a call to arms

A warm-hearted welcome leaves a lasting impression through the lens of alumni weekend 2011. We examine how CMCAA is reinvigorating programming and services.
Alumni Crown CMC with Excellence

This year **2,500 alumni took the Crown Challenge, pledging to support CMC for the next four years!**

For the second year in a row, CMCers have increased their support for the College. Partnered with Steve Crown ’74, alumni are providing more chances for student success than ever. Thanks to your efforts, alumni giving participation is headed toward **50%!**

Because of your dedication and loyalty, CMC is able to secure vital scholarships and internships. Your support helps advance an exceptional learning environment full of opportunities for students to develop as leaders.

From the students, faculty, and staff of Claremont McKenna College:

Thank you!

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**CLAREMONTE MCKENNA COLLEGE**

**CROWN CHALLENGE 2011**
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ON THE COVER: Photo by William Vasta.
BACK COVER: Illustration by Andrea Brake Lukeman.
Postcards from Kuwait

Watch a video program about a special spring break travel experience. Hosted by Kuwait University, students met with the U.S. Ambassador, attended classes at the University, visited museums, and enjoyed the Kuwaiti culture.

C.H.I.L.E. Project for Peace

Read about two students’ plans to bolster small businesses in Chile through a Davis Projects for Peace award. Veronica Pugin ’12 and Nicholas Egger-Bovet ’12 developed a proposal for Capacity-building Helping to Improve the Lives of Entrepreneurs (C.H.I.L.E.), which includes needs assessment and training for micro and small businesses.

A Focus on History Transforms Her Future

Through her experiences interning with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and studying abroad in Austria, Michelle Kahn ’12 has developed a passion for history and scored a Beinecke Award to support her graduate studies. Read about her wide array of interests and activities at CMC, as well as her future plans.

CMC IQ with James D. Wolfensohn

Before he gave the 2011 Commencement address, James D. Wolfensohn, chairman of Wolfensohn & Company L.L.C. and past president of the World Bank Group, sat down with us to discuss his broad-ranging career and advice for current students. Watch the video of the discussion here.
Transforming the World

In its sixth year, the Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership continues to identify extraordinary leaders in the nonprofit sector, celebrate their accomplishments, and share their best practices with others.

The Kravis Prize has become part of the fabric of CMC, as recipients come to campus each year to share their ideas and inspire our community. I have had the privilege to meet and talk with each of the Kravis Prize winners since the program was established in 2006 by Marie-Josée Kravis and Trustee Henry Kravis ’67, who have contributed to the life of the College in so many profound ways. It has been a powerful experience for me to see firsthand how the vision and persistence of committed leaders in the nonprofit sector can have ripple effects across the globe.

I also have been honored to work in partnership with the Prize’s extraordinary Selection Committee, chaired by Marie-Josée Kravis and including distinguished members such as Harry T. McMahon ’75 P’08 P’09, executive vice chairman of Bank of America/Merrill Lynch and chairman of the Claremont McKenna College Board of Trustees; Surin Pitsuwan ’72, secretary general of ASEAN; Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, the Thomas W. Lamont University Professor at Harvard University; Ratan Tata, chairman of the Tata Group; and James D. Wolfensohn, chairman of Wolfensohn & Company, L.L.C., and former president of The World Bank.

The Kravis Prize uses clearly defined quantitative and qualitative measurements to assess how nonprofit leaders take advantage of limited resources to have a powerful and sustained impact on the people they serve. This methodology for assessing nonprofit organizations comes at an important time in a complex global economy. As governments use larger percentages of resources to prevent terrorism, address failing infrastructures, or respond to natural disasters, the problems of poverty, disease, and social injustice remain. Nonprofit organizations are taking on increasing responsibility to deal with some of the most pressing issues of our time: hunger, human rights, education, public health, climate change, and arms proliferation. The Kravis Prize recognizes that many of the world’s most daunting problems cannot be solved by government or the private sector alone. It is only through partnerships among government, international organizations, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations that we can hope to champion and empower the world’s poor.

The Kravis Prize seeks to answer two fundamental questions: How can we learn from highly successful nonprofit leaders? How can we recognize and highlight their achievements? Because effective leaders deliver results, the Prize selection criteria focus on demonstrated impact and achievement in the nonprofit sector over time. Measurable outputs demonstrate the extent to which recipients’ work makes a tangible difference in transforming lives across the world. Collectively, the first five recipients of the Prize have impacted more than 560 million people in more than 70 countries on five continents.

The Kravis Prize’s collaboration with CMC’s Kravis Leadership Institute allows faculty and students to conduct ongoing research on the impact of nonprofit organizations and identify measurable qualities of successful leaders. Many CMC students spend summers abroad working at Prize recipient organizations and conduct team projects to benefit recipient organizations. For example, Takako Mino ’11 developed a debate program for young women in Uganda in partnership with 2008 Prize-recipient F.A.W.E., the Forum for African Women Educationalists, and Divya Vishwanath ’11 and Matt Kelsey ’11 interned in partnership with 2010 Prize-recipient Pratham in Bangalore and Delhi, respectively, with the support of the Mirza-Kravis Leadership Institute Endowment Fund for international internships, made possible by a gift from Susan Mirza, widow of Muzzafar Mirza ’80. Our faculty members also have benefited, including case studies on recipient organizations in a range of CMC courses.

As we look at how we teach students in this country and throughout the world, we need to always search for new ways to truly engage students and have an impact. This year’s Kravis Prize recipient, Vicky Colbert, challenges traditional ideas of pedagogy every day, and the results are impressive.

The internationally recognized Escuela Nueva Foundation, which Colbert founded in 1987, works to alleviate inequality and poverty through a collaborative learning educational program in her native Colombia. The program provides effective teacher training, improves curriculum, and fosters classroom environments that involve students in the learning process in new ways—not unlike the intensely individualized learning experiences afforded to our own students by the College’s faculty of teacher-scholars. Countries in Africa and Asia have adopted the Escuela Nueva model, and Colbert’s program now reaches 5 million students across the globe.

Ultimately, the Kravis Prize aspires to be a vehicle by which Prize recipients can have a greater impact on the nonprofit sector as a whole. The Kravis Prize facilitates the sharing of recipients’ best practices with others in the nonprofit sector through publications, the Kravis Prize website (www.claremontmckenna.edu/kravisprize/index.html) and social media presence. In addition, a growing number of colleges and universities use case studies about Kravis Prize recipients in their course curriculum to address key topics in nonprofit management and leadership. For example, inaugural Prize-recipient Roy Prosterman’s tireless work at Landesa (formerly the Rural Development Institute) to address rural landlessness in India has become a case study at the Stanford Business School, and BRAC, the 2007 Prize recipient, operates a multidisciplinary independent research unit that has published more than 350 scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals.

A recent blog post by Sakena Yacoobi, founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL), captures the growing influence of the Prize:

“When I was awarded the Kravis Prize in 2009, I knew that it would help financially as well as help raise the visibility and prominence of my organization. What I didn’t anticipate was how the reputation of the Kravis Prize would bring AIL increased credibility on the international stage,” Yacoobi wrote. “The Prize has opened doors to many new opportunities and inspired my staff to work even harder than they had in the past. We greatly appreciate the honor and the feeling that people recognize and appreciate the importance of our work educating women and girls in Afghanistan.”

As the impact of the Kravis Prize expands each year, I am most pleased to observe how the vision of Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis is being realized.
Robert Faggen, the Barton Evans and H. Andrea Neves Professor of Literature and director of the Family of Benjamin Z. Gould Center for Humanistic Studies, has received a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship. Faggen, honored in the category of humanities, in the field of American literature, will use the fellowship to complete a biography of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* author Kenneth “Ken” Kesey.

Faggen was among 3,000 scholars, scientists, and artists who applied for a Guggenheim Fellowship this year; only 180 fellows were appointed, on the basis of a candidate’s “prior achievement and exceptional promise.” As part of the application process, Faggen provided a narrative of his scholarly career, a description of his research proposal, and samples of previous work.

With the Guggenheim, Faggen will take a sabbatical next year to write and to travel in and around Pleasant Hill, Ore., the tiny, population-2,220 community where Kesey lived until his death in 2001, and to areas in Texas, Colorado, and Arkansas where Kesey and his relatives grew up.

“I’m honored by the Guggenheim Foundation’s support of my work,” Faggen said in response to his selection. “It will provide me the opportunity to go deeper into the story of Kesey’s life.”

Previous Guggenheim winners include current faculty Jay Martin, the Edward S. Gould Professor of Humanities (1966, American literature), Jamaica Kincaid, the Josephine Olp Weeks Professor of Literature (1985, fiction), and Robert von Hallberg, the Gould Research Professor (1987, American literature), all of whom received their fellowships prior to joining CMC. Faggen is the only faculty member who has been awarded the Guggenheim while at the College.

“This is tremendous recognition for Robert Faggen, and indirectly the College,” says Hilary Appel, professor of government and associate dean of the faculty.

Faggen’s biography in progress, *The Sparks Fly Up: The Life of Ken Kesey* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), has been in the works for half a dozen years, but it isn’t the first endeavor that has linked Faggen with the American novelist’s work; Faggen wrote the introduction to Viking’s 40th anniversary edition of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (2002), and interviewed Kesey for *The Paris Review*. He also contributed an essay on authors of the 1950s and ’60s to the *Cambridge History of the American Novel* (Cambridge University Press, 2011).

When Kesey died in 2001, the loss was felt even here in Claremont, where he’d visited just a decade before. Faggen invited the novelist and counter-culture icon to campus in 1991 to talk with students about his writing. Two semesters later, Kesey returned to deliver the Commencement address to the Class of 1992. He also came back the next year to speak about American historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Wallace Stegner, with whom he studied at Stanford.

In April of this year, Faggen was among the scholars invited by the University of Oregon to discuss Kesey’s influence on American culture and his creative processes. He was the keynote speaker at the Knight Library and moderated a discussion of the just-released documentary about Kesey’s legendary 1964 bus trip, entitled *Magic Trip*, written and co-directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney (*Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*). Faggen was a consultant on *Magic Trip*.

Faggen’s connections to heroic literary figures are well-known around campus. In addition to Kesey, he also has published extensively on the work of Robert Frost.

Asked why the interest in both symbolic writers, Faggen joked, “They were both lousy farmers, but great storytellers and poets.

“In different ways,” said Faggen, “both became ambiguous icons of American ideals.”

Faggen’s selection as Guggenheim Fellow follows on the heels of yet another writing project, this one celebrating poet, novelist, and songwriter Leonard Cohen.

Diana Secker, editor of the Everyman’s Library Pocket Poet collection for Random House, says Faggen selected the poems and lyrics that appear in the line’s just-released *Poems and Songs* (Everyman’s Library, April 2011) by Cohen. Faggen edited the cross-section of Cohen’s song lyrics and poems, and wrote the preface.
Evans Installed as Mitchell Professor

Robert Day School of Economics and Finance faculty member Mary Evans was installed as the Jerrine and Thomas Mitchell ’66 Associate Professor of Environmental Economics and a George R. Roberts Fellow. At the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum, Evans presented on “The Role of Economics in Managing Environmental Health Risks,” assessing the benefits associated with policies that improve health, particularly environmental policies related to air quality.

Evans, the recipient of two Science to Achieve Results Grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has published her research to improve health, particularly environmental policies related to air quality.

In addition to Evans’ endowed professorship, the Mitchells have established the Thomas M. Mitchell ’66 Alumni Fund Scholarship. Mitchell, retired CEO of Provident Investment Council and co-chair of the College Advancement Committee, has served on the Board of Trustees for 12 years.

Busch to Lead Rose Institute

Andrew Busch, the Crown Professor of Government, a George R. Roberts Fellow, and chairman of the government department, has been named director of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government.

A Roy P. Crocker Award for Merit recipient and former assistant dean of faculty, Busch has authored or co-authored eleven books on American politics, including Epic Journey: The 2008 Elections and American Politics (2009) and The Constitution on the Campaign Trail: The Surprising Political Career of America’s Founding Document (2007), along with more than 30 articles and chapters. In 2007, he received a Fulbright fellowship to lecture on American politics at the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine, and during the 2009-2010 academic year, he served as the Ann and Herbert Vaughan Fellow in the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University.

“I look forward to working with the great staff and students at the Rose Institute,” says Busch. “There is a long tradition of excellence at the Rose, and it’s exciting to become part of that.”

Josh Buss ’12 Receives Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

Chemistry and mathematics major Josh Buss ’12 has received a $7,500 scholarship from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. Singled out from the more than 1,095 nominees based on academic merit, he is one of only 275 undergraduate sophomores and juniors nationwide honored for the 2011-12 academic year.

Buss was nominated for the award by Anna Wenzel, assistant professor of chemistry, herself a former Goldwater Scholarship recipient. Wenzel describes Buss as not only proficient in basic organic lab techniques but also innovative and readily able to solve problems.

“Josh sets the standard for excellence in virtually everything he does, and it is difficult to speak of him without appearing hyperbolic,” she says. “He is one of the best undergraduate students that I have encountered.”

A native of Patagonia, Ariz., and a QuestBridge Scholar, Buss received a 2009 Kravis Leadership Institute Summer Internship to support his work at Holy Cross Hospital in his home state. This May, he and Sharday Grant-Overton ’11, along with Wenzel, presented at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in Anaheim on microwave-assisted oxidized coupling of phenols, for which their optimized protocol boasts yields as high as 98 percent and shorter reaction times than conventional methods. Buss’ and Grant-Overton’s work will be submitted to Synthetic Communications, an international journal for the rapid communication of synthetic organic chemistry. Buss will also be a co-author on an additional publication that will be submitted to Tetrahedron Letters, an international journal for the rapid communication of synthetic organic chemistry. The prestige of the Goldwater scholarship recognizes the excellence of the Joint Science department,” says Buss. “JSD provides the chance to perform graduate-level research as an undergrad, and the opportunity for invaluable rapport with professors. These experiences continue to inspire me to pursue a career in chemistry, and are largely responsible for any success I may have had thus far.”

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was authorized by the United States Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater. The program pays tribute to Senator Goldwater through an endowed recognition program to foster and encourage excellence in science and mathematics. — Katherine Wernet ’11
Operation Graduation

May 2011 marked the College’s 64th Annual Commencement

On Saturday, May 14, CMC saw the Class of 2011 turn their tassels and become college graduates. The College’s 64th Annual Commencement, held at Pritzlaff Field, was marked by sentimentality and excitement.

“My feelings are mostly excited and sad,” said Valedictorian Tessa Dover ’11, also recognized for Outstanding Senior Thesis and Outstanding Major by the psychology department. “I’m really looking forward to the next step, but it’s a bit distressing to be leaving all the people I love.”

The Latin salutation, Similes Flammarum Phlegethontis (Like the Flames of Phlegethon), delivered by Alice Lyons ’11 and Brian Winter ’11, was an amusing tribute to the last four years that also impressed words of wisdom onto the graduating class: “Stand up for what you believe in. Follow your dreams. Never give up.”

Keynote speaker James D. Wolfensohn, K.B.E., AO, chairman of Wolfensohn & Company L.L.C. and past president of the World Bank Group, has exhibited leadership on both national and international levels. He was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from the College, sponsored by Trustee James Bemowski ’76 P’07 P’09M’10 and Hilary Appel, associate dean of the faculty and professor of government.

The class of 2011 included 295 undergraduates and 15 master’s students. — By Lori Kozlowski ’00

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National Award Recipients

Fullbright Scholarships - Julia Gueron ’11, Henry Lyford ’11 and Katrina Weeks ’11
Beinecke Scholarship - Michelle Kahn ’12
Boren Scholarships - Melissa Carlson ’13, Adam Merry ’13 and Robert Walters ’13
Critical Language Scholarship - Joseph Kelly Clifton ’11
Napier Award for Creative Leadership - Takako Mino ’11
Harry Truman Scholarship - Niran Gupta ’11
Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship (2010) - Nicole Holzberg ’11
Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship (2011) - Gregory Zahner ’12

Student Award Recipients

William H. Alamshah Award for Student Leadership - Christopher Jones ’11
Alumni Association Citizenship Award - Ajani Harris ’11
Alumni Association Outstanding Athlete Award for Men and Women - Taylor Berliant ’11 and Reny Colton ’12
H.N. and Frances C. Berger Prize for Outstanding Seniors - Christopher David Jones ’11 and Nicole Holzberg ’11
William Dickinson Athletic Award - Michelle Harvey ’11
Brian Walkenbach Award for Outstanding Resident Assistant - Kathryn Mgrublian ’11

Faculty and Staff Award Recipients

Roy P. Crocker Award for Merit - Paul Hurley, Edward J. Sexton Professor of Philosophy
Glenn R. Huntoon Award for Superior Teaching - Robert Valenza, Dengler-Dykema Professor of Mathematics and the Humanities
G. David Huntoon Senior Teaching Award - S. Brock Blomberg, Robin and Peter Barker Professor of Economics, George R. Roberts Fellow, and dean of the Robert Day School of Economics and Finance
Presidential Award for Merit - Jerome Garris, vice president for special projects and senior associate dean of the faculty
Exceptional Service Award - Kace Kush, access system manager, and Elizabeth Morgan, registrar and director of institutional research
Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership Awarded to Vicky Colbert, Founder and Director of Escuela Nueva Foundation

Vicky Colbert, founder and director of Escuela Nueva Foundation, received the sixth annual Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership, a $250,000 award recognizing extraordinary leadership in the nonprofit sector.

Established to improve the quality of education in low-income schools across the globe, Escuela Nueva Foundation’s innovative educational model provides effective teacher training, improves curriculum, and fosters classroom environments that are engaging and compelling to students. The program has reached more than five million children in Latin America and has influenced education models in Africa and Asia.

“Vicky Colbert is a true pioneer in education, and her commitment in Latin America is inspiring,” says Trustee Henry R. Kravis ’67. “She has taken her experiences as UNICEF’s regional adviser for education in the Americas and Colombia’s vice minister of education and created an organization that affects change not only in her home country, but globally.”

“Low-quality education leads to an unqualified labor force, inequality, and poverty. It is this injustice and inequity that led me to rethink education and craft a solution to improve its quality and effectiveness,” explains Colbert. “At Escuela Nueva Foundation, we work to establish schools as the basic unit of change: nurturing a culture of peace and citizenship, allowing boys and girls to learn and participate, and empowering them and their communities.”

Colbert received the Kravis Prize at a ceremony in New York City on March 22 and spoke at the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum on March 24.
Gaston Espinosa, the Arthur V. Stoughton Associate Professor of Religious Studies, has received a National Humanities Fellowship from the National Humanities Center (NHC) Institute for Advanced Study, located in the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina. The NHC was founded by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1978. It provides a national focus for the best work in the liberal arts and has funded scholars from more than 30 nations.

The internationally competitive award, this year given to just 7.9 percent of the 404 applicants, enables Espinosa to take off the 2011-12 academic year to focus on writing and scholarship.

“As always, it was a very rigorous competition,” said NHC Vice President and Deputy Director Kent Mullikin. “Each year the center can accept only a few of the outstanding scholars who apply for fellowships.” Recipients for the 2011-12 Fellowship included just two liberal arts college scholars. Some of the others named are scholars from Harvard, Stanford, Duke, Cornell, and Boston universities. Espinosa is the only scholar from the field of religious studies who was awarded a Fellowship.

National Humanities Center Director George Harpham, in his notification letter to Espinosa, added after reading Espinosa’s project proposal, “I was delighted at the prospect of your coming to the National Humanities Center.”


“I was surprised and deeply honored by the selection, since it is one of the most competitive fellowships in the humanities,” Espinosa said. Selection is based on originality, scholarly importance, and impact. The Fellowships are open to any scholars in the humanities—from any nation—as well as individuals from the sciences, social sciences, the arts, the professions, and public life, wishing to pursue a humanistic project. During the academic year, fellows and invited visitors are featured in monthly lectures attended by local scholars, students, and the general public from the United States and around the world.


His teaching and research interests include American religious history, American religions and politics, Latino religions and politics, religion and the Civil Rights movement, and religion, politics, and global violence.

Espinosa is chair of the CMC department of religious studies and The Claremont Colleges Religious Studies Program. He also serves as president of La Comunidad of Hispanic Scholars at the American Academy of Religion and as co-editor of the Columbia University Press Series in Religion and Politics.
A New Voice for Human Rights

A pilot program led by Amanda Lam ’11 and Takako Mino ’11 empowers disadvantaged teens at Pomona High School with advanced communication skills.

What do you think of when you hear the phrase “human rights activism”? Helicopters taking supplies to parts of the Third World? Malaria shots dispensed in a distant African village?

You’re right, but listen to P. Edward Haley, the W.M. Keck Foundation Professor of International Strategic Studies and chairman of the International Relations Program, and you’ll realize that the term is much broader than that.

“It’s certainly about international activism,” explains Haley, who also directs the Center for Human Rights Leadership, “but human rights work is local, too.”

How local? Try 10 minutes from the CMC campus.

The First Reporters Project is the creation of the student-run Education Task Force (which originated in the human rights center). Through this pilot program, for which the ETF has partnered with CMC’s Writing Center and the 5-C Claremont Colleges Debate Union, students are reaching out to disadvantaged teens in Pomona to help them clear walls that may seem, due to various economic and social obstacles, impossibly high to scale.

What kind of obstacles?

Drug problems, teen pregnancy, gang violence, dropping out, poor educational resources, and a deteriorating learning environment—the Pomona High School juniors enrolled in the First Reporters Project tackled all of these issues as part of a photojournalism course devoted to writing, photography, and social media, assisted by CMC students every step of the way.

“By working with students to identify how they can address issues they are passionate about, we wanted to help them not only improve their writing skills but also learn social advocacy skills not typically supported in traditional classrooms,” says Amanda Lam ’11, a double major in government and psychology and one of the pilot program’s leaders. “Hopefully we gave them ideas about how to change and improve their community.”

On six Saturday mornings in March and April, 15 student task force members arrived at Pomona High School to find a pleasing, and surprising, sight—a crowded classroom of 30 eager young people (along with Pomona High teacher Eva Morales-Vargas, who collaborated with the CMCers) willing to sacrifice sleeping in on the weekend to work on their critical thinking.

In groups and in one-on-one consultations, students were given a clear, simple focus: Look at the world around you. What would you change? They then developed their answers—and their individual voices—by writing editorials and taking photos to illustrate their arguments. Then the teens learned how to bring their viewpoints to a potentially greater readership by setting up a blog, uploading images, and moderating outside feedback.

Even though most are avid texters and have Facebook accounts, Lam notes, the students “didn’t really understand how to use such sites to advocate for themselves. We showed them the social media mechanism and also how to maximize the resources they have around them.”

A few weeks in and the student volunteers already were receiving high marks from the high schoolers because of their care and special attention. But do communication skills really qualify as a human rights issue?

You bet they do.

“I’m sure it seems less tangible than other examples of human rights,” explains Takako Mino ’11, an international relations major who spearheaded the pilot program with her classmate Lam. “The fact is: If you don’t have a means to communicate your opinions and perspectives, you’re going to be ignored. No one is going to understand you or the problems you have. Isn’t giving people a voice what human rights are about?”

Mino credits John Meany, the debate union’s director of forensics, with guiding the ETF’s project: Meany drew on his own outreach experience with domestic and international students to show Mino and her classmates how to design curriculum and classroom materials that could be passed on to the high school faculty for future use.
“He’s been such an important source of personal support and inspiration for all of us,” says Mino, who first met Meany when she joined the debate team in her freshman year.

Outreach to Pomona High was paved by other task force members, like Anna Joseph ’13, who first approached Pomona High last year with a college application workshop, says Mino. Faculty from CGU and Pomona College provided help, and CMC’s Writing Center offered the guidance of its consultants, including students and the center’s associate director, Christine Crockett. For Associate Professor of Literature Audrey Bilger, who directs the writing center, the decision to combine writing and photography in the pilot program was an ideal teaching strategy.

“There’s just something about pairing words and visuals that really turns on the light for these kids,” she says.

The Education Task Force is one of several human rights task forces developed during brainstorming sessions conducted every fall by the Center for Human Rights Leadership. Others have included criminal justice, women’s rights, environmental justice, and immigration issues. Normally the life span of the task forces, Haley says, is the length of the school year. But thanks to the efforts of Mino, Lam, and others, the ETF has grown into an independent, student-run group that will continue—as will the First Reporters Project—long after current students have moved on to their futures.

“Our hope is that it continues,” says Mino, who will help schools in East Africa after graduation. “The need is definitely there.”

The First Reporters Project concluded in April with the Pomona High teens visiting the CMC campus not only to give oral presentations but also to listen to an admission presentation on CMC and college in general. Targeted to a group educated within a culture where only 76.8 percent of students finish high school, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, this exposure was a crucial, final part of the project.

“Takako and her group wanted to model for the students something beyond the writing itself,” Bilger explains. “They wanted them to see that there’s a future for them that could include higher education. It was something these kids really needed to hear.”

—By Nick Owchar ’90
ROOM TO GLOW
For more than a half-century, CMC’s Alumni Association has supported the life and growth of the college. The group’s re-envisioning of Alumni Weekend provides an ideal opportunity to assess its evolution and examine its outreach to alumni...and alumni-in-residence.

By Stephen Schenkenberg
CMC has long been a lively place in early May. Seniors celebrate thesis turn-in with champagne and Fountain Frolics. Well-caffeinated underclassmen round out a semester’s worth of classes and start cramming for finals. Athletes compete in spring sports. Faculty and students alike crave the imminent, life-launching day of commencement.

But May 2011 was, if possible, even more lively. For the first time in the college’s history, reunioning alumni were in the mix: reminiscing, chatting up students, quizzing professors, and touring the ever-new campus. As this completely reworked alumni weekend came to a close, we conversed with alumni from three very different generations about the life and work of their organization, CMCAA.
Charged with exploring the Claremont McKenna College Alumni Association of today—its recent accomplishments and its future direction—we deemed it important to understand a bit about its past. And for that, according to everyone surveyed, there was one and only one alumnus with whom to speak: Gene Wolver ’51.

Wolver’s decorations to date are a mile long, including five decades on the Board of Trustees; the College created the Eugene L. Wolver Jr. ’51 Lifetime Service Award in his honor. It is with good reason John Faranda ’79, vice president for alumni and parent relations, calls Wolver the “godfather” of the Association.

But back in the mid-1950s, he was just a relatively new graduate staying connected through CMC’s Los Angeles alumni chapter and informal Alumni Association. As the first alumnus who was a practicing attorney, Wolver was tapped to draft the articles of incorporation for the Alumni Association, which had been founded by eight students in the home of international relations professor J. Anton de Haas in 1948.

CMCAA formed by Founding President George C.S. Benson and Robert Bernard, including students William Cronin ’48, Robert Eachus ’48, Donald Phillips ’48, Morris Slack ’48, Dan Vadala ’48, James Wilcox ’48, Walter Wiley ’48, and Charles Wuerz Jr. ’48. Wilcox was elected the first president.

More than 100 alumni attended Reunion Weekend, Nov. 15-17. Events included a luncheon, bonfire rally, football game, dinner, and dance.

The Alumni Association was incorporated as a separate entity and assumed responsibility for on-campus job counseling for seniors and alumni placement.

President Benson formed the position of alumni secretary and director of placement. Thornton Hamlin Jr. ’50 was appointed to the position and succeeded by Jack Stark ’57.

The first comprehensive Reunion Weekend program was held on campus.
Since this is a magazine feature and not a book-length history, it’s necessary to skip forward a few years—decades, even. In identifying the Association’s recent impact, one need only look at how the greater world has changed: namely, our culture’s collective move to the Web.

Recognizing a boom in interactive technologies, CMCAA recruited Ryder Todd Smith ’96, a technology services specialist, to serve as president from 2008-10. “Social media was exploding,” Smith recalls. “I saw it as an opportunity to engage with our alumni in a different, more convenient fashion. I’d rather have a 30-second slice of time twice a week than a five-minute slice of time once a month. Smaller but more consistent engagement creates a greater probability of piquing their interest enough to connect again with the College.”

CMCAA launched a Facebook page, and relationships formed immediately. “It did what it was supposed to do,” Smith says. “It’s the most popular Facebook page associated with the College.”

With the Web, it’s not just about creating links via social media; it’s about generating new, exclusive content. To put faces on the CMCAA Board, Smith recorded informal conversations with members (taking inspiration from Stephen Colbert’s “Better Know a District,” a series of mock interviews with Congressional representatives). The videos are available on the Association’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/user/cmcata.

Smith also turned to the digital world—metaphorically—when the College invited him to address the 2010 graduating class. (His four-minute, “appropriately brief” speech also is available on YouTube.) In it, he turned away from Colbert and toward Apple’s popular “There’s an app for that” campaign. In official regalia, Smith told the undergraduates that, like an iPhone, CMC alumni are everywhere you want them to be: “If you’re looking for a Wall Street titan to connect with, there’s an alum for that. Maybe you’re looking for a permit in the city of Dallas; there’s an alum for that. Or a business connection in India or a producer for your script. The reality is there are alumni for all of these things.”

Smith remains grateful for the opportunity, which turned out to be just the beginning of increasing intermingling of Alumni Association efforts and the lives of undergraduates. “The Association,” he says, “deeply appreciates being represented.” The College invited Smith’s successor, Richard “Rick” Voit ’78, to become the second CMCAA president to speak directly to the graduating class this May.
Chicago-based Merrill Lynch vice-president with an already-packed travel schedule, Voit took on the CMCAA presidency expecting to fly to Los Angeles 15 times in 12 months. Why such commitment? It may go back to the moment he became a new alumnus, and a newly employed alumnus, himself.

“I got my first job through Jeff Farber ’74,” Voit recalls. “I was a management trainee at Seattle First National Bank.”

Ever since, Voit has been tightly involved, volunteering as an ambassador to local high schools, participating in the Seattle and Chicago alumni chapters, and serving on the CMCAA Board. His central focus is connectivity, and his passion for making connections between alumni and between students and alumni is infectious. “The College community is an incredible network,” he says, “and my mission has been to enhance that network.”

Voit’s first major success connecting alumni came when he launched the Alumni Athenaeum Retreat. “The Alumni Athenaeum is his baby,” says Faranda. “Rick envisioned an upper-level event with really good speakers, where intellectual discussions were punctuated with fun activities and gourmet meals.”

In the “idea festival” style of Renaissance Weekends, the retreats materialized at luxury resorts in Beaver Creek, Colo., in 2009 and Sonoma in 2010.

“Feedback from the participants was all incredibly positive, with everyone taking away something slightly different,” said Smith, commenting after the inaugural event. “It was the chance to indulge in lively, fast-paced conversation led by truly exemplary people.”

The Sonoma event, a year later, was perhaps even better, with great programming and a bump in attendance. “Everybody comes away incredibly rejuvenated; they can’t wait for the next one,” event organizer and future CMCAA President Carol Hartman ’86 told this publication afterward. “Everybody’s leaving with goose bumps, which is what it should be.”
Voit’s second charge, connectivity between alumni and undergraduates, has had the real-world effect of reinvigorating one of the College’s annual traditions, Alumni Weekend. A significant part of that stimulus would revolve around a single decision: Changing the date. What sounds like a small thing was, in Voit’s words, “a huge honking deal.”

For years Alumni Weekend had been held after Commencement, with visiting alumni staying in the residence halls and having the campus mostly to themselves. But last summer, with encouragement from the Board of Trustees and President Pamela Gann, the Alumni Board voted to incorporate the gathering into the academic year. They hoped the new schedule would cultivate communal interaction with current students and professors, a more lively campus, and overlapping events with those celebrating alumni weekends at the other Claremont Colleges.

As Smith puts it, this single change of date would ensure that “alumni would see what really matters: students and teachers.”

The date change was just the first trigger to rethinking the Weekend, however. Looking to enhance programming, Voit recruited Kevin Blair ’06, the Alumni Association Events Chair. “Kevin is a feisty guy,” says Voit. “He speaks up. After a while, the light bulb went on, and I said, this is exactly the guy who needs to be looking at our Alumni Weekend.”

Alumni Weekend should be a spotlight event,” says Blair, who provided ongoing feedback and ideas to the College’s staff. “It’s a very powerful tool for reconnecting with the College. That connection can trickle down, inspiring an alumnus to attend chapter events, recruit CMCers for job vacancies at his or her company, make a gift to CMC, or reach out to a classmate.”

The event that Blair, Voit, and countless staff and volunteers pulled off was a major success. Buoyed by beautifully cooperative weather, alumni connected, learned, and had fun, all while mingling with the students of today.

For those readers who did not attend, the weekend was packed with diverse, fresh programming. Alumni audited classes with students and shared stories about their theses, took cooking classes, participated in symposia ranging from finance and politics to science and the arts, tasted wine with Scripps alumnae, mock-gambled (and danced to Motown) at the much-loved Monte Carlo Night—and enjoyed traditional activities like inner-tube water polo, golf, and class dinners.

More than 600 people enjoyed the weekend, 100 more than last year. And the hoped-for integration of generations worked very well, whether in a classroom, lined up at a food truck, or jumping in an inflatable bounce house. “The real lesson we learned,” Faranda says, “was that the synergies of pairing alumni with students were incredibly positive.”

This camaraderie, a satisfying cap on a year of dynamic success, also provided an appropriate moment for Voit to pass the CMCAA presidency torch to his successor, Hartman, who he describes as “a longtime CMC volunteer star”.

From Hartman’s perspective, the event’s triumphs will be felt long after the alumni and students have returned to their lives. “This weekend,” she says, “is transformative to the culture of the Alumni Association.”

With CMCAA’s storied history, innovative leadership, and always-strong partnership with the College, it is exciting to imagine what this transformation will lead to next.
An Affair to Remember

Aglow with a dozen crystal chandeliers, the Celebration Tent at the south end of Parents Field played host to the more than 600 CMCers who gathered for the College’s Alumni Weekend.
CMCAA President’s Message

Claremont McKenna College struck alumni pay dirt on April 29.

It seems so simple, doesn’t it? Change the Alumni Weekend date so that the hundreds of alumni who normally attend would have the benefit of hobnobbing with real, live students and the full array of faculty. We totally underestimated the synergy and the fun that would result. CMC’s Alumni Weekend is back, in a big way.

Where else, in two days, could I have listened to ASCMC President Tammy Phan ’11 talk about her senior thesis, participated in a Dorm Bowl match, brushed up on my craps skills, reconnected with Professor Emeritus Gordon Bjork, toured the Kravis Center, and joined others in sneaking off to student-led parties? On that note: Thank you, Green Hall! Speaking as a former Green R.A., with the Pirate Party you have taken CMC hospitality to a wonderful new level.

So much of the credit goes to Kevin Blair ’06, chair of our Events Committee. Kevin had a vision and, well, never gave up. Kevin, thank you from all of us for your vision and leadership. We owe you. We also need to thank the entire staff of the Office of Alumni & Parent Relations. It is hard to fully appreciate the work and attention to detail that is involved in organizing a 12-ring circus such as this. Alumni responded with their feet; we nearly doubled attendance this year, to more than 600.

Just days after popping the cork on the last bottle of champagne at our shared brunch with Scripps College, I was back in Claremont for Commencement. Not since my graduation in 1978 had I seen CMC in full regalia. If you haven’t been back to view the spectacle that is commencement recently, you would be amazed: Our large Alumni Weekend Celebration Tent, which easily would have held my class’ graduation (including families) in Badgley Gardens, was dwarfed by a gala tent to hold 3,000 people. (Not to mention the students who I had met just days earlier sporting swimwear and pirate beards were now crossing the stage in formal graduation gowns and looking pretty fabulous.)

CMCAA’s next President’s Message will be written by my good friend and successor, Carol (Oliver) Hartman ’86. Carol, with energy and vision for what our Alumni Association can be, will take our network to the next level. I look forward to remaining on the Board and helping Carol with CMCAA’s career effort by piloting elevated professional networking, also involving parents, to benefit both students and graduates.

I offer great thanks to my friends on the CMCAA Board for the impact we made this year. Watch this space, and the magazine and the Web, for evidence of our Forum for the Future, Ambassadors program, enhanced CMC clothing and merchandise, and other ways we’re all working to make your CMC affiliation so relevant.

Crescit cum commercio civitas,

Rick Voit ’78
richard_voit@ml.com

Brunch Bunch

The Class of 2010 gathered for a one-year reunion at Collins Dining Hall before cheering on the Class of 2011 during the College’s 64th annual commencement ceremonies. At a time when both undergraduate memories and real-world experiences are fresh, the brunch, hosted by CMCAA, is a perfect outlet for newly minted alumni to exchange graduate school war stories and strategies for beating the nine-to-five grind.
A Long Shot

Former CMCAA President Bob Long ’52 tapped as Class Liaison of the Year.

By Brittany Ruiz ’08, chair of CMCAA’s Class Liaisons Committee

The College is very fortunate to have many talented and dedicated volunteers in our alumni community. Among those volunteers are the class liaisons, who work tirelessly throughout the year to keep track of every one of our 10,000+ alumni. With little more than 60 liaisons in the program, this is no small feat.

Every year, we have the pleasure of recognizing a Class Liaison of the Year. The recipient of this award exemplifies an extraordinary level of enthusiasm for the program and a heart of service to the College. This year’s recipient has logged more than twenty years of service as a class liaison. His dedication to the program is even more unusual given that he does double-duty as the liaison for two class years. Despite this dual commitment, he always manages to be witty, thoughtful, and enthusiastic in his pursuit of updates.

In appreciation of his service to the program, I am pleased to recognize Bob Long ’52 as this year’s recipient of the Class Liaison of the Year Award. Congratulations, Bob!

During a phone interview, Long shared his thoughts on the class liaisons program and his secret to success:

Ruiz: You’ve served as a class liaison for more than two decades. What keeps you committed?
Long: I like the school and I like the guys in my class. I like to write and keep track of people, and I feel it’s important that somebody does it. It really isn’t work when you enjoy doing it.

Ruiz: Why do you think your Notes are so popular?
Long: People like to see their name in print. I try to make my articles amusing and give information about my classmates. Everything I put in the articles is not 100 percent straight up and down accurate; I try to avoid things that don’t reflect well on my classmates and things I consider better not revealed.

Ruiz: I literally laugh out loud when I read some of the things that you write—especially your political commentary. As the son and sibling of military men, and a former Naval aviator, what role does patriotism play in your Notes?
Long: My father was in the Army in World War I. My two brothers were in the Navy and I was in the Navy as well. My sister was married to a Navy man. I’ve tried to make political and economic commentary, which I think is very important, especially from CMC, because when I was there it was a politically and economically oriented school.

Ruiz: What is your secret to collecting so many updates from your classmates?
Long: Most of the time I call them on the telephone. I also usually ask them about other classmates that they know so I get hearsay information that way. People are interested in learning about others and what is going on in their lives. It takes perseverance.

Ruiz: You are not new to exemplary contributions to CMCAA, serving as president from 1969-70 and currently chairing the CMCAA Travel Committee. What changes have you observed within the organization?
Long: The CMC Alumni Association has grown a lot. They are all very capable people and they do a lot of good work.

CMCAA Group Tours El Molino Viejo

On April 9 a group of six CMCers visited both San Gabriel Mission and its El Molino Viejo in San Marino, and lunched at the notable Julienne café on Mission Street between the two sites. John Fantz, a docent since 1955, conducted a fascinating tour of the Mission, while Lillian Moore, wife of Federal Marshal Michael Moore, conducted the tour of the restored El Molino Viejo. From left to right: Bob ’52 and Grace Long, J.T. and Jennifer ’05 Trap ’06 (with baby), and Jack Croul ’49.
WAYNE GALLUP ’51, of Canyon Lake, died on Nov. 28, 2010. Gallup served on the U.S.S. Ranger and in the U.S. Naval Reserve. A second-generation native Californian, he owned Gallup’s Bike Shop, Gallup’s Billiards, and Wayne Gallup Real Estate. He supported service groups including the Montclair Optimists, American Legion, Pomona Jaycees, and Toastmasters, and enjoyed water sports and playing the piano. Gallup is survived by his wife, Frances, three daughters, six grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

DARRYL JERLOW ’52, of San Diego, died March 9 of complications from diabetes. He retired as principal at THV Financial Associates (formerly THV National Distributing) in Claremont, having previously worked with Armstrong-Deuser-McHugh Jr. Agency as a talent agent and with General Telephone as a personnel representative. Jerlow also was employed by CMC as executive secretary. As a student, he played freshman football and served as sophomore class president and ASCMC president.

VAN LEE HUPPERT ’54, of Bend, Ore., died Nov. 6, 2010. After playing professional baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers and the St. Louis Cardinals while enrolled at Chaffey College, Huppert transferred to CMC to complete his B.A. in business administration. He worked in finance and investment securities with Revel Miller & Co. in Los Angeles and Hornblower & Weeks in Pittsburgh. Huppert was married to Merna Jane Owen, an alumna of San Jose State University.

WILLIAM EARL JANSON ’61 died Jan. 1, 1996. An ROTC cadet, Janson participated in debate and was recognized for excellence by the National Forensic League. After attending CMC for two years, he transferred to CSU Long Beach, where he earned his B.A. in political science.

GARY L. DAVIS ’63, of Helena, Mont., died March 17. Davis, editor of CMC’s Ayer and associate editor of the Montana Law Review, earned his J.D. from the University of Montana in 1966. After a four-year tour with the Army Judge Advocate General Corps at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Nurnberg, Germany, he practiced with the firm of Luxan & Murfitt. In Helena, he served as a city commissioner, was a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Episcopal Church, and volunteered with the United Way and Junior Achievement.

Former Class of 1964 Liaison and Alumni Phonencite Chair ROBERT W. GOSS ’64, of Santa Ana, died April 19 of complications from a seizure. Goss was the Stags’ first All-American in singles and doubles tennis in 1963 (he repeated the feat in 1964). He was the NAIA District 3 singles champ in 1962, and doubles champ (with Dave Moffett ’64 P’93 P’94) in 1962 and 1963, and served as captain his senior year. His career singles record, 47-18, a winning percentage of .723, places him 15th all-time in Stags tennis history. In recent years, he ably represented the founding fathers of Stags tennis at the Ducey Cap Alumni Match. Goss was a Dean’s List student who graduated sixth in his class. He earned his MBA from UCLA in 1971 before working as an investment banker and administrator with Grant Bettingen, Bear Stearns, A.G. Edwards & Sons, Smith Barney, and Merrill Lynch. A service with military honors (Goss served as a lieutenant during the Vietnam War) was held at Pacific View Memorial Park in Corona del Mar.

BRUCE V. REAGAN ’67, of Seattle, died Oct. 16, 2008. Reagan was president of Northwind Marine Inc., a Seattle producer of aluminum boats. Before founding Northwind in 1995, he co-owned and operated Workboats Northwest, which produced a variety of industrial boats, including fishing boats, police and fire boats, oil-spill cleanup boats, and Coast Guard tenders, and founded Sovereign Yachts, whose fleet of products included a two-masted, 110-foot sailing ketch called the Venturosa. Reagan also established a precision aluminum-cutting company, Northwest Plasma Cutting. He is survived by his wife, Allison, and two daughters.

DARRYL L. RUSK ’74, of Valley Springs, died Jan. 20. Rusk served as a medic in the U.S. Army from 1966-68. At CMC, he was a Dean’s List student, chairman of the Bill of Rights committee, president of the Young Republicans, and a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma. He also participated in forensics and student government. Rusk earned his M.A. in public administration from USC in 1975. Manager and field staff representative for Public Employees Association of Riverside County, in Indio, Rusk also was a member of the League of Voters, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Palm Springs Chess Club, and the Computer Club of the Desert. He is survived by his daughter and son, and two grandsons.

ERNEST MAURICE “ERNI” MOORE II ’79, of New York City, died March 5 of complications from a malignant brain tumor. An international relations major and a dean’s list student, Moore was involved with the Black Student Union, ASCMC, and the political science club. He played junior varsity soccer and varsity football. The former manager of integrated technology solutions for Verizon Information Technologies, he previously was systems manager for Data Services in Temple Terrace, Fla., an area technology leader for GTE Data Services in Temple Terrace, and a systems analyst with GTE California in Thousand Oaks. He is survived by his wife, Tracy, and three daughters.

LOUIS C. ROBIN ’79, of Agoura Hills, died April 21 of complications from cancer. Robin left CMC in September 1978, after traveling abroad and studying at Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland. His career experience included roles as president of DAAT Securities, vice president of Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., in Malibu, and second vice president of Shearson Lehman Brothers, Inc., in Los Angeles. He also was a financial consultant and an investment executive with Shearson/American Express, Inc., in Los Angeles.
Blackbeard never told the secret of his buried treasure....will you?

If you have secretly included CMC in your estate plan, we would love to hear about it. As we plan for CMC’s future, it’s enormously helpful for us know who our secret admirers are. We will, of course, keep your secret safe if you prefer.

And if you’d like to include CMC in your estate plan, we would be honored. Contact the Office of Planned Giving to learn more about the many options available.

Office of Planned Giving
Claremont McKenna College
www.cmc.edu/plannedgiving
(888) 311-4717
Save the Date

The Kravis Center Dedication

Friday, October 21, 2011

For more information: 909.607.4006 or events@cmc.edu