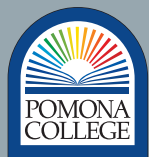


Pomona College

Annual Report of the President 2007–08



Inside THE ENDOWMENT

Pomona College

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE PRESIDENT

2007-08



INSIDE THE Endowment

Amid the financial turmoil of the past few months, some things have remained abundantly clear. One of these is that the educational institutions best positioned to weather the economic storm without compromising the quality of the education they offer are those that enjoy particularly strong and well-managed endowments—that is, colleges like Pomona. Thanks to the prudent stewardship of College leaders of the past few decades and to the support of generations of Pomona alumni, parents and friends, our endowment has grown into a solid foundation for all that we do. It is essential to the remarkable education that we offer and inextricably linked to our reputation as one of the top liberal arts colleges in America.

Let's be clear—we are extraordinarily fortunate. Pomona has one of the largest endowments of any liberal arts college in the United States. But the real story isn't in the size of our endowment—it's in what we're able to do with it. When combined with other income streams such as tuition and gifts, our endowment allows us to recruit some of the nation's most talented faculty and students, offer generous financial aid packages, keep our buildings up to date and support innovative academic programs.

It is no coincidence that over the 30 years or so during which Pomona was evolving from an exceptional regional liberal arts college to one of the nation's foremost institutions of higher learning, our endowment was increasing more than forty-fold. In terms of our

academic program, the endowment has helped us enlarge the faculty, reduce class size and expand our curriculum. We've been able to fund professorships for interdisciplinary programs that didn't exist 30 years ago, such as neuroscience, media studies and environmental analysis. The endowment is also largely responsible for the fact that our campus is in such extraordinary condition today. Fifteen years ago, we started a program of planned maintenance that has put us far ahead of most colleges in taking care of and renovating our older buildings so that they remain beautiful and functional parts of our campus.

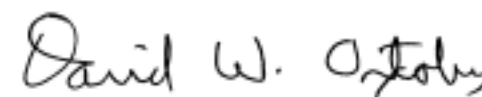
Most importantly, the endowment has helped us maintain our unwavering commitment to need-blind admissions. Financial aid has become one of the most rapidly growing portions of the budget, both because we are reaching out to more low-income students and because we are strengthening the packages we offer. Eliminating loans was a major step in that direction and, as a result, the rate of expenditure on financial aid has gone up significantly this year. Our strong financial aid program not only means that we can recruit a more diverse, highly talented student body, but also that we can tell parents—especially in these uncertain times—that their sons and daughters will be able to graduate without being saddled with debt as part of their financial aid packages.

Every decision we make is underscored by the principle that we use all our resources wisely. That means making sure our budget makes sense; that

we're not spending money we shouldn't be spending. Secondly, it means investing our endowment wisely so we get the best return possible. And, finally, it means not just saving for the future, but using the endowment now for educational purposes, which is the reason our donors have given so generously to the College.

Pomona is a great institution, and as such, it is incumbent upon us never to become complacent and never to be satisfied with the status quo. We strive to become even more effective in preparing future leaders and to have extraordinary ambitions for our students, because they truly bear their added riches in trust for all.

Our endowment is a part of both our history and our future, a reminder of the commitment previous generations have made to Pomona, and a promise to future generations of students that we intend to keep our standards high and provide our students with the very finest liberal arts education in the country.



David W. Oxtoby
PRESIDENT OF POMONA COLLEGE

Understanding THE ENDOWMENT

Pomona has a large and robust endowment—almost \$1.8 billion as of June 30, 2008—and is ranked No. 1 among liberal arts colleges in terms of dollars per student. Though we’ve become used to hearing much larger figures in the past few months (think: \$700 billion bailout), it’s still hard to fathom what \$1.8 billion represents. Using comedian Jon Stewart’s math to describe the recent financial bailout package, the endowment is enough to buy everyone in the U.S. five McDonald’s apple pies or, more impressively, every student at Pomona 1.2 million pies. But while images like these may give us a picture of what one or two billion looks like, what we really want to talk about is what the endowment does.

The endowment is the lifeblood of the College, providing a dependable and flexible source of support to students and faculty year after year. Established 121 years ago, when Pomona was struggling to survive, the endowment increased at a steady rate until the 1990s, when the rate of growth began to increase at an average of about 13 percent a year. When the tech bubble burst, Pomona was able to avoid many of the problems faced by other institutions, thanks in part to the size of the endowment and the diversity and management of its investments. At the end of the last fiscal year, the endowment was valued at \$1.795 billion, representing an almost forty-fold increase since the 1970s.

PERSPECTIVE

Because the endowment is so large, it is easy to exaggerate what it can do. To put it in perspective, Pomona’s endowment is in line with those of its peers, such as Williams, Swarthmore and Amherst, all of which continue to seek additional support. The College also has limits on how much of the endowment it can reasonably spend today, while ensuring it can provide the same education for future generations of students. The principal of restricted endowment gifts from Pomona’s donors may never be spent, and Pomona treats the unrestricted portions of the endow-

ment in like fashion. Part of each year’s return is reinvested to keep up with inflation, and the rest is used to meet current needs.

THE FORMULA

Each year, a specified percentage of the market value of the endowment is drawn down to cover a portion of the operating budget. That amount is set by Board policy to grow at a rate of 3 to 4 percent a year (the expected long-term rate of inflation), so long as the amount spent is between 4.5 and 5.5 percent of the value of the endowment at the end of the previous 12 quarters. The averaging strategy is employed to minimize the impact of market volatility on the funds available to support college operations from year to year. The range of 4.5 to 5.5 percent ensures that there will not be a reduction in the amount of endowment support available to future generations of students.

“We rely on the endowment for operating income every year,” says Karen Sisson ’79, vice president and treasurer of Pomona, “so it’s important that the buying power remains stable over time and doesn’t get eroded by inflation. In a sense, it’s like a savings account. If you only spend the interest and don’t add anything, the dollars stay constant, but because of inflation it costs more to buy things, like a tank of gas. If we want to continue to be a premier liberal arts college, we have to make sure the dollars in the endowment generate additional income each year.”

THE LIFEblood OF THE COLLEGE

Income from the endowment funded more than 44 percent of the College’s operating budget this year. In addition to faculty salaries, the endowment is also used to support research, student scholarships and academic programs, provide extracurricular opportunities, maintain and renovate buildings and meet many other pressing needs.

“I see the endowment as the No. 1 link to the success of our academic programs,” says Dean of the College Gary Kates.





“With our endowment and our small student body, we can produce the kind of education that is the envy of the world.” —Dean of the College Gary Kates

“It’s an aorta that carries the lifeblood of the College. Because of the size of the endowment, we’ve been able to establish a salary structure for faculty that is comparable to the other top liberal arts colleges in the country. What has that allowed us to do? We can recruit a level of faculty who otherwise wouldn’t have given us a look.

“We are a teaching college and we absolutely want the very best teachers, but we’re lucky enough to have an endowment where we can also support faculty scholarship at a global level—traveling, attending conferences, delivering papers, conducting research—which again allows us to compete with universities for the very best professors. We can bring in faculty who are considering Princeton and Stanford and can say to them, ‘Why don’t you think about a small liberal arts college?’”



DELIBERATE INEFFICIENCY AND THE HIGHER COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION

“The infrastructure of colleges is incredibly labor intensive,” says Kates. “We’re always going to need many more hands and, in many ways, it’s going to seem, especially at liberal arts colleges, that we’re inefficient. And we are. Why do we teach six sections of linear algebra when we could teach one section of 200? The students would probably learn 70 percent as well. But at Pomona we think there is something incredible about that additional 30 percent. That’s what this place is about. We can have 28 tenured faculty offering seminars for 14 or 15 first-year students. That’s incredible. With our endowment and our small student body, we can produce the kind of education that is the envy and model of the world.”

Many private liberal arts colleges, including Pomona, have calculated—based on operating expenses per student—that the actual cost of educating a student is about \$80,000. Richard Fass, vice president for planning, argues that it can be misleading to say that we must



Glossary

Endowment: Funds preserved in perpetuity, usually at the insistence of donors. The principal of such funds cannot be used to support the programs of the College; only a prudent percentage may be used each year for college operations.

Intergenerational equity: Making sure future generations of students receive the same benefits from the endowment that current students have.

Spending rate: The percentage of the market value of the endowment used each year to cover a portion of the operating budget.

Smoothing: A rolling average used to determine the spending rate. To protect the budget from short-term fluctuations in the financial markets, the College sets the spending rate to a rolling average based on the value of the endowment over the previous 12 quarters.

Restricted funds: Money that may be used only for purposes specified by the donor. These funds include scholarships, professorships, research and departmental programming.

Unrestricted funds: The large percentage of Pomona's endowment that is not restricted, permitting the College to use the pay out from these funds to meet any future need.

spend this much. "If I'm brutally honest, it is more accurate to say that it is what we, the wealthy colleges, have chosen to spend on educating students. If we weren't able to spend this much we'd still be providing a good education and be an excellent college, but we wouldn't be a world-class college. We're always trying to push the limit because we are convinced that it enables us to do a better job for our students. That's the bottom line. Smaller classes are better than larger classes. More choice is better than less choice. Well-maintained facilities are better than poorly maintained facilities. Our alums and donors and benefactors have been engaged with the idea of making this place better and better, and we are as good as we are because of their enthusiasm and support."

"TOUGH TIMES STRAIN COLLEGES RICH AND POOR" *THE NEW YORK TIMES* HEADLINE, NOVEMBER 8, 2008

The collapse of the markets in late September had an almost immediate impact on higher education. Tufts announced about a month later that it was suspending new capital projects, and Boston, Cornell and Brown universities announced selective hiring freezes. Some public universities are planning midyear tuition increases, as well as budget cuts, and many financial aid offices are expecting increases in requests for aid.

No institution will weather this severe economic downturn unscathed, but the blow to Pomona has been cushioned by the size of its endowment, the diversity of its investments and the prudence of its spending. "That's the goal," says Fass. "We want to keep doing the things we care about, keep supporting the best faculty, keep providing financial aid for students. That's the reason we've spent conservatively and prudently during these years."

CONGRESSIONAL MANDATES AND ENDOWMENT SPENDING

In January, the Senate Committee on Finance sent a letter to 136 of the wealthiest colleges and universities, including Pomona, asking for information about their endowments,

tuition and financial aid. Senators from both sides of the aisle have suggested that college spending be mandated to equal the 5 percent required of foundations and used to curb growing tuition rates and provide additional financial aid. The IRS recently jumped into the fray and, according to *Business Week*, is planning to "develop a broad new initiative on standards for determining when endowments are spending enough."

Mandating spending rates for colleges and universities is not the same as requiring it for foundations, says Fass, who wrote the response to the committee with former Treasurer Carlene Miller. "The goal of a foundation is to accomplish good by strategically giving as much money as it can and giving it to the right places. But we are an ongoing institution that makes commitments on an ongoing basis to programs and people and can't change the amount of money we spend. Our goal is to maintain educational programs on a steady, ongoing basis. Two different purposes. You can't conflate the two."

Before Congress held hearings last year and before the economic downturn, the Pomona College Board of Trustees had already begun to consider gradually increasing the spending rate by .1 percent each year until it reaches a total of 5 percent. The rate was approved last year with the resulting increase in the budget providing almost \$1 million a year for academic initiatives and increasing the amount of debt service for new construction.

A STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO NEED-BLIND ADMISSIONS, NEED-BASED AID

One of the most important contributions the endowment makes is to financial aid.

With tuition costs increasing and fewer funding resources available, Pomona decided last year to replace all loans in financial aid packages with scholarships, relieving all current and future students from taking on the burden of student debt. To fund the change for the current year, the College budgeted an additional \$2.6 million for scholarships. The size



of the endowment gave Pomona the flexibility to make the decision to eliminate student loans and to act on that decision quickly.

“It shows the importance of planning over time and brings home the crucial role of the endowment in good and bad times,” says President David Oxtoby. “In good times, we are able to increase our spending from the endowment, which lets us renovate a building that might need attention. In bad times, we can cut back or postpone a few things like that, but still keep the core program going in the strongest possible fashion. Because of the endowment, we’ve not only been able to keep our long-standing commitment to need-blind admissions and full need for students, but also have taken a step forward to aggressively seeking more highly talented students with financial need.”

WHEN IS AN ENDOWMENT BIG ENOUGH?

AND CAN AN ENDOWMENT BE TOO BIG?

Should there be a limit to the size of an endowment? Is there some point when an endowment becomes so big it affects the mission or character of a college? A professor at Grinnell College asked those questions in an article for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. For Fass, the size of the endowment raises a different set of questions.

“The question is do you want to stop institutions from pursuing excellence? What would be the public policy reason behind that? We should be thankful that the institutions blessed with the resources continue to raise the bar. It’s good for higher education, and it’s good for society. The argument has to do with excellence and we shouldn’t back away from that or apologize for it.”

the numbers

\$1.795 billion market value as of June 2008

13 percent average return on investment over past 20 years

44 percent of Pomona’s operating budget funded by endowment

#2 ranking among liberal arts college endowments

4.5 to 5.5 percent annual range for spending rate



Scholarships

AND THE ENDOWMENT

Derek Young '09 of Duluth, Minn., realized right away that Pomona had what he was looking for in a college: strong science programs, a noncompetitive atmosphere, great weather. And he had the grades and academic potential to earn admission. What Young didn't have was the money for the full freight of tuition, room and board. That's where Pomona's Elinor M. Alexander Scholarship came in.

"This is an opportunity that I wouldn't have had without that grant," says Young. "My only other option was to go to a big state school, where I wouldn't have had the attention and encouragement, the social and academic opportunities, I've had here."

Young has grabbed on to those opportunities year-round. He credits summer research projects in particular for changing his academic path—and the direction of his life. Working with Professor Heather Williams, Young spent part of one summer monitoring water quality in the Peruvian highlands near Lake Titicaca, testing for contaminants in areas local residents reported to be the most polluted. Residents pointed out one sulfurous spring, torn open during early-1900s oil exploration and never capped, that has been polluting the water and ecosystem for decades. Young and other researchers then met with government authorities to inform them of the problem.

The next summer Young ventured to the Arctic with Professor Nina Karnovsky to study global warming's effect on the little auk, a bird that is a key indicator species of climate change. Along with his work documenting the size, stress level, behavior and other indicators involving the bird, Young was able to see other signs of climate change right before his eyes, watching huge chunks of ice fall from a melting glacier.

Through these two summer research experiences, Young came to realize that the "environment really is in trouble ... and, at the same time, it's something we really can make positive changes to."

Young decided to switch his major from neuroscience to environmental analysis. Post-Pomona, he plans to "use science to benefit marginalized people in some way. I see myself working for a nonprofit on the research side of things, helping people live in harmony with the environment."

He may already have achieved a step in that direction. Young recently received word from Peru that the government has lined up a contractor to cap the sulfurous well he encountered on his research trip.

"The environment really is in trouble ... and at the same time it's something we really can make positive changes to." —Derek Young '09



Jazmin Lopez '09 is pursuing a double major in international relations and Spanish and leads the five-college mariachi band while managing to hold down three campus jobs.

Jazmin Lopez '09 hit the books hard enough to tie for the highest G.P.A. in her class at Napa High School, while still finding time to clean homes and tutor after school to help with the family finances. She was accepted to all of the colleges she applied to: Stanford, Berkeley, Pomona and more.

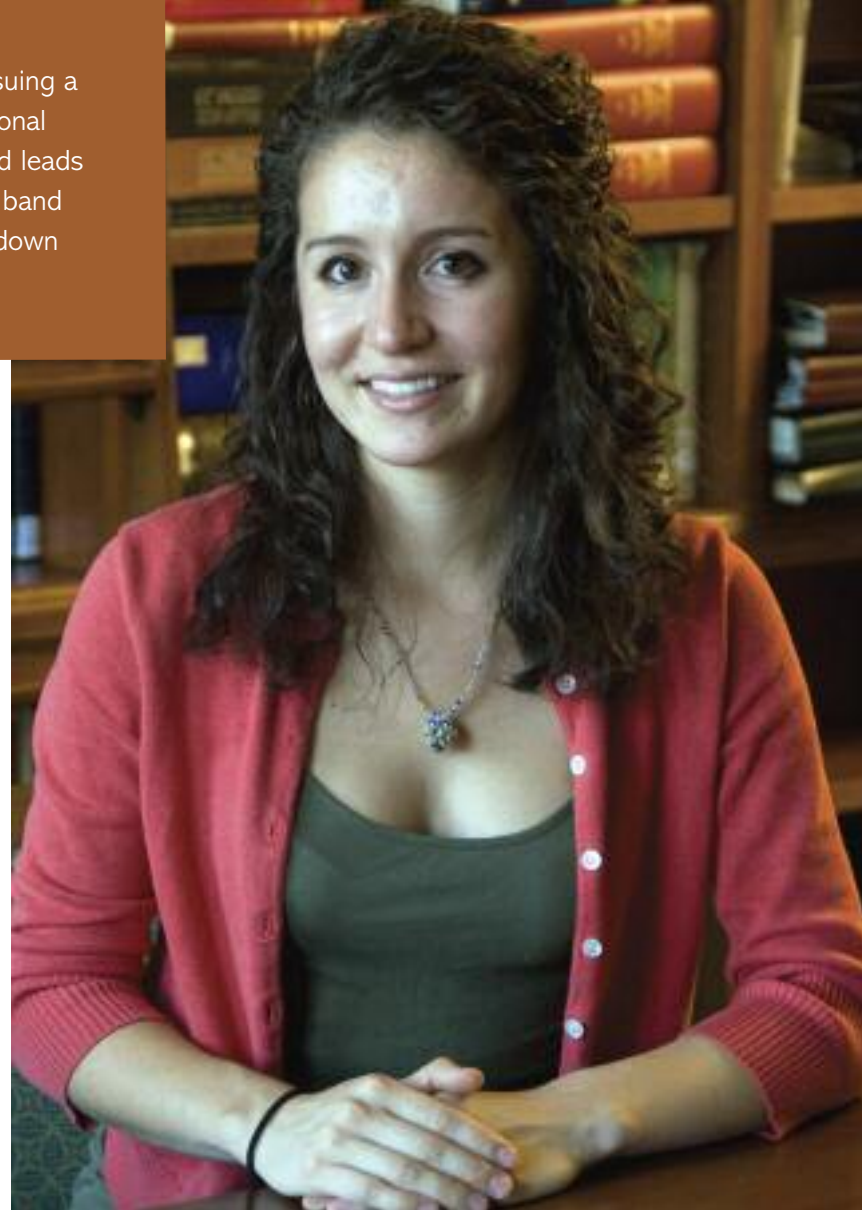
Pomona was the one she fell in love with. She just fit in best here. There was another important reason for her pick. "Pomona was the school that offered me the best financial aid package," says Lopez. "That was a huge factor in deciding to come here."

To no surprise, Lopez has thrived at Pomona. She is pursuing a double major in international relations and Spanish and leads the five-college mariachi band while managing to hold-down three campus jobs this semester: tutor at Oldenborg, Spanish grader and research assistant for a history professor. "I've kept myself busy," she says.

Lopez also served as the Chicano/Latino student liaison for the Dean of Students, and in that role she organized an on-campus benefit concert for farm workers, an event she describes as one of the highlights of her college career.

There were many others. The College funded violin lessons that "transformed" her role in the mariachi group. Help with travel costs allowed her to spend a semester on study abroad in Mexico. And the Summer Undergraduate Research Program gave Lopez the chance to work closely with professors on research.

What's next? After graduating in May, Lopez plans to pursue a career in public policy research, focusing on immigration and economic development. She is thankful for the opportunities she has received at the College—and thankful for the hard work of Mom and Dad. "I want to give them everything I can once I graduate," says Lopez.



Summer Research

More than 120 students were awarded Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) grants in 2008, marking a 31 percent increase over the previous summer. While most research projects were carried out on campus, several students and professors traveled across the country and around the world to such places as China, Dubai, Peru and South Africa.

The research projects receive funding from private and public foundations, as well as from academic departments and endowed College funds. A few of the projects supported by endowed funds include:

Water Scarcity and Pollution in Major Indian Watersheds

Ashwin Balakrishnan '09 and Ajay Major '10
Richard Hazlett, Pauley Professor of Environmental Analysis and professor of geology

Eti! East Africa Speaks

Arielle Brown '11
Sidney Lemelle, professor of history and Black studies

Method Development for the Analysis of Biodiesel from Waste Vegetable Oil

Bonnie Diep '09
Charles Taylor, assistant professor of chemistry

The Spirit of Oaxaca

Nathaniel Volk '10
Sheila Pinkel, professor of art

An Examination of Media Representations of Barack Obama and Its Implications for Racial Discourse

Sandra Hamada '09
Gilda Ochoa, associate professor of sociology and Chicano/a-Latino/a studies

Nina Karnovsky at the Polish Polar Station
on Spitsbergen Island, Norway



Faculty Research

AND THE ENDOWMENT

In the summer of 2007, Professor Nina Karnovsky took three Pomona students to the Arctic to study the effects of climate change on seabirds. They spent six weeks in Norway, trudging up steep mountainsides and picking their way across crumbling cliffs amid the nests of small black and white auks. They sat watching the birds for hours in the bitter cold and rain, and ventured out in a three-masted sailboat, plying the frigid waters for samples of the zooplankton, the auks' main source of food.

But some of the real work lay waiting back in Claremont.

"You can go and collect the data, but if you don't have the time to write it up or analyze it, it means nothing," explains Karnovsky, who spent a large portion of the following year writing papers and grant proposals related to the Arctic research.

Karnovsky was on a Steele fellowship, a yearlong leave for junior faculty members that allows tenure-track professors to concentrate on their scientific, scholarly and artistic endeavors after three years in the classroom.

"What we're trying to do at Pomona is attract faculty who would have been successful in a large research university atmosphere but have chosen to be at a small liberal arts college because they love teaching," says Dean of the College Gary Kates. "The Steele Leave is a very important year where they plug back into those networks."



“Go back out there and reacquaint yourself with the world of your discipline and then come back here and teach it.” —Professor Arthur Horowitz

For Professor Arthur Horowitz, plugging back in meant furthering his research on a medieval drama known as *The Dance of Death*. The dance began during the height of the Plague, when people who seemed sound and healthy one day would be dead only a week later. Performed in costume, often in church graveyards, the dance was a way for the church to remind its members to repent before the seemingly inevitable claimed them.

During his Steele Leave, Horowitz was able to find a tiny village in Spanish Catalonia that still performs *The Dance of Death* each year, and watch it himself. Suddenly, a practice that for him had existed only in the abstract world of long-ago history was given a living, breathing presence. “I now look at that stuff entirely differently...I’m able to bring a firsthand experiential note to my classes.”

Horowitz was also able to work in professional theatre during his leave. He was the dramaturge—or research point person—on two productions for Los Angeles theatre companies.

“The opportunities that I had to actually work as a dramaturge will serve me incredibly well when I teach my class in it,” Horowitz says. “It won’t be nearly as theoretical as it has had to be for the last couple of years.”

Arielle Brown ’11 has found Horowitz’s professional experience both an inspiration and an aid. “Teaching theatre is fine, but you really look up to people who continue to do it, who are active within their own careers,” says the sophomore, who met Horowitz this past summer while working on a project on East African theatre. She found his advice and his professional contacts at other institutions, such as the California Institute for the Arts, “really helpful in giving me insight into directions to go and just making it happen in general.”

In part due to Horowitz’s influence, a documentary Brown helped create for her summer project will be shown at CalArts in January.

Arthur Horowitz, assistant professor of theatre and dance, and Nina Karnovsky, assistant professor of biology, were among eight Pomona professors who were awarded fellowships for 2007-08 from the Harry and Grace Steele Foundation Junior Faculty Leave Program.

Steele Fellows 2007-08

Robert Gaines, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY
Conducted fieldwork in seven countries related to the origin of animals and the fossil record of Earth's earliest complex ecosystems; led an international scientific drilling project in Yunnan, China; participated in a new expedition to the Burgess Shale of the Canadian Rockies.

Peter Kung, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Continued his research on imagination and thought experiments, focusing on perspective in imagination: how do we explain the difference between imagining from the first-person vs. third-person perspective?

Sarah Raff, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
Completed a book manuscript, *Erotics of Instruction: Jane Austen and the Generalizing Novel*; began work on a study of literary guardians from William Shakespeare to Henry James.

Ghassan Sarkis, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS
Conducted research about p -adic dynamical systems arising out of formal group contexts and proved a special case of a long-standing conjecture by Lubin.

Kyla Tompkins, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES
Visiting scholar at Stanford University's Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity; completed book manuscript, *Racial Indigestion: Eating Bodies in the Nineteenth Century*.

Meg Worley, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
Exchange fellow at Downing College in Cambridge; visiting fellow at the British Academy; worked on book manuscript, *God's Word, King's English: The Medieval Roots of the King James Bible*.

The students who traveled to the Arctic with Karnovsky also received a relatively uncommon real-world experience. "Most undergrads don't ever get this kind of research experience," says Karnovsky, who took another group of students back to the Arctic this past summer.

For Karnovsky, the second trip to the Arctic hinged on having the Steele Leave to prepare papers and another time-consuming grant proposal: "If you don't publish papers, then you can't get another grant There's a lot of pressure to show you're productive on these grants." Without the leave, she says, "I wouldn't have been able to do it."

Kates adds that the leave allows Pomona to recruit professors who are at the top of their fields and helps ensure they remain on top. "There isn't a department that doesn't tout the Steele Leave as a major reason to come to Pomona," he says. "It's part of the reason why Pomona almost always gets its No. 1 candidate."

Pomona's large endowment provides the financial backing to increase the faculty to a size that allows professors to go on leave without jeopardizing the quality of the students' classroom experience, Kates says. And the professors bring what they have gained back into the classroom, further enriching students.

Horowitz summed up the Steele Leave's benefits succinctly: "Go back out there and reacquaint yourself with the world of your discipline and then come back here and teach it."

"What we're trying to do at Pomona is attract faculty who would have been successful in a large research university atmosphere but have chosen to be at a small liberal arts college because they love teaching. The Steele Leave is a very important year where they plug back into those networks." —Dean of the College Gary Kates



Renovation

AND THE ENDOWMENT

The venerable Mason Hall

was rebuilt from the inside out this year, transforming the former chemistry building into a modern center for several humanities departments, ranging from Romance languages to Asian literature. “The goal was to restore the historic grandeur of the original design, while bringing it up to date,” says Mark Matsumoto, project manager at the Office of Campus Planning and Maintenance.

The three-story, 40,000-square-foot building was gutted, leaving just exterior walls, interior corridor walls and decorative architectural features. The building, which houses Asian Languages and Literatures, German and Russian, Romance Languages and Literatures, and History, was brought up to current codes, as well as seismically retrofitted. The \$19.5 million restoration also involved reconfiguring office and classroom space so that each department has a wing and library, and all but one classroom are located in the basement.

Previously, says Mary Coffey, chair and associate professor in the Romance Languages and Literature Department, professors in the same department were scattered throughout the building—classrooms interspersed among offices—so they lacked the proximity needed to work together. “It was an impediment to creating a sense of community,” says Coffey.

Mason is one of several buildings that have been restored under the Long-Range Renovation Plan, a 10-year effort approved by trustees in 1999 to upgrade campus facilities. The completion of Mason Hall and the Peter W. Stanley Academic Quadrangle marked the final steps in the renovation of the academic quad, which includes Crookshank and Pearsons.



MASON HALL RENOVATION

the numbers

751 tons of construction debris

55 tons of rebar for new walls

128 tons of new steel reinforcements

350 cubic yards of concrete

800 sacks (40,000 pounds) of grout

4,000 board feet of lumber



“We’re ahead of most colleges in taking care of our buildings...The endowment is exactly the type of resource that allows us to do that.” —President David Oxtoby

Pomona’s endowment allows the College to take on such maintenance and renovation, including larger projects like Mason Hall, which also are funded through debt and other means. “If not for the increased value of our endowment, it would be hard to generate the surpluses we have that allow us to fund these improvements,” says Karen Sisson, vice president and treasurer.

“We’re ahead of most colleges in taking care of our buildings,” says President David Oxtoby. “It’s hard to raise money for maintenance and renovation and difficult to justify diverting money from current students for a major renovation project that will last 20 or 30 years. The endowment is exactly the type of resource that allows us to do that.”

The jewel of the Mason Hall renovation is the 974-square-foot Foreign Language Resource Center on the first floor. The mixed-use space houses an extensive collection of films, newspapers and literature, as well as state-of-the-art technology equipment.

“We’ve become one of the leading institutions in this country for this type of language instructional technology,” says Coffey, “in part because of our investment into the infrastructure, but also because we really found extraordinary individuals to staff this space and develop these things for it.”

Another vast improvement is in classroom technology. Before the renovation, there were only two smart classrooms. Now, all classrooms and seminar rooms have technology stations with an overhead projector, computer, multi-region DVD/VCR, document reader and wireless Internet access. “Now we have the opportunity to bring these technologies into everyday teaching, and this is what students expect because they’ve grown up in a visual culture,” says Coffey. “It’s had a big impact on student learning.”

Simple additions like adequate shelving in offices, benches in the hallways for students, large but comfortable departmental libraries/meeting spaces, and a first-floor bathroom have made life both cozier and more efficient in Mason. “Languages and history are so resource dependent—we have hundreds of years of accumulated knowledge [in books]. Just being able to have a space that’s been designed to accommodate our particular disciplinary needs is an enormous benefit,” says Coffey.

Coffey says it’s not just the day-to-day improvements that are meaningful, but also that the College funds renovations like these. “It has a certain symbolism to it—that the College invests and thinks this is worthwhile. It sends a really powerful message to students that this is important.”

POMONA COLLEGE Year-In-Review 2007-08

In the summer of 2008, Pomona College completed its 121st year of operation, a year awarded with acclaim and marked by standard-bearing decisions.

In a bold move, Pomona's Board of Trustees approved the elimination of loans in financial aid packages for both current and future students, replacing debt with scholarships, effective 2008-09. In each of the last 20 years, more than 50 percent of Pomona students have received financial aid. Beginning in 1988, financial aid packages for students with the most financial need did not include loans during their first two years of study. For the last five years, Pomona has increased financial aid spending by \$1 million or more each year.

Seventeen graduates of the Pomona College Class of 2008 received prestigious Fulbright Fellowships to pursue research or teach around the globe, the second highest number ever received by a graduating class. The Pomona College record was set by the Class of 2007 with 27 awards.

The previous record was 15 for the Class of 2006.

The Pomona College Museum of Art, along with the worldwide arts community, celebrated the opening of "Dividing the Light," the only Skyspace by acclaimed artist James Turrell '65 that is open to the public in Southern California. For Pomona, Turrell created a metal canopy framing the sky, which is mirrored in a shallow pool beneath, heightening the viewer's awareness of light, sky and the activity of perception. The City of Claremont Architectural Commission named the Skyspace a 2007 Excellence in Design Award winner.

Here are a few other highlights of 2007-08:

STRATEGIC PLANNING

As part of the College's new master land use plan approved last year by the Pomona College Board of Trustees, construction was planned for two new residence halls to be built near Lawry Court and Walton Commons on north campus, beginning in 2009. Providing housing for 150

students, the 70,000-square-foot complex will also include faculty apartments and a staff residence. Geared toward achieving at least a gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating, the new residence halls are designed to reduce energy consumption and make sustainability efforts more visible on campus.

Construction will also begin on two pedestrian-friendly and earth-friendly underground parking garages—one on north campus and another on south campus. Athletic fields and extra fields for intramural and club sports will top the roofs of both parking structures—adding both green space and people space.

The plan was developed in collaboration with Sasaki Associates, an architectural firm committed to sustainable design and building.

TRUSTEES, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF



Chan



Green



Scinto

The Board of Trustees elected three new trustees to the board, two of whom are alumni of the College: **Bernard C. Chan '88**, **Scott R. Green '88** and Pomona parent **Francine P. Scinto**. **Chan**, an art major at Pomona, is president of Asia Financial Group and its subsidiary Asian Insurance, one of Hong Kong's leading insurers. The founder and CEO of the Irvine-based StrataCare, Inc., **Green** was an economics major and a member of the 1986 championship basketball team at Pomona. **Scinto** is vice president of Orange County Associates, a commercial and industrial real estate investment and management firm in Santa Ana. She is the mother of two Pomona students, Daniel '09 and Stephan '11, and a '08 Pitzer graduate, Madeline.

Karen Sisson '79 was appointed vice president and treasurer of Pomona College. Prior to her



Sisson

appointment, Sisson was the city administrative officer for the city of Los Angeles. The first woman to hold this top non-elected position, she was responsible for fiscal matters, including the city's \$7 billion budget. Sisson succeeds **Carlene Miller**, who retired this summer after 19 years at the College.

John Norton joined the College as the assistant vice president of advancement. Norton came to Pomona College from Lehigh University where he oversaw annual, major, principal and planned giving programs as the assistant vice president for individual gifts.

Cynthia R.D. Selassie, professor of chemistry, was named associate dean of the College, with a primary focus on faculty research and sabbaticals. She has twice been awarded the Wig Distinguished Professorship Award for Excellence in Teaching and chaired the Chemistry Department for six years.

STUDENTS

Pomona's Class of 2012 consists of 382 students, admitted from a pool of 6,292 applicants. The entering class includes 194 women and 188 men. Demonstrating consistently high academic achievement, 86 percent of the students graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class. The class includes nine students from the Posse Foundation and 26 from Questbridge, programs designed to pair high-achieving students from low-income families or urban public high schools with the nation's top colleges. Approximately 50 percent of the students have received need-based scholarships, with an average annual package totaling \$35,380.

Most of the 380 students who earned bachelor of arts degrees from Pomona during the year participated in the 115th commencement exercises on Marston Quadrangle on May 18, 2008. Members of the Class of 2008 were recognized for exceptional achievements in academics and leadership. With 17 Fulbright fellowships awarded to the Class of 2008, 2007-08 marked the second consecutive year Pomona topped all liberal arts colleges in the number of Fulbright fellowships awarded to its graduating class. In addition, four graduates from earlier class years received Fulbrights, bringing the total to 21. **Brendan J. McCollam '08**



©James Turrell 2007. Photo by Florian Holzherr

and **Michael Stout '08** were awarded Thomas J. Watson Foundation fellowships, which grants 50 recipients \$25,000 each to spend one year traveling in pursuit of an independent research project. **Genna Beier '08** was awarded \$24,000 for one year of graduate study abroad as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar for 2009-10. **Brittney Andres '08** was honored in the inaugural UWire 100 listing of collegiate journalists across the nation. **Ian Frank '08**, **Bob Rawle '08** and **Dan Hickstein '07** won National Science Foundation Graduate Research fellowships for graduate study in their respective fields.

Members of the Class of 2009 also garnered prestigious awards. **Hannah Salim '09** and **Jeremy Treger '09** were named Barry M. Goldwater Scholars for 2008-09, receiving funding for tuition, fees, books and room and board up to \$7,500 for their senior year. **Ikeisha Daniels '09** and **Candice McCray '09** were awarded the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color.

Pomona awarded a record number of 123 grants through the **Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)** for summer 2008, a 31 percent increase from summer 2007. The grants provide \$4,000 for up to 10 weeks of research with faculty mentorship; all continuing students are eligible to apply.

Alexander Haro '08, **Tim Brown '07** and **Kurt Ude '09** created a new computer game that “secretly” teaches physics concepts to middle school students, winning the \$25,000 first prize in the national Hidden Agenda computer game design contest, dedicated to furthering education through technology. Their winning entry, *Slinky Bomb*, teaches physics through a series of ball-in-the-cup puzzles.



Finicane

The **Sagehen women's tennis** team has been one of the strongest NCAA Division III programs throughout the past two decades, and 2007-08 was no exception. Named SCIAC Player of the Year for the second time, **Siobhan Finicane '10** won the NCAA Division III singles title. **Rebecca Lange '09** and **Olivia Muesse '10** were named All-SCIAC first team. The women's tennis team was named an Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team. And three players achieved NCAA All-American status: Finicane (singles and doubles), Lange (singles) and Muesse (doubles).

Women's water polo took its second consecutive SCIAC Championship victory and is the No. 1 ranked Division III team in the country. In **men's baseball**, first baseman **Drew Hedman '09** led SCIAC with 18 home runs. Hedman was named to the All-SCIAC first team and named NCAA Division III Hitter of the Week. **Men's basketball** captured its eleventh SCIAC tournament championship. Although the team fell to SCIAC rival Occidental at the NCAA Division III Western Region Championship, **Jabarri Reynolds '08** and **Justin Sexton '10** were both named to the All-SCIAC First Team.

The Claremont Colleges Ballroom Dance Company, open to students, faculty, staff and administrators at The Claremont Colleges, was awarded first place in the formation event at the National Collegiate Dancesport Championships in Columbus, Ohio, performing a Harry Potter-themed standard medley to a standing ovation. It was the team's sixth victory in the formation event.

FACULTY

Endowed Chairs



Dettmar

Pomona College appointed three professors to endowed chairs in 2007-08. **Jack Abecassis**, professor of Romance languages and literatures, has been appointed to the Edwin Sexton and Edna Patrick Smith Modern European Languages Professorship. **Kevin Dettmar**, who joined the Pomona faculty beginning with the 2008-09 academic year as a professor of English and department chair, has been appointed to the W.M. Keck Professorship. **Shahriar Shahriari**, professor of mathematics, was appointed to the William Polk Russell Professorship.

New Faculty

The College hired 11 new professors for the 2007-08 academic year:

- **Christopher Chinn**, assistant professor of Classics
- **Ludwig Chincarini**, assistant professor of economics
- **Justin Crowe**, assistant professor of politics
- **Anne Dwyer**, assistant professor of German

- **Eric Hurley**, assistant professor of psychology and Black Studies
- **Jade Star Lackey**, assistant professor of geology
- **Sara Owsley**, assistant professor of computer science
- **Laura Perini**, assistant professor of philosophy
- **Joti Rockwell**, assistant professor of music
- **Matthew Sazinsky**, assistant professor of chemistry
- **Dwight Whitaker**, assistant professor of physics

Books, Publications and Recordings



Hoopes

The life sciences journal *The Scientist* published Pomona College Professor **Laura L. Mays Hoopes'** list of the Top 10 things male scientists can do to help women stay in science.

Gary N. Smith, professor of economics, co-authored *Houseconomics* with Margaret H. Smith.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick's (English and Media Studies) book, *The Anxiety of Obsolescence: The American*

Novel in the Age of Television (2006) was named a “book of the month” for October 2007 by the Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies

Steve Erickson's (Philosophy) essays “The Space of Love and Garbage” and “On (and Beyond) Love Gone Wrong” have been reissued in a new volume, *The Space of Love and Garbage and Other Essays* from the *Harvard Review of Philosophy*.

Robert Mezey's (English, Emeritus) poem “Fishing Around” appeared in the January 21 issue of *The New Yorker*.

Genevieve Lee's (Music) solo piano CD, “Elements,” was released by Albany Records on February 1. In addition to works by Philippe Bodin, the CD features three pieces by Thomas Flaherty (Music): “Gleeful Variants” (written for Professor Lee), “Riverwing” and “Nightstars.”

Lynn Rapaport (Sociology) published an essay, “Hang Hitler! The Three Stooges Take Potshots at Nazis,” in *American Judaism in Popular Culture*

Susana Chávez-Silverman (Romance Languages and Literatures) was asked to have her writing included in the inaugural *Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*, to be published in 2008.



Erickson

Lectures, Readings, Exhibitions and Performances
Zayn Kassam (Religious Studies) gave the lecture, “The Changing Roles of Women in Religion: Muslim Women,” at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles in June.

Thomas Flaherty’s (Music) composition “Fanfares” premiered in a concert of music from five centuries performed by **William Peterson** (Music) at the Christopher Cohan Center in San Luis Obispo on April 6.

John Seery (Politics) appeared in *This American Gothic*, a feature documentary directed by Sasha Waters Freyer and shown on April 4 at the Wisconsin Film Festival in Madison.

Dru Gladney (Pacific Basin Institute and Anthropology) served as plenary session speaker for a Social Science Research Council conference, “Inter-Asian Connections,” held in Dubai in February.

Pardis Mahdavi (Anthropology) represented the International Women’s Health coalition and The Sexual and Bodily Rights Group at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, delivering daily lectures.

Gilda Ochoa (Sociology and Chicano/a-Latino/a Studies) was a featured speaker at the 2008 California Association of Bilingual Educators Conference, where she presented her book *Learning from Latino Teachers*.

Awards & Honors



Wig Awards

Professors **Deborah M. Burke, Karl G. Johnson, Fernando A. Lozano, Daniel J. O’Leary, Shahriar Shahriari, Michael D. Steinberger** and **Helena Wall** were awarded the 2008 Wig Distinguished Professor Awards for Excellence in Teaching, by a vote of students at the College. The Wig Award recognizes exceptional teaching, concern

for students, and service to the College and community.
 Pomona College Professor of Mathematics **Vin de Silva** was named to *Scientific American’s* 2007 SciAm 50, an annual list of the top 50 science, research and industry innovators who led important advances that year. On the list at number six in the category of an “Untethered Future,” de Silva and his research partner, Robert Ghrist, were recognized for their development of new algorithms and using mathematical homology to analyze networks of randomly distributed sensors.



Foster

Lorn Foster (Politics) was awarded a John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Faculty Fellowship for his project titled “Black Political Development in LA, 1910-1950: The Role of the Black Church.”

Tennis coach **Ann Lebedeff** (Physical Education) achieved her 500th career win with a 7-0 victory over Caltech in April.

Professor Emeritus **Corwin Hansch**, lauded as the father of modern drug design, was inducted into the American Chemical Society (ACS) Medicinal Chemistry Division Hall of Fame, for his outstanding contributions to medicinal chemistry through research, teaching and service.

Grants

Heather Williams (Politics) received a \$195,000 New Directions Grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation for her work in the Peruvian and Bolivian Altiplano, analyzing village-level management of soil and water resources and watershed science to better understand the impact of human activity on water and soil resources.

Mark Allen’s (Art and Art History) Machine Project has been selected for the Andy Warhol Foundation Initiative program, which provides \$100,000 and consulting for capacity building.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick (English and Media Studies) received a \$50,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Startup Grant for MediaCommons, the digital scholarly network that she is developing in conjunction with the Institute for the Future of the Book.

Eric Grosfils (Geology) was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to the University of Auckland, New Zealand. With the \$21,000 award, Grosfils will perform quantitative research on the mechanics of magma reservoir inflation and failure, and the formation of large caldera systems in New Zealand’s Taupo Volcanic Zone, one of the most volcanically active zones in the world.

Karl Johnson (Biology and Neuroscience) received a \$10,000 SOMAS grant from the National Science Foundation and Davidson College.

Hung Cam Thai (Sociology and Asian American Studies) was awarded a John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Faculty Fellowship for his project titled

“The Effects of Homeland Ties on Political Participation in Little Saigon, CA.”

Ralph Bolton (Anthropology) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society for Medical Anthropology.

Cecilia Conrad (Economics) was appointed to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Race and Ethnic Advisory Committee.

ALUMNI

Alumni Weekend 2008 was held May 1-3, with 1,430 total attendees, breaking previous attendance records set in 2006. More than 150 events were held, including student performances, lectures and the Alumni Vintner Wine Tasting.

The weekend also featured the 19th Annual Alumni Symposium, “Reel Time: Sagehens and the Silver Screen,” showcasing Pomona graduates who have pursued careers in film, worked in motion picture preservation and served as film educators. The speakers included writer/director **Robert Towne ’56**, casting director **Allison Jones ’77**, director **Sylvain White ’98** and writer/director **David Ward ’67**. Among the topics discussed were:

- Illusion, magic and the art of visual effects
- Beyond Oscar night — the Academy’s other 364 days
- Film as the literature of the 21st Century

Janelle Lin ’00 is the 2008 Inspirational Young Alumni Award winner. Lin developed her passion for youth development as the community affairs commissioner with the



Lin

Associated Students of Pomona College. She is the managing director of the New York branch of Step Up Women’s Network a national association of women dedicated to strengthening community resources for women and girls.



Alumni Weekend



Herman

Robert Herman '51, professor emeritus of sociology, was awarded the 2008 Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Since 1986, Herman has conducted hundreds of walking tours in downtown Los Angeles for Pomona students, alumni, faculty and staff, as well as Claremont community members. A sociology major at Pomona, Herman returned to the College in 1960 where he taught until his retirement in 1998. His book, *Downtown Los Angeles: A Walking Guide*, celebrates the unique cityscape of Los Angeles.



Zornes

In Memoriam

Respected watercolor painter **Milford Zornes '34** passed away February 24, 2008, almost one month after his 100th birthday. Highlights from his 80-year career include serving as president of the California Water Color Society and having his painting, *Old Adobe*, selected by President Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to hang in the White House. He also taught for a time at Pomona College.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Pomona students and community members had an array of campus events to choose from, whether concerts, debates or theatre.

World-renowned choral conductor Martin Neary and the Millennium Consort Singers came to campus and performed English choral classics by Henry Purcell and Vaughn Williams. Neary was the organist and master of the choristers at Westminster Abbey from 1988 to 1998, and the organist and master of the music at Winchester Cathedral from 1972 to 1987.

In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the premiere of Luis Valdez's *Zoot Suit*, Theatre Professor Alma Martinez, an actor in the original play and film, directed the production. The campus performances marked the first time—since it opened at the Mark Taper Forum in 1978—that playwright Valdez allowed a *Zoot Suit* staging.

Original cast members were invited to attend a tribute in Valdez's honor.

Among other campus events were:

- Los Pleneros de la 21, the award-winning Afro-Puerto Rican ensemble, performed a concert of traditional bomba and plena music.
- Pulitzer Prize Finalist Sarah Ruhl's *Melancholy Play* was staged by the Pomona College Department of Theatre and Dance.
- The Pacific Basin Institute at Pomona College lecture series presented "Muslim Asia: Cultures, Contexts, and Connections."
- Sir Harold Kroto, 1996 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry and Foreign Member of the Royal Society (FRS), delivered the 46th Annual Robbins Lecture, "Science, Society and Sustainability."



Zoot Suit

THE CAMPUS

The College was awarded gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program for the design and construction of its **Lincoln and Edmunds** buildings. It was the first LEED gold awarded to any of The Claremont Colleges.

The new **Peter W. Stanley Academic Quadrangle** was dedicated on Commencement Weekend. Named in honor of Pomona's eighth president, the redesigned quad features drought-tolerant landscaping and new amenities, including teaching and social spaces. The ceremony also marked the conclusion of the six-year restoration project of Mason, Crookshank and Pearsons halls, which border the quadrangle.

The renovation of **Mason Hall** was completed in

January 2008. The overhaul of Mason included seismic upgrades, energy efficiency improvements, installation of an elevator and modernizing classrooms, offices, lounges and language labs. Mason Hall, built in 1923 to accommodate a then state-of-the-art chemistry facility, currently houses the College's language and history departments, as well as the Foreign Language Resource Center.

Ronald Lee Fleming '63 commissioned noted artist Mark Mennin to create a Pomona goddess statue, the Roman deity of orchards, gardens and fruit, for the College. The sculpture, crafted of Carrara marble, was installed in Pomona's Organic Farm this spring.

The **KSPC** antenna was relocated off campus to a tower in northern Claremont near Padua Hills. The move will not extend the broadcasting signal but will improve reception for listeners in the current 35-mile radius.

FINANCES

The market value of the College's endowment on June 30, 2008, increased to \$1,795,212,000. Financially, the College remains strong with a triple-A bond rating.

The Pomona College Annual Fund set a series of new records during the 2007-08 fiscal year. The overall total of \$5,126,904 raised was the highest in the College's history, as was the Parents' Fund total of \$402,164. The Class of 2008's senior gift totaled \$5,289. The alumni participation rate was 46 percent, with 8,711 alumni contributing. A record-breaking 1,493 parents and 137 friends of Pomona also contributed to the Annual Fund.



Goddess Statue

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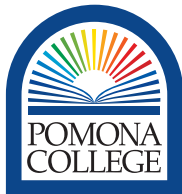
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