

PITZER COLLEGE

Fall/Winter 2018 Vol. 51 No. 2

The Participant



Community Changemakers

CEC celebrates 20 years

Alumni Leaders

Pitzer graduates run for elected office

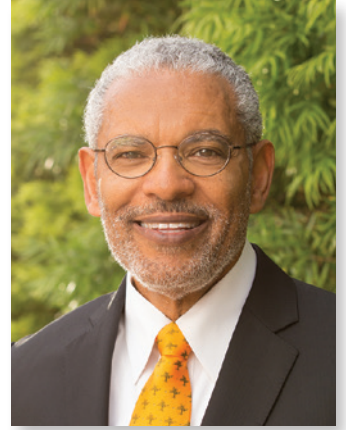
Talking Politics

Pitzer experts on the midterms & more



Pitzer student Beihua Guo '21 took this photo at the base of the Cinder Cone Volcano in Lassen Volcanic National Park, where he spent two weeks in the summer as an artist-in-residence. This photo is part of a series that earned Guo Honorable Mention in the 2018 International Photography Awards in October.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are at an inflection point in Pitzer's inspiring history. Building on the successes of the College's first 55 years, we have embarked on its strategic planning process to adapt our achievements, expertise, vision, energy and resources to a new era of excellence in liberal arts education. We are working to create a proactive plan that incorporates input from every member of our diverse community, identifies our most profound themes and weaves them into our shared future.

In this edition of *The Participant*, I see how generations of Pitzer students, alumni and faculty are contributing to that future of the College, the community, the country and beyond. From our celebration of the 20th anniversary of Pitzer's Community Engagement Center to the Pitzer College Archives' look back at *The Radical Roots of Pitzer*, we see idealism combine with action time and again. Today, we see how Pitzer professors, students and staff are leveraging an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to establish the collaborative, innovative Justice Education Initiative at The Claremont Colleges. This November, we witnessed an unprecedented number of Pitzer alumni who ran for public office in local, state and federal races, striving to impart change for our greater community.

This *Participant* also shares headlines from the fall semester: faculty awards, student accomplishments and SCIAC championships. The news from around the Mounds includes Claremont McKenna College's plan to withdraw from the three-college science program in four to five years. As Pitzer and Scripps prepare for a new phase of our joint science curriculum, we will continue to update you on our goals that include additional faculty and new opportunities for our students. The College also finalized the purchase of the East Campus property at the corner of North Claremont and Foothill Boulevards. This growth allows the College to plan for athletic facilities to support our students' physical health and wellness.

Suzanne and I extend our warm wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy holiday season and 2019. You are always welcome on campus, and we hope you will find time in your busy life to visit Pitzer College soon.

Melvin L. Oliver
President



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In Memoriam

Stuart M. Finkelstein P'16, a member of Pitzer's Board of Trustees since 2014 and father of alumna Julia Finkelstein '16, passed away on July 7, 2018. President Oliver described Finkelstein, who was a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York, as "one of the most lively and wonderful human beings I have had the honor of knowing."





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The Participant

Fall/Winter 2018

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ON THE COVER: *Pitzer's Past, Present, Future*. This iconic mural inside Stein Atrium in Benson Auditorium was painted in 1997 by artist Paul Botello and Pitzer students. The cover shows the "present" panel, with students, staff and professors, including José Calderón, Agnes Moreland Jackson and Barry Sanders.

The diverse opinions expressed in *The Participant* are those of the individual profilees and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors or the College administration. *The Participant* welcomes comments from its readers.

Pitzer College is a nationally top-ranked undergraduate college of the liberal arts and sciences. Pitzer offers a distinctive approach to a liberal arts education by linking intellectual inquiry with interdisciplinary studies, cultural immersion, social responsibility and community involvement.



SUSAN NATHAN SHOLL '76

When compassion combines with aspiration and innovation, anything is possible

When Susan Nathan Sholl '76 earned her BA in psychology from Pitzer College, she might well have thought that she'd arrived at her destination. Yet she went on to pursue her master of arts in social work from the University of Chicago, then began working as a social worker and a hospital administrator. In time, she sensed that her journey of service to others was destined for a new beginning.

Since 2013, Sholl has served as vice president of the board of the North Shore Exchange, a nonprofit upscale consignment store in Chicago and Glencoe, IL. "All profits from NSE are used to support organizations providing human services for children and families at or below the poverty level," she explains.

To date, North Shore Exchange has given \$1.5 million in grants to local Chicago charities. Sholl also serves on the Midwest Regional Board for UNICEF USA.

Susan Nathan Sholl took the path less traveled to serve children and families in need and is making a world of difference.

Follow your passion



PITZER COLLEGE
PATHFINDER

MEET PITZER'S CLASS OF 2022

At Pitzer, each fall feels like spring, a season of new beginnings. Students arrive from around the corner and across continents to encounter the people, ideas and knowledge that will help shape the rest of their lives.

During this year's Convocation ceremony, Student Senate President Shivani Kavuluru '19 told the Class of 2022: "Here, you get to surround yourself with people who inspire and empower you. You will learn from them, and you'll be surprised just how much they may learn from you, too."

Pitzer President Melvin L. Oliver described one of the most valuable things students develop during their college years: "The ability to see clearly, and to see not only for yourself—and by yourself—but also to see by, through and with the eyes of others."

Mike Segawa, Pitzer's new vice president for student affairs, said that as "the new kid on the block" he identifies with the Class of 2022. He, too, was both nervous and excited, but also confident in the knowledge that "this is not a solo journey. Faculty, students, staff, alumni, parents—this is a journey we all do together."

To watch Convocation 2018 and see more photos from the first days of fall semester, visit *The Participant* online at www.pitzer.edu/participant.



New VP for Student Affairs

Say hello to Mike Segawa, who became Pitzer's vice president for student affairs on August 1. Segawa came to the College from the University of Nevada, Reno, where he was the interim dean of students. From 2007 to 2017, he served as the University of Puget Sound's vice president for student affairs and dean of students. He also has worked in student affairs at Evergreen State College, University of Washington, Central Missouri State University and Colorado State University.

Segawa was a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Board of Directors for 10 years and has served as the association's president. In 2007, NASPA awarded Segawa a Pillar of the Profession Award in recognition of his extraordinary service and lifetime contributions to the field of higher education.

A San Diego native and longtime Seattle resident, Segawa holds a master's in education from Colorado State University and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and cum laude from the University of California, Irvine, with a BA in political science.

Snapshot	273	First-year students
	3.91	Average GPA
	12.8%	First-generation college students
	37.7%	Students of color
	35	States represented
	8.8%	International
	25	International citizenships

Prior to Pitzer, members of the Class of 2022...	...mastered 14 percussion instruments
	...worked at an intersectional feminist bookstore in NYC
	...advocated for healthy oceans with Heal the Bay
	...served as a youth organizer with the New York Civil Liberties Union
	...lived on a pine tree farm with 10 cats, 2 dogs and a macaw



See you soon! FAMILY WEEKEND IS COMING!

Pack your favorite orange gear and join us for a fun-filled weekend of campus tours, faculty talks and memorable moments with your Pitzer student.

Join the Festivities: February 15–18, 2019

To register or for more information, visit www.pitzer.edu/FamilyWeekend.



Around the Mounds

News from Campus and Beyond

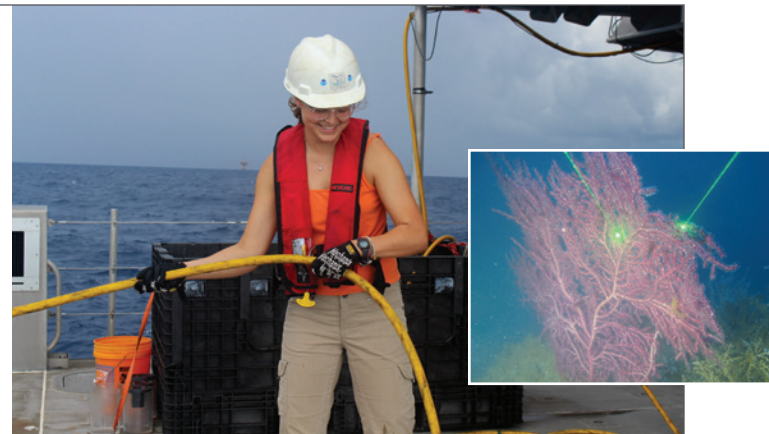


Welcome World Scholars

Davis United World College scholars at The Claremont Colleges welcomed new classmates—including three Pitzer first-year students—during a luncheon at Pomona College this fall. Davis UWC Scholars Program, the largest international scholarship program for undergraduates in the world, is committed to building cross-cultural understanding across US campuses and around the globe. Pictured L-R: **Kasidit “Gunn” Phikrohkit ’22**, **Robert Bettinger ’19**, **Prince Chabveka ’19**, **Euge Perera Visconti ’22**, **Sisa Tixicuro ’19**, **Maria Carla Condori Bazan ’20** and **Gurmukh Singh ’22**.

Deep-Sea Science

Pitzer College senior **Emma Saso ’19** collected deep-sea coral specimens during a research cruise in the Gulf of Mexico in September. Saso, a biology major, is working with Harvey Mudd College researcher Andrea Quattrini to examine the connectivity of coral populations in the Gulf eight years after the Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill. Saso, a certified scuba diver, has also studied coral reefs in the Gulf of Thailand and is working in the lab of HMC Professor Catherine McFadden to classify corals from a recently discovered deep-sea reef off the coast of South Carolina. Pictured: Saso helps deploy the ROV (remotely operated vehicle) that collects the coral specimens (inset photo) from the sea floor.



State of the Art

In its article “15 of the Best Art Galleries Enlivening SoCal College Campuses,” the *LA Weekly* said Pitzer College Art Galleries “aim to intrigue, inspire and inform visitors.” Organized by Pitzer College Art Galleries Director and Curator **Ciara Ennis**, this fall’s shows, *Elana Mann: Instruments of Accountability* and Emerging Artist Series #13 *Cassie Riger Automatic Vaudeville*, did exactly that, raising issues about protest, modernity and music.



In Solidarity

The Pitzer community came together to make 1,000 paper cranes to wish for peace, acceptance, love and solidarity. The strings of paper cranes were personally delivered to the Adelanto detention facility by students, faculty and staff in fellowship with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity.



Planning Pitzer’s Future

Students, faculty and staff discussed the College’s strategic plan at the first College Council of the 2018–19 academic year. During the strategic planning process, the Pitzer community will define the College’s priorities, goals and most distinctive qualities. The implementation of the new strategic plan is slated for the end of the academic year.

Transformative Leadership

Pitzer Trustee **Angela Glover Blackwell GP’21** won Independent Sector’s 2018 John W. Gardner Leadership Award, which honors an individual whose leadership has improved “the quality of life on our planet.” Blackwell founded PolicyLink, an institute dedicated to creating policy solutions that advance racial and economic equity.



Planet Advocacy

In her talk “People on the Move: Organizing for Climate Justice,” Professor Hahrie Han of the University of California, Santa Barbara, outlined how ordinary people can come together to solve extraordinary problems. Han’s presentation was the latest in a series of Robert Redford Conservancy events that are supported by a Rockefeller Brothers Fund grant and focus on addressing the climate crisis.



Satire on Stage

Pitzer students worked their magic on stage and behind the scenes during the 5C production of Nikolai Gogol’s *The Government Inspector* at Pomona College’s Seaver Theater.



Expanding Justice Education at The Claremont Colleges



“The Claremont Colleges are the only ones on the West Coast with this integrated model of justice education. We can be a beacon.”
—Tye Griffith, manager of the Justice Education Initiative

A Winning Design

In October, Pitzer’s Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability won an American Institute of Architects | Los Angeles 2018 design award for its high level of sustainable and environmental performance. Designed by the architecture firm Carrier Johnson + CULTURE, the Redford Conservancy earned LEED Platinum certification earlier this year and is on track to become the first net-zero energy certified academic building at The Claremont Colleges.



Speaking on Scholarship and Sanctuary

Laila Alvarez ’18, Adriana Ceron ’18, Jessica Estrada ’21, Kevin Kandamby ’19, Francelia Lievanos ’20 and Javier LopezCasertano ’19—along with two Pomona College alumni—presented research and tackled pressing issues at the 2018 Latina/o Studies Association conference in Washington DC. With Pitzer Professor **Suyapa Portillo Villeda ’96**, students and alumni participated in two panels: “Lessons from the Frontlines: Organizing for ‘Sanctuary’ in Liberal Arts Colleges”—co-moderated by Portillo and Dean of Students **Sandra Vasquez**—and “Resistance and Education: Emerging Undergraduate Central American-Latinx Scholarship.”

Keck Science Transition

Pitzer and Scripps colleges are preparing to jointly assume ownership of Claremont McKenna College’s financial stake in the W.M. Keck Science Department, the three colleges announced on October 18. Scripps and Pitzer plan to renovate the facility and expand the joint science program, while CMC intends to create an independent science department. The two science departments will collaborate closely “with the shared goal of offering an excellent interdisciplinary science education that is greater than the sum of the parts,” according to the joint announcement.

Antisocial Media
By Siva Vaidhyanathan
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Please Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood
Under the leadership of Professor of Philosophy **Brian Keeley**, this year’s Munroe Center for Social Inquiry’s speaker series, “Perception in a Social World: Sensing Others and Seeing Ourselves,” explores what it means to be social and to be sentient. The fall lineup included media theorist Siva Vaidhyanathan’s “Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy” and USC law professor Jody David Armour’s “Unconscious Bias: The Social Construction of Black Criminals.”

This fall, dozens of Claremont Colleges students took classes in prison. Their classmates were prisoners at the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC); their teachers were 5C professors. Learning together in a classroom, both 5C “outside” students and CRC “inside” students earned college credit while teaching each other to see beyond the walls and worlds that separate them.

These Inside-Out Prison Exchange classes are one component of the new Claremont Colleges-wide Justice Education Initiative. Funded by a five-year \$1.1 million Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant, this collaborative initiative expands and integrates an existing slate of Inside-Out courses at Pitzer and other prison education programs at The Claremont Colleges. Its goal? Marshalling the power of education to tackle mass incarceration in a country where more than two million people are imprisoned.

“This work is revolutionary,” said Tye Griffith, manager of the Justice Education Initiative.

Based at Pitzer College, the Justice Education Initiative builds on pioneering work in prison and justice education by Claremont Colleges faculty, staff and students and the concerted efforts of the Justice Education Working Group. The Justice Education Initiative’s many community partners include CRC, the California Institution for Women and Camp Afllerbaugh-Paige, a juvenile probation camp and a long-standing partner of Pitzer’s Community Engagement Center. Pitzer is the program’s lead institution; Nigel Boyle, Pitzer College dean of faculty and vice president for academic affairs, is the lead dean.

“The Claremont Colleges are the only ones on the West Coast with this integrated model of justice education,” Griffith said. “We can be a beacon.”

Over the course of the Mellon Foundation grant, the program will create a cohort of students who have studied justice issues in classrooms in Claremont and in what Boyle calls “Prison Valley,” a cluster of carceral institutions approximately 20 miles east of The Claremont Colleges. The “outside” students aren’t volunteer tutors, they’re learning side by side with incarcerated individuals. Griffith says this immersive learning is transformative.

“You create a completely different classroom when you mix

these two groups of students,” Griffith said. “Claremont students are our future lawyers, our future judges, our future leaders. Now, when they think about criminal justice, those issues won’t be about ‘those folks,’ they’ll be about ‘my classmates.’”

Simultaneously, the Justice Education Initiative broadens opportunities for people in California’s prison system. When people ask Griffith why they should care about educating individuals in prison, she reminds them that most prisoners at a medium-security prison like CRC will be released.

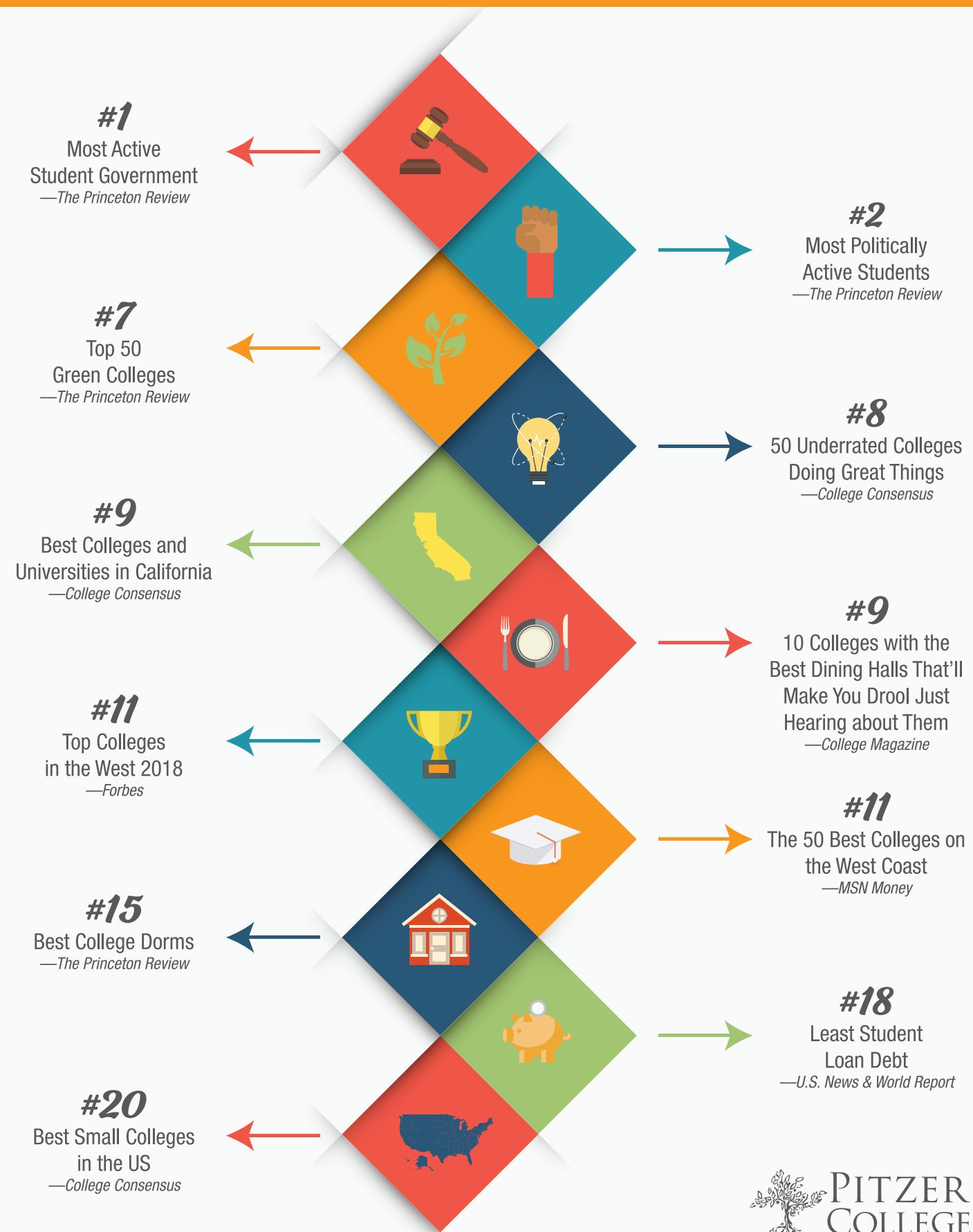
“Who do you want living next to you?” she asks. “Someone who has been warehoused with no way to improve their lives, or someone who has been given education and tools to be successful?”

Many prison education programs offer various credits that can be used to reduce sentencing; the Justice Education Initiative is one of the only programs of its kind to offer credits toward a bachelor’s degree. This helps fill a great gap: the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation earmarked about 2 percent of its 2018–19 budget for adult education. Nationally, on-site prison education programs have withered since Congress withdrew Pell Grant funding for people in state and federal prisons in 1994.

The likelihood that someone will reoffend after being released from prison drops dramatically when levels of education rise. The average recidivism rate is 70 to 85 percent, but among ex-offenders with bachelor’s degrees it’s 5.6 percent, according to prisoneducation.com.

The Claremont Colleges Justice Education Initiative is being funded by a five-year grant, yet its vision is long-term and far-reaching. The Claremont Colleges will evaluate the feasibility of developing a new intercollegiate major or center for justice studies. Beyond Claremont campuses, the program will focus on mobilizing collegiate and community resources to address the enormity of the mass incarceration problem in the US.

“It’s going to take all of us—colleges and universities, corrections departments, nonprofits, community partners and people who just care,” Griffith said. “It’s going to take all of us, but it benefits all of us.”



2018 Midterm Elections
★ ★ ★
Pitzer Alumni Put Social Responsibility into Action

Steven Gonzalez '85
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell '92
Jennifer Stark '98
Michael Ceraso '14
Kara Eastman '93
Seth Leibsohn '91
Kevin de León '03
Lauren Johnson-Norris '00
Lisette Idalia Mendez '09

During the 2018 midterm elections, an unprecedented number of Pitzer alumni across the US tapped into the College's Core Value of Social Responsibility to run for elected office. They ran on varied platforms but were united in their desire to make a difference for their communities.

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell '92 will be making that difference from Capitol Hill. On November 6, she won Florida's 26th Congressional District seat in the US House of Representatives.

"Only in this incredible country does an immigrant from Ecuador get elected to serve in the United States Congress," she said after defeating Republican incumbent Rep. Carlos Curbelo.

Mucarsel-Powell, who advocated for expanding healthcare, gun control and clean energy initiatives, will be part of the historic class of the 116th Congress, which will feature the largest number of female legislators ever. In November, more than 100 women were elected to the House; women have never held more than 84 of the House's 435 seats.

Kara Eastman '93 also ran for the House, seeking to represent the 2nd Congressional District in Nebraska. She lost a close race to incumbent Rep. Don Bacon. **Seth Leibsohn '91** made an unsuccessful bid for the Republican primary in Arizona's 9th Congressional District.

In California, State Senator **Kevin de León '03** ran for a seat in the US Senate against incumbent Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who won a fifth term.

Closer to campus, **Jennifer Stark '98** won a seat on the Claremont City Council, earning the most votes among six candidates. **Michael Ceraso '14**, a political organizer, also ran for Claremont City Council but failed to capture one of three open seats. **Lauren Johnson-Norris '00** ran for Irvine City Council but was edged out by the top vote-getters, and **Lisette Idalia Mendez '09** won a seat on the El Monte City School District's Board of Education.

Washington State Supreme Court Justice **Steven Gonzalez '85** won every county during his re-election bid to the state's highest court.

Professor of Political Studies—and Pitzer alumna—Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99 wasn't surprised to see so many Pitzer College graduates on ballots across the country.

"Our students who go on to run for office spent years in a place that says your presence and your voice matters," VanSickle-Ward said.



A Seat at the Table

The Participant talks with two resident political experts

Pitzer political studies professors Adrian Pantoja and Rachel VanSickle-Ward co-teach Research Methods, a course designed to give students the analytic tools they need to decipher the political world around them. Against the backdrop of the 2018 midterm elections, Pantoja and VanSickle-Ward shared their thoughts on the current political climate during a joint interview with *The Participant*. Below is a condensed, edited version of our conversation with them.



Adrian Pantoja P'18, professor of political studies and Chicano studies, is a senior analyst with the public opinion research firm

Latino Decisions. An expert on Latino politics and issues, Pantoja provides analysis to media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *NBC News* and *La Opinión*.



Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99, professor of political studies, is author of *The Devil is in the Details: Understanding the Causes*

of Policy Specificity and Ambiguity. A regular commentator on NPR-affiliate KPCC's *Take Two*, she is working on a book about birth control politics and an anthology on Hillary Clinton's political legacy.

What was your biggest takeaway from the 2018 midterm elections?

RACHEL VANSICKLE-WARD: The midterms were a milestone for women candidates of color. We witnessed the election of the first two indigenous women to Congress, Sharice Davids in Kansas and Deb Haaland in New Mexico; the first black woman elected to Congress from Massachusetts, Ayanna Pressley; and the first Latinas to be elected to Congress from Texas, Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia. Extensive research illustrates that electing women to office can shape policy and change perceptions about women's role in politics. Given how long women of color have done the heavy lifting, but too often invisible labor, around campaigns and elections, the visibility of these women is noteworthy indeed.

ADRIAN PANTOJA: It was, in the words of Van Jones, "a rainbow wave." While the Republicans made gains in the Senate, those gains ended in Nevada and Arizona, where Latinos played a critical role in the Democrats' victories. In the Texas Senate race, Ted Cruz won by the narrowest margin of a Republican over a Democrat running for statewide office in 40 years. Had the Democrats picked up Texas, Latino voter dominance in the Southwest would be seen as complete. The election illustrates the political power of a diverse America.

What are some of the most pressing issues these new leaders and the country as a whole need to tackle today?

A Number one, the environment. If we don't have a livable planet—clean air, clean water—everything else is just secondary.

R I absolutely agree. My policy work is not on environmental issues, but this is a universal existential crisis. I would encourage any reader to think about how our actions have consequences for the health of the planet.

A Another fundamental issue is racial prejudice. Racism is a long-standing scar in American history, and it's a scar that hasn't healed.

R We have to think about civil rights and how they are linked to the foundations of our country. We have not fully wrestled with the legacy of slavery; we are still living in its wake. We also need to think about civil rights broadly—racial justice, gender equality, LGBTQ rights. Over the last several years, there has been this flippant discussion of "identity politics," as if to say identity politics are divisive or superficial as opposed to "important, real politics." Identity politics are civil rights. Politics are shaped by identity. Everything we think about is informed by who has a seat at the table.

A Speaking as someone who has been consulting for a number of years on Latino issues, I see immigration, the economy and political empowerment—including efforts to disenfranchise Latino voters—as top issues too.

R The integrity of our electoral system is a critical issue. We've had a couple of presidential elections where the popular vote-getter was not the person who took office. There have also been very concerted efforts to disenfranchise particular groups—African-American voters, Latino voters, indigenous voters.

"Politics are shaped by identity. Everything we think about is informed by who has a seat at the table."

—Professor Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99

In the lead-up to the midterms, numerous stories in the media talked about the importance of both Latino voters and women voters. Has that discussion been helpful or problematic or both?

A The narrative out there is that the fate of the Democratic party lies in the hands of two electorates: women and Latinos. Seeing these electorates as powerful and relevant is good, but it's also dangerous. If things go well (for the Democrats), they're celebrated; if things don't go well, in many ways they're reviled. The outcome of our elections goes beyond these two population segments.

R Right after the 2016 election there was this sentiment that the Democratic party erred in reaching out to those groups and that was a distraction to reaching out to "real voters" on "real issues." Linked to what Adrian said, we need to be thinking about voting groups across a number of categories.

This election cycle, a number of Pitzer alumni ran for national and local office. Is there something about Pitzer that cultivates an interest in politics and the public sphere?

R The Pitzer ethos does attract a certain kind of student who is incredibly community and civically minded. A lot of students come to us that way, and frankly we're just lucky to get to spend time with them. But, speaking from my experience as an alum, I would say that being a Pitzer student made me think that my voice matters. When students feel that their voices are relevant, then they can ask, "Where can I put my voice to use?" One of those places is on the campaign trail.

A Out of the three alumni who ran for national office in the midterms, two—Kevin de León '03 and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell '92—are Latino. That's very impressive. For someone who

is interested in the empowerment of Latinos, it's important to see that they are not on the sidelines.

So that brings me to a question for Rachel: When are you running for office?

R I don't have any plans to run for office, but it's awesome you asked. Women's political ambition is too often demonized or viewed as suspect. I see my role as clearing the path, helping to change the conversation so that women's political ambition is viewed more positively.

When we talk about politics these days, we often use pretty despairing adjectives: divisive, polarized, broken. Do you see any rays of light?

R I see them in our students. The vast majority of the Pitzer community was angry and scared after the 2016 election. The suffering is real. But I see so many students unbowed by it. I see them rising to the occasion. In general, the level of engagement around the midterms is hopeful: the more engagement the better.

A My thoughts are very similar to Rachel's. Watching friends and family go to rallies or fundraise or canvas—all of those stories provide hope to a lot of us who felt defeated after the 2016 election. That level of engagement among everyday individuals is extremely hopeful from a personal standpoint but also from the standpoint of the vibrancy of a democracy. Democracy flourishes when people are engaged.





Community Changemakers

Pitzer's Community Engagement Center builds on 20 years of bringing people together to make an impact

Jenessa Flores Parker '10 knows that not every child's early exposure to education is positive. She also realizes how much this matters. As an urban fellow for Pitzer College's Community Engagement Center (CEC), she spoke with young men at Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige, a Los Angeles County juvenile detention center and CEC partner organization. Many had disliked their school experience from the start.

Now Flores Parker is the Pitzer College site director for Jumpstart, a national nonprofit organization and CEC community partner that prepares young children from low-income neighborhoods for academic success. She and Pitzer students team with Jumpstart sites at local Easter Seals Child Development Centers to create a positive learning environment for preschoolers. The experience has made a bigger impact on Flores Parker than any other, and she is certain the Pitzer students feel the same.

"Working with the children makes Pitzer students realize the world is unfair but that there are things they can change. Some end up becoming teachers or working on policy change. A lot have become Fulbright scholars. They grow into leaders," explains Flores Parker. "It all comes back to their experience at Jumpstart and seeing the big picture. They realize the difference between equality and equity. And at the end of the year, there are always tears—not from the children, but from the college students. The children are in their hearts and stay there forever."

Producing positive change through community collaborations has always been the motivating force behind the CEC, from its founding 20 years ago by faculty members Alan Jones and Lourdes Arguelles to today under the leadership of Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Assistant Vice President of Community Engagement Tessa Hicks Peterson.

The CEC originated with a desire to improve how Pitzer students engaged the community. Jones recalls: "The College had volunteer opportunities to work with the community, but the way these related to the curriculum wasn't clear. We had the idea that students would take courses in nearby Ontario and do an internship with a municipal agency or nonprofit organization to learn how cities work. Then we would talk about how various factions in a city might function better together."

That idea became the Pitzer in Ontario program, with Jones as director. But he and Arguelles saw a need for something more.

"One of the limitations was that students would be there for a semester and leave," explains Jones. "We wanted to come up with a model where you didn't have jarring arrivals and departures in the middle of ongoing projects."

The result, in 1998, was the Center for California Cultural and Social Issues (CCCSI), which later became the CEC. Designed in consultation with community partners, the CCCSI incorporated five-year plans and provided a framework for the program's evolution.

"The student faces might change, but what was expected of us was laid out. It was good for our partners because nonprofits operating on a shoestring rarely get to do strategic planning," says Jones, who became the CCCSI director.



20 Years in Ontario

The Pitzer in Ontario (PIO) program, like CEC, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Two decades ago, PIO created a program that immersed students in local social change movements through a set of core courses, critical community studies and research methodology, including a 150-hour practicum with local organizations. Recently renamed CASA Pitzer, the program is now housed in a historic building in the heart of downtown Ontario. At CASA Pitzer, local nonprofit agencies share space with students to create a hub for academic programs, community action and social advocacy.



“The work broadens their understanding of their own identity. It impacts the careers they choose, their political activism, what they study in graduate school. The impact is immeasurable. We have countless stories of how it changes lives.”

— Tessa Hicks Peterson, associate professor of urban studies and assistant vice president of community engagement

Most important, the relationship between the College and its community partners was based on mutual respect and input. Jones explains: “In the charity model, the community is a pocket of need, and you are the salvation. That’s problematic. Our jumping off point was that we were members of a community, and we embedded community engagement in the academic program. I didn’t know of anyone else doing that at the time.”

Pitzer was ideally suited to this approach to community engagement: Social responsibility, student engagement and intercultural understanding are among its core values. With this mindset, viewing community organizations as collaborators and co-educators came naturally.

Since then, courses in the theory and practice of social responsibility and social justice have become a student graduation requirement. The College also made community engagement recognized in faculty promotion and tenure decisions.

Community engagement staffing increased when urban fellow positions were created to enable Pitzer students to work full-time at partner sites after graduation. It also changed, with Jones transitioning from CCCSI director to dean of faculty.

“I became a champion of our interdisciplinary, community approach to engagement, the idea that you could do meaningful pedagogy,” says Jones, who served as dean until 2012. “I think we had a number of faculty come to Pitzer because this was precisely what they wanted to do.”

Today’s CEC is still part of Pitzer’s academic enterprise. This helps in fulfilling the CEC’s mission to support faculty, students, staff and partner organizations advancing social responsibility and community engagement through research, service, advocacy and action.

“With our office situated in academic affairs, we’re better able to leverage resources and our impact,” says Tricia Morgan ’08, who joined CEC in 2008 is now managing director. “We’re here to connect people and bring theory to practice.”

Professor of Psychology Mita Banerjee connected theory to practice when she created opportunities for students in her Child Development course to work with at-risk children through Prototypes Women’s Center, local schools and other community organizations.

“From the very beginning, it was clear to me that this interaction was the magic in the course,” says Banerjee, who is now the interim chair of Pitzer’s Institute for Global/Local Action & Study and faculty co-director of CEC. “That face-to-face connection to children, particularly to at-risk children, really brought the kinds of things we were talking about, reading about and writing about full circle.”

Morgan adds that Pitzer’s interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approach to education allows the CEC “to facilitate community-based research that supports the needs of communities.”

The CEC has worked for many years with core partners Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige, Prototypes Women’s Center, the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center for day laborers, Jumpstart and a variety of Native American programs. The Center also provides funding to support student participation in community-based projects and for faculty to incorporate community-based speakers and course materials in their classes. This year CEC also sponsored the Pitzer-Girls Fly! Global Intergenerational Women’s Leadership Conference, awarded fellowships and summer internships, and recognized students for their academic and community engagement.

Hicks Peterson emphasizes that the Center is far from the only force on campus pushing for social change and service

(continued p. 18)

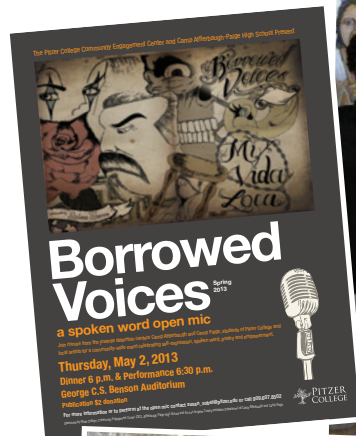
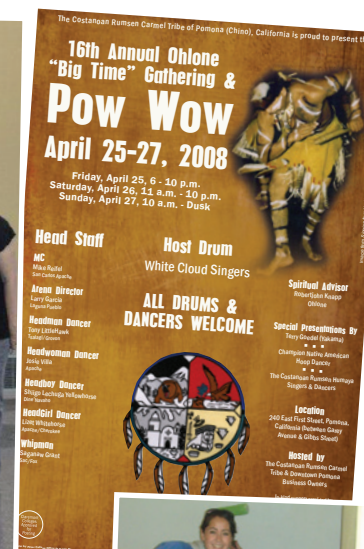


Native Initiatives

During her first year as an elder-in-residence with Pitzer’s Community Engagement Center, Tongva elder Julia Bogany invited three students to her house to weave reed baskets, share life stories and learn about Tongva culture. This small circle formed around a question central to Bogany’s concept of community: “How do people take care of each other unless they know each other?”

Bogany has now worked with CEC’s Native Initiatives program for a dozen years, creating engagement opportunities for Pitzer students, faculty, staff and local Native American communities. She says these interactions foster mutual learning as well as collective action.

“I tell students all the time, ‘I’m not just the teacher, I’m learning from you, too,’” Bogany says. “It’s about learning. It’s also about how we can go hand in hand and show the world that we can change it. Can we work together? That’s what’s important.”



A Labor of Love

“I’m not sure I even knew what a day laborer was when I came to Pitzer,” says Suzanne Foster ’00.

That quickly changed. Her experiences as a Pitzer student led her to serve on the board of the Pomona Day Labor Center before graduation. In 2007, Foster became executive director of the longtime Community Engagement Center (CEC) partner now known as the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center. Since 2015, she has been a grant writer and consultant to nonprofit organizations involved in immigrant and worker rights.

“The day labor center was the best part of my college experience,” says Foster. “I learned what I’m passionate about.”

Foster grew up in a Midwestern family that valued workers, and participating in the AFL-CIO Union Summer program during college deepened her interest in labor. Then she took what she considers a life-changing trip to La Paz, CA, burial place of César Chávez and headquarters to the United Farm Workers Union.

The organizer of that trip was José Calderón, the professor who taught her class on urban and rural social movements and had founded the Pomona Day Labor Center in 1998. Soon Foster was working with him at the center.

At the time, she recalls, the center consisted of little more than a desk and a clipboard with a list of jobs. Foster spoke with the day laborers about their work and lives.

“It was like an ethnographic research project. Because of what José Calderón taught us about service learning, I knew it was important to listen and also to give back,” she says.

Foster taught English to the workers. She also developed a familial bond with them at a crucial time: Her mother had just died, and her father worked in Bolivia, far from his only child.

“I found an affinity with the workers who were also trying to make the best of difficult circumstances,” she says. “These are people from all over the world working really hard to take care of themselves and their families.”

Foster completed the Pitzer in Ontario program as a senior and became CEC’s first urban fellow after graduating. She earned a master’s degree at UCLA and worked in LA before returning to the day labor center as executive director.

Efforts by the center and the workers to expand day laborers’ rights in the Inland Empire and to prevent unlawful detentions became highlights of her tenure. Foster notes, “I think we changed a lot of hearts and minds, and we educated a lot of students who went on to professional positions believing that workers deserve to be here and contribute.”

Though she no longer leads the organization, Foster was recently honored during its 20th anniversary gala. She says, “It’s been important to me to be part of the workers’ lives. I love the center and always will.”

Her regard for day laborers extends into her personal life. Foster explains, “I married a former day laborer from LA. This is part of my family’s history now and a vital part of my life story.”



Changing Lives After Incarceration

Romainyn Ralston '14 thinks often about her chance encounter with Community Engagement Center (CEC) staffers Tessa Hicks Peterson and Tricia Morgan '08. What if she had asked someone less friendly for directions to the Office of Admission? Would she still have had the courage to apply to Pitzer College? How might her life be different now?

Today, Ralston is the Project Rebound program coordinator at California State University, Fullerton, helping formerly incarcerated people access higher education. But when she met Hicks Peterson and Morgan in 2011, Ralston had recently completed a long prison stay of her own. Higher education was her aspiration but not a certainty.

"I'm so grateful I walked over to that campus and got that application. It totally changed the trajectory of my life," she says. "I wanted more out of life than just a job. I wanted to change the world."

"All of my experiences at Pitzer made me not only an advocate, but also an activist."

At Pitzer, Ralston majored in gender and feminist studies. She learned the history of incarceration in the United States. She worked with two CEC community partners: Prototypes Women's Center and Crossroads, the program that had housed her before she became a student.

She also completed an internship with CEC community partner Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige, where male teens in juvenile detention attend high school. Ralston developed a newsletter showcasing their writing. Together, they dissected rap and hip-hop lyrics, discussing how the words reflected their own emotions and experiences.

"I listened to their lived experiences, and I'd had similar experiences. It made our relationship more open and honest," recalls Ralston. "We talked about social justice and had rich conversations."

Ralston graduated from Pitzer with honors in 2014 and was recognized as a Napier Fellow for her leadership in social change. The fellowship enabled her to help shape an educational improvement program for young children in disadvantaged East Saint Louis, MO.

"All of my experiences at Pitzer made me not only an advocate, but also an activist," says Ralston.

Becoming one of only 64 Coro Public Affairs Fellowship recipients nationally gave Ralston additional leadership training. She also earned a master's degree at Washington University in St. Louis.

Now she is focused on supporting others who were once incarcerated as they seek similar success in life. Ralston reflects: "Pitzer created a safe embrace and changed the way I felt about my location in society. To feel I mattered—to be treated with dignity and respect—empowered me to hold my head high, to be proud of what I was doing and to keep moving forward. Now I get to give back what was given to me: the power of higher education."



learning. She cites the many faculty-led community engagement efforts that fall outside CEC's direct purview, such as Professor Paul Faulstich's work with the Leadership in Environmental Education Partnership, Professor Ethel Jorge's creation of the Community-Based Spanish Practicum and Professor Kathleen Yep's collaboration with Literacy for All of Monterey Park.

Collectively, all these programs create opportunities for students to learn about critical issues in "rigorous, intellectually challenging ways," Hicks Peterson says.

"The work broadens their understanding of their own identity. It impacts the careers they choose, their political activism, what they study in graduate school. The impact is immeasurable. We have countless stories of how it changes lives."

The CEC is changing as well. Reflecting on how to build on the first 20 years, Hicks Peterson and Morgan realized the CEC provided more direct service than originally envisioned. Meanwhile, assessments revealed faculty and students could be better equipped for community engagement.

"Our core partnerships created a reliance on our ability to provide service. But our work aims to go beyond service to collective changemaking. We're bridges, allies and engaged participants," says Hicks Peterson.

Now CEC is focusing on developing communities of practice, training students and faculty, and providing online resources. It is shifting from a model centered on a few core partners to one that incorporates more academic disciplines and five broad themes: immigration and labor; health and environment; arts and culture; education and mentoring; and incarceration, re-entry and recovery.

"It's a sustainable model that allows us to support more faculty and more ideas," explains Hicks Peterson. "The thematic clusters get to the heart of topics that are important in our communities. Under each cluster, there will be courses, clubs and organizations that work within that area. Collectively, we can move the needle on the social issues of our times."

A Note of Gratitude



The Community Engagement Center recognizes and honors the students, staff, faculty and community members who founded each of Pitzer College's community engagement programs and gives thanks to all those who sustain these partnerships day after day. In particular, we would like to recognize the following faculty and staff members for developing and maintaining key community partnerships: Lourdes Arguelles, Michael Ballagh, Mita Banerjee, Dipannita Basu, Timothy Berg, Nigel Boyle, José Calderón, Kebokile Dengu-Zvobgo, Mike Donahue, Paul Faulstich '79, P'15, Paula Gutierrez, Laura Harris, Melinda Herrold-Menzies, Todd Honma, Alan Jones, Ethel Jorge, Gina Lamb, Jessica McCoy, Joseph Parker, Shelve Paulse, Lissa Petersen, Susan Phillips, Kathleen Purvis-Roberts, Barry Sanders, Brinda Sarathy, Maria Soldatenko, Erich Steinman, Emma Stephens, Claudia Strauss, Ann Stromberg, Richard Tsujimoto, Suyapa Portillo Villeda '96 and Kathleen Yep.

We are also deeply indebted to the hundreds of students, staff and community partners who have made this work possible.



Rooted in Activism

Arthur Levine '14 became an activist at age 16, transformed by a school service-learning trip to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. He recalls, "I had been naïve. Being from a middle-class white family, I had never experienced what I saw there."

He returned ready to turn his attention to environmental justice and sustainability in his own community, New York City. Levine says, "I began to focus on the idea that people could direct and control the outcomes for communities. For me, it centered on community gardening."

Today, he is a projects manager and board member for Huerta del Valle, an Ontario-based community garden and urban farm that engages local residents in growing and providing access to organic produce. The nonprofit was originally developed in collaboration with the City of Ontario and the College's Pitzer in Ontario (PIO) program (now CASA Pitzer). Huerta del Valle continues to partner with CASA and the Community Engagement Center, and Pitzer College students regularly participate in its work.

"We're now independent from Pitzer but deeply connected through students, programming, shared events and shared work," explains Levine, whose own involvement with Huerta del Valle began as a student.

Levine became an urban fellow for PIO after graduating from Pitzer with a degree in neuroscience. Though he studied the brain, Levine found community gardening closer to his heart: Delivering mulch to a community garden proved more satisfying than his summer research using zebra fish to study Alzheimer's disease.

Nonetheless, he has been able to apply what he learned at Pitzer. Aside from studying neuroscience, he explains, "I gravitated toward courses with a community engagement component. I took classes on social movements, history and critical theory. Pitzer taught me a lot about organizing and opening my mind. I'm grateful not only for the classes and the content, but also for the people. Not a lot of universities would allow me to seamlessly engage with the community in ways that I could gain employment and a long-term direction."

Levine is proud to contribute to Huerta del Valle's accomplishments and growth. He points to the organization's creation of 60 family garden plots; two million pounds of recycled food waste; multiple jobs; and thousands of pounds of produce, some of which go to food banks. He notes its dozens of internship opportunities and function as a second home to Pitzer students and community members. And he looks forward to providing a second community garden in Riverside County's Jurupa Valley and additional land for farmers.

"We're a community hub for local people to build health and build voice, and for students to participate in service learning," says Levine. "We're a big family of changemakers."

"I gravitated toward courses with a community engagement component. Pitzer taught me a lot about organizing and opening my mind. I'm grateful not only for the classes and the content, but also for the people."

Pitzer Faculty Field Notes

Awards, Grants, Honors

- Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology **Cynthia M. Alcantar**'s dissertation, *Cultivating Our Nation's Engaged Citizenry: Institutional Factors that Promote the Civic Engagement of College Students*, won first place in the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education and Educational Testing Service's 2019 Outstanding Dissertation Competition. She was also awarded a 2018–19 Gettysburg College Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- Professor of Art **Bill Anthes** and Pitzer College Art Galleries Director and Curator **Ciara Ennis** received an Antipode Foundation International Workshop Award for their project "Sovereignty Expanded: Indigenous Geographies of the Contemporary American West" with the artist Hans Baumann. The UK-based foundation awards grants of up to £10,000 to groups of "radical/critical geographers" who stage events that promote the exchange of ideas across disciplinary and geographic boundaries.
- Associate Professor of English & World Literature **Brent Armendinger** was selected as an artist-in-residence at Blue Mountain Center. His poem "Figueroa" was published in *Angel City Review* and his translations of poetry by Néstor Perlongher and Diana Bellessi appeared in *Asymptote* and *Ghost Proposal*. He also presented a paper, "Poetry, Pedagogy, and Rituals of Unknowing," at the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles and organized a panel discussion at &NOW 2018: A Festival of New Writing at the University of Notre Dame.
- Associate Professor of Biology **Melissa J. Coleman** was named director of the Grass Fellows Laboratory for four summers, starting in 2019. The Grass Fellowship Program provides early-career scientists the opportunity to develop and conduct independent neuroscience research projects for 14 weeks at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. The program is part of the Grass Foundation, which supports efforts to use neuroscience to unite people across various socioeconomic and geographic barriers.

- The National Science Foundation awarded Associate Professor of Chemistry **Aaron Leconte** a \$400,000 Faculty Early Career Development Program grant, one of its most prestigious awards for junior faculty. The five-year CAREER grant supports Leconte's research into proteins—specifically, DNA polymerases—that can accurately copy chemically modified forms of DNA. Ultimately, these proteins could help develop potentially life-saving DNA-based biotechnological tools that will improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The NSF-funded project will give students at the W.M. Keck Science Department hands-on research experience and training, which Leconte describes as "the most important part of my job."
- Associate Professor of Urban Studies **Tessa Hicks Peterson** was nominated to the board of two organizations: Starting Over, Inc., a local housing nonprofit, and Bringing Theory to Practice, a national project that encourages engaged learning on college campuses. This October, Hicks Peterson co-presented talks about prison education, prison abolition and positionality at the 2018 Imagining America National Gathering and the 2018 Project Pericles National Gathering. Hicks Peterson is the director of the Community Engagement Center, CASA Pitzer and the Office of Consortial Academic Collaborations.
- Professor of Political Studies **Rachel VanSickle-Ward '99** won the American Political Science Association 2018 Herbert A. Simon Book Award for her book *The Devil Is in the Details: Understanding the Causes of Policy Specificity and Ambiguity*. The award recognizes work that makes a significant, lasting contribution to public administration scholarship.

Books, Essays, Articles

- Professor of Art **Bill Anthes**' essay "Making Pictures on Baskets: Modern Indian Painting in an Expanded Field" was published in the Duke University Press anthology *Mapping Modernisms: Art, Indigeneity, Colonialism*, which brings together scholars working around the

world to address the modern arts produced by indigenous and colonized artists.

- Assistant Professor of Organizational Studies **Barbara Junisbai** and Associate Professor of Sociology **Azamat Junisbai** co-authored "Are Youth Different? The Nazarbayev Generation and Public Opinion in Kazakhstan," which was published in *Problems of Post-Communism* in October. Their study found that young people in Kazakhstan are less likely than older generations to be troubled by nepotism or to support programs that help the poor, attitudes that reflect the values of their country's authoritarian regime.
- Professor of Philosophy **Brian Keeley**'s co-authored paper "The applied epistemology of conspiracy theories: an overview" was published in *The Routledge Handbook of Applied Epistemology*.
- Professor of Psychology **David Moore**'s article "Gene × Environment Interaction: What exactly are we talking about?" was published in the journal *Research in Developmental Disabilities*. Moore, who is director of the Claremont Infant Study Center, also co-authored "Object exploration facilitates 4-month-olds' mental rotation performance," which appeared in *PLOS ONE*. He gave two invited talks in Brazil in October, including "Epigenetics and the Development of Psychological Phenotypes" at the Sociedade Brasileira de Psicologia in São Leopoldo, Brazil.
- Professor of Environmental Analysis **Lance Neckar** contributed a chapter to the forthcoming book *Literary Tourism and the British Isles: History, Imagination, and the Politics of Place*. Neckar co-authored the chapter, titled "Stowe Actually," with Sarah Whitney (CMC'18).
- Jean M. Pitzer Professor Emerita of Anthropology **Susan Seymour**'s article "Going Out to School": The Impact of Girls' Education on Family and Gender Systems in Bhubaneswar, India," was published in Palgrave Macmillan's *The Impact of Education in South Asia: Perspectives from Sri Lanka to Nepal*.



Professor Paul Faulstich's research on local wildlife draws on images captured by motion-triggered infrared trail cameras.

- Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Analysis **Teresa Sabol Spezio**'s book *Slick Policy: Environmental and Science Policy in the Aftermath of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill* was published in April. The book explores a 1969 blowout on an oil platform off the coast of Santa Barbara, CA, which proved to be a transformative event in pollution control and environmental policy.
- Professor of Anthropology **Claudia Strauss** co-edited and contributed two articles to "Culture and Economic Adversity," a special issue of the journal *Ethos*. She also wrote book chapters for *Advances in Culture Theory from Psychological Anthropology and Political Sentiments and Social Movements: The Person in Politics and Culture*, which she co-edited. Her article "What if We Could Truly Love Our Jobs" appeared in the online publication *Futures of Work*. She gave two talks related to her research on work and unemployment, one for a workshop at Queen Mary University of London, the other at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Professor of Asian American Studies **Kathleen S. Yep**'s peer-reviewed essay "'We Built up our Knowledge Together and Because it was Shared': Asian American Studies and Recasting the Civic in Civic Engagement" was published in *The Wiley International Handbook of Service-Learning for Social Justice*.
- Professor of Sociology and Secular Studies **Phil Zuckerman** wrote a book chapter "Are Human Beings Naturally Religious? A Response to Christian Smith" for the anthology *Homo Religiosus: Exploring the Roots of Religion*.

Art, Media, Talks

- Professor of Art **Timothy Berg** curated the American Museum of Ceramic Art's *The Incongruous Body*, an exhibition of 14 ceramics artists that the *Los Angeles Times* said zeroed in "on the notion that humor arises from the mismatch between what we know of something and how we actually perceive it." He and Rebekah Myers also exhibited their work in *Nature In/Forms* at the Orange County Great Park Gallery and in *Making a Difference: Social and Political Activism in Clay* at The Clay Studio in Philadelphia, PA.
- Assistant Professor of Economics **Menna Bizuneh** and Alexandre Baude '18, Morgan Stockham '19 and Antara Anand (SC'18) conducted a research project about the choice to major in economics among students at liberal arts institutions. Their research resulted in two papers that were presented at the Midwest Economics Association conference as well as the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in the spring. They also presented their research at the

and Religious Freedom in Human Experience, published by Cambridge University Press. He also co-authored two peer-reviewed articles: "Bringing up Nones: Intergenerational Influences and Cohort Trends" in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* and "Nonfirmants: Danish Youth Who Choose Not to Have a Lutheran Confirmation" in *Journal of Contemporary Religion*.

Southern Economic Association conference in Washington DC in November.

- Associate Professor of Sociology **Alicia Bonaparte** served as a co-panelist on "Decolonizing at the Root: Settler Colonialism, Granny Midwives & the Mayhem of Intersectionality within Birthwork," a panel at the Born Into This conference in Austin, TX, in July. Her book chapter "Midwifery in Historical and Contemporary Perspective: The Collusion of Race, Class, and Gender" will be published in the forthcoming *Routledge Motherhood Companion*.
- Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Chicano/a-Latino/a Studies **José Z. Calderón** gave a talk on cultivating multi-racial coalitions for community-engaged scholarship and presented the Public Understanding of Sociology Award at the American Sociological Association annual meeting in August. He spoke in June at a Families Belong Together rally in Claremont and, in November, he participated in a panel discussion about California agricultural labor at The Claremont Colleges Library.
- Professor of Environmental Analysis **Paul Faulstich '79, P'15**'s research was featured in the *Claremont Courier* cover story "Study of wildlife aided by trail cameras in foothills." The article described how Faulstich captures images of local wildlife with motion-triggered infrared cameras so he can study animal populations, demographics and behaviors. Faulstich also incorporates stills and photos into his artwork.



Pitzer faculty and their families gathered at Dean of Faculty Nigel Boyle's house to welcome newcomers, celebrate promotions and kick off the 2018–19 academic year.

American Anthropological Association's 117th Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA, in November.

- Associate Professor of International and Intercultural Studies and Political Studies **Lako Tongun**, a member of UN Association-Pomona Valley, helped to organize a talk, "Immigration and the United Nations," at Pomona College in September. Tongun was part of a discussion that included Pitzer Associate Professor of Chicano/a-Latino/a Transnational Studies **Suyapa Portillo Villeda '96**, and Mel Boynton, former UN Association advocacy chair.

- Univision, *La Opinión* and other media outlets featured Associate Professor of Chicano/a-Latino/a Transnational Studies **Suyapa Portillo Villeda '96** in their coverage of the caravan of Central American migrants heading toward the US in October. She also wrote an op-ed, "An Illegitimate, US-Backed Regime is Fueling the Honduran Refugee Crisis," which appeared in *CounterPunch*. In July, the online platform *Fierce* named her one of its eight "Honduran and Honduran-American Authors You Should Know About."

- Professor of Creative Studies **Albert Wachtel** and his son, foreign policy analyst and journalist Jonathan Wachtel, co-authored four commentaries this year for *Newsweek*, including "Turkey's Ergogan Wants to Crush the Kurds and Recreate the Ottoman World." The series of joint op-eds began with the father-son team's *BuzzFeed* piece "We Made Allies of our WWII Enemies. The Same Can Happen with North Korea." Professor Wachtel's latest short story, "The Basement," appeared in the October issue of *The Broadkill Review*.

elections. He wrote weekly analysis pieces based on polling data collected by the public opinion research firm Latino Decisions, where he is a senior analyst. He participated in a panel, "The 2018 Elections: What Happened? Why? And Now What?," at Pomona College in November.

- Professor of Chemistry **Kathleen Purvis-Roberts** spoke at an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October. She delivered her talk, "Solar Photovoltaics in the United States and California," at the APEC workshop Economic and Life Cycle Analysis of Solar Photovoltaic System in APEC Region towards Low-Carbon Society.

- Jean M. Pitzer Professor of Anthropology and Professor of History **Daniel A. Segal** delivered a paper, "O Cu (or the asshole in Brazil)," at the

The Bunny Gunner Gallery in Claremont exhibited a series of his photographs as part of a group show in October.

- Assistant Professor of Art **Tarrah Krajnak's** solo exhibition *Origin Stories* opened in November at the Houston Center for Photography, which also published an interview with Krajnak in its photography journal, *SPOT*. Krajnak was a finalist for the Print Center's 93rd Annual International Competition, and her unpublished photobook, *El Jardín de Senderos Que Se Bifurcan*, was runner-up for the Amsterdam Unseen Dummy Award.

- Media outlets ranging from NBC News to *The Hill* turned to Professor of Political Studies/Chicano Studies **Adrian Pantoja P'18** for political insights leading up to the midterm

From the Archives

RADICAL ROOTS of PITZER

"What were your expectations and preconceptions of Pitzer before you came here?"

This is one of the 21 questions that Pitzer seniors have been asked since 1968, when the Pitzer History Project began interviewing students on the threshold of graduation. For 50 years, students have responded in a surprisingly consistent way, something along the lines of: "I thought there would be a lot of freedom at Pitzer and that it wouldn't be your traditional college or your traditional college education."

The documents in the Pitzer College Archives, which pick up where the Pitzer History Project left off, give colorful and convincing evidence that early faculty, staff and trustees shared similar feelings about the College: In addition to being an exceptional college that's part of a consortium of highly respected educational institutions, Pitzer is

more progressive, experimental, hippie, disruptive, rebellious and unconventional than other colleges in Claremont and around the country. How do these impressions emerge?

In an attempt to answer this question, the Pitzer College Archives is mounting *The Radical Roots of Pitzer*, a six-part exhibition that explores the unruly trailblazing that underlies these ideas about the College. Part One explores the development of Pitzer's institutional and educational character and the people who

generated these concepts. The remaining five parts will delve into the roots of Pitzer's Core Values: Environmental Sustainability, Social Responsibility, Intercultural Understanding, Interdisciplinary Learning and Student Engagement.

Part One of *The Radical Roots of Pitzer* is on exhibit through the 2018–19 academic year in Pitzer's Skandera Hall lobby and Pitzer Conference Room.



New Faculty

Marcus A. Rodriguez

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Education

- Residency, Harvard Medical School
- PhD, Duke University
- MA, Peking University
- BA, Pepperdine University

Pitzer Assistant Professor of Psychology Marcus A. Rodriguez is a clinical psychologist whose research interests include mobile technologies, mindfulness and suicide prevention. At Pitzer, he teaches Global Mental Health and Psychology of Mindfulness, among other courses. Rodriguez has published dozens of peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and earned numerous grants and fellowships, including the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship. He has also received awards in recognition of his commitment to addressing the needs of underrepresented minority populations, such as Duke University's Samuel DuBois Cook Society Award. Rodriguez is tricultural and trilingual; he grew up in Mexico, lived in China for nine years, and speaks English, Spanish and Mandarin.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Do you know... about this photo?



The Santa Fe Project: Earth, Sky and Water Santa Fe, NM, 1982

The Pitzer College Archives would like to hear stories from anyone who participated in the Santa Fe Project domestic external studies/study abroad program.

Interested in a tour of *The Radical Roots of Pitzer*? Hearing some Pitzer History Project interviews? Donating any "Pitzeriana"? Please contact Archivist Stacy Elliott at archives@pitzer.edu or call 909.621.8810 to make an appointment.



Pitzer Faculty Profile

The Paper Trail

Kathleen S. Yep

Professor of Asian American Studies
Associate Dean of Faculty

- Joined Pitzer: 2004
- Education: PhD, MA, BA, Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley
- Courses include: Nonviolent Social Change,
Health Inequities and Racial Politics of Teaching

Professor **Kathleen S. Yep**'s path to Pitzer started with a case number. The professor of Asian American Studies once planned on becoming a human rights lawyer. A fourth-generation Chinese American, she had studied hate crimes and worked at the state legislature during college. Then, one summer day she read a story in an immigration file that changed the story of her life.

"My grandmother found my grandfather's immigration paper, and it had his case number from Angel Island. I saw my grandfather almost every day of my life, and he never talked about this. So, I went to the archive and gave them his case number. Suddenly, there was a huge stack of files.

"It turns out my grandfather immigrated when he was eight. As soon as he got off the ship, he was incarcerated, because of the Chinese Exclusion Act. In his papers was the transcript of his interrogation. The government officials asked: 'How many windows are in your family's house in China? What direction do they face? How many uncles do you have? How many are left-handed, how many are right-handed?' And if he didn't get one of those answers right, he would be deported.

"I saw this transcript. And it gave me a window into history. It gave me a window into his story. It gave me a window into why he always stored food in the garage, why he always wanted to make sure that we had a plan and knew what we wanted to do in our life.

"That shifted my thinking. Law is one way to address social inequities, but so is understanding people's stories and understanding how context shapes

who they are. Then you need to ask, 'What historical, social, economic factors shaped this person's story and the social contradictions an individual faces?' You need to ask, 'How can we address these social contradictions together?' And that's what brought me to Pitzer, because Pitzer has the space to teach classes and to research this process of inquiry and engagement."

Yep drew on her grandfather's experiences in her books *Outside the Paint: When Basketball Ruled at the Chinese Playground* and *The Dragon's Child: A Story of Angel Island*. She has also worked to understand—and ease—the transition for people coming to the US to start a new life in a new country. In 2009, Yep established a partnership with Literacy for All of Monterey Park, a nonprofit adult and family literacy program. Since then, Yep and students in her intercollegiate Asian American Studies classes have helped hundreds of immigrants and refugees become US citizens and improve their English language skills. In 2015, the City of Monterey Park honored her work with the Mayor's Centennial Volunteer Award, citing her "unwavering commitment to improving literacy in this community and dedication to serving others which is inspiring to all."

For Yep, education can be about many things: critique, inquiry, finding patterns and uncovering root causes. "But ultimately," she says, "education is about transforming the hope of creating an equitable society into a reality."

Visit *The Participant* online at www.pitzer.edu/participant to see Professor Yep in action in a new video about her approach to education and social change.



Pitzer Student Profile

COPE-ing Skills

Bashel Lewis '19 is a trendsetter and a trailblazer. The first in his family to go to college or to apply for a passport, Lewis started a blog called *COPE* to document his journey at Pitzer College and his travels abroad. Through this online forum, Lewis shares both his fashion sense and his life philosophy.

"Up until college, I felt trapped mentally, emotionally and creatively," he writes. "Hence, I named the blog *COPE* because every day we go through things, we change, we struggle, we grow, but most importantly we get through it!"

Four years ago, it was Pitzer's Core Values—especially Student Engagement and Social Responsibility—that drew Lewis to Claremont from his hometown of Atlanta.

"I was heavily involved in my community back home," says Lewis, who, in the tenth grade, helped found a nonprofit program dedicated to affordable housing. "I knew that Pitzer, where people love to interact with each other, was a perfect place for me."

Lewis brought his commitment to community to campus. He's part of Pitzer's Black Student Union and its First-Gen Club. A diversity intern with Pitzer's Office of Admission, he served as a resident assistant for two years and as an office assistant with Career Services. He also took center stage and

Visit *The Participant* online at www.pitzer.edu/participant to watch a video profile of Bashel Lewis and learn more about his lifestyle blog and his time at Pitzer.



ABOVE: Bashel Lewis played Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Pomona College in spring 2018. As a teenager, Lewis participated in the Shakespeare Intensive for Teens program in Atlanta.

LEFT: Lewis studied in Birmingham, England, his sophomore year. "No one in my immediate family has a passport or had been out of the country. I wanted to show my mom, my aunts, my baby sister, that this is something you can do."

Bashel Lewis '19

- Major: Organizational Studies; Minor: Theater
- Campus involvement: Resident assistant; Admission diversity intern, Career Services assistant; Black Student Union; First-Gen Club
- Hometown: Atlanta

worked behind the scenes in 5C theater productions at Pomona College.

During his sophomore year, he studied abroad in Birmingham, England, becoming the first member of his family to live outside the US. He started blogging about his time in Europe "to show my mom, my aunts, my baby sister, that this is something you can do."

Whether online or in person, Lewis embraces the role of mentor. He knows the value of someone investing in your success. During his first year at Pitzer, he encountered professors who took the time not only to clarify academic concepts but to check in with him personally.

"They didn't just see me as a student, they saw me as an individual transitioning from one phase of life to another," Lewis said. "I thought that was really beautiful."

Now in his senior year, Lewis is preparing for his next transition. The organizational studies major plans to go into marketing and brand management and will be working for the Nielsen Company after graduation.

Given all he has accomplished during his college career, it's surprising to hear Lewis say that Pitzer taught him to "stop and smell the roses."

"College helped me see that life is a continuing process—you learn, you grow, you cope with things," he said. "I always look forward to the next lesson."

A Phenomenal Fall: Sagehens Sports Highlights



3Peat!

Sagehens Men's Water Polo team made history when they captured their third straight SCIAC Championship after defeating cross-street rival Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 11-4 on November 18. The team finished the season undefeated (14-0) in the SCIAC and 24-9 overall. **Adam Gross '21** ended the season with 30 goals, 25 assists and 26 steals.

In the Running

The Men's Cross Country team won the SCIAC Championship and the NCAA West Regional for the second consecutive year. The team finished 7th in the NCAA Championship. At the SCIAC Championship, the team earned the 13th SCIAC title in program history, and six runners finished in the top 10, including Pitzer's **Owen Woo '21** and **Hugo Ward '21**. **Julian DeGroot-Lutzner '19** took 11th at the NCAA regional meet, where Andy Reischling (PO'19) continued his remarkable career with his second straight top finish. Eight Men's XC runners took All-SCIAC honors, and Head Coach **Jordan Carpenter** won his second straight SCIAC Coaching Staff of the Year award.



Goal Oriented

The Women's Soccer team clinched the regular season SCIAC title but fell in penalty kicks to Occidental College in the SCIAC Tournament on November 3. Goalie **Isa Berardo '20** ranked #1 in save percentage (.944) in the SCIAC; midfielder **Anna Ponzio '22** was #4 for most goals (7). **Brianna Lau '20** and **Peri Cuppens '19** finished the season ranked #1 and #2 in the SCIAC in assists. Berardo, Lau and Ponzio earned All-SCIAC Second-Team honors, and Cuppens earned the SCIAC All-Distinction Award.



Killing It

In her final season as a Sagehen, **Julia Zwaal '19** led the Volleyball team in nearly every offensive category, posting 199 total kills in SCIAC play and averaging 3.11 kills per set, with 267 total kills in the season. She earned Second Team All-SCIAC honors in October, finishing her career with 997 total kills and 972 total digs. She ended the regular season ranked #5 in the SCIAC for kills per set. The team went 13-15 overall and 10-6 in the SCIAC.

#OurStreet #OurTeam

Sagehens Football beat cross-street rivals Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on November 10 and ended their season 7-3 overall and 5-2 in SCIAC play—their best season finish since 1999. Quarterback **Edward Sias '19** closed out his Sagehen career ranked #2 in the SCIAC for yards per game. Offensive lineman **Connor Addiego '20** and defensive end **Kyle Davis '21** were two of four players named First Team All-SCIAC.



Sagehens Scoreboard

The Women's Cross Country team finished 2nd at the SCIAC Championship and NCAA West Region, with Helen Guo (PO'20) being named the SCIAC champion and taking first overall at the NCAA meet. **Maddie Bennet '19** wrapped up her Sagehen career with a top-50 finish at the SCIAC meet and won SCIAC's Celia Peterson Award for her community service work.

The Men's Soccer team celebrated **Max DeWit '19** and **Taylor Reifert '19** on Senior Day in October. The team ended the season 7-11 overall and 6-8 in SCIAC play.

John Wurzer joined the Pomona-Pitzer Men's and Women's Golf teams as the new head coach. Prior to Pomona-Pitzer, he coached NCAA Division I golf teams at USC and Long Beach State.

Winter sports are underway with Men's and Women's Basketball teams and Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving teams plunging into the season. Last year, the men's and women's Swim & Dive teams won the SCIAC Championship in the same year for the first time in program history; they hope to repeat the feat this season.

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Class Notes

1960s

'68 **Mary Beth Garber** was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the California Private Security Disciplinary Review Committee, South, for a two-year term. Garber also narrates audiobooks at Red Hen Press and owns MBGarber Strategies.



Kit McKercher Gardes '68

Kit McKercher Gardes and husband, Chip, traveled the Silk Road from China to Turkey, starting at the western end of the Great Wall. The couple intends to enjoy Europe before returning home. At Pitzer, Gardes studied abroad in Australia, her first overseas experience, and it opened her eyes to the wonders of travel. Seven continents and over 70 countries later, she still loves the adventure.

'69 **Sarah Lothrop Duckett** founded the *Hopkinton Independent* newspaper almost 20 years ago. She recently sold the business side of the paper but plans to stay involved as an editor and contributor. Duckett and her husband, Frank, recently celebrated 42 years of marriage.



Susan Feniger '76 (center) with Mary Sue Milliken and Julia Child

1970s

'74 **Susan Cook** began working as a hospital pharmacist after graduating from the USC School of Pharmacy in 1977. Cook retired after more than 40 years in the profession.

'76 **Susan Feniger** and her business partner, Mary Sue Milliken, became the first women and duo to win the Julia Child Award, created by the Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts to recognize individuals who have made a significant impact on the way America cooks, eats and drinks.

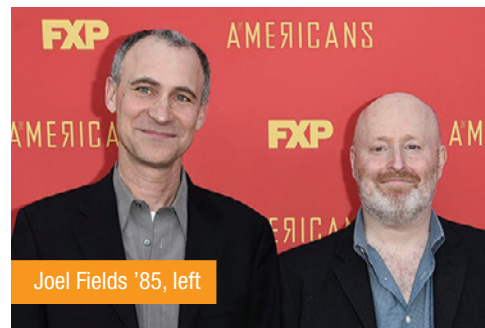
'79 **Karen Hochman Brown** held a solo show titled *Elementals* that ran from August through September 2018 at the Lancaster Museum of Art and History in Lancaster, CA.

1980s

'82 **Maurya Simon** published her tenth volume of poetry, *The Wilderness, New & Selected Poems, 1980-2016*. A professor emerita of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside, Simon has received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, among numerous other awards. Her book *Speaking in Tongues* was a Pulitzer Prize nominee, and her book *Ghost Orchid* was nominated for a 2004 National Book Award in poetry.



'83 **Thomas Brock** was named director of the Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Teachers College, Columbia University. Prior to his appointment, Brock led the research arm of the US Department of Education as the commissioner of the National Center for Education Research. The recipient of Pitzer's 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award, Brock said he wanted to join CCRC because community colleges offer "virtually unfettered access to higher education to millions of students."



Joel Fields '85, left

'85 **Joel Fields** took home the Emmy for Outstanding Drama Writing for *The Americans* series finale, "Start," which aired on FX on May 30, 2018. In his acceptance speech, he thanked fellow Pitzer alumnus **John Landgraf '84**, CEO of FX Network and FX Productions. Fields was also nominated for the Outstanding Short Form Nonfiction or Reality Series category.

'86 **Yvonne Carlin** authored the children's book *Fizzy Invents Zoom!: Mad Science in the Beehive*, published under the pseudonym Eden Islas.

Danny Shain was featured in *That Layered Look*, an art exhibit curated by Peter Frank. The show ran from August 11 through September 25, 2018, in Glendale, CA, at the Tufenkian Fine Arts Gallery.

'87 **Monique Cola**, a neuroscientist and educator, was named principal of "Sci High," a New Orleans Charter Science and Math High School, in August. Cola, who majored in biology and chemistry at Pitzer before earning her PhD in neuroscience at Tulane University, previously served as assistant to the vice chancellor of student affairs/executive dean at Delgado Community College and director of Xavier University's Biology Resource Center.



Labor Day 2018 in Sonoma, CA, with alumni from the Class of 1991
 L-R: **Grace Gilbert Munoz, Carlos Munoz, David Kerley, Jason Singer, Zander Sprague, Kristin Kasper Glickman and David Glickman '92**

1990s

'90 **Adam Dorsay** is a licensed psychologist in private practice in San Jose, CA, specializing in helping high-achieving adults with relationship issues, stress reduction, anxiety and attaining more happiness. In 2016, he gave a TEDx talk at Santa Clara University about men and emotions.



Martin Durazo curated *Other Worlds*, a group exhibition at the Charlie James Gallery in Los Angeles that explored inner worlds, dreamlike states and escapism. Durazo's paintings were also a part of *Pairings*, an exhibit at the Denk Gallery in LA that paired sculptors and painters. The *Los Angeles Times* described his work in *Pairings* as "colorful non-figurative canvases" that "slip and slide among gestural, geometric, spattered, stenciled and stained applications of paint, each orchestrated into a seamless yet energetic whole."

'91 **Charles Martinez** was named dean of University of Texas at Austin's College of Education, where he will hold the Lee Hage Jamail Regents Chair in Education and the Sid W. Richardson Regents Chair. His appointment begins on January 1, 2019. Martinez will head to Austin from the University of Oregon, where he has served as director of the Center for Equity Promotion and as the Philip H. Knight Professor in the Department of Educational Methodology, Policy and Leadership.



'92 **Adam Abelson**, the chief investment officer for Stralem & Company, was interviewed by *Advisor Perspectives* about investment strategies. Abelson chairs the firm's investment committee and leads its research efforts. He is also co-author of Stralem's *West of the Hudson* newsletter.



Shingo Francis was one of three artists in the exhibition *Liminimal* at the Los Angeles gallery JAUS. *ArtDaily* described Francis' recent paintings as vibrant with "translucent pigments whose fluctuations and changes can only be fully experienced and contemplated in person." Francis has exhibited his work internationally since the early '90s and lives in Los Angeles and Yokohama, Japan.

'95 Singer-songwriter **Matt Nathanson** released *Sings His Sad Heart*, his eleventh studio album. A review in *Medium* says the "open approachability in his music and sincerity in his lyrics" have "never been more evident" than on this latest work.

'96 **Eric Lin**, who majored in psychology at Pitzer, received his PhD from Claremont Graduate University and now lives in Guam.

Share Your News With Pitzer!

New job? Published a book? Got a promotion? Climbed K2? Tell us about it!

Email: alumni@pitzer.edu
 Mail: Pitzer College Office of Alumni Relations / Class Notes
 1050 N. Mills Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711

*Submissions may be edited for content and length.

'97 **Kathleen Kile** spent 28 days this summer working with young adults and children with physical and developmental disabilities in Hue, Vietnam, where the College has a summer study abroad program. She engaged with the community through her love of handmade clothing and crafts, making souvenirs out of recycled materials and teaching arts and crafts. Kile is Pitzer's mailroom supervisor and a seamstress who creates commencement cowls and stoles and designs clothing out of discarded goods. One of her pieces, a gown made of recycled paper, is on display in Pitzer's Scott Hall lobby.



Kathleen Kile '97

'98 **Jennifer Stark** won a seat on the Claremont City Council this fall. A certified yoga instructor at Pomona College, Stark serves on Claremont's Traffic and Transportation Commission and on the board of Claremont Heritage. She co-founded Claremont Canopy, a grassroots organization that supports refugees.

2000s

'00 **Michael Collins** married Marissa Padilla on September 17, in Santa Fe, NM. *The New York Times* recounted how the couple met in Washington DC in 2005 when they were both working for then-US Representative—now US Senator—Tom Udall. Today, Collins is a lobbyist at Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas, a government relations firm in DC.



Michael Collins '00

Suzanne Foster was honored by the Pomona Economic Opportunity Center during its 20th Anniversary Fundraiser Gala on September 29. Foster began working at the PEOC, a nonprofit day-labor organization and one of Pitzer's Community Engagement Center's community partners, while she was a student. She went on to serve as its executive director from 2007 to 2015. Foster now runs a consulting practice for social justice organizations.

Meredith Lee gave a speech titled "Unheard L.A.—the stories of where you live" for KPCC as part of its *In Person* series. She talked about growing up hearing impaired and trying to find her voice. Lee also created a five-chapter parody on looking for work for her YouTube page.

Yvette Saavedra earned a PhD in history and began a tenure-track position as assistant professor of history at California State University, San Bernardino, in 2016. Her first book, *Pasadena Before the Roses: Race, Identity, and Land Use in Southern California, 1771–1890*, was published by the University of Arizona Press in October. She is currently working on several research projects, including her second book, *Living la Mala Vida: Transgressive Femininities, Morality, and Nationalism in Mexican Los Angeles, 1810–1850*.



Lauren Johnson-Norris, an attorney who previously served as a deputy public defender in Orange County, CA, ran for Irvine City Council. An Irvine Community Services commissioner, Johnson-Norris established a law practice in Irvine in 2009 that focuses on children, youth and families. She also has served as president of the South Orange County Bar Association. She earned her JD at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York.

'02 **Shannon Welch** welcomed newborn Ezri Hazel to the world in April 2018. In August, Welch celebrated 10 years of working at Google, where she is a curriculum specialist for the company's on-site early childhood education program for employees' children.

'04 **Elise Salomon** produced *Paper Heart*, which starred Michael Cera and earned the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. She also co-produced *Smashed*, which took home the Special Jury Prize at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. In her directorial debut, *Los Wild Ones* won numerous awards and was one of eight films selected to premiere in competition at SXSW 2013. Salomon will be writing, directing and producing *INSIDE*, a supernatural drama set in present-day Ireland.



'07 **Nurjahan Boulden** shared her story about surviving a gunshot wound in *Cosmopolitan* and *Women's Health* magazines. Boulden created the online support group shootingsurvivor.com, where shooting survivors can connect with, learn from and serve as a resource for fellow survivors.

Michael Rukov was elected secretary of the board of directors of CAWA, a nonprofit trade organization representing the automotive parts industry. A senior account executive with RepWorks Marketing, Rukov was appointed to CAWA's board in 2017.



Shannon Welch '02

'08 **Betty Avila**, the 2016 Pitzer Young Alumni Achievement Award winner, was named executive director of Self Help Graphics & Art, a nonprofit in Los Angeles. Avila has served in various positions with the organization since 2015, including acting director.



Drew Lowell Johnstone spoke at Net Zero 2018 (NZ18), the nation's largest net-zero building conference. A sustainability analyst with the City of Santa Monica, Johnstone joined Pitzer alumnus and California State Senator **Kevin de León '03** on the NZ18 speaker roster.



Kevin de León '03 & Drew Lowell Johnstone '08

Anna Wittenberg was featured as a visiting artist in a University of Nevada, Las Vegas, lecture series for the department of art. Wittenberg is an interdisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles, working primarily in video, sculpture and installation. She received her MFA in visual art at the University of California, Riverside, in 2017.

2010s

'12 **Ian Schoen** is a senior product designer at the customer relationship management platform Salesforce. He helped launch the Lightning Experience, a total redesign of Salesforce's desktop product. He also writes about design, UX and systems thinking on *Medium*. Schoen was a 2012–13 Fulbright fellow in Malaysia, where he developed content programming for more than 680 students.



Francisco Javier Martinez '11 and **Diana Ortiz Martinez '13** were married on October 20, 2017. Fellow alumni from Pitzer, Pomona and Scripps were in the wedding party. Front row (L–R) **Eileen Lopez '12**, **Sally Jaramillo '13**, **Lila Mendoza '13**, Thalia Rodriguez PO'13, **Abigail Arriazola '13**, Evelyn Duarte SCR'13, **Lizeth Morales '12** and (back row, far right) **Joel Ledezma '13**.

'13 **Tim Williamson's** senior honors thesis findings were published in the *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. Williamson majored in psychology at Pitzer and is a PhD candidate in clinical health psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received the Faculty Women's Club Fellowship for his research on investigating psychosocial risk and protective factors for predicting positive adjustment in people living with lung cancer.

'14 **Michael Ceraso** ran for a seat on Claremont City Council. Ceraso co-founded Winning Margins, a community organization that supports local Democratic candidates, and helped organize a forum on homelessness. Ceraso worked on Barack Obama's presidential campaign in South Carolina. In 2017, he spoke at Pitzer about political organizing as part of the Student Senate's Mindful of the Future speaker series.

Eleanor Green married Matthew Burgette on July 14, in Bodega Bay beneath a memorial tower created in honor of Green's late brother, Nicholas, who was killed at age 7 in Italy. The tower is covered in 140 bells that were donated from all over the world in memory of children who have died. In a *Los Angeles Times* article, Green shared: "Nicholas has served as an inspiration for so many people around the world, but to me he's still simply my big brother, and I want him there on one of the most meaningful days of my life."



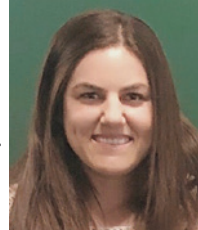
Eleanor Green '14

'15 **Adam Faison** was cast as Spencer in Warner Bros.' *Daphne and Velma* earlier this year. The film follows the mystery-solving teens before they team up with Scooby Doo. Faison also appeared in *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* and *Here and Now* and will guest star in an upcoming episode of Netflix's *Grace and Frankie*.



'16 **Maria Melendrez** joined the Vice Provost for Global-Local Initiatives team at Loyola Marymount University. She previously served as the first-generation programs coordinator at Pomona College. At Pitzer, Melendrez was the Institute for Global/Local Action & Study's inaugural first-gen intern.

Ashley Morello, a certified personal trainer, is completing her MA in sport management at the University of San Francisco. Morello, who played outfield for the Pomona-Pitzer Softball team, was appointed director of academic support for athletics at USF in July.



'18 **Hajar Hammado** served as the regional Get-Out-the-Vote director for the Iowa Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign.

Cindy Onyekwelu joined General Motors as a software developer and was profiled by *Wogrammer*, a platform dedicated to inspiring women to pursue careers in engineering. Onyekwelu also founded Exchange Reactions, an online database that shares students' firsthand accounts of their study abroad experiences.



Carlos Perrett serves as development and marketing coordinator for EMERGE Fellowship, a Houston-based nonprofit that helps students from underserved communities get into, and graduate from, the country's top colleges. Perrett, an EMERGE alumnus, helped bring EMERGE students to the Pitzer campus and organized the first EMERGE Welcome Dinner.

Emma Tasini-Koger lobbied with students at the California Public Interest Group in Los Angeles to pass Senate Bill 100 to fight for 100 percent renewable energy in California by 2045. Tasini-Koger connected with California State Senator **Kevin de León '03**, the bill's author, during the press conference.



In Memoriam

Rayna Michelle Morrison '88 passed away on May 11, 2018. Raised in Claremont, Morrison majored in political studies at Pitzer and earned a law degree from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law. She worked in entertainment law and at Southern California Edison Company. She is survived by her husband, Robert, and a large extended family.



Yolanda Retes, a long-time Pitzer staff member, passed away on October 23, 2018. She served as a building attendant for 26 years and retired on March 30, 2016. She was known for her strong work ethic, eager laugh and contagious smile. She is survived by her children, Benjamin, Sonia, Yolanda, Lety, Mayra and Ruby, and more than 15 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



José Serna, a cook in Pitzer's McConnell Dining Hall for more than 36 years and a perpetual employee-of-the-month, passed away on June 13, 2018. Jim Marchant, executive director for advancement, described Serna as "an exemplary friend, co-worker and mentor to everyone he worked with, and an inspiration to all of us on campus."



Pitzer Participant

Her courage defines her, her selfless service makes her a Participant

In 2006, Nurjahan Boulden '07 was eagerly anticipating returning to Pitzer for her senior year when she was shot with an assault rifle at a Toronto nightclub. In an instant, her life changed forever.

Boulden survived, graduated, started her teaching career and became a mother. Yet PTSD and physical complications threatened her future every day.

Years later, Rhonda Foster '82, who had lost her son to gun violence, asked Boulden to share her story. That Pitzer connection to hope changed everything. Today, Boulden is a national expert and coach for shooting survivors. The founder of *shootingsurvivor.com*, she brings gun violence prevention and recovery programs to organizations across America.

Boulden is an active Pitzer College alumna. A former Alumni Board member, she continues to support current students through annual donations—a tradition she started when she made her first gift during the 2007 senior class gift campaign.

Nurjahan Boulden leads by courageous example and inspires Pitzer students with her passion and purpose.



For information about how you can join Nurjahan Boulden '07 in providing for Pitzer students, contact the Office of College Advancement at 909.621.8130 or giving@pitzer.edu.



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ALUMNI WEEKEND

May 3–5, 2019



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Visit www.pitzer.edu/alumniweekend and make plans now to come home to Pitzer. Early-bird registration will be available soon.