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President G. Gabrielle Starr sat down recently to share a few thoughts as she prepared to launch a new community-wide strategic planning process that will take place over the coming year, culminating in a plan to guide the College through the next five to seven years.

PCM: You’ve said your first year at Pomona has been a year of listening. What have you heard, and are there some important things you’ve gleaned from it? Any big surprises?

Starr: Well, even though the College has changed a lot over the last 30, 40 or 50 years, there are some things about it that remain the same and should continue. And one of the things that I think is most remarkable is that every Sagehen I’ve met is defined by being intensely curious. There’s a kind of curiosity that is a fundamental characteristic of Pomona alumni and students and faculty, and there’s also a persistence to the relationships that people build. I’ve met with alumni five years out. I’ve met with alumni 50 years out. And for many of them, their core friendships, the ones that defined who they are, were forged here at the College. The fact that this has persisted is a really wonderful testament to what happens on this campus, and that is something that we have to continue to nurture.

Also, we’re an incredibly caring community. Most of us want to serve other people in some significant way in our lives. Whether this happens through teaching or building things or nurturing communities or health care, this is a group of people who really want to be there for others.

PCM: Strategic planning implies change, but Pomona is already one of the very best liberal arts colleges in the world. So the obvious question is: Why should we change? Or is the planning process really about something other than change?

Starr: Strategy does not mean simply change. I think a key part of the strategic planning process is setting priorities. Pomona has been really lucky to do everything we do so very well, but as we move into our next phase, we need to say: “We don’t have unlimited resources, and the question is: How are we going to use those resources best?” We’ve done some wonderful things at this college by prioritizing people. That’s been in financial aid; it’s been in resources for faculty; it’s been in benefits. And now it’s time for us to say: “Okay, where do we decide we’re going to make our next range of investments as a college?”

And while we are, I think, one of the best, if not the best, liberal arts college in the world, “best” is always contextual. And because the world changes around us, we don’t want to sit still. So we have to think about how we are helping to develop the best talent that is coming through our doors today and then the next five years and the next five years after that. So that, hopefully, is what planning is going to help us achieve.
So I think we need to really listen to our current students and try to understand how to broaden the path instead of thinking that the path that we were on was fine as it was.

PCM: Like most institutions of higher learning over the past year, Pomona has had some intense discussions about the nature and limits of free speech on campus. How do you think that is going to play into this planning process?

Starr: Well, I think that it will play into it on several levels. One is: We’re going to certainly think about our living communities and our learning communities and how we bring the intentional dialogue into them. We already have one space that does this in a particular way, which is Olderburg—where people come with the purpose of talking in a particular language—but how can we take that model of purposeful dialogue and expand it throughout our residential communities so that people can come in and speak intentionally with one another in an open and caring and critical and thoughtful way?

So as we think about residential programming, but also in our facilities, how we bring people together is really important. A funny anecdote: When we were talking with students about plans for the new Olderburg, we asked, “Well, do you want to have separate bathrooms or communal bathrooms?” Now, when I was in college, everybody wanted their own bathroom in a single. That seemed obvious. Why would you want anything different, right? But that’s how the students were saying, “No.” Now, many of us live in these small rooms by ourselves, and the only place we have surprising, accidental conversations is on the bathroom.” And that said something to me about the way in which we have provided so much individualized opportunity for people to have something for the casual conversation. So how can we think about that?

We also need to think about what changes may be needed in our curriculum. This is a conversation that is deep in the hands of the faculty as we think it through. How we structure discussions in our classrooms. What new tools we might need for that needs to be available to as many of the most talented people as we can properly serve. So our commitment to diversity, I think, can only continue.

And ultimately, we have defined ourselves, in some ways, as an opportunity college, so being able to admit the best students regardless of their need is really important to our future.

PCM: Of course, the world around us continues to change. What external factors do you see out there going forward that may call for us to evolve?

Starr: I think national changes around immigration are certainly very concerning. Again, if we are committed to the actual human beings who make up the world, being able to welcome people from all corners of not only our own country but of countries around the world is really diverse group of students. For many of us, that is the tax on endowments, that mean that we will have to make some hard choices.

I think there are certainly possibilities for us to focus on the human side of technology, and how it is that we ethically use the technologies that we create, and how we can design them inclusively, with an eye, as I said, to ethical use. We have lots of faculty members who are focused on that.

And then there are always the uncertainties that come with life. That, again, is the reason that we have a strategic planning process—so that we can take the time to say, “When that fork in the road comes, which of those paths are we going to walk?” So strategic, and the original role of the plan is to help us make those changes that we know about, also externalities that will pop up on their own.

PCM: One of the things that continues to change is the nature that the students who are coming in. They’re all talented, but their experiences change. Their expectations in life change. What do you think the planning process will need to address in the next generation of Pomona students?

Starr: We know that there are massive demographic shifts going on in the U.S. and globally right now. There are going to be fewer and fewer college-age students, certainly in the Northeastern U.S. There’s going to be some growth in the West and in the South, but there’s going to be increased competition for the best students, and we want to continue to be able to draw the very best students that we can.

Many of us are concerned about the effects of lots of social media usage by this particular generation of high school and college students. There’s very good psychological evidence that social media can have a strong negative effect on adolescents. As they come into college, how do we build a community that can more beyond the digital to really focus on the face-to-face? That’s going to be a lot of work that we have to do.

It’s also true, as Beverly Tatum has pointed out, that this generation of students comes from schools that are much more segregated than any since pretty much Brown v. The Board of Education. And that means that we talk about bringing about a diverse group of students together, for many of them, if not most of them, this is the first time that they will be in a close proximity to people unlike themselves, and we are one of the most diverse communities in higher education today. So being intentional about our communities and how we bring people together is going to be a major challenge that we have to keep on our eye. And I think it’s a wonderful challenge to have, frankly, because this is the world that we hope to create: a world where everybody can exist in a way that’s true to who they are and can work toward their own goals, but also the collective goals of what’s good for the world—clean water, good health care, functioning economies, strong schools. All of those things. Being one’s true self is not in conflict with being part of a caring community.

PCM: Years ago, I think many of us had the naïve notion that once you built up the diversity of the College it was mission accomplished. Of course, making a place truly inclusive isn’t quite that simple. Do you think the time of a 10-year strategic plan has

Starr: Well, I think we’re close. I will say that something that I keep reminding myself is, you know, I’m an African-American woman who was not from a married family and dealt with real prejudice growing up. And I was successful in a much less diverse environment than this, the one that I’m in right now. I think that survivor’s bias, in that I was able to make it through despite all sorts of things that didn’t exist or were strong. So I may have a predisposition to say, “Okay, well, you know, let’s get on with it.”

And I think many people who are successful, which would be just about all of our alumni and all of the people who are in power in the country—may have had that survivor’s bias. And it’s very difficult for us to imagine all those who didn’t make it and understand why. There could have been—like 20 like me, right?—high school. If things had been different or we’d had the same support. What would our world look now?
difficulties can arise. We also have great things going on in the humanities, with Kevin Dettmar’s Humanities Studio, and in the social sciences, where people like Tahir Andrami and Amanda Hollis-Brusky are thinking in dramatically new ways about old problems. Our athletics facilities are teaching amazing life skills, as well as nursing leadership and the whole student. We have a lot to be proud of!

PCM: Are there a number of small private colleges today that are failing or having to make significant changes to keep their doors open? What effect do you think that will have on Pomona and small colleges in general as we think about our future?

Starr: I actually think, nationally, the question’s not so much size. People talk about a crisis in small liberal arts colleges, and you can look at Amherst or Sweet Briar. Even Oberlin has had some financial challenges in the past few years. However, we just learned this summer that Northwestern, a large research-one university that’s highly endowed, is having financial challenges right now, for example. So I think we’re seeing that it’s not just the size of our faculty that would have to increase too. We clearly need to think about financial aid, as I said, and we need to work with the other colleges around health and mental health, as well as preventing sexual violence—I think those are obvious. Asking questions about career outcomes and life outcomes—I think we’re definitely going to have to keep an eye on that too.

 kittens are continually keeping your eye on where they are going off to better themselves and to better the world. Those are the three things that are the ultimate criteria we have to judge anything by.

PCM: Pomona has never intentionally grown its enrollment, but as a practical matter, there has been an increase in the number of students. Should the College be more intentional about how it grows?

Starr: Absolutely. There are several important questions we should be asking. One is: If we think we’re doing this better than anybody else, is it morally acceptable to us to do it at this particular scale? And the second question that I always want us to ask is: Who are we missing, and are we comfortable with that? There are different ways for thinking about this. Would we want to bring in more international students? Exchange programs for a year? That’s one way of thinking about who we might be missing. Would we want to have more robust exchange programs with other colleges as a way of thinking about who we’re missing? Historically, Pomona has grown by founding new colleges. That was the model that we used to be at, so we’re not just going to get bigger and bigger.

PCM: You’ve said you want everyone to feel free to put forward new ideas, big ideas. What are some of the criteria that you’ll be using to evaluate those new ideas?

Starr: I think the question is what benefit do they bring to us? We don’t want to be open to anything and everything. As a liberal arts college, we have to continue to prioritize our students. We are here to teach them. Faculty research, though, is a really important part of that because it defines Pomona has to be free, and research is one way that we feed that curiosity. And we’re going to have to make decisions. For example, should every single person have a research opportunity in the summer, or should we think about prioritizing investments in health? How can we best serve the students who are here? If we think that we can’t, for example, have perfect, full-time medical care all year round, then maybe we need to have fewer people on campus in the summer.

There are going to be all sorts of trade-offs that we’re going to have to consider, but what we want to know is that we’re benefitting our students with every dollar that we spend. We want to know that we’re retaining and attracting the best faculty and staff, and we want to know that our students are going off to better themselves and to better the world.

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Those are the three things that are the ultimate criteria we have to judge anything by.

PCM: What excites or worries you going forward?

Starr: Yeah. I think one of the obvious things is that the future looks dramatically different. The arts and culture and the social sciences, and in the physical plant—Rains, Oldenborg and Thatcher are buildings that need attention. We have been a very thoughtful institution in thinking about equity and access and diversity. So if students in physics have access to great things, students in music should have access to great things. That’s very important.

We clearly need to think about financial aid, as I said, and we need to work with the other colleges around health and mental health, as well as preventing sexual violence—I think those are obvious. Asking questions about career outcomes and life outcomes—I think we’re definitely going to have to keep an eye on that too. But I am really, really excited to see what comes up from the community as people start to think about what we want to be seven years from now. Ten or 11 years from now, looking back, what will we see as the defining experiences of the first-year students that come in between now and the end of the strategic plan? What will be different for them? What can we do to lay a foundation?

It’s the old phrase under which other people will sit. That’s what this is about. We are going to be planting trees for other people, and that is good gardening.

PCM: Ultimately, what is your best hope for both the strategic planning process and its outcome?

Starr: Ultimately, what I hope is that people enjoy engaging in a constructive, collective visioning of our future, because it’s about what we hope. It’s not about what we want, what we know. What we want is about now. What we hope is about the future, and so hope is knowing you’re not going to get everything out of it, but still being enthusiastic and optimistic about the next steps that we’re going to take. So much of what we do in this process, this feeling really hopeful about our future. Then it’s up to us to do the work.
There was a time, not so very long ago, historically speaking, when everyone assumed the future would look pretty much like the past—if they were lucky. Any sort of significant change was something to be feared and avoided, because it probably meant invasion or plague or something equally likely to send your life up in flames.

The modern concept of progress—the notion that advances in science, culture and social organization are feeding a steady improvement in the human condition—was a product of the Enlightenment. As an ideology, the cult of progress may have reached its peak in the optimism of middle-class America in the ’50s and ’60s, when new medicines and a parade of shiny and suddenly affordable labor-saving gadgets seemed to promise an end to drudgery and dread.

But as the pace of change has continued to accelerate, we’ve become a bit more world-weary about what it all means. The optimism of the ’50s and ’60s has curdled into fatalism. We expect change—and a lot of it—but we don’t necessarily expect progress. We’ve reverted to our historic default—viewing change with a high degree of trepidation.

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That’s the danger of prediction, even for experts.

Of course, if you shake the dust off this issue of Pomona College Magazine, you’ll find a lot of prediction going on. We don’t expect a cure for the common cold, but we hope for a treatment. We don’t expect us to know what the future would look pretty much like the past—if they were lucky. Any sort of significant change was something to be feared and avoided, because it probably meant invasion or plague or something equally likely to send your life up in flames.

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Remembering Martha

If there was one person more than any other who personalized my experience of Pomona extraordinarily, it was Professor Martha Anderson. The brilliance of her intellect was matched by the openness of her heart, and she instilled in me a love of literature that remains alive after more than three decades. I know that I am far from unique in that regard, a number of my classmates who have gone into teaching have spoken of drawing on their example year after year. She challenged her students in the best possible way, confronting the flaws and simmering assumptions in our thinking not to make us feel inferior but to push us to become better writers, thinkers and people.

I had the great good fortune of continuing a friendship with Professor Anderson long after I had graduated, corresponding about our travels, art, politics, and most of all writing. We would discuss the books we had recommended to each other, explaining what a particular writer had achieved or failed to achieve. This was never dull academic pontificating, at least on her part. Everything she wrote burned with love of the written word. I have kept every one of those letters from her, and I cherish them.

Pomona will of course go on, with other tal- ented and dedicated professors to lead it into the future, but it will never be the same. Martha Anderson will never be replaced.

—Eric Meyer ’87
catie dweygro, OC

Wilds of L.A.

Thanks to Clarke Miller for his review of the natu- ral systems that have shaped Los Angeles (The Wilds of L.A., PCM Spring 2018) but I think he’s missing the city when he calls it “con- creted and controlled” and claims that the city “irresistibly locate in nature” in Los Angeles, except in the earthquakes, fires and floods that he describes as “notably apocalyptic.”

In contrast to many large cities, wildlife and nature are a wonderful, unencumbered part of everyday life in Los Angeles. At our home just two miles north of downtown L.A., we are fre- quently visited by coyotes, bobcats, possums, raccoons, skunks and snakes. Birds of prey like red-tailed hawks and screech owls share the trees with woodpeckers, finches, warblers and hummingbirds.

I was especially charmed that Prof. Miller dismisses the Los Angeles River as an “inverted freeway.” The channelized River is at least a con- crete ditch for much of its 52-mile run, but it is also a habitat for much wildlife, especially in the three “slosh-bottom” sections of the river (the Sepulveda Basin, the Glendora Channels, and the Long Beach Estuary). I recently published a novel set on the L.A. River (The Ballad of Huck & Miguel), and the lifegivers in the book encounter many of the same animals that I’ve encountered down there, including herons, egrets, turtles, fish and snakes.

What’s more, millions of LA residents live less than an hour away from mountain waterfalls, desert oases and ocean tide pools. For nature lovers who also want access to the culturally diverse land economies (or a major urban metropolis), there is no better place to be than Los Angeles.

—Tina Deเฟcto ’92
Los Angeles, CA

Dwyer Passing

Thank you, PCM, for publishing news of the passing of Pomona College Associate Pro- fessor of History John Dwyer. He served at Pomona for only a few years, but the quality of that experience was imprinted in my experience. I remain grateful beyond words for his friendship and guidance, for his love of history and Africa and for his wonderful family. Saturday mornings will always bring memories of the Metropolitan Opera broadcast, accompanied by a proper pot of tea. Thank you, Mr. Dwyer, for everything.

—David Mr., 89
(Bill Grove, CA)

A Barnett Fan

Okay, maybe the good part of being a child’s author is that Mac Barnett’s (’04) kid audience doesn’t “tadpole” over him... but the adults read- ing his latest book seem to be just as primed to open the Spring 2018 issue to “Ideas That Feel Alive.” We’re all in his work for our family, and we read one of his books with our 21-year-old just last evening. We parti- cularly love his collaborations with illustrator Jon Klassen—Extra Yarn and The Wolf, The Duck & The Mouse are our most beloved favorites. We actually just bought Triangle for Greg Connelly’s (Pomona ’00) male Child’s Birthday on the same day the PCM arrived in the mail! It’s super refreshing to read kids’ books that are quirky and different. Barnett doesn’t talk down to kids or dumb down his stories, even when they’re made for a young audience. We can’t wait to keep reading everything he’s got.

—Chelsea More ‘02
Atlanta, GA

Kudos for PCM

As a longtime “Rural Voice” from Beaver Dam, Wis., I was especially interested to see Mark Woodward’s piece on Rachel Monroe ’06 and Marfa, Texas, because I had just been reading Possibilities by Patricia Yrigarren. In the chapter “Seabold in Starbuck,” she writes about visiting in Starbuck in Marfa and reading W. G. Sebald’s Austerlitz. She explains how Marfa got its name. In 1881, a Russian woman came with her husband, a railroad officer, to an unoccupied white stop. She was marrying a novel published in 1937, The Brothers Karamazov, in which Dosto- eysky gave the name Marfa to the Karamazov family—while the unnamed town in Texas got its name, as the story goes, in the book by Yrigarren.

—Caroline Burrow Jones ’55
Pasadena, CA

A Rural Voice

Pomona College Magazine continues to be readable, relevant and enlightening, thanks to your creativity and hard work. We forward to each issue and read it cover to cover.

—Bonna Home ’92
and David Home ’91
San Jose, CA

Shots from the Working World

At Goldman Sachs in San Francisco, the ambitious interns and there were plenty of suits. At the consulting firm Accenture, one of the leaders went jeans and flip flops but kept a blazer handy. Another company across the bay, the highest paid employees wore ties (while their would be the Golden State Warriors.).

In the working world, clothes are a clue, but they might not tell the whole story. That’s just one of the lessons 12 Pomona College sophomores who identify as low-in-com- partners first generation college students learned last fall in an innovative new pro- gram. Smart Start Career Fellows is designed to teach students about the workplace and unfamiliar to many of them. The program con- cluded in January with a three-day trip to the offices of seven Bay Area businesses. One of the things Smart Start taught Leisa Guinta (’20), an economics major from Russia, was the difference between business casual and business formal. We had this awkward situation last week- ter where I went to an information session— I think it was Citibank. I showed up in shorts and the director (I think it was the person I had),” she says. Now, with the help of a stipend from the program, “I have business casual,” Garfilla says.

On the Bay Area trip, the students con- nected with alumni via contact with 12 Pomona College alumni, visiting the offices of Kate Walker Brown ’07, an attorney at the National Center for Youth Law. A Cael Casy ’17, a software engineer at Salesforce; and Adam Rogers ’92, deputy editor at Wired magazine. The group also went to Lumi- Grove, a startup company that offers high- tech, energy-efficient horticultural lighting solutions, in addition to Goldman Sachs, Ac- centure and both the business offices of the N.E.O.S.Warriors and ran a drill against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Created with grants from Accenture and the Domini Social Investments, the firm, the Smart Start program began last fall with a series of two-hour Friday night dinner sessions where the students took part last year, wanted to use an interview for- mat to explore the site's reputation. “So many people have been really or- dinary or things that distinguish them in different ways,” Faulkner says, and bai- lout isn’t always a single label—like “the most ex- treme”—seems lim- iting.

But though she ex- pected many people to resist being defined by a lone adjective, she still knows how em- braced their specialties. “My original in- tended was to subvert it, but some people do genuinely think of themselves in these terms, so the terms are fine,” Faulkner says. “At least here in our experience, the terms are fine because these adjectives. They were so happy.”

WHO’S THE MOST?

Rosalind Faulkner ’19—a podcast superhero? Earlier this year, Faulkner launched “The Most,” a Soundcloud podcast in which she interviews Pomona students who embody a particular characteristic of anyone on campus—the most music, the most silly, the most creative. Students nominate potential inter- viewees on Faulkner’s Facebook page, and whoever receives the most votes joins her in her K307 space for a 15-minute break- down of the chosen adjective and what it means to them. Faulkner, who has been interested in podcasting since she created her first pod- cast during her study abroad in Morocco

Suits, Shots from the Working World, and more...
ON THE JOB

Training

Noor Dhingra ’20 likes to start her Fri-
days with a cup of coffee in the Clare-
mont Village before wandering over to Clare-
mont Depot, the gorgeous 1927 Spanish
Colonial Revival train station where she
catches the 8:42 Metrolink to Los Angeles.
Her roommate, Tulika Mohan ’20 takes a
different approach. “I should be getting up
at 7:45. I don’t,” Mohan laughs. “I usu-
ally end up getting up at 8:10, and then I run.”

Together, with headphones on or book
in hand, they ride to one-day-a-week in-
ternships in LA, subsidized by the Pomona
College Internship Program (PCIP), a pro-
gram that provides a stipend that turns an
unpaid internship into a paid one, along
with an allowance for transportation—in
this case, train tickets for Dhingra and
Mohan.

Taking the train to L.A. for an intern-
ship during their school year takes time—stu-
dents often start work at 10 to allow for the
commute—but many say the train beats fighting
traffic even if someone has access to a car.

“I just find it fun. You don’t feel like a
student when you’re on the train, which is
a really good feeling to have once a week,”
Dhingra says. “You’re so used to seeing
professors’ offices or classmates, so it’s just
nice being with people of different ages.
I always hear their conversations, and some-
times it turns into a story I write.”

NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS HAS POMONA HOMECOMING

Pomona College’s new vice presi-
dent for student affairs and dean of stu-
dents, Avis E. Hinkson, brings more
than three decades of higher education
experience in areas ranging from resi-
dential life to student recruitment to
undergraduate advising. Her new role,
which she began on Aug. 1, marks her
return to Pomona College, where she
was an associate dean of admissions from

As dean of the college at Barnard College
in New York, Hinkson led a staff of more than
180, including academic advising, aca-
demic advising, career development,
registrars, health and wellness services,
counseling services, Title IX services,
residential and campus life, interna-
tional and intercultural programs and
diversity initiatives.

At Barnard, she worked with col-
leagues to shape the student experi-
cience and campus culture while sustain-
ing direct involvement with many of Barnard’s 2,500 undergradu-
ate women and serving as a key part-
ner in Barnard’s unique partnership with
the Consortium on Financing Higher
Education as chair of the assembly for the
organization’s highly selective private colleges and universities com-
mitted to meeting the full demon-
strated financial need of admitted
students.

In addition to earning a doctor of
education degree from the University
of Pennsylvania, Hinkson holds a mas-
ter’s degree in student personnel ad-
ministration from Columbia University’s
Teachers College and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from
Barnard.

She succeeds Muntam Feldblum, who
departed in February after a decade of
service to become executive director of the President’s Alliance
on Higher Education and Immigration, a new initiative that advocates
for the legislative interests of immigrants, un-
documented and international students on
campus colleges.

FULLBRIGHT FELLOWS CRITICIZE GLOBE

Twelve Pomona College recipients of the prestigious Fulbright fellowships are cross-cording the globe this fall, doing research on independent projects or teaching Eng-
lish. Here’s a brief description of their plans:

Avery DePasquale, a neuroscience major from Taunton, Ore., takes her Fulbright to the Cognition & Brain Plasticity
Unit of Barcelona in Spain and focuses her research on
Huntington’s disease.

Jack Goodman, a neurosciences major from Chicago, Ill., travels to Israel to explore the biopsychological effects
of medical schooling on patient outcomes.

Laurel Hilliker, an Asian studies and history double
major, from Pittsburgh, Penn., goes to Japan, intending to
uncover the history of Zainichi Korean political activism
within Osaka and Tokyo in the aftermath of the Pacific War.

Emily Rock Hall, a biology major from Redmond,
Wash., conducts research in southern Brazil, assisting
a project at Unidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
to identify and describe new species of crayfish of the
genus Paratraulus.

Elizabeth Sun, a French major from Albuquerque,
N.M., is studying the teaching of English and French in
Saarland, a region in western Germany that has histori-
cally been a space of French-German interactions.

Gary Taylor, an international relations major from Min-
neapolis, Minn., travels to New Zealand to examine how
the United Methodist Church in Polynesia and the Indige-
nous Peoples acts as a tool of legal advocacy for indige-
nous groups.

Vincenzo Verdone, an economics and Asian studies
double major from Fair Oaks, Calif., goes to South Korea
to research the relationship between religion and gov-
ernment.

Don Chen, an international relations major from Nor-
mal, Ill., is teaching in Taiwan. He plans to focus on an-
testing by holding exhibitions of family history projects by students and an oral history event featuring local elders.

Lauren Callans, a neuroscience major from Andover,
Mass., is teaching in Estonia. In addition to her love
for teaching, she wants to help explore her heritage as a third-
generation Estonian and share her American culture.

Mishal Chai, an environmental analysis major from
Olympia, Wash., is teaching in Argentina. She hopes to
contribute to the existing literature on Asian communities
in Latin America.

Rhiannon Moore, a music major from South Pasadena,
Calif., is teaching in Malaysia. Her interest in that country
is rooted in her love for Southeast Asian music and desire
to explore Malaysian music.

Inga Van Buren, a molecular biology major from Port-
land, Ore., is teaching in Spain. Drawing from her own
multilingual background, she hopes to convey to her stu-
dents the usefulness of being bilingual.

ZERO-WASTE COMMENCEMENT

Just before her own senior year arrived, Abby Lewis ’19 was working to send Pomona’s 2018 graduates in the most environmentally respon-
sible way possible—with a zero-waste commencement.

Armed with informa-
tion and data from the Office of Sustainability,
where she works during the year, Lewis
noticed a significant spike in the College’s waste production during the month of May, when
thousands come to campus for the annual Commencement cer-
emony. Working closely with Alakes Rayes, as-
sistant director of sustainability, she started working on a zero-waste event model.

An event is deemed “zero-waste” when an or-
ganizer plans ahead to reduce solid waste,
reuse some event elements in future years, and
set up compost and recycling stations in order
to divert at least 90 percent of waste from
landfills. For Pomona’s 2018 Commencement
Weekend, Lewis focused, among other things,
on the catered food and products served at
the reception on Commencement Day.

Backed by a President’s Sustainability Fund
grant, Lewis worked with Pomona’s catering
management on details ranging from the type of
wax paper used to wrap food, to proposing
dishes that are compostable and the use of reusable sugar con-
tainers instead of sugar packets.

Instead of trash bins, Commencement attendees found recycling and com-
posting stations where they could sort their waste.
Nearly all food waste gener-
atived, such as plates, cups and napkins,
was diverted to either compost or recycling.

The disposable products used at Commencement were
made from either corn starch or recycled paper.

Another key partnership that Lewis secured
with the help of the Office of the President’s
Chad Criss was a deal with Barefoot, the College’s diploma contractor.
Lewis and her allies were able to convince
the company to collect and process “industrially-
compostable” items such as specialty labeled
plates and napkins—something they usually
don’t as part of their service to the College.

FULBRIGHT FELLOWS CRITICIZE GLOBE

Twelve Pomona College recipients of the prestigious Fulbright fellowships are cross-courcing the globe this fall, doing research on independent projects or teaching Eng-
lish. Here’s a brief description of their plans:

Avery DePasquale, a neuroscience major from Taunton, Ore., takes her Fulbright to the Cognition & Brain Plasticity
Unit of Barcelona in Spain and focuses her research on
Huntington’s disease.

Jack Goodman, a neurosciences major from Chicago, Ill., travels to Israel to explore the biopsychological effects
of medical schooling on patient outcomes.

Laurel Hilliker, an Asian studies and history double
major, from Pittsburgh, Penn., goes to Japan, intending to
uncover the history of Zainichi Korean political activism
within Osaka and Tokyo in the aftermath of the Pacific War.

Emily Rock Hall, a biology major from Redmond,
Wash., conducts research in southern Brazil, assisting
a project at Unidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
to identify and describe new species of crayfish of the
genus Paratraulus.

Elizabeth Sun, a French major from Albuquerque,
N.M., is studying the teaching of English and French in
Saarland, a region in western Germany that has histori-
cally been a space of French-German interactions.

Gary Taylor, an international relations major from Min-
neapolis, Minn., travels to New Zealand to examine how
the United Methodist Church in Polynesia and the Indige-
nous Peoples acts as a tool of legal advocacy for indige-
nous groups.

Vincenzo Verdone, an economics and Asian studies
double major from Fair Oaks, Calif., goes to South Korea
to research the relationship between religion and gov-
ernment.

Don Chen, an international relations major from Nor-
mal, Ill., is teaching in Taiwan. He plans to focus on an-
testing by holding exhibitions of family history projects by students and an oral history event featuring local elders.

Lauren Callans, a neuroscience major from Andover,
Mass., is teaching in Estonia. In addition to her love
for teaching, she wants to help explore her heritage as a third-
generation Estonian and share her American culture.

Mishal Chai, an environmental analysis major from
Olympia, Wash., is teaching in Argentina. She hopes to
contribute to the existing literature on Asian communities
in Latin America.

Rhiannon Moore, a music major from South Pasadena,
Calif., is teaching in Malaysia. Her interest in that country
is rooted in her love for Southeast Asian music and desire
to explore Malaysian music.

Inga Van Buren, a molecular biology major from Port-
land, Ore., is teaching in Spain. Drawing from her own
multilingual background, she hopes to convey to her stu-
dents the usefulness of being bilingual.
Biochemist and UC Berkeley Professor Jennifer Doudna ’83 and her team discovered CRISPR-Cas9, a game-changing gene-editing technique with tremendous possibilities for curing diseases of all kinds, thanks to its precision. But with that finding, Doudna (who is also a Pomona trustee) discovered something else—that a great revelation sometimes brings with it a lot of wrestling. In A Crack in Creation, she tells a story that is about both success and struggle. PCM Book Editor Sneha Abraham talked to Doudna about the implications of what might be the most revolutionary scientific breakthrough of our time. This interview has been edited and condensed for space and clarity.

PCM: You say in your book that, as a research scientist, you need adventurousness, curiosity, instinct, grit, practically. Where do you get these traits from, and what’s your greatest influence?

Doudna: I think it comes from a combination of innate curiosity—I think we all have it, certainly as kids—and appropriate encouragement from family, friends and mentors along the way. That mix gave me an open-mindedness to ideas and a way of figuring out how to ask questions about the natural world.

PCM: Did your Pomona education prepare you for this in some way?

Doudna: I am grateful to Pomona every day, honestly, because it was a liberal arts education that exposed me to so many ideas that I would never have come into contact with, probably, without having attended Pomona. Many people in my life, people who were bright students, but not only those interested in chemistry, as I was, but also people thinking about history, French, physics, mathematics and geography. All sorts of topics. It’s a rich intellectual environment that opens one’s mind to the incredibly interesting diversity of the world in terms of cultures, ideas and perspectives.

Doudna: Well, I’ve had a few, I would say, moments in my career, and in this case, it was really one of those rare times in one’s life when the stars align. In our case, the ideas had come together, the data for experiments we were working on in the laboratory had been managed and made in each case. That discovery presents many amazing possibilities. Was there an immediate thought that came to mind?

PCM: For me, it was probably thinking about opportunities to cure genetic disease. When I was in graduate school in the 1980s, my lab was located at the Massachusetts General Hospital, where a professor named Jim Gusella was mapping the gene that causes Huntington’s disease. It is a terrible neurodegenerative disease that people get usually in their 20s, 30s, 40s, and then suffer from for many years with progressive loss of neurological function. So, being aware of that gene mapping experiment that was done in the ’80s, then and fast-forwarding a couple of decades and realizing that CRISPR technology, in principle, will allow the correction of that kind of mutation was a really profound thought.

PCM: You’re a researcher scientist, but with this discovery, you’ve become an ethicist as well, right? Were you expecting that as this was coming to light that how that unfolding had been for you?

Doudna: Not at all. I was absolutely not thinking, originally, about the kinds of ethical challenges that would come up. However, it became clear over the ensuing months that CRISPR was working better than anticipated, opening game-changing opportunities in how we might treat existing patients and how the technology might help future generations. What would be the ethical impact and what would go into making the right society and species-defining decisions needed to be explored and debated. I went from being a biochemist and structural biologist, working in my lab on this esoteric bacterial system, to realizing that I needed to get up to speed quickly on how other kinds of technologies that have been transformative had been managed and handled by the scientists that were involved in their genesis. Because the field of CRISPR was moving so quickly, the ethical discussions needed to catch up.

PCM: What kind of effect do you see on the ethical dilemma that you’re most concerned about with genome editing?

Doudna: Well, there are a few that have gotten a lot of media attention. I think I would say that, at least in the near term, what I worry about the most is a rush to apply genome editing in ways that might inadvertently harm people. That might be because of over-excitement or the desire on the part of a scientist somewhere not to do something. I think that competitive want to move ahead with new ideas can be a very healthy drive in science but it can also lead to problems. In this case, I really hope that there is a concerted effort globally to restrain ourselves and do things in a measured and thoughtful fashion that doesn’t get ahead of the technology and the ethical debate.

PCM: PCM: With CRISPR, when you’re looking at the potential for the future happening now, what kind of effects do you see on the biomedical industry or pharmaceutical companies, or the health care industry? Because this will change a lot of how we do medicine, right?
Doudna: I think it will in a few ways. One effect is using genome editing to discover genetic causes of disease. I think that’s still a very big data opportunity, to figure out, not only single genes that might cause disease, but also genetic interactions. Where there might be genes that interact with others to create a risk for certain people that bear that particular genetic makeup. I think that’s important, and it leads to opportunities to target those genes with drugs, and drug companies are increasingly using CRISPR technology to do that. We are also trying to mine the human genome for new potential targets and then use genome editing to correct those mutations or create, if not a cure, at least some kind of a palliative approach to genetic disease. I think that will happen increasingly, especially as challenges where how do these molecules into cells are addressed.

I also want to mention the incredible commercial opportunities. I’m seeing a lot of young entrepreneurs starting their own companies focused on making use of CRISPR technologies, investors excited to contribute money, and growing opportunities for companies to partner in different areas ranging from biomedicine to agriculture. It is very exciting and these opportunities are not just for scientists, but also for people that have a variety of backgrounds such as business. It’s really an interesting convergence of young people with a mix of expertise.

PCM: You write a bit about food politics, and the issue of GMOs, and that gap between the scientific community and the public. What do you think is driving the narrative that you say is false, that GMOs are a danger to our health? What’s behind that narrative that’s being pushed by other people?

Doudna: I think it’s a couple of things. Partly, it’s a lack of understanding about what we mean by ‘genetic modification,’ and the fact that essentially all the food that we eat is genetically modified, because it’s edited by plants. So, if you introduce genetic mutations, you just have to reference back to what tomatoes looked like before plant breeders got involved. They were very different from how they are today, and why is that? Well, changes to the DNA, of course, but those changes were introduced, not by a precision genome editing technology like CRISPR. They were introduced by random mutation and then selection for desirable traits. So, the unknown that can worry the public is what other genetic changes come along to the side? We know they do but we just don’t happen to know what they are. I think when people understand that, they start to realize that the whole definition of GMOs is a bit misunderstood.

Also, I think the public can be suspicious about the intentions of corporations. That perception that corporations do not have our best health interests in mind, that they are out to make money, and that they do not care about potential risks, choosing instead to forge ahead with “Frankenfoods” or whatever you want to call it. We know they do but we just don’t imagine, it’s very tough because you have a lot of different people with different opinions about these sorts of things. So, it’s just an ongoing challenge that we have.

PCM: This is half-faking, but I was chatting with a friend about CRISPR, and he asked, “At what point can we clone ourselves, get out of work, and still get paid?”

Doudna: Wow. That sounds very ambitious. It’ll take a lot of work to not have to work. That’s all I can say.
A rare collaboration between one of the world’s leading biopharmaceutical companies and a chemistry lab at a small liberal arts college began as the result of a chance encounter.

Chemistry major Ariana Tibbly ’17 was presenting a poster at the American Chem-istry Society’s National Meeting in Philadelphia in 2016 when her research, under the guidance of Assistant Professor of Chemistry Nicholas Ball, caught the attention of Pfizer’s Senior Principal Scientist Dr. Christopher am Ende. The biopharmaceutical giant was interested in Ball’s lab work using sulfonyl fluo-rides to make other molecules. am Ende was particularly interested in Ball’s work with sulfonamides.

Sulfonyl fluorides have been used in biol-ogy for decades, are valued for their stability in water and bioactivity and are now emerg-ing as precursors for a myriad of sulfur-based compounds. According to Ball, the stability of sulfonyl fluorides is more attractive over traditional routes using sulfonamides that require reagents that have a short shelf life or undesirable side reactions. The key challenge for Pomona-Pfizer collaborative study was to figure out a way to unlock the reactivity of sulfonyl fluorides for the desired reaction.

The biopharmaceutical giant was interested in Ball’s lab work using sulfonyl fluorides for the desired reaction.

Sulfonamides are widely prevalent in the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries. They represented 15 percent of the top 100 most prescribed drugs, with therapeutic ap-plications against cardiovascular infections and neurological diseases in 2016. This mutual interest between Pfizer and the lab led to a research part-nership to develop a methodology to make sulfonamides from sulfonyl fluorides using calcium salts. Pfizer did the initial work to come up with a sketch for a syn-thetic route, while Ball’s lab work involved optimizing that synthetic route and testing its versatility. After countless hours in the lab and many phone calls, the research had found an optimal reaction by the end of the summer of 2017.

The study was recently published as an open access article in Organic Letters, one of the most highly- regarded academic journals in organic chemistry. Their work will hopefully translate into more efficient ways to make a diverse array of sulfonamides, key for discovering new drug targets.

The article’s authors include five Pomona students who worked with Ball: Cristian Woroch ’19, Mark Rusznak ’18, Ryan Franzen ’19, Sarah Etuk ’19 and Sabrina Kwon ’20, who are a mixture of chemistry and neuroscience majors. On Pfizer’s side, along with am Ende, the re-search and article team includes sci-entists and medical chemists. Mukherjee, Matthew Reese, Joseph Ticker, John Humphrey, who work in Pfizer’s Worldwide Research and Development divi-sion. Leah Cleary of Idexa Biosciences was also part of the team.

For Ball, the goal for students in his lab is to learn how to turn theory into practice, to critically work through scientific challenges and to understand and take ownership of their work. With this Pfizer study, Pomona students were able to better understand the myriad of challenges present in organic and medicinal chemistry.

“My experience with industry wasn’t until I was on the job market,” says Ball. “I was never exposed to the fantastic science that is occurring at these companies or realized that it was a career possibility. My hope is that this collaboration shows students that there are options for them with a science degree other than academia.”

Woroch, who was second author in the study, worked closely with both Ball and Pfizer’s am Ende. This project had such an influence on Woroch’s research interests that he is continuing to pursue the topic for his senior thesis, and am Ende will be a second reader for it.

“What I am most excited for is an oppor-tunity to answer questions that have been proposed by acrimonious discussions. We’re answering them now,” says Woroch. “I can revisit them and find an entire new project that is derived from my interests. Dr. am Ende is a very talented sci-entist and is able to be so do meaningful and interesting research.”

Woroch adds that the ability to apply sci-ence to real world problems is a big part of what drew him to research. “Particularly when projects are challenging or frustrating, having a practical application for your work is a driving force,” he says.

According to ACS data from 2015, 53 percent of chemistry graduates are employed in industry sectors after attending graduate school, while 39 percent go to work in aca-demia. Besides this research study, Ball, am Ende and Woroch share another commonality: They all received a Beckman Scholarship at some point in their chemistry research career. The Beckman Foundation provides grants to researchers and nonprofit research institutions in chemistry and life sciences to promote scientific discovery and to foster the invention of methods, instruments and materials that will open up new avenues of research.

“I am very excited that our collaboration with Dr. am Ende’s group at Pfizer is contin-uing,” says Ball. “We already have a follow-up [study] to this recent paper underway. During my fellowship with am Ende, he stated that we should be working together versus working against each other and I couldn’t agree more! It is even more special that we share the bond of being Beck-man Scholars.”

—Patrick Vet

**NEW KNOWLEDGE**

**CHEMISTRY:** PROFESSOR NICHOLAS BALL

**Shale, a fine-grained sedimentary rock** formed from silt or clay particles, holds chemical clues to one of Earth’s most dram-atic geological events: when continents first collided well above sea level.

Using the Pomona College X-ray Fluorescence Laboratory (XRF), Associate Pro-fessor of Geology Jade Star Lackey with Teaching Assistant Carissa F. Walker ’18 and Chemistry Professor Ilya Bindeman ’94 analyzed the chemical elements of shale rock from around the world—pro-viding an important check on the results gathered by University of Oregon Professor Irina Bindeman’s research, pub-lished in the May issue of Nature. “We’re answering a deep question about Earth’s history with this work,” says Lackey. “The findings are significant. It puts another piece of evidence of when Earth’s continents stood more prominently above the oceans,” says Lackey, who is chair of the Geology Department. “On a planet that was hot and active and had a vigorous mantle before this, it was hard for continental rock to rise really high.”

Lackey provides an analogy: Imagine dumplings in a pot of stew. They begin as dough that doesn’t have much strength, but once the dough cooks and thickens, in the same way that mantle rocks are forced up by tectonic forces, they gain strength and begin to rise up above the surface of the pot. If the stew cools and thickens, in the same way the mantle would lose those dumplings could sit even higher. Tectonics would move the dumplings around, and when several col-lide—think of this as assembling a super-continent—they can rise even higher.

The research shows that shale rock sam-ples from across the world contain a record of the weathering of land that spans more than 2 billion years. The analysis of oxygen isotopes in samples from every continent to test for fingerprints of the style of weathering found occurred. Lackey explains that the conversion process of land (the dumplings in a pot of stew analogy) to clay minerals in shale is recorded in the oxygen isotopes. “It’s profound to think about, that we’re seeing a different style of weathering start [on Earth].”

Lackey joined Bindeman’s research team in summer 2016, when he and laboratory interns took a look at the bulk chemistry of the shales that were sent to their laboratory.

“The important piece of the story is between 2.2 and 2.5 billion years ago, but to see it, we had to go back and scrape together as many shales as we could find, even the rare stuff, going back to 3.5 billion years ago,” says Lackey, who explains that the shales were hard to find and had to be handled with care in the lab. The Pomona College Geology Depart-ment counts on a number of specialized lab instruments for faculty and student re-search. The XRF Lab was founded in 2010 and uses an X-ray wavelength-dispersive spectrometer which allows analysis of a wide range of elements that make up the bulk of crustal rocks. “We operate with the highest level of research thanks to the College’s support for major equipment,” says Lackey.

—Carla Guerrero

**GEOLOGY:** PROFESSOR JADE STAR LACKEY

**Shale’s Tale**

**Photo by Mark Woodward**

**Photo by Jeff Vogt**
THANKS to a childhood fascination with circus activities, Jack Gomberg ’18 found himself, at the tender age of 18, at a crossroads, having to choose between two radically different paths in life. Should he seize a rare opportunity with Cirque du Soleil or keep his love of the circus arts as an avocation while pursuing a more traditional education at Pomona? Put yourself in his shoes...

Grow up in a baseball-centric family in the lakeview neighborhood of Chicago near the Chicago Cubs’ famed ball park, Wrigley Field, and start playing tee ball at 3. Discover that you’re a little above average, as a toddler athlete, meaning that you can run all the way to first base without falling down.

In kindergarten, attend a hands-on workshop by the nonprofit social circus group CirCeSteem. After falling miserably at juggling scarves, test your sense of balance on a rolling globe, a hard sphere about four feet in diameter, and do so well that the group invites you to join them for practices.

Potty because the workshop was so cool and partly to escape the soccer practice you despise, join CirCeSteem’s after-school program and discover an even more inspiring new world: a cavernous circus ring where kids up to high-school age are performing all sorts of acrobatics on the ground and in the air.

At first, stay in your comfort zone with your rolling globe. Then slowly branch out to other circus arts, such as trampoline and partner acrobatics. Avoid two things like the plague: juggling and aerial acrobatics. Conquer your desire to juggle by the age of 9, and two years later overcome your fear of heights on the static trapeze.

See your first Cirque du Soleil: Corteo at age 12 and realize that the circus can be truly artistic. Then, when world gym wheel champion Wolfgang Bentzle comes to Chicago to create a Team U.S.A. for the sport, catch his eye and fall in love with the gym wheel under his expert tutelage.

Win your first national championship in gym wheel at 14 after telling your mom she didn’t need to stay because the competition was no big deal. Go to your first World Championships in Arnberg, Germany, and make friends from around the world while reaching the finals in all three 18 and under events, including one fourth-place finish.

Two years later, apply to Cirque du Soleil to spend a week at their training facility in Montreal, Canada, and get invited to serve as a temporary gym wheel coach for the Cirque du Soleil academy. Then, when the World Championships come to Chicago, defend your home turf by winning two bronze medals.

While applying for college, also apply to the École de Cirque in Quebec, a leader school for Cirque du Soleil. Since you know its three-year program is impossibly exclusive, apply for a gap year in its slightly more accessible one-year program. Get accepted to the three-year program instead. Have to choose between a circus life and Pomona. Choose Pomona.

Even before arriving on campus, make arrangements to form a club at The Claremont Colleges because you want to build a community of people with an interest in the circus arts. Name the club 5Circus and serve as its president for three years before, in the name of continuity, letting someone else take over during your senior year.

In neuroscience and decide to become a doctor. But since you didn’t take a gap year before college, decide to take one before entering medical school. Win a fullbright Fellowship to spend the year in Israel, melding your passions for medicine and the circus by studying an innovative para-medical practice known as medical clowning.
It’s a deep honor. I couldn’t have done it without the support of my teammates and coach,” Menkhoff says. “Strangely I wasn’t nervous at all for this race. I was determined to start the race well, kick the wall and stick with my plan. I was able to execute what I visualized.”

Menkhoff also combined with Mark Hallman ‘18, Samuel To ‘18 and Ryan Drover ‘19 to take third in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:59.08, a Pomona-Pitzer record, and Menkhoff finished ninth in the 100 freestyle in 44.22.

Menkhoff finished ninth in the 100 freestyle with a time of 27.77, a second-year swimmer. “I was nervous at all for this race. I was determined to start the race well, kick the wall and stick with my plan. I was able to execute what I visualized.”

Menkhoff also combined with Mark Hallman ‘18, Samuel To ‘18 and Ryan Drover ‘19 to take third in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:59.08, a Pomona-Pitzer record, and Menkhoff finished ninth in the 100 freestyle in 44.22.

By the time his record-breaking race began, Menkhoff had already competed in nine other races over the course of three days, and he was exhausted. During the race, he refrained from looking left or right—“By looking left, you lose one hundredth of a second,” he explains—as he didn’t know he was until he booked up at the scoreboard.

International Experience

Menkhoff hardly could have taken a more circuitous route to Pomona College. Already 22 years old as a first-year student, he completed Singapore’s mandatory military service before beginning his college career. He also spent a year focused almost entirely on training with the national team between high school and the military.

His arrival at Pomona-Pitzer added a new level of international experience to the program this season. Menkhoff has swum in 14 FINA Swimming World Cups and almost made the prestigious Commonwealth Games team. Singapore’s small population gave him some technique tips, told him never to quit and to always swim from the heart.

“Obviously I was dumbfounded by that whole interaction, but you realize that these swimming idols of yours are human beings and you’re able to converse at the same level as anyone else,” Menkhoff says. A year later, Menkhoff was swimming in a World Cup meet in Singapore when Thorpe, the Australian Olympian, came out of retirement. “Same heat, four lanes down,” Menkhoff says.

Menkhoff knew mandatory military service awaited six months after high school, but he scheduled an additional six-month deferment.

“In that year, I was a full-time swimmer, training with the national team, traveling the world, competing,” he says. “That was an incredible experience. I managed to squeeze in two internships in that period, but I was mostly swimming.”

The College Search

During his year at the military, Menkhoff also undertook what became an exhaustive and methodical college search. “It was quite straightforward how organized he was about his college search process,” says Jean-Paul Gowdy, the Pomona-Pitzer coach. “He was looking at schools in Britain and he was looking at schools in the U.S. He had a whole spreadsheet that he showed us after the fact.”

Menkhoff researched and communicated with dozens of universities. To Pomona Coll- ege was the first he visited in the U.S., and Gowdy was the first coach he met with. He con- sidered Division I programs before learning his post-high school competition would cost him a year of eligibility, and ultimately circled back to where he began with that first chat in Gowdy’s office.

He began to think, “Where is swimming in my life right now?” he recalls. “It’s not, certainly, my career. It has in many ways been keeping me back from finding myself and my true interests. I realized that the Division III setting is perfect for me, the best of both worlds. For me, deep down, within that four-month college search process, I knew Pomona was for me, and it was mostly the interaction I had with Coach Gowdy.”

Despite all his international experiences, Menkhoff also benefited from the pres- ence of Hallman and To, two seniors who competed alongside him in the NCAA meet.

“In a lot of ways, Lukas is good for them; in a lot of ways, they’re very good for him,” Gowdy says. For Menkhoff, it would seem, this is just the beginning.

—Robin Norwood

Sagehens Claim All-Sports Trophy for Men’s Teams

Pomona-Pitzer claimed its first Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) All-Sports Trophy in 26 years last spring, taking the men’s trophy after winning four SCIAC championships.

On the women’s side, the Sagehens finished second to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) CMS claimed the combined All-Sports Trophy in a closely contested battle with Pomona-Pitzer, finishing the year with a total of 139.5 points to the Sagehens’ 153.

“We knew we were having a strong year and to finish like this is a huge step forward for the department,” said Director of Athletics Lesley Ivy.

On the men’s side, the 2017–18 Sage- hens won SCIAC championships in cross country, swimming and diving, water polo and track and field.

The men’s cross country team was Pomona-Pitzer’s first since 2005, and “the men’s track and field team rose to the top of the SCIAC for the first time in 27 years. In Jordan Carpenter’s first year as head coach of both cross country and track and field, he took SCIAC Coaching Staff of the Year along with SCIAC Athlete of the Year in Andy Rea- ching ‘19.

The men’s water polo team appeared in their second straight NCAA tournament with back-to-back SCIAC championships, finishing the year ranked No. 14 across all divisions. Head Coach Alex Rodriguez and his staff earned SCIAC Coaching Staff of the Year and goalkeeper Daniel Diemer (Pitzer ’18) was named SCIAC Player of the Year.

Swimming and diving claimed the pro- gram’s first SCIAC Men’s Championship team with Captain of the Year Marc Hallman ’18 and New- comer of the Year Lukas Menkhoff ‘21.

The women’s team claimed two SCIAC championships. The women’s swim and dive team won the SCIAC Women’s Championship in their second year in a row and moved on to play in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. Alex Ford-Deguzman and his team finished the regular season un- defeated in SCIAC play earning him SCIAC Coach of the Year along with SCIAC Athlete of the Year in Jocelyn Castro.

Lukas Menkhoff ‘21 Swims a Winding Path from Singapore to Pomona to an NCAA Championship.

GOING SWIMMINGLY

The line at the bottom of the pool is al- ways straight, but it has taken Lukas Ming Menkhoff ‘21 on a winding path around the world. The 6-foot-4 swimmer from Singa- pore has competed in Beijing, Berlin, Stock- holm, Dubai and Moscow on his dripp- ing wet international tour.

Indianapolis might not have the same ring, but the first-year swimmer made Pomona-Pitzer history there in March, be- coming the first men’s swimmer in Sagen- hens history to win an individual NCAA title when he claimed the 100-yard breaststroke at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships.

The Pomona-Pitzer men’s team finished eighth overall and the women were ninth, marking the first time both teams have fin- ished in the top 10 in the same season. His time of 3:39 also shattered the old Pomona-Pitzer record and earned him first- team All-American honors.
Berto Gonzalez ’20 as Puck and Rieanna Duncan ’21 as 1st Fairy in Pomona College’s hip hop inspired, gender bending production of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, directed by Carolyn Ratteray. Photo by Ian Poveda ’21
Where in the world will the next revolution happen? And what will it look like? These are questions Associate Professor of Sociology Colin Beck thinks about a lot. The author of Radicals, Revolutionaries and Terrorists is now at work with five other scholars on a new book titled Refurbishing Revolutions, and last fall, three of his coauthors joined him at Pomona for a panel session called “The Future of Revolutions.” As part of that event, Beck asked each of them to make a prediction as to where the next revolution will unfold.

Some of the answers surprised even Beck. The first to hazard a guess was George Lawson of the London School of Economics, who settled, provocatively, on a country that seems like the height of iron-fisted control—China. “China has more collective action events, more protests,” Lawson said. “There are a lot of random happenings to make a prediction as to where the next revolution will unfold.”

Beck thinks the opposition there hasn’t done the hard work of mobilizing that a successful uprising needs. He points to recent events in Armenia, where protests unexpectedly brought about a change of leadership. And what was Beck’s pick for the next revolution? “I decided that I would, provocatively, say what the political scientists are starting to call ‘the illiberal democracies’—Hungary, Turkey, Poland, Russia,” he says. “Turkey, in particular, is really setting itself up for a challenge. There’s a lot of concern right now about the illiberal democracies, and maybe this is the way of the future, but I think human rights, democracy—they’re too widely legitimized. They’re too embedded in normative consciousness globally for them to erode that quickly. Which means that these countries are going against the grain, and they’re creating the contradictions that can fuel future protest.”

There were two points, however, upon which all four scholars agreed. First, most revolutions are likely to follow the same nonviolent path as the Arab Spring—unarmed civil protests as opposed to violent insurgencies—at least for now. “There’s definitely been this shift from the kind of mid-20th-century communist guerrilla warfare model towards this kind of Berlin Wall-Arab Spring model,” Beck says. He wonders, however, how long that will last, given the fact that so many recent examples have ended in failure.

Their second point of agreement was surprising, given the usual narrative about the Arab Spring. “My colleagues and I all pretty much agreed that the effect of social media on revolutions has been overstated,” he says. “The thing I like to think about is that the biggest day of protests in Egypt happened the day after the Mubarak regime shut off the Internet. And the reason that was the biggest day of protests was because the Muslim Brotherhood decided to turn on, and the Muslim Brotherhood has a traditional form of grassroots organization.”

All of these speculations were intended to be a kind of engaging thought experiment, Beck says, adding the disclaimer that predictions of this sort are rarely little more than educated guesswork. He points to recent events in Syria, where protests unexpectedly brought about a sudden change of leadership. “A few weeks ago, George W. Bush and all of us were concerned that we had mentioned Ar- menia at all,” he says. “It’s too soon to say what will happen there, but we saw the model again—protest and elite negotiation to force a change in who is in power. And none of us saw it coming.”

As a thought experiment, we asked alumni, faculty and staff experts in a wide range of fields to go out on a limb and make bold predictions about the years to come. Here is what we learned.

PREDICTING THE FUTURE

**What’s Next for Syria?**

Predicting the future in a conflict as multifaceted as the Syrian Civil War is daunting, and Politics Professor Mateo Bodroszynski says his thoughts on the matter have shifted several times, including last May, when the United States pulled out of the international nuclear deal.

With that decision, the former U.S. diplomat believes, President Trump may have rattled the chances of a military confrontation between Iran and Israel that might complicate his future policy goals in Syria.

“One way it might play out,” he says, “is that Iran—which has averaged some of its heavy firing since the defeat of the Islamic State—may feel it has nothing to lose in expanding activities in Syria, which would alarm Israel. So Israel continues to drop bombs and maybe moves something more, such as special forces, and then it escalates from there. And the ultimate escalation would be if Hezbollah, operating out of Syria, fired a long-range missile that hit an Israeli target and killed lots of civilians. You can imagine what would happen then.”

**What’s Next for Mexico?**

With the July 1 election of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (widely known by his initials, AMLO) as president, Mexico stands at a historic turning point, one that leaves Professor of Latin American Studies Miguel Triner Salas cautiously optimistic about the future for the struggling country.

“Trainer predicts a collapse of the existing political structure, led by the National Action Party (PAN) and the Party of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI),” he explains. “It represents a rejection of their policies and of the U.S.-imposed war on drugs. He won’t allow dissent from Mexicans but will rather implement a fundamental change in their society.”

As an election observer, Triner Salas says he saw blatant election fraud, but this time, the outrage over rampant corruption and desire for change were too strong for the two parties that have held power for the past 82 years to quash.

Among other things, AMLO has promised a major shift in the way the country deals with 250,000 people dead and 30,000 disappeared in recent years—even proposing an amnesty for those not involved in violent crimes. He’s also pledged to defend Mexican immigrants in the U.S. and to twist the controversial energy reforms of his predeces- sor. To show accountability, he’s vowed to offer himself up for a recall vote halfway through his six-year term. Though AMLO has been labeled a leftist by his oppo- nents, Triner Salas believes the change is big.

Comparisons to Chavez in Venezuela or Correa in Ecuador are probably pragmatic, he says. They’re intended to influence the political debate. AMLO was a member of the PRI, the dominant party. He attempted to reform the dominant party. Unable to, he joined other forces in forming the PRD, the Party of the Democratic Revolution, ran for office twice, with some very strong evidence of fraud against him.

“This time,” he adds, “inflation defeated fear.”

BY SNEHA ABRAHAM, CARLA GUERRERO ’06, MARY MARVIN, PATRICIA OBER AND PATRICK HENNEBERGER
Japan may be the economic canary in the coal mine. Mark Sander ’02 believes. At the same time, it may already be transforming itself into the economy of the future.

Once a powerhouse, Japan’s economy has struggled for the past 30 years. Much of that sluggish growth, says Sanders—the founder and president of East Gate Advisors, a U.S.-Japan business advisory firm—can be attributed to demographics. Japan leads the world in its aged population, and there’s also the fact that the Japanese population has actually been in decline for seven years,” he says. Add to that the tendency for Japanese women to quit the workforce after they marry, and the shrinking number of workers supporting an increasingly expensive senior population.

But with populations aging throughout the developed world and automation displacing more and more human workers, Sanders thinks other societies—including ours—should take heed in the coming decades. If so, he says, the liabilities that have hindered Japan’s progress may also be transforming it into the economy of the future.

That’s because the Japanese are integrating technology in general and robotics in particular—into their society at a rate that Americans find mind-boggling. Americans remain wary about interacting with robots, but the Japanese have welcomed them enthusiastically.

Sander’s points to the proliferation in Japan of robot vending machines, robot security guards, robot dog patrol units, Avatar and Pepper, anthropomorphic robots designed to act like human companions. “People are willing to deal with robots,” he says. “Their acceptance has a real tendency to hold that technology at bay.”

“Unfortunately, major advances in earthquake preparedness come after disasters,” he says. “I think the next big advance will occur when a big disaster takes place and it grabs people’s attention and the attention of governments.”

One of those advances he would like to see is wider adoption of earthquake early warning systems (EWS) like the ones developed in Mexico during the 1990s and in Japan way back in the early 1960s. China also has such a system, as do Taiwan and Turkey.

Soon, so will the United States.

The concept of an early warning system in the U.S. has been discussed for decades. The 1866 ship that ran aground in a San Francisco harbor was the first to experience an earthquake, but it wasn’t until 1977 that the U.S. witnessed a major earthquake. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake was the first to cause widespread damage, leading to the development of an early warning system in California. The system was activated the next year during the 1994 Northridge earthquake, which caused widespread damage. In 2016, California Governor Jerry Brown declared the state ready for an earthquake warning system.

The biggest problem (other than financing) is that California faultlines offer a special challenge. Those Include offshore and seismic waves have farther to go. China is also able to expect some- where it’s sophisticated enough to com- mune directly to trains telling them to stop. California would communicate directly to power plants or subways, “It will communicate directly to trains telling them to slow down, communicate to hospitals to switch their electrical power to a backup system. It could also automatically open the doors of fire stations before strong shaking occurs. This could become automatic without going through a human, which would be a really great first step in application.”

Sander’s says, “When you educate people, adds Mene- mee-Libey, it challenges parochialism and the ability to think that other people are somehow less human and less worthy of respect and inclusion in public life.”

“I think the next 10, 20 years are going to be extraordinarily difficult, but it doesn’t matter if it’s a false alarm, whereas the tricky thing is issuing alarms directly to humans, because they may panic, or they may get annoyed if it’s a false alarm,” he says.

Even a false alarm, Tucker believes Calif- ornia’s system will get to a point where it’s sophisticated enough to communicate directly to people. Japan already has that, he says. “The warning in Japan’s Tohoku earth- quake and tsunami in 2011 was directly to peo- ple,” he says. “An amazing fact about that disaster is that only three percent of the population was that living in the inundation zone of the tsunami was killed. Unfortunately, that’s not in the perfect scenario, but, if you go to other places like Sumatra, they expect some- thing like 50 percent of the population living in the inundation zone to die because of lack of warning and lack of preparation.”

Someday—probably in some crowded city in a developing country—an earthquake will come,亚太地区这将导致影响金融体裁，包括股市，和整个企业界。 ”

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The study of our changing climate has a new champion: the social psychology of climate change. Professor of Psychology Aron Miller is helping lead the way with the growth of a new branch he and his collaborators have coined “social climate science.”

Professor Pearson is working with other psychologists interested in what motivates different groups, particularly relevant in the wake of the issue of climate change and how decision-makers and influencers can engage a broader segment of the population around the issue. Pearson recently co-edited a special issue of Group Processes & Intergroup Relations focused on the role of social identity in how people perceive and respond to climate change, including groups we may often think about when discussing how minorities respond.

“There’s a myth of the white environmentalists,” says Professor Pearson. “There’s a perception in the media of the Great Thaw of the 1930s flooding, he says. “There are students out doing research on the natural water storage that keeps the valleys hydrated.”

“The natural system we have is shifting,” says Miller. “Water will move in glaciers or snowbanks to slowly re-lease in the spring, which means when the rains fall, it’s going to be moving. We’re not going to be able to manage water with dams.”

Miller says there is more than one cul-prit. Climate change is at the top of this list, but so are over-irrigation plans to capture fast-moving water (which can travel up to 50 miles along the West Pacific) and antiquated water rights that affect how we manage water.

The worst drought in recorded Califor-nia history has prompted a number of ideas to capture, preserve and distribute water, including projects like desalination plants in San Diego and a proposal for water, including projects like desalination plants in San Diego and a proposal for

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When we think about the fate of solar energy, we usually think about new generations of solar cells that are more efficient or affordable or longer-lasting—or some happy combination of the three. Lots of scientists and engineers are at work on that side of the equation, including Professor of Physics David Tanenbaum, whose current research involves the development of perovskite and organic photovoltaics to increase the production of solar cells that can be cheaper to produce than the silicon variety.

And yet, while better solar cells will help, Tanenbaum believes the next big step forward in solar energy probably won’t be on the pro-duction side at all—it will be mainly about energy storage.

“It’s really about battery technologies, capacitor technologies and other technologies that will help store energy from centralized power plants to distributed intermittent energy generation, whether it’s wind or solar,” he explains. “And the storage of that energy is what’s driving our world, like Southern Cali-fornia Edison brokers.”

The most important leap in terms of generation, he says, may already have happened—”Twenty years ago, when we talked about this, the question was, ‘Can we harvest large amounts of energy from the sun and the wind?’ Will it work? Now we’ve said, ‘Yeah, we can do this,’ but the question is, ‘Can we build a system that can deal with energy that’s produced intermittently as opposed to energy that’s produced all the time?’ Today’s battery technologies were all designed for portable elec-tronics and are far too small and short-lived to do the job, he says. “All batteries, no matter how well you treat them, eventually need to be replaced. For a product like your laptop computer, which you’re going to replace in five years, that’s not a big deal. But for a product that’s part of your energy grid, that’s not a good situation.

Our energy grid needs to be made of parts that will last at least 25 years. Some parts of our grid are 100 years old and still work.”

Eventually, he believes, some new energy storage technology will be built from the ground up to meet that need, but it’s unlikely to look like anything you’ve encountered in your life. It’s more likely to be heavy, solid, non-portable, thermal, chemical or mechanical energy storage, that will hold significantly larger amounts of energy than bat-teries designed for portable electronics.

The weathered sign on the old fruit stand at what remains of the last orange grove in Rancho, Calif., reads “Adams Acres” and “Since 1907.” Owner John Adams ’66, a third-genera-tion fruit farmer who’s prided himself on the sweetness of a peach, waves his hand at a plum tree that is full leaf but bears no fruit. “There are so many people who come and, you can’t understand it. My apricot tree is not producing fruit this year, and the plum tree is pro-ducing and they were always good,” he says. “They wonder if there is a disease or something.”

Adams says the tree is “perfectly global warming.”

Adams is not merely nostalgic for the days that we still can are like figs and pears, and produce fruit “he says. “Since 1907. “Just now sold 7½ out of 9½ acres for $2 million” Adams says. “I had to sell it, because I went broke maintaining the grove.”

Next door on that plot, a new crop of summer fruits rises under the California sun: “CrestWood Communities. Now Selling! Upper $350,000.”

The fruit farmer’s name is bitterness: Adams Grove.

WHAT’S NEXT IN Climate Science?
of the startup Theranos, which claimed to use nanosensors to do a complete blood analysis from a single drop of blood. “That was a big boondoggle and an awful sham, but the reason they were able to pull it off is because that technology is coming,” she says. “The ability to use micromachined devices and sensors to do health care will happen, and the fact that there were some charlatans out there doesn’t mean that it’s not real.”

In fact, Pomona Professor of Chemistry Mal Johal believes nanomaterials will have a major impact throughout the practice of medicine. For example, you may see nanovehicles that can specifically target a tumor and deliver whatever agents into that tumor and destroy it in a very highly directed manner,” he says. “I think medicine is where we’re likely to see a lot of the big advances.”

But whatever the next big thing in nanomaterials turns out to be, Johal believes it is likely to be the result of a convergence of research in chemistry, physics, biology and engineering. For example, he says, his own post-doctoral work was in a cross-disciplinary technique sometimes called “biological mimicry.” “If we want to replicate what nanotechnology can do industrially, it needs to be put in a material that could be scaled for use in large factories,” Johal says. And since the current industrial method of producing nitrogen fertilizers requires such high temperatures that it burns up about two percent of the world’s energy supply each year, creating a thrifter process would have a huge impact worldwide.

Johal also believes that a similar convergence of disciplines is coming on the educational front. He got his own introduction to the field as a first-year student at Pomona, in Tanenbaum’s first-year seminar class, Nanotechnology in Science and Fiction. And he recently joined his mentor Johal to co-author an expanded new edition of the chemistry textbook Understanding Nanomaterials, which now crosses over into related areas of biology and physics. “It’s probably the first undergraduate book writen at that level, where a sophomore student can take this with just general chemistry, general biology, general physics preparation,” Johal explains.

So will nanomaterials be a hot new interdisciplinary field at the undergraduate level? “We’re starting to see universities forming programs specifically in nanomaterials, but as to whether it’s going to become a standalone field, that seems to be an open question,” Johal says. “But as more people getting degrees in nanomaterials at the undergraduate level, I think that’s something that would be plausible in the near term.”

WHAT’S NEXT IN... Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence? Think again.

Business proposals for technology on artificial intelligence are already on the desks of venture capitalists and technology investors such as Metcal “Matt” Thompson ’96 who are always looking for the next big thing to invest in.

Thompson is the senior vice president for private equity and venture capital at Skyview Capital where his is his finger on the Los Angeles investing. Currently, the focus is on FAME2; an acronym describing the areas in which L.A. investing is concentrated: fashion, autonomous technology (artificial intelligence or AI), drones, self-driving vehicles, media, e-sports/gaming (watching people play games and make money online) and dating startups.

While AI is still a hot and growing industry, Thompson says they’re not ready invested in a company developing artificial technology that can help you with a problem and think about your feelings.

And you can forget about Bitcoin—that’s old news, says Thompson. “The new thing is blockchain. The underlying technology can be used to do a range of applications in health-care and media—using blockchain as a secure database not just for currency.”

Lately, Thompson says he’s been reading receiving business plans for mining asteroids—yes, you that right. “Space exploration, asteroid mining. It might be sooner than you think.”

Digital Storage?

At the dawn of the digital age, storage was measured in kilobytes. Over the years, our expectations have gotten less bleak. “Now it’s gone from kilobytes to megabytes to gigabytes to terabytes. But have you heard of petabytes, exabytes, zettabytes and yottabytes?”

You soon, says Ayseg Ulusoy, Pomona’s first director of high performance computing. Those terms—each indicating a capacity 1,000 times larger than the one before it—first became more and more popular in the last five years here at Pomona. And here at Pomona, that future may be closer than you think. Ulusoy says, “As climate modeling—that’s a subject we’re pursuing. And the volcanoes in Hawaii—we have a model in geology, with the magma and the plates and how the tension works and liquid modeling a lot of very interesting things.”

So what’s a petabyte (which is defined as a trillion terabytes)? “That’s the last one, which pretty much in space time. We have a model in geology, with the magma and the plates and how the tension works and liquid modeling a lot of very interesting things.”

WHAT’S NEXT IN... Artificial Intelligence?

As for what to expect in the future, Johnson also believes that a similar convergence of disciplines is coming on the educational front. He got his own introduction to the field as a first-year student at Pomona, in Tanenbaum’s first-year seminar class, Nanotechnology in Science and Fiction. And he recently joined his mentor Johal to co-author an expanded new edition of the chemistry textbook Understanding Nanomaterials, which now crosses over into related areas of biology and physics. “It’s probably the first undergraduate book written at that level, where a sophomore student can take this with just general chemistry, general biology, general physics preparation,” Johal explains.

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WHAT’S NEXT IN... Artificial Intelligence?

Imagine a future in which robots screen job candidates, universities introduce artificially intelligent tutors into classrooms and news services use a combination of social media and artificial intelligence (AI) to roll out breaking news.

“Well, that future is now,” says Smith. “Preliminary success and our fascination with computers has led us to believe that artificial intelligence can make smarter decisions than human beings.”

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But, there are some serious limitations. At AI, says Gary Smith, Pomona’s Fletcher Jones Professor of Economics and author of the upcoming book The AI Delusion, “This for artificial intelligence is designed to perform normally defined tasks, and it does it really well,” says Smith. “But moving outside of those tasks, computers have a lot of trouble. It is particularly evident when we...
WHAT’S NEXT FOR SCIENCE MUSEUMS?

Science museums are not just science lessons for kids any more.

As president and CEO of the Science Museum of Minnesota, Alison Brown ‘80 says science museums are becoming something more — more contemplative, more thought-provoking, more people-oriented. “I’m leading a team that is helping us move away from the idea that museums contain only the facts and tell you what’s what,” Brown says, who is also a vice chair of the board of Trustees of Pomona College. “We will always do real science. We also want our museum to be the place where you’re having two-way conversations and contribut- ing your experience to the collective understanding — all while you’re having fun.”

Indeed, for Oldrin, that’s where the future of Facebook and other so- cial media is all about — the ongoing search for better and more com- pelling ways to bring people together.

“…” And, you know, this type of information is very useful for companies who want to deliver that type of screening.”

Meanwhile, in the world of politics, the use of voter profiles to manip- ulate the vote is the wave of the future. “Now cam- paigns know so much about voters that they can use data to target mes- sages and create more persuasive speakers — to support the participation of opposition supporters,” Andrejevic notes. “I don’t believe that Cambridge Analytica had anywhere near the data they claim for them- selves, but the political model they em- braced will continue to get more sophisticated.”

To date, Andrejevic says, many of his dystopic predictions have come true, which makes him deeply pessimistic about the future. “But working with the students here actually makes me quite opti- mistic,” he says. “As I was writing this book, I told them that I’ll be alive when the first human puts her foot down on Mars, and they always laugh,” he says. But what brings Hartman to work each day as director of the Sciences and Explo- ration Directorate of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center is the extraordinary science that continues to be done through spacecraft with no astronauts aboard. As an example, she points to a couple of new spaceborne tel- escopes that are likely to kick the search for exoplanets circling other stars — into high gear.

Although the number of confirmed exo- planets has exploded into the thousands since the launch of the Kepler spacecraft in 2009, we still know next to nothing about them. With the launch of TESS (the Transiting Exo- planet Survey Satellite) in April 2018 and the planned launch of the James Webb Space Telescope in 2020, NASA hopes to change that, Hartman says. “Whereas Kepler looked at only a tiny fraction of the sky,” she ex- plains, “TESS will look for extraterrestrial planets all around our closer neighborhood, where hopefully, we can have follow-up observa- tions with the James Webb Space Telescope.” Those observations, she says, should give us our first detailed analysis of the chromatic makeup of an exoplanet’s atmosphere.

As one of NASA missions of par- ticular note includes: • The Parker Solar Probe (Planned launch: August 2018)—This probe’s orbit will carry it to within 3.8 billion miles of the sun, which is actually inside the sun’s cor- tection area. As it swings by the sun, temperatures can rise up to 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit, the probe will study such things as the solar wind and its effects. This mission will help us understand the relationship between the sun and the earth,” Hartman says we never could before.

Hartman says. • The Wide-Field Infrared Survey Tele- scope or WFIRST (Planned launch: 2020)— WFIRST will join in the search for exoplanets, but it will also play a key role in the effort to solve the most baffling mystery in astrophysics today: “Approximately three quarters of the universe is made of something we call dark energy, because it doesn’t interact with anything and we don’t really under- stand what it is,” she says. “WFIRST will be looking for clues about dark energy as well.”

• The Europa Clipper (Planned launch: sometime in the 2030s)—This probe will in- vestigate the habitability of Jupiter’s icy moon Europa. “To me, this is one of the most exciting things at NASA,” Hartman says. “When we’re looking for life on other planets, we’re looking for water, but it turns out that in our own solar system, you can have a frozen icy moon, and under the frozen surface, a liquid ocean. That’s Eu-ropa. I like to joke that if there’s life in that liquid ocean, they’re not going to be very good astronomers.”

One thing Hartman says she can’t predict is the kind of mission that will arise from continued exploration of the solar system and beyond, but she’s sure there will be many of these. “I’m a plante woman to discover and inves- tigate, and I do think there’ll be a lot of practical output from some of these investi- gations, but you don’t necessarily know be- forehand what the spinoffs will be. It’s serendipitous, and that’s part of the joy.”

As we near the 50th anniversary of the first moonwalk, Colleen Hartman ’77 be- lieves space is a place where ex- ploration is not far away. “When I talk to high-school and younger groups, I always tell them that I’ll be alive when the first
We are in the middle of a mass extinction event, says Professor of Biology Nina Karnovsky, and, this time, it’s our fault. “It’s called the Anthropocene Era, because it’s being caused by humans,” says Karnovsky, who specializes in the study of seahorses. “The warming of our planet, the destruction of habitat, pollution and other contaminants are causing widespread extinctions. It is really grim. I don’t think I would be able to cope if I didn’t try every day to do something to ameliorate this overwhelming thing that’s happening around us.”

Paying to leave terrestrial and marine habitats unchanged is one way to make a difference, says Karnovsky, who assigns her students to keep journals and record their observations. “It’s extremely important to be a great naturalist and to keep track of what you’re seeing around you, and to notice and document that,” she says. “If you aren’t really noticing the change in the species, then you won’t notice when they’re gone.”

In fact, many species that we didn’t know about are already lost, says Karnovsky. It’s not just about climate change, but habitat destruction, harvests, oil spills and other things that are causing a “vortex of extinction.” And when a population gets impacted and can’t recover, that affects other species, including humans. “It’s not extirpation. It’s a social justice issue,” says Karnovsky. “There isn’t enough food to eat because the ice has changed; the marine mammals aren’t coming into the foods where they used to come and people used to hunt them. So for these communities, this is life or death.”

Compounding the problems in identifying and studying endangered species are cuts to research made by the current administration, making it harder for researchers to keep up sustained studies, where they return to the same locations to test for changes that show a species has become more vulnerable. For Karnovsky, the warnings are clear and call for some big decisions about what direction we’re going. “We need to tell our leaders, and it has to be a multi-pronged approach,” she says. “We have to be active on political fronts, but also in our daily lives.”

The 1970s TV show The Six Million Dollar Man (which now seems quaintly understated in today’s dollars) brought the word “bionic” into general use, with sci-fi concoctions that it has never completely shed. But one area of prosthetics where fast has begun to outstrip fiction is in the world of bionic vision. In 2015, the Yokohama-based ophthalmologist Dr. Gregg Kokame ’78 was the first physician in the Asia-Pacific region to implant a bionic eye, giving a patient who had been blind from hereditary retinal disease the gift of sight.

The process involves inserting into the eye of a 60-year-old Hong Kong patient who was not working at all, they are trying to bypass the eye completely and implant electrodes directly on the brain.

WHAT’S NEXT IN BIG DATA?

For many of us, the words “big data” have taken on sinister connotations, evoking stories of data breaches, manipulation and abuse. But in medicine and pharmacology, Jan Lethen ’93 believes big data is all ready saving lives—and in the future, it’s going to get even bigger and save many more.

As director of statistical programming in observational research at the biopharmaceutical firm Amgen, Lethen works with a storehouse of anonymous data from over 100 million patients worldwide. Statistical research based on that data, he says, permits companies like Amgen to “support product safety, to profile diseases, to design more effective clinical trials and to forecast populations that would most benefit from our drugs.”

As a sign of the future, Lethen points to a new app that pairs with Apple’s iWatch, enabling surgeons to link their health records to their biometric data, potentially making that linked data available for researchers. “We’re seeing more and more types of data being brought together and linked together,” he says. “So that might open the door to treatments. ‘That’s a move that a number of pharma companies are currently working on with partners,’ Lethen says. ‘They can say, “Hey, if you give our drug to those patients with these characteristics and it doesn’t work, you don’t have to pay for the drug.” That will be a new business model that will continue to expand.’”

WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE SAGEHEN?

Pomona College’s mascot, the sage grouse—the saggy grouse in the real world—needs a “seek” update. A rare collaboration between conservation and energy interests came together to protect the sage grouse’s mating habitat—known as leks. But the U.S. Interior Department led by Secretary Ryan Zinke is now re-examining the plan in order to prioritize energy development, leading to an uncertain future for our beloved mascot.

Jessica Blickley ’02, an ecologist at Pasadena City College, studied the sage grouse as a grad-student student at UC Davis and lays out the history, present and potential future of Gilead’s brothers.

Historically, the sage grouse’s habitat spanned the western United States, but as growing land overtook wild land, as invasive grazers crept over native sagebrush, as wildfires grew in ferocity and frequency, and as natural gas, oil and wind developments popped up, the sage grouse’s domain has shrunk. And with shrinking domains, explains Blickley, there’s less space for the saggy grouse to puff up their chests and attract mates. That means shrinking populations.

That’s why, a few years ago, a diverse group of concerned stakeholders, from state governments to private landowners, came together to craft a large-scale sage grouse conservation plan focused on protecting the bird’s natural habitat. In 2015, this multi-state effort led the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep the sage grouse off the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a decision the Audubon Society saw as a nod to the ongoing success of the plan.

“The conservation plan seemed to be working well until 2017 when Zinke decided he was going to put this conservation plan under review and change it,” says Blickley. “In addition, there is currently a bill in Congress that would specifically prevent future listing of the sage grouse under ESA. Due to these federal actions, the future of the sage grouse is much less certain than just a few years ago.”

But Blickley hasn’t lost hope. “My hope comes from the state level. In the state of Wyoming, where 40 percent of the sage grouse are found, the Republican governor believes strongly in the collaborative conservation plan, so hopefully many of the state level regulations will go into place.”

WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE BLIND?

The ultimate goal, he says, will be medications tailored to a single individual. “Especially with oncology, you could say, ‘Hey, if you use this therapy in conjunction with these two other things, we are confident it’s going to work for you.’ The level of detail that we have on each patient right now doesn’t allow us to do that, but as we build out those genetic profiles for each patient and they become more and more unique, we’ll be able to build profiles that actually do get down to very small patient cells, and perhaps, eventually, to a patient level of one.”
WHAT’S NEXT IN TREATING MENTAL ILLNESS?

**What’s next in** the treatment of mental illness will be a direct outcome of what’s now, according to Pomona College Professor of Psychology Sara Masland. Two developments in the field may, over time, transform treatment of psychological disorders.

The name of the first development sounds tricky to understand, but it’s really pretty straightforward. The National Institute of Mental Health started a framework called RDoC (Research Domain Criteria) that encourages researchers to stick to the textbook—or in psychological cases, standard diagnostic manuals—when studying disorders. Instead, they look more carefully at a person in all their complexities.

“We now have a good deal of information that suggests that the lines we draw are not always appropriate,” says Masland. “This framework seeks to take a step back and understand differences in the functioning of basic human processes across multiple levels and units of analysis.” By levels of analysis she means genes and behavior, and she’s talking about processes like reward processing and basic cognition.

More nuanced diagnoses dovetail with a second development: research that uses mathematical models to understand which symptoms and experiences are central and which may be caused by these primary symptoms.

“As a clinician, I might see a patient come in who reports five symptoms, and I can conclude that they co-occur,” says Masland. “But what is hard to get a good sense of is how these symptoms contribute to one another. Which came first? Does the presence of one cause or exacerbate the presence of another?”

In the next few years, we’re going to see a big shift, where people start to take their Lamaze classes online, where mothers join video chat support groups,” she says. “Our company is starting to offer those, as an example, and I know that we’re not the only ones. I think that’s going to be a big way for women to connect and support each other online.”

**Rising costs and** access to healthcare are issues that weigh heavily on Americans and their families. These issues deepen when it comes to mental health, where mental illnesses can be extraordinarily disabling, and yet, many patients do not receive treatment.

Stephen Smith ‘17 believes technology will be part of the solution. After winning his own battle with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), the economics grad has used his experience to help others by creating a smartphone app that provides in-home treatment to fight the condition.

“The app, which he dubbed OCD-2, records real-time data, offers guided cognitive behavioral exercises and allows people with OCD to join in-app support communities at any hour of any day. With the technology, users get 24/7 clinically approved care and are connected to a community that understands them.

“People are always wondering how you’re going to treat mental illness, given the shortage of licensed mental health clinicians,” says Smith. “And the answer is: through technology.”

Smith says this technology trend not only for mental health but for healthcare overall.

“The healthcare industry today is going ‘more mobile’ and ‘more digital’ given that technology offers consumers an always-on, personalized treatment that accelerates the process,” he says. “Since the majority ‘shrink’ populations are already actively engaged in technology, utilizing digital solutions to deliver care can have both an immediate clinical as well as an economic impact for both the patient and provider.”

Masland also believes both of these approaches will change how we understand the basic mechanisms of psychopathology. That change in understanding will, in turn, change the treatment landscape. Ultimately, her hope is that “they will lead to better understanding of human experience more broadly.”

**WHAT’S NEXT IN HEALTH CARE APPS?**

Which nation in the “developed world” spends the most on maternity care? You guessed it—the United States. And which has the highest maternal mortality rate? Same answer, and the numbers aren’t even close.

“We are spending the most and getting the least,” says Melissa Hanna ‘09, founder and CEO of Mahmee (pronounced “mommy”). “And even through we have a slowly but surely declining infant mortality rate, it’s still too high.”

That’s why Hanna founded Mahmee, a secure online platform designed to bring together a network of education and support services that expecting and new mothers and their babies need in order to thrive—from early pregnancy through the first year of an infant’s life. Mahmea calls it “handling care,” and she notes that the same model has been used successfully to manage other health-related conditions that require attentive, long-term maintenance, such as diabetes and chronic heart failure.

“Being pregnant is not considered being sick,” she says. “But I like to say caring for a baby is a hormonally boomerang. Your body is prioritizing the baby over you, and so, if you think of the experience of childbirth as being this acute, physical trauma on the body, on the hormones, on everything, we treat that as something that a person should be recovering from? If we did, it would totally change our approach to health care for women.”

Part of the problem, Hanna says, is her disconnected health care system. “One doctor, the pediatrician, is responsible for the baby, and a completely different doctor in a completely different office, using a completely different system of tools and software, is keeping track of the mother’s health. Mother and baby are connected in the womb and then outside of the womb for months after, and yet the way that we take care of them is so separate.”

In addition, most Americans don’t have the family support systems that mothers rely on in more traditional cultures. “We’re all transplant,” Hanna says. “We move around the country, away from our parents, away from our grandparents, so we end up having children in environments where we’re very isolated.”

When systemic change finally comes, Hanna believes, it’s probably going to look a lot like what other countries have done for years.

“I think when we look to the future, we can look to other countries like France, like England, having a model of sort of nurse-midwifery and home health care,” she says. As an example, she points to the growing demand for doula. “We end up creating a whole new industry—the industry of being a doula, which is basically being a home health assistant after delivery. That has become part of the market share in the United States, and I think that’s going to be a big part of the future, Hanna believes.

Online services like Mahmee, which connect expecting mothers with networks of other mothers and health care experts, are also an important part of the future, Hanna believes.

“Be yourself,” says Hanna. “Be there to be a doula.”
When Evel Knievel tried to jump the Snake River Canyon in 1974, stunts were kind of an oddity. "Now, that’s every Red Bull commercial," says Grayson Schaffer ’01, editor at large at Outside Magazine and a co-founder at the production company Talweg Creative. After all, he points out, when the public has seen it all, the only way to grab the limelight is to up the ante, usually with a brand paying the way. Schaffer, who has covered people doing everything from climbing Everest without oxygen to kayaking down waterfalls, is frequently interviewed by national media about the world of adventure, but he knows it’s not all—not yet. As a recent example of defying acts that must be seen to be believed, he points to climber Alex Honnold’s ascent of the sheer vertical wall of El Capitan without safety gear. "You’re bringing no equipment," he says, "just your climbing shoes and a chalk bag, and you end up climbing 3,000 feet with no ropes, no way to retreat, no way to bail out—mean, that’s pretty crazy.

That’s an extreme case, but among many of people of means, Schaffer believes, the quest for thrills is becoming the ultimate expression of conspicuous consumption. "We’re seeing the benchmarks of what people view as wealth and success shifting," he says. "Instead of a fancy car and a big mansion, people are spending huge sums of money to be able to show off an enviable Instagram feed."

Enabling such thrill-seeking, he says, is the growing risk of highly skilled professional guides who can provide a measure of safety for people trying their hand at everything from backcountry skiing to summiting Mount Everest.

WHAT’S NEXT IN
Outdoor Recreation?

Move over Bear Grylls. Make way Ron Swanson. Take a back seat to Nanked and Afraid. Change is coming to the world of outdoor recreation, says Martin Crawford, director of Pomona’s Outdoor Education Center (OEC). There will still be plenty of room for the extreme outdoormen like Grylls and the mustachioed hunters of Man vs. Wild. But as we start changing what you do and how we recreate, it’ll slowly start to free as a society, as individuals, as cultures all over, and things will continue to change.

Changing with them, frankly, is something that we’ve done before."
Films, they’re famously known as credibility errors. But these annoying little bloopers also creep into novels. For example, in J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, a griffin first seen tied to a tree later finds itself tied to a fence.

While writing his 900-page tome, novelist Vikram Chandra ’84 found the task of avoiding such errors maddening. Keeping accurate track of his huge cast of characters over the novel’s 60-year span was a monumental challenge. “How do I keep making a manual bookkeeping with a goose quill and a double ledger,” he says.

Certain that someone must have designed software to help, he did some research and found to his surprise that no such software existed. So, after finishing his novel, Chandra—who is also a programmer and self-described “geek”—decided to create his own.

So, after finishing his novel, Chandra—who is also a programmer and self-described “geek”—decided to create his own. Chandra’s vision doesn’t end there. Granthika also has him thinking about how the interactive nature of this new software might lend someday, to the creation of new forms of interactive or multimedia books.

“I think that it could be used in a creative way, that we could use the text and information about the text in the way that we’re thinking of right now,” he says. “But I think that it would be a much, much harder problem, for various technical reasons. First, there’s the problem of how to represent the information. Second, and information about the text in sync, as it were?’ And that turns out to be a much, much harder problem, for various technical reasons. So, then, my question was, ‘What if you could represent the information?”

When writers may not want to be interrupted while writing, they can also turn that function off and go back to it later, but the final result is the same—a collection of metadata, linked directly to the text itself, to help the writer maintain the illusion of reality.

Recently, as Sacred Games was being transformed into a TV series on Netflix, Chandra wished Granthika had been available when he was writing it. To trace all of the story’s complex, interwoven timelines, the series’ creators had to buy dozens of copies of the book, transfer the info to index cards and arrange them on a wall. With Granthika, he says, “what we’re able to do is have a menu choice that says, ‘Export Ontology,’ and when you hit that, it just takes all the knowledge of the work that you created and puts it in a package so that somebody else could then import it.”

But Chandra’s vision doesn’t end there. Granthika also has him thinking about how the interactive nature of this new software might lend, someday, to the creation of new forms of interactive or multimedia books.

“Since we’re making it so easy to attach metadata to text, our dream is that we’re able to make it possible for a writer to say, at the time of writing, ‘When the reader reaches this sentence and goes past it, dissolve into this moving image that will last for three seconds,’ and so, you see a bird walking across the beach, right? So in a sense that you’re doing is programming a book as much as you’re writing it. And a reader is able to interact with the book—let’s say, adjusting the difficulty, or read the same novel from the perspective of view of different characters, all that good science-fiction-fantasy stuff we’ve been dreaming about for the last two or three decades.”

WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE MOVIES?

WHAT’S NEXT FOR MANGA?

WHAT’S NEXT AT THE ALTERNATIVE ROCK?

WHAT’S NEXT FOR ALT ROCK?
WITH RETIREMENT LOOMING, CHARLIE CRUMMER ’59 DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO REINVENT HIMSELF IN HIS SPIRITUAL HOMETOWN.

Charlie 2.0
(THE PARIS VERSION)

WAS 2007. He was pushing 70. He and his wife had separated, and he was about to retire. Pages in his life were turning. It was time, he decided, to flip ahead to the next chapter.

Now, 11 years later, Charlie Crummer ’59, a one-time physicist in Southern California, lives in an apartment on the Île Saint-Louis, a quiet, mostly residential plot of land in the River Seine as it flows through the heart of Paris. He’s an inch or two over six feet tall, his white hair mildly scattered, as Einstein taught us a physicist’s hair ought to be. On the street, he winds a scarf around his neck, which isn’t actually a municipal fashion ordinance in Paris but might as well be. Inside a quiet, simple neighborhood crêperie, he relaxes over lunch as he talks about how the seeds of his move from California to France had pretty much been sown long before he shipped out. About how, really, it all started with a car.

But not just any car.

“It was a 1966 Citroën DS,” he says, smiling at the recollection. “Do you know it? A French classic. I’d been driving an old Chrysler—a real tank. I brought it to the repair shop and the owner had this ’66 DS, a Pallas, which was the luxury model. He said ‘Take it for the weekend and try it out.’ Fifty miles later I was a raving convert. This was 1972. Riverside, California.”

STORY BY DAN CARLINSKY
PHOTOS BY ANTOINE DOYEN
For car guys back then, the front-wheel-drive Citroën DS was a dream vehicle, with self-leveling hydro-pneumatic suspension, power steering, disc brakes and other features that were, for the time, trophies of cutting-edge engineering and an oddly attractive space-age body design. A decade ago, a poll of 20 top automotive designers named the introductory version of the iconic vehicle—the 1955 model—“The Most Beautiful Car of All Time.”

“I kept that car for 13 glorious years,” Crummer continues, “until one day it ran out of water and the engine was damaged. We were going on vacation and drove it as far as Sacramento airport and it died. I left it in the airport parking lot for quite a while and then sold it to a Citroën aficionado. It was approaching 200,000 miles, all it needed was an engine overhaul. I dream that somewhere it’s still on the road. It was a work of engineering art.”

“Really,” he says, “it was because of the Citroën that I fell in love with France. I knew it in 1977, when we took a family trip to France—we were there just a week, less than a day in Paris. That was my first time in the country, but when we left… I can’t explain it, but I felt kind of homesick. It was like leaving my hometown.”

He especially connected with Paris—the soaring churches, the endless art, the streets and squares—but he didn’t go back for more than a quarter-century. When he did return at last, for a short stay in 2004, he found the city’s appeal was still there. He visited again the next year, and the next. It was after his separation in 2006 that he began to think seriously about moving there. Moving—you might say—to his spiritual hometown.

The following March 28, Crummer retired from his job as a physics lab manager at UC Santa Cruz. That same day, he was on a plane to Paris.

He brought along his two big lifelong passions: physics and jazz. (Ask him to name his major influences and he’ll start with Albert Einstein and Charlie Parker.) Both interests go back to his time at Pomona. A physics major (he later earned a Ph.D. in quantum gauge theory at UC Riverside), he was a versatile reed musician who played oboe in the orchestra as well as jazz on several members of the saxophone family: “I remember playing Dixieland on an exquisite gold-plated Selmer soprano sax owned by a professor in the music department,” he recalls. “That was ‘Doc’ Blanchard. To this day, I’m amazed he let me borrow such a valuable horn.”

It being the 21st century, among the first things Crummer did in his new Paris home was to establish a blog, so he could express an occasional thought about his new surroundings and a stray opinion about the world as he sees it. He headed his page:

Charlie in France
Some thoughts and some pictures
Impressions of Paris and other random thoughts

In his first blog post 11 summers ago, he celebrated the city’s parks and alleys and gardens. He responded emotionally to the sound of the great 19th-century organs in the churches of Saint-Sulpice and La Madeleine (“Tears of joy well in my eyes, taking me by surprise. My heart swells in my throat and explodes with the passion of the moment”). He reported briefly on visits to two jazz clubs. In one, a tiny bar...
"I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT THE RIVER IS KIND. I JUST PLAY NO ONE ELSE AROUND. "I'M THINKING OF THE OLD SAYING: 'GO WITH THE FLOW.' IT'S LIKE A TUNE SO I JUST PLAY IT FLOWS ON."
The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the FBI conducted mass arrests of Japanese Americans in the United States. More than 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in internment camps. Following President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s executive order 9066, which authorized the government to remove and imprison Japanese Americans due to their perceived loyalty to Japan, thousands of civilians were rounded up and marched in groups to internment camps. These camps were often located far from their original homes, and families were separated. The internment lasted for up to a decade, with some camps remaining open until 1956.

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For years, he was shuffled to different internment camps, including to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he was subjected to poor treatment and lacked access to legal assistance. Despite his loyalty, he was deemed “a danger to the public peace.”

One man who faced such a scenario was Katsuma Mukaeda. In 1942, he was arrested and sent to a Santa Fe Internment Camp in New Mexico. Despite his loyalty to the United States, he was accused of being a “disloyal enemy alien” and was held in solitary confinement for months. After the war, he was released and went on to become a successful lawyer and community leader.

For President Emeritus Blaisdell, the story of incarceration was clear. For President Emeritus Blaisdell, the story of incarceration was clear. Throughout the years of Mukaeda’s internment, Blaisdell wrote multiple letters to the FBI on his behalf, arguing for his return to the United States. In 1945, he successfully helped secure Mukaeda a second hearing by the FBI. When the hearing did not clear his name, Mukaeda went back to Blaisdell for help. In a letter to the FBI in November 1945, Blaisdell praised Mukaeda as “a man, I believe, who can be of great usefulness in healing the relations between the two countries and establishing just and honorable relations between the Japanese and Americans in this country.” After a reappraisal of his case, Mukaeda was deemed loyal and freed from the Santa Fe camp in February 1946, after four years in detention separated from his family.

Following the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act in 1952, Japanese Americans were finally able to become United States citizens. A formal apology to the Japanese community was issued by President Bill Clinton in 1998, acknowledging the internment as a “dark chapter in our history.”

There are two important lessons from Mukaeda’s story. One is that foreign policy dictated by racism and the violent separation of families are both, sadly, a recent chapter in U.S. history. Immigrants of all backgrounds have participated in the building of our nation’s history, and a system focused on exclusion only harms ourselves.

The other lesson is the importance of remembering and commemorating the past. The Japanese American Incarceration Curriculum Project is an effort to educate students about the internment, its lasting effects, and the importance of remembering the past.

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Thank You, Sagehen Community!

As we welcome the incoming Class of 2022 and kick off a new academic year, we would like to thank our worldwide family of alumni, families, and friends for making 2017-2018 a vibrant year of support and community for the Pomona community.

Last October, alumni and friends joined the campus community for the Inaugural Community BBQ, including a barbecue and a dance party under the stars, to welcome Pomona’s 10th president, G. Gabrielle Starr. Celebratory gatherings continued on campus throughout the year, as thousands of community members re- turned home for Bidday Weekend in November—Sagehens beat the Trojans to bring home the Sixth Street trophy—and revitalized editions of Family Weekend in February and Alumni Weekend in the spring.

Around the world, Sagehens traded stories and laughter at nine Winty Break Parties and 13 Summer Welcome Parties for incoming students and their families, and current Pomona scholars shared ideas with lifelong learners at Pomona in the City events in Seattle and Los Angeles. Our growing tradition of community goodwill, the 4/7 Celebration of Sagehen Impact on April 7, featured 13 alumni volunteer service events from Claremont to Honolulu and Hong Kong in addition to the now-traditional campus and online celebrations of Sagehens bearing their applied riches.

A 4/7 giving challenge to benefit Pomona’s Draper Center for Community Partnerships, the Student Emergency Grant Fund, the Alumni Scholarship Fund, and The Claremont Colleges’ Empower Center yielded $172,200 in support for students from more than 750 generous alumni and friends. And donors to the Annual Fund set a new record with a total of $6,514,075 given, including gifts from more than 5,500 alumni whose contributions increased the College’s giving participation for the first time in more than a decade.

47 loud, proud, remaining dogs to every single Sagehen who stepped up to support our community with your generosity and your presence. Thank you. Let’s make 2018-2019 another year worth cheering about.

Thank You, Alumni Board!

At the Alumni Board’s final meeting of the year on June 9, Matt Thompson ’96 completed his term as Alumni Association President and passed the gavel to incoming president Diane Ung ’85. Jon Siegel ’74, managing editor, completed their service: Jordan Ferguson ’09 (Past President), Li Kwok ’05, Kyle Hall ’06, Professor Lorent Forster (Faculty Representative), Slade Brown ’14 (Admissions Representative), and Maria Vides ’18 (APC President). The following new members joined the Alumni Board: Jill Grigsby (Faculty Representative), Alejandro Gutierrez ’19 (APSC President), Kris Monroy ’14 (Admissions Representative), and at-large members, Axon Davis ’09, Tierli Jones ’80, Jim McCallum ’70, Jon Morey ’86, Andras Banich ’76, Alex Tran ’09 and Anna Twum ’14.

Mark Your Calendar

Save the dates for these favorite annual events, and update your contact information at pomona.edu/alumni to hear about more opportunities to come together with the Sagehen community.

• The Claremont Colleges’ Worldwide Socials—September 2018 and March 2019
• Budding Weekend—November 9 ( alumnae) and November 10 (alumni) vs. CMS, 2018
• Winter Sports Parties—January 2019
• Family Weekend—February 15-17, 2019
• 4/7 Celebration—April 7, 2019
• Alumni Weekend—May 2-5, 2019

Summer/Fall Book Selection

This fall, join the Class of 2022 as they start their Pomona journeys by reading Emily West, a break from the Los Angeles Times called “…a powwow—moving by one of the world’s most fascinating living writers…’’ Nominated a Top 10 Book of 2017 by The New Times, Mohsin Hamid’s work follows two lovers displaced by civil unrest in their home country.

Class Notes only available in print edition

Book Club Events

In-print Book Club events for the summer/fall selection began in August and continue through October. D.C., Seattle and Honolulu, with additional events in St Paul, MN gatherings planned for fall in St Paul, Bedford Hills, NY (October 16) and Austin, TX (October, date TBD) join the Book Club at www.pomona.edu/bookclub to learn more about events near you and to read along with alumni, professors, students, par ents and staff around the world.

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Judge Stephen Reinhardt ’51, a stalwart of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco who wrote the ruling that ultimately legalized same-sex marriage in California, died March 29, 2018, two days after his 87th birthday.

Known as the “liberal lion” of the federal circuit courts, he was fiercely passionate about the law and protecting the vulnerable. His rulings in defense of criminal defendants, minorities and immigrants were often overturned by the more conservative U.S. Supreme Court.

Among his rulings that the high court overturned were decisions that would have struck down Washington state’s ban on doctors providing aid in dying and a federal law prohibiting a type of midterm abortion that opponents labeled partial-birth abortion. Once, when asked if he was upset by these reversals, he replied: “Not in the slightest. If they want to take away rights, that’s their privilege. But I’m not going to help them do it.”

Born March 27, 1931, in New York as Stephen Shapiro, Reinhardt changed his name after his parents were divorced and his mother remarried. His stepfather was Gottfried Reinhardt, a screenwriter, director and producer whose films included The Red Badge of Courage. His grandfather, Max Reinhardt, was a theatre legend who fled Germany during Nazi rule and gained acclaim in the U.S. for his production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream at the Hollywood Bowl.

Reinhardt once said that the horrors of the Nazis helped shape his conviction about the need to be vigilant in upholding human rights. A graduate of Yale Law School, Reinhardt was appointed to the federal bench in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter. He remained in that role until the time of his death. Previously, he had served as a first lieutenant in the legal counsel’s office of the Air Force, clerked for a federal judge, practiced entertainment and labor law in California, been a member of the Democratic National Committee from California and served on the Los Angeles Police Commission.

“The court lost a wonderful colleague and friend,” said Sidney Thomas, chief judge of the Ninth Circuit, which oversees federal courts in California and eight other Western states. “As a judge, he was deeply principled, fiercely passionate about the law and fearless in his decisions. He will be remembered as one of the giants of the federal bench.”

Two Supreme Court justices were among the many national voices that spoke admiringly of Reinhardt in the wake of his death.

“As a person and as a judge, Stephen Reinhardt was devoted to protecting the powerless and the oppressed,” said Justice Anthony Kennedy, “In my 43 years on the bench few, if any, judges with whom it has been my privilege to serve were more dedicated to the cause of justice.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor called him “one of the greatest legal minds of our lifetimes.” She went on to say, “We have lost one of the giants of our federal judiciary—one who cared deeply about the way the law could shape our society and impact our pursuit of justice. Someone like Stephen cannot be replaced. He set an example for judging that anyone with a passion for the good in the law should follow.”
Class Notes
only available in
print edition

Send your class note to pcmnotes@pomona.edu.
It’s safe to say that no Pomona faculty member has ever been more beloved among students and alumni than Emerita Professor of English Martha Andresen Wilder, who died suddenly at 73 from multiple myeloma at the age of 74. Over the 34 years of her Pomona career, she was honored by the students themselves seven times with the coveted Wig Award for Excellence in Teaching, setting a record in the 60-plus-year history of the award that is unlikely ever to be surpassed. If she hadn’t been indigible for four years following each win, she probably would have garnered many more.

Former students remember her for her contagious enthusiasm, her love and thorough knowledge of the material, her always strikingly creative presentation and her deep warmth and kindness. “I can attest to the most luminous, powerful, soul-searching teaching I have ever seen,” one student commented. “She awakens the heart,” said another. “She gives the students a lesson plus the reasons for taking that lesson to heart.”

She is remembered and revered in particular for her legendary Shakespeare classes, in which she was known for her “page to stage” approach, urging students to experience the Bard’s genius from every possible perspective—readers, scholars, spectators and actors.

Inspired by the phrase “only connect,” the epigram from the E.M. Forster novel, Howard’s End, she sought to make the works of Shakespeare relevant to the lives of her students. She would often take an ordinary phrase, like the first line from Hamlet’s “To thine own self be true”—“Who’s there?”—and lead her listeners through the process of parsing its many levels of meaning, transforming it into something profound, personal and unforgettable. She described the core of her approach as empathetic, theatrical and moral imagination.

As each semester came to a close, members of the college community would keep an eye out for her class’s signature culminating exercise—a series of pop-up performances in which groups of students would present a scene from one of the plays, staged in a site of their choosing—from the likely (dormitory balcony) to the unlikely (among the dumpsters behind a dining hall). Many of her former students have called the process of interpreting, conceptualizing and performing a scene from one of Shakespeare’s plays, under her inspiration, one of the seminal experiences of their college career.

Referring to the fact that her Shakespeare classes were always waitlisted as students vied for the privilege of studying with her, Emerita Professor of English Thomas Pinney once dubbed her “the Pied Piper of the Pomona faculty.”

Students who took Horowitz’s classes or took part in the plays he directed described her as kind, generous, funny, inquisitive and always creative. At Pomona, he taught theatre history and was an expert on the dramaturgy of Anton Chekhov and Carlo Goldoni. He also had research interests in the performance vocabularies of commedia dell’arte, Russian biomechanics and Shakespeare in performance, with particular emphasis on international, non-English-language adaptations of the Bard’s work.

In 2011, Horowitz was awarded a grant from the Folger Institute for Shakespeare Studies Neville Ruffin Endowment for the Humanities Institute Project, “Shakespeare from the Globe to the Global,” which culminated in the “Shakespeare in Performance Symposium,” a prototype for conferences for international Shakespeare. During his 2017–2018 sabbatical year, he conducted research on the common dramaturgical and emotional threads linking the characters and relationships in Chekhov’s plays and those in the late plays of Goldoni.

In 2015, he received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and Cal Poly Pomona. Serving 14 years on the Pomona faculty, he was named associate professor in 2010. His writing was published in such publications as The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory Contemporary Dramaacts, New England Theatre Journal, The Journal of Beckett Studies, and Western Euro- pean Stage. His book Projects & True Preservers, Peter Brook, Yukio Ninagawa, and Giorgio Strehler—International Post World War II Directing Approaches to Shakespeare’s "The Tempest" was published by the University of Delaware Press in 2004, and his chapter, “Scrutinizing the feminine in Waiting for Godot,” recently appeared in In Dialogue with Godot: Waiting and Other Thoughts. Horowitz was involved in numerous theatrical productions in Southern Califor- nia, working as dramaturge for several companies, such as the Unknown Theatre and the Bootleg Theater in Los Angeles, and the Cal Poly Pomona Theatre at American Repertory Theatre in Pasadena. He directed a production of Macbeth for the Ojai Shakespeare Festival in 2004, and was on the Board of Directors of Un- known Theatre from 2005 until 2011.
Alumni Weekend brought together more than 1,500 alumni and guests for four festive days in late April. Friday’s craft beer and wine tasting—A Taste of Pomona—featured alumni vintners and led into dinner under the stars on Marston Quad. President G. Gabrielle Starr welcomed attendees, saying, “All of you have brought a brilliance and energy to the College from which we still benefit. It’s the Pomona of today that honors you for coming back and honors the past, even as we are thinking about the future.”

Throughout the weekend, Sagehens from the classes of 1949 through 2017 crisscrossed campus to hear faculty and alumni speak on topics including St. Francis of Assisi, international education, California wildfires and the future of astronomy. The Parade of Classes marched through the College Gates to the Quad, where alumni were greeted by President Starr’s State of the College. The Class of 1968 gathered in full force for their 50th Reunion, just three years after initiating a new Pomona tradition with their 47th Reunion, and the Class of 1988 celebrated their record-setting reunion gift of $380,431. In total, reunion classes contributed over $1.4 million in support of Pomona’s liberal arts mission and commitment to financial accessibility.

Alumni Weekend 2019 will take place May 2-5. You can find information to plan your trip at www.pomona.edu/alumniweekend.
Receive tax benefits and lifetime income while you make a difference for Pomona. Now that's a "WIN-WIN".

**SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES FOR INDIVIDUALS**

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Rates valid through October 31, 2018.