

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Pomona

Summer 2022

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THE POWER OF TWO

To Quench Africa's Thirst
Partners in Prague
Blake Street Barrier Breakers
Best Friends for Life
Heart to Heart

HOMEPAGE



In perfect weather, sunny but not too warm, the mood was joyful as Conductor Donna M. Di Grazia, David J. Baldwin Professor of Music, led the Glee Club in *Amazing Grace*.

Commencement returned to Marston Quad on May 15 with an air of exuberance after two years of online ceremonies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Class of 2022 graduates, their families and the faculty shared a day of smiles and selfies. Below at left, Tomás Summers Sandoval, associate professor of history and Chicana/o-Latina/o studies, steps in as an impromptu photographer for one graduate.





Stewart Smith '68, left, a longtime supporter and chair emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Pomona College, urged the Class of 2022 to find a mission to support with volunteer work and contributions. "Engaging in frequent acts of generosity does not require wealth, nor is it consistently correlated with wealth. Anyone can be generous," he said. Jennifer Doudna '85, Pomona's first Nobel Prize winner, shared the story of her scientific awakening. (See p. 7.)



Senior Class President Andreah Pierre '22, left, and Associated Students of Pomona College President Nirali Devgan '22, right, addressed their classmates on Marston Quad after the pandemic forced the two previous classes' Commencements online.



"This is a day to remember. This is the first time we've been able to come together since 2019. And are we all ready? We're ready!"
— President G. Gabrielle Starr as she opened the 129th Commencement ceremony of Pomona College on May 15, 2022



Shari Evangelista and Hermo Quispe mug with Cecil during the 2022 Commencement celebration, left. Below, Emma Paulini, originally Class of '21, and her sister Helen Paulini '22, right, graduated together after Emma took a gap year due to the pandemic. They're flanked by their parents, Manfred and Ann.



The Exponential Power of Mentorship

As we set out to write about pairs of Pomona people whose lives or work are intertwined in this issue of *PCM*, we weren't thinking so much about mentorship. Yet it emerged as a subtext, and not only in cases of an older person guiding a younger one. Sometimes, the roles seemed almost interchangeable, and it struck me that mentoring is a very natural outcome of the Pomona experience.

One of the best examples of Pomona's mentoring efforts for the community returned to campus this summer for the first time since 2019. The Draper Center's Pomona College Academy for Youth Success (PAYS)—a multi-year program to prepare area high school students from low-income or traditionally underrepresented backgrounds to enter selective colleges and universities—was back in classrooms and residence halls for the core four-week summer experience after two years online because of the pandemic.



Pomona students serving as PAYS teaching assistants include, from left: Gerardo Hurtado '24, Jose Sanchez Mara '24 and Katherine Rivas '25, who is a PAYS alumna. David Diaz, in green, is a PAYS alumnus attending Swarthmore whose younger brother is now in PAYS.

What unfolds during those campus stays can be astounding. As Biology Professor Sara Olson mentioned while introducing Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna '85 at the Class of 2022 Commencement in May, the revolutionary gene-editing technology Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier pioneered is something even teenagers can learn.

"CRISPR is fast, easy and accessible, allowing even our high school PAYS students to use and understand this technology," says Olson, who dedicates part of her summers to the program.

The first year Olson incorporated CRISPR was 2019, the last time PAYS was on campus. Students designed edits for a *C. elegans* worm eggshell project, with each student assigned one gene to delete to explore whether it was important in forming the eggshell. The students designed and created DNA plasmids that would then be injected into the worm to carry out the CRISPR edit. They nearly made it through the plasmid construction stage but didn't quite make it to the injection stage before the summer session ended.

In 2020, the necessity of being online limited the scope of the work, but students worked to design a theoretical CRISPR-based treatment for COVID-19. "They ended up narrowing in on the same target that some antiviral therapies are now targeting, without even knowing anything about it beforehand," Olson says.

Among those who worked on that 2020 project was Khadi Diallo '25, then a student at Ontario's Colony High and now a rising sophomore at Pomona. She works in Olson's lab and is a teaching assistant for this year's PAYS program.

"It's neat to see her come full circle and be a mentor for them," Olson says.

It's the Pomona way. We hope you enjoy the issue.

—Robyn Norwood

Pomona

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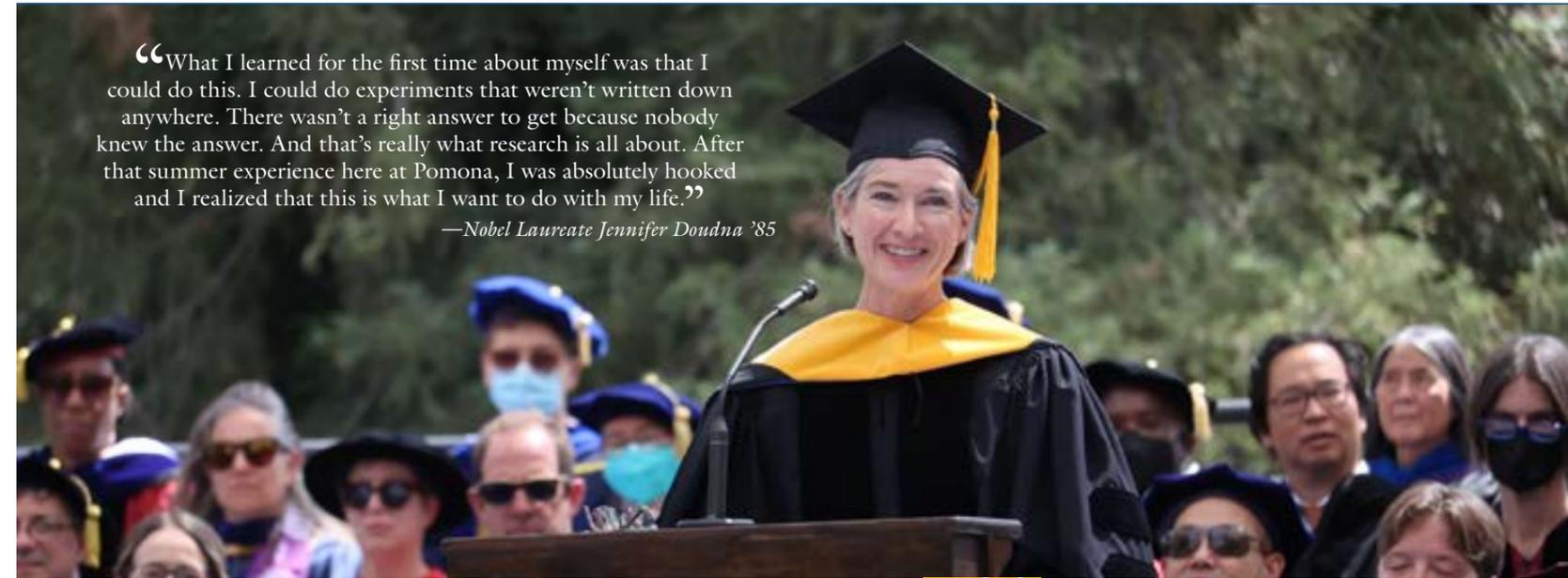
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FSC MARK



"What I learned for the first time about myself was that I could do this. I could do experiments that weren't written down anywhere. There wasn't a right answer to get because nobody knew the answer. And that's really what research is all about. After that summer experience here at Pomona, I was absolutely hooked and I realized that this is what I want to do with my life."

—Nobel Laureate Jennifer Doudna '85

FEATURES

To Quench Africa's Thirst 23

Anaa Jibicho '23 and Brian Bishop '22 take on the world's water crisis, one water bottle at a time.

Partners in Prague 29

Diplomats Erik Black '95 and Doug Morrow '01 were posted together at the U.S. Embassy in the Czech Republic. They also spent time in Ukraine.

Blake Street Barrier Breakers 35

Colorado Rockies co-owner Linda Alvarado '73 and the team's first female scout, Emily Glass '15, have formed a bond.

Best Friends for Life 41

Two 1970s Pitzer students shared a house on Indian Hill Boulevard. Today, Gary Kates and Char Miller are Pomona professors whose families have grown up together.

Heart to Heart 47

Elisa Louizos '96 and Roxanne Maas '94 sang together in the Glee Club. Decades later, they reconnected in response to a rare medical condition.

DEPARTMENTS

Stray Thoughts 6

Letter Box 8

Pomoniana 10

Milestones 12

Book Talk 14

Bookmarks 15

New Knowledge 17

How To 18

Teamwork 19

Notice Board 50

Class Notes 52

In Memoriam 61

Take Two 62

THE POWER OF TWO

'At the Coop'

A popular song at the time I was at Pomona was "Let's Go to the Hop," which had a catchy tune and a recitation of all the current dance fads; the chorus consisted of "Let's go to the hop," sung five times. At Pomona of course it turned into "Let's go to the Coop." After 59 years, I can't get it out of my head ("The Coop Reinvented," Spring 2022).

—Carolyn Hunt '63
Livermore, California



"At the Hop," released by Danny and the Juniors in 1957.

About Those Beanies

Archivist Sean Stanley ("Our Bird's Beginnings," Spring 2022) may have told you about blue-and-white freshman beanies, but they were green in the 1950s. See mine. Love reading the Pomona College Magazine and attending reunions. Chirp.

—Frances DuBose Johnson '54
Newbury Park, California



Remembering Francisco Gonzalez '75

Last year, another Pomona College classmate, **Bradford Berge '75** (Santa Fe, NM) and I were reminiscing and decided to find **Francisco Gonzalez '75** or "Frank" (as we knew him back in the day). I started with the Alumni Office but it had no record of his whereabouts. Brad and I then embarked on our own mad search dubbed *Finding Frank Gonzalez*.

After a few weeks of online searching in December 2021, following obscure lead after obscure lead, we (mainly Brad) finally found Frank in Kansas. Frank's wife, Yolanda Broyles-Gonzalez, is a professor at Kansas State University. On December 23, 2021, Brad and I had a long phone call with Frank. Although he was dealing with Crohn's disease, he sounded like the same ol' energetic, life-loving guy we met and fell in love with 51 years ago in Claremont. Frank was a product of the streets of East Los Angeles and a gregarious, kind, intelligent and musically talented force of nature. (He gave us permission to call him "Frank" because that is how we knew him at Pomona College).

Part of our obsession to find Frank was because Brad and I are musicians (with a very small "m"). When we met Frank at Pomona College, we were amazed at how he could channel music from Boyle Heights, singing Chicano songs and playing guitar with reckless abandon. I will never forget how he sang and played "Malagueñas" from his guts, almost in a trance.

In the '70s we lost track of Frank when he left Pomona College early to pursue his music career as one of the founders of the iconic band Los Lobos. Brad and I were not aware of his connection with Los Lobos until our search a few months ago.

At the end of our call, we wished each other happy holidays and agreed to do it again "soon" as is always said at the end of a phone call but that was not to be. (Obituaries, p. 60). Pomona College is fortunate to have Francisco "Frank" Gonzalez as part of its legacy and we are blessed to have met him and rediscovered him. I would say "may he rest in peace" but knowing Frank, he's still rockin' and rollin' somewhere and causing those around him to say what we said when we met him: "Who the hell is that guy?"

We extend to his wife, son and his vast universe of friends our prayers for the loss of Francisco "Frank" Gonzalez.

—Bruce L. Ishimatsu '75
Marina del Rey, California



On the Court with Darlene Hard

I was saddened to learn of the death of professional women's tennis player **Darlene Hard '61** ("In Memoriam," Spring 2022).

In 1958, Darlene and I were both sophomores at Pomona. One day I was down near the campus tennis courts, hitting balls against the backstop and there she was—Darlene Hard, practicing her serve. After a bit, I got up my nerve and approached her. We engaged in a little small talk and then she smiled at me and said, "You want to hit a few balls with me?"

She stood there, bouncing the ball up and down a few times, and said, "Do you want me to hit shots you can return?" I had played on my high school tennis team and thought I could surely return any shot she could hit. I was 18 years old and felt generally invincible in all areas of life, including tennis.

She bounced the ball once and hit a forehand shot to my forehand side that cleared the net by about half an inch. The ball screamed into my side of the court and hit about six feet in front of me. Then, instead of bouncing like it should have, it literally skidded, never getting more than two or three inches off the ground. I missed it by a foot. "Do that again!" I said. She did. Same result.

At that point, we swapped a few shots that I could return and then my tennis session with Darlene Hard came to an end. I have never forgotten that wonderful encounter and how totally gracious she was the entire time. To this day, I can picture in my mind the way that ball hit and skidded a foot under my racquet as I swung mightily at nothing but air.

—Michael R. Coghlan '61
South Pasadena, California

Meeting Virginia Prince

I so enjoyed reading about **Virginia Prince '35** in the excellent piece by **Michael Waters '20** ("Crossing Boundaries," Spring 2022).

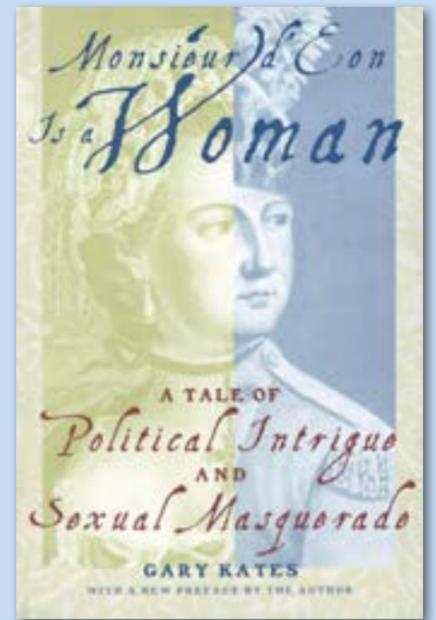
In the early 1990s I interviewed Virginia Prince at a West Hollywood café for a book I wrote on the 18th-century transgender pioneer and diplomat, the Chevalière d'Eon. In some respects Virginia modeled her life on d'Eon's. I will never forget how Virginia embodied the spirit of d'Eon, who like Virginia, lived the second half of her long life as a woman, after living 50 years as a man (see *Monsieur d'Eon is a Woman: A Tale of Political Intrigue and Sexual Masquerade*). As Virginia shook my hand with a hard grip, she theatrically bolted out: "So you are writing a book about the Chevalière d'Eon!?! What can you possibly tell me about

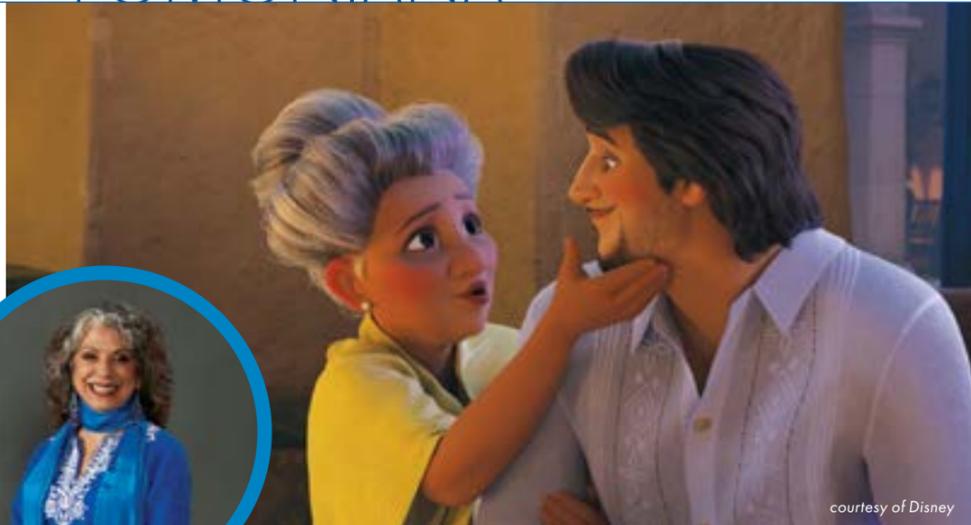
her that I don't already know?" And there began a two-hour conversation that I will never forget. Virginia was amazing: intelligent, articulate, with a rich sense of irony and a great sense of humor.

When, a decade later, I moved to Claremont as Pomona's dean of the College, I visited her in a nursing home, after learning that she had moved back to the Claremont area.

Thanks so much for drawing our attention to this very special alumna.

—Gary Kates
H. Russell Smith Foundation
Chair in the Social Sciences
and Professor of History
Pomona College





courtesy of Disney

And the Oscar Goes To ...

At the moment when *Encanto* won the Oscar, **Rose Portillo** '75—the voice of Señora Guzmán in the 2022 Academy Award winner for best animated feature—was on her way home after performing in a play.

“It happened as I was driving in. Friends were texting me and saying ‘You won! Congratulations!’” Portillo says. “It still feels odd to realize that I actually am a part of this. I still look at it and think: Isn’t that wonderful? My friends won. This is a lovely moment and, I feel, a deserving moment. And then I have another moment of oh, it’s kind of me, too.”

An accomplished actor, writer, director and visual artist as well as a Pomona College theatre lecturer, Portillo was too busy to enjoy the Oscars until after her afternoon performance in the nearly monthlong run of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Anna in the Tropics* at Pasadena’s A Noise Within theatre.

“By the time I got home, there was a watch party next door,” Portillo says. “When I walked in, they were all,

‘Congratulations, congratulations,’ which was very sweet and lovely.”

Besides voicing Sra. Guzmán, mother of the hunky Mariano, Portillo spent two years developing the character of Abuela Alma Madrigal, matriarch of the warm Colombian family whose magical powers not only help them to survive after fleeing a junta but also help to sustain their community.

Portillo calls participating in the production “joyful” and is particularly proud of the animation’s realistic depiction of varied skin tones within a family. She also talks about the invisible effects of unspoken trauma reverberating through generations and the potential for healing.

She wasn’t the only Sagehen involved in *Encanto*. **Jasmine Reed** '12 was an editorial production supervisor for Walt Disney Animation Studios. *Encanto* is being celebrated throughout the world. “It is proof that the better we come to truly know each other, the better we can embrace each other. That’s the kind of project I’m always looking for,” Portillo says.

Closing Time at Rhino Records

Rhino Records, a Claremont Village staple since 1974, has closed its doors. That elicited a Twitter lament from Professor of Politics **David Menefee-Libey** (@DMenefeeLibey) and responses from **Aditya Sood** '97 and **Brian Arbour** '95.

But save your tears. A rent increase at the Yale Avenue location isn’t putting Rhino out of business, just out of walking distance: The store is moving to a new location in nearby Montclair.

This is Jeopardy!

Some 26,000 students from more than 4,000 colleges auditioned for the chance to be among the 36 competitors in the *Jeopardy!* National College Championship, televised in February.

Lauren Rodriguez '22 made the cut and then some, taking home \$20,000 after reaching the tournament semifinals.

“I had such a blast competing on the show,” says Rodriguez, a public policy analysis and sociology major whose first post-graduation job is in management consulting. “Being part of the College Championship as opposed to regular *Jeopardy!* made it so rewarding, because I was able to meet 35 other college kids from all across the country and form friendships with them. We all embraced our inner nerd together and had a lot of fun.”

The tournament champion, University of Texas senior Jaskaran Singh, won \$250,000.

Besides cash, Rodriguez took home memories for a lifetime.

As she posted on Instagram to promote the show, “I’ll take Bucket List for 2022, Mayim 🥰”



Summer 2022

Watson Fellows '22



For sheer armchair traveling pleasure, we present this year’s Thomas J. Watson Fellowship winners: **Xiao Jiang** '22 and

Mark Diaz '22 are among 42 students selected from 41 private college and university partners to receive \$40,000 grants to pursue research projects during 12 months of international travel.

Jiang found care and acceptance in New York City’s Chinatown at the age of 5 when she and her mother came to the U.S. from China. After arriving at Pomona as a Questbridge Match Recipient with a full four-year scholarship, Jiang was worried about returning to her Chinatown for fear of seeing it changed—gentrified—into a place she would no longer recognize as home. As a sophomore, she took an anthropology course and studied the effects of gentrification on Los Angeles’ Chinatown. For her senior project in anthropology, she created a short documentary on how COVID-19 has affected Chinatowns in New York and Los Angeles.

Jiang will spend her Watson year traveling to China, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, France and Belgium to learn how immigrants and Chinese residents engage with Chinatowns to develop a sense of self within a community of like-minded people.

Diaz was a junior in high school when he was first introduced to kabuki, a traditional form of Japanese theatre that incorporates dance, music and mime. At Pomona, he drew Emeritus Professor Leonard Pronko out of retirement to study under him and to have Pronko teach a masterclass on kabuki. They staged *Narukami Thunder God* at Pomona’s Alumni Weekend in 2019 before Pronko’s death later that year.

Thinking about his own ancestors, the Maya and the Basque, Diaz wondered what type of theatre they developed and how it is also under-staged or recognized in the U.S. Diaz will travel to Japan, Spain, Belize and Guatemala to explore traditional dramatic forms: kabuki in Japan, religious dance ceremony in Guatemala and Belize, and pastorela in Spain.



Top 5 for 'Best Financial Aid'

Pomona is No. 3 on The Princeton Review’s 2022 list for Best Financial Aid among private colleges. Pomona is one of a handful of institutions committed to need-blind admissions and to meeting the full demonstrated financial need of all students who enroll.

Food Trucks on the Meal Plan

Trucks along Stover Walk became a familiar sight during the past year. The College occasionally invited food vendors that included the usual burger and taco trucks along with offerings from vendors such as West Side Banh Mi, Bollywood Bites and Sugo Italiano.



Payton Lecture

Award-winning broadcast journalist Soledad O’Brien gave the 2022 Payton Distinguished Lecture in April, explaining how maintaining an anti-bias perspective in journalism means acknowledging our own biases.

“You need other people, other diverse voices, to push for things because your own gut is often wrong.”

—Soledad O’Brien



A New Dean of the College

Professor of Computer Science Yuqing Melanie Wu, an expert in data management and query optimization whose love for teaching drew her to the liberal arts, became Pomona's new vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College on July 1.

"I'm struck by her openness, transparency and eagerness to get input from across the College," says Pomona College President G. Gabrielle Starr. "I know Melanie will



be a key partner in supporting our talented faculty, promoting a compelling liberal arts curriculum for our students and elevating Pomona's unique role in creating opportunity in American higher education."

Wu arrived at Pomona in 2014 as a visiting associate professor and was hired as a tenured associate professor the following year. Her desire to devote more time to teaching led her to Pomona after serving as a faculty member at research institutions. That pursuit of excellence in the classroom was recognized in 2021 when Wu received the Wig Award for teaching, the highest honor faculty members can receive at Pomona.

Her leadership experience includes numerous Pomona faculty and academic committees and consortium-wide task forces for computer science. She chaired Pomona's Computer Science Department from 2017 to 2020. She recently completed a 2021-22 fellowship with the American Council on Education

(ACE), a comprehensive and rigorous leadership program in higher education.

At Pomona, she is a member of the Global Pomona Project steering committee, a group tasked with shaping Pomona's role in the world for decades to come. As a first-generation immigrant and a woman of color in the field of computer science, Wu notes that she "is keenly aware of the challenges people with diverse backgrounds face. It's important to recognize that pursuing diversity, equity and inclusion is a journey of lifelong learning for all."

Wu earned her B.S. and M.S. in computer science from Peking University in China. She went on to receive an M.S. from Indiana University Bloomington and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

She succeeds Professor of Geology Robert Gaines, who has served as dean of the College since 2019.

View Dean Wu's video message to the Pomona community at pomona.edu/deanwu.

A Watershed for Women's Sports

Fifty years ago this summer, Title IX, a federal civil rights act to ensure that students and employees in educational settings are treated equally and fairly regardless of gender, was signed into law. Although the focus today is often on Title IX's protections related to sexual harassment and sexual violence, for generations of women Title IX opened wide the gates that had limited their opportunities to compete in high school and college athletics.

Pomona has a long history of women's athletics (see the striking picture of the 1903 women's basketball team), but equity with men's sports is a direct result of Title IX. Today, Pomona-Pitzer sponsors NCAA competition in 11 women's sports and 10 men's, including football, which requires a larger roster of athletes.

As part of Sagehen Athletics' yearlong commemoration of Title IX, Pomona College Trustee Onetta Brooks '74, a basketball and volleyball player as a Pomona student, talked with Miriam Merrill, director of athletics and chair of physical education.

"What I do remember for volleyball in the initial couple years is we made our own

shorts," Brooks recalls. "Somehow there was a top that had a number, and I don't know if that was just something leftover. But of course you had to buy your own shoes. So all I recall is I think the knee pads maybe had been provided. We were on our own the first couple of years when I came in '70.

"And laundry. We had to do our own laundry, so to speak, so we could come back fresh the next time. I think towels may have been provided."

The video that can be viewed at sagehens.com/information/50th_anniversary_of_Title_IX is part of the commemoration led by Professor of Physical Education Lisa Beckett.

"Always trying to have equal access, male and female locker rooms and all the equipment, it was just something that I knew would take time, and I'm just so grateful that it eventually has come a long way since then, my time," Brooks says.



Trustee Onetta Brooks '74

2022 Wig Awards

Close relationships with professors are one of the special qualities of a Pomona College education. Each year, juniors and seniors vote for the Wig Awards, the highest honor bestowed on Pomona faculty, in recognition of exceptional teaching, concern for students

and service to the College and community. This year, as in-person learning returned after more than a year of Zoom, seven professors were selected and confirmed by a committee of trustees, faculty and students.

2022 Wig Award recipients, from left; Assistant Professor of Media Studies Ryan Engley, Associate Professor of Politics Amanda Hallis-Brusky, H. Russell Smith Professor of International Relations and Professor of Politics Pierre Englebert, Professor of Computer Science Tzu-Yi Chen, Willard George Halstead Zoology Professor of Biology Nina Karnovsky, Assistant Professor of Economics Malte Dold and Associate Professor of English Jordan Kirk



Scholars and Fellows

Each year, Pomona graduates and undergraduates are awarded prestigious scholarships and fellowships for study in various places around the world. Downing Scholars and Gates Cambridge Scholars head to the University of Cambridge in England for graduate work. Fulbright Scholars and Watson Fellows travel to an array of international locations. Rangel Fellows train for careers in the U.S. Foreign Service. Knight-Hennessy Scholars pursue graduate studies at Stanford University. Goldwater Scholarships are awarded to undergraduates studying sciences, mathematics and engineering. Beckman Scholars earn mentored undergraduate research experiences in chemistry, biological sciences and related areas.

Beckman Scholars
Louie Kulber '23
Daniela Pierro '23

Downing Scholars
Kate Aris '22
Jacinta Chen '21
Calla Li '22
Paul McKinley '22

Fulbright Scholars
Kristine Chow '22
Kelly Ho '22
Brady Huang '22
Steven Osorio '22
Sayde Perry '22
Nathan Shankar '22
Ruby Simon '22

Gates Cambridge Scholar
Sofia Dartnell '22

Goldwater Scholars
Hannah Caris '23
Jonathan Elisabeth '23

Knight-Hennessy Scholar
Isaac Cui '20

Rangel Fellow
Salamata Bah '20

Watson Fellows
Xiao Jiang '22
Mark Diaz '22

Faculty Retirements

Each May, we celebrate Commencement as students begin their lives after college. It also marks the time a small group of professors begin their retirements after years of service to the College. For alumni, seeing the professors' names might inspire nostalgia—and perhaps a note of appreciation. These are the faculty retirements from the 2021-22 academic year, along with the year they arrived at the College and email address.



Tom Leabhart (1982)
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Patricia Smiley (1989)
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Cynthia Selassie (1990)
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Professor of Chemistry
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Mary Coffey (1995)
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Kim Bruce (2005)
Reuben C. and Eleanor Winslow
Professor of Computer Science
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Sandeep Mukherjee (2006)
Associate Professor of Art
sandeepmukherjee2@gmail.com



Garrett Hongo '73:

An Honored Poet in Search of the Perfect Stereo Sound

This spring, Garrett Hongo '73 received the 2022 Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry, an annual prize presented to a writer who has had a substantial and distinguished career. Past winners of the award, presented by the *Sewanee Review* each year since 1987, include Howard Nemerov, Gwendolyn Brooks, Wendell Berry, Louise Glück and Billy Collins.

Both a poet and a memoirist, Hongo draws heavily upon his memories of growing up on the North Shore of O'ahu and in Los Angeles. His time at Pomona also figures prominently in his recollections, and his poem "Under the Oaks at Holmes Hall, Overtaken by Rain" is inscribed on a plaque in the Smith Campus Center. Now a Distinguished Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oregon, Hongo's collections of poetry include *The River of Heaven*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1989.

Shortly after Hongo visited campus for a reading this spring, PCM's Lorraine Wu Harry '97 talked with him about his recently published book, *The Perfect Sound: A Memoir in Stereo*, in which he delivers a personal memoir of his life as a poet vis-à-vis his decade-long quest for the ideal stereo setup. The interview has been edited and condensed for length and clarity.

PCM: You have such a strong memory for things that happened even long ago.

Garrett Hongo: People have told me that. Things are very vivid in my mind. I remember easily, as it were. The phrase from William Wordsworth that poetry is "emotion recollected in tranquility"—I need to do it or else I'm unhappy. It's how I create who I am, in a way. It's not just to write but to be. I live in remembrance, and it's something I need to do.

PCM: It seems like nostalgia also plays a strong role in your writing.

Hongo: I think it's often characterized as nostalgia, but it's a little different than that for me. Having been uprooted and moved to South Central L.A., it was something about living in a feeling that was no longer present in my life in L.A. that I had as a child in Hawai'i. The German philosopher Friedrich Schiller talks about naive and sentimental poetry. The naive poet would

be the poet who lives in emotions, and the sentimental poet is a poet who longs for the emotion previously lived. In that characterization, I would be a sentimental poet. However, I'm a sentimental poet in the sense that the emotion was not fully lived. It takes the activity of the recollection and that instigation of longing in order to complete the mental experience.

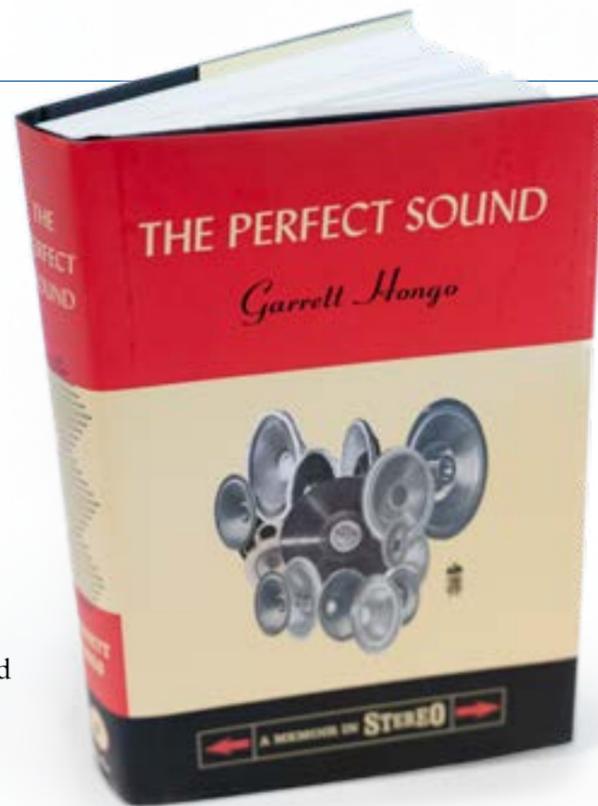
PCM: You talk about writing being for yourself. Do you did you find that this book met that need?

Hongo: People always question my obsession with hi-fi. They thought it was insanity. I didn't even know it myself, but it was a way for me to meditate. I really loved writing the book. I loved learning how to write the book because I didn't know how to do it. I had all this conflict of memoir *and* I want to know about audio. How do you make it all work together? It was only after almost 10 years of not knowing what the hell I was doing, all of

a sudden, I figured it out, and then the book came like that—boom. I'd written pieces of it. I basically wrote the whole book in a couple years, but it took eight years of not figuring it out. That seems to be my pattern for every book I write. What the hell am I doing? What is all this? I'm so awful. And I go through a lot of self-hate and castigation, and all of a sudden it breaks through.

PCM: Did you have experiences of remembering things you had forgotten?

Hongo: That's what the book is. It's about revelation and realization. As they say in self-help, it's self-actualization in writing. My adoration of vacuum tubes is the same. I didn't understand why I was so attracted to them. When I saw an amp online, I thought, "I gotta have a vacuum tube amp." I said, "Well, I suppose that will reproduce the human voice better than transistor amps." But what I was really doing was remembering my father. And I didn't really realize that



until I started fooling around with tube amps myself, and I remembered all those evenings with him, when he would solder together these kits and his vacuum tube amplifiers. It was also a kind of fulfillment because I would hear all the music that he could not in his losing his hearing.

As a poet, you feel confirmed in these kinds of emotions. You seek confirmation, blessing as it were, in the memories, and their pursuit gives you that. This is the way you build, as they say in psychology, personality. This is how you create subjectivity. But this is also the way ultimately you create lineage, ancestry and continuity of goodwill.

Like I say in the end of the book, my friend, Mahealani Pai, who I spent a couple of days with on the Big Island at Kaloko-Honokahau, I asked him why he was chanting or what he was chanting. He said he was chanting the names of his ancestors. I said, "Why you do that?" And he said, "So I will know them and they will know me." And I said, "Oh, for what?" And he said, "So that when I make a decision and I chant, I will make a decision or choice in harmony with their spirits."

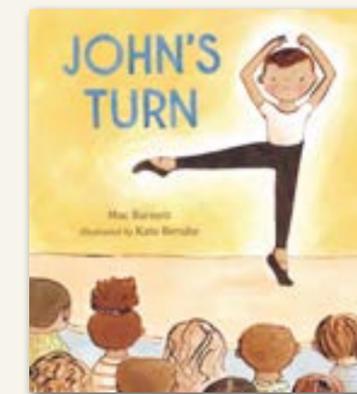
It stayed in my mind. And it made sense for myself in terms of writing this book when I realized that I'm fulfilling something for my father in my own quest, and it was also a quest to become his heir, his scion, his descendant in this life, to be truly a son. So the book is a kind of Telemacheia in that sense.

PCM: What feedback have you gotten from readers? You write very much about your own experience as a Japanese American, but so many people feel a resonance with your stories.

Hongo: I think people come through the different layers of hegemonic discourse and then they respond to the work because it allows them to come through those layers. Because what they are told about identity, ethnicity, even common humanity obstructs what they feel because it puts them in positions that in fact blind and silence them to their own emotional resonances with their own lives. Poetry, not just mine, but a lot of poetry gives them the opportunity to break through those things in a way that refreshes their own affections or what has been silenced in their own histories or microhistories. I think there is a kind of intuitive connection that they feel that emerges, and I'm grateful for that.

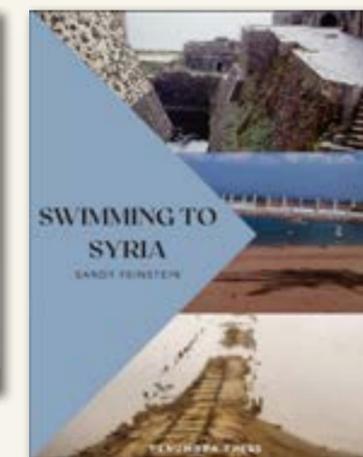
PCM: How do you feel your time at Pomona shaped your writing and who you are now?

Hongo: I write with fondness of my time at Pomona in several episodes of my book. The liberal arts education itself afforded me a different kind of consciousness with which to engage the world. A liberal arts education gives you more freedom, allows you to be more free, allows you to be more self-creative. We're not looking to fit. We're looking to create.



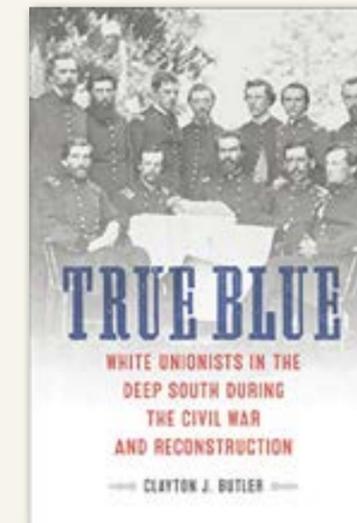
John's Turn

In this children's book, **Mac Barnett** '04 celebrates individuality through the story of a kid who finds the courage to show others his talent for dancing.



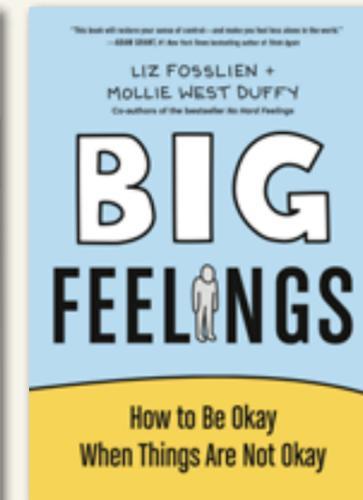
Swimming to Syria

This chapbook by **Sandy Feinstein** '74 is a collection of poems reflecting her experiences teaching at the University of Aleppo and traveling throughout Syria.



True Blue: White Unionists in the Deep South during the Civil War and Reconstruction

Clayton Butler '10 investigates the lives of white Unionists in three Confederate states who enlisted in the U.S. Army, shedding light on the complex story of the Civil War era.



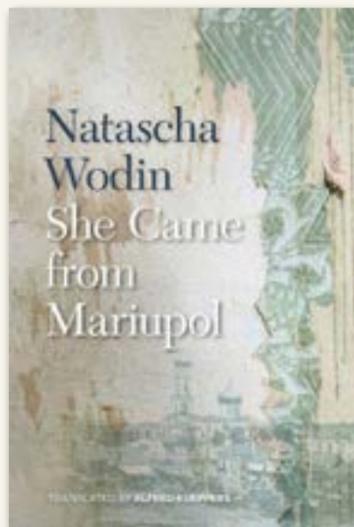
Big Feelings: How to Be Okay When Things Are Not Okay

Liz Fosslien '09 and Mollie West Duffy weave science with personal stories and original illustrations to examine uncomfortable feelings and lay out strategies for managing them.



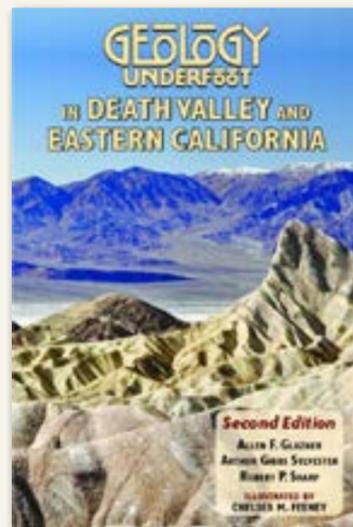
Archipelago of Resettlement: Vietnamese Refugee Settlers and Decolonization across Guam and Israel-Palestine

Evyn Lê Espiritu Gandhi '13 examines a question: What happens when refugees encounter Indigenous sovereignty struggles in the countries of their resettlement?



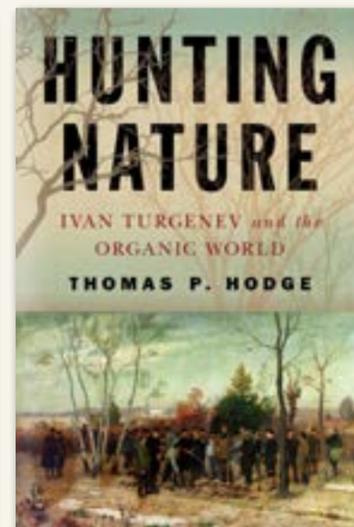
She Came from Mariupol

Alfred Kueppers '93 has translated Natascha Wodin's homage to her mother's story of leaving Ukraine for Germany as part of the Nazi forced labor program during World War II.



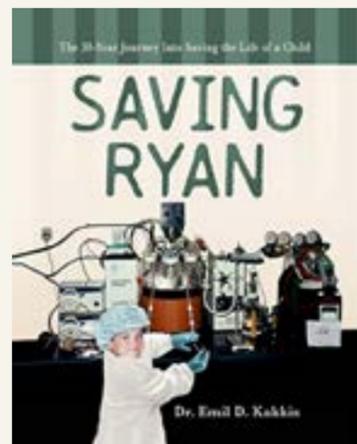
Geology Underfoot in Death Valley and Eastern California: Second Edition

In a revised, full-color edition of this popular book, **Allen Glazner** '76 and **Arthur Sylvester** '59 guide readers through some of California's most spectacular and scenic geology.



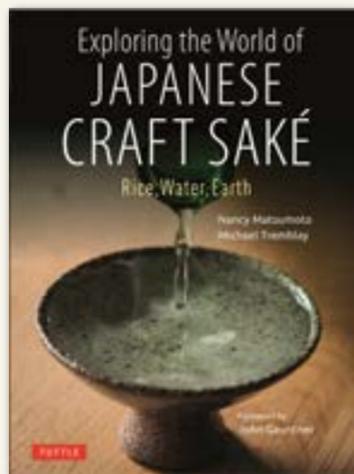
Hunting Nature: Ivan Turgenev and the Organic World

Thomas P. Hodge '84 explores Ivan Turgenev's relationship to nature through his passion for hunting, making a case that hunting profoundly influenced his writing.



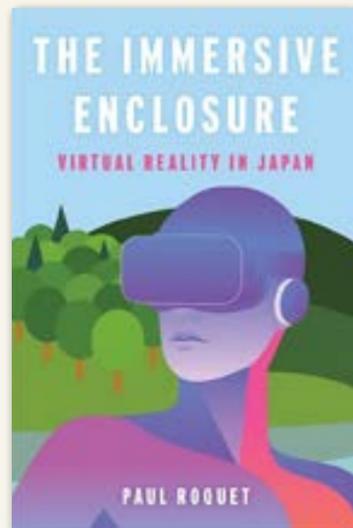
Saving Ryan

Physician-scientist **Emil Kakkis** '82 writes about his 30-year journey to develop a treatment for mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS), an ultra-rare genetic disease, and the young patient it saved.



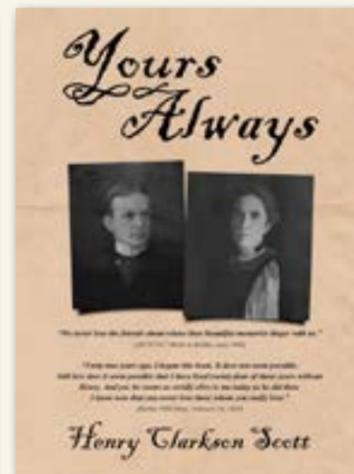
Exploring the World of Japanese Craft Sake: Rice, Water, Earth

In this guide with 300 color photos, **Nancy Matsumoto** '80 and **Michael Tremblay** invite the reader into the story of sake, offering histories, current trends and recommendations.



The Immersive Enclosure: Virtual Reality in Japan

Paul Roquet '03 takes a critical look at virtual reality, uncovering how the technology is reshaping the politics of labor, gender, home and nation in Japan.



Yours Always

Henry Scott '78 tells the story of his great-grandparents, a Southern man and a Northern woman, through their nearly 1,500 letters, their diaries and related historical accounts.



Prof. Jorge Moreno Leads Research Into Galaxies Lacking Dark Matter

The discovery of galaxies with little or no dark matter is perplexing to scientists and challenges existing notions of how galaxies form. In a paper published in *Nature Astronomy* in February, a team of researchers led by Jorge Moreno, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, shared evidence they have found that may explain this baffling observation. *Scientific American* featured Moreno in a podcast about the work in April.

"For 40 years, astrophysicists have believed that all galaxies have dark matter," Moreno explains in a campus interview.

That hypothesis was challenged in 2018, when Shany Danieli at Princeton University, who is the second author of the new paper, and Pieter van Dokkum of Yale published their finding of a galaxy in the real universe that lacked dark matter. A second such galaxy was reported in 2019. Astronomers use the term "real universe" to differentiate between what is seen in physical observation and what is found through computer simulation.

"Their discovery posed a huge challenge to the dark matter model of galaxies," Moreno continues. "Many astrophysicists were suggesting that maybe we need to get rid of the idea of dark matter. Maybe we even need to modify the laws of gravity."

Moreno took a sabbatical leave in 2020-21 to dig deeper into the challenge posed

by these galaxies that lacked dark matter. He drew on his expertise in creating galaxy simulations and using supercomputers to model galaxy formation. Joining in the worldwide effort were astrophysicists from Princeton, UC Irvine, Caltech, the University of Zurich and other institutions.

The simulation modeled evolution over billions of years in a swath of the universe that was 60 million light years across. In it, the researchers identified seven galaxies lacking dark matter.

Researchers employed a cosmological simulation (FIREbox) to re-create numerical analogues (and explain the existence) of the two observed dark-matter deficient galaxies.

"What we found is that these galaxies initially had a lot of dark matter, and they had a lot of gas," says Moreno. "But they fell into bigger systems. What we discover is that to become a galaxy without dark matter, it must interact with a galaxy that is a thousand times bigger than it is."

Moreno drew on his identification with Indigenous peoples to name the galaxies found in the simulation. With the help of Doug Ingram, a Cherokee who teaches in physics and astronomy at Texas Christian University, Moreno obtained the permission of Cherokee leaders to give the galaxies the names of

seven Cherokee clans: Bird, Blue, Deer, Long Hair, Paint, Wild Potato and Wolf.

"I've identified with these galaxies," Moreno says. "These galaxies are not supposed to exist. They were supposed to be destroyed as they battled with massive galaxies, but they survived."

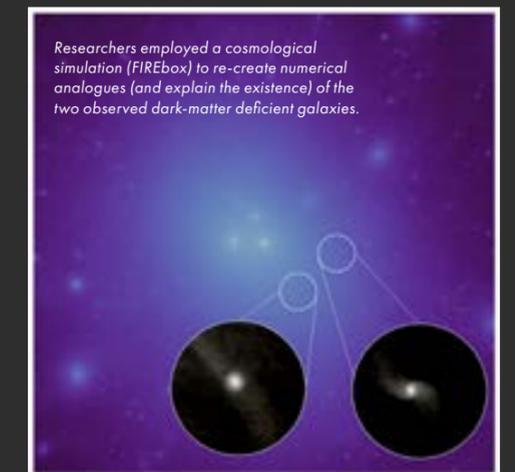
Moreno finds a parallel in his Indigenous ancestry. Growing up in Mexico and the United States with a blossoming interest in mathematics, he didn't see many scientists of color with whom he could identify, and navigating the power structures of academia was often challenging.

Sometimes Moreno felt excluded, and more than once he was mistaken for a janitor rather than a physicist. But, he says, "I had many mentors who believed in me. Sometimes they were warm, and sometimes they were harsh. But both were helpful in my growth to be the best version of myself, not to give up."

As a theoretical astrophysicist and professor, Moreno honors his roots by investing in the success of the next generation of scientists of color. "I don't want them to learn science," Moreno says. "I want them to become scientists."

While Moreno challenges all of his students to grow academically, he is invested in helping them find more than answers to questions in physics. He aims to help them discover, as he has, their place in the world of science. "For me, the scientific endeavor has been one of the most joyful things," he says. "The message I want to send to my students is one of hope: 'You belong.'"

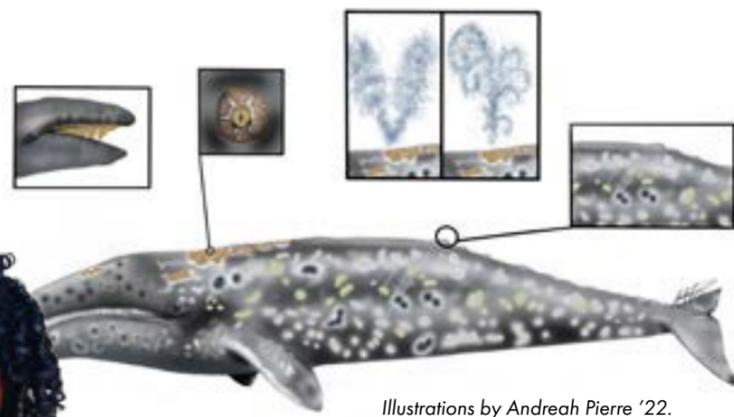
—Alexa Block and Marilyn Thomsen



Researchers employed a cosmological simulation (FIREbox) to re-create numerical analogues (and explain the existence) of the two observed dark-matter deficient galaxies.

How To Become a Scientific Illustrator

A May graduate with a degree in biology—and one of Pomona’s Commencement speakers as senior class president—**Andreah Pierre ’22** has been interested in marine science and conservation for as long as she can remember. After earning a Posse Foundation scholarship followed by a prestigious summer fellowship, she will combine her STEM background with a rediscovered love of art to pursue a career as a scientific illustrator.



5. **Apply for the prestigious Doris Duke Conservation Scholars program** at the University of Washington, which provides two summers of experiential learning in the Pacific Northwest. For your second-year summer internship, join The Whale Museum staff in Washington’s San Juan Islands.
6. Tasked with entering data on whale sightings reported to the museum, **follow a mentor’s suggestion** to develop an illustrated field guide to whales and other marine mammals to help the public tell a gray whale from a humpback. In the process, rediscover your love of art.
7. **Download a \$10 app.** After starting with a free paintbrush program, discover more sophisticated computer graphic tools that help you produce detailed images pointing out key features such as fins, flukes and surface behaviors. “What makes my field guide different from any other book you grab about whales is that the book will tell you all about the whale, versus my image is literally meant to only point out the things that you’d see if you were on the water,” Pierre says.
8. **Turn your summer project into your senior thesis**, testing whether your field guides help people correctly identify types of whales and other marine mammals with the tips and images you provide. (The answer is yes.)
9. **Learn about Cal State Monterey Bay’s post-baccalaureate program** in scientific illustration. Apply and get accepted for a one-year graduate certificate that starts in September, with courses such as botanical illustration, zoological illustration and professional practices for science illustrators, followed by a 10-week internship.
10. **Stop to watch the elephant seals** at Año Nuevo State Park on a trip along the California coast and realize that state and national park signage needs science illustrations too. “A lot of them are old, the paint’s chipped and there is new information from the last 10 or 20 years that should be on there,” Pierre says. Build your portfolio as you look to follow other graduates of the Monterey Bay program, whose work can be found in such places as the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, *National Geographic* and *Scientific American* magazines, and at zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens across the country.

1. **Make your entrance near the ocean.** Born in Miami, Pierre had an early affinity for the nearby Atlantic. “The best part was swimming with my sister,” she remembers. “Fish would pass by us, and we were like, ‘What are they?’”
2. **Stay curious.** Nurture an interest in coral reefs, sea turtles and the effects of pollution as a student at South Broward High School, a marine science magnet school in Hollywood, Florida.
3. **Take an Advanced Placement art class** and learn to paint. “The funny thing is, after sophomore year I never picked up another paint brush,” Pierre says. “My whole life was very much, you’ve got to do science, you’ve got to get a good job, and art did not seem like an option to me in terms of getting a good job.”
4. **Find your posse.** Learn about the Posse Foundation, a program that selects talented students from the same city to attend an elite out-of-state college together on full-tuition scholarships, acting as each other’s support systems. Earn a Miami STEM Posse scholarship to Pomona, where biology students go whale watching on the Pacific.



Another rowdy standing-room only crowd at Haldeman Pool, another USA Water Polo Division III National Championship.

This time it was the Pomona-Pitzer women who took a celebratory leap into the pool after their 8-6 win over Whittier College in May gave them the national title. That completed a Sagehen sweep of the men’s and women’s Division III polo titles as some of the men’s players who won the title in December cheered on the women’s team from the packed stands.

“The crowd at Haldeman was part of what made this experience really special for our team,” says attacker Lucie Abele ’22. “We love hearing students, friends and family cheering us on and having fun, and that support makes games really fun and is super motivating.”

Combined with the men’s cross country team’s NCAA Division III championship in November, Sagehen Athletics teams have claimed an unprecedented three national titles this academic year. ↗

For years, top Division III water polo teams advanced to the NCAA’s single-division water polo tournaments only to be quickly eliminated by Division I powers. The sport’s national governing body decided in 2019 to create an alternative to the NCAA tournament, a final four for Division III.

“I thank USA Water Polo,” says Alex Rodriguez, professor of physical education and leader of a staff that coaches both the men’s and women’s teams. “I’ve been pretty fortunate to have a long list of amazing women play for me and carry me to these moments. This championship is different. A national championship is different. It feels amazing. It doesn’t feel like it used to feel to win conference and go to the NCAAs against Division I teams.

“I was surprised on the men’s side how much love we got for winning the D-III championship, and I expected the same thing,” says



3 NATIONAL TITLES FOR SAGEHEN ATHLETICS

Rodriguez, whose resume also includes two trips to the Olympics as an assistant men’s coach. “I am truly touched with this opportunity.”

The Sagehen women were No. 1 in the preseason Division III national rankings, and they were No. 1 at the end. But the title felt like a long time coming for the team’s five seniors: Abele, Nadia Paquin ’22, Allison Sullivan Wu ’22, Katherine Cullen PZ ’22 and Jessy Nesbit PZ ’22.

The seniors credited determination as well as the contributions of freshman and sophomores, all playing their first college seasons. An underclassman came up big in the final, as Namlhun Jachung PZ ’24 scored two goals and added four assists for the Sagehens. The SCIAAC Newcomer of the Year, Jachung also was selected as national player of the year. ↗

Abele, the Sagehens’ leading goal-scorer during the regular season, and Abigail Wiesenthal ’24 each also scored two goals in the title game. Goalkeeper Zosia Amberger ’25, the SCIAAC defensive athlete of the year, held off the Poets’ attempts to come back in the second half.

“This win felt really big for the seniors, especially after losing one-and-a-half years of water polo to the pandemic,” Abele says. “That was definitely a motivator for us, knowing that we had less time than other [classes] to make an impact and win a title. Winning D-III champs feels even more momentous to us because it’s four years in the making and a culmination of all our hard work.”

Ukraine's Maria Lyven '22 Persists Despite War at Home

The road from Kyiv, Ukraine, to her senior year at Pomona College was paved with challenges for Maria “Masha” Lyven '22. She arrived in a new country at 17 only to contend with a pandemic and then watch a war unfold at home. Despite those obstacles, she displayed remarkable resilience and became the SCIAC athlete of the year in women's tennis.

“Masha is one of the hardest-working people I know,” says Melisha Dogra PZ '22, co-captain with Lyven of the Pomona-Pitzer women's tennis team, which reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA Division III tournament. Though Lyven's postseason run was curtailed by illness, teammate Angie Zhou '25 rallied to a strong finish as national runner-up in the NCAA Division III Singles Championship. (See photo.)

When Lyven arrived at Pomona from Kyiv, she only recently had begun learning English. Studying at Pomona meant writing her papers in Ukrainian first, then translating them. She also had to interpret a new culture.

The women's tennis team was her foothold. “It was really fun to be part of the team and be part of a group where everyone is committed to the same goal,” Lyven says. Her first year, she qualified for the NCAA singles tournament, and the team finished fifth in the country.

The following year, the season was cut short by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lyven couldn't return home due to travel restrictions, so she stayed with a Pomona classmate for two months. Eventually she was able to return to Ukraine, but had to fly from Texas to Atlanta to Amsterdam to Belarus and then drive an entire day to Kyiv.



Maria Lyven '22

Lyven returned to Pomona last fall, only to injure her back and be sidelined until spring. But she “overcame that and really got herself going in a good place coming back,” says Mike Morgan, head women's tennis coach and associate professor of physical education. At a national tournament in March, Lyven was serving “about half underhand, half overhand,” says Morgan. and “still winning.” “She has a level of quiet

grit about her that you just don't see every day.”

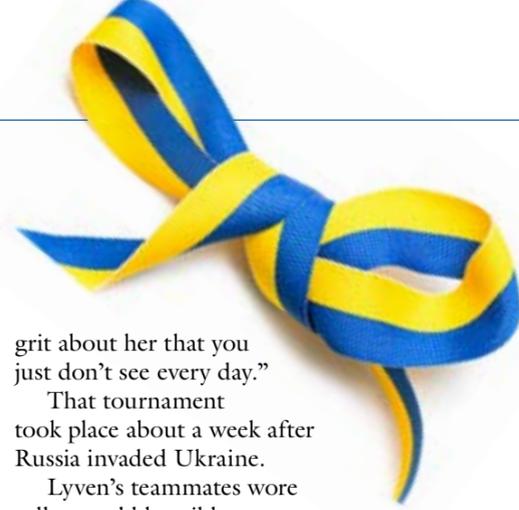
That tournament took place about a week after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Lyven's teammates wore yellow and blue ribbons to show their support, and later helped her organize a fundraiser for the Ukraine Global Crisis Relief Fund. By selling cupcakes, flowers and Ukrainian candies, Lyven raised about \$1,600.

“The war has definitely affected me negatively,” she said this spring. “I'm constantly anxious about my family. I don't know when I'm going to see my parents. It's very scary, and you don't know what's going to happen. I'm very angry, sad, frustrated and anxious about not being able to be there.”

Her parents, who live in the suburbs of Kyiv, were faring OK, she says. This summer, Lyven, a computer science major, has an internship at Lyft in New York City before returning for her final semester at Pomona. The offer came as a tremendous relief, because she couldn't return home due to the unsafe conditions. She is interested in UX (user experience) and product design as a career, combining the skills in creative thinking and problem solving that she has gained at Pomona.

—Lorraine Wu Harry '97



An Undefeated Regular Season, A Bright Future

Not only did Pomona-Pitzer women's lacrosse sweep through the regular season and the SCIAC tournament undefeated, but the team also welcomed a new star: Shoshi Henderson '25.

The Sagehens finished with the best record in the program's history at 18-1, marred only by a postseason loss in the NCAA Division III Sweet 16 to Tufts, the eventual national runner-up, on the Jumbos' home field.

Henderson quickly proved herself a game-changing player in her first season, breaking the NCAA Division III record for assists in a season with 90. She also set Sagehen records for points in a season with 132 and single-game assists with 13.

“Shoshi's just a natural feeder, and she sees the field really well and works really well with her teammates,” says Coach Sarah Queener. “You can tell if

you watch our games that when Shoshi gets the ball, you see everyone looking to cut. And that's for a reason.”

Kate Immergluck '22, a “super-senior” who took a pandemic gap year to have the opportunity to play a final season, agrees.

“Shoshi has vision like nobody else,” says Immergluck, a third-team All-American midfielder and the SCIAC Defensive

Player of the Year. “I feel like when I'm playing offense and Shoshi's feeding, she feeds the ball before I even know that I'm cutting. She knows the route before it's even there. She can just anticipate the movement of the offense and I think that's really special. It facilitates—well you can look at the stats, but it facilitates the way that our offense has developed.”



Shoshi Henderson '25, left, celebrates after scoring the winning goal in overtime against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

Popovich Raises the Bar in NBA

Pomona's disproportionate influence on the NBA coaching ranks continued this season as Gregg Popovich, coach of Pomona-Pitzer's Sagehens for eight seasons early in his career, set the NBA record for career victories as a coach. The San Antonio Spurs coach finished his 26th season with 1,344 regular-season wins in his career. Popovich also has won five NBA championships as a head coach, tied for third in NBA history—and a lofty goal for Mike Budenholzer '92, the former Sagehen player who is coach of the Milwaukee Bucks and won his first NBA title in 2021. Finally, both coaches in the 2022 NBA Finals—the Golden State Warriors' Steve Kerr and the Boston Celtics' Ime Udoka—played for Popovich and later served as his assistant coaches, Udoka with the Spurs and Kerr at the Tokyo Olympics.

Pomona College Magazine

Watch Sagehen Sports Online—with Students as the Broadcast Crew

Before the pandemic, online broadcasts of Sagehen Athletics were a straightforward stream of the game. Now broadcasts might include multiple camera angles, instant replays, graphic overlays and play-by-play commentary.

The secret weapon behind these improvements? Student workers.

It's a win-win situation. Those watching—including far-away family and friends of the athletes—have a vastly enhanced viewing experience, and students at Pomona gain valuable work opportunities.

Director of Athletics Communications Sam Porter, who oversees the broadcasts along with Assistant Director Aaron Gray, likes for students to work every position, in case the crews are short a person at any given game.

Maya Nitschke-Alonso '23 didn't have any prior camera experience. But she has settled into the role of “camera two,” which she explains “is the one that will zoom in on the player who's taking free throws or backpedaling after a shot, the coach getting hyped up, all that fun stuff.”

Alex Chun '24 hopes to make a career of sports commentary and is gaining plenty of experience.

“I've always found a profound passion for not only playing sports but also commentating and writing about sports or speaking about sports,” he says.

All home events are broadcast, with the exception of cross country, golf, and track and field, which are more difficult to film.

To watch live and previously recorded broadcasts, go to sciacnetwork.com/sagehens/.

—Lorraine Wu Harry '97



Summer 2022

NCAA singles finalist Angie Zhou '25, left. At right is

TO QUENCH AFRICA'S THIRST

Brian Bishop '22

Anaa Jibicho '23

Anaa Jibicho '23 and Brian Bishop '22 take on the world's water crisis, one water bottle at a time.
By Carla Maria Guerrero '06

It's around lunchtime on a weekday when two friends meet up in the Smith Campus Center's courtyard. A dozen or more outdoor tables are buzzing with Pomona College students as they chat, eat and work under umbrellas protecting them from the high-noon sun. In the middle of the courtyard, recycled water endlessly cascades from a spout in the iconic Smith

Campus Center fountain. For Anaa Jibicho '23, the fountain is a reminder of his mission. At a small table, Jibicho sits with his best friend and business partner Brian Bishop '22 as they await the lunch they've ordered from the Coop. Together with a third partner, Lamah Bility, they run Didomi—a social enterprise named for the ancient Greek word for giving and founded on the principle of helping the nearly a billion people around the world who don't have access to clean, safe water near their homes. They do this

by donating a portion of the profits from sales of their fashionable, reusable water bottles to WaterIsLife, a nonprofit that provides filtration systems, pumps and drilling to help people access clean and safe water. The ventures also work to spread awareness of the crisis across the world. "Water here is an aesthetic," Jibicho says as he points to the fountain. "To have a basic necessity so readily available, we don't think twice about it."



Anaq Jibicho '23, left; Jibicho and Brian Bishop '22 on the slopes, right; Jibicho and Bishop canoeing below.



REFUGEE ORIGINS

Jibicho, an economics major, started Didomi in 2019 with Bility in Minnesota, where they had separately arrived as refugees from Africa at ages 7 and 11. As a young child in Ethiopia, Jibicho suffered the ill effects of drinking unsafe water. He and his family, members of the persecuted Oromo people, were forced to drink the only available water—which was not just unsafe but lethal. Before Jibicho's birth, his mother had already suffered the unthinkable: Two of her children had fallen ill and died after ingesting unsafe water. When 2-year-old Jibicho became sick as well, she was determined not to lose another son. They fled to Kenya, and as refugees, she secured medical care that saved her youngest child's life.

During his Orientation Adventure as a first-year student, Jibicho opened up and told his story to others in the group. Bishop, a sophomore leader on the trip who grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was staggered. "The numbers also blew me away," says the math and media studies major. As Jibicho explains: "Nearly a billion people lack access to safe water, and unsafe water kills more people than war."

The two students connected further as the year went on, but it was another outdoor experience that cemented their burgeoning

friendship. An avid outdoorsman, Bishop invited Jibicho to the annual Ski-Beach Day, traditionally held in the spring semester. At a cost of \$5 dollars per person, the trip takes a busload of 100 Pomona students to Mountain High resort in nearby Wrightwood for an early day of skiing followed by a same-day drive to the Pacific Ocean for an afternoon of fun in the sand. The trip always sells out. To secure a spot, students begin lining up early in the morning at the Associated Students of Pomona College office in a line that stretches around the second floor of the Smith Campus Center. Luckily for Bishop and Jibicho, they secured ticket numbers 98 and 99.

Bishop, a member of the five-college ski and snowboard team that competes nationally, taught Jibicho to ski. He says it took a lot of convincing to drag Jibicho to the slopes. But now, skiing is one of Jibicho's joys.

Conventional wisdom says that friendship and business don't mix. Bishop says that opportunities like Pomona's Orientation Adventure and Ski-Beach Day were instrumental in building a strong and holistic relationship between the two of them. "If you have those types of relationships, you're more able to work together," he says.

During spring break in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was just beginning,

Jibicho saw an opportunity to grow Didomi's potential. Staying with Bishop in New Mexico for the week, Jibicho pitched him an idea: Join Didomi and be a part of something bigger than both of them. Bishop had been looking into summer internships where he could use his media studies and creative skills and learn from experts.

It took a lot of persuasion, says Jibicho, to steer his friend away from a traditional internship and to take a leap of faith with Didomi instead: "I pitched him to create his own opportunity at Didomi and to learn by doing."

Today, Bishop laughs remembering how much his friend had to do to get him to say yes—probably almost as much as he had to do to convince Jibicho to join him on those early ski trips.

Didomi **IMPACT**

 **ONE/TEN**
 people don't have access to clean, safe water

EVERY BOTTLE  =  **10 YEARS**
 provides 10 years of water access for someone who needs it most

DRILLED WELLS

provide clean water for up to 10,000 people

50,000 people in Africa helped by Didomi

For more information on global access to safe drinking water, visit the website of the joint monitoring program of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at wash.org.



Brian Bishop '22

SEEKING CHANGE

By the summer of 2020, Bishop had moved in with Jibicho and Bility in their hometown of St. Paul, Minnesota, to develop brand guidelines for the reusable water bottle company.

Bishop's arrival in the Twin Cities coincided with the George Floyd protests rocking the Minneapolis area. Floyd's death under the knee of police officer Derek Chauvin was captured on camera, sparking public outrage and unrest across the U.S.

Before even going to their apartment, Jibicho, Bility and Bishop attended the protests, with Bishop's luggage still in the

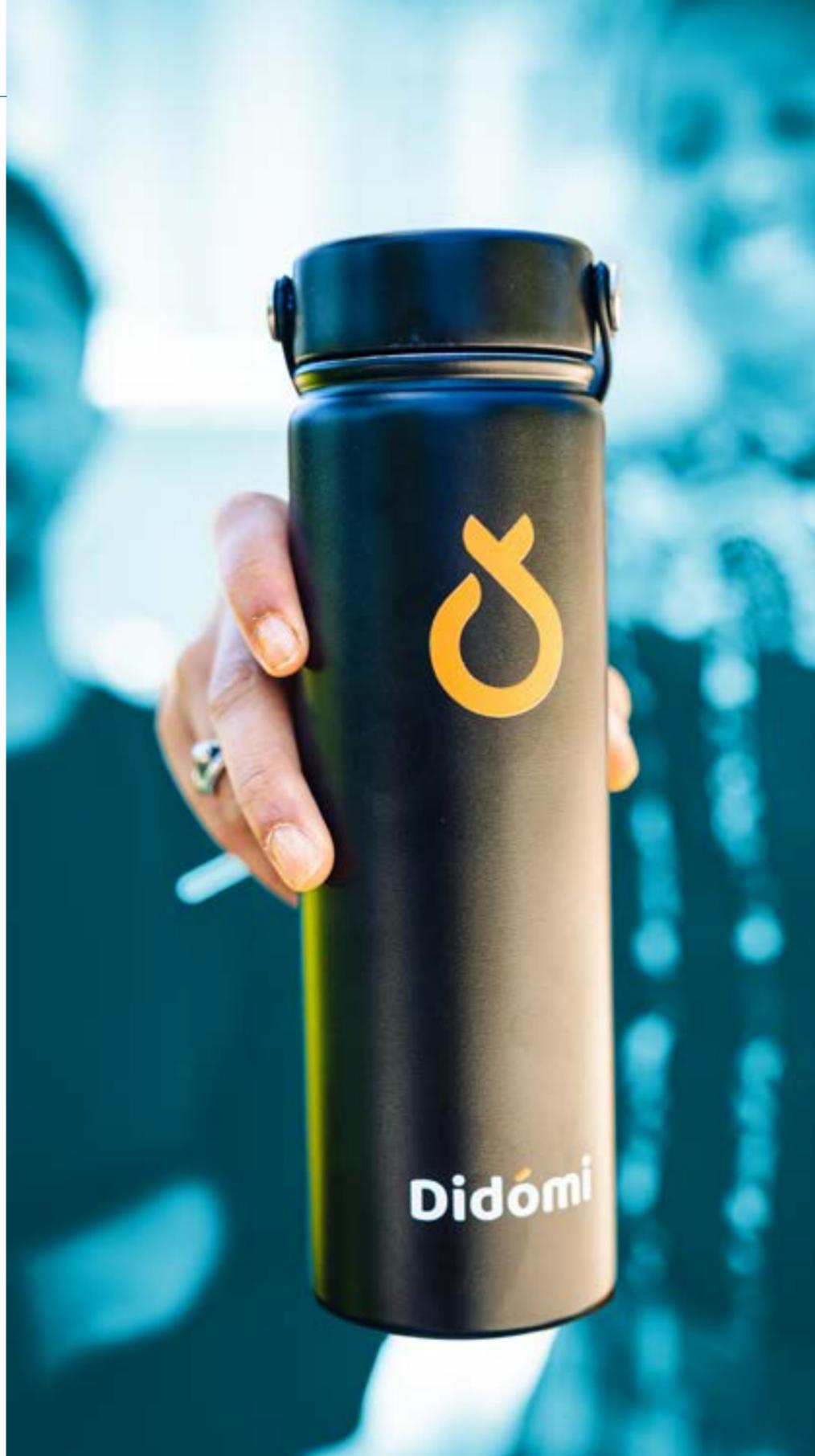
trunk. The energy on the streets inspired the three young Black men, and before long they took turns on the microphone sharing about their own experiences.

The energy of that historic summer continued to fuel the trio as they drew out Didomi's vision, mission statement and brand guidelines. They got down to the finer details, including approved fonts, color schemes and what types of brands and companies they wanted to work with.

"Be the drop that makes ripples throughout the world."

Refined that summer, this quote graces Didomi's stainless steel bottles. Their logo is a drop of water that flows into

Anaa Jibicho '23, co-founder Lamah Bility and Brian Bishop '22, right.



two fingers drawn in a symbol meant to represent hope. Each bottle retails for \$28, and half of the profits from a single bottle provides 10 years of access to safe water to one person in need in Africa.

Bishop took a semester off during the 2020-2021 school year, which was marked by remote classes and uncertainty caused by COVID-19.

Back home in New Mexico, he continued working on Didomi while auditing a social entrepreneurship course at Claremont McKenna College. Jibicho was enrolled in the same class, and both came out of it with tangible skills they would immediately put to the test.

Their hard work has led to large-scale partnerships with several institutions, including the University of New Mexico, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. In Claremont, they have partnered with the Rick and Susan Sontag Center for Collaborative Creativity (known as the Hive) and the Pomona College Office of Advancement.

The latest partnership they secured in January is with George Washington University. Jibicho says they beat out larger reusable water bottle companies for the contract to supply the university with nearly 30,000 Didomi bottles that will be given to the students, faculty and staff to help nudge the community away from single-use plastic bottles. The partnership will allow Didomi to provide water access to almost 30,000 people in Ghana, Guinea and Uganda for the next decade.

Being an entrepreneur, says Jibicho, has made his coursework at Pomona seem easier. "I'm using my education as a means to make tangible change for people around the world. I've been pushed to follow my passion here and use my education for good."

Last summer, Didomi provided drinking water and reusable bottles for New Mexico's first Juneteenth festival, helping spread awareness of the water crisis. During the three-day event, Didomi partnered with the arts production company Meow Wolf and the New Mexico United soccer team to give attendees custom-made water bottles, helping make an impact on the water crisis in Africa and reduce plastic waste in America.

To date, Jibicho and Bishop say, Didomi has helped 50,000 people in Africa. The future is full of opportunity for the young entrepreneurs, who have no plans to stop. Jibicho has one more year at Pomona. Bishop, a senior who took a semester off during the pandemic, is graduating at the end of 2022

"BE THE DROP THAT MAKES RIPPLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

and plans to focus on Didomi's social media presence and the stories of the company's impact that will inspire people. Bility, who already graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, is boots-on-the-ground in West Africa, managing Didomi's impact firsthand. Their hope is to see that one day everyone in the world will have access to all the clean, safe water they need.

"Lots of people have invested in our mission but no one is more invested than us," Jibicho says. "We are committed to the work." [PCM](#)



Brian Bishop '22 and Anaa Jibicho '23 partnering with the Rick and Susan Sontag Center for Collaborative Creativity (known as the Hive).

CONNECT WITH
Didomi

www.didomibottle.com
Instagram: didomibottle

PARTNERS

www.waterislife.com
liftup.com

Partners in Prague

By Doug Morrow '01 and Erik Black '95

It's unusual for a U.S. Embassy to have even a single Sagehen, but for three years in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, the entire Cultural Section was schooled in the arts of 47.

Erik Black '95 and Doug Morrow '01, both career diplomats, arrived together in the summer of 2018. Black, the new cultural affairs officer, had studied in Russia and served two years at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv following Ukraine's 2004-05 Orange Revolution. He arrived in Prague fresh from six years at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Morrow, his new deputy, had previously lived in Moscow and worked for two years at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv shortly before Ukraine overthrew pro-Russia president Viktor Yanukovich in 2014.

This is their perspective on the work of diplomacy. »



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he first time either of us realized we had both gone to Pomona was before we even arrived in the Czech Republic. Doug was still in Iraq and had just received his onward assignment to Prague. “Naturally, I cyberstalked my future boss—then in Beijing—and was both shocked and delighted to learn he was a fellow Sagehen,” he recalls. “Fortunately, I was able to travel a few months later on vacation to China, where we met up for lunch, and I was gratified to discover how much I enjoyed Erik as a person.”

Later, as Russian speakers, we were grouped together in our 10-month Czech language class in Northern Virginia, where we had even more of an opportunity to get to know one another. We had a lot more in common than Claremont; we both had spent time in Russia and Ukraine before the Russian invasion.

“Ukraine was my first assignment in the Foreign Service,” Erik says. “I have fond memories of Kyiv and the wonderful Ukrainian people I was privileged to know. Watching the news each day about the unnecessary destruction in places where I lived, worked, or visited breaks my heart.”

Doug has even closer ties.

“It’s been horrifying to see what’s happening to my friends and colleagues in Ukraine,” he says. “Even though I left in 2013, I’ve been back to visit almost every year since, and have remained close friends with the Ukrainian staff at the embassy. They’ve all had to flee Kyiv, some to Western Ukraine, others to various countries in Europe.”

.....

What we didn’t realize when we arrived in the Czech Republic—a member of NATO since 1999 and of the European Union since 2004, but once part of the Warsaw Pact—was that most of our time would be spent blunting the impact of Russian and Chinese propaganda and disinformation

“Our goal was to better explain American government and society and help strengthen our shared democratic values and ideals among Czechs who have significant influence.”

campaigns. Erik was well attuned to China’s international influence efforts through its Belt and Road Initiative and network of Confucius Centers from his experience in Beijing. Doug was versed in Russian methods from his time in Moscow.

“I thought coming to the heart of Europe would mean a break from China issues after my back-to-back tours in Beijing,” Erik says.

Doug had similar expectations.

“Honestly, I thought this was going to be sort of a break after heading the

public affairs section in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region during the middle of the ISIS war, but it was anything but,” he says.

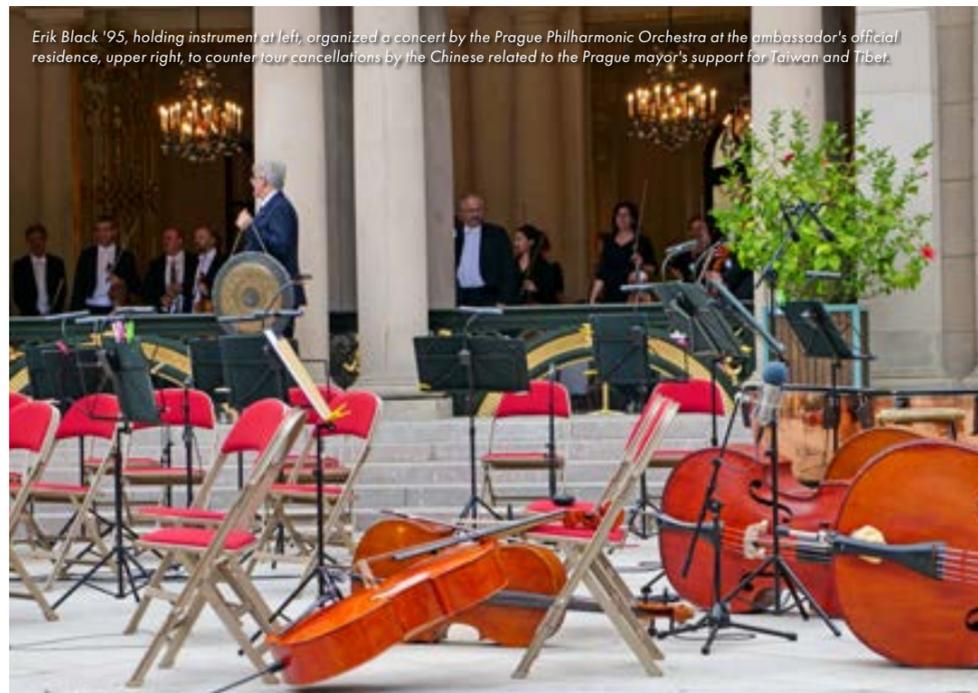
Leading a team of three Czech nationals that included some of the most talented and experienced staff at the embassy, Erik was charged with engaging Czech opinion leaders in a variety of fields: the arts, journalism, higher education, business and civil society.

“Our goal was to better explain American government and society and help strengthen our shared democratic values and ideals among Czechs who have significant influence,” he says.

Doug’s team of four Czechs focused on the nation’s young people ages 14-30, the first generation of voters and workers in that country to have grown up without any memory of authoritarianism.

“The concern was that this lack of direct experience might weaken their resolve to maintain their 32-year-old democracy,” he says. “Before COVID, we started making the rounds to high schools and universities to engage students in discussions on why democracy matters.

Polling bore out our concerns: Among the 38 countries that are members of the OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development], young Czech adults report by far the lowest interest in politics.”



Erik Black '95, holding instrument at left, organized a concert by the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra at the ambassador's official residence, upper right, to counter tour cancellations by the Chinese related to the Prague mayor's support for Taiwan and Tibet.



That might have been part of the reason the Czech Republic’s president, who regularly praised authoritarian Russia and China, was re-elected with a comfortable majority in 2018.

We both agreed it was important to have a conversation with Czechs about why our shared democratic values still mattered.

The China Problem

At the time, China had already begun a major influence campaign in the Czech Republic. The Czech president had declared his hope it would become an “unsinkable aircraft carrier” for Chinese investment into the European Union.

A series of state visits, the opening of new Czech-Chinese institutes and Confucius Centers, and attempts to lure Czech students to study in China all created concern in the embassy about long-term Czech commitments to our shared democratic values, as did increasingly favorable poll numbers for China. In response, the cultural team crafted a multi-year campaign to highlight Chinese human rights abuses and the dangers of increasing reliance on Chinese information technology.

The Chinese government did itself no favors. When the progressive mayor of Prague spoke out in favor of Taiwan and Tibet in 2019, the Chinese government retaliated by canceling planned cultural tours by any musical groups that happened to have “Prague” in their name. (In the Czech

Republic, high art and classical music are sacrosanct: *Don’t Mess with Dvorak.*)

Erik’s team capitalized by inviting one orchestra blocked by China to perform at the Petschek Villa, the ambassador’s official residence—which happens to be across the street from the Chinese Embassy. To broaden the impact, we arranged for the concert to be broadcast live on national radio. One Czech journalist described the concert as “a totally badass move by the U.S. Embassy.” Combined with other programs, including expert speakers and a nationally touring public photo exhibition documenting abuses against the Muslim Uighur minority in Xinjiang and remembrances of the Tiananmen Square massacre, our teams succeeded in getting Czechs across the country talking about the values gap with China and questioning how close they really wanted to be.



Erik Black, right, during an embassy function while serving as the U.S. cultural affairs officer in the Czech Republic.

The Russia Problem

Meanwhile, publicly available polling data showed that the far east of the Czech Republic had the highest levels of support for political parties on the extreme left and right wings, groups whose commitment to democratic ideals was questionable.

Ostrava, the largest city in the east, is a rust-belt metropolis suffering from relatively high unemployment and ethnic tension. A flashy Russian Consulate sits on the high street, and a giant Russian tank—a World War II memorial—holds prominent ground downtown on the river. Support for the Communist party was higher there than in any other part of the country.

Situated three hours from the embassy, Ostrava’s residents had previously been difficult to reach, so Doug’s team launched a new American cultural center there as a platform for American speakers, media and other engagement. We found willing partners in the city and region’s leadership, who—with distinct memories of life under a Communist autocracy—understood the risks of ongoing economic stagnation and cultural isolation.

We recruited high school students from the region and across the country to spend a year in the United States with host families so that they could effectively serve as informal ambassadors upon their return, explaining U.S. politics, society and culture in towns and cities unlikely to see a real-life diplomat. In addition, we established a partnership with the local (and impressive) children’s science museum to develop a critical-thinking exhibit



Ambassador Stephen King meets with Embassy Youth Council members at the new U.S. cultural center in Ostrava.

to help local children better challenge Russian state disinformation campaigns.

To address the Russia problem with another important audience, Erik’s team worked with Czech alumni of U.S. government exchange programs in 2019 to organize a two-day regional workshop titled “Propaganda and Its Tools in the Post-Soviet Bloc: How to Fight It.” Experts from seven Central and Eastern European countries gathered with fellow European alumni of U.S. government programs in Prague to discuss Russian propaganda, disinformation campaigns and cyber operations, as well as best practices and successful strategies to counter them. The conference attendees, many of whom are in positions of influence within their respective countries, recommitted themselves to working collectively to counter Russian disinformation.

Just as it did with everything else, the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges to traditional public diplomacy efforts, which typically traffic in face-to-face engagement. We had to adapt our programs, turning to Zoom and other tools to reach virtual audiences. When Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited the Czech Republic during a COVID lull in August 2020—the first high-level official U.S. visit in eight years—we helped coordinate media coverage and engagements with the traveling U.S. press, as well as with the Czech and international media reporting on the trip.

Secretary Pompeo’s visit included a public speech on NATO and European security under growing Russian threats at the “Thank You, America!” monument in Pilsen, which commemorates the U.S. soldiers who liberated Western Bohemia from the Nazis. He also made a major policy speech in the historic Czech Senate chambers calling for greater Western unity in countering growing Chinese influence in Central and Eastern Europe. It was a proud moment for us at the Czech Senate when Secretary Pompeo referenced our effective cultural work in the Czech Republic to influence public attitudes towards China.

By the summer of 2021, our productive three-year Prague assignments—a typical



Diplomats don't have to be serious all the time. Doug Morrow '01 imitates the bird depicted on the building behind him.

stint in the U.S. Foreign Service—were over. Erik went on to serve a one-year tour as the Cultural Affairs Officer in Kabul, Afghanistan, which included surviving the August evacuation of the U.S. Embassy as Kabul fell.

“I was in Kabul when Taliban forces entered the capital and I evacuated on the last available commercial flight out, escorted by Black Hawk helicopters. The final apocalyptic hours in Afghanistan are seared in my memory,” Erik says. “To save Afghan lives, we rushed boxes of program files to large burning dumpsters behind the U.S. Embassy and destroyed the name placards on every Afghan staff cubicle.”

Evacuated first to Washington, and later to Doha, Qatar, Erik helped with Afghan staff evacuation and U.S. resettlement efforts, registered thousands of Afghan refugees into the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, convinced Washington to provide funding to cover 120 new graduate scholarships for Afghan female students, and built a new platform in Doha for conducting public diplomacy in Afghanistan. He returns to Washington this summer to work on the China desk for two years as an embedded public diplomacy adviser.

Doug returned to the U.S. for a one-year master’s program in War, Diplomacy, and

Society at Chapman University, not too far down the road from Pomona, after which he’ll be returning to Iraqi Kurdistan for a two-year stint. We became close friends during our three years in Prague, and we were grateful for the opportunity to serve our country together in such a beautiful and historic city, on such pivotal issues. On our last day together last summer, we ascended the hillside behind the U.S. Embassy with

“We feel gratitude that Pomona opened our minds to new possibilities and put us on the path to diplomatic careers in the U.S. Foreign Service.”



Above, Erik Black '95 playfully interacts with Morrow and multiple screens and lenses during photo training with their staff, pictured below, with Black, left, and Morrow, center.



our Czech staff for pictures at the Glorietta pavilion that overlooks the Vltava River and Prague’s famous Charles Bridge and stands across from Prague Castle. We will miss our amazing team and this beautiful place.

Like most alumni, we know the words on the College Gates almost by heart. We feel gratitude that Pomona opened our minds to new possibilities and put us on the path to diplomatic careers in the U.S. Foreign Service, where we continue to “bear our added riches” for people not only in the U.S., but around the world. **PCM**

The views expressed here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Government.



Colorado Rockies co-owner **Linda Alvarado '73** and the team's first female scout, **Emily Glass '15**, have formed a bond.

Story by Robyn Norwood

Barrier Breakers

It's midday at the Colorado Rockies' Coors Field, still hours before first pitch. A couple of groundskeepers are busy mowing the grass with practiced precision, and another is spraying the infield dirt with a fine mist before the evening's game.

High above the field, Linda Alvarado '73 and Emily Glass '15 sit in a quiet stadium lounge that soon will be buzzing with fans. They have little and yet worlds in common.

Alvarado is a self-made construction mogul with a net worth Forbes estimates at \$230 million. The founder, president and CEO of Alvarado Construction, a large commercial general contractor, she became the first Latino owner in Major League Baseball history—and a woman who didn't inherit her stake at that—as part of the ownership group that won an expansion bid for a new National League team in 1991 and brought the Colorado Rockies to Denver in 1993.

Glass is a new employee, only months on the job, digging her fingernails deeper into a career in baseball after being hired as the Rockies' first female scout last November. Like Alvarado, she has gotten where she is with intelligence, a clever knack for finding her way around obstacles and a sense of humor that has served both women well in male-dominated fields. Besides the Rockies and a love for baseball, they have one other thing in common: Pomona College.

"What dorm did you live in?" Glass asks.

"I think I lived in Mudd," Alvarado says, reaching back over the years.

"I lived in Mudd too!" Glass says.

"You're kidding."

"No. Mudd 2 back. Did you go up the stairs?"

"I think so."

"Mudd 2! Let's go!" Glass says as they exchange one of the fist bumps that punctuate their conversation.

Though Alvarado learned about Glass's baseball background during the scouting search and from former Rockies manager Clint Hurdle before she was hired, the pair didn't discover their Pomona connection until well after Glass had started working for Marc Gustafson, the Rockies' senior director of scouting operations, and been featured in the *Denver Post*.

Glass isn't the only woman working as a scout for a major league team, and the so-called glass ceiling in baseball's front



Rockies co-owner Linda Alvarado '73, left, and scout Emily Glass '15 in the stands at Coors Field.

offices already has been broken by Miami Marlins General Manager Kim Ng, who became MLB's first female GM in 2020. But Glass, who serves as the Rockies' scouting operations administrator in addition to scouring Colorado and beyond for amateur talent, is still part of the early wave of women in baseball. She's someone with a "very bright future" as Gustafson told the *Post* after Glass emerged as one of the standouts from the MLB Diversity Pipeline Scout Development Program in Arizona last fall.

Alvarado and Glass followed very different paths to Pomona and had very different experiences.

Growing up in New Mexico, Alvarado shared a two-room adobe home with her parents and five brothers. "Not two bedrooms," she says. "Two rooms." The captain of her high school softball team, she turned down an opportunity to play college ball in the Midwest to attend Pomona on an academic scholarship.

Glass grew up in Northern California in what she describes as a University of California family. Her parents and brother earned degrees at various UCs, and her parents met in Berkeley. She played softball for two years at Pomona before quitting to play hardball with the guys in a beer league.

"A beer league? How come they didn't have that when I was there?" Alvarado says. "My era was free love, you know. Burn your bras, and I was there when they first had Earth Day."

MLB'S FIRST LATINO OWNER

Alvarado's girlhood was steeped in sports. "My parents didn't embrace conventional thinking, particularly for Hispanic families, to let this girl be out there playing baseball with the boys, getting dirty, getting punched," says Alvarado, born Linda Martinez. Her father was a catcher in summer baseball leagues, so she played catcher like him. "He would let me go clean the plate between innings—which is still the only plate I know how to clean," she says with characteristic wit.

Throw in the fact that Alvarado's first date with her future husband, Robert Alvarado, was at Dodger Stadium, and it's clear that bringing an MLB team to Denver was more than an investment decision, though it has been a good one for Alvarado, the only woman in the ownership group that acquired the team for a \$95 million expansion fee and startup costs. Today, Forbes values the Rockies at \$1.385 billion, with majority owners Dick and Charlie Monfort helming a current group of four limited partners, including Alvarado.

Her involvement began with a phone call from then-Gov. Roy Romer in the early 1990s, asking her to meet him for breakfast at the Brown Palace, Denver's iconic downtown hotel. "He didn't call my husband," Alvarado makes it clear, even though Robert is her partner in Palo

Alto, Inc., a separate empire that operates more than 250 YUM! Brands franchise restaurants, many of them Taco Bells.

"I thought Gov. Romer was going to ask me for a political contribution," she says. Instead he was asking her, as an entrepreneur, to consider joining a group of men working to put together a viable bid for a new MLB team. "There was no major league team between Kansas City and Los Angeles," she says. "Colorado had been trying to get a team for years and years and years."

Getting Alvarado on board strengthened the bid with her business experience, active involvement in civic and community leadership, and because Bill White, the National League president at the time, and MLB had emphasized diversity in ownership as an important factor. Besides writing a big check, the effort required determination and persistence, two qualities Alvarado has in abundance, and a willingness to take a big risk.

"It's not like when you put a deposit down on a car, you don't get the car, you get your money back," she says. "Putting together a proposal like this is very challenging and costly. A lot of the questions they're going to have before you even get considered for the short list: Are you committed? Are you aligned with the City? Are you going to be able to deliver success on the field and fill the stands, or is this an investment so you can be on the front page?"

A critical selection requirement was building a major league stadium, and the ownership group campaigned hard to pass a six-county sales tax referendum to fund construction of a new stadium. As the classic brick facade of Coors Field rose above a poor and dilapidated downtown warehouse district, it transformed that part of the city. Restaurants, retail, grocery stores, bars and other businesses moved in, rehabilitating vacant old buildings. New condominium towers rose along with high-rise offices, creating new jobs. Alvarado, walking around the stadium's upper deck, points to a skyline still crowded with construction cranes today. "For many decades, this had been an abandoned area in Denver," she says. "There was really nothing. Maybe just a few prairie dogs and some people who were homeless. Picking this site really has had a huge economic impact for the city."

The Rockies were an immediate hit when they made their debut in 1993, drawing

more than 80,000 in their first home game at the Denver Broncos' old Mile High Stadium, playing on a converted football field that accommodated baseball by using a mechanical system to temporarily move a massive section of the stands. The team set an MLB attendance record by drawing nearly 4½ million fans its first season. Coors Field opened two years later in 1995, and with a group of Rockies sluggers known as the Blake Street Bombers for the stadium's location at 20th and Blake streets, the club made the playoffs in only its third season. The Rockies have hosted the MLB All-Star Game twice, and in 2007, they reached the World Series against the Boston Red Sox but didn't win.

'GIRLS DO FOOD SERVICE'

Alvarado's success in whatever field she chose might have been inevitable. But her gravitation toward construction began with helping her father pour a concrete sidewalk at their little adobe, and accelerated at Pomona. Coming from New Mexico, "I was a little challenged, because I didn't know what broccoli was, or brussels sprouts. I grew up with beans, rice and chiles," Alvarado says. "But Pomona was great. Really game-changing in widening my knowledge and perspectives in economics, data analytics, risk-taking, strategic planning and motivation. The culture also held you accountable for participation in your classes, learning experiences, getting better grades, and not only being productive but also being proactive and collaborative with others in utilizing this knowledge to make a difference."

Her parents, she says, were living week to week, so Alvarado sought a student job on campus. "You could do food service, library or groundskeeping," she says. "I don't know



how to cook, so I applied for groundskeeper and went to go find the supervisor. He said, 'What are you doing here? Don't you understand? Girls do food service. Boys do groundskeeper.'

She soon returned and told him, "I didn't see on the posting it was only for boys." He said, "You can't wear those shoes. You're going to have to wear Levi's to work. You're going to be doing all this heavy lifting. You're going to be in the sun and working with all these men!"

"I thought to myself, I don't have to wear these painful women's shoes. I can wear Levi's to work, I don't have to go to the gym, and I can get a tan. And I don't pay you, you pay me to work with all these single guys? I was hired but I think he thought I would quit or whatever. In reality, I was more comfortable in that kind of environment."

When a single parent in her family passed away leaving five kids with no resources while Alvarado was at Pomona, "I made a very difficult decision that I had to find a full-time job to provide some desperately needed financial support for these children," she says.

Alvarado's coworkers told her about other landscaping and commercial construction projects, and in 1972 she left



Pomona to put her economics studies to practical purposes, working in commercial real estate development on financial planning, staging and procurement, and then on the construction side to the project completion. “But I had to use my initials when I applied, because what if I used my first name? It would have been not only no, but hell no,” she says.

Glass, who has been listening closely, nods in recognition.

“Rachel Balkovec did that,” she says, referring to the woman who this season became the first female to manage an MLB-affiliated minor league team as skipper of the New York Yankees’ Tampa Tarpons. Frustrated by lack of responses as she applied for baseball jobs earlier in her career, Balkovec changed the name on her resume to “Rae,” and the phone started ringing.

Alvarado had wedged a heel in the door, but was not universally accepted. Most jarringly, when she used the portable toilets on a job site, “There’d be pictures of me drawn in markers in various stages of undress,” she says. “Now that I’m more experienced in construction, I know that the

mechanical companies use a different color marker than the electrical companies on projects and I could have tracked down who was doing it.” The crude graffiti was a shock, one she defrays with typical humor. “I didn’t know you could do so many things wearing only a hardhat—but at least they knew I was OSHA compliant, because I was always wearing a hardhat in the drawings.”

Undeterred, Alvarado picked up classes in estimating and computerized scheduling at Cal State Los Angeles. Construction was changing, with the work done with pencil and paper shifting to computers. “That was the point of differentiation because most men did not have that skill. I then got this really crazy idea that I could be a construction contractor,” she says.

In 1976, she started Alvarado Construction, installing curbs, gutters and sidewalks. Having seen the estimates, bids, purchase orders, invoices and payments during her earlier position as an on-site contract administrator, she found ways to make up for her limited cash.

“I’d say, ‘Look, if you pay for the concrete, you will save the 20 percent

markup that every subcontractor charges on the material. And it will assure you two-fold. It gets paid. I don’t have to pay for it. And you get a 20 percent reduction in materials.’ And that’s how I started moving forward to break the ‘concrete ceiling’ building small bus shelters.”

Today, Alvarado Construction is a large commercial contractor and development company that builds multimillion-dollar projects across the U.S. and internationally, and served as the general contractor for the Denver Broncos’ Empower Field stadium.

Alvarado has served on the boards of 3M Co., Pitney Bowes International, the Pepsi Bottling Group, United Banks of Colorado and Lennox International. But those early days were not easy.

“I needed cash to grow, applied for loans, and was turned down by six banks,” she recalls. “Without talking to me, my parents took out a double-digit interest loan on their two-room adobe house for \$2,500. It was terrifying, but it was also a serious motivator because they would lose everything if I didn’t succeed. I paid the loan back, but I’ll never be able to repay them.”

BECOMING A SCOUT

By late afternoon Glass is sitting in the metal stands at a school whose name she couldn’t resist: Pomona High in the Denver suburb of Arvada. She’s as incognito among the parents and fans as one can be with a stopwatch in her hand and a radar gun in the black bag she carries. But even the Rockies-purple puff jacket she wears on a changeable Colorado spring day doesn’t betray that she is someone who could help a diamond in the rough get drafted—or downgrade a hot prospect with high hopes.

Finding talent in Colorado, where the season starts late and is often interrupted by snow, can be a challenge. But it happens. “High risk, high reward,” Glass says. “It’s not like Texas, California or Florida.” But there are players to be found, and the state has produced some standout pitchers. “Roy Halladay, Kyle Freeland,” she says, referring to the late Hall of Famer and a current Rockies left-hander.

When a player she is there to see comes to the plate, Glass readies her stopwatch.

“You don’t want to see a hitter swing and not make contact. You can’t swing and miss and be a pro prospect,” she says. He hits a

ground ball, and she clicks her stopwatch to see how fast he runs from home to first. “Average-plus speed,” she says, consulting a Rockies rating chart she carries with her.

The other team comes to the plate, and a batter hits a sharp grounder to the infielder she is there to see. He can’t handle it. “That ate him up,” she says. She knows it is just one play in a season, but it’s the one she saw.

That’s part of what makes scouting so challenging, the happenstance of it. “And there are so many intangibles, things you can’t predict,” she says, like a player’s personal drive, whether they’re done growing or just starting, what kind of teammate they’ll be. So many things in analyzing prospects make Glass think back to things she heard at Pomona, ideas like cost-benefit analysis and another particular refrain from Professor of Politics David J. Menefee-Libey.

“Like DML always says, policy analysis and evaluation depend on what type of data can be collected and analyzed,” she says. “We know what we can see or evaluate. We don’t know what we can’t see or what is missing. Player evaluation is a lot like that.”

Glass didn’t set out to become a scout, but has kept building a career in baseball almost like a sailor tacking, catching whatever wind she can and then finding another way to move forward when it shifts.

Her first semester at Pomona, she chose a Critical Inquiry seminar called Baseball in America, taught by Lorn Foster, now an emeritus professor. She studied abroad in Spain to hone the Spanish skills that helped her break into baseball. Her senior year, she wrote her thesis in public policy analysis on a renowned program for disadvantaged youth called Reviving Baseball in the Inner Cities (RBI). From there, Glass won a coveted Watson Fellowship, which provides a stipend—now up to \$40,000—for a new graduate to engage in a year of independent research abroad. Glass studied international baseball while traveling to seven countries, including the Dominican Republic, Japan and Australia.

With the help of Ng—the Marlins’ GM she has long admired—Glass landed an MLB internship in the Dominican, working with youth development and education programs. It still took almost two years of applying and interviewing while working elsewhere to get hired by a major league organization, but in 2018 the Marlins named her the education coordinator on the player development staff.

She worked in that role for more than 3½ years, helping Spanish-speaking players learn English and skills for life in the U.S. while promoting Spanish-language skills among English-speakers to build team camaraderie. When the position was eliminated, at first Glass didn’t know where to turn.

“I always knew I had a passion for player evaluation. I didn’t know if I’d be able to break into it,” she says.

In a stroke of good luck, MLB was launching a Diversity Pipeline Scouting Development program last fall, and Glass was one of about 30 people selected for the intensive weeklong camp, half of them women. Working in a small group led by Jalal Leach, a pro scout she had known with the Marlins, Glass stood out. Danny Montgomery, the Rockies’ assistant general manager of scouting, heard about her. So did General Manager Bill Schmidt, who had drafted Leach out of college and been a mentor to him. As usual, Glass impressed people with her ability, drive and organizational skills everywhere she went, just as she had impressed Hurdle, the former major league player and manager, when they met.

Her battles have been fewer than Alvarado faced in an era when sexism was unfettered by company policies and social expectations. There is a group of women in scouting and other baseball roles Glass checks in with frequently. But baseball is still a male world.

“I think kind of like what Linda is saying, I’m just an ‘actions speak louder than words’ person,” she says. “Trust takes time to build. It’s a process, like baseball. You keep at it every day, and over time it grows. I’ve been very much welcomed overall. You can focus on the bright side or not. I wouldn’t be here without the opportunities I’ve been given by the Rockies and prior to this. I’m very grateful for that.”

Alvarado nods. “We’re very proud of what she’s doing,” she says.

They are two of the more visible women with the Rockies, but far from the only ones. Sue Ann McClaren is vice president of ticket sales, operations and services. Kim Molina is VP of human resources. And there are other women executives in communications, sales, marketing, corporate sponsorships, client services, engineering and facilities. Yet another is the manager of baseball research, which is a data analytics role, and two women, Jenny Cavnar and Kelsey Wingert, are part of the Rockies broadcast team for AT&T SportsNet.

Alvarado is intent on promoting talented women, but says being the first matters most because it usually means there will also be a second.

“I have sometimes been the first. But I do not want to be the only or the last,” Alvarado says. “Every time another woman succeeds, it opens doors.” **PCM**

Linda Alvarado '73 is founder, president and CEO of Alvarado Construction, a large commercial general contractor.



Emily Glass '15 scouts high school talent at a game in the Denver area.



Professors Gary Kates and Char Miller on a visit to the now-refurbished home on Indian Hill Boulevard, where they were greeted with a welcome from the current owners.

BEST FRIENDS FOR LIFE

From Housemates as Pitzer Students to Professors at Pomona

Almost 50 years after they met as students at Pitzer and shared a house on Indian Hill Boulevard, Pomona College professors Gary Kates and Char Miller revel in a friendship that remained tight as they crisscrossed the country for graduate school and teaching jobs. They reunited in the 1980s as professors at Trinity University in Texas before Kates left for Pomona in 2001. In 2007, Miller followed. Back together in Claremont, they have offices two doors down from each other in Mason Hall. As Miller wrote in dedicating a book to Kates, his wife and their two children, their families' bonds have become as thickly intertwined as the gnarled live oaks arching over the streets where they have lived. Kates and Miller recently sat down to reminisce with *PCM* in a conversation that has been edited for length and clarity. →



Gary Kates



Char Miller



GARY KATES: I think we remember when we met, but we may remember the remembering more than anything, because it was so long ago. It was in Huntley Bookstore of The Claremont Colleges, probably around the history books, and we stood a long time talking to each other.



CHAR MILLER: Judi, now my wife of 45 years, introduced us. Gary had been her RA. I've said this to Gary before: It was like I met my brother, which I don't have, but he has become that.

GK: It was September of 1973. Char and Judi were living in a home in South Claremont. Lynne, now my wife of 44 years, and I were living at 545 Indian Hill with John Moskowitz, who remains a close friend. John felt a little like a third wheel living with a couple, which was understandable, so midyear he moved out.

CM: And Judi and I moved in. The house was really funky, and that might also have driven John crazy. It's been heavily fixed up since then. It was old Claremont; there was no insulation in the house and any wind went right through its very thin walls. But it was cheap, and it was close to the colleges.

GK: Char was much more hippie-looking then.

CM: Much more hair.

GK: Char's hair flowed down to his shoulders and at times needed a band be pulled back. My hair looked longer than it was because it was kind of curly and kinky in those days, but never as classical '60s as Char.

CM: I was going for the classical '60s. To come to California, like for many at that time, was a chance to remake yourself. It did work in the sense that it gave me a life that I couldn't have imagined before I got here and a chance to meet people that I wouldn't have met had I not arrived—especially Judi!

I had dropped out of NYU and worked for a while but after about six weeks, I thought, this working stuff is hard, so the next fall I transferred to

Pitzer. On my way to Claremont my car broke down in Bridgeport, California, in the Eastern Sierra. I had to hitchhike to Pitzer and got a ride from a guy in an 18-wheeler who took me all the way down Highway 395 through the Cajon Pass and dropped me off at Exit 47.

Another thing about Claremont in those days, the air quality was such that there were many days when you did not go outdoors. There was what we used to call the “smell of the ick” from the Kaiser Steel Mill in Fontana, and then all the cars. The air quality was so horrific that riding a bicycle from 545 Indian Hill to Pitzer College, you felt like you'd been running a marathon. There were days when I was just like, I'm not going to school. This is crazy. And obviously we didn't have Zoom.

GK: It was so smoggy that there were maybe 100 days out of the year that you couldn't see the mountains from Claremont. Maybe today there are five or 10 of those days.

CM: But you know, what was so much fun in that house was that it was very communal, not just between the four of us, but also lots of friends. Gary was teaching religious school at Temple

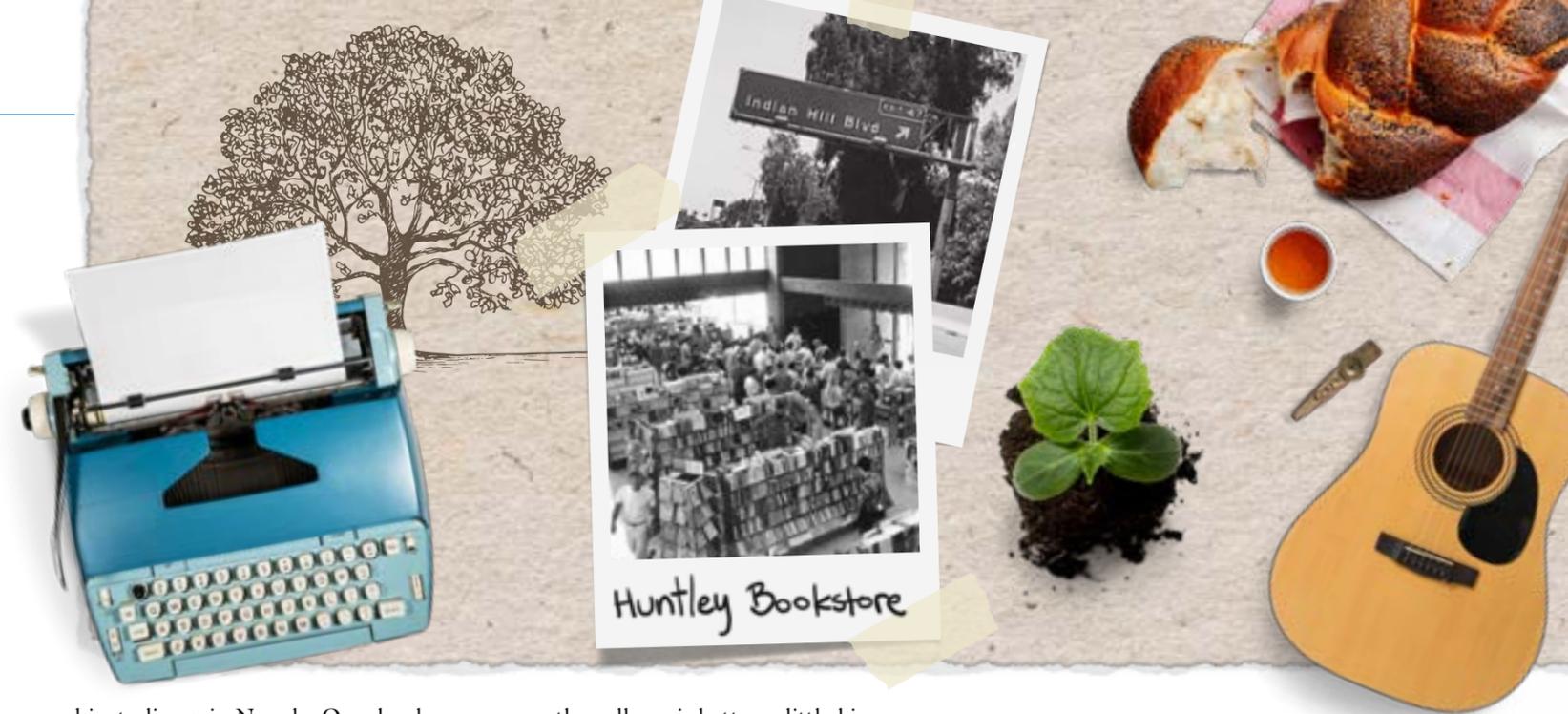
Beth Israel, where we all belong still, and he would bring his students over. There would be songs and singing and Gary would be playing guitar.

GK: We listened to a lot of Phil Ochs in those days, who is not well known today but was a Dylan-esque protest singer who tragically committed suicide in 1976. But 1972 to 1974 was his heyday, and we listened to a lot of other folk music like that. Peter, Paul and Mary certainly. That was also your first year of baking bread, Char.

CM: Every Friday night we would bake challah and we got really good at it. I still get comments from people who had dinner in our house in '73 and they say, “I remember that bread.”

GK: The housing stock in Claremont was much less upscale than it is today. Today, I think it would be hard for any student to rent out a full house in Claremont. They might be able to get a back home or a garage apartment. In the early '70s, it didn't feel unusual at all for college seniors to rent a home.

CM: A ceramist at Pitzer, Dennis Parks, owned the house, and a series of our friends had gone to work in



his studio up in Nevada. One day, he turned to one of them and said, “Who is this Judi Lipsett? She keeps sending me checks.” He didn't realize we were paying him something like 300 bucks a month, a cost that was cheaper than the dorm.

GK: It was a four-bedroom house, but we had changed two of the bedrooms into studies. For the studies, I was with Judi, and Char was with Lynne.

CM: It was also a kind of professionalized thing, that we were committed to doing this pretty early on. Part of what was so great was I had this incredible friend who was an historian who in that semester was finishing his senior thesis—on his electric typewriter. But it was so much fun to watch Gary go through this process, because I was going to try to replicate it the next year. Gary's been my guide in a lot of things, but it started that spring.

GK: I don't think it occurred to us until years later that it was actually very rare at that time for a Pitzer undergraduate to go to history graduate school. Pitzer [founded in 1963] wasn't very old at that time.

CM: The faculty of Pitzer were fantastic and really helped me understand why I should do what I wanted to do. It was kind of a heady time.

GK: All the colleges were smaller, and certainly Pitzer being so new was under-resourced and more dependent on the other colleges. Both of us had mentors at other colleges too. Today each of

the colleges is better, a little bigger and stronger than they were then.

CM: Every one of them is so strong now. I feel so lucky being back here.

The other thing we did at 545 was we had a garden in the backyard, which was problematic, I now think in retrospect. The professor had a kiln back there, and there was all sorts of debris and I suspect toxicity in the soil, which might have explained why things didn't grow very well. But it was part of the back-to-the-land movement. Trying to grow your own food was consistent with trying to make your own bread. We'd have these big sumptuous meals that spread across the table with 10 to 12 people sitting in totally mismatched chairs.

GK: The thing I remember about that era that I think is still true with college students today, and I hope it is, I'm sure it is, is that we constantly talked about our classes and what we were reading and learning. And there's a way in which five years later, I wasn't sure if I took that class or if Judi took that class and I just listened to it and learned through osmosis because she was talking about it. It all kind of merged and the education you got was as much through one another and their experience of a class being reported daily, as if you actually took it.

CM: That's what we always say as teachers now, that you learn surely as much outside the classroom as you do inside and that was a beautiful example of that, in part because the readings that we had were just dynamite. Absolutely fantastic and challenging, and

because we were living with people who loved to talk about books and still do.

Judi is a writer and editor—she has edited most if not all of Gary's books. Lynne went to medical school in Chicago and Gary went to graduate school at the University of Chicago. Then I went to Johns Hopkins for graduate work. When we were in Baltimore and they were in Chicago, we deliberately flew through Chicago so that Gary and Lynne could come out to the gate and we could see them, back when you could do such things. I remember we were once standing there and Gary's looking very nervous and, finally, he said, “That's Carl Wilson over there,” of the Beach Boys. Gary said, “I've got to go talk to him, but I'm not going to.” Judi said, “What can he say? Go over there.” Gary went over and introduced himself, and it was like this moment of great joy, in part because we could watch it happen in real time.

GK: When Judi and Char got married in the spring of 1977, I was in Paris doing research for my dissertation. Lynne went to the wedding and I didn't. Today people would hop on a plane and make the transatlantic trip, but in those days you didn't do that. You thought of it as a world away. But Lynne went to their wedding, and when I got back to Chicago where Lynne was in medical school, she announced to me that, well, they got married; we're getting married. And it really was just like that, and so we got married the next year because they did.



Summer 2022

CM: I mean there are worse reasons to get married.

GK: Well, it's still working.

CM: After Pitzer, we were all in graduate programs in one form or another. We were going across the country, and whether by car or airplane, we were connecting with one another. Then I was teaching in Miami in the fall of 1980 when a position opened up at Trinity University in San Antonio. It was advertised in January right when our son [Ben Miller '03] was born. And Gary was already in Texas at Trinity. There was a phone call, and he said, "This job is coming; put your hat in the ring." I was on a visitor position at Miami, learning how to be a teacher, learning how to be a father, learning how to do all these things in temperatures that were very hot and astonishingly humid. It was at the time that the Mariel Boatlift occurred when Castro released lots of people, including many prisoners, and Miami became a shooting gallery. Literally down one block from our house, a drug raid happened with snipers stationed on our roof. I applied.

GK: Char was an unusual candidate in those days, because he had already had his

dissertation accepted by a press and about to be published. As a kind of newbie pre-assistant professor, it made his CV stand out and made him a distinctive candidate for a tenure-track position. I think that's one reason why Trinity wanted him. The other is Char and I were part of a more general effort to move Trinity from a good regional university to what might be called today a national liberal arts college. I think Char caught the wind of those sails, and it all just seemed to work out. It was magical. We couldn't have made it work out. I was an assistant professor and junior. It took the seniors and the administrators wanting to do that.

CM: And then, like now, we lived half a mile away from each other in San Antonio. In part because Gary and Lynne put the earnest money down on a house and said, "You're gonna like it."

That experience of Gary with the guitar and his students and Phil Ochs, we would replicate at Trinity together. When I was teaching my U.S. in the 20th Century class, Gary would come and we'd go outside, sit under a spreading oak tree and we would teach them the songs. The song leader part

of him came roaring back out. You'd get these 18-year-old, 19-year-old Texas kids singing antiwar songs. Then we would sit and talk about what they meant and what the motifs were, and why Phil Ochs and others like him were so invaluable as cultural markers. Twenty years later, they had become a way to talk about the Vietnam War and protest politics, a lot of which was born in the house at 545.

GK: This may be idealization and romanticism, but a lot of people sang more then, because we didn't have these things in our ear. We didn't have Spotify. We didn't have anything really; we had radio. But the privatization of music into one's ear is something recent, and you don't hear college kids singing as much as you did then, excepting in a cappella groups and other organized singing.

CM: And I had that kazoo, if you call that music.

GK: I'd forgotten that.

CM: That might have been the next year, but 545, as it had been the previous spring with Gary and Lynne, was a hub for a lot of folks who have gone on to have really

interesting lives. I feel very lucky to have had that year-and-half in that house. There was a maturation involved in the process. We weren't living in a dorm. We had to figure out how to get food. Gary would go down to the Alta Dena Dairy and come back with chunks of cheese that no one in their life could finish eating. But it was cheap, like, why wouldn't you buy it? And leeks when none of us knew what to do with a leek, but we would chop it up and put it in the soup. And those were the ways that you recognized you could probably survive this life.

GK: Char, don't forget about the 89-cent Algerian wine.

CM: Oh God, yes. Couldn't get enough of that. But 89 cents in the '70s it would be a lot more now, more than Two Buck Chuck from Trader Joe's. It was not any better than Two Buck Chuck.

GK: Two Buck Chuck's a lot better.

So by the early 1980s, there we are in San Antonio, not living in the same house anymore but we're living literally two blocks away, and so our families grew up together. We're the closest of friends, all of us. That's the way it was



for 20 years, and then I came out to Pomona to become dean of the College.

When I got to Pomona, the environmental analysis program was in dire need of more staff, and I went to the founder of the program, Rick Hazlett, and I said, "Look, I don't want to impose anybody on you, but if you need someone" I told him about Char, who by then had migrated from a more conventional U.S. historian to one who specialized in issues of environmental justice and environmental studies more generally. Rick interrupted me and said, "I've read things by Char Miller. Are you saying you could get Char Miller here for a year?" With his blessing, we were able to get Char into a visiting position.

Then Char stayed for another year. I always felt funny about it, because on the one hand Char was a great help. I knew he would be: He was then as he is now a dynamic professor, so he was getting his own following of students. But at the same time, I felt very sensitive to issues of whether I was bringing in my friends to take faculty positions that at Pomona College anyone in the country would like to have. I was very set, OK, a two-year visitor. But then, like it or not, Char needs to head back to Trinity.

We had a new president at Pomona, David Oxtoby, and he was trying to understand the needs of environmental analysis. He said, "Well, what about Char Miller?" I basically told him I was worried about nepotism. And David said the strangest thing to me that I will never forget. He said, "Gary, you can't allow your friendship

with Char Miller to get in the way of what is in the best interest of Pomona College."

At that point, I simply turned the issue over to my associate dean Ken Wolf, and I said, "Look, if there's a way that you and President Oxtoby want to keep Char Miller, you put this together. I'm backing off." And that's how Char became a permanent member of the Pomona faculty.

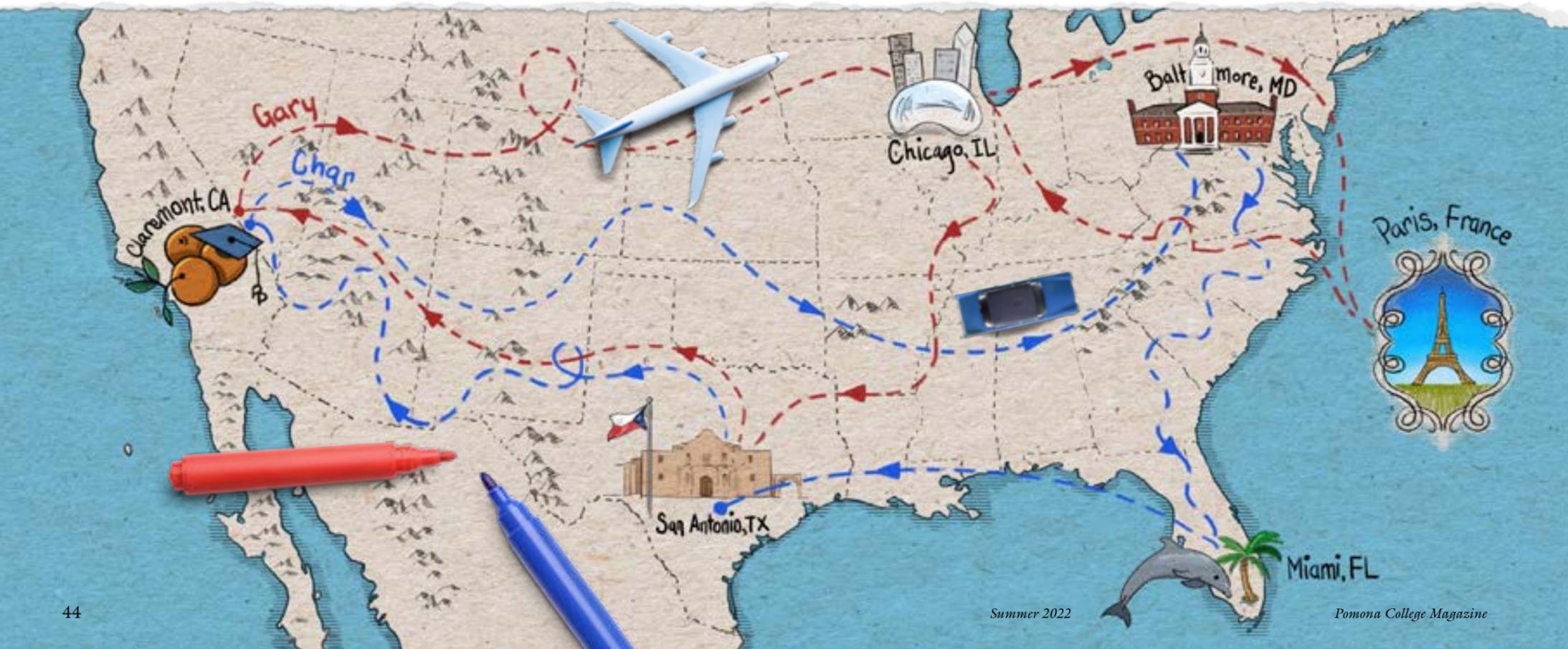
CM: From my son's point of view, there's never been a job that I've gotten that Gary wasn't somehow involved in. Outside of Miami, that's actually true.

GK: Our kids, Emily and Max, are very good friends with Char's kids, Ben and Rebecca. They're about the same age, give or take a year.

CM: My son Ben works in Washington now, and Gary's son Max works at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and every summer they spend at least a day together hanging out by the pool with their wives and children. We get these photographs of the next generations interacting in a really cool way. It's fun that our various grandchildren know each other. And it started in the bookstore, and was nurtured at 545. I was walking by the house this morning. I pass it frequently and those memories pop up all the time.

GK: We live only a few blocks from each other now.

CM: And every time Gary's out of town, he forgets to stop his *L.A. Times*, and either Judi or I stroll over to their house, pick it up and hide it. **PCM**





By Marilyn Thomsen

HEART to HEART

Elisa Louizos '96 and **Roxanne Maas '94** sang together in the Glee Club. Decades later, they reconnected in response to a rare medical condition.

The feeling Elisa (Mawer) Louizos '96 noticed in her chest was odd but not entirely unfamiliar. It wasn't quite pain—more a tightness, a bit like heartburn but not as sharp. “Bummer,” she thought to herself as she started the car and headed out with her ninth-grade son to pick up his books for virtual school. “Maybe I’m getting a flu kinda thing.” And maybe, she thought, it will just go away.

On the way home, though, Louizos had to pull over to the side of the road, violently ill. Composing herself, she made it into the house, stretched out on the sofa and tried to eat some of the ramen noodles her son brought her. The nausea passed, but the tightness in her chest remained, along with lightheadedness and a dull ache mid-back. She fell into a fitful sleep.

“When I woke up in the morning,” Louizos recalls, “I didn’t know what it was, but I had the sense that ‘something’s a bit off.’” Her doctor’s office told her to go to a local emergency room, where she was sure she’d be “wasting people’s time” and that “it was going to be a pain in the butt,” all the while surrounded by people with COVID-19.

Medical personnel who attended to Louizos ran some tests and blood work, then turned their attention to other patients. “Everything was coming back negative, negative, negative,” she remembers. “And then the final test was for a cardiac enzyme, troponin.” In an instant, Louizos’ life changed. “The doctor looked at me and said, ‘Well, it looks like you’ve had a heart attack. Where is your husband? I need to talk to him.’”



Elisa (Mawer) Louizos '96

A second surprise lay ahead. Louizos—a therapist who was just 46, healthy, and with no family history of heart disease—had not experienced the typical heart attack caused by plaque in the arteries. Rather, she had survived spontaneous coronary artery dissection—SCAD—a tear in a cardiac blood vessel that disrupts blood flow to the heart. The condition was viewed as so uncommon that it was considered too rare to get research funding, according to Katherine K. Leon, who founded the nonprofit SCAD Alliance in 2013 to change that. Leon herself experienced a SCAD in 2003. Through grassroots fundraising, the organization supports research and the iSCAD Registry, the only such multicenter SCAD registry in the country.

Cardiologist Sahar Naderi, director of Women's Heart Health at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco, is one of a small but growing number of SCAD specialists. In her practice she sees two to three SCAD patients a week, and she is a part of Louizos' treatment team. Nearly all of her SCAD patients—98%—are women, mostly in their late 40s to early 50s. Naderi says those studying the condition believe it may be the leading cause of heart attacks in women under 50, as well as during pregnancy.

"We still don't really understand the condition," Naderi says. "There seems to be some perfect storm of hormonal changes that happen toward menopause that perhaps triggers, or at least is associated with, these events. We also know that mental and physical stressors long-term seem to play a role."

Eighteen months before Louizos' SCAD, Roxanne (Ruzicka) Maas '94 was taking a morning shower on the last day of vacation with her in-laws near Detroit when she began to experience chest pain. "I need to see my father-in-law," she recalls thinking. (He is a retired physician.) Maas quickly dressed and gingerly went downstairs, hanging on to the banister to steady herself. "I couldn't breathe," she says. "I was sweating. I was dizzy and nauseous. I remember saying, 'Maybe you should give me some aspirin.'"

As Maas was heading out the door on the way to the hospital, she suddenly vomited. She still doesn't understand why, but after that, for whatever reason, "the pain and all the symptoms, like

95% went away. I was almost all better." She went to the hospital anyway.

Maas was 47, healthy and active. Like Louizos, she had a husband and three children, along with a career as a genetic counselor. Nothing in her health profile would point to cardiac risk. But just as with Louizos, a series of tests showed elevated troponin. She had experienced a heart attack. After cardiac catheterization, her doctors concluded she had experienced a spontaneous coronary artery dissection, SCAD. The artery involved, says Maas, "looked like a frayed knot." She flew home to California the next day, with the approval of her doctors, scared to death it might recur in mid-air.

Roxanne (Ruzicka) Maas '94



Summer 2022

A STRANGE COINCIDENCE

When asked how it might be that two Pomona alumnae who sang in Glee Club together in the 1990s could both experience the same very rare heart attack just 18 months apart, Pomona Economics Professor Gary Smith suggests selective recall coincidence. Smith is the author of *What the Luck: The Surprising Role of Chance in Our Everyday Lives*. "Selective recall in general means that you remember selectively, often because it supports your prior beliefs, but also because it is so striking," Smith explains. "Like a baby born at 7:11 on 7/11 weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces. If you predict, ahead of time, that a woman's baby will be born at that time on that day with that weight, it would be astonishing if it came true. If you, instead, look at the birth records of the millions of babies born in the United States every year, it is utterly unsurprising that you will find a baby with an amusing combination of birth statistics. In any large set of data there are lots of coincidences that are memorable but meaningless."

So it is likely that the two women's experiences with SCAD might have remained as isolated, individual rare events were it not for a third Sagehen and mutual friend, Tori (Ashe) Erslovas '95. "Last January I got a text message from Elisa. 'I'm ok, but I had a mild heart attack,'" Erslovas relates. "When I talked to her and she told me what it was, I said, 'That's so weird. I know

someone else that happened to—it's Roxanne from Glee Club. Can I connect you?'"

Louizos says she dialed Maas' number with "a mix of hopefulness and anxiety." She was just a few days past her SCAD heart attack. "I was so scared. So scared. And I had so, so many questions."

There was much for Louizos and Maas to discuss. Maas "was great," says Louizos. "She had already been through that initial shock and was able to keep me grounded and provide hope." Maas talked about how her life had, for the most part, kept on as it had been, minus rollercoasters and scuba diving, and she walks now more than she runs.

The current standard of care favors conservative treatment whenever possible, as SCADs often heal on their own, and that was the route Maas and Louizos took. Both women take a couple of medications and have instructions to keep their heart rate within certain safety parameters and to focus on mild to moderate cardiovascular exercise rather than activities such as weightlifting. "We were both glad we didn't have babies or toddlers to lift anymore," says Louizos.

Having a heart attack in the prime of life, especially one that was so atypical, has left Louizos and Maas eager to make people aware of SCAD. Elisa is part of the SCAD Alliance's iSCAD Registry. Both have sent their medical records to the Mayo Clinic



Elisa (Mawer) Louizos '96 with Tori (Ashe) Erslovas '95 during a 1990s Glee Club trip. Erslovas made the connection between Louizos and Roxanne (Ruzicka) Maas '94 after each experienced a SCAD.

for a virtual SCAD registry and are part of a supportive SCAD Facebook group.

Fear of a recurrence has not completely disappeared. The literature indicates that 20-30% of SCAD survivors, as veterans of SCAD often call themselves, experience a subsequent episode. "I might go weeks and even months without thinking of it, and then it'll just sort of occur to me," says Louizos.

"The scariest thing about this is that it came out of the blue," Maas adds. "It's not like 'As long as I don't run a marathon, I'll be fine.' It could totally happen again."

'LISTEN TO YOUR BODY'

Today, Maas and Louizos continue to be sources of support for each other. They now consider themselves "SCAD sisters." Says Maas, "This unfortunate experience deepened a friendship we started 20-some years ago at Pomona College."

Encouraging everyone, especially women, not to discount health warnings is important to them both. As Maas learned, there are different types of heart attacks that can occur even in people whose arteries are, as her cardiologist described hers, "crystal clear." She emphasizes that "you really

don't want to ignore symptoms or think 'That can't possibly be a heart attack.'"

In January, Louizos posted a message to her friends on Facebook: "Today is the one year anniversary of my heart attack. I am feeling incredibly blessed by the support I have felt and so grateful that it was mild and the effects have been minimal." And, she continued, "Just a reminder to listen to your body and take what it tells you seriously. Even if you are healthy these things can happen. And slow down once in a while and enjoy life. Stress does not serve us well!"

Maas fights back tears as she talks about two friends recently claimed by cancer. "The message I want to get out is enjoy your life. Appreciate your health and all the good things in your life. That's what matters."

Louizos, drawing on her own SCAD experience, concurs. "There's an expiration date, for sure," she says about each of our lives. "[Let's] do all we can to make our experience on Earth as rich as we can. Take our health seriously. Listen to our bodies. And believe in each other." **PCM**



Alumni Weekend Back on Campus!

Pomona excitedly welcomed over 1,400 alumni and guests back to Claremont for our first Alumni Weekend on campus in three years. Sagehens spent a fun-filled weekend engaging in activities, attending presentations, celebrating class reunions, and reconnecting and reCHIRPing with classmates, faculty and other members of the campus community. The weekend featured 147 events, including Ideas@Pomona talks featuring Blaisdell Award winners, A Taste of Pomona featuring alumni vintner wine tastings, the All-Class Dinner with President Starr, the Party at the Wash and many other fun activities and programs.

For a closer look at Alumni Weekend 2022, watch this short video at pomona.edu/2022-alumni-weekend-video and check out the online photo album at pomona.edu/2022-alumni-weekend-photos.



Welcome to Our New Sagehen Families!

We are excited to welcome our new Pomona families of the incoming members of the Class of 2026 and transfer students! To help you get better acquainted with the Sagehen family community and meet other parents and family members, there are many touchpoints planned for the summer and the fall. Please watch your inbox and mailbox for information on regional Summer Welcome gatherings, virtual and in-person Sagehen Family Orientation events in August, and other helpful details and resources. We look forward to meeting you, and again, welcome to the Sagehen community!

Be sure to ask your student to complete the Family Information Form on the Through the Gates platform to ensure that we have your current email and mailing address for parent and family communications. For questions, please reach out to Director of Alumni and Family Engagement Alisa Fishbach at alisa.fishbach@pomona.edu or Director of Family Giving Iram Hasan at iram.hasan@pomona.edu.

Annual Giving Impact Report

Learn about the incredible impact made by Pomona alumni and family donors in the 2020–2021 academic year. Thanks to their generosity, students, faculty and staff received crucial support for tools, resources, supplies and much more during the College's year of distance learning. Read the full report at pomona.edu/annual-giving-impact-report.

Thank You from National Chair of Annual Giving Nathan Dean '10

My fellow Sagehens,

The return to life on campus would not have been as strong or well supported without your extraordinary generosity. From outdoor classrooms and academic supplies to internship, research and extracurricular opportunities, your gifts of time and funds helped to make this past year possible. And if you haven't yet made your Sagehen impact, I encourage you to give to the departments, programs or resources that are most meaningful to you. Every gift of every amount changes student lives for the better.

Thank you for your care and support of our Sagehen community!

With gratitude,
Nathan Dean '10
National Chair of Annual Giving



Congratulations to our 2022 Blaisdell and Distinguished Service Alumni Award Recipients

A committee of past presidents from the Pomona College Alumni Association Board has selected the 2022 Alumni Award recipients.

Four alumni received the **Blaisdell Distinguished Alumni Award**, which recognizes alumni for high achievement in professions or community service: **Mike Budenholzer '92, Colleen Hartman '77, Bret Price '72 and John Roth '62**. These alumni have carried the spirit of the College into the world and embodied the inscription on the College Gates: "They only are loyal to this college who departing bear their added riches in trust for mankind."

To learn more about the Blaisdell Distinguished Alumni Award honorees, visit pomona.edu/2022-blaisdell-awards.

For their selfless commitment and ongoing volunteer service to the College, the **Alumni Distinguished Service Award** was presented to **Georgia Ritchie McManigal '54, Marty Jannol '77 and Penny McManigal '58**. The Alumni Distinguished Service Award was established in 1991.

To learn more about this year's Alumni Distinguished Service Award honorees, visit pomona.edu/2022-alumni-service-awards.



A Special Message from Alumni Association Board President Don Swan '15

Dear Sagehen Alumni,

It was such a thrill to have Alumni Weekend back on campus this year—our first since 2019. I'm grateful to have had this opportunity for our alumni community to reconnect and reCHIRP after the long pandemic pause and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with fellow Sagehens in person from across the generations. What a magical weekend!

I'd also like to congratulate the Class of 2022 on their Commencement—another important event to return to in-person on campus—and officially welcome them to the Pomona College Alumni Association! And as there was a special Commencement Celebration Weekend held on campus for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 in May, I want to take a moment to remind them we are so pleased to have them join the alumni community as well.

As of June 30, my two-year term as president of the Alumni Association Board ends. Working with Pomona's Alumni Board members these past two years has been such an important opportunity to make a meaningful impact on our campus and broader Sagehen community. It's been a tremendous honor to serve with such a remarkable group of dedicated and passionate alumni who strive to strengthen and support our community. Alfredo Romero '91 will step into the role of president next. I wish him all the best as he begins his term.

Chirp! Chirp!

Don Swan '15

Alumni Association Board President



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"My donation to the College is only a small token— but every penny expresses my tremendous gratitude for the stellar experience that my daughter had at Pomona. Her life was enriched and supported in every way, and her work and pursuits today reflect the opportunities, environment and humanity she encountered over her four years at the College.

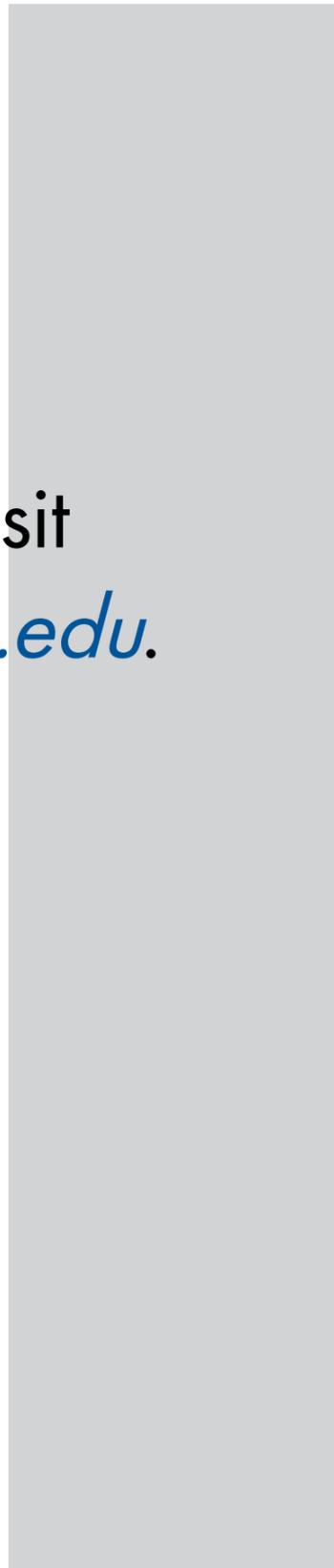
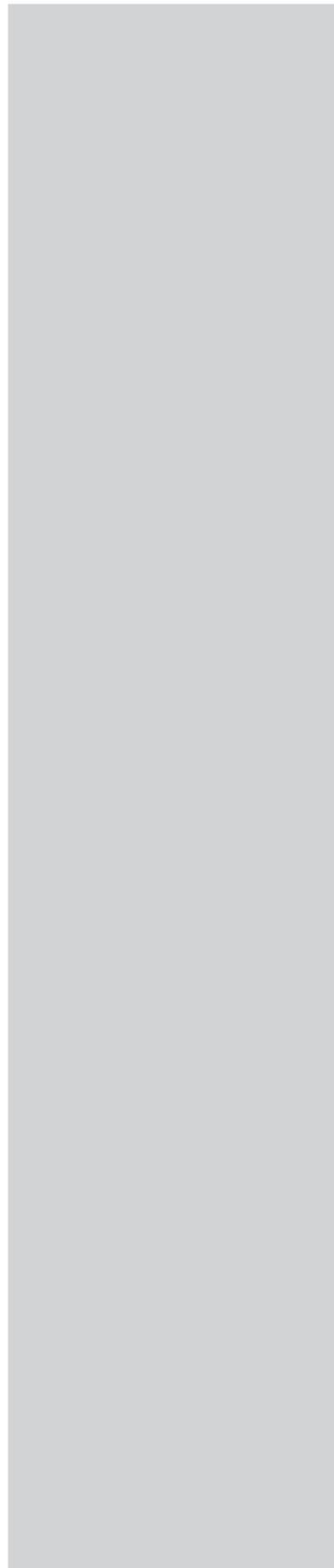
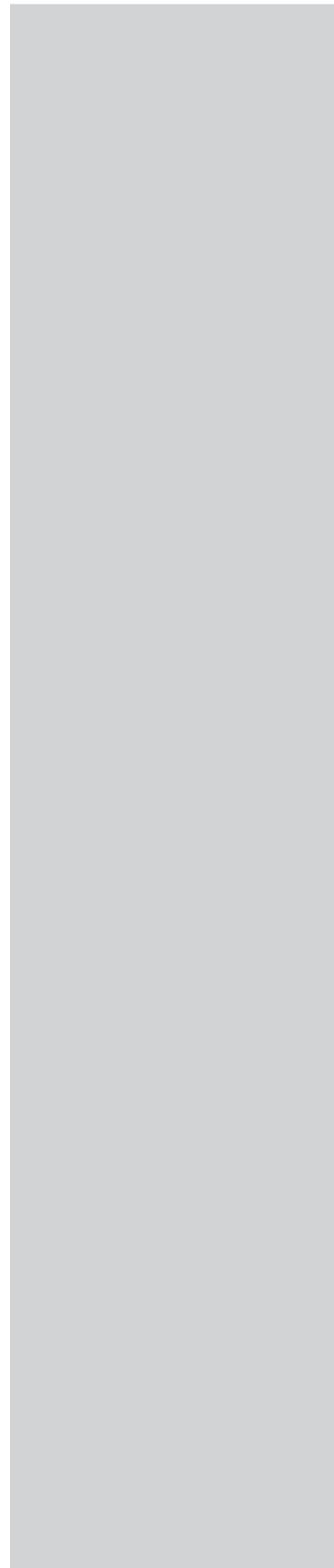
—Karen Garlick P'18

"Why do I give back to Pomona? Because Pomona is one of a handful of colleges that practice need-blind admissions, creating an even playing field for all applicants by providing generous financial aid for every student who needs that support. Alumni stewardship of the Annual Fund allows Pomona to continue to provide exceptional financial aid and a world class education to all students."

*—Megan Kaes Long '08,
Alumni Association Board Member*

The Pomona College educational experience inspires intellectual passions and drives creative real-world solutions, guiding the next generation of leaders, scholars and artists who will bear their added riches in trust for all across the globe.

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Dru Gladney

Professor of Anthropology
1956–2022



Dru Gladney, a leading expert on the peoples and cultures along the Silk Road of the past and present, died unexpectedly on March 17, 2022. He was 65.

Gladney was a sought-after and widely quoted academic voice on China’s Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, appearing in media outlets such as *The New York Times* and CNN, and in scholarly forums around the globe. A Fulbright Research Scholar to China and Turkey, Gladney conducted field research in Western China, Central Asia and Turkey for decades.

He was in the Xinjiang province of China bordering Afghanistan at the time of the 9/11 terror attacks, and he later testified before a congressional subcommittee in response to the detention of a group of Uyghurs at Guantanamo Bay.

His books included *Dislocating China: Muslims, Minorities, and Other Subaltern Subjects* and *Ethnic Identity in China: The Making of a Muslim Minority*. He contributed to 2004’s *Xinjiang: China’s Muslim Borderland*, which Gladney and other scholars reported led them to be barred from travel to China for a time. He later was able to return, but not to the Western regions where he had long conducted his research. Gladney, however, continued his scholarship on the new Silk Road, as China reached westward to Central Asia and Europe for markets and resources.

“It’s not always been a peaceful Silk Road,” he said in a 2020 episode of Sagecast, the podcast of Pomona College. “There’s been a lot of speed bumps along the way. But I think by and large, my view is that it’s a great metaphor for the need to communicate, to keep dialogue open, to do exchange, to learn about each other. And [the places] where I

learned most about the peoples on the Silk Road were in the marketplaces and the restaurants, where you exchanged goods and commodities and ideas.”

Born and raised in the city of Pomona, Gladney at first had plans to become a social worker or Christian missionary but in time found his intellectual and religious interests taking him from Hong Kong to Istanbul to Honolulu and eventually back to the Southern California region where he spent his childhood. In his Sagecast interview, he recounted how his own spiritual journey sparked a fascination “with how religion could transform someone’s life, as it had transformed mine.”

Gladney earned a B.A. in philosophy and religious studies from Westmont College, followed by master’s degrees in theology and cross-cultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary. He then went on to the University of Washington, where he

earned an M.A. in anthropology and a Ph.D. in social anthropology.

Early in his career, Gladney held faculty or postdoctoral positions at Harvard University; the University of Southern California; Kings College, Cambridge; and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. He was on the faculty of the University of Hawaii at Manoa for more than a decade before arriving at Pomona in 2006.

One of Gladney’s students, Betsy Ding ’24, remembered him in *The Student Life* as “knowledgeable, quirky and memorable,” and said his Anthropology of Food course guided students in examining the political, biological and symbolic meanings that surround food and food-related practices.

“His impeccable knowledge about and conviction [about] food, specifically niche Chinese foods and different types of cuisines, was enlightening,”

Ding told *TSL*, adding that his interests in industrial cuisine, restriction and religion made an impression on her.

During nearly 16 years at Pomona, Gladney also served stints as president of the Pacific Basin Institute and as chair of the Anthropology Department.

“He will be remembered for how he always looked for occasions to bring people together, break bread and tell stories,” said Associate Professor Joanne Nucho, current chair of the Anthropology Department.

Nucho also noted that Gladney was a frequent commentator for national news outlets such as NPR for his research and expertise on China. “I recall many occasions when he did not announce his interviews in advance, but I just happened to turn on the radio and hear his voice,” Nucho said. “We all mourn his passing and send our deepest condolences to his family.”

To view notes online, visit
sagehenconnect.pomona.edu.

The Classes of '20 and '21 Return

Imagine yourself returning to Harwood, Mudd-Blaisdell or wherever you began your college days to spend a few nights. Think of rolling out of your twin bed on a Saturday morning to hit the breakfast buffet at Frary or go for a run under the oaks. In an experience that felt both "awkward" and "very nostalgic," more than 500 members of the pandemic classes of 2020 and 2021 who didn't get to have on-campus

Commencements accepted invitations to return for a celebratory weekend in May. The College provided residence hall housing, meals at Frary and stipends to defray travel costs for the delayed and unusually exuberant Commencement on Marston Quad for the not-so-new grads—many of whom not only already have jobs and apartments, but in some cases, master's degrees.

Everybody and their parents want to have that photo of them walking across that stage. This means being able to say that I graduated and not just digitally, which doesn't pack as much 'oomph' as a cap and gown.
—Eli Loeb '20

I wish I had a dining hall in real life.
—Luka Green '20

It's weird and it's not weird. It seems so surreal when you first pull up, and then you just dive right back into it.
—Jake Lialios '20

I'm coming from Europe so I'm very jet lagged. It's almost dinner time for me.
— Adelaide Wendel '21

The emotional part is I just got these pancakes, and I feel like I was about to cry. I was very conflicted about whether I was going to take blueberry or chocolate chip.
— Cristofer Arbudzinski '20

I skipped my grad school commencement because I just don't have the community that I have here at Pomona. So I was willing to let that go and come out here and do all this.
—Sean Trimble '20



Class of 2020



Class of 2021





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