EDITORS PAGE

Everything possible

As workers slowly lowered 18 young Princeton elms by crane into large holes on once-lush Elm Tree Lawn, several alumnae from Camp Scripps gawked at the process.

“They look bigger than I thought they would,” said one.

“No, they don’t,” said her friend.

Each summer for the past 15 years, alumnae return to campus for four days of fun and frolic called Camp Scripps, where the slogan is “Everything possible, nothing required.”

This July, the 110 campers viewed a first: as they walked to workshops and talks between Toll Hall and the Malott Commons, they stopped to watch the replacement of Scripps’ 70-year-old elms with new trees, contract-grown in Sunol, Calif., for the past three years. The College removed the dying trees for safety reasons in May, following Commencement.

“How in the world did they get the trees all the way from Northern California?” a camper asked.

I wished then I had followed an earlier desire to drive up I-5 to the Tejon Pass in the early hours of July 1 and take a photo of the trees, laid flat on truck beds and securely tied, traveling down the Grapevine on their way to Claremont. Sleep won out, but I did see the trees arrive on campus at 7 a.m. that day. Still in their 60” wooden boxes, the trees were unloaded in the Revelle parking lot, where grounds people gave them a thorough soaking.

The elms will grow; grass, too. As has Scripps, as have students and alumnae, as have all of us who live or work here. The possibilities are endless.

Mary Shipp Bartlett
Editor
Carolyn Robles
Managing Editor
Matt Hutaff
Staff Writer
Whitney Eriksen ’09
Nikki Morin ’09
Ashley Newton ’10
Student Interns
Jay Toffoli Design Co.
Design
Dual Graphics
Printing
Leslie Alari, back cover
Mary Bartlett, IFC
Ian Bradshaw, pp. 1, 3, 9, 17, 21, 22, 24, 26-28
Scott Brinegar
Kristy Campbell, 11, 13c-d
Fred Carlson, 13b
Matt Hutaff, 12, 13a, 14, 15
Bill Youngblood, cover, pp. 4, 6-8, 10, 16, 20
Photography


The young Princeton elms, 26’ tall, with Balch Auditorium in the background. The College is installing underground electrical and irrigation systems prior to planting grass.

Kirk Delman, registrar of the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery, examines one of the dying elms during the removal process. Delman will create a podium and matching diploma table from the best of the old wood to be used at future Commencements and special events.

Mary Shipp Bartlett
SCRIPPS WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Sorry, Men, the Gender Equity Problem in Science is Not Solved
And what Scripps is doing about it.
BY MARY HATCHER-SKEERS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

Doing Science Well
What’s going on in the Joint Science Department that attracts so many Scripps women?
BY MARGARET NILSSON

Passionate Problem-solvers
Scripps science students’ passion for science helps develop new techniques for solving key problems.
BY MARGARET NILSSON

A Biologist Looks at Intelligent Design
What links bacterial flagellum, Oxytocin, and romantic prairie voles?
BY DAVID SADAVA, PRITZKER FAMILY FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, JOINT SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
My name is Adrienne Smith—Adrienne Alma Jones when I was a student [at Scripps] for only my first year of college. My niece, my only brother’s only daughter, Crystal K. Jones, attended and graduated from Scripps, in 1985.

So, I’m connected.

But not really. Scripps is a big incompleteness for me.

I was Scripps’ first black student. People were nice to me. I hung with a group in my dorm who wrote “pomes,” so-called because they had no literary value; we taped them to each other’s doors so any passerby could read our witticisms, but really so our friends would read them and smile.

I took swimming and cut my hair short. I loved the grounds and the murals in the gardens. Richard Armour was a teacher there, I think.

I went out with a guy from Claremont Men’s, who drove me up to a promontory, and waved toward the heavens, saying “And I have just the thing for you!” he said, and reached in his back seat and got a blanket and tucked it right around me. What a great time!

And I have just the thing for you!” he said, and reached in the back seat and got a blanket and tucked it right around me. And drove me home. What a great time!

I was president of the freshman class. All of these accomplished girls had probably been class officers in high school. I had gone to a non-district school in Cincinnati, where the top 10% of 6th grade students in the district were eligible to attend. I went there from 6th through 11th grade, and then my family moved to Los Angeles, where I threw away all my study habits and still got A’s and B’s.

I never saw any of my Scripps friends again or spoke or wrote.

When I think of Scripps or when you folks invite me to do things, I feel a twinge because of my mostly fond memories of that time. I feel it was a big opportunity for me that I wasted by not excelling academically.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate.

ADRIENNE ALMA JONES SMITH ’62


It was this doctor of philosophy, we learn, who conceived what he called “The Scripps Idea”—forerunner of the humanities Core program. And it was a revelation to discover that he also edited the Merriam-Webster Dictionary from 1903 to 1908, Bicycle to Marriage. In my 1938 edition of that book, I quickly looked up humanities: “The kind feelings, disposition and sympathies of man…the branches of polite learning, especially the ancient classics and belles lettres;” and core: “The gist.” These in-part definitions, if not his original articulation, sound very like him in tone.

In the fifties, we just called it humanities, with no need of the prosaic, pointed reminder “core.”

If our world is what we are conscious of, Dr. Alexander’s reflected an uncommonly expanded sphere of thought, which has blessed each student at Scripps. The article tells of Alexander asking his class to define ethics and the favored answer coming from one who gave the professor’s own definition from his dictionary days—which was probably not far from that of my 1938 edition. Ethics: “The science of moral duty…ideal human behavior.”

Dr. Alexander clearly realized that a college lives by more than enhanced technology and bigger endowments since he declared plainly that the highest form of education—“No college can teach more”—estabhshes the soul as steersman.

The watchword of this high-minded, unequivocal man, according to the Dictionary of American Biography, was moral idealism. Will the new strategic plan for Scripps, especially post-Virginia Tech, take this vital force into consideration? If so, would not student-run diverse religious organizations on campus be the practical outcome? Unattended individual distress would be far less likely; competition with external models would lessen before the genuine struggle for one’s own individual best; and, students might become more mindful of their appearance, in justice to the beautiful Scripps surroundings.

DEIRDRE TREACY BABCOCK ’52

I wanted to write and commend you on the wonderful article you contributed to the spring 2008 Scripps Magazine on Elm Tree Lawn. It fills my heart to know just how thoughtful the Scripps community has been when it comes to the fate of its beautiful elms. As you note, the decision to replace the trees is not an easy one. But, as an alumna, a huge
fan of the campus, and an unabashed tree hugger, I truly appreciate being kept informed of this issue. I give my thanks to everyone who has wrapped their minds around this issue—and I look forward to my next visit when I see the new elms!

SARAH WALLER ’01

**Correction**

Above, Ellen Clark Revelle with her three daughters and Al Gore, a former student of Roger Revelle at Harvard. We regret that we did not identify all women correctly in the spring 2008 issue. In back are, from left, Mari Paci (Pomona ’57), Scripps trustee Carolyn Revelle, and Anne Shumway. The occasion was Gore’s visit to La Jolla, Calif., last year to present his program on global warming.

Then and Now

With the use of borrowed easels and paintings from Scripps’ Department of Art, current students recreate a scene in Eucalyptus Court of an early art class, originally pictured in the first La Semeuse yearbook, 1931. Above, photo courtesy of Scripps College Archives; below, photograph by Ian Bradshaw, fall 2007.
Dear Alumnae, Parents, and Friends:

When I came to Scripps just one year ago to begin serving as interim president, I had some idea of what to expect: supportive alumnae and parents, dedicated faculty and staff, committed trustees, and absolutely outstanding students. I knew Scripps was on the move and considered a “hot” school by many prospective students—but I had no idea the surprises in store for me.

I shouldn't have been surprised. Those of us who know and love this place should be used to great things happening at Scripps.

**STUDENT SUCCESSES**

This spring, we learned that four Scripps students and one recent alumna were named Fulbright Scholars, a record for Scripps. Equally impressive, our students were awarded the competitive Truman Scholarship, Davis Peace Prize, and Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. You can read about them, and about many other award winning students, in this issue of the magazine.

Many of our 186 graduating seniors are taking advantage of offers to some of the nation's top graduate programs, including Caltech, MIT, Stanford, Yale, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, Cornell, Claremont Graduate University, The Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and USC, among many others. And ten of our graduates are entering the competitive two-year Teach For America program.

Perhaps because the word is out among prospective high school students that Scripps is a rising power in education, and women's education in particular, this year we face another housing crunch. Yes, more students are going to have to double, or triple up, and we are offering creative solutions through nearby off-campus housing options. But I view this as a “problem” we can work with and solve, especially as it sends a clear message that what we do here is valuable and attractive to young women throughout the nation and the world. The increased demand for housing certainly adds a heightened level of intensity to the College's planning for a new residence hall.

**INCOMING CLASS OF 2012**

Our Office of Admission had another stellar year, with 1,931 applicants for the incoming first-year class. We admitted 837, for an acceptance rate of 43% (only 13% of the nation's colleges and universities have an acceptance rate below 50%). Students come from 33 states and eight countries, with 38% from California. We are pleased to increase our diversity by welcoming this fall 12 African-Americans, 41 Asian/Asian Americans, 20 Latinas, and two Native Americans. This may not fully or accurately convey diversity at Scripps, as 74 students chose not to declare a particular ethnicity.

The Office of Admission is also very pleased to report that Scripps has 24 National Merit Scholars in the first-year class. This is sure to place Scripps among the top liberal arts colleges in the nation for number of scholars, and will likely make us number one again among women's colleges. This is an enormous achievement for Scripps and speaks to our academic excellence and the quality of the Scripps experience.

**FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Dean of Faculty recently sent out a list of our faculty's publications, honors, awards, and grants for the year that ran four pages. This impressive summary includes—among many others—a grant to support one professor's trip to the Black Sea region this summer to research interactions between the ancient Greeks and indigenous populations of the region, news on a faculty member's successful NSF-REU grant in mathematics as principal investigator, another's Mellon grant for teaching music theory at a liberal arts college, and a professor's award to investigate the neural mechanisms associated with the effect of loving-kindness meditation on generosity and trust. The full list is in the faculty section of the Scripps website at www.scrippscollege.edu/news/feature-stories/our-amazing-faculty. Read, enjoy, and join me in praising them for their many accomplishments.

**SCRIPPS COLLEGE ACADEMY AND MEDIA ATTENTION**

Scripps' innovative enrichment program, the Scripps College Academy, for 9th and 10th graders in the greater Los Angeles area, now in its sixth year, held its two-week residential program on campus at the end of June. I hope you have followed the success and expansion of the program into a yearlong enterprise that gives academically motivated...
but underserved students a chance to experience the rigors and rewards of a liberal arts education during the summer and then offers critical support, such as homework help, counseling, and follow-up sessions during the school year.

I can speak firsthand about the benefits of the Academy, as I was privileged to attend the closing session on Saturday, June 28, when the students—mostly fifteen-year-olds—gave multimedia presentations of their research projects to parents and friends in Garrison Theater. They had worked in small groups, led by Scripps faculty, to explore topics such as “Representations of Cultures in Television,” “Language, Prejudice, and Accents: What’s the Big Deal?”, “The Cost of Beauty,” and “The Truth Behind the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.” The students had done their research and spoke passionately and eloquently; I learned something from each one.

I encourage you to learn more about the Scripps Academy by listening to a segment that aired on NPR affiliate KPCC, on June 27, available through a link on the Scripps website (www.scrippscollege.edu/news/press-releases). The program and the College also received excellent visibility when Fox News Midday Sunday devoted its entire 30 minutes on June 29 to the Academy. Featured were four Lynwood High School students who are now going on to Scripps, Williams, and Wellesley, as well as Academy director Sylvia Ruiz ’05 and Ashley Franklin ’09, another program graduate.

**CAMPUS ADDITIONS**

**Elm Tree Lawn**

The original trees have been removed and the new ones have arrived—looking healthy and, yes, young. By the time you read this, the new elms will be planted, with a new lawn surrounding them. We will need to protect the young trees while they establish themselves, so it is unlikely that we will hold any events on the new Elm Tree Lawn for some time. Patience is key, so that we can look forward to many years of enjoyment and celebration under the elms.

**Sallie Tiernan Field House**

We near completion on the long-awaited renovation and fitness center at Scripps, named for former trustee and chair of the Board, the late Sallie Tiernan ’45. It is a magnificent structure that, as soon as it received a coat of traditional “Scripps white” paint, looked right in place, as if it had always been part of the campus plan. The facility—with adjacent swimming pool and regulation lacrosse/soccer field, as well as a 230-space parking garage beneath the field—will open in mid-August, under the direction of Tamsen Kathleen Burke, who comes to us from the University of Chicago, where she developed and implemented a comprehensive recreation, intramural sports, and sports club program and services for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Burke was also an associate professor in the Department of Physical Education and Athletics. Her background in operations, fiscal management, and academic instruction will be extremely valuable as we launch exciting programs in our new facility.

We will have a grand dedication of the Tiernan Field House on Saturday, October 4, 2008. I hope you will join the College community in celebrating our addition to student and community life. Watch for details of the event on the College website.

**GIFTS TO THE COLLEGE**

I want to pay tribute to Scripps’ many friends, who give time and effort and financial support in making Scripps College continue to thrive. Thank you so much. While I cannot thank each one personally in this letter, I want to call attention to two significant gifts the College received this past fiscal year, as they strongly affect the excellence of our teaching. The first is a gift of 27 photographs from Michael and Jane Hurley Wilson ’64 representing some of the finest work of 19th and 20th century artists, such as Julia Margaret Cameron and Diane Arbus (Cameron’s famous Portrait of Kate Keown, now owned by Scripps, is shown on page 11 of this magazine). The Wilsons’ visionary gift adds immeasurably to the College’s permanent art collection, which is a valuable resource for both teaching and research.

The second gift is a $100,000 planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Studies. This grant will help Scripps’ Core faculty evaluate the results of a recent external assessment, plan for the implementation of the assessment team’s recommendations, and create an even stronger, more cohesive Core program.

**PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH**

The College continues the search for the right candidate to be Scripps’ seventh president. Trustee Lynne Brickner ’74 leads a new presidential search committee composed of trustees, alumnae, faculty, staff, and a student. Just as soon as there is news to report, I will inform you by email and through the presidential transition website at www.scrippscollege.edu/president/index.php. I am happy to continue to serve the College as interim president through the academic year 2008-09 as we share many more successes at Scripps.

I hope the remainder of your summer is enjoyable and productive and that I have a chance to greet you in person during the months ahead.

With best wishes,

Frederick M. “Fritz” Weis

INTERIM PRESIDENT
O
n a warm Sunday morning, May 18, 186 seniors walked down Elm Tree Lawn to receive their diplomas after completing their years at Scripps and a senior thesis or project. They heard from classmate Ashley Peters, Interim President Fritz Weis, and Commencement speaker Kirsten Smith, poet and screenwriter best known for her work on *Legally Blonde*. You may read the full text of both Peters and Smith's speeches on the Scripps website at www.scrippscollege.edu and excerpts on the following pages.

Above, Dean of Faculty Cecilia Conrad reads graduates’ names as Interim President Fritz Weis and Dean of Students Debra Wood hand out diplomas. Right, Professors Thierry Boucquey and Melissa Coburn lead graduating seniors through the traditional Ivy Chain, formed by members of the Class of 2009.
Kirsten Smith, screenwriter and poet, addressed the Class of 2008 on May 18, 2008, on Elm Tree Lawn. Here are excerpts from her speech:

Today is the first day of the beginning of your Act Two.

Act One is what we call the “set-up.” It is childhood, high school, and of course, college, where the heroine’s personality is established. Act Two is the part of the story where the plucky heroine has a goal and sets out on her path to achieve it. She must overcome obstacles in the form of the boss who won’t give her the promotion, the jealous rival, and the annoying person in the next cubicle.

But brace yourself, because it’s a rollercoaster; you’re up, you’re down, until that moment in Act Three when you take a stand, you fill the screen and you tell us what you really and truly believe in. This thing you believe in is so passionate and true that all of us, your best friends and your family, we can’t help but root for you.

Of course, Hollywood follows a formula. Lives do not. What we plot for the Movie of Your Life could easily spool into a much larger and more complicated story than we could ever imagine. Maybe it’s not a movie; it’s a TV series or a Broadway musical. Maybe in 20 years, we’ll do the remake with a much younger cast.

So what do we do today? How can we send you off into a world that is so wildly erratic and unpredictable? How can we bank on your box-office draw? All I can give you is what I know. Don’t say it; show it. Character equals action.

So, what I wish for you are full lives as women, girls, scientists, writers, lawyers, environmentalists, humanitarians, mothers, wives, artists, architects, engineers, diplomats, or Presidents-of-the-United-States. We’re waiting in our seats with a bucket of popcorn, a fizzy water and a high calorie snack. Our cell phones are off and the lights are just beginning to dim. Ladies, congratulations. Let the movie begin.
“On Our Shoulders”

Excerpts from the Address to the Class of 2008 by Ashley Peters, senior class speaker, May 18, 2008

A month before coming to Scripps College, I was happily working away at the mall in Temecula, Calif., shoveling out orange chicken and fried rice to any customer who walked up to the Panda Express counter. I was contemplating the colors of my future dorm room, worrying whether my unknown future roommate would take showers on a regular basis, and generally enjoying my life as a pre-college teenager.

That was until I received a lovely letter from Professor of German Marc Katz, informing me that all of the first years at Scripps had summer homework before attending college. Does anyone remember the little novel written by William Gibson titled Pattern Recognition? It took me almost two weeks to get past the first page. This should have immediately warned me that I was not prepared for what I was getting myself into.

After spending an entire month pretending to read the novel and only getting halfway through, I arrived at Scripps and discovered that our first experience with the utterly elusive Core program was going to be during First Year Orientation. So there I sat, gathered in Garrison Theater with all of the other first years, ready to prove my intelligence to any and everyone.

That was until Professor Katz came to the stage and began speaking to us about a concept I had never heard about before: postmodernism. I began shrinking in my seat, realizing I had no idea what was going on. I then began looking around the auditorium, sure that I would see 200 other confused expressions because no one could possibly understand the words Professor Katz had to have been making up. However, I saw other women nodding their heads and generally looking like they knew what he was talking about. So I sat up, began nodding, and grunted my approval whenever it seemed appropriate.

That is how I spent the first half of my semester until one night, while studying for the Core midterm with friends, someone threw up her hands and said she had no idea what Condorcet was trying to say. I heaved a sigh of relief, admitted I had no idea either, and 10 others joined in. While we released eight weeks of stressful frustration in a fit of laughter, I promised myself that I would not continue pretending to know everything.

Though I went back on this promise during a few heated debates with faculty and friends, I learned the importance of speaking up, even if that meant standing out, because if I felt a certain way, there were bound to be many others who felt silenced by their fear of inadequacy.

For me, that first day of Core represents the journey I took at Scripps, learning to trust my voice and to question a world that does not make sense, whether it be modern or postmodern.

We came here girls demanding to be called women; we leave here women determined to be called equals. And now we must be stewards of the opportunities we have received.

Recently, I came across a quotation from Alice Walker, author of The Color Purple. She said, “The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.”

What would have happened if Rosa Parks had given up her seat? Who would we be if Betty Friedan decided to continue putting up with the inequality, rather than writing The Feminine Mystique? Where would we be if Harriet Tubman believed the fight was too difficult? Whose world would this be if Ellen Browning Scripps had not believed that women deserved the right to live confidently, courageously, and hopefully?

These women are the giants whose shoulders we stand upon. These women refused to either give in or to give up, and they believed that apathy was a sorry excuse for inaction. They believed that when faced with inequality and oppression, working harder and finding a solution were not only better options, they were the only options.

We have had so many opportunities provided to us because of the sacrifices of these women. We represent the hope of our families and the dreams of millions of girls who will inherit our legacies as we have inherited the legacies of the millions of women who came before us.

We cannot fail each other—but above all else, we cannot fail ourselves.
Student Honors

Scripps students garnered prestigious scholarships and competitive national awards this spring to further their studies and provide research opportunities abroad.

Maile Yeats ’09 has been named a Truman Scholar for her senior year and will receive a scholarship to attend the graduate program of her choice; Maile is the only student at The Claremont Colleges this year to receive this award, which went to a total of 65 students nationwide. Laura Loesch ’09 has been named a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, based on academic merit in science and mathematics; in receiving the award, Laura joins 17 other California residents studying at Caltech, UC Berkeley, Stanford, Harvard, Harvey Mudd, Pomona, and MIT, and scholars nationwide. Fatima Elkabti ’09 has won the Davis Peace Award, given to students who seek to promote world peace through international projects. This summer, Fatima set up writing workshops for American and Palestinian children in the West Bank. Duyen Tran ’10 has won a fellowship from the Institute for International Public Policy that includes summer internships and funds for graduate study in international affairs. Four students—Clio Korn ’10, Jenna Leahy ’10, Emily Luttrull ’10, and Sarah Pripas ’09—won Stanley and Mary Johnson Research Awards to conduct summer projects ranging from exploring how cultural differences affect the transmission of knowledge to how religion empowers women in third-world countries. Valérie Whitacre ’08 received the Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Scholarship, funded by the Jungels-Winkler Charitable Foundation, and this fall will attend the MA program in art history at the Courtauld Institute at the University of London. Rachel McCullough ’08 was awarded the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to study for one year in Lima, Peru, and carry out a service project related to women’s health and economic empowerment.

Five Fulbrights!

This year, the State Department Fulbright Scholar Program places Scripps students on three different continents. With one in Europe, one in South America, and three throughout Asia, Scripps College has achieved another milestone: a record number of Fulbright Scholars.

What will they do? Hannah Alberts ’08 will spend a year in a university in Russia as an English teaching assistant, followed by a summer project in a language camp sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Russia; Ivy McDaniel ’08 will travel to Bergen, Norway, for a 10-month appointment to do research at the Sars International Centre for Marine Molecular Biology; Laura McPherson ’08 will do linguistic fieldwork on the little known Tommo-So language spoken in the Dogon region of Mali; Mikaela Rodriguez ’08 will travel to Indonesia to teach high school students English by utilizing a dynamic, full-immersion methodology and will engage in community-building ecological projects; and Jennifer Goodward ’06 will focus on economics in Brazil.

In addition, Clare Cannon ’08 has been designated an alternate for a biology project in Malaysia.

Faculty also pitched in to help Scripps students achieve this impressive goal. Professors Thierry Boucquey and Kim Drake enlisted the aid of Dean of Faculty Cecilia Conrad and visiting lecturer Rosanne Simeroth to advise, organize workshops, and facilitate the application process. The end result is both exciting nationally as well as further proof of the close relationship students have with faculty.
When I found out during my first year that Scripps was going to build a new recreation and athletic facility, my reaction was “Finally!” Despite the near-range plans, I assumed it was one of those projects; you know the type: great idea, perfect timing, never going to happen in my (college) lifetime.

But then, during my sophomore year, the College broke ground on the Sallie Tiernan Field House and started construction. The trade-off for not being able to immediately work out in this state-of-the-art facility was being able to watch it grow. Every other day or so, I got to turn my head to the east and see another tidbit added. First, another wall was up, followed by the red tiles delivered for the roof, and most recently, the classic white paint, which makes it more beautiful, and more fitting at Scripps, than ever.

After touring the facility mid-June, I’ve found that it goes a long way in taking students’ needs and desires into consideration, while maintaining classic Scripps beauty and function. From the bamboo flooring (a more renewable source than hardwood), remote-controlled lighting to limit energy waste, to the soccer/lacrosse field on top of a 230-space parking garage, the new complex is the most “green” of any college building I’ve ever seen.

As I walked into the main entrance, the first thing that struck me was the incredible use of natural light. The atrium was washed in the California sunlight, and its height of two stories draws your eyes upward to the piano nobile and second story, which hold the team and yoga rooms and cardio and weight rooms, respectively.

For the athletically inclined, and even those who aren’t, upstairs is where most of the action will be. Two cardio rooms and a weight room, each slightly bigger than the previous cardio room and all outfitted with a plethora of electrical sockets and cable connections that allow for any combination of equipment set-ups, will house new state-of-the-art equipment. This will allow “Scrippsies” and other users to watch cable TV on their cardio equipment while working out. The landing overlooking the atrium will hold several bikes, so when you’re putting pedal to the metal, you can enjoy a view of the east-west allée and Denison library. Another spectacular view, and quite possibly the best on campus, is on the stretching porch off of the cardio rooms. Looking primarily across the pool and to Claremont McKenna, the view beholds the mountains to the north, the treetops of the colleges, and the landscape of the Revelle House.

Despite being in the basement, the lower level is every bit as bright and spacious as the other floors. Three locker rooms each contain the usual bathroom-shower-locker-area combination, but each has colorful tiled walls reminiscent of Andalusian baths. Across the hall, visible through a glass wall that runs the length of the room, is the aerobics room. Easily three to four times larger than the old Frankel exercise room, the aerobics room is awash in natural light from high windows that will be enhanced by mirrors running along three walls.

My favorite features of the room are the two sound systems, one of which allows an instructor to speed up or slow down
music to fit the tempo she wants. From the basement, there are two exits; one to the pool and one to the soccer/ lacrosse field. Some of the hidden treasures in the basement include an Italian inspired fountain and bench and the famous mermaid tile mosaic by former Scripps art professor Jean Ames, originally located in the first Scripps pool and donated back to Scripps by Harvey Mudd College.

The question that haunted me throughout the tour, one that I’ve heard from many of my fellow students, was what safety precautions would be implemented at the new facility, particularly in the new underground garage. Simply saying the garage has 230 parking spaces and close to 10,000 square feet of storage doesn’t truly convey the size of the garage; it’s huge, gigantic, colossal—someplace I, for one, wouldn’t like walking around at night when filled with cars. That was until Niel Errickson, director of facilities, told me about the safety measures Scripps has taken. The three sides of the garage that are open to allow for better ventilation and natural light are covered by chain link fencing so the only access to the garage is via the two staircases, gated entrance, and walkway from the pool. The walls are painted bright white and lit up with flood lights, in addition to the lighting that far surpasses Scripps’ lighting standards. Nineteen cameras, covering every inch of the garage, will ensure that any accident, from fender-bender to potential attacker, will be caught on camera. Two blue emergency phones are located at about ¼ and ¾ of the way into the garage, with wiring in several other places should more be needed.

Walking away from the Field House left me more excited than ever for its opening this fall. When other students ask me which part I’m looking forward to the most, I reply, “Oh, definitely the new yoga room….no, no, wait, the aerobics room, because it’s big enough to practice my ballroom routines in….noooo, the grand porch, it’ll be great for cooling off when I’m at the pool and the columns are specially designed to match the rest of Scripps and be earthquake safe….Oh, oh, and the weight room, did you know it has its own porch?” You can bet that the moment before it opens its doors, I will be outside in my tennis-runners, bubbling over with energy to burn at our brand new Field House.

Michael and C. Jane Hurley Wilson make visionary gifts

The College honored C. Jane Hurley Wilson ’64 and Michael G. Wilson for their visionary and multi-faceted gifts to Scripps College at a dinner on May 1 in the Hampton Room of the Malott Commons.

Mary Davis MacNaughton ’70, director of the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery, recognized the Wilsons for creating “what many believe is the pre-eminent private collection of 19th-century photography, widely known for its superb quality.” More recently, the Wilsons have been building a collection of more contemporary work and have made a gift to the College of 27 photographs, including Julia Margaret Cameron’s renowned Portrait of Kate Keown, 1866 (shown above).

MacNaughton thanked the Wilsons for their support of the visual arts at Scripps, through donating works of art to the permanent collection, funding 16 years of paid student internships, and helping to improve the gallery’s facilities. “In particular,” said MacNaughton, “we celebrate their most recent gift, the creation of the C. Jane Hurley Wilson and Michael G. Wilson Photograph and Print Study Room.” This state-of-the-art climate-controlled space makes the permanent art collection accessible as a resource for teaching.

This April, the European Union Center of California, headquartered at Scripps College, hosted the 6th annual Claremont-UC Undergraduate Research Conference. This year’s conference brought 42 undergraduate students from across the United States and throughout the world to campus. In addition to students from Scripps, Claremont McKenna, Pomona, and Pitzer Colleges, the institutions represented included Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Berkeley, UCLA, and the University of Rome.

The conference, inaugurated in 2003, is jointly sponsored by the EU Center and the University of California and is designed to improve undergraduates’ understanding of the European Union and EU-European relations. Each student at the conference presents a paper containing their original research on some aspect of the European Union. Faculty members from across Claremont then judge the papers, and the best are selected for inclusion in the EU Center’s annual conference publication.

This year, 11 of the 42 papers presented at the conference were selected for publication. Two of those eleven papers were written by Scripps students, Elizabeth DeGori ’10 and Lauren Sims ’09.

Elizabeth and Lauren are among four Scripps students studying EU affairs in Europe this summer with the support of the EU Center. Elizabeth’s plans take her to the University of Washington’s program on the EU held in Brussels, Belgium; Lauren was awarded an internship at the Institute for European Affairs in Dublin, Ireland.

They will be joined in Europe by Amanda Smith ’08, who, like Elizabeth, will be interning at the Institute for European Affairs in Dublin, as well as by Kendra Amick ’08, who will attend the University of Rome-Tor Vergata’s program in Rome and Sienna. All four Scripps students are supported by scholarships from the EU Center that will fully cover their travel and local expenses.

The EU Center of California was established at Scripps in 1998 as part of a network of 10 EU Centers across the United States. The Center seeks to advance public understanding of European integration through education, research, and outreach efforts. Undergraduate education is the Center’s top priority, which it promotes by sponsoring a curriculum on European Union studies, providing students opportunities to study and intern abroad, and hosting lecturers and conferences at Scripps. David Andrews, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Scripps, is the Center’s founding director.

The Claremont Colleges Travel to Asia

This spring, a delegation from The Claremont Colleges visited Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Beijing to meet with alumni and parents, as well as key government and academic leaders in the region. The group, which included presidents, deans, faculty, staff, and trustees from the five undergraduate colleges, the two graduate schools, and the university consortium executive office, visited 17 institutions of higher education representing a range of disciplines and programs. Scripps was represented by Michael Deane Lamkin, Frankel Professor of Music and former dean of faculty, and Irene Tang, biology professor in Joint Science.

The trip is a continuation of Scripps’ efforts to expand its international outreach and exchange programs, and follows last summer’s successful visit by members of the Music Department to Xiamen University.
Presidents, 36 years apart

Last April, Lynne Thompson ’72 and Ashley Peters ’08, the first and second African-American Scripps student body presidents, respectively, discussed their presidencies and the campus environment and political climate surrounding each. Over lunch, the two discovered many commonalities: both have four brothers, both worked as receptionists in the Dean of Students Office, both majored in psychology, and both were presidents during a time of war. Excerpts from their talk:

LT: You and I have probably experienced a lot of the same things, but what surrounds it is very different. We were very politically aware. I think we were so focused on issues beyond the campus—people were very wrapped up with the war, especially since we had a draft. You’re getting a lot of support from your fellow students and particularly the African-American students. People were proud of me, but they thought, “We’ve got bigger fish to fry.”

AP: There are a lot of black women staff members on campus, and everyone was very much involved in my running and supporting me. People are more apathetic to what’s happening in the world. We’re in the middle of a war that is rarely acknowledged in everyday activities or conversation.

LT: What difficulties have you run into during your year as president?

AP: The hardest is juggling the social justice aspects with recognizing not everyone at Scripps is passionate about that. Also, having to be the face of not just the Scripps that I want to see, but the Scripps that doesn’t agree with the things I want to see happen....When I found out I was elected, I realized I’m really stuck in a weird place, because all my work up to this point has been very social-justice oriented and wanting to bring more women of color here and give more support to the women already here. Now that I represented the entire student body, I couldn’t just say, “Sorry to the 90% of you who don’t look like me.”

LT: I think it makes a heck of a difference that you can see someone who doesn’t look like you really has the same worries: the grades, the “Will I get into grad school?”, or if I’m not going to grad school, “What am I going to do with myself?” All that is pretty universal if you’re a student in college, and it doesn’t matter if you came from Japan or Ghana or wherever, you’re going to share those kinds of concerns—and that has real value for the College.

Senior Show

Eight Scripps senior art majors presented their projects at the senior art show exhibition in May at the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery, and three received awards. Pictured from left, Nisa Schoonhoven, Kari Gladfelder (Fine Arts Foundation Award winner), Elle Wyant, Tammy Coleman (Lucia Suffel Crafts Award winner), Mina Hoffman (Lucia Suffel Crafts Award winner), and Rachel Raleigh. Front row, from left, Claire Cronin, and Lisa Nowlain.

Tomorrowland

A magnificent, almost other-worldly plant, the Puya alpestris, or turquoise flower plant, bloomed this spring in the recently renovated Mañana Court, to the surprise and delight of students and grounds keepers. Mañana Court, outside Browning Hall, is the only original succulent garden established by Edward Huntsman-Trout at Scripps. Recent renovations and upgrades have been assisted by the Eliza Kinsey Fund, established by Maureen and Bruce Kinsey in memory of their daughter, Eliza, who lived in Browning and was a member of the Class of 2004.
Members of the advisory committee for the Samella Lewis contemporary art collection met in March 2008 as part of their twice-annual collaboration to consider proposed donations to the collection and to make recommendations to the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery’s advisory council.

The Samella Lewis art collection was inspired by discussions between Fletcher Jones Professor of Studio Art Susan Rankaitis and artist Alison Saar ’78. Working with Director of Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery Mary Davis MacNaughton ’70, associate professor of art history, they began a collection for Scripps in honor of Samella Lewis—artist, art historian, curator, editor, and professor of art at Scripps from 1969 to 1984. Dr. Lewis wrote the first textbook on African American art history, as well as monographs on leading artists Elizabeth Catlett and Richard Barthé.

The College’s goal is to acquire works by Dr. Lewis and other significant contemporary artists, with a special, though not exclusive, focus on art by women and African American artists. The Samella Lewis collection has grown rapidly, with prints and drawings by John Biggers, Elizabeth Catlett, Sue Coe, Samella Lewis, Nancy Macko, Dominique Moody, Adrian Piper, Faith Ringgold, Alison Saar, Elizabeth Turk; paintings and mixed-media works by Jane Park Wells, John Orlovski, and Susan Rankaitis; and photographs by Eileen Cowin, Anthony Friedkin, Robbert Flick, George Hurrell, Leslie Sokolow, Carrie Mae Weems, and Max Yavno.

Scripps is grateful to the generous donors who have contributed works: Francine Farr ’76, Samella Lewis, Stella and Harry Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Robbins, Alison Saar, and the Yarema Family Trust.

A new director for Scripps College Academy

Kelly Hewitt ’08 has been named director of Scripps College Academy (SCA), replacing director Sylvia Ruiz ’05, who begins a doctoral program in higher education and organization change at UCLA this fall.

The highly successful academic enrichment program provides yearlong opportunities for students in 9th and 10th grades from racially diverse and underserved areas. Every summer, a select number of high achievers come to campus for two weeks to take classes from Scripps professors, attend workshops on financial aid and applying to college, and get a taste of what it’s like to be at a residential liberal arts college; during the year, participants have access to resources at Scripps to help them continue to succeed in high school.

Hewitt has been a member of SCA’s student staff for the past four years, serving as an academic facilitator for the summer residential program. She also created and presented admission and financial aid workshops for SCA participants and their families, and mentored high school students in successfully completing the college admission process. In addition to her involvement with SCA, Hewitt has served as student representative of the student affairs committee of the Board of Trustees, head manager of the student-run Scripps Store, and president and company member of The Claremont Colleges Ballroom Dance Company, which won the 2007 national championship.
Prof of the Year

Tony Crowley came dangerously close to ruining his own surprise party. Standing just outside the large windows opening the Motley onto Bowling Green, the soon-to-be-named 2008 Professor of the Year talked to a colleague while students rushed to put finishing touches on his celebration not 10 feet away. A turn of his head would have revealed a huge green banner, a dead giveaway.

Fears evaporated, however, when Crowley made his way inside the coffee house to a round of laughter and applause. Flashing his trademark grin, Crowley became the recipient of a new and unique part of campus history, while also hearing how much he’s come to mean to the women of Scripps, since arriving on campus in 2005.

The Student Choice Award for Professor of the Year was established this year and sponsored by Scripps Associated Students, says SAS President Fatima Elkabti ’09. Students were asked to pick their choice for the honor, with a runoff between the five top professors (others were Mark Golub, Marina Pérez de Mendiola, Glen Simshaw, and Nancy Neiman Auerbach). “Professor Crowley won by a substantial margin,” said Elkabti.

The Motley was filled with well-wishers and nine types of cake, and graduating students took the chance to get on stage and tell their prof the impact he’d had on their lives. “Tony Crowley is a complete inspiration,” one said. “I am unquestionably a better student, and a better thinker, because of him.”

“I have been privileged to have Crowley as my academic advisor and thesis reader for my major in Irish studies, a major that would have been impossible without his guidance,” said Jessica Guinn ’08. “It is very difficult to describe him; there’s his veneer of stoicism, behind which you know he is thoroughly enjoying mocking you—for your own educational benefit, no doubt.”

The good-natured ribbing was returned at the end of the ceremony, as he held aloft his prize—a plaque commemorating the event, and a stuffed Scripps squirrel. “I’m absolutely delighted to have received the first Professor of the Year award from the Scripps students, and I am very pleased to be at an institution which expects such high standards from its faculty.”


“Brécy is the most dazzling, small-scale formal garden in private hands today in France. Located near the coast of Normandy and constructed during the second half of the seventeenth-century by an unknown landscape architect for the Le Bas Family, Brécy’s gardens are contemporaneous with Vaux-le-Vicomte and Versailles. Formal terraces, intricate parterres, and handsome fountains abound in this somewhat countrified version of grand-siècle gardening with a unique Italianate flair. Jacques de Lacretelle said of Brécy that it possessed ‘the finery of an Italian princess thrown over the shoulders of a little Normandy peasant girl!’ Recently restored to its 17th-century perfection and now open to visitors on a limited basis, Brécy has been the object of one of the most successful landscape preservation projects in Europe. This illustrated volume, the first monograph on Brécy, shores up what La Varande called the ‘inexplicable magnificence’ of the site, placing it in the context of European garden history, landscape aesthetics, and the arts of France during the golden age of the Sun King’s glory.”

– Eric T. Haskell

The book is richly illustrated with a selection of photographs by Pascal Hinous and Professor Haskell.
Professor of Chemistry Mary Hatcher-Skeers demonstrates the process of freezing DNA, in order to dry it and eliminate water. From left, Naomi Yonis ’11, Hatcher-Skeers, Marjon Nik-Khah ’09, and Allegra Liberman-Martin ’10.
Women who study science at Scripps, in the Joint Science Department, benefit from individualized attention from a first-rate faculty and access to excellent facilities and laboratory space—which they don’t have to wait in line to use! They also have more research opportunities and individual partnering with faculty than do most undergraduates at large research institutions.

Another benefit open to Scripps women is the immediate proximity to other top liberal arts colleges within The Claremont University Consortium—students can choose whether or not to focus much of their studies and activities within an all-female setting, or take advantage of expanded opportunities in a coed environment. In the Joint Science Department—shared by Scripps with Claremont McKenna and Pitzer Colleges—Scripps women do the latter and excel.

Also, at a time in history when science plays an increasingly essential role in solving global problems, women at women’s colleges have a higher percentage of majors in science, math, and economics than men at coeducational colleges, according to a Hardwick Day survey, March 2008, sponsored by the Women’s College Coalition.

Surprised? What’s happening at Scripps is both exciting and critically important. Read the following stories to learn about the superior research our students are engaged in, the national recognition they receive, the leading graduate programs they are admitted to, and hear from role-modeling chemistry professor Mary Hatcher-Skeers and biology professor David Sadava on issues of the day.
Sorry, Men, the Gender Equity Problem in Science is Not Solved

By Mary Hatcher-Skeers

Gender discrimination is alive and well in science says a 10-year veteran of teaching chemistry at Scripps. What are Scripps and Scripps women doing about it?
When I started teaching chemistry [at Scripps] 10 years ago, a sophomore named Tahnee came to me and said she wasn’t very good at math, so was a bit nervous about taking chemistry. She wanted to become a doctor, so she said I had better be a good teacher. As a young professor, I was taken aback, but also impressed with this student’s confidence and drive.

Tahnee proceeded to attend every office hour I scheduled. Sometimes she had problems on homework but often, she simply did extra problems at the tables outside my office door. Apparently, she told her friends that this was a good way to learn chemistry, and soon, I had about 10 women sitting outside my door during every office hour. They would help each other with problems or send representatives to my office if they got stuck.

After a while, I asked Tahnee how she got all these young women to spend so much time doing chemistry. She explained that she lectured them about how people didn’t think that women could do science and that it was up to them to prove that Scripps women were better at chemistry than their male counterparts. I was stunned. This young woman understood that gender discrimination existed but wasn’t about to let that stop her.

At this point, Claremont McKenna College, a member of our Joint Science Department, had far more chemistry majors than Scripps. But now, 10 years later, that situation is reversed. I have come to understand the value of a woman’s college in terms of encouraging young women to study science.

I wonder if Tahnee, as much as she was a leader, would have parked outside my office if she attended a co-ed college. In the single-sex environment, women (students, faculty and staff) have high expectations for each other and help each other live up to those expectations.

Seeing the successes of young women at women’s colleges makes me proud to work at Scripps. As a chemistry professor and now the mother of three daughters, what more could I ask for?

Actually, a lot. Because when the Tahnees go on to graduate school, the reception isn’t always a warm one. Nationally, more than 50 percent of chemistry graduates are women, but it’s nowhere near that percentage when it comes to gender equity in PhD programs or in academic careers. And the reason for the falloff continues to be gender discrimination.

We have had a number of women chemistry majors, from each of our participating colleges (Scripps, Pitzer and Claremont McKenna), go on to graduate school and be quite successful, but they often remark that the transition is difficult. A few years ago, one of my Scripps students enrolled in a PhD program in chemistry but had trouble finding a research lab that would take her. I remember her words when she informed me of her decision to leave with a master’s degree: “You never told me that in science, men assume I’m stupid.”

The recent Harvard Business Review study on brain drain, “The Athena Factor: Reversing the Brain Drain in Science, Engineering, and Technology,” www.worklife policy.org, found that 41 percent of highly qualified scientists, engineers, and technologists on the lower rungs of corporate career ladders are female. But the study found that 52 percent drop out because they are marginalized by hostile macho cultures. This contradicts Susan Pinker’s argument in The Sexual Paradox, that women leave science fields because they were pushed to be scientists and engineers and they ended up in jobs they didn’t enjoy. While Pinker’s argument may hold true for some, we simply cannot ignore that prejudices in science exist and have a negative effect on the women in these careers.

Not buying it? Consider recent comments on a higher education blog:

- “So the problem is women won’t take risks, won’t spend enough time at work, choose unconventional and even ‘mysterious’ career paths, and don’t successfully fit into the workplace culture. My gosh, if I said that, I’d be branded an MCP!”
- “If they can’t stand the heat, they should get back to the kitchen.”
- “I like behaving like a male. I find women interesting to a point. The problem is that we need more GOOD-LOOKING females in the science field.”

Such comments demonstrate a mindset that is damaging to women in science. I forwarded the article and the string of blog comments to a female colleague in biology and she responded, “This is so depressing!” Why is it that there are those out there who are still trying to make being a woman in science so
depressing? Sadly, these bloggers point out another problem we thought was solved. Many insist that the discriminators are the old men and things will get better once they retire or die off. But blogging is the sphere of younger men, so the comments above likely came from male academics who will be around a long time.

A junior colleague once questioned my work with a women-in-science committee on campus. “It is not like the 60s,” he said. “Those women had it really tough. Today at least we let you women have these jobs, we let you in the door.” I informed him that we were not “let in” but that we were highly qualified teachers and scholars and that our credentials must never be questioned.

A 1999 MIT study on the status of women faculty in science states, “Once and for all we must recognize that the heart and soul of discrimination, the last refuge of the bigot, is to say that those who are discriminated against deserve it because they are less good.”

The MIT study is an excellent example of what can be achieved when people come together to solve a difficult problem. Their recommendations included establishing a continuing review of primary data to ensure that inequities do not occur, and ensuring close communication among senior women faculty, department heads, deans, and university leadership to prevent marginalization of women faculty and to integrate senior women faculty knowledge of gender issues at the level where academic power resides. The latter will remain critically important until women faculty routinely occupy positions of academic power.

In 2000, to advance the cause of women scientists, I created a Celebrating Women in Science Speaker Series. Harvey Mudd and Pomona Colleges, the other members of the Claremont Consortium, have endowed lectureships in chemistry but over the years have hosted very few female scientists. The Scripps version was intended to remedy that. Well-known women scientists have discussed their work, but more importantly, their career trajectories and methods they had learned to navigate a career in science.

In 2006, I did something unheard of. I invited a man to be the series speaker. Richard Zare, chair of chemistry at Stanford University, had written an article in Chemical & Engineering News entitled “Sex Lies and Title IX,” http://pubs.acs.org/cen/education/84/8420education.html, in which he endorsed the use of Title IX to address the lack of equity in science, just as the federal law has been used to promote equity in athletics. Even someone as enlightened as Professor Zare admits that he sometimes succumbs to a culture that, in his words, “broadcasts signals about the innate superiority of men.”

Women colleagues expressed concern over the need for bringing in a man to discuss issues facing women in science. Sadly, while I agreed with them at some level, I knew we did need him. The Zare lecture was attended by more of the male scientists in Claremont than any of the previous 12 lectures. Zare discussed a number of the issues women have regularly raised, but coming from him, it had more weight.

A recent study of the plight of women leaders by Catalyst found that women leaders often offer ideas in a meeting, only to have a male colleague restate the idea and take credit for it. A senior executive quoted in the study advised women to “nip it in the bud,” by
thanking the male colleague for rewording your idea, and then asking the rest of the meeting attendees what they think about implementing it. While “nipping it in the bud” is a good idea, it gets really tiring having to fight to be heard.

Being tired is my final point. Studies discuss how women leave science, or become disenchanted, later in their careers. I think the dissatisfaction comes when you’ve gotten tired of fighting to be heard, to be counted, to be taken seriously. When we are young, we think we can overcome anything. It is when we realize that we have not overcome the obstacles but instead simply learned to live with them that we become disenchanted. This is what I want to see changed. I do not want my daughters to find their dream job in a male-dominated career, only to later be too tired and beat up to enjoy it.

I think most male scientists have good intentions, but as Zare pointed out, gender discrimination is embedded in our culture. Gender discrimination can only be eradicated through a collective desire to eradicate it. We cannot continue to dismiss reports on brain drain, such as the recent Harvard Business Review study, as women whining.

Such studies prove the problem has not been solved. We must remain vigilant. The attitudes and ideals about creating spaces for women as scholars and leaders may be the norm where I work, but we have to be vigilant about spreading these attitudes and ideals throughout academia and beyond. ■

Mary Hatcher-Skeers is associate professor of chemistry at Scripps College. This article first appeared in Inside Higher Ed, July 25, 2008.

Elizabeth Znameroski ’02 recently co-authored the cover article of Cell magazine, a major biweekly publication of outstanding research articles in molecular biology, biochemistry and cancer research.

Znameroski’s article, “WHAMM is an Arp2/3 Complex Activator That Binds Microtubules and Functions in ER to Golgi Transport,” focuses on the effects of WHAMM, a nucleation-promotion factor found in mammals, on the structure of the Golgi apparatus. The Golgi apparatus is found in most cell types and gathers simple molecules and combines them to make larger, more complex molecules. These larger molecules can either be stored in the Golgi or sent out in vesicles, a small bubble-like sac of Golgi membrane that encapsulates the molecule, to other parts of the cell.

The article shows that WHAMM is important in maintaining proper membrane structure to assist sending out large, complex molecules in the sacs of membrane to other cell areas.

Znameroski, a former thesis student of Gretchen Edwalds-Gilbert, associate professor of biology in the Joint Science Department, is currently a PhD student in UC Berkeley’s Cate Research Group, which focuses on biochemistry, structural biology and the biophysics of protein synthesis.

Edwalds-Gilbert commented: “In my lab, Elizabeth analyzed gene expression in the budding yeast Saccharomyces cerevisiae. She examined the role of specific amino acids in the function of an essential protein, Prp43, an enzyme needed for multiple steps in expression of RNA. Elizabeth identified a region of the Prp43 protein required for protein-protein interactions.”
Why are increasing numbers of Scripps women pursuing science? What’s going on?

By Margaret Nilsson
Enrollment of Scripps students in science classes has been increasing steadily since the mid-’90s. In 1990, there were three Scripps science majors. Now, Scripps women constitute the majority of the majors in the Joint Science Department (JSD), which is operated jointly with Claremont McKenna and Pitzer colleges.

The increase in women students at JSD can be explained in part by a national trend: starting in high school, girls are now pursuing science at a greater rate. Overall, college enrollments these days are skewed toward women, and women college students are going into science in greater numbers than they did in the past. While old gender barriers have not been completely eliminated, they have been lowered. Girls are growing up knowing that science is accessible to them.

Chair of the department Newt Copp says Scripps deserves some credit, too, for the increase in women science students at JSD. “Scripps, under President Bekavac’s leadership, really saw a future for science in women’s education.” The College, he maintains, has made an explicit effort to recruit the best high school science students. In fact, among James E. Scripps (JES) scholars, there are a disproportionate number of science students.

The College’s continued commitment to science education is spelled out in the 2007 Strategic Plan: “Scripps College will commit resources to the development and expansion of the sciences so that Scripps becomes nationally recognized as a leading women’s college for educating scientists, particularly those preparing for medical careers and graduate studies in the sciences.”

The department itself has instituted changes that have made JSD a more attractive place for women to pursue science. A decade ago, there were two tenure-track women faculty members in the department. Today there are 12.

While many of the women faculty are new and thus at a more junior level, the presence of more women faculty makes a difference, Copp suggests. “Years ago I was teaching a physiology course that I had been teaching for some time. It was quite successful: enrollments were high and there were a lot of women taking the course. Then we hired Marion Preest [now associate professor of biology] who taught physiology, and students came out of the woodwork.” The experience sold Copp on the importance of role models.

All this means that women—especially Scripps women—are prominent in the College’s science department. Students find their classes are filled with women; they have women role models and mentors on the faculty. Many Scripps students say this is a major benefit in pursuing a science degree at Scripps.

For biology major Ivy McDaniel ’08, the research opportunities at Joint Science have been ideal. She found it a unique environment where the research is of high quality and open to undergraduates. “At most large schools,” she says, “you’d be lucky to get a job washing glassware. Here you can begin doing techniques as a sophomore that postdocs do.”

Scripps students are embracing the varied opportunities available to them at and through JSD. They work as TAs and lab assistants, as researchers and co-authors of scientific articles. They present papers at Journal Club and at scientific conferences. In some cases, they are operating at the level of post-graduate researchers.

Scripps women were disproportionately represented this year in the department’s new interdisciplinary course, the Accelerated Integrated Science Sequence (20 out of 29 enrollees were Scripps women). The course represents JSD’s innovative approach to treating issues from the perspectives of chemistry, physics, and biology simultaneously; enrollment for the course is by application.

However strong the science program, Copp emphasizes that there is more work to be done. The robust interest in the sciences among students at the colleges has created a desperate need for more space—the department has outgrown the W.M. Keck Science Center—state-of-the-art in 1992. Additional faculty need to be hired and additional courses offered. The department will continue to implement curricular innovations that will better prepare young scientists, and it will assess areas where students could be better served. For now, though, Scripps students are at home in a department where women do science and they do it well.

“A decade ago, there were two tenure-track women faculty members in the department. Today there are 12.”
Passionate Problem-solvers

From capturing and examining Black Widow spiders to mixing up a batch of fly food, Scripps young scientists are eager and ready to tackle the big issues of the day and make their mark.

By Margaret Nilsson
There is no question that Margaret Scheuermann ’08 is at home in the lab. As a recent Scripps graduate, Margaret has already amassed an enviable scientific résumé. That résumé includes chemical research at four different laboratories in the U.S. and abroad and the presentation of her findings at two American Chemical Society national conferences. “Her creativity in designing key questions to ask in her research, her keen analysis of results, and practical eye to designing experiments that lead to unambiguous results” make her a top-notch research chemist, says Burke Scott Williams, assistant professor of chemistry.

Margaret wasted no time getting involved in research while at Scripps. In the summer following her freshman year, she embarked on an organic chemistry project despite the fact that she had not yet taken a course in organic chemistry. Under the guidance of Professor Tom Poon, she worked on a project that involved extracting shikimic acid from the seeds of a sweetgum tree. The acid is a key ingredient in the manufacture of a drug that combats the avian flu virus, and Margaret devised a novel method for extracting the acid. She made quite a stir when presenting the research at a national conference.

Wanting to explore other areas of chemistry before she narrowed her interests, Margaret next turned her attention to organometallic chemistry. A new and rapidly growing field, it involves the study of compounds containing bonds between metal atoms and carbon atoms. She was introduced to this type of chemistry through an organoplatinum project in the lab of Professor Williams. Having found her niche, Margaret subsequently performed further research in organometallic chemistry: in copper chemistry at the University of Washington and in uranium chemistry at the University of Edinburgh.

The contribution of organometallic chemistry to the development of alternative energy sources is what attracts Margaret to this field. She explains, “I consider energy to be the single biggest problem that our planet will face in the next century and organometallic chemists approach this problem from a wide variety of angles ranging from methanol fuels to hydrogen fuel cells to nuclear power to running industrial scale reactions more efficiently so they use less energy of any form.” While she realizes that no single chemist can solve the energy problem, she feels that research that leads to a better understanding of what metals can do will ultimately result in valuable new technologies.

On a lighter note, Margaret observes, “My daily lab routine involves liquid nitrogen. What more could I ask for out of work?” Margaret plans to continue her work in organometallic chemistry next fall in a doctoral program at the University of Washington in Seattle.
Ivy McDaniel ’08 makes a mean batch of fly food. A sticky mixture of molasses, yeast, cornmeal, agar, and a few chemicals, it is not unlike a homemade barbecue sauce for flies. A biology major, Ivy began working in the lab of Professor Jennifer Armstrong in her sophomore year. Initially she was assigned the task of head fly-food chef for over 350 fly stocks in the Drosophila (fruit fly) lab. Realizing Ivy’s affinity for science, Armstrong quickly shifted her into a research position.

In the lab Ivy discovered a passion for biology—specifically genetics—and that passion translated into some remarkable work, according to Armstrong, assistant professor of biology. “What stands out about Ivy is that she’s truly gifted, not only when it comes to doing the hands-on research, but also when it comes to thinking about the biology behind the science.”

Armstrong’s lab, which focuses on how changes in chromosome structure impact gene activity in a developing organism, was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant was based largely on Ivy’s work, according to Armstrong, who states “Ivy has single-handedly made significant contributions to my laboratory.”

Ivy is the first author on a paper that was recently accepted by the journal Genetics, an extraordinary achievement for an undergraduate. She has also conducted research in laboratories at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. In her junior year, she gave an award-winning presentation of her work at the Asilomar Chromatin and Chromosomes conference.

Ivy will spend next year in Bergen, Norway, on a Fulbright fellowship, conducting research at the Sars International Centre for Marine Molecular Biology. She will be studying the developmental genetics of tunicates, a marine animal closely related to vertebrates. Since the tunicate is similar to vertebrates in terms of its genome sequence and its developmental program, studying its development and comparing it to other organisms could yield important insight into what changes occurred when the vertebrate lineage first arose. After her research in Norway, Ivy will return to the States to attend UC Berkeley’s Molecular and Cell Biology PhD program.

Armed with a spatula and mason jars, physics major Hannah Alberts ’08 embarked on her first research project. Her mission: to capture Black Widow spiders for Professor Scot Gould’s physics research. Gould had invited her to participate in his study of Black Widow spider silk. First she had to catch the spiders—a delicate operation involving herding them into the jars. A dusty old storage shed at the colleges’ Bernard Field Station provided plenty of specimens. Back in the lab, Hannah spent the summer after her freshman year taking web samples. Using an atomic force microscope, she developed an innovative new technique for measuring the tension at different points in the web.

“Ivy is the first author on a paper that was recently accepted by the journal Genetics, an extraordinary achievement for an undergraduate.”
On Thursday evenings, friends knew where to find chemistry major Claire Knezevic ’08 and it wasn’t in the lab. Claire would be in the kitchen of the Malott Commons baking challah. In fact, Claire co-founded with several other Claremont Colleges students the phenomenally successful charity organization, Challah for Hunger, at Scripps. All of the revenue from the organization—some $35,000 at this point—goes to help refugees of the genocide in Darfur. It turns out that baking, especially for a good cause, was the perfect way to take a break from lab.

What stands out about Claire, according to Assistant Professor of Chemistry Anna Wenzel, is that she is an exceptionally well-rounded scientist. It’s not often the case, Wenzel suggests, that someone so competent in science would be equally at home as a student leader and activist.

Claire Knezevic loved the idea of chemistry even before she formally studied the subject. A precocious science student in high school, she enrolled in two years of chemistry and then announced to her teacher that she wanted to study carbon nanotubes for her senior independent study project. Though the school wasn’t equipped for such advanced work, her teacher gave her some laboratory manuals from which to choose experiments. Thus began her enduring love for lab work.

In college, at the suggestion of a Joint Science Department faculty member, Claire took organic chemistry—a course usually taken only by sophomores and upperclass students—her freshman year. She loved it: “It’s like an extremely nuanced puzzle,” Claire reports. She went on to become a leader and mentor among the department’s chemistry students, and she co-founded the American Chemical Society student club of the Joint Science Department.

In 2007 Claire received a coveted Goldwater Scholarship for exemplary work and potential in the sciences. As a senior, she produced a thesis of PhD-level quality. Claire is now looking forward to continuing her study of chemistry in a doctoral program. Accepted at Caltech, MIT, Stanford, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Claire has chosen to attend the University of Illinois, where she found a department most compatible with her research interests. It’s a safe bet that Claire will make her mark there, too, as a scientist and a leader among her peers.

As a senior, Hannah applied her considerable research abilities to an entirely different aspect of nature—a cluster of stars called the Pleiades. During a visit to the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA), Hannah collected data on the stars. Then began the months-long process of analyzing the data. Her research ended up being productive: she discovered that a particular star she was studying—Pleione—recently went through a major physical change. “Hannah combines very strong mathematical knowledge and skills with truly exceptional insight into physical problems,” Professor of Physics Steve Naftilan says of Hannah’s strengths as a physicist.

Hannah’s talents go beyond physics. She was widely known at Scripps as a student of multiple interests and skills. With a physician mother and an artist father, it is no wonder that Hannah is talented across the arts and sciences. Hannah took her painting class at Scripps as seriously as her statistical mechanics course. Her introduction to the Russian language sophomore year led her to spend a semester in St. Petersburg as a junior.

Next year Hannah will be teaching English at a university in Petrozavodsk, Russia (just north of St. Petersburg), as a Fulbright Scholar. Ultimately, she plans to integrate her different interests. While Hannah doesn’t intend to pursue pure science, she is interested in how science intersects with society. Having developed a sense of social activism at Scripps, Hannah hopes to engage in work involving the social impact of science, possibly international environmental policy or sustainable architecture and design. An MFA in painting is a possibility, too. No matter what Hannah chooses, she values her strong background in the sciences: “Studying science has affected the way I approach problems in all aspects of my life. It has given me an analytical problem-solving skills set that is infinitely valuable.”
A Biologist Looks at Intelligent Design

What links bacterial flagellum, Oxytocin, and romantic prairie voles?

by David Sadava
Pritzker Family Foundation Professor of Biology, Joint Science Department
Biology is the science of life. For centuries, biologists have tried to define what life is, and most come up with a set of characteristics:

Living things are chemically complex. Rather than just reflecting their environment, they can change the substances within them by rearranging the atoms. The muscle proteins we build up in the gym and the fat that we build up if we don’t go there are certainly not the same substances we eat.

Living things can regulate their interactions with their environment. A familiar example is the constant body temperature regardless of the weather in some organisms.

Living things grow and develop. Each one of us comes from a single cell, the fertilized egg. Yet by the time we are fully grown, we are made up of some 60 trillion cells, including many specialized ones.

Living things reproduce themselves. But the reproductive process is not perfect, as errors creep in. This produces many inherited varieties of species. Just as not all humans are alike, so too with fruit flies, bacteria, and pine trees.

Looking at the amazing variety of organisms and their activities, in creatures both alive today and in fossils that were once alive, biologists are at once awed and challenged. How can we make sense of the living world? Three ideas underlie the way biologists look at life:

Cell theory: All living things are made up of cells. The invention of the microscope several hundred years ago revealed a common “brick,” later called the cell that builds all life. Some living things are just one cell. Remember the microscopic amoeba in high school science class? Others, like us, have trillions of them. Cells may look different, but all have common structures, and it is inside of them that the chemistry of life occurs.

Mechanism: All of life can be explained in terms of the same laws of chemistry and physics that govern the rest of nature. For instance, living organisms have the same kinds of atoms—such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen—that occur in rocks, air, and the solar system. It’s the particular composition and joining of the atoms that gives life its unique constituents.

Evolution by natural selection: 150 years ago, Charles Darwin proposed two ideas that tie the myriad living organisms together. The first was that organisms can be related over time by common ancestry, that there has been descent with modification. The second was that over the generations coming from a common ancestor, there is an accumulation of random, inherited changes so the succeeding generations show variety. When the environment changes, some of these varieties will be advantageous to the organism for its reproductive success. In this way, natural selection leads to evolution of an organism over many generations.

While most people would sign on to the first of these three biological ideas (who can argue about the existence of cells?), they are not so sure about the next two. There has been a long tradition of belief that life is special, not totally subject to physical laws, and living things with their “vital essence” are not subject to natural selection. For example, William Paley, an English theologian used the “blind watchmaker” analogy in 1802:

“If we find a pocket watch in a field, we immediately infer that it was produced not by natural processes acting blindly but by a designing human intellect. Likewise, the natural world contains abundant evidence of a supernatural creator.”

In the twentieth century, biologists methodically unraveled complex organs like the eye. These organs were no longer mysterious, but explicable from their parts. Mechanism ruled. Biologists could explain the origin of each

Waking up in the morning to say to your partner that binding of oxytocin to the brain the previous night led to pleasant sensations of love and trust that are evolutionarily advantageous to the propagation of the species may not be the romantic world most people want.
part of these complicated structures in terms of evolution by natural selection.

But biologists now had another way to describe life and that was in terms of its chemistry. Just as their predecessors had spent their careers looking at anatomy and function of organs and organisms, the tools of biochemistry now allowed biologists to describe such substances in cells as DNA and proteins. Progress was rapid, and applications to medicine and agriculture continued to be significant. Biologists’ excitement turned from the elaborate machines in organs to the molecular machines inside cells.

As the 20th century closed, history repeated itself. A biochemist, Michael Behe, looked at some of the molecular machines and, in 1996, pronounced himself dissatisfied with his colleagues’ mechanistic and evolutionary explanations. Instead, he revived some ideas to apply to this biological “micro world,” just as his predecessors had applied them to the biological “macro world.”

Unlike Biblical creationists, Behe did not deny the earth is very old, organisms are related by common descent, or there is evolution by natural selection on the scale of organs and organisms. Instead, he focused inside cells and said some of the intricate pathways of chemical conversions and aggregates of molecules could only be explained by “irreducible complexity” and had got there by “intelligent design.” These were certainly not new phrases!

**The scientific community of biochemists responded to Behe.** In numerous papers, they showed that natural selection could indeed explain the origin of the molecular machines and pathways that were the focus of Behe’s concern. An analogy to the issue at hand is the mousetrap. This simple machine has five parts: a flat platform, a metal hammer to kill the mouse, a spring to power the hammer, a catch to hold and release the spring, and a metal bar to connect the catch and hold the hammer back. You can’t catch a mouse with just a platform. You need all the parts together. There has to be a designer. But is this irreducibly complex? That is, do all the parts exist just for the mousetrap? Certainly not: all of them can have other uses.

**Behe used the bacterial flagellum as an example of irreducible complexity.** The flagellum is a whip-like projection that allows single-celled bacteria to swim in their moist environment toward food and away from poisons. It is clearly good for a bacterium to have one. A biologist would say that in terms of natural selection, the flagellum is selectively advantageous for survival and reproduction in these conditions. The first bacterium that had the inherited variation allowing it to form a flagellum would pass on this capacity to its offspring. Over time, this species of bacterium would evolve to all having a flagellum.

Like the mousetrap, the flagellum has several parts, all of them proteins: a propeller, a motor to drive the propeller, a universal joint to attach the propeller to the motor, a stator to hold the motor to the outer boundary edge of the bacterial cell, and bushing material to allow the motor to penetrate the cell boundary. All of these are essential; if one is missing, the thing does not work. Looking at this amazing structure, it is tempting to say it is irreducibly complex and an intelligent designer supervised its assembly.

But like the mousetrap, parts of the flagellum can have other uses. Biochemists showed the propeller protein is used by other bacteria to bind to other cells; the motor protein is used in reverse in many species to produce energy rather than use it; the universal joint protein is used in other species for the removal of substances from the cell; the stator protein is present in all bacteria where it acts as a hole through which salts can enter the cell; and the bushing protein is another molecular complex involved in killing other cells (indeed, it is involved in the plague or Black Death once attributed to supernatural forces). In short, all of the proteins in the flagellum were not put there just for that purpose. They or their cousins in other species have different functions. It is only when a random change in the inherited material of a bacterium caused the five components to come together in the same place that they assembled into a flagellum.

But having a flagellum would not be an advantage leading to evolutionary change until the environment changed and bacteria having the assembled components in a flagellum survived and reproduced better than their non-flagellum-bearing siblings. So the amazing structure of the bacterial flagellum can be explained in terms of mechanism and evolution by natural selection.

Behe proposed that several other molecular machines and pathways in the cells were irreducibly complex and could not be explained by natural selection. In each case, biochemists carefully demonstrated they could be. As the new century dawned, the matter seemed closed.

But it wasn’t. Undaunted and financially supported by religious groups, Behe began a lecture tour (he has been to Claremont). His views have been used to challenge educators to teach intelligent design in the science classroom as an alternative explanation to evolution by natural selection. There have been court cases, statements by political leaders, and condemnations by scientists who thought the matter had been resolved in terms of science.

There is a deeper issue that underlies the persistence of proponents of intelligent design and irreducible complexity. One of the aims of the Center for Renewal of Science and Culture, a group that supports Behe and the idea of intelligent design, is “the overthrow of materialism and its damning cultural consequences,” and to liberate science from “atheistic naturalism.” In other words, they are worried about the mechanistic world that scientists have proposed. Biological complexity that can be explained by mechanistic natural selection removes the spiritual component from our wonderment.

Is science marching toward a mechanistic explanation for even those things that many of us regard as unique to life? If a wide variety of people were asked what distinguishes advanced animals, including humans, from the inanimate world, most would put emotions high on the list. If these are explained in mechanistic terms, we may have few places to go for a spiritual approach to life.

**The vole is a small rodent that looks like a fat mouse. Two species of voles are**
prairie voles and montane voles; obviously, they live in different habitats.

When prairie voles mate, a hormone called oxytocin is released and goes through the blood stream to the brain. When it arrives there, it binds specifically to a part of the brain that causes a behavioral change: the voles become socially bonded to one another, staying together through the birth and early life of their offspring. No such fidelity governs the post-coital behavior of montane voles. They mate, and the male soon goes on to other sexual conquests. Montane voles make oxytocin just fine, but it does not bind to the correct area of the brain. This single difference in oxytocin action is inherited. So biologists were able to isolate the chemical determinant of vole fidelity, put it into montane voles and—presto—a male and female who now made a home together.

If oxytocin is the “trust hormone” in voles, does it act the same way in humans? Some interesting data suggest it does. Humans produce oxytocin and have the binding site for it at the right place in their brains. In a clever experiment, two groups of people were given a nasal spray, but half of them got one with oxytocin. In a simulated financial transaction game, the oxytocin-exposed people trusted their money with a stranger more than their non-exposed counterparts. The implications of this for people in the business world, and even in non-business social interactions, are obvious.

The oxytocin story has broader significance. It and other stories like it are providing mechanistic and ultimately evolutionary explanations for behaviors that most humans have thought made us and some fellow animals unique in nature, and certainly distinct in some fundamental way—most would call it a spiritual way—from the non-feeling universe. Waking up in the morning to say to your partner that you love and...
Dear Alumnae and Friends:

It is an honor and a privilege to begin my two-year term as president of the Alumnae Association. I am continually impressed by the commitment and passion and ownership alumnae, students, parents, faculty, administration, staff, trustees, and friends alike feel for the collective institution that is Scripps College. The College’s signature Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities—Core I, II and III—embodies the dynamic learning process that is the foundation on which the Scripps education rests and on which the Scripps community thrives; the Core is truly a unique program through which interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and disciplinary approaches to teaching and learning contribute to an outcome that is often not fully appreciated until students graduate, when the benefits are put into practice. Scripps alumnae are complex and independent thinkers. I am counting on Scripps alumnae to send their thoughts my way as I assume my new role.

Welcome, Class of 2008!

It is my pleasure to welcome the Class of 2008 to the ranks of the Alumnae Association. Several graduating seniors were among the students who attended last spring’s Board of Trustee retreat to share both their enthusiasm and insights about the Core. If these women are the wave of the future, we are in good hands.

2008 Long-range Plan

The Alumnae Council recently approved the 2008 Long-range Plan. Based on alumnae responses to a survey compiled for and then analyzed by the LRPC Committee, this four-page document can be viewed online at www.scrippscollege.edu. Following is an abbreviated version, which highlights each of the five mission statements that correspond to five key initiatives developed by their respective LRP subcommittees:

1. Program and events: Develop national and international alumnae involvement and participation in the work of the Association through the Regional Associates program, which encourages volunteers to take the initiative in developing programming, and which provides training, resources, and sustained support from the Office of Alumnae Relations.

2. Diversity: Increase involvement of all alumnae in activities offered through the Alumnae Association, thereby demonstrating inclusiveness through events and publication of those events; promote volunteer leadership and participation that reflect the full diversity of the alumnae constituency; develop programs that are reflective of and attractive to the Association’s diverse membership and that encourage a balance and mix of participation that fairly represents and welcomes alumnae of every group.

3. Communication: Provide an information link for alumnae that updates, informs, and educates them about the goals and objectives of the Association and the College; provide vehicles for the Association to hear and respond to alumnae input, ideas, and concerns about the plans and direction of their alma mater; and offer a wide range of opportunities for alumnae to connect and interact with each other.

4. Networking: Connect Scripps women with each other by maintaining complete and accurate information on alumnae and access to it; foster mutual support and guidance through programs that address a range of career, family, and life situations; provide resources for career and life development; promote forums for Scripps women to share with each other the richness of their professional and life experiences.

5. Volunteer participation: Recruit, train, utilize, and recognize alumnae volunteers; strengthen alumnae participation in the College through the efforts and connections of alumnae volunteers; and provide supplemental support to the Office of Alumnae Relations through ongoing volunteer efforts to offer more extensive programming to alumnae world-wide.

Fall 2008: Scripps College on the Road

Sit in on a Core lecture (without having to take notes). This fall, regional alumnae events will feature Scripps faculty speakers from the Core curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities. Faculty who currently teach in Core I, II, or III will reprise their class lectures in abbreviated form for alumnae. You can expect to receive your invitation by broadcast e-mail, Tenth & Columbia (the Association’s e-newsletter), and postal mail. Be sure to join this intellectually stimulating, informative, and provocative lecture series by registering for an event near you.
Kudos to Scripps Alumnae for Service

Special thanks are in order for three Scripps volunteers: Lori Steere ’66 for two years of outstanding service as the president of the Alumnae Association (2006-2008) and as a member of the Board of Trustees; Crystal Jones ’85 for serving two three-year terms on the Board as an alumna trustee, and in particular for making invaluable contributions to the Board in regards to issues of diversity; and recent graduate trustee, Diana Fukushima ’05, for her three years of Board service. Thank you to Lori for shepherding the 2008 Long-range Plan to completion, for being a proponent of the Scripps Associated Students Book Fund Endowment, and for recently accepting her appointment as the alumnae representative on the newly reconstituted Presidential Transition Committee 2008-2009. Thank you to Crystal for being a founding member of the Samella Lewis Scholarship and for her ongoing role as respected advisor, mentor, host, and guide, particularly to students of color. Thank you to Diana for being a sponsor and mentor to Asian American students, and for her (anticipated) continuing connection with the College.

Congratulations on Recent Appointments to the Board

The Scripps College Alumnae Association recommended Carolyn Ditte Wagner ’72 as alumna trustee for a three-year term, July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2011. The Class of 2008 elected Katyayani R. Strohl ’08 as recent graduate trustee to serve a three-year term, which began on July 1, 2008. The Board of Trustees ratified these appointments at their June 2008 meeting.

Recap and Preview of Events

I joined more than 500 alumnae and guests who returned to campus May 2-4 for Reunion Weekend 2008 for an array of activities. The weather was perfect and the positive energy was palpable. I was also part of the 100-plus alumnae who returned to Scripps July 10-14 for Camp Scripps, where “everything is possible, nothing required.” The Oregon Shakespeare Festival Alumnae Weekend, where attending plays and discussion groups in a small town is not only nostalgic but puts alumnae/alumni back into student mode, was held in Ashland, August 7-10 (jointly sponsored by Scripps College and Harvey Mudd College this year).

I look forward to greeting the incoming Class of 2012 on August 28, when new students arrive and another school year is underway.

-MERRILEE STEWART HOWARD ’70

New Additions to the Board of Trustees

Katyayani R. Strohl ’08

Strohl was appointed the recent graduate trustee-elect to serve a three-year term as of July 1, 2008. A major in religious studies, Strohl was extremely active in the Scripps community, participating in both the Sallie Tiernan Field House Committee and Smoking Committee as a student representative. She also served as the athletics chair for Scripps Associated Students, having been a member of the women’s lacrosse team for three years. Strohl’s commitment to the improvement of the Scripps community has been evident in her dedication to her student involvement as the new student program representative, new student co-coordinator, and outdoor orientation co-coordinator and leader. Strohl is currently living in Oak Park, Ill.

Carolyn Ditte Wagner ’72

Wagner was recently selected as an alumna trustee and began her three-year term July 1, 2008. After majoring in the humanities at Scripps, Wagner went on to receive her PhD in American intellectual history from Johns Hopkins University, in 1978. From 1999 to 2003, Wagner worked for Scripps as director of foundation and corporate relations before heading to Claremont McKenna College for the next three years to serve as director of major gifts and executive director of the Kravis Leadership Institute. Wagner lives in Pasadena and is currently president of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, which aims to support and complement the LA Public Library’s operations.

Merrilee Stewart Howard ’70

As the new Alumnae Association president, Howard will serve a concurrent two-year term as a member of the Board, beginning July 1. Howard graduated from Scripps in 1970 with a BA in art and has continued her education in art over the years at Portland State University and Pacific Northwest College of Art. Howard and her husband, Marty, CMC ’71, live in Tillamook, Ore., where she is active in numerous volunteer positions and with her art. She was awarded the inaugural Alumnae Volunteer of the Year Award in 2005. She currently volunteers her time as a fund-raiser for the Tillamook YMCA, the Evan Hartley Burke and Lucille Houssel Burke ’70 Annual Fund Scholarship, the Ellen Browning Scripps Society, and Camp Scripps. She also helps organize meals and events for Our House of Portland, an HIV/AIDS support organization, and regional alumnae events for the Portland area. In 2007, Howard served on the Presidential Transition Committee which was charged with the search for the next president of Scripps College.
Reunion 2008

On May 2-4, alumnae from class years ending in “3” and “8,” as well as the class of 2007, came back to campus to celebrate old and new friendships, view the emerging Sallie Tiernan Field House, and bid a fond farewell to the 70-year-old trees on Elm Tree Lawn. Class gifts, presented to Interim President Fritz Weis during Saturday’s convocation, totaled $376,665 to support the Annual Fund; of note, the Class of ’63 raised a remarkable $107,000.

At top, Mary Ruth Hackett ’98, left, and Anna Ekindjian ’98, in Margaret Fowler Garden. Above left, Lalla Neblett ’63, left, and other Class of 1963 alumnae sing Thy Many Gifts during Saturday morning Convocation. Above right, Ann Sears Crocker ’58, left, and Susan Greene Finley ’58 review weekend events and activities. At right, Class of 1963 alumnae Carol Barnum Hill, left, Marianne Guinney Larsen, and Martha Mann Arvey, in Humanities Court.
Clockwise, from center left, Erin Kelly ’07, left, and Monica Craggs ’07 visit Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Residence Hall; five alumnae from the Class of 2003 pose in Margaret Fowler Garden: from left, Caitlin Phillips, Stephanie Baer, Minal Belani, Arianne Pagsisihan, and Courtney Mayeda; Phyllis Fredkin Forman ’53, left, and Whitney Eriksen ’09 enjoy lunch together at the Scholarship Luncheon on Friday of Reunion Weekend; three Class of 1998 alumnae pose together in Seal Court: from left, Sophia Lund, Leslie Smith, and Anne Purkey-Levine.

At left, alumnae from the Class of 1978, in front of Graffiti Wall: From left, Julie Lydon Cornell, Kristi Nilson, Wendy Gauntlett Shaw, and Cindy Wilkinson Kirven. Below, Class of 1993 members Susan Kent, left, Maren Boedeker Martin, and Jennifer Grant ’93 meet in Margaret Fowler Garden.
They Just Couldn’t Leave

Nineteen staff members share a dual role at Scripps—alumna and employee. In early May, 17 of them gathered in Margaret Fowler Garden during their lunch hour. From left are Emily Rankin ’97, Candice Cetrone ’09, Sylvia Ruiz ’05, Liane Dirks ’06, Kelly Hewitt ’08, Ashley Peters ’08, Mary Fraser Weis ’66, Donna Rueff ’96, Kate Lawrence ’05, Caroline Miceli ’02, Katharine “Kitty” Maryatt Lindgren ’66, Judy Harvey Sahak ’64, Lauren Wildberger ’03; seated on steps, from left, are Mary Davis MacNaughton ’70, Adrienne Walsh Gibson ’02, Veronica Hart ’07, and Claire Davies Bridge ’82. Not pictured: Patricia Packard LaCroix ’78 and Janice Peters ’96.

Alumnae Abroad

From left, Ayesha Hashim ’07, from Bangkok, and Victoria Huang ’96, from Singapore, visit with Michael Deane Lamkin during a reception for alumni of The Claremont Colleges last spring in Singapore. Lamkin, former dean of faculty and now professor of music, represented Scripps in the Claremont delegation, along with Irene Tang, associate professor of biology. See story, p. 12.
A Very Surprised Alum

Unbeknownst to Anne Browning McIntosh ’83, her husband and two children were watching from a back row in Balch Auditorium during Reunion Convocation on Saturday, May 3, as Anne celebrated her 25th reunion. They had been alerted that Anne would receive the Scripps Volunteer of the Year Award and kept the secret from her—not an easy task. Anne’s surprise and delight show (below) as she accepts from Lori Steere ’66 a framed picture of Denison Library, painted by Marjorie Thompson Burgeson ’50.

Anne’s volunteer work spans decades: the former director of alumnae relations from fall 1999 through 2000, she has served on Alumnae Council, chaired the Annual Fund Committee for the past four years, been a reunion volunteer, and maintained membership in the Ellen Browning Scripps Society for 14 years. ■

Outstanding Recent Alumna

Gina Brownstein receives the 2008 Outstanding Recent Alumna Award during Reunion Weekend.

Gina Maggiore Brownstein ’99 has combined art and activism since college, when as an art major, she taught ceramics to classes at an Ontario anti-gang teen center and in a low-income housing project.

Perhaps Gina’s most productive outreach has been her founding of the non-profit Five 4 Five, which takes underserved youth who might have gone into gangs and mentors them in groups of five for five years. Her pledge to end violence when one of her most promising students was murdered resulted in a moving tribute for young people throughout California: Gina conceived Shoot! Photo Essays to End Violence, a project that has engaged more than 1,600 students and some 20 teachers from Los Angeles to the Bay Area. One of her students said: “Thank God, for Gina! Without her, I don’t know what would have happened to me.”

Joining the Teacher Next Door program, Gina turned an abandoned house in South Central Los Angeles into her home as an impetus to improve her community. Teacher, artist, non-profit leader, union leader, Gina Maggiore Brownstein, is married to Rogelio Castro, a marathon runner and businessman. The couple had their first child, a daughter, Violeta, this summer. ■
It is a great thrill and pleasure to be here at Scripps, which seems to me without a doubt, the most beautiful college campus I can ever remember seeing. When I walked into Margaret Fowler Garden last evening with my dear friend Jennifer Wells, the first thing I said was “I’m moving back to California.”

I am deeply moved by this honor you have given me. It occurs to me that I became whatever I am today while I was at Scripps. That is, I began to understand—in an 18-year-old sort of way—that I could become whatever I wanted during my years in this beautiful place, wandering through the books at Denison Library, painting miserable and always unfinished watercolors at midnight for a class with Paul Darrow in that beautiful old art building surrounding Seal Pond; talking late into the night with friends at Mary Routt and arriving for an early dance rehearsal still feeling the effects of the party the night before. I am a product almost exclusively of women’s education and, though I didn’t realize it at the time, having the space and the encouragement to articulate and express ideas is perhaps the greatest gift that this school gave me and has given many others.

I discovered art history in my junior year. I was mucking around in the humanities curriculum as a literature major with John Peavoy and dance minor until I found that thing that was and is my passion. Sitting in dark rooms at 8:00 a.m. with Art Stevens and George Gorse looking at history and culture through its images and its representation (and not many images by women) finally lit my proverbial fire. I was completely hooked. It was the humanities internship program and a stint in the curatorial department at a then fledgling MOCA that enabled me to envision a way I could have a career in this field I loved. A class in museum studies with Cricket Beebe at Pomona introduced me to the practice and history of museums, and I thought I had died and gone to heaven. My years in dance and choreography at Scripps were also extremely formative—how I understand, think, and write about art are deeply informed by my understanding of space and the practice of making something slowly and painfully in the studio. I still have dreams about countless hours of rehearsal with Robin Hovis, Rebecca Foster, and rolling around Martha Graham-style on the ground, punctuated by moments of elated performance and moving through space. For me, dance was my road not taken, but my years with Sharon Took and Ronnie Brosterman profoundly imprinted my belief in the practice of art as a framework for a meaningful life.

I also locate the beginnings of my political life here at Scripps and remember when Ronald Reagan landed in his helicopter on campus and we all were there. I like to think we were protesting, but I think we were just thinking about protesting. Having missed the chance in the 1960s and 70s, my politics were formed by being at a woman’s college in the mid 1980s—it was a very conservative time, though nothing compared to what we are experiencing now. Susan Faludi was about to publish Backlash, and I was under the impression that I could have it all, go to grad school, have the career and put off having kids until I was at least 60 and somehow find a partner who would do all the cooking and take care of the kids while I was busy being fabulous. This was the 80s. But, truthfully, it was my feeling at the time...
that being involved in art when all the glamour seemed to be around the corporate women’s curriculum was a kind of unrecognized cul de sac and, in the end, a productive margin for me to find. Jennifer Wells, whom I had admired and envied as a Browning inhabitant and who rode around campus in Laura Ashley dresses with a basket on her bicycle, carefully orchestrated a group of women to live at Allen House (Katie Dougan, Ann Cotter, Lisa Nelson, and myself). We quickly became a happy little humanities and art house. Typing away at our various senior theses, we created a little world where bookmaking, music, dance, museums, and men all happily occupied our time. It was a great moment, and one you will all recognize as very Scripps.

I’m sure that the reason I’m up here today is because of a show I organized at the Museum of Contemporary Art called “WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution.” This international exhibition of 120 artists covers the period of 1965-1980. The exhibition, which opened a year ago in Los Angeles, has taken on a life of its own and found an audience way beyond the art world. When an exhibition of art, and contemporary art at that, makes Time magazine’s Top 10 and also wins an award from the art critics association, you know something is up in the culture. Certainly it has been a fascinating year or two for feminism.

At a Scripps event at PS1 in Queens in New York City, where the show is now on view, another alumna asked me if organizing the show had changed the way I approach my job as a curator. I realized, as I answered, that the exhibition’s success has emboldened me to be clearer about a methodology that has always been part of how I approach art and art history, and is perhaps most important now as I work as a curator in a museum that represents a canonical history of western art. My understanding of art history and culture is that it can potentially be a living thing that is ours to intervene in and rework to productive, political, and sometimes playful ends. This is something I learned at Scripps, and this show would not have happened without my feminist roots here. Bell hooks has written that we should rethink the terms “feminist movement” as a verb—she talks about creating an active space and practice where “movement” is not monolithic but transitive, where to be a feminist in whatever field is about making a space for questioning of cultural hierarchies of all kinds, of making a space for the dismantling of power and its restrictions. I am inspired by this idea on a daily basis in an art world in which change happens very slowly.

I am truly honored to receive this award and to be honored by so many amazing women and to take a moment to recognize Scripps for the unique and generative place that it is. It’s an inspiration, and I thank you.
‘47 Marlow Rau Belyea (Easton, PA) I had both hips replaced last year, so had to miss our 60th reunion. The operations were successful; I feel no pain and walk normally. I enjoy playing with my great-grandchildren and teaching the little ones to swim.

‘48 Gay Judah Gentry (San Mateo, CA) I’m still painting, writing, dancing, and reading much. The humanities program was so mind-expanding then and continually enriched my life. We didn’t realize how lucky our generation was to have such a coordinated study program. After paying for Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC medical school, and Yale, it was also mind-awakening to realize most courses were agenda-driven, which sort of locks in your mind to a finite awareness. No longer any search for “truths.” “Knowledge comes, but wisdom is optional?”—is that great adage still on the library door?* Sorry about missing my 60th, but I’m busy trying to get in the Louvre before I have a retrospective!

*Editor’s note: The engraved words above the Denison Library door are “Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers.”

‘50 Pat Kaufman (Sarasota, FL) My installation video and collages were shown at Art Center Manatee, in October. The video title is Save Her O Save Her!

‘52 Kathleen Niven Lechner (Laguna Niguel, CA) Two memorable trips in 2007 were to Scotland with my daughter, Amy Lechner Bolls ’91, and Santa Fe with my high school alumni from the American School in Mexico City. Very different places, but each was fascinating, layered with history and art and changing landscapes. Grandfather Niven was originally from Scotland, so that was reason to go as well. I continue practicing yoga several times a week and think it helps keep me in pretty good shape.

‘53 Diana Kontas Colson (Sarasota, FL) As of 2007, I have been writing the “social notes” columns for Pelican Press, a weekly paper here in Sarasota. I am in the social notes column in “After Hours!” It has truly been a kick in the social life, as Frank and I have been covering the opening of operas, ballets, circuses, all kinds of galas, film festivals, etc. Frank comes along as a photographer, which allows me to chatter and take notes. The perks are fantastic, and we have been reintroduced to Sarasota’s many “movers and shakers.” I have also been writing articles for the Sarasota edition of Arts & Culture magazine. Peggy Towne D’Albert ’54 and I brought her car down from New York City last fall, and Brent Shaw Foster ’55 came to visit. I had a great phone chat
with Marka Oliver Hibbs recently. Frank had a show in May at Ringling College of Art. I hope to go to Hungary this summer with my daughter-in-law to visit her parents. **Susan Beville Fish** (Aptos, CA) I am happy to report that I was nominated for “Artist of the Year, Santa Cruz” County.” With every good expectation, I intended to take part in our 55th reunion, but I sprained my wrist teaching sword fighting! I regret so much not seeing those wonderful Dorsey Hall friends, and Nancy, our freshman class president and fearless leader. I owe a lot to my years at Scripps for my life’s inspiration.

**53 Susan Beville Fish** “I intended to take part in our 55th reunion, but I sprained my wrist teaching sword fighting!”

**55 Shirley von Kleinsmid Novo** (Haverford, PA) It’s not “my” year, but I went with my mother, Hildreth Green vonKleinsmid ’33, to her 75th class reunion. **Sharon Mallory Wood** (Carlsbad, CA) Who said retirement equals a quiet life? I had a long career teaching my own rhythm and movement program to preschoolers and junior college students in San Jose, Calif. When my husband, Nic, and I retired to Carmel in 1989, I took up land-use issues and was appointed to the Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee. We left Northern California in 2006 for retirement at La Costa Glen in Carlsbad, near San Diego. Now I serve on the resident council of this large retirement facility, chair the welcoming committee for incoming residents, and am to join the advisory committee to La Costa Glen marketing department. Never a dull day in retirement!

**56 Ellen Colburn** (Bonita Springs, FL) After 21 years as a full professor for an inter-disciplinary doctoral program geared toward mid-career adults (who are so interesting and challenging), I officially retired on June 30, 2008. The Board of Trustees has already honored me with emeritus status, which I intend to use toward more innovative activities in my next phase of activity.

**MARRIAGES AND COMMITMENTS**

‘90 Kimberley Foster to Andy Rogers
September 23, 2006

‘04 Kathryn Rider to Tyler Rogers
February 16, 2008

**BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS**

‘95 Kate Petersen Shay and Steven, a daughter, Maren Sandra, June 18, 2007

‘98 Danica Stefanini Hoberg and Brent (CMC ’99), a son, Zander Jaxon, September 21, 2007

‘98 Yvette Murrillo and Michael, a daughter, Madeline, December 1, 2007

‘00 Laura Sullivan Wetzel and Mark, a daughter, Erika Claire, June 8, 2007

‘00 Elizabeth Goodman Logelin and Matt, a daughter, Madeline, March 24, 2008

‘01 Sarah Myatt-Paul and Forrest, a son, Luke Oliver, April 15, 2008

‘03 Patricia Burkhart and Benjamin Brower (HMC ’99), a son, Liam, January 2, 2008

**IN MEMORIAM**

‘32 Mary Holland Wilcox, March 16, 2008

‘34 Helena Gemmer Collins, August 2008

‘35 Barbara Snyder Morel, April 25, 2008

‘37 Elaine Goldberg Geffen, May 18, 2008

‘38 Mary Lightle Holden, February 6, 2008

‘39 Elita Walker Casparsi

‘39 Della Gardner Groen, June 30, 2007

‘40 Betty Broadhurst, December 31, 2007

‘42 Elizabeth Hyman Meyerhoff, December 5, 2006

‘43 Dana Kendrick Bloch, June 4, 2008

‘45 Virginia Lee Todd, April 7, 2008

‘47 Lucia Abbott Roberts, May 7, 2007

‘54 Cornelia Clark Griswold, July 14, 2007

‘61 Nancy Melling Carter

‘78 Laura Sandifer Holdridge, May 23, 2008

‘00 Elizabeth Goodman Logelin, March 25, 2008

**Victoria Armour-Hileman ’79** was one of 18 rabbis ordained at the 2008 Ordination Services of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC/JIR) on May 18, at Wilshire Boulevard Temple, in Los Angeles. After graduating from Scripps, Armour-Hileman earned a PhD from the University of Iowa, in 1988. Among many awards, she has received the Samson H. Levey Memorial Prize, for excellence in rabbinic literature/Talmud; the Cantor William Sharlin Prize, for excellence in liturgy; the Lorraine Helman Rubin Memorial Prize, for exceptional writing; and was a Kiriyama Prize Finalist, for books promoting understanding of Asian cultures.
’57 Anne Arthur Gottlieb (White Plains, NY) Al and I have both retired. I am now an active community volunteer and am in my second two-year term on the board of White Plains Hospital. Al is sponsoring two teachers and their kindergarten classes for Teach For America.

’60 Lois Ann Yensen DeSha
(Kennesaw, GA) Scripps transformed my ordinary world into a place of beauty that I delight in: I reveled in classical music for the first time. I lived with idealistic friends whom I loved and greatly enjoyed. We had good times and high adventures. We dated Caltech, Pomona, and CMC men. Here’s to life in Browning Hall! Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers, along with precious memories.

’62 Betty Lynn Dupy Jackson (Denver, CO) Since my husband, Dennis, became “of counsel” with Holland and Hart law firm in 2004 after practicing 38 years, our lives have been filled with even more travel. Most recently, we took Yale alumnae trips to China and to India; a Harvard sailing tour around Sicily with Karen Armstrong, a religious scholar; and a Chevaliers du Tastevin trip to Paris and to Clos de Vougeot with Craig Stapleton, our U.S. Ambassador to France. Trips to Santa Fe, New Mexico, for opera and art, to Deer Valley, Utah, for skiing, and to Sea Island, Georgia, for bridge! In 2006, we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in Istanbul at the Sunset Grill, overlooking the Bosporus. At the Brown Palace Hotel, I orchestrated the 50th year celebration of the Denver Debutante Ball. I am still enjoying tennis, skiing, gardening, cooking, entertaining, travel, and bridge, and attend lectures, salons, and shows in Denver. This summer, we are planning a trip to Japan, where Robert, Dennis, and two friends are hoping to climb Mt. Fuji in the Japanese way of reaching the summit for sunrise.

’63 Sandy Rogers Behrens (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA) My husband, Will, and I enjoyed the lovely celebration planned by Scripps for my 45th reunion in May. Congratulations to my fellow classmates for raising so much money for Scripps!

’65 Elaine Drew (Monrovia, CA) I enjoyed a fabulous week in Jackson Hole and Yellowstone in February. I loved the snow, the glorious scenery and wildlife, and the chilly weather. I stay busy with volunteer pursuits. I am planning a trip East in October – Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. I want to see my parents’ graves at Arlington.

’66 Karen Sundnes Holcomb
(Bainbridge Island, WA) We have enjoyed traveling this year. Next month we will be in Santa Cruz, Calif., visiting our son and daughter-in-law who teach autistic grade schoolers. I want to meet the children. Sally Warner (Altadena, CA) My newest novel for children is It’s Only Temporary (Viking, ages 10+); it’s my 26th book, and 23rd children’s novel! I also illustrated it with more than 100 drawings. (See ManuScripps, p. 41)
“Nostalgia is bittersweet—where is that 18-year-old, freckled redhead with long braids who was madly in love with her biology professor?”

My 60th College Reunion

BY NATASHA JOSEFWITZ ’48, PhD

We more or less recognized each other, the name tags helping to jog our memories. All in-all we were aging well with our grey hair and wrinkles.

Ours was the war years’ class, we were bussed to USO dances, went out with V12 boys, and only the men deferred for medical reasons were seen on campus. Ours was also among the last classes that did not go to graduate school or have careers. We waited for the men to come home from the front so we could get married and raise families. These were the expectations of our generation, and we dutifully fulfilled them. We volunteered in our communities, baked cookies, and raised the baby boomers whose children are now cluttering college admissions.

Back in 1948, Scripps College had 200 students, and my class had 33 graduating women. There were four dorms, and now there are twice that many with 900 students. I visited my old dorm room. I had, as I remembered, a lovely single room. I looked into that room now with bunk beds and it had shrunk!

The two “date” rooms in the lobby were for visiting boys—the doors always open and a house mother looking in much too frequently—today they are dorm rooms. We dressed for dinner, had tea served in the afternoon, and had to be in by 11:00 pm on weekdays and midnight on Saturdays or found the doors locked. We danced cheek to cheek and “necked” in the backseats of cars.

I did not recognize Claremont, which has grown more colleges with performing arts centers, libraries, science buildings, art galleries, and coffee houses. We went to a senior art exhibit. It was all “installation art.” It was like the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla—strange objects hanging from the ceiling or lying on the floor—evocative of something.

Our class dinner was fun—recounting, remembering, re-discovering, and mostly laughing. We attended a class and listened to the awards given out to outstanding alumnae—Scripps women are indeed a remarkable group.

Today, I saw multitudes of Latina, Asian, and African-American women wandering through the various campuses. This is a college town, and young people were wearing flip-flops, shorts, and revealing tops with bra straps showing. How proper we used to be in comparison.

Nostalgia is bittersweet—where is that 18-year-old, freckled redhead with long braids who was madly in love with her biology professor, absorbing knowledge, and writing extensive class notes in a multitude of lined notebooks—which I admit I finally threw out only this year…and that was painful.

We had four required courses each year; it was the humanities program now called Core. It gave us a fantastic, well-rounded education.

And now I look forward to seeing, hopefully, most of my classmates for our 70th Reunion—10 years from now. We’ll all be 91 and probably have a few more canes.
Scripps Alumna Honored with BMI Foundation’s “Outstanding Musical Citizen Award”

BETH COWART ’83 was recently honored by the BMI (Broadcast Music Incorporated) Foundation with its first “Outstanding Musical Citizen Award.” The award recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their support of American composers and music. Cowart was honored for her work as co-director of the Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute. As the artistic planning associate at the Minnesota Orchestra, Cowart has managed the Institute since its beginnings as the “Perfect Pitch Program” in 1996 and helped expand it to a nationally recognized program.

‘80 Sarah Nunke (Santa Clara, CA)
I took my niece to visit The Claremont Colleges at the end of October. Her parents are Mike Nunke (CMC ’73) and Leslie Friedlander (PI ’74), so she has some serious Claremont legacy in her background. We took a tour and had lunch in the dining hall. We both had a great time, and she fell in love with Scripps. Professor Alan Hartley met with us and made a real impression on her. She has since been accepted. She has decided on Scripps and is now officially a member of the class of 2012. I am so proud!

‘75 Susan Anderson (Culver City, CA)
I am writing to proudly inform you of the publication of my book of poetry, Nostalgia for a Trumpet: Poems of Memory and History, by Northwest University Press in April 2008. (See ManuScripps, p. 41)

‘83 Katie Spies Mueller (Santa Ana, CA)
On May 9, 2008, I received my EdD in higher education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. My dissertation title is “Situations with Ethnic Dimensions as Described and Addressed by California Community College Presidents.”

Eriko Niwayama Pettersson (Santa Monica, CA)
It was wonderful to see so many of you at our 25th reunion! We missed a few who didn’t make it due to family and work obligations. Recently, I went out to dinner with one of my new Scripps friends, Jennifer Cohen Shneiderman, a fundraiser for the organization Beyond Shelter. There, we met another Scripps alumna, Amy Glasband Casil, who also works there. I was touched and humbled by Beyond Shelter and the women running this organization. The president/CEO, Tanya Cherry Tull ’64, is a woman to be admired.

‘84 Priscilla Heighe-Galasso (Cary, IL)
I was promoted to operations supervisor of Christian Youth Theater, the largest youth theater group in the nation, serving six counties in the Chicago area. In February, my husband of 24 years, Jim, died of coronary artery disease, diabetes, and renal failure. My children Susan (23), Joshua (21), Rebecca (19), and Emily (17), continue to grow into adulthood, pursuing their various interests.

‘85 Wendy Wallace Thomas (Alamo, CA)
Looking forward to 2010 and seeing more of you at our 25th. If any of you are ever in the Bay Area, please stop by.

‘87 Cindy Cruz (Santa Cruz, CA)
Hola! I have accepted a tenure-track position at UC Santa Cruz in the Department of Education, beginning July 2008. I was previously the provost’s academic diversity postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University, and after surviving a few Ithaca winters, I am happy to get back to the West Coast. I am finally able to do some deep reading of the
dissertation, where I collected the stories of queer homeless youth. It was intense work when I would ask LGBTQ youth to tell me stories about their bodies—spaces where race and capitalism and gender are hopelessly entangled and inscribed. My partner, Wanda, and I have been together for almost 15 years. Maybe it’s time to get married.

Taina Berryman Unverzagt (Patchogue, NY) We have been on Long Island for almost two years now, and I am really enjoying working in the fragrance industry. I love being close to the water again. Still adjusting to the New York accent, and New Yorkers are adjusting to mine. Reconnected with Doria Lavagnino-Sisk and keep in touch with so many others. I would love to hear from other alums I have lost contact with.

Victoria Nelson Martinsen (Sherman, TX) David and I recently moved to Texas and bought our first home. No kids, but we are thinking of getting a dog; I’ll let you know if it’s a boy or a girl.

Leigh Moore (Phoenix, AZ) I was married last year to Joseph Marshall in Phoenix.

Laura Becher (Glendora, CA) After spending a year in the Chicago area, my husband, Jason (PO ‘97, CGU ’01), and I are back living in Glendora. Jason is the manager of the 3M distribution center in Ontario. After teaching kindergarten and first grade for several years, I am now blissfully working at home with our daughter, Kennedy Elizabeth (5), and son, Declan James (nine months). Kennedy will be attending Foothill Country Day School in the fall for kindergarten, and I am happy to say, it feels just like a mini-

Claremont College, and is so close by, I will have plenty of time to convince her that Scripps is the place to be. Beth Schreiber-Byers (Durham, NC) It was great to see everyone at reunion. I hope it won’t be another five or ten years before we see one another again. My husband and I both received our masters this spring and will finish our PhD coursework in the fall. If you are ever in North Carolina, look us up.

Sarah Haldeman “I joined the Texas Rollergirls…my skate name is Janie Gottagun, and I play for the Hotrod Honeys.”

Sarah Haldeman (Austin, TX) I have been recently promoted to foreign policy archivist at the LBJ Library in Austin. I also have successfully tried out for and joined the Texas Rollergirls, a member league of the Women’s Flat Derby Association. My skate name is Janie Gottagun, and I play for the Hotrod Honeys. I am happier than I have ever been. I would love to hear from Scripps friends and any women who play roller derby.

Sarah Haldeman ‘99, left, aka “Janie Gottagun,” gets a whip from “Cat Tростophe” during a roller derby match.

Jan Loomis ‘66
Jan Loomis, owner of RJL Consulting, is a writer, researcher, editor, and business coach with over 25 years of publishing and business experience. Her book, Brentwood, is a historical look at the iconic suburb of Los Angeles. Loomis spent 25 years poring over the Santa Monica Land and Water Company files to develop articles about West Los Angeles’ history. Photographs in Brentwood are drawn from several sources, including the University of Southern California’s Doheny Memorial Library, Los Angeles County Public Library, and the private collections of Brentwood residents.

Sally Warner ‘68
Sally Warner was an artist before she was an author. For her latest children’s book, It’s Only Temporary, she says she “channeled her teenage self to fill this novel with fun sketches from a twelve-year-old point of view.” This is Warner’s 26th book and 23rd children’s novel. She illustrated the book with more than 100 drawings, including the cover illustration.

Susan D. Anderson ’75
Susan D. Anderson teaches, speaks, and writes about African American history, politics, and culture, with an emphasis on California and the West. She is the managing director of L.A. as Subject, an association of libraries and archives hosted by the University of Southern California. Her latest publication, Nostalgia for a Trumpet: Poems of Memory and History, is a collection of poems about African Americans’ history, music, spirituality, contributions to America, and the world.

Katie Arnoldi ’80
In a follow-up to her debut novel, Chemical Pink, author Katie Arnoldi’s latest publication sizzles as a portrayal of a wealthy West Los Angeles family, The Wentworths. Ranked in the top-10 on the Los Angeles Times’ best-seller list last spring, it is a comical, at times shocking, dramatization of the dysfunction within a modern American family.


**SABRINA MONTEVERDE ’08** stays afloat as she balances work and studies while completing her degree in engineering at Columbia University. “I’m certainly the only Scrippie here in Columbia who transferred for the 3/2 program this year, but I was surprised to find out that four other students from CMC are also here at Columbia with me.” The 3/2 engineering program allowed Montervede to complete three years at Scripps with a humanities focus followed by two years of intensive engineering studies at Columbia.

---

**’00 Taryn Okuma (Madison, WI)**

Dan, Simon, and I are excited to be moving to California this year! Dan and I finished our PhDs in English and the University of Wisconsin-Madison this spring, and in the fall, I’ll be starting as assistant professor of modern and contemporary British literature at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. **Rachel Ban Tefft (Madison, WI)** I am excited to announce the birth of our daughter, Molly Selam Tefft. She is the light and love of our lives. This summer we are moving to Maine, where my husband will be a professor at Bates College. I look forward to finally living in a house, being near family, and eventually returning to social work part-time. **Laura Sullivan Wetzel (Whittier, CA)** Our second daughter, Erika Claire Wetzel, was born June 8, 2007. Sarah loves being a big sister. I continue to job-share in a third grade classroom.

---

**’01 Evan Rick (Bozeman, MT)** I just got back from 10 weeks of traveling in South Eastern Africa (Mozambique, Malawi, Swaziland, and Tanzania) with my partner, Dan, and his brother. We are getting back into the routine of working, skiing, and hiking back in Bozeman. I feel so lucky! **Jenny Silverstein (Walnut Creek, CA)** I moved from Alameda to Walnut Creek in July 2006. I’ve been putting myself through law school for almost four years, and there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I graduated from John F. Kennedy Law School in June and took the California State Bar exam in July. Here’s hoping I pass the first time!

---

**’02 Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik (San Francisco, CA)** I will be starting a new position next year as the events manager for *Dwell Magazine*, and Kiri Henderson, my roommate at Scripps and in San Francisco, launched *TODO Magazine*, an urban action guide, in November 2007.

---

**’03 Caitlin Phillips (Philadelphia, PA)** I graduated from Penn Nursing in December 2007 and returned to Madagascar for three weeks, where I served as a community health Peace Corps volunteer from 2003-2005. I am now working as a registered nurse in the Hospital of UPenn’s labor and delivery unit, and plan to continue my studies to be a nurse-midwife. I also volunteer as a birth doula for low-income women, as well as a ‘buddy’ for people living with HIV/AIDS. I hope to get a dachshund in the next six months that will be named “ioka” (Malagasy for side-dish). I live with my boyfriend of four years, Robin, whom I met as a next-door neighbor volunteer as we trained in Madagascar and initially didn’t like very much!

---

**’03 Caitlin Phillips “I … volunteer as a birth doula for low-income women, as well as a ‘buddy’ for people living with HIV/AIDS.”**

---

**’04 Ayako Takaishi (Santa Monica, CA)** I graduated from Scripps in 2004, and for the past few years I’ve struggled to find a job that includes both my interests in science and economics. I tried consulting and investing, but they just were not right for me. Finally, I found myself working as an office manager at an architectural design firm. I realized that although I’m not an architect, I can contribute to the firm by extending our services beyond designing sustainable architecture to sustainable business operations. We are currently working with Tech Go Green, a new not-for-profit in Torrance, Calif., on researching and implementing cost-effective green technology for corporations and not-for-profit institutions. Our goal is to improve the economic impact of operations and reduce cost over time. We are currently working on our first project for a small, private, alternative school in Torrance.

---

**’05 Panayiota Jraige (Los Angeles, CA)** I recently finished my “hellish” two-year Teach For America commitment, and I have started working with the Green Dot charter school movement. Adriane Peralta and Alejandra Velez are also working for the same organization. Green Dot has been in the news lately regarding the revamping of Locke High School in Watts. In a nutshell, I love working here! The school is small, organized, and students are actually learning something. I have changed my undergraduate ways and have gotten into the habit of waking up and getting to work by 7:00 a.m. **Katherine Taylor (Seattle, WA)** I graduated from Seattle University School of Law in May 2008. I took the Washington State Bar in July then spending two weeks with my boyfriend and his family at their summer home in Sweden. I will start working at the firm of Ressler and Tesh in August 2008.

---

**’07 Elizabeth Gallagher (Canby, OR)** I am working on my master’s in English at Oxford University and applying for internships at British academic libraries. I am hoping to be working in rare books at the Bodleian [library at Oxford] next year and applying to library school. Still dancing away!
LAURENCE PEGUERO GAMIÑO '02, vice president and corporate giving manager at Washington Mutual, Inc., completed her master’s degree in human and organizational development at Azusa Pacific University (APU).

In an earlier interview with APU, Gamiño gives advice to future professionals:

**Have Passion:** No matter what you choose to do, be passionate about it. I believe strongly that the work I do matters—but only if I pour myself into it. If I give less than 100 percent, everyone loses: my company, community, myself.

**Be Prepared:** I try to prepare myself for things I can’t even foresee. Higher education, advanced degrees, extensive reading, or a second language can all result in an important advantage at just the right moment. Preparedness, having that one extra line on my résumé, has given me the edge time and again.

**Find Mentors:** Surround yourself with people you respect in your field. Notice how they dress, how they talk, what they do and don’t say, how they handle ethical dilemmas, and how they treat people. Their success reflects the culmination of these things, and you can go far by emulating them.

**Work Hard:** I recommend starting work as early as possible in life because the experience builds character, teaches responsibility, instills money management skills, and increases awareness of the global community. Internships provide a great way to explore the marketplace, gain experience, and start targeting potential career paths.

---

**And the winners are…**

For their outstanding service to the College as undergraduates, Laurel Horn and Ashley Peters received the annual Alumnae Association Award during the Scripps College Awards Convocation on May 17.

Horn, a Hispanic studies and honors psychology major, served as resident advisor, student representative to the Educational Policy committee for the Board of Trustees, and vice president for both the Psi Chi Psychology Honors Society and the Jewish Student Union. During her senior year, Horn was a tri-chair of the Senior Class Gift Committee. She also interned as the Malott Commons programming associate. She entered the Teach For America program this summer.

Peters, a music and psychology major and recipient of the Samella Lewis Scholarship, was also presented with the Gladys Pattison Music Award that afternoon. As the second black Scripps Associated Students president, Peters was a member of Alumnae Council and the Presidential Search Committee. She was active in Wanawake Weusi and was a resident advisor. Peters worked in the Office of Admissions for two years, during which time she played a leading role in the “Spend-a-Day-in-Our-Shoes” and “Women of Color” programs. After graduation, Peters joined the Office of Admission as an admission counselor, with a focus on recruiting women of color.

---

**Outstanding Young Women Wanted!**

If you know an outstanding young woman applying to college, encourage her to investigate Scripps. As an added incentive, present her with the certificate below—a waiver of the $50 application fee.

Applications for the Class of 2012 are due November 1, 2008, for Early Decision I; January 1, 2009, for Early Decision II; January 1, 2009, for Regular Decision. Other deadlines are as follows: Scholarship deadline: November 1, 2008; Midyear Admission deadline: November 1, 2008; Fall Transfer deadline: April 1, 2009.

---

**SCRIPPS COLLEGE APPLICATION FEE WAIVER**

This certificate entitles the applicant named below to a waiver of the $50 application fee.

**NAME OF APPLICANT**

**ALUMNA’S NAME AND CLASS YEAR**

**ALUMNA’S ADDRESS**

---

Engaged? Expecting?

We’re delighted to spread the word when your good news becomes a reality. Just let us know after the vows are spoken or the baby has arrived.

Photos submitted for consideration should be sent to: editor@scrippscoll.edu with a resolution of 300 dpi.
The Bebop Sisters

There we were, Martha and Linda, sisters, be-bopping down the Newport Freeway in Linda’s “Blue Bubble,” the name we gave to her midnight blue ’59 Ford. We rode with the windows wide open, Beethoven’s 9th blaring from the radio for all to hear, hair blowing straight across our faces, gum popping, on our way to Laguna Beach to burn our bodies to a crisp lying in the hot summer sand—me in my pink and orange stretch terry swim suit and Linda, my older sister, in her aqua, gathered number; no boobs showing anywhere on either of us, but fingernails and toenails painted Shocking Pink. It was 1960, and we were the California girls, man, feelin’ groovy.

We spent our lives in cars, trying to be cool but always a little bit square. We went cruising with the sounds of Claire de Lune and the 1812 Overture inspiring our every move. Colorado Boulevard was our big haunt. We went to the movies, stopped at the drive-in at Bob’s Big Boy to check out the boys. There we were: two girls wanting to be the California girls we saw in Seventeen and Glamour ads, but never having it all together.

We grooved at the Cat’s Pajamas, listening ever so coolly to the Beat poems, lazy eyes dreaming to the cool jazz—me in a black turtleneck, black skirt, and black tights; and Linda, older, with black eye make up and white lips, playing like little sister wasn’t along, her favorite expression, “Like, wow, man.” We sang songs about all being in the world together, about blowing in the wind, about being trapped on a train in Boston. We were part of a movement, man, and the Kingston Trio and Peter, Paul, and Mary were our leaders.

Linda grew up that year and went to college. She went on to live the American Dream: she got married, had two kids, and then divorced and divorced. She dropped husbands one right after the other like bombs going off in her unwary heart.

After high school, I also went off to college, to Scripps, the place that I’d seen as a five year old and decided was the place for me. During the summer, I flew to New York on my way to my first summer job. I stayed at a hotel in Times Square, right in the middle of the action, with hordes of people, cars, and horns blaring everywhere, signs with blinking lights flashing through my window all night long, and knocks on my door in the middle of the night.

A year later, 1967, back in New York, a little wiser, the summer of love in San Francisco, the summer of the Arab-Israeli War in New York. Me, working at Mademoiselle magazine; me, a guest editor for the month of August—a whole month of whirlwind tours meeting famous people, going to parties, taking a trip to Peru.

While I was in New York, Linda was raising two children. Suddenly divorced after the second baby, she turned to babysitting, Tupperware, and cosmetic home-parties, and finally, greeting card designers’ assistant. She married the designer and added grown-up children to her menagerie of kids and animals. That marriage didn’t last either, and now she lives with her best friend in a small apartment, collecting and selling on eBay.

New York was too much for me. I traipsed back to California and took ordinary jobs—no more flying high with Warhol and friends. Just like Linda, I married my college sweetheart, but we stuck it out, had a kid, traveled the world, worked like crazy—all those things adults are expected to do. Linda and I saw each other occasionally, both of us busy with our separate lives.

When our parents died, we reconnected. We’re now in our 60s. Linda’s straight blonde hair is now white, while I look more and more like our mother. We share stories of families, husbands, and partners. Once again, a year after our mother
died, we were grooving as we drove down the California coast, hair blowing in the wind, doing 80 miles an hour from San Francisco to L.A. three times together, this time in a PT Cruiser; this time with Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, and Keith Urban blaring out the windows.

We were still the California girls—me in a black T-shirt and capris, and Linda, still a little plump, in an aqua tie-died T-shirt and pants. While we cleaned out our parents’ accumulations, we resolved longstanding issues with the rest of our family. In response to our heated reaction to our family conflicts, we started calling each other new nicknames, the Two Hotties, Jalapeño and Habañero. But we didn’t forget those days when we were just the Bebop Sisters.

Ann Reardon Mullis ’72

My Little Sister

“A beloved daughter, devoted sister and wonderful friend, Rosemary Reardon, passed away unexpectedly on November 1, 2006, at her home in Tucson, Ariz. Rosemary was born on June 7, 1958, to Henry C. and Joan Reardon in Schenectady, New York…She attended school at Sts. Simon and Jude Elementary School and graduated from Xavier College Preparatory High School in Phoenix…She is survived by her father Henry of Phoenix, sister and brother-in-law Ann and Ron Mullis of Tallahassee, Florida, her niece Nicole Mears and her three children, her beloved yellow lab Trooper and numerous friends and extended family members.”

This was my little sister summed up in the words of her simple newspaper obituary. The magic of her creativity, the music of her laughter, the love for her family and friends silenced. Rosie had clear views of what she needed to do from her earliest days. As a child, she was quiet around strange adults. When queried about this at age four she responded, “They have nothing to say to me,” and refused to be pressured into conversing. When she was learning to swim, she persisted in swimming under water. Parents and instructors tried to get her to follow the standard Red Cross swimming model and her response was, “When I am five, I will swim on top,” and she did. As a young swimmer for the Arizona Desert Rats, she won age group trophies and held state records in her chosen events.

Because of our age difference, we were not particularly close until she started college. We shared a similar teasing sense of humor, inherited from our father, as well as a compulsive need to decorate for and celebrate every possible holiday. With distance and each of our marriages, we grew apart again. I always thought, “She is my little sister. There is time to regain closeness.” I read research on siblings caring for each other as they aged. And then, before our gap mended, she died.

I miss her. I wonder what holidays will be like without her particular brand of celebration; I will miss her creative products; I miss being able to call someone who shares family history and can be depended upon to laugh with just the first few words of a family legend. I miss her.

Becky Barber Adams ’61

Sisterhood—the best!

My sister has been my best friend all of my life. Our personalities are different, yet sympatico. I am the eldest, and, as is typical, the more serious, shy, and quiet. Ann is smart, outgoing, and fun. Our mother used to say, “I wish I could shake you two in a bottle,” but maybe we get along so well because we admire and like the differences we see in the other. Since I left home in Colorado to go to Scripps, Ann and I haven’t lived near each other. She lives in Ohio, but we have remained close by telephoning or writing—emailing is great because we don’t have to worry about the time difference. We have also been fortunate to have lots of visits. We have never spent a Christmas apart in our whole lives. We used to take our families to Colorado for Christmas, and then when our parents could no longer host us, we went to Ohio or Ann’s family came to California. Santa Barbara has been the preferred location for Christmas vacations the past 11 years.

I planned the spacing of my children to be the same as Ann’s, figuring that was the magic formula. It worked for our daughters, who are close friends, even though one lives in California and one in Ohio. Ann’s sons are the same spacing and they, too, are good friends even though one lives in Ohio and one in Calif. Not sure what the California/Ohio deal is! From observation, however, I am well aware that there is no magic formula, just good fortune to have a wonderful sister. (I am also blessed to have two wonderful sisters-in-law.)

As time marches on, I am even more grateful for someone who has known me so well and shared so many experiences.

Sisterhood—it is the best!
The Bravest Woman I Know

When Katie and I attended Scripps together for one year, in 1996, I waited with excitement and occasional trepidation to hear the latest yarn my first-year mentor group would tell me about Katie's dramatic adventures. "Swimming naked in which pool? The fountain by the CMC fishbowl? During lunch? As part of an improvisation class assignment?" I would gasp. After a while, I just asked them to let me hear it straight from my sister and best friend, Katie Wise '97. Katie has always been my role model when it comes to facing fear with a laugh. Since childhood, she has pushed aside fear like so much garbage. She has had real risks to manage. We decided to visit a medical expert at UCLA. Katie immediately agreed to come when we invited her to join us as our doula. A doula is a birth coach and expert, but it was the decision factor.

February 6, 2006: Katie, Greg, and my mom were right with me during the birth, encouraging me and providing calm, assured voices. They cheered me so loudly during pushing that the charge nurse had to politely say, "Coaches, can you please quiet down? Jenny needs to hear the doctor now—the head is crowning!" Only four hours after initial labor began, I was nursing my red-headed, gorgeous baby boy, Ian! To my delight, and thanks to hypnobirth techniques, I had experienced no fear, just intense sensation, excitement, and amazement and delight, and thanks to hypnobirth techniques, I had experienced no fear, just intense sensation, excitement, and a natural birth beyond my wildest dreams! Katie not only helped me overcome my fears of giving birth, she gave up a month of her Santa Monica-based pre-natal yoga and doula service business to come and stay with us in Colorado. She helped Greg with Ian's night feedings, cooked, shopped, and organized our house to support Ian, Greg, and me, her grateful sister.

So, who's afraid of motherhood? Natural childbirth! How to reorganize your life as a new family? Not me. Because throughout all of my life, Katie's exuberant faith and humor keeps me laughing, growing, and believing in myself.

Watch out, world, here come the Wise women!
My name is Elizabeth, and I am one half of a whole. My other half is my identical twin sister, Kathryn. Technically, I could say I have a younger sister because I was born two minutes before her. Kathryn is quick to mention that in many Asian cultures, the child born second is really the oldest and wisest because they let the other baby go first.

When we were born, I was “Baby A” and she was “Baby B.” Our mom and dad thought long and hard about what to name us. Our parents wanted us to have regal names, so they chose the names of queens: Elizabeth of England and Kathryn of Russia.

When we were very little, our mom and dad asked us what it was like to be sisters in our mom’s tummy. I don’t think they expected the answer they got. We told them we lived in separate apartments. Kathryn lived right next door to me. Then one day, there was an earthquake that destroyed Kathryn’s place. I opened my door to her, she moved in, and we spent the rest of the time in our mommy’s tummy together. I know most people don’t remember time spent in the womb, but the day Kathryn moved over to my apartment is a vivid memory for me. I think she even had a tiny suitcase…but I might have added that detail over time.

I can’t imagine my time on this earth without my sister. During our 26 trips around the sun we have been best friends and confidants. People wonder why I always wanted to do what Kathryn did. The main reason is that whenever I did something by myself it felt like I was having half the fun I could have had. With Kathryn by my side, things are funnier and more enjoyable.

Growing up, we both played the piano and clarinet, loved Girl Scouts, read the same books, and had the same friends. Even today, my friends are her friends and her friends are my friends. We both chose to go to Scripps and majored in American studies. We graduated from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, worked for the Public Defender’s Office, and both want to do trial work.

We know that there will be a day when a job, or marriage, or some other great opportunity will come along and we will want to go our separate ways. But it will always be a priority in our lives to see each other often and talk on the phone every day (probably more than once). Until then, we are enjoying each other’s company. Wherever our futures take us, I will always have Kathryn in my life.

Luckily, I was born with a sister who is my best friend. And to think, it all happened on a fateful day over 26 years ago when an earthquake sent Kathryn packing and she moved in with me.

Elizabeth Franklin ’02

Kathryn, My Other Half

We call ourselves the “Meet in the Dirt Group.” There are eight of us, each Scripps 2002 graduates, each the best of friends. The name came to us in our junior year when three of us, Elizabeth Franklin, Shelley Williams, and I lived in the “New Dorm” (what the Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Hall was called in 2000); Michelle Philan and Katie Lyon lived in Browning, Leanna Kinsey Shuster called Kimberly home, Becky Hu lived in Toll, and Mackenzie Rowe lived in Grace. When it came to meeting for dinner or an activity on campus, one person would start calling the others and say, “Let’s meet in the dirt outside the New Dorm.” It was quickly shortened to “Meet in the dirt.”

We met in the dirt before at least two meals a day, before classes, and before every Sunday night dinner, when we traveled to Harvey Mudd’s dining hall for a night on the town. Our senior year was filled with “meet in the dirt” moments, too. We met in the dirt before heading to the new pool to swim, before the senior graduation activities, and when someone needed a few shoulders to cry on or a couple of sets of ears to listen.

How can I sum up a sisterhood with a group of women that was formed nine years ago and that continues to flourish today? Ours is a friendship group filled with racial, religious, and cultural diversity. It is a friendship that crosses time and space. When we see each other or talk on the phone after long periods of time, it feels as if we just met in the dirt the night before to go to dinner together.

Although the eight of us have not been back to Scripps all together, each time one of us visits our alma mater and the places where our sisterhood bloomed, each friend is close in our hearts. Eight of us purchased an apple tree in the student garden behind Browning. Six of us attended the five-year reunion for the class of 2002. Five of us danced together at Leanna’s wedding. Four of us cruised to Mexico. Two of us dress up the goat (the sculpture outside the Humanities Building) every time we go to Scripps. Leanna gave birth in February 2008 to Samantha, the newest member of the “Meet in the Dirt Group.” Eight of us remain sisters until the end.

While not all sisters related by blood, we are sisters joined together by our time at Scripps. We have been blessed to know each other. I look forward to a future filled with weddings, births, celebrations, reunions, vacations, and laughter. My sisters are my family.

When asked what is a friend, Aristotle answered, “a single soul dwelling in two bodies.” My heart and soul are with seven dynamic women: my friends, my sisters.
I am a Hindu and a vegetarian. As a Hindu, I believe that all life forms are sacred, to be loved and respected, and therefore practice ahimsa, a doctrine that urges avoidance of harm and violence to living creatures. I became a vegetarian for both health and religious reasons after realizing how cruelly animals are treated in slaughterhouses.

I am also a molecular biologist—one who will be expected in the years ahead to conduct research using animals. Because working with animals in my biomedical research projects is essentially at odds with my religious beliefs, I have constantly been trying to resolve these inner conflicts. Would it be possible to have a successful career without working with mice, or would I need to find a way to reconcile my career goals with my Hindu beliefs of ahimsa and respecting all life forms?

I first became interested in molecular biology during my junior year at Scripps in Professor Margaret Mathies’ genetics course—specifically in how precise molecular mechanisms have profound effects on full body physiology. I was even more fascinated by how altering the function of one gene at the molecular level can lead to debilitating diseases such as Huntington’s or Cystic Fibrosis. Molecular mechanisms became how I inherently thought about science. I had found my calling: to become the best molecular biologist I could be by studying the molecular pathogenesis of human disease.

Fast forward nine years. I have a PhD in human genetics from UCLA, where I published many papers on the molecular mechanisms of a gene that causes adrenal hypoplasia congenita. I am now a postdoctoral researcher in reproductive medicine and neuroscience at UC San Diego and was recently awarded a grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the molecular regulation of gonadotropin-releasing hormones and mechanisms of infertility.

As a scientist, I am confident and skilled in molecular technologies that involve working with cultured mammalian cells representative of the physiologic system I am studying. So far during my biomedical research career, I have not handled a single mouse or any animal, and this comes as no surprise to my colleagues and mentors. However, I have recently reconciled my career goals with my Hindu beliefs and will be pursuing a project involving mice later this year.

I am not doing this because of pressure from my mentors or the demands of science in academia and industry. My desire to resolve my religious conflicts and delve into the animal model is driven by my own curiosity to understand how my molecular findings translate to the complex system that is a whole animal. Whole animal studies corroborate molecular findings and further understanding of human disease, a very fulfilling idea.

Hindus believe in karma, a law of cause and effect where your deeds dictate your destiny. As you sow, so shall you reap. Good Hindus lead lives of good conduct, and perform their duties with noble intentions.

I therefore asked myself, why am I doing this? I am working with the animals for a good, virtuous reason: to benefit human health care by advancing the knowledge of complex biological systems and human disease. This knowledge will lead to the development of better treatments and therapies. My duty in life is to be the best scientist I can be. Applying my molecular studies to the whole animal is the best way to maximize the impact of my findings.

We are very fortunate to be living in an age of great resources and model systems to refine novel treatments for human disease. In addition, we have elaborate regulations to treat and handle the animals in a humane manner.

I am very excited about taking my career as a scientist to a new level. Having reconciled these differences will open doors for me to have a very fulfilling and satisfying biomedical research career in the biotechnology or pharmaceutical industry.
As you plan for the future, remember those who mean the most to you.

It is natural to want to provide for those people or places that hold or have held a special place in your life and experiences. A bequest to Scripps in your will or living trust, or the naming of Scripps as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement plan, helps the College continue to provide a superb education in the liberal arts and humanities to accomplished young women.

In addition, a gift to Scripps to fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust can begin to pay you a life income immediately, with a remainder to come to the College in the future, as you direct.

Please consider a bequest or life income gift to Scripps as you plan your future!

For more information or to make a planned gift to Scripps College, please contact Allyson Simpson, Director of Planned Giving, at (909) 621-8400 or asimpson@scrippscollege.edu.
Here they come!
Workers at Valley Crest Tree Company, in Sunol, Calif., load young Princeton elms on flat bed trucks for travel to Scripps, in July. The trees replace the dying 70-year-old elms that the College removed for safety reasons in May.