

Something New, Something Significant

This year's convocation ceremonies marked the beginning of the College's 60th anniversary. Welcoming the Class of 2010, I noted that the beautiful CMC of today was vastly different from the campus of our earliest students. They arrived in 1946 at a brand-new Claremont Men's College, fresh from duties in World War II, seeking a hearty education and no-frills experience—complete with Army-issued barracks and seedling trees.

Despite the barren setting, the academic rigor was rich and lush. Of the many important faculty members President George C.S. Benson successfully enticed from snowy East Coast winters to his new college in Claremont, the unofficial ambassador for the fledgling college was arguably Professor Jacob Anton de Haas, who left Harvard for the West and declared in *The Christian Science Monitor* that "Claremont can bear watching. Something new, something significant, is being done there."

The work of three such teacher-scholars profiled in this issue exemplify the "new and significant something" noted by Professor de Haas.

Jonathan Petropoulos, the John V. Croul Professor of European History and author of *Royals and the Reich: The Princes von Hessen in Nazi Germany* (Oxford University Press, 2006) sat squarely at the center of the summer's dramatic return of masterworks by Gustav Klimt. The paintings, notably *The Golden Adele*, victims of Nazi looting during World War II, were finally returned to the family in a process that focused in large part on an exhaustive report prepared by Professor Petropoulos. His work is recounted in a lively article by DuPont Award-winning screenwriter Laura Angélica Simón '85.

Robert Faggen, the Barton Evans and H. Andrea Neves Professor of Literature, has completed *The Notebooks of Robert Frost* (Harvard University Press, 2006) the first of seven volumes of an edited, annotated

edition of his collected works that will include, in addition to his notebooks, Frost's published prose, his letters, and his poems. The process, described by one reviewer as "heroic," took Professor Faggen through more than five years and hundreds of pages of the poet's nearly illegible handwriting. Writes Professor Faggen in his book's introduction: "Frost's unassuming spiral pads and school theme books are full of silences, interstices, and leaps, which makes reading them an imaginative adventure."

It is vital to the next 60 years of Claremont McKenna College, and the next and the next, that CMC continue to attract excellent teacher-scholars.

The influence of John Roth, the Edward J. Sexton Professor of Philosophy, will continue to resonate within the CMC community long after his retirement at the end of this semester. During his 40 years at the College, Professor Roth's influence included co-founding the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program, and founding The Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights. He also wrote or edited more than 40 books and rose to international prominence as a scholar, author, lecturer, colleague, and teacher. Said one former student: "His church is his classroom."

It is vital to the next 60 years of Claremont McKenna College, and the next and the next, that CMC continue to attract excellent teacher-scholars such as Professors Petropoulos, Faggen, and Roth, and their colleagues throughout our campus. This splendid teacher-scholar tradition will be ensured for generations to come, in part, through thoughtful stewardship.



We are particularly grateful to Trustee George R. Roberts '66 P'93 and his family for their recent gift of \$20 million to launch the George R. Roberts Faculty Leadership Initiative and encourage \$40 million in additional support for endowed faculty positions (read more at www.claremontmckenna.edu/news).

We are especially pleased that every faculty member who receives an endowed chair under the Roberts Faculty Leadership Initiative will also hold the special designation of Roberts Fellow, a cadre of outstanding teacher-scholars with reputations for strong, attentive relationships with students. This designation will highlight the long-held tradition at CMC to provide an academic experience that spills beyond the classroom walls, providing mentorship, leadership, and guidance.

The words of Professor de Haas at the College's first convocation are as appropriate today as they were six decades ago: "To you students, I say you are to be congratulated to have chosen to study in this College. You may not realize it now, but you are in a sense intellectual pioneers.

"You will be the advance guard of students," he said, "who have received the kind of training the modern world requires."

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