Mapping the Mojave

WITH THE ALUMNI OF BLUEPRINT EARTH PAGE 34
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Today’s pirates aren’t like Captain Hook

A note to expand upon the recent article regarding Somali pirates in CMC Magazine (“Somalia’s Pirates Walk a Tightrope,” Fall 2013).

I understand the article by Fernholz/Blomberg/Levin is an academic exercise regarding the subject, but in the spirit of CMC and my old mentor Orme Phelps, permit me to offer some practical observations on the subject as an additive piece.

I have a management interest in an international security firm that has been engaged with the pirate situation for some time. I have participated in specific operations to mitigate against the Somali pirate issue and would offer some points for consideration.

The pirates make their money from insurance funds for captured ships and crews. They attack vessels that they believe hold significant insurance policies and will quickly settle for sums within the limits of the policy. History to this point proves them right. Further, the pirate management structures have quite sophisticated networks and connections that identify potential lucrative targets by specific ship. They have a network that tracks these ships—primarily through Lloyd’s in the UK and Hong Kong as well as regional ports—and notifies the home base when one of them does not participate in the now common convoy system and tries to run the area. If they can get this ship in an area where the NATO/US/etc. sea patrols are absent, they win. These are not people with peg legs and parrots or Captain Hook. Their enforcement arm is down, dirty and uneducated but their very senior leadership is quite smart and technologically savvy.

Commercial technology is sophisticated enough to track security patrols and convoys and to quickly respond to opportunities. When insurance data and opportunity coincide, there will be an attempt. Insurance companies are loath to support armed crews or additional security forces due to perceived costs and liability issues. However, in those instances where specific ships engaged security elements and they were in turn, confronted, the pirates lost. A few bullets in the right direction go a long way. Neither the pirates or the ship management will willingly discuss such confrontations. To make the point that this isn’t a paid advertisement, my firm withdrew from the business as “not worth it” for all except long-term sensitive customer sets.

The pirates are part of the various Somali factions and aggressively seek any economic venue. Pirating has been a good revenue source and the pain for profit has been relatively mild. As in other business environments, this branch will succeed only so long as the finances make it worthwhile. The pain endured by their enforcement arm is largely irrelevant to the ownership.

“A few bullets in the right direction go a long way.”

Keith Nightingale
CMC ’65

How did we do it?

Is it a single photo or a composite one?

The cover of CMC Magazine’s winter honor roll issue suggests that an old picture of CMC, circa the 1990s, has been casually held up alongside current student, Parker Mallchok ’17, who sits by the fountain and studies for exams. Varying depths of field, however, prevented such a quick, simple photo; instead, the work was done digitally. Photos of Mallchok, a hand holding the photo, and even the photo itself (stripped out and re-laid in a crisper, black-and-white version) were each formatted and then combined. All of this attests to the ingenuity of our designer, Jay Toffoli, and photographer William Vasta.

Your Feedback Welcome

CMC Magazine welcomes reader questions, concerns, and comments via traditional letters and social media platforms, ranging from Facebook to Twitter. Mail letters to: CMC Magazine, 400 North Claremont Blvd., Claremont, Calif. 91711-4015 Or send your letters via fax or email to 909-621-8100 or nicholas.owchar@cmc.edu or bryan.schneider@cmc.edu. All correspondence should include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number. Please note: Letters may be edited for length, content, and style if selected for publication.
Departure and Return

The notions of departure and return are profoundly interrelated. Have you ever been someplace where the statement “I’m coming” actually means “I’m leaving now but I will be back soon”? Commencement, which the Class of 2014 celebrated in May, is a word for both graduation and a new beginning. Paradoxically, when we leave our zones of comfort we also return to learn the most about ourselves.

Pursuant to this lesson, transcontinental cycling builds houses. Traveling the Mojave gives presence and place to unknown territory. Hard-fought professional success by our alumnae at the Fed inspires the outstanding women leaders on our campus today. Rapid technological change reminds us of the persistency of our greatest geo-political challenges. The extraordinary trajectory of Claremont McKenna’s success on the landscape of global higher education brings us back to our commitment to community and what it means to be a citizen (civitas), to engagement and the exchange of ideas (commercio), and to the powerful relationship between liberal learning and action in the world (reflected in our logo).

And, simultaneously, when we return through memory, through reflection, through history, we’re inspired to push forward. We recall Ward Elliott’s singing parties and all that he has contributed while also celebrating the student-centric research mission of Sam Nelson. Professor Wendy Lower uncovers a disturbing history to give us new insight for a better future. Students confront the devastations of sexual assault through uplifting circles of dance and music; Bonnie Snortum’s retirement compels us to do more than bring students to the Ath—she inspires us to put the Ath in each of our students. Finally, we say goodbye to Ducey Gym and pull up the floor to build the exciting new Roberts Pavilion.

So, as we read these pages, let’s remember how our adventures bring us home, and how our returns set us in new directions. As CMC raises us—our understanding, our experiences, our opportunities—we need not.Given this lesson, transcontinental cycling builds houses. Traveling the Mojave gives presence and place to unknown territory. Hard-fought professional success by our alumnae at the Fed inspires the outstanding women leaders on our campus today. Rapid technological change reminds us of the persistency of our greatest geo-political challenges. The extraordinary trajectory of Claremont McKenna’s success on the landscape of global higher education brings us back to our commitment to community and what it means to be a citizen (civitas), to engagement and the exchange of ideas (commercio), and to the powerful relationship between liberal learning and action in the world (reflected in our logo).

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30+
Published mathematics papers that Associate Professor Sam Nelson, an expert in the field of "knot theory," has co-authored with undergraduates during his career. For more on his collaboration work with students, see the feature on page 6.

91
Number of one-semester senior theses produced by members of the Class of 2014. (Note: this number doesn't include science majors.)

300
Pounds of chicken breast cooked daily on the grill in Collins Dining Hall.

897
Total number of blue books ordered by the Robert Day School of Economics and Finance for the spring semester's final exams.

27
Number of professors designated as George R. Roberts Fellows. For more on the installation ceremony for the newest member of this list, Wendy Lower, see page 10.

1 out of 15
Among similar schools on the following list, CMC is the only private liberal arts college founded in the postwar 20th century:

Washington and Lee (1749)  United States Naval Academy (1845)
Williams College (1793)  Vassar (1861)
Bowdoin (1794)  Swarthmore (1864)
Middlebury (1800)  Carleton (1866)
Hamilton (1812)  Wellesley (1870)
Amherst (1821)  Pomona (1887)
Haverford (1833)  Claremont McKenna (1946)
Davidson (1837)

(Source: U.S. News and World Report)
CALL IT FATE, KARMA, LUCK or something else—the stars aligned in a special way so that the final CMS men’s and women’s basketball games ever to be played in Ducey Gym were held against the University of Redlands...led by Coach Jim Ducey, Ted’s son.

Whatever the cosmic reason behind it, CMS Athletic Director Michael Sutton ’76 (top right) told a large crowd of spectators to be grateful. It “provides us this very special opportunity to close out the regular season with a home game against Redlands,” said Sutton, who is William B. Arce Professor and George R. Roberts Fellow. “I know how special it has been for Jim over the years to lead Bulldog teams into competition in this building named for his father.”

Sutton’s remarks were part of pre-game ceremonies on February 19 and 20 to honor the Ducey legacy at Claremont McKenna. Among the attendees were nearly 30 members of the Ducey clan (bottom right) as well as students, faculty, and alumni like Bob Sunshine ’61, who captained the very first men’s basketball team coached by Ted Ducey.

The ceremonies also included the presentation of a plaque and the framed jersey worn by another Ducey son, Craig, CMC Class of 1972, along with remarks by founding CMS Athletic Director Bill Arce P’80 (second right).

“It means a lot to me,” Arce told the audience, with great emotion. “Ted was a great colleague and a great friend.”

Arce hired Ducey in 1959 as a physical education instructor and coach of the Stags basketball and tennis teams.

“The programs went from startups to champions,” Sutton said, citing five basketball conference championship titles won under Ducey’s leadership. “He understood that a good coach must be an outstanding teacher, motivator, and tactician.”

Ducey might have won even more if his life hadn’t been tragically cut short by a flash flood at the Colorado River in the late summer of 1974. That fall, the CMC gym was renamed in his honor.

“Since then, we’ve all been ‘going to Ducey,’ “ Sutton said, describing the gym’s expansion of facilities through the years.

David Mgrublian ’80 P’12, chair-elect of the Board of Trustees, announced that the Ducey name won’t disappear from campus with the demolition of the gym.

Though Mgrublian said that the downside of new construction is that “a cherished facility has to come down to make room,” he announced that the CMS Hall of Fame, the place of honor for all generations of CMS athletes, will be renamed as the Ducey Hall of Fame and housed in the new Pavilion (third right).

From now on, Mgrublian concluded, smiling, “the students who dreamed of going to Ducey will now dream of winning a Ducey.”

The CMS men’s team beat Redlands 74-63; the women’s team won 55-47.

– Nick Owchar ’90
EARLY IN THE SPRING, if you happened to walk by the open doors of one of Sam Nelson’s introductory calculus classes, you may have heard laughter coming from the room.

Professor Nelson had a small problem. He’d run out of syllabi to distribute. “I’m afraid I’m not very good at arithmetic,” he said, drawing surprised looks and chuckles from many of the students—and from himself. “I always seem to miscount what we need.”

Now, that’s a strange thing to hear from a member of the Claremont McKenna Mathematics and Computer Science Department. Actually, it’s just a small joke that Nelson sometimes likes to play. It’s a simple way to illustrate a common misconception about mathematics. “Math,” he says, “is not really about numbers.”

Say that again? “I know that’s what most people may think,” he explains, “but let me give you a comparison. Math uses numbers in the same way that literature uses spelling and grammar. If you read Shakespeare and only focus on how the words are spelled, you’re missing the point, right? It’s the same way with math. Math is about so much more.”

The soft-spoken, 39-year-old Nebraska native first arrived at CMC in 2008 as a visiting professor (he holds a doctorate from Louisiana State University). He was promoted to the position of tenured associate professor in 2012.

Nelson’s a published authority on knot theory—a somewhat youngish field that examines the 3-dimensional geometry of knot shapes, which may one day help genetic scientists better understand the tangled, twisty structures of molecules.

His research with undergrads is also the perfect example of the heights to which student-professor collaborations can reach. During his academic career, Nelson has published more than 30 papers—an impressive feat—with undergraduate co-authors from CMC, The Claremont Colleges, and other schools where he’s taught.

These papers have appeared in some of the field’s top-flight professional publications, including the preeminent journal Transactions of the American Mathematical Society.

“It’s truly remarkable,” says Lenny Fukshansky, Math Department chair. “How many undergraduate institutions can give students that kind of opportunity? How many students can include authorship of a professional paper on their applications to grad school? Sam has given them a tremendous advantage.”

Though collaborations between scholars are common, notes Inside Higher Ed, publication-worthy collaborations between professors and undergraduates are far more rare. “That’s because grad students are the ones usually working with professors,” Fukshansky explains. “On big campuses especially, professors really don’t have the time to work closely with undergrads on a publishable paper.”

This situation often goes hand in hand with another that discourages such collaboration: the inexperience of the undergraduate. They just don’t have enough knowledge of the field yet.

But Nelson finds his way around it. “I ignore the fact that they’re undergraduates,” he explains. “Sure, they may not have the level of background that I do, but my job is to find the most direct route from what they know to what we need in order to solve the problem.”

Nelson adds that his chosen areas of

Want to collaborate? Talk to Sam

With plenty of student co-authored papers in print, Sam Nelson demonstrates that math is ‘knot’ just a numbers game.
specialization—knot theory and the related study of quandles—actually support undergraduate research because they are relatively new. Knot theory dates back only 100 years or so, quandles about 50 or 60 years.

That means that there are still plenty of basic, foundational theories to explore and test.

“Both are new enough areas where there are still good, approachable problems that don’t require a lot of background experience,” he says.

Over the years students have been drawn to working with Nelson thanks to his passion for his subject, not to mention his decidedly cool side hobby (on weekends he keeps club dance floors packed as a DJ). Undergrads regard him as very approachable.

There’s also Nelson’s attitude to their abilities. He takes a very welcoming, collegial view of what they can do.

“I don’t feel the need to dumb anything down for them,” he says. “They can handle it. They just need to be given the chance.”

For more on Nelson’s scholarly work with students, visit his website: www.esotericka.org/cmc/

—Nick Owchar ’90
Four questions for the First Lady

CMC Magazine caught up with Priya Junnar Chodosh for a quick conversation as she and her husband prepared for their first CMC Commencement.

You lived in Utah for seven years. How’s the move to Claremont been? Are you and the rest of the Chodosh family feeling comfortably settled in now?

Some friends from out of town were visiting recently and I gave them a guided tour of the five colleges—with particular emphasis on Claremont McKenna, naturally. It strikes me that now that I am giving tours, I must be feeling at home here.

Yet, it has been a whirlwind!

Caleb, our son, and I did not arrive until late August, so we had to dive right into life in Claremont. He started his senior year of high school 36 hours after we arrived, and I jumped headfirst into college events and activities. Things grew so busy so fast that we fell drastically behind on unpacking and settling in. But little by little, we chipped away at the boxes and started to make ourselves at home.

The President’s House is in a great location—walking distance from CMC and the other colleges as well as the Village. It is wonderful to be able to take advantage of this intimate setting, yet be within striking distance of the mountains, the ocean, and the diverse options of the greater Los Angeles area.

Now that the academic year is nearly over—what are some of your memorable experiences at CMC, and in Claremont?

Is there a word limit on this question? I hope not!

There have been many wonderful experiences. It is hard to single out a few.

Hiram’s inauguration in early October was certainly one of the most memorable occasions for our family. Not only was it the formal start of Hiram’s tenure as president, it was also a formal introduction of our family to the larger CMC community. I was so touched by the incredible effort that everyone put into making the multitude of events so successful—from the teach-ins, to the inauguration speeches, to the celebratory meals, for example. In one intense day, our family experienced the weighty symbolism of ritual and tradition, yet basked in the warm embrace of the CMC community.

Another highlight was serving at my first CMC holiday luncheon. This is a great holiday tradition where senior staff serves a sumptuous holiday luncheon—expertly prepared by Athenaeum Chef Dave Skinner—to the College staff. This festive event is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate our hard working staff. While I did learn that I would make a terrible waitress, I had a lovely time meeting new people.

Everyone was so friendly and caring. The luncheon was energizing and made me feel part of the CMC community. It has also been a privilege to host students at the President’s House. From smaller events for specific student groups such as the incoming ISS group and the transfer student group, to large events such as the recent ASCMC and RA dinner, to intimate small dinners, these occasions present an ideal opportunity for me to get to know the students in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. I enjoy hearing about where students are from, their families, why they chose CMC, their interests and aspirations.

Finally, being a party to the Kravis Prize events has been a gift. To meet the Kravis Prize recipients and hear about their vision, their cause, and their motivation has been inspirational. To spend time with Henry and Marie-Josée Kravis and reflect on their commitment to social innovation has been humbling. I look upon this, and other such encounters, as special opportunities for my own personal and intellectual growth and exploration.

Given your educational and graduate-level work (a master’s in international relations and an MBA), how did you find yourself in the communications and marketing field in higher education?

I came to communications and marketing in higher education in a roundabout way. After graduate school, I was interested in international education and worked for a non-profit that, among other things, helped support international experiences for low-income youth in New York City. The small staff wore multiple hats: tutoring and mentoring the kids and also fundraising and marketing the organization. Later, when our own children were young, I had the opportunity to teach some undergraduate and extension courses as an adjunct. This was great because not only did I have the flexibility I wanted at the time, I also had a chance to continue to learn, to be around others who were learning, and particularly to experience the amazing personal growth of students. When I eventually transitioned into full-time work, communications and marketing offered a creative, team-based platform to promote higher education imperatives.

With that idea of promoting “higher education imperatives” in mind, what message about CMC should be communicated to people unfamiliar with the College? What do we want them to know about the CMC experience?

There is an intimacy and ethos to the place that is palpable from the moment one walks on the campus. The quad—its scale, tone, layout—facilitates random and frequent meetings with colleagues, students, and friends. I don’t recall a single time when I’ve walked across the quad without running into someone. The sense of community one feels in traversing the quad is only enhanced by the outgoing, dynamic nature of the students. Students are apt to call out your name, to yell “hello,” to strike up a conversation, to tell you a story, to engage you.

Indeed, I feel that the students are the most powerful message and messengers for CMC. Their maturity, poise, thoughtfulness, and confidence seem unlikely in such young people. From the firm handshake, to the engaging conversation, to the tough questions at the Athenaeum, to enthusiastically embracing everything they do, our students are the medium for the message: the power of liberal arts in action.
A new member joins the ‘Kravis Prize family’

Helen Keller International selected as this year’s recipient of the Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership

WHAT DOES THE WORLD BANK call the most cost-effective intervention for the malnourished in the world? The vitamin A supplements administered to children in developing countries by Helen Keller International (HKI), the 2014 recipient of the Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership.

Helen Keller International became the tenth recipient of the Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership during an award ceremony held in March at the Athenaeum. Hosted by Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis ’67, the ceremony served as the culmination of a day of discussions, panels, and an address by HKI’s President, Kathy Spahn. The event marked the ninth year of the Prize (two recipients were awarded the Prize in 2010).

Past recipients, including Right 2 Play’s Johann Olav Koss, Afghan Institute of Learning’s Sakena Yacoobi, and Landesa’s Roy Prosterman, also gathered as members of the “Kravis Prize family” to collaborate on how best to overcome common challenges and seize new opportunities.

To learn more about this year’s Kravis Prize winner, see video from the ceremony and much more, visit www.cmc.edu/kravisprize

IN THE NEWS:
The Kravis Prize and the Fundamentals of Nonprofit Management

Citing the experience and practices of Kravis Prize winners, Kim Jonker, director of the Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership, has co-written a six-part series in the Stanford Social Innovation Review on the timeless principles of leading, sustaining, and expanding a nonprofit organization. See the articles published to date, starting with “Fundraising Is Fundamental (If Not Always Fun)” co-authored with CMC Vice President for Development and External Relations Ernie Iseminger.

Other articles in the series include:
• “Fundamentals, Not Fads”
• “Mission Matters Most”
• “A Better Board Will Make You Better”
• “Nothing Succeeds Like Succession”
• “Clear Measurement Counts”

Links to all articles in the series, can be found at: www.cmc.edu/kravisprize/best-practices/
NEWS BRIEFS

Brief & Noteworthy

INCOMING PARENT NETWORK PRESIDENT: Susan Mirbach P’16 was chosen to step into the role of president of CMC’s Parent Network Board on July 1 when Nancy Falk P ’14 completes her term. Mirbach serves as the outreach and special projects coordinator for the Early Life Stress and Pediatric Anxiety Program at Stanford Medical School and recently joined the board of Challenge Success, an organization that provides schools and families with research-based tools to raise healthy and motivated kids. Mirbach and her husband, Bill, have two daughters, Marissa ’16 and Kenlyn (Thacher School ’15).

A PASSAGE TO INDIA: The Center for Global Education has announced a new fellowship program for CMC students who wish to study in India. The CMC Presidential India Fellowship will offer a stipend for eight weeks in Delhi during the summer. Students will conduct research, assist with the institutional development of the co-sponsor, the Association of Indian Mediators, and write mediation case studies. President Hiram Chodosh will serve as a mentor to India Fellows.

MAKING AN IMPACT IN AFRICA: Milly Fotso ’16 was shocked at the poor healthcare conditions she saw in Cameroon in 2012, so she did something about it: She co-founded SHARE, a social enterprise that aims to bridge the gap between healthcare in developed and developing nations by creating a network of international healthcare organizations. Read more at www.thevanguardmag.com

Josh Mittler ’15 visited Rwanda last summer and recognized in this cattle-dependent region how “when cows starve, people starve.” So Mittler created 100 kilograms of a sustainable cow feed from materials that wouldn’t take away precious, available food sources from the families who own them. See the video: http://bit.ly/QAelm9

AN EYE ON ART: Acclaimed painter Mary Weatherford invited students into the world of contemporary art—and into her studio in Los Angeles—for a special half-credit course launched by the Gould Center for Humanistic Studies. Weatherford, a leading practitioner of a style rooted in abstract expressionism, incorporates neon lighting into canvases that evoke moody responses to landscapes including Bakersfield, Manhattan, and Malibu. Weatherford focused the course on Mike Kelley, whose work is the subject of a current exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in downtown L.A. The course also included a trip to MOCA for a private tour of Kelley’s exhibit conducted by Weatherford.


HEAVY MEDAL: History Professor Wendy Lower wasn’t ready for the weight of the medallion she received during her installation ceremony this semester as the College’s first John K Roth Professor of History and George R. Roberts Fellow. “This is heavy!” she said, smiling, after Interim Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs Nicholas Warner presented her with the medal. “I’m so honored to be here at this fabulous institution,” she told a large Athenaeum audience. The ceremony was followed by a talk based on research related to her National Book Award-nominated study, Hitler’s Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields. During her talk, Lower paid tribute to Roth (joined by his wife Lyn at the ceremony, pictured above right) for continuing “to inspire us with his scholarship and magnanimity.” She also acknowledged Roth’s former students, who “recognized his excellence as a teacher and mentor and established this chair” with a matching gift from Roberts. “I am forever grateful,” she added, “and so proud to be the first holder of this chair.”

Rose Award

California Chamber of Commerce President Kirk West was honored with the Rose Institute Award for Excellence in Public Service during a gala luncheon in Sacramento on March 28. The award, given by the Rose Institute of State and Local Government, recognizes exceptional individuals or organizations demonstrating an enduring commitment to exemplary public service. Read more: http://bit.ly/1gO7UCA

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MEETING THE DALAI LAMA: Washington Semester Program students met with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, for a town-hall discussion in February at the American Enterprise Institute. The exclusive seminar focused on moral free enterprise and ethics. See photos from the event: http://bit.ly/1nkA2o7

ROBERT DAY SCHOOL (RDS): RDS Pitch Day in February gave students an opportunity to hone their presentation skills in front of senior executives. Twenty-eight students pitched businesses to executive leaders drawn from alumni and parents, receiving valuable feedback in the process. Fourteen student teams also competed in the sixth annual RDS Case Competition in April and analyzed company cases—their profits and ethics, leadership issues. This year's winning team consisted of Alexandra Arnett ’16, Jeffrey Hochhauser ’15, Sara Linssen ’16, and Ben Turner ’16. Read more: http://bit.ly/1gO5PX7

FASHIONABLY SUCCESSFUL: CMC Web Interactive Services Manager Tatiana Shabelnik ’08’s childhood dream of designing clothes is becoming a reality. In March the Minsk-born fashion designer presented her fall and winter collection at one of the biggest fashion shows in the nation: Style Fashion Week Los Angeles. L.A. Times reporter Adam Tschorn called her runway show “surprisingly memorable, entertaining and professionally executed.” Read more: http://bit.ly/1tum0BI

STUDENT MICRO-LOAN GROUP HELPS BUSINESSES: It’s not often that student groups come to the aid of business interests. Usually, it’s the other way around. But the student-led In-Lend Fund is helping connect Pomona-Claremont business owners with funding sources they didn’t know about. Read more: http://bit.ly/1gO4mQz

VALUABLE CONNECTIONS ON BOTH COASTS: Twenty students gained unparalleled exposure to the tech world through connections with alumni and others at the annual CMC Silicon Valley Networking Trips, held in the winter and sponsored by the Information Technology Advisory Board. Participating companies included Google, Fuzebox, Twilio, Microsoft, Equinix, PayPal and Kravis Kohlberg Roberts. Sixteen students also visited New York City to learn about opportunities in the financial services industry, network with alumni and business leaders, and—perhaps most important—learn the key to success in this fast-paced, dynamic sector. The 11th annual New York City Networking Trip, partly organized by students, was sponsored by the Financial Economics Institute (FEI) and the Robert Day Scholars Program. Read more: http://bit.ly/1gO5PX7

Ending on a high note

’Twas a night for minstrelsy and musical harmony—early in the spring semester, Ward Elliott opened his home to stage the last of his famous singing parties, those regular, annual events that have taught scores of undergrads that they’ll never have professional singing careers. The theme of this year’s final party: Days of Schlock and Roses. Elliott, Burnet C. Wohlford Professor of American Political Institutions and frequent Robin Goodfellow at many an occasion, retired in May. The festive celebration lasted from 8 p.m. until midnight, when, faintly, through the streets of Claremont, a voice quoting Shakespeare’s Tempest could be heard, “Our revels now are ended…” (Also retiring in May was C.J. Lee, Bank of America Professor of Pacific Basin Studies and professor of government.)

Faculty News:

The American Council on Education (ACE) has named Professor of Literature and Faculty Director of the Center for Writing and Public Discourse Audrey Bilger as one of 31 emerging college and university leaders for the 2014-15 class of the ACE Fellows Program. Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program—the longest running leadership development program in the United States—focuses on identifying and preparing the next generation of senior leadership for the nation’s colleges and universities.

Adrienne Martin, currently on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, will be the first holder of the Akshata Murty ’02 and Rishi Sunak Professorship of Philosophy, Politics and Economics and George R. Roberts Fellow. She will join the faculty this fall.

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Deanna Needell has been named an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in mathematics, one of the top national awards for a young scholar. Of the 126 fellows named for 2014, most hail from large research universities. Needell is the only recipient from a liberal arts college.

Assistant Professor of History Lily Geismer has received the Arnold L. and Lois S. Graves Award in the Humanities. The bi-annual award, administered by Pomona College under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, rewards outstanding accomplishment in teaching in the humanities by younger faculty members.

Heather Ferguson, assistant professor of history and associate editor of the International Journal of Islamic Architecture, has been awarded a highly competitive 2014 Faculty Fellowship from The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). The grant will support her research project The Proper Order of Things: Language, Power and Law in Ottoman Administrative Discourses.

Read more on these and other faculty news: http://bit.ly/1gOSpjw
Just off the highway in Casper, Wyoming, there is a massive canyon shaped by thousands of years of wind and rain, where Plains Indians once drove herds of buffalo in the hunt. It’s called Hell’s Half Acre, and it’s one of many sights that Kosta Psaltis ’15 saw during his 4,000-plus mile bike ride from Providence, Rhode Island, to his home in Olympia, Washington. It was a trip involving not only bears, but a seven-mile descent at 40 mph, and a ride through one of the poorest areas in the country. Yet, the trip was about much more than just bicycling and sightseeing, it was also about building.

Psaltis completed the trip last summer, averaging 75 miles a day on a 70-day journey through 14 states, stopping along the way to help build or renovate affordable homes for low-income families in six different cities.

His initial motivation stemmed from his passion for cycling that began before high school.

“I’ve been riding bikes for seven years and I raced at a national level in high school,” he said. “Since getting to college my dedication to the sport had slipped to some degree, so I wanted to do something related to cycling over the summer.”

But he also wanted to do more than just ride a bike.

“Simply dedicating all of my time to riding seemed too selfish,” he added. “When I heard about Bike & Build, an organization that combines biking with helping affordable housing causes, I couldn’t say ‘no.’”

In order to take part, he had to raise $4,500, a goal he ultimately surpassed with $4,800 gathered with the help of many of his classmates. Half the money went directly to cover food and gas money for the support van while the other half was donated to affordable housing organizations across the country.

Twenty-seven volunteer builder/cyclers worked with four leaders who planned the route and set up the accommodations.

“Most of the time churches would host us, but we camped about once per week and spent a few nights in school gyms and firehouses. We stayed true to the schedule the entire time and only had to change our route a tiny bit when we arrived in Washington, because numerous mudslides blocked the pass we were planning to ride.”

While Psaltis was one of the most prepared for the trip in terms of cycling experience and fitness, he was blown away by the dedication of the other riders and surprised by the generosity and selflessness of strangers.

“One guy wrote a donation check for $1,000 right after he heard what we were doing. Many others offered food or water when they saw us riding. Church members would wake up at 4 or 5 a.m. just to make us breakfast.”
His most inspiring interaction was in Montana, where the group ran into a man pulling a rickshaw.

“I had assumed that it was a farmer moving some supplies, but it turned out that the man, colloquially known as Mark ‘Charley Boy,’ had been perpetually traveling around the western part of the United States since 1992!” said Psaltis. “In that time, he had walked over 40,000 miles and passed through 22 states.”

The man told them that his spine had been damaged by an exploding firecracker in 1953, but somehow pulling the rickshaw eased the pain. Therefore, he decided to walk for all eternity until he experienced a “death with dignity,” according to Psaltis.

Not all of his eye-opening experiences were positive, however. The group experienced extreme poverty among the residents of the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, the fifth poorest area in the nation based on per capita income.

“Biking through the area was hard both because the headwinds were strong and because the suffering in the area was palpable,” he said, adding that it renewed a sense of appreciation for all of his opportunities.

Psaltis says he would like to do another Bike and Build trip as a group leader “so that I could share my knowledge and help ensure other people had an awesome experience, too.”

But first, he is off to Jaipur, India, this summer to teach English to underprivileged kids…and to work on his yoga.

Ngai ’14 is an economics-accounting and government dual major.
Nation’s best come to Claremont

CMS hosts NCAA Championship at Biszantz Family Tennis Center

By Chris Watts

CMS ATHLETICS WELCOMED the nation’s best tennis teams and players in May for the 2014 NCAA® Division III Men’s and Women’s Tennis Championships.

Held at CMC’s state-of-the-art Biszantz Family Tennis Center, a total of 16 teams (eight men’s and eight women’s) along with dozens of singles players and doubles teams converged on Claremont for the six-day event, May 19-24.

Both the Stag and Athena tennis teams competed in the championships last year. As of the writing of this report, both teams won their respective conference championships and were poised to compete in the national championship this year.

For updated information on results, visit the D-III Tennis Championships webpage at: www.cmsathletics.org/ncaa/tennischampionships/2014/index.
**VARSITY TEAMS:** This spring, 14 of the 21 varsity teams in the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps athletics program have been in action.

On April 12 with a 9-6 victory for the Stag baseball team over Redlands, head coach Randy Town earned the 500th win of his career at CMS, which started in 1988. Town is in the top 40 all-time list for wins among Division III baseball coaches.

As of mid-April, several CMS spring teams were on pace to participate in their respective NCAA Championships in May.

For the latest updates, go to www.cmsathletics.org/landing/index.

**TOP 20 FOR DIRECTORS’ CUP:** Also in April, the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) released the NCAA Division III Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup standings through the winter season. CMS Athletics ranked 19th in a group of 400-plus Division III institutions.

The Directors’ Cup ranks Division III athletic departments nationwide based on each of the athletic department’s teams finishes at the NCAA Championships.

A 19th-place standing is the highest that CMS has ever been ranked after the fall and winter seasons, and it also marks the first time that CMS has been ranked in top-25 at that point in the year.

CMS is at the top among Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) schools (next best is 71st) and West Coast (next best is 54th) schools.

What was behind CMS’ climb into the top 20?

The success of our winter teams (women’s basketball and women’s and men’s swimming & diving) at the NCAA Championship level was a decisive factor. The Athena basketball team set a school record with 24 wins and, in March, made an appearance in NCAA postseason play, before losing to defending national champion DePauw (Ind.).

Both CMS swimming & diving teams placed at the NCAA Championships, as the Stags finished in 7th place and the Athenas finished in 13th place. In SCIAC competition, all four winter teams (women’s basketball, men’s basketball, women’s swimming and diving, and men’s swimming & diving) won their respective conference championships, the first time that has happened since 1996 and only the second time overall in CMS history.

**MEDAL NOMINATION FOR ARCE:** Friends, colleagues, Claremont McKenna College alumni, and former student-athletes of Bill Arce, founding athletic director of the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps athletic department and head baseball coach, have teamed up to organize a Presidential Medal of Freedom nominating committee on his behalf. The Presidential Medal of Freedom, established 50 years ago by President John F. Kennedy, has been presented to more than 500 individuals who have made especially “meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.” To sign the petition for Coach Arce, visit www.bill-arce-medal-of-freedom.org/#page-holder-337

**ONE IN A BILLION:** On a sunny afternoon in late winter, CMCErs made the ground of Parents Field shake with their dancing as part of One Billion Rising for Justice, a worldwide campaign calling for an end to violence against women and girls. In 207 countries, participants gathered outside government offices, workplaces, and other public spaces on the same day—February 14—to join in a unified expression of their disapproval of injustice.

On campus, Iris Liu ’16 and Hanna Bower ’16 were inspired by a recent Athenaeum visit by Eve Ensler, feminist, activist, and author of “The Vagina Monologues,” to coordinate CMC’s participation in the global event. At her event, Ensler had called on students to “shake the earth with dance”—and they did just that. During the hour-long event, students, faculty, and staff also outlined their hands with markers and signed and decorated them in a show of solidarity. The College also held a follow-up discussion later in the month to present more information on the prevention of sexual violence for the campus community.

**ALSO:** The College staged The Mirza Summit on May 2 (named in memory of Ali Mirza ’15, who died last May) on ways to improve and enhance personal and social behavior both on campus and off. Students, faculty, and members of the administration gathered in Butler Plaza in front of Bauer Center to pay tribute to Mirza’s spirit with a plaque and tree-planting, and to look ahead to the College’s future. In an earlier communication to the community during the spring semester, President Chodosh and Dean of Students Jeff Huang said that the goal of these outreach efforts is to ensure that CMC creates “the optimal environment for each individual to achieve his or her goals.”
First Job at the Fed? Not Bad!

Five former research associates from Claremont McKenna’s Lowe Institute of Political Economy share how they landed prestigious positions at the Federal Reserve By Ellen Paris
What’s one of the perks of working at the Federal Reserve?

For Taryn Ohashi, that’s an easy question to answer.

Spotting Fed Chair Janet Yellen during the day.

“Seeing her in the cafeteria every day is really cool. I still get star struck,” admits Ohashi, a Scripps grad who spent her junior and senior years as a research associate at Claremont McKenna’s Lowe Institute of Political Economy.

As anyone inside the power-obsessed D.C. Beltway knows, where you work and who you have “access” to is the key to your career trajectory.

Ohashi is one of five women over the last four years, all former research associates at the Lowe Institute, who have launched their careers with prestigious research positions at the Fed.

That’s no easy feat. Such positions are in high demand.

The Fed employs about 100 research assistants, according to the website, in various tasks that apply “quantitative skills both to real-world policy issues and to high-level research projects.” These are highly-competitive positions that give each assistant a ringside seat in Economic Research (International Finance, Monetary Affairs, Research and Statistics, and the Office of Financial Stability), Consumer and Community Affairs, Reserve Bank Operations and Payment Systems.

Usually, explains Marc Weidenmier, Robert Lowe Professor of Economics, George R. Roberts Fellow, and Lowe Institute director, these assistants stay at the Fed for two to three years, before pulling up stakes and moving on to graduate programs or careers in economics and business in the private and public sectors.

What made the difference on the Lowe assistants’ applications?

Unique hands-on experience related to the nationally-noted CMC-UCLA Anderson Economic Forecast Conferences, which is produced by the Lowe and Rose Institutes at CMC.

This, says Weidenmier, was instrumental in their hiring by the Fed.

But so was Weidenmier himself, who was largely responsible for cultivating the Fed’s attention with the CMC-UCLA partnership that results in the conferences. Wide media attention to these events has resulted in the Fed looking more closely at what the Institute’s assistants have to offer.

“Our students learn two basic forecasting skills working on the conferences that aren’t typically taught at the undergrad level,” Weidenmier explains. “To have the understanding of how an economic forecast is generated and the skills to do that are valued by the Fed.”

All five said that they applied for their jobs through the regular application process.

“One we got one grad at the Fed, it had a domino effect on other grads being hired,” notes Weidenmier. “They saw how relevant their forecasting experience was for working there,” he adds.

CMC’s relationship with the Fed began in 2010 with an email to the College.

“The Fed was interested in having CMC-Lowe Institute students apply for research assistant jobs. I encouraged our first student to apply because it’s such a significant opportunity,” explains Manfred Keil, Institute research associate and professor of economics at CMC.

Keil is responsible for the Lowe’s research associates and has been central in supporting all five applicants in their bids to work at the Fed.

“I knew that two or three years at the Fed offered excellent experience and would be an impressive addition to a CV,” he says, “whether going on to graduate school or into the job market.”

The achievements of Ohashi and her colleagues can also be viewed in another way: They have taken place in the years leading up to a historic change in leadership at the Fed.

Last year, Yellen’s nomination as Fed chair generated public debate about gender barriers existing there and elsewhere around the world. Central banking,
CNNMoney’s Annalyn Kurtz wrote at the time, “largely remains an old boys’ club.”

But that changed when Yellen took the reins earlier this year from Ben Bernanke. She became the Fed’s first female chair during its 100-year existence.

And Yellen may soon be joined at the Fed by Lael Brainard, former under secretary of international affairs in the Obama Administration. As of this writing, Brainard is a presidential nominee to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Brainard is also this year’s keynote speaker at CMC’s 67th commencement ceremony. (For more on Brainard, see sidebar on page 19.)

Training in a ‘large suite’ of skills

For Ohashi, an economics and math major, all of the work that she did for the conferences under Keil’s guidance continues to be an asset for her.

“For the forecasts, I worked on a lot of graphics and editing of articles by Professor Keil and Professor Weidenmier for the report,” she explains. “I would run numbers through existing codes, which translates directly to what I do now.”

Ohashi currently works in the Fed’s Capital Markets Division of Research and Statistics. Juggling massive amounts of data from different providers and working with programming languages is what Ohashi did at the Lowe Institute. She does similar projects at the Fed.

“Having that research experience as an undergrad was huge and is appreciated here,” she adds.

CMCer Candace Adelberg ’10, an economics major, was the Lowe’s first female researcher to land a job at the Fed after the Fed contacted CMC.

“Candace was a techie and knew economics,” says Keil of his former research associate. Adelberg worked with Keil on launching the CMC-UCLA Inland Empire Economic Forecast Conference.

When the Fed initially contacted CMC, Keil encouraged Adelberg to apply. After 10 hours of back-to-back interviews in Washington, she was offered the position.

“The main selling point for me was the large suite of research I had from the Institute,” she notes.

Adelberg was at the Fed from 2010 to 2013 as a member of the Macroeconomics and Quantitative Studies (MAQS) team.

“We worked on projects with large forecasting models. I assisted in a number of papers,” explains Adelberg. “The atmosphere in the Fed was very academic, especially because of its cream-of-the-crop economists. Being exposed to the process of economic academic research from beginning to end was very useful for me there.”

Last year, she moved west to Google, where she now works as an economic strategist.

CMCer Carissa Tudor ’09 recently left the Federal Reserve’s International Finance Division after two and a half years to take a position at the International Monetary Fund.

Tudor worked at the Lowe Institute during the summer after graduation. Her path to the Fed slightly differs from the others. After CMC she entered a graduate program at Georgetown University and received a Masters in mathematics and statistics.

“About halfway through my time at Georgetown, I started at the Fed. While there,” says Tudor, “I did policy-oriented work as well as research projects. The time working at the Lowe was very good in developing my research skills in programing and statistical packages. On the softer side I learned how to understand the research and contrast it.”
The language of forecasting

Sarah Quincy (Scripps '11) is now in her first year of a doctoral program in economics at UC Davis. As a senior research assistant at the Lowe Institute, she put together all the materials for the CMC-UCLA Anderson Conferences and was involved in “fine tuning” the forecasts. Her two years at the Fed were spent producing its internal domestic (U.S.) forecast including inflation forecasts.

“Knowing about forecasting and how to write about it and compile it from start to finish was very helpful,” explains Quincy.

A rewarding part of her job was producing research for the Fed’s monetary policy decisions update every six weeks.

“It was pretty exciting to see Chairman Bernanke in a press conference speaking about the research we had done,” she adds.

Quincy had planned on going to graduate school right after college, but Keil advised her to apply to the Fed and work there first.

“Since Candace had worked at the Fed, I knew the interview process, which helped me in my interviews,” Quincy recalls. Quincy feels the more in-depth research experience you have, especially from a prestigious research institute like the Lowe Institute, the better a candidate you are for the Fed.

Currently Jane Brittingham '12, works for the Fed in the Monetary Affairs and Banking Analysis Division. She started right after graduation from CMC and will leave this fall to enter a doctoral program in agricultural research economics.

Brittingham spent a year at the Lowe, starting the summer before her senior year. In addition to working on the CMC-UCLA Anderson Economic Forecast for the Inland Empire, she worked on the first forecast and conference for the Coachella Valley.

“Everything I did there prepared me well for the Fed. I’m sure that will continue in my graduate program,” she says.

Each woman agrees that recommendation letters required in the Fed application process are especially strong coming from Professor Keil, who knows each assistant’s strengths since he has supervised them in a small research environment.

“There’s an image of CMC as a place that trains investment bankers and auditors,” Keil says. “The fact is, in the last four years we have also produced five students who went to the Fed. That shows our mission as an economic college doing economic policy.”

Paris is a freelance writer on economics and business for Forbes magazine and other publications.

U.S. top former economic diplomat is this year’s Commencement Keynote Speaker

Lael Brainard, former Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs and presidential nominee to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors was invited to deliver the keynote address at CMC’s 67th Annual Commencement ceremony.

Brainard has served as an important economic advisor to two presidents. She was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as governor of the Federal Reserve Board, following her recent service as under secretary for international affairs at the Department of the Treasury.

In recognition for her work addressing financial stability during the Euro crisis, leading efforts with the G-20 on the global recovery, and serving as an important member of the negotiations over reforms in China’s economy, Brainard was awarded the Alexander Hamilton Award.

Brainard previously served President Bill Clinton as Deputy Director of the White House National Economic Council and G-8 Sherpa, where she helped coordinate the response to the Mexican Financial Crisis and the Asian Financial Crisis and led efforts on development and trade. She served as Vice President of the Brookings Institution, where she built a new research program to address key global economic challenges.

Brainard received her doctorate from Harvard University, where she was a National Science Foundation Fellow, and her bachelor’s degree from Wesleyan University.

This year’s Commencement ceremony, honoring the Class of 2014, was held on May 17 on Pritzlaff Field. To watch the complete ceremony, including Brainard’s address, visit: wwwcmc.edu/news/video_resource/claremont-mckenna-commencement-2014
PUTTING THE
LIBERAL ARTS
INTO ACTION

Student winners of the Presidential Inauguration Prize Competition

Last fall, during his inaugural address, President Chodosh called on the Claremont McKenna community to draw on its rich liberal arts tradition to explore new ways of applying learning to creatively address problems and challenges.

He asked our community to put “the liberal arts into action.”

But what does that look like? An Inauguration Prize Competition invited CMCers to offer some possible answers.

Students were asked to submit entries in a range of areas—writing, photography, art, video, mobile apps, and more—that demonstrate a creative, cross-disciplinary approach to thinking.

Inspired by both Chodosh’s inaugural remarks and a series of panel discussions and teachouts leading up to the inauguration, the winning projects were selected this spring by a committee led by Literature Professor Audrey Bilger, who directs the Center for Writing and Public Discourse.
Kelsey Gohn
CLASS OF 2016

Major: Economics and Psychology
Submission Title: “Perspectives”
Genre: sculpture

What Gohn had to say about her entry:

I created a conceptual sculpture to illustrate the different dimensions and connections that take place during the decision-making process.

We face many decisions each day that vary in magnitude and importance. While we allocate great consideration to some, many of our decisions are made without thought. Our decisions are not isolated. Solutions stem from previous experience and knowledge. When we choose to evaluate our solutions, we must do so from different perspectives and angles to select the best for the situation.

I used the campus as my canvas because I wanted to create an environment where the CMC community could interact with the piece. I wanted to symbolize how we draw connections between the levels of information we are provided and how the connections take place outside the “space” of the decision. I created a three-dimensional piece because I desired to reflect a different dimension of decision-making.

The green space in front of the Kravis Center allows a unique opportunity for interaction with the piece. When viewed from above, from the Kravis Center balcony, a different picture emerges. This design demonstrates the different intersections of our connections when making decisions. I hope that this piece challenges the community to reflect upon their decision-making as well as on the limitations of art.
LESSONS LEARNED IN TRANSIT

Diana Ciuca
CLASS OF 2015

Major: Neuroscience
Submission Title: “Frequent Flyer”
Genre: creative writing

What Ciuca had to say about her entry:
The typical liberal arts student cannot be characterized by a set of generalizations, as exemplified by the diverse teach-in and panel sessions featured during the inauguration event. A snippet from Professor Manfred Keil from the “Setting Ends and Choosing Means” panel (watch the video: www.cmc.edu/inauguration/inauguration-videos/) notably impacted me. He states that if the study of economics could be described by only one word, it would be “choice.” If anything, the choices we make are those that guide our future, contributing to the development of the “art” of decision-making. Thus, my piece needed to revolve around that idea, so I placed it in a context familiar to most CMC students: packing for travels. As simple as that task is, it requires foresight and planning—two skills that develop over time. There are similarities between leading oneself by managing one’s own travels and a leader who is acting in a wider context. Furthermore, I was inspired by President Chodosh’s inaugural remarks that “we must never lose sight of our primary objective to grow the qualities we need in the next great generation. We have to put the right CMC into our students.” I aspired to outline the “right” CMC student, who develops through time—someone who can look back, years from now, and thank CMC for how much they have developed into a person they take pride in being. 

Excerpt from “Frequent Flyer”:

The flight is in 14 days.
Your bags are half-packed, a slight exaggeration considering your clothes dot the floor like volcanic islands. Granted, you have arranged them in categorical piles although your cat disregards such organization by occasionally knocking them over. The list of things you need to bring lies neatly on your desk, semi-covered in papers. This is definitely an improvement, but there is still room to grow. You ruffle through these loose sheets to sort them slightly, but you already know what you have to bring.

There is one stack of particular importance. It contains teacher recommendations built of scraps of office hours. Beneath those hide stories of friends and their interests accumulated from dinners at the Athenaeum, Monte Carlo festivities, and classroom discussions. Some embarrassing memories are shoved in there, between the endless lists of contacts. Astoundingly shining, your résumé illuminates its surroundings. It’s overflowing with qualifications of professional positions in research as well as internships both around the U.S. and internationally. This exceeds your expectations.

Your eyes hop from the papers to the stack of shirts, toppling over itself like someone after the 6:01 celebration. Each tank top reflects upon a time in your life, capturing a bit of CMC history with it. Traditions permeate the school’s growing legacy, as you carry pieces of it with you. The college has left an astounding mark on your development, not only sending you off into the world with a formidable diploma, but enabling you with a powerful social network filled with motivated classmates. Truly, collaboration with your colleagues is the most important immaterial note you bring along as your plans and theirs may inevitably intertwine in the near future.

“You’re leaving in the morning. You can’t go out tonight,” your conscience reminds you, a sure sign of maturity. One time, you almost missed your flight by sleeping through the buzzing of several alarms. Reminiscing, you laugh at such a childish foible. Although it took some mistakes, you have learned how to be responsible with your time. Choices are much simpler to make as you practice making them for yourself. Whereas living away from home initially presented itself as a challenge, you can no longer wait to have your own apartment. Responsibility is no longer a burden to bear, but a quality of esteem.”

To read more of this traveler’s journeys, please visit: http://dciuca.tumblr.com/post/81499771866/frequentflyer
AN APP FOR ONE’S “APP”ETITE

Joseph Newbry
CLASS OF 2014

Major: Economics (sequence in Computer Science)
Submission Title: “5C Noms”
Genre: iOS application

What Newbry had to say about his entry:

I developed an iOS application called 5C Noms that provides weekly dining hall information for all the dining halls on the 5C campuses. In addition, it supplies hours of operation for various other places like CMC’s Hub Grill, Pomona’s Coop Fountain, and Scripps’ Motley. The purpose of this app is to build something useful and real: to take my liberal arts education and put it into action.

There were various costs involved in building the application. The time spent (about 40 hours), cost of an Apple Developer License ($99), cost of an Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator yearly subscription ($240), and largest cost—owning a MacBook Air ($999).

While I built this application for fun and to benefit the CMC community, I mention the costs only to highlight that many aspiring entrepreneurs will never get started simply because the tools are too expensive.

With a theme of “liberal arts in action,” I think it is important to consider what role CMC can play in encouraging students to pursue entrepreneurship after college. Both the Kravis Leadership Institute, with the Innovative Startup Award, and the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship are steps in the right direction! The cost of being a student entrepreneur is still too high and CMC should continue to work to improve the entrepreneurial environment.

I hope that 5C Noms will inspire other students to build cool things and, while it may be unlikely, consider a career in entrepreneurship.

Also I’d like to give a shout out to Sean Adler (pictured, right) who helped me build this application.

To date, the app has had more than 100 downloads and received 4.5 out of 5 star rating! Download 5C Noms at the following link: http://itunes.com/apps/5cnoms.
Perhaps just one thing has been as constant at Claremont McKenna as the uniform excellence of speakers at Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum, and that is the woman who has shepherded those hundreds of celebrities and presenters up to the podium throughout the past 25 years: Bonnie I. Snortum.

Bonnie began working at the Ath as a coordinator in 1989 and took over the reins as director from Jil Stark ’58 GP ’11 in 1992 when Stark retired. She first arrived at the College as a faculty wife, after her husband John took a post in the Department of Psychology in 1967. Now, 25 years after she began working at the Ath, Bonnie, who for generations of CMC alumni has become synonymous with the venue, is retiring herself.

“I remember that first day back in 1989,” she says. “It happened to be the day Rev. Jesse Jackson gave the first major address in Claremont celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Invited by Jil Stark, Rev. Jackson spoke to an overflow audience in Bridges Auditorium, after which we hosted a lunch for him in the Athenaeum.”

Over the succeeding years the parade of speakers has included a veritable “Who’s Who” of the controversial and famous in politics, religion and the arts, including Condoleezza Rice, David Sedaris, Desmond Tutu, John Wooden, and Milton Friedman.

“I honestly can’t single out one event or person that has been the most meaningful experience for me,” she says. “What I can say is that the most distinguished, accomplished, talented, and important guests with whom I have had the privilege of working are also the most gracious and appreciative.”

But when pressed, Bonnie does remember one performance with fondness. “One of the most moving experiences for me was Benjamin Bagby’s presentation in 2011 of the epic Beowulf,” she says. “He accompanied himself on a six-stringed harp based on the excavated remains of seventh-century instruments. It was thrilling.”

That said, Bonnie’s magnanimity—her reticence about singling out individual speakers—might just be an object lesson for the next Ath director about how to survive and thrive in the job.

According to Bonnie, what hasn’t changed over the past quarter century is her vision for the Ath. “The Athenaeum should build its reputation on being a forum for ideas—at times controversial but with intellectual integrity,” she says. “My first impression on my first day was to be amazed at the amount of institutional support the College was willing to give to the Athenaeum,” she continues. “The CMC community deserves quality in return.”

Ever modest and unfailingly generous in spreading around compliments—did you know she co-wrote CMC’s official school song back in 1989?—Bonnie says that the general excellence of the Ath and what drives much of the speaker selection comes from student input past and present.

“Frequent comments from students and alumni are that exposure to new ideas and to subjects outside of one’s own field of study is invaluable,” she says. “Different points of view can help one deal with controversy in a more circumspect way. Also, I see our students becoming more confident and poised as they interact with distinguished guests at events.”

That said, Bonnie has a few bits of sage wisdom to impart to her successor about showcasing the Ath and its speakers to their best advantage. “Avoid succumbing to...
the misperception that celebrity equates quality and that the size of the audience is indicative of success, keep your sense of humor and remember that this really is a dream job.”

Bonnie hopes that in the coming years, the Ath will continue to host classical music performances—a particular favorite of hers. “It is a perfect intimate venue for chamber music recitals and I would love to see an endowed series to keep that in the forefront,” she says. “Keeping the liberal arts focus in mind, I think it is our continuing responsibility to bring scholars and speakers from many disciplines as well as poets, artists, and writers.”

Bonnie would be the first to admit that she’s come a long way from her Norwegian farmgirl roots in North Dakota and school in a one-room school house. In fact, there is a wonderful symmetry to be found in closing her career at a small, private college a half-continent away from where she grew up.

“I intend to move by whim,” she says about life after retirement, “and that includes travel, family, reading, renewing music study—perhaps the Haydn piano sonatas, late Brahms. Understanding that time does ultimately become more precious, I intend to enjoy it to the fullest.”

Johnson writes and blogs for various publications, including People Magazine and TV Land.com.
preferred strategy is to use asymmetrical tactics. Given their small numbers, lack of resources, and political calculations, future terrorist attacks in Asia are most likely to be conducted against soft targets, such as mass transit systems and infrastructure difficult to secure. The horrific terrorist attack in Mumbai in 2008 is likely to be repeated in other parts of Asia in the future.

“The greatest and most difficult challenge facing Asia in combating terrorism in the coming years is to prepare itself against such attacks that require relatively simple logistics and limited financial resources, but can create mass panic and cause devastating damage to public safety and economic activities.”

Chinese flashpoints:

“The most powerful driver of Asian security in the coming decade will be America’s complex relationship with China.”

“In the decade ahead, the most dangerous flashpoints for China that may involve the use of force and confrontation with the United States are (in no particular order of probability):

• A naval skirmish with Vietnam in the South China Sea
• Chaos resulting from regime collapse in North Korea
• Renewed tensions with Taiwan should the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party return to power
• Piracy, terrorism, or maritime accidents that result in the blocking of the Malacca Strait shipping lanes
• Maritime accidents involving Chinese, American, or Japanese naval vessels
• Border skirmishes with India in disputed areas”

Minxin Pei P’13, Director of the Keck Center and lead author of the report “Securing Homeland in Asia,” has been awarded a $100,000 MacArthur Foundation Grant for a research project on what could happen in China during the potentially chaotic transition period from one-party rule to some form of democracy in the years 2020-2030. With China’s ever-increasing stature on the world stage, the research findings will undoubtedly garner much attention when released in 2015. Pei is also Tom and Margot Pritzker ’72 Professor of Government and George R. Roberts Fellow.

The Keck Journal of Foreign Affairs, published by the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies and written/edited by CMC students, faculty, and alumni, currently features an interview on cyber-security with chief Washington correspondent for the New York Times David Sanger; an assessment of China’s healthcare reforms; an interview with Professor Shimon Shetreet of Hebrew University (Jerusalem) and Middle East journalist Thanassis Cambanis on U.S. intervention and building peace in the Middle East; the sectarian crisis in Damascus; the “right to enrichment” in the case of Iran; the new frontier of international terrorism, and much more.

Visit: www.keckjournal.com
‘Even if you don’t remember, the Internet remembers’

A conversation with Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen of Google

Claremont McKenna President Hiram Chodosh moderated an insightful and timely Athenaeum discussion during the spring semester with the Executive Chairman of Google, Eric Schmidt, and Jared Cohen, head of Google Ideas. The two Google executives co-wrote the recent book, The New Digital Age: Transforming Nations, Business and Our Lives, which addresses questions about how technology will change privacy, security, war, intervention, diplomacy, revolution, and terrorism.

The following excerpts are taken from a full transcript of their March 5 discussion, which can be read at www.cmc.edu/news/the-new-digital-age/

INTERVIEW EXCERPTS

Chodosh: So what advice would you each give us? I mean, what do you observe around the country and what do you observe in places like this that we should take stock of if we’re trying to work hand-in-hand to maximize the benefits of technology and minimize the harms?

Schmidt: I think it’s helpful to have a sort of prediction of what the world will look like in ten or 20 or 30 years. And I think it’s fair to say that we’ll have many of the same geopolitical problems, as much as we’ve tried to make them better—we’re not going to go to world peace, no war, no conflict, there’s going to be tensions. There’ll be new structures in the world. We’ll still have Republicans and Democrats fighting, we’ll have, you know, a new president and a new president and a new president. A lot of those things will be the same. The thing that will be really different is the level of connectivity of everybody, the level of automation of some things. So if you extrapolate, first we’re going to get everybody connected—we’re working on that now. But in ten or 15 years after that happens, what’s going to happen?

They’re going to want more bandwidth. They’re going to want faster phones. They’re going to want more apps. They’re going to have more games, they’re going to have more of a voice, they’re going to want to see the problems around them be addressed. The book is really about that trend and it brings issues with it.

So I think when you think about a university, what you want to do is prepare sort of the next leaders for a world where everybody’s connected, the ideas are very fast-spreading, where global competition for labor means that you have to do a smart job or you get automated out. And just as an example, we talk about this a little bit in the book: Here’s China doing incredibly well, good for them, seven-and-a-half percent growth, et cetera, lots of people being lifted out of poverty—great job. We’ll ignore the bad parts.

Chodosh: So you started that answer by saying, “We’re still going to have a lot of the same geopolitical problems that we have now.” But one of the premises of your book is that technology itself offers some hope for transforming even that. Could you talk about the book in that context? What is the central claim of the book in that dimension?

Cohen: I think what we argue in the book that’s new is the unprecedented empowerment of individuals in places that have traditionally been highly autocratic and totalitarian. In the introduction, you heard that we went to North Korea—North Korea offers a useful way to answer this question, because it’s the extreme case study. So we went to North Korea about a year ago because it’s the Internet’s last frontier, it’s a cult of personality, it’s the most totalitarian society on earth. It’s a horrible place. But you leave there, and what you realize is history is filled with many examples of countries just like North Korea and worse. But you also realize that North Korea’s the only one that is truly this bad left on earth, and it’s because it’s the only country on earth where there’s an absence of doubt. So in the future, you are still going to have autocracies—you know, you’re going to still have dictatorship. But that level of autocracy, where you literally control human minds by preventing doubt from existing anywhere, has literally been eliminated or is in the process of being eliminated by the Internet in the same way that scientists were able to eradicate smallpox.

Schmidt: Those of you studying history, you’ll see the same themes over and over again, you know. Power-hungry people, governments, culture, religion, conflict, and so forth. So what’s new? Well, there’s at least two things. The first is the empowerment of the individual by smartphones and other kinds of devices has never occurred on
Cohen: Snowden leaked literally well over a million documents. It is impossible for a human being to read all of those documents and make a determination that they’ve read through them and nobody’s going to get hurt from this. Everyone’s talking about [Chelsea] Manning before. The reality is, we’re going to keep seeing more of these people.

Schmidt: So you believe that there will be more such leakers?

Cohen: And there’s a couple reasons for this. One is: the celebrity factor around leakers like Snowden and Manning is something we haven’t seen before. And if you think about Snowden’s tactics versus Manning’s tactics, Snowden waited until he could be in a physical environment where he wasn’t able to be grabbed by U.S. law enforcement.

Schmidt: So the rule is, when you do the leaking—and this is not an endorsement of leaking—do so from your future country of residence.

Cohen: So what’s happened is, Snowden’s been able to shape public opinion about himself over time. And regardless of what one thinks of Edward Snowden, we have to assume that in the future, there’ll be a bulk leaker that has much different intentions, that’s far less careful, that’s far less discriminating, and people as Eric mentioned really will get hurt. The other question too is we think about bulk leaking right now in the context of leaking classified documents from government. But what happens when somebody decides to bulk-leak a major law firm’s documents? Or a major corporation’s documents?

Schmidt: Or healthcare records?

Cohen: I think the sort of inevitability of this is scary.
The psychological significance and symbolic value of having thwarted Ukraine’s westward realignment are great. However, the immediate political advantages that President Putin has enjoyed at home may soon be eclipsed by the immediate and longer-term economic and geopolitical costs. Russia’s actions will lead to its political isolation in international bodies. They will solidify a distinct Ukrainian identity and strengthen anti-Russian sentiment even among past sympathizers and supporters. Even ousted Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovych publicly acknowledged his regret over Ukraine’s loss of Crimea. The economic implications are substantial as well. Not only is there the immediate cost of absorbing Crimea, which is expensive in terms of current liabilities and future infrastructure development, but the annexation will impose long-term costs, deterring investment and new ventures in Russia. Russia has seen nearly 70 billion dollars in capital flight already this year, which is more than all of last year together. Moreover, the invasion has intensified European interest in energy diversification, a process that began when Russia turned off the flow of natural gas to Ukraine for two weeks in January 2009. As a result of these events, no one should expect that in five years Europe will continue to rely on Russia for a quarter of its energy or that the newer EU states with near complete dependence on Russian energy will remain complacent about their energy vulnerability. Half of the Russian budget depends on energy exports, and state-led efforts to make the Russian economy less dependent upon energy exports have failed to yield results.

President Putin’s extraordinary popularity over the past fourteen years has rested significantly on his ability to understand and respond to the Russian people’s deep frustration and suffering in the years following the breakup of the Soviet Union, as Russia devolved from a world superpower to an impoverished and disillusioned state. But Putin’s popularity has also rested upon the economic improvements and material stability that occurred on his watch, following a global rise in energy prices (and the state’s ability to recapture and redirect energy profits for its own purposes).

For now, the psychological and political payout from Russia’s territorial gains increase President Putin’s popularity and hold on power; but whether that will be enough to compensate for the longer-term material repercussions and political isolation stemming from recent events remains to be seen.

Appel is Podlich Family Professor of Government and George R. Roberts Fellow and the author of the 2011 book Tax Politics in Eastern Europe: Globalization, Regional Integration and the Democratic Compromise.

COMMENTARY:

Getting Putin’s Russia Right

By Ilai Z. Saltzman

Is Russian President Vladimir Putin “still in touch with reality” or is he living “in another world?” German Chancellor Angela Merkel wondered in a leaked conversation with American President Barack Obama following the Russian military invasion of Crimea in early March.

For Western observers, so it seems, vying to restore the Russian empire at the expense of neighboring states such as Ukraine by using Soviet-era tactics is clearly an indication that Putin is irrational. Yet from a Russian vantage point, things look
quite different. Putin deeply believes in his country’s exceptionalism and greatness. And, for Putin and most Russians, Russia has a manifest destiny of its own that involves the revival of the Russian Empire with its historical spheres of influence in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

This quest for renewing Russian grandeur is primarily motivated by Putin’s personality, developed and shaped during his formative years as a KGB agent throughout the Cold War, and Russian ethnic nationalism. Furthermore, there are significant external factors that pushed Russia to the offensive, primarily what Putin perceives to be American encroachment or its “infamous policy of containment” against Russia. Thus, domestically Putinism means embracing economic, political and social statism, and in international affairs it involves modernizing the armed forces, increasing military expenditures (from $32 billion in 2000 to $90 billion in 2012) and implementing a more assertive and proactive foreign policy.

Since taking office in 1999, Putin vigorously opposed the Iraq War and the deployment of missile defense systems in Poland and the Czech Republic (senior Russian officials even threatened to preemptively attack these sites). Russia had cut-off gas supplies to Ukraine in 2006, used cyberwarfare to attack Estonia in 2007, and intervened militarily in Georgia in favor of the pro-Russian separatist South Ossetia in 2008. In the Middle East, Putin singlehandedly prevented the removal of Bashar al-Assad, and blocked any possibility of American military intervention. He sided with Iran during the negotiations over Tehran’s nuclear program, increased Russia’s grip in the Caucasus, and most recently authorized the military intervention that led to the annexation of Crimea.

What will be Putin’s next move? This is extremely difficult to say given that the dust has not yet settled on his Crimean adventure and some reports suggest that Russian military forces are moving toward Eastern Ukraine. In all probability, Putin will continue his measured yet ambitious policies with an emphasis on selective brinkmanship. This approach involves maximizing tactical advantages in order to bolster Russia’s geostrategic posture, minimizing costs to the Russian economy and avoiding any possibility of Western military intervention through NATO, for example. Putin’s next moves may also involve some more limited overtures in Eastern Europe (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Moldova) and possible manipulation of the negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

As for the Obama Administration, policy options seem rather limited given Putin’s tenacity and long-term vision, and the American public’s overall weariness in the post-Iraq era. Some sanctions were already implemented and American diplomats simultaneously began a shaming and ousting campaign in several international institutions such as the UN Security Council and the G-8. President Obama recently expanded the sanctions to include key sectors of the Russian economy (finance and energy), which resulted in reciprocal Russian sanctions suggesting that Putin is not about to back down at present. The question is, how far is Obama willing to go to check Putin’s actions?

Obviously there is no comparison between the magnitude of the Cold War’s East-West rivalry and the severity of the current crisis, yet the American administration must “reset” its own approach to Russia. Washington must better synchronize its national interest and foreign and security policy in order to address current and future global and regional circumstances. Some battles are worth fighting and others are not, this is the essence of political pragmatism. Crimea may not be worth the candle, but, either way, Obama must exhibit a less idealistic approach to world politics and focus on the world as it is rather than on the world as it should be. Reality is more commanding and the wake-up call can be very costly to American long-term interests, especially when Putin is involved.

*Ibai Z. Saltzman is the Schusterman-AICE Visiting Assistant Professor of Government at CMC.*

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**EXCERPT:**

*“Does the End of the Post-Cold War Era Mean a Return to the Cold War Era?”*

Remarks from Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul’s recent talk at the Athenaeum

Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul spoke at the Athenaeum on April 16 about U.S. policy toward Russia in the Post-Cold War era. U.S.-Russian relations leading up to the crisis in Ukraine, how Vladimir Putin’s recent moves into Ukraine have changed the diplomatic equation and how the U.S. and its allies should respond.

Michael McFaul served as the U.S. Ambassador to Russia for two years prior to his resignation in February 2014. Before this, he served for three years as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council. McFaul is the architect of President Obama’s ‘reset’ foreign policy initiative with Russia, which aimed to ease U.S.-Russian relations.

Currently, McFaul is a professor of political science at Stanford University.

Ambassador McFaul’s lecture inaugurated the Athenaeum Series on Diplomacy and International Security in Honor of George F. Kennan, established through a generous gift from Craig and Valerie Richardson P ’15.

The following is an excerpt of his remarks. For the full transcript, visit:

To see a video of his talk, go to: http://bit.ly/1hJl87r

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Here are my ideas for ... respond(ing) to Putin:

**One,** isolate the Kremlin and suspend the co-option [cooperative] policies, because he’s just not interested. He’s made it very clear he’s not interested, so I think it’s naive in the short term to follow them now.

**Two,** deter further aggression, both through the threat of sanctions and through strengthening our allies in Europe so
that they also will not become a target of aggression.

**Three,** and I would say this is most important and may be why we have so much drama in Eastern Ukraine today, is to rebuild Ukraine, not unlike what we did in Germany, in France, and other parts of Europe after the end of World War Two. Because right now it’s Ukraine’s bad economic policy, bad economic circumstances, and inability to govern, that creates some of the permissive conditions for what’s happening there now.

**Fourth,** while isolating the state, I still believe in engaging society. And I see no reason that that should be interrupted as a result of our new set of circumstances.

**Fifth,** ...we need to be more engaged in the kind of... battle of ideas that is going on. Because right now, we’re not really in the game inside Russia or Eastern Ukraine. Because of the censorship, because of the control, we’re just not as engaged as we were during the Cold War frankly... We thought history ended and everything was going to be fine and in fact, it’s always been a struggle for these ideas, and I just think we need to take that more seriously in our current situation.

**Finally,** and I would say most importantly, remembering a principle tenet of Kennan--avoid direct war at all costs with the Russians, because that of course, means we all lose.

...The final piece [of advice:] ...Be patient, because in the long run, I do think that history is on our side-- inside Russia and even with respect to the current conflict that we’re watching. ... In the long run, I believe the forces of modernization that I witness every single day in Russia will someday outplay and outlive the forces of what I would call retro-forces that are now ascendant in Russia today. I don’t know how long “the long-run” is, unfortunately. I’m wise enough to not make those kind of ridiculous predictions. But the Russians are just too smart, too educated, will eventually be too rich and too connected to the world to want to maintain this period of confrontation that I think President Putin has entered us into. So, in the long run I’m a big optimist about Russia, and a big optimist about U.S.-Russian relations.

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**Ending African conflict:** “For many people outside of Africa, the continent conjures up images of perpetual violence seemingly revolving around ethnic or religious identity,” write co-editors William Ascher and Natalia Mirovitksaya in the introductory essay to their volume *The Economic Roots of Conflict and Cooperation in Africa* (Palgrave MacMillan). The Donald C. McKenna Professor of Government and Economics, Ascher and his co-editor have collected essays by a variety of experts intent on breaking this stereotype of Africa as a hopelessly war-torn “dark continent” in order to identify development strategies that will promote growth and order, not instability and violence. “The causal relationship between violence and development progress is remarkably complex” and takes many twists and turns, the editors warn. “Understanding these pathways, whether constructive or destructive, is crucial for designing conflict-sensitive development approaches.” Ascher and Mirovitksaya’s thoughtful selection of contributors provides tangible progress towards realizing such understanding for the benefit of Africa and the entire world community.

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**Young Frost:** Everyone has an image in mind of the elder Robert Frost—a white-haired sage in farmer’s garb who embraced the homespun instead of the sophisticated
(ah, if they only knew)—but what was Frost really like as a young man? *The Letters of Robert Frost, Volume 1: 1886-1920* (Harvard University Press) goes a very long way towards painting a rich portrait of the iconic American poet’s early years. Edited by Donald Sheehy, Mark Richardson, and Robert Faggen, Barton Evans and H. Andrea Neves Professor of Literature, the book makes it easy to draw a conclusion that we should have suspected all along: Frost, like every figure of letters, wanted to be heard, wanted to be read, wanted to belong. As a review in the *Boston Globe* puts it, “one beauty of this volume is that it shows a poet on the move—to England ... and back again ... In the [book] one sees his impulse to be beloved in both England and America, a need to root in both worlds.” As the letters show, he was restless, moody, and exuberant about his craft. At one moment he expresses frustration, at another he declares with youthful boldness, “I expect to do something to the present state of literature in America.” Too often poets become embalmed with honors and praise; here, Faggen and his co-editors have carefully chosen material illustrating not only Frost’s genius but his humanity as well.

That was then, this is now: The “Questions of Civilization” course, a former freshman requirement, provided an incubator in which Robert J. Valenza hatched some interesting student responses to “big questions” such as “What does it mean to be human? What is a good person?” CMCers in the years 1998-2007 provided him with answers featured in the 2007 book, *The Best of Civilization* (Inkwater Press). In that book, Valenza (Dengler-Dykema Professor of Mathematics and the Humanities) sought to capture “the developing thoughts of our students”—a snapshot of their minds as they prepared for adulthood and independence. That book also suggested that a sequel was in order. Well, if that’s what they thought as undergrads, what do they think today? Valenza published a follow-up, *New Perspectives and Reflections on the Best of Civilization* (Inkwater Press), earlier in the 2013-2014 academic year. Though not all of the original contributors could participate—“sometimes,” Valenza writes, “life just got in the way”—many did respond with startling, powerful new stories of their experiences. Sophia Hall ’10, for instance, opens the book with her poignant account of helping repair children’s cleft palates in “a rudimentary hospital in rural Morocco” and describes the “frightened eyes” of children “as I spoke with their parents in languages they may not have understood.” The resulting book offers a rich meditation on life’s meaning that’s a must-read for any college graduate intent on changing the world.

Fighting the pirates: Even though Somali piracy off the Horn of Africa has surged since 2008, merchant shipping has struggled with regulatory limitations imposed by international law on their security efforts. Sure, the British East India Company might have easily hired a private navy to fend off pirates a few centuries ago in the Indian Ocean, but today this is a tangled topic fraught with problems, as acknowledged by Keith Nightingale ’65 in this issue of CMC Magazine (see his letter on page 2). In *Private Anti-Piracy Navies: How Warships for Hire Are Changing Maritime Security* (Lexington Books), John-Clark Levin ’12 and Jack Pitney (Roy P. Crocker Professor of Government) also offer historical context and a timely, crucial overview of an aspect of international trade largely overlooked by many until the appearance last fall of the movie “Captain Phillips,” starring Tom Hanks. Such an omission is troubling, the authors suggest, because everyone feels some of the effects of maritime piracy—whether in the higher price of some consumer goods shipped from overseas or the perilous diplomatic relations among nations. Levin and Pitney express a hope to provide “an understanding of the historical origins, current state, and future prospects of this fast-changing sector of the private security industry—and to outline the decisions that will face law-makers and policymakers in the years ahead.”

Land wars: Not far from Claremont, the San Gabriel Mission stands as a romantic reminder of the region’s role in Spanish and Mexican history. Cattle and vineyards, mission bells and pastures—it’s an idyllic picture of California perhaps best embodied by Helen Hunt Jackson’s novel *Ramona*. But what happened to the region after U.S. westward expansion? Tamara Venit Shelton’s *A Squatter’s Republic: Land and the Politics of Monopoly in California, 1850-1900* (University of California Press) depicts a time period far from romantic. The question of land ownership (who has the right to own it? how much?) and agrarian idealism soon turned into anti-monopolist clashes and resistance against those perceived as monopolists, whether families holding old Mexican land grants or the railroad corporations in bed with Gilded Age politicians. An assistant professor of history, Venit Shelton commandingly navigates this turbulent landscape, reminding us how that era’s central disputes are still powerful and relevant today. “[W]e remain troubled by a host of related questions that we continue to pose about social mobility and opportunity, corporate greed and political privilege...” she writes. Though separated from the 19th century squatters and freeholders by more than 100 years, we have much in common with them, she argues. “We are still, as they were then, searching for ways to make sense of and to improve on our political economy and society,” she writes. “And we are still, as they were then, very far from any resolution.”

— Nick Owchar ’90
LOOKING FOR BLUEPRINTS IN THE DESERT:
For the full story, see the next page.
Earth, sky, and memory

Two Claremont McKenna alumni are part of an exciting venture to search for the big picture in Earth’s ever-changing environments.

Global business executive Carlos Peláez ’04 recently founded a nonprofit dedicated to cataloging sections of the Earth’s environments. Peláez, who studied economics, accounting and international relations at Claremont McKenna, has started several businesses and held positions with Deloitte & Touche LLP and KPMG. He started Blueprint Earth almost one year ago with his wife, Jess, a geologist who has studied volcanoes and natural hazards.

Since then, with a network of scientists, students, and professionals with a range of backgrounds and disciplines, they have embarked on their first environmental mapping of California’s Mojave Desert.

Fellow CMCer Lauren Harrell ’09, a doctoral student in biostatistics at UCLA, is also a founding member of the board of directors for Blueprint Earth.

CMC Magazine talked with Peláez about his new startup.
CMC: What ultimately will be accomplished with the environmental mapping? How will this information be used?
Peláez: We will construct publicly accessible databases of information about every aspect of the targeted environments that may be used for research and educational purposes. There are also industry applications, such as in mining where there are requirements to restore the environment after the mining is complete.

CMC: What need does this organization fulfill?
Peláez: This information will be used to increase our understanding of environmental systems and the functioning of those systems. There are currently massive knowledge gaps about the effects that different environmental components have on one another (for example, how does the phosphorus level in these rocks impact the kangaroo rat that lives on them?). Blueprint Earth will create an interdisciplinary framework that will fill in those gaps.

CMC: How can your work help the planet?
Peláez: Our work has potential applications for rehabilitating areas subject to desertification or deforestation, for recreating accurate environments for species that are endangered, and for future terra-forming [modifying environments to make them habitable] projects both on this planet and in space. This is the connection between disparate projects such as DNA banks and the Global Seed Vault.

CMC: Is this a unique venture?
Peláez: It is unique in its scale, its scope, its structure, its mission, and particularly in its interdisciplinary nature.

CMC: What was the inspiration for this organization?
Peláez: The inspiration came from my wife Jess’ work as a geologist and our life and travels around the world. The diversity of environments we encountered during our time living and working in Australia prompted us to formalize our idea.

CMC: What are your long-term plans for Blueprint Earth?
Peláez: We plan to catalog our first environment in California’s Mojave Desert, process and analyze the data, replicate the target environment in a controlled setting (a warehouse), and then repeat the process in as many different environments as possible. This project is extremely long-term, and we expect each environment to require between two to four years of work. Should all go well, we would like to expand our capacities in the future to enable work on two or more environments simultaneously. We expect this project to outlive all of the founders.

CMC: Your first field expedition to the Mojave was in March. How did it go?
Peláez: Going out there for the first time, people had a chance to think outside of their scientific discipline. We’ve heard from participants that they are looking at things in a new light, having had the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in other fields. Twelve people in total went on the first expedition, including biologists, hydrologists, geologists, and atmospheric specialists. Later a herpetologist and root system specialist will join us.

—Bryan Schneider
Grateful Grads

The rankings are out! Whether it’s U.S. News and World Report, Princeton Review, or Bloomberg BusinessWeek, newly released college rankings cause a rush to websites and frantic social media posts boasting of or bemoaning the latest numbers. Claremont McKenna is on a roll in these reviews, and it’s a tribute to our students, faculty, and staff that our College is ranked so highly.

However, a recent ranking focused directly on you, our alumni. Earlier this year, Forbes released its “2014 Grateful Grads” index of private colleges and universities. CMC alumni ranked number four in the nation, beating out our sister schools in Claremont and every school of any size on the West Coast.

Forbes measured the level of gratitude by looking at the percentage of alumni who donate to the College and the average size of their donations. Our alumni participation in the Alumni Fund is closing in on its 50% goal, and that means that everyone’s contribution, no matter the size, is a critical step in the right direction. These are important metrics for any college, but for CMC there are other important metrics as well.

For instance, the number of alumni attending Alumni Weekend has grown steadily over the last four years, ever since we moved the date to the school year, coinciding with the other SCs. Attendance at alumni chapter events around the world has been strong, especially during President Chodosh’s “world tour” to introduce himself to the community. Moreover, more than 200 of you from across the country are mentoring current students though the Alumni Association’s Mentor Connect program.

What makes us so grateful? Why do we look back fondly on our years at CMC and what they have done for us in our personal and professional lives?

For every graduate the answer is different, but I think we can all agree that the small classes, excellent faculty, sense of community, and a supportive atmosphere that challenged us to stretch beyond our comfort zones all have contributed to our sense of satisfaction and our gratitude.

If you feel gratitude for what CMC has given to your life, I encourage you to go beyond the basics of donating to the Alumni Fund and attending alumni events.

Think about how to help current students and enhance your own connections with alumni in your area. Consider these questions:

• Can you hire a current student as an intern?
• How about hiring a recent graduate?
• Would you mentor a student through Mentor Connect?
• Have you used the free online alumni database to search for CMC attorneys, accountants, doctors, and other professionals when you needed one?

CMC has played a central role in my life, and I’m sure it has in yours as well. I continually find more reasons to be grateful for what it gave to me, and more reasons to give back, connect, and engage with the College and our awesome alumni. I hope you will do the same.

Crescit cum commercio civitas,

John McDowell ’79

2013-14 CMCAA President
Lathrop Leishman, (known to many as the original “Mr. Pasadena”) was also president of the Tournament, bringing in grand marshal Shirley Temple. William Lathrop Leishman made his own mark in Pasadena. He was a member of the Tournament of Roses since 1958, charged with printing and distributing the parade programs. Leishman also took over his father’s hobby of tending to the roses outside the Rose Bowl. He was a member of the Rotary Club, a founding member of the Pasadena Police Foundation and a board member of the University Club. At CMC, Leishman majored in business and was involved in the Glee Club and Ski Club. He also helped manage the student union. He is survived by his wife, Patsy, his brother, Bob, his daughter, Kimberly, and granddaughter Kristina.

**Barton Evans, 1947-2014—Mentor, Trustee, tech strategist**

The CMC community is mourning the loss of Barton Evans, a member of the College’s Board of Trustees, Class of 1970 alumnus, and guiding force behind the College’s expansion into the Silicon Valley and the tech sector at large. Evans died on May 14 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 66.

With great energy and determination, Evans —"Bart" to all his friends and colleagues—was widely regarded as a leader and mentor, benefactor and role model at CMC who combined strategic vision with invertebrate pragmatism in his service to his alma mater.

Evans’ College involvement was multifaceted, touching many levels—from his service on numerous Trustee committees to his instrumental work on the College’s tech sector programming to the hosting duties that he and his wife H. Andrea Neves, a member of the Scripps College Board of Trustees and emerita professor of Sonoma State University, frequently embraced by opening their Hillsborough home to student and alumni events.


In addition to serving as COO of Dionex, a Sunnyvale-based applied sciences company, Evans held the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army. He retired from the Army Reserve in 2002; he retired from Dionex in 2005. In the Army and in civilian life, Evans worked as an engineer and also was known as an inventor: He holds the U.S. patent on a “conductivity detector and method” and he devoted much of his technical expertise to developing and improving analytical instrumentation.

Over the years Evans and Neves have demonstrated a broad, all-encompassing support of the arts and humanities in their philanthropy, as reflected by their involvement with several organizations, including the Opera San José, San Francisco Lyric Opera (Evans served as its Secretary-Treasurer from 2008 to 2011), Sonoma State University (host of The H. Andrea Neves and Barton Evans Social Justice Lecture Series), Phillips Exeter Academy, and Stanford. At CMC, Evans and Neves established, in 2005, the Barton Evans and H. Andrea Neves Professor of Literature—a named professorship in the College’s Department of Literature held by renowned Frost scholar Robert Faggen.

Evans’ greatest, defining legacy for the College will be his efforts to strategically position CMC in the tech industry. In 2005, Evans founded CMC’s Information Technology Advisory Board (ITAB), which is the vital key to the College’s foothold in the Silicon Valley. Today, that board is known as the Evans ITAB, a remaking that CMC’s Board of Trustees approved to honor their fellow Trustee’s central, defining role.

In a past interview Evans explained that he founded ITAB because he felt a need to “develop a stronger connection between the CMC community, Northern California in general, and the Silicon Valley.”

Over the past decade, ITAB has enabled students interested in high-tech careers to network with key tech sector companies, ranging from Applied Materials and Cisco Systems to Google and Atlassian, on regular trips to Northern California during winter break. As ITAB’s chair, Evans tirelessly lobbied new companies to participate in the College’s networking events and widen the pool of potential employers for our students.

Building relationships with tech companies enabled the College to start the Silicon Valley Program in the fall of 2012—a program open to students from all of the Claremont Colleges that wouldn’t have been possible without Evans’ pioneering efforts.

“More than 150 CMC students have participated in the first nine years of ITAB, and 55 students have completed the Silicon Valley Program semester during our first two years of operations,” said Stephen M. Siegel ’87, Director of the Silicon Valley Program. “Bart has served as a mentor and advisor to many of these students—as well as to me—and the strength of the Bay Area chapter of the CMCAAs is in part attributable to the implementation of his vision.”

For his commitment to CMC, Evans received the John P. Faranda ’79 Student Service Award earlier this year during the most recent Silicon Valley Networking Trip. He was an honored member of the College’s Orme Phelps Society and a President’s Society Sponsor. Evans is survived by Neves, his wife and partner of nearly 35 years; his brother Bruce Evans of Woodland Hills, Calif.; and his sister, Barbara Ashwood Evans McDowell of Upper Saddle River, New Jersey.
Ducey was ‘a fantastic arena for the fierce CMS competitive spirit’

By Remy Pinson ’14

Note: When the Claremont McKenna community gathered in February to celebrate the ground-breaking for the Roberts Pavilion, several students also celebrated Ducey Gym’s role in CMS Athletics and said goodbye to the 57-year-old structure. The following is adapted from a speech by Pinson, a member of the CMS Men’s Basketball Team.

I’ve had the privilege of calling Ducey Gymnasium home now for close to four years and, to be honest, there are far too many memories to recount in the brief time I’ve been allotted.

What I will say to you is that they range from winning a Conference Championship in the gym and cutting down the net, to standing in the gym on a Monday night and looking down at the hardwood, counting the beads of sweat falling from my face to the floor after a tough workout.

Both are equally, if differently, valuable to me.

The memory that I want to share today about Ducey Gymnasium took place two years ago. It took place upon my return to campus after our notoriously short “winter break,” that usually consists of six to eight days.

As soon as I stepped into the gym I noticed that there was something different. I noticed the difference immediately though I couldn’t tell what it was. So I took another careful look around, and sure enough—the gym had new, different lights. They were brighter than the old ones, but it was still a subtle change, and soon my eyes had adjusted.

Changing the lights in the gym wasn’t a glaring, dramatic change, it was just a quiet enhancement. Still, for me, the significance of the moment was how quickly I noticed the change. Often, I think people notice even the subtlest differences in the things that they are most fond of, and, as you may have guessed, I am, and forever will be, extraordinarily fond of Ducey Gymnasium.

In fact, 57 years’ worth of student-athletes are fond of Ducey Gymnasium, and 57 years’ worth of student-athletes have memories of Ducey Gym that they will cherish forever.

The gym has served as a fantastic arena for the fierce CMS competitive spirit; and it’s also been a special monument to honor the memory of a legendary CMC athletic figure, Ted Ducey.

I never had a chance to meet him – his death took place a long time ago, in 1974. But I’ve seen his name, above the gym’s main doors, every day as I’ve gone to practice, and I feel like I know him just the same.

Today, however, we look forward. Today we break ground.

When Ducey Gymnasium is no longer, another building of great grace and magnificence will take its place.

In preparing to say goodbye to our beloved Ducey Gymnasium, let us rejoice in knowing that future generations of students will – as we did with Ducey – get to marvel at the subtleties of its successor, Roberts Pavilion. Students for the next 57 years, and beyond, will be given the chance to create memories in Roberts Pavilion that they will also cherish forever.

As we look forward, let us be grateful for, and proud of, Ducey Gymnasium and everything that it has meant to us. And let us also be terrifically excited that in its stead will be the Roberts Pavilion, a worthy successor indeed.

An economics & philosophy major, Pinson wrote his thesis on Plato’s “Symposium” and served as the Resident Assistant of Green Hall. He hails from Rye, New York.
A Time for ‘Sheroes’ and ‘Heroes’

Tennis champ Billie Jean King muses on the power of role models—and serves up some autographed tennis balls—during a recent Ath visit

THE MARIAN MINER COOK ATHENAEUM was packed to capacity for a visit in April from tennis champion and activist Billie Jean King. King’s talk ranged from her highly-publicized trip to the Sochi Olympics as leader of the U.S. presidential delegation to the role models in her life (“I call them my ‘sheroes’ and ‘heroes’”) to her epic tennis battles and her experiences on the frontlines in the fight for gender and sexual equality.

King described her connections with the area (“I’m from the Long Beach area, so it’s great to be home in Southern California”) and with The Claremont Colleges. She warmly thanked and singled out many people, including CMS Women’s Head Tennis Coach Gretchen Rush.

“Gretchen and I go way back,” she said with a smile. She described Rush’s modesty at once being ranked No. 13 in the world, adding, “Well, Number 13 in the world, I think, is pretty good…”

Then, turning to Rush, she said, “I always knew you’d be a great coach.”

At the end of her lecture, after a Q & A session, King picked up a tennis racket and lobbed autographed tennis balls into the audience.

When King hit a ball to junior Joe Dorn ’15, a captain of the CMS Men’s Tennis team, she couldn’t resist teasing him after he dropped it.

“Joe, what’s wrong with you!?” she said, laughing. “Your team’s number one in the nation and you can’t catch it?!!”

King also marveled at the Athenaeum itself.

“I cannot believe what a fantastic opportunity all of you have, Monday through Friday, to have speakers here,” she said. “I would love to be back in school, having this opportunity to listen and learn from people from all walks of life…. It is a gift.”

To watch King’s talk, visit: www.cmc.edu/videos/2014/billie-jean-king-at-the-ath.php
EYE ON THE BALL: President Hiram Chodosh takes in the final CMS Women’s basketball game (against Redlands) in February in Ducey Gym. For more on special ceremonies in honor of Ted Ducey ’72, see page 5.