chase. Now he has steel rods in his legs and uses a walker. David has brought one of his hospital bills so Foster can help him figure out how to pay the bill and apply for financial aid.

Meanwhile, she continues to sign men up for work and answer the phone as employers call. Two new student volunteers arrive and she gives them a tour of the Center. By now it’s 2 p.m. and she tries to sneak in a bite of her sandwich for lunch.

"When I returned from Ecuador, I found myself in a kind of life crisis like many college students do and questioned what I was doing with my life. I knew I was interested in workers’ rights, literacy and education especially as these played out in Latin America, but I had no idea how this would translate into a career."

That summer, with the help of Calderón, Foster found her answer. After inquiring into summer projects that might be of interest to her, Calderón suggested the Pomona Day Labor Center and as Foster remembers that was when it all “clicked.”

"With my subsequent work at the Center, I found an intersection of all of my interests—low-wage workers from Latin America who are struggling to defend their rights and are organizing themselves to improve their lives," Foster said. "As a member of the Center’s board of directors, Calderón encouraged me to talk to the workers, ask them what they thought of the Center and what if anything they would like to see changed."

The Center, located in a business center west of downtown Pomona and east of the Corona Freeway, opened its doors in January 1998. A HD Supply Repair & Remodel store is situated on the south side of the business center and after employers purchase materials there they oftentimes proceed to hire workers who congregate in the parking lot. In 1997 the City of Pomona passed an ordinance that prohibited “the solicitation of or for work on any street or highway, public area or non-residential parking area;” however, thanks to a coalition of community organizers including Pitzer students and faculty, the ordinance was amended and the Center designated as the only lawful place to solicit work in the city.

One of the common threads that emerged from Foster’s conversations with the workers more than a year later during the summer of 1999 was their frustration with researchers who had come and asked questions, but never returned to share or do anything to help them. The workers noted that English classes had been promised to them, but since the Center’s founding they had not been offered. Foster continued to listen to and record their concerns that summer, and eventually the workers suggested that she begin teaching English courses.

Driven to see this promise finally fulfilled, Foster and several other Pitzer students began investigating how to best teach English as a second language in a day labor center setting.
Recognizing that these were adult learners who did not necessarily have many years of formal education and may not be literate in Spanish, Foster and the other students interviewed different organizations such as the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) and the Institute of Popular Education of Southern California (IDEPSCA) to learn more about how these groups were working with day laborers in L.A. and implementing successful English programs.

They decided to build a program modeled after these organizations and in the fall of 1999, Foster and the other students began teaching the first English classes at the Center. This work then developed into the topic for Foster’s senior thesis in which she concluded that teaching English to the workers, which some just consider a social service, actually empowers them—allowing them to talk with their employer, ask for a higher wage and better understand their rights.

After graduating in 2000, Foster continued her involvement with the Center for another year as an urban fellow for Pitzer’s Center for California Cultural and Social Issues (CCCSI) as well as a board member for the Center, and went on to earn a master’s degree in urban planning from the University of California, Los Angeles. Foster landed her first job with IDEPSCA, where as a day laborer program manager, she learned how an organization is run, how to supervise and how to create a budget, among many other skills. Next she coordinated the Coalition for Health and Justice for the south-L.A. nonprofit organization Community Health Councils and helped advocacy groups try to prevent the closure of King/Drew Medical Center.

“While I really liked doing this work and believe in it, my heart kept calling me back to the day laborers,” Foster recalled. “I shared these feelings with José, who I had continued to stay in touch with, and he suggested that I start helping out with writing grant proposals part-time at the Center. I began attending the Center’s monthly board meetings again and that’s when I was invited to apply for the executive director position.”

As one of four candidates, Foster was not only selected for the position by the board of directors, but also by worker leaders who were part of the interview and hiring process. The workers remembered Foster and her years of service at the Center—they trusted her. “Suzanne was chosen for this position because of her past history of working with the Center while a student at Pitzer, her administrative experience with other day labor centers in L.A., her ability to work and communicate with diverse populations, and her qualifications as a grant writer,” Calderón noted.

Foster’s foremost goal upon beginning as director has been to encourage workers to assume significant leadership roles in the Center. She continues to strengthen the Center’s worker board as well as encourage weekly meetings in which plans of action are discussed for issues like immigration, health and education rights. She has ensured that worker representation also remains reflected in the Center’s full-time staff, which is composed of two staff coordinators who were day laborers, as well as an office coordinator who is from a day laborer family.

Foster’s administrative service in making the Center increasingly self-sufficient and less dependent on the City of Pomona. Foster has focused in particular on diversifying the Center’s funding with grants from private foundations. Most recently, a grant she wrote resulted in $50,000 in funding for operational purposes. Another change Foster has instituted is the allocation of the workers’ weekly dues into a fund that they alone manage. “I encourage them to think big,” Foster said. “They have these funds with which they could create any business or project of their choosing, not what someone else tells them to do.”

Foster has also ensured that English continues to be taught at the Center, with classes being offered six days a week for approximately four hours per day. She continues to strengthen the Center’s ties to area colleges such as Pitzer so that both the workers and college students may benefit from the advances service-learning programs make possible. Through their volunteer work at the Center, Pitzer students like Stephanie Hyland ’10, who began teaching English there as part of Calderón’s Social Stratification course, are able to apply what they learn in the classroom to the realities faced by the workers as well as the Center’s staff.

“After my course ended, and my papers were written, I asked the workers if they would like me to continue teaching and they all agreed,” Hyland said. “I have learned a lot about myself, as I build relationships with those who come and go from the Center. More often than not, the men have a number of things to teach me.”
Hyland continued, “We always try to share stories and opinions with one another. Suzanne has taught me a great deal as well. Sometimes she helps out with the classes, giving input or helping to explain a concept. But most importantly, she has taught me how to make do with what I have, whether it be one student or twenty, one pen or fifteen.”

In addition to providing a space for the workers to find employment and take ESL classes, under Foster’s direction the Center has continued to evolve into a place where the men can organize and participate in citizenship drives, health clinics, pilgrimage marches and immigrant rights advocacy efforts.

Despite the incredible progress that has been made during the Center’s first ten years, one of the greatest challenges that Foster, the workers and the Center currently face is the economic downturn being felt across the U.S. and especially in Southern California’s building and real estate markets. Analysts maintain that such a decrease in the construction and housing industries has not been seen in at least twenty-five years. Builders have slowed new construction because they are unable to sell existing properties; local homeowners cannot afford to hire contractors for remodeling and instead many opt to do the work themselves; and real estate agents trying to sell foreclosed homes do not have the resources to make any improvements.

“The economy has just flatlined,” Foster said. “And unfortunately any shifts in the economy are most severely felt by day laborers. Whether it’s working my way through the Yellow Pages or using an online resource, I contact numerous construction companies, contractors and real estate agencies each day but they just laugh and say ‘Are you kidding me? I’m not even working, how am I going to hire somebody else.’”

One worker, Conrado, recognized how the Center helps with morale, but after two weeks without work he begins to question how he and his family are going to live if he doesn’t find employment soon. Foster and the Center are trying to address this by providing additional services like job training, but even that is complicated. It is difficult to find instructors who have the right skills sets, speak Spanish and are also familiar with the day laborer population. Furthermore, all of the men have different skill levels and many are weary of training because it increases competition among them.

Another worker, Roberto, noted that in addition to the decline in the economy, day laborers are also vulnerable to changes in government as these most often result in immigration reform. With the presidential elections approaching, day laborer Simon observed that employment has slowed.

While Foster will be the first to admit that there is a lot of work to be done and that her “to-do” list is ever increasing, she is inspired by the workers and devoted to making the Center a place where they always feel safe and welcome—a place where they can ask questions and get answers they trust.

“Once I get to know people, I feel a responsibility to stay with them in the struggles they face,” Foster said. “It may get overwhelming for them and me because some obstacles seem insurmountable, but there still remains a tremendous amount of hope and that’s what keeps us going. Everyone here feels like things have to change someday. What it really comes down to is, we are fighting for a fundamental civil rights issue: the freedom to look for work. After what these men and their families have risked and left behind, how can we allow them to be persecuted,” she continued.

In watching over the years as Foster volunteered as a student at the Center, researched her senior thesis and then returned to assume a leadership role as a Pitzer alumna, Calderón believes her example truly reflects what community-based research, teaching and learning is all about. “From the very beginning Suzanne’s passion for immigration rights advocacy was evident as she naturally implemented a style of work with the day laborers that treated them as equals,” Calderón said. “She is now part of a site that is not only building leadership among immigrant workers, but is also empowering students in working alongside day laborers in implementing projects that mutually influence and benefit their future lives.”

—EMILY CAVALCANTI
Making a Difference at the VOTE

For Andra Belknap, Elena Fanjul-Debnam and Dan Mitchell, supporting their candidates' bids for the White House means more than just slapping on a clever bumper sticker or wearing a campaign T-shirt.

These Pitzer College students, who interned in the offices of Senator Barack Obama, Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator John Edwards, participated in on-the-ground efforts to push each candidate closer to the 2008 democratic presidential nomination. These internships are greatly sought after by college students across the country and are outstanding opportunities to engage students in the political process. From door-to-door voter canvassing to interacting with campaign experts, our students broadened their educational experience and took a step closer to a career in politics, government, public policy or law. Their participation in these campaigns is especially critical as the candidates seek to capture the attention of young voters.

Last summer I worked as a research intern at Obama for America headquarters in Chicago. During the past semester, I interned with the Obama for America Finance Office for the Southwest Region in Los Angeles and also served as the volunteer coordinator for the Claremont Chapter of Students for Barack Obama.

What I have come to realize through working on this campaign is that I can only devote myself fully to causes that I truly believe in. There is work to be done on this campaign 24/7, and during the summer it was an honor to give all of my time to it. I also learned how to apply the writing, analytical and research skills developed while at Pitzer in the real world and under a significant time crunch.

I am so proud to be a part of this campaign, and have had some incredible experiences during the course of the past six months that I will never forget. I feel as if this is a campaign that will go down in history as something truly amazing. In his speeches, Senator Obama often says that this campaign is built upon “ordinary people doing extraordinary things.” It sounds like a typical piece of campaign rhetoric, and normally I would take it as just a good sound byte, but I’ve really seen it happen. I’ve seen people who have never been engaged in politics before come to our campaign headquarters every day for full days of directing telephone calls, people showing up to rallies and waiting in massive lines on an unprecedented scale to see Senator Obama speak. This campaign is not only about winning an election, but revitalizing a tired electorate, and I cannot believe it, but I am seeing it happen.

I would not have devoted so much time and energy if I did not feel this was absolutely critical. I would not have spent the last six months of my life working on this campaign; I would not have walked door-to-door through the snow in Iowa; I would not have shouted myself hoarse in Nevada; I would not have spent my summer making spreadsheets in Chicago; I would not have made countless phone calls, if this campaign did not mean everything to me.

I will never forget when the news networks called the caucuses for Senator Obama while I was working in Iowa. I was in the midst of observing my precinct caucus when I received word from the campaign in the form of a text message. I felt in that moment that all of my work, and all of the work of the campaign as a whole, had paid off exponentially. I believe that when we won the Iowa caucuses, we changed history.
Elena Fanjul-Debnam ’10
Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina
Major: Political Studies
College Activities: Lacrosse, Student Senate, Student Activities Committee, Model U.N., Democrats of the Claremont Colleges
Career Aspirations: Politics and International Relations, Law School

Last summer I worked eleven-hour days, six days a week at the John Edwards National Headquarters in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The work was extremely challenging at times, but the experience was invaluable. I learned about communication, constituent support, networking and working as a team. But most importantly, I learned what it meant to be personally invested in the success of a candidate. By the end, I was truly passionate about John Edwards: the man, the candidate and the campaign.

I worked on the Young America for Edwards program as one of a four-member group. We developed the program from the ground up, by reaching out and listening to key youth leaders. I wrote quite a bit during my campaign internship in the political department. My writing skills improved tremendously as I learned to quickly express my ideas concisely and persuasively. I was also taught the importance of brainstorming in groups and then promptly taking action.

We built an interactive Web site page and rewrote key issues to be youth-friendly. We also made toolkits to teach and aid campus leaders in forming and maintaining a Young America for Edwards chapter. We brainstormed and enacted strategies that made the campaign and its supporters more socially responsible. We participated in a youth conference where we networked and discussed how to be successfully active on college campuses.

Our internship extended beyond the doors of our department. I also gained valuable experience in fundraising, on the Internet and with the administrative aspects of a campaign. On Fridays, I attended brown bag lunches where staffers expounded upon their past experiences—both inside and outside of politics.

During my internship, I gained not only a great deal of political skills, but I also learned the ins and outs of a political career—information that will undoubtedly help me in the years to come. I hope that it will make my job searching experience easier and will help me get the best job for me and my circumstances. It has made me consider going into other fields before joining a campaign professionally to acquire skills that will make me an asset.

I will forever be grateful for this experience and never forget my days on the campaign. There is an air about campaigns—an excitement, an urgency, a strong sense of pride and responsibility—something that you can only feel by being immersed and it creates a strong bond amongst the staff. It is not that this feeling was surprising—it was just unknown. I never guessed that taking a job for three months would leave me feeling emotionally invested in a candidate and the issues. It has profoundly affected my view of the world.

Dan Mitchell ’08
Hometown: Palo Alto, California
Major: Political Studies
College Activities: Democrats of the Claremont Colleges, Student Senate, Student Investment Committee
Career Aspirations: Public Service

I applied and was accepted to work initially for Friends of Hillary, Senator Clinton’s Senate re-election campaign. Shortly after I began working, the senator launched her Presidential Exploratory Committee. Luckily, I had placed myself in the right place at the right time working for the right people.

This internship taught me so much more about the political process and everything that goes into a national campaign. Specifically, this internship has taught me to be meticulous and efficient in everything from writing to researching. Paying attention to the details is critical as everything comes together in the end toward our shared goal of electing Senator Clinton president.

Living and working in Washington DC was a tremendous experience. I enjoyed a front-row seat observing how the governing process works, its triumphs and failures, and also in-depth look at how we choose who governs us. After working in the center of politics, I am aware of so many more opportunities that exist for young people looking to make a difference in America through public leadership, from working on Capitol Hill to campaigning across the country to lobbying on K Street. This experience has opened my eyes to all of these possibilities.

More than anything, I have learned the importance of truly believing in your cause and candidate. Campaigning is hard work, and often it is not glamorous, but if you believe passionately in the end goal, the work becomes fun.

Teamwork is also essential. One of the main reasons I had such an enjoyable and successful experience is because of the opportunity to work and learn from an outstanding group of professionals—some of the best in their field.

Before interning, I was perhaps a little cynical of the entire political process. Often people have negative perceptions of those who work in politics that are simply not true. This campaign is composed of a great group of people dedicated to turning this country around and improving the lives of all Americans. It is not just about winning, although that is obviously preferable, it is about changing the discussion back toward Democratic ideals, and working toward positive change for this country.

Senator Clinton is a terrific candidate. She has the experience, knowledge and talent to be a magnificent president. When I met her, she was warm, friendly and sincere. I have been extremely impressed with her energetic attitude and genuine interest in what each voter has to say.
Students demonstrate through their scholarship and actions that change in their local communities can and must happen.

After a Girl Talk session at Garey High School, Meredith Abrams '10 and Milan Cook '10 unfolded thirty-nine anonymous notes. They had invited the girls to brainstorm for ten minutes and write down their concerns on the topic: violence. Abrams and Cook thought their responses might be focused on questions of mental abuse. Instead they discovered twenty of the thirty-nine notes indicated personal experience with physical abuse and relationship violence.
"It was very difficult to know that behind the innocent, beautiful faces of these young women were individuals being hit by their fathers, their mothers, their boyfriends," Abrams said. "The Pitzer in Ontario program provided me with the guidance and support I needed to help give this muted population a voice on these topics."

Co-founded ten years ago by Pitzer College Dean of Faculty Alan Jones and Marfa de Lourdes Argiñielles, now professor of Education and Cultural Studies at Claremont Graduate University, the Pitzer in Ontario program creates a space in which to actualize the College's ethos of social responsibility and community engagement. Under the direction of the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues (CCCSI), the program seeks to articulate Pitzer College's vision of uniting social responsibility and academic rigor by having students co-partner with local community members in the production of knowledge. These community partnerships include the Pomona Day Labor Center, Camps Afflterbaugh-Paige, Homework Enrichment & Reading Outreach (HERO) and Prototypes, among many others.

As a component of C CCSI, the Pitzer in Ontario program provides a curricular connection so students engage with communities on an interactive and experiential learning level and also connect this to methods for applied research. As students in the Pitzer in Ontario program's courses, Social Change Practicum, Qualitative Research Methods and Critical Community Studies, Abrams and Cook's work at Pomona's Garey High School represents one of four new partnerships established last fall by C CCSI Interim Director Tessa Hicks and Pitzer in Ontario Director Susan Phillips. The other new partnerships formed include the Division of Juvenile Justice at the Herman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility in Chino, Inland Congregations United for Change in San Bernardino and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice in Riverside.

What students interning with these organizations found is when it comes to digesting large theoretical concepts and the importance of conducting community-based research, the Pitzer in Ontario program's model of learning provided them with the crucial framework for understanding how to best affect positive change within each of the unique communities they worked.

"I think community-based, participatory research is a critically important frontier in traditional research and our students are at the helm of it. It allows them to really get working in communities on intense issues of exploitation, marginalization, racism and sexism, as well as community development, empowerment and rights," Hicks said. "These are really messy, complex issues that you can't understand from just reading a textbook. You have to interact with people who are different than you, have different ideas than you and participate in an exchange that is both intellectual and also very personal and political."
"Girl Talk" and Garey High School

After putting up posters all over school, Abrams and Cook recalled how they and the other peer counselors had reserved only a small classroom expecting ten to fifteen girls to participate in the first meeting of Girl Talk. At 3 p.m., however, nearly seventy girls lined up outside the door. "It was completely overwhelming, but probably the most exciting moment for me in the program because it really showed that we were addressing a need and people were responding," Abrams said.

In listening to the stories the young women at Garey High School shared, Abrams and Cook learned that most of them desperately wanted to create a safe, supportive space for dealing with the intense social issues they faced such as the dating of older men and pressures to have sex. Therefore, for their Social Change Practicum course internship, they attended two weekly peer counseling classes and co-created and led Girl Talk, a weekly after-school program for adolescent females.

Abrams and Cook's supportive roles in each Girl Talk session was to facilitate a candid conversation in which students could share their personal experiences and opinions about such topics as relationships, violence, drugs and sex. In addition, they invited representatives from local, outside support agencies so students knew where to turn for information or help that was not offered in the school.

As Abrams and Cook worked to foster an environment of mutual exchange between themselves and the students, they began to understand more about the enormous challenges these fourteen- to seventeen-year-old girls faced. Abrams determined that her own research must concentrate on identifying why so many young women are involved in what appears to be serious and oftentimes abusive relationships. By interviewing the girls about their relationship experiences, Abrams uncovered the external factors at work that were beyond the control of the individuals involved. Parental attitudes, educational environment and the accepted social values and conduct within the institution all played a critical role in shaping the foundations upon which these young women's relationships were built.

Cook focused her work on the large number of teen pregnancies at Garey, which has the second highest rate in California. Despite this staggering statistic, when Cook asked the girls about the sex education programs offered by the school, they responded that with the exception of "health week," none existed. Noting that much research shows a positive correlation between the ages that a mother and daughter experience their first pregnancy, Cook recognized the urgent need to break this pattern at Garey. She listened to the girls' feedback and learned through Girl Talk how to begin developing an effective program for educating young women about sex and an overall healthy lifestyle.

"Their dependence on Girl Talk as a source of accurate information on the issues they face blew me out of the water," Cook said. "We shared a lot of ourselves with the girls and tried to be as open with them as possible instead of shying away from the questions nobody else would answer. My hope is that these girls will become educators themselves and help inform peers, younger children, and even adults, about the best way for them to cope with a given situation."

Abrams and Cook observed that once the girls began to voice their concerns and seek guidance during the weekly Girl Talk conversations, the girls' views began to change. They took a step back, looked closely at why things were the way they were. Some ended dangerous relationships and others made progress in grieving and coping with issues of familial abuse. Beyond the personal growth of each of the girls and how this will affect their future encounters, Abrams and Cook noted the importance of the girls seeing how two groups from completely different backgrounds can come together to achieve a common goal.

"These girls and a lot of youth out there are encouraged to talk, talk, talk, but they are never given the resources to take action," Abrams said. "We sat down and asked them what they hoped to gain from an after-school program and they actually saw their ideas fashioned into a successful final product. I think this experience as a whole has changed their outlook on what they're capable of doing."

Buddhist Meditation and the Division of Juvenile Justice

While going abroad to immerse oneself in a different culture can be fulfilling, the Pitzer in Ontario program holds that it is equally as worthwhile to look around the corner of one's own neighborhood and get to know another culture's different way of thinking and looking at the world. New Resources student and psychology major Gerald Johnson '16 found himself expanding his knowledge on Buddhist traditions while working with the wards at the Division of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) Herman G. Stark facility in Chino. For his internship he was invited to help develop a weekly Buddhist meditation group at the facility. The DJJ's Asian population is approximately 2 percent and previously no services had existed for Buddhists or those interested in learning to meditate.

Since the group was newly formed, Johnson and the men initially talked through some conflicting ideas about the direction the sessions should take and decided what Johnson was capable of providing as the group's facilitator. Johnson himself is not a Buddhist and the wards were all from different Buddhist traditions, so their greatest task was to find a level medium for all. Once this was achieved, their sessions generally came to be comprised of a beginning meditation, discussion of a Buddhist concept, open discussion

"We shared a lot of ourselves with the girls and tried to be as open with them as possible instead of shying away from the questions nobody else would answer."
about their concerns and what Johnson could do for them.

“‘One ward, Kim, is very curious about God: What do I think about God? Do I pray?’ Johnson said. ‘We talked about the concept of identity and moving forward and I talked about the Buddhist concept of identity and the difference between being guilty and being unskillful. We went into this rich conversation and for that one moment Kim dropped the wall and showed me who he really is. He is pretty fierce and he is known for being such, but there is still a human being in there.’

Rather than tell them they are wrong and he is right, once Johnson got to know each man and understood what frustrated him, he asked if the ward would like to learn how to deal with a particular issue successfully and shared his knowledge. “Initially they are suspicious of any new people entering and offering solutions,”

Johnson noted. “In their world people need to prove themselves, and volunteers are no exception.”

Since his research project focused on collecting the men’s individual narratives with the hope of ascertaining the underlying patterns that have formed their world views, Johnson had to work to earn their trust. As the wards spoke of their religious, ethnic and cultural histories, he likewise disclosed the same information and gradually they began to listen to each other.

Having been a volunteer in the Department of Corrections for fifteen years, Johnson is quick to acknowledge he doesn’t have a messiah complex and he doesn’t believe he is personally going to save any one person’s soul. What he did try to do through each of the meditation sessions and while holding personal interviews was to “plant seeds” as he put it.

“I think you stick your hand out and when they take it, they take it. And any time you put your hand out to someone and they take it that’s a benefit to the greater good,” Johnson said. “Increasing evidence supports the fact that restorative justice is actually much more beneficial to us as a society than retributive justice. I have a very personal understanding that people who are incarcerated are not necessarily inhuman. I think sometimes no one has ever told them what’s right in a respectful way.”
Ideas such as the need for more parks, basketball courts and recreation centers; a need for better school programming that truly engages the student demographic; and after-school activities, especially support groups in which they could voice their concerns and build relationships with students of other races.

Mira Loma Village and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Similar to her fellow students in the Pitzer in Ontario program, Maris Findlay '10, a self-designed major in Urban Studies, strove through her research to ensure that the stories of marginalized citizens were heard. Her internship with the environmental justice group Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAEJ) in Riverside had her chronicle the stories of Mira Loma Village residents.

Comprised of 101 homes and surrounded by the 60 freeway, railways and industrial parks, Mira Loma Village (MLV) has the worst air quality in the nation. Its predominantly Latino residents suffer from numerous ailments including chronic bronchitis and asthma. Previously occupied by dairy farms and wineries, community members in MLV have watched as the development of industry mushroomed around them during the last five years. While CCAEJ has prevented the construction of six warehouses since 2006, the community remains completely choked by industry and there is currently a proposal to build an inland port on one of the last pieces of open land.

"I wanted to give a voice to members of this community so their humanity did not become lost in the terrifying quantitative statistics that demonstrate the impacts of pollution on community health," Findlay said. "My research aimed to convey the information that community members themselves wanted heard, rather than what researchers and scientists viewed as necessary."

In addition to organizing materials for community meetings and going door-to-door to encourage the participation of residents, Findlay assisted in the compilation of a needs-based survey to determine what MLV believed to be the most critical concerns about their community. Based on her field notes, she identified several recurring themes amongst the accounts shared by the citizens: pollution/traffic, health impacts, politics, struggling economies and a sense of helplessness.

Lilly, a MLV resident who lives on Urbana Street near the intersection of Iberia Street and Etiwanda Avenue, said her community is just "too noisy, too polluted, and the dirt comes in anywhere." Findlay wrote in her field notes:

"Lilly has lived in MLV for thirty-four years. . . . Her two children, both sons, suffer from mental illness. Aside from this, they both have asthma and experience symptoms at least once a week. . . . Lilly, too, has developed allergies, sinus problems and recurring headaches in just the past five or six years. While I sit and speak to Lilly, her youngest son, Ricky, is having problems breathing today and I can hear the strain in his inhalations now that he is right next to me."

Since their community has become so undesirable, residents have found it nearly impossible to sell their homes and many cannot afford to move elsewhere. According to Findlay, MLV residents are victims of environmental racism who have been systematically excluded from environmental decisions that severely impact their well-being. Community members such as Lilly believe the reason the warehouses were constructed around them was "more or less because it is a Hispanic community" and many powerful community leaders assume this population will not fight back.

Another resident, Sam, stated that "If we were all well informed the world would be a different place," and that is precisely what Findlay hopes to have accurately exposed by detailing the injustices this population must endure.

Moving Forward

While these students and their internships with four new community partnerships represent only a small sampling of students' efforts in the Pitzer in Ontario program, they are illustrative of the incredible academic and personal investments each student has made toward affecting positive change on a local level. In fact, save for two students (one of whom is studying abroad this spring), all of those involved in internships and research during the Fall semester expressed a heartfelt desire to continue their work. Professors Hicks and Phillips in turn created a new Advanced Research Practicum course that will provide students with a class forum in which to find support and dialog for the issues they encounter as they continue on in another semester of community-based research.

Abrams is currently applying for grants to secure long-term funding for the Girl Talk program at Garey and to establish additional programs for male students. Cook plans to make Girl Talk a nationally accredited after-school program branching out to other schools throughout the U.S., beginning with the Chicagoland area near her home. Johnson hopes to further investigate the wards' personal narratives and any possible links with being children of war or trauma. In conjunction with his fellow ICUC researchers, Hanft is working with students to transform his research into an eight-page report they can share with the local government. Finally, Findlay is continuing to tackle issues of environmental justice by writing policy proposals on the zoning of industry to help ensure that unjust situations such as those found in Mira Loma Village are eliminated.

—EMILY CAVALCANTI
Q&A PROFILE

Leanne Stein ’05 explains how she helped establish the Korean Kids & Orphanage Outreach Mission to enrich the lives of children living in orphanages and group homes.

How did the formation of KKOOM come about?
Our path to creating KKOOM began with our Fulbright fellowship experiences as volunteers at an orphanage in Gumi, South Korea, called "Samsungwon." Having successfully raised funds for additional supplies for the orphanage from our friends and family, we started talking about the needs of the other orphanages and group homes in Korea and what we could do to help. Thus, in 2007 we created the NGO, Korean Kids & Orphanage Outreach Mission (KKOOM), so we could continue to help Samsungwon and also expand to other orphanages in South Korea. KKOOM means “dream” in Korean.

What specific challenges do these children face and how will KKOOM help improve their lives?
The biggest challenge the children face is not having the same opportunities, especially in terms of education. Most parents send their children to hagwons or after-school academies to supplement their education. While Samsungwon children do receive scholarships to hagwons, there is not enough money or scholarships for all of them. When we volunteered and held classes at Samsungwon, we taught supplemental English classes to help reduce that gap.

KKOOM seeks to enrich the lives of these children by providing educational materials, new experiences and special programming. We see what we have been able to do to help the eighty-nine children at Samsungwon and want to expand this effort.

Since the organization's founding in September, what has been achieved already?
Even though KKOOM was just established in September, we have already raised more than $5,000 to continue to support Samsungwon and to branch out.

In December we organized a Christmas party at Samsungwon where twenty-five current Fulbrighters pitched in to help with the party and to cook a spaghetti dinner and French toast breakfast. Each child received gifts sent from American donors and they made holiday thank-you cards to honor KKOOM's “360° giving” philosophy. We believe that you should be able to see your gifts home to fruition, and as Fulbright fellows we understand the importance of cultural understanding and learning. We hope through programs like these we help the orphanages and group homes, and also raise awareness and teach donors more about South Korea.

What are KKOOM's goals?
We have big dreams. We would like to be able to sponsor children to go to hagwons and create more after-school programs. We want to be able to provide support to the youth after they leave and start their own lives and encourage them to continue post-high-school education. We want to provide an exchange program for some of the children to come visit the U.S. for two weeks. We want to serve their needs, whatever those may be, so that their lives can be as rich and full as any other Korean child's.

How did your Fulbright education lead you to and prepare you for this work?
Perhaps the most important thing I learned at Pitzer was that I could make a difference in a community. Sometimes all the problems one sees in the world seem too much to fix, too much to handle, too much to be bothered with. But at Pitzer I gained the confidence and the skills to initiate change, and the realization that every little effort helps.

We are a global world, a global community, and our actions affect everyone. I know that I would not have studied abroad in Botswana, would not have applied for a Fulbright, and would not have thought I could help start an NGO without my four years at Pitzer. My Fulbright education set the stage that allowed me to receive a Fulbright.

Throughout my fourteen months in Korea, Pitzer influenced every interaction, conversation and choice I made. Although it is hard to pinpoint exactly what part of my Pitzer experience and what part of my Fulbright year led me to help create KKOOM, it is all undoubtedly connected.

What inspires your work?
The time I spent volunteering at Samsungwon during my Fulbright was my favorite part of each week. The kids took me completely into their lives and worlds. They taught me Korean and about Korea — they grew to trust me. They gave me so much, if not more, than I gave them. The kids inspire me, inspire all of us involved in KKOOM to create more opportunities for them.

What advice do you have for those interested in pursuing this same type of work?
Believe in yourself. Opportunities come to those who seek them and strive to help make a difference. None of us involved in KKOOM realized three years ago how big we could get, how much money we could raise, how much we could do. It all started because we needed money for the educational programs we were running, and it turned into a dream to expand to help other orphanages and group homes. So my advice may seem simple, but I think that if you trust in yourself and believe in what you are doing you will find that opportunities will present themselves, many times opportunities you did not even realize were there.

For more information visit www.kkoom.org.
As chairman for Lawyers without Borders and a representative of the American Bar Association to the United Nations, Houston Putnam Lowry '76 knows that systematic change requires attention to detail, but more importantly the courage to stand up for your beliefs.

Houston Putnam Lowry '76 is an anomaly: he is a man who loves his job. Lowry is a lawyer serving as one of five American Bar Association (ABA) representatives to the United Nations in New York; he privately practices law for the firm of Brown & Welsh in Connecticut; and he is chairman of the Board of Lawyers Without Borders.

"I have the world's best job—representing these organizations—because I can get out there and voice concerns that no one else feels comfortable mentioning," Lowry said. "I can take a position just because it's a principled position. I can say 'hey, torture is a bad thing,' 'human rights are good' and 'we shouldn't discriminate against women' and I don't have to compromise. This is an intrinsic human right."

Lowry is serving his sixth year as an ABA representative to the UN, but considers his work with Lawyers Without Borders to be even more important. The organization provides training to lawyers and judges internationally, serves as a resource for countries without technological advances like those in the United States, and conducts research on ongoing international issues such as orphans of AIDS in western Africa. It puts the legal systems of other countries on the world stage.

"Since our reports are not generally public, but are shared with the governments of the courts we enter, we have the opportunity to observe closed trials," Lowry said. "For the most part we find that the quality of judging and legal services
It's a system of justice so it doesn't work impeccably every time. That's the difference between justice and a system of justice. You have to make sure you investigate the specific circumstances and make sure you don't lump different things together when there are ways to distinguish.
Television at the Movies
Cinematic and Critical Responses to American Broadcasting

Tracy Biga MacLean, academic director of Intercollegiate Media Studies, and her co-author Jon Nelson Wagner have a unique approach to the study of television. They view its history and reception not only through important articles about the medium, but also through analyzing how Hollywood auteur cinema has commented on television over the decades. *Television at the Movies* argues that the study of television is a crucial aspect of understanding our recent and contemporary culture, and it provides an illuminating point of entry for students and researchers in the field.

Continuum, 2008 • 240 pages • $29.95

An Introduction to the Sociology of Work and Occupations
Continuity and Change in the Twenty-First Century

Rudi Volli, professor emeritus of sociology, introduces students to highly relevant analyses of today's industrial and post-industrial society by connecting work and occupations to the key subjects of sociological inquiry—social and technological change, race, ethnicity, gender, social class, education, social networks, and modes of organization. The text provides useful analysis of a broad range of topics, covering the changes in the world of work from hunting and gathering to today's Information Age. Featuring a broad range of topics, this book provides crucial insight into how life and work are evolving in the twenty-first century.

Pine Forge Press, 2007 • 296 pages • $49.95

Protagaea

*Protagaea*, an ambitious account of terrestrial history, was central to the development of the earth sciences in the eighteenth century and provides key philosophical insights into the unity of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz's thought and writings. Even though *Protagaea* has languished in its original Latin for centuries, now Andre Wakefield, assistant professor of history, and Claudine Cohen offer the first English translation of this central text in natural philosophy and natural history.

University of Chicago Press, 2008 • 204 pages • $55.00

**Professor Bill Anthes Receives Graves Award**

BILL ANTHES, assistant professor of art history, has received a Graves Award for 2007-08. The Graves Awards, administered at Pomona College, under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, honor "outstanding accomplishment in actual teaching in the humanities by younger faculty members." The award allows younger faculty to undertake research to develop new courses.

Anthes proposes to develop a course that examines how local/indigenous artists become part of the global, contemporary art world through the examples of native North American and South African artists. With the support of the Graves Award, Anthes will travel in South Africa, studying the emerging contemporary art world in this newly democratic, multiracial nation.

"My experience at Pitzer has encouraged me to further develop a comparative and global focus in my teaching. Contemporary South African artists, since the dismantling of Apartheid, have stepped into the international art world," Anthes said. "I am eager to bring this material more fully into my teaching of contemporary art history."

Most recently, Anthes published an article titled "Learning from Foxwoods: Visualizing the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation" in the Spring 2008 issue of *American Indian Quarterly*. He was also elected to the Native American Art Studies Association's Board of Directors for 2007-09.

This is the third Graves Award for Pitzer since 2003: Carina Johnson, assistant professor of history, received the award in 2003 and Andre Wakefield, assistant professor of history, in 2005.
Martha Bárcenas-Mooradian, visiting instructor of Spanish, gave a presentation titled “Current Theories of Adult Second Language Acquisition” for the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. She also published an article titled “The Church, Immigrants and a Program in Pomona” in the August 10 issue of The Tidings.

Carol Brandt, vice president for international programs, gave a presentation titled “Sharing the Pain: Conflict Resolution Toward Intercultural Education” for the Council on International Educational Exchange in Toronto, Canada.

José Calderón, professor of sociology and Chicano Studies, gave a presentation titled “Immigration: Influences on Family, Individuals and Education” at Pepperdine University’s Graduate School of Education and Psychology. He also discussed the political analysis of 2007 issues and the Latino vote for the radio show Despierta Ya Campeino.

Emily Chao, associate professor of anthropology, presented a paper titled “Reinventions of the Past: Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development in Lijiang” as part of a panel on development in China’s interior at the American Anthropological Association Meeting held in Washington DC.

Paul Faulstich, professor of Environmental Studies, gave an invited keynote lecture titled “Campus Sustainability: Crafting a Green Strategic Plan” at Otterbein College in Ohio. He gave another presentation at the Australian Fulbright Scholar Seminar at the University of California, San Diego. Faulstich was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the California Wilderness Coalition.


Judith V. Grabiner, Flora Sanborn Professor of Mathematics, presented a paper titled “It’s All for the Best: Optimization in Eighteenth-Century Science” at the national annual joint meeting of the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society in San Diego.

Brian L. Keeley, associate professor of philosophy, was interviewed by Steve Karesh ’97 in December on the topic of conspiracy for XM Radio 130 - POTUS ’08. He also organized a weeklong series of talks, tutorials and discussions on “Neurophilosophy, Neuroethology and the Senses” for the CF Neuroscience Programme at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência in Lisbon, Portugal.

Jim Lehman, professor of economics, participated in the panel focusing on increasing FTA leverage particularly in South Korea and Southeast Asia for the Competitive Regionalism Conference held at USC.

David Leland, adjunct assistant professor of psychology, published an article titled “Anterior Cingulate Cortex and Benefit of Predictive Cuing on Response Inhibition in Stimulant Dependent Individuals” in the January 15 issue of Biological Psychiatry.

Lee Munroe, research professor of anthropology, published an article titled “Response to Ember and Ember’s ‘Climate, Ecomiche, and Sexuality: Influences on Sonority in Language’” in the December issue of American Anthropologist.

Jackie Levering-Sullivan, founder and director of Pitzer’s Writing Center, presented a workshop titled “Young Writers Writing” at the Charlotte S. Huck Children’s Literature Festival at the University of Redlands. She will also be part of the faculty at a writers retreat sponsored by the Southern California Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators.

Laura Skandera Trombley, president, published an article titled “Mark Twain’s Annu Horribilis of 1908-1909” in the winter 2008 issue of American Literary Realism. She delivered an invited lecture, “Mark Twain’s Annu Horribilis of 1908-1909,” at the Center for Mark Twain Studies in Elmira, New York, on September 19, 2007.

Dana Ward, professor of Political Studies, published a chapter on Elisée Reclus and Piotr Kropotkin and the origins of anarchocommunism in the edited volume, New Perspectives on Anarchism (Lexington Books, 2008). He also gave a presentation on the Anarchy Archives online resource at the “Scholarly Collaboration and Small Colleges in the Digital Age” meeting held at Pomona College.

Phil Zuckerman, associate professor of sociology, gave a presentation titled “Secularity in Scandinavia” at the Religion in the Twenty-First Century conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.
FROM HIS OUTRAGEOUS wardrobe and love of cars to his impassioned lectures in economics, Professor Harvey Botwin has become one of Pitzer College's most legendary faculty members. For forty years, Harvey inspired countless students to study economics by transforming a complex subject into one that was accessible and exciting.

A dinner was held recently in Harvey's honor to commemorate his retirement from Pitzer last year. Seventy of Harvey's friends and family, faculty, past students and even three of his own high-school classmates attended the gala event hosted by Ron Burkle and his daughter, Carrie, also a big fan. The gathering was held in the Burkle's guest house, already decorated in a '70s theme with smoky mirrored spaces, sparkly chandeliers and beaded window coverings—all very "Harvey." Guests drank Harvey Wallbangers and Tequila Sunrises and dined on grilled cheese sandwiches, hamburger sliders and tomato soup, in addition to more current fare.

Alumni, faculty and friends who could not attend the celebration in person sent letters of congratulations and good wishes, which were compiled into a memory book for Harvey. In the words of Tracy McDonald '82, lead donor and founder of the Harvey Botwin Endowment for Economics, "It is no accident that as his students we all love Harvey and feel that our lives have become better because of him. We knew that Harvey loved each of us as his own children, as part of an ever increasing extended family, not for him to possess, but for him to nurture and guide and let go when the time was right."

Tracy envisioned a way for Harvey's students to honor his legacy and make a difference to future economics students as well. With her lead gift, the College was able to establish the Endowment, which will enhance the senior-year experience for students studying economics. The fund will provide monies for a speaker series, small group discussions and field trips, and an award for the finest thesis. Contributions to the Endowment have reached more than $177,000 toward a $200,000 goal.

One of the many highlights of the evening included an auction of one of Harvey's famous shirts, with proceeds benefiting the Endowment. Plans are underway to make this auction an annual event in conjunction with Alumni Reunion Weekend. Stay tuned—you too could own one of Harvey's shirts!

For more information on how to make a gift or pledge, please e-mail marilyn.roy@pitzer.edu or call the Office of Advancement at (909) 621-8130.
“His seminar in Contemporary Economic Issues engaged math-phobes and econ-phobes alike, and made enthusiasts—and sometimes even majors—out of them.”
—Jim Lehman, Professor of Economics

“I was one of those students that you inspired to understand that economics was not such a complex subject after all—but was indeed a subject that was accessible and exciting to even the most ‘economically uninitiated’ of students!”
—Christine Maxwell ’72

“I appreciated and admired the time and effort you put into your lectures, and their great integrative approach, as well as your willingness and ability to cross disciplines to broaden these ideas and concepts.”
—Dave Colman ’05
Record Number of Pitzer Students Approved to Study Abroad
In the coming year, more than 200 students will be studying abroad in thirty countries on fifty-four programs. This will move the College rapidly toward 75 percent of its graduating class having studied abroad—one of the highest rates of participation in the nation. Destinations for our student sojourners include Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, England, Finland, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, and Turkey.

A Very Favorable Exchange Rate
Joining Pitzer's thirty-seven international exchange programs for 2009-10 will be new university partnerships in Essex, England; Cairo, Egypt and Dakar, Senegal. This year fifty-five students from abroad have come to Pitzer on exchange from twenty-one countries, including Afghanistan, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, England, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Morocco, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, and Uzbekistan.

A World of Languages at Pitzer
Through the fifteen languages represented by Pitzer's sixty-six international students from nineteen countries, Pitzer has expanded the range of language experiences available to students before or after study abroad beyond the languages taught regularly in Claremont. This semester Turkish, Zulu, Setswana, Finnish, Vietnamese, and Uzbeki represent Less Commonly Taught Language (LCTL) study possibilities.

Pitzer in Nepal
The Pitzer in Nepal program successfully completed its first semester back in Kathmandu with students studying the development of Nepal's new secular democracy. The Pitzer in Nepal Health Hospitality program, established in 1986 to provide health care and education for poor Nepalis from remote villages who have serious illnesses or injuries but no access to health care, continues to provide valuable health care internships for Pitzer students and reciprocity to our host communities. Well over two thousand Nepalis have been served by the program.
> Geographical Information Systems Mapping Completed at the Firestone Center

In December, Professor of Biology Donald McFarlane (Joint Science), Professor of Geology Richard Hazlett (Pomona College), Keith Christenson (wildlife biologist, volunteer) and Warren Roberts (GIS–Honnold Library) transported sophisticated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) gear and traditional tape, clinometer, and pole technology down steep slopes and up slippery stream beds to add the last of 4,904 data points to a GIS map of the Firestone reserve in Costa Rica. The data can now be used for spatial analysis to predict land and soil changes not only for the Firestone property as it restores, but also the lands and streams of neighboring properties in its watershed, thanks to detailed satellite imagery purchased by Honnold Library for the Firestone Center.

> Field Research Opportunities Increase in Ecuador, Botswana and China

The Pitzer in Ecuador university-based program has been redesigned as an undergraduate field research program to meet the needs of the growing number of Pitzer students with advanced-level proficiency in Spanish and interest in Andean Studies, including learning Quechua, a widely spoken indigenous language of the Andean region. The emphasis on conducting community-based research continues in Pitzer in Botswana and Pitzer in China, which have both added field methods courses specific to those cultural contexts as a way of deepening the Pitzer undergraduate abroad research experience.

> Sara Farooqi '08 Wins Fellowship to Kobe, Japan through New Collaboration with Kobe Women's University

For the second year in a row, the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial Research Institute for the Twenty-first Century (HEM21), a new think-tank established in Japan in association with the World Health Organization, is providing a full scholarship for a Pitzer student to participate in its International Summer School in August 2008. Studies will focus on the role of local governments and citizens toward the formation of a framework of cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region around issues of human security and multicultural symbiosis. The scholarship was established to celebrate the new collaboration in international education between Pitzer College and Kobe Women's University (KWU). Currently, eleven students from KWU are studying abroad in “Pitzer in Claremont” right here on campus, enjoying homestays with American families and volunteer internships in Claremont organizations while studying English.
LET'S GO GREEN was a fitting theme for this year's Pitzer College Family Weekend and Fourth Annual Scholarship Auction. More than four hundred parents and families flocked to the campus to enjoy organic food, tour the green residence halls, bid on unique auction items and most especially, reconnect with their Pitzer students.

The Weekend kicked off Friday afternoon with tours of the new green residence halls by Dean of Students Jim Marchant and a panel discussion featuring alumni from various professional fields answering questions about career opportunities. The Claremont Colleges' a cappella group, "The Claremont Shades," serenaded families poolside at the Welcome Reception that evening.

On Saturday, families had the chance to enjoy Pitzer faculty-led discussions. President Laura Skandera Trombley also offered her State of the College address in the newly built Founding Faculty Amphitheater.

Sunday's parent-student field trips gave families an opportunity to explore the L.A. area with a visit to the Museum of Tolerance or a service at the historical First African Methodist Episcopal Church. Those who elected to stay on campus were treated to a series of films produced by Pitzer students and faculty. Other discussions during the weekend covered topics such as study abroad, graduation preparation and fellowships.

This year's Scholarship Auction was an enormous success raising a record-breaking $75,000 to benefit the Parents Association Scholarship Fund. The enthusiasm and generosity of the parents, students, alumni and friends who donated and bid both online and at the live event were overwhelming. A performance by "Midnight Echo," a Pitzer student a cappella group, brought the evening to a festive close.

Family Weekend was the culmination of many hours of planning, preparation and production by volunteer parents, students, alumni, faculty and staff. We sincerely thank you for your support and look forward to next year's event!

Clockwise from top left: Stephen Shortall '10 (back left) and Yasi Razvan '10 (front center) with their families; Ian Cain '10 with his parents Jim and Vanna; Students and parents enjoy a field trip to the historical First African Methodist Episcopal Church in L.A. with Professor of Psychology and Black Studies Halford Fairchild; Ilyssa Kauffman '11 with her parents Gary and Catherine; Family Weekend and Scholarship Auction parent volunteers.

Mark Your Calendars

May 7: Final Day of Spring Classes
May 17: Commencement
August 27-29: Parent Orientation
September 2: Classes Begin
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 will be edited for content and length.

68 Lynn Hillyard (Hailey, ID) graduated from and then attended the University of Colorado. She got married, moved to Sun Valley, Idaho, and had two children. Now remarried, she lives on a farm and is a photographer and writer. Lynn would love to hear from old friends, particularly Kitty Gillen ’68.

Caroline Reid McAllister’s (Redlands, CA) daughter Liz is a member of Pitzer’s Class of 2009 and is majoring in Environmental Studies. She will be studying abroad in Costa Rica during the spring semester and has just finished three seasons playing soccer for the Pitzer-Pomona Sagehens. Caroline has spent many enjoyable days back in Claremont as a loyal fan. Recently, she spent Thanksgiving in Providence with Iris Levine Shuey ’68, Carol L. Corden ’68, Jennifer Kiddie ’68 and Taffy Squires Madden ’67. (See photo on page 39.)

70 Gini Moritz Griffin (San Luis Obispo, CA) continues to paint and quilt. Her latest project is a banner for the Downtown Association of San Luis Obispo celebrating the beautiful creek (and fish) that winds through the center of town. Visit her Web site at www.ginizart.com.

72 Ramelle Cochrane Pulitzer (Winston-Salem, NC) recently opened up an art gallery. Visit www.hawthorneart.com for more information.

75 Lynn Mirisch Rogo (Los Angeles, CA) has had many changes in her life. Both of her parents passed, Lynn and her husband sold their home and moved into a high-rise condo. Their daughter Lisa is in an ob-gyn residency in New York City. Their youngest daughter Marcie graduated from Penn and is working in NYC. Lynn and Mark have built a real estate business and are in the top 100 amongst Coldwell Banker agents in Southern California.

Karen Singer (Philadelphia, PA) recently received the Athena PowerLink Award. The award gives her a specially chosen corporate advisory board’s services free of charge to help build her business.

Anne Turley (Los Angeles, CA) had a visit from her Claremont Graduate University roommate, Jan Longfellow King ’74, from Washington for the dedication of the new green residence halls. (See photo on page 39.)

Karen Hochman Brown ’79
SISTERHOOD OF PASADENA JEWISH TEMPLE & CENTER WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Sisterhood of Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center (PJTC) has selected Karen Hochman Brown ’79 as their Chay’ay Olam (Woman of the Year) honoree for 2007-08.

Karen has served in a variety of positions at PJTC including Publicity, Torah Fund Vice President, Executive Vice President and most recently Sisterhood President for the years 2005-07. She has been a member of the choir for thirteen years. Karen currently serves both the temple and Sisterhood chairing their Communications Committee and is the art director and an editor for The Flame, their monthly newsletter.

Karen, who majored in art at Pitzer College, is pursuing a career as a digital artist and continues to enjoy painting and drawing.

Sherwood Best ’73
RECEIVES CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY’S OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR AWARD

SHERWOOD BEST ’73, a leader in special education in California with expertise in physical and health impairments, received the Outstanding Professor Award from California State University, Los Angeles. The annual awards primarily recognize excellence in teaching, along with citing significant achievements in scholarly inquiry or creativity, professional activities and service to the campus and community.

Sherwood, who earned a BA in psychology at Pitzer College, is currently professor of education at the Cal State L.A.’s Division of Special Education and Counseling–Charter College of Education. She is the author of numerous journal articles, book chapters and the only textbook of its kind in the field of physical and health impairments. Among her many achievements, Sherwood traveled to Bangalore, India, in 2004 to help establish an early intervention program for infants and young children with special needs at the Vyddehi Institute of Medical Rehabilitation.
PITZER ALUMNI BOOKPLATE

Cartographies
These poems by Maurya Simon '80 map the familiar, sometimes astonishing, and always complex world of her native San Gabriel Mountains, as well as nearby Los Angeles, with its cultural richness and social/political tensions. The collection investigates and fathoms our most profound relationships with time, nature, love and death.
Red Hen Press, 2008 • 104 pages • $18.95

A Boy Named Beckoning
The True Story of Dr. Carlos Montezuma, Native American Hero
In this children's book Gina Capaldi '06 reveals through her words and illustrations the remarkable life of a Native American boy named Wassaja, or "Beckoning," who was kidnapped from his Yavapai tribe and sold as a slave and eventually became a doctor and leader for his people, calling out for their rights.
Carolrhoda Books, 2008 • 32 pages • $16.95

Surprise Motherhood
A Guide to Unexpected Adult Pregnancy
In her first book Ophelia Liza Austin-Small '00 tells her own story and the stories of other women who have faced unplanned pregnancy as adult, professional women. With extensive information about options, paternity, career issues, postpartum depression, finances and more, Surprise Motherhood is the only reference of its kind.
Lulu, 2007 • 193 pages • $20.95

Steven Fenton '92
ELECTED TO THE BEVERLY HILLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

With Gary and Linda Briskman P'05 chairing his steering committee, Steven Fenton '92 was elected to the Beverly Hills Board of Education in November 2007. According to a local newspaper, he won by the widest margin in the Board's history. Steven and his father Frank are the first father-son team to serve the city of Beverly Hills at the same time. Frank currently serves on the city council and became vice mayor in March.

"I've seen firsthand how our schools shape our lives as individuals, families and as a community," said Steven, himself a product of the Beverly Hills public school system. "I truly believe that great schools make for great communities."

Over the years, he has remained involved in the city's schools by founding the Beverly Hills Athletic Alumni Association. Likewise, having played on the Pitzer Pomona baseball team for four years, Steven is an enthusiast of Sagehen sports and believes he owes a lot of his success to his experience at Pitzer. He currently co-sponsors the annual Pitzer Athletic Dinner and endowed the Judie and Frank Fenton Athletic Leadership Award in honor of his parents.

Lynn Gallagher Sacco (Ventura, CA) married Victor Tanner in July 2006. They met while jitterbug dancing and continue to dance weekly. Victor is a computer consultant and Lynn teaches math to high-school students with learning disabilities.

Sylvia Lee-Thompson (De Forest, WI) was ordained as a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and now serves a small church, Spring Prairie Lutheran Church, near Madison, Wisconsin. She and her husband are living in a one hundred-year-old parsonage and are enjoying country life. She feels especially blessed to be there because her grandfather was pastor at the same church from 1919 to 1954 and her mother was raised in the house where she now lives.

Regina Meister (Los Angeles, CA) lives with her life partner in West Los Angeles, along with their two dogs and a cat. Regina is relishing all the good in her life; working on her novel; and enjoying meaningful work.

Fredric Paul (San Francisco, CA) is publisher and editor-in-chief of bMighty.com, which offers technology information for small and midsize companies.

Janet Suslick (Bromma, Sweden) is a journalist at the Journal of the Swedish Dental Association in Stockholm's Old Town. Her sons Joakim and Daniel are fourteen and almost thirteen. She recently turned fifty. Look up Janet on Facebook. Ruth Abney '79 and Ellen Jannol '79 can also be found there. (See photo on page 39.)

Stephanie Mandel-Austin (Penn Valley, CA) has a very busy job as marketing manager for a natural foods cooperative grocery store and has a sixteen-year-old daughter.

Peter Dunay (New York, NY) is a fund manager living in New York and Los Angeles.

Dave Neubert (New York, NY) says that in addition to his blog at ThePanelist.com, http://thepanelist.com/blogcategory/Neubert_Trades/ he was just picked up by The Huffington Post: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-neubert/a-protest-against­chevron_b_68120.html. Of his writing, David says, "I bet my professors at Pitzer who had to suffer through my papers never thought I'd end up being a writer/commentator."
Michelene Esposito ’85 & Deborah Bogen ’90
Alumnae Writers Return to Share Their Craft

This fall Pitzer College alumnae Michelene Esposito ’85 and Deborah Bogen ’90 returned to campus to lead workshops with current students as well as to read from their latest works at the Grove House.

Michelene’s master class on writing fiction was held in November and was the second of four master classes sponsored by Pitzer’s Writing Center. She published her first novel, *Night Diving*, in 2002 and her most recent novel, *Mermaid*, was published in 2007. After earning a BA from Pitzer, Michelene went on to receive an MA and PhD in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. In addition to the workshop, Michelene also had a reading at the Grove House, where she fondly remembers participating in readings as a student herself.

“It was so fun to return to Pitzer and see how things have changed—and stayed the same,” Michelene said. “I so enjoyed the opportunity to lead the fiction workshop. The students were talented and enthusiastic and so respectful of each other. There was wonderful diversity in the group. It was an honor to have the chance to teach at Pitzer.”

In December, Deborah read from her work *Landscape with Silos*, winner of the 2005 X.J. Kennedy Poetry Prize and a 2004 National Poetry Series finalist. Her poetry can be found in *Shenandoah, The Gettysburg Review, Field, Margie* and *Poetry International*.

Returning to the Grove House and a room full of students and old friends was especially poignant for her as it was the setting for the start of her writing life when poet Doug Anderson taught a writing workshop there. “I took my first real poetry steps in the Bert Meyers Poetry Room—my book truly began in that room,” Deborah recalled. The next day she gave a workshop in Professor of English Al Wachtel’s Introduction to Creative Writing class where she noted “the talent and enthusiasm the students displayed lifted me up.”
A Warm and Fuzzy Campaign

Pitzer Alumni and Community Members Donate Blankets and Onesies

Born out of requests from Pitzer College alumni to have meaningful opportunities to demonstrate their values for service to the community, they and other community members donated more than two hundred blankets and onesies to the Black Infant Health program in Pomona, California, in December.

Black Infant Health was created to reduce infant mortality and morbidity in African American communities throughout California. The program meets the needs of African American women who fall below the poverty line and consists of forty-five women who are provided baby clothing and other items as well as mentoring and support for good parenting.

“Pitzer’s alumni are unique. They don't just want to socialize. They want their activities to have meaning and this project did just that,” said Director of Alumni Relations Jean Grant. “Many alumni have asked us to continue doing projects such as this and we plan to continue our efforts to live out what we believe as a community.”

For Claire Milam '92 participating in this drive was important because it allowed her to share the blessings she has been given. “I do a lot of service work, particularly through my faith community, and remember how much it meant when Hurricane Katrina evacuees here in Austin received donations from far away,” Claire said. “I liked the opportunity to help out with a tangible need like this blanket and onesie drive even from a distance.”

Chrystian Dulac (Lawndale, CA) announces the birth of his son, Lucas Quentin Dulac on September 1, 2007, in Torrance, California. Chrystian and his wife Sandra have been married for more than two years and live in the Manhattan Beach area. They are very happy and would love to hear from past friends. www.playenigma.com. (See photo on page 39.)

Katherine McCauley Nitti (Fulton, MD) and her husband have been married nearly ten years and have been together for almost thirteen. The couple has two daughters: Brooke, age three, and Paige, age two. They currently reside in Maryland. Drop Kate a line on Facebook or at KateMcI@aol.com.

Andrew Starbin (Thi Junga, CA) and his wife Amy will welcome a son in March 2008.

Mitch Numark (Brunswick, MA) is currently visiting assistant professor of history and Asian Studies at Bowdoin College. MITCH happily announces that he and Yael Reuben of Mumbai, India, were married on November 11 and that Kier Delco '98 and his wife Chrissy attended the wedding. Mitch looks forward to staying in touch with friends from Pitzer. His e-mail address is mnumark@gmail.com.

Sara D. Forest Kampen (Morehead City, NC) married Major Stephen M. Kampen (Marine Corps) on October 6, 2007, upon his return from Iraq.


Raquel Rivera Hoyt (Sherman Oaks, CA) recently moved back to Southern California from Chicago, with her husband Ben Hoyt (PO '00.) She is living in Sherman Oaks and working as a program manager for Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth.

Nicholas Cassidy (San Diego, CA) is now the proud owner of a Juris Doctorate degree. He says, “Happy New Year to all, and feel free to write!”

Suzanne Foster (Pasadena, CA) happily announces her marriage to José Esquivel on March 6, 2007, in Pasadena. (See photo on page 39.)
Sweeping change

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO I was a high-school student sweeping the floors of Coachella’s City Hall. A year later my friend and I found ourselves videotaping the city council meetings for extra summer money. Nowadays I am not that handy with a broom or even a camera, but I still walk the same halls and attend the same city council meetings with that same friend—he as the mayor and I as the city attorney for Coachella.

Ninety-six percent of the city’s population is composed of Mexican immigrants. Coachella is a young community where the median age is twenty-six and visitors can better navigate themselves by speaking Spanish than English. The city is approximately thirty-two square miles and is located in Riverside County, California; it is the easternmost city in the region collectively known as the Coachella Valley.

Coachella is located 120 miles southeast of Los Angeles and 100 miles north of the Mexican border. Known as the “City of Eternal Sunshine—Gateway to the Salton Sea,” the city has traditionally been a rural, agricultural, family-oriented community in the desert and one of the state’s fastest growing cities.

The community’s green fields feed the country. With everything from dates to grapes growing year round, most residents have contributed to this richness of American agriculture. Although many have faced the reality of social, political and economic deficiency, Coachella’s history of resistance and struggle is alive and well in its residents. This experience has also etched the city’s name into history books by providing a backdrop for the organizing drives of the United Farm Workers (UFW) since the ’60s.

Coming from Coachella, I joined the past and future generations of farm-worker children who entered universities with a deep conviction and passion to make our community’s struggles relevant to others. Pitzer was the college that provided the environment and space to help make this change. From organizing with the UFW, to collaborating with Pitzer’s community members, other students and myself, continued this commitment to change our own condition and the daily condition of others. I transferred this commitment of community empowerment from Pitzer, to law school, and now to my current position.

As the city attorney, I have been thrust into a new role representing the City on all legal matters. Some days, I advise the City on the public bidding process, contract negotiations or pending litigation. On other days, I work on issues that directly impact residents’ lives. This has allowed me to work with the City on adopting a resolution against federal immigration policy that criminalizes undocumented immigrants and their loved ones; working on the adoption of a resolution against the war in Iraq; as well as drafting a letter to Congress calling for comprehensive, just and humane immigration reform. When the community complained that the local police were questioning residents about their legal status, the City put a stop to this even at the displeasure of the county sheriffs department.

This desire to take local government to the community is also exemplified during the city council meetings when I translate the meetings for the non-English speakers in the audience. Moreover, the City also distributes its literature in Spanish and offers Spanish classes to its employees so they can better serve the city’s Spanish-speaking residents.

The City’s commitment to making government relevant to all the residents is also very crucial since the city is experiencing tremendous growth. Coachella has been one of the fastest growing cities in the state for the past several years. The city’s population, now at 42,000, has grown by about 50 percent within the last seven years. If left unchecked, this growth will transform Coachella without taking into account the dynamics of the community or the human capital of its residents.

The recent slowdown in the residential real estate market has been a blessing in disguise for balancing the city’s future growth. This is providing the City an opportunity to develop and implement a plan and vision which ensures that growth and development occur on favorable terms. The plan allows the City to balance growth and responsibly develop a community that benefits all of its residents, while at the same time incorporating the city’s long and rich history of immigration and community.

As city attorney, I now have another opportunity to create change through a different form of sweeping at Coachella’s City Hall. It is a privilege I do not take lightly.

Carlos Campos ’99 is an associate in the law practice of Best Best & Krieger LLP. A double major in Political and Labor Studies while at Pitzer College, Campos joined the firm after graduating from the University of California Hastings College of the Law and focuses primarily on local government law and civil litigation. He was appointed as city attorney of Coachella in March 2007.
01 Deidre Schupbach Dietz (Albuquerque, NM) graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine this past spring and is now an intern in the UNM Family and Community Medicine Residency Program. She recently married Rob, who is in the UNM MD/PhD program. She would love to hear from Pitzer folks: dedietz@salud.unm.edu.

Julia Nemon (San Diego, CA) moved from Washington DC back to Southern California to manage humanitarian assistance and develop a project in Africa for Project Concern International. She has just returned from Zambia and Botswana where she was working primarily with orphans, children and people affected by HIV/AIDS.

02 Mia Floisand (Napa, CA) is happy to announce her recent graduation from Southwestern Law School and admission to the California Bar. (See photo on page 39.)

Josina Morita (Chicago, IL) was recently recognized by the Chicago-based Community Renewal Society as one of their “35 under 35,” a list that highlights the importance of fresh voices in the fight to eliminate racism and poverty by recognizing emerging leaders.

03 Chase Thornhill (Claremont, CA) happily announced his June 2007 marriage to Scripps alumna Lauren Wildberger ’03 in Ukiah, California. (See photo on page 39.)

Adam Hutchison (La Paz, Bolivia) is currently working with the Quipus Cultural Foundation and organizing a conference for Latin America on electrical garbage and creating a new recycling program. Adam and friend Hannah recently traveled to Sorata, at the base of mountain, Illampu.

04 Alison Gray Skinner (Tacoma, WA) and husband Charlie Skinner are pleased to announce the birth of their son Kaiden William Skinner on September 25, 2007.

Yuisa Gimeno ’02
HER LETTER TO THE EDITOR
PUBLISHED IN L.A. TIMES


Yuisa has been active in immigrant rights, abortion rights, anti-war and many other movements in Los Angeles since graduating from Pitzer. Currently, she is president of the L.A. chapter of Radical Women (www.radicalwomen.org) and was recently appointed as the new assistant manager of the Screen Actors Guild’s Affirmative Action/Diversity Department. “It’s been a great experience in developing my leadership as a feminist of color and doing critical community organizing,” Yuisa said.

Visit www.latimes.com/news/opinion/letters/ to read the full text of Yuisa’s letter.

Yuisa Gimeno ’02 organized with feminist groups, labor unions and immigrant rights coalitions to protest the anti-immigrant Minutemen Project presence at the U.S./Mexico border in the town of Calexico, California, in September 2005.

1968 Nancy Hornblower Rice, Coronado, California (04/7/07).

1969 Elizabeth (Liza) McKown Williams, Concord, California (10/27/07); BA in sociology; elementary school teacher, entrepreneur and computer systems programmer/analyst; a founder of the Pitzer Orange County Book Club; while under hospice care completed the Wellness Community’s 13.1-mile Avenue of the Giants run.

1974 Joe Charles “Smokey” Hall, Clovis, California (12/11/07); BA in sociology; spent thirty years as an educator in the Fresno Unified School District.

1985 Chandre Kipps, California (10/11/07); BA in English; founder and creative director of Lime Twig Group in San Marino, California. Professor Emeritus Barry Sanders who knew Chandre well, said, “Life amused Chandre—in the best sense of that word. She got it. Long before a lot of other people, she caught on and it made her smile. I think we call that wisdom.”

2004 Blake Bigler, Bend, Oregon (12/12/07), at age 25; BA in Environmental Studies; played piano and drums with the band “Evergreen Playground”; enjoyed boating, hiking, rock climbing and skiing.

Read memorial statements shared by alumni and friends at www.pitzer.edu/alumni.
Photo Submissions

Digital photos should be 300 dpi in resolution or a print of the photo can be mailed. All original photos will be returned. Please be sure to identify everyone in the photo. Photos are selected based on quality and space availability.

Photo 1: Chrylstian Dulac '92 with his wife Sandra and son Lucas. (see Class of '92)
Photo 2: Lexi Spencer-Notabartolo '07, Nini Dedalashvili, Sesili Verdzadze, Dato Shervashidze and Sandro Gabisonia, who is also one of the hosts of the television debate show Kedeli ("the wall" in Georgian). (see Class of '07)
Photo 3: Janet Suslick '79 is a journalist at the Journal of the Swedish Dental Association in Stockholm, Sweden. (see Class of '79)
Photo 4: Mia Floisand '02 at her graduation from Southwestern Law School. (see Class of '02)
Photo 5: Suzanne Foster '00 and her husband Jose Esquivel were married on March 6, 2007, in Pasadena, California. (see Class of '00)
Photo 6: Marco Saenz '88, Shannon Coggins '03, Tamara Keefe-Do '06, Luis Martinez '86 and Bruce Brown '98 were members of an alumni career panel that discussed “What I Wish I Knew Then That I Know Now: Preparing for Success after Pitzer” during Pitzer's Family Weekend 2008. (see Class of '86)
Photo 7: Jennifer Kiddie '68, Carol L. Corden '68, Caroline Reid McAllister '68, Iris Levine Shuey '68, and Taffy Squires Madden '67 celebrate Thanksgiving in Providence. (see Class of '68)
Photo 8: Chase Thornhill '03 and his wife Lauren Wikesberger '03 (Scripps) were married in Ukiah, California. Surrounding the newlyweds from left to right: Carrie Bean '03, Dave Feigan '03, Jane Kruchko '03 and Will Cipes '03 (see Class of '03)
Alumni Lead Mural Projects from Coast to Coast

Cecilia Ribakoff ’05, volunteer services coordinator for L.A. Family Housing, collaborated with 2006 Pitzer College art graduates Katie Ryan and Daniel Ingroff on a mural project in the Boyle Heights neighborhood in East Los Angeles. Katie and Daniel designed the mural using their knowledge of archaeology and natural history. Inside each washing machine is an archaeological stratigraphic diagram, graphically representing the layers of history that lie below the community that is contemporary Boyle Heights. In September 2007 approximately sixty volunteers from L.A. Housing, neighborhood residents, the William Morris Talent Agency and Pitzer alumni joined together to create the mural.

“For us at L.A. Family Housing, putting up this mural represented creating a safer transitional living space for our families who are fighting to get out of homelessness,” Cecilia said. “In addition, what made this experience so enjoyable was the fact that, after basically living together at Pitzer, Katie, Daniel and I fed off each other’s strengths to make the project even more powerful.”

Last year during her second year as a New York City Teaching Fellow at a Bedford-Stuyvesant school, Rebecca Pfeffer ’05 organized the painting of a mural, which she hoped would be a helpful project for her students, all of whom were diagnosed with either emotional disturbances or autism. Rebecca and her students discussed the ways that they could contribute to cleaning up their own neighborhood and they realized that painting a large and colorful mural was a great first step. The students chose the theme of “Working Together We Can Clean Up Our World” and decided to paint the solar system. They spent months learning about the planets, stars and the moon through research projects and films as well as drawing up blueprints for the project.

The project earned them first place in a New York City-wide competition and an award of $6,000 to be used for desperately-needed computer equipment. “Perhaps more importantly,” Rebecca noted, “I was able to pass on some of the values that I gained at Pitzer to children who will hopefully be able to do the same.”

Lexi Spencer-Notabartolo (Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia) has taken on a variety of side projects in addition to her primary research on Georgian public opinion and NATO accession as a Fulbright scholar. She taught a political geography course titled American Landmarks at a university there and served as an election monitor in the January 2008 snap presidential elections. She has also been working with a domestic Georgian NGO on various projects relating to human rights. She recently appeared with the participants in a television debate program where she acted as a debate expert and provided commentary. Based on her debate experience at The Claremont Colleges, Lexi is working with the existing debate programs there to found a Tbilisi Union and generally provide support to the debate programs already in existence.

Matthew Berry (New Rochelle, NY) is renting a villa in Thailand and eagerly hoping for many visitors to grace him with their presence.

Lisa Rojas (Claremont, CA), Pitzer’s Green Urban Fellow, has been recently appointed to the City of Claremont’s Sustainability Task Force.
Sagehens Claim Championship Tournament Title

Despite finishing in third place during the regular season, the Pitzer-Pomona men's basketball team (15-13 Overall, 10-6 SCIAC) won the inaugural SCIAC Championship Tournament, upsetting the number-two seed Cal Lutheran. The Sagehens defeated Sixth Street rival CMS for the third time in the season to capture the tournament. With the win, the Sagehens advanced to the NCAA tournament where they fell to SCIAC rival Occidental College 52-51 in the first round.

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
6-3 Overall, 5-2 SCIAC

The men's swimming and diving team finished their season with an excellent performance at the SCIAC championships, placing third at the conference meet and third overall in the SCIAC standings. Erik Petersen '11 knocked six seconds off his preliminary time to capture the 200-meter fly from lane eight. Petersen's 1:57.42 was over a second faster than the rest of the competition, and gave the Sagehens their first all-SCIAC performance of the meet.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
8-2 Overall, 6-1 SCIAC

The women's swimming and diving team finished third at the SCIAC championships. However, since the Sagehens ended with a better dual meet record than Redlands, the teams tied for second overall. The 200-meter medley relay, which included Christine Bell '08, broke the College's record set in the event last year with a time of 1:51.55. Bell also finished second in the 100-meter breaststroke.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
4-21 Overall, 3-11 SCIAC

The women's basketball team finished on a high note, defeating Caltech 83-58 at home. A solid showing from the underclassmen this season sets Pitzer-Pomona up for big things in the year to come.
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JUNE 6-8, 2008

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