

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

# Pomona

Fall 2024

INSIDE:

*Unearthing  
Volcanoes*

*Capturing Awe*

*Sustaining Campus*

**BACK TO  
NATURE**





### 30 years of OA

Two days after first-years move into their residence halls in August, they embark on Orientation Adventure (OA) trips. Launched in 1995, the program aims to help new students get acquainted with each other and their SoCal surroundings. For three days, students experience wilderness, cultural and entertainment options in L.A. and beyond, from bouldering in Palm Springs, to hiking the Sequoias, to camping in San Bernardino National Forest. As Outdoor Education Center Manager Connor Bigenho put it, "it's the first-year students' first chance to make some friends, and make some memories."



Check out the 2024 OA video here

### A SAMPLE OF FEEDBACK FROM THIS YEAR'S OA-ERS:

"At other schools, orientation is just another thing you do on campus; here you get to actually know your classmates by going on an adventure together."

"It was so great to be able to soak in nature with a bunch of new people."

"You can really be present with others when you're in a different environment like this."



OA-ers at (top left) Camp Arbolado, a wilderness retreat in Angelus Oaks; (bottom left) Bonelli Bluffs in San Dimas; and (center) the Hollywood Sign Hike.

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**POMONA COLLEGE**  
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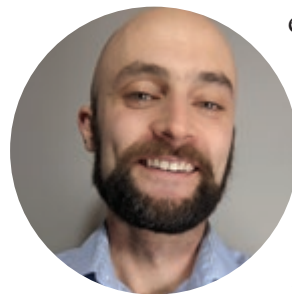
**Stray Thoughts**

## Making the Practice of Deceleration Normal, and Natural

Am I the only one who's noticed a shift in the pace of life these days? Stepping into this new role as guest editor, I've reflected on it more than usual. I wake up to an onslaught of urgent emails and push notifications that demand immediate responses, leaving little room for quiet reflection. While there are many tech-driven advances that have brought us convenience, speed and savings, these developments also pose a particular challenge to our well-being: the erosion of our ability to slow down and simply be present.

One powerful antidote to this is the theme of the issue sitting in your hands today: getting "back to nature." For me, at least, the most reliable action for counterbalancing the frenetic rhythms of modern life is the simple act of stepping outside and mindfully observing the natural world in all of its gentle profundity.

When we take moments to appreciate nature—the rustle of leaves in the wind, the rhythm of ocean waves, a simple sunset—we break free from the constant demand for swift action. Nature operates at a pace that can't be rushed, and in its presence, we are reminded that life is not about racing from one task to the next, but about engaging fully with each experience.



I'd like to think that the intentional slowing down we feel in nature is not entirely dissimilar to the liberal arts atmosphere that surrounds us at Pomona.

Instead of rushing through a checklist of prerequisites or focusing on a narrow band of vocational skills, Pomona asks students to engage with a wide variety of perspective-broadening disciplines, teaching them to appreciate the interconnectedness of ideas and the complexity of the human experience. With a curriculum that forces us to think deeply, critically and holistically, we can soften our pace, reflect on the larger picture, and wrestle with a robust range of ideas here before going off to the great, big "real world" (whatever that means).

Sagehens graduate not only informed and skilled, but also thoughtful, curious and empathetic. Somewhat paradoxically, they're better equipped to navigate a world that demands instant answers because they have learned to take the time to think differently, and more creatively. In both the act of appreciating nature and the ethos of a liberal arts education, there is a shared recognition that the process of deceleration—whether it's to absorb the beauty of the natural world or to deeply explore a complex idea—enriches our lives. It helps us cultivate a more profound understanding of ourselves, the world, and our place within it.

—Adam Conner-Simons '08  
Guest Editor



Above, a photo shot by Grant Collier '96 of Vestrahorn Mountain in Iceland. Cover photo of Glacier Point at Yosemite National Park, also by Collier.

### Features

#### Unearthing The Volcanoes 22

A team led by Geology Professor **Nikki Moore** explores dikes in the Sierras to unlock their mysteries.

#### In Awe of Nature 28

Nature photographer **Grant Collier '96** has endured subfreezing temperatures, 100-mph winds and Polynesian mosquitoes to capture some of the most majestic places on Earth.

#### Pomona's Place on the Planet 36

In two pieces adapted from his book *Natural Consequences*, Environmental Analysis and History Professor **Char Miller** explores the interplay of the College's campus with the world around it, from its Indigenous flora to its recent expansion of sustainability initiatives.

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## Pomona Students, Yesterday and Today

Regarding the letter from Harry Stein '70, when I returned to Pomona after my Melvin Laird Fellowship in Southeast Asian Studies, I found the campus to be as vibrant and intellectually alive as it was when I dropped out in February 1968.

I have been on campus a number of times in the last 10 years. I have talked to undergrads. The only way one could conclude there was “near-uniformity of thought” among Pomona undergrads is if he had no contact whatsoever with the undergraduate population.

—Bart Scott '75  
Santa Rosa, California

## Another '60s Activist Offers View on Campus Climate

I look back with pride at my political activity when I was at Pomona. I did not have the privilege of knowing Harry Stein '70 (“A '60s Activist's Take on Politicized Campuses,” Summer 2024), but may have participated in some of the same demonstrations he did. Even though I played football, considered the sign of a caveman, I marched with Jane Fonda. The Vietnam War was actually a simpler issue than the Israel-Palestine conflict. The rest of the Middle East, the United States, and the rest of the world bear responsibility for the failure to complete the 1947 United Nations Resolution 181 that created the state of Israel and called for a separate state of Palestine. As for the criticism of the news coverage regarding Pomona by *Pomona College Magazine*, I have not found it biased. While I live in Arlington, Texas, I still have family in Upland and Riverside with whom I share discussions about Pomona. I was surprised that Harry Stein did not mention the Claremont Institute and its far-right views, yet stated that there is “near-uniformity of thought in Claremont on issues of race, gender and now the Middle East.” I applaud President Starr's efforts to promote significant discussion regarding difficult and contentious issues.

—Gerald Casenave '72  
Arlington, Texas

protesters is threefold. First, a college is supposed to be a place for critical thinking. Students who shout eliminationist anti-Israel slogans obviously gave up on that a long time ago.

Second, the protesters' methods often push the boundaries of legality. At Pomona and elsewhere, they have shown callous disrespect for other people's property and personal space.

Third, while I do not believe that “pro-Palestinian” protesters are consciously antisemitic, their actions have the effect of making many Jewish students feel targeted and intimidated.

All of this breaks my heart.

—Tony Gansen, '84  
Foster City, California

## Memories of KSPC in the Late 1950s

When I transferred from Columbia University to Pomona, attending for 2½ years before graduating with distinction in 1958, trad jazz (short for traditional) continued to figuratively save my life. So, I was delighted to host an evening program featuring the likes of Louis Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke on KSPC (“KSPC Radio Rocks On,” Summer 2024). Terry Drinkwater '58 ran a tight ship at the station and went on to greater things in broadcasting as a correspondent and anchor at CBS News before tragically passing prematurely in 1989.

But it was my weird fellow classical jazz enthusiast, Jim Bogen '57, who played a mean clarinet, who encouraged me to host such a program that probably attracted no more than a dozen campus listeners—I never knew as no one ever commented besides Jim and a fellow Phi Delta, Bill Baer '58.

I was only attracted to buddies then who were a little crazy and off the wall during the deadly conformism of the '50s, and Jim was one of the few. I'd occasionally visit him four flights up the stairs in Smiley Hall and stare stupidly at the pennies he deliberately cast about his room floor, like a true philosophy major, to show his disdain for Californian materialism. If he's still alive and reads this, I want him to know I still have the LP he and a pickup student band recorded—some amateurish riffs on trad jazz that must now be very collectible, and that his clarinet solos still stand out.

I also wonder if any archives exist witnessing most of KSPC's 68 years at its various locations. Nothing like old-time radio going back to the 1930s, but that's another story.

—Paul Christopher '58  
Pebble Beach, California

## President Starr on 10/7 Campus Events

*The takeover of Carnegie Hall by protesters and the events that ensued “should be unfathomable” in a close-knit, ethical and caring learning community such as Pomona's. That was the message that President G. Gabrielle Starr shared with the campus in the aftermath of the events.*

“Our academic mission was directly targeted. Faculty, students, staff and high school student visitors were subjected to intimidation and fear. This is unacceptable,” she wrote. She expressed gratitude to the members of the College community who, she said, “in the midst of crisis showed who we are at our best and provided help.”

“The destruction in Carnegie Hall was extensive, and investigation has revealed that the vast majority of those who occupied Carnegie are not Pomona students,” Starr said. “Disciplinary letters are going out to students from Pomona and other Claremont Colleges identified as involved in the takeover. Student groups affiliated with this incident are also under investigation. Individuals who are not students will be banned from our campus, she noted.”

Pomona is committed to the integrity of its disciplinary processes, and President Starr affirmed that the College will not comment on individual cases. Within the scope of the student code, and commensurate with individual circumstances, sanctions may include campus bans, suspension and expulsion—a step not taken lightly, she said. Students have due process, with opportunities for appeal.

“As we head into the final months of the semester, let us not lose sight of what unites us and makes us strong,” President Starr concluded. “We are given great gifts that we must bear in trust for this generation and generations to come. I am proud to be part of this community. I look forward to engaging alongside you, and setting our feet together on a path that, even at our most profound moments of disagreement, leads to higher ground.”

## 2024 Protests

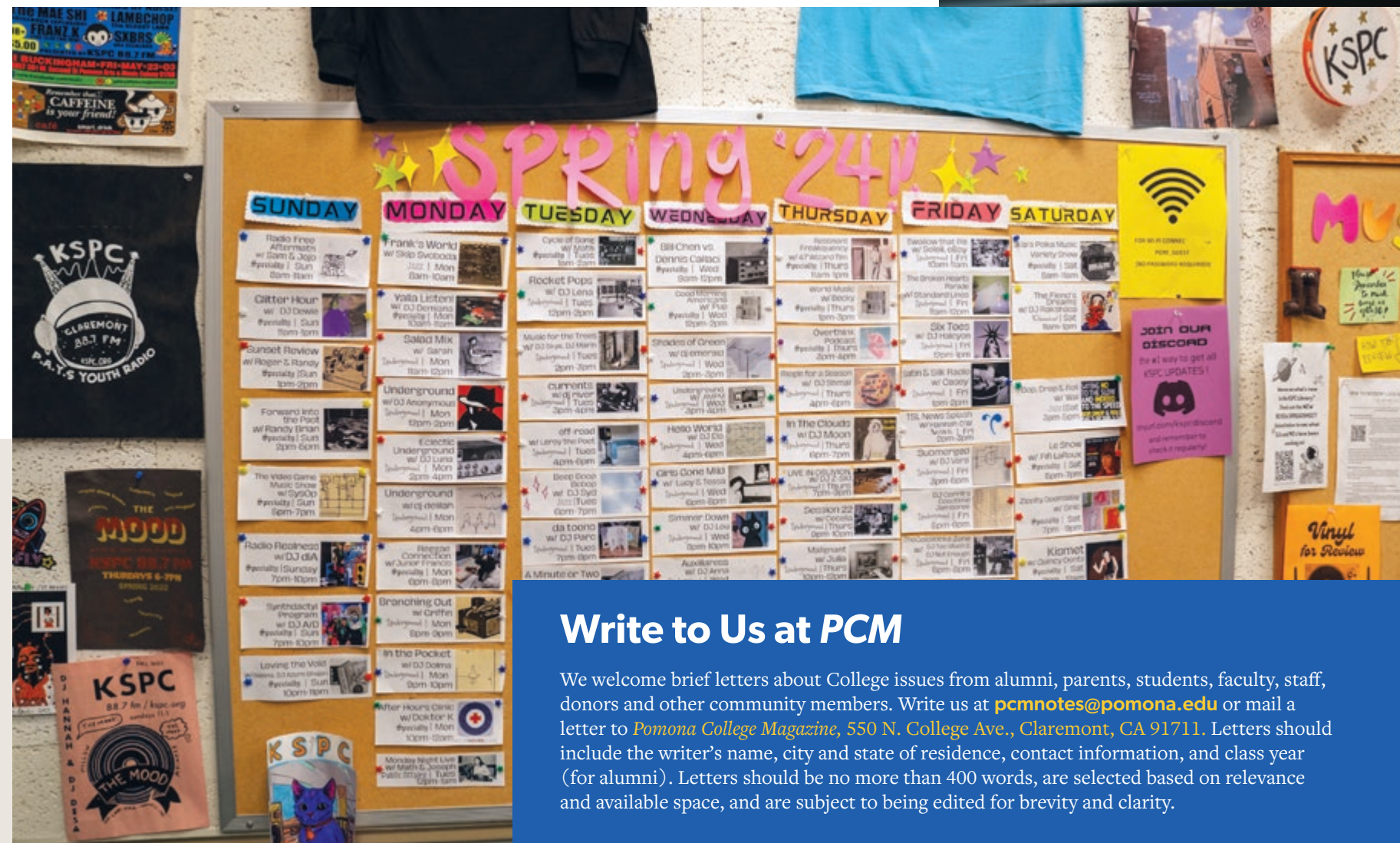
It is with dismay that I read about the disruption of several aspects of campus life (e.g., 2024 Commencement and the fall opening convocation) by pro-Palestinian protesters.

Full disclosure: I have relatives in Israel, who knew people who were killed on 10/7/23, the worst massacre of the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Lest you view me as a cheerleader for Netanyahu, I believe that his refusal to entertain the idea of a two-state solution has contributed to Israel's diplomatic isolation and security crises. While I initially supported Israel's military response, I have

come to believe that it reached a point of diminishing returns long ago. Like any decent human, I am saddened by the loss of innocent Palestinian lives, and wish that Israel put greater effort into a two-state solution.

That said, these nuances are absolutely lost on the West's “pro-Palestinian” movement—a term I put in quotes because it seems to put a higher priority on destroying Israel than on improving the lot of the Palestinian people.

Anyone who has studied the history of that region would realize just how complicated it is, with both Jews and Palestinians having legitimate claims to the land and legitimate grievances toward each other. My complaint against student



## Write to Us at PCM

We welcome brief letters about College issues from alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, donors and other community members. Write us at [pcmnotes@pomona.edu](mailto:pcmnotes@pomona.edu) or mail a letter to *Pomona College Magazine*, 550 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. Letters should include the writer's name, city and state of residence, contact information, and class year (for alumni). Letters should be no more than 400 words, are selected based on relevance and available space, and are subject to being edited for brevity and clarity.

## Correction

Joanne Tobiessen '64 worked in career development at Union College in Schenectady, NY, and developed its peer facilitators program during 18 years of service, and also served on Union College's Women's Commission. Her obituary in the Summer 2024 issue incorrectly identified the college as Pacific Union. *Pomona College Magazine* regrets the error.



## New Chair and Members Join the Board of Trustees

Three Alumni Elected to Pomona’s 28-member Board of Trustees



A member of the Pomona College Board of Trustees since 2013, **Janet Inskeep Benton '79** was elected the new chair of the Board. Her three-year term began July 1. Benton is the founder and president of Frog Rock Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is to improve long-term outcomes for underserved children in Westchester County, New York.

“Our Board of Trustees believes in and is committed to the promise of a Pomona College education,” says Benton. “As board chair, I will engage these colleagues and bring them together to address strategic issues that come before us. I’m honored to serve in this role and look forward to a productive year ahead.”

**Erika James '91** is dean of The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and an expert on crisis leadership, management strategy and workplace diversity. She was previously dean and professor at Emory University’s Goizueta Business School. Her most recent book is *The Prepared Leader: Emerge from Any Crisis More Resilient Than Before*, co-authored with Lynn Perry Wooten. She serves on numerous boards, including Morgan Stanley, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Economic Club of New York.



“I look forward to reconnecting from the perspective of a leader in higher education,” says James. “Having spent more than 30 years in multiple universities, I have a broad understanding of higher education and am hopeful I can add value to the school that paved the way for my professional journey.”

**Jason Sheasby '97** is a law partner at Irell & Manella, where he specializes in complex litigation, intellectual property, antitrust and internal investigations.



A Harvard Law School graduate, Sheasby obtained a verdict for the city of Pomona that a Chilean mine shipped tainted fertilizer before and during World War II, which leached into the city’s water—the first successful application of California’s product liability law to an environmental tort.

“Pomona [College] altered the trajectory of my life,” says Sheasby. “Its financial generosity allowed me to attend the school and spend two terms in Cambridge, [opening] up a world I did not even know existed. I want to ensure that Pomona continues to play this role in the lives of students.”

Two trustees are transitioning to emeritus status: Allyson Aranoff Harris '89, a trustee since 2014, and Osman Kibar '92, a trustee since 2016. [PCM](#)

## Board Chair Provides Update on the College Endowment and Calls for Divestment

This fall, Pomona College Board Chair Janet Inskeep Benton '79 addressed concerns to the Pomona community regarding the College’s endowment and calls for divestment. “This is a challenging time in higher education,” says Benton. “World events have rocked college campuses and exposed tensions between free expression, unimpeded access to the educational experience and protection from harassment.” While this plays out in a variety of ways at Pomona, she says, one of her goals as board chair is to address the concerns voiced in the College community about the endowment.

Benton notes that “while there is much to discuss, there are positions about which the board is unwavering. We will not target specific countries with actions such as boycotts or divestment. Pomona seeks to remain open to the entire globe, believing that wider engagement and deeper understanding is the best path forward.”

We are a community that prizes deliberative, thoughtful engagement, and we are committed to working with our partners in shared governance to establish a process for bringing community concerns regarding particular investments to the Investment Committee of the board, the incoming board chair added.

The board invited elected leaders of the College’s four constituency groups—faculty, staff, students and alumni—to share their thoughts in writing and met in person during the board’s October meeting to discuss a process that would engage perspectives of the community regarding investments and about strategies for helping stakeholders understand the endowment. That collegial conversation was a productive first step that stressed the need for open communication and transparency going forward. The Board expects to share further thoughts with the community before the end of the semester. [PCM](#)



## Jonathan Williams Named New Vice President and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

A national leader in college admissions, Jonathan B. Williams became Pomona’s next vice president and dean of admissions and financial aid effective August 1.

Williams joins Pomona from New York University, where he most recently served as associate vice president of undergraduate admissions, precollege, access and pathways.

Under his leadership since 2016, applications to NYU’s three degree-granting campuses in New York, Abu Dhabi and Shanghai increased by 97%. He has played a key role in attracting the most diverse and academically accomplished student body in the school’s history. In addition, Williams extended the reach of the admissions office by creating the Precollege Access and Pathways division at New York University. Through that work, upward of 5,000 students participated each year in NYU pre-college programs that foster a college-going culture in communities nationwide.

“Jonathan joins Pomona at a pivotal time for higher ed admissions and the College,” says G. Gabrielle Starr, president of Pomona College. “He will be instrumental in ensuring that access to a Pomona education regardless of family income remains a bedrock value of the College. We look forward to welcoming Jonathan to campus.”

With a track record of success in college admissions, nonprofit management and enrollment management, Williams is a leader in identifying pathways to opportunity for

## George C. Wolfe '76 honored at Tonys with Lifetime Achievement Award

In June George C. Wolfe '76 received the 2024 Special Tony Award for “Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre” at the 77th annual ceremony.

Wolfe has been nominated for 23 Tony Awards and won five, including Best Direction of a Play for *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and Best Direction of a Musical for *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*. Additionally, Wolfe was the producer of The Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival from 1993 to 2005, directed/adapted *Spunk*, and created *Harlem Song* for the Apollo Theatre.

Wolfe’s work outside of theatre includes directing and co-writing the HBO film *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, as well as *Lackawanna Blues*, for which he earned The Directors Guild Award, a National Board of Review Award, a Christopher Award and the Humanitas Prize. For Netflix he directed *Rustin* and *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*, which was nominated for five Academy Awards.

“[Wolfe’s] stellar contributions as a playwright, director, producer and artistic director, including his unforgettable direction in productions like *Angels in America* and *Bring in 'da Noise...*, have left a lasting impression on audiences,” said Heather Hitchens, president and CEO of the American Theatre Wing. “Beyond his tremendous dedication to storytelling, he has shown an unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout his illustrious career that has shifted culture and elevated the theatre community.”

Wolfe is the chief creative officer of the Center for Civil and Human Rights, and from 2009 to 2017 served on The President’s Committee on the Arts and The Humanities. Additional awards include the NAACP Theatre Lifetime Achievement Award, NYU’s Distinguished Alumni Award, and induction in the Theatre Hall of Fame. Wolfe was named a “Library Lion” by the New York Public Library and a “Living Landmark” by the New York Landmarks Conservancy. [PCM](#)



people seeking postsecondary education. Through his work with organizations such as Reach for College! and Heads Up of Washington, D.C., as well as college admissions offices at Oberlin College, the University of Pennsylvania and Dartmouth College, he has helped thousands of young people and their families through their educational journeys.

Williams earned degrees from Dartmouth College and the University of Maryland at College Park, and he is completing his doctorate in higher education administration at New York University. He serves on the boards of the Common App, the Enrollment Management Association and Minds Matter NYC.

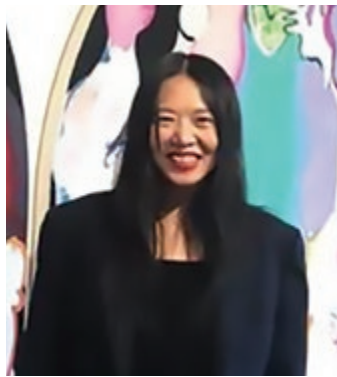
“I am honored to be joining the Pomona community and to work with this incredibly talented team of professionals,” says Williams. “I am excited to build upon the legacy of diversity, inclusivity and academic excellence that are hallmarks of the College’s student body. I am thrilled to continue my work of helping students find and unlock their potential through access to higher education.”

Williams succeeds former Vice President for Strategy & Admissions and Financial Aid Seth Allen, who started at Pomona in 2011 and retired in February 2024. Since then, Ray Brown has been serving as interim vice president for admissions and financial aid for the College. [PCM](#)

## Pomona Welcomes Eight New Faculty Members This Fall

The group of both tenure-track and tenured faculty includes multiple alumnae, as well as several who previously taught here as postdoctoral fellows and visiting professors.

**Alejandra Castillo '17**, visiting instructor of mathematics and statistics, graduated from Pomona with a degree in mathematics before pursuing a master's in statistics at Oregon State University. Her graduate student research explores alternatives to penalization when trying to obtain a sparse solution to a clustering problem. In Corvallis, Castillo was a graduate mentor for the Oregon 4-H Outreach Leadership Institute, which prepares high school migrant youth from farming communities for college.



**Pui Tiffany Chow**, assistant professor of art, earned her MFA in visual art from UC Riverside. She previously taught at Pomona as a lecturer and visiting assistant professor. Chow's painting explores the intersection of abstraction and figuration through a pastiche of historical references ranging from the representation of the female form to various Eastern and Western cultural codes.



**Andrew Law**, assistant professor of philosophy, specializes in freedom and moral responsibility, in addition to metaphysics. His research encompasses free will, time and the relationship between the two. Law earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from UC Riverside and did his postdoctoral research at the Institute for Philosophy at Leibniz University Hannover in Germany. Law previously lectured at Western Washington University and USC.



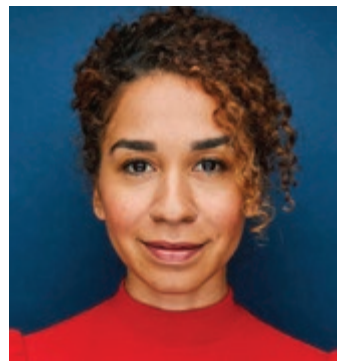
**Amira Lundy-Harris**, assistant professor of gender and women's studies, is a scholar in trans studies, Black studies, kinship, Black feminist thought, women's studies and LGBTQ studies. They earned a Ph.D. in women, gender and sexuality studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, where they were the instructor of record in a course that introduced significant strands of thought in the field of Black trans studies and covered genealogical connections to Black feminist thought and trans studies.



**Pamela Prickett**, associate professor of sociology, earned a Ph.D. from UCLA. She was an associate professor at the University of Amsterdam and served as a faculty member for the Amsterdam Research Centre for Gender and Sexuality and the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research. Her research focuses on how the erosion and resilience of social ties perpetuate social inequalities. She has published two books about Los Angeles, including *Believing in South Central* and *The Unclaimed: Abandonment and Hope in the City of Angels*.



**Omer Shah**, assistant professor of anthropology, received his Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia and has been teaching at Pomona as a Chau Mellon fellow since 2022. Shah was awarded a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities to write two chapters of his monograph *Made in Mecca: Expertise, Techno-politics, and Hospitality in the Post-Oil Holy City*.



**Amani Lee Starnes**, assistant professor of theatre, has been a professional performer in Los Angeles and New York for nearly 20 years, appearing in such productions as Amazon's *Transparent* and NBC's *Community*. She earned her Ph.D. in theater and performance studies from Stanford this summer, and her expertise includes contemporary Black feminist theatrical adaptation.



**Jessica Stern '12**, assistant professor of psychological science, graduated from Pomona *summa cum laude* with a degree in psychology and earned a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her research examines how early childhood experiences shape brain development, empathy and mental health over the life course. Stern most recently was a National Research Service Award postdoctoral fellow and Engagements teaching fellow at the University of Virginia. [PCM](#)

## Kara Godwin Joins Pomona as Inaugural Senior Global Fellow

Kara A. Godwin, a visionary leader and strategist, will join Pomona as the inaugural senior global fellow starting at the end of August.

Godwin brings more than 20 years of experience as an accomplished strategist and collaborative scholar focused on global engagement, with an emphasis on institutional transformation and interdisciplinarity. Most recently, she served as the director of internationalization at the American Council on Education (ACE), where she led ACE's global strategy and flagship Internationalization Laboratory program.

"This new position is a critical step forward in advancing our Global Pomona Project as we work on realizing our vision of providing transformative global learning experiences for all Pomona students," says Yuqing Melanie Wu, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College. "With Kara's leadership, the College is poised to accelerate our progress toward our global engagement goals." [PCM](#)



## New in the Catalog

Students majoring in any discipline now have a new option for a minor: data science. A new offering this fall at Pomona, the data science minor will help student develop skills in using and analyzing data. All data science minors will have to complete five courses, one in each of the core areas —programming, statistics,

data science, ethics, and linear algebra courses—by the end of their junior year.

Among the data science minor faculty are mathematicians, economists, psychologists and biologists who will use an interdisciplinary approach to enable students to extract and communicate meaningful insights about data.

## Pomona's 2024 Distinguished Staff Awards

This spring Pomona honored Building Attendant **Joaquin Rios** and Academic Coordinator **Cynthia Madrigal** with this year's Distinguished Staff Awards.

Rios has worked in the Housekeeping Department at Pomona for 10 years, and was appreciated for his thoroughness. "He goes above and beyond to make sure everything is immaculate, organized and in order," writes one nominator. Two people mention how Rios cares for their plants: "It took me months to realize that he's been watering all my plants without me ever asking him."

Beyond the work he does, many point to Rio's kindness and friendliness. "Joaquin always has a smile on his face and a positive attitude. He greets everyone with a smile," says one person. "My every interaction with him is positive, and I often see how he makes everyone's days brighter," says another.

Madrigal, meanwhile, is an 18-year employee of Pomona who manages the unique challenge of juggling the coordination of three different departments: Art History, Classics and Gender and Women's Studies.

"She serves all three ably, covering the budgets and all the arrangements for all three departments," says George Gorse, chair of art history. "She is a very hard worker who takes on massive amounts of responsibility with efficiency and grace."

Another nominator concurs: "Providing support to three different programs is challenging in and of itself. Each entity has their own nuances and demands, and Cynthia provides assistance with grace, resilience and professionalism." [PCM](#)

## Three New Scholarship Winners!

### Schwarzman Scholar

New environments have always fascinated **Lydia Haile '22**, a Coloradan and first-generation college student whose curiosity led her to Pomona and now is taking her across the globe.



Haile is pursuing a master's degree in global affairs from Tsinghua University in Beijing, thanks to the one-year scholarship. At Tsinghua she will attend lectures, travel and deepen her understanding of the world's second-most populous country.

### Udall Scholar

For someone entering her junior year, **Arianna Lawrence '26** has already built an impressive resume. She interned with the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the New York City Commission on Human Rights and the San Francisco Environmental Department. She is an EcoRep in Pomona's sustainability office and a student manager of ReCoop, helping students recover and reuse clothing, furniture and other items. And now, she's been recognized for her sustained involvement and potential for environmental leadership by being named one of 55 Udall Scholars for 2024, earning a \$7,000 scholarship.



"I'm excited to immerse myself in an environment I would not find myself in otherwise," Haile says. "I'm at a stage in life where I can just pack up and move, simply for the sake of learning."

A neuroscience major, Haile was chosen as one of 150 scholars from 4,200 applicants. After graduation, she became an operations specialist at the Obesity Medicine Association and helped launch the nonprofit Global Medical Relief for Tigray (GMRT) to address health care needs in Tigray, Ethiopia, raising funds for medical supplies for a hospital affected by the 2020 conflict.

Being of Tigrayan descent herself, Haile views her involvement with GMRT as an opportunity "to utilize my skills to enact long-lasting change."

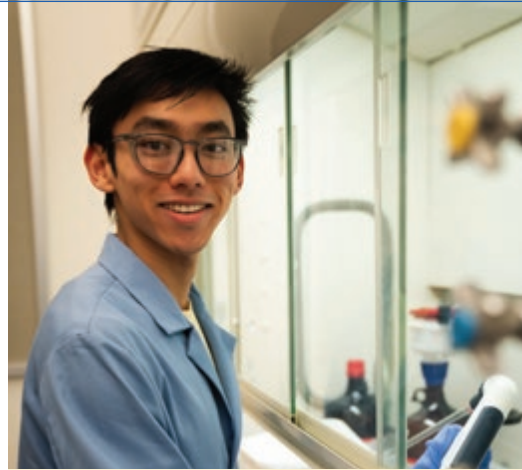
As a Schwarzman Scholar, Haile hopes to leverage her diverse background to develop interdisciplinary solutions spanning global affairs, medicine, technology and language.

"This opportunity is invaluable," she says, "There's so much I have yet to experience, and by gaining a broader perspective, I simply can't lose." [PCM](#)

"I've always been interested in environmentalism, in how inequities can manifest in physical spaces," says Lawrence. "I'm from Brooklyn. Nobody [there] has backyards. Nobody has green spaces." What Lawrence did have in her New York community, though, was a high school where she could pursue a major. She chose Law and Society, with an interest in environmental organizing.

Lawrence remembers being inspired by the 2019 New York City Climate Strike, where tens of thousands marched for climate action. The next summer, as a rising high school senior, she interned with the Natural Resources Defense Council and joined a youth coalition for the United Nations Environmental Program, focusing on youth involvement in environmental policymaking.

At Pomona Lawrence majors in public policy analysis with an emphasis on environmental issues, aiming for a career in urban planning, zoning law or environmental litigation. "It's exciting to figure out my niche in environmentalism and policy," she says. [PCM](#)



### Goldwater Scholar

**Daniel Gao '25**, a molecular biology major, was awarded the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, established by Congress in 1986 for students in science, engineering and mathematics. This year 437 Scholars were selected out of a pool of over 5,000 students.

Since his sophomore year Gao has conducted research in the lab of chemistry professor Malkiat Johal, using surface-chemistry tools to look at "receptor-ligand interactions" that are involved in blood clotting. They are also probing the physiological significance of the interactions beyond the chemistry.

Gao's interest in blood clotting began at a young age when his grandfather experienced a stroke. "That was the sort of alarm," he says. "It's a very niche type of work, but it's been a big passion of mine."

Gao sought out Johal because he was interested in the convergence of the biology of blood clotting with Johal's background in surface chemistry. "Having the different perspectives brings a lot to the table in terms of the interdisciplinary aspect of our research," says Gao.

Along with conducting research this summer, Gao applied to M.D.-Ph.D. programs with the goal of beginning a program in fall 2025.

The future physician hopes to create new tools for diseases, particularly in the realm of blood clotting. "A big part of being an M.D.-Ph.D. is [to] translate basic science into clinical tools," says Gao. "That's something I want to do: being proficient in both, and having both perspectives." [PCM](#)

## Sagehen Impact

### Glicks Pledge \$2.47M to Expand College Access for Middle-Income Students

**Samuel D. Glick '04 and Emily S. G. Glick '04** have pledged \$2,474,474.47 to support financial aid and other crucial resources for future students from middle-income families. Their renewed support is among the highlights of a banner year for Pomona fundraising, which saw record levels of alumni contributions and participation, outpacing peers and surpassing many of the College's historical benchmarks. Sam and Emily are longtime supporters of the College; Sam is the outgoing chair of the Board of Trustees, and together they have taken on leadership roles to help advance Pomona's strategic vision.

"We are deeply grateful for Sam and Emily's generosity in establishing the

President's Fund for Middle-Class Access," says President G. Gabrielle Starr. "Their support will provide more than scholarships; it will provide access and opportunity to pursue life-changing work and invaluable academic experiences for students who often don't consider Pomona."

The Glicks' gift will support amplified outreach with middle-income students—many of whom never consider applying to Pomona due to cost. It also will help provide more robust financial support for middle-income students who are admitted. For those who enroll, the fund will support targeted programs and resources for career development and academic enrichment. The



Glicks hope that, with such resources in place, more students from middle-income families will see a Pomona education as their reality.

"Doing something to help make Pomona available to more people, we hope, in a small way, makes the world a better place," says Sam. [PCM](#)



### Berryman Pledges \$10 Million Legacy Gift

Pomona College alumna **Sue E. Berryman '59** has pledged \$10 million to establish six endowed funds for the areas of humanities, music, scholarships and faculty innovation. Berryman comes from an engaged Sagehen family that includes her late mother, father and aunt.

Berryman earned a doctorate in political economy from Johns Hopkins University before pursuing a range of roles at Harvard

Business School, RAND Corporation, Columbia University and the World Bank. As director of Columbia's Institute on Education and the Economy, she testified before state governors and Senate committees on the economy and education policy. She also traveled the globe with the World Bank to help countries address structural problems in their education systems.

In honor of her mother, the Frances Bowers Berryman '30 Fund for Humanities Study will help fund programming in "common reads" books, visits to arts and cultural institutions, and alternative spring break experiences. Two new music-minded funds pay tribute to her father: the John

Jordan Berryman '28, which will support Glee Club performances and travel, along with instrument acquisition and maintenance for the Music Department.

Berryman also established two funds for her aunt: the Ellen Evelyn Bowers '31 Scholarship Fund and Global Student Haven Outreach Fund, which will support scholarships for students with financial need and international students displaced by global crises and natural disasters. Lastly, the Sue Ellen Berryman '59 Presidential Innovation Fund will support broader initiatives across Pomona's educational mission, including interdisciplinary research. [PCM](#)

### Draper Gives \$1M for Football Turf

A \$1 million challenge gift from Trustee Emeritus **Ranney E. Draper '60** has helped fund the new synthetic turf on Merritt Field, where Pomona-Pitzer football kicked off their season on September 7 with a 28-12 win against Carleton College.

Merritt's \$2.2 million transformation from grass to turf comes at a watershed moment for a program that has gone from a team with a single win to one competing in back-to-back Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) championship games and winning the title in 2022.

Former team captain Draper has Pomona roots reaching back to his football-playing father Ranney C. Draper '25 and uncle Edwin Draper '25. It's also where his father and mother, Virginia '26, fell in love. Their legacy now spans the Draper Walk and Plaza, the Draper Center for Community Partnerships and the Center for Athletics, Recreation and Wellness.

Maintaining Merritt's grass has been challenging amidst a California climate fluctuating from severe droughts to excessive rains. Until now the team only used Merritt for games, sharing practice time with other

teams at the South Athletics Complex; artificial turf lets them use it year-round. Merritt will also be a hub for practices and games for the women's lacrosse team, as well as intramural programs and P.E. classes.

"It truly matches our philosophy of health, wellness and fitness," says football coach John Walsh. "This field [will] make an impact on a lot of people both in and out of football." [PCM](#)

Visit [pomona.edu/stories-of-impact](https://pomona.edu/stories-of-impact) to read the full stories online.

# 10 Years of the Studio Art Hall and the Chan Gallery

When the Studio Art Hall opened in October 2014, it brought together under one roof art making, art appreciation and art interaction at the College. Housed in the building is the 1,500-square-foot Chan Gallery, made possible by Trustee Emeritus and art major Bernard Charnwut Chan '88. This fall the Art Department celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Studio Art Hall with "Lush Matter," a Chan Gallery exhibition that served as a spotlight of alumni artwork inspired by nature.

**Jessica Drenk '02** traces her "Compression 13" piece (page 13, middle) back to her time at Pomona. One of her first projects for Professor Michael O'Malley involved transforming books into rich, unusual tunnel-like structures by removing their covers and tearing holes through them. "Books have become part of my repertoire, so that class was the beginning of my art career," she says.

**Dan Falby '12** sent the show four abstract ceramic sculptures (including "Peregrine," page 13, bottom) that involved dropping and tossing clay slabs, relying on gravity to do its work. He says he strives to make art that has "a similar elemental happenstance" as natural

phenomena. Falby was a visiting artist at the American Museum of Ceramic Art, then served as a ceramics instructor in Los Angeles before relocating to the Northeast in 2021.

**Aliyana Gewirtzman '12** submitted four pieces, including "Indifferent Earth," a 40-inch-by-30-inch oil painting, and two ink drawings of Red Rock Canyon (below, upper-right) and Joshua Tree. She worked in New York for 10 years before leaving to travel the country in a camper van. She currently works as a full-time artist in Colorado, including teaching drawing and color theory courses remotely at the New York School of Interior Design.

**Becca Lofchie '10** had a collection of ceramic vases on display in the show (below, left). While working professionally as a book designer, Lofchie took up ceramics a few years ago "as a way to do something with my hands," she says. A design teacher at California State University, Los Angeles, Lofchie returned to the College earlier this month to give a gallery talk. Lofchie's graphic design work clearly influences her ceramics, with an affinity for '80s Memphis design that

shows up in her bright color palettes and bold patterns.

**Tristan Louis Marsh '18**, an L.A.-based visual artist and designer, contributed four pieces: a pendant, mirror (page 13, top), chair and pair of candleholders. Creating works from wood and resin using a CNC machine and 3D printer, Marsh focuses on sculptural furniture and lighting that derive their form from biological structures and natural occurring phenomena. This summer *Dezeen Magazine* named Marsh's studio one of "10 scene-setting independent design studios in Los Angeles."

**Ugen Yonten '22** is a second-year graduate student at the Yale School of Architecture, and contributed a still-life painting that he created at Pomona. The piece was a way for him to reflect on the pandemic and "the stillness of being back at home." Tricia Avant, who serves as academic coordinator and gallery manager of art at Pomona, credits Yonten for his strong sense of artistic direction. "For just about any subject that he would tackle, he has his own aesthetic sensibility about it," she says. [PCM](#)



Top to bottom:  
Marsh's "Untitled Mirror";  
Drenk's "Compression 13";  
Falby's "Peregrine"



Clockwise from left: Lofchie (far left) with attendees and her pieces; Gewirtzman's "Black Velvet Canyon, Red Rocks"; Yonten's "Untitled (still life)"

## A Historical Emmy Nod for *Baby Reindeer* and Nava Mau '14

This summer **Nava Mau '14** became the first-ever trans female to be nominated as best supporting actress in a limited or anthology series or movie. Mau played Teri in the hit Netflix series *Baby Reindeer*.

"For trans actors we just don't get a lot of opportunities to develop our craft, grow as artists, and to be recognized for all that we are and all that we can be," she told *Deadline* magazine this summer. "We can see that when trans people are given the opportunity, we will grow into it and so far beyond any expectation." [PCM](#)



Courtesy of Nava Mau '14

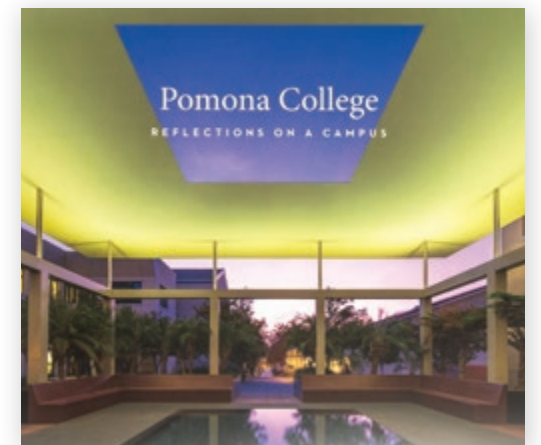
## Reflecting on the History of Pomona's Built Environment

This year marks the publication of the second edition of *Pomona College: Reflections on a Campus*, a campus history authored by professor emeritus **Marjorie Harth**, co-creator of Pomona's archives program with former director of donor relations Don Pattison.

First published in 2007 in conjunction with the efforts of many colleagues, the book aims to chronicle Pomona's campus not simply as a collection of buildings and open spaces but as a carefully designed learning and living environment for Pomona students. We spoke with Harth about the project.

### How would you summarize this new second edition?

This version updates the history of Pomona's campus, adding the many new and recently renovated buildings during the 17 years between editions. Physical changes reflect shifting pedagogies, societal priorities and a host of other cultural factors. I recommend Professor George Gorse's essay on Myron Hunt, our founding architect; Scott Smith, long-time planning consultant, contributed a new chapter on landscape architect Ralph Cornell who worked hand in hand with Hunt. These give us insight into campus planning, how it has changed and how integrally related the two disciplines—architecture and landscape architecture—should be.



### What would you like readers to take away from *Reflections*?

I hope they will take away an awareness of how rich the history of this College and its campus are and how much we can learn from and take pride in them. I hope readers will begin to register the way our environments—buildings, grounds, classrooms, public spaces—affect the quality of our lives.

We all know this on some level, I believe, but we don't always focus on it when we're creating or inhabiting spaces for various purposes, especially, in this case, a place for learning, intellectual growth and experimentation. So, this book offers what we hope is a fresh way of understanding the College and the lives lived within it. [PCM](#)



## Research by Yannai Kashtan '20 Fuels Gas Stove Debate

“When you talk stoves, people listen,” says the Stanford Ph.D. student

By Brian Whitehead



Since at least the early 20th century, Kashtan says, the gas industry knew of the dangers of gas stove pollution, and yet over the years, stoves became the only unvented gas appliance in homes. As conscious as folks are about what is being cooked over the flame, Kashtan adds, they should be doubly conscious about the pollution from the flame itself.

*The L.A. Times* was the latest media outlet to feature the Pomona alumnus, whose research and comments have been published by national and international organizations such as CNN, *Newsweek* and *The Guardian*.

In a March profile in *The New York Times*, Kashtan advocated against fossil fuel companies funding climate research and solutions. The article called Kashtan a young climate researcher, a title he isn't quite sure fits.

“I see myself both as an air quality scientist and a communicator,” the researcher says. “Someone who can try to bring science into policy and into, maybe, public perception as well. I like the idea of creating knowledge and putting it into action as much as possible.”

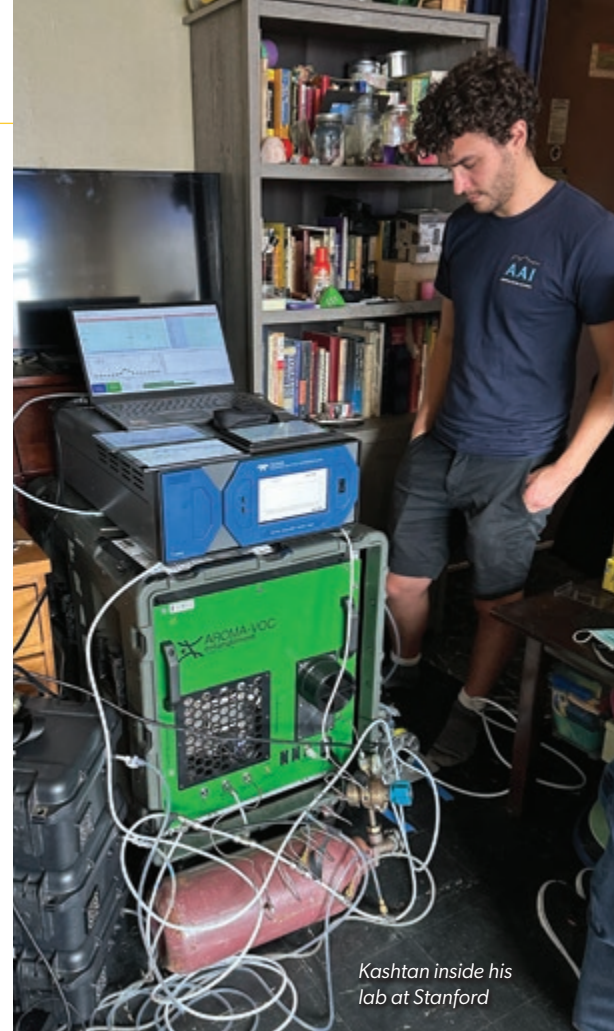
While at Pomona, Kashtan, a chemistry and physics double major, was remarkable in class and “simply outstanding in the research lab,” Janice Hudgings, Seeley W. Mudd Professor of Physics, wrote in a letter about her student.

Kashtan's expertise in a lab comes as no surprise.

As a boy, Kashtan ran a YouTube channel under the handle “elementguy27.” From a homemade lab inside his parents' garage, Kashtan explained dozens of elements from the periodic table—beryllium, cobalt, barium, selenium, among the 92 videos on the channel.

“As long as I can remember, I loved learning,” Kashtan says.

Beyond working at an advanced level in Hudgings' lab at Pomona, Kashtan was “a terrific team player, always ready to jump in and help one of his peers,” Hudgings wrote.



Kashtan inside his lab at Stanford

Kashtan routinely volunteered as a teaching assistant and helped younger students with their homework “simply because it's important to him that his peers succeed, too,” Hudgings added.

As a senior, Kashtan became the first Pomona student to be awarded the Knight-Hennessy scholarship—a full ride to Stanford to pursue the graduate program of his choosing. Knight-Hennessy scholars are thought to be “rebellious minds and independent spirits” and “future global leaders,” according to the criteria.

After being homeschooled through high school and being welcomed at Pomona, Kashtan speaks highly of the College's faculty.

“At Pomona,” he says, “I was taught by lots of professors who were dedicated to their pedagogy, focused on teaching first, and had decades of experience, and that was a huge privilege. That focus on education and teaching, it's not to be taken for granted.”

His Ph.D. research project complete, Kashtan plans to take a break from exploring gas stoves for the time being, though he intends to stay in a similar line of work in the future.

“I'm motivated by science itself,” he says, “but also wanting to make sure that science is then turned into action.” [PCM](#)

## Advocating for Responsible AI Adoption



Left, Okolo speaking on a Brookings Institution panel with the Michelle Donelan, the U.K.'s former secretary of state for science, innovation and technology (far left). Above, Okolo's collection of awards and plaques in her Washington, D.C., office.

Centered on a shelf in her Washington, D.C., office is the plaque **Chinasa T. Okolo '18** received nearly a decade ago from the Office of Black Student Affairs of The Claremont Colleges.

“Recognizing Genius in Our Community,” her 2015 First-Year Student Award reads.

Okolo, a former computer science major by way of Kansas City, Missouri, holds dear her time at Pomona, crediting her liberal arts education and professors for igniting in her a desire to understand human-computer interaction.

Now an expert in artificial intelligence (AI) after years of postgraduate and professional research, Okolo recently landed on *Time Magazine's* list of The 100 Most Influential People in AI.



“With the education I received at Pomona,” Okolo says, “I've been able to leverage my skills and understanding of how technology, particularly AI, can impact and is impacting marginalized populations in the U.S. and globally. A lot of times this kind of work doesn't get too much attention, so I'm very grateful to have been included on the list.”

As a fellow for the Brookings Institution, Okolo advocates for responsible AI adoption and governance across the Global South. At Brookings, her research includes analyzing datafication and algorithmic marginalization in Africa.

In recent months, Okolo has been quoted in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and she has appeared in segments on *Voice of America*, the country's largest international broadcaster.

This summer, TechCrunch published a Q&A with Okolo as part of its “Women in AI” series on “remarkable women who've contributed to the AI revolution.”

“This AI boom has given me an opportunity to show the necessity of AI literacy,” Okolo says. “People are very enamored with the possibilities of AI, but don't understand implications around bias and inequality.”

In addition to appearing in print and broadcast media, Okolo has been a guest speaker this year at international conferences and workshops in Senegal, South Africa, Brazil, Turkey, Belgium and the United Arab Emirates.

Well before she started trotting the globe, Okolo studied abroad in Hungary while at Pomona. Having never been out of the country before her semester away, Okolo says her maiden international trip “gave me the comfortability as a global citizen ... and was a launching point to me visiting different countries throughout my career.”

Alexandra Papoutsaki, associate professor of computer science, met Okolo as a first-year professor in 2017 and found her inquisitive, methodical and thoughtful in how she approached researching human-computer interaction—and, particularly, the inclusivity issues certain technologies create for people of color.

Less than a decade later, Papoutsaki is astounded by—and proud of—Okolo's rise.

“She's been published very prolifically by some of the most competitive venues in our area,” Papoutsaki says. “She's great at going out there and disseminating information publicly. She's absolutely an emerging leader in tech in general, not just AI. She's a person who's able to build relationships with industry, NGOs and academia.”

In her first year as a Ph.D. student at Cornell, Okolo sent Papoutsaki a postcard from New York.

Papoutsaki still has it in her office.

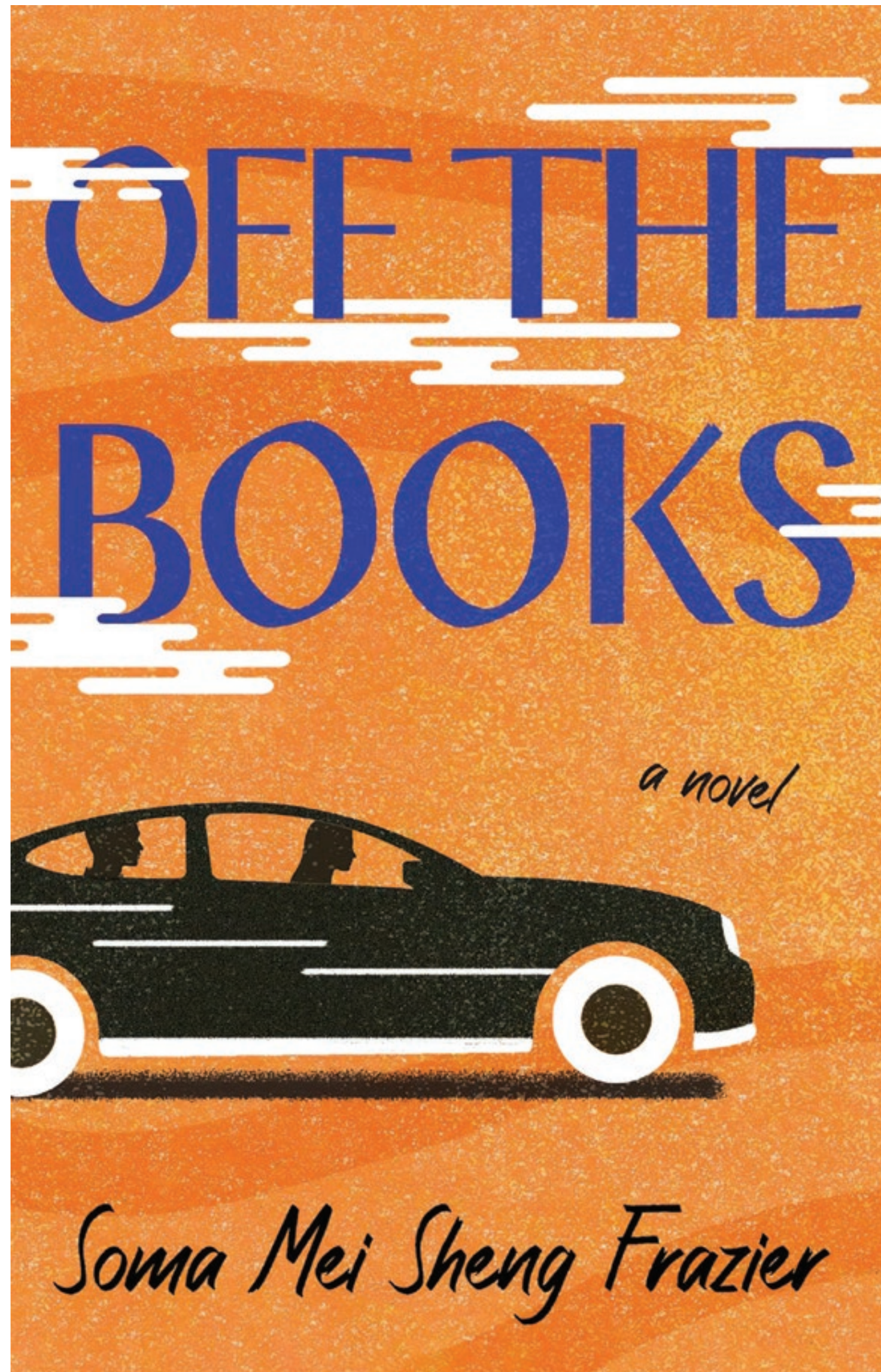
“It's remarkable that someone that young is able to do what she's doing,” Papoutsaki says. “Chinasa is the absolute embodiment of how remarkable our students can be, how they can excel while at Pomona, but also take what we give them and do so much more once they graduate.” [PCM](#)

## The Road to Truth

This summer, author and professor **Soma Mei Sheng Frazier '95** perched on a stool in front of an audience of Pomona alumni and opened her debut novel, a high-stakes road trip story published after nearly three decades of authoring shorter works. “Ready to get read to like babies at bedtime?” When she closed the book again, Frazier’s role model—Henry E. Sheffield Professor of History Samuel Yamashita—piped up to engage her in conversation about *Off the Books*, which, per *The New York Times*, “captures the relatable toggle between the private and the collective, between sinking into the anxieties of your life and grieving for the cruelties of the world.” In it, Frazier introduces us to Měi, a college dropout who begins driving private clients—including a man with a mysterious suitcase—to make ends meet. *PCM* spoke to Frazier about the book, the Uyghur ethnic minority group and her enduring admiration for Yamashita.

**PCM:** This book contains elements of mystery, drama, coming of age, Chinese American and multi-ethnic identity struggles, and the juxtaposition of East vs. West (globally but also between the two U.S. coasts). Did you set out to tackle all these issues, and how do you see them working in tandem to set the novel’s tone?

**Frazier:** The seed of *Off the Books* was a single issue: China’s treatment of the Uyghur ethnic minority group, many of whom have been “disappeared” into detention camps for such offenses as sporting the wrong beard. Their birth rates have plummeted, and children have been instructed not to speak the language their mothers sang them to sleep in.



To shine a light on that faraway situation, I set about writing the very American story of Měi Brown, a college dropout who finds herself driving a secretive private client from Oakland, California, to Syracuse, New York. As I wrote, all those themes grew from Měi’s personal growth and fraught relationships with a Caucasian dad and Chinese American mom, which became the backdrop for a quirky—and funny, I’ve been told—story about the circumstances that lead people to take big risks, and the consequences of leaving one’s home.

**PCM:** Several of the central characters do not fit typical molds. Lǎoyé, the main character’s grandfather, is a smack-talking, weed-smoking, 86-year-old video-gamer from China. Does this reflect your own personal experiences? How do you believe it adds to the major themes of the story?

**Frazier:** Well, typical molds can suck it. In my personal experience, people gain freedom when we stop contorting ourselves to fit those molds. Lǎoyé is actually almost everyone’s favorite character, and I believe that’s because he is a mold breaker. He’s unapologetically sincere. As children, we say what we truly think and feel because we haven’t learned how to do otherwise yet. Then, as we gain age and wisdom like Lǎoyé, if we’re lucky, we return to authenticity. When we meet Měi, she’s just beginning that journey back to herself, remembering the difference between reaction and intentional, self-driven action. On top of that, transporting her sweet (and I’ll say it: sexy) client Henry Lee across the states ultimately leads her to take the wheel in other ways.

**PCM:** The story unfolds through flashbacks intertwined with the progress of Měi’s road trip through the U.S. Although disorienting at first, it nicely accorded with real life—that is, we are constantly relating the present to past events we have experienced, even without noticing it. Does that structure serve other purposes?

**Frazier:** We are always toggling back and forth between present and past. Through the structure, my hope is that the road trip itself gives the story momentum, while the flashbacks (interspersed with present-

day action) allow the characters to sort of experience that languid mental wandering that we often do on long drives.

**PCM:** Why did you use pinyin (romanization of Mandarin Chinese characters) for Chinese terms, including notating them with tone marks in an English-language book?

**Frazier:** Měi’s Chinese is rudimentary, so she’s limited to the kind of household language that one picks up organically from an immigrant parent, like “I’m hungry.” I wanted to permit people who know Chinese, or grew up in households that spoke Chinese but do not have complete command of the language, to relate. I also wanted readers who don’t know Chinese to experience the sort of disorientation that Měi herself does when the other characters suddenly start conversing in this language she doesn’t fully understand. So that’s why I didn’t italicize the Chinese. Italicization implies a sort of separation from English. But then in real life, there’s no separation. I wanted what was on the page to mirror the experience of hearing the characters’ conversations in real life.

**PCM:** What do you ultimately hope that this book accomplishes?

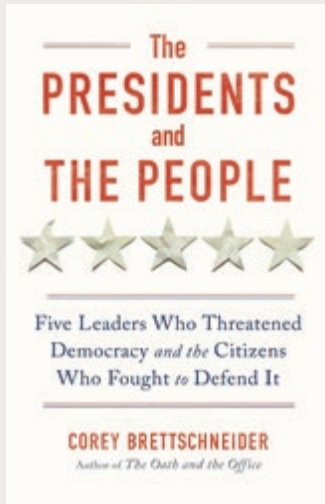
**Frazier:** I hope that *Off the Books* will make readers laugh and remind us to be kind to one another. I also hope it will pique interest in China’s treatment of the Uyghurs, ethnic minorities and prisoners of conscience. Because, yes, they’re halfway around the world, but I think we’d be fools to think of their issues as distant. China is the U.S.’s number one trade partner, and likely to gain regional hegemony and become a superpower. Before speaking with you, I did an interview with Radio Free Asia where I learned from the Uyghur interviewer that family members of every one of her Uyghur colleagues have disappeared. Ultimately, I want people to know about this and acknowledge the ugly truths about our number one trade partner, just as I hope we do about this country. And then to decide on their own whether and how to act on that knowledge to make things better for everyone.

**PCM:** How did Pomona College help or inspire you to undertake this book?

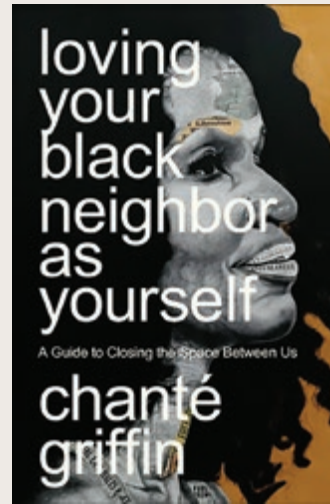
**Frazier:** When I was preparing to head to Pomona from New Hampshire, I walked into my mom’s office, and she was writing a check. I asked, “Hey, who’s that check going to?” And she replied that she was sending my aunts some money. I inquired why. After all, they were doing well. She said, “No, not those aunts—it’s for the aunts we had to leave behind in China.” And I didn’t know about these aunts, so I went off to Pomona reflecting on that experience and about the things I didn’t know about China. Those sentiments inspired me to delve further as an Asian studies major and Asian languages and literatures minor. Furthermore, I think a lot of experiences at Pomona—particularly being in Samuel Yamashita’s class—can make a person who might not have been focused on global politics think about global politics. Dr. Yamashita also makes us relate the issues we’re thinking about to our own behavior in the world. As the saying goes, a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down. In classes like his, you think you’re eating candy. Just all sugar. Yet you leave medicated, fortified with information about the world. [PCM](#)



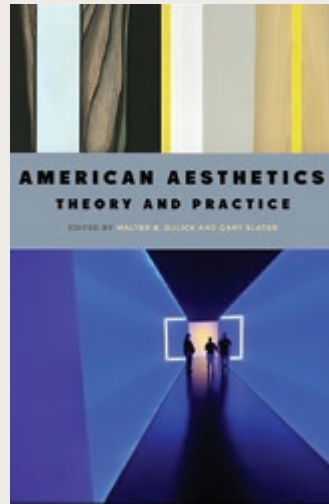
Soma Mei Sheng Frazier '95



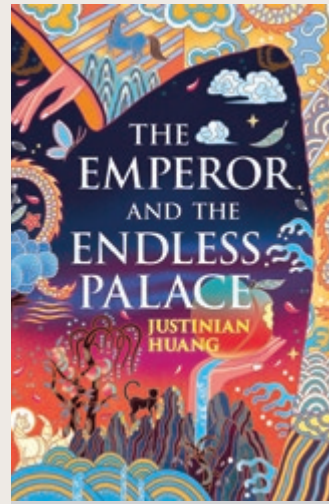
In *The Presidents and the People*, **Corey Brettschneider '95** explores how five American presidents in different eras abused their power and how citizens fought back to restore democracy.



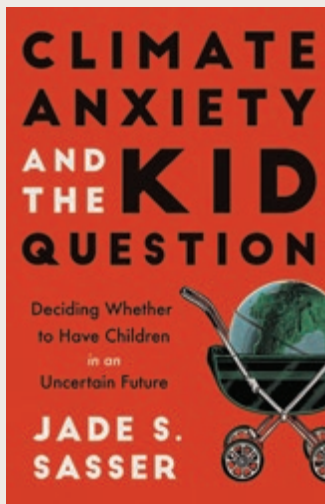
**Chanté Griffin '00** helps readers develop a vision of anti-racism and move toward racial healing in *Loving Your Black Neighbor as Yourself: A Guide to Closing the Space Between Us*.



As an editor of *American Aesthetics: Theory and Practice*, **Walter B. Gulick '60** proposes a distinctly American approach to aesthetic judgment and practice through this collection of essays.



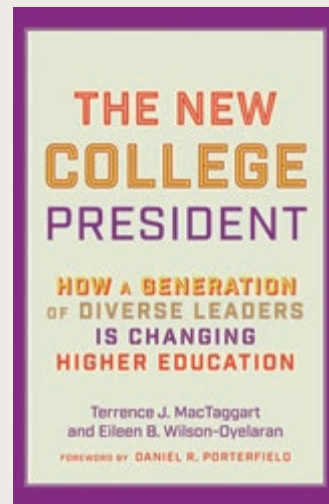
In his debut novel *The Emperor and the Endless Palace*, **Justinian Huang '09** crafts a genre-bending queer Asian love story that unfolds across multiple timelines.



**Jade Sasser '97** explores climate-driven reproductive anxiety, placing race and social justice at the center, in *Climate Anxiety and the Kid Question: Deciding Whether to Have Children in an Uncertain Future*.



*The Five Ranks of Zen: Tozan's Path of Being, Nonbeing and Compassion* is a comprehensive guide to the teachings of Zen Buddhism by American Zen teacher **Gerry Shishin Wick '62**.



As president emerita of Kalamazoo College and trustee emerita of Pomona College, **Eileen B. Wilson-Oyelaran '69** presents a fresh perspective on higher education leadership in *The New College President: How a Generation of Diverse Leaders Is Changing Higher Education*. [PCM](#)

**BOOK SUBMISSIONS**  
If you've had a book published and would like to submit it for inclusion in Bookmarks, please send a review copy to **Lorraine Harry, PCM Books Editor, 550 North College Ave. Claremont, CA 91711** or email us at [pcmbooks@pomona.edu](mailto:pcmbooks@pomona.edu)

## How to Become a Beloved Pomona College Cook

Visit Frank Dining Hall for brunch, and most days you will find **Teo Ibarra** on the back patio, bantering with students while serving up made-to-order omelets. Ibarra has worked at Pomona for 12 years and is considered by many to be a Pomona mainstay. It's hard to tell if students love Ibarra or his omelets more, but it's safe to say that both have reached legendary status.

- 1 Work at Pomona in the '90s as a dishwasher on the weekends while doing construction during the week.
- 2 Take a full-time position with Sodexo (the food services company at Pomona at the time), who pays for you to attend the Culinary Institute of America in New York. "I couldn't say no to that," says Ibarra. "I'd have to be out of my mind." Become a manager with Sodexo at other universities across the country and eventually at Disneyland.
- 3 Apply to work as a cook at Pomona again, seeking a shorter commute and better work-life balance. Cook in Oldenborg Dining Hall for seven years.
- 4 Ask to take over making omelets when the current omelet chef retires.
- 5 Pour love into your cooking. Ibarra preps at least 20 fresh ingredients for the omelets each day, chopping vegetables and cooking meats to perfection beforehand.
- 6 Talk to students while making omelets. Get to know them by name and ask about their interests. "The students motivate me the most," he says.
- 7 Remember people's orders. Many students are regulars at the omelet bar, getting the same order every day. "I know what they want, what they like and how they want it."
- 8 Gain perspective on life through a major health issue. Ibarra experienced a brain aneurysm during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. "I really thought I was going to go. They opened my head," says Ibarra. "Ever since, I see life totally different. And if I can help someone, I can. I go the extra mile. I would do it even if they don't appreciate it. We're all humans. We all sleep, breathe, die, so why not be the best you can be?"
- 9 Let students reciprocate the care you show them. Ibarra experienced an outpouring of support from students and alumni while in the hospital. A GoFundMe organized on his behalf raised close to \$26,000. "I've been blessed," he says.

- 10 Make something you can't eat yourself. Ibarra, ironically, is allergic to eggs. "I get hives all over my body." [PCM](#)



# MEET THREE STUDENT-ATHLETES PLAYING FALL SPORTS AT POMONA

The fall brings fresh schedules for football, men's and women's cross country, women's volleyball, men's water polo and men's and women's soccer.

Three student-athletes currently in season reflect on what drew them to Pomona, how they balance schoolwork and athletic responsibilities, and what they plan to do when their playing days are over.

## SAVANNA CESPEDES '26, WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

What fascinates Cespedes about the brain is its relationship to the body. As she recovers from major knee surgery, she's seen firsthand how complex that relationship can be.

A neuroscience major from Rancho Cucamonga, she's back in practice after tearing her ACL last October, and while she's regained strength in her knee almost a year later, she says she's still rebuilding the mind-to-muscle connection.

"I can tell my brain is reacting faster than my body," she adds. "I'll see certain things and my brain is telling me to move, but my body doesn't want to."

As one of four team captains, Cespedes shares responsibility for putting her teammates in the best position to succeed. She's inching closer to returning to game action and credits Pomona's trainers for helping her recover from her first major injury.

"The first month after surgery was one of the roughest months of my life," she says. "Having my sense of independence stripped from me was something I really struggled with. But my parents, my friends and my team were my rocks."

Cespedes got her EMT certification this summer as she recovered from surgery. She plans to pursue a master's in physician assistant studies with the intent to become capable of providing life-saving support when called upon. [PCM](#)



Savanna Cespedes '26



Joseph Cox '25

## JOSEPH COX '25, MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

As a distance runner, Cox sees the beauty of the world around him. As a 3D animator, he builds worlds for others to see.

"When doing documentary work, a lot of the time world-building begins once you have the footage," Cox says. "But in



Anjali Nuggehalli '26

## ANJALI NUGGEHALLI '26, WOMEN'S SOCCER

When Nuggehalli came to Pomona, she expected to grow close with her teammates on the pitch. She didn't expect to do the same with colleagues in the Computer Science Department.

3D animation, every single item throughout the process has to be put in context because you make everything from scratch."

A media studies major, Cox balances his curiosities in the classroom and responsibilities as a runner. During this past track season, the Austin, Texas, native was asked by a friend and fellow distance runner to animate an ichthyosaurus from photo scans with

"Until I got to Pomona, I didn't think a STEM department would have the opportunity for socialization and bonding," says Nuggehalli, a computer science and politics double major. "When I talk to people at bigger schools, especially in STEM departments, it's very much you go to lecture where there's hundreds of kids, you do the assignments, turn them in and that's that."

Drawing inspiration from upperclassmen, Nuggehalli became a computer science liaison, fostering relationships with faculty and peers while playing for one of the preeminent Division III women's soccer programs in the country.

In the summer she interned with the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee's Business Innovation and Data Analytics division as a Women in Sports Tech fellow, where she analyzed fan engagement and built a model to predict medal counts. She also visited the Team USA training center in Colorado to rub elbows with top directors and athletes.

A native of Saratoga, California, Nuggehalli is enticed by a career in sports technology and hopes to continue exploring related avenues at Pomona.

"Everyone here is passionate for learning," she says, "and that inspires me to not only go to class to get good grades, but to walk out and feel like a more well-rounded, educated person." [PCM](#)

the help of Claremont McKenna College professor Lars Schmitz.

Over the summer, Cox not only animated the creature, but created an underwater environment with fluid simulations that accurately react to the ichthyosaurus entering and exiting the water.

As big a field as 3D animation is, Cox hopes to narrow his expertise to modeling, texturing

or composing. His strengths lie in modeling and texturing, and he can see himself creating detailed worlds in video games or movies.

"I'm not exactly sure where the 3D jobs will take me," he says. "But I definitely want to do 3D animation in film or other types of media." [PCM](#)

## FORMER SAGEHEN ENSHRINED IN COLLEGE TENNIS HALL OF FAME



## Shelley Keeler Whelan '92 was inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame on October 5.

While at Pomona, Whelan captured NCAA Division III doubles championships three straight years from 1990 to 1992. In 1992 she also won the Division III singles championship and willed the Sagehens to the Division III team title—the first in Pomona-Pitzer history.

Whelan, a multi-time NCAA All-American, was enshrined in the Pomona-Pitzer Hall of Fame in 2002 both individually and as part of the historic 1992 team.

"Shelley always focused on the team rather than herself," former longtime Sagehens coach Lisa Beckett says. "Nearest and dearest to her is that team championship. Shelley continues to support Pomona in many ways, including offering a summer internship in her family investment office."

Whelan and her sister manage a multigenerational family office that invests in businesses and real estate in the Pacific Northwest. [PCM](#)



# UNEARTHING

# THE VOLCANOES

By Brian Whitehead

*Geology Professor Nikki Moore took a team to the “exposed granites” of the White Mountains, nestled in the Sierras.*

## A team led by Pomona geologist Nikki Moore explores dikes in the Sierra Nevadas to unlock their mysteries

The sun is setting over the White Mountains an hour west of Nevada as Visiting Assistant Professor of Geology Nikki Moore and Ruth Vesta-June Gale '25 set up portable chairs some 8,000 feet above sea level.

Grandview Campground—where the two are staying this August weekend—is a certified dark sky location, a haven for stargazers and astronomy groups. From here, once darkness consumes the light, the Milky Way and other collections of stars dot the sky.

As Moore, Pomona visiting assistant professor of geology, and Gale relax after a day of collecting rock samples from ancient dikes, meteors sparkle overhead before darting south and vanishing into the horizon.

While most appear and disappear within seconds, one stays visible long enough for Moore to audibly gasp.

The brightest and longest shooting star she’s ever seen.

“There’s a connection I have with nature where I can have these special moments that stick with me for a lifetime,” she says.

For Gale, a geology and applied math double major, the three-day trip to the Lone Pine area marked her second year doing fieldwork with Moore. She says the chance to visit the White Mountains—one of the lesser-explored ranges in the Sierra Nevada region—for the first time this summer was too good to pass up.

“You think of mountains and [that] they’re big, but it’s something else when you’re hiking on them,” Gale says. “We had some remote dikes we were trying to access, and they weren’t the worst hikes, but you’re off the trail so you don’t realize the magnitude of the mountains until you’re on them. It was satisfying to conquer them, to do science in this massive area.”

### Studying Dikes

Moore's expertise combines her three passions: geology, teaching and nature. From collecting rocks as a child growing up in Nebraska to visiting the Rocky Mountains with friends as a teenager, Moore became equal parts fascinated with how immense mountains are and determined to understand how they came to be.

While an undergrad at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Moore found herself a tutor for friends and peers. "I found that I had an innate sense of joy in sparking an interest for someone else and breaking down something complex to someone else and seeing their eyes light up with understanding and excitement," she says.

Thanks to a roughly \$200,000 National Science Foundation EMpowering Broader Academic Capacity and Education (EMBRACE) grant, Moore traveled to the eastern Sierra, the White Mountains and the Benton Range this summer to explore dike swarms—the plumbing of magmatic systems found on Earth and other planetary bodies.

Moore's field, geochemical and geochronological work on the dikes, blends teaching and research. It is a perfect fit for a grant program intended to give undergraduate faculty the time and means to step away from or reduce their teaching load to develop a robust research program.

Dike swarms "are the feeders for volcanic eruptions in a range of geologic settings," she says, "and thus are the connection between magmas that are generated deep in Earth's mantle and those that travel through the crust to be erupted at the surface."

Because swarms exist from the deep geologic past, Moore says, they "can provide important evidence to help reconstruct the magmatic history of these regions."

According to Moore, understanding the whole volcanic process—from how magmas first form in the "mantle," then move through the crust and erupt at the surface—is imperative to learning how and why volcanic eruptions happen in different parts of the world.

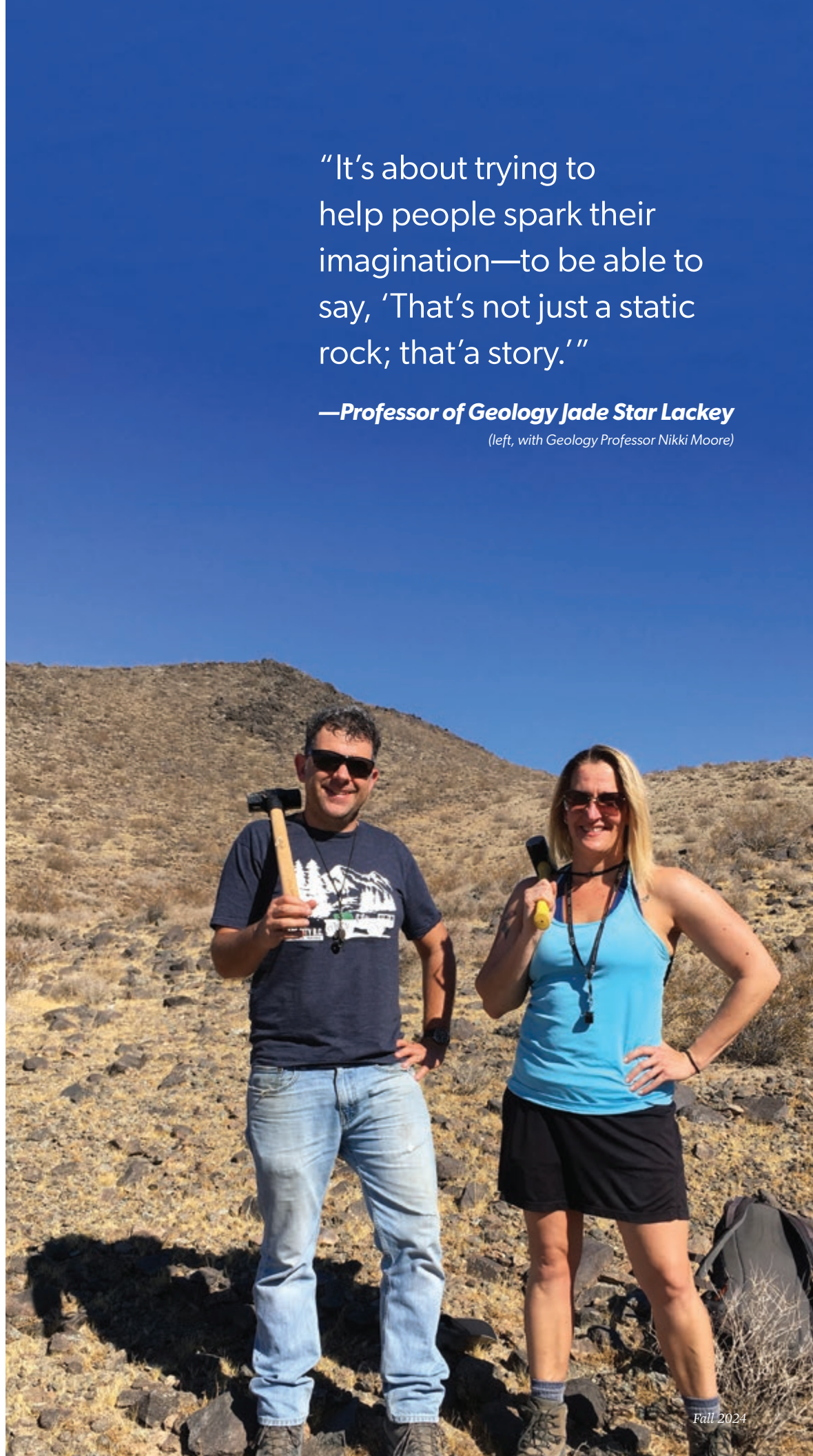
This summer, she planned three trips to the Sierra Nevada, each accompanied by different Claremont Colleges students. Together, professor and student hiked to dikes Moore targeted and mapped, collecting a compositional range of dike rock samples for lab analysis.

"What I really enjoyed about this experience is how much I could ask Nikki

"It's about trying to help people spark their imagination—to be able to say, 'That's not just a static rock; that's a story.'"

—Professor of Geology Jade Star Lackey

(left, with Geology Professor Nikki Moore)



about what's going on in the field," Gale says. "I could toss around ideas with her and make sure I understood what's going on and what the research is trying to prove."

Studying the chemical composition of the samples they collected this summer will help the team confirm whether the Independence Dike Swarm is 148 million years old, as experts believe, or if the dikes started to emerge even earlier, as preliminary data suggests.

"My study is unique in that the dikes were the conduits through which volcanic eruptions were produced at the surface, during the time the whole Sierra Nevada arc was forming," Moore says. "Those volcanoes that once existed are now eroded away, and the core of the Sierras are now the exposed granites."

### Sagehens in the Sierra

Pomona College geologists have long used the Sierra Nevada as a proving ground for many core concepts on how magmas form, crystallize and build the crust, says Jade Star Lackey, professor of geology and an authority on the region (see right-hand sidebar).

Magmas produce igneous rocks, which can cool and solidify in one of two places: within the crust or erupted at the surface. The magmas that stall, cool and entirely solidify in the crust are plutonic rocks, such as granite.

Spanning some 24,000 square feet, the Sierra has 50 million years' worth of different granites from all compositions, making it a mecca for geologists and geology students. A room on the first floor of Edmunds Hall is filled with salt-and-pepper granite collected from the Sierra Nevada over the years, each its own piece of Earth history.

"The rocks speak for themselves," Lackey says, "but then there's a Sagehen connection in terms of the scholarly research that's happened on them."

Art Sylvester '59, who taught geology for more than 35 years at the University of California, Santa Barbara, cut his teeth navigating the region's ridges, canyons and terrain as an undergraduate at Pomona. Sylvester, who died in 2023 at age 85, later co-authored *Roadside Geology of Southern California*, a popular addition to the *Roadside Geology* series of books published by Mountain Press.

Allen Glazner '76, professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, also traversed the Sierra as a student and later, a professional, writing a series of books that includes volumes on Death Valley and Yosemite.

Glazner and Sylvester collaborated on the 1993 tome *Geology Underfoot in Southern California*.

"All the work they've done started by realizing just how much science could be done in the Sierras because of the sheer scale of it," Lackey says. "It's also important as an analog for a lot of other great granite terrains that form the Ring of Fire in Japan, Russia and Canada."

## SIERRA NEVADA STATS

- 3 national parks
- 25% of California's land area
- 60% of California's annual precipitation

## Q&A WITH PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY JADE STAR LACKEY

Lackey first navigated the Sierra Nevada as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Decades and countless trips to the iconic mountain range later, Pomona's chair of geology remains fascinated by the vast expanse of granite.

### Q: What drew you to geology?

**A:** I'd always been around parents who liked to be outside. Because they lived in rural areas, they eschewed the urban existence. My father was a commercial fisherman so he lived on the coast, and we had enough areas of land where I could go explore. From an early stage I was watching the river and noticing the river change colors during the year. I always tell my students about my own introductory geology class, where a lot of it was intuitive because I'd had enough experiences. It was learning that there was so much more to learn; to teach my mind to see what's in the rocks. Suddenly I became a storyteller where I can look at the layers in a rock and see an interruption in the layers as being a profound event. Fast forward to where I am now, and it's about trying to help people spark their imagination—to be able to say, 'That's not just a static rock, that's a story.' Marcia Bjornerud, a professor at Lawrence University, says that rocks aren't nouns, they're verbs.

### Q: Describe the student-faculty dynamic within Pomona's Geology Department.

**A:** We have a lot of resources that other geology departments don't have, so we can get students doing high-level research immediately. The department's good at supporting the student who's curious. If they can get their schedule clear, then they're unlimited in what they can do. Some people are really good at spotting certain subtleties in an outcrop, whereas the big picture thinker might recognize how to hike around a field site looking for the contact between two granite bodies. You work with students in that regard to get a sense of how they think. It's never about who can swing a rock hammer the hardest. There's been a misconception of geology in the past where it was only bearded guys and solitude. We like to dispel that here. We're a cooperative. If it's making meals in camp or collecting and carrying samples back, all of that is part of the experience.

### Q: Having been to the Sierra Nevada so often, what keeps fieldwork there fresh?

**A:** There's this micro-Sierra that you're always studying when you're trying to understand the differences in the rocks, and then there's the macro—the vistas, the Ansel Adams Sierra Nevada that people talk about. That part never gets old. I'm always on the move as a geologist. I'm not coming back to the same lake every year to fish. I'm off the main trail, so there are many places we go where people haven't been in decades. We'll find archaeological things and markers that were put there by shepherds or people before them. Those are the things that keep it fresh for me—just always asking new questions around the next mountain or ridge.

interview conducted by Brian Whitehead



← Lynn Robinson, Nikki Moore and Ruth Vesta-June Gale '25 at the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in the White Mountains to see Methuselah, confirmed to be the oldest tree in the world (4,856 years and counting...)

**“Very often I get this feeling of...being one of the few human beings to ever trod across that particular region. It just makes the work more intimate.”**

**—Geology Professor Nikki Moore**

### Budding Geologists

At Pomona, Lackey and Moore are part of a Geology Department that draws students from across The Claremont Colleges fascinated by nature and the chance to study science outside the traditional biology and chemistry disciplines.

Little time is wasted getting these inquisitive minds into the field.

There is no substitute for hands-on experience, Lackey says, be it outside or in the lab. As thrilling as collecting dike and granite samples from the Sierra can be for one student, equal thrill can be found by another student in preparing a sample to examine under the microscope for years to come.

“There’s enough breadth of science in geology that it’s really appealing to students,” Lackey says. “It gives you the opportunity to practice all over the world if you want to. So often we go out there looking to answer science questions, but there’s so much we can do in the Sierra that brings the classroom alive.”

He says that students with the time to accompany faculty on multi-day trips are in high demand, and the breathtaking views of the Sierra are a good incentive. Between Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, the scenery is second to none.

“There’s a lot of power in the landscape,” Lackey adds. “The rock falls we see, or the damage that an avalanche has done to trees that are snapped off, and the really big snow years we had a couple years ago—that’s the kind of stuff that’s stunning, and is why this is such a good place for both teaching and research.”

Khadi Diallo '25 joined Moore for a July trek to Onion Valley. Their days began at 8 a.m. and ended by 3 p.m. due to the extreme heat occurring in the lower elevations of the Owens Valley region. In those seven hours, the two navigated as much of the mountain area as they could in search of rock samples.

“I was in constant awe of the mountains,” Diallo says. “There’s something particular about mountains, too, where you’re looking at them from a distance and feel both very big and very small. You come up to the mountains and realize the sheer magnitude of geology there.”

For Diallo, a geology major and California native, the six-day experience was as fulfilling as she expected. Joining Moore in the field helped Diallo connect the idea of geology mapping with how it’s used in the real world. Some geologists spend their

entire careers mapping the Sierra, paving the way for easy sampling.

“It’s a lot of work built on that of other geologists,” Lackey says. “And that’s what makes the Sierra so good. It’s really well mapped. The quadrangles across the Sierra. I used those, and it was the names on those maps that I would then connect back to Pomona people.”

Moore, who used these extensive, pre-existing maps to plan and execute her fieldwork, likes to say she “stands on the shoulders of giants who did so much incredible work before us.”

### One With Nature

Moore savors the remoteness of being in the field.

While extroverted by nature, she finds truly special leaving the beaten path for secluded spaces where mountain ranges dwarf everything in sight.

“Very often I get this feeling of standing on a spot and possibly being one of the few human beings to ever stand there or trod across that particular region,” Moore says. “That’s what gives me this deeper connection with the places I go. It just makes the work more intimate.”

Lackey, too, appreciates the novel terrain, smells and sights of the Sierra—though the bears have gotten boring, he must admit.

“When you hear a rockslide in the silence of the mountains it is simultaneously terrifying, but also profound,” he says. “We find human artifacts that are really old, way markers in places where nobody else travels.”

After relaxing and volunteering for much of the summer, Diallo says traveling with Moore to the Sierra Nevada “got my mind churning back to geology.”

Diallo even plans to incorporate her summer research into her senior thesis.

“As a geology student it’s good to get fieldwork into your repertoire,” she says. “It’s important to get a taste of it to see if it’s something you like—and I do!”

She’s not alone.

“I had a great time—mostly because of the unexploredness of it all,” Gale says. “The trip was a real-world application of all the tools I’ve studied so far in college.” [PCM](#)

## A QUICK GEOLOGY GLOSSARY

### Crust

the outermost layer of Earth, composed largely of silica and oxygen, making it light-/low-density compared to other more internal layers. It comprises the rocky surface upon which all life dwells.

### Mantle

the middle and most voluminous layer of Earth, composed largely of silica, iron, magnesium and oxygen, in which most of Earth’s magmas are generated.

### Magma

molten/liquid rock that cools to form igneous rocks, either within Earth as

plutonic rocks, or erupted at the surface of Earth from volcanoes. Magmas can also contain mineral crystals that have cooled and solidified, gases such as water and carbon dioxide, and xenoliths, which are pieces of pre-existing rock that are accidentally incorporated into the melt.

### Dike

a vertical intrusion of magma, that allows magma to move from deep in the mantle or crust to the surface. These pathways are created by pre-existing fractures in rocks. A dike swarm is a group of dikes that cover a wide area and often are similarly oriented or arranged in a particular geometry.

### Fused rock powder

a rock that has been broken into small pieces, then ground into a powder, and then melted at 1000 °C (~1800 °F) to produce a glass bead for chemical analysis.

### Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS)

an analytical technique used to determine the abundance of particular elements in rocks, especially those that are in very small abundance (called “trace elements”); this technique is also used to measure the ratios of isotopes, which can be essentially used as clocks that record the formation age of rocks or their constituent minerals.



Left, Khadi Diallo '25 near a dike sampling site at Onion Valley. Above, a rock that’s part of the massive Independence Dike Swarm, which extends more than 370 miles across California.

# In Awe of Nature

Nature photographer Grant Collier '96 has spent the last 30 years venturing all over the world to capture the beauty around him. We go behind the scenes with him to explore some of his most stunning shots.

By Adam Conner-Simons '08

*Where many tourists seek out spots via Instagram, Collier scans through the satellite images on Google Earth to find destinations farther afield—which is how he landed at Norway's Mardalsfossen Waterfall. For this particular shot he flew his drone past a cliff face to get a view of the fjord from a perspective that he could never have gotten from the ground.*





## Gullfoss Falls, Iceland

Shooting in a deep canyon by Iceland's Hvítá River, Collier had to contend with heavy waterfall mist and 100-mph wind gusts. Every time he snapped a picture he would turn the camera away from the wind, clean the mist off the lens, put the lens cap on, turn the camera back around, compose the image blind, take off the lens cap and immediately take a shot—all while holding down the tripod with his other hand in the Sisyphean hope of somehow keeping it stable.



## Vatnajökull Glacier, Iceland

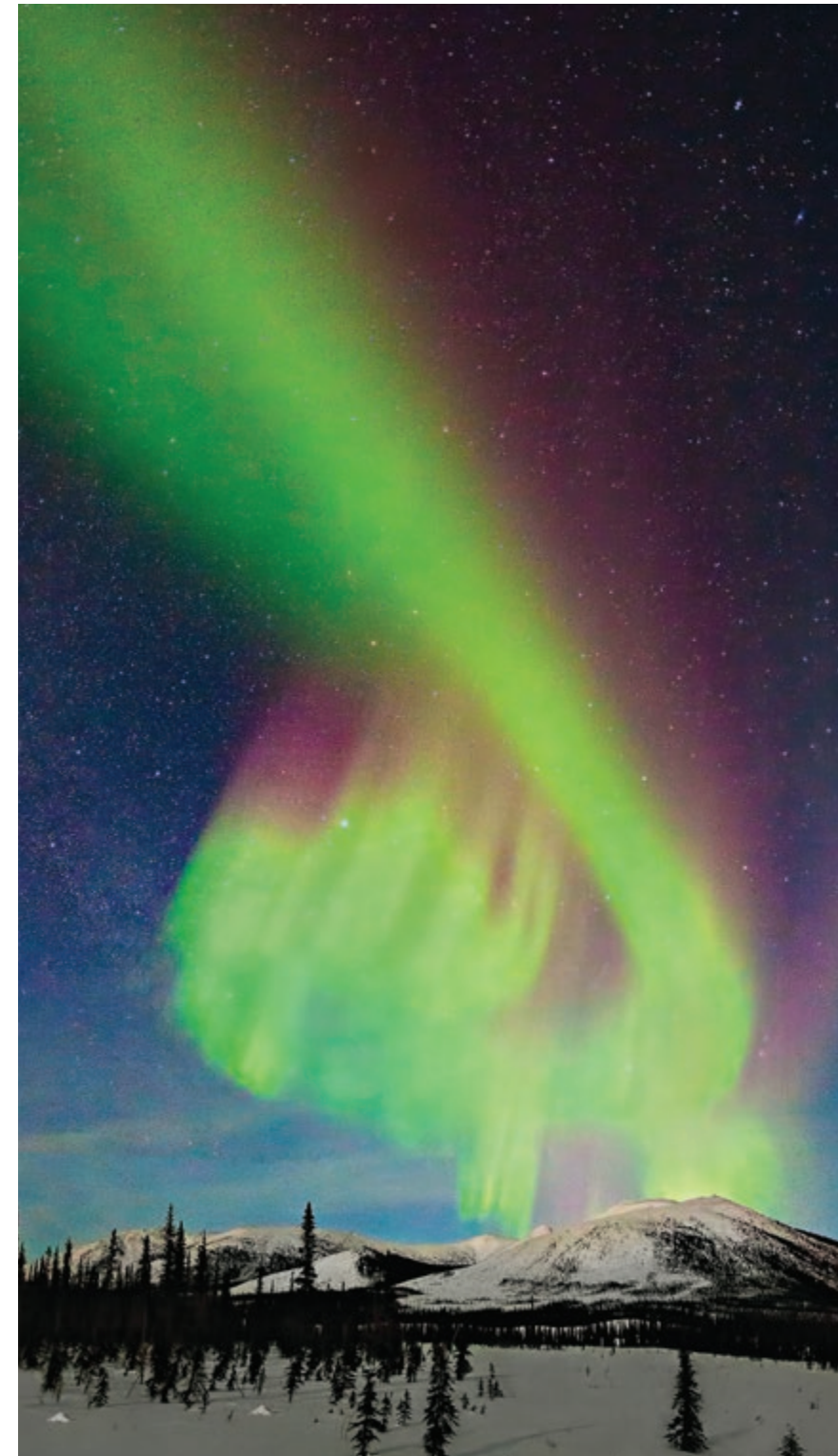
Despite having only spent a few weeks there, Collier puts Iceland at the very top of his list of locations with absolutely jaw-dropping scenery. “There is no place quite like it,” he says. “It’s like something out of a fairy tale.” To get to this ice cave, Collier took a bumpy ride to the base of Vatnajökull Glacier on an all-terrain vehicle with off-road tires that were six feet tall. His girlfriend posed to provide scale for what he described as a “truly otherworldly backdrop.”

## Beauty in Your Backyard

Although Collier takes most of his photos far away from big cities, he says that he's "always on the lookout for magical light that can make any scene come to life." So when he saw these clouds bursting with color outside his old home in the suburbs of Denver, he quickly set up his camera and tripod in the driveway. After shooting photos for more than three decades, he says he has learned to always be ready to capture moments of beauty. "Sometimes you can find the extraordinary in the ordinary."



Collier's first time shooting northern lights, in Fairbanks, Alaska, in 2012 (below), almost swore him off the aurora experience entirely. He waited in vain for five hours in -10°F weather without seeing anything, and was about to leave when he suddenly saw a flicker of green light in the sky. It gradually expanded, appearing like "a dancing apparition in the heavens." Since then he's visited multiple countries throughout the world photographing the phenomenon, including the Snowy Range in Wyoming (right).



## Four Fun Facts About the Northern Lights

● **They power communications.** In 1859 a 2-hour telegraph conversation between Boston, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine, was made possible without any battery power—there was enough electric current generated in the telegraph wires due to an aurora borealis happening.

● **They may actually make an audible sound.** While hard to notice in all but the quietest of settings, Finnish researchers found that the faint sound of "whistles, cracks and hisses" tended to coincide with a temperature inversion—cold air trapped under a lid of warm air. They attribute the sounds to the release of static charge, linked to changes in atmospheric electricity caused by the aurora's disturbance to Earth's magnetic field.

● **They once nearly caused an international conflict.** In 1995 a Norwegian research rocket sent to observe the aurora borealis passed through Russian air space, provoking the Russian military to briefly elevate their forces to high alert.

● Yes, **there are "southern lights,"** also known as "aurora australis." The areas where they can be seen are generally less populous than the northern variety, but include parts of Tasmania, New Zealand and rural Australia.

## Getting More Pacific

When lava began flowing from the Big Island of Hawaii into the Pacific Ocean (right) in 2016, Collier quickly booked a plane ticket there. The park service had closed the road near the lava, so visitors had to walk four miles to see it. But Collier got crafty, renting an e-bike that got him there in 15 minutes, where he had “a rain-drenched evening marveling at the incredible scene.”

Tapuaetai (below) is one of 22 islands in the Aitutaki Lagoon of the Cook Islands, in Polynesia. It has no full-time residents and just a single house with no electricity or running water and, according to Collier, “far too many mosquitoes.” He rented this house for one night, fulfilling his dream of living—ever so briefly—on a desert island. “When the stars came out at night it was a sight to behold,” he says. “I had to remind myself that I was there to take photographs, and not just sit in reverie.”



## Beyond the Landscape

Sometimes camera effects can be your friend. While driving along the rugged west coast of the South Island of New Zealand, Collier spotted some impressive sea stacks (right) in the water. The lighting wasn't ideal with such an overcast sky, so he used a light-blocking “neutral-density filter” that allowed him to capture long 30-second exposures that blurred the waves and gave the scene a distinctly dreamy effect.



Collier was perusing Google Earth one day when he discovered a curiosity in nearby Utah: the Mars Desert Research Station (above), where scientists spend weeks-long shifts simulating Martian environments, down to the detail of wearing spacesuits and air supply packs. Collier captured the 30-acre space by flying a drone in a grid-like pattern, stitching together more than 200 photos to create the final image. “The beautiful, lifeless landscape really did resemble Mars in such an uncanny and surreal way,” he says.

[PCM](#)

### Grant Collier by the numbers

**31** years doing photography

**21** books published

**19** countries visited

**70** terabytes of digital storage

**17** cameras owned

**220,000** photos taken



Fellow alums who love snapping pics—send us your best nature photos, for potential inclusion on our website and a future issue where we will highlight some of our favorites. —[pcm@pomona.edu](mailto:pcm@pomona.edu)

In two pieces adapted from his book “Natural Consequences,”

# PROFESSOR CHAR MILLER

explores our campus’ connection to the world around it.

*Below, today’s view of the San Gabriel Mountains is a bit hazier than it was in 1901.*

## INDIGENOUS GROUNDS

**2016:** If you’re tall enough, and I’m not, you could peer out of the large, north-facing, four-pane window in the Digital Humanities Studio on the third floor of Honnold/Mudd Library and gaze on a striking tableau. In the deep background are the chaparral-cloaked, rough folds of the San Gabriel foothills that rise to Mount Baldy, the range’s visual apex.

Pull your eyes down to the foreground and a different view comes into focus. You’re looking at the Harvey S. Mudd Quadrangle, although few passersby see its fading metal name. They are on their way to somewhere else. Above that, what catches your vision are the towering stone pines and eucalyptuses, then a green sweep of lawn, establishing the x-and-y axis filled with other geometric shapes. Sidewalks radiate out at right angles from the library connecting pedestrians to Dartmouth Avenue on the west. Stately



Garrison Theater is to the immediate north, and to the east, McAllister Center, and Scripps and Claremont McKenna colleges. Nothing is out of place. All grows according to plan. This built environment tightly structures the spatial dimensions of how we experience it.

**1901:** Fast backward 115 years, a difficult act of imagination that historic photographs can stimulate. Consider a black-and-white photograph shot at the corner of what is now College Avenue and 7th Street, roughly a block south of Honnold. The mountains are vastly more prominent in this more unstructured terrain. The dirt road barely intrudes as your eye is caught first by the snow-capped high country.

The Tongva call this rough ground *Torojoatngna*, the Place Below Snowy Mountain. It was carpeted with an apparently untrammelled coastal sage ecosystem. In the flatlands, there was buckwheat, sages, ephemeral wildflowers and grasses. The washes and creeks sustained oaks and sycamores. Rock-littered, with not a lot of shade, the landscape was open, capacious. There were even herds of pronghorn antelope. The Tongva and other Indigenous Peoples of Southern California used fire and other tools to manage resources that they wished to extract, including material they invested in their rituals and ceremonies, and that provided food and shelter. Notes biologist Paula M. Schiffman, “By manipulating the mix and abundance of the native plant and animal species present in the ecosystem, the Tongva were able to exert control over the vertical structure of the region’s vegetation and over a diversity of natural processes.”

This Indigenous landscape was more rapidly and enduringly modified when Spanish and later Mexican settler-colonists ran vast herds of cattle, sheep and goat in California’s inland valleys. In 1817, Rancho San Rafael in the present-day San Gabriel Valley—a mere 20 miles to Claremont’s west—had nearly 2,000 cattle and hundreds of horses. Multiply those numbers across the region and it is little wonder these herbivores, in Schiffman’s words, quickly became the “dominant organisms” that allowed them to “govern the region’s ecological processes.” Converting coastal sage into grassland, as happened in what is now Pomona Valley, was a reflection of their dominance.

Both the Indigenous and Spanish/Mexican settler-colonist managed landscapes in turn were buried beginning with the post-Civil War Americanization of the region. The late 19th-century arrival of the railroad, and the land speculation and town-building schemes that followed, produced hardened roadbeds, gridded streetscapes, and a series of Victorian buildings that constituted Pomona’s early campus. Since then, The Claremont Colleges have constructed an environment that signals its distance from that earlier time and place. A plaque bolted in Pomona’s Smith Campus Center cheers the ecological conversion that began in the late 1880s: “the clearing away of underbrush, and the planting of roses and other flowers about the building, with an oval lawn in front ... forced back the jackrabbits and rattlesnakes.”

*Pomona College Magazine*



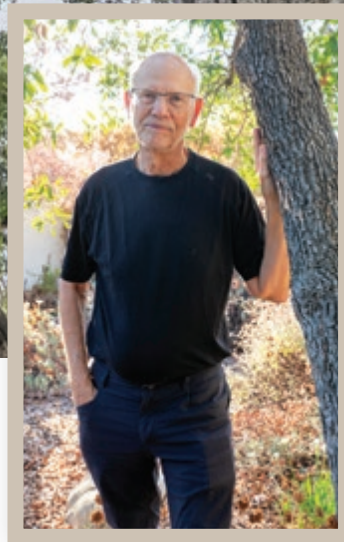
*Native buckwheat can be found all across campus.*



*Miller in his backyard in Claremont, where he’s reintroduced Indigenous flora such as coastal sage biota, deergrass and an Engelmann oak.*

“On my morning walks I’ll swing through campus to pay my respects to some of the more than 30 trees that add to the biodiverse canopy.”

Above, the towering oaks that adorn “the Wash,” thirty acres of native landscape on campus.



**2021:** What would it take to reimagine the traces of that earlier biome? How might we peel back what the bulldozer flattened, shovel dug in, and the rake groomed? How might we re-see what we have rendered invisible? To make the past, present?

Start with a trowel. It was the initial symbol of the student-led Ralph Cornell Society devoted to re-engaging with native plants. In the early 2010s, the organization collaborated with the college Grounds Department to plant sage, deer grass, baccharis, and buckwheat in place of grass, a re-indigenizing that dovetailed with campus water-reduction commitments. The department also reintroduced the endemic Engelmann oak, which had been logged out of the region a century earlier. Often on my morning walks I’ll swing through campus to pay my respects to some of the more than

30 trees that add to the biodiverse canopy, flourishing in their native soil.

These are small steps, to be sure, but they matter. Ethnobotanist and Tongva elder, the late Barbara Drake, made that case explicitly through her establishment of the Tongva Living History Garden, which has been an inspiration to many students and faculty.

This was among the influences that led my wife and me to transform our quarter-acre suburban lot one mile west of campus. When we purchased the home in 2009, we ripped up the St. Augustine lawn, and with the help of landscapers began to reintroduce coastal sage biota. Initially we planted bunches of deer grass as an evocative play on the now-departed sod; in the back, an Engelmann oak. While lizards loved the cover the grass provided, few other species did. So, as a second draft, we thinned out the long-stemmed grass, and planted different varieties

of ceanothus, bitterbush, and buckwheat, and a Channel Island poppy and cherry.

Clematis and morning glory are inching up the wooden fence that frames the backyard, and even a prickly pear refugee has taken root. Someone had tossed a pad over the weathered fence, and I troweled it into place. It has now stretched up and out, catching the sun’s rays.

On a recent afternoon, as I picked my way through the aromatic spring growth, jackrabbits and lizards scattered. An Anna’s hummingbird, like a sewing machine, darted around a blue-flowered Cleveland sage, and resting on a leaf while a pair of monarchs twirled into the air above, a mourning cloak. Chattering bushtits picked their way through oak and paperbark.

Home. [PCM](#)

This second piece by Professor Miller spotlights Pomona’s two LEED Platinum dorms, first unveiled in 2011. The College has continued to make key strides in sustainability, with goals by 2030 to reach carbon neutrality and reduce its energy emissions 50 percent. Since 2014 Pomona has reduced its water use 45 percent, diverted waste at a rate of 52 percent.

# CODE GREEN

**W**hat do buildings mean? How do their volume, mass, and detail convey their subject and significance? How do their materials signal what we should see and think about their form and function? Should these structures stand for something?

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) believes so. Since its founding in 1993, the nonprofit has been a relentless promoter of the idea that a building’s design should be as sustainable as possible, and that sustainability is a key index of its value and meaning. In 2000 USGBC created the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, an incentive-based metric that has become a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for architects and developers.

LEED serves as a way to keep score—the more points a structure earns toward certification, the more lustrous the medal bestowed. While there’s nothing wrong with securing Silver or Gold, Platinum is the ultimate benchmark, a shining example of how the construction industry might help make the world a more habitable place.

Or not. LEED’s many critics are wary of the system’s low bar for certification, arguing that it asks too little of its applicants, offering instead a grade-inflated set of outcomes that undercuts their value. Critics are also skeptical about LEED’s failure to require postconstruction assessment of how certified buildings function: are they as good as advertised? As efficient? As low impact? An even greater lack in the rating is an analysis of how people interact with these certified buildings in real-time. All that glitters is not gold. Or platinum.

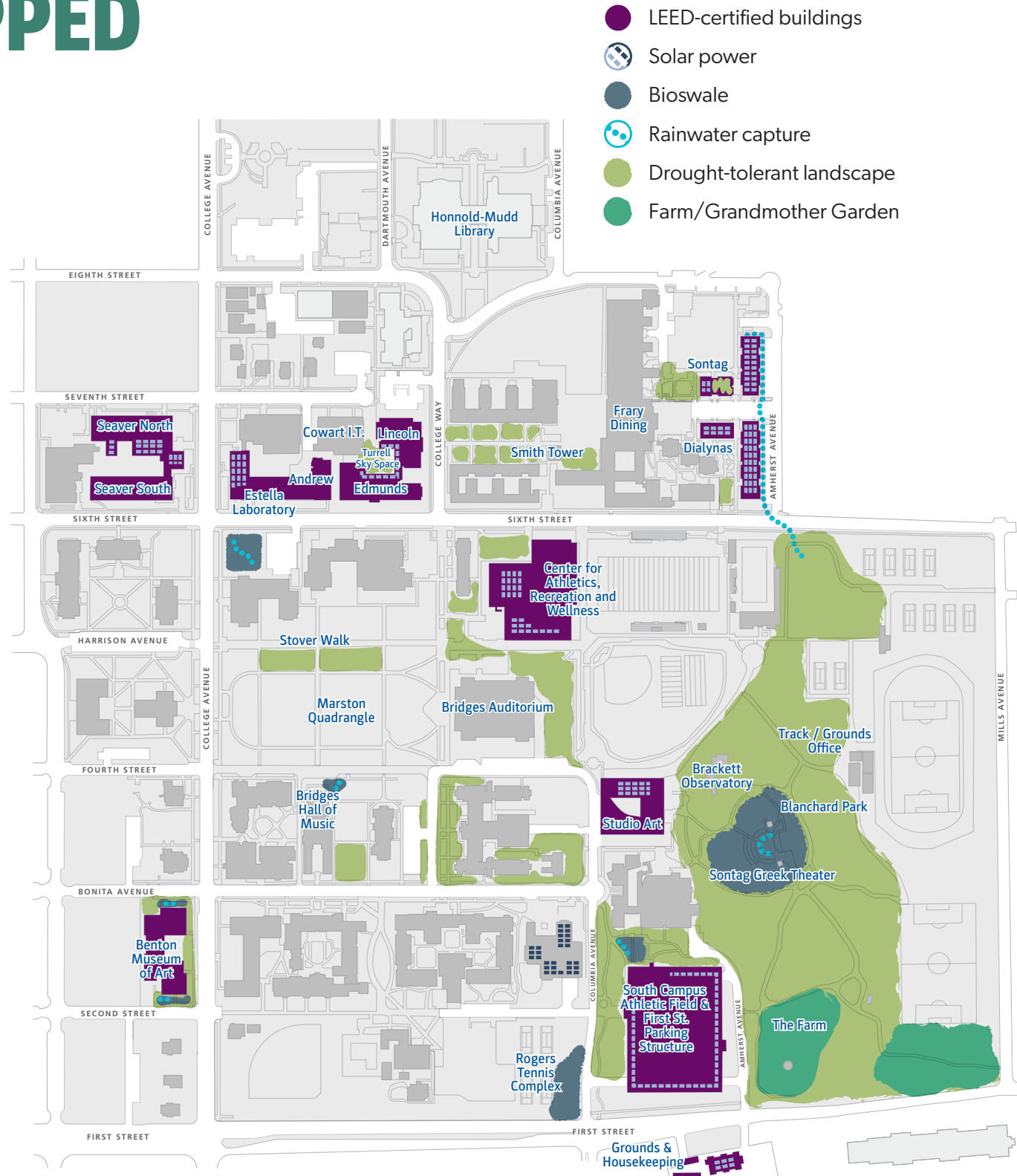
Yet the debate is healthy, especially if it compels producers and consumers to ask sharper questions about the built landscape we inhabit, about why it looks, feels and operates as it does. I contributed a small bit to this larger discussion when I spoke at the dedication of Pomona’s two new dormitories in 2011, shortly after they achieved the highest level of LEED certification. They earned it, too; they’re not fool’s gold.

The college takes a lot of pride in these buildings and has posted online an extensive list of their more remarkable attributes. I want to point out one that speaks to my inner wonk—stormwater control. Hardly as sexy as the array of solar panels, lacking the cachet of the green roof and garden, and not nearly as cool as the energy efficiencies that are built into the halls’ every design element, the stormwater system is arguably more revolutionary.

To understand why, imagine a single raindrop hurtling down during one of Southern California’s furious late-winter storms. The moment it hits the ground, according to those who have engineered the Los Angeles basin since the late 19th-century, it should be captured as quickly as possible behind a dam or in a ditch or culvert, then swiftly channeled into the concrete-lined Santa Ana, San Gabriel or Los Angeles rivers before being flushed ignominiously into the sea.

“How might we peel back what the bulldozer flattened, shovel dug in, and the rake groomed?”

# Campus Sustainability MAPPED



- LEED-certified buildings
- Solar power
- Bioswale
- Rainwater capture
- Drought-tolerant landscape
- Farm/Grandmother Garden

## SOME KEY NUMBERS THE SONTAG & DIALYNAS HALLS

**36% LESS WATER**

use due to native, drought-tolerant landscaping and low-flow water fixtures

**50% LESS ENERGY**

use thanks to high-efficiency energy systems and solar panels

**14%**

of the buildings' energy comes from rooftop solar PV panels

**2,000 GALLONS**

of water heated by a solar-powered system for showers and handwashing

**100%**

of on-site rainfall captured to recharge the underground aquifer, at a rate of 7+ feet per hour



The construction of Pomona's LEED Platinum dorms kicked off a decade of sustainability-minded initiatives.

This complex system, designed to prevent flooding, has wreaked havoc with riparian ecosystems, destroying the once-robust regional runs of steelhead trout. It also has severely limited the capacity of nature to replenish local groundwater supplies—and we have compensated for this loss by expropriating snowmelt from as far away as the northern Rockies.

Pomona's new dorms embody a smarter, locally framed approach. Any precipitation that falls within, or flows through, their catchment area will be retained onsite, and filtered down to a large underground detention basin in the alluvial wash that runs along the campus' eastern edge. There it will slowly percolate into the aquifer, recharging the Pomona Valley's groundwater. In so doing, these dorms benefit and benefit their environment.

Yet will they be as integrative as human habitats? How will generations of students occupy them and make them their own? How will they respond to these buildings that teach sustainability every time they flick a light switch, open a window, or flush a toilet, but that also require their active participation to ensure its realization?

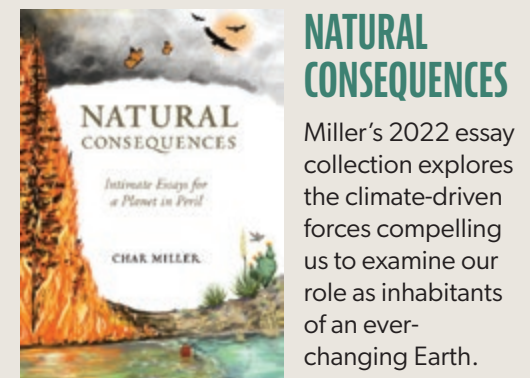
Pomona has asserted that sustainability is integral to its modern mission. One mark of its commitment has been the establishment of a Sustainability Integration Office—the middle word is of prime importance—that inculcates sustainable concepts into new construction and the rehabilitation of older facilities and infuses them into the college's curricular goals and extracurricular activities.

The community must measure the steps it has taken to fulfill its convictions. That

includes using intellectual tools and analytical methodologies to evaluate the very buildings in which so many abide and work. However limited, this rigorous self-examination is not just an academic exercise. Whatever the results, the evaluations will help us calibrate the human capacity to sustain ourselves on this planet of swelling population and finite resources.

Such calibrations may be especially impactful at the local level. How apt, then, that my students' probing analyses of sustainability as fact and fancy—like the munificence of the donor families that made these two dormitories possible—is fully consistent with Pomona's century-old charge to graduates: "They only are loyal to this college who, departing, bear their added riches in trust for mankind."

With these dorms and other campus sustainability efforts the College has reframed that sense of individual social obligation, acknowledging that as an institution it too has a responsibility to redeem its pledge. [PCM](#)



## NATURAL CONSEQUENCES

Miller's 2022 essay collection explores the climate-driven forces compelling us to examine our role as inhabitants of an ever-changing Earth.

### Pomona College Fundraising Hits Historic Highs

Pomona College alumni, families and friends gave a record \$57.1 million in gifts and pledges this past fiscal year to help provide students with a transformative liberal arts education. In addition to breaking records in total fundraising and alumni giving participation, volunteer engagement also soared, making us a standout among peer institutions. Thank you for helping us make history, Sagehens!

Here's a further look at our notable numbers as of June 30, 2024 (unaudited):

**\$57.1M**  
in total fundraising

**\$5.3M**

For Pomona Annual Fund

**19.6%**  
of alumni made gifts

**612**

Family Weekend attendees



**1,515**  
Alumni Weekend attendees

### Read Our Stories of Sagehen Impact!



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Alumni Weekend & Reunion Celebrations 2025

Join us **May 2-4** to celebrate our classes ending in 5 or 0, the Class of 1978 and our Diamond Reunion Class of 1964 and beyond!



Visit our website to learn more.

### Sagehens, We Need Your Nominations!



### Help Students Explore Life Beyond College

Nominate yourself or a fellow alum for Return to Pomona, a new program that gives exceptional alumni the chance to share their experience, knowledge and talents with students and faculty. Whether serving as a guest lecturer, teaching a course or forging relationships with students and faculty, we're seeking to cultivate stronger bonds with alumni who can enrich the student experience through unique and challenging opportunities. Visit our site to submit a nomination and read about our first Return to Pomona alum Mikey Dickerson '01, the first administrator of the U.S. Digital Service.



### 2025 Pomona College Alumni Awards

Nominations are now open for the Alumni Awards! The Pomona College Alumni Association honors remarkable alumni who represent the core values, spirit and excellence of the College with the following recognitions:

- Blaisdell Distinguished Alumni Award
- Alumni Distinguished Service Award
- Inspirational Young Alumni Award



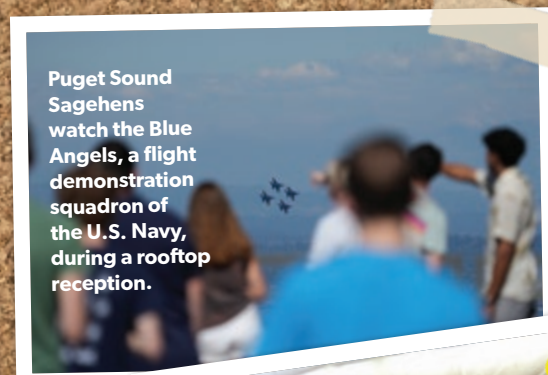
Visit our website to submit a nomination and learn about past award recipients. The nomination deadline is **December 6**. Honorees are selected by a committee of Alumni Association Board past presidents and/or current board members.

### Pomona Alumni Out and About

From coast to coast, Pomona's Regional Alumni Chapters continue to build Sagehen connections. This summer and fall, activities included a music performance, a baseball game, a visit to an art center, the Blue Angels, a Sagehen's book launch and a hangout with coffee and donuts. Visit our website to connect with a chapter in your area!



Puget Sound Sagehens watch the Blue Angels, a flight demonstration squadron of the U.S. Navy, during a rooftop reception.



Bay Area Sagehens cheer on the San Francisco Giants.



N.Y.C. Sagehens visit the Storm King Art Center.



L.A. and O.C. Sagehens join Professor Sam Yamashita at a book launch for Soma Mei Sheng Frazier '95, author of *Off the Books*.



### Fall Greetings! A Message from the Alumni Association Board President



Dear Sagehens,

I hope your fall is going well. The Alumni Association Board is off to a busy start and enjoyed our October retreat on campus. The chance to meet and discuss

board initiatives in person is always helpful and productive, and we particularly enjoyed our time with students. One area of focus for us this year is the value of a liberal arts education—a critical issue to support at this moment.

As we get going, we are deeply focused on ways to build alumni connections through our three main committees. The Engagement Committee will focus on events, like career panels and Alumni Weekend. Our Regional Chapters Committee will help support the fantastic work of our alumni chapters. And the Development Committee will focus on community connection and fundraising. We are also excited about opportunities to welcome our seniors into the alumni community.

I am thrilled to lead and support these dedicated Sagehen volunteers—and to help our alumni community connect with Pomona and each other. I encourage you to find ways to meet up with Sagehens, as well—a regional chapter event or an impromptu dinner with a classmate who's in town. And please join us for Alumni Weekend 2025. The board will be there, and we'd love to see you!

Chirp!  
Andrea

Andrea Venezia '91  
President, Alumni Association Board  
[pomona.edu/alumni-board](http://pomona.edu/alumni-board)

Read about the Alumni Association Board and get to know Board President Andrea Venezia in her recent interview.



## A Legacy Carried Forward: Diane deFord '65

Diane deFord was only 4 months old when her father Benton F. Eichorn, a World War II pilot, was shot down over Vernio, Italy in June 1944; six of seven aboard their B-25 bomber perished, including Eichorn.

In the winter of 2013, the pilot's "dog tag" (military ID) was found in the woods, setting deFord's daughter Holly Mead on a quest over a period of months to learn more about her grandfather and his crew members—and ultimately connect with surviving family of the crew—by scouring the web and digging into declassified war reports and historical archives.

Mead first got the tip about her grandfather from a museum curator in Tuscany, Italy, who had been researching the crash but had only ever found assorted parts from the plane. The curator contacted Mead informing her that a hunter had come to the museum with a dog tag he found bearing the name of Eichorn—a tag, it was later learned, that had survived not just the plane crashing to the ground, but also four bombs that exploded upon impact. The tag's discovery ultimately led to the Italian research team's publication of a book about the B-25 bomber and its crew and mission. This led to a museum exhibition and permanent monument that was erected in 2014, with Mead and deFord flying into Tuscany as special guests.

deFord herself lived a rich and full life up and through her 80th birthday this January, before passing away peacefully in March after a brief illness. A passionate educator, she worked as an elementary school teacher in multiple locations across five decades, from her Pomona graduation in 1965 to her retirement in 2015. She mostly taught second grade, and lived much of her life in Northern California, including Dillon Beach, Sonoma, Vacaville and Rohnert Park. Born in Pomona, deFord also taught in Claremont, Brea and Mission Viejo.

An avid traveler and nature-seeker, in her 20s she traversed Mexico in a Volkswagen bus, and hiked the whole south rim of the Grand Canyon in a day. Through her 60s and 70s she also would often head out alone on weeklong road trips to her favorite places, tent camping solo.

Mead described deFord as a "caring mother, loving grandmother, teacher and adventurer ... someone who was dependable, kind, independent and always young at heart."

She is survived by her daughter, her son Ryan deFord, three grandchildren and brother Steve Schoenig and sister Linda Howell.



deFord and her father Benton F. Eichorn

## A Sagehen in the Storm: Lew Phelps '65

Inspired by his days as editor of *The Student Life* at Pomona, Lew Phelps '65 went on to a long career in journalism and public relations, first as a staff reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* and later as a strategic public relations consultant for several organizations, including the Los Angeles-based crisis consulting firm Sitrick and Company.

Since retiring he and his wife Cathy have traveled extensively, occasionally with unintended consequences. On their second ocean cruise, their ship (the MV *Viking Sky*) suffered a catastrophic loss of all engine power during a violent storm off the coast of Norway. The ship began rolling very heavily, and Lew was thrown across his cabin space and headfirst into a wall, suffering a compound fracture of the first two vertebrae in his neck. After three weeks at an intensive care unit in Bergen, Norway, Lew was flown home to

the Los Angeles area, where his neck was fused by a renowned spinal surgeon at USC Medical Center.

Lew has since made a full recovery and resumed his travels with Cathy, with three additional cruises on *Viking*, including to Antarctica in January and February of 2024. In mid-June they set out on a seven-week, 10,000-mile automotive journey across the U.S., from their home in Pasadena to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, and then to Custer State Park and Badlands National Park in South Dakota and nearby Mount Rushmore. The trip continued with a family reunion in Chicago, and then toward Squam Lake in New Hampshire, where Lew and his twin brother Chuck (also '65) and Dale ('66) have enjoyed annual family reunions for several decades.

En route, Lew and Cathy stayed overnight with Cheryl ('65) and Ward Heneveld ('64),

who live on a farm property in northern Vermont. (Lew says that Cheryl and Ward hope to see other Sagehen visitors at their home—"they are great hosts and excellent cooks.")

At Squam Lake, Lew and Chuck were joined by Grant Phelps Thompson ('63) and Sharon Reimers Thompson ('63). Grant is a second cousin of Lew and Chuck, and they have remained in close contact for most of the time since their graduations.

Up next? Undecided, although Scotland is on the agenda, as well as Alaska, the only U.S. state in which Lew has still never set foot.

For the last few years Lew has served on the Alumni Association Board. He also hosts a monthly virtual class reunion on Zoom. Anyone from the Class of '65 who wishes to join can obtain the monthly zoom link by joining the Thor class listserv on the Pomona alumni page, or emailing Lew ([lewphelps@iCloud.com](mailto:lewphelps@iCloud.com)).

To view notes online, visit [sagehenconnect.pomona.edu](https://sagehenconnect.pomona.edu)

### Share Your News!

**Email:** [pcmnotes@pomona.edu](mailto:pcmnotes@pomona.edu)  
**Mail:** Class Notes Editor  
 Pomona College Magazine  
 550 N. College Ave.  
 Claremont, CA 91711

Class Notes are also available online at [sagehenconnect.pomona.edu](https://sagehenconnect.pomona.edu)



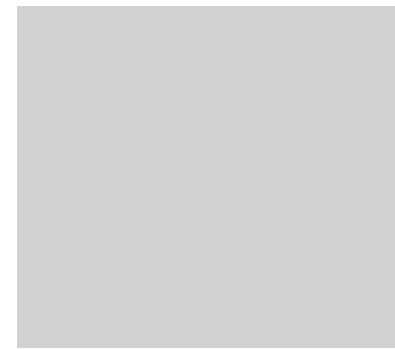
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p. 56 Crossword  
Puzzle Solution



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## Support Today's Sagehens: Your Gift, Their Success

At Pomona College, our students are inspired by curiosity, compassion and a shared commitment to making a positive impact in the world. From now until December 31, you have the opportunity to directly support their journey. When 1,470 alumni, family members and friends make a gift of any amount, the Pomona College Board of Trustees will unlock a generous \$500,000 gift to benefit our students.

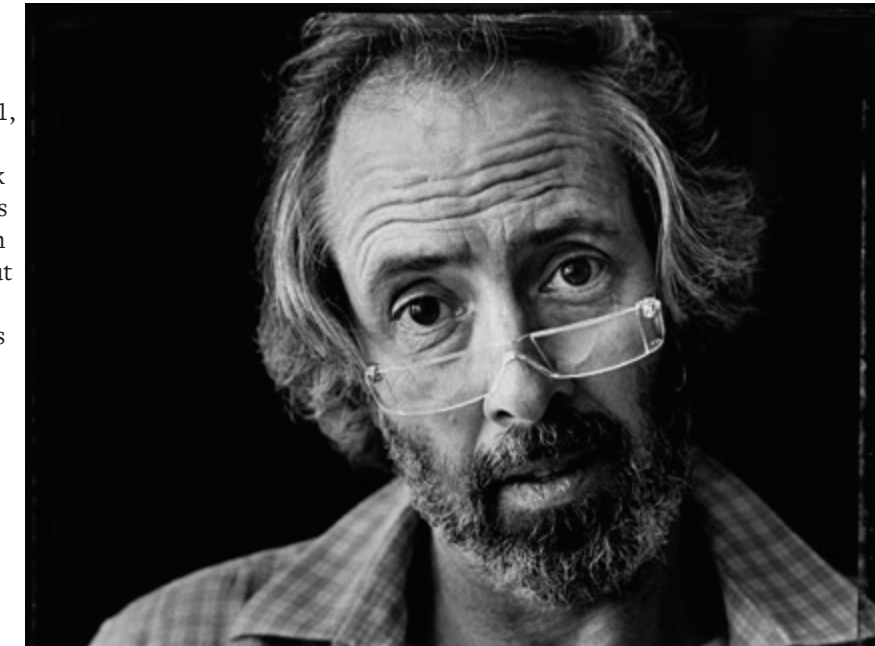
Together, we can amplify your generosity and ensure every Sagehen has the resources to thrive.



Give to the Pomona Annual Fund at [pomona.edu/give](https://pomona.edu/give)

## Robert Towne '56

Academy Award Winner  
1934-2024



Screenwriter Robert Towne '56, who won an Academy Award for best original screenplay for the classic film *Chinatown*, died July 1, 2024. He was 89.

The 1974 movie starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway was nominated for 11 Oscars but won only one, for Towne's script about corruption and murder set in 1930s Los Angeles amid the city's longstanding water wars.

Towne earned three other Academy Award nominations during his career, for *The Last Detail* (1973), again starring Nicholson; *Shampoo* (1975), starring Warren Beatty; and *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes* (1984), though he disliked the Tarzan movie so much he asked to be listed in the credits by the name of his dog. The official listing of nominees still bears the pup's name: P.H. Vazak.

Fifty years after it was made, *Chinatown* remains a standard on lists of greatest films and screenplays and often is studied in film schools. The script was influenced by black-and-white photographs meant to depict novelist Raymond Chandler's 1930s L.A. and also by the chapter on water in *Southern California Country: An Island on the Land* by Carey McWilliams—coincidentally the grandfather of current Pomona College Professor of Politics Susan McWilliams Barndt.

Though Towne also went on to direct four movies, *Personal Best* (1982), *Tequila*

*Sunrise* (1988), *Without Limits* (1998) and *Ask the Dust* (2006), he was better known in Hollywood for his work as "a script doctor," with uncredited work on *The Godfather*, among many other films. Mario Puzo, who shared the Oscar for adapted screenplay for *The Godfather* with Francis Ford Coppola, thanked Towne in his acceptance speech for writing the garden scene between Marlon Brando and Al Pacino. Notably, Towne also is said to have received uncredited assistance on *Chinatown* from a Pomona College roommate, Edward M. Taylor '56. Taylor, Pomona's seventh Rhodes Scholar, died in 2013.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in nearby San Pedro and the Palos Verdes area, Towne

was an English major at Pomona who also studied philosophy under Professor Fred Sontag. Sontag, whom he recalled in a 2010 Pomona Commencement speech as an important mentor, accepted a late paper that allowed him to graduate on time, Towne said.

His Pomona education, Towne said in accepting an honorary doctor of letters degree, "was the best possible training I could have had for my future profession," though there were no screenwriting classes in the 1950s at Pomona, and possibly not anywhere else. "I don't think it occurred to anyone it was something to teach," he said.

"Pomona never taught me the so-called nuts and bolts of my profession, of how to write a screenplay—it gave me a way to view the world so I could write a screenplay," Towne said.

He concluded his speech with advice that still may resonate with young graduates as they begin their careers.

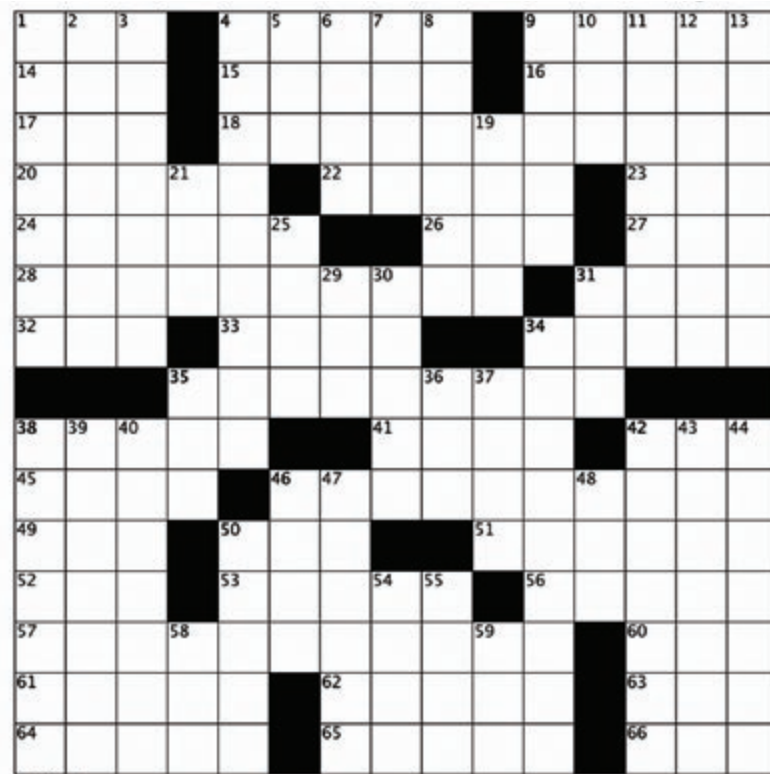
"Don't let an uncertain future blind you to the importance of your past. Trust your past," he said. "Trust your education, even if what you want to do hasn't been taught yet, or even invented."

Survivors include his wife Luisa, daughters Kathleen and Chiara, and brother Roger, who co-wrote the adapted screenplay for the 1984 film *The Natural*. [PCM](#)

# “Don’t Touch That Dial” by Joel Fagliano ‘14

**ACROSS**

- 1. Grumpy \_\_\_\_, beloved pet of the Internet
- 4. Gold purity unit
- 9. Romantic connection
- 14. Volcanic fallout
- 15. Virus in 2014 news
- 16. Studio with the 2020 film "Soul"
- 17. 4G \_\_ (smartphone initials)
- 18. "Fight the Power" hip-hop group
- 20. Label on diet foods
- 22. Hollywood award
- 23. Trendy
- 24. Marcel Duchamp's famous work "Fountain" is one
- 26. "Let me think ..."
- 27. "The Lord of the Rings" tree creature
- 28. Setting for the climactic scene of "The Goonies"
- 31. Green Hornet's sidekick
- 32. Cooke who sang "A Change is Gonna Come"
- 33. Cutting remark
- 34. Offer to buy at auction
- 35. "OK Computer" band ... or a hint to the first words of 18-, 28-, 46- and 57-Across?
- 38. Spread out
- 41. Richly decorate
- 42. Rank above corporal: Abbr.
- 45. Butcher's stock
- 46. Big Ben, for one
- 49. "\_\_\_ about time!"
- 50. Aquatic expanse
- 51. 100-member group
- 52. Explosive material
- 53. Expensive wedding rentals
- 56. Newspapers, television, etc.
- 57. "Anyone can say things – what have you done?"
- 60. Party org. chaired by Jaime Harrison
- 61. Something you might ignore while on vacation
- 62. Bird in the logos of American Airlines and Anheuser-Busch



© 2021

- 63. [Funny one!]
  - 64. Land with half of Mount Everest
  - 65. Step between floors
  - 66. Opposite of WSW
- DOWN**
- 1. Baseball players promoted from the minors to the majors
  - 2. Queens neighborhood
  - 3. 1993 legal thriller starring Tom Cruise
  - 4. Held off
  - 5. \_\_\_ Dhabi
  - 6. Prefix for call or Cop
  - 7. "\_\_\_ fair in love and war"
  - 8. Meditative martial art
  - 9. \_\_\_ whale
  - 10. Bowler's target
  - 11. Sharp end of a lumberjack's tool
  - 12. Collide with
  - 13. Superman's birthplace
  - 19. Spend a week in the woods
  - 21. Santa \_\_\_\_, California
  - 25. Pb, to chemists
  - 29. \_\_\_ Lanka
  - 30. Streaming service that was replaced by "Max"
  - 31. Joke (around)
  - 34. Tendency to anger easily
  - 35. Subway scurrer
  - 36. Juice brand with a hyphen in its name
  - 37. Fraternal order with an animal emblem
  - 38. In love
  - 39. Sweetie or honey
  - 40. Close of a swimming race
  - 42. Envelop in a blanket
  - 43. Become a part of
  - 44. Molasses
  - 46. Copyright symbols
  - 47. Jousting equipment
  - 48. Pi's first digit after the decimal
  - 50. Shot from a movie
  - 54. "I don't wanna be \_\_\_ guy, but ..."
  - 55. Sonic the Hedgehog company
  - 58. Korean automaker
  - 59. Comedian Wong



## Crossword Challenge

This crossword puzzle was designed by Joel Fagliano '14, a senior puzzles editor at *The New York Times*. The solution is available on page 48.





# Pomona College

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