A couple of summers ago, I was invited to speak to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, a gathering of federal judges from the Western states, about the state of criminal justice and the campaign to reform it. I thought I had learned some lessons as editor of The Marshall Project, a nonprofit news organization focused on our troubled system of crime and punishment, but I’m not a lawyer. As if addressing a ballroom full of judges was not intimidating enough, I was scheduled to speak after Bryan Stevenson, the charismatic lawyer and champion of social justice. Anyone who saw his 2016 talk to a packed Bridges Auditorium at Pomona will know this is like having your cello recital follow Yo Yo Ma. I complained to my audience that this was a clear violation of the Eighth Amendment prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment. I think that’s the only laugh I got. With a bit of updating, however, the lessons stand up pretty well.

In November 2016 a kind of fatalistic gloom settled over the advocates of reforming the criminal justice system. With a chest-beating president, a show-no-mercy attorney general and a Congress that has become even more polarized than it was in President Obama’s time, reform advocates said any serious fixes to the federal system were unlikely. So reformers consoled themselves by looking to the states. After all, most of law enforcement, most of criminal jurisprudence and most incarceration takes place at the state or local level. My assignment today is to survey reform efforts at the state level and draw some tentative lessons from their experience.

“Reform” is one of those ambiguous words that mean different things to different people. For our purposes, I think of reform as something that aims to REDUCE the numbers of Americans who are removed from society and deprived of their freedom, and to do it WITHOUT making us less safe. In 1972, when I was near the beginning of my newspaper life a little north of here at The Oregonian, 93 out of 100,000 Americans were in state or federal prisons. By 2008 the incarceration rate had grown nearly six-fold, from 93 to 536, and it has hovered in that vicinity ever since. That’s not counting the hundreds of thousands held in county jails on any given day—or those confined in the juvenile justice system or immigrant detention. We are world leaders in locking people up.

Every year about 650,000 of those prisoners are released back into the world. We know that most of them will be unemployed a year later and that two-thirds of them will be rearrested within three years. As a strategy for keeping us safe, mass incarceration has not been a roaring success.

Lesson #1 from the experience of the states is this: It is possible to reduce incarceration and crime at the same time. Between 2010 and 2015, 31 states reduced both crime and imprisonment. In the 10 states with the largest declines in imprisonment, the crime rate fell an average of more than 14 percent.

New York City, where I live, has slashed the crime rate while, simultaneously, sharply reducing arrests, incarceration—in particular the jailing of juveniles—and misdemeanor summonses. Stop-and-frisk is no longer routine. The city is a safer place and seems to have found the virtues of a lighter touch: New Yorkers who do not accumulate arrest records and jail time are more likely to stay employed, in families and out of trouble.

This does not mean that reducing incarceration necessarily leads to a drop in crime. Correlation is not causality. The question of why the crime rate declined is a subject of heated debate among social scientists. One of my colleagues at The Marshall Project wrote a piece we called “Ten Not Entirely Crazy Theories Explaining the Great Crime Decline.” One thesis our writer examined is that after Roe v. Wade the legalization of abortion meant fewer unwanted children who were more likely to become delinquents. Other researchers have surmised that removing lead from paint and fuel has made for a less criminogenic environment. Another theory credits technology: Anti-theft devices in cars and the spread of online banking make it harder for criminals to profit. Yet another theory is that the baby boomers just aged out of crime, which tends to be a young person’s game. Most experts give some credit to...
the increased deployment and improved equipping of police. And, of course, some of the decline is a result of the fact that more bad guys were locked up, though that is a very expensive way to keep communities safe.

Whatever the factors responsible for the relatively low crime rate, the evidence from the states is that reducing incarceration is compatible with reducing crime. Obviously, a lot depends on HOW you reduce prison populations, which is where the states have much to teach us.

Lesson #2: The embrace of criminal justice reforms is bipartisan. This is one of those rare issues in our polarized country where activists on the left and right have found a patch of common ground.

On the left, criminal justice has become an obligatory plank in the platforms of virtually every candidate to be the Democratic presidential nominee. On the right, we have fiscal conservatives who see our prisons as wasteful, libertarians who see aspects of the system as inhumane.

There are of course issues where left and right still part company. Controlling the proliferation of guns remains a political third rail. The left wants to talk about race, and the right mostly does not. But on issues like pretrial diversion, indigent defense, sentencing, parole, rehabilitation, solitary confinement, voting rights for the formerly incarcerated and bail and asset forfeiture, you found the Koch brothers arm-in-arm with the ACLU. In 2018, the First Step Act, a package of modest steps to mandatory sentencing and prison conditions, passed Congress with huge bipartisan majorities. The injustices and unintended consequences of American punishment have no captivated public concern that even President Donald Trump voices an occasional platitude about “giving our fellow citizens a chance at redemption.”

Trump signed the First Step Act into law, though his administration has shown little enthusiasm for enacting it.

Conservatives rightly boast that red states have often led the way, starting with Texas during the governorship of Rick Perry. In the past decade, that state has closed four prisons, reduced its incarceration rate by 20 percent and invested $2.40 million in alternatives such as drug treatment. The Texas experience is often cited as evidence that politicians can support so-called smart-on-crime reforms and live to tell about it.

The key to success in Texas was money. The state invested in alternatives, which meant judges had greater confidence that when they diverted someone to drug treatment, there would actually be drug treatment.

Two caveats regarding the Texas Story: First, Texas started out with one of the highest incarceration rates in the United States, so it had a long way to go, it is still the seventh most incarcerated state. Second, Texas accomplished its reductions by redirecting money, not by changing the legal infrastructure. Other conservative states—Georgia, South Carolina, Utah to name a few—have tackled the structure of criminal justice—reducing some felonies to misdemeanors, revising mandatory minimum sentences and three-strikes laws, funding community-based alternatives to incarceration, expanding eligibility for parole and removing barriers to reentry.

The most recent convert is Louisiana, a state long known among criminal justice reformers as a contender in every race to the bottom. Louisiana passed a remarkably comprehensive legislative overhaul. That feat was a product of strong leadership, intense lobbying by reform groups across the political spectrum and a corrections system bursting at the seams.

Lesson #3: Probably the most effective way to reduce incarceration is not to lock people up in the first place—at least not so many, and not for so long.

#3

Probably the most effective way to reduce incarceration is not to lock people up in the first place—at least not so many, and not for so long.
One is less reliance on money bail. The people most likely to spend time in jail awaiting trial are not the worst offenders but the poorest offenders, and even a short stint in jail increases the odds that an offender will ultimately end up in prison. A number of jurisdictions have curtailed the use of cash bail—most notably New Jersey, which now requires judges to hold hearings shortly after arrest to determine whether a defendant can be safely released before trial. Since the new procedure began, the average daily jail population has dropped 19 percent. [A referendum to replace bail with risk assessments in California will be on the ballot in November 2020.]

A second measure aimed at reducing prison intake is raising the age at which juveniles are thrown into the adult system, which too often subjects them to predators and leads many to careers in crime. In the last few years, Louisiana, South Carolina, New York and North Carolina have raised the age to what is now the national norm—18. There’s been talk of Connecticut becoming the first state to raise the cap to 21. In March 2018, Gov. Dannel Malloy announced the opening of a special corrections unit for young adults as old as 25.

A third way to slow the traffic into prisons is to provide better—and earlier—indigent defense. And a fourth is to elect prosecutors who don’t regard maximum prison sentences as the main measure of job performance. In recent years several jurisdictions—including Chicago, St. Louis, Houston, Denver, Tampa and Orlando—have elected prosecutors who campaigned on reform platforms.

**Lesson #4:** Don’t neglect the back end. There is abundant evidence of the effectiveness of college and vocational programs behind bars, regular contacts with family, entry and parole and probation programs that have the resources and the mandate to land their clients safely back in society. A RAND Corporation study in 2014 concluded that “inmates who participated in correctional education programs had 43 percent lower odds of recidivating”—a verb that makes my inner English major cringe, but suggests a pretty good return on investment.

**Lesson #5:** Be wary of reformers who suggest that you can cut incarceration drastically by setting free low-level, nonviolent offenders—in particular, low-level drug offenders. More than half of those incarcerated in state prisons are there for violent crimes. Only 16 percent are in for drug crimes, not all of them nonviolent. Decriminalizing marijuana will reduce incarceration, but to have any hope of restoring the incarceration rates of the 1990s means reducing sentences and stepping up rehabilitation for people convicted of violent crimes. The reality is: The reduction of incarceration is likely to happen incrementally. After all, the state that has been downsizing its prison population longest and most aggressively—California—has cut a bit more than 25 percent, and no other state has come close.

**Lesson #6:** Be wary of reformers who suggest that prison reform inevitably means a huge windfall for taxpayers—10 billions of dollars back in our pockets. That remains to be seen, for two reasons. First, the alternatives to prison aren’t free. To keep crime in check, money not spent on actually confining offenders has to be spent on mental health and addiction treatment, more hands-on probation and, ideally, education, job training and housing support. Moreover, some states have found that the beneficiaries of prison—the corrections staff, the contractors, the politicians, the unions—are ferocious defenders of corrections budgets.

Here’s another way of looking at the cost of mass incarceration, though. The most commonly cited estimate of how much it costs to maintain the country’s prisons and jails is $80 billion a year. If you throw in things like health and pension benefits for prison staff, the cost to governments is more like $90 billion. But a 2016 report by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis attempted to add up the “social costs” of criminal justice as we practice it, a toll that includes lost wages, the cost of visitation, the higher mortality rates of both former inmates and their infant children, child welfare payments, evictions and relocations, divorces, diminished property values and the increased criminality of children with incarcerated parents. The bottom line they came up with was one trillion dollars a year, nearly six percent of GDP.
Lesson #7: Metrics matter. It’s impossible to know what works and what doesn’t without reliable data, and reliable data is often in short supply. Our data guru at The Marshall Project, Tom Meigher, wrote a piece entitled “13 Important Questions About Criminal Justice We Can’t Answer”—can’t answer because the data is unreliable or unavailable. They include such questions as how many juvenile offenders graduate to become adult offenders, how many people have served time in prison or jail, how many people in America own guns and what percentage of inmates eligible for parole are actually granted release from prison. The Washington Post and the Guardian set out separately to count the number of civilians killed each year by police in the line of duty. The number they came up with was about 1,000. That is about double the official estimates from the Department of Justice—an astonishing margin of error.

As important as having good data is knowing what to do with it. That brings us to the debate underway in many states over the use of risk-assessment tools, basically tests aimed at helping make wise judgments at critical moments in the handling of the accused or convicted. Risk assessment tools are algorithms that examine a subject’s history to mitigate the chances of re-arrest. There are various tools for various applications: to help determine whether a defendant is a flight risk, how severe a sentence should be, whether an inmate is a fit candidate for parole and what kind of supervision an offender requires upon release. The left generally hates risk assessment, because the inputs may include factors like employment stability and past encounters with the law that weigh more heavily against communities of color. Advocates of risk assessment tests respond that a) they are getting better, both more accurate and less biased; b) they are meant to assist judges and parole boards, not preempt professional judgment; and c) properly used, risk assessment tools can assure people in the system get the support they need to stay out of prison.

I’m not a worshipper at the shrine of technology, but if I were in your robes, I think I’d rather have a sense of the odds.

Lesson #8: Many states are finding that incentives work better than mandates. A good example is an approach being used in about a dozen states. Take a defendant who is probably not a threat, who would do fine returned to the community under proper supervision. But the judge knows “proper supervision” is unlikely because the local probation system is threadbare. Suppose the state agrees that for every dollar it doesn’t have to spend locking people up, it will send 40 cents to the county to pay for more robust supervision? The state saves money, the county improves its oversight of former inmates, and the judge has greater assurance that the subject will be supervised.

And finally...

Lesson #9: The states have wide latitude to experiment, and they are seizing it, but the federal government sets a tone, and you will hear complaints from several states that the new administration has had a chilling effect on state legislation. When the attorney general instructs federal prosecutors to charge the maximum, as Jeff Sessions did early in the Trump administration, when his response to a national opioid epidemic is to yearn for a revival of a discredited 1990s anti-drug program, that sends a message to state legislators contemplating new approaches.

Moreover, federal programs, especially Medicaid, which was expanded to include former inmates under the Affordable Care Act, can be essential to getting released offenders up on their feet.

In other words: What happens in Washington doesn’t always stay in Washington.

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As Free as We Can Be

It’s hard to think of two greater opposites than a school and a prison. The former is about freeing the mind—the latter, about the loss of all freedom. Of the two, I believe schools are by far the more important.

Pause for a moment to imagine a world in which we live, pause for another moment to take stock of where we are more broadly. The United States has the highest number of incarcerated individuals in the world and the largest percent of its population in prison of any country worldwide. Most of those individuals do not have access to educational opportunities, and if they do, the opportunities are largely vocational or max out at high school level courses. However, a variety of studies have shown that participating in an educational program in prison is the single best way of avoiding a return to prison for individuals who have been released.

Being included in learning, however, doesn’t just mean that those formerly imprisoned might live lives of productive freedom. In my estimation, being included in learning means being given access to one of the key things that makes us human: the possibility of gaining from the past in order to make the future possible.

So Pomona proudly participates in providing a liberal arts education in California prisons, and we will continue to do so. We will continue to share the liberal arts with as many students as we can at the College and across the Los Angeles area. We will continue to produce new knowledge and to test and share what is already known, for the “liberal” of the “liberal arts” originally (taken from the Latin) meant, and still means, freedom—the knowledge needed to enable all of us to be as free as we can be.

—G. Gabrielle Starr
President of Pomona College
All In on Voter Turnout

At a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in November, Lucas Carmel ’19 was honored as one of 10 students from across the country on the “All In” Campus Democracy Challenge Student Honor Role. The award is in recognition of his leadership last year in a nonpartisan voter participation drive on Pomona College’s campus.

Carmel, alongside Michaela Shelton ’21, led efforts to get out the vote at Pomona. Their week paid off with voter turnout among Pomona College students almost tripling from the 2014 to 2018 midterm elections, according to a report released Sept. 20 by the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE). In 2018, 17.4% of Pomona College students voted compared to 13.4% in 2014. A group of students at Pomona College led by Carmel and Shelton began to organize a voter education effort to get out the vote in the summer of 2018. That’s when the group joined the “All In” Campus Democracy Challenge, a national awards program that encourages colleges and universities to increase student voting rates.

“So many people worked to promote voting on campus last fall, and today we get to see proof of just how successful that effort was,” Carmel said in September when the results were announced. “I think Pomona’s status as a leader in college voting has been cemented. The challenge now becomes: How do we maintain and continue to promote voter engagement on campus?”

Carmel, who graduated last May, recently launched Vote for Pomona, an organization dedicated to making it easier for college students to vote.

In 2011, during her first year at Pomona College, Politics Professor Amanda Hollis-Brusky wrote a paper on the rise of the “unitary executive theory,” used in recent decades to promote the notion of the primacy of presidential power and limit the autonomy of federal agencies. The paper was part of Hollis-Brusky’s larger work on the conservative legal movement.

In January, U.S. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal and Mazie Hirono cited and relied heavily on Professor Hollis-Brusky’s paper in their amicus curiae brief filed in a big U.S. Supreme Court case, Seila Law v. CFPB, which may decide the fate of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Arguments are set for March 3.
HOW TO BECOME DEAN OF POMONA COLLEGE

1. GROWING UP in Alabama, the son of two history scholars, develop an abiding interest in ancient civilizations. Fall in love with things even older at age 5 when your mom brings you a fossil trilobite half a billion years old from a vacation in Utah.

2. DISCOVER IN GRADE SCHOOL that you can find fossils of sea creatures 80 million years old right behind your school. Carry that fascination with the geological record through high school to the College of William and Mary.

3. IN COLLEGE, GO on a road trip organized by a faculty mentor to the Grand Canyon and the White Mountains of California, including an unexpected detour to Utah where you encounter the source of your very first trilobite, the House Range.

4. GO TO THE UNIVERSITY of Cincinnati for your master’s in geology. Take a course with your future Ph.D. advisor, then on sabbatical from UC Riverside, find her interest in studying ancient ecosystems through their fossils contagious.

5. FOLLOWING YOUR MENTOR to California for doctoral studies, take your fascination with that first trilobite full circle when you decide to focus your Ph.D. thesis on the Cambrian ecosystems recorded in Utah’s House Range.

6. AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT at UC Riverside, find that you love teaching and get your first administrative experience when you’re hired as director of a program to train new science teaching assistants.

7. GET HIRED FOR a one-year position as visiting assistant professor of geology at Pomona and fall in love with the place and its students. Apply for a tenure track position, and to your surprise, get your dream job.

8. AS AN EXPERT on the ecosystems and geology of the Cambrian explosion of life forms, travel the world and take part in some of the biggest paleontological discoveries of our time, from Canada to China.

9. SERVE AS CHAIR of the Geology Department and take leadership roles in college governance. Among other things, help create the position of chair of the faculty and co-chair the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

10. THOUGH YOU’RE SHOCKED to be asked, agree to lead the College’s academic program as interim dean for one year; then, persuaded by the pleasure of working with the faculty, agree to serve for three years.
New Advancement VP Seeks to Strengthen Pomona’s Culture of Support

Maria Watson joined Pomona’s executive team on Jan. 6 as vice president for advancement, succeeding Barbara J. Bennett, who led Pomona’s advancement staff for six years.

With more than 25 years of nonprofit leadership experience, Watson has followed a career path that has taken her from cultural institutions such as Lincoln Center and the New World Symphony to Fordham University and, most recently, the University of Southern California, where she served as associate vice president of development.

In her eight years at USC, she conceptualized and launched that institution’s first New York City/Northeast advancement office, led major gift and regional teams and played a key role in the success of USC’s $7 billion All-In campaign.

In Pomona, Watson says she sees a highly successful institution in pursuit of true intellectual purpose, strong values and an enduring commitment to access and opportunity—what she calls the “perfect combination.”

“In meeting students, faculty members, staff, trustees and alumni, I was struck by how deeply people care about Pomona and how deeply the College has affected their lives,” says Watson.

“There is such strong sentiment for the College—we are going to work together to build a culture of philanthropic support for the world-changing work here and strengthen our ties to one another along the way. I am honored to now be part of this community of scholars, leaders, donors and innovators.”

Watson’s own interest in the liberal arts began during her undergraduate days at the University of Michigan, where she earned her B.M.A. in clarinet performance with a minor in political science. She went on to lead marketing at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the New World Symphony in Miami Beach and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. From there, she became chief development director for Fordham University’s WFUV, designing and launching the first capital campaign for the college and academic building, which opened on time and on budget last year. And just this past year she led a process to acquire a new residence hall to expand the inventory of Barnard’s student housing in New York City. She worked side-by-side with faculty committees on budgets and resources, partnering with the provost to support academic endeavors. In 2017, Barnard turned to Goldberg to serve as its interim president, a role in which he guided the College during a period of transition and oversaw the creation of Barnard’s Council on Diversity and Inclusion.

In his time as Barnard’s COO, he worked with students to help reduce out-of-pocket expenses for low-income and first-generation students. He also increased the transparency of the College’s budgeting process through regular briefings and discussions with the faculty Budget and Planning Committee, faculty meetings and student government.

“It’s important to note that with the majority of our staff members working in this division, the vice president, COO and treasurer role is a particularly important one at Pomona,” adds Starr.

“Bob has a strong track record: At Barnard, he created a year-long professional development training program for new managers and worked with staff to create the Barnard Staff Advisory Council.”

Before Barnard, during his government service, Goldberg served as a senior budget official for the U.S. State Department, where he was responsible for the formulation, management and implementation of a foreign assistance budget of more than $1 billion. He received the Department of State’s Distinguished Honor Award in 2013.

Earlier, working for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), he was the senior career executive responsible for managing the OMB’s work in crafting the president’s annual budget requests as well as legislative proposals for international affairs programs.

He earned both his B.A. and M.A. in international affairs from The George Washington University.

Pomona’s New Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer Brings Extensive Track Record

In her eight years at USC, she conceptualized and launched the first capital campaign for the University of Michigan, where she earned her B.M.A. in clarinet performance with a minor in political science. She went on to lead marketing at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the New World Symphony in Miami Beach and the Brooklyn Philharmonic. From there, she became chief development director for Fordham University’s WFUV, designing and launching the first capital campaign for the college and academic building, which opened on time and on budget last year. And just this past year she led a process to acquire a new residence hall to expand the inventory of Barnard’s student housing in New York City. She worked side-by-side with faculty committees on budgets and resources, partnering with the provost to support academic endeavors. In 2017, Barnard turned to Goldberg to serve as its interim president, a role in which he guided the College during a period of transition and oversaw the creation of Barnard’s Council on Diversity and Inclusion.

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He earned both his B.A. and M.A. in international affairs from The George Washington University.
PCM: What was the inspiration? It’s loss but can you explain a little bit about it?

Sharma: This one is very different from my other books. My last book had a lot to do with race and thinking through the ideas of belonging and institutions and race and race community and who gets to be a part of that community and who is outside of that community and the nature of racial differences and gender. But this one just happened because in 2014 my late husband Dale was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and he died two months after diagnosis. And so, I was in shock and I had no sense of what had happened and, often they say with shock you lose your memory. So, for several months I couldn’t remember our long marriage. I could only remember those two months of his progressing sickness. When I told my father, who’s a mathematician who specializes in math education, that I was having trouble with sequencing (because it was something I was starting to notice), he said, “Oh well, you’ve always had trouble with sequencing.” I rested you when you were five or six.” So it was sort of this joke we had about the concept of sequencing. It led me to research theories of sequential thinking, I started to think about when the cues of sequencing events and what to do for your recall, and what you do to process trauma, deep feelings and difficulty. I started to write in a prose poem format as much as it unsetled my life, so I had to write myself through it and speak to him and document the days through my poems. And what I did wasn’t real was that such grief comes a fierce sense of loving—believing in the concept that if you loved, you would still love them, and they didn’t plan on losing them, so they’re still open to the world and to love. They’re still open to feeling feelings. So I started to learn more about my own resilience and my strength, and I was really receptive to the process of becoming my own witness. It was painful, it’s very painful, especially when they lose a spouse—they lost someone they loved, and they didn’t plan on losing them, so they’re still open to the world and to love. They’re still open to feeling feelings.

PCM: What do you find people’s responses to the poems? Did you find that people expected you’ve gotten over it now? That you’ve written this book?

Sharma: Yes. The poems are about grief, love, and they’re about really trying to learn to trust the journey. These poems have taught me so much about my emotions, sequencing and my community.

PCM: Are there any particular poems in “Grief Sequence” that really gets to you or pierces through all of it for you? Is there a pivotal poem in there?

Sharma: I think that there are a variety of poems here. Some poems are processing Dale getting sick. Some are processing experience with others that are sort of surprising—people can alienate you when they witness you in deep grieving, because some gestures or reactions are not pleasant. I began processing what gets in the way of your grief, sometimes get hijacked by other people’s treatment, and you forget that you’re really spending this time trying to just protect your feelings. Speaking to widows really helped me. Reading all the books I could find helped; my biggest joke is that the book that helped me the most, which—I mean, it’s sort of embarrassing, but it’s hilarious—is Dr. Joyce Brothers’ Wifewatch.

PCM: People talk about the stages of grief. Did you find yourself going through that as you wrote the poems?

Sharma: The joke is that you’re always only going through different stages so they’re never linear.

PCM: No, no. They’re not linear.

Sharma: All those things, yeah.
Heartthrob del Balboa Café al Apartheid and Back

Professor of Romance Languages and Literature Susana Chávez-Silverman has penned a memoir that is a love story woven together in both English and Spanish, traversing from San Francisco to South Africa and asking us to consider how things could have been.

One of about 20 wigs kept by Pomona’s Department of Theatre and Dance in its restricted costume storage area, this geisha-style wig is part of a collection of props and costumes obtained by Pronko from Japan for his classic kabuki and kabuki-inspired theatre productions.

Today, the costume storage area holds more than 200 period garments and 300 pieces of jewelry.

Most such wigs are made of either human or horse hair and styled with lacquer.

One of his most original productions was a “kabuki western” titled “Revenge at Spider Mountain,” based on his love of Native American folklore and inspired by two classic plays: Yoshitsune and the Thousand Cherry Trees and The Monster Spider.

Like all wigs for female characters, it was intended to be worn by an onnagata, a male kabuki actor who performed in women’s roles.

Other kabuki-related items in theatre storage include swords, wigs, costumes and costume accessories.

Today, the costume storage area holds more than 200 period garments and 300 pieces of jewelry.

Most such wigs are made of either human or horse hair and styled with lacquer.

The origins of the Japanese word “kabuki” are simple and elegant: “Ka” means song; “Bu” means dance, and “ki” means skill.

Pronko wrote extensively about the art of kabuki, which he said attracted him because it was so “wildly theatrical.”

He also taught the stylized movement and vocal techniques of kabuki to generations of Pomona College students.

He directed a number of classic kabuki plays, including Nankioku Thundergod, Ibaraki and Gohiki Kanjincho.

Pronko also taught about kabuki-inspired theatre productions.

He also staged kabuki versions of such Western classics as Macbeth.

One of his most original productions was a “kabuki western” titled “Revenge at Spider Mountain,” based on his love of Native American folklore and inspired by two classic plays: Yoshitsune and the Thousand Cherry Trees and The Monster Spider.

BOOK SUBMISSIONS

If you’ve had a book published and would like to submit it for inclusion in Bookmarks, please send a review copy to Sneha Abraham, PCM Book Editor, 550 North College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.
Outsmarting the Market

CASH. BABY. BOOM.

'05 found that a portfolio of stocks with clever ticker symbols outperformed the market from 2006 to 2018. This new study is a follow up to a 2009 study in which Smith and his co-authors replicated the earlier methodology with a new list, focusing on NASDAQ stocks, a phenomenon with respect to both the original clever-ticker NASDAQ stocks, a phenomenon that strongly contradicts the efficient market hypothesis.

For example, WOOF, the ticker for a pizza company, BDAY for online party supply retailer and BOOM for an explosives company, among others. Smith says, “For example, WOOF, the ticker for VCA Antech, which operates a network of animal hospitals and diagnostic laboratories, is a lot more amusing and memorable than something boring like VCA or VCAN,” says Smith. A possible explanation to this stock overperformance is that memory involves the acquisition, storage, retention and retrieval of information and the understanding of human memory suggests that clever tickers may heighten investors’ recall of companies, according to Smith and his co-authors.

Erica Barry ’19 studied the performance of stocks with clever tickers outperformed a portfolio of 82 stocks and found that fewer characters. Examples include PZZA—Patricia Vest

A Journey of Faith and Inquiry

Paul Kiefer’s journey of faith and inquiry already has taken him great distances. An American Muslim from Seattle who converted as a teenager, Kiefer ‘20 studied abroad in Morocco during his junior year to experience the Arabic-speaking Muslim world. Back in the United States, he looked toward the American South as he prepared to write his senior thesis in history.

There, he was an outsider of a different sort, a white Muslim gathering oral histories and conducting research on the Southern Black Muslim community that emerged in North Carolina in the 1950s and has grown deep roots in the Tar Heel State—a place where the festival of Eid is sometimes celebrated with fried fish and grits.

“They’re doing it right, the whole Southern thing,” says Kiefer, who was partly drawn to the region because of his family’s history there, though his relatives were not Muslim.

The Black Muslim community in North Carolina that was first planted by the Nation of Islam and later gravitated toward the teachings of W. Deen Muhammad is the subject of Kiefer’s thesis, “A Crescent Moon Rises in Dixie: The Foundation and Development of a Southern Black Muslim Community, 1945-1965.”

“Paul is writing about a topic few historians have investigated. So his work is filling a gap in our collective understanding of the Nation of Islam in the South,” says Tomás Summers Sandoval, associate professor of history and Chicana/o/Latina/o studies. “The archival work he’s done so far is already helping to write that history.”

Kiefer’s research weaves source material such as mosque records and contemporary newspaper reports with oral history interviews he conducted in North Carolina during a Summer Undergraduate Research Program project before his senior year.

“We often think of Islam in the U.S. as a present-day story but Paul’s work is a reminder of the importance of both Islam and Muslims to the U.S. past,” Summer Sandoval says. “At the same time, his work helps us better understand the roles various congregations and faiths played in the mid-century quest for Black liberation and autonomy in the South.”

Islam was not truly new to the South when it was imported from Northern cities such as Philadelphia and Baltimore in the second half of the 20th century. Kiefer found records of Black mosques in the South as early as 1928 and a Black Muslim farm by 1943, though those groups were members of the Moorish Science Temple of America, not the Nation of Islam. Even less widely known: Islam’s original roots in the South preceded the Civil War.

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“About 15 to 20 percent of enslaved people in what became the United States were Muslims,” Kiefer says. “There are many well-documented examples of Muslims who prac-

ticed openly, who ran Friday prayers on plantations, who wrote letters home. At least three actually wound up going back to West Africa thanks to letters they wrote while in Arabic.”

The history of Muslims in the South is a story worth telling, and Kiefer plans to tell many more. He has applied for a Fulbright-National Geographic Storytelling Fellowship and the NPR Kroc Fellowship, both designed to develop journalists as well as storytellers in other mediums. While awaiting fellowship announcements in the spring, Kiefer also plans to apply for public radio jobs, pursuing his determination to uncover little-known stories and histories.

—Robyn Norwood

Paul Kiefer ’20 outside the Shabazz Restaurant in Durham, N.C., adjacent to the state’s oldest mosque.
Baseball by the Numbers

Gathered on the pitcher’s mound during class, Pomona College students feed balls into a pitching machine, then quickly glance down at an iPad. On the ground between them and home plate is a baseball field, requiring expensive equipment not only on pitch velocity, but also spin rate, spin axis, horizontal and vertical break, 3D trajectory and a strike zone analysis. The Rapodo device provides pitching data that includes velocity, spin rate and vertical and horizontal break.

Welcome to PE 086: Baseball Analytics, a class formalized by the 2003 book *Moneyball* and the innovative projects on their own.” The driving force for getting this technology on campus was initially to help our kids who want to go into analytics. Also, we’re in a heavy data era of baseball even more so than before, and it’s going to give us good data to evaluate our players as well.

Five of the 15 students in the class play baseball for the Sagehens. One of them, catcher and math major Jack Hanley ’20, worked for the Oakland Athletics two summers ago and spent last summer as an associate in quantitative analysis with the New York Yankees. This October, he watched his former colleagues advance to the American League Championship Series.

“Talking to Guy [Stevens] over the years, I ask, ‘What do we need to be doing on campus to make these kids better candidates for these internships and for these jobs?’” Periconi says. “He gave some suggestions in terms of, ‘They need to be doing creative, innovative projects on their own.’ The driving force for getting this technology on campus was initially to help our kids who want to go into analytics. Also, we’re in a heavy data era of baseball even more so than before, and it’s going to give us good data to evaluate our players as well.”

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Win No. 500 arrived in January for Coach Kat — or, more formally, Professor of Physical Education and Men’s Basketball Coach Charles C. Katsiaficas. “This really is surreal. Words can’t really describe the feelings from today,” Coach Jordan Carpenter said after the Sagehens ended the three-year reign of North Central College, a perennial powerhouse from Illinois that had won seven of the last 10 titles. “So much elation and excitement for what these guys accomplished today.”

The title is the first NCAA team championship for Pomona-Pitzer since the champion women’s tennis team of 1992. “We came in with the goal of finishing on the podium, but we hadn’t really talked about the ability to win,” Carpenter said. “We have such a young group and only had three runners with national meet experience, so I honestly thought that next year would be our chance to win. The guys proved me wrong, and we had an amazing day today.”

On the women’s side of the event, Pomona-Pitzer finished in 12th place.

Two Pomona-Pitzer men and two Sagehens women took All-American honors. Ethan Wildsany ’22 came off his NCAA West Region Championship to take a seventh-place national finish in a time of 24:32.9. Not far behind him was Dante Paszkeicz ’22, who also earned All-American honors with a 16th-place finish in 24:48.5. Lila Cardillo ’22 led the way for the women with a 12th-place finish at 21:38.3 and Helen Guo ’20 took 14th at 21:41.0.

The men’s depth helped bring the title. “It could be a single goal by first-team All-American Bria VarnBuhler ’20, who set a Pomona-Pitzer record with 21 this season — including nine game-winners, tied for third-most among all Division III players,” Coach Jen Scanlon said. “It could be a game-saving stop by third-team All-American Isa Benardo ’22, the starting goalkeeper for a strong defense that has shut out 20 of 23 opponents on the way to a 20–1–2 record. After leading Division III in goals-against average and save percentage last season, Benardo is in the top three in both national categories again. Or it could be as slim a margin as a single penalty kick settling into the back of the net — or tipped away by a finger. Close games have become a specialty. They have left their mark on all the remarkable young men that definitely shine a spotlight on all the remarkable young men that have left their mark on our program through the years.”

Every senior on the Pomona-Pitzer women’s soccer team that has reached the Final Four of the NCAA Division III Championship for the first time knows exactly how slender the margin between winning and losing could be. “It was a reversal of what happened three years ago, when these seniors were playing in our program in 2018,” Coach Jen Scanlon said. “They have left their mark on all the remarkable young men that definitely shine a spotlight on all the remarkable young men that have left their mark on our program through the years.”

When Popovich returned, Katsiaficas spent one season as an assistant at the University of San Diego before returning to take over the Pomona-Pitzer program in 1998, when Popovich left to become an assistant with the Spurs.
WITH HIS MOM AWAITING DEPORTATION, CRISTIAN PADILLA ROMERO ‘18 HAD NO INTENTION OF STANDING IDLY BY. BUT HE WAS ABOUT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IMMIGRATION LAW IN AMERICA THAN HE EVER WANTED TO KNOW.

STORY BY MARK WOOD | PHOTOS BY DUSTIN CHAMBERS
An undocumented immigrant is stopped for a routine traffic violation—a few miles above the speed limit or a burnt-out brake light—and winds up in a detention center awaiting deportation, turning a family’s lives upside down. Like the rest of us, Cristian Padilla Romero ‘18 had heard it all before—read it in the papers, seen it on TV. This time, however, the news was personal. It came in a frantic call from his sister. And this time, it wasn’t some unfortunate stranger who was threatened with imminent removal. It was his mom.

It was news that Padilla Romero—now living his own American dream as a doctoral student in history at Yale University—had feared on some barely acknowledged level ever since he was old enough to understand the full import of his family’s immigration status, but still, it came as a shock. When he got the call, he was in the midst of a road trip, driving from Chicago to Claremont with his girlfriend, who was returning to Pomona for the start of her senior year. They had spent the night in Oklahoma City and were planning to take their time, stopping again in Albuquerque, New Mexico, before pushing on to California. But once they got the news, they decided to drive straight through so that he could catch the first flight home to Georgia.

For Padilla Romero, that was the start of a desperate, six-month battle that would grow into a national campaign to prevent his mom’s deportation and to gain her release from custody—a fight against the odds that would be waged in the courts, on social media, through the press and behind the political scenes. A fight that would pull in an army of allies and see some surprising results. A fight that isn’t over yet. ☝

It’s a familiar story.
TANA ROMERO CAME TO THE U.S. FROM HONDURAS almost 20 years ago, joining her husband who was already here. Living in Georgia for the last few years, she had not seen her family in Honduras in a very long time. Times holding down three jobs at a time—changing hotel beds, working in restaurant kitchens and laundromats, finding drywall at construction sites, selling food out of her home—had been hard on her family, some of whom had never seen much of the U.S., and she had to go through two speeding tickets. "But after that motion to reopen was denied, we knew that ICE could deport her at any moment. Once we knew they were in the process, we knew we had to do something, and we had to go public with our story."

THOUGH HE' D BEEN WORRIED about the danger of detention if he went public, Padilla Romero had already been reaching out to friends at Pomona and Yale, and now they were eager to pitch in. Some organized a petition drive while others steered him to media and governmental contacts. Before he knew it, he was at the epicenter of a legal battle that would change his life forever. "My friends were the first ones to hop on and help," he recalls. "I get more credit than I deserve. There were so many people involved in that effort. I think we can categorize it as a community effort, and if we did, he would probably be unable to return. And to make the prospect even more frightening, Ms. Romero is a recent stage-4 cancer survivor. Padilla Romero now considers that to be some of the most valuable advice he received. He recalls: "We told the consul that you, know, my mother, she's a cancer survivor, and with her situation, she shouldn't be deported. She's also awaiting resolutions. And they were like, 'Oh, yeah, of course, there's no way we would issue travel documents without knowing that situation.' That was really a great relief.""}

"That's how we've been working it ever since. I don't want to do anything that's going to hurt our chances."
FOR EMI YOUNG ’13, VICTORY IS GRATIFYING, BUT REAL JUSTICE IS ASPIRATIONAL.

FOR THE DEFENSE

STORY BY ALISSA GREENBERG | PHOTOS BY ROBERT DURELL
At 28, Young, who favors bold colored scarves, long sweaters and a silver hoop in her nose, is, well, young for her profession. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and her parents divorced in her early childhood. Growing up with a single, Japanese mother profoundly shaped her—especially in a school district that had been created by conservative white parents who were trying to skirt anti-segregation laws. “It felt like our family was very different,” she says. “I know my mom also really struggled sometimes.”

As part of continued efforts to support her family, Young’s mother went back to school to become a paralegal. She sometimes brought home articles about important Supreme Court cases and news from the legal system to share with her daughter, who at the time aspired to be a musician. It wasn’t until Young attended Pomona, graduating in 2013, that she changed her mind.

Pomona College Magazine

Courthouse in Martinez, California, lives up to its name. On a gray morning in December, four imposing stone courthouses in a row loom out of the cold fog, steamy glass doors accepting the occasional be-suited prosecutor or latecomer for jury duty.

Inside one of those courthouses this morning, Emi Young, “I’m waiting in a dimly lit courtroom gallery for a restitution conference to begin. Young, who works as a deputy public defender for Contra Costa County, will be representing a client who pleaded guilty to possession of a stolen vehicle. As part of the conviction process, she is participating in discussions about how much money will be awarded to the victim to help with damages—discussions that are often, but not always, straightforward, since both sides need to agree that the restitution requested is sufficiently related to the crime. (“I had a vandalism case where the city requested compensation for all of the tagging or graffiti that they thought were similar from the preceding year,” Young notes.)

The beige-carpet-on-beige-wood courtroom is crowded with cases, and the judge moves swiftly through the docket. Normally the prosecutor would have conferred with the victim’s assigned restitution specialist by now, but this time that hasn’t happened. So, a few minutes before the conference begins, Young hands him her copy of the handwritten list, which totals $126,000. Along with the value of the stolen vehicle, the victim is requesting restitution for multiple other vehicles, several marine batteries and damage to a barn door—all seemingly unrelated to the crime for which her client was convicted.

“That… is a lot of money,” the prosecutor says, running his eyes down the list. When the judge has turned her attention to the case, she agrees, noting with raised eyebrows that the request would make for an “interesting” hearing. “What do you want to do, Ms. Young?” she asks. A pause, then Young and the prosecutor agree to delay the conference, giving more time to talk to all parties and perhaps find a solution.

“It’s frustrating that he didn’t have more time to look at the request before,” Young says as she walks through the fog back to her office a few blocks from the courthouse. Under normal circumstances, these things can take as little as 20 minutes—that is, when the prosecutor is prepared and when victims limit themselves to amounts directly related to the crime and provide adequate documentation.

“It’s lucky, she notes, that her office had not yet closed the case file, leaving her client without representation. Then, the court might just have sent a letter instructing him to request a hearing or agree to pay the full amount—and many of her clients are transient, with no fixed addresses and unreliable mail service.

But such frustrations are an inherent part of a job with limited time, limited funding, limited attention. “I talk about the system I work in as the ‘criminal legal system.’ The term ‘criminal justice system’ is aspirational. It’s not the reality for many people.”
The thing you learn with this job is that you can't prepare for all the possibilities. You have to be okay with the unexpected sometimes.

Her experience at Pomona was profoundly “consciousness raising,” she says. Conversations happening on campus helped her understand earlier experiences from her own life in a new light—her experience as a biracial person in a school district with segregationist roots, for example. And it was at Pomona that she first learned about what she calls the “disparate impacts of our legal system on certain communities.”

That nascent interest prompted Young to major in political science and philosophy; her Pomona education “helped me have a vocabulary for certain ways in which people are systematically disenfranchised,” she says. She volunteered for a semester at the Camp Affurbaugh-Paige juvenile detention facility near campus, producing Othello with some of the students. While she was there, one of the teenagers she engaged was sentenced to life in prison for a violent act, separated from a beloved parent during the last weeks of his life. “There’s nothing that the acquittal in and of itself can do to make it good for a person who we hope will turn out to be happy and productive,” she remembers thinking. “I feel like I can’t advocate on his behalf now, but it’s something I’d like to be able to do someday.”

In pursuit of that goal, she attended law school at Stanford and spent her first summer interning at the New York Civil Liberties Union—but was surprised to find herself unhappy with the experience, which felt too divorced from the people she hoped to help. “I realized I should be trying to come it at a different angle,” she says.

Young is aware that public defender stereotypes paint a picture of a harried, overburdened lawyer who doesn’t fight for her clients, “in- terested in trying to plead you out as quickly as possible because we don’t have the time or resources to defend you adequately.” But Consuelo Teeter, a public defender in Pomona, has demonstrated how rates in California, part of the reason she applied for a job here. Encouraging plea bargains “doesn’t lend itself towards keeping the sys- tem accountable or ensuring accurate or fair results,” she says.

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The role of public defender doesn’t come with much of a run- way. Once she graduated from law school, Young clerked for several months at the Contra Costa Public Defenders Office—then began representing a full load of misdemeanors just after she passed the bar in January 2017. “When I got hired, I quite liter- ally had three days’ transition to begin representing 110 clients, some of whom had trials set,” she remembers, with a shudder and smile.

These days, she works instead with clients facing felony charges, which run the gamut from evading the police to gun possession to at- tempted murder—around 40 a day and between 50 and 60 hours a week. It’s a more manageable load than she had in misdemeanors, the more time to work on them. That creates opportunities to occasionally play her violin; take a bread-making class; or go on walks with her mother (who moved to the Bay Area several years ago) and the family dog, Trecter.

Beyond the frantic pace, Young has slowly adjusted to a profes- sional life that can demand a difficult balancing act between practical- ity and justice. Some clients with immigration concerns prioritize protecting that status, even beyond proving their innocence; some clients value the chance to have the proverbial “day in court” and tell a judge what happened over the safety of a plea bargain. There have been cases where her clients were in trouble and struggled with how to advise them, because their prior history put them at deep risk if they were to be convicted of a serious crime. And when her clients are kept in custody, she must decide how to ask to schedule their hearings, keeping in mind that the longer they spend preparing their cases, the longer they’ll spend away from their families, friends, worlds.

“There’s an older philosophy that as attorney you’re the person who is educated and knows the law, and you’re the person re- sponsible for making decisions about best outcomes,” she says. In- stead, “our duty is to learn about and understand our client’s perspective.”

It’s also a professional life that melds stereotypical courtroom drama with the ordinary, obligatory mechanics of the justice system: jury trials, written motions, the series of hearings that precede a jury trial. The fabric of Young’s daily routine is threaded with the half-hour drives between courthouses in various towns; the waits to get into jails; the police officers who are late to give testimony; the judges trying to sort out the daily docket. In the week that I shad- owed her, she had three separate hearings delayed at the last minute. That week featured pockets of the pursuit of justice, yes—but they were glued together with pauses during which judges took bathroom breaks and bailiffs watched pet videos on the phones of district attorneys.

The stops, starts and delays can be “really frustrating,” she says, but they have had a surprising benefit: teaching her adaptability, hon- ing her capacity to adjust and respond to new tasks at a moment’s notice. Before this work, “I was very good at planning for something, preparing a lot for something and doing it,” she says. “But the thing you learn with this job is that you can’t prepare for all the possibili- ties. You have to be okay with the unexpected sometimes.”

After the canceled restitution hearing, Young settles in at her office to spend the rest of the day wading through the seas of mun- dane justice: drafting motions, reviewing new evidence, preparing for an upcoming trial. The room is small but friendly, featuring a coffee machine tucked into a corner and an assortment of button-down shirts hanging off the door knob for clients to try on. The walls are decorated with photos of Trecter and a few pieces of art. Beside a selection of client thank you notes hangs a Ta-Nehisi Coates quote on a note card that reads, in part: a society that “can only protect you with a club of criminal justice has failed at enforcing its good intention or has succeeded at something much darker.” It’s a reminder of the losses and disappointments: the young man who was prevented by his co-defendant from taking a probation plea deal and ended up in prison; the client whose immigration status she worked to protect during a DUI case but who ended up in ICE custody later, anyway.

Even victory, when it comes, has been bitter sweet. Young remem- bers one client who was charged with elder abuse of his own mother. During the trial, it became clear that the mother’s mental state was deteriorating, especially as her reports of abuse were not corre- lated by evidence, she died soon after the verdict. Although Young’s client was cleared of wrongdoing, she struggles to find vindication when thinking about how he must have felt—accused of a cruel and violent act, separated from a beloved parent during the last weeks of her life. “There’s nothing that the acquittal in and of itself can do to repair the damage,” she says, sighing.

A victory is “gratifying,” she adds, but “just because a case was ul- timately dismissed, or was acquired, it doesn’t mean it wasn’t a good case. The police officers who are renting the Warren house were in the process of evicting him. He had a difficult balancing act between practical- ity and justice. Some clients with immigration concerns prioritize protecting that status, even beyond proving their innocence; some clients value the chance to have the proverbial “day in court” and tell a judge what happened over the safety of a plea bargain. There have been cases where her clients were in trouble and struggled with how to advise them, because their prior history put them at deep risk if they were to be convicted of a serious crime. And when her clients are kept in custody, she must decide how to ask to schedule their hearings, keeping in mind that the longer they spend preparing their cases, the longer they’ll spend away from their families, friends, worlds.

“There’s an older philosophy that as attorney you’re the person who is educated and knows the law, and you’re the person re- sponsible for making decisions about best outcomes,” she says. In- stead, “our duty is to learn about and understand our client’s perspective.”

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INSIDE A MEDIUM-SECURITY PRISON IN NORCO, STUDENTS AND INCARCERATED STUDENTS STUDY SIDE BY SIDE IN CLASSES TAUGHT BY CLAREMONT COLLEGES PROFESSORS.
Behind fences topped with razor-sharp wire, students from the 5Cs sit next to incarcerated students each semester in classes taught by Claremont Colleges professors at the California state prison in Norco.

They are part of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange program, an international effort introduced locally by Pitzer College in 2014 and expanded in 2018 to include courses from Pomona College and the other 5Cs. The classes inside the 3,600-inmate California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) are part of the groundbreaking Inside-Out program created by Temple University Professor Lori Pompa in 1997—an effort that took “outside” undergraduate students into classes with “inside” students serving sentences in Pennsylvania prisons. Since then, it has expanded to more than 150 colleges and universities at some 200 jails and prisons.

Education isn’t the only goal of the college-credit classes; it’s also an attempt to create dialogue between groups with profound social differences. But the inside and outside students are equals in the classroom: They read the same materials, complete the same assignments, earn the same college credit and in small ways start to echo each other. As one incarcerated student in Professor Jo Hardin’s Math 57 class, Thinking with Data, writes:

Ultimately, the differences are stark. The outside students get to leave after class and return to a bus where their cell phones and lives await. The inside students at the medium-security men’s facility will eventually be eligible for release, but for now their lives are confined by both fences and regulations. They answered questions about the program in anonymous handwritten responses, including this one from a student in Linguistics 114, a course on language and discrimination taught by Nicole Holliday, an assistant professor of linguistics at Pomona:

I thought I would just be an outcast for the rest of my life, but my interactions with the outside students showed me that not everyone will judge me, and maybe I’ll get a place I fit into society after all.

And another student:

Being treated as a human and not a monster.

The courses are partly tailored for the setting, with Hardin’s data class focused on interpreting such information as census statistics and medical research, but also on the probabilities involved in DNA analysis of the sort used in criminal investigations and trials. Discussion is also an integral part of the model. “The topic was statistics and right off the bat people were saying, ‘I feel I’m reduced to a number in the system,’” says Ahana Ganguly ’21.

Holliday’s class examines linguistic prejudice in the educational system as well as the criminal justice system. “Every single inside student had a story about being told that they talked ‘ghetto’ or literally having the Spanish beaten out of them in school,” she says. “When people tell you your language doesn’t work because of their racism, you don’t use your language. And then what happens to you in school? It’s really, really powerful. And maybe in some small way, you know what the program is trying to do is just restore a little bit of the dignity that they lost through the way they were treated in the educational system to begin with.”

Inside students earn course credits and a small amount of time off their sentences. Outside students earn credit and a first-person experience of a system most had considered only in theory. “I think the greatest benefit actually—I hope—accrues to the larger society,” Holliday says. “What does a world look like when every judge, every lawyer, every politician has had a real human connection with someone that’s incarcerated? And we know our students go on to do wonderful things. They’re going to grad school, they’re going to law school, they’re going to be important and powerful. I want a generation of people that have had that experience and seen how fundamentally unfair our system is, that have the power to change it when they get out.”

Involvement in research or activism involving the criminal justice system is nothing new at The Claremont Colleges, with a decades-long tradition among many faculty, particularly at Pitzer. Pomona Professor of Religious Studies Erin Runions has facilitated writing workshops inside a women’s prison and teaches a popular course on Religion, Punishment and Restoration that is now part of the Inside-Out program.

But it was Pitzer’s Tess Hicks-Peterson—an associate professor of urban studies and assistant vice president of community engagement who also heads the Office of Conscientious Academic Collaboration—who piloted the first Inside-Out course, Healing Arts and Social
Change, which took place at CRC in the spring of 2014. Since then she has worked to spread this model to the other Claremont Colleges, with the support from the 7C Deans and many engaged faculty. The expansion came with the support of a $1.1 million grant Pirzer received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2018 and is now run by Pirzer’s Tyce Griffin, founding manager of the Justice Education Initiative. In fall 2020, Pirzer will become the first Inside-Out program in the nation to offer a pathway to a bachelor’s degree for incarcerated students, who previously only have been able to earn associate’s degrees. The first class of incarcerated students to earn bachelor’s degrees in organizational studies from Pirzer would be in 2022.

All of these are complex issues, of course, involved in crime and punishment. Even on the Claremont campuses, a club called the 5C Prison Abolition Collective staged a panel last fall examining the ideas a professor or student comes in with are not often the same as the ideas the students have come to expect. Peterson says. “But the prison is not necessarily pushing for this: We’re really advocating for it on behalf of those inside who have asked us to do it. We’re there because we’re invited; we’re there because it’s their right to education, just like anyone else’s. And the educational experience is really transformative and does often provide a level of agency, like any educational experience does. That in and of itself is what we hope will change the system—both guiding the folks inside with that sense of agency and education but also guiding our CRC undergraduates with knowledge about this system, that for many people they have a luxury to not have to know and care what’s happening in these facilities that are state-run, that our tax dollars are going to. So we’re conflict with these institutions, regardless of whether we’re teaching inside or sit- ting here ignoring them. Those of us involved feel like we’d much rather be conflict with a solution of educating ourselves about these institutions so that we can become better advocates. Because certainly, you can’t teach inside without having resulting very strong feelings about the prison industrial complex. It’s just impossible.”

“The ideas a professor or student comes in with are not often the ones they leave with,” says Darryl Yong, a professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd who serves as faculty liaison for Inside-Out. “It’s so black and white at first for many students,” he says. “Then when they see it and experience it, they realize it’s way more compli- cated than they could have possibly imagined. I think that complica- tion is part of the learning. You learn by feeling squeezed in both worlds. Even the experience of having to walk through the gate, walk to our classroom, just being in the space, understanding what people are subjected to, it opens your eyes.”

Pomona students and others say they walk away changed. “I love that idea that learning could provide an escape, and educa- tion could provide a kind of inner freedom for them and for us as well, at Claremont students,” Sundlermeyer says.

Talking While Black

S
imple traffic stops escalate, ending in unnecessary death. In courtrooms, jus- tice is not always served. And in prisons, the voices of many of the incarcerated sound alike. As a sociolinguist, Assistant Professor of Linguistics Nicole Holliday specializes in the study of how language and identity in- teract. More specifically, she fo- cuses on the many implications of a central question: What does it mean to sound Black? Holliday’s research on race and international variation exam- ines wide aspects of society, in- cluding political speech. Yet there are few areas where the im- pact of race and linguistic differ- ences is more stark than in the criminal justice system.

In just one example, in 2015 a college-educated African American woman named Sandra Bland was arrested in Texas after a minor traffic stop turned into a confrontation. Three days later, Bland died in jail in a suspicious death that was ruled a suicide. After hearing the dash-cam audio of the incident, Holliday and fellow linguists Rachel Bur- den and Joseph Tyler analyzed it and wrote an article, “Sandra Bland and the White Police,” which was published that by Language Log, a linguistics blog hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. With the help of linguistics tools such as the software pro- gram Praat and spectrograms that provide visual representations of various features in pitch, the researchers argued that the state trooper and Bland were, in essence, speaking different languages.

“What we did is we went through and used this annotation system, and we coded where the phrases are broken up and where the pitch moves up and down, the voice moves up and down, for each of them,” Holl- day says. “What we came to was she is using an identifiably African American tone pattern and he is not really matching her. So she starts in one place: He starts in another place. And it’s clear that as the situation escalates, he’s in- creasingly interpreting her as dis- respectful, hostile, something like that. Where she finds particular where she uses these kinds of tones, where her voice falls and rises on the same syllables. This is a pattern that we see more frequently with African American speakers.”

“With the officer, he doesn’t really know what he’s in for, but as he moves through the interaction with her, he starts to be more like that. So we think there is a mismatch in his expectations of what she was supposed to sound like as a respectful citizen. But this mismatch is fundamentally about the fact that she speaks African American English and he doesn’t.”

Bland died in jail after an in- cident that appeared to start with no more than a failure to signal. Her family ultimately sued, settling a wrongful death suit for $1.9 million. A misde- meanor perjury charge against the state trooper, Brian Encinia, was dismissed after he surren- dered his law enforcement li- cense and agreed not to work in the field again.

Another prominent case ex- amined by linguists is the trial of Trayvon Martin in Florida in 2012. George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, was acquitted of second-degree murder and manslaughter in Martin’s death. In a paper titled “Language and Linguistics on Trial,” Stanford University Professor John Rickford, now retired, and co-au- thor Hyam Shlonsky, now an assis- tant professor at the University of Chicago, argued that the testi- mony of key prosecution witness Rachel Jeantel, a 19-year-old Black teenager, was dismissed as not credible because she spoke in African American English, con- tibuting to the not-guilty ver- dict. Jeantel was on the phone with Martin as the incident un- folded.

“They lay out all of these mo- ments where she’s using these features of African American English that could clearly be mis- interpreted by people unfamiliar with the variety,” Holliday says. “So basically, she’s speaking really differently than the lawyers, than the jury, than the public.”

There are a number of fea- tures of African American English that Jeantel employs that may be unfamiliar to mainstream listen- ers. For example, Rickford and King point out the use of “zero copula”, or the omission of the overt “is” or “are” verb in a sen- tence. Jeantel also uses differ- ences in use of plural and possessive forms, which are also forms that may distinguish African American English from mainstream varieties."

Jeantel’s testimony included phrases incorporating those styles, and some listeners may be unable or unwilling to hear be- yond a highly socially stigmatized way of speaking. “So when you hear somebody speak this way and say something that sounds like that, you have to put to work to not to hear this person is not educated and I’m going to stop listening,” Holliday says.

“People attach a lot of judg- ments about morality and char- acter to the way that people talk. And these biases that we have are almost always racist, classist, sex- ist, problematic in some other way, but it’s not the fault of the language. The language just ont. That’s a natural part of what language does. But the variation gets interpreted as a problem.”

“It’s very transparent that people’s ideas about language aren’t really about language,” she says. “They’re about other socio- logical phenomena.”
DEFY THE ODDS

BY AGUSTIN GURZA
ames and icebreakers are often used at business conferences to create some fun and make strangers comfortable with each other. But at a recent meeting of Defy Ventures, which helps people from prisons prepare for life on the outside, one empathy-building exercise quickly turns dead serious. It’s called Step to the Line, and though not a word is spoken, much is revealed.

On a sunny Saturday in mid-January, about a dozen former inmates from two Los Angeles halfway houses gather for the event at a modern downtown office complex. They are met there by a group of volunteers, men and women from the business world recruited to lend their expertise on writing résumés, polishing personal statements and perfecting business plans.

Defy calls the event a Business Coaching Day, and it’s led by Andrew Glazier ’97, the nonprofit’s national president and CEO. It’s part of the organization’s overall prison rehabilitation program called CEO of Your New Life, which aims to build self-confidence as well as skills.

Defy, the group exercises are meant to be healing. They help participants develop a healthy self-image and positive attitudes. The organizers provide a well-studied set of aphorisms to live by:

- Shame is destructive. Learn to forgive, not judge. You are not defined by your mistakes. You deserve a second chance. Foreswear negative labels. You are not criminals, convicts or felons. You are EITs—Entrepreneurs In Training.
- Above all, realize that the solution is already inside you. Many of the same skills that brought you success as, say, a drug dealer can be applied to any legal enterprise.

In short, to quote Defy’s main motto: Transform the Hustle.

Glazier himself comes from a privileged background that could not be more remote from the life experience of his incarcerated clientele. For the public face of Defy Ventures and its chief fundraiser, that disparity can be a handicap, he concedes. Sometimes he finds himself forced to answer questions of class and race when pitching new potential donors.

“In the funding community now there’s a lot of interest in seeing people who have ‘lived experience’ running organizations and working in the nonprofit space,” he explains. “I think part of it comes from the idea that, look, for a long time it’s been just a bunch of well-meaning white people who come and work in communities of color. So sometimes I find I still battle this credibility stuff. What are you doing here?”

Glazier understands why people perceive a disconnect between his upbringing and his prison work and why they might challenge his street cred, so to speak. But he bristles at being “on the receiving end” of that mistrust. “It can be an uncomfortable spot to be in,” he says. “Look, I can’t change who I am. I do know that it’s critical to have people with lived experience within our organization, informing our work. And we do.”

If you’re looking for personal information on Glazier, you won’t find much on social media. He’s not one to overshare; so he keeps a light digital footprint, mostly on LinkedIn and all about business. But Glazier opened up during a casual lunch recently at the Wasabi...
Japanese Noodle House, a five-minute walk from his Whitley Boule-
dvard offices in Koreatown. He talked easily about his evolving life
goals, his family, education and the circuitous career path that
brought him to the transformative prison work he never dreamed
he’d be doing.

Unlike many other Angelenos, Glazier’s roots in the city run
deeper. His mother descended from immigrants with a long history in
Los Angeles. Her maternal relatives arrived from Italy, just in time for
her great-grandmother to be “born off the boat from Sicily” in 1908.
Glazier’s father was a doctor who worked for the Veteran’s Ad-
ministration, where he met his mother, who worked as a secretary for
the agency. They married, had three children and settled in Studio
City, a well-to-do neighborhood in the eastern San Fernando Valley.
Glazier attended Harvard-Westlake, a college prep he calls “the
most elite private school in Los Angeles.” Today, he concedes that his
exclusive education had put him in a protective bubble, cloistered
from the social ills mushrooming all around him.

But all that changed on April 29, 1992, the day the Los Angeles
Riots erupted over the verdict in the Rodney King case.

Glazier was 16. “I had lived my whole childhood in the valley,
and I had no idea what was going on eight miles away,” he
says. “Then the riots happened. I remember seeing Rodney
King getting beaten on TV. Then the city burning. And even in the
valley, where it wasn’t nearly as intense, you could still see all the
smoke coming over the hill.”

“That was really a moment for me of waking up. Oh, my life is
not their life. There are things happening that are really close-by that
I’m really not aware of. And when I suddenly had greater awareness
of that impulse.”

After graduation, Glazier took time to explore. He returned to
Japan and taught English for a year. He travelled, settled down and
started a family. From 2003 to 2008, he was chief of staff to Markle
Canter, then a newly elected member of the Los Angeles City Board of
Education. The job gave Glazier his entrée into nonprofit work, where he
finally found his mission. He stayed eight years with the education
agency, having ascended to second in command in the Los Angeles
chapter. When he decided to leave—again with no job lined up—a
friend referred him to the opening at Defy, which had recently
launched a new Southern California branch.

Before being banned from Texas prisons in 2009, she resurfaced in New York where she later faced the new allegations from former Defy employees. An internal investiga-
tion, conducted by an outside law firm, found evidence of personal
impropriety, but no proof that program results were embellished,
donors misled or funds misused. 

“Then the riots happened. I remember seeing Rodney
King getting beaten on TV. Then the city burning.”

“Originally, I wanted to be an elected official,” he recalls, “but
five years of working in local and state government sort of cured me
of that impulse.”

Nevertheless, the experience continued to stoke a civic calling. The
problems he saw in L.A. schools opened his eyes to new reali-
ties—kids who are afraid to go to school, who can’t read, who smoke
weed in the hallways.

“This is where you really start to see inequities in the system, to
see more of the injustices that exist in society,” he says. “I spent my
life in private education, now suddenly I have this front-row seat in public schools, and you
think, ‘How is this even possible?’”

Glazier then switched gears and joined a small real estate development team, manag-
ing an award-winning restoration of historic bungalows in Silverlake. On that job, he re-
calls, he met and interacted with people with criminal histories for the first time, giving
him a glimpse into the challenges they face after prison.

Meanwhile, Glazier also went back to school, earning his master’s in business ad-
ministration from UCLA’s Anderson School of Management in 2006.

Two years later, he decided he’d had enough of real estate, which “didn’t feel meaningful to me.” In
October of 2009, he took a job with City Year Los Angeles, a non-
profit that plunged him back into those vexing education problems.

The agency works with AmeriCorps volunteers to serve as tutors,
mentors and role models for students in Los Angeles, grades three
through 10. The job gave Glazier his entrée into nonprofit work, where he
explains: “So some of the basic reform ideas that apply to public education apply to prisons too.”

In either system, steering an organization in a new direction can be a Herculean task. Glazier
was well aware of the enormous challenge when he entered the criminal justice reform world three
years ago, full of optimism and ambition. But he had no idea of the organizational landmines that
awaited him at Defy Ventures, where a scandal was about to shake the nonprofit to its foundation
while abruptly catapulting Glazier to the top job.

Defy Ventures was founded in 2010 in New York by a charismatic woman named
Catherine Hoke, a UC Berkeley graduate and former Wall Street executive. But in 2018,
she was forced to resign in the midst of accusations of sexual harass-
ment, misuse of funds and misleading donors with inflated perform-
ance reports.

Glazier said the controversial leader had come to personally own the
organization. She had a golden touch for fundraising and promotion;
she courted powerful people in politics and Silicon Valley and had a
knack for drawing high-profile media coverage. When she stepped
down, Glazier says, Defy seemed doomed, as donors rapidly retreated.
Glazer joined Defy in May of 2017, charged with building the new L.A. chapter. But before he had completed his first year on the job, the scandal hit, and he was suddenly promoted to president and CEO as the organization ran out of money.

Glazer recalls how he perceived the promotion: “You’re in charge. Here’s a dumpster fire.”

The newcomer scrambled to keep the sinking agency afloat. He was forced to lay off two thirds of the staff, then proceeded “to engineer a turnaround.” Today, the agency is back on solid footing.

Defy’s top goal, says Glazer, is cutting the rate of recidivism, the all-important measure that tracks the proportion of released offenders who return to prison over time. Nationwide, the rate has remained stubbornly high for decades. According to the most recent study released in 2016 by the National矫制ical Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than 8 percent of inmates released in 2005 had been re-arrested at least once within nine years. Most, 68 percent, were re-arrested within the first three years. The study found a random sample of 69,266 parolees from 30 states, including California, Colorado and New York, all places where Defy programs operate. The participants, both budding entrepreneurs and volunteer counselors, make their way to the front, displaying individuality in their step. They strut, stroll, glide, vamp and slow-walk their way to the front, announcing the nicknames they gave themselves. There is Graceful Grace, Fantastic Frank, Kind Kyla and Bashful Benny. And here come Musical Monkey, Ambitious Albert, Incredible Ian and Resilient Raul.

In the role of moderator, Glazer as Awesome Andrew is a cross between a motivational speaker, group therapy leader and game show host. By the time these icebreakers work their wonder, the room is buzzing with laughter and chatter like a nightclub at midnight.

But when it comes time for Step to the Line, Glazer asks for silence. He instructs the group to form two lines along blue tape laid on the floor a few feet apart. Volunteers stand shoulder-to-shoulder on one side facing the Entrepreneurs in Training on the other. Then they all take two steps back from their respective lines, making the distance greater between them.

Glazer then reads a series of questions. For each one, participants must step forward to their line if the statement is “true for you.” As the exercise goes along, people on both sides of the divide step forward and back with each question, revealing both differences and commonalities.

So Glazer introduces guided piano music start playing, relaying as a spa. Glazer’s words float over the room like spiritual meditations. “We don’t do shame at Defy,” he says, speaking slowly with deliberate pauses. “We’re forward-looking. We do empathy. Now, empathy is not pity. Nobody is asking for anybody to feel sorry for them. Feeling sorry for someone isn’t built on respect. But empathy is. For Quan, that management style says, “I trust you.”

As the statements get more probing, responses reveal social divisions. Only two of the EITs, but half of the volunteers, indicate their parents paid for private schools. Only one former prisoner earned a four-year college degree; most dropped out of high school. Yet people on both sides share sad experiences, with random movements back and forth from the line of truth. I struggle with my self-confidence to this day. My mother or father have been to jail or prison. My parents split up and their divorce deeply wounded me. I’ve lost someone I love in violence.

When the questions turn to crime, the results are both surprising and shocking. Surprising to learn that many of the mostly white men have been stopped or questioned by police for no reason, and all most all have been arrested. Shocking to see what the EITs have endured in prison. The majority have spent more than four years behind bars, a few more than 20. The visual of men stepping back or remaining on the line as the number of years are called out makes for a powerful moment. Even more so when Glazer asks about a harsh psychological punishment. I’ve spent time in solitary confinement. (All but two step forward.) More than two years. (Two men step back.) Three years. (Three men remain.) Five years. (Two left.) Seven. (One man still on the line.) Ten years. (Finally, all have stepped back.)

The exercise has succeeded. It has stirred passion and compassion, even from this casual observer. And it has forged strong bonds among this unlikely team of strangers, as illustrated by their collective shared movement when Glazer delivers the final statements.

I feel proud of the person I am becoming. Glazer body steps up to the lines, and a couple give high fives across the quickly closing gap. One volunteer says, “It’s true for you, let me hear it. I love being part of the Defy community.”

The session ends with cheers, laughter, spontaneous hugs all around.

Pomona College Magazine
Announcing the launch of the all-new Sagehen Connect alumni community! New features include desktop and mobile versions, updated privacy settings and Sage Coaching for career interests. To use the new Sagehen Connect mobile app, please:
- Access Pomona's full, official alumni directory with multiple search options.
- Choose what profile information you want to display and share with fellow Sagehens.
- Log in with email, LinkedIn, Google or Facebook.
- Easily integrate your LinkedIn information with your profile.
- Register as a Sage Coach to help alumni or students with career and graduate school advising, job and internship search, resume review, career panels and presentations and more. You choose your level of involvement.
- See who has already registered on the site and invite your Pomona friends to join Sagehen Connect directly from the site, using email or social media.
- Opt-out at any time.

Call for Alumni Association Board Nominations
The Pomona College Alumni Association Board consists of highly engaged alumni who foster connection, action and impact among the 25,000-person strong alumni community. Members serve three-year terms and are selected based on self-nominations and recommendations from active alumni.

Nominate yourself or another alumna/us for the Alumni Association Board online at pomona.edu/alumni/alumni-association-board/alumni-association-board-nomination.

Pomona Now and Next Campaign Raises Nearly $400,000 For Scholarships
Running in tandem with the Ideas@Pomona Summit, the Pomona Now and Next crowdfunding campaign set out to support the Pomona liberal arts experience and scholarships and is a goal of 1,000 donors with $250,000 in gift commitments by the end of the Summer. Thanks to the generosity of several Pomona College Trustees who contributed to create the unlocking gifts and the 1,200+ donors who exceeded the goal, $250,000 was raised in gift commitments.

Our most successful crowdfunding campaign to date, Pomona Now and Next received gifts from over a third of the Summit attendees who excitedly watched the progress bar increase during the event and counted alumni, parents and more than 100 students among its donors.

Thank you to everyone for the incredible generosity shown in support of Pomona students. Chirp! Chirp!

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Leonard Pronko
Professor Emeritus of Theatre and Dance
1927–2019

During his remarkable 57-year career as a beloved member of the Pomona faculty, Professor Emeritus of Theatre and Dance Leonard Pronko was known for his infectious love of theatre—and, particu-
larly, for his dedication to kabuki, the traditional Japanese art form combining stylized drama and dance, on which he became one of America’s leading experts.

An embodiment of the liberal arts, Pronko possessed great depth and breadth of knowledge in several fields. He originally came to Pomona as a professor of French and continued in that capacity for almost 30 years. Coupled with his love of French literature, however, was his passion for the performing arts. He started directing theatre productions at Pomona almost as soon as he arrived in Claremont, bringing to the stage works by such playwrights as Shakespeare, Molière and Ibsen. Following his interest in acting and performance experiment, infusing classic works such as Macbeth with kabuki elements and leading students in his own original productions, such as Revenge at Spider Mountain, which he termed “a kabuki western.”

In 1985, the Japanese government awarded him the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Third Class, for his efforts to promote knowledge and appre-
ciation of kabuki in the U.S.

Pronko was the author of several books, including Theatre East and West: Perspectives Toward a Total Theatre, Guide to Japanese Drama, and Reenvisioning Shakespeare: The Radical Translation of the West: Perspectives Toward a Total Theatre, Guide to Japanese Drama, and The World of Jean Anouilh. Among his diverse honors were two Wig Distinguished Professor Awards, a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship, a 1972 Los Angeles Drama Critics’ Circle Award for his kabuki productions and the Association for Theatre in Education’s Outstanding Teacher of Theatre in Higher Education Award in 1997.

Born in the Philippines, Pronko earned his B.A. from Drury Col-
lege, his master’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis and his Ph.D. in French literature from Tulane University. He also studied at the École Charles Darwin in Paris. He taught at the University of Kansas and Lake Erie College, in Painesville, Ohio, before joining the Pomona faculty in 1957.

Though he retired in 2014, Pronko had remained actively engaged with the College community and the Theatre Department right up until his recent illness.

Jonathan Wright
The William A. Hilton Zoology Professor and Professor of Biology
1962–2019

Professor Jonathan Wright, the William A. Hilton Zoology Professor and Professor of Biology, will be remembered for his enormous enthusiasm for both science and music—at both of which he was equally gifted and dedicated—as well as his unsurpassed ability to communicate not only his encyclopedic knowledge in his chosen field of comparative physiology, but also his unerring sense of wonder at the big and little mysteries he had devoted his life to studying.

As one of his recent students noted, his knowledge and enthusi-
amism inspired his students “to see and explore how science can make the seemingly mundane seem incredible.”

A native of Great Britain, Wright earned his B.A., M.A. and D.Phil. degrees from Oxford University before coming first to Canada, then to the United States, where he spent five years on the faculty of Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., before coming to Pomona in 1998. At Pomona, he rose to hold the title of the William Arwood Hilton Professor of Zoology. Wright was a two-time winner of the Wig Distinguished Professor Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2001 and 2009.

One student who nominated Wright in 2009 wrote: “Jonathan Wright cares so much about his students. A true mentor, role-model and friend to his pupils, as well as an excellent professor and an in-
credibly knowledgeable biologist and natural historian.”

Another student wrote in 2001 that Wright “… is one of the most credible knowledgeable biologist and natural historians.

His life as a musician was just as important to him as his love of science. Having studied classical violin from an early age, he per-
formed regularly in orchestral, chamber and solo repertoires. In Claremont, he played with the Pomona College Symphony, the fac-
ulty string quartet Euphoria, a violin-piano duo and other ad-hoc en-
sembles.
The Ideas@Pomona Summit, Pomona’s premier lifelong learning event, brought together more than 200 Sagehen alumni, families, students and friends from around the globe for an energetic day-and-a-half conference under the theme Liberal Arts NEXT. Dedicated to meaningful connection and active dialogue around timely, newsworthy and captivating ideas, the inaugural event took place October 25-26, 2019, at the Hyatt Centric Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco.

What does cutting-edge research tell us about who we are and where we are going? How are liberal arts values such as critical thinking and creative learning being brought to bear on today’s unique challenges and tomorrow’s opportunities? The sold-out event featured sessions led by alumni, parents, faculty and friends of the College including featured speaker Ari Shapiro, host of NPR’s “All Things Considered,” Lizzy Black ’93, Liz Frankien ’09, professors Kevin Dettmar, Nicholas Ball, Nicole Holliday and more.

Attendees left invigorated, with an increased enthusiasm for the liberal arts and a strong sense of a visit back to class on campus. Planning is underway for the next Summit in 2021. Watch for details at pomona.edu/ideas-pomona-summit

Clockwise from top right: Ari Shapiro of NPR’s “All Things Considered” speaks to a sold-out crowd on Saturday morning. Professor Alexander Paatz holds and looks back at “Creating the Future of Work,” Alumna Association Board member Alfredo Romero ’91 and Carol Sugarfar, Professor Nicholas Ball on “The Challenges of a Pandemic Society,” Fabian Fernandez-Han ’20 and Peter Han P’20 lead an interactive workshop showcasing the creative power Human-Centered Design. “Creating a Healthcare System that Works for Everyone” panelists Brian Prestwich P’20 take audience questions.
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