A World of Opportunity 22
In the Shadow of Giants 28
A Global View 35
In a college experience best defined by the word “unprecedented,” there was one final shift for the Class of 2024. Instead of the traditional ceremony on Marston Quad, the class graduated on May 12 inside the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, a venue that has hosted the Academy Awards, Grammys, Frank Sinatra and Bruce Springsteen. The ceremony—moved off campus after pro-Palestinian protesters occupied the Commencement stage on Marston Quad—came off without interruption, despite the presence of protesters outside the auditorium. Above, a class photo inside the Shrine’s Expo Hall. Below, a card game, and at right, graduating in the Shrine. For highlights, see the video at pomona.edu/commencement-highlights.
### Leaving Campus

Working on a college campus lends itself to looking back on your own college years. With this issue of the magazine, I think again about how I never considered studying in another country while I was in school.

For one thing, I assumed it was too expensive because the only students I knew who did seemed to be alumni of New England boarding schools and I was from a public high school, one of four children in my family headed to college and already paying out-of-state tuition.

For another, this was the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Michael Jordan and Kenny Smith were my contemporaries. I didn’t want to miss any basketball games.

Only when I went to Europe the winter break before my final semester with a friend who was already working and generous with his frequent flyer miles did I see how much more actually using the language I had studied, seeing the art and architecture I had written about and standing in the places where history happened made me want to learn more.

After that—and once I was earning my own frequent flyer miles—I spent a lot of my 20s and 30s traveling to Latin America, various countries in Europe and later to Australia, each time coming back more interested in the literature, languages, history and current-day politics of those places than when I left.

Studying internationally already is much more part of the culture at Pomona than it was at UNC then, with about half of Pomona students studying away from campus, either internationally or in a domestic program.

One of the goals of the Global Pomona Project that inspired this issue (see more at pomona.edu/globalpomona) is that every Pomona student will meaningfully engage with global learning, whether from abroad or here in the U.S.

What’s more, global education on campus is going to get a huge boost in coming years with the announcement of planning for the Pomona College Center for Global Engagement (see page 12).

As for study away from campus: To ensure equal access for all students, financial aid transfers 100% for students participating in study away through Pomona College during the academic year. In addition, national and program-specific scholarships are available for transfers 100% for students participating in study away through Pomona College during the academic year.

One of the goals of the Global Pomona Project that inspired this issue (see more at pomona.edu/globalpomona) is that every Pomona student will meaningfully engage with global learning, whether from abroad or here in the U.S.

For another, this was the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Michael Jordan and Kenny Smith were my contemporaries. I didn’t want to miss any basketball games.

With gratitude,
—Robyn Norwood
The Liberal Arts for Life

I was pleased to see your Pomona College Magazine article devoted to the value of liberal arts (Spring 2024). As one whose four years at Pomona included courses in over 20 departments, a semester in India, a history major, completion of pre-med requirements and evenings spent hanging around the music department, I loved the breadth of opportunities that Pomona provided. And, yes, some of those “non-career-prep” courses did help me in my work—for example, giving me tools to author successful textbooks and edit a scientific journal.

But the real value of my liberal arts education was that it made the non-work aspects of my life much fuller and more enjoyable. So I wish that your article had said more about this side of liberal arts.

I understand that our society these days tends to define return on investment in terms of dollars and cents, but the older I get the more I realize that it’s what makes you happy that matters, and Pomona’s contribution to that aspect of my life was squarely in the liberal arts opportunities it provided.

—Philip D. Silvain ’72
Professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Praise for PCM, Aid for Middle- Income Students

Congrats on the “Value” issue (Spring 2024). I think the cover is exceptional—eye catching, artistic, clever with math, musical and DNA symbols. The diamond representing “value” was quite creative.

The article about supporting the financially mid-level students is timely in my opinion. Keep up the good work.

—Ron Smith ’63
Newport Beach, California

Closer Look at Classroom Photo

It was with great anticipation that I turned to your cover story on “The Value of the Liberal Arts.” Over a lifetime, Pomona’s liberal arts education has served me well both personally and professionally.

I was briefly thrown off by reference early in the story to “the gender and women’s studies class” since it is one of the newest and least established parts of the liberal arts curriculum. This mention felt a bit like the tyranny of political correctness (PC), but I continued to read until I took a close look at the photo of a class on gender studies, which covers the top of the right-hand page in this feature article’s two-page spread. Of the 17 people seated around the table, 16 are women and only one or two are men.

Those who seek to demonize gender studies charge them with being militant feminism, a.k.a. reverse sexism in disguise. Yet they have the potential to be of great value at a time when surveys show a larger divergence in life attitudes among young women and men than in the past. The big question is whether gender studies bridge this gap or widen it. The class photo is not encouraging in this regard. It suggests Pomona is not marketing gender studies to students in a way that is equally inviting to men and women, and thus is not inclusive.

That Pomona’s magazine could overlook the glaring implication of this photo suggests it is in the grip of an ideology regarding the need to promote gender studies as the new flagship of liberal arts. In this case, PC has fallen into the trap of being pc. Please take a closer look at such messaging.

—Glenn Pascall ’64
Dana Point, California

Arrest of Protesters on Campus

Fifty, maybe 60 people, including my granddaughter, Eden C. Norton, was Pomona’s first dean. My grandfather, Ralph Lyman, put Pomona on the map by introducing European classical music to Southern California and mentoring Robert Shaw, later mentored by Arturo Toscanini. Shaw was the greatest choral conductor of his time in America.

Now the war has come to campus. I am beyond appalled by how President G. Gabrielle Starr chose to militarize the police and storm the campus.

I am beyond appalled by how President G. Gabrielle Starr chose to militarize her response.

—David Lyman, ’66
South Pasadena, California

Correction

The article “A New Community Space in the City of Pomona” on page 8 of the Spring 2024 issue incorrectly referred to David Armstrong ’63 as deceased. Armstrong, founder of the American Museum of Ceramic Art on Garey Avenue in Pomona, still visits the museum almost daily as it undergoes a major remodel. At 53,000 square feet, it is the largest such ceramics museum in the United States. Pomona College Magazine regrets the error.

—Harry Stein ’70
New York

Write to Us at PCM

Pomona College Magazine welcomes brief letters to the editor about the magazine and issues related to the College from the extended Pomona community—alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, donors and others with a strong connection to the College. Write to us at pcm@pomona.edu or mail a letter to Pomona College Magazine, 800 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. Letters should include the writer’s name, city and state of residence, class year for alumni and contact information. With rare exceptions, letters should be no more than 400 words in length. Letters are selected for publication based on relevance and available space and are subject to being edited for brevity and clarity.

A ’60s Activist’s Take on Politicized Campuses

The subject of your piece is obviously of great interest, and I appreciate your effort to cover the waterfront in the limited space at hand. That said, I was disappointed that what strikes me as by far the most compelling issue—being the dominant theme throughout the story—in the cover story of the campus—is mentioned only briefly in your editor’s letter.

FTI, I was a political activist at Pomona in the 1960s, and having in the course of my career as a journalist moved to the right, I look back on the changes wrought by radicals like me as a profoundly positive experience, which is why I have been opposed to the militarization of the campus. I find such messaging.

Pomona community—alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, donors and others with a strong connection to the College. Write to us at pcm@pomona.edu or mail a letter to Pomona College Magazine, 800 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. Letters should include the writer’s name, city and state of residence, class year for alumni and contact information. With rare exceptions, letters should be no more than 400 words in length. Letters are selected for publication based on relevance and available space and are subject to being edited for brevity and clarity.

—David Lyman, ’66
South Pasadena, California

Editor’s note: For a report on the April 5 arrests of 20 people, including seven Pomona students, during a masked protest in Alexander Hall, visit pomona.edu/campus-incident.
Outgoing Board of Trustees Chair Sam Glick ’04:
‘The pivotal Pomona bubble has been popped.’

Sam Glick ’04, chair of the Pomona College Board of Trustees since 2016, reflects on his time leading the board as he passes the torch to Janet Inskeep Benton ’79 on July 1. Glick spoke with Chief Communications Officer Mark Kendall, who started at Pomona the year Glick graduated.

PCM: You’ve served 16 years on the board, with four more years ahead. Being this almost monastic pursuit. It was a way to study, and a way to examine the world, where you went away for four years and learned how to adopt a new lens, the world, where you went away for four years we talked about a liberal arts education as

Glick:
For many years, and many generations, we talked about the liberal arts education as something that comes from the inside and from the outside. I don’t know which one came first, but we’ve long known that the liberal arts are contemporary and relevant to all of the issues that the world is facing; now engaging directly with those issues is fully part of a Pomona education, not something that comes afterwards.

Look at our faculty; from their diverse backgrounds before coming to Pomona to the kind of work which the world do now. It is one of which directly defines the world of liberal arts. They define the relationship to the world, social policy, healthcare, global politics, artificial intelligence, and more. Look at the Draper Center, which is an extraordinary resource that allows us to bring in the world of practical experience and the communities around us. Look at the kind of speakers we hire to campus. We are taking the power of the liberal arts and using it to influence the world while we make the issues of the world front and center on our campus. That’s truly compelling.

PCM: How has the bubble popped, as you put it, from the inside?
Glick: I think the greatest internal change is the patriotism that is connected to the shadow of Pomona. When I was a student, it was a secret that a generation of students who were talking about all sorts of ideas I hadn’t even imagined. And so I applied

Early Decision, as did my best friend. We both got in and never looked back. Throughout my time on the board is that Pomona is now

PCM: Reflecting on your own time at Pomona, how did our version of the liberal arts shape your life?
Glick: That’s so many ways. I grew up in Southern California. We lived in the low desert; my family was in the citrus nursery business in Thermal. We turned left on the Palos Verdes and the Salton Sea. I went to a big public high school and the whole junior class took the SAT and ACT [the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery]. We had four counselors for the school, not a very good student, you got handed a UC [University of California] application, and off you went. We had a really nice band. My husband had gone to one of The Claremont Colleges and she said to my best friend and me, “You know that you should probably apply to Pomona in Claremont.” We were 17 and you got a free day off school if you were on a college tour, which was all the incentive that we had. And so we drove to Claremont.

When I toured Pomona, it was fundamentally different than any place I had ever seen before. The campus was gorgeous; it looked like the nicer golf courses in the desert where I grew up. I sat in on a class, and I met students who were talking about all sorts of ideas I hadn’t even imagined. And so I applied

PCM: You have a compelling Pomona story. At the same time, there’s deep and growing skepticism about higher education. Why do you think that is? And how can Pomona play a role in addressing that?
Glick: Frankly, some of that skepticism is warranted. You know, we have to prove to you that we mean not just Pomona College but higher education broadly, or at least elite higher education—for the vast majority of our history we have been more exclusive than inclusive. Elite institutions have often been the leaders in the creation of charitable organizations in the country that brag about how few people we serve. If you went to a capital or a soup kitchen and they said, “Isn’t it amazing, we turned away more than 90% of the people who could benefit from us,” you’d think that was absurd. But when we have elite higher education admissions rates that are in the single digits, that’s fundamentally what we’re saying, right?

I think higher education needs to talk about how we become more inclusive. How do we become more accessible? How do we become more affordable? How do we make it so more people can benefit from the wonderful things that we do? Those are real challenges that we should take seriously. Some of the skepticism, however, is more about the nature of higher education as an entity—a nature that shouldn’t change. The students we attract are not fully formed, we are part of that formation as students try out different ideas and test the boundaries on all sorts of issues. Similarly, the best faculty are bold and provocative, engaging in the major issues of the day. And they should be.

We stand for excellence and for progress and for academic freedom. Sometimes that makes people uncomfortable. That’s the nature of it. What’s changed in recent years is that, due to the internet and social media, the broader public has hour-by-hour, minute-by-minute exposure to the messiness that makes colleges campuses what they are. The boundaries between our community and broader society are blurring. That’s one of the downsides to the bubble popping.

At Pomona, we are doing many things that are amazing. Our commitment to financial aid is second to none. We have made great strides in terms of not just attracting a diverse student body, but creating an environment where every student can thrive. Our faculty are extraordinary, and our students learn from them and work on research with them shoulder-to-shoulder. I have, in my role as board chair, probably talked to hundreds if not thousands of alumni. And the most common reason people feel connected to Pomona is because some faculty member changed their lives. Very few schools can say all of this. We must continue to lead in these areas.

PCM: President Starr has alluded to the underrepresentation of students from the middle-income spectrum in the U.S., and we’ve launched an initiative to attract and enroll more middle-income students. Why is this important?
Glick: I’m a huge supporter of where President Starr is going in terms of increasing the number of middle-income students who have access to the life-changing education we offer. We have made great strides in terms of racial and ethnic diversity, gender diversity, bringing in international students, you name it. But like most institutions like us, we skewed toward those students with high incomes at least by national standards, with a meaningful but smaller number of students of very modest means. Someone described it to me as a “whale” distribution. You imagine what the silhouette of a whale looks like, that’s about right.

When you have that kind of “whale” distribution, it changes the environment on campus, in that it creates a polarized environment of haves and have-nots. And I think that’s important to address. It also means that the people who grow up as the children of teachers and nurses and accountants are largely being served by a different class of school, which is mostly state institutions. They’re not even considering Pomona College, and we have to change that. Those state institutions are perfectly good. But they’re not providing the kind of liberal arts experience that you and I were just talking about, and I think everybody deserves access to it. So it’s in our issue we have to take on in the years ahead.

Glick:
Oh, in so many ways. I grew up in Claremont, California; I didn’t even know this was a town. I had an English teacher whose husband was the Communications Officer Mark Kendall, who started at Pomona the year Glick graduated.

PCM: In 2010, President Starr explained the importance of student engagement on campus, in that it creates a polarized environment of haves and have-nots. And I think that’s important to address. It also means that the people who grow up as the children of teachers and nurses and accountants are largely being served by a different class of school, which is mostly state institutions. They’re not even considering Pomona College, and we have to change that. Those state institutions are perfectly good. But they’re not providing the kind of liberal arts experience that you and I were just talking about, and I think everybody deserves access to it. So it’s in our issue we have to take on in the years ahead.

Milestones
Amid Tension, Pomona Holds Sessions on Mideast Issues

War in Israel and Gaza made for a tense and tragic year on campus for different viewpoints. Among the past year’s events:

• “Contextualising the Conflict” with Joanne Banda Nkopo, chair and associate professor of anthropology and coordinator of Middle Eastern studies, and Mirek Bodszyński, associate professor of politics and former U.S. diplomat.

• “On Nationalism in Its Historical Context” with Gary Kates, H. Russell Bell Foundation Chair in the Social Sciences and professor of history, and “On Zionism in Its Historical Context” by Claremont McKenna Associate Professor of Religious Studies Gary Gilbert.

• “Understanding Israel’s Role” by Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies Krouss Ktensi.

• “Contested Past/Contested Present: Understanding the Impact of Intervar British Rule in Palestine” with Associate Professor of History Penny Sinanoglou.

• “The First Crusade & Palestine” with Christopher Chinn, Penny Sinanoglou, and Fred Krinsky Professor of Jewish Studies Gary Gilbert.

• “The British Mandate & Palestine” with Penny Sinanoglou and Associate Professor of Classics John Sutton Minor Professor of Classics.

• “Rome & the Great Jewish Revolt” with Penny Sinanoglou and Muslim chaplain for The Claremont Colleges. Among the past year’s events:

• “Ambassador Dennis Ross and Ghaith al-Omari: Contextualizing the Conflict” with Penny Sinanoglou and assistant professor of political science and possibly politics.

• “On Nationalism in Its Historical Context” with Joanne Banda Nkopo, chair and associate professor of anthropology and coordinator of Middle Eastern studies, and Mirek Bodszyński, associate professor of politics and former U.S. diplomat.

• “On Zionism in Its Historical Context” by Claremont McKenna Associate Professor of Religious Studies Gary Gilbert.

• “Understanding Israel’s Role” by Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies Krouss Ktensi.

• “Contested Past/Contested Present: Understanding the Impact of Intervar British Rule in Palestine” with Associate Professor of History Penny Sinanoglou.

• “The First Crusade & Palestine” with Penny Sinanoglou and Fred Krinsky Professor of Jewish Studies Gary Gilbert.

• “The British Mandate & Palestine” with Penny Sinanoglou and Muslim chaplain for The Claremont Colleges.
Monika Moore '03 is New Director of Alumni and Family Engagement

Monika Moore '03 returned to her alma mater in March as the director of alumni and family engagement. She is an integral member of the senior team with the Office of Advancement, responsible for developing and implementing strategic oversight of Pomona College’s growing alumni and family engagement program.

Moore and her team will further strengthen Pomona’s expansive portfolio of activities and programs that engage the College’s global network of alumni, parents, families and volunteers. Working in close partnership with faculty, staff, and alumni and family leaders—including the Pomona College Alumni Association Board, Alumni Association Past Presidents Council and Family Leadership Council—Moore will lead efforts to re-envision events and programming, celebrate Pomona’s well-steeped traditions and create plentiful opportunities for engagement locally, regionally and globally. Visit pomona.edu/monika-moore for more.

Six members of the Pomona College faculty have been named winners of the 2024 Wig Distinguished Professor Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching, commitment to students and service to the College and the community. Students in their junior and senior years vote for the awards, which are confirmed by a committee comprised of students, faculty and members of the Board of Trustees.

This year’s Wig Award winners (from left): Associate Professor of Chemistry Nicholas Ball, Professor of Politics Susan McWilliams Barndt, Emeritus H. Burkhead Professor of Mathematics Ami Radunskaya, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Ellie Anderson, Professor of Computer Science David Kauchak and Assistant Professor of Economics Kyle Wilson.

Six members of the Pomona College faculty have been named winners of the 2024 Wig Distinguished Professor Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching, commitment to students and service to the College and the community. Students in their junior and senior years vote for the awards, which are confirmed by a committee comprised of students, faculty and members of the Board of Trustees.

This year’s winners are Associate Professor of Chemistry Nicholas Ball, Professor of Politics Susan McWilliams Barndt, Emeritus H. Burkhead Professor of Mathematics Ami Radunskaya, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Ellie Anderson, Professor of Computer Science David Kauchak and Assistant Professor of Economics Kyle Wilson.

It’s farewell season, and that includes some faculty as well as students. See a face or name you know? Consider dropping your former professor an email as they embark on life after the classroom.

Monika Moore '03 returned to her alma mater in March as the director of alumni and family engagement. She is an integral member of the senior team with the Office of Advancement, responsible for developing and implementing strategic oversight of Pomona College’s growing alumni and family engagement program.

Moore and her team will further strengthen Pomona’s expansive portfolio of activities and programs that engage the College’s global network of alumni, parents, families and volunteers. Working in close partnership with faculty, staff, and alumni and family leaders—including the Pomona College Alumni Association Board, Alumni Association Past Presidents Council and Family Leadership Council—Moore will lead efforts to re-envision events and programming, celebrate Pomona’s well-steeped traditions and create plentiful opportunities for engagement locally, regionally and globally. Visit pomona.edu/monika-moore for more.

Six members of the Pomona College faculty have been named winners of the 2024 Wig Distinguished Professor Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching, commitment to students and service to the College and the community. Students in their junior and senior years vote for the awards, which are confirmed by a committee comprised of students, faculty and members of the Board of Trustees.

This year’s winners are Associate Professor of Chemistry Nicholas Ball, Professor of Politics Susan McWilliams Barndt, Emeritus H. Burkhead Professor of Mathematics Ami Radunskaya, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Ellie Anderson, Professor of Computer Science David Kauchak and Assistant Professor of Economics Kyle Wilson.

It’s farewell season, and that includes some faculty as well as students. See a face or name you know? Consider dropping your former professor an email as they embark on life after the classroom.
Engaging with the wider world is central to the Pomona College experience. In the years ahead, a new Center for Global Engagement will rise at the heart of our campus. The center will be a place where disciplines are interwoven in surprising ways, problems are confronted from fresh angles and people from all over the world come together to ask big questions and discover new answers. The center will facilitate and strengthen ties between our faculty and students—through academic inquiry, research and creative endeavors—as well as to communities both close to home and around the globe.

The Center for Global Engagement will connect our campus community in Southern California to the world. Encompassing a residence hall, a dining hall, language study and flexible academic spaces, the newly imagined center will enhance learning across languages, cultures and disciplines. It will be located where the Oldenborg Center for Modern Languages, built in the 1960s, now stands—but the project represents far more than simply swapping out one building for a newer one. The new center will be a completely novel living, breathing liberal arts laboratory.

With a fundraising goal of $50 million, the 111,000-square-foot global center will be one of the most ambitious and complex construction projects at Pomona in many decades, and the College is taking the time and effort to get it right. Once key steps in planning, design and fundraising are met, construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2026.

The center will support the College’s larger effort to ensure that every Pomona student will meaningfully engage with global learning, whether from abroad or here in the U.S.

For a video preview of the Center for Global Engagement, visit pomona.edu/center-global-engagement and follow the links for the full video and additional details on planning and design, as well as the larger effort of the Global Pomona Project.

Oldenborg Memories
Did you live in Oldenborg? Have other memories of Pomona’s language-themed dining and residence hall? In coming years, the new Center for Global Engagement will rise on the site where Oldenborg Center has stood since 1966, when it was considered the first facility of its kind to combine a language center, international house and coeducational residence hall in a single building. As Oldenborg nears the end of its days with construction on the new center to begin as soon as 2026, Pomona College Magazine will pay tribute to Oldenborg. Send your thoughts to our writer Lorraine Wu Harry ’97 at lorraine.harry@pomona.edu.
KSPC Radio Rocks On

DJ Comet and DJ Moon were a natural fit for KSPC 88.7 FM, the station of The Claremont Colleges, which celebrated 68 years on the FM airwaves in February. (KSPC was preceded by the AM station KPSC.) DJ Comet was supposed to be a placeholder name until Annelle Roc ’24 found another. But the moniker—a play on her last name and love of space—fit perfectly at the station often known as The Space. Pomona classmate Emily Gibbons ’24 christened herself DJ Moon on the same theme.

Roc and Gibbons represent a senior class whose introduction to college came via Zoom during the early months of the pandemic. While remote in 2020, Gibbons worked as a music director at KSPC, reviewing albums and music. Roc became a production director, learning how to edit shows and write promotions and community messages. Once they were on campus as sophomores, KSPC’s secluded headquarters saved them both.

“In the Clouds with DJ Moon,” says Gibbons. “I was instantly hooked. There are posters there from the ’80s, photos there from the ’90s when it became an FM station. I was instantly hooked.

People ask, “Why do radio? Radio is dead.” Roc says. “We have Spotify, the internet, Al Di Doshi who can find you the perfect song. But people are really attracted to The Space. It’s a beautiful space with all this history. We want to be part of that legacy.”

Gibbons, a philosophy major and host of The Clouds with DJ Moon, plans to attend law school, with dreams of becoming an attorney for a band or music label.

“I would love to get involved in the radio station of whatever law school I go to if they would have me,” she says.

Roc, a physics major, is so invested in mastering the craft she says she only applied to universities with established radio programs either on campus or in the community.

“Live music is something I can’t live without,” the host of astrophysics deconstruction says. “I’m tied on a soul level to radio now.”

Dorado began her writing journey in her hometown of Castro Valley, California. At Pomona, she plans on majoring in English and is exploring a possible double major. Asked how her poetry and social activism are related, Dorado says poetry is humanizing.

“Especially when there’s a lot of grief in the world, we go into direct action,” she says. “We also need to take the time to grieve and sit with ourselves in order to fully show up for others and for the people in and beyond our communities. Poetry gives us space to do that. I don’t think poetry will save the world. But it will help us reckon with it.”

But it will help us reckon with it.

National Youth Poet Laureate Finalist

Zoe Dorado ’27 traveled to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in April and performed as a finalist for National Youth Poet Laureate, a role once held by Amanda Gorman, who read her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Dorado, representing the Western U.S., took the stage alongside three other finalists and was named the runner-up to 2024 honoree Spring 2024.

The date marked the 116th anniversary of the birth of the late journalist and civil rights champion Ignacio López ’31, who fought discrimination against Latinos in the region for decades, publishing his influential El Expulsador newspaper in Pomona from 1933 to 1960.

His name lives on through Ignacio López Day in the City of Pomona. The day was celebrated with an event in the City of Pomona Park. It included a parade, a community picnic, and a reading of his works by poet and activist Della Anjeh ’16.

On campus, she also danced with the SC Dance Company. Now for the past two seasons and counting, Anjeh has donned red and gold as a 49ers cheerleader as a counterpoint to her time in front of a computer. In February, she capped her second season with a trip to the Super Bowl in Las Vegas, where the 49ers fell to the Kansas City Chiefs.

Despite the opportunity to perform on the world stage, other highlights included watching the halftime show from the field and encountering a wide swath of 49ers fans.

“Being involved in all the excitement was really fun,” she says. “Did she see Taylor Swift in the stands? “We got to see just about everything you could see,” she answers. Not bad for a side gig.

“I’m a flexible enough commitment for people to maintain pretty demanding full-time jobs,” Anjeh says. “I just love to perform.”

Ignacio López Day in the City of Pomona

March 19 was Ignacio López Day in the city of Pomona by proclamation of the city council.

The Sagehen and the Super Bowl

By day, Della Anjeh ’16 works as a software engineer at Google. On evenings and weekends during football season the past two years, she has moonlighted as a cheerleader for the San Francisco 49ers.

Her experiences at Pomona helped launch both careers.

Anjeh knew she wanted to major in computer science when she arrived at Pomona from O’Fallon, Missouri, via the QuestBridge program. She credits her advisor, Professor Tzu-Ti Chen, with nurturing and guiding her. Her junior year, she landed an internship at a startup company through Code2040—a nonprofit that connects Black and Latinx technologists with tech companies and mentors—when its recruiters visited Pomona’s campus.

The internship opened doors, and since graduating, Anjeh has worked as a software engineer at Lyft, Amazon, Microsoft and now Google.

“Being involved in all the excitement was really fun,” she says. “Did she see Taylor Swift in the stands? “We got to see just about everything you could see,” she answers. Not bad for a side gig.

“It’s a flexible enough commitment for people to maintain pretty demanding full-time jobs,” Anjeh says. “I just love to perform.”

Orientation Book

If you’d like to read along with the Class of 2028 and other Sagehens arriving on campus this fall, you can order out this year’s Orientation Book, Afterparties, a collection of short stories by young Cambodian American writer Anthony Veasna So that was published posthumously in 2021.

Diane Nguyen ’27, the first-year class president, helped make the selection, writing in a letter to incoming Sagehens, “I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, even though I admittedly squeezed it in during finals week.”

The stories “adeptly mix lighthearted moments with significant reflections on themes such as race, sexuality, friendship and family—each narrative underlined by the historical echoes of the Khmer Rouge past,” she wrote to future students.

The book was selected by a committee led by Colleen Rosenfeld, associate professor of English, that included professors, Associate Dean of Students Josh Eisenberg and Nguyen.

The Sagehen and the Super Bowl

Della Anjeh ’16

Orientation Book

If you’d like to read along with the Class of 2028 and other Sagehens arriving on campus this fall, you can order out this year’s Orientation Book, Afterparties, a collection of short stories by young Cambodian American writer Anthony Veasna So that was published posthumously in 2021.

Diane Nguyen ’27, the first-year class president, helped make the selection, writing in a letter to incoming Sagehens, “I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, even though I admittedly squeezed it in during finals week.”

The stories “adeptly mix lighthearted moments with significant reflections on themes such as race, sexuality, friendship and family—each narrative underlined by the historical echoes of the Khmer Rouge past,” she wrote to future students.

The book was selected by a committee led by Colleen Rosenfeld, associate professor of English, that included professors, Associate Dean of Students Josh Eisenberg and Nguyen.

In 2021, Waters’ senior history thesis at Pomona about placements of queer youth with queer foster parents in New York City in the 1970s was adapted and published in The New Yorker. Since graduating, he has contributed numerous articles to publications including The Atlantic, The New Yorker, WIREd and Vox and The New York Times.

Pomona College Magazine's Lorraine Wu Harry ’97 talked to Waters about the book as well as his development as a historian and journalist. Answers have been edited for clarity and length.

PCM: How did Pomona train you as a student of history? 
Waters: Professors in the History Department taught me the potential of discovery in the past. There are so many stories of marginalized communities out there. They are just harder to find in traditional archives. But there’s a way of doing history where you read against the grain and you look for what’s not there.

What fascinates me about queer history is finding pockets of queer community in these spaces and in these eras before we would expect them. I want to try to reclaim this idea of queer history as a linear story of progress. Queer history has never been linear. There are so many surprising examples of acceptance and celebrity and community that existed before traditional narratives of celebrity and community that existed before.

PCM: What did you do to conduct research for this book? 
Waters: It was hard in many ways, but one really lucky thing was finding a short memoir that Zdeněk Koubek, the main Czech athlete in the book, wrote in 1936 in a Czech magazine. It was this rich, 40,000-word manuscript about his life. That solved what would have been potentially insurmountable archival problems, because a lot of his story is otherwise not well-documented.

A lot of the book pulls from different newspaper records, too. For the Olympics, I went to the International Olympic Committee archive and went through some of their 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s correspondence files. Avery Brundage, who’s a big part of the book—he’s an American IOC official—has this huge archive in Illinois, where he saved literally everything, it seems. To make a book, especially a nonfiction book, sellable, there’s so much luck involved when it comes to sourcing. I couldn’t have done this book if it wasn’t for that source from Koubek’s life. Everything kind of came together after that.

PCM: How did you learn to write so well? 
Waters: I hope that’s true. I’ve been writing for almost 10 years, so it often feels surreal to see physical copies of her novel on bookstore shelves, Capossela says. She’s learning how to pause and celebrate the accomplishment.

David Connor ’15
To introduce Connor’s book Oh God, the Sun Goes, Brian Evenson, faculty at California Institute of the Arts, said, “I found premise is simple and absurd. The sun has disappeared, and no one knows why.”

“It’s the kind of work that only David could write,” Evenson added.

At Pomona, Connor majored in neuroscience and minored in computer science. He also took a few courses in the 71 Principles of Creative Writing at Pomona College. These experiences helped him to develop his writing.

Julius Taranto ’12
Julius Taranto’s novel Hot Milk is set on a college campus: one founded by a libertarian billionaire as a safe haven for canceled scholars and located on an island off the coast of Connecticut.

When Taranto arrived at Pomona, he thought he might major in history or philosophy. But taking a class on James Joyce made him want to “keep coming back for more.” His interest in economics started when, he discovered that he loved working with the faculty in the English Department.

After graduating, Taranto attended Yale Law School and practiced law for five years. How I Won a Nobel Prize was named one of the best books of the year by Vogue and Vox.

Three Pomona Alumni Publish Their First Novels

Patience and persistence. A little bit of luck. And the membership of novelist Jonathan Lethem, the Roy Edward Disney Professor of Creative Writing at Pomona College. These factors helped three Pomona alumni publish their first novels last year.

Francesca Capossela '18

Waters: Things are so much more accepted in this normal—
It’s especially illuminating when, by contrast, you look at all of the transphobic coverage in newspapers today.

PCM: What impact do you hope your book will have? 
Waters: When it comes to sports today, I hope that the book provides context for the trans and anti-intersex policies that exist at the Olympics. The big thing for me is to show the influence of fascist ideology on these policies. Tracing that history lets us see how Nazi-aligned sports officials originally rammed these policies through. These policies were flawed from the beginning, and that tells us something about them today. We can also see alternate pathways for how sports could have included people of many different genders, if officials had just been willing to have that conversation. I also hope that the book inspires more researchers to look into queer life in the early 20th century, because there were so many incredible stories that I came across about queer community and gender transition in this era. I hope to bring to light these stories of real people that have been lost, and that more researchers take the mandate.

PCM: Were there any things that surprised you as you wrote this book? 
Waters: When I first started doing this research, I was surprised how American media received the news of these athletes transitioning gender. When you read those articles from the 1930s, there’s a real sense of curiosity about them and how one could move through different categories of what we would call gender today. Certainly, there were some surprising examples that existed, and there were others that were quite sensationalist. But even through that, there is this real sense of interest and fascination and, in many cases, acceptance. People accepted that there was a world out there, and they understood how gender works, how the body works. There were op-eds from doctors that doctors are just normal.”

Tyriek White PZ ’13, convened on Pomona’s campus last spring for an event organized by the English Department that featured the four first-time novelists.

Francesca Capossela ’18

Capossela’s book Trouble the Living, set in the 1990s in Northern Ireland and the 2010s in a Los Angeles suburb, follows a mother and daughter as they confront the past when they navigate their relationship with each other in the present.

Capossela knew she wanted the mother in the story to have a different place than the daughter, hence Northern Ireland as one of the settings. Many years later, the mother raises her daughter in a Southern California town with several colleges—basically Claremont,” says Capossela.

It often feels surreal to see physical copies of her novel on bookstore shelves, Capossela says. She’s learning how to pause and celebrate the accomplishment.

David Connor ’15

To introduce Connor’s book Oh God, the Sun Goes, Brian Evenson, faculty at California Institute of the Arts, said, “I found premise is simple and absurd. The sun has disappeared, and no one knows why.”

“It’s the kind of work that only David could write,” Evenson added.

At Pomona, Connor majored in neuroscience and minored in computer science. He also took a few courses in the 71 Principles of Creative Writing at Pomona College. These experiences helped him to develop his writing.

Julius Taranto ’12

Julius Taranto’s novel Hot Milk is set on a college campus: one founded by a libertarian billionaire as a safe haven for canceled scholars and located on an island off the coast of Connecticut.

When Taranto arrived at Pomona, he thought he might major in history or philosophy. But taking a class on James Joyce made him want to “keep coming back for more.” His interest in economics started when, he discovered that he loved working with the faculty in the English Department.

After graduating, Taranto attended Yale Law School and practiced law for five years. How I Won a Nobel Prize was named one of the best books of the year by Vogue and Vox.

Three Pomona Alumni Publish Their First Novels
If you graduated in the past 30 years, chances are Nancy Newman took your picture. Although she doesn’t remember exactly which year was her first, “I know there have been three presidents during my time photographing Commencement.” That means if you shook the hand of Peter W. Staney, David W. Crucey or the current president, G. Gabrielle Starr, then Newman might have snapped the shot.

At 5 years old, decide to work for newspapers one day. Pick up a camera as a freshman in college and never look back. “I fell in love,” Newman says. “I realized I could report local and national stories through the lens.”

Put in some very long days. Newman usually arrives on campus around 8 a.m. on Commencement Day to check out the staging and photograph presidents with their families. Did she do it this year, too—before heading to L.A. for the relocated ceremony? She’s not finished when the last graduate crosses the stage. After a break, she starts the post-production work. “I try to turn it around as quickly as possible. In my photography, I give it everything I have and then give some more, because I think it warrants that care for each student and their families.”

How effective are different messaging styles aimed at boosting climate awareness and action? Is a “doom and gloom” approach best? What about emphasizing scientific consensus on climate change? Or considering the consequences of climate change in one’s region?

At 5 years old, decide to work for newspapers one day. Pick up a camera as a freshman in college and never look back. “I fell in love,” Newman says. “I realized I could report local and national stories through the lens.”

Put in some very long days. Newman usually arrives on campus around 8 a.m. on Commencement Day to check out the staging and photograph presidents with their families. Did she do it this year, too—before heading to L.A. for the relocated ceremony? She’s not finished when the last graduate crosses the stage. After a break, she starts the post-production work. “I try to turn it around as quickly as possible. In my photography, I give it everything I have and then give some more, because I think it warrants that care for each student and their families.”

Experience the emptiness of those spaces without the campus Commencements, not only this year but also the pandemic cancellations in 2020 and 2021. “That was so strange. It felt like something was missing. For years, I photographed something for so many years, it becomes part of your life.”

Come full circle in 2024, when it’s back to Bridges Auditorium, 35 years after shooting the Oscars there.

Never forget the importance of each graduate’s photo. “It’s funny, I wonder if that’s part of why I take every single shot to heart. I had to pay my own way through college. When I finally had enough money to buy the photos, I called and the photo company said they had destroyed them already. I never got one and so I work hard to get everyone their photos.”

Keep a sense of humor, knowing that as the audience looks at the stage, they’re also staring at the photographer’s back. “The number of photos the back of my brain would be swarmed by if you knew how to do it!” Newman says with a laugh.

Testing Climate Change Messaging Through Behavioral Science

By Lorraine Wu Harry ’97

The most effective strategy globally for increasing support for climate policy was imagining writing a letter explaining one’s climate actions today to a child one knows who would receive the letter 25 years later. Similarly effective was imagining oneself in the future: writing a letter to one’s current self, asking questions about what actions one took or what one was thinking at the time. “These messages shrunk the time scale of climate change. They reminded us that our actions today matter and will impact people we know, in our families and communities,” Pearson says.

It felt like something was missing. For years, I photographed something for so many years, it becomes part of your life.”

Come full circle in 2024, when it’s back to Bridges Auditorium, 35 years after shooting the Oscars there.

Never forget the importance of each graduate’s photo. “It’s funny, I wonder if that’s part of why I take every single shot to heart. I had to pay my own way through college. When I finally had enough money to buy the photos, I called and the photo company said they had destroyed them already. I never got one and so I work hard to get everyone their photos.”

Keep a sense of humor, knowing that as the audience looks at the stage, they’re also staring at the photographer’s back. “The number of photos the back of my brain would be swarmed by if you knew how to do it!” Newman says with a laugh.

NEGATIVE MESSAGING “Doom and gloom” messaging, however, decreased people’s pro-environmental behavior. These stories were highly effective in getting people to share information about climate change on social media but backfired for climate activists,aging their support for a range of climate policies.
A THREE-PEAT FOR WOMEN'S WATER POLO

It’s time to call the Pomona-Pitzer women’s water polo program a D-III dynasty after a third consecutive USA Water Polo Division III national championship.

The Sagehens claimed the title with a 15-10 win over Claremont-Mudd-Scripps in the final of the four-team national championship tournament May 5 at Haldeman Pool. Kaylee Steiger ’25 led the way with a hat trick and added three assists and three steals to her three goals to earn the tournament’s most valuable player award.

For the sixth consecutive season—including COVID-shortened 2020—the Sagehens dominated the SCIAC, going undefeated in regular-season conference play. But their 25-10 overall record hints at their lumps as younger starters playing against the best programs in the country. But punching above their weight served a greater purpose.

Wiesenthal, a molecular biology major who led the team with 42 regular-season goals, remembers a time two years ago when she and her teammates entered preseason tournaments in awe.

“We have to play USC?” she recalls thinking. “They have Olympians on their team.”

A healthy reverence for top programs fuels the Sagehens’ competitive spirit. In 2023, Pomona-Pitzer knocked off Division I Indiana. This past season, the Sagehens beat Marist College and Brown University twice.

“Our program has always been about ‘Who can we knock off? How good can we be?’”

In end-of-season conference honors, Jachung repeated as SCIAC All-Mathlete of the Year while goalkeeper Zosia Amberger ’23 earned her second SCIAC Defensive Athlete of the Year award. La and his assistants received Coaching Staff of the Year honors.

At Pomona, Budenholzer was a four-year player and senior co-captain of the Sagehens basketball team and also played golf, while majoring in philosophy, politics and economics. Though he didn’t play for former coach Gregg Popovich at Pomona-Pitzer, he spent 19 years working for Popovich with the San Antonio Spurs, first as a video assistant and then for 17 seasons as an assistant coach, helping the Spurs to four NBA titles.

He’ll be trying to get the Suns, led by Devin Booker, Kevin Durant and Bradley Beal, to the NBA title he helped deny the Suns in the 2021 Finals.

“I don’t know what the word is, surreal or wild,” said Budenholzer, who reminisced following the Suns.

“We couldn’t have imagined this success. We’ve been able to develop rosters that can compete with the best of the best.”

Making it a Double: SWIMMERS TAKE 2 NATIONAL TITLES IN RELAYS

The Pomona-Pitzer women’s swimming program claimed its first national title in any event in 40 years when Sabrina Wang ’26, Alexandra Turvey ’24, Francesca Coppo ’27 and Valerie Mello PZ ’25 combined to win the 200 freestyle relay on the second day of the 2024 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships in March.

Two days later, three of them—Wang, Turvey and Mello—combined to win the 200 butterfly relay on the final day of the championships in Greensboro, North Carolina. Before the relay titles, the program’s last national title was in the 800 freestyle relay in 1984.

The 2024 Pomona-Pitzer women finished seventh overall in the team competition won by Kenyon College. Turvey, the three-time SCIAC Athlete of the Year in women’s swimming, capped her individual career at the NCAA meet with two national runner-up finishes, taking second in the 50 freestyle as well as the 100 butterfly.

“A healthy reverence for top programs fuels the Sagehens’ competitive spirit. In 2023, Pomona-Pitzer knocked off Division I Indiana. This past season, the Sagehens beat Marist College and Brown University twice. This year, I think everybody expected to win their games, especially the seniors, who really want to leave a legacy,” La says. “Our program has always been about ‘Who can we knock off? How good can we be?’”

In end-of-season conference honors, Jachung repeated as SCIAC All-Mathlete of the Year while goalkeeper Zosia Amberger ’23 earned her second SCIAC Defensive Athlete of the Year award. La and his assistants received Coaching Staff of the Year honors.

Mike Budenholzer ’92 grew emotional as he returned to his native Arizona in May and was introduced as the new coach of the NBA’s Phoenix Suns with family members and friends from his hometowns of Hoffman on hand.

“My dad, Vince Budenholzer, 94 years old, sitting here in the front row. We call him the original Coach Bud,” Budenholzer said at his first news conference. “I love you, Dad.”

Budenholzer, who won the 2021 NBA title as coach of the Milwaukee Bucks and twice has been chosen NBA Coach of the Year, grew up following the Suns.

“I don’t know what the word is, surreal or wild,” said Budenholzer, who reminisced about past players including Alvan Adams, Walter Davis and Paul Westphal and “my dad taking me in the backyard and teaching me Paul Westphal, reverse pivot into a pump fake into a step-through.”
In the year 2000, only about 2% of Pomona students were from other countries. Now, international students make up almost 13% of the student body—and U.S. students benefit, too.

By Carla Maria Guerrero ’06
“What he said challenged me to think of knowledge in a way that everything just clicked,” says Hingad, explaining that the educational system in India is more rigid and requires a narrower area of focus. “Where I come from, people have their future set up from the 10th grade.”

Sapp is used to explaining the different approach at Pomona and many other U.S. colleges.

“For many [international] families, this might be the first time they hear words like liberal arts, interdisciplinary studies or guaranteed housing,” he says. “Often, we recruit in places where the higher education system works very differently from ours, so we are not just introducing a new philosophy of education, we are literally speaking a whole new language.”

Finding Talented Students

International students sometimes arrive to begin their college careers without having so much as a campus tour or attending Admitted Students Day. Shortly after coming to Pomona as a first-year student, Hingad reached out to Assistant Vice President and Director of Admissions Adam Sapp to finally meet him in person after initially being drawn to Pomona after an older student from her high school, Rya Jetha ’23, chose it. (Learn more about Jetha in story on page 28.)

“I remember going home and searching it up, and suddenly everything began to click,” Hingad says. “I remember reading the statement, ‘the promise is in the place,’ and that is exactly why I applied—from small class sizes to warm weather (and people).” I applied Early Decision without even visiting the campus. In that first face-to-face encounter with Sapp, a person she was only familiar with from afar, Hingad says she became an admirer of the way he described Pomona’s interdisciplinary education, explaining how the liberal arts approach allows knowledge to build on itself.

“Sapp is used to explaining the different approach at Pomona and many other U.S. colleges.” — Esther Brimmer ’83

“A wonderful opportunity for students across the United States to benefit from learning from their colleagues in the classroom, their friends in the dorm, their friends on the sports team.” — Esther Brimmer ’83

“Talented Students...just couldn’t access without the local outreach of our partners.” — Director of Admissions Adam Sapp

International students gathering in front of Bridges Auditorium

Visit our website for the full text.
applicants, for international students applying from abroad, the student’s or family’s ability to pay tuition is considered. Once admitted, however, all students receive the same type of aid package: 100% of needed need is met with a package that includes a combination of Pomona grants and student work and, just like the packages for domestic students, does not include loans. In all, slightly more than half of international students at Pomona receive financial aid. By comparison, most U.S. colleges and universities do not offer significant need-based aid to international undergraduates.

“We’re incredibly lucky to have policies in place that ensure international students from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds have access to a Pomona education,” Supp says. "Nationality isn’t a badge; college slump” in international student recruitment but those numbers have rebounded, in part because of a 35% increase in students from India, according to a recent Open Doors report sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

The top countries that sent students to Pomona for the past academic year were China (29 students), India (20), Japan (12), Greece and Kenya (11 each) and Canada (nine). In total, 59 countries were represented by Pomona’s F-1 visa-holding students. (An F-1 visa allows a nonimmigrant to study in the U.S. as long as they are a full-time student enrolled in an approved academic program and are proficient in English, among other criteria.)

Student Support Services

Once an international student enters at Pomona, the College’s International Student and Scholar Services Office steps in to help with the F-1 visa process. Kathy Quispe, assistant director of international student and scholar services, notes that while her office directly supports students holding F-1 visas during their four years at Pomona, it also provides support to students who are U.S. citizens but grew up abroad. All international students, regardless of immigration status, are invited to the international student orientation. And all international students have the option of being paired with an International Student Mentorship Program (ISMP) mentor who will help them adjust to life at Pomona as well as life in the U.S.

While F-1 visa students share similarities with U.S. citizens who were born and/or raised abroad, they face a burden unique to them: hurdles of paperwork. The paperwork continues throughout their four years at Pomona: If they want to work on campus, that requires applying for a Social Security number. If they want an off-campus internship, that will require specific authorization to avoid being in violation of their F-1 visa status.

In addition, F-1 status has a big impact on an international student’s academic and career choices. “F-1 visa-holding students can work in the U.S. up to a year after graduation, as long as the job relates to their major, but for STEM majors it goes up to two years,” says Quispe. “This year, of our 35 graduating seniors, 27 are graduating in STEM.” Quispe adds that this makes Pomona a place for international students who major in STEM to still enjoy the full offerings of a liberal arts education.

Beyond helping students navigate government requirements, staff in the International Student and Scholar Services Office are fine-tuned to news affecting different parts of the world.

“While many of our students have connections to all parts of the world, our international students tend to be more impacted when there are world crises,” says Carolina Nelia B. R. Bustamante, director of the Oldenborg Center, Pomona’s language-focused residence hall, dining hall and center for other internationally oriented programs. “When there are geopolitical tensions or natural disasters, international students are the first population that we think of.”

When news of a recent attempted coup in Guatemala reached Quispe, she sought out Young Seo Kim ’26, an international student born and raised in Guatemala to Korean parents, to ask if she was OK.

“It was a very small action, but it was so considerate,” Kim says, describing the different types of support and help that she has received. "She made sure I was doing OK mentally and physically. She was making sure that I knew I had her support in case I needed to leave the college for an emergency," she adds. “International students are far away from home, so having someone who understands your story and helps you no matter what we need at times is important.”

“Obviously, you're going to be homesick,” says Kim, who appreciates the special events organized by Pomona and ISMP during key times of the school year like fall break and spring break when many students leave campus—but others, like her, stay behind and tend to miss their families more during those times.

Kim recalls spending Thanksgiving on Pomona’s campus among international friends for an USM-hosted dinner. “They had different cuisines so people could feel like they’re back home,” says Kim, remembering how the Salvadoran and Chinese foods at one dinner included pupusas and other dishes that were similar to Guatemalan and Korean cuisines. “They had tortillas and fajitas and you could make your own small taco and that really reminded me of home.”

Hingad recalls her first year when she performed spoken-word poetry at an open-mic event on campus. Two years later, a lot has changed, but that feeling remains the same. Her work, titled “Home,” resonated deeply with many people. “The piece was about small impacts that people make and how they compound to make 9711 [Pomona’s ZIP code] a home,” she says. “It’s the shared experience of different people coming from different backgrounds with one thing in common: good parts of humanity.”

Like Hingad, many international students are making a choice that no one else in their families has made.

“Everyone knows we have a lot of students at Pomona who are trailblazers, but for our international students, I think they deserve just a little bit of extra credit,” Supp says. “In travel five, six, sometimes even 7,000 miles away from home to pursue an education that might be totally different than what is offered in their home country—it astonishes me to think about how much heavier that requires. It’s also a vote of confidence in the Pomona education. We know how transformative this place can be, so working hard to open doors to talent around the world and educate the next generation of global leaders makes total sense.”

International students are far away from home, so having someone who understands your story and helps you no matter what we need at times is important.” — Young Seo Kim ’26

Young Seo Kim ’26

International students gathering on their final day of spring break in April 2023 to say farewell to graduating seniors.
In the Shadow of Giants

By Marilyn Thomsen

For four Sagehens, studying at the University of Cambridge is the chance of a lifetime, with the road paved by their experiences at Pomona.

From left: Vera Berger ’23, Sofia Dartnell ’22, Mohammed Ahmed ’23 and Rya Jetha ’23.
Photographed by Jean-Luc Benazet
Making Their Own Marks

Surrounded by eight centuries of history, the four Pomona alums are making their own marks in their chosen disciplines. Ahmed is researching neurodegenerative disease through the lens of physical chemistry. He describes his work as “probing the efficacy of computationally designed binders and naturally occurring chaperones on inhibiting tau aggregation, and exploring the mechanisms by which these binders function.” He will, he hopes, “give insight into how we can therapeutically target misfolding diseases on the molecular level.”

Jetha’s research on the Indian Ocean region, where she grew up, “continues to blow my mind.” She is part of a group of historians at Cambridge who are studying big, global processes from small places. “Islands as sites of intimate and intensive colonial encounter are undertheorized and understudied, so I’m working on a history of two small but powerful islands—Bombay and Zanzibar—during the 19th century,” Jetha says. The historic oceanic connections between these two islands have been neglected in favor of land-based nationalist histories, she says, adding that “there is so much to study beyond the limiting frame of the nation-state.”

Dartnell displays her research. "A Museum Unto Itself" says Downey-Pomona Scholar Rya Jetha ’23, a master of philosophy student in world history. “I was astounded to learn when I first got here that one of the libraries at Cambridge—Trinity College’s Wren Library—has original manuscripts of Shakespeare’s plays, Isaac Newton’s annotated copy of the Principia Mathematica and the original texts of Winnie-the-Pooh.” Sitting in a library writing an essay about Sartorius J. B. Seelye and his foundational work on the British empire’s spatiality, Jetha suddenly realized that he had been a Cambridge professor—and right then and there, I was sitting in the Seley Library named after him.

Some commonly used inventions have had odd beginnings within these walls. Sofia Dartnell ’22 is a Gates Cambridge Scholar and Ph.D. student in zoology at Darwin College whose research focuses on bumblebee conservation by studying their parasites. She learned from a professor in her department how the wasps that make Zoom meetings possible had its origin near her lab. “It was originally built by entomologists who wanted to know whether there was coffee brewing in the building’s coffee pot before they entered the lab. Most of the time, the bees she studies live underground in a dark hole, unable to see each other. “The bees can recognize each other within the colony based on smell,” she notes.

I’m currently running choice experiments in the lab to figure out how accurate their sense of smell is.” So far, she’s found that it’s spot-on. One wrinkle about the cuckoo bees—they are masters of disguise, a skill that has evolved since they cannot produce their own workers in their colonies. “They can pick up the scent profile of a colony they are invading and convince the worker bees to work for them using pheromones,” Dartnell explains. Cuckoos are apes ancient evolution that could be a “canary in a coal mine” for populations of pollinators facing threats of pesticides and habitat change.

Ultimately, Dartnell hopes her research will help farmers modify their landscapes to support bee populations, which also could improve their crop yields. During her undergrad years at Pomona, Berger became fascinated with stellar flares and “how flares may contribute to the creation or destruction of life on other planets.” She developed a keen interest in learning how stars evolve and explode. In her Cambridge program, she is gaining computational skills useful “to model anything that can be thought of as fluid—liquids, plasmas and even solid materials that can squash or bend,” she says. After spending much of the year in coursework, she is excited to now be involved in a research lab exploring magnetic reconnection in plasma that produces these stellar flares. In future doctoral work, Berger says, she is “planning to study how energetic astrophysical influences—like those rooted in red light the bees can’t see—before, before, before—deepen her research.”

“Winnie-the-Pooh.”

“Islands as sites of intimate and intensive colonial encounter are undertheorized and understudied, so I’m working on a history of two small but powerful islands—Bombay and Zanzibar—during the 19th century,” Jetha says. The historic oceanic connections between these two islands have been neglected in favor of land-based nationalist histories, she says, adding that “there is so much to study beyond the limiting frame of the nation-state.”

When the cuckoo bumblebees are active in England’s warmer months, Dartnell can be found outdoors with her two-meter insect net catching queen bees to rear in the lab. Most of the time, the bees she studies live underground in a dark hole, unable to see each other. “The bees can recognize each other within the colony based on smell,” she notes.
Opening Up Opportunities

The tradition of Pomona graduates winning scholarships to the renowned British university is well established, says Jason Jeffrey, assistant director of fellowships and career advising in the Career Development Office. In the past five years, three Pomona graduates have been offered Gates Cambridge Scholarships and three have been named Churchill Scholars. Through an agreement with Wheaton College, two Pomona alumni each year can study at the college in Cambridge and a Downing College student can enroll at Pomona.

“Our students are exceptional and well rounded, and many have studied abroad or have intercultural experience, so there’s no doubt about them being thrusting members of the Cambridge community,” says Jeffrey. Students who pursue these scholarships “often have compelling reasons for studying in the U.K. It can be a vital steppingstone in their career.”

Each of the Sagehens attributes their current academic opportunities to encouragement from faculty, staff and friends at Pomona. During Dartnell’s freshman year, her advisor, Associate Professor of Biology Sara Olson, told her, “If you keep going like this, you will make it.”

“When I think about conducting scientific research at Cambridge, I remember the big names and am always shocked that I am here now in the same institution.”

—Mohammed Ahmed ’23

“Just putting it on your radar.” The fickle world of opportunity often follows you around, Dartnell got word that she was a strong candidate for a scholarship.

“Just putting it on your radar.” The fickle world of opportunity often follows you around, Dartnell got word that she was a strong candidate for a scholarship.

“Just putting it on your radar.” The fickle world of opportunity often follows you around, Dartnell got word that she was a strong candidate for a scholarship.

“I know it’s early,” Dartnell said. “I’m not training and measuring the behavior of her cuckoo hirundines—and yes, she’s heard all the jokes about studying cuckoo—sheimmerges with trivia and salsa dancing in town. She also sings in a band with other Ph.D. students in Darwin College.

Both Ahmed and Jetha joined the Downing College rowing team and have spent scores of hours training and competing on the River Cam, which winds past colleges established by Cam, which winds past colleges established by Edward II, Henry VIII and his grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. “The most exciting experience was rowing camp in Banyoles, Spain, in January,” says Jetha. “The camp was physically exhausting—we rowed over 90 kilometers [56 miles] over the five days. But by the end we were all really good rowers and ready to conquer the Cam!” Ahmed also used his arm strength to throw javelin for Cambridge athletics.

Beyond the Classroom

Just as they did at Pomona, the Sagehens are branching out for beyond academics. When Dartnell is not training and measuring the behavior of her cuckoo hirundines—and yes, she’s heard all the jokes about studying cuckoo—sheimmerges with trivia and salsa dancing in town. She also sings in a band with other Ph.D. students in Darwin College.

Both Ahmed and Jetha joined the Downing College rowing team and have spent scores of hours training and competing on the River Cam, which winds past colleges established by Edward II, Henry VIII and his grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. “The most exciting experience was rowing camp in Banyoles, Spain, in January,” says Jetha. “The camp was physically exhausting—we rowed over 90 kilometers [56 miles] over the five days. But by the end we were all really good rowers and ready to conquer the Cam!” Ahmed also used his arm strength to throw javelin for Cambridge athletics.

While she was at Pomona, Berger chose to focus her time outside of class on student government—she was president of the Associated Students of Pomona College her senior year and chair of the Judicial Council. Now, as a graduate student, she is trying new things. “I learned to operate the telescope that sits steps from Churchill College with the Cambridge Astronomical Society and joined the local roller derby team,” she says matter-of-factly, as if the combination doesn’t seem all unusual.

Berger and her fellow alumni also are learning to slow down, and, of course, to drink tea. “In the astronomy department, they have tea breaks twice a day and everyone shows up,” says Berger. “A lot of times it turns into brainstorming, idea-bouncing time.” The same holds true in Dartnell’s area. “The Department of Zoology is situated in the same complex as the incredible David Attenborough Building, which is home to numerous conservation-based NGOs [non-governmental organizations],” she says. “Everyone in the department goes to 11 a.m. coffee, giving us the opportunity to connect and network with conservation leaders throughout the department and external organizations.”

Slowing down may seem surprising for high-achieving Sagehens in a historic university. In reality, though, it may be what helps them to successfully pursue their dreams while enjoying a balanced life. They’ll find time for weekly chats at Bould Brothers Coffee in town or late night scoops at Jack’s Kitchen Bridge, St. John’s College. Since the 13th century, the River Cam has provided an idyllic backdrop for learning at the University of Cambridge.

“Everyone in the department goes to 11 a.m. coffee, giving us the opportunity to connect and network with conservation leaders throughout the department and external organizations.”

Beyond the Classroom

Just as they did at Pomona, the Sagehens are branching out for beyond academics. When Dartnell is not training and measuring the behavior of her cuckoo hirundines—and yes, she’s heard all the jokes about studying cuckoo—sheimmerges with trivia and salsa dancing in town. She also sings in a band with other Ph.D. students in Darwin College.

Both Ahmed and Jetha joined the Downing College rowing team and have spent scores of hours training and competing on the River Cam, which winds past colleges established by Edward II, Henry VIII and his grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. “The most exciting experience was rowing camp in Banyoles, Spain, in January,” says Jetha. “The camp was physically exhausting—we rowed over 90 kilometers [56 miles] over the five days. But by the end we were all really good rowers and ready to conquer the Cam!” Ahmed also used his arm strength to throw javelin for Cambridge athletics.

Beyond the Classroom

Just as they did at Pomona, the Sagehens are branching out for beyond academics. When Dartnell is not training and measuring the behavior of her cuckoo hirundines—and yes, she’s heard all the jokes about studying cuckoo—sheimmerges with trivia and salsa dancing in town. She also sings in a band with other Ph.D. students in Darwin College.

Both Ahmed and Jetha joined the Downing College rowing team and have spent scores of hours training and competing on the River Cam, which winds past colleges established by Edward II, Henry VIII and his grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. “The most exciting experience was rowing camp in Banyoles, Spain, in January,” says Jetha. “The camp was physically exhausting—we rowed over 90 kilometers [56 miles] over the five days. But by the end we were all really good rowers and ready to conquer the Cam!” Ahmed also used his arm strength to throw javelin for Cambridge athletics.

Beyond the Classroom

Just as they did at Pomona, the Sagehens are branching out for beyond academics. When Dartnell is not training and measuring the behavior of her cuckoo hirundines—and yes, she’s heard all the jokes about studying cuckoo—sheimmerges with trivia and salsa dancing in town. She also sings in a band with other Ph.D. students in Darwin College.

Both Ahmed and Jetha joined the Downing College rowing team and have spent scores of hours training and competing on the River Cam, which winds past colleges established by Edward II, Henry VIII and his grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. “The most exciting experience was rowing camp in Banyoles, Spain, in January,” says Jetha. “The camp was physically exhausting—we rowed over 90 kilometers [56 miles] over the five days. But by the end we were all really good rowers and ready to conquer the Cam!” Ahmed also used his arm strength to throw javelin for Cambridge athletics.

Beyond the Classroom

Just as they did at Pomona, the Sagehens are branching out for beyond academics. When Dartnell is not training and measuring the behavior of her cuckoo hirundines—and yes, she’s heard all the jokes about studying cuckoo—sheimmerges with trivia and salsa dancing in town. She also sings in a band with other Ph.D. students in Darwin College.

Both Ahmed and Jetha joined the Downing College rowing team and have spent scores of hours training and competing on the River Cam, which winds past colleges established by Edward II, Henry VIII and his grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. “The most exciting experience was rowing camp in Banyoles, Spain, in January,” says Jetha. “The camp was physically exhausting—we rowed over 90 kilometers [56 miles] over the five days. But by the end we were all really good rowers and ready to conquer the Cam!” Ahmed also used his arm strength to throw javelin for Cambridge athletics.

Beyond the Classroom

Just as they did at Pomona, the Sagehens are branching out for beyond academics. When Dartnell is not training and measuring the behavior of her cuckoo hirundines—and yes, she’s heard all the jokes about studying cuckoo—sheimmerges with trivia and salsa dancing in town. She also sings in a band with other Ph.D. students in Darwin College.

Both Ahmed and Jetha joined the Downing College rowing team and have spent scores of hours training and competing on the River Cam, which winds past colleges established by Edward II, Henry VIII and his grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. “The most exciting experience was rowing camp in Banyoles, Spain, in January,” says Jetha. “The camp was physically exhausting—we rowed over 90 kilometers [56 miles] over the five days. But by the end we were all really good rowers and ready to conquer the Cam!” Ahmed also used his arm strength to throw javelin for Cambridge athletics.

Beyond the Classroom

Just as they did at Pomona, the Sagehens are branching out for beyond academics. When Dartnell is not training and measuring the behavior of her cuckoo hirundines—and yes, she’s heard all the jokes about studying cuckoo—sheimmerges with trivia and salsa dancing in town. She also sings in a band with other Ph.D. students in Darwin College.

Both Ahmed and Jetha joined the Downing College rowing team and have spent scores of hours training and competing on the River Cam, which winds past colleges established by Edward II, Henry VIII and his grandmother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. “The most exciting experience was rowing camp in Banyoles, Spain, in January,” says Jetha. “The camp was physically exhausting—we rowed over 90 kilometers [56 miles] over the five days. But by the end we were all really good rowers and ready to conquer the Cam!” Ahmed also used his arm strength to throw javelin for Cambridge athletics.
Esther Brimmer ’83 studied abroad in Geneva. Decades later, she returned to the city as a U.S. assistant secretary of state. For her, as for others, a semester away influenced a career.

By Robyn Norwood
AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

That semester in Geneva was a springboard to an extraordinary career. Brimmer, now the James H. Binger senior fellow in global governance at the Council on Foreign Relations, has served three appointments within the U.S. Department of State, including her tenure as assistant secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. She also has held numerous other positions in government, academia and non-governmental organization leadership. As testament to her belief in the value of international study, from 2017 to 2022 Brimmer was executive director and CEO of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, a professional association dedicated to international education with some 10,000 members in more than 160 countries. 

Acquiring a broader global view has value beyond career preparation, she says, and a college student doesn't necessarily have to cross a border to gain it. “There are many different ways in which students can engage in international education—studying abroad, studying international issues at home, getting to know international students,” Brimmer says. “But one of the important things in being able to study outside of one’s home country is to be able to get insight into how other people around the world view the important aspects of life—being a human being and the important aspects of the world around us, what the issues are and how they look different from different parts of the world. That information can inform all sorts of activities in life. You do not have to just specialize in international relations as a career—much as I would advocate people doing that—in order to benefit from international education.”

A COMMON LANGUAGE

Arriving in Geneva, Brimmer at first mixed mainly with other students from Pomona or in the same program. Then she began classes with graduate students from around the world. The French she had studied at Pomona was not only one of the four national languages of Switzerland, she discovered, it was also a lingua franca—a common language that could be spoken among people who did not speak each other’s first languages or who easily switched among multiple languages. “The professor might be replying to you in French, but you could ask your question in English or French,” she recalls. “It was impressive to see the range of languages that the students had already studied by the time they got there. Their facility with multiple languages was quite eye-opening. For some, French and English were their second or third languages.”

The agility Brimmer developed in French—once known as “the language of diplomacy” and still an official language of many international bodies despite France’s decline as a superpower—has been an asset throughout her career. “I used to remind students that, let’s say you’re interested in security issues and you want to go work for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, you actually have to have French as well as English in order to be on the international staff at NATO,” she says. “It’s true in the United Nations system, but it’s also true about other places as well, where languages are going to help get you the job. International language ability can be quite useful, even if that’s not your specialty, because you’re able to work with colleagues from other countries.”

Brimmer has watched with dismay as some colleges and universities have eliminated foreign language requirements altogether and others have modest standards. For instance, in some University of California and Cal State University programs, students can fulfill a requirement without taking language in college—simply by completing three or four years of a foreign language in high school with a C- or better. “It is absolutely crucial to understanding other societies,” Brimmer says. “We as human beings express our ideas, thoughts and feelings through language. And then in order to understand these ideas, we need to understand them in their own languages. I’ve been deeply disappointed to see institutions—recognizing they may have their own challenges—but institutions making a short-term economic calculation and missing the long-term implications of what they’re doing. I would want to see language study expand in the United States.”

Strolling the streets of Geneva, Brimmer began to see the news of the world through a new prism. “One of the things was reading newspapers and numerous news magazines from a different perspective. Remember, the Cold War was still in existence,” she says. “And I remember walking down the street and we saw a television in a window and I thought, oh, something’s going on. Seeing international events from other perspectives was important.”

Basking in Geneva’s café culture, Brimmer discussed issues of the day with older, more worldly graduate students. “They were probably in their mid-20s. And that also helped me give a better sense of the perspectives of students in different places, but also just the perspective on debates. I wasn’t a big coffee drinker, but the opportunity to discuss things from another point of view was interesting. As an American, people always want to give you their view of American foreign policy. Irrespective of whether you say, ‘I’m not personally responsible for it,’ everyone’s going to give you an earful. But it’s important that you get that earful and that you begin to explain your views and where you agree and disagree.”

I n the fall of 1981, her junior year at Pomona College, Esther Brimmer ’83 arrived in Switzerland for a semester of graduate-level study in international affairs at what is now Geneva Graduate Institute. To say the experience was transformative is an understatement. Brimmer couldn’t have imagined her return to Geneva in 2009—one of many in her career—for what she called “my proudest moment as a diplomat.” As assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs under President Barack Obama, Brimmer gave the first speech on behalf of the United States’ record on human rights is imperfect,” Brimmer said in part. “Our States’ record on human rights is imperfect,” Brimmer said in part. “Our
A Pomona Seminar on International Issues, Taught Overseas

"Diplomats!"

Politics Associate Professor Mietek Boduszynski starts all his correspondence with students in this summer’s study abroad course with a salutation he knows well.

He spent nearly 10 years as a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State, gaining a storehouse of knowledge he shares with students on the Pomona campus and, in the summer of 2024, on location in Belgium and Morocco.

The four-week immersive seminar, Diplomacy and Human Rights, is the first of what Nicole Desjardins, associate professor of international relations at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, says will be annual study away programs led by Pomona faculty.

Boduszynski says that in this class, as many as half the students had never traveled outside the United States—where the companies they work for have operations. "Whatever products we use, there’s a good chance that they come from somewhere else in the world. The food we eat, some comes from our own countries and some from the rest of the world. On a daily basis, we depend on not only the trade of goods but also the trade in services. The rapid movement of people between nations is much different than the one we live and work in 50 or 60 years ago—or even 30 years ago," she says. "If you want to understand our daily lives, we have to have that deep understanding of the international system."

"Students will find that they may have jobs—even if they’re working in the United States—where the companies they work for are part of global companies or receive crucial components for what they’re producing from elsewhere, and that has all intensified over the past 30 years. To understand our daily lives, we do have to have that deep understanding of the world beyond our shores," she says. "Students will find that they may have jobs—even if they’re working in the United States—where the companies they work for are part of global companies or receive crucial components for what they’re producing from elsewhere, and that has all intensified over the past 30 years. To understand our daily lives, we do have to have that deep understanding of the world beyond our shores."

"I first learned about the Foreign Service during that semester and became very intrigued by the idea of a career that would allow me to serve my country and see the world. I don’t think there is any way I would have become a diplomat without that experience."

David Holmes ’97

Deputy Chief of Mission

U.S. Embassy in Budapest, Hungary

Studied Abroad at University College in Oxford, England

"I had never been abroad at all. It was my first trip outside the United States. And it got me interested in foreign affairs for the first time."
Alumni Weekend and Reunions

The campus was abuzz for Alumni Weekend with one of the biggest crowds to return to Pomona in many years. From the weekend’s kickoff on Thursday to its close on Sunday, alumni and guests enjoyed milestone reunion celebrations along with a range of programs and activities for all, distinctive faculty and alumni award winners presentations, academic department receptions, dining on Marston Quad, alumni vintner wine tasting in Memorial Hall, art, music and more!

Donna M. Di Grazia, David J. Baldwin Professor of Music

The Faculty Alumni Service Award:

The Inspirational Young Alumni Award:

The Alumni Distinguished Service Award:

The Blaisdell Distinguished Alumni Award:

The campus was abuzz for Alumni Weekend with one of the biggest crowds to return to Pomona in many years. From the weekend’s kickoff on Thursday to its close on Sunday, alumni and guests enjoyed milestone reunion celebrations along with a range of programs and activities for all, distinctive faculty and alumni award winners presentations, academic department receptions, dining on Marston Quad, alumni vintner wine tasting in Memorial Hall, art, music and more!

Donna M. Di Grazia, David J. Baldwin Professor of Music

The Faculty Alumni Service Award:

The Inspirational Young Alumni Award:

The Alumni Distinguished Service Award:

The Blaisdell Distinguished Alumni Award:

The campus was abuzz for Alumni Weekend with one of the biggest crowds to return to Pomona in many years. From the weekend’s kickoff on Thursday to its close on Sunday, alumni and guests enjoyed milestone reunion celebrations along with a range of programs and activities for all, distinctive faculty and alumni award winners presentations, academic department receptions, dining on Marston Quad, alumni vintner wine tasting in Memorial Hall, art, music and more!

Donna M. Di Grazia, David J. Baldwin Professor of Music

The Faculty Alumni Service Award:

The Inspirational Young Alumni Award:

The Alumni Distinguished Service Award:

The Blaisdell Distinguished Alumni Award:
By David Ronfeldt ’63

A Friendship, a Year Studying in Mexico and a New Way of Seeing the World

It wasn’t until after I retired in 2008 that I realized my entire career—first as a specialist on U.S.-Latin American relations, then as a theorist on global implications of the information revolution—sprang from two casual remarks by my great friend Henry Bastien ’63.

“The first was in the summer of ’61, when he said, “Let’s go to Mexico for our junior year.” If he’d not suggested studying at Mexico City College, I never would have become a Latin American specialist. I changed my major every semester my freshman and sophomore years. First it was English (gotta write a Great American Novel). Then psychology (gotta learn how minds work). Next art (gotta be an architect). And then, government (I forget why). Going to Mexico ended that uncertainty.

Soon as I returned for my senior year, I settled on international relations, with additional studies in Latin American history. I lucked out in having two terrific professors, Henry Cord Meyer and Michael Armacost, plus a fine visiting prof on Latin American history, Henry reoriented my career a second time when he said, “Let’s go to Mexico for our junior year.” It forecast a world-peace concept; noopolitics as an alternative to realpolitik and declared, “David, I have a single word for you: cyberspace.” Thus began a collaboration in which we formulated new concepts for rethinking the entire future conflict spectrum with terms like cyberwar, netwar and insurving (coordinated, networked strikes from multiple directions).

Plus, I got to meet Toffler, who wrote a foreword for one of our volumes.

Later in the 1990s, we worked on broader implications for statecraft. The information age will mean that “whose story wins” becomes almost as decisive as “whose weaponry wins.” The importance of “soft power”—e.g., narrative strategy, cognitive warfare—will grow relative to the traditional importance of “hard power.” But how to express that? Hard-power strategists had their classic realpolitik concept; soft-power strategists had nothing comparable. So we turned to a century-old scientific vision whereby Earth first evolved a geological layer, the geosphere, then eons later a biosphere full of plant and animal life, including people. In this vision first proposed in the 1930s, a third layer would emerge next: the noosphere (from the Greek root “noos” meaning “mind”)—a globe-circling “thinking circuit” that would interconnect all cultures, religions, ideologies and mentalities, thus enabling higher levels of global cooperation, but also conflict.

We saw it was already taking shape, with immense implications for strategy. So we came up with a comprehensive new soft-power concept: noopolitics as an alternative to realpolitik—and later added nopolitics as a contrast to geopolitics. All this is playing out now in the fights over Ukraine and Gaza, where both noopolitical and geopolitical maneuvering are vigorously in play.

Meanwhile, while wondering what forms of organization besides networks were important, I unearthed a new framework about past, present and future social evolution. Accordingly, societies have relied on human institutions—tribes, hierarchies, political and geophysical maneuvering both noopolitical and geopolitical maneuvering are vigorously in play.

We would live in a world of networks versus nations.

Soon after the publication of the paper in 1991, a new colleague walked into my office and declared, “David, I have a single word for you: cyberspace.” Thus began a collaboration in which we formulated new concepts for rethinking the entire future conflict spectrum with terms like cyberwar, netwar and insurving (coordinated, networked strikes from multiple directions).

Plus, I got to meet Toffler, who wrote a foreword for one of our volumes.

Late in the 1990s, we worked on broader implications for statecraft. The information age will mean that “whose story wins” becomes almost as decisive as “whose weaponry wins.” The importance of “soft power”—e.g., narrative strategy, cognitive warfare—will grow relative to the traditional importance of “hard power.” But how to express that? Hard-power strategists had their classic realpolitik concept; soft-power strategists had nothing comparable. So we turned to a century-old scientific vision whereby Earth first evolved a geological layer, the geosphere, then eons later a biosphere full of plant and animal life, including people. In this vision first proposed in the 1930s, a third layer would emerge next: the noosphere (from the Greek root “noos” meaning “mind”)—a globe-circling “thinking circuit” that would interconnect all cultures, religions, ideologies and mentalities, thus enabling higher levels of global cooperation, but also conflict.

We saw it was already taking shape, with immense implications for strategy. So we came up with a comprehensive new soft-power concept: noopolitics as an alternative to realpolitik—and later added nopolitics as a contrast to geopolitics. All this is playing out now in the fights over Ukraine and Gaza, where both noopolitical and geopolitical maneuvering are vigorously in play.

Meanwhile, while wondering what forms of organization besides networks were important, I unearthed a new framework about past, present and future social evolution. Accordingly, societies have relied across the ages on four cardinal forms of organization: tribes, hierarchical institutions, markets and information-age networks—in that order. This framework proved immediately useful, not only to forecast cyberspace and netwar as modes of conflict, but also to herald new modes of collaboration and coordination for those such as activists in non-government organizations working on human rights, environmental and other social problems. I wanted to finish this framework at RAND but opted to retire in 2008 and continue at home. Here’s one implication I’m still trying to write up. For 200 years, our society has had three major realms: civil society, government, the economy. In the decades ahead, a fourth—a “commons sector”—will slowly materialize around the network form. It will become the new home for those interconnected challenges that the existing three sectors no longer handle very well, such as health, education, welfare, the environment. They will all move, and be moved, into this next realm, vastly strengthening and improving our society.

My classmate Henry Bastien and I remain great friends, with keen memories of Pomona’s value to our lives. And in keeping with Pomona College Magazine’s most recent issue, I’m sure Pomona’s emphasis on liberal arts educated me to have sufficient flexibility and adaptability to refocus my career. But I better be careful around Henry now—I’m not sure I could handle a third shift at this point in life.
To view notes online, visit sagehenconnect.pomona.edu
Obituaries

To view notes online, visit sagehenconnect.pomona.edu

Obituaries

To view notes online, visit sagehenconnect.pomona.edu
To view notes online, visit sagehenconnect.pomona.edu
Margaret Dornish
Emerita Professor of Religious Studies
1934-2023

She also was instrumental in strengthening other programs at the College, including Asian Studies, Wilson's Dornish's Studies and American Studies. "She was a rock," said Professor of Japanese Kyoko Kurita. "She also became a defender of the minority during the days when diversity was not appreciated as much as it is today. I would not be here today if she had not supported me in my early years at Pomona when there was no support system for the starting faculty.”

Dornish regularly taught courses such as Mysticism East and West, Transformation and Utopia, Encounter with Japan (a first-year seminar) and Zen Buddhism. Her trademark lecture was "What is Zen?"

She traveled to Japan roughly a dozen times, encouraging Claremont Colleges faculty, students and staff to attend the Kyoto-based monastery at Tofuku-ji, where her good friend Keido Fukushima served as abbot and ceremonial head over scores of temples. "Being single, and because of the way I see things from Buddhism, there's a kind of shape to my life," Dornish told Pomona College Magazine in 1998. "I don't lead two lives, as most of my colleagues do. They have their teaching, and they have their family. I only lead one life, so the things I'm interested in personally are the things I'm interested in professionally."

Ng remembers Dornish as "a fearless and frank" and "an amply-Japanese courageous woman with a big heart."

After retiring from Pomona, Dornish moved to Carlsbad, California, and joined the League of Women Voters in the San Diego area. She contributed a number of articles to their journal and became one of the leaders. "There are no big choices in my life, just small steps," Dornish was fond of saying. "No big decision to go this way or that way, just incremental decisions—and lots of opportunities."

She was a member of the League of Women Voters in the San Diego area, and became one of the leaders. "There are no big choices in my life, just small steps," Dornish was fond of saying. "No big decision to go this way or that way, just incremental decisions—and lots of opportunities."
Senior Year: The Documentary

The word unique is overused, but the experiences of the Class of 2024 truly were. Most of the newest graduates of Pomona College spent their first year of college on Zoom because of the pandemic. Their final day at Pomona was unprecedented too: They boarded buses for Los Angeles, where they graduated inside the storied Shrine Auditorium on May 12 after protesters occupied the Marston Quad stage where Commencement was to be held.

To get a glimpse of their resilience and plans for the future, check out Senior Year at Pomona College, a four-part documentary that follows four members of the Class of 2024 as they navigate their final year on campus.

Meet the seniors below—and watch the full series online at youtube.com/pomonacollege.

**Timi Adelakun ’24**

**DEGREE**
Theatre and Molecular Biology

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
- ASPC President
- Received Hive Student Creativity Grant
- Directed the Play Our Place With a Film Documentary

**NEXT STEPS**
Pursuing Job Opportunities in Film and Television Production

**María Durán González ’24**

**DEGREE**
Environmental Analysis

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
- Recipient of Oldenborg Research and Travel Grant
- Studied Environmental Storytelling in Ecuador

**NEXT STEPS**
Accepted to a Master’s Program at the University of Cambridge

**Phillip Kong ’24**

**DEGREE**
Molecular Biology

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
- Mentor in International Student Mentorship Program
- Job in Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston

**NEXT STEPS**
Become a Physician-Scientist

**Alexandra Turvey ’24**

**DEGREE**
Biology

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
- Goldwater and Beckman Scholar
- 2 Times NCAA Div. III Champion in Freestyle Relays
- Competed in Canada’s Olympic Swimming Trials

**NEXT STEPS**
Harvard/MIT M.D./Ph.D. Program

---

**Breaking News by Joel Fagliano ’14**

**ACROSS**

1. The "A" of N.B.A.: Abbr. (5)
6. Item that can be spun to determine whether it’s raw or cooked (5)
9. Jon of "Mad Men" (4)
13. Lake on the California/Nevada border (4)
14. Button clicked to see the rest of an article (8)
16. Suit (4)
17. Flat, informally (4)
18. This clue / If I wrote it / Like this (9)
19. Italian currency before the euro (4)
20. Where you might fly into D.C. (11)
23. Little devil (3)
25. Cry in a game of tag (4)
26. "Succession" has been nominated for 75 of them (9)
27. Clown’s gag (10)
30. Brand of California champagne (7)
31. White ___ (M.L.B. team) (6)
32. Writer’s college major, often: Abbr. (5)
35. Condensed versions of books (6)
38. Laid back (7)
41. Dir. from Pomona College to San Diego (10)
42. Big name in cloud computing (9)
44. Generation first to be born in the 21st century (17)
45. It attempts to unify quantum mechanics with Einstein’s ideas of relativity (14)
49. A sucker for drinks (6)
52. Subject to change (5)
53. Greek N’s (9)
54. Next to be served (7)
57. Fervent (7)
58. "Ay miol!" (5)
59. "Great!" dogs (5)
62. Wall Street org. with a closing bell (5)
63. "Don’t play" symbol (5)
64. Prefix with physics (5)
65. Like an eagle’s vision (6)
66. Ave. crossbars (8)
67. Comedian Minhaj (9)
29. Lumbeejack’s tool (9)
32. Small symbols of power? (8)
33. India’s first prime minister (8)
34. Down Under greeting (6)
36. Black goo (8)
37. Haye fans of Taylor (6)
39. "Well, aren’t you something?" (8)
40. The "A" of I.P.A. (5)
40. What Emma Stone, John Mulaney and Paul Rudd have each had five times (9)
45. Bring down (5)
46. Snake eyes roll (6)
47. Talk show interviewees (7)
48. Shop ___ you drop (6)
49. Truly terrible golf shot (9)
50. Lead role in “Fiddler on the Roof” (9)
51. Pay bump (5)
55. President on the dime, for short (4)
56. Operator of the James Webb Telescope (11)
60. Period of history (9)
61. Male delivery

---

**Down**

1. @ @ @ (2)
2. L.A.’s ___ Gabriel Mountains (5)
3. What a wheeshtome gives a knife (5)
4. Slowly seep out (5)
5. Some French impressionist paintings (5)
6. Person who’s good at reading emotions (8)
7. Treasure-hunting kids in an ’80s Spielberg movie (9)
8. hugely beneficial to (6)
9. "Can I get a hand?" (12)
10. Fundamental truth (5)
11. Start of a December greeting (7)
12. Exams for future doctors (9)
15. Longtime U.K. record label (5)
21. Acquired (4)
22. ___ league sports (6)
23. Apple tablets (6)
24. Some M&M’s and BMW’s (8)
28. Hot temper (7)

---

© 2024, Pomona College Magazine

---

This crossword puzzle was designed by Joel Fagliano ’14, a senior puzzles editor at The New York Times. The solution is available on page 44.
Create a financial future with stability.
Let the Pomona Plan help ensure stability for your financial future and help cultivate the next generation of Sagehen leaders.

Sample Annuity Rates for Individuals
Age 90 ................ 14.4%
Age 85 ............... 11.4%
Age 80 ............... 9.4%
Age 75 ............... 8.2%
Age 70 ................ 7.3%
Rates valid July 1 – August 31, 2024

Save more on taxes!
Fund Your Annuity with Stock
Call us to learn more!

Call us: (800) 761-9899
Email: pomonaplan@pomona.edu
Website: pomonaplan.pomona.edu