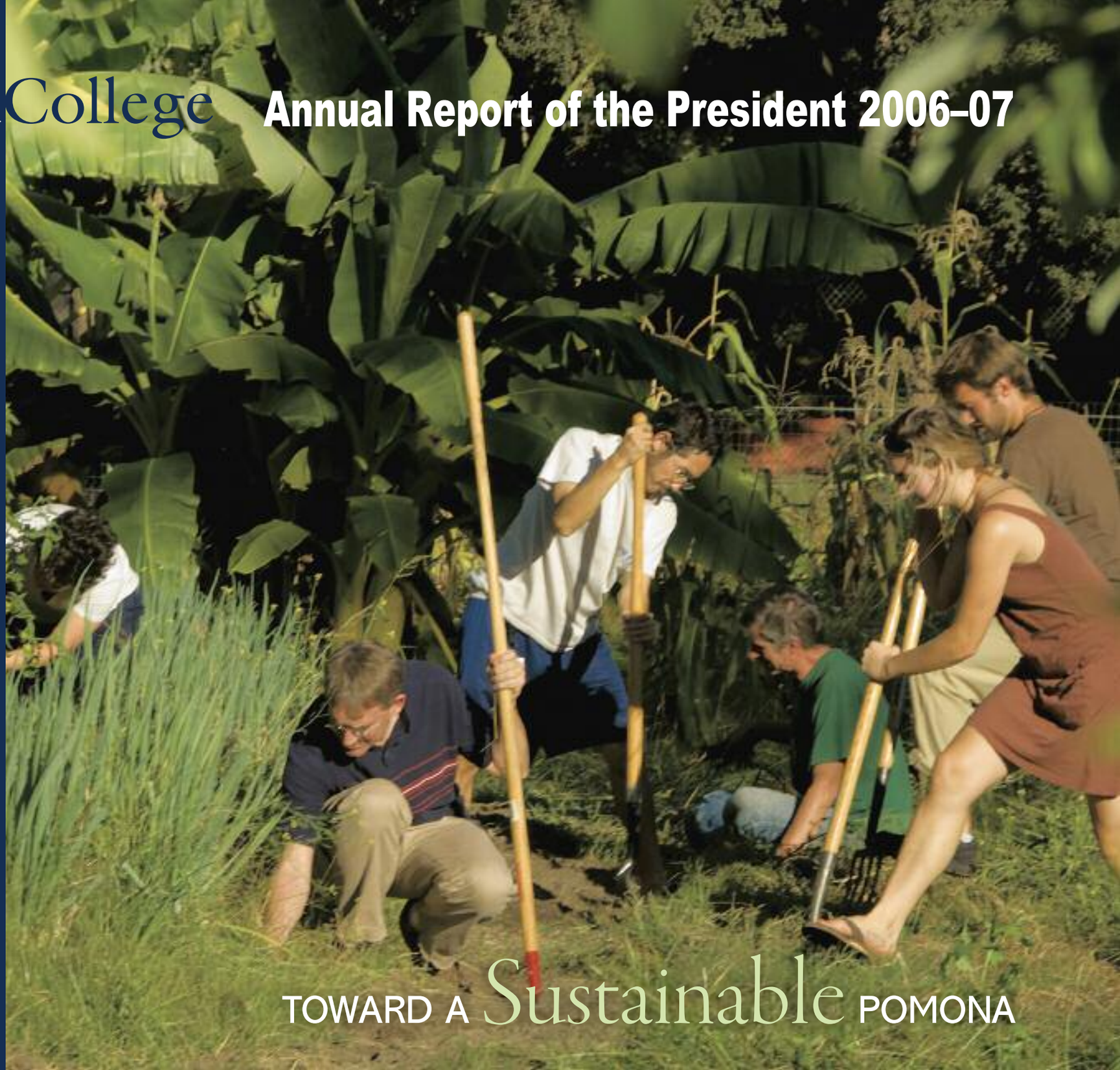
Pomona College

Annual Report of the President 2006–07



TOWARD A Sustainable POMONA

Pomona College

Annual Report of the President 2006-07

A Sustainable POMONA

I was at a conference in Colorado, in 1987, when I first heard scientists voice concerns about a worldwide problem they saw coming. The topic they were there to discuss was the decline in the earth's ozone protection, but what worried them even more was the emerging issue of carbon dioxide and greenhouse warming.

Twenty years later, stories about global warming are front-page news. The changes in the Arctic, in particular, are dramatic, and I think reality is starting to sink in all over the world. Today, few doubt the scientific consensus that our climate is heating up and that human activity is partly to blame. However, the debate over what we can and should be doing about it rages on.

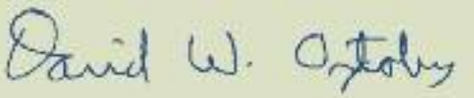
Certainly, tough choices lie ahead, and one of our obligations as a liberal arts college is to make sure our students are aware of the many sides of this problem and the many ways in which people are seeking a solution. To me, it's a classic liberal arts problem involving a wide range of disciplines—from geology and physics to economics and public policy. Indeed, sustainability touches upon almost every academic field. The course I teach in environmental chemistry looks not only at the fundamental science but also at other issues related to climate change.

Nationwide, students looking for a positive cause in which they can make a difference have begun to tackle these issues on a local scale. Here at Pomona, our students have taken up the cause of sustainability with their usual energy and creativity, and in many cases are leading the way. Students have approached faculty with ideas for research projects and independent study courses, including a class that led to an ambitious report on Pomona's carbon footprint. They have organized a dorm challenge to reduce energy consumption and initiated an effort to distribute compact fluorescent lamps, leading to the creation of a $15,000 fund for other student sustainability projects.

At the institutional level, we have incorporated our concerns about sustainability into all aspects of institutional planning. The Board of Trustees recently approved a land use plan that calls for restoring the pedestrian orientation of the campus by consolidating parking, making better use of the land and creating more green space. In the design and construction of new academic buildings, the College is committed to continuing to meet or exceed the silver standard of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, the standard expressed in the three most recent additions to our campus—the Richard C. Seaver Biology Building, the Edmunds Building and the Lincoln Building. All future renovations on campus will aim for that standard as well, demonstrating that a respect for architectural tradition and a commitment to sustainability are fully compatible goals. For new residence halls, we have made the commitment to go even farther, seeking a gold LEED standard or higher.

To conserve energy and critical resources, we're working to increase our use of solar power, improve transportation options and expand our efforts toward recycling and reduced water use. In investing, we're seeking ways of putting our money where our values are. A small portion of our venture capital funds are already invested in clean or renewable technology such as biodiesel, solar, wind and hydro power, and we're actively exploring other opportunities. Not only is it good for the world; it's also a good investment.

In the following pages, you'll meet members of the College community who are profoundly committed to this important effort—people like Professor Rick Hazlett, who oversees our growing program in Environmental Analysis, and 2007 graduates Ada Aroneanu and Praween Dayananda, the cofounders of the Campus Climate Challenge. With the energetic leadership of people like these and the enthusiastic support of students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni alike, I believe Pomona can play an important role in the years to come in the effort to build a sustainable future.



David W. Oxtoby
President of Pomona College

Sustainability:
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

By Rick Hazlett
the Stephen M. Pauley M.D. '62 Professor of Environmental studies and Professor of Geology

History is like a river—slow moving in long stretches, then cascading all at once in short, sharp rapids. It sneaks up on you right when you imagine that things will never change. The steam engine, petroleum exploitation, the Haber-Bosch process, the Information Age all transformed the world explosively within a few short years. And now our trip down the river once again has reached a rapids, this one fundamentally different from all previous ones because it involves a massive "taking-stock" of who we've become and where we're going, not a ratcheting-up of growth and consumption enabled by new technologies, the long-term consequences of which are poorly understood. We call this the Sustainability Revolution. It, too, will involve new technologies, but in a more selective and collaborative way than ever before attempted.

"Sustainability" is a word much like "freedom," or "cool," for which there is fuzzy consensus and a lack of definitional specificity. What does it mean? According to the 1987 Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future, it is "a lifestyle lived today that does not subtract from the ability of future generations to live in the same way." That definition is a sensible start for viewing sustainability, but I believe that it must be fleshed out to read as follows: "Sustainability is the harvesting of nature to support a mutually agreeable quality of life without destroying the capacity of natural systems for rapid self-renewal." That being the case, the terms of sustainability differ according to the area or region in which one is living, since we all cast our resource nets somewhat differently.

As a college, Pomona has to pay attention to sustainability in both its curriculum and its strategic planning. The statement on our gates insists upon it. We faculty and administrators are here to prepare young adults to assume the stewardship of civilization. Not to do so courts irrelevancy under emergency conditions—a bad policy for expensive higher education. And there is no mistaking—we are in an emergency. If, as the nation's top federal climate scientist James Hansen says, we have "only 10 years" to implement changes to drastically reduce our carbon footprint, we truly have no time to waste.

Pomona is not going to solve all the problems we face, but we need to do what we can do with the resources we have, which are considerable. We can set an example in the way we plan for the future, design new buildings and institute changes that reduce our carbon footprint. But, just as importantly, as professors we can stimulate the imaginations of our students and give these talented young people the tools they'll need to be leaders. And the way to do that is not by giving them answers but by asking questions.

How do we rebuild the infrastructure of civilization, from social organization to the physical layout and design of campus, city or region? What new public

"I decided to become an EA major after taking Professor Hazlett's intro class. I started thinking about how the environmental issues we were talking about are so relevant to every aspect of a person's life. Professor Hazlett is an inspiration to everyone—a human dynamo of sustainability and efficiency."

Alex Tran '09, *co-coordinator of Campus Climate Challenge*

policy instruments must be investigated and developed to facilitate this change, and to mitigate the accelerating damage we shall continue imparting to the natural world if we pursue "business-as-usual?" Natural resource economist Eban Goodstein, organizer of the climate change summit "Focus the Nation," calls the 21st century the "Century of Extinction." How do we act so as to avoid this denouement? Pomona must engage its students with each of these questions—and the myriad practical solutions they stimulate.

However defined, sustainability can never be achieved with quantifiable certainty. The world is simply too complex and dynamic a place. But that does not discount the enormous importance of trying to achieve it. And by judicious selection of indicators we can easily measure, we can make progress toward living more wisely in a world that is not expendable.

Only one thing is certain: At the end of the rapids is a new stretch of river we have never explored. Let's paddle for smooth waters!

Sustainability:
AND THE CLASSROOM

From visiting wind farms to studying environmental literature to digging their hands into the soil at the on-campus Organic Farm, students in almost every discipline at Pomona can find courses with links to sustainability. With an interdisciplinary approach involving eight tracks of study, environmental analysis forms the heart of the program, offering courses in the physical sciences, humanities and social sciences.

"To really tackle the challenges pertaining to the environment, you have to look at the political, economic and social dimensions, at different philosophies and ideologies, and how we express our relationship to the environment through art or urban planning," says Jennifer Perry, assistant professor of anthropology. "There are so many elements that go into thinking about this issue that could never be addressed from just one angle."

Perry looks at some of those issues in her course on "Human Interactions with the Pre-industrial Environment," which is offered as part of Human Behavior and the Environment, one of the environmental analysis major tracks. "It helps students appreciate that there are alternative ways of engaging with the environment. That doesn't mean that we need to return to being hunters and gatherers—that's not viable—but what are some philosophies and concepts that we can take from different cultures and societies through time that we could use to rework our relationship with the environment."

The battle to clean up the Stringfellow Acid Pits near Riverside is one of the examples Politics Professor Richard Worthington cites in his class on "Politics of Environmental Justice." "The most powerful grassroots influence of the last couple decades has been environmental justice," he says. "Why is the dump or the facility that is spewing horrific stuff into the air located in a poor neighborhood? Why is it that the people experiencing the direct impact are those with the fewest resources?"

Worthington takes his students on a tour of areas that are most affected by pollution and other environmental problems. Stops include the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, which is at the base of the canyon where the Stringfellow (now Superfund) site is located.

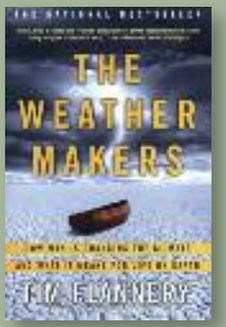
Physics Professor David Tanenbaum also takes students into the field for his course, "A Critical Analysis of Energy Policies." A wind farm, hydroelectric plant and solar field are among the destinations where they not only learn how power is manufactured and delivered, but also have a chance to talk to people on the ground about the politics and economics of energy.

"When I started the class about 10 years ago, I thought it might morph into other topics, but energy policy has become more and more important every year," says Tanenbaum. "I have students from different majors who take the course, and they all bring a different perspective to the discussion. We focus on the different technologies and talk about the pros and cons, about the politics, economics, risks and history and what all that means when it comes to determining policy."

Environmental literature courses that look at work ranging from science and nature writing to fiction and poetry are taught by Toni Clark, associate professor of English, and Richard Elderkin, professor of mathematics and environmental analysis. "Literature needs to be part of the sustainability movement so people understand what we're losing if we don't move toward a world that is more sustainable, says Clark, who teaches "Nature and Gender: Reading Environmental Literature" and a critical inquiry seminar on "Writing the Environment." "The work we read is extremely powerful and is aesthetically beautiful but also makes a strong emotional appeal and reaches people on a deep level."

Elderkin, who says his connection to sustainability issues is rooted in both his Montana upbringing and his daughter's interest in the environment, recently completed a book on mathematical modeling for environmental analysis, which he will use in a course next spring. "There's so much to learn in a program like Environmental Analysis, but it's a good place to get started as an undergraduate," he says. "For both majors and non-majors, it's a fabulous base for liberal learning."

Required READING



"It is in our lungs that we connect to our Earth's great aerial bloodstream, and in this way the atmosphere inspires us from our first breath to our last. The time-honored customs of slapping newborns on the bottom to elicit a drawing of breath, and the holding up of a mirror to the lips of the dying are bookmarks of our existence. And it is the atmosphere's oxygen that sparks our inner fire, permitting us to move, eat, and reproduce—indeed to live. Clean, fresh air gulped straight from the aerial ocean is not just an old-fashioned tonic for human health, it is life itself, and thirty pounds of it are required by every adult, every day of their lives."

– Excerpt from *The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth*, by Tim Flannery, assigned as summer reading for first-year students at Pomona in 2007. Flannery was also one of the speakers in the Pomona Student Union's Climate Change Series.

Sustainability:
AND THE FARM

When a small group of students started an organic garden along the Wash on south campus, they probably didn't imagine that in only 10 years it would become an official part of the College curriculum. Known simply as the "Farm," it's an example of how a grassroots project, created and nurtured by Pomona students, has grown to involve the larger community.

"The Farm was started purely as a guerilla action by students who'd seen some local plantings in Mexico and decided to try it in the Wash, where they wouldn't be discovered," says Rick Hazlett, professor of geology and environmental studies. "It attracted more and more student interest, until it could no longer be viewed as a temporary phenomenon."

The organic garden now has an orchard of about 60 trees, as well as plantings of perennial shrubs, berries, herbs, flowers and annual vegetables. Last year, a section of land east of the hammer-throw field was designated as the "Academic Farm" and part of the Environmental Analysis Program.

"In essence, we're building a human-engineered ecosystem, which brings another dimension to the department," says Hazlett, who has started adding seed crops, such as wheat and barley, to the mix of plantings. "Just as with any of the sciences, it's important for students to get out there and put theory into practice."

Ian Sawyer ’08 is one of those students putting theory into practice. Interested in composting, he and a group of seven other students have a daily appointment at Frank Dining Hall where they pick up organic waste in wheelbarrows and haul it to the farm to start the process of turning leftovers into nutrients.

“Composting is a very easy thing that a lot of places can do to close the loop and create less trash. In a way, it’s a form of recycling,” says Sawyer, a politics major who grew up in rural Japan and in Hawaii. “I’ve really been inspired by the Farm. After I graduate, I want to travel and explore different types of agriculture. I’ll probably pursue farming as a career, partly as a political statement and a way to promote sustainable living.”

Expanding the Farm to include an academic section is only the beginning. Plans are under way to design a pond that will be filtered using solar power and to design and build a solar rover. “It will look kind of like the Mars Rover and can be used on the Farm or anywhere else on campus to power lights, wood chippers or drills. It could even run a sound system or a hot plate to heat tea for some of the events we’re planning.”

The centerpiece of current student work is the adobe dome, a green building that is in its second incarnation. When the original was demolished because it failed to meet county codes, Professor of Politics Richard Worthington linked his course on sustainable architecture to the construction of a second earth dome, which was supported by donations from the College and alumni. Designed to store tools and seeds, the dome is also intended as a social and educational center.

Juan Araya manages the Farm, a place that “demonstrates that there are sustainable ways to produce food, especially in an urban environment. Being able to give students a hands-on demonstration of how food is produced and to show them examples of alternative energy use is a real plus.”

The Farm will continue to combine controlled experiments with free form plantings and projects. And it will be a haven for students like Allie Comet ’09, an EA major who has worked at the Farm since coming to Pomona from Brooklyn. She recently helped build a solar oven, which has been used to make a casserole, pie and cookies (delicious and worth the wait of a couple of hours, says Araya).

“The Farm has given me an opportunity to work with my hands and be creative, which is not something I expected to find at a college in Southern California,” says Comet. “It’s a great community and an important part of my life.”

Sustainability:
AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The students at Pomona have consistently taken the lead on issues of climate change and sustainability, from distributing more than 1,000 compact fluorescent bulbs to initiating a far-reaching study of the College's impact on the environment. Whether it's been as members of clubs or part of independent studies or internships, they've made a lasting impact on campus and have prompted changes in the way the College operates.

"Our students haven't thrown up their hands but have actively taken on the issue of climate change," says David Oxtoby, president of the College. "They've analyzed the College's practices and proposed specific strategies to reduce our carbon footprint and laid the groundwork for other critical steps, ranging from reducing water consumption to cutting the number of cars on campus."

Campus Climate Challenge (CCC) launched its first event, the Dorm Green Cup Challenge, only weeks after it was founded last fall by Ada Aroneanu '07 and Praween Dayananda '07. "We offered a prize to the dorm that saved the most energy, and President Oxtoby agreed to buy carbon offsets if we reduced consumption by five percent," says Aroneanu. "The students beat that target and reduced it by eight percent." Aroneanu and Dayananda also took part in an independent study that did an inventory on greenhouse gas emissions and issued a 90-page report on Pomona's carbon footprint.

The Green Cup Challenge will expand to all five campuses this year, says Alex Tran '09, who is co-coordinator of CCC with Adam Kotin '09. The group also is organizing a series of programs on environmental justice and is planning to send 37 students to Washington, D.C., to attend Power Shift, the first national youth summit on global warming. Pomona's involvement goes beyond conference participation—Aroneanu is one of the organizers and Dayananda and Tran will be panel members.

"The point of CCC is to provide programming and tips that help people save energy," says Tran, an environmental analysis major from Seattle. "The most important thing is to make Pomona more sustainable, but we also want to inspire students to become advocates for sustainability in the wider world. Sustainability is an issue for our generation and one that we'll be dealing with for a long time."

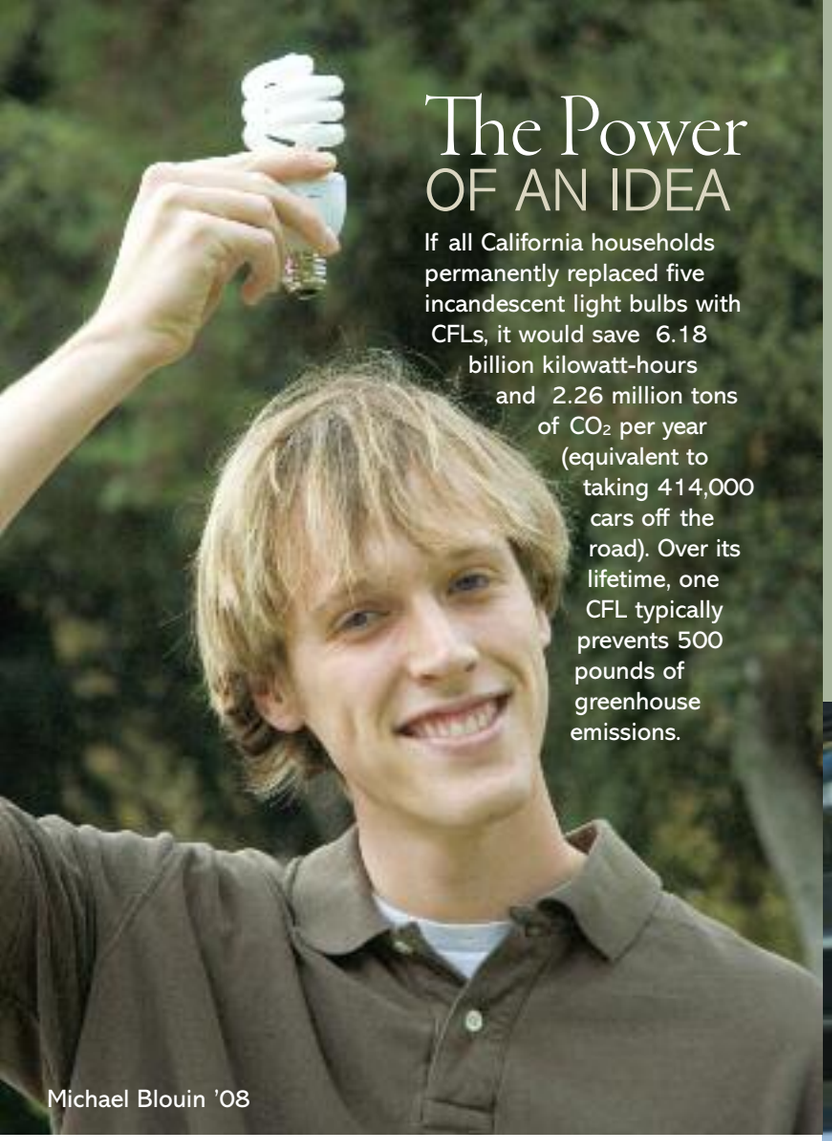
Reducing the College's carbon footprint is a goal shared by two other student programs, which were also established last year. The Biodiesel Initiative emerged from a Farms and Gardens lab demonstration and a Pitzer College physics class and led to the construction of a processor on Pomona's south campus. Volunteers will go to dining halls to collect used cooking oil, which will be converted to fuel for diesel-powered equipment.

"The long-term goal is that the diesel engine fleet on all the campuses should use biodiesel, which would help meet our commitment to reduce greenhouse gases," says Juan Araya, Farm technician. "Because we will be recycling the oil, we won't create any new CO_2 emissions and also will reduce sulfur and particulate matter."

Praween Dayananda '07 and Ada Aroneanu '07

Inspired by a senior thesis, Michael Blouin '08 established a program to replace incandescent with energy-saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in the residence halls. About 700 donated CFLs were distributed to students last fall, with an additional 450 handed out this year. As a result of the program, students hammered out an agreement with Oxtoby to set up a $15,000 fund that will award money toward future sustainability projects.

"The fund gives students an opportunity to think



Michael Blouin '08

The Power OF AN IDEA

If all California households permanently replaced five incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, it would save 6.18 billion kilowatt-hours and 2.26 million tons of CO_2 per year (equivalent to taking 414,000 cars off the road). Over its lifetime, one CFL typically prevents 500 pounds of greenhouse emissions.

big," says Kyle Edgerton '08, ASPC commissioner of environmental affairs and a philosophy, politics and economics major from Reno. "At Pomona, you have the standing and forum to address the top decision makers and make something happen. I can make an appointment with David Oxtoby and a week later sit down in his office and talk to him. I respect and admire that. He's open to discussing things with students even if it sometimes means butting heads."

Driving Home Change

With characteristic drive, Pomona students are helping to cut the energy cost of transportation by jump-starting a pair of new initiatives, including a recently launched car-sharing program and a folding bike-sharing plan now under consideration.

The new FlexCar program makes available three Honda Civic hybrids and one low-emissions Honda Odyssey van to qualified students, faculty and staff. The idea came from Professor of Economics Michael Steinberger, who had used car-sharing in Boston. He suggested to Jacob Zeimann '08, then the president of the student-run Claremont Consulting Group (CCG), that the CCG investigate the program's feasibility at Pomona.

Ziemann led a team of six students that began researching car-sharing programs last spring. They settled on FlexCar, which insures drivers under 21 and has plenty of experience serving colleges. Students responded enthusiastically to a survey on the issue. One question asked: "If FlexCar services were on campus, would you consider not bringing a car to Claremont?" Of 567 respondents, 443 said yes.

College officials were supportive as well, and just before Commencement, CCG heard that Pomona was officially on board. Now students, faculty and staff at the 5Cs can reserve the cars for an hourly or daily ➢

Jenn Wilcox '08

fee. The fee is waived for students commuting to a Pomona-sponsored internship. Jenn Wilcox '08, who said FlexCar's presence on campus influenced her decision not to drive her car out from Minneapolis this year, hopes future students will consider the costs and benefits, both economic and environmental, of leaving their cars at home.

Meanwhile, Spencer Honeyman '08 is getting the wheels rolling on another project that could reduce the need for cars of any kind. "FlexCar is cool," he said, "but it's still using cars, and we have Metrolink nearby and all the bus routes that we're not tapping into."

Spencer Honeyman '08

Honeyman has an internship with Energy Harvester, the side company of Claremont Environmental Design Group architect Mark von Wodtke. One of their projects involves investigating how to integrate folding bikes with public transportation to get people where they need to be.

Folding bikes are designed with a smaller wheel base than traditional bikes, folding handlebars, a hinged center and a seat that drops down (and sometimes doubles as an air pump). A rider can collapse a bike to an easy-to-carry size in about 15 seconds. Though traditional bikes aren't always welcome on public transportation, people can take a folded bike on the Metrolink or bus anytime, then unfold the bike and ride to their final destination. "The idea is to use public transportation like a ski lift," said Honeyman.

Energy Harvester envisions a bike-sharing program in which Pomona would provide four or five bikes that students could check out. Although there are no formal agreements yet, student-led groups such as Campus Climate Change support the initiative.

And if the idea catches on, a second part of Energy Harvester's plan—a Website offering both information on public transportation and biking directions—could help them navigate the sprawling L.A. area.

"Imagine a site that would give you a safe bike route from where you got off the Metrolink downtown to the door of your internship," said Honeyman. "It would tell you how long it would take, how many pounds of CO_2 you were saving from not driving, how many calories you were burning. The information's out there, but we're trying to integrate it."

Green BIKES

The campus organization known as Green Bikes gives away about 20 bicycles each semester to students selected by lottery.

Sources: Abandoned bikes left at Pomona over the summer and donated bikes from graduating seniors.

Repairs: Two mechanics perform about 10 repairs each week.

Most common problems: Flat tires, tubes, cables.

Repair costs: Parts only; labor is free.

Why They Do It: Studies show that people who ride bikes are happier.

Ronald Nemo, Assistant Supervisor of Grounds and Staff Horticulturalist

Sustainability:
AND THE CAMPUS

Tucked behind a fence on south campus, the College's weather station doesn't look like much—just a narrow pole fitted with a bucket, a wind gauge and a few other devices. But this nondescript cluster of equipment is an important tool for determining how much water is used on Pomona's lawns and gardens. The weather station is an example of some of the behind-the-scenes efforts Pomona has made to use less energy and become more sustainable. From irrigation and recycling to eco-friendly plans for constructing and renovating buildings, the goal of reducing Pomona's carbon footprint has become part of daily campus life and long-term planning.

The most apparent symbols of Pomona's commitment to sustainability are the Richard C. Seaver Biology Building and the Lincoln and Edmunds buildings. Built to demanding standards for green buildings, the Seaver building has been awarded a silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certificate by the U.S. Green Building Council, placing it in the top one percent of all academic laboratory buildings in the country in terms of energy-conscious design.

The Lincoln and Edmunds buildings, dedicated earlier this year, were also designed and built to silver LEED certification. The green features of the three buildings range from photovoltaic systems, to waterless urinals and efficient irrigation for landscaping. The Board of Trustees recently recommended that all new construction be built to silver LEED standards or higher and all new residence halls be built to at least a gold standard. In addition, renovations of older buildings will use LEED silver guidelines as a benchmark.

Sustainable campus improvements have not been confined to bricks and concrete. The planned landscaping of the redesigned "academic quad" linking Mason, Crookshank and Pearsons halls will reduce water-thirsty turf by about 5,000 square feet, incorporating drought-tolerant plantings and outside education areas.

Maintaining a "College in a Garden" is the first consideration for any new plantings, says Grounds Supervisor Kevin Quanstrom, and it's a goal that doesn't conflict with improved water usage. The weather station, which hooks up by computer to all watering systems on campus, calculates the amount of water needed to replace what has been borne away by evaporation. This year, because of techniques like mulching, xeriscaping with drought-tolerant plantings and replacing sprinklers with more efficient drip systems, the College has cut the days it waters by one-third. A positive side-effect has been a reduction in the amount of work, equipment use and pesticides needed to control weeds and pests.

A next step in determining what Pomona needs to do to become more sustainable will involve conducting a baseline audit of greenhouse emissions. Hiring an outside firm to conduct that audit and appointing a campus sustainability coordinator are two of the recommendations made by the President's Committee on Sustainability, which represents students, faculty and staff. "The president is committed to both those goals," says George Gorse, professor of art history and chair of the committee. "The students who were part of an independent study on greenhouse emissions made an excellent start, but it will require a more ➢

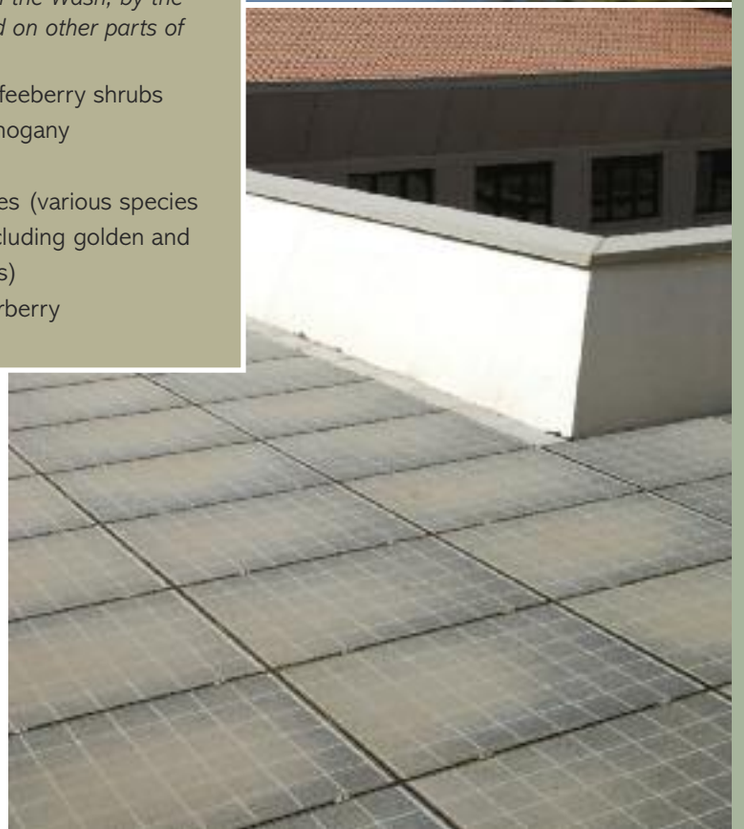
detailed assessment to determine our carbon footprint and give us an idea of what goals we need to set."

Another project relating to sustainability is already underway. The Board of Trustees recently approved a master land use plan developed by Sasaki Associates, an architectural firm committed to sustainable design and building. Among other goals, the plan seeks to increase green space and reduce parking in the center of campus, restoring the pedestrian orientation of the campus. "We try to look at planning and design through the lens of sustainability," says Sasaki Principal Scott Smith. "There are a lot of definitions of sustainability. The simplest is to think of it as a wise use of resources, and that if we use them wisely, they'll be there for future generations."

Going NATIVE

Native plantings in the Wash, by the Replica House and on other parts of campus include:

- California Coffeeberry shrubs
- Mountain Mahogany
- Wild Roses
- California Ribes (various species of currant including golden and spiny currants)
- Mexican Elderberry



Greening THE CAMPUS

Photovoltaic solar cells on the Lincoln and Edmunds buildings

– Produce 425 kwh per day.
– Save 46.5 tons CO_2 emissions per year (Equivalent of 90,000 miles not driven by an average automobile)

"Cool Roof" materials on the Seaver Biology Building

– 2.6 tons CO_2 emissions saved per year, or the equivalent of:
  • 1,580 pounds of waste diverted from a landfill
  • Baking 7,185 loaves of bread in a breadmaker
  • 1,819 loads of laundry (washing machine and dryer)

Water savings at the Seaver Biology Building

– 35,200 gallons of water saved annually at Seaver, the equivalent of:
  • 782 loads of laundry
  • 7,040 toilet flushes
  • 2,347 dishwasher loads

POMONA COLLEGE

Year-In-Review 2006-07

In the summer of 2007, Pomona College completed its 120th year of operation—a year replete with honors.

This year's graduating class shattered records for Fulbright Fellowships with 26 and witnessed the completion of two state-of-the-art, award-winning research and teaching facilities.

Pomona was one of 15 colleges and universities selected for funding by the Merck/American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Undergraduate Science Research Program (USRP)—providing summer funding for 12 students over three years to pursue research at the interface of chemistry and biology.

From a pool of more than 1,000 private institutions, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* named Pomona College fifth on its list of the 50 Best Values in Liberal Arts Colleges. The College was also named as one of the *Top 20 Wired Colleges* by *PC Magazine* and *The Princeton Review* and one of 25 "New Ivies" by *Kaplan/Newsweek*.

Strategic Planning

During 2006-07, Pomona College continued its multi-year work on a new strategic plan to chart a course for institutional progress over the next decade. The plan is not only a blueprint for future projects, but also allows the College to identify its strengths and target areas that need improvement.

Building on the recommendations of a number of faculty-led task forces commissioned by President **David W. Oxtoby** in 2005, the Strategic Planning Committee discussed improvements in many areas, including the arts, community partnerships, research culture and interdisciplinary programs.

Over the course of the year, the committee worked to glean new insight from a wide cross-section of the Pomona community. Forums held throughout the year engaged students, faculty and staff in a campus-wide discussion of the College's future, culminating in the release of a draft of the plan in the spring of 2007.

Among its major objectives, the plan calls for significant improvements to the infrastructure for the arts; the enhancement of the international center and international programming; establishing a Center for Community Partnerships; and the building of new residence halls to increase the number of beds on campus to relieve a recent housing crunch caused by a higher percentage of students living on campus.

After meeting with members of the Pomona community, the committee presented the completed strategic plan to the Board of Trustees in the fall of 2007.

Trustees, Administration and Staff

The Pomona College Board elected three new trustees: **Andrew Barth, Samuel Glick '04** and **Margaret G. Lodise** '85. Barth is president of Capital International Research, Inc. and Capital Guardian Trust Company and will serve on the Trustee Finance Committee. Glick, an economics major, is part of the Strategic Planning Group at Mercer—one of the consulting arms of professional services firm Marsh and McLennan—based in San Francisco. Lodise, who was a history major, is a partner with the firm Sacks, Glazer, Franklin and Lodise, LLP, in Los Angeles, and practices estate, trust and conservatorship litigation.

Miriam Feldblum was appointed as the new vice president and dean of students, after more than a decade at Caltech. Her areas of responsibility are residential and social life with shared oversight of academic support services, advising and academic procedures. She replaced **Ann Quinley**, who retired after 15 years at Pomona.

Students

The number of applicants for admission to Pomona College was the largest pool in the College's history, with 5,907 applicants and 375 students enrolling. The class of 2011 is composed of 188 women and 187 men, more than half of whom received need-based scholarships and grants. The students come from diverse backgrounds, with 20 percent speaking a foreign language at home and 19 percent having at least one non-college educated parent. The class also includes eight students from Posse and 21 from Questbridge, two programs designed to pair high-achieving students from low-income families or urban public high schools with the best colleges. The class of 2011 demonstrated consistently high academic achievement, as 87 percent (of those high schools that report rankings) numbered in the top decile of their high school graduating class, and 15 percent were valedictorians. Their median SAT scores were 740 in critical reading, 730 in math and 720 in writing.

A total of 370 seniors earned bachelor of art degrees from Pomona during the year, with most participating in the annual commencement exercises on May 13, 2007, held outdoors for the first time in three decades.

Among these graduates were a record 26 recipients of Fulbright Fellowships. (An additional five Pomona alumni also received Fulbright grants this year bringing Pomona's total to 31.) **David Hickstein** '07 was named one of only 12 Winston Churchill Scholars and received approximately $50,000 for one year of study at Churchill College at the University of Cambridge. **Evan Hall** '07 and **Sylvan Long** '07 were awarded the Downing Scholarship, which underwrites a one-year exchange to Downing College at the University of Cambridge.

In addition, **Elia Mrak-Blumberg** '06 was awarded a distinguished Thomas J. Watson Foundation Fellowship, which grants $25,000 for one year of independent exploration and travel outside the United States. **Ajoy Vase** '07 was awarded the prestigious Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. He is one of just 25 recipients nationwide. Rockefeller Fellows receive $22,100 over five years. And, two members of the


Barth

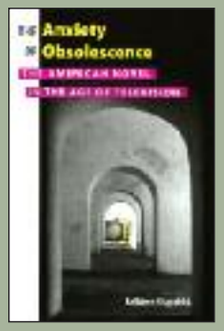

Glick


Lodise


Feldblum

Brown, Balwin and Buchner

Leer



Class of 2008, **Robert B. Foresman** and **Grace C. Wu**, were awarded the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, which covers the cost of tuition, fees, books and room and board up to a maximum of $7,500 per year.

Pomona students continued to make news in the College community and beyond. Here are just a few examples:

Zachary Brown '08, **Nell Balwin** '09 and **Derek Buchner** '09 accompanied Biology Professor Nina Karnovsky to a windswept Norwegian island in the Arctic Circle, where they researched and blogged about how climate change may affect the feeding ecology of an Arctic bird known as the little auk.

Hannah Crumme '08 was appointed to the national Hillel Board.

Cameron Blevins '08 was in the news in Connecticut for his work mapping the land owned by former slave Venture Smith, conducted with a Pomona Hart Institute grant.

The Pomona College Glee Club, under the direction of **Donna Di Grazia**, associate professor of music and choral director, gave performances at the Frauenkirche in Meiningen, the Nikolaikirche in Wettin, the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, the Dom (Cathedral) in Meissen, and at the Emauzy Monastery in Prague.

Will Leer '07 took first place in the 1500-meter and the 5000-meter at the 2007 NCAA Division III National Track and Field championships. The eight-time All-American broke the school's record in the 1500-meter and helped lead Pomona-Pitzer to an eighth place finish.

The men's baseball team won 29 games, dominating the SCIAC championship and competing in the NCAA III West Region Championship. The women's tennis team won their conference with a 10-0 SCIAC record and advanced to the NCAA Division III Women's Tennis National Championships, where they placed sixth. Additionally, the women's water polo team won their conference with a 10-0 SCIAC record. With an overall record of 10-6-2, the Women's soccer team ended the season with a second place SCIAC finish.

The Pomona College **Model Arab League** (MAL) team, representing the country of Bahrain, sent a delegation to the Western regional competition held at Mills College in Oakland, Calif. and won the Overall Outstanding Delegation award. This is the highest honor at the conference and the second year in a row that the Pomona team won this award. Additionally, Pomona College was named as the site for the 2008 conference.

Faculty

Endowed Chairs

Two Pomona college professors were named to endowed chairs in 2006-07: **William Banks** to the Edwin F. and Margaret Hahn Professorship of Psychology and **Fred Grieman** to the Roscoe Moss Professorship of Chemistry.

New Faculty

Pomona College hired 17 new faculty members for the 2006-07 academic year.

- **Rita Bashaw**, assistant professor of German and Russian and director of Oldenborg Center for Modern Languages and International Relations.
- **José Cartagena-Calderón**, assistant professor of Romance languages and literatures
- **Philip Choi**, assistant professor of physics and astronomy
- **JoAnne Ferguson**, assistant professor of physical education and women's softball coach
- **Stephan Garcia**, assistant professor of mathematics
- **Dru Gladney**, president of the Pacific Basin Institute at Pomona College and professor of anthropology
- **Malkiat Johal**, associate professor of chemistry
- **Gizem Karaali**, assistant professor of mathematics
- **Pardis Mahdavi**, assistant professor of anthropology
- **Alma Martinez**, assistant professor of theatre and dance
- **April J. Mayes**, assistant professor of history
- **Susan McWilliams**, instructor in politics
- **Sandeep Mukherjee**, assistant professor of art and art history
- **Mary Paster**, assistant professor of linguistics and cognitive science
- **Claudia Rankine**, Henry G. Lee Professor of English
- **Friederike von Scherwin-High**, assistant professor of German and Russian
- **Joshua White**, assistant professor of physical education and men and women's swim and dive coach

Books and Publications

Susana Chávez-Silverman, professor of Spanish and Romance Languages, read and performed from her new book manuscript, *Scenes from la Cuenca de Los Angeles*, at UC Davis.

María Donapetry, adjunct professor of romance languages and literatures, is the author of the book *Imaginación: la feminización de la nación en el cine español y latinoamericano.*

David W.P. Elliott, H. Russell Smith Professor of International Relations and professor of politics, authored *The Vietnamese War: Revolution and social change in the Mekong Delta 1939-1975* (rev. edition).

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, associate professor of English and media studies, published *The Anxiety of Obsolescence: The American Novel in the Age of Television* and a networked article titled "MediaCommons: Scholarly Publishing in the Age of the Internet," the first such networked, open peer review article to be published by *MediaCommons.*

Tom Leabhart, resident artist and professor of theatre, is the author of a new book, *Etienne Decroux.*

Jianhsin Wu adjunct associate professor of Asian languages and literatures authored, *The Way of Chinese Characters.*

Exhibitions, Performances, Screenings, Recordings

Laurie Cameron, associate professor of theatre and dance and coordinator/artistic director of the Dance Program, was one of 12 featured artists in

this year's Joyce Soho Presents in New York City. She also presented her original choreography "At the Joshua Tree," with music by Pomona's T**homas Flaherty**, at the REDCAT Winter Studio Series at Disney Hall in Los Angeles.

Genevieve Lee, associate professor of music, performed in the Fourth Annual Beverly Hills International Music Festival this summer. She also performed chamber music at the Garth Newel Summer Festival in Virginia and played the Tchaikovsky Trio on the "Sundays Live" series at LACMA's Bing Theater.

Alma Martinez, assistant professor of theatre and dance, guest-starred in an episode of the CBS television series *The Unit* and plays a supporting role in the forthcoming feature film *Crossing Over*, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Penn.

William Peterson, Harry S. and Madge Rice Thatcher Professor of Music and college organist, performed organ works by Ibert and Quignard at the conference "The Organ and Its Music in France Between the Two World Wars (1918-1940)" on November 23 at the church of Saint-Honoré-d'Eylau in Paris.

Awards, Grants, Patents and Fellowships

The following is a selection of notable achievements during 2006-07:

Students named **J. Raymond Buriel**, the Harry S. and Madge Rice Thatcher Professor of Psychology and professor of Chicano studies; **Robert Gaines**, assistant professor of geology; **Fredrick Grieman**, Roscoe Moss Professor of Chemistry; **Jerry Irish**, John Knox McLean Professor of Religion and Religious Studies; and **David Menefee-Libey**, professor of politics; to receive the 2007 Wig Distinguished Professor Awards for Excellence in Teaching, which recognize exceptional teaching, concern for students and service to the College and community.

Tahir Andrabi, associate professor of economics, is the principal investigator of a $323,700 two-part grant from the Pakistan-U.S. Cooperative Program in Earthquake-Related Research. His proposal was titled "Education and Learning after the Pakistan Earthquake: Can the Children Recover?" was submitted in cooperation with the Lahore University of Management Sciences, which received $240,000 of the total.

Ralph Bolton, professor of anthroplogy, received the Distinguished Service Award from the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group of the Society for Medical Anthropology. The citation read: "In recognition of his outstanding scholarly and personal response to the AIDS crisis from its very beginning and his meritorious contributions in educating colleagues and communities on HIV/AIDS issues."

Clarissa Cheney, associate professor of biology and chair of the Biology Department, and **Daniel O'Leary**, associate professor of chemistry, were awarded a 2007 Beckman Scholars Award from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation to support undergraduate research. This is the third year in a row that Pomona has benefited from this award.

Edward J. Crane III received a three-year $55,000 research grant from the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund to investigate "Mechanisms of Sulfur Reduction by Sulfur/Polysulfide Reductase."

Stephan Garcia, assistant professor of mathematics, received a grant of $29,725 from the National Science Foundation for his research "Complex Symmetric Operators and Function Theory."

Eric Grosfils and **Linda Reinen**, both associate professors of geology, are co-investigators on a new $480,000 National Science Foundation multi-institutional grant to develop and disseminate computational science educational materials at the undergraduate level.

Malkiat Johal, associate professor of chemistry, was issued a patent for "Fabrication of Multilayered Thin Films via Spin-Assembly." The invention, which describes a method of controlling the assembly of materials at the nanoscale, resulted from work done in collaboration with former Pomona College student Peter Chiarelli '03 and scientists from Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Nina Karnovsky, assistant professor of biology, has been awarded a three-year, $415,619 grant from the National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, for her project "Consequences of Contrasting Foraging Conditions for Little Auks in the Greenland Sea."

Richard Lewis and **Nicole Weekes**, associate professors of psychology, collaborated on a proposal to the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation that resulted in a $500,000 grant to equip neuroscience laboratories in the Lincoln and Edmunds buildings.

Cynthia Selassie, professor of chemistry, received an Advisory Committee Service Award "in recognition of distinguished service to the people of the USA" from the Advisory Committee for Pharmaceutical Science, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

David Tanenbaum, associate professor of physics; **Charles Taylor**, assistant professor of chemistry; and **Robert Gaines,** assistant professor of geology, received a $159,886 grant from the National Science Foundation for the project "MRI: Acquisition of EDS Microanalysis and Nanometer Pattern Generation Systems for Electron Microscopy Facilities at a Primarily Undergraduate Consortium."

Suzanne Thompson, professor of psychology, received a three-year, $287,400 National Science Foundation grant for "Threat Orientation Model: Dispositional and Situational Influences on Reactions to Potential Threats."

Heather Williams, associate professor of politics and coordinator of the Latin American Studies Program, received a $195,000 New Directions Grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This will enable her to deepen her work in the Peruvian and Bolivian Altiplano on a project analyzing village-level management of soil and water resources.

Verlyn Klinkenborg, visiting writer-in-residence at Pomona College, author and columnist for *The New York Times,* received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for $39,000.


Cameron


Martinez


Johal


Wig Awards


Fisher


Sedaris


Davis


Edmonds

Alumni

The Young Alumni Award for 2007 was given to **Maria Luz Garcia** '01, who earned her undergraduate degree in Latin American Studies and then set off for Guatemala, where she worked with survivors of that nation's long civil war. Today, even while pursuing her doctoral degree, Garcia carries on her efforts in a small Guatemalan village.

The Alumni Distinguished Service Award for 2007 was given to **John Fisher** '67—a high school AP history teacher in Colton, CA (25 miles from Claremont). From 1994 to 2005 this now retired educator sent a steady succession of successful applicants to Pomona who wouldn't typically look into an elite liberal arts college. His keen eye for students with high potential and his ability to motivate them to excel made him a worthy recipient.

Campus Events

Pomona students and the wider community enjoyed an abundance of campus events, ranging from performances to political debates. On a single April day, students could attend a lunchtime colloquium titled "Politics and Poverty in India, 1950-90," listen to a former professor speak about his extensive research and international development work in Latin America and spend the evening watching a West African dance show.

The Pomona Student Union brought in a plethora of expert speakers to debate such issues as civil liberties, national security and U.S. foreign policy. The Pacific Basin Institute sponsored a lecture series called "Asian Diasporas: Neither East Nor West," which examined the connections between and across the Pacific basin region, emphasizing the movement of people, ideas and commodities that link and sometimes divide the multi-dimensional cultures of the region. "The U.S. in the World" was the theme for the Hart Institute for American History's lecture series, with speakers addressing such topics as consumer culture, genocide and the moral consequences of economic growth.

Alumni Weekend 2007 drew a crowd of more than 1,300 Sagehens back to campus. During the annual Symposium, titled "Memory, Memoir and Madeleines: Remembering Things Past," Pomona faculty and alumni discussed the urge to record memory and create memoir, the impact of emotions and the role of memory in fiction, film and digital media. They were also encouraged to explore their own personal identity and reminisce about their time at Pomona.

Among the well-known speakers visiting campus during the year were:

- David Sedaris, Grammy-award nominated humorist and radio contributor
- Dennis Ross, former ambassador and author
- Khaled Abu Toameh, Arab-Israeli-Muslim journalist and television news producer
- Robert H. Grubbs, Nobel laureate in Chemistry
- Angela Davis, civil-rights activist
- Susan Chira, foreign editor for *The New York Times*

The Campus

The Edmunds and Lincoln buildings, the College's newest academic buildings, made possible with a $10 million gift from **Lillian Lincoln Howell** '43, were dedicated in the spring in honor of her father, John C. Lincoln, and her son, Lincoln C. Howell, and **Charles K. Edmunds**, the fifth president of Pomona College.

In 2006-07, the **Richard C. Seaver Biology Building** received its official silver certificate award through the LEED program.

The Claremont University Consortium Board of Overseers and the Pomona College Board of Trustees voted in the spring to transfer ownership of **Mabel Shaw Bridges Auditorium** to Pomona College effective July 1, 2007. This transfer was an opportunity to solve maintenance and functionality problems for The Claremont Colleges and to give Pomona flexibility in incorporating the structure into its strategic planning process.

The College's Information Technology Building, which opened in January 2006, was named the **J.C. Cowart Information Technology Building** (named for three J.C. Cowarts: **Jim C. Cowart '73**, his wife, **Janet C. Cowart '70**, and their son, **Jefferson C. Cowart** '07) and formally dedicated in May 2007.

Pomona College was recognized by the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) for exceptional grounds maintenance with a Grand Award in the Society's 2006 Green Star Awards competition.

Finances

The market value of the College's endowment on June 30, 2007, increased to $1,762,680,000. Financially, the College remains strong, as evidenced by a continued triple-A bond rating.

The Pomona College Annual Fund set a series of new records during the 2006-07 fiscal year. The overall total of $4,663,987 set a new record—the highest yet for the College. The Parents' Fund total of $383,702 and the Class of 2007 Senior Gift of $6,019 followed suit, raising the bar for coming years. The alumni participation rate was 46 percent, with 8,717 alumni, an all-time high of parent donors at 1,471, and 168 friends of Pomona contributing to the Annual Fund.

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POMONA COLLEGE

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