A MULTIDIMENSIONAL LOOK AT THE
Mythical Island of California
THE ISLAND OF CALIFORNIA

More than a century of old maps agree, and admit it—you know it in your heart: California was and remains an island.

By Mark Wood

STATE SECRETS

California has lots of fascinating but unheralded spots. Pomona faculty and alumni let us in on nine:

Rim with a View | A River Runs Through It
Reading the Desert | Nature, Science and Art
For the Birds | Digital History | A Church with a Memory | The Dark Side | The Heart of the City

By Mark Wood

A SIMPLE PRESCRIPTION

Dr. Juan Guerra ’85 has a simple prescription for Latino health care: more Latino doctors.

By Agustin Gurza

THE TALE OF THE TREES

The story behind Pomona’s beautiful-but-complicated campus canopy is also the story of California.

By Mark Kendall

From front cover to back, this issue of PCM is sprinkled strategically with 3D images (marked with the glasses icon above left). We’re providing the attached 3D anaglyph glasses to help you view them. Yes, it’s a gimmick, but one that we hope will add a little pictorial depth to this exploration of California’s past and present.
Sometimes I wonder how it would have gone if this country had been settled backwards, west to east.

—of those doughty Pilgrims, huddled praying among the ship’s creaking timbers, had anchored not in the crook of Cape Cod but, say, in San Diego Bay. Would the relentless push that drove us westward have driven us onward just as fast? Would the Eastern Seaboard have seemed as manifestly destined as the West Coast (which somehow never seems like a “seaboard”) once did? What would all that light and warmth have done to the iron in the Puritan soul? Would the Atlantic states—coming late into our consciousness—have seemed enchanted?
As it is, things have worked out nicely. California’s climactic geography came last, a necessary if unanticipated coda to what is often called the American experience. Knowing the end of the story—so far—makes it easy to grasp how incomplete this country would have felt without California, the volatile edge, it seems, of all our national imaginings. For much of the way westward, the story was about settling down, finding a homestead and improving it. But California was never really about settling down. Its very geology is transient.

It’s hard to live in the everyday way and sustain a mythic consciousness. That’s what I learned going to high school and college in California. My family had crossed into the state over the Sierras, sluiced down 80 into Sacramento. In California, I expected to find a transubstantiated landscape glimmering with intimations of Pacific immortality, and I expected to be transubstantiated in turn. What can I say? We had come from Iowa, and I was 14, an age when the mere house-ness of the house we chose to live in and the car-ness of the car we drove seemed strangely disappointing. I hadn’t expected to find so much ordinariness on display. It seemed as though the Californians who already lived here had lost the magical sense that they were in California. And then I lost it too. It faded away like the San Gabriel Mountains after a hot autumn week without a breeze.

None of us would get much done if we regularly inhabited a mythic consciousness, and the traffic would be so much worse. So much of life seems to require an ordinary perspective, the sameness and familiarity of the normal. There are times when Southern California seems like a vast machine engineered to produce endless quantities of the ordinary. And yet, from time to time, California rises up and smites you, and you find yourself re-dazzled. It may be the sun sinking out at the end of the 10—”the subtropical twilights,” as Joan Didion put it—or a day of purifying desert light. It may be chimney-stacks swaying slightly in a minor earthquake or the sight of the kelp-matted inshore, out beyond which the gray whales move. It may be nothing more than the scent of rain on asphalt in a dry winter. It hardly matters what it is. You look up, look around, and see, again, what an extreme and beautiful place this is, where the continent crumbles and slips and subducts and the weather blows in from the Pacific and the mountains seem like a temporary arrangement, just waiting to slide down into the Inland Empire.

Over the past decade, I’ve come to Claremont and Pomona College every couple of years to teach. I always drive out from my home in New York because I always want to come into California from the great emptiness of Arizona or Nevada. It’s a strange sensation, familiar to nearly everyone who comes this way. You seem to get farther and farther west—to get more and more western—and then you cross into California and the very meaning of “west” changes. You have to look pretty hard to find the “west” in California that’s continuous with the west in, say, Elko, Nevada. But that’s one reason I like California so much—I keep discovering ways in which it’s discontinuous with anywhere else, discontinuous perhaps especially with itself.

I settle in and remember what January smells like in Southern California. The place I left seems unimaginable, part of an old world that seems to contain everything but California. And I wonder again how it would have gone if it had all gone differently. What we have now are the myths that arise historically from the California we came to, not the California we came from. That makes all the difference, as the Pilgrims discovered in their own way and on their own coast.

January 2014
Support of Vote
I was very impressed and in-
terested by the fall issue’s “Scout’s Honor” about student Madison Van’s admirable work on pain relief.
I was an anthropology major long
ago and learned about the work of Jane Goodall (one of my
Maddi’s mentors) and also about the amazing life of primates like orangutans in Dr. James McKenna’s course Primates Geographics—4:45 p.m., South Scovel (U. of Northern Colorado).
Jane Goodall (one of my major at Pomona) and her admirable work was getting to the roof of Big Bridges. We had to work our way through the labyrinth of the backstage passageways, following each other through a succession of closed doors and stairs and stairs until we finally emerged into the cool night air. We couldn’t actually see the stage at all,
so we played to the night sky and hoped the people on the ground could understand enough. It was a special privilege to be permitted to play up there.
Rooftop Memories
Every Christmas season, I think about how much I would enjoy having a CD of the “tower music” that we played from the roof of Big Bridges each December when I was at Pomona.
I was one of those who aren’t afraid to climb out of campus history. Professor William F. Russell was the director, and the group was meant to be a musical experience, an encounter in Renaissance villages, where people would go to the town from the village church on important occasions. At Pomona, the group was maybe 10 musicians, with promi-
nant brass, and the tunes simple songs of that era such as “Alleluia! and all the king’s men” and “In
stuttle jubilate.”
One thing that made the process memo-
ral was getting to the roof of that old powerhouse. We had to work our way through the labyrinth of the backstage passageways, following each other through a succession of closed doors and stairs and stairs until we finally emerged into the cool night air. We couldn’t actually see the stage at all, so we played to the night sky and hoped the people on the ground could understand enough. It was a special privilege to be permitted to play up there.
It wasn’t a spectacular event or a showing of musical virtuosity, it was just a comfortable holiday tradition. But for me it was a special part of the Christmas season. I expect many alumni have pleasant memories of playing in the group or listening from the quad. It may not have been part of the Christmas season. I expect many alumni would have strayed so far from their percentage of other graduates who did nothing to prepare me for the view of the L.A. River); William D. Everell (author of The Longest Unwrittten Chapter: The Inter-
regnum in the Context of Chinese Nationalism); and the Pacific” (Sneha Abraham, author of Adoption” (Laura Tiffany, author of “M emories of M urder” (Phebe E.
Such a “little diva and “In-

Dance P erformances
March 10-20: Pomona College Dance Company, director: N icholle Andrew s, Redlands U.
March 11: “SACDance” (choreography: Ryan N icholls, “Soaring” w ill be accom panied by new ly choreographed w orks. L aurie Banks, director)
March 12: “Red Down” The Power and Peril of Chinese Capitalism in Africa “7 p.m., Seaver Theatre. C reated in 192 0 by the C urtain R aisers of the L ong Beach Sym phony; W illiam  D everell (author of The Heart of the Liberal A rts)
March 13: “Performing the Sacred: A C on-
temporary Dance” (Dennis F. M ooney, Pom ona College Dance Com-
pany director; N icholle Andrew s, R edlands U.
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pany director; N icholle Andrew s, R edlands U.
Yi Li ‘16 is a blur, juggling classes, mentoring new international students, producing the sophomore class newsletter and attending Oldenbourg Center language tables.

The second-year student from China has also served this year as sophomore class president and treasurer of the five college Chinese Drama Society and is helping to produce a website and an informational video for the International Student Mentoring Program.

“I’m a ‘yes’ type of person,” says Yi. “I always say ‘yes’ to new things. Though Pomona admissions only recently made its first trip to the country, we had never visited there and had not attempted to try out,” says Seth Allen, Pomona’s vice president and dean of admissions and financial aid. But, he notes, “Having an international dimension is important today in the modern educational setting. The Board of Trustees has charged us to seek out, identify and enroll the very best intellects and best purveyors of talent among young people in the world.”

International enrollment comes in waves. At one point, for instance, Bulgaria was sending a disproportionate number of students to the U.S. Then it joined the European Union and had easier access to other European institutions, and numbers declined. In addition to building a greater presence in India, Pomona has made recruiting in Europe a priority and started reaching out to Africa and Latin America as well.

Sammy Kiproto Roe is a second-year student from rural Kenya who says he was drawn to Pomona’s small-school dynamics and liberal arts approach. And, yes, by the location, too. He had applied to schools in Maine and Connecticut, but “snow seemed scary,” he says.

Robert Langat is also a sophomore from Kenya who was identified by a program seeking promising students to study in the U.S. In Kenya, he was accustomed to an educational system “where the teacher does all the talking and students take in everything.” His first two weeks in Claremont, he struggled through the required freshman seminar class—reading, writing, class participation—before adjusting to the demands of an American liberal arts college.

Both Robert, who is considering majoring in mathematical economics, and chemistry major Sammy cite financial aid as a big factor in bringing them to Pomona. So does Lazaros Chalkias, a second-year student from Greece majoring in molecular biology.

Lazaros also founded a student group called the seven Claremont Colleges appealing, but only after arriving on campus did he discover how deep his involvement in the 7Cs would be as a member of the consortium’s seven-time national champion Ballroom Dance Company. “It’s the best way the colleges come together,” he says.

Napoleonis from abroad universally lauds International Place, which supports the foreign communities on all of the Claremont campuses, and Pomona’s International Student Mentor Program, under which students guide new arrivals from overseas through tasks such as opening bank accounts, understanding cell phone plans, tackling homesickness and the rigor of studying at Pomona or helping them get off campus to explore California.

Nick Jing, a junior economics major from Singapore, is giving back to the 7Cs by being a mentor himself, even reaching out to students who are just considering applying to Pomona. “The Admissions Office, they pass on emails to us,” says Nick. “In a small college, culture and fit is so important,” so he tries to explain to prospective students what to expect at Pomona or helping them get off campus to explore California.

Pomona continues to expand international recruiting, with an increased focus on Latin America and Africa, even as it becomes even more selective. Pomona admitted 29.5 percent of 3,804 applicants in 2000, but only 13.9 percent of the 7,153 who applied last year.

“If we are not proactive in performing our own outreach in other parts of the world it would be very easy to have an international population that was solely from Asia, simply because of the size of the interest and the sheer volume of applications,” says Allen, who, before coming to Pomona in 2011 was dean of admissions and financial aid at Grinnell College in Iowa, which receives some 400 applications from China a year because of its early start on international recruitment. “So we are going out on our own initiative to ensure there is even more variety of students coming to Pomona from outside of the U.S.”

Nevertheless, administrators—and professors—say they are often astounded by the number of high-caliber students from Asia, obblgating the Admissions Committee to delve into recommendatory essays and extracurricular activities. “We look for cues that tell us this is someone who has multiple interests, is open to learning through class discussions, can contribute to conversations in the academic realm, and would be a good fit as a mentee or adviser for a faculty member,” Allen says. Often admissions officers rely on students they’ve met and have been able to assess in terms of quickness of mind and ability to articulate ideas. “Because of the strength of the applicant pool from abroad we can be choosy in setting the criteria very high.”

Financial aid can be the decisive factor. While Pomona does not conduct need-blind admissions for international students, funding has been a key factor in bringing new students to campus. And the College looks for about a 50-50 balance of international students in each new class.

For her part, Yi Li is focused on making every day at Pomona count. Even on break she was drumming up funding and clients in China for Socus America, the startup she is co-founding. She garnered 600 subscribers to the startup’s microblog in two weeks.

Today’s her back to her studies and almost in awe that she was elected to Pomona’s student senate, on which two other international students serve. “That’s pretty amazing because if I were at a larger school I couldn’t really imagine American people would vote for me as an international and female student from China,” she says. “But at Pomona, that happened.”
How to Become a YouTube Star

Albert Chang ’14 has drawn a devoted YouTube following with his pop song mash-ups, orchestral covers, and mix of music and magic. Posting under the moniker “Sleightly Musical,” the Pomona music major and amateur magician has more than 51,000 YouTube subscribers, with his videos logging about 3.8 million views (and climbing).

Start piano lessons at 5, violin lessons at 7. Hate practicing but like the stickers you get from parents for doing it. Choose the violin. Enter regional and state orchestra competitions in junior high. Join chamber music quartets in high school and learn you love making music.

Learn a few card tricks from an eight-grade friend. Borrow his magic how-to DVDs and start practicing anytime and everywhere—even in the school bathroom. Make a video of card tricks and post it on YouTube under the name “Sleight Sensations.” Get 40,000 views.

Head for Pomona and plan to major in science. Follow your parents’ advice to follow your heart. Switch to music. Land a spot as the beat boxer for Midnight Echo, and a cappella group. Borrow their mics and mixer for the summer. Invite your sponsor group to visit you at parents’ home in Fresno. Use your dad’s camcorder to record a mash-up of pop songs.

Buy a camera and teach yourself to edit. Combine magic and music with covers of Daft Punk’s “Get Lucky” and Coldplay’s “Fix You.” Draw a crowd of hikers on the Claremont Wilderness Trail while recording an instrumental version of Game of Thrones theme. Interact with fans through social media, drawing 1,000 new followers every week.

Put on a fall show demonstrating your abilities as a “mentalist.” Wow the crowd with mind-reading skills that combine psychology and trickery. Plan a senior thesis performance that uses magic and music to explore emotional reactions to music. Mull whether to go on to film school. Plan to keep performing and producing videos. Watch those YouTube numbers grow.

—Mary Marvin

Worldwide Reach

Sagehens continue to trek all around the globe. Here are a few recent examples:

Feb. 11 Koocanusa National Park, Canada Geology Professor Robert Gaines was part of the team announcing the discovery of a stunning new Burgess Shale fossil site in Canada’s Kootenay National Park. The deposit may be the world’s most important fossil discovery in decades.

Nov. 14 Banff, Canada Math Professor Gizem Karaali read part of her short story, “A Mathematician’s Dilemma,” during the Creative Writing in Mathematics and Science workshop held at the Banff International Research Station.

Jan. 6-17 Paris, France Theatre Professor Thomas Leabhart taught a two-week intensive workshop for Theatre Pas de Deux, directed by Wen Kim ’94.

Dec. 26 Tehran, Iran Math Professor Shahriar Shahriari was the colloquium speaker on the topic of “The MAMS Conjecture for Vector Spaces” at the School of Mathematics of the Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences.

Jan. 16 Washington, D.C. President Oxtony attended a White House higher education summit, and the College committed to raise its percentage of low-income students and increase its number of community college transfer students.

Feb. 11 Sichuan, China Allan Barr gave a presentation in Mandarin Chinese on the topic “From Literary Research to Literary Translation.”

Jan. 11 Kyoto, Japan History Professor Samuel Yamashita gave a paper on the education of children evacuated from Japanese cities during the Asia/Pacific War, at a conference on “Children, Education and Youth in Imperial Japan, 1925–1945” at Kyoto University.

Jan. 7-9 Bangalore, India Pomona College co-sponsored a historic conference on “The Future of Liberal Arts in India,” with Astronomy and Physics Professor Bryan Penprase as one of the key organizers. Pomona participants also included President David Oxtony and Religious Studies Professor Zayn Kassam.

Jan. 11-12 Tehran, Iran History Professor Samuel Yamashita gave a paper on the education of children evacuated from Japanese cities during the Asia/Pacific War, at a conference on “Children, Education and Youth in Imperial Japan, 1925–1945” at Kyoto University.
This is her M.D. as she travels around Thailand and the globe, and she goes over and recopies her writings each day “to see what kinds of things I learned,” the popular princess told thousands of notebooks.

Plain how Sirindhorn earned two masters degrees—in oriental epigraphy and Pali-Sanskrit—and a Ph.D. in developmental education.

Princess Sirindhorn carried a fabric-covered notebook and took voluminous notes as she toured Pomona and neighboring campuses to meet with faculty and students.

Writing in English with a red pen, the princess took notes in crisp, even strokes about everything from robots to bees, economics to neuroscience. She wrote notes while Constance Wu ’14 explained her chemistry research and while Art Professor Mercedes Teixido led a drawing class.

Sirindhorn of Thailand still did her homework. During a two-day February visit to receive a doctorate of humane letters, her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Chom Klao Sirindhorn of Thailand took notes while visiting Pomona College Trustee Bernard Teixido, as Pomona College Trustee Bernard Chen ’86 looks on. PHOTO BY WILLIAM BASTA

Top 5:
Gray or American Red Squirrel
Raccoon
Red-Tailed Hawk
Barn Owl
Coyote

Open-Air Classroom?
See, science can be a breeze. With aging Millikan Hall knocked down for an up-to-date replacement, the adjacent Andrew Science Hall is getting a very thorough renovation as well. But the structure won’t stay see-through for long. The $63 million rebuilding of Millikan and renovation of Andrew are set to be finished in 2015.

Animal sightings on campus are certainly not rare, although being one of few to witness a hawk scooping up an unsuspecting squirrel may be.) Grounds Manager Ronald Nemo shared this list of Pomona’s most common animal visitors, noting that recent conservation efforts have brought much wildlife back to the 40-acre Wash. Close run-ner-ups include rabbits, which are hunted by coyotes living in the Wash, and opossums.

However, the rustic east side of campus isn’t the only place frequented by wildlife. According to Nemo, Red-tailed hawks nest in the pine trees between Harwood and Wrigresidence halls, barn owls can be found living near Bridges Auditorium, and raccoon families hunker down in the storm drains. And of course, there’s nowhere on campus where friendly-tree squirrels—gray or red—can’t be found.

“Take a risk, and act... Be the boss,” says Stout. “As soon as I get down here I forget everything else, it’s all about what’s the next record going to be. There’s a real joy in that.”

KSPC’s The Boss Guy in Claremont Show with John Stout hit the milestone of three decades on the air this fall. Playing tunes from the ’60s and ’70s, the DJ still lugs eight boxes of records and CDs to the station every Sunday for his 10 p.m. show. Says Stout: “As soon as I get down here I forget everything else, it’s all about what’s the next record going to be. There’s a real joy in that.”

By the numbers
Key numerical milestones this year call for Sagehen celebration.

Men’s Basketball Coach Charles Katziefas reached 400 career wins in NCAA Division III when Pomona/Pitzer beat Trinity University (Texas) 68-63 on Dec. 30. He picked up the big win in San Antonio, where his old boss, former Sagehens Coach Gregg Popovich, coaches the NBA’s Spurs.

Philosophy Professor Stephen Erickson marks five decades as a member of the Pomona College philosophy faculty this spring, making him the longest-serving as a full-time faculty member in Pomona’s history. A party is set for Alumni Weekend. (Details on page 51.)

The Pomona College Museum of Art’s Project Series, started 15 years ago by Curator Rebecca McGraw ’85, is bringing attention to emerging artists in Southern California, finally made it to exhibition No. 47, which featured sculpture and drawings by L.A. artist Krysten Cunningham in the fall semester.

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To our young people: Don’t say, “What should I do?” Take a risk, and act... Because in 50 years, you’ll be looking back, wondering, did I do the best that I could?”

—Civil rights leader Myrlie Evers-Williams ’68 (speaking at Scripps College in November, five decades after the assassination of her husband, Medgar Evers, in Jackson, Miss.)
Long before, KSPC Director Erica Tyron’s 25 years at the station, there was her turn as a DJ in the fourth grade. In a classroom overlooking the schoolyard, her teacher, Mr. Ramirez, set up a white wall speaker, and allotted the kids 20-minute shifts to spin to their little hearts’ content. Tyron’s favorites to play included “Rock Lobster” by the B-52s and ABBA’s “Eagle,” a choice the young, diehard fan would immediately regret because it ran a full six minutes, cutting into her time.

That was back in the day—before music on demand—when pre-Internet, the discovery of music was college radio,” Tyron says. “Once the Internet happened, that really changed things for a time. It was a transition of how students and people in general consume music.”

Where does that leave radio? Tyron says what initially seemed like a threat hasn’t really become one. “I think although there’s obviously a definite advantage to a Pandora service, or anything where you can create your own channels on demand and don’t have to worry about commercials, that’s obviously going to have a draw. But what [radio has] is the character and personality and local content,” she says.

That was back in the day—before music on demand—when people didn’t want to or don’t have time to line up all their playlists. Or maybe they just forgot their iPod that day. I think people still like to be surprised and L.A. is still very much a car culture. Off campus we’re picking up new listeners who are just cruising around the dial, looking for something else to listen to.”

—Sneha Abraham

Cross Country Wins Regionals

Men’s cross country earned its first NCAA West Regional Championship in 31 years by edging out Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on its home course. Ben Girodias ’15 and John Fowler ’16 were first-team All-SCIAC and All-Region selections after earning Top 10 finishes in both races, while Alex Johann ’14, Pryor Stroud ’15 and Steven Or ’16 were second-team All-SCIAC selections. The team also qualified for the NCAA Division III National Championships as a team for the second year in a row.

Women’s Soccer Reaches Record

Women’s soccer set a new school record for wins in a season with 13, breaking the mark set by the 2003 team, which won 11. The Sagehens finished a close second in the SCIAC at 11-3 on the year, behind the 12-2 Cal Lutheran, and were led by SCIAC Player of the Year Aliya Tal ’14, who had 11 goals and six assists, including a hat trick on her senior day when she scored all four goals in a span of six minutes and 18 seconds. Nicole Quilliam ’15 was also named first-team AllSCIAC for the Sagehens.

Football’s Academic All-American

Duncan Hussey ‘13 broke the school record for touch-down receptions in a game with four in a 28-26 loss to Art’s in opening day and earned Capital One First Team Academic All-America honors, as well as the John Zinda award from the SCIAC for character, leadership and sportsmanship.

Back in the Pool

Water polo’s Robert Chew ’14 scored four goals this season, but none could match seeing his father, Steven Chew ’63, score a goal of his own in his final college game. “Getting in the pool after 50 years was a little daunting,” says the elder Chew. “However, I think there were no instructions from Coach [Al] Rodriguez to the current players not to hurt the old guy.”

Andrew Palmer ’16, who was practicing his parallel parking skills in a toy car at age 2, won the Lamborghini World Finals in November. The 19-year-old, who went from driving 80 m.p.h. go-karts to the 160 m.p.h. Super Trofeo Lamborghini all in the span of seven weeks, won the rainy two-day road race in Rome as his dad and a friend cheered him on. With the victory came a big trophy, champagne and a congratulatory text from Olympic gold medalist Bruce Jenner. Back in California, the Beverly Hills Lamborghini dealership loaned him for the weekend one of its $500,000 cars, which Palmer used to give Economics Professor Michael Steinberger a lift to Vons.
Examine the original 17th- and 18th-century maps of the New World at Honnold-Mudd Library and you will find an array of creative geography. But there’s one point on which all seem to be in agreement: California was an island.

Somehow it seems fitting that the story of California should begin with a fabulous tale about a mythical island.

Both the island and the myth, along with the state’s future name, seem to have sprung first from the pen of Spanish writer Garcia Ordóñez de Montalvo, whose lavish romantic novel Las Sergas de Esplandián (The Deeds of Esplandián), published around 1510, described a race of griffin-riding Amazons living in a far-off realm rich in gold and precious stones—“an island on the right hand of the Indies … very close to the side of the Terrestrial Paradise.” He dubbed this imaginary island California, a name that may have been constructed from Latin roots meaning “hot oven.”

So, right from the start, California was portrayed as isolated, rich, strange, adventurous, bigger than life, sunburned and next door to Paradise. Is this starting to sound familiar?

The real California—the Baja part—was first discovered by Europeans in 1533 by an expedition commissioned by Hernán Cortés, the Spanish conqueror of Mexico. Sailing west from the Mexican mainland, the crew set ashore on what they believed to be an island. After their shore party was slain in a clash with the inhabitants, the survivors returned to the mainland with tales of an island full of pearls and other riches.

No one knows exactly when or where place and name actually came together, but at some point in the ensuing years of failed colonization, someone—probably some conquistador familiar with Montalvo’s tale and eager to believe in its treasures—gave the presumed island its suitably mythic name.

Here’s where things get a bit strange. Through the rest of the 1500s and early 1600s, the few surviving maps depicted the west coast of North America as a continuous line and Baja California as a peninsula. Then, in the early 1600s, the supposed island of California suddenly returned to the scene, apparently firing the imagination of mapmakers across Europe. For more than a century thereafter, California would be depicted as a huge, rugged outline separated from the west coast of the North American mainland by a narrow strait.

Perhaps the most intriguing thing about maps from this period is that the truth was already known by the time they were made. As early as 1559, one of Cortés’s lieutenants, Francisco de Ulloa, sailed north and confirmed that the so-called island was actually a peninsula, and by the mid-1600s, the geographic facts of the place had been pretty clearly established by its Spanish masters. So why did the island of California resist reattachment to the mainland for so long?

One practical reason may be that the people most familiar with the actual place weren’t making the maps. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Spanish held sway over much of western North America. Most of the surviving maps from this period, however, were drawn by cartographers in Venice, Paris, Amsterdam and London. These maps were meant for public consumption, so they needed to appeal to the romantic notions of the time. Meanwhile, Spanish mapmakers were drawing their maps behind closed doors to be used by actual navigators, and Spanish officials, jealous of their secrets and worried about foreign intrusions into their New World possessions, had good reason to keep them under wraps—or even to encourage misinformation.

Historian Doris Beale Polk blames the voyage of the famous English explorer (and gentleman pirate) Sir Francis Drake into Pacific waters in 1578 for the myth’s seventeenth-century revival. Confused stories about Drake’s exploits along the west coast shores seem to have lent new strength to the notion that there was a continuous strait separating those lands from the continent.
But by the beginning of the 18th century, the only remaining prop for this geographical blunder seems to have been the persistence of myth. Mapmakers who should have known better still clung to the diminishing evidence that California was an island. Perhaps they were so enthralled by the notion of California as a strange and magical place—a place that simply felt more suitable as an island—that they couldn’t bring themselves to accept the more pedestrian truth.

A lot has changed, of course, since those maps were made. The California of the 1600s was eventually subdivided into three huge, modern states, one north of the border and two south of it. Here in the United States, the 31st state became the biggest, most populous, most diverse, and, in many ways, most controversial state in the Union.

And yet, as a metaphor, the island of California still feels eerily appropriate, even today. Maybe because there’s so much truth in it. After all, as a bio-region, California has been termed an “island on the land,” isolated from the rest of the continent by such natural barriers as deserts and mountain ranges. And from an economic standpoint, the state is frequently described as if it were a separate nation. (With last year’s economic surge, California reportedly regained its theoretical place as the eighth largest national economy in the world, just behind the United Kingdom and Brazil and just ahead of Russia and Italy.) Perhaps most importantly, California continues to occupy a place in the cultural life of our nation that sets it apart. Admired by some as a place of innovation and a harbinger of national change and derided by others as a narcotic in the body politic, intoxicating the rest of the country with its crazy ideas, the state seems to inspire in Middle America just about every emotion except apathy.

In 1747, Ferdinand VI of Spain issued a royal proclamation declaring: “California is not an island.” That may have helped bring an end to the literal vision of California as an enchanted isle, but the idea of California as a quasi-myth—a strange and wonderful place in the distant west where venturesome souls might go to find adventure or wealth or simply a spot in the sun—was just getting started.
FOR PROFESSOR ERIC GROSFILS, THE RIM OF AMBOY CRATER IS THE IDEAL PLACE TO INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO THE JOYS OF GEOLOGY.

A Rim With a View

Story by Mark Kendall / Photos by Mark Wood

1. Amboy Crater
2. The Santa Ana River
3. Anza-Borrego Desert
4. Torrey Pines Mesa
5. The Farallon Islands
6. The Computer History Museum
7. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
8. Donner Memorial State Park
9. The Los Angeles Central Library
More than a decade ago, when Geology Professor Eric Grosfils first started bringing students to Amboy Crater in the Mojave Desert, he dreaded the last stretch of the long trip, each time hoping the rough dirt road and unpaved parking lot had not been washed out in a storm.

Fortunately, the path always was intact and the three-hour bus ride always worth it, Grosfils says, because the strikingly symmetrical cinder cone volcano offers such an accessible, boots-on-the-ground way to teach introductory students about the basics of volcanology.

Since then, new amenities have been put in place—restrooms, a shaded spot and, best of all, paved roads and parking—clearing the way for you, too, to more comfortably visit this desert wonder located right off an old section of Route 66. Reaching the cinder cone simply requires a relatively flat, mile-long hike, and a convenient breach on the west side of the crater wall makes the steep path up to the rim a bit more manageable for those who are in less than impeccable shape. “You can go into the crater and crawl around,” says Grosfils. “It’s fresh. It’s young. The lava flow looks great. The cinder cone is completely intact.”

Grosfils takes students to the crater during the first few weeks of his introductory geology class, which he teaches with a planetary emphasis. The idea is to give them access to a very obvious volcano that they can roam and get a sense of the scale of things. In the class, a lot of numbers are thrown around, Grosfils says, and the cost helps put the figures into context. If the students are huffing and puffing while climbing up the 250-foot-high Amboy Crater, and they know the massive Olympus Mons volcano on Mars is in the ballpark of 14 miles high, “it means something.”

“This is a field trip that’s really about observation,” he explains. “It’s about finding out what you can see in the field and building hypotheses from that—things that are testable. I want the students to be asking questions about what they’re seeing. I want their observations to drive the hypotheses about the processes that go on.”

While up on the rim, he asks the students to look out at the surrounding desert plain and imagine what they would have seen if they had been standing there watching when Amboy first erupted. He has them estimate the thickness of the basaltic lava flow, and later in the term they consider what shape it would take under the conditions of another planet. On Mars, for example, with all other conditions the same, the lighter gravity would most likely lead to a much taller, though less extensive, volcanic flow.

For your trip, you can get a little more down to Earth, taking notice of the two nested areas inside the volcano, evidence of two smaller and later eruptions. You also can figure out the direction of the prevailing winds by noticing the absence of sand on one side, a wind streak (also visible to orbiting spacecraft, like similar features on Mars) that forms on the downwind side of the volcano.

Amboy Crater’s relative youth—Grosfils says that recent estimates put it anywhere from 7,000 to around 80,000 years old—makes it a pristine, unblemished example of a cinder cone volcano. But even if you hear explosions and rumbling, rest assured the dormant volcano is probably not the culprit. The boom-boom-boom is likely coming from the Marine Corps bombing range to the southwest, so, along with taking the usual desert heat precautions, make sure you know where you roam.

TO PROFESSOR HEATHER WILLIAMS, THE SANTA ANA RIVER IS BOTH A SUBJECT OF RESEARCH AND A REMINDER THAT NATURE IS NEVER FAR AWAY. A River Runs Through It...
“This is here, this is accessible to us, even when we think that we are surrounded by nothing more than big box stores and concrete and freeways and noise,” says Williams, a professor of politics who teaches, among other courses, Global Politics of Food and Agriculture. “Putting it in perspective, it’s a metaphor for our ability to access nature in unexpected places. And it presents us with a choice for the future.”

For all the natural beauty of this stretch of river, the spot Williams has picked out cuts through suburban neighborhoods three miles southwest of downtown Riverside. The Santa Ana, surprisingly, is the largest river in Southern California, traveling nearly 100 miles through the Inland Empire and Santa Ana Canyon—where the 91 Freeway cuts through the mountains to Orange County—and on through to the Pacific at the Newport Beach-Huntington Beach border.

This geography represents past and future, and the centrality of water to human settlement—people have lived along the waterway for 9,000 years. And it is the subject of Williams’ book-in-progress, River Underground: The Secret Life of the Santa Ana, which looks at the modern evolution of the river from early flood control efforts through its present condition, amid the region’s expanding population and conflicting demands.

“It’s a convoluted past for this inconsistent ribbon of water. The Santa Ana has raged in massive floods and all but disappeared in droughts. It has had its riverbed paved in sections. And it has been the focus of political battles over who gets to use its water, how it should be managed and the role it plays in regional recreation.”

In fact, there are scores of free access points along the river, from the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains to Williams’ favorite spot here amid the cottonwoods to where the Santa Ana reaches Orange County’s emblematic beaches. More than 40 miles of developed hiking and biking trails along its length offer oases of nature—and a glimpse of the original landscape—amid the SoCal sprawl.

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For Williams, this spot along the river represents what has become a consuming area of academic inquiry and a place to generate and share ideas, as she did last summer with a “dream team” of summer research assistants, including Tara Krishna ’14, Clare Anderson ’15 and Minerva Jimenez, Cal State Fullerton. “But it also has become a temporary refuge, a place where, on a spring day, you would see the willows in all their glory. And you would hear the wind coming through the cottonwoods.”

Professor Robert Gaines’ Sedimentology Students Go to Anza-Borrego Desert for their Final Exam.

PROFESSOR ROBERT GAINES’ SEDIMENTOLOGY STUDENTS GO TO ANZA-BORREGO DESERT FOR THEIR FINAL EXAM.

3. THE DESERT

Early the weekend before Thanksgiving, two SUVs loaded with junior geology majors, one professor, camping equipment and burrito fixings hit the road. The small caravan drives about three hours southeast, traversing interstate, state, county and local roads until finally, the asphalt ends. They head down Fish Creek Wash, a dry riverbed winding its way through dramatically deep stone canyons. Destination? The final exam for Sedimentology.

In the Split Mountain area of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park—America’s largest state park and second largest state park in the continental U.S.—students witness the geologic history of the arrival of the Colorado River and the development of the San Andreas Fault as Baja California was ripped away from the North American Plate, opening the Gulf of California, five million years ago.

“The importance of sedimentary rocks is that they are the Earth’s history,” says Associate Professor of Geology Robert Gaines.

“What’s really cool about Pomona College is instead of having to look at some dusty old samples in boxes, we can go camping, and students can actually put their hands on a really complicated succession and try to figure out what was happening during the deposition of these strata; to reconstruct the ancient environments that were present by looking at signatures in the rocks.”

While the area is a place Gaines and his students explore—which includes wind caves, slot canyons and fossil records like Ice Age mammal footprints—a only accessible to those driving high-clearance vehicles, Anza-Borrego offers a full of well-marked trails (including part of the Pacific Crest Trail) in its diverse, 900 square miles extending from below sea level to 8,000 feet. The park is located mostly in eastern San Diego County, and its natural history and highlights of the area. Consider visiting in February or March to experience the dramatic blooming of desert wildflowers like the chuparosa, chincilweed and dune evening primrose.


—Laura Tiffany
As the 1950s came to an end, Salk was looking to open a top-flight research center. The man who developed the polio vaccine wanted a site where scientists would be supplied by their surroundings. Today, standing at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, you can see what a perfect spot he picked.

Sitting atop a rocky cliff in La Jolla, the world-renowned facility looks out prominently on the Pacific Ocean, offering a scenic vista that’s as dazzling as any place the sun is out, the surf is glittering and the La Jolla bluffs. She knows just about everything about the area, from the history of city land deals to where the eucalyptus trees on the hillsides come from, and her earthy enthusiasm and humor enliven the journey.

“It’s a extraordinary place,” says Mary Walshok, ‘64, who knows the spot well. She works right across the street, as associate vice chancellor for public programs at UC San Diego. “This space speaks most deeply to the character of this region.”

A sociology professor and essayist after expert on San Diego’s economy, Walshok is my personal guide on a tour of Torrey Pines Mesa, a high-wattage biotech cluster that stretches almost 6 miles along the La Jolla bluffs. She knows just about everything about the area, from the history of city land deals to where the eucalyptus trees on the bluffs come from, and her earthy enthusiasm and humor enliven the journey.

As Walshok explains in a new book she has co-authored, Terrestrial and Marine: The Evolution of San Diego’s Innovator Economy, Torrey Pines Mesa has been a catalyst for the region’s prosperity in recent decades, as the city has repositioned itself from a military metropolis to a thriving hub of science and technology innovation. The mesa is home to such heavyweights as the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Qualcomm, General Atomics, the Scripps Research Institute, and the new star on the block, the J. Craig Venter Institute.

Walshok proudly notes that Pomona’s Roger Reville ’29—a UC San Diego pi- oneer and onetime director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography—played a pivotal role in the emergence of Torrey Pines Mesa in the ’70s and ’80s. The Salk Institute, founded in 1960, is largely regarded as the most iconic of the mesa’s inhabitants. It was designed by famed architect Louis Kahn, who deftly captured Salk’s vision of a transcendent place for thought and discovery. At the center of the site is a courtyard separating two uniquely shaped, symmetrical structures—six-story laboratory buildings with dramatic, views of the ocean. A narrow channel of water flows through the middle of the courtyard. The place gives off the vibe of a scientific sanctuary, encouraging creativity and reflection.

The inviting look embodies the architectural character of many of the spacious centers in this biotech cluster, says Walshok. The idea is to create public spaces that are welcoming and open, integrating nature and science and art. There are not labs where researchers work in darkened isolation; rather, the science campuses are popular spots for public lectures, excursions and concerts, Walshok says.

Down the road, at the Scripps Research Institute, a courtyard features a row of bamboo trees, a large open space and a concert hall that’s one of the best in San Diego, Walshok says.

Nearby, UCSD houses the acclaimed La Jolla Playhouse, and across the street from that is the new blufftop campus of the J. Craig Venter Institute. The $37-million, 45,000-square-foot structure officially opened in November, although parts of it are still being completed. Venter is the La Jolla biologist who cracked the human genetic code, putting him on a pedestal that stretches about three miles along the L a Jolla bluffs. She know s just about everything about the area, from the history of city land deals to where the eucalyptus trees on the hillsides come from, and her earthy enthusiasm  and humor en liven the journey.

“The Venter Institute looks clean and contemporary, evoking an elegant, techno style, its design features an open courtyard and lots of glass, wood and concrete. The aesthetic is very 21st century,” notes Walshok. “It’s not like European- style architecture... It’s like what you would see in Hong Kong or Shanghai.”

The distinct architectural touches that flavor Torrey Pines Mesa add an interesting element to this biotech cluster, says Walshok. “It’s like what you would see in Hong Kong or Shanghai.”

The aesthetic is very 21st century, notes Walshok. “It’s not like European-style architecture... It’s like what you would see in Hong Kong or Shanghai.”

The visitor centers are only temporary visits. Still, wildlife-lovers can catch a close view of the action from birding and whale-watching boats that sail from cities in the Bay Area to circle around the islands.

“For the Birds

The Farallon Islands, a windy string of rocks 30 miles off the coast from San Francisco, might seem like an odd place to call a “second home.” But for the La Jolla biologist who cracked the human genetic code, putting him on a pedestal that stretches about three miles along the L a Jolla bluffs. She know s just about everything about the area, from the history of city land deals to where the eucalyptus trees on the hillsides come from, and her earthy enthusiasm  and humor en liven the journey.

“It’s one of my favorite places in the world,“ she says.

Home to the largest seabird colony in the continental U.S., the Farallones are a magnet for ocean wildlife. In summer, seemingly every inch of the place is claimed by thousands of nesting birds fiercely guarding their chicks. During the winter, noisy elephant seals crowd the beaches to give birth to their pups. Meanwhile, great white sharks hunt in the waters offshore. In other months, blue and humpback whales are on the move, following their annual migrations along the coast.

Karnovsky made her first trip to the islands when she was put out of college to work on a project to record shark sightings. She’s returned several times over the years to observe how seabirds such as pelicans and gulls respond to changing conditions in the ocean. Parched at the top of the world food web, these birds are impacted by everything from climate events like El Nino to pollution from plastics and oil spills.

“The Farallon Islands are home to seabirds, elephant seals and biology professor Nina Karnovsky.

For the Birds

On my second trip out there, during a seabird breeding season, I realized that these birds are just such powerful indicators of what’s going on in the ocean. That really turned me on to the idea of using these indicator species in my work, and that’s exactly what I do now,” she says.

A National Wildlife Refuge since 1969, the Farallones are closed to the public, and scientists and students are only allowed for temporary visits. Still, wildlife-lovers can catch a close view of the action from birding and whale-watching boats that sail from cities in the Bay Area to circle around the islands.

“If you’re not susceptible to seasickness, you can go out there and see them,” Karnovsky says.

Karnovsky, who has spent over a year’s worth of time on the Farallones between her different stays, hopes to ship out again soon. In recent years she’s even been able to send some of her students to the islands to gather data for their own summer research projects and senior theses.

“Looking back, I can see it was one of the turning points in my life, where I discovered something that was really exciting,” she says. “It’s nice that I’ve been able to share that with my students.”

—Daniel Gould
FOR TECH WRITER ASHLEE VANCE ‘00, THE BEST WAY TO GRASP THE STORY OF SILICON VALLEY IS TO VISIT THE COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM IN MOUNTAIN VIEW.

Digital History

Story by Steven Boyd Saum       Photo by Charles Barry

How to tell the story of Silicon Valley—land of entrepreneurial visionaries, booms and busts, and the quest for machines to extend the farthest reaches of the human mind? For Ashlee Vance ’00, a writer covering tech for more than a decade, a good place to start is across the street from his house in Mountain View, Calif., at the Computer History Museum. The building is part of the story; here once were headquarters for SGI, maker of hardware and graphics innovations that enabled work on the first Star Wars films and provided sought-after speed for Wall Street trading.

“Computing moves so fast that people don’t take time to stop and document it,” says Vance, author of Geek Silicon Valley and writer for Bloomberg Businessweek. Striving for the new new thing means that there’s a tendency to chew through the old stuff and spit it out. But the museum offers a kaleidoscope history of technology (2,000-plus years and counting) and shows how the ways we work and play have been rewritten by computing, with design aesthetics that range from a wooden abacus to steam punk to the Jetsons.

There’s the big hardware from the pre-digital (and even pre-vacuum tube) age, starting with Charles Babbage’s “Difference Engine No. 2,” a massive calculating machine with metal gears designed in the 1830s. (It was only built last decade, to see if it would actually work. It does.) Another hefty device, Herman Hollerith’s desk-sized “Electric Tabulating System,” used punched cards to compile data for the 1890 U.S. Census.

Think colossal for IBM’s SAGE system, built in the 1950s (at the cost of $94 billion in today’s dollars) to provide warning against a Soviet nuclear attack. (It was only built last decade, to see if it would actually work. It does.) Another hefty device, Herman Hollerith’s desk-sized “Electric Tabulating System,” used punched cards to compile data for the 1890 U.S. Census.

Think cool (including Freon) for the Cray-1, both the fastest computer on the planet after it was finished in 1976, with 60 miles of hand-threaded wire inside, and “the world’s most expensive loveseat,” thanks to a leather bench wrapping around the outside. “It has so much more character than computers today,” Vance says. It’s the story threads that make the museum displays especially compelling, Vance says. Early on, smaller machines which, together with a DIY attitude and a late-60s desire to expand the possibilities of human experience, led to the fun virtual reality goggles (1965) and, through the Homebrew Computer Club, the Apple I.

Don’t miss the game room. Start with the first Pong machine—a curiosity when it was installed in a bar, “but this kicked off the videogame revolution.” That made Atari into the fastest-growing company ever. They’re not any more. But “people tend to underestimate video games,” Vance says. “They push limits of software, of graphics, of silicon.”

The seemingly limitless realm of the Cloud is a place we know well enough now—though where is it? Here’s an early server rack, the machine sagging in the middle, that belonged to a fledgling Google. “They had to use cheap hardware, and the software had to make up for when a disk drive or chip would fail.”

What would Vance imagine for the next wing of the museum? The interplay of hardware and software in what we drive—or drives itself, especially under electric power, and the coming revolution in robotics. Plus, he says, “Down the road is a company working on a flying car.”

FOR TECH WRITER ASHLEE VANCE ‘00, THE BEST WAY TO GRASP THE STORY OF SILICON VALLEY IS TO VISIT THE COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM IN MOUNTAIN VIEW.
Professor Tomás Summers Sandoval Jr. pecked through the front doors of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, a gleaming white church on a steep street at the edge of San Francisco’s Chinatown. Inside, a red light glowed over a patch of black-and-white tile, and a musty odor wafted out, the scent of a gleaming white church on a steep street at the edge of San Francisco’s Chinatown.

Summers Sandoval wrote extensively about the church—a vital religious, educational, political, and social center for Spanish speakers. The church fostered solidarity, holding a unified Mass commemorating the independence days of Mexico and Chile each September. Parishioners also carried on traditions, their homelands.

By 1950, though, Guadalupe Church began to decline. The neighborhood around the church (bounded by Columbus Avenue, Filbert, Washington and Jones streets) grew into the Latin Quarter, a residential and commercial district catering to Spanish speakers. The church fostered solidarity, holding a unified Mass commemorating the independence days of Mexico and Chile each September. Parishioners also carried on traditions, their homelands.

With a story by Vanessa Hua / Photo by Robert Durell

W ith a story by Vanessa Hua / Photo by Robert Durell

A Church

M em ory

7. THE CHURCH

Professor Tomás Summers Sandoval Jr.

PROFESSOR TOMÁS SUMMERS SANDOVAL Jr.

TRACES THE LAST REMNANTS OF A ONCE-LIVELY LATINO COMMUNITY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

In his new book, notes, but the lack of access didn’t impede his research into the last remnant of a once-lively Latino neighborhood.

“That’s history.”

In his book, he traces the roots from the days of the Gold Rush when migrants first arrived in search of fortune. By 1871, Latin American diplomats and business elites started raising money to build a Spanish-language Catholic church to unify a diverse population, hailing from countries that had strong rivalries. “Most of the time when you’re writing about history, the people are no longer there, the community is no longer there,” says Summers Sandoval, standing outside Guadalupe Church. “That’s history.”

Summers Sandoval wrote in a fundraising circular.

THE CHURCH

Founded in 1875 and rebuilt in 1912 after the city’s great quake and fire at a cost of $85,000, the Moorish Gothic style church could hold 700.

Yet even when Latino families moved out of the neighborhood or into the suburbs, many maintained strong ties, returning to Guadalupe Church for baptisms, confirmations, first communions and first confessions.

Declining membership brought the closure of Guadalupe Church in 1991, and the building eventually housed St. Mary’s School for 15 years. The space is now vacant, and efforts by the Archdiocese to sell the historical landmark met resistance from activists who want to preserve the church for use by the Latino community.

From the front steps, there’s a view of the Bay Bridge and the tip of the Transamerica Pyramid, and the street below hums with the sound of cable cars rolling past. The bells are gone from the church’s twin towers, but a stunning mosaic of the patron saint remains on the façade above the front doors, in a red gown and blue mantle adorned with stars, streaming rays of sunshine—the same saint that generations of San Francisco Latinos venerated here.

The church, says Summers Sandoval, remains a reminder of the people’s struggles, “the result of the success of early century immigrants to create a home for themselves in the city, a place they could claim as their own.”

8. THE PARK

PROFESSOR VICTOR SILVERMAN: DONNER STATE PARK MINGLES SUBLIME BEAUTY WITH TRAGEDY.

Set on a clear alpine lake, surrounded by the peaks and forests of the High Sierra, the former Memorial State Park could be nothing more than a pleasant, scenic getaway, if it weren’t for that infamous name.

Just west of the town of Truckee, the park marks the site of one of the grisliest and most harrowing pioneer sagas of the American West. In the fall of 1846 the Donner Party, a group of would-be immigrants to California from the Midwest, found itself snowbound in the Sierra Nevada. As supplies ran out, desperation kicked in, and those who hadn’t already perished began to cannibalize the bodies of the dead. Less than half would survive.

At the park, history buffs can explore a museum that details the Donner ordeal and its place within the larger story of California’s settlement. A sculpted monument recognizes the pioneers who made the arduous trek, standing near the spot where families took shelter in wooden cabins. The park will get a facelift with the completion of the High Sierra Crossing Museum, slated to open this coming fall. The new center will take an updated look at the tangled legacy of pioneer expansion in the region, considering its effects on local environments and Native American communities.

The park’s stunning location also makes it an ideal place to spend time outdoors. There are campites on the shores of Donner Lake, and a light hiking trail that winds around the water. The resorts and nature areas of Lake Tahoe are also a close drive away.

History Professor Victor Silverman, who touched on the Donner story in his book California: On-the-Road Histories, says the site’s appeal may be the powerful contrasts between landscape and history. “To be in a place like Donner Park, which is spectacularly beautiful, and to also think about the tragedy that lies hidden in the past there, is really compelling,” he says.

Silverman, whose work considers the political and cultural forces that have shaped California’s society, thinks the tale of the Donner Party reveals some of the complications that inform our perceptions of the Golden State. “The California myth has always had a light side and a dark side,” he says. “These people come here to make their families prosperous, taking this adventurous journey to the west, but it turned into a horrible disaster.”

—Daniel Gould
Nestled between the skyscrapers of downtown L.A.’s financial district, the Los Angeles Central Library can be hard to spot at first glance. Just on the other side of 5th Street is the U.S. Bank Tower, the tallest building on the West Coast.

Yet Robert Herman ’51 instantly zeroes in on the library entrance, pointing out something that sets it apart from other seemingly deserted downtown attractions on this chilly December morning: “Look at all these people coming in and out. This place is lively; it’s somewhere people actually go!”

An emeritus professor of sociology at Pomona who focused on urban issues for much of his career, Herman is a long-time advocate for the renewal of L.A.’s downtown. He sees the library as a model for a successful public space, serving as both a local landmark and a vibrant hub of activity in the heart of the city.

Herman’s affection for the library grew out of his long-running exploration of the central city by foot. The author of Downtown Los Angeles: A Walking Guide, Herman has given hundreds of walking tours around the city’s hills, plazas and parks.

As he dug into the history of old L.A. haunts while working on his book, Herman found himself making frequent trips to the library to use its archives and records for research. His appreciation for the place stems from being both a pedestrian and an investigator. Plus, there’s the aesthetic appeal: “Architecturally, I think this is one of the best buildings in the city,” says Herman.

The 1926 Art Deco structure was designed by architect Bertram Goodhue and sculptor Lee Lawrie, a renowned duo who crafted other famous sites such as the buildings in San Diego’s Balboa Park. With a blend of Egyptian and Mediterranean revival styles, the library evokes the image of a classical temple or academy, infused with an early-20th-century attitude of modern progress and purpose.

As an example, Herman points to the pyramidal structure that crowns the library’s uppermost floor. Rising from a base of columns, the pyramid is covered in tiles forming an elaborate mosaic of a sunburst and topped by a sculpted torch. Herman says the images represent the light of learning and knowledge, expressing the lofty sentiments of its designers.

Inside, Herman leads the way to the central rotunda, the focal point of the historic building. Wrapping around all four walls is a richly colored mural by famed American illustrator Dean Cornwell, depicting a series of eras in the history of California and the founding of Los Angeles.

On the opposite side of the building is the expansive Tom Bradley Wing, added after a fire in 1986 caused widespread damage. The wing is anchored by an immense glass atrium that extends several stories below ground. As Herman points out, the large windows and glass roofing allow natural light to filter through every level, making the space more inviting.

“Even though it’s underground, it doesn’t feel like you’re in a cave. It’s open and bright down here.”

For Herman, however, the beauty of the building comes second to the service it offers the community. “Anyone can feel comfortable using this place. This is the one spot in all of downtown L.A. that has something to offer to people from all backgrounds.”

He recalls coming downtown in 1989 for the building’s reopening after a series of arson fires and a massive renovation. Lines formed around the block as people crowded to get their new library cards. Parents brought their kids to show them where they had done their homework and checked out their first books as schoolchildren.

“It meant a lot to me to see people sharing these memories with their families, showing their appreciation for the place,” says Herman. “As long as Lee people showing up here, it tells me that this is a place that the city still needs.”
children are always asked what they want to be when they grow up. As far back as he can remember, Juan Jose Guerra ’85 always had the same answer. He wanted to be a doctor. But unlike other boys who grow out of fantasies of being firemen or Air Force pilots, Guerra never let go of his goal. He forged ahead despite his immigrant background, his parents’ modest means, his lackluster test scores and the skeptical advisors who doubted he had the mettle for medicine. He persisted even after “crash-landing” through freshman chemistry at Pomona College and getting a D+ in biology, forcing him to switch majors from pre-med to economics.
There was a different reason for why they let go of their dreams. The journey told that was the end of the story. But in reality, it was just the start to be a basketball player, despite his soccer-size stature. “For me, the future was just so vivid as a physician. That’s all I could see myself doing.”

Guerra, whose other outsized dream was to have thrown flags, jokes Guerra, having experienced the underdog team at the Super Bowl.

He took encouragement from professors outside of his major. “Everyone learns differently.”

The journey to become a physician—to become anything—is different for many people. "I don’t have an answer," says Guerra. "Each person has a different process starts."  

That is very helpful because when they enter Pomona College and feel they have a lifeline, says Garza, who encourages students to feel they have a lifeline, says Garza, who encourages students to select it.

M entoring is key. Establishing a one-to-one personal relation-

It was nerve-racking," he recalls. “My grandm other’s health was in my hands. What if I get it wrong?”

Garza’s fourth-floor office is located in a gritty urban neighbor-

Guerra’s fourth-floor office is located in a gritty urban neighbor-

Dr. Juan Guerra ’85

Come on!" he says, with exasperation still in his voice. "How do you process that as a kid? Being in adult situations at that age was an eye-opener. It was just my reality, and the ele-

That was a disservice," he says. "Everyone learns differently.”

Garza, who in 2007 became the first Mexican citizen to be named full professor at Pomona, is the son of Mexican immigrants, born and raised in the blue-collar community of El Monte. Lopez-Mena—who uses his dual surname from his father, a custodian, and his mother, a homemaker—got a general college scholarship and graduated with a degree in chem-

Guerra’s fourth-floor office is located in a gritty urban neighbor-

They have the privilege of having had doctors at our dinner tables who make us feel that we belong," says Lopez-Mena, who this year is completing his residency in internal medicine at The Johns Hop-

Although Guerra was four when his father brought him to this country in the mid-60s from his native El Salvador, his family settled in mid-town Los Angeles, just west of the Pico-Union neighborhood that would later explode as a dense nucleus of Central American immigration. Within two years, his maternal grandparents came to live with them.

Their arrival would change the course of his life. By the time he was eight years old, Juan was receiving care from a doctor who sometimes saw him in something even at times when I didn’t see it myself.”

In 2007, Guerra decided to go to medical school and didn’t have the privilege of having had doctors at our dinner tables who make us feel that we belong.”

Garza, who in 2007 became the first Mexican citizen to be named full professor at Pomona, is the son of Mexican immigrants, born and raised in the blue-collar community of El Monte. Lopez-Mena—who uses his dual surname from his father, a custodian, and his mother, a homemaker—got a general college scholarship and graduated with a degree in chemistry. But he couldn’t have made it without mentors, he says, including Prof. Garza who encouraged him to do research and made him co-author of a serious scientific paper published in the journal Chemical Physics Letters. Guerra has often heard people say that “when you go to medical school and don’t have the privilege of having had doctors at our dinner tables who make us feel that we belong,” says Lopez-Mena, who this year is completing his residency in internal medicine at The Johns Hop-

Garza’s fourth-floor office is located in a gritty urban neighbor-

Dr. Juan Guerra at his clinic in Oakland, Calif.

The journey to become a physician—to become anything—is different for many people. "I don’t have an answer," says Guerra. "Each person has a different...
He wore the guayabera a conscious choice?

“Correct.”

Does he wear it to send a cultural message, to connect with patients, or just because he likes the style?

“All of the above.”

Many Latinos, Guerra says, cling to superstitious cultural myths about health. For culturally competent doctors, the goal is to dispel those cultural nitwits without condescension or condemnation. Some patients, for example, think insulin actually causes the disease. Guerra was still in junior high school when his own grandfather died of the disease. He was still the cause they see people forced with patients, or just because they felt out of place during a woman’s labor by being able to speak the language was just amazing. When you think of how I was able to calm and soothe patients who were otherwise in a scared state of mind, alone and worried. I think it was almost as effective as a good epidural.

He reinforced his own reason for choosing medicine. That motivation remains as solid as it was during that humiliating admissions interview. When the medical school dean asked why he chose medicine, Guerra explained passionately about his childhood experiences with his grandparents and his desire “to bridge the gap between quality health care and individuals of diverse cultural backgrounds.” The reason was rejected. The increasingly impatient dean asked him three times, waiting for the “right” answer. But the increasingly defiant Guerra gave the same response each time.

Wrong, scolded the dean finally. He should want to be a doctor because I love science,” says Guerra. “It was more because I love my family, and I reflected on the main reason why I love my job, is that I want to be an advocate for people who don’t have a voice and really transform the Latino community into a healthier one.”
The College itself has seen plenty of active growth since its founding in 1887, and the changes in buildings, programs and people make it tempting to see our trees as stalwarts, rooting the campus to a time before its very existence. There is plenty of truth to that notion, particularly when it comes to Pomona’s coast live oaks and sycamores. And yet, the variety behind our trees—which also include cypress from Australia, eucalyptus from China, and coral trees from South Africa—is far more tangle than the neatly-maintained landscape lens. Pomona’s towering sentinels form more than just a scenic canopy. The trees reveal a Golden State story, but one with ties to nearly every continent.

Strolling through campus, Carlberg is quick to identify noteworthy trees with roots around the globe, from “very, very old” Italian stone pines towering over Walker Beach to an unusual Chinese wingnut tree in front of Hartwood. Well-groomed Pomona trees like these helped shape Carlberg’s career path. She was in her early teens when one day her father drove her past campus and she “saw a tree that I knew had been pruned just impeccably.” Soon, she was working for the tree care company that did the work. Later, as she went on to get her degree in landscape architecture, Carlberg became fascinated with Ralph Cornell, Class of 1914 and Pomona’s first landscape architect, and today she treasures her copy of Cornell’s *Conspicuous California Plants* given to her by his widow, Vera. The arborist is only one of a number of Ralph Cornell aficionados still found among plant lovers in the region.

**THOUGH CORNELL GRADUATED** a century ago, his plantings remain a conspicuous presence, and the late landscaping genius is still central to the story of Pomona’s intriguing mix of trees. Cornell was fascinated with foliage from his first semester at Pomona, when he took a botany course with charismatic Biology Professor Charles Fuller Baker. Soon, Cornell had a business venture selling saplings grown from Mexican avocado seeds, and the profits enabled him to go on to Harvard and earn his master’s in landscape architecture. Cornell found his way back to Southern California, and Pomona quickly hired him as the campus’ landscape architect, a role he would hold for four decades.

This all comes from a senior paper by biology major Nik Tyack ’11, who learned about Cornell while examining campus water use on a sustainability fellowship. Tyack became so taken with the work of Pomona’s first...
locales. (In his book, Farmer notes the tragic 1998 incident in which a falling eucalyptus branch killed two Pomona students on their way to class.)

Eventually, the focus at Pomona and beyond began to shift back to native plants. Cornell was on board, returning to his advocacy for native plants later in life. In a 1966 letter urging preservation of the Wash, Cornell sang the praises of its oaks and sycamores. “They are part of the heritage which we should protect and, yet, in much of California, they are being decimated and destroyed by the march of ‘progress’ in a manner most frightening to behold.”

CORNELL WOULD BE REASSURED by the direction Pomona is marching in today. When it comes to campus trees, the emphasis now is on native ones, though not exclusively. And grounds crews keep planting new ones as the College works to preserve—and in some cases expand—green space. As an example, Assistant Director of Grounds Kerin Quaustrom points to a previously-paved area north of Big Bridges recently converted to open space, with walkways and seating. Add to that a perfect row of California fan palms, the only palm native to the state, along with newly-planted sycamores and, of course, oaks, which make up about a quarter of Pomona’s roughly 4,000 trees, reaching into every corner of campus.

The native oaks are “the classic tree of Mediterranean-climate California,” notes Bart O’Brien, co-author of *California Native Plants for the Garden*. Not only are the oaks sophisticated ecosystems unto themselves, he points out, but their acorns also once played a role in the seasonal food supply for Native Californians. Today at Pomona, the old oaks help tie the campus to a time long before the College was established.

Deep in the Wash, where the wild oaks reign, trees Nos. 2110 and 2111 hold their ground—and keep a secret. Arborist Cy Carlberg has a hunch that these two are somewhere in the range of 300 to 400 years old. “It’s just a gut thing,” she says. “I look at old wounds. I look at the way the wood has adapted. It’s just a feeling.” The trees’ size alone doesn’t prove their ages—the rate of growth can vary greatly with water supply. Without intrusive measures, there’s no way to count the rings and know for certain their ages until these oaks come down through rot or storm. And that day, we can only hope, is still centuries away, leaving a lingering mystery to this California tale.

landscape architect that, along with writing the paper, he also co-founded the Ralph Cornell Society, a group of students devoted to tending native plants on campus.

Cornell’s advocacy for California flora is well chronicled in Tyack’s paper, which recounts the landscaper’s pioneering ponderings about the state’s plants and the possibilities of creating a “Genuine Southern California Park.” But once he became Pomona’s landscape architect, Cornell took a very different approach, “designing mind-boggling creations in which plants from areas as far apart as New Zealand, Central Asia, Europe, Australia, Japan, China, South Africa and Southern California mingled in a single landscape,” writes Tyack, now an environmental consultant back East.

Why the shift? Simply put, Cornell cared most about the look and design of his landscaping and, according to Tyack, bringing in plants from around the world was “merely a means to create beauty.” This was the thinking of the time. With a climate unique for North America, the state became a center for arboreal experimentation. “People began to think of California as this place where you had this cosmopolitan mix of trees from around the world,” says Jared Farmer, author of *Trees in Paradise: A California History*. That thinking was fed by the acclimatization movement, which sought to systematically and scientifically spread species globally to increase local biodiversity. “The idea,” Farmer says, “was to find the perfect place” for a particular plant.

The reality of this experiment wasn’t so perfect, with the state’s long-ago eucalyptus craze serving as a case in point. The Australian imports were widely touted as super-trees, Farmer says, growing to great heights in California during their late 1800s heyday, when they were planted along College Avenue at the western edge of campus and in countless other locales across the state. In time, though, these trees brought worries ranging from fire risk to falling limbs, leading to their removal in some
Of Midwives and Harlots

By Lynne Heffley

While conducting doctoral research in York, England, in 2001, historian Sam Thomas ’91 made a discovery that would one day lure him away from his well-charted academic path as a tenured college professor. His find: a will dating back to 1605.

Out of hundreds of wills that Thomas had examined, it was, he says, “one of the most remarkable historical documents that I’ve stumbled across.”

“I, Bridget Hodges of the City of York, Midwife,” it began, and Thomas was hooked.

“This was the first time that I had found a woman [of that period] who described herself not as the ‘wife of,’ or the ‘daughter of,’ or ‘spinster,’ but by her profession,” he says. Just as intriguingly, the will contradicted the historic stereotype of midwives as uneducated and little better than witches. It revealed Bridget Hodges to be a woman of obvious wealth, who specified as her pallbearers members of Parliament, aldermen and lord mayors of the city.

The clincher for Thomas: Bridget had named her many goddaughters—babies that she had delivered—Bridget, too. “It’s one thing to name your own child after yourself, but it takes a certain amount of self-confidence to name other people’s children after you,” Thomas says. “At that point, I was just very much in love with her.”

As a college professor, Thomas would spend nearly a decade specializing in early modern European history and writing scholarly articles that encompassed his Bridget-inspired research into historical midwifery and medicine. He had been teaching at the University of Alabama in Huntsville for three years when his ideas for a novel based on Bridget’s life and times began to take shape, coinciding with an increasing desire to “do the kind of teaching I wanted,” based on his experiences as an undergraduate at Pomona College.

“Having come from Pomona, I thought that teaching should be about the creation of a community and about mentoring students. I couldn’t do that at a large state university.”

Thomas gave up his tenured college track. Moving to Ohio with his wife and two young sons, he began teaching 9th- and 10th-grade history in 2012 at an independent K–12 boys’ school. He also finished his first work of historical fiction, The Midwife’s Tale.

“Bridget Hodges and Thomas were very much in love with each other,” he says. “It’s one thing to name your own child after yourself, but it takes a certain amount of self-confidence to name other people’s children after you.”

The books’ deeply researched historical, social, political and religious framework delves into the role and practices of midwives of the time; they delivered babies, identified dead mothers and the men (and the men responsible), uncovered rapes and deeds of infanticide and witchery, and were not only powerful within the female sphere, but could hold sway in the male power structure of the court system.

“It really set my career as a historian in a different direction as I tried to figure out who these women were,” Thomas says. “Midwives were not witches, they were witch hunters. And that, of course, makes them the ideal sleuth.”

Between his Bridget novels and teaching, Thomas managed to write a scholarly book of academic non-fiction, Creating Communities in Restoration England, about religious persecution and religious tolerance in 17th-century England, published by Brill in 2012. He is also writing a stand-alone novel about witchcraft in colonial America.

“I’ve written about 100 pages,” Thomas says. “Right now, it is about the Indian wars of the late 17th century,” which were “absolutely horrific.”

How does he find the time to write? “I get up at 5, start the coffee and try to bang out 750 to 1,000 words before I go to work. If you do that every day, pages will pile up.”

Thomas grew up in San Diego and Washington, D.C., served in the Army for four years in Germany, Kuwait and Yugoslavia and earned his Ph.D. in history from Washington University in St. Louis.

He says, however, that the serendipitous twists in his career path are rooted in his time as an undergraduate at Pomona College, when, with no real interest in history and little enthusiasm for early mornings (“I just wanted to sleep in,” he says), Thomas signed up for an 11 a.m. class in Western Civilization, then taught by History and Classics Professor Kenneth Wolf.

“I didn’t know why I was in college until I walked into that classroom,” says Thomas. “That’s the beauty of the liberal arts education that you can get at Pomona. It prepares you for absolutely anything. I’ve been an Army officer; I’ve taught college; I now teach high school; I write novels; I’ve written history books—and all of that goes back to Pomona and to that 11 a.m. Western Civ class with Ken Wolf.”
The Instructor:

Cameron Munter is a veteran diplomat who joined the Foreign Service in 1999 and served as a “professor of practice” in international relations. As U.S. ambassador to Pakistan from 2010 to 2012, he guided relations between the two nations during a period of crisis, including the killing of Osama bin Laden. Among other diplomatic assignments, Munter served in Iraq, overseeing civilian and military cooperation in planning the drawdown of U.S. troops, and in Serbia, the Czech Republic and Poland. He received a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. from Cornell University.

class acts

Leaks and Firestorms in Class with Professor Cameron Munter

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Civil-Military Relations in U.S. Foreign Policy looks at how relations between civilian and military branches in the United States have developed historically and how they affect the formulation and execution of foreign policy. It seeks to understand how civilians and soldiers approach problems differently and how historical experience, bureaucratic habits and philosophical differences can paint them at odds.

Ben: Are you talking more about spying foreign military or how we’re talking about domestic spying. Foreign spying in general is kind of an accepted thing.

Munter: No, not at all.

Ben: Not as much, but domestic spying gets me because it’s shrouded in deep secrecy. The way the administration acted after the NSA revelation, trying to tar and feather the guy’s name and trying to under-play and downplay that is kind of a perversion. The whole process itself, there is no transparency anywhere. It seems very anti-democratic.

Munter: I think it’s one thing to say the Espionage Act is a thing that, you know, the state song of Maryland is the Espionage Act. It’s a veteran diplomat who joined the Foreign Service in 1999 and served as a “professor of practice” in international relations. As U.S. ambassador to Pakistan from 2010 to 2012, he guided relations between the two nations during a period of crisis, including the killing of Osama bin Laden. Among other diplomatic assignments, Munter served in Iraq, overseeing civilian and military cooperation in planning the drawdown of U.S. troops, and in Serbia, the Czech Republic and Poland. He received a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. from Cornell University.

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We can say 9/11 was a pretty serious time.

tional circumstances, pretty serious times.

outside government.

scares me more.

basically for the period of the Civil War,

logical issue, which is both inside and

sector as well. And that, honestly, is what

textualize it in the terms that it’s not just

here is our hero Abraham Lincoln who, because there is

somewhere bigger, which is the techno-

ous as they might be, because there is

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logical issue, which is both inside and

outside government.

Aidan: It’s such a slippery slope that there are going to be abuses and that brings up the question of whether you have to have one extreme, no surveillance, or you have to recognize that it will be abused, and I think most Americans aren’t willing to have no surveillance.

Munter: So there is the permanent war footing argument and the violation of civil liberties argument. Obviously, the American public want something in be-

tween; they want to be safe and they’re willing to pay a certain price in order to be safe, but they don’t want to lose the essence of what it means to be Americans and have freedoms, which is not satisfying intellectually but pretty realistic.

Charlotte: I was going to say that it’s re-

ally a generational thing. My parents were vehemently opposed to wiretapping, do-

mestic surveillance, where most of the people I’ve talked to don’t really care.

Munter: Because they’re using it.

Charlotte: Yeah, we’ve grown up where
everything is totally public. When it
comes down to the message Snowden is making about why this is wrong, most people in my generation probably don’t relate.

Munter: There are reasons why we keep secrets. If I’m in Iraq or Libya, people tell you things in confidence, and they tell you things at the risk of their lives, and you keep that confidence because that’s your job.

Ben: When you say secrets are kept for the reason, the question is who is decid-
ing the reason for that. Obviously, in the example you mentioned it’s for national security, people’s jobs, but I think when it stays to things that would portray the U.S. poorly or things that the U.S. is doing that are illegal, then I think that borders the line when secrets should be revealed.

Nick: My problem with Snowden was for him to take this issue into his own hands and to leak it to the public. I think it’s not really up to an individual to make that call.

Munter: Arguing uncharacteristically on Snowden’s behalf, isn’t that what a citizen is supposed to do, to some extent? Isn’t civil disobedience, from Gandhi to Martin Luther King, part of our tradition?

Nick: Unless you have a viable alternative like a legitimate pathway to share that in-

formation.

Munter: But is the issue here simply the amount of information we’re gathering? The whole point of 9/11 was that do-

mestic and foreign intelligence had different pieces of intel and didn’t bring it together, which was part of what led to the Homeland Security that we know and love. Now that we have that, is there such a massive amount of material to deal with that no one can pick up his or her eyes and ask where we are going strategically?

—Mary Marvin

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everything is totally public. When it
comes down to the message Snowden is making about why this is wrong, most people in my generation probably don’t relate.

Munter: There are reasons why we keep secrets. If I’m in Iraq or Libya, people tell you things in confidence, and they tell you things at the risk of their lives, and you keep that confidence because that’s your job.

Ben: When you say secrets are kept for the reason, the question is who is decid-
ing the reason for that. Obviously, in the example you mentioned it’s for national security, people’s jobs, but I think when it stays to things that would portray the U.S. poorly or things that the U.S. is doing that are illegal, then I think that borders the line when secrets should be revealed.

Nick: My problem with Snowden was for him to take this issue into his own hands and to leak it to the public. I think it’s not really up to an individual to make that call.

Munter: Arguing uncharacteristically on Snowden’s behalf, isn’t that what a citizen is supposed to do, to some extent? Isn’t civil disobedience, from Gandhi to Martin Luther King, part of our tradition?

Nick: Unless you have a viable alternative like a legitimate pathway to share that in-

formation.

Munter: But is the issue here simply the amount of information we’re gathering? The whole point of 9/11 was that do-

mestic and foreign intelligence had different pieces of intel and didn’t bring it together, which was part of what led to the Homeland Security that we know and love. Now that we have that, is there such a massive amount of material to deal with that no one can pick up his or her eyes and ask where we are going strategically?

—Mary Marvin

From the Reading List:
### How Your Gifts Support Daring Minds

**Gifts from 16,457 alumni, parents, students and friends of the College lifted Campaign Pomona: Daring Minds above the $200 million milestone late last year.** Launched in 2010, the campaign already has provided funding for initiatives to support students and faculty, expand financial aid, build new facilities and increase programming in the arts and music. Your gifts have:

- **Expanded financial aid**
- Providing an affordable education to every admitted student remains the College’s top priority. Gifts of all sizes have helped meet this growing need for financial aid, which supports 56 percent of all Pomona students this year.
- **Created a summer internship program**
- Since 2011, 80 students have participated in paid summer internships in eight states and 10 countries. More than 125 parents helped spearhead the drive to raise funding for internships.
- **Increased support for summer research**
- More than $8 million has been raised for student summer research in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.
- **Built two residence halls**
- Sontag and Pomona halls house 153 seniors in residences that meet the nation’s most stringent environmental standards.
- **Contributed to the cost of two important new academic buildings**
- A new Millikan Hall will feature a digital planetarium, state-of-the-art labs and innovative classrooms. The new center for studio arts will have cutting-edge facilities and flexible studio spaces that invite collaboration.
- **With less than two years left to reach our goal of $250 million, we need your help to fulfill our promise to faculty and students, and to support, challenge and inspire the next generation of Daring Minds.**

**Thank you!**

To learn more about how to support Campaign Pomona: Daring Minds, go to www.pomona.edu/giving or call Pamela Bensard, Vice President for Advancement, at 909-621-8192

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### Story by Sneha Abraham / Photos by John Lucas

**Mowry Baden’s art** has deep Pomona College roots. He started here as a student and then came back to campus later as an art professor, department chair and gallery director from 1968 to 1971.

Long based in Victoria, B.C., Baden ’58 is known for his large-scale kinetic sculptures. “Dromedary Mezzanine,” on view at the Pomona College Museum of Art through April 13, is a tall platform bicycle that a museum visitor pedals to reach four wall-mounted tents containing tools—an effort that is both exercise and meditation for the participant. Baden’s body-oriented, interactive works have impacted generations of Pomona students and garnered him wide respect.

**Q:** What’s the philosophy behind moving sculpture? **A:** Almost all of my working life as a sculptor I’ve dedicated my energies to capitalizing on the physical energies of the period. So often people ask me, “What is your medium?” I say, exertion. Not to exhaust but the exertion of the viewer, and this involves so often intercepting their habitual habits, gestural habits; intercepting those habits and sending them in unexpected directions.

So the viewer makes a discovery, or several discoveries, about the way their mind and body collaborate—and we call that kind of event an illusion, a phantom. This sculpture (“Dromedary Mezzanine”) capitalizes on the viewer’s energy. To ensure that the viewer engages with the work as long as possible, I’ve put these little destinations, chambers, high on the wall and each chamber contains a tool. When I acquired the tools I didn’t know their function; they’re very old, they’re out of use. So old are they, we have no idea how to put them into use, so that each is a mystery.

This sculpture tries to do two things at once, exertion and the passing and pondering of these mystery objects.

**What do you find most compelling about this kind of work?** **A:** The central objective is to get into the sensory, to get behind the external of the viewer, to surprise her with her own perceptual habits, which she thinks she knows from A to Z, but she doesn’t. So the sculpture opens a window into that internal space and she is surprised.

Then another layer consists of the signaling that goes on between her and the other people in the room. So she comes, she engages...
with this, her friend or a stranger watches her and waits her turn. But sometimes her friend is too timid, sometimes her friend is too self-conscious, sometimes her friend is not appropriately dressed. No matter, because just the act of watching her makes her friend experience the same things. Sometimes her friend is inappropriately dressed. No matter, because just the act of watching her makes her friend experience the same things.

Q: How did your Pomona experience at those different stages—first as a student, then as a professor, then as a gallery director—impact your art?
A: In this group of exhibitions, the museum is presenting drawings and archival materials from the Pomona College Art Gallery’s collection. In this group of exhibitions, the museum is presenting drawings and archival materials from the Pomona College Art Gallery’s collection. In this group of exhibitions, the museum is presenting drawings and archival materials from the Pomona College Art Gallery’s collection. In this group of exhibitions, the museum is presenting drawings and archival materials from the Pomona College Art Gallery’s collection. In this group of exhibitions, the museum is presenting drawings and archival materials from the Pomona College Art Gallery’s collection.

After finishing up his Fulbright scholarship studying urban health policy in Montreal, Michael O’Shea ’11 took a position as the Education/USA officer in Canada, working with Fulbright and the U.S. Embassy. Once in Ottawa, O’Shea was in for a surprise: he encountered two other Saghalins at the embassy. First, he met Diane Sovereign ’87, the U.S. cultural attaché to Canada. Soon they found Bob Perls ’79, serving in Ottawa on his second consular tour. It was her father who prompted her to reconsider her ideas of being a diplomat. She had accomplished her International Relations major at Pomona, and so Sovereign joined the State Department. She moved to Brussels for her first post in 2002, which she described “as a fantastic collision of my IR studies, my French language skills, my law degree, and my love of chocolate and beer.” Ten years and several locations later, she arrived in Ottawa.

Bob Perls studied government while at Pomona, but he too pursued other paths upon graduation. He founded and ran a medical technology company for 25 years, eventually entering politics when he was elected to the New Mexico state legislature for two terms. Perls sold his company in 2008 and joined the State Department for the Foreign Service. He was sent to Frankfurt, and then two years later to Ottawa, which he says is a “great city with great cycling and outdoor activities.” Soon, he’ll be headed to Pakistan on his next appointment, but for now there are still three Saghalins churning out the embassy in Canada.

--- Emma Payne ’14

The Canadian Connection

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--- Emma Payne ’14
Alexandra Gutowski ’13

Learning on the Ground
Living and studying with a very interna-
tional group of students, Gutowski says she’s started to make some exciting progress since arriving last fall. “What’s great is that I’m getting to the point where I’m learning about other things through this language. I can turn on the news or pick up an article, and really un-
derstand the bulk of it.” “This is a big breakthrough for me,” she says. “It’s getting to the point ‘Outside of class,’ Gutowski spends a lot of her free time with friends and classmates exploring what the city has to offer, including mu-
seum exhibits, lectures and film festivals. Gutowski says that her experiences in the Middle East so far have opened her eyes to the complexities of the region. Meeting people from many different countries and having to find her way in an unfamiliar place has been a challenge, but also a cause for growth. “Coming to Doha was a good experience. It woke me up to the fact that I don’t know everything and there’s so much that I have to learn.”

Shaping her path
An international relations major, Gutowski says she’s always drawn to public service. But her classes at Pomona were what stoked her passion for foreign affairs. She points to Professor David Elliott as a key influence. “I’m truly indebted to him, not just for shaping me into someone who could pursue foreign policy as a career but as someone who always wants to keep learning.”

Going forward, Gutowski wants to focus on national security is-
Sues and Middle Eastern politics. After her scholarship ends in June, she hopes to find work with a research institute or a branch of gov-
ernment like the State Department. She’s already taken a first step by
landing an internship this spring as a foreign policy researcher at the
US Department of State. “This is a big perspective on the path she wants to take in the future.

“Especially in the first year out of college, people feel like they have to figure out where they want to be,” she says. “But it takes awhile to get to where you want. It might not happen right away.” —David Gould

Katherine Hagedorn, Professor of Music

Katherine Hagedorn, professor of music and director of Pomona’s Ethnomusicology Program died at home in Claremont on Nov. 12, 2013 after a long struggle with cancer. She was 52.

A member of the Pomona College music faculty since 1993, Hagedorn was a noted ethnomusi-
cologist, specializing in Afro-
Cuban and Balinese musical traditions and the link between rit-
asal and folkloric music and musical g
o

Theological Studies, The Performance of Afro-Cuban Sanctos, for which she won the 2002 Alan Megram Prize for best ethnography, as well as several scholarly papers and reviews. She was recently awarded a National Endowment for the Arts New Directions Fellowship in 2005.

At Pomona, she taught courses in the performance traditions of Latin America and the African Diaspora, Roma performance and gender in music, and oversaw Pomona’s Balinese Gamelan, Afro-Cuban Drumming and other non-Western ensembles. Known as an inspirational and gifted teacher, Hagedorn was honored in 2000 as the California Professor of the Year, and in 2002, she received a Wag Award for excellence in teaching.

In 2012, she completed a three-year appointment as associate dean of the college. She also served from 2003 to 2005 as co-coordinator of the Gender and Women’s Studies Program, and for a time as a faculty resident advisor.

In a message to the College community, President David Or-
obey wrote, “Over the past few years, I was fortunate to get to
know Katherine in a variety of professional capacities… I knew her as an inspirational teacher and scholar, a caring administrator and, quite simply, a remarkable and inspirational human being with a powerful ability to learn and to working with young people. For all of us at Pomona College, this is an incalculable loss.”

Hagedorn received her bachelor’s degree magna cum laude from Tufts University, with a major in Russian, Spanish and
English and a minor in music (piano performance). She earned an M.A. in international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in 1985. She worked as a White House fellow and on the Afghanistan desk of the State Department before going on to Brown University, where she earned her master’s degree and her doctorate in ethnomusicology. She was the author of Divine Utterances: The Performance of Afro-Cuban Sanctos, for which she won the 2002 Alan Megram Prize for best ethnography, as well as several scholarly papers and reviews. She was recently awarded a National Endowment for the Arts New Directions Fellowship in 2005.

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These “stereoviews” of the natural wonders of Yosemite were taken in the 1870s by photographer Martin Mason Hazeltine (1827–1903), who moved to California from Vermont in the late 1860s. They are part of a collection of 53 such images (plus one duplicate) in the special collections of Hoonold-Mudd Library. In order to give our readers the full stereoscopic experience, we have also transformed each of these into a 3D anaglyph. A fifth image may be seen on the back cover of this issue.

Cryptic Crossword
by Lynne Willems Zold ’67

DIRECTIONS: Cryptic puzzle clues have two parts—a simple definition and a “cryptic” clue such as an anagram, a homophone, two definitions, a word with added or deleted letters, or an answer hidden in the clue or in the initial capitals. Example—Clue: “Tree got mixed up in mess. Period.” Answ er: “semen.” (Definition: “Period.” Cryptic clue: anagram, signaled by “mixed up,” combining “tree” and “mess.”) Answers are on page 55.

ACROSS
1. Issue puzzle. (7)
6. Knockaround style. (3)
7. Put pressure on surgeon who has no child. (3)
8. Primarily, outside Neptune Earth is singular. (3)
9. On or about Jordan’s royalty. (4)
10. Chester confused nobles. (7)
11. Original educator assigned class homework per person. (4)
12. Almost half of poisons are ingested in the Pacific. (3)
13. Didn’t tell the truth about not working. (4)
14. Cheater confused rabbi. (7)
15. Original educator assigned class homework per person. (4)
16. Denier gets some energy and exercises but still wants more. (7)

DOWN
1. Organic compound said to be for a person between 13 and 18. (7)
2. Propel center to unclose. (3)
3. Lunched but traded bacon bite for lettuce leaf when pushed into it. (7)
4. Begone! skinny self. (3)
5. Turner takes time out for a brief minute and is happier. (7)
6. Told to help get a summer drink. (3)
12. Thad’s hasn’t said. “Reversed the 21st letter.” (3)
Yosemite by Stereoscope

More 3D images from 1870s California on page 54

(3D GLASSES INSIDE)