Pitzer Pathways, the theme for this Participant issue, could not have come at a more fitting moment in time for the College and for me. Inside you will find stories about joyous arrivals and enormously sad departures as well as significant professional and personal life moments occurring among our faculty, students and alumni. In the stories and notes to follow, we celebrate our newest students as well as our faculty and their many accomplishments. This year we welcomed the most geographically, racially and economically diverse class in our history, along with our largest number of first-generation and international students. In keeping with the tradition begun 51 years ago, Pitzer faculty continue to contribute important scholarship to their fields and claim crucial space as public intellectuals and activists. And, it is with great sorrow that we acknowledge the loss of three pillars of our community: Professors Ronald Rubin and Jack Sullivan as well as founding family member and trustee, Anne Pitzer. As we mourn their passing, we simultaneously express our gratitude to them for sharing their lives with us.

In thinking about the issue of The Participant and its coverage of life journeys, I am reminded of one of my favorite poems: “anyone lived in a pretty how town,” e.e. cummings’ muted, beautiful and tragic commentary about the universality of life:

someone married everyones
laughed their crying and did their dance
(sleep wake hope and then)they
said their nevers they slept their dream

Being part of the Pitzer community means fulfilling your dreams, not sleeping them away, and for the past 13 years, I have realized many of mine. Pitzer College, in multiple ways, has been an exciting palette that enabled me to channel and focus my energy, my creativity, and my love of the liberal arts in partnership with the community, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve as its fifth president.

As many of you may be aware, this will be my last semester as Pitzer’s president. While on sabbatical last fall, I traveled to India, and during an evening I spent in Varanasi watching Hindu aarti rituals on a ghat leading to the Ganges, I realized that accepting the presidency of the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens was a fitting next path for me in terms of my commitment to the humanities and respect for scholarship. Sitting in a boat on the Ganges in the darkness, watching the masses of people sing ancient chants along with their priests, I witnessed a remarkable and deeply moving synthesis of music, religion, art, history, literature, philosophy and language. It was there, at Varanasi, with the humanities noisily making clear to everyone their vitality, essentialness and timelessness, that I decided upon my newest chapter. I do not think of this change as leaving higher education, an intellectual community I entered first as a student and then as a professional for 36 years; instead I see this as taking the relationship to the next level—to humanities heaven if you will. Still connected.

Thank you for all the roles you have each played in making this College the great one it has become, and, on behalf of my son, Sparkey, and me, for making the years spent at Pitzer among the very best in our lives.

Provida futuri,
Laura Skandera Trombley
When Kevin de León ’03 speaks, California listens

That wasn’t always the case. The first in his family to graduate high school, de León taught English as a second language in Santa Barbara, where he discovered his interest in social causes, including education. He majored in politics of education at Pitzer College and learned how to turn his passion for social justice into effective results for the underrepresented and passed legislation about the environment, the working poor and public safety.

Today, de León is president pro tempore of the California State Senate, the first Latino elected to that post since 1883.

De León took the path less traveled and set a new tone for politics in California.

Follow your passion
Scholars and activists, athletes and artists, environmentalists and community leaders—the Class of 2018 embodies Pitzer’s values. Here’s a smattering of the sensational stuff our newest students have already accomplished all around the world.

- Founded a nonprofit called Brothers Making Change, a mentoring program for black youth in his community
- Worked at a health clinic in Ethiopia
- Raised $25,000 for a neonatal unit in Uganda
- Lobbied for same-sex marriage during a meeting with a senator’s chief of staff in his “red” home state
- Presented a paper on female infanticide in South Asia at a global development youth summit in China and wrote about his experience in The Himalayan Times
- Created an anti-bullying curriculum for fourth- and fifth-grade girls
- Initiated a dialogue about standardized testing in his school by writing “You Will Not Standardize Me” in a test booklet
- Tended elephants and dogs at an animal sanctuary in Thailand and taught English at an NGO in Cambodia
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- Presente
New Energy, New Ideas

Nancy Treser-Osgood welcomes risk with cheerful enthusiasm, whether running successfully for her local school board or taking on a new job.

Her latest adventure, as Pitzer College’s newly appointed senior director of alumni relations, is no risk, however, for the College. One of the most respected professionals in the field, Treser-Osgood brings years of experience directing alumni relations in Claremont, at Pomona College from 1997 to 2014 and previously at Claremont Graduate University from 1995 to 1997.

When Treser-Osgood learned about the position in alumni relations at Pitzer, she recognized a job after her own heart. “All of Pitzer’s core values align with my personal values,” she says. “Social justice, environmentalism, cross-curricular study—to be part of a school that values align with my own personal values, ‘she says. “Social justice, environmentalism, cross-curricular study—to be part of a school that really embraces these values is what attracted me.”

Treser-Osgood is direct, engaging—and open to a good laugh. She likes to tell people that one reason she was attracted to the job was that it cut her commute in half. “It’s down from one mile to half a mile.”

She has strong ties to The Claremont Colleges. After graduating with a degree in English literature from Pomona, she earned an MA in religious education from the Claremont School of Theology. Her husband, director of admission at Harvey Mudd College, is a Pomona graduate; he was a basketball player, she was a volleyball player and they first met when she taped his ankles (cue homecoming mixtape). “He has a much better story behind this photo,” Treser-Osgood says of the high school memory.

Treser-Osgood is developing innovative ways to engage alumni with the College and one another throughout their lives. She will draw on her vast experience at Pomona, where she created signature reunions for young alumni and senior graduates, launched a mobile app that allows alumni to easily follow Sageshen Athletics, and expanded lifelong learning opportunities by developing a regional lecture program featuring faculty speakers. Watch for similar programs and more at Pitzer.

“Pitzer is a young, energetic place that’s on a meteoric rise,” she says. “I’m thrilled to be part of this dynamic environment.”

From the Archives

A peek at student publications

Remember the Snollygoster? How about the Clambake? These are just a couple of the sometimes short-lived but always intriguing student publications from the past 50 years in the Pitzer College Archives. These publications are a great way to glimpse student culture. Our collection includes Pitzer’s first weekly newspaper/literary journal/calendar of events created on campus: Sound Off!, which was typed, mimeographed and handed out shortly after Pitzer opened its doors in 1964.

In addition to Sound Off!, we have literary journals (Clambake, Pitzer Literary Review and Snollygoster*), a psychology journal (Encephalon), a publication documenting a remarkable experience shared by a handful of students called “about the transformative effects of a winter trip to Arizona, meeting James Turrell – 9° at Roden Crater and an aperture in Claremont,” a reinterpretation of the College-produced Viewbook (An Other Viewbook), and amalgamations of news and events, reviews and interviews, poetry and other creative writing (Pitzer Porno, The Experience, The Peof and The Other Side). These publications are by and for students. They are unfiltered portraits that capture the nuances of the people who study here and how they see Pitzer. For an archivist and a researcher, this is invaluable material—the true student experience isn’t always easy to tease out from glossy, official publications. From Snollygoster to The Other Side, these publications provide an insightful, entertaining and surprising peek at that sometimes elusive creature: the Pitzer student.

Interested in visiting the Pitzer College Archives or donating student publications or any other “Pitzeriana” to our collection? Please contact Archivist Stacy Elliott at archives@pitzer.edu or 909.621.8810 to make an appointment.

MINI-MYSTERY SOLVED

Former Dean of Admission and Interim President (1991-92) Paul Ranslow and Professor Stuart McConnell reported that the special caps (above) were designed by the late Professor Michael Wardrope, who distributed them to graduating seniors for the end-of-the-year softball game as well as to faculty and staff. Neither Paul nor Stu recalls there ever being any ice cream involved.

*Snollygoster, the word, as defined by Snollygoster, the journal: A politician who relies on oratory rather than knowledge or ability; a politician who speaks much and does little.
SHINY & NEW
From gardens to weight rooms, fall 2014 saw the unveiling of newly renovated and just-plain-new student spaces on campus.

SHINY & NEW

A new Green Bike Program shop encourages more pedaling at Pitzer. The outdoor fix-station is available 24/7 for anyone who needs a two-wheel tune-up.

A 65,000-square-foot, low-water temporary garden provides students with mountain views and shortcuts (one student said it shaved 22 seconds off her commute to the dining hall). The garden will eventually make way for Phase III of the Housing Master Plan.

The Gold Student Health & Wellness Center re-opened after a major renovation. The center offers new Pilates and yoga studios, an array of classes and an expanded gym with 18 cardio machines.

Students fuel up on healthy, consciously sourced food at the newly renovated Shakedown Café, now home to its very own pizza oven.

Created in the footprint of the former Holden Hall, a 65,000-square-foot, low-water temporary garden provides students with mountain views and shortcuts (one student said it shaved 22 seconds off her commute to the dining hall). The garden will eventually make way for Phase III of the Housing Master Plan.
Carlos, Jessica, Sumesh and more than 100 of their Pitzer classmates are first-generation college students. At Pitzer, “first-gen” refers to students whose parents never earned a college degree, students who often walk through Pitzer’s Avery Gate without familial footsteps to follow or certain acronyms—SAT, ACT, FAFSA—encoded in their DNA.

In recent years, Pitzer College has expanded its outreach to low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students. Applications to the College from first-gen students have increased by 44 percent since 2013, and first-gens make up nearly 14 percent of the Class of 2018. The College launched Pitzer’s First-Generation Program this academic year.

“A lot of first-gen students face so many more hurdles than other students to get to Pitzer—culturally, socially, financially,” said former Vice President and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Angel Perez, a first-generation student himself and a champion of increasing access to higher education. “Just the fact that these students arrive on campus and are doing the coursework, they’re already beating the odds.”

As undergraduates, first-gen students continue to draw on those odds-beating talents and skills. One Pitzer first-gen who had never heard of office hours now goes so frequently he calls his chemistry professor his BFF; another who started out sitting silently in class ended up presenting papers at academic conferences. Pitzer Associate Professor of Sociology Roberta Espinoza, who was a first-gen student at Pomona College, failed a writing exam her first semester; now she’s the author of two books about how low-income, minority students can make their way to, and through, college.

The Pitzer Annual Fund helps students like Kepa build upon their passions to create a better future. It supports faculty and student research, financial aid and scholarships, as well as curricular and co-curricular programs. These unrestricted dollars help Pitzer move forward with the unique Pitzer College educational experience.

Kepa believes in the Pitzer experience
We believe in his exceptional future

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Join us in supporting our students’ futures. Give to the Pitzer Annual Fund. Help move the Pitzer promise forward.

Donate now: www.pitzer.edu/give

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The Participant

Winter 2015

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Espinoza was one of the faculty members at the first-generation social hosted by Pitzer’s Office of Student Affairs and Office of the Dean of Faculty at the start of the year. That day in August, students weren’t the only ones who stood and introduced themselves as first-gen students. Espinoza and other professors stood. Staff and college deans stood. Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Carlisle stood. “We are standing here,” Carlisle said, “with our arms open, saying, ‘Come, visit with us, talk to us, ask us the questions you’re embarrassed to ask, because we went through the same thing. We’re creating a network of success here.’”

#collegeaccess

Carlos Perrett ’18 grew up in Houston, TX, the middle son of five children whose parents immigrated to the US from Mexico. Almost no one on his block had gone to college. He had never heard of Pitzer when the founder of EMERGE Fellowship, a nonprofit that helps underversed students go to college, came to his high school to talk about access to higher education for low-income students. Perrett thought the whole idea sounded like a scam. “There was no way I was going to a four-year, top-ranked school outside of Texas with almost a full ride,” he said. “No way.”

Way. Perrett had loved learning since he was a kid, and although his parents couldn’t vote when they arrived in this country, they taught him the notion of “service above self” that led him to start his high school’s first political club. After EMERGE’s presentation, Perrett began spending hours every other Friday memorizing SAT vocabulary words and writing application essays at the nonprofit. That’s where a program manager told him about Pitzer. By the time Perrett started applying to colleges, Pitzer was his first choice; Harvard University was his second.

Perrett was the first student to come to the College through the Pitzer Pathways Initiative, a program that works with more than 25 community-based organizations (CBOs) like EMERGE and Say Yes to Education to expand college access for low-income and first-generation students.

“Social responsibility is a Pitzer core value,” said Jamila Everett, interim vice president for admission and financial aid, who was also a first-generation college student. “It’s important for us to understand the inequalities in our educational system and live our values by actively recruiting and enrolling students from all socioeconomic backgrounds.”

Perrett applied early decision to Pitzer and got in. He never filled out that Harvard application. After spending his teenage years attending a high school practically in his backyard, he made the 1,500-mile trek to college.

His first day on campus was like “stepping on a whole different planet,” he said.

Learning Curves

The obstacles many first-gen faces don’t disappear when their college acceptance letter arrives. Nationally, roughly three-fourths of first-year, first-gen students come from low-income families, according to Clik Today. Those who went to under-funded schools may need to catch up academically; at the same time, they’re often juggling studies with part-time jobs. Many first-gen students also come from minority groups that are underrepresented on college campuses.

There’s something unique about the first-gen experience “regardless of race or class,” said Nicolas Rose ’13, who founded a club for first-gen students at Pitzer.

“Having a family member who has already gone to college makes you view that place differently than being the first in your family or your community to ever set foot on a college campus,” Ross said.

The sense of difference can come in matters great and small, from encountering an all-you-can-eat brunch at the dining hall, to not knowing if one needs a hall pass for a bathroom break, to getting the first “D” in an otherwise stellar academic career.

“Expectations were much higher at Pitzer than at my high school,” said Ross. “It was a big learning curve.”

Ross is now a program coordinator for Metritis Fund, a nonprofit that helps disadvantaged youth in San Francisco earn an undergraduate degree. He says first-gen students’ struggles in the classroom can also stem from off-campus concerns.

“Khalil Johnson ’17, who grew up in a low-income neighborhood in west Philadelphia, borrowed SAT prep books because he didn’t want to ask his parents to pay for them. As the oldest and the ‘college boy’ in his family, Johnson worries about more than his grades. He worries about the social and financial demands—two factors that can influence each other. A Stanford University study found that incoming first-gen students who talked about socio-economic issues with their classmates had higher grades and an easier time adjusting to college life than their peers who didn’t participate in such discussions.

Pitzer’s First-Generation Program is overseen by Resident Director-Advisor Greaney and Linda Lam, the coordinator of the College’s Center for Asian Pacific American Students—both first-gens themselves. This past fall, first-gen workshops included a study-skills session with Associate Dean of Faculty Katie Parra-Roberts and Professor of Philosophy Brian Keeley. Greaney and Lam also teamed up with students and Professor Espinoza to host social events for first-gens.

During one of those events in December, students decorated gingerbread houses at EMERGE on-campus apartment and discussed various meanings of home: being away from home, going home for the holidays and creating a new home at college.

The College aims also to reduce the financial burden of getting a degree, pledging to meet 100 percent of a student’s demonstrated need. During Pitzer President Laura Skandera Trombley’s tenure, the Board of Trustees created a scholarship for first-generation students in Trombley’s name. The president also established the John Skandera

What did you tell your parent about getting into Pitzer?

“Y ou’re always concerned about home,” he said.

These challenges can be daunting, but first-gens are not easily deterred. After talking with his father about global warming, Johnson started a task force to tackle climate change, he was in the sixth grade. When he began applying to colleges, he met face-to-face with as many admissions counselors as possible. After a Pitzer counselor held an information session at his high school, Johnson said he emailed her “so my name would be on her mind: Khalil, Khalil, Khalil.”

He worked. When his mom handed him a bright orange envelope with “Congratulations” written all over it and Pitzer’s acceptance letter inside it, “I felt like one million in a suit.”

The College Compass

Pitzer College’s new First-Generation Program, born out of a collaboration between the offices of Student Affairs and the Dean of Faculty, is designed to help first-gen students both feel at home on campus and acclaim to college’s academic demands—two factors that can influence each other. A Stanford University study found that incoming first-gen students who talked about socio-economic issues with their classmates had higher grades and an easier time adjusting to college campus than their peers who didn’t participate in such discussions.

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Memorial Endowed Scholarship for first-gens in honor of her father: “My father was an orphan and first-generation college graduate who went on to earn his master’s degree and became an elementary school teacher. He believed everyone deserves a chance to get a great education,” Trombley said. “At Pitzer, we want first-generation students to know they belong here, and that their talents and tenacity make them some of the most remarkable members of our community.”

Setting in, Standing out

First-gen students at Pitzer describe pivotal moments not only on their path to college, but after they’ve made it to the Mounds. Maya Sandovel ‘16 says she stopped feeling like a stranger in a strange land after talking with Professor Espinoza during office hours.

Sandoval grew up in Los Angeles, raised by a single mother who immigrated to California from Mexico and supported her three daughters on a factory worker’s wages. Sandoval got into top universities, including University of California, Berkeley, but her three daughters on a factory worker’s wages. Sandoval ‘16 says she stopped feeling like a stranger in a strange neighborhood, “he said. When she took Espinoza’s introductory sociology course her first year, Sandovel was scholastically shy, sitting in the back row, rarely raising her hand. She never went to office hours until Espinoza asked everyone in class to meet with her one-on-one. During office hours, Sandovel found out that her sociology professor was also a first-gens in honor of her father.

“She knew I was a first-generation college student and that a lot of first-gens don’t want to be far from home,” Sandovel said.

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“Finding faculty who share with us that they’re first-generation students helps build a support group, and that is something first-generation college students really need to succeed,” Sandovel said. “It’s important for professors to understand the struggles of first-gen students.”

Her sophomore year, Sandovel became Espinoza’s research assistant; today, they work together on a grant-funded project that examines how nonprofits create paths to college for low-income and minority youth. A sociology major, Sandoval hopes to start an organization like the one that helped her discover Pitzer College. She also plans to go to grad school—a future she couldn’t have imagined just a couple of years ago.

“Roberta is the first person who really encouraged me to pursue a PhD,” Sandovel said.

All Roads

First-gens who didn’t have footsteps to follow to Pitzer are already helping clear a path for others. They inspire, instruct and guide their siblings, cousins and even neighbors about pursuing their educational dreams.

First-gens don’t want to be far from home, “ Sandoval said. “That’s when I realized I could succeed there just as much as everyone else.”

When she took Espinoza’s introductory sociology course her first year, Sandovel was scholastically shy, sitting in the back row, rarely raising her hand. She never went to office hours until Espinoza asked everyone in class to meet with her one-on-one. During office hours, Sandovel found out that her sociology professor was also a first-generations college graduate from a Latino, low-income, single-parent home.

“Finding faculty who share with us that they’re first-generation students helps build a support group, and that is something first-generation college students really need to succeed,” Sandovel said. “It’s important for professors to understand the struggles of first-gen students.”

Her sophomore year, Sandovel became Espinoza’s research assistant; today, they work together on a grant-funded project that examines how nonprofits create paths to college for low-income and minority youth. A sociology major, Sandoval hopes to start an organization like the one that helped her discover Pitzer College. She also plans to go to grad school—a future she couldn’t have imagined just a couple of years ago.

“Roberta is the first person who really encouraged me to pursue a PhD,” Sandovel said.

Alumni Nicolas Rosa can reel off a number of mentors he had at Pitzer, but says he began to feel like he truly belonged on campus when he became a resident assistant and created a club for first-gens.

“Once I was able to see that I could not just attend Pitzer, but be a leader at Pitzer, that’s when I started to feel at home,” he said. “That’s when I realized I could succeed there just as much as everyone else.”

Drawing on a decade of research and interviews, Zuckerman explores how secular people live meaningful lives guided by an internal moral compass instead of commandments. Publishers Weekly named it one of the best books of 2014 and The New York Times called it “a humane and sensible guide to and for the many kinds of Americans leading secular lives in what remains one of the most religious nations in the developed world.” www.penguin.com
The fall 2014 Sagehen season produced big plays and gripping games. Here are a few memorable moments from another great chapter in the Sagehen playbook.

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

The Sagehens Men’s Soccer team, led by captain and All-SCIAC midfielder Andrew Lind ’14 (#13, center), wins the 2014 SCIAC Men’s Soccer Postseason Tournament championship, defeating top-seeded Redlands and earning its first NCAA Division III Tournament bid since 1980. Coach Bill Swartz was named SCIAC Coach of the Year.

Record-setting swimmer Amanda Harris ’93 is inducted into the Sagehens Hall of Fame. As a Sagehen, Harris earned 25 All-Conference honors and was twice named SCIAC Athlete of the Year. The All-American athlete set five SCIAC meet records, three SCIAC all-time records and five team records. Pictured here with swim coach J.P. Gowdy.

Coach Roger Caron presents Woody and Jaynie Studenmund, parents of Scott Studenmund ’12, with Scott’s #44 Sagehen football jersey. Studenmund played linebacker and special teams for the Sagehens before leaving Pitzer to join the US Army Green Berets. He was killed during a combat mission in Afghanistan in June 2014.

Paul Messana ’17 and the Men’s Cross Country team run away with first place at the Sagehens host invitational. Men’s Cross Country qualified for NCAA D3 Championships, placing in 7th place—the best showing since 1982.

Dawn Barlow ’16 sets a new Sagehen record in the 1-meter diving event, accumulating 388.0 points in 11 dives and breaking the 15-year-old mark of 383.85.

Ellen Yamasaki ’15 helps the Sagehens qualify for the SCIAC Tournament, ending her career with 864 kills, eighth best in program history.

Camille Matonis ’15 finishes strong, earning All-West Region honors for the Women’s Cross Country team and securing third place in Sagehen history in the 6K.

Sara Ach ’15 shows off serious foot finesse as the Women’s Soccer team beats first-place CMS on Senior Day, taking the third seed in the SCIAC Tournament. Ach was part of the first senior class to qualify for the SCIAC Tournament in all four seasons.

Pictured on the Cover: The Sagehens Men’s Soccer team, led by captain and All-SCIAC midfielder Andrew Lind ’14 (#13, center), wins the 2014 SCIAC Men’s Soccer Postseason Tournament championship, defeating top-seeded Redlands and earning its first NCAA Division III Tournament bid since 1980. Coach Bill Swartz was named SCIAC Coach of the Year.
Grants & Awards

Delving into Digital Humanities
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded The Claremont Colleges a $1.5 million grant to strengthen the teaching and study of the digital humanities, a field that explores the connections between digital technologies and the research, writing, publication and teaching of the humanities. Working with faculty and staff from across the SCs, Professor of Media Studies Alexandra Juhasz will direct the project.

"This grant will support and nurture new teaching approaches, new courses and new areas of research, and it will increase our contribution to the society-wide conversation about how digital affects everything that we do."

Expanding Student Involvement in Genetic Research
Associate Professor of Biology Emily Wiley won a $506,131 National Science Foundation award for a collaborative research project that engages undergraduate students in the study of genomes and gene function. An avid proponent of STEM education and engaging students in hands-on, original research, Wiley teaches biology at the W.M. Keck Science Department, a program of Pitzer College, Claremont McKenna College and Scripps College.

"Traditionally, we've taught science by putting students in lecture courses and teaching them about discoveries that were made by other people, and they got very little chance to make their own discoveries. One of the goals of the NSF project is to show that undergraduates can contribute substantially to faculty and community research priorities."

Exploring Political Subjectivities
Professor of Anthropology Claudia Strauss and two co-principal investigators will hold a workshop called “Culture and Political Subjectivities” at Columbia University this May. The workshop will cover anthropological approaches to political subjectivities—the thoughts, feelings, motivations, identities and memories surrounding political activism, public policy and the social distribution of power, status and money. The project was made possible by support from the Robert Lemelson Foundation through a Lemelson/Society for Psychological Anthropology Conference Fund grant. The Society for Psychological Anthropology is a section of the American Anthropological Association.

"Workshop participants’ research examines the formation of political subjectivities through ethnographic research on topics such as skepticism about the science of climate change in Oklahoma, precursors to conversion to Salafi forms of Islam in northern Nigeria and the political outlooks of the long-term unemployed in the U.S."

PROLIFIC PROFESSORS

Newsmakers:

From The Washington Post to Time magazine, media outlets around the country tapped into faculty expertise this academic year.

Professor of Linguistics Carmen Fought appeared on HuffPost Live to talk about how “vocal fry” affects job opportunities for women. The Washington Post also quoted her in its article “Is there a DC dialect?”

“Everything that happens with a language has to do with identity. We want to sound like the community we identify with.”

Adrian Pantoja, professor of political studies and Chicano/a-Latino/a studies, spoke about issues including immigration and the environment with media outlets ranging from Al Jazeera America to the National Journal. “Clean air and water, preserving public lands, climate change and promoting clean energy solutions are all matters of concern for this rapidly-growing electorate,” Pantoja said of Latino voters in The Huffington Post.

The Christian Science Monitor covered Assistant Professor of Biology Lars Schmitz’s research on the evolution of nocturnal behavior, which helps scientists understand the biology of mammalian ancestors.

“What we’re doing is really thinking about these little puzzle pieces, we can start building this image of what life may have been like 250 million years ago.”

Associate Professor of Political Studies Rachel VanTickle-Word ’99 wrote an op-ed for Talking Points Memo on the US Supreme Court’s landmark decision that allowed the owners of Hobby Lobby to refuse, on religious grounds, to cover employer’ cost of contraception.

“If religious employers can opt out of providing birth control coverage based on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, what will stop denials of other health care benefits on religious grounds?”

Assistant Professor of Chicano/a-Latino/a Transnational Studies Suyapa Portillo Villada ’96 was quoted in an article about Francisco Morazán, who governed the Federal Republic of Central America in the 1800s.

“It’s good that there’s a Francisco Morazán day and statue, but the Morazanistas who want a better Honduras are found in the streets, fighting to change the country.”

Professor of Creative Studies Albert Wachtel wrote a column in The Algemeiner about Israel and the Middle East.

“Peace in the Middle East is most improbable and also possible. It should be pursued now.”

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Professor of Sociology Phil Zuckerman appeared in publications ranging from The New York Times to Time magazine. His op-ed on secular family values ran in The Los Angeles Times. “My own ongoing research among secular Americans ... confirms that nonreligious family life is replete with its own sustaining moral values and enriching ethical precepts.”
A Multidimensional Mathematician

Jim Hoste’s Tactile Teaching

A s students settle into Professor Jim Hoste’s Math 5 class, they reach into their backpacks and pull out notebooks, pens and … Rubik’s Cubes. Hoste then demonstrates a handful of the gazillion (okay, 43,010,000,000,000,000,000,000) cubes, permutations in the 3-D puzzle, teaching the students about mathematical groups and graphs along the way.

“The goal is to introduce students to real math content, but in a way they haven’t encountered before, ” Hoste said of entry-level courses such as Rubik’s Cube and Other Mathematical Puzzles. “Then they feel like, ‘Oh, we’re starting this thing from scratch. I’m not behind already.’”

For 25 years, Hoste has taken math and put it in students’ hands. He teaches both introductory and upper division classes by using seemingly simple objects—a puzzle, a knot, a deck of cards—to make complex concepts tangible and tactile. “For me, the goal is to turn students on to stuff that’s exciting, relatable and relevant.”

He compares the beauty and structure of his many hobbies, which include everything from classical guitar playing to guitar building to rock climbing. “Jim’s been a great colleague. I especially appreciate how he balances his professional life with his many hobbies, which include everything from classical guitar playing to guitar building to rock climbing.”

Drawing on his multi-faceted interests, Hoste makes math relatable and relevant. He explores the beauty and structure of mathematics to students, talks about the calculus of climate change and shares the thrill of searching for solutions with his students, whether they’re lining up 54 squares on six faces of a cube or problem-solving with a new polynomial.

“Jim made a name for himself early in his career with his contributions to the study of mathematical knots,” said Professor of Mathematics David Bachman. “Jim’s been a great colleague. I especially appreciate how he balances his professional life with his many hobbies, which include everything from classical guitar playing to guitar building to rock climbing.”

Characteristics: Hoste calls their signature or flavor. Topology is the study of manifolds, or abstract spaces, and low-dimensional topology concentrates on spaces of four or fewer dimensions. Knot theory is an example of a more general problem in topology given two spaces, how can one (such as a loop) sit inside the other?

Hoste co-created Knotscape 1.0, an interactive computer program for the study of mathematical knots. He is also the “H” in the HOMFLY-PT polynomial, which he and other mathematicians (Messieurs O, M, E, L, Y, P and T) discovered separately but almost simultaneously in the 90s.

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A Nonconformist in the Classroom

M ona Prince is a spirited, independent woman who breaks taboos and stereotypes. She is a Muslim who considers herself an Egyptian first, wearing jeans, sleeveless blouses, no veil. “I don’t have to conform,” she says with a hearty laugh.

She fearlessly joined the 2011 revolution in Egypt that overthrew longtime dictator Hosni Mubarak and wrote a compelling day-to-day account of the struggle, Revolution is My Name. In 2012, she ran for president to show Egyptians they had a choice beyond the usual bearded male authority figure. The award-winning writer is a visiting professor this academic year, co-teaching Pitzer Professor Ahmed Alwishah’s philosophy class Islam vs. Islam.

She is here on an Institute of International Education’s Scholar Rescue Fund fellowship, which finds academic appointments for professors and intellectuals who are threatened in their own countries. Prince was suspended last year for her outspoken liberalism from professors and intellectuals who are threatened in their own countries.

“Alwishah’s philosophy class ‘Islam vs. Islam’ co-teaching Pitzer Professor Ahmed Alwishah’s philosophy class ‘Islam vs. Islam.’”

“Revolution is My Name” is harrowing and at times hilarious, notably when Prince recounts the revolutionaries’ running commentary during Mubarak’s speeches. The Egyptian people’s sense of humor has been “a means of survival,” Prince says.

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When she returns to teaching in Egypt, she will share her own experiences in Egypt. “Mona’s contribution to the discussion is invaluable,” Alwishah says.

She provides students with a unique perspective by drawing on her own experiences in Egypt. “Monal’s contribution to the discussion is invaluable,” Alwishah says.

Students will read parts of Prince’s most recent book, which includes Facebook posts, poetry and conversations. Revolution is My Name is harrowing and at times hilarious, notably when Prince recounts the revolutionaries’ running commentary during Mubarak’s speeches. The Egyptian people’s sense of humor has been “a means of survival,” Prince says.

Pitzer students draw parallels.

“Even though we’re talking about Islam, they will bring in Christianity and other religions.”

—Mona Prince

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Early Brinn ’14 took everything from Calculus 3 to Knot Theory with Hoste. Now a mathematics PhD student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Brinn describes Hoste as both a mentor and a mensch, always generous with his time and compelling in the classroom.

“I hope to be just like him when I am a professor,” she said.

Hoste’s research focuses on knot theory and low-dimensional topology. Knot theory is the study of mathematical knots—continuous loops that can be imagined as knotted strands of rope with fused ends. Using tools from algebra and geometry, knot theorists develop ways of measuring various properties of knots, characters: Hoste calls their signature or flavor. Topology is the study of manifolds, or abstract spaces, and low-dimensional topology concentrates on spaces of four or fewer dimensions. Knot theory is an example of a more general problem in topology given two spaces, how can one (such as a loop) sit inside the other?

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Meet Pitzer’s Newest Professors…

Juanita Aristizábal  
Assistant Professor of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Before coming to Pitzer, Juanita Aristizábal was an assistant professor and director of graduate studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington DC, lecturer in New York University’s Department of Spanish and Portuguese and an acting instructor at Yale University.

She has been awarded a University of California, Riverside Latin American Studies Conference Honor Award for her paper “Dandyism and Modernity: A Return to Decadence in the Literature of Fernando Vallejo.”

“Exploring the communities in Los Angeles with students as part of a Spanish course I am co-teaching this fall has already shown me how committed our students are to diversity, social justice and intercultural understanding. As a community that fully embraces these values, Pitzer is an ideal place to be a scholar and a teacher of language and culture.”

Menna Bizuneh  
Assistant Professor of Economics

Menna Bizuneh was an assistant professor of economics at College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University. She has also taught at Georgia State University and Emory University. Bizuneh received an African Development Bank Research Grant to support her research project “Public Attitude towards the East African Monetary Union.”

“I’m looking forward to the adventure of teaching international economics in an interdisciplinary environment such as Pitzer. I hope to foster critical thinking about globalized economic events among my students.”

Sarah Gilbert  
Assistant Professor of Sculpture

Sarah Gilbert has taught at Reed College, Pacific Northwest College of Art and Oregon College of Art and Craft.

She specializes in sculptural techniques using wood, metal and glass. Her work has been exhibited across the US, and she has conducted artist residencies at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, VA, the Academy of Fine Arts in Tallinn, Estonia, and LCBH-Kunstverein in Cologne, Germany.

“In order to help students think critically about their own work and positions, my classes are designed to balance technical demonstrations and projects with an emphasis on the historical and contemporary stakes surrounding project ideas.”

Ann E. Pitzer (1936-2014)  
Trustee Remembered for Her Dedication to Learning

Pitzer College trustee and granddaughter of the College’s founder, Ann Elizabeth Pitzer passed away on October 15, 2014, in La Jolla, CA. She was 77.

“Ann’s bright, sunny and inquiring mind led to deep and rich conversations as a trustee of Pitzer College, and her lifelong dedication to education and social responsibility was inspirational,” said Pitzer President Laura Skandera Trombley. “Generations of students have benefited from the generosity of Ann and her family.”

The granddaughter of the College’s namesake, Russell K. Pitzer, and Flora Sanborn Pitzer, Ann was the oldest of Kenneth S. and Jean Pitzer’s three children. She obtained her bachelor’s degree from UC Davis and her master’s degree from UC Berkeley. She worked as a software developer at Science Applications International Corporation for 23 years until her retirement in 2000. Ann’s husband, Fred Bromley, a retired US Navy officer, passed away in 2001.

Ann joined the Pitzer College Board of Trustees in 2006, serving on committees dedicated to improving student life and shaping educational policy. As a trustee and philanthropist, she developed close relationships with students, staff and faculty members.

“Remembering Ann will always make me smile,” said Professor of Anthropology Sheryl Müller. “She cared greatly about the College and its students, and often donated books and journals to the Jean M. Pitzer Archaeology Lab. Ann’s spirit will live on in the excitement of students inspired by their experiences in the lab.”

Ann created the Ann E. Pitzer Endowed Scholarship as well as the Russell M. Pitzer Endowed Scholarship, which honors her brother, a trustee emeritus. Through the Pitzer Family Foundation, which she joined as a trustee in 1998, she helped initiate many other student scholarships and professorships, including the Flora Sanborn Endowed Pitzer Scholarship and the Kenneth and Jean Pitzer Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The Foundation also provided significant support for Pitzer’s LEED-certified, mixed-use residence halls.

Recently, Ann established an endowed position, the Ann E. Pitzer Director of Study Abroad, which reflects her love of travel and commitment to intercultural learning.

On October 11, 2014, the Pitzer College Board of Trustees passed a resolution honoring Ann’s service to the College, stating: “On behalf of Pitzer College students, faculty and staff of the past, present and future—we are honored to join together to salute our colleague and kindred spirit Ann Pitzer. We send to her our deep appreciation and affection for actualizing Provida Futuri.”
Way Around The Mounds
News from Campus & Beyond

A Royal Reception

It’s a little hard to see in this selfie, but that’s Cesar Vargas ’14 meeting the newly crowned King of Spain, Felipe VI. Vargas, Danny Feinberg ’13 and Alex Rawding ’14—all 2014-15 Fulbright fellows—were invited to a reception in Oviedo, Spain, in fall 2014 after the Fulbright Program won the Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation. “We had a chance to meet many of the staff from Fulbright commissions all over the world,” Vargas said. “I was able to meet the King of Spain at the reception of the awards—the Asturias Award for International Cooperation. The Fulbright Program won the Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation. The Fulbright Program won the Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation. The Fulbright Program won the Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation. The Fulbright Program won the Prince of Asturias Award for International Cooperation. 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Ronald Rubin
Years at Pitzer: 1971-2014

Tribute by Barry Sanders, emeritus professor of history of ideas

I met Ron Rubin when I came to Pitzer College in the fall of 1972. Ron had arrived the year before. He was 28; I was 33. It was a time, a period, a protracted moment in America’s history: The War in Vietnam was still dragging on and would for another year or so; student protesters were still being arrested, shot and, in the case of Jacksonville, Mississippi, even killed. Kent State remained in the news.

Ron was a model of the times—a poutyist that nearly reached his waist, a mind that was politically sharp and a mouth that could yank Aristotle into our classroom—at one moment as the truth? Well, he did not fully believe the x-rays and the CAT scans—at least not in the way that most people might accept such pronouncements and readings. He also did not say he would beat that damned thing; he did not declare that he would win the fight; he did not tell me that he would defeat this scourge of modern life. He drew on no metaphors of battle; he could not bring himself to curse or swear at some unseen enemy. Ron was not at war. I think that helped Ron treat the disease as if it were another research project, another problem of language and interpretation. He studied their nuances and newness and wrote about the way cancer cells affected his mind and wrecked his body. The larger threat was the treatment, the chemotherapy, and for that he had an ally, an energy healer named the Rev. Dr. Tracy Parker. The world had undergone a shift in its understanding of the body problem—perhaps the ultimate one—and he faced it with great strength and courage and his usual (or unusual) sense of conviction, determination, and Peirce Herman sense of humor.

When Aristotle writes, “O friends, there are no friends”—and Ronald frequently yanked Aristotle into our classroom—at one time and the same time, Aristotle invokes and then revokes the idea of friendship, friendship, it seems, is one of those peculiar categories that resist representation or conceptualization; rather, it makes its meaning, takes its form, in the rules of proximity and distance: Two people can be close even if one of them is not near, or even here. To call Ron my friend rules him out as a friend. That is no longer here makes our so-called friendship stronger. Someone accused me the other day of being one of Ron’s royal friends. I did not take it as an insult, as being close to Ron and defending him out of some sense of duty: I love Ron. Plain and simple, I love Ronald Rubin. And thus he was a friend and, at the same time, more than a friend. That he has passed away makes my feeling of belonging to him even more intense. I will miss his nervous laugh, a sure sign that he had something wicked in mind and that he would not keep it to himself; very long. I will miss his ability to distill the most complicated of ideas into the purest English. I will miss his move on and off the mat, his deep devotion to Aikido, as if martial arts were a no-holds-barred equivalent of a dialectical argument. I love Ron Rubin almost always get things right. When Ron began to speak, we knew the truth was coming. Over and over again, he saved us from embarrassment, the Faculty Council happy to leave its collective sigh of relief.

Over the final seven years of his life, he danced with that deadliness of partners. Cancer. I came to his house the day after he got the news. I was in tears, I walked down the block with Sue. She said to me, in the most matter-of-fact way, that Ron did not take very much, if anything at all, at face value. Why should he accept this diagnosis as the truth? Well, he did not fully believe the x-rays and the CAT scans—at least not in the way that most people might accept such pronouncements and readings. He also did not say he would beat that damned thing; he did not declare that he would win the fight; he did not tell me that he would defeat this scourge of modern life. He drew on no metaphors of battle; he could not bring himself to curse or swear at some unseen enemy. Ron was not at war. I think that helped Ron treat the disease as if it were another research project, another problem of language and interpretation. He studied their nuances and newness and wrote about the way cancer cells affected his mind and wrecked his body. The larger threat was the treatment, the chemotherapy, and for that he had an ally, an energy healer named the Rev. Dr. Tracy Parker. The world had undergone a shift in its understanding of the body problem—perhaps the ultimate one—and he faced it with great strength and courage and his usual (or unusual) sense of conviction, determination, and Peirce Herman sense of humor.

Ron Rubin never let loose his grip—his most powerful and assured grip—on the truth. But, more than that, he simply would not shut up; he could not be silenced. Time and again, he brought the truth home to whoever was in front of him—one or two colleagues, or an entire assembly of faculty members. The audience mattered not at all. Against the backdrop of tenure, that hallowed state where one’s loud mouth and smart ideas found protection, Ron laughed in its face. Schools typically hand out the tenure prize after five or six years of good behavior, but as we all quickly realized, Ron Rubin laughed at such folly. He refused to follow the rules, when he thought they stifled free choice. He argued with colleagues, especially when he believed they were flat-out wrong and were playing the administration’s game. He spoke out for fairness; he spoke out for precise language and carefully articulated arguments. Not everyone wanted to be bothered; not everyone wanted to be awakened from his or her slumber. And so he did not please a lot of folks. Sometimes, colleagues recognized in him absolute integrity, brilliance and a colossal power of mind. By the way, he got tenure. The truth might be turned aside, but it cannot for long be denied.

In his persistence and in his intellectual courage, he offered every student a model of ethical being. For me, if you wish, I heard him say many times—speaking to some administrator—or violation of the handbook, our contracts, AAUP policy, Federal law, the Labor Relations Board, the Talmud, and maybe all of them at once. Ron Rubin makes a mockery of our current state of higher education, of sky-high tuitions, of adjunct faculty members who have little or no voice, who just barely make it by holding part-time positions in three or four institutions, of the dearth compromise of going along to get along, of the absence of collegiality and, perhaps worst of all, of the dearth of tenure, of that regal category called A Faculty Member. Indeed, Ron made me proud to belong to something called the Pitzer Faculty. He made me thrilled to be in the classroom with him. Faculty Council meetings fell silent whenever Ron spoke. People knew that he could not be silenced. Time and again, he brought the truth home to whoever was in front of him—one or two colleagues, or an entire assembly of faculty members. The audience mattered not at all. Against the backdrop of tenure, that hallowed state where one’s loud mouth and smart ideas found protection, Ron laughed in its face. Schools typically hand out the tenure prize after five or six years of good behavior, but as we all quickly realized, Ron Rubin laughed at such folly. He refused to follow the rules, when he thought they stifled free choice. He argued with colleagues, especially when he believed they were flat-out wrong and were playing the administration’s game. He spoke out for fairness; he spoke out for precise language and carefully articulated arguments. Not everyone wanted to be bothered; not everyone wanted to be awakened from his or her slumber. And so he did not please a lot of folks. Sometimes, colleagues recognized in him absolute integrity, brilliance and a colossal power of mind. By the way, he got tenure. The truth might be turned aside, but it cannot for long be denied.

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John D. Sullivan

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Tribute by Tom Ilgen, emeritus Jones Foundation professor of political studies

In early December, Pitzer College lost a dedicated teacher and scholar, a generous colleague and a loyal friend of the College. Professor Emeritus John "Jack" Sullivan died of cancer at the age of 77. Jack received his PhD in political science in 1969 from Stanford University, where he specialized in international relations. He was part of a generation of young academics who brought quantitative methods to the study of international politics, and he published with several leaders in the field. Jack knew both the power and the limitations of such techniques and insisted that students use them cautiously.

After brief academic appointments at Yale University and Claremont Graduate School (now Claremont Graduate University), Jack joined Pitzer's Political Studies Field Group in 1975 with primary responsibility for teaching international politics. However, his scholarly interests soon moved to focus on California public policy issues, particularly those that addressed water and other natural resources. He published California Water: A New Political Economy with Merrill Goodall and Timothy Do Young in 1978 and increasingly shifted his research and teaching to reflect those new interests. He became one of the first members of the Environmental Studies Field Group and taught courses on water politics and public policy. His commitment to interdisciplinary work and his interest in strategies for negotiating differences and managing conflict also led him to be an early member of the Organizational Studies Field Group. Over the years, Jack taught and mentored scores of students in each of these field groups and taught 24 different courses at the College. Jack also extended his interests in water policy into the community, both through local service to organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, and statewide bodies, such as the Department of Water Resources in Sacramento. He regularly wrote reports, gave briefings and offered testimony before public agencies. One could not have an extended conversation with Jack Sullivan without at least touching on some aspect of California water policy.

Jack also gave generously as a colleague and supporter of Pitzer. He served time and again on the Faculty Executive Committee and took his turn as chair. He stepped in when the College needed an interim dean of students and an interim dean of faculty and proved to be a fair and thoughtful administrator. He served as the director of academic computing at a time when the College was trying to figure out how best to provide computer services to a sometimes reluctant and skeptical faculty. He took on all of these tasks willingly and with good humor. Jack believed strongly in the College's commitment to social responsibility, and he embraced initiatives to promote interdisciplinary teaching and learning by participating in many new disciplinary combinations—politics and economics, politics and environmental policy, politics and art, politics and mathematics.

Jack Sullivan had many friends and admirers. Field group members knew him as a mediator and a consensus builder. Young faculty colleagues regarded him as a wise and generous mentor and adviser. Staff members found in Jack someone who valued their contributions and who treated them with respect. Students saw him as engaging and approachable, willing to find time outside of class to help with a research paper or offer advice about an internship experience. In his retirement years, Jack and I had lunch together with some regularity, and I always looked forward to our discussions. His enthusiasm for new subjects and new learning was undiminished. In 2014, the centennial year of the beginning of the Great War, we dug into the centennial year of the beginning of the Great War, we dug into some of the new literature on the origins of that conflict. The lively interchanges that accompanied several noontime meals took us both back to our early years as students of international relations.

With his white hair and signature white beard, Jack was a recognizable presence on the Pitzer campus for almost 40 years. Perhaps due to his Irish roots, Jack enjoyed a good joke, not least when it was at his own expense.

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Jack and his wife, Jacqueline Levering Sullivan, assistant professor emerita of writing

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IN MEMORIAM John Sullivan
1960s

Deborah Deutsch Smith, director of IBIS/GCGU and professor of special education at Claremont Graduate University, presented her paper, “Online Learning and Teacher Education: Knowledge Acquisition, Application Skills, and Reported Confidence,” at the International Association for Research in Learning Disabilities International Conference at Vilnius University in Lithuania on July 5, 2014.

1970s

Lynn Gallagher Sacco announced her retirement following 25 years teaching special education at Fillmore High School in Fillmore, CA. Sacco sings as a member of two local choruses, including a Sweet Adeline chorus that she has participated in for more than 23 years. She plans on continuing her work with children as a Big Sister in her community.

1980s

Gigi Spratley worked collaboratively with her husband to create Veil of the Eternal, a 3-D mural work that has been featured at the Quality Mending Company’s Art Wall in New York City. The mural grew out of an ongoing project the couple has been involved with, which includes the development of a book and animation project collectively known as the Li’l Beasties.

1990s

Michael Naehm published his first book, an easy-to-understand statistics textbook titled Categorical and Nonparametric Data Analysis: Choosing the Best Statistical Technique.

Bruce Locke narrated the audiobook and CD versions of The New York Times bestselling novel, Colleenne Tsuchiro Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage: A novel, written by Haruki Murakami.

Anne Turner was appointed human services director for the City of Claremont, CA. She will oversee the city’s recreation programs, parks, senior services, special projects and youth and family support services.

Brian Christiansen, his wife, Tara, and son Colby, traveled to Colombia during summer 2014 to adopt a new member of the family. Their son Matias is now home with the family in Portland, OR, and adjusting to the new climate. Christiansen serves as the vice president of strategic planning on the Pitzer College Alumni Board.

Kate Post-Spitzer recently departed from TV talent booking to launch a boutique television/film development consulting firm, Pitching Post. She and her husband, Andrew, are spending a year in Washington DC with their seven-year-old daughter, Maya, and plan on returning to Los Angeles in summer 2015.

2000s

Bill McGowan married Lyndel Anunciado in April 2013 at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA. She serves as vice president of alumni engagement on the Pitzer College Alumni Board and works as the director of program development for Molina Healthcare in Long Beach, CA, where she lives with her husband.

Brodie O’Brien and Jes Hynn Ko ’97 welcomed their first child in 2014.

Terra Skarin was profiled in this summer’s California Health Report for the significant strides she has made toward combating gender violence through advocacy and public policy.

Javad Khan recently completed his fellowship at Nova Southeastern University and is board certified in internal medicine and allergy and clinical immunology. He has joined a multispecialty group practice located in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Jonathan Marquirt and his wife, Annie, were thrilled to welcome their son, Samuel, into the world on November 15, 2013.

Daniel Bennett passed his Certified Sommelier exam in September 2014. He manages the Grill on the Alley in Beverly Hills, CA, and volunteers on the Pitzer College Alumni Board.

Frances Martinez Kellar was named associate chair for the Division of Teacher Education at Fresno Pacific University. She will provide leadership for developing and sustaining a research-based clinical practice component for the school’s credential programs that serve the greater Central Valley. Kellar will also direct the division’s mentoring program and will continue her work as an assistant professor of education.

Cheryl Yin is conducting her linguistic anthropology PhD dissertation fieldwork in Cambodia for the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is a Fulbright Scholar and has won a PhD Dissertation Research Fellowship through the Center for Khmer Studies and the Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellowship through the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan.

2010s

Eliot Baker released his debut novel, The Last decent, a historical mystery and supernatural suspense tale. In addition to his work as an author, he is a professor of communications at a college in rural Finland, where he is raising a family and operating a translating business.
In Memoriam

Jeanmarie Hamilton Boone ’87
passed away on September 7, 2014, from colon cancer. She is survived by her husband, Stephen Boone; her daughter, Victoria; and her son, Philip. Jeanmarie was an assistant professor of education at Pepperdine University.

Pin-Jung “Candy” Chen ’12
passed away on October 30, 2014, due to a brain tumor. Candy was an international student who came to Pitzer College from Taiwan. She entered through the Pitzer International Scholars Program and worked as a mentor on campus. In 2012, she graduated with a degree in organizational studies.

2010s

10 Ben Rubin moved to New York City in April 2014 on a cross-country road trip with a fellow Pitzer classmate. He made the move east after working on environmental policy in the California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research for more than three years. Rubin now works as a senior associate at M Public Affairs, advancing green infrastructure projects throughout the Northeast.

10 Tim Campos began his studies toward a master’s degree in communication management at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism in fall 2014 and is serving as a member of the Pitzer College Alumni Board.

10 Katie Tennecost created Edible Connections, a project focused on international food health and education research. She aims to develop an innovative toolkit for teaching children about culture, food and health by combining the best practices from around the world.

Meg Rose Perry ’72 selected Pitzer College for its small size. She recalls her eight-student first-year seminar with Professor Emeritus of Political Studies Lucian Marquis, who served as her faculty adviser. “Lucian hosted his class at his home. I made lifelong friendships at Pitzer that I treasure,” Perry says.

“Several years ago, I established a deferred charitable gift annuity to provide scholarships for Pitzer College students. It also gave me an immediate income-tax deduction. I chose to begin fixed quarterly payments upon my retirement, a portion of which are tax-free,” Perry says.

A Pitzer deferred charitable gift annuity funded with cash or marketable securities and tailored to your needs is just one example of the convenient ways you can support Pitzer College and strengthen your retirement plan.

Meg, Perry, like so many of her fellow alumni, lives the values of her Pitzer College experience.
Join us for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2015. Classes that end with 5 and 0 will be celebrating a milestone anniversary!

All class years are invited and encouraged to attend this celebration that crosses generations and welcomes our newest alumni to “Crash the Party!”