

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Pomona

Summer 2024

GLOBAL

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POMONA





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



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POMONA COLLEGE
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Stray Thoughts

Leaving Campus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Think of that: A student reliant almost entirely on financial aid has as much chance to study internationally as one whose family goes to Europe on vacations.

Simply the awareness that it's possible for any student to study in another country or another part of the U.S. means so much. I hope scanning the list of countries and cities on the list at the Office of International and Domestic Programs and its website will become as common as looking at the catalog to pick classes for upcoming semesters.

Thinking about all the opportunities Pomona students have starts to make me want to travel again after years of being worn out from traveling for work. Which brings me to personal news: My six-plus years at Pomona are coming to an end as I take early retirement to spend some vital years with people I love—and maybe do a little freelance study abroad, too.

I'm thankful for my time at the College and the privilege of working on these pages and getting to know so many alumni, students, professors and colleagues who have given me enjoyment, taught me things I didn't know and kept me feeling younger than I am.



With gratitude,
—Robyn Norwood



Features

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In the year 2000, only about 2% of Pomona students were from other countries. Now, international students make up almost 13% of the student body—and U.S. students benefit, too.

In the Shadow of Giants 28

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

A Global View 35

Esther Brimmer '83 studied abroad in Geneva. Decades later, she returned to the city as a U.S. assistant secretary of state. For her, as for others, a semester away influenced a career.

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The Liberal Arts for Life

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

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

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

—Philip D. Sloane '72

*Professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*



Praise for PCM, Aid for Middle-Income Students

Congrats on the “Value” issue (Spring 2024).

I think the cover is exceptional—eye catching, artistic, clever with math, musical and DNA symbols. The diamond representing “value” was quite creative.

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

—Ron Smith '63

Newport Beach, California

A '60s Activist's Take on Politicized Campuses

The subject of your piece is obviously of great interest, and I appreciate your effort to cover the waterfront in the limited space at hand. That said, I was disappointed that what strikes me as by far the most compelling issue driving the turn against liberal arts colleges—the politicization of the campus—is mentioned only briefly in your editor's letter.

FYI, I was a political activist at Pomona in the 1960s, and having in the course of my career as a journalist moved to the right, I look back on the changes wrought by radicals like me at places like Pomona with regret and shame. It was a truly diverse intellectual campus when I arrived in 1966, far less so when I left in 1970; and on the basis of everything I see, a frighteningly narrow place today. And it's a good guess a fair number of my fellow elderly

grads feel the same. This is hardly unique to Pomona, of course, or even to colleges. My kids went to Fieldston in New York, and while it's always defined itself as a progressive place, I'd be horrified if my grandkids were there today. And, alas, reading of the evident near-uniformity of thought in Claremont on issues of race, gender and now the Middle East, I feel very nearly the same way about Pomona.

Yours is an alumni magazine, and I understand you are not in the business of stirring the pot. Still, it's unfortunate that as an interested alum I have to go to *The Claremont Independent* to find [other news coverage of campus].

—Harry Stein '70

New York

Correction

The article “A New Community Space in the City of Pomona” on page 8 of the Spring 2024 issue incorrectly referred to David Armstrong '62 as deceased. Armstrong, founder of the American Museum of Ceramic Art on Garey Avenue in Pomona, still visits the museum almost daily as it undergoes a major remodel. At 51,000 square feet, it is the largest such ceramics museum in the United States. *Pomona College Magazine* regrets the error.

Closer Look at Classroom Photo

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

I was briefly thrown off by reference early in the story to “the gender and women’s studies class” since it is one of the newest and least established parts of the liberal arts curriculum. This mention felt a bit like the tyranny of political correctness (pc). But I continued to read until I took a close look at the photo of a class on gender studies, which covers the top of

the right-hand page in this feature article’s two-page spread. Of the 19 people seated around the table, 17 or 18 are women and only one or two are men.

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

regard. It suggests Pomona is not marketing gender studies to students in a way that is equally inviting to men and women, and thus is not inclusive.

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

—Glenn Pascall '64
Dana Point, California

Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies Aimee Bahng, right of the podium, leads a discussion in her Race, Gender and the Environment class.



Arrest of Protesters on Campus

First, my bona fides. My great-grandfather, Edwin C. Norton, was Pomona’s first dean. My grandfather, Ralph Lyman, put Pomona on the map by introducing European classical music to Southern California and mentoring Robert Shaw, later mentored by Arturo Toscanini. Shaw was the greatest choral conductor of his time in America.

Now the war has come to us. No surprise that. The question faced all over our country is how do those in power deal with student unrest.

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

—David Lyman, '66
South Pasadena, California

Editor's note: For a report on the April 5 arrests of 20 people, including seven Pomona students, during a masked protest in Alexander Hall, visit pomona.edu/campus-incident.

Write to Us at PCM

Pomona College Magazine welcomes brief letters to the editor about the magazine and issues related to the College from the extended Pomona community—alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, donors and others with a strong connection to the College. Write to us at pcm@pomona.edu or mail a letter to *Pomona College Magazine*, 550 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. Letters should include the writer's name, city and state of residence, class year for alumni and contact information. With rare exceptions, letters should be no more than 400 words in length. Letters are selected for publication based on relevance and available space and are subject to being edited for brevity and clarity.

Outgoing Board of Trustees Chair Sam Glick '04:

'The proverbial Pomona bubble has been popped.'

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

PCM: You've served 16 years on the board, with four more years ahead. What's the most significant change you've seen for the College during that time? And why is it important?

Glick: For many years, and many generations, we talked about a liberal arts education as being this almost kind of monastic pursuit. It was a way to study, and a way to examine the world, where you went away for four years and you learned how to adopt a new lens,

learned how to look at the world in a different way. Pomona taught you skills, and you would then be launched out into the world, ready to make a difference. The shift I've seen in my time on the board is that Pomona is now very much part of the world. The proverbial Pomona bubble has been popped. I think it's been popped from the inside and from the outside. I don't know which one came first, but we've long known that the liberal arts are contemporary and relevant to all of the

issues that the world is facing; now engaging directly with those issues is fully part of a Pomona education, not something that comes afterwards.

Look at our faculty, from their diverse backgrounds before coming to Pomona to the kinds of research they do now—much of which deals directly with real-world challenges related to the environment, social policy, healthcare, global politics, artificial intelligence and more. Look at the Draper Center, which is an extraordinary resource that allows us to bring the talents of Pomona people to the communities around us. Look at the kinds of speakers we bring to campus. We are taking the power of the liberal arts and using it to influence the world while we make the issues of the world front and center on our campus. That's truly compelling.

PCM: How has the bubble popped, as you put it, from the inside?

Glick: I think the greatest internal change is a far greater appreciation for the shadow that Pomona casts. When I was a student, it was almost a joke: We had the "Harvard: The Pomona College of the East" T-shirts in the Coop Store. All your friends thought you went to Cal Poly Pomona. We were proud of Pomona being this sort of secret that it was. But first under David Oxtoby and, now under President [G. Gabrielle] Starr, we have become far more confident in our role in the world. We have said to ourselves that we may only educate 1,700 or so students at a given time, but we can have an influence on the course of higher education in ways far greater than that. Whether through the kind of thought leadership that President Starr has been doing, or the STEM cohort programs that have served as models for other colleges, or the amazing Benton Museum [of Art] that really is a regional resource, Pomona is not a secret anymore. We're still appropriately modest, and I don't ever want us to lose that. But we really do have a big impact on the world, well beyond the amazing students we launch. And to me that's incredibly exciting.

PCM: Reflecting on your own time at Pomona, how did our version of the liberal arts shape your life?

Glick: Oh, in so many ways. I grew up in Southern California. We lived in the low desert; my family was in the citrus nursery business in Thermal, about halfway between Palm Springs and the Salton Sea. I went to a big public high school and the whole junior class took the ASVAB [the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery]. We had four counselors for the whole 2,000 or so of us. If you were a good student, you got handed a UC [University of California] application, and off you went.

I had an English teacher whose husband had gone to one of The Claremont Colleges and she said to my best friend and me, "You know, you should take a look at those schools in Claremont." We were 17 and you got a free day off school if you were on a college tour, which was all the incentive we needed. And so we drove to Claremont.

When I toured Pomona, it was fundamentally different than any place I had ever seen before. The campus was gorgeous; it looked like the nicest golf courses in the desert where I grew up. I sat in on a class, and I met students who were talking about all sorts of ideas I hadn't even imagined. And so I applied Early Decision, as did my best friend. We both got in and never looked back.

Until I arrived at Pomona, I thought the liberal arts were invented in Claremont, California; I didn't even know this was a category of school, honest to goodness. I would have gone to UC Riverside otherwise. I had toured the Citrus Experiment Station there, since citrus was the family business. And I would have done perfectly well, but I wouldn't be the person I am today. Pomona College taught me to write and communicate and analyze and think and be creative in ways that I just hadn't considered before.

I came to Pomona, as many high school students do, thinking there was a right and a wrong way to do things and as long as you were right, that was all that mattered. Pomona taught me the art of taking multiple perspectives, of persuasion, of immersing yourself in a different way of thinking. You still need to know what the facts are; that's critical. But so much of what I do is taking others' perspectives, bouncing them up against my own and communicating in ways that hopefully allow both of those perspectives to evolve. And frankly, that's how I've led the board for nine years. It's come full circle in that way.

PCM: You have a compelling Pomona story. At the same time, there's deep and growing skepticism about higher education. Why do you think that is? And how can Pomona play a role in addressing that?

Glick: Frankly, some of that skepticism is warranted. You know, we have—and by "we" I mean not just Pomona College but higher education broadly, or at least elite higher education—for the vast majority of our history been more exclusive than inclusive. Elite colleges and universities are probably the only charitable organizations in the country that brag about how few people we serve. If you went to a hospital or a soup kitchen and they said, "Isn't it amazing, we turned away more than 90% of the people who could benefit from us," you'd think that was absurd. But when we have elite higher ed publishing admissions rates that are in the single digits, that's fundamentally what we're saying, right?

I think higher education needs to tackle how we become more inclusive. How do we become more accessible? How do we become more affordable? How do we make it so more people can benefit from the wonderful things that we do? Those are real challenges that we should take seriously.

Some of the skepticism, however, is more about the nature of higher education as an enterprise—a nature that shouldn't change. The students we attract are not fully formed; we are part of that formation as students try on different ideas and test the boundaries on all sorts of issues. Similarly, the best faculty are bold and provocative, engaging in the major issues of the day. And they should be. We stand for excellence and for progress and for academic freedom. Sometimes that makes people uncomfortable. That's the nature of it. What's changed in recent years is that, due to the internet and social media, the broader public has hour-by-hour, minute-by-minute exposure to the messiness that makes college campuses what they are. The boundaries between our community and broader society are blurring. That's one of the downsides to the bubble popping.

At Pomona, we are doing many things that are amazing. Our commitment to financial aid is second to none. We have made great strides in terms of not just attracting a diverse student body, but creating an environment where every student can thrive. Our faculty are extraordinary, and our students learn from them and work on research with them shoulder-to-shoulder. I have, in my role as

board chair, probably talked to hundreds if not thousands of alumni. And the most common reason people feel connected to Pomona is because some faculty member changed their lives. Very few schools can say all of this. We must continue to lead in these areas.

I also believe liberal arts colleges, and Pomona specifically, are more important than ever. When we talk about the skills of the liberal arts, we often refer to analyzing and writing; perhaps presenting or speaking as well. In today's society, I'd add listening to that. Listening may be the most important skill of the liberal arts. Taking someone else's perspective requires training and practice. At our best, we are a place designed for dialogue, designed for people to understand each other as humans, not in positional kinds of ways. We must lead on that.

PCM: President Starr has often alluded to the underrepresentation of students from the middle-income spectrum in the U.S., and we've launched an initiative to attract and enroll more middle-income students. Why is this important?

Glick: I'm a huge supporter of where President Starr is going in terms of increasing the number of middle-income students who have access to the life-changing education we offer. We have made great strides in terms of racial and ethnic diversity, gender diversity, bringing in international students, you name it. But like most institutions like us, we skew towards those students with high incomes at least by national standards, with a meaningful but smaller number of students of very modest means. Someone described it to me as a "whale" distribution. If you imagine what the silhouette of a whale looks like, that's about right.

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

Sam Glick '04



PCM: The past academic year brought significant protest movements to campus, with many students and faculty pushing for steps such as divestment from—and/or an academic boycott of—Israel. Other people were opposed and concerned about the climate on campus for different viewpoints. How do you respond to this?

Glick: I try to start from a human place, before I remind myself of my responsibilities as board chair. The current war continues to take an immense human toll, and as we speak today people are starving and dying and living in fear in ways most of us who are privileged enough to live in the U.S. can't even imagine. We need to acknowledge that Pomona is not isolated from that world; we are part of that world, and many of our students, our staff, our faculty and our alumni are sad and angry and frustrated. We need to make Pomona an environment in which people can express those feelings and can channel their anger and their hurt and their disappointment into productive, ethical activism to make the world a better place. We have a long tradition of activism at Pomona College. It is not lost on me that the epicenter of the activities of the past year has been Marston Quad, which is mere steps

from where some of the archives of Myrlie Evers-Williams [Class of 1968], the great civil rights icon, are kept.

At the same time, we also need to make Pomona a place where everybody feels welcome, safe and free to express themselves, regardless of their identity or worldview. And this particular conflict, perhaps more so than almost any conflict, has political, religious and racial dimensions we can't ignore. Even if there happen to be views that a majority of people on campus hold, those aren't institutional views. And I think that's one of the really important things I have learned as board chair: The role of the board is to provide resources and ensure the conditions exist for meaningful, productive, inclusive analysis and debate, but not to take sides in those debates. Sometimes that role can be frustrating for trustees, all of whom hold their own personal views, too. But it's a critical one as we lead Pomona for the long term.

PCM: As we close, what do you see as the most urgent issue on the horizon for Pomona College?

Glick: Pomona College is in a very good place. One of the things I've gotten to do in this role as board chair is to learn about the higher education

landscape more generally. And it's clear that there are institutions that are struggling with attracting enough students. They are struggling to attract faculty, and to pay those faculty. They have facilities that are in bad shape. We don't have those issues at Pomona, and I'm very grateful to the generations of trustees and donors before me who have made that the case.

There are two big challenges for Pomona. The first is that we not get too comfortable. It would be easy for Pomona just to keep being what we are today while the world changes around us. And it's part of why I'm so proud that we recruited President Starr to come here. She challenges us every day. We can't be complacent. We can't say that we've just always done things a particular way and be satisfied.

The other challenge for Pomona is countering the polarization of society. We have seen the effects of polarization on campus in this past year with the war in the Middle East. What we do as a liberal arts institution does not work if we can't listen and talk to each other, if we can't take each other's perspectives and genuinely get inside each other's minds. We must continue to produce students who are both broad-minded and open-minded. To me, that's critical. [PCM](#)

Amid Tension, Pomona Holds Sessions on Mideast Issues

War in Israel and Gaza made for a tense and contentious year on Pomona's campus, with protests, disruptions, occupations, arrests, a referendum and a debate that did not end with Commencement, which itself was moved to Los Angeles due to an encampment on the quad.

This was all covered through news media and social media from a range of viewpoints as part of a major national story that reached coast to coast, from UCLA to Columbia, and encompassed congressional hearings and global coverage.

Perhaps overlooked in all this was a quieter phenomenon on Pomona's campus, one that unfolded in the presence of pain, sorrow and division. Starting in November, amid the protests and controversy, the College held a series of academic lectures and panels looking at the conflict and related issues from multiple vantage points.

These academic events were largely well attended—some with standing room only—and took place without disruption, a positive sign for the College's mission in a difficult year for higher education. As the Mideast conflict

tragically continues, Pomona plans for deeper scholarly engagement in these areas in the next academic year.

Among the past year's events:

- “Contextualizing the Conflict” with **Joanne Randa Nucho**, chair and associate professor of anthropology and coordinator of Middle Eastern studies, and **Mietek Boduszynski**, associate professor of politics and former U.S. diplomat.
- “On Nationalism in Its Historical Context” with **Gary Kates**, H. Russell Smith Foundation Chair in the Social Sciences and professor of history, and “On Zionism in Its Historical Context” by Claremont McKenna Associate Professor of Religious Studies **Gary Gilbert**.
- “Palestine: Understanding Iran's Role” by Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies **Kouross Esmaeli**.
- “Contested Past/Contest Present: Understanding the Impact of Interwar

British Rule on Palestine” with Associate Professor of History **Penny Sinanoglou**.

- “Antisemitism” with **Oona Eisenstadt**, Fred Krinsky Professor of Jewish Studies and professor of religious studies, and “Islamophobia” with Imam **Hadi Qazwini**, Muslim chaplain for The Claremont Colleges.
- “Ambassador Dennis Ross and Ghaith al-Omari in Conversation.” One of the larger events had former U.S. Mideast envoy **Dennis Ross** and **Ghaith al-Omari**, who served in a variety of positions within the Palestinian Authority, discussing the current war and what the path to peace might look like.
- Presented together: “Rome & the Great Jewish Revolt, with **Christopher Chinn**, chair and professor of classics; “The First Crusade & the Holy Land” with **Ken Wolf**, professor of classics, John Sutton Minor Professor of History, and coordinator of late antique-medieval studies; and “The British Mandate & Palestine,” with **Penny Sinanoglou**, associate professor of history. [PCM](#)

Global Haven Students on Campus



Stanislav Vakulenko '27



Prince Bashangezi '27

Stanislav Vakulenko '27 has been sleeping better since he arrived at Pomona College from Ukraine last August. When the war started in 2022, he saw a rocket fly by his family's apartment building in Kyiv. “It was like being in a World War II movie. I could see black smoke, residential buildings burning down,” he says. “What I heard will change me forever.”

Vakulenko is one of six students who enrolled at Pomona this past academic year through the Global Student Haven Initiative because their access to education is challenged by conflict in their home country. Pomona is one of eight colleges and universities in the U.S. committed to accepting and supporting students through the program. The others are Bowdoin, Caltech, Dartmouth, New York University, Smith, Trinity and Williams. The founding members hope more schools will follow suit.

Prince Bashangezi '27 came to Pomona from Africa, where he had spent his later teen years in a refugee camp in Zimbabwe near the border with Mozambique. Schools in the camp had scant resources, and Bashangezi says students were “basically doomed to fail” the national exams needed to move ahead. He had to get creative to fill in the learning gaps. Every day he removed the battery from the cellphone he had brought from his home country, Congo. He charged it using a small solar source the United Nations High Commission for Refugees had made available to power lighting in the camp. The phone allowed him to access the internet and its extensive educational resources, and he passed the national exams.

Both Bashangezi and Vakulenko spend several lunch hours each week at the language tables in the Oldenburg Center, Bashangezi speaking French and Swahili (two of the many languages in which he is fluent) and Vakulenko practicing Russian and learning Spanish. For Vakulenko, languages—he can converse in Russian as well as his native Ukrainian—could possibly lead to a future career as a translator. His English is nearly flawless, having been honed not only in school in Ukraine but by watching Cartoon Network as a child. Along with Google Translate, “it helped me increase my vocabulary,” he notes—which amazed his teacher at school.

Neither student has settled on a major. Vakulenko says he is leaning toward politics and a possible second major in Russian and Eastern European studies. Bashangezi is considering computer science and possibly politics. [PCM](#)

Scholars and Fellows

Churchill Scholarship

Zoë Xiu-Zhi Batterman '24

Downing Scholarship

Leonardo Fetta Alaghand '24

Zongqi Zhai '24

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Malia Grace Battafarano '24

Samuel Bither '21

Kai James Carse '24

Jenny Min Chen '24

Schuyler Reade DiBacco '24

Teodelina Martelli '24

Michael Negussie '24

Nelia Stefin Perry '24

Wiley Willis Valenti Roberts '24

Melissa Ann Seecharan '24

Claire Chang '24, Lydia Haile '22, Charis Kim '24, Genevieve Krieger '24, Christiana Marchese '24 and Sophia Ristuben '24 each were offered a Fulbright award but declined it.

Goldwater Scholarship

Daniel Gao '25

National Science

Foundation Fellowship

Zoë Xiu-Zhi Batterman '24

Kehlani Alex Fay '24

USAID Donald M. Payne

International Development

Graduate Fellowship

Genevieve Alena Krieger '24

Pomona College

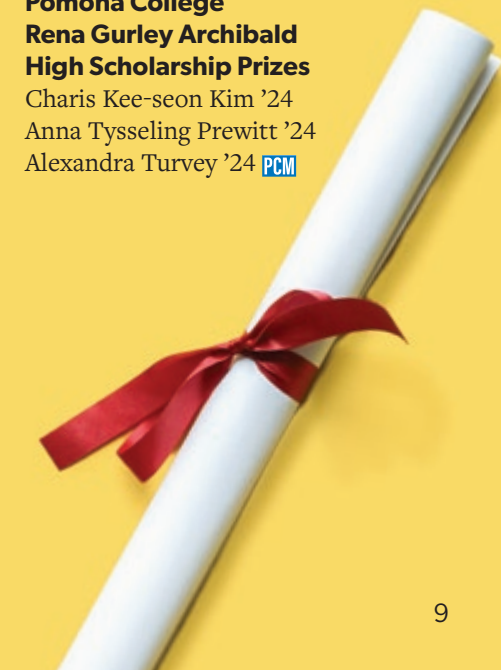
Rena Gurley Archibald

High Scholarship Prizes

Charis Kee-seon Kim '24

Anna Tysseling Prewitt '24

Alexandra Turvey '24 [PCM](#)



Faculty Retirements in 2023-2024

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



Allan Barr
Professor of Chinese
At Pomona Since 1981
ahb14747@pomona.edu



Tom Flaherty
John P. and Magdalena
R. Dexter Professor
of Music
At Pomona Since 1989
tef04747@pomona.edu



Gary Kates
H. Russell Smith
Foundation Chair in
the Social Sciences and
Professor of History
At Pomona Since 2001
gk004747@pomona.edu



Clarissa Cheney
Associate Professor
of Biology
At Pomona Since 1997
cmc04747@pomona.edu



Fred Grieman
Roscoe Moss Professor
of Chemistry
At Pomona Since 1982
fgrieman@pomona.edu



Rose Portillo '75
Lecturer in Theatre
At Pomona Since 2007
port2858@gmail.com [PCM](#)

Wig Awards



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

Six members of the Pomona College faculty have been named winners of the 2024 Wig Distinguished Professor Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching, commitment to students and service to the College and the community. Students in their junior and senior

years vote for the awards, which are confirmed by a committee comprised of students, faculty and members of the Board of Trustees.

This year's winners are Associate Professor of Chemistry **Nicholas Ball**, Professor of Politics **Susan McWilliams**

Barndt, Lingurn H. Burkhead Professor of Mathematics **Ami Radunskaya**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy **Ellie Anderson**, Professor of Computer Science **David Kauchak** and Assistant Professor of Economics **Kyle Wilson**. [PCM](#)

Monika Moore '03 Is New Director of Alumni and Family Engagement

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

Moore and her team will further strengthen Pomona's expansive portfolio of activities and programs that engage the College's global network of alumni, parents, families and volunteers. Working in close partnership with faculty, staff, and alumni and



Monika Moore '03

"I am thrilled to be returning to my alma mater and reconnecting with the alumni I've met over the years and getting to know the many alumni and families that are a part of this incredible community."

—Monika Moore '03

family leaders—including the Pomona College Alumni Association Board, Alumni Association Past Presidents Council and Family Leadership Council—Moore will lead efforts to re-envision events and programming, celebrate Pomona's well-steeped traditions and create plentiful opportunities for engagement locally, regionally and globally. Visit pomona.edu/monika-moore for more. [PCM](#)



David Oxtoby



Cecilia Conrad



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Oxtoby Leaves AAAS Presidency

Pomona College President Emeritus David Oxtoby stepped down as president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences at the end of June after serving for more than five years.

Calling his term as leader of the distinguished society "the honor of a lifetime," he lauded the ways many of its members have "helped to lead America and the world through this turbulent era," including members who helped develop the COVID-19 vaccines.

A chemist by training, Oxtoby served as president of Pomona from 2003 to 2017 and was elected to the academy in 2012 for his specialty in educational and academic leadership. Current Pomona College President G. Gabrielle Starr also is a member of the academy.

Cecilia Conrad Elected to AAAS

New members elected in 2024 include Pomona Emerita Professor of Economics Cecilia Conrad, who was elected in recognition of her nonprofit leadership. Conrad is CEO of Lever for Change, which connects donors with problem solvers to work toward social change. Conrad also is a senior advisor to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. [PCM](#)



The Pomona College Center for Global Engagement

Engaging with the wider world is central to the Pomona College experience. In the years ahead, a new Center for Global Engagement will rise at the heart of our campus.

The center will be a place where disciplines are interwoven in surprising ways, problems are confronted from fresh angles and people from all over the world come together to ask big questions and discover new answers. The center will facilitate and strengthen ties between our faculty and students—through academic inquiry, research and creative endeavors—as well as to communities both close to home and around the globe.

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

With a fundraising goal of \$50 million, the 111,000-square-foot global center will be one of the most ambitious and complex construction

projects at Pomona in many decades, and the College is taking the time and effort to get it right. Once key steps in planning, design and fundraising are met, construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2026.

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

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

Oldenburg Memories

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



KSPC Radio Rocks On

DJ Comet and DJ Moon were a natural fit for KSPC 88.7 FM, the station of The Claremont Colleges, which celebrated 68 years on the FM airwaves in February. (KSPC was preceded at Pomona by the AM station KPCR.)

DJ Comet was supposed to be a placeholder name until **Anaëlle Roc '24** found another. But the moniker—a play on her last name and love of space—fit perfectly at the station often known as The Space. Pomona classmate **Emily Gibbons '24** christened herself DJ Moon on the same theme.

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

"The Space is a time capsule," Roc says. "There are posters there from the '80s, photos there from the '50s when it became an FM station. I was instantly hooked."

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

Gibbons, a philosophy major and host of *In the Clouds with DJ Moon*, plans to attend law

school, with dreams of becoming an attorney for a band or music label.

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

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

"Live music is something I can't live without," the host of *cathartic destruction* says. "I'm tied on a soul level to radio now." [PCM](#)



National Youth Poet Laureate Finalist

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

Dorado, representing the Western U.S., took the stage alongside three other finalists and was named the runner-up to 2024 honoree Stephanie Pacheco of New York.

Dorado began her writing journey in her hometown of Castro Valley, California. At

Pomona, she plans on majoring in English and is exploring a possible double major. Asked how her poetry and social activism are related, Dorado says poetry is humanizing.

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



Zoe Dorado '27

Summer 2024

Ignacio López Day in the City of Pomona

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

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

His name lives on through both Pomona's Ignacio López Elementary School and the López Urban Farm, a partnership between the local nonprofit Community Partners 4 Innovation and Pomona Unified School District. The farm provides people in the community with access to locally grown food and also educates youth on sustainable agriculture practices. Among the murals at the farm is one depicting López. [PCM](#)



Mural by Thundr One. Photograph courtesy of López Urban Farm



Della Anjeh '16

The Sagehen and the Super Bowl

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

Her experiences at Pomona College helped launch both careers.

Anjeh knew she wanted to major in computer science when she arrived at Pomona from O'Fallon, Missouri, via the QuestBridge program. She credits her advisor, Professor **Tzu-Yi Chen**, with nurturing and guiding her. Her junior year, she landed an internship at a startup company through Code2040—a nonprofit that connects Black and Latino technologists with companies and mentors—when its recruiters visited Pomona's campus. The internship opened doors, and since graduating, Anjeh has worked as a software engineer at Lyft, Amazon, Microsoft and now Google.

Despite growing up dancing, Anjeh didn't imagine a career in professional dance. Her first year at Pomona, however, she signed up for a hip-hop dance physical education class. The instructor, **Kristen Egusa**, was a dancer for the Los Angeles Clippers and a choreographer for multiple professional sports teams. Attending a professional cheer workshop Egusa held in the Los Angeles area exposed Anjeh to the world of professional cheer for the first time.

On campus, she also danced with the 5C Dance Company.

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

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

"Being involved in all the excitement was really fun," she says. "Did she see Taylor Swift in the stands? 'We got to see just about everything you could see,'" she answers.

Not bad for a side gig. "It's a flexible enough commitment for people to maintain pretty demanding full-time jobs," Anjeh says. "I just love to perform." [PCM](#)



Orientation Book

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

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

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

The book was selected by a committee led by **Colleen Rosenfeld**, associate professor of English, that included professors, Associate Dean of Students **Josh Eisenberg** and Nguyen. [PCM](#)



Pomona College Magazine

Hidden History

Four years after graduating, **Michael Waters '20** has published his first book, *The Other Olympians: Fascism, Queerness, and the Making of Modern Sports*. Released in June ahead of the 2024 Olympics this summer in Paris, Waters' book tells the story of early trans athletes and the roots of sex testing of athletes in the 1930s.

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

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

PCM: How did Pomona train you as a student of history?

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

What fascinates me about queer history is finding pockets of queer community in these spaces and in these eras before we would expect them. I want to try to scramble this idea of queer history as a linear story of progress. Queer history has never been linear. There are so many surprising examples of acceptance and celebrity and community that existed before World War II, before traditional narratives of queer history, before Stonewall. My work is about finding those lost communities. Where was community, where were queer people coming together and what does that say about us today?

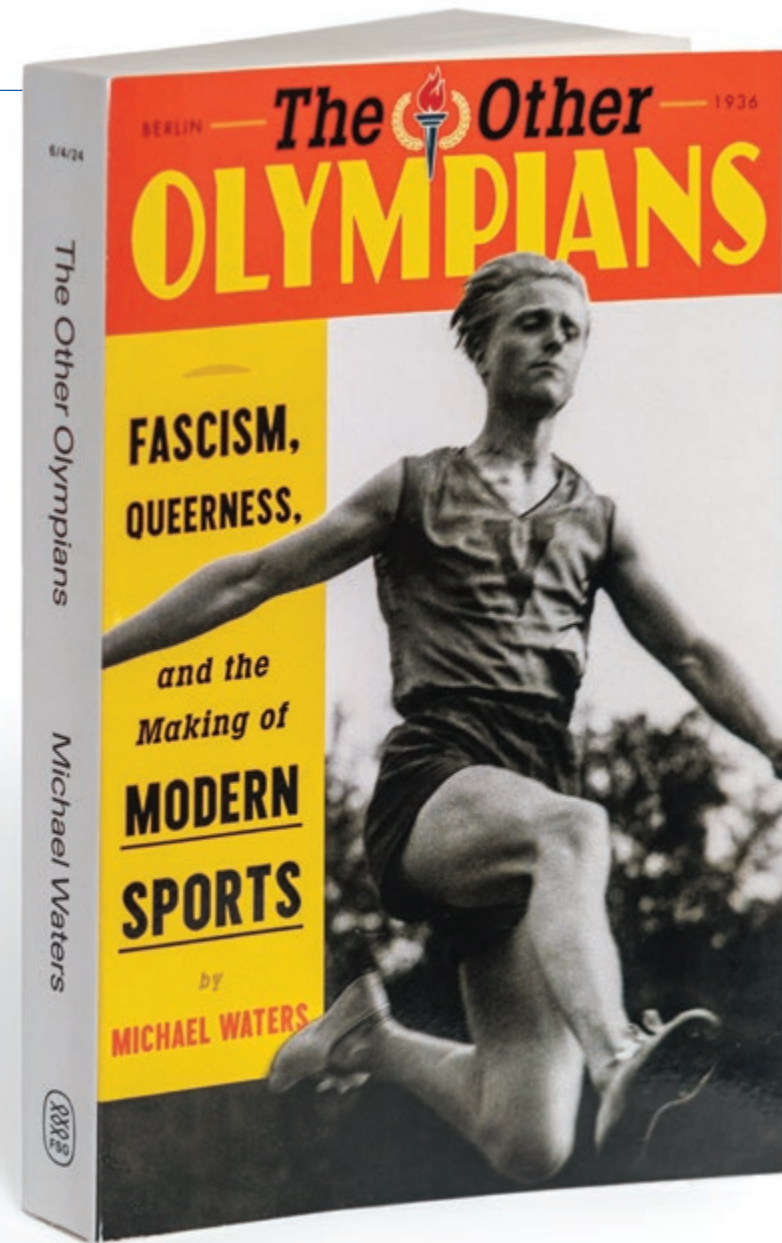
Often what I do is I look through newspaper archives. I like to do search terms related to gender and sexuality and filter for certain eras to see what comes up. There are often stories in those newspaper archives that haven't bubbled to the popular consciousness today but that were a big thing at the time.

PCM: How did you conduct research for this book?

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

A lot of the book pulls from different newspaper records, too. For the Olympics, I went to the International Olympic Committee archive and went through some of their 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s correspondence files. Avery Brundage, who's a big part of the book—he's an American IOC official—has this huge archive in Illinois, where he saved literally everything, it seems.

To make a book, especially a nonfiction book, sellable, there's so much luck involved when it comes to sourcing. I couldn't have done this book if it wasn't for that source from Koubek's life. Everything kind of came together after that.



PCM: How did you learn to write so well?

Waters: I hope that's true. I've been writing magazine-type stories for a while now, which is very different from writing a book, obviously. But that muscle was helpful in this process. I started freelancing originally for Atlas Obscura, which is a website that chronicles historical oddities. I started writing for them in 2016. I emailed an editor out of the blue with an idea. That was between high school and college. I've been doing something along those lines in my free time ever since. It makes it easier to figure out how to tell history in a compelling way, I hope.

PCM: Were there any things that surprised you as you wrote this book?

Waters: When I first started doing this research, I was surprised how American media received the news of these athletes transitioning gender. When you read those

articles from the 1930s, there's a real sense of curiosity about them and how one could move between different categories of what we would call gender today. Certainly, there were some skeptical stories that existed, and there were others that were quite sensationalist. But even through that, there is this real sense of interest and fascination and, in many cases, acceptance. People accepted that there's a lot we don't understand about how gender works, how the body works. There were op-eds from doctors that would say, "This is actually quite normal." It's especially illuminating when, by contrast, you look at all of the transphobic coverage in newspapers today.

PCM: What impact do you hope your book will have?

Waters: When it comes to sports today, I hope that the book provides context for the anti-trans and anti-intersex policies that exist at the Olympics. The big thing for me is to show the influence of fascist ideology on these policies. Tracing that history lets us see how Nazi-aligned sports officials originally rammed these policies through. These policies were flawed from the beginning, and that tells us something about them today. We can also see alternate pathways for how sports could have included people of many different genders, if officials had just been willing to have that conversation. I also hope that the book inspires more researchers to look into queer life in the early 20th century, because there were so many incredible stories that I came across about queer community and gender transition in this era. I hope to bring some extra attention to these stories of real people that have been lost, and then let other researchers take the mantle. I don't want to have the final word, especially on a story as significant as Koubek's. But that takes researchers and that takes institutions being willing to fund this research. [PCM](#)



Michael Waters '20

Three Pomona Alumni Publish Their First Novels

Patience and persistence. A little bit of luck. And the mentorship of novelist Jonathan Lethem, the Roy Edward Disney '51 Professor of Creative Writing at Pomona College. These factors helped three Pomona alumni publish their first novels last year.

Francesca Capossela '18, David Connor '15 and Julius Taranto '12, along with Tyriek White PZ '13, convened on Pomona's campus last spring for an event organized by the English Department that featured the four first-time novelists.

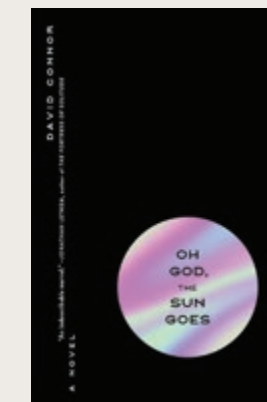


Francesca Capossela '18

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

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

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



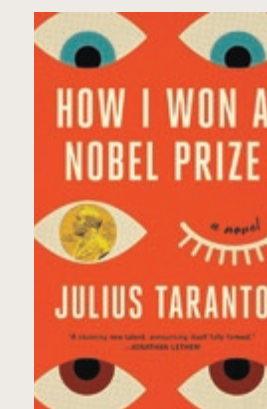
David Connor '15

To introduce Connor's book *Oh God, the Sun Goes*, Brian Evenson, faculty at California Institute of the Arts, said, "The premise is simple and absurd: The sun has disappeared, and no one knows why."

"It's the kind of work that only David could write," Evenson added.

At Pomona, Connor majored in neuroscience and minored in computer science. He also took a fair number of creative writing classes, which he says "without hyperbole, are some of the best I've been in."

With an interest in the mind, consciousness and human experience, he says, "As time went on, I discovered that language was a much more malleable way to approach those questions than the scientific method for me."



Julius Taranto '12

Taranto's novel *How I Won a Nobel Prize* is set on a college campus: one founded by a libertarian billionaire as a safe haven for canceled scholars and located on an island off the coast of Connecticut.

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

After graduating, Taranto attended Yale Law School and practiced law for five years.

How I Won a Nobel Prize was named one of the best books of the year by *Vogue* and *Vox*. [PCM](#)

HOW TO BECOME POMONA'S COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHER

If you graduated in the past 30 years, chances are Nancy Newman took your picture. Although she doesn't remember exactly which year was her first, "I know there have been three presidents during my time photographing Commencement." That means if you shook the hand of Peter W. Stanley, David W. Oxtoby or the current president, G. Gabrielle Starr, then Newman might have snapped the shot.

- 1 At 5 years old, decide to work for newspapers one day. Pick up a camera as a freshman in college and never look back. "I fell in love," Newman says. "I realized I could report local and national stories through the lens."
- 2 Work for newspapers for 10 years after graduating from the University of La Verne, then start your own business. Among your assignments: photographing five U.S. presidents, World Cup soccer and the Emmys and Oscars—including the 1991 Academy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.
- 3 Develop a wide variety of specialties, including graduations. "I'm honored to be a part of such a special day because I know how hard students work to achieve that goal and how hard their parents or loved ones worked to get them to that place."
- 4 Climb a ladder. Commencement was held in Bridges Auditorium when Newman started, and the stage is so high she had to perch on a ladder. Plus, it was before digital cameras: Newman was shooting film. Working with multiple cameras, as she finished one roll, she'd make a quick switch with an assistant at the bottom of the ladder who would hand her a loaded camera and reload the first.
- 5 Fine-tune the art of capturing the moment. "When someone walks across the stage, their heads move or the tassel flips in front of their eyes or their mouth is open because they're talking. I do three or four quick photos and pick what's best. Sometimes they're looking at the president. Other times they're looking at me or out at their family. Whatever way they're engaged, that's my moment to capture the spirit and energy of that moment."
- 6 Put in some very long days. Newman usually arrives on campus around 8 a.m. on Commencement Day to check out the staging and photograph grads and their families. She did it this year, too—before heading to L.A. for the relocated ceremony. She's not finished when the last graduate crosses the stage. After a break, she starts the post-production work. "I try to turn it around as quickly as possible. In my photography, I give it everything I have and then give some more, because I think it warrants that care for each student and their families."
- 7 Experience the emptiness of three springs without on-campus Commencements, not only this year but also the pandemic cancellations in 2020 and 2021. "That was so strange. It felt like something was missing. You photograph something for so many years, it becomes part of your life."
- 8 Come full circle in 2024, when it's back to the Shrine Auditorium, 33 years after shooting the Oscars there.
- 9 Never forget the importance of each graduate's photo. "It's funny, I wonder if that's part of why I take every single shot to heart. I had to pay my own way through college. When I finally saved enough money to buy the photos, I called and the photo company said they had destroyed them already. I never got one and so I work hard to try to get everyone their photos."
- 10 Keep a sense of humor, knowing that as the audience looks at the stage, they're also staring at the photographer's back. "The number of photos the back of my head must be in after 30 years!" Newman says with a laugh. [PCM](#)



Nancy Newman greets Oscar at the 1991 Academy Awards at the Shrine Auditorium.



Newman with the Pomona College Class of 2024 at the Shrine.

Testing Climate Change Messaging Through Behavioral Science

By Lorraine Wu Harry '97



Associate Professor of Psychological Science Adam Pearson

How effective are different messaging styles aimed at boosting climate awareness and action?

Is a "doom and gloom" approach best? What about emphasizing scientific consensus on climate change? Or considering the consequences of climate change in one's region?

Associate Professor of Psychological Science Adam Pearson recently was part of a global team of 250 behavioral scientists who tested a set of strategies on more than 59,000 participants in 63 countries—the largest experiment ever conducted on climate change behavior.

The main findings of the study were published in *Science Advances* in February.

"Scientists, journalists and advocacy groups often emphasize different facets of the problem—the dangers of climate change, its outsized effects on young people, the overwhelming scientific consensus that it's human-caused," Pearson says. "But what works on a global scale? What motivates people around the world to address a global problem like climate change? We don't actually have an answer to that question."

"To understand what mobilizes people to address a problem like climate change, we really need to move beyond the United States and beyond Western, educated, industrialized, rich and democratic societies," Pearson says.

To do that, the team tested 11 messages designed to boost people's climate beliefs and behavior, conducting the study in more than 60

countries. The results included many surprises, allowing researchers to see what works—and for whom.

Perhaps one of the biggest takeaways from the study, not unexpectedly, is that different people respond differently to various climate messages, with responses varying across countries.

To share their findings, the research team created an open-access web app, which allows users to see the effects of the strategies along dimensions such as nationality, income level, political ideology, education and gender.

Pearson says he hopes tools like these can help practitioners tailor climate messages for different audiences, as well as spark additional research.

Pearson's scholarly background is in the study of group dynamics as well as the psychology of inequality. About 10 years ago, he became interested in the social psychological research around climate change. "There's a growing understanding that human behavior is at the root of this problem," he says.

"We've been increasingly thinking about climate changes not as a problem of one climate but two climates: our physical climate and the social climate of any given area. We need to understand how those climates intersect. That's where behavioral science comes into the equation," he says.

"It's a big collective action problem," Pearson says, "and that requires coordination, including among researchers." [PCM](#)



A LETTER TO A CHILD

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

NEGATIVE MESSAGING

"Doom and gloom" messaging, however, decreased people's pro-environmental behavior. These stories were highly effective in getting people to share information about climate change on social media but backfired for climate skeptics, reducing their support for a range of climate policies.

A THREE-PEAT FOR WOMEN'S WATER POLO

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

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

For the sixth consecutive season—including COVID-shortened 2020—the Sagehens dominated the SCIAC, going undefeated in regular-season conference play. But their 25-10 overall record hints at one of the reasons for their D-III dominance. Each year, the Sagehens take on Division I teams in nonconference games as they test themselves—and prepare for the USA Water Polo championship that was created to provide



The Pomona-Pitzer women's water polo team celebrates another USA Water Polo title by jumping into the pool at the end of the match.

a competition for D-III teams that otherwise had no option except the single-division NCAA championship dominated by Division I teams.

"We don't let Division III define us," says Assistant Coach **Alex La**, who helmed the team this season with Head Coach **Alex Rodriguez** on sabbatical. "We define who we are. We always want to take on the best and really see where we stack up."

Captains **Abby Wiesenthal '24**, **Madison Lewis '24** and **Namlhun Jachung PZ '24** took their lumps as younger starters playing against the best programs in the country. But punching above their weight served a greater purpose.

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

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

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

"This year, I think everybody expected to win those games, especially the seniors, who really want to leave a legacy," La says. "Our program has always been about 'Who can we knock off? How good can we be?'"

In end-of-season conference honors, Jachung repeated as SCIAC Athlete of the Year while goalkeeper **Zosia Amberger '25** earned her second SCIAC Defensive Athlete of the Year award. La and his assistants received Coaching Staff of the Year honors. [PCM](#)

MAKE IT A DOUBLE: SWIMMERS TAKE 2 NATIONAL TITLES IN RELAYS

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

Two days later, three of them—Wang, Turvey and Mello—combined with **Katie Gould '24** to win the 400 freestyle relay on the final day of the championships in Greensboro, North Carolina. Before the first of the two relay titles, the program's last national title was in the 800 freestyle relay in 1984.

The 2024 Pomona-Pitzer women finished seventh overall in the team competition won by

Kenyon College. Turvey, the three-time SCIAC Athlete of the Year in women's swimming, capped her individual career at the NCAA meet with two national runner-up finishes, taking second in the 50 freestyle as well as the 100 butterfly. [PCM](#)

200 freestyle relay champions, from left: Sabrina Wang '26, Alexandra Turvey '24, Francesca Coppo '27 (out of pool) with Valerie Mello PZ '25 in the water.



400 freestyle relay champions, from left: Alexandra Turvey '24, Katie Gould '24, Sabrina Wang '26, Valerie Mello PZ '25

A DOZEN FINAL FOURS

Melissa Barlow '87 was selected to the officiating crew for the NCAA women's basketball Final Four for the 12th time in her career this past season. She called the semifinal game between eventual national champion South Carolina and North Carolina State.

Barlow has officiated on the floor in 11 Final Four games and worked as the alternate at the scorer's table one other time. She was the senior official of the 11-person Final Four crew for the most-watched women's Final Four in history, with viewers drawn by Iowa star Caitlin Clark and South Carolina's undefeated season.

Mindful of staying in sports officiating when she no longer wants to run up and down the court for the better part of an hour, Barlow has now trained as an NCAA football replay official who works from the booth. This football season, she'll work in the role of communicator in the booth in the Big Ten Conference after wrapping up last season on the crew for the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium in New York. [PCM](#)



Rachel LeMay '27



Angie Zhou '25



Chloe Boudreau '24



Isaac Kim '24

Women's Golf No. 3 in Nation

Women's Tennis Top 4 in Nation

Women's Lacrosse Top 8 in Nation

Baseball Reaches 1st World Series

Find out more at sagehens.com.

'COACH BUD' MOVES WEST

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

"My dad, Vince Budenholzer, 94 years old, sitting here in the front row. We call him the original Coach Bud, '71 state championship with my brother Jim," Budenholzer said at his first news conference. "I love you, Dad."

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

"I don't know what the word is, surreal or wild," said Budenholzer, who reminisced about past players including Alvan Adams, Walter Davis and Paul Westphal and "my dad taking me in the backyard and teaching me Paul Westphal, reverse pivot into a pump fake into a step-through."

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

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

"I can't wait to get to work," he said. [PCM](#)



Courtesy of Phoenix Suns

In the year 2000, only about 2% of Pomona students were from other countries. Now, international students make up almost 13% of the student body—and U.S. students benefit, too.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

By Carla Maria Guerrero '06

For Vidusshi Hingad '25, the idea of being the first in her family to leave India for college abroad was nothing short of exhilarating—and daunting. But Pomona has proven to be a home away from home for the Mumbai native.

“From the moment that I landed in LAX, I have been exposed to a world of growth, inclusivity and, most importantly, genuine community,” says Hingad, who has participated in the mock trial program and served on the Associated Students of Pomona College’s Senate. “I have come to know that at Pomona, people are everything,” she says.

At the beginning of this century, international students were a modest presence at Pomona College, making up only about 2% of the student body. Fast forward to today and that percentage has soared, with 12.89% of students at Pomona during the past academic year from other countries, hailing from nearly 60 nations. The growth in international enrollment has enhanced Pomona’s campus culture, creating a vibrant array of backgrounds and perspectives.

Living and studying with students from other countries provides an educational experience for U.S. students as well, says Esther Brimmer '83, a foreign affairs expert who formerly was executive director and CEO of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the largest nonprofit professional association devoted to international education.

“It’s extremely important for students in the United States to have the opportunity to study with students from around the world,” Brimmer says. “Many students will not be able to travel internationally. But it is a wonderful opportunity for students across the United States to benefit from learning from their colleagues in the classroom, their friends in the dorm, their friends on the sports team. It’s a great way for students to be able to get to know people from other parts of the world even if they do not or are not able to travel.”



Vidusshi Hingad '25

Arriving Sight Unseen

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

“There’s so much talent in the local high schools, and some of these high schools we just couldn’t access without the local outreach of our partners.”

— Director of Admissions
Adam Sapp

“I remember going home and searching it up, and suddenly everything began to click,” Hingad says. “I remember reading the statement, ‘the promise is in the place,’ and that is exactly why I applied—from small class sizes to warm weather (and people). I applied Early Decision without even visiting the campus.”

In that first face-to-face encounter with Sapp, a person she was only familiar with from afar, Hingad says she became an admirer of the way he described Pomona’s interdisciplinary education, explaining how the liberal arts approach allows knowledge to build on itself.



Summer 2024

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

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

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

Finding Talented Students

Recruiting international students starts earlier for some of those reasons. Pomona often will begin to connect with students as early as ninth or 10th grade. Admissions officers traveling to other countries not only visit what are known as international schools—which generally have multinational students and multilingual

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

instruction—but also public high schools, which typically offer that country’s national curriculum.

In addition, Pomona engages with government initiatives like EducationUSA, a U.S. State Department network of international student advising centers in more than 170 countries, as well as international nonprofits and foundations like the Davis Foundation and its United World College Scholars Program, the Grew Bancroft Foundation, the Sutton Trust and Bridge2Rwanda, among others.

As an example of the effectiveness of those partnerships, Sapp says that every student admitted to Pomona’s Class of 2028 from Argentina, Uruguay, Egypt or Vietnam had a direct link to a global nonprofit partner.

“It’s important to us that we do work beyond traditional international high schools,” Sapp says. “There’s so much talent in the local high schools, and some of these high schools

we just couldn’t access without the local outreach of our partners.”

Among Pomona’s longstanding partners is the Davis United World Colleges Scholars Program, which is linked to 18 United World College high schools around the world welcoming students from 160 countries. Their scholars study at almost 100 college and university partners across the U.S., including all five Claremont Colleges. During 2024-25, the foundation contributed more than \$125,000 in scholarship support to Davis United World College scholars attending Pomona.

One marked difference between the international admissions process and that for U.S.-based domestic students is financial aid. For international students applying from outside the U.S., Pomona’s admissions process is what is called need-aware. Unlike the need-blind admissions policy employed for domestic

International students gathering in front of Bridges Auditorium



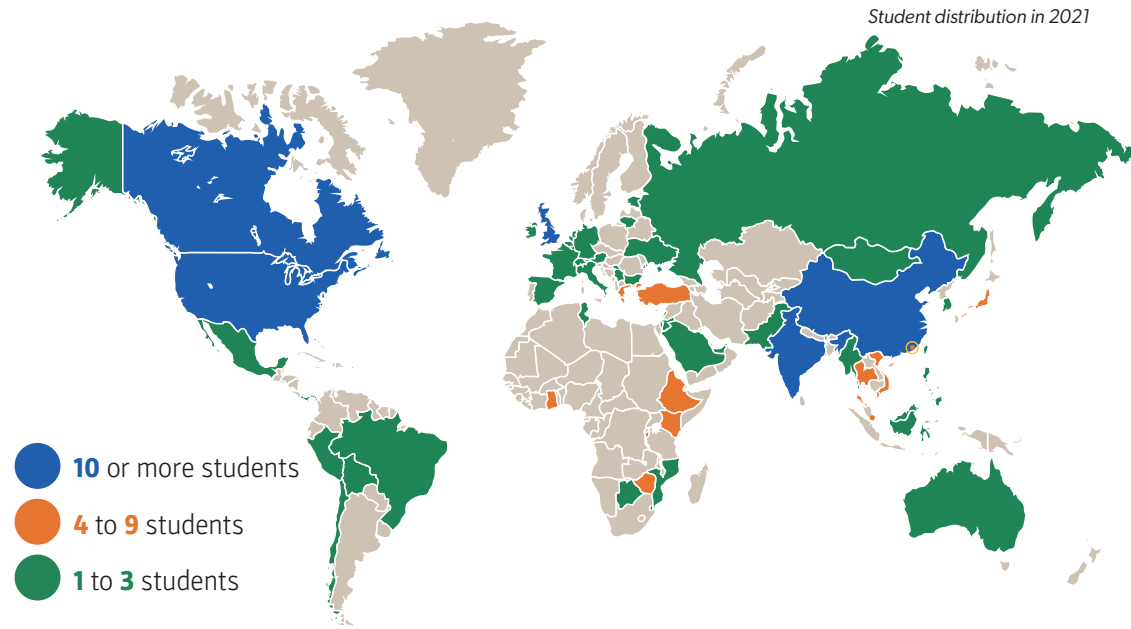
Pomona College Magazine

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

"We're incredibly lucky to have policies in place that ensure international students from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds have access to a Pomona education," Sapp says.

Nationally, colleges suffered a "pandemic slump" in international student recruitment but those numbers have rebounded, in part because of a 35% increase in students from India, according to a recent Open Doors report sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

The top countries that sent students to Pomona for the past academic year were China (29 students), India (20), Japan (12), Greece and Kenya (11 each) and Canada (nine).



In total, 59 countries were represented by Pomona's F-1 visa-holding students. (An F-1 visa allows a nonimmigrant to study in the U.S. as long as they are a full-time student enrolled in an approved academic program and are proficient in English, among other criteria.)

Student Support Services

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

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

In addition, F-1 status has a big impact on an international student's academic and career choices. "F-1 visa-holding students can work in

the U.S. up to a year after graduation, as long as the job relates to their major, but for STEM majors it goes up to two years," says Quispe. "This year, of our 33 graduating seniors, 27 are graduating in STEM." Quispe adds that this makes Pomona a place for international students who major in STEM to still enjoy the full offerings of a liberal arts education.

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

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

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

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

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

Kim recalls spending Thanksgiving on Pomona's campus among international friends for an ISMP-hosted dinner. "They had different cuisines so people could feel like they're back home," says Kim, remembering how the Salvadoran and Chinese foods at one dinner included pupusas and other dishes that were



International students gathering for their end-of-year dinner in April 2023 to say a farewell to graduating seniors.

similar to Guatemalan and Korean cuisines. "They had tortillas and fajitas and you could make your own small taco and that really reminded me of home."

Hingad recalls her first year when she performed spoken-word poetry at an open mic event on campus. Two years later, a lot has changed, but that feeling remains the same. Her work, titled "Home," resonated deeply with many people. "The piece was about small impacts that people make and how they compound to make 91711 [Pomona's ZIP code] a home," she says. "It's the shared experience of different people coming from different backgrounds with one thing in common: good parts of humanity."

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

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

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



Young Seo Kim '26



In the Shadow of Giants

By Marilyn Thomsen

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

From left: Vera Berger '23, Sofia Dartnell '22, Mohammed Ahmed '23 and Rya Jetha '23. Photographed by Jean-Luc Benazet



Fellows' rooms as seen from First Court, Jesus College

Cambridge is waking up slowly on a crisp Sunday morning. The shadows of the scientists and other thinkers who have walked this ancient English university town seem to play across the cobblestone streets connecting the 31 colleges that call it home. Long before the apple dropped—or didn't drop—on Isaac Newton's head, his education in Cambridge prepared him to outline the foundations of modern physics. Alumnus Charles Darwin's curiosity about a professor's botanical work eventually bore fruit in the theory of evolution. And less than a mile away from where a group of Sagehens are getting their caffeine for the day is the Eagle Pub, where 71 years ago Francis Crick announced that he and James Watson had "discovered the secret of life"—the structure of DNA.

Moments of "Am I really here?" abound for four recent Pomona alumni pursuing graduate degrees at the University of Cambridge, all with full scholarships their small liberal arts college in California helped them land. Vera Berger '23 is a Churchill Scholar, enrolled in a master of philosophy program in scientific computing before she starts a Ph.D. in physics at MIT in the coming year. "I had a pinch-me moment while attending a lunchtime astronomy talk

on exoplanet atmospheres," she says. "I stood in the back of the room by a professor who at the end of the talk asked a thought-provoking question. I looked over and realized he was the person who won the Nobel Prize for discovering the first exoplanet."

'A Museum Unto Itself'

"The city of Cambridge is a museum unto itself with so much fascinating history," says Downing-Pomona Scholar Rya Jetha '23, a master of philosophy student in world history. "I was astounded to learn when I first got here that one of the libraries at Cambridge—Trinity College's Wren Library—has original manuscripts of Shakespeare's plays, Isaac Newton's annotated copy of the *Principia Mathematica* and the original texts of *Winnie-the-Pooh*." Sitting in a library writing an essay about historian J. R. Seeley and his foundational work on the British empire's spatiality, Jetha suddenly realized that he had been a Cambridge professor—"and right then I was sitting in the Seeley Library named after him!"

Some commonly used inventions have had odd beginnings within these walls. Sofia

Dartnell '22 is a Gates Cambridge Scholar and Ph.D. student in zoology at Darwin College whose research focuses on bumblebee conservation by studying their parasites. She learned from a professor in her department how the webcam that makes Zoom meetings possible had its origin near her lab. "It was originally built by caffeinated scientists who wanted to know whether there was coffee brewing in the building's coffee pot before making their walk over," she says. "The original coffee room in question is where I drink tea every morning."

Mohammed Ahmed '23 remembers the moment he saw the email telling him he was, like Jetha, a Downing-Pomona Scholar. The award pays all expenses at Downing College for a year of master's-level study in any discipline taught at Cambridge. Pomona graduates have been studying at Downing as part of the program for the past 30 years. "I was in shock," Ahmed recalls. "I called my parents, then my brother, then friends. And finally just sat to take it in." Though he'd never visited Cambridge, he says he "imagined it would be grand. I knew it was old and had history but did not know it was founded in 1209."

Making Their Own Marks

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

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

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

"I'm currently running choice experiments in the lab to figure out how accurate their sense of smell is." So far, she's found that it is spot-on. One wrinkle about the cuckoo bees—they are masters of disguise, a skill that has evolved since they cannot produce their own workers in their colonies. "They can pick up the scent profile of a colony they are invading and convince the worker bees to work for them using pheromones," Dartnell explains. Cuckoos are an apex species that could be a "canary in a coal mine" for populations of pollinators facing threats of pesticides and habitat change. Ultimately, Dartnell hopes her research will help farmers modify their landscapes to support bee populations, which also could improve their crop yields.

During her undergrad years at Pomona, Berger became fascinated with stellar flares and "how flares may contribute to the creation or destruction of life on other planets." She developed a keen interest in learning how stars evolve and explode. In her Cambridge program, she is gaining computational skills useful "to model anything that can be thought of as fluid—liquids, plasmas and even solid materials that can squish or bend," she says. After spending much of the year in coursework, she is excited to now be involved in a research lab exploring magnetic reconnection in plasma that produces these stellar flares. In future doctoral work, Berger says, she is "planning to study highly energetic astrophysical objects as probes of some of the most extreme physics in the universe."



Sofia Dartnell '22 raises bumblebees to use in her research. Wild queens are caught and provided pollen, nectar and a warm environment to encourage them to lay eggs. They are kept in the dark to mimic their natural nesting conditions underground, and checked in red light the bees can't see. Below, Dartnell displays her research.



"I was astounded to learn when I first got here that one of the libraries at Cambridge—Trinity College's Wren Library—has original manuscripts of Shakespeare's plays, Isaac Newton's annotated copy of the *Principia Mathematica* and the original texts of *Winnie-the-Pooh*."

—Rya Jetha '23

Opening Up Opportunities

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

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

Each of the Sagehens attributes their current academic opportunities to encouragement from faculty, staff and friends at Pomona. During Dartnell’s freshman year, her advisor, Associate Professor of Biology Sara



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

—Mohammed Ahmed '23

Olson, told her, “If you keep going like this, Sofia, you could apply for fellowships,” naming some of the major ones. “I know it’s early,” Olson said. “Just putting it on your radar.” The early encouragement paid dividends. Midway through her senior year, Dartnell got word that she had won a prestigious Gates Cambridge



Punting on the River Cam is a quintessential Cambridge activity. Rya Jetha '23 rows the punt with passenger Sofia Dartnell '22.

Scholarship. It covers all expenses for an entire Ph.D. program at the university, and recipients become lifetime members of an active and supportive community of scholars.

Jetha, who was raised in Mumbai, found her research direction as a freshman in a history class, Indian Ocean World, taught by Professor Arash Khazeni. The topic inspired her senior thesis as a history major, but she lacked access to important primary sources that were housed in the U.K. and not digitized.

“Professor Khazeni encouraged me to apply for the Downing Scholarship to continue my research in Cambridge,” she says. “I’d be a one-hour train ride away from a treasure trove of archives in London.” Since arriving in Cambridge, Jetha has become very familiar with the route to the British Library, where Charles Dickens, Karl Marx and Virginia Woolf also hung out. “Really, there’s nothing more exciting for a historian than spending the day looking at government records, letters, maps and other primary sources in the archives,” she says.

Beyond the Classroom

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

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

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

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

Slowing down may seem surprising for high-achieving Sagehens in a historic university. In reality, though, it may be what helps them to successfully pursue their dreams while enjoying a balanced life. They find time for weekly chats at Bould Brothers Coffee in town or late-night scoops at Jack’s Gelato, a place in the city center that is so

popular, the line frequently extends out the door. All four enjoy the renowned traditional Cambridge formal dinners the colleges host and where Berger says there is “eye-opening conversation” and Jetha adds that “people just sit and chat for the sake of it. You’re socializing and you’re not expected to do anything else. The setting is beautiful. That’s quintessentially Cambridge for me.”

‘Living English’

For Ahmed, Berger and Jetha, graduation this spring will wrap up their “year of living English.” They’ll move back to the right side of the sidewalk again—Ahmed was startled to discover that in the U.K. people not only drive on the left but also walk on that side as well. They’ll eventually return to calling a “flat” an “apartment,” throwing trash in a garbage “can” instead of a “bin” and driving cars that have “hoods” and “trunks” instead of “bonnets” and “boots.” A “jumper” will transform magically once again into a “sweater.” And perhaps not everything will be “dodgy” or “brilliant.”

Their paths will diverge as they build their futures. Ahmed plans to enroll in an M.D.-Ph.D. program and continue medical research to help patients overcome disease. Jetha, who worked on the staff of *The Student Life* newspaper during her college years, has accepted a position as a journalist in San Francisco. Berger is aiming for an academic career, hoping to teach in a liberal arts college after she completes her doctoral work.

Dartnell is settling in as she nears the halfway point of what she anticipates will be

“Extending the residential college structure to postgraduate education has allowed me to build a strong community with postgrads across the academic spectrum.”

—Vera Berger '23

a four-year Ph.D. program. She’s excited to be generating research data and she is getting valuable experience leading weekly small-group discussion and debate sessions for clusters of undergraduates enrolled in conservation science courses. “I’m passionate about undergraduate teaching,” she says. “I hope to follow my passions for insect conservation and teaching to a career as a professor, ideally in an undergraduate-focused institution similar to Pomona.”

But for a little while longer, Cambridge life beckons. On this April morning, the dark of winter—when the sun sets as early as 3:46 in the afternoon—has given way to glorious blue skies. Dartnell sits on an outdoor bench near Regent Street, soaking up the sunshine and “getting some vitamin D.” For these four Sagehens in Cambridge, their Pomona experiences have set them up for success. Their futures, like the tulips and flowering trees around them, are beginning to bloom. [PCM](#)



Kitchen Bridge, St. John’s College. Since the 13th century, the River Cam has provided an idyllic backdrop for learning at the University of Cambridge.





Esther Brimmer, then U.S. assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, addresses the U.N. Human Rights Council in 2009 after the U.S. assumed its seat for the first time for a full session of the Council. U.N. PHOTO/Jess Hoffman

A GLOBAL VIEW

Esther Brimmer '83 studied abroad in Geneva. Decades later, she returned to the city as a U.S. assistant secretary of state. For her, as for others, a semester away influenced a career.

By Robyn Norwood

In the fall of 1981, her junior year at Pomona College, Esther Brimmer '83 arrived in Switzerland for a semester of graduate-level study in international affairs at what is now the Geneva Graduate Institute.

To say the experience was transformative is an understatement.

Brimmer couldn't have imagined her return to Geneva in 2009—one of many in her career—for what she called “my proudest moment as a diplomat.”

As assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs under President Barack Obama, Brimmer gave the first speech on behalf of the United States as an elected member of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

“We recognize that the United States’ record on human rights is imperfect,” Brimmer said in part. “Our history includes lapses and setbacks, and there remains a great deal of work to be done.”

“But our history is a story of progress. Indeed, my presence here today is a testament to that progress, as is the administration I serve. It is the president’s hope and my own that we can continue that momentum at home and around the world.”



Esther Brimmer, then assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, at 2009 news conference. Courtesy of U.S. Mission Geneva

AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

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

Acquiring a broader global view has value beyond career preparation, she says, and a

college student doesn't necessarily have to cross a border to gain it.

“There are many different ways in which students can engage in international education—studying abroad, studying international issues at home, getting to know international students,” Brimmer says.

“But one of the important things in being able to study outside of one’s home country is to be able to get insight into how other people around the world view the important aspects of life—being a human being and the important aspects of the world around us, what the issues are and how they look different from different parts of the world. That information can inform all sorts of activities in life. You do not have to just specialize in international relations as a career—much as I would advocate people doing that—in order to benefit from international education.”

A COMMON LANGUAGE

Arriving in Geneva, Brimmer at first mixed mainly with other students from Pomona or in the same program. Then she began classes with graduate students from around the world. The French she had studied at Pomona was not only one of the four national languages of Switzerland, she discovered, it was also a lingua franca—a common language that could be spoken among people who did not speak each other’s first languages or who easily switched among multiple languages.

“The professor might be replying to you in French, but you could ask your question in English or French,” she recalls. “It was impressive to see the range of languages that the students had already studied by the time they got there. Their facility with multiple languages was quite eye-opening. For some, French and English were their second or third languages.”

The agility Brimmer developed in French—once known as “the language of diplomacy” and still an official language of many international bodies despite France’s decline as a superpower—has been an asset throughout her career.

“I used to remind students that, let’s say you’re interested in security issues and you want to go work for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, you actually have to

have French as well as English in order to be on the international staff at NATO,” she says. “It’s true in the United Nations system, but it’s also true about other places as well, where languages are going to help get you the job. International language ability can be quite useful, even if that’s not your specialty, because you’re able to work with colleagues from other countries.”

Brimmer has watched with dismay as some colleges and universities have eliminated foreign language requirements altogether and others have modest standards. For instance, in some University of California and Cal State University programs, students can fulfill a requirement without taking language in college—simply by completing three or four years of a foreign language in high school with a C- or better.

“It is absolutely crucial to understanding other societies,” Brimmer says. “We as human beings express our ideas, thoughts and feelings through language. And then in order to understand these ideas, we need to understand them in their own languages. I’ve been deeply disappointed to see institutions—recognizing they may have their own challenges—but institutions making a short-term economic calculation and missing the long-term implications of what they’re doing. I would

want to see language study expand in the United States.”

Strolling the streets of Geneva, Brimmer began to see the news of the world through a new prism.

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

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

Geneva, the second-largest city in Switzerland, is the European headquarters of the United Nations and the international headquarters of the Red Cross.



Pomona College Magazine



Metate yearbook, 1983

OUR INTERCONNECTED WORLD

Being exposed to the tutorial system in Geneva—teaching based not on lectures but on deep conversations among very small groups of students and an expert on the subject—also contributed to Brimmer’s decision to go to Oxford University in England after graduating from Pomona. She earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in international relations at Oxford, completing her work in 1989.

Geneva—home to more international organizations than any city in the world and the headquarters of many agencies of the U.N.—has remained special to Brimmer throughout her career.

In 2000, she returned for several weeks as a member of the U.S. delegation helping to negotiate a U.N. resolution on democracy as a fundamental human right. Instead of arriving as a college student, she arrived with her husband and 3-year-old son.

Later, as assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, the U.S. mission to U.N. organizations in Geneva was her bureau’s largest post.

In addition to government roles, Brimmer has had an extensive academic career as a professor at George Washington

University’s Elliott School of International Affairs and as the first deputy director and director of research at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

In her role at the Council on Foreign Relations, which she has been a member of since 1991, she is writing a book about the necessity of better governance mechanisms to manage expanding human activities in outer space. She also coordinates the work of the Council of Councils, which brings together international affairs research organizations from 24 countries for policy analysis and discussion.

At the State Department, in addition to her role as assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, Brimmer served on the policy planning staff from 1999 to 2001 and on the staff of the undersecretary for political affairs from 1993 to 1995.

The world she studied as a college student is much different than the one we live and work in now, she says. So many more industries and professions than ever before are interlocked with global concerns.

“It has been striking to realize how much more our lives intersect and interact compared to 40 or 50 years ago—or even 30 years ago,” she says. “Whatever products we use, there’s a good chance that they come from somewhere else in the world. The food we eat, some comes from our own countries and some from the rest of the world. On a daily basis, we depend on not only the trade of goods but also the trade in services, and we benefit from worldwide supply chains. The rapid movement of communications and technology are part of the impact of technology on our daily life. And that means that we are aware of what’s going on in the rest of the world, and the rest of the world actually affects us.

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

A Pomona Seminar on International Issues, Taught Overseas



“Diplomats!”

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

He spent nearly 10 years as a Foreign Service officer with the U.S.

Department of State, gaining a storehouse of knowledge he shares with students on the Pomona campus and, in the summer of 2024, on location in Belgium and Morocco.

The four-week immersive seminar, Diplomacy and Human Rights in the Mediterranean, is the first of what Nicole Desjardins Gowdy, senior director of international and domestic programs, hopes will be annual study away programs led by Pomona faculty in a variety of disciplines. It’s part of an effort to make additional short-term, focused international experiences available to students, though she notes that Pomona has so far bucked the national trend toward compressed study abroad. By the time they graduate, about

half of Sagehens have studied away from campus, usually for an entire semester, in one of the 67 programs offered in 37 countries. Boduszynski says that in this class, as many as half the students had never been abroad.

Students enrolled in Diplomacy and Human Rights will have an up-close, behind the scenes look at diplomacy in action in Brussels, Belgium, headquarters of the European Union, and Morocco, a southern Mediterranean nation that is, as Boduszynski explains, “at once Arab and African.” In Belgium, they will meet with leaders of organizations such as NATO, the European Union and Human Rights Watch. In Morocco, they will visit the U.S. Consulate General, meet with a leading novelist and a *New York Times* journalist, tour the Amal Center for Women and Single Mothers, and talk with a human rights activist.

Each day will immerse the students deeper into the process of “policymaking around human rights, which has to be balanced with other kinds of goals, like security, migration and economics,” says Boduszynski. “They will actually meet the people who make those policies right in the spaces where they make them.” [PCM](#)

—Marilyn Thomsen



Esther Brimmer '83 received an honorary degree and gave a Commencement speech at Pomona in 2019.

Studying abroad has inspired many a student to pursue an international career, sometimes as a foreign service officer. Here are just two examples among Pomona’s increasing number of prominent career diplomats.



David Holmes '97, then posted in Ukraine, arrives for questioning as part of the 2019 impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. REUTERS/Yara Nardi

“I had never been abroad at all; it was my first time traveling outside the United States, ever. And it got me interested in foreign affairs for the first time.”

/// **David Holmes '97**
Deputy Chief of Mission
U.S. Embassy in Budapest, Hungary
Studied Abroad at University College in Oxford, England



Ambassador Eric Kneedler, right, greets former President Bill Clinton in Rwanda.

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

/// **Eric Kneedler '95**
U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda
U.S. Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda
Studied abroad in Strasbourg, France

By the Numbers 2024 Alumni Weekend and Reunions

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

1,515
Attendees

1950 **2021**
Oldest class year in attendance Most recent class year in attendance

Most attended events

1,286 Saturday All-Class Lunch

1,140 Party at the Wash

1,040 Friday All-Class Dinner

994 A Taste of Pomona Wine Tasting and Mocktails

862 Sunday Champagne Brunch

278 Return to the Coop Young Alumni Food Truck Fest



Visit the Reunion Leaderboard at pomona.edu/reunion-leaderboard to see the number of attendees for each class and top 10 classes for Most Donors, Largest Class Gift, Highest Participation and Largest Reunion Recognition Total—or to contribute to your Reunion Class Gift. The Reunion Giving Campaign ends June 30.

See more Alumni Weekend photos at pomona.edu/alumni-weekend-photos.

Celebrating Our Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

We were fortunate to have all of our 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award winners on campus during Alumni Weekend this year to honor them in person for their remarkable impact beyond the Gates and dedicated service to the College. Read about this year's awardees at pomona.edu/alumni-awards-2024.



The Blaisdell Distinguished Alumni Award:
Anson "Tuck" Hines '69, Evelyn Nussenbaum '84 and Mary Walshok '64

The Alumni Distinguished Service Award:
Thomas Doe '71, Verne Naito '77, Julie Siebel '84 and Jonathan Siegel '84

The Inspirational Young Alumni Award:
Kelebogile Zvobgo '14

The Faculty Alumni Service Award:
Donna M. Di Grazia, David J. Baldwin Professor of Music

From left: Blaisdell Alumni Award recipients Evelyn Nussenbaum '84, Anson "Tuck" Hines '69 and Mary Walshok '64. Past Alumni Association Board President Frank Albinder '80.



From left: Alumni Association Board President Alfredo Romero '91, alumni award recipients Julie Siebel '84, Tom Doe '71, Kelebogile "Kelly" Zvobgo '14, Jon Siegel '84 and Faculty Alumni Service Award winner Donna M. Di Grazia. Not pictured: Verne Naito '77.



• UPCOMING •

Sagehen Families,
Save the Date:
Family Weekend 2024
is Nov. 1-2.
Find out more at
pomona.edu/family-weekend.



Read the latest Stories of Sagehen Impact at pomona.edu/stories-of-impact.



Not on Sagehen Connect, yet? Learn more and register at pomona.edu/sagehencconnect.



2023-24 Alumni Association Board



From left, front row: Linda Luisi '81, Robi Ganguly '00, Nina Zhou '19, Tricia Sipowicz '85, Te'auna Patterson '18, Andrea Venezia '91, Carol Kruse '84, Julie Siebel '84, Jim Sutton '84. Back row: Toran Langford '21, Andrew Brown '77, Michael Bright '10, Alfredo Romero '91, Stuart Friedel '08, Miguel Delgado '20, Joshua Rodriguez '13, Soren Austenfeld '15. Not pictured: Aldair Arriola-Gomez '17, Marcel Green '90, Jeff Levere '12, Lew Phelps '65, Amy Van Buren Rhodes '07.

I'm Honored. Thank You!

A farewell message from the Alumni Association Board President



Dear Sagehens,
Alumni Weekend 2024 was a wonderful celebration and showcase of the Sagehen spirit, displaying the

diversity of thought and broad engagement that make us who we are. I'm grateful for every alum I had the opportunity to meet or reconnect with in person, especially as my term as Alumni Association Board President is ending on June 30. A big thank you to the hardworking Alumni Association Board, additional alumni volunteers, our dedicated Alumni and Family Engagement team and the Advancement team overall, who made it possible to welcome an exceptional number of Sagehens back to campus.

And hey, I'm already excited for next year's! If you weren't able to join us this time, I truly encourage you to join us for Alumni Weekend 2025.

It's been an incredible ride and an honor to serve our community on the Alumni Board these past seven years, particularly these last two as president. What a privilege to serve alongside Sagehens from a wide span of class years, geographies, backgrounds, careers and life experiences—all with the best interests of Pomona College in mind and at heart. I am deeply proud of the board's accomplishments during my years in building engagement and reconnection within our community, including the resurgence of regional alumni chapters, our involvement in planning and boots-on-the-ground support of Alumni Weekends and, one of the best parts for me, supporting our students (and future alumni!) through career development programs and other opportunities.

And so, it's time for me to say farewell, but I plan to continue serving our community. Please consider volunteering for the Alumni Board; it is an enriching experience. I leave you in great hands with incoming Alumni Board President **Andrea Venezia '91**, current board members and our new members, who begin serving July 1.

Yours in Sagehen service, always,

Alfredo

Alfredo Romero '91
President, Alumni Association Board
pomona.edu/alumni-board



By David Ronfeldt '63 A Friendship, a Year Studying in Mexico and a New Way of Seeing the World

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

The first was in the summer of '61, when he said, "Let's go to Mexico for our junior year."

If he'd not suggested studying at Mexico City College, I never would have become a Latin American specialist. I changed my major every semester my freshman and sophomore years. First it was English (gonna write a Great American Novel). Then psychology (gonna learn how minds work). Next art (gonna be an architect). And then, government (I forget why). Going to Mexico ended that uncertainty.

Soon as I returned for my senior year, I settled on international relations, with additional studies in Latin American history. I lucked out in having two terrific professors, Henry Cord Meyer and Michael Armacost, plus a fine visiting prof on Latin American history, Donald Bray. Then came Stanford University for an M.A. in Latin American studies, plus a Ph.D. in political science.

Next, on to RAND in 1972 as an analyst on U.S.-Latin American relations, mostly regarding Mexico, Cuba and Central America, plus aspects of international terrorism.

Henry reoriented my career a second time when I visited him at home in Mount Baldy Village around 1975. As I was leaving, he waved Alvin Toffler's 1970 book *Future Shock* and urged me to read it. It forecast a world-changing information revolution. I suddenly wanted to work on its global implications for political and security matters.

It took me 10 years to re-educate myself and make the transition, but I finally came up with results: a paper predicting the rise of a new form of government—I called it *cyberocracy*—that would redefine technocracy and democracy. Accordingly, the information revolution would favor network forms of organization, making them more attractive than hierarchies as a way to get stuff done.

We would live in a world of networks versus nations.

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

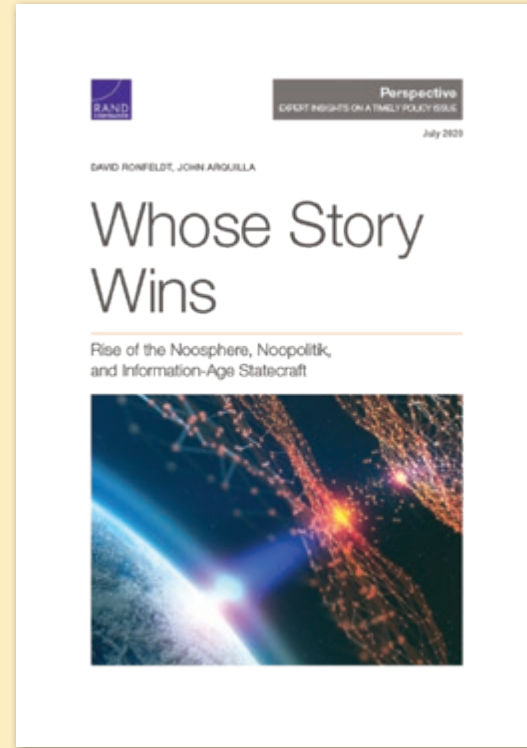
Plus, I got to meet Toffler, who wrote a foreword for one of our volumes.

Late in the 1990s, we worked on broader implications for statecraft. The information age will mean that "whose story wins" becomes almost as decisive as "whose weaponry wins." The importance of "soft power"—e.g., narrative strategy, cognitive warfare—will grow relative to the traditional importance of "hard power." But how to express that? Hard-power strategists had their classic *realpolitik* concept; soft-power strategists had nothing comparable.

So we turned to a century-old scientific vision whereby Earth first evolved a geological layer, the *geosphere*, then eons later a *biosphere* full of plant and animal life, including people. In this vision first proposed in the 1920s, a third layer would emerge next: the *noosphere* (from the Greek root "noos" meaning "mind")—a globe-circling "thinking circuit" that would interconnect all cultures, religions, ideologies and mentalities, thus enabling higher levels of global cooperation, but also conflict.

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

Meanwhile, while wondering what forms of organization besides networks were important, I unearthed a new framework about past, present and future social evolution. Accordingly, societies have relied



across the ages on four cardinal forms of organization: tribes, hierarchical institutions, markets and information-age networks—in that order. This framework proved immediately useful, not only to forecast *cyberwar* and *netwar* as modes of conflict, but also to herald new modes of collaboration and coordination for those such as activists in non-government organizations working on human rights, environmental and other social problems.

I wanted to finish this framework at RAND but opted to retire in 2008 and continue at home. Here's one implication I'm still trying to write up: For 200 years, our society has had three major realms: civil society, government, the economy. In the decades ahead, a fourth—a "commons sector"?—will slowly materialize around the network form. It will become the new home for those interconnected challenges that the existing three sectors no longer handle very well, such as health, education, welfare, the environment. They will all move, and be moved, into this next realm, vastly strengthening and improving our society.

My classmate Henry Bastien and I remain great friends, with keen memories of Pomona's value to our lives. And in keeping with *Pomona College Magazine's* most recent issue, I'm sure Pomona's emphasis on liberal arts educated me to have sufficient flexibility and adaptability to refocus my career. But I better be careful around Henry now—I'm not sure I could handle a third shift at this point in life. [PCM](#)

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WE DID IT!

Your generosity this spring unlocked a \$150,000
 Trustee Challenge gift for the Pomona Fund!

A big thank you to our alumni, families and friends
 who contributed to this special effort. Chirp!



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Margaret Dornish

Emerita Professor of Religious Studies
1934-2023

Emerita Professor of Religious Studies Margaret “Peggy” Dornish, who taught at Pomona for 32 years, died on December 27, 2023. She was 89.

Dornish attended Smith College from 1952 to 1956, where she majored in English language and literature and graduated magna cum laude. While studying religion at Claremont Graduate School in the late 1960s, she became interested in Buddhism, both on a scholarly and personal level.

“Her dissertation on D. T. Suzuki was a pathbreaking departure from the almost exclusive focus on Abrahamic traditions at the School of Religion at Claremont Graduate School,” says Zhiru Ng, professor of religious studies.

“I find Buddhist philosophy and ethics compelling,” Dornish told *Pomona College Magazine* in 2001. “I think most people who study Buddhism can’t help being influenced by it.”

She received a teaching post at Pomona College in 1969. When she began at Pomona, Dornish was among a handful of women faculty and the lone female instructor in a building that did not have a women’s bathroom.

For a time, she was the only person at The Claremont Colleges teaching Asian religions. She played a pivotal role in extending the scope and methodologies utilized for the study of religions at The Claremont Colleges. She was extremely proud of the transformation of Pomona College’s Religious Studies Department, which went from what she called “a seminary” to an intercollegiate discipline with an emphasis on religions across the globe.



She also was instrumental in strengthening other programs at the College, including Asian Studies, Women’s Studies and American Studies.

“She was a rock,” said Professor of Japanese Kyoko Kurita. “At Pomona she became a defender of the minority during the days when diversity was not appreciated as much as it is today. I would not be here today if she had not supported me in my early years

at Pomona when there was no support system for the starting faculty.”

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

She traveled to Japan roughly a dozen times, encouraging Claremont Colleges faculty, students and staff to attend the Kyoto-based monastery at Tofuku-ji, where her good friend Keido Fukushima served as abbot and ceremonial head over scores of temples.

“Being single, and because of the way I see things from Buddhism, there’s a kind of shape to my life,” Dornish told *Pomona College Magazine* in 1998. “I don’t lead two lives, as most of my colleagues do. They have their teaching, and they have their family. I only lead one life, so the things I’m interested in personally are the things I’m interested in professionally.”

Ng remembers Dornish as “fearless and frank” and “an amazingly courageous woman with a big heart.”

After retiring from Pomona, Dornish moved to Carlsbad, California, and joined the League of Women Voters in the San Diego area. She contributed a number of articles to their journal and became one of the leaders.

“There are no big choices in my life, just small steps,” Dornish was fond of saying. “No big decision to go this way or that way, just incremental decisions—and lots of opportunities.” [PCM](#)

Stanleigh Jones

Emeritus Professor of Japanese
1931-2024

Emeritus Professor of Japanese Stanleigh Jones, who taught at Pomona College for 19 years and at The Claremont Colleges for a combined 35 years, died on February 4, 2024. He was 92.

A resident of Claremont since 1968, Jones taught Japanese language and literature at Claremont Graduate School (now Claremont Graduate University) for 16 years before moving across Sixth Street in 1984 when Pomona absorbed the CGS Japanese program. He retired in 2004.

During his career, Jones translated two of the “San Daisaku” (Three Great Works) of Japan’s Bunraku puppet theatre and numerous other plays and excerpts, making a monumental contribution to the literature of Bunraku theatre in English. His courses included classes in beginning and advanced Japanese, classical Japanese, premodern and modern Japanese literature, and Japanese theatre.

“Stan was not only a dedicated teacher of Japanese who taught Japanese kanji classes at 7:30 a.m. but also a pioneering scholar who published groundbreaking translations of Japanese puppet plays,” said Sam Yamashita, Henry E. Sheffield Professor of History at Pomona College.

“He also was a wonderful and interesting human being: He was smart, had a great sense of humor and was quirky and eccentric. He was the first colleague to drive me into Los Angeles for a scholarly meeting, and he did it in style—in his vintage Mustang.”

Emerita Professor of Japanese Lynne Miyake remembered Jones as “a wonderful



teacher, mentor and friend,” who “never let anything get him down.”

“He definitely did his own thing, enticing students to come early in the morning for special kanji practice and filling his office with amazing books and tools of his trade, of course, but also his collection of manual typewriters, of all things!” Miyake said. “And whenever I needed a break or a picker-upper, I would wander over to his office across from mine and he was always there to chat and make me laugh. He will be sorely missed.”

Born in Virginia in 1931, Jones graduated from Virginia Military Institute before serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force from 1953 to 1955. Sent to Korea in the wake of the Korean War, he had several opportunities to visit Japan, where he found “a gracious, cordial, hospitable people,” he told *Pomona College Magazine* in 2003—the opposite of the image of

the Japanese painted in the U.S. after Pearl Harbor, he said.

Deciding to live in Tokyo for a time after he left the service, Jones studied Japanese language and became fascinated with traditional Japanese theatre, particularly the puppet theatre known as Bunraku.

Afterward, he returned to the U.S. to continue his study of Japanese at Columbia University in New York, earning a master’s and Ph.D. He taught at Yale, USC and the University of Kentucky before arriving in Claremont.

“He genuinely loved Claremont and The Claremont Colleges, and often expressed how truly happy he was that he

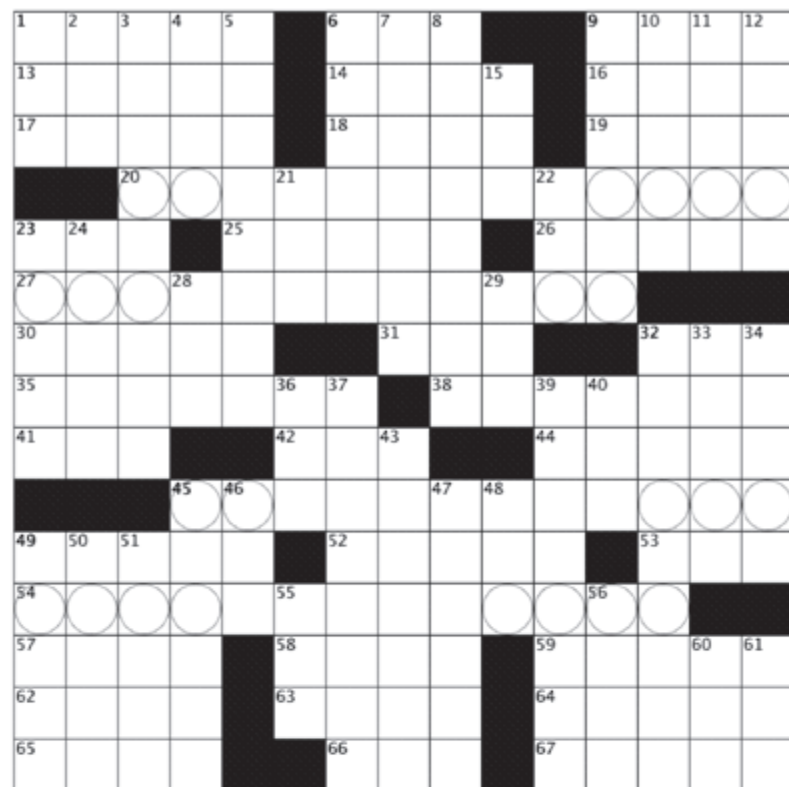
had ended up at Pomona College and lived out his days in Claremont,” wrote his son Terril Jones ’80, a former foreign correspondent who teaches international and political journalism at Claremont McKenna College. “He treasured the friendships he had among Pomona and Claremont Colleges faculty and staff, for which my family and I are also deeply grateful.”

In addition to his son Terril, Jones is survived by his son Derek Jones, an architect in Durham, North Carolina, as well as granddaughter Maika Jones and grandson Yuji Jones, both of Claremont, and granddaughter Luci Jones of New York City. His wife Josette (Yue Minsheng) Jones, a native of Beijing and a linguist who taught Chinese at Pomona in the late 1980s, died in 2016. [PCM](#)

Breaking News by Joel Fagliano '14

ACROSS

- 1. The "A" of N.B.A.: Abbr.
- 6. Item that can be spun to determine whether it's raw or cooked
- 9. Jon of "Mad Men"
- 13. Lake on the California/Nevada border
- 14. Button clicked to see the rest of an article
- 16. Suit
- 17. Flair, informally
- 18. This clue / If I wrote it / Like this
- 19. Italian currency before the euro
- 20. Where you might fly into D.C.
- 23. Little devil
- 25. Cry in a game of tag
- 26. "Succession" has been nominated for 75 of them
- 27. Clown's gag
- 30. Brand of California champagne
- 31. White ___ (M.L.B. team)
- 32. Writer's college major, often: Abbr.
- 35. Condensed versions of books
- 38. Laid back
- 41. Dir. from Pomona College to San Diego
- 42. Big name in cloud computing
- 44. Generation ___, first to be born in the 21st century
- 45. It attempts to unify quantum mechanics with Einstein's ideas of relativity
- 49. A sucker for drinks
- 52. Subject to change
- 53. Greek N's
- 54. Next to be served
- 57. Fervent
- 58. "Ay ___ mío!"
- 59. "Great" dogs
- 62. Wall Street org. with a closing bell
- 63. "Don't play" symbol
- 64. Prefix with physics
- 65. Like an eagle's vision
- 66. Ave. crossers
- 67. Comedian Minhaj



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DOWN

- 1. @ @ @
- 2. L.A.'s ___ Gabriel Mountains
- 3. What a whetstone gives a knife
- 4. Slowly seep out
- 5. Some French impressionist paintings
- 6. Person who's good at reading emotions
- 7. Treasure-hunting kids in an '80s Spielberg movie
- 8. Hugely beneficial to
- 9. "Can I get a hand?"
- 10. Fundamental truth
- 11. Start of a December greeting
- 12. Exams for future doctors
- 15. Longtime U.K. record label
- 21. Acquired
- 22. ___ league sports
- 23. Apple tablets
- 24. Some M&M's and BMW's
- 28. Hot temper
- 29. Lumberjack's tool
- 32. Small symbols of power?
- 33. India's first prime minister
- 34. Down Under greetings
- 36. Black goo
- 37. Huge fans of Taylor
- 39. "Well, aren't you something!"
- 40. The "A" of I.P.A.
- 43. What Emma Stone, John Mulaney and Paul Rudd have each been five times
- 45. Bring down
- 46. Snake eyes roll
- 47. Talk show interviewees
- 48. Shop ___ you drop
- 49. Truly terrible golf shot
- 50. Lead role in "Fiddler on the Roof"
- 51. Pay bump
- 55. President on the dime, for short
- 56. Operator of the James Webb Telescope
- 60. Period of history
- 61. Male delivery



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 44.



Senior Year: The Documentary

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

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

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

Timi Adelakun '24

DEGREE
Theatre and Molecular Biology

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

NEXT STEPS

Pursuing Job Opportunities in Film and Television Production

María Durán González '24

DEGREE
Environmental Analysis

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

NEXT STEPS

Accepted to a Master's Program at the University of Cambridge

Phillip Kong '24

DEGREE
Molecular Biology

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

NEXT STEPS

Become a Physician-Scientist

Alexandra Turvey '24

DEGREE
Biology

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Goldwater and Beckman Scholar
- 2-Time NCAA Div. III Champion in Freestyle Relays
- Competed in Canada's Olympic Swimming Trials

NEXT STEPS

Harvard/MIT M.D.-Ph.D. Program





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