Reaching New Heights

College elects new president
Students explore myriad opportunities
Mr. and Mrs. Scripps

Everyone has her own favorite power couple. Arguably, these days in Claremont, that’s Mary and Fritz Weis.

We’ve all known Mary for years. But Fritz? Wasn’t he that CMC guy, the one with the bowtie, the “accompanying spouse” at Scripps events? Until two years ago, that is.

Then, he answered the call to become interim president for a year, while the College did a national search for its 7th president. Somehow, one year became two.

It has been a great time. We’ve had the services of a dynamic duo that has served the College with dedication and hard work—and with enviable style and good cheer.

The Board of Trustees surprised Fritz (and Mary) with the following resolution at a dinner March 28. Now, Fritz will forever go down in the College’s records as the official 7th president of Scripps College. Congratulations, and well done!

Resolution Honoring Frederick "Fritz" Weis and naming him President of the College, 2007-08 and 2008-09

Whereas:
Fritz ‘Fritz’ Weis was initially appointed Interim President of Scripps College for the period 2007-08; and

A highly regarded member of The Claremont Colleges community, he brought to this position a deep understanding of Scripps, the Claremont Consortium, and liberal arts education, and a strong background in finance, college administration, and teaching; and

He demonstrated his commitment to and affection for Scripps by responding to our call for his continued leadership, extending his appointment as Interim President for one additional year through 2008-09; and

With a keen understanding that Scripps could not lose momentum during this transitional period, he was instrumental in moving the College forward in key strategic areas. Among the significant accomplishments during his two years of service are the implementation of the Faculty Retention and Hiring Endowment Fund Program, completion of the Salle Terrian Field House, cultivating a major gift to increase critically needed student aid resources, and encouraging an improved sense of community on campus; and

Fritz Weis has always been a champion of the open process and demonstrated his commitment to this approach in all of his interactions with faculty, students, staff, and trustees, which earned him the respect and admiration of the College community; and

Scripps has benefited, in particular, from Fritz Weis’ conscientious and wise counsel in the area of business and finance; and

He was particularly successful in developing a strong rapport with students who helped him discover his “feminine side;” and

Individually and as a couple, Fritz Weis and his wife, Scripps alumna Mary Fraser Weis, Class of 1966, are models of unswerving devotion to the College, freely giving of their time and energies to friend raising, fundraising, and whatever else is in the best interest of the College.

Therefore, be it resolved:
The Scripps Board of Trustees takes enormous pride in the leadership provided by Fritz Weis during an important transition time of the College. He served the College with generosity, wisdom, and exceptional sound judgment. Through his good efforts, Scripps is better positioned to move to new levels of achievement and national recognition. It is with gratitude that the Board confers the title of President of the College on Frederick M. Weis for the academic years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.
Fashion Plates Tell Cultural Tales

In the depths of Denison Library lies an unparalleled collection of more than 650 19th-century fashion plates. The precursors of photographs in today’s Vogue, fashion plates tell the story of the culture they portray in both subtle and obvious ways. They are a rich resource for scholars of fashion history and culture, questions of gender, sartorial fashion, and mass-circulating publications.

In 1948, Scripps trustee Benjamin Kirby (1876-1957) donated the plates to Scripps College and named the collection after his first wife, Myrtle Tymell Kirby. In spring 2007, after being quietly stored for almost 60 years, the collection was introduced to Heidi Brevik-Zender, visiting assistant professor of French studies, by lady Harvey Sahak ’54, the Sally Preston Swan Librarian at Denison Library. Brevik-Zender used the plates to research modernity, gender, and sartorial fashion in late 19th-century France in preparation for her fall 2007 course, La Mode et La Modernité (The Fashion of Modernity). Together, Sahak and Brevik-Zender initiated the digitization of the collection for the Claremont Colleges Digital Library, in order to make the historical resource accessible to a greater audience via the Internet.

With engravings ranging from the late 18th-century to the early 20th, the collection represents what Brevik-Zender describes as “the golden age of hand-touched, mass-circulating fashion imagery.” The plates show contemporary scenes of middle- and upper-class life, emphasizing the leisure practices of women, and, at times, men and children, from bourgeois society. While the majority of the collection originates from French, British, and American periodicals, plates from Spain, Germany, and the Netherlands are also included, showing the unique values, tastes, aspirations, and norms of each culture.

Digitization of the collection was made possible by a grant from Cecilia Conrad, dean of faculty at Scripps College and Stedman-Sumner Professor of Economics at Pomona College. The full collection may be viewed at http://ccdl.claremont.edu/ccdl/bp.

—Jennifer Loesch ’09

Thanks for such an excellent fall issue. There were several wonderful articles, but a couple really stood out to me, including Allison V. Thompkins’ “Should We Be a Colorblind Society?” Such a thoughtful and well-reasoned article, and who better than the author to write it. Wow!

I also appreciated Jessica Heaton’s sensitive article on her encounter at an Israeli checkpoint in the Post Scripps section. Her honesty about her encounter—and the magazine’s courage in printing such a piece on this controversial subject—was eye-opening. Last but not least, in scanning through the Class Notes section to see what great things alumnae are up to, it was touching to see notices of several same-gender couples and their celebrations of weddings, etc. Regardless of where one stands personally on these issues, I believe the College is taking a deeply honoring and respectful stand towards all its alumnae in publishing everyone’s contribution.

Thanks for providing this forum where all our voices may be heard. We know from our Scripps background that it does indeed enrich us to ponder ideas we might not normally come into contact with. Well done, and thanks again!

HELEN PARKER YOUNG ’72
UPLAND, CALIF

We all know that no matter the cover story of the most recent Scripps magazine, the most exciting section of the publication is the coveted news notes, the section where we can read about the accomplishments and adventures of our fellow Scripps sister alumnae. I was shocked and appalled at the following note that appeared within this most loved section. It read, “While our policy is not to include engagement or pregnancy announcements, we will be happy to publicize your good news once it becomes a reality—so be sure to keep us updated.” This statement to me was rude and offensive. While I am not pregnant or engaged, I know that for those Scripps alumnae who currently are in these two stages of life, it is definitely real to them. Who makes you the decision-maker for these women? If they choose to send in a news note about their pregnancy or engagement, it is their news, and I do not understand how in good conscience you would choose to censor their news based on your closed definition of reality. With the recent passing of my dear classmate, Liz Goodman Logelin ’00, I have been given a new perspective on life. Every day is real and precious, and it is not within our right to tell others what is and is not real to them. In the spirit of the Alumnae Association’s seal “Incipit Vita Nova” (Here begins new life), I urge you to print those new notes and to not censor news based on your own opinion of reality. To the women in these stages of life, it is a “new life” in a sense that has begun, and if they want to share their news, then by all means I urge you to print it.

Living my life in the real world everyday.

SARAH BELANGER LANTZ ’00
UPLAND, CALIF

Editor’s note: In response to the above concern, we have reordered our policy (please see p. 37). It is standard practice in alumnae magazines not to print news of engagements or pregnancies, and this has been Scripps’ policy since 1998.

I just wanted to congratulate all of you on a spectacular issue of Scripps Magazine. It was funny, beautifully written, and even a little edgy (Mark Golub on the elections! Coverage of LGBT and disability rights issues!). And, of course, you know this was coming—it made me miss Scripps dearly, and not just for the beautiful new Field House.

ASHLEY BOTTHEY ’07
BROOKLYN, NY

Love the fall 2008 bulletin [Scripps Magazine]—the Field House, the Elms, the Bear, and Nancy [Neighbor] Russell—gorgeous photography, so many impressive side bars. Thank you, too, for the information about Mischief in Tuscany: Bravissimo!

NANCY BROUGHTON HOWARD ’53
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO
Welcome to Scripps, Dr. Lori Bettison-Varga!

Scripps College Board of Trustees has unanimously elected Lori Bettison-Varga president of Scripps College, effective July 1, 2009. A nationally known proponent of liberal arts undergraduate research, Bettison-Varga is currently provost and dean of the faculty at Whitman College, in Walla Walla, Wash. Her first faculty position was visiting assistant professor of geology at Pomona College, in 1990-92. She spent the next 15 years at the College of Wooster, in Ohio, as a professor and chair of the geology department.

“Scripps is thrilled that Professor Lori Bettison-Varga will be our next president,” said Board Chair Roxanne M. Wilson ’76, after a unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees on March 28. “Beyond being a national educational leader of exceptional range and personal warmth, she has ties to Scripps and Claremont, and we are delighted and proud to welcome her ‘home.’”

Bettison-Varga’s mother is Barbara Yunker Bettison ’54 and her cousin is Susan Yunker Armstrong ’66. She has a PhD and MS in geology from the University of California, Davis, and a BA in geology, with honors, from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

On Sunday, March 29, Bettison-Varga came to Scripps with her husband, fellow geologist Robert Varga, and two of their three children to view the campus and tour their future home—and on a day when it was snowing in Walla Walla, it turned sunny.
in Claremont and the scent of orange blossoms permeated the air. The new family will occupy Revelle House, and Alumnae Relations, which has occupied the space since 1999, will relocate to an appropriate place on Scripps’ historic campus.

On Monday, March 30, the Scripps community celebrated the election of Lori Bettison-Varga at a communitywide reception in a packed Hampton Room of the Malott Commons. She is shown here with Scripps President Fritz Weis.

Bettison-Varga succeeds Frederick “Fritz” Weis, who completes a two-year term as president in June. “Scripps excels in liberal arts education, and so does Lori Bettison-Varga,” Weis said of his successor. Scripps’ new president will hold the title of the W.M. Keck Foundation Presidential Chair, established in 1980.

At a dinner for trustees and members of the search committee Sunday night in Margaret Fowler Garden, Bettison-Varga said she was “deeply honored” to be selected as Scripps’ 8th president.

She added: “I must tell you that I feel I have come home. I feel a deep bond to Scripps, going back to my childhood, but, more importantly, a bond related to my life’s work, which has been dedicated to fulfilling the principles of a liberal arts education. Our mission is to develop in students a lifelong love of learning and the capacity for transformational leadership. Indeed, Scripps is the embodiment of all that I value in a liberal arts education….We have an immensely compelling story—a legacy—rich with history, steeped in the beauty and serenity of this historic campus, and marked by a unique curriculum that empowers a new generation of women leaders. It is a story exemplified by the accomplishments of Scripps alumnae around the world who give of themselves with confidence, courage, and hope.

“It will be a privilege to serve the Scripps community, and I cannot wait to get started!”

More information about Lori Bettison-Varga may be found at www.scrippscollege.edu/news/press-releases/

First Nationally Elected Scripps Alumna to Give Commencement Address

U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords ’93 will address this year’s graduating class on Sunday, May 17, 2009, on Elm Tree Lawn.

Giffords represents the Eighth District of Arizona, a diverse area that covers 9,000 square miles including a 114 mile border with Mexico.

Giffords has a series of impressive firsts: she is the first woman to represent Arizona in Congress in more than a decade, the first Democrat to win the Tucson-area district in more than 20 years—and the first Scripps College alumna elected to national office.

She is also Arizona’s first Jewish female representative, the youngest woman to be elected to the Arizona State Senate, and only the third woman in Arizona to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

Karen Tse ’86, founder and CEO of International Bridges to Justice will give the baccalaureate address to the Class of 2009. Tse, an international human rights attorney and ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, founded International Bridges to Justice in 2000. In 2002, Tse was named Scripps’ Outstanding Recent Alumna.

Scripps’ New Members on the Board of Trustees

Francille “Fran” Norris Scoble

Fran Scoble, Scripps’ newest board member, received her BA in English with a philosophy minor from Baylor University, cum laude. She then earned her MA in English from Vanderbilt University as a Ford Foundation Fellow and completed coursework at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colo. She served as head of school at Westridge School for Girls from 1990 until her retirement in June 2008. Her previous professional experience includes positions at St. Mary’s Academy in Englewood, Colo., and Colorado Academy in Denver.

Scoble’s expertise with secondary schools for girls is expected to be a tremendous asset to the Board and the College. She ushered Westridge School for Girls through a major capital campaign, and guided the renovation and restoration of its campus buildings. Scoble also has considerable experience serving on various non-profit boards, including treasurer of the National Association of Independent Schools, past president of the California Association of Independent Schools, and with the National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls, Chandler School in Pasadena, and Planned Parenthood of Pasadena.

Scoble began her term in February 2009 on the Scripps Board; she serves on the buildings and grounds and student affairs committees.

H. Andrea Neves

Educator and expert on global cultural anthropology, H. Andrea Neves became a member of the Scripps College Board of Trustees in December 2008. Neves received a bachelor’s degree in international relations/Latin American studies from the Universidad de Las Americas, in Mexico D.F., Mexico. After teaching at the secondary level in Mexico City and in the United States, she earned an MA degree in social sciences/cultural anthropology and early childhood education from Sacramento State University, and a PhD in education from Stanford University. She has taught at Stanford in the School of Education as a professor and as a visiting scholar, and at Sonoma State University, as a professor of education for more than 30 years.

Her career also includes fellowships from the Fulbright-Hays Program to study the effects of globalization on the educational systems of Tanzania and Uganda. She is presently engaged in development projects and scholarships for young women in Tanzania.

Neves and her husband, Barton Evans, live in Hillsborough, Calif., where they are active in philanthropy in support of education, as well as the arts.
Scripps and the Economy 101

How is Scripps doing in these uncertain financial times? We asked President Fritz Weis and Vice President and Treasurer James Manifold to make sense of what’s happening and why Scripps may be ahead of many of the nation’s colleges in weathering this financial storm.

Q. With the decline in the stock market, what’s happening for Scripps in terms of its endowment?
A. Our endowment is down 17.5%, from July 1 through December 31, 2008; nationally, other colleges’ endowments face declines of 25-35%, or more. Spending from our endowment supports about 23% of the College’s operations. Ironically, the nation’s ultra wealthy schools are struggling more than we are this year since many rely upon their endowment spending to support up to 50% of their operations.

Q. Where does the rest of our income come from?
A. The College has three main sources of income: net student revenues, gifts and other sources, and endowment payout. Net student revenues support 64% of our operations, endowment payout, 23%, and gifts to the College and other sources, 13%.

Q. Who decides the College’s operating budget each year?
A. The Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees presents a budget to the full board for approval each spring. The trustees voted to approve the 2009-10 budget at their March 29 meeting.

Q. It certainly wasn’t “business as usual” in determining the operating budget this year. Set the stage for us, please.
A. To say that this year’s budget exercise was challenging would be an understatement. As we watched the financial markets unwind over the last three quarters, each of us involved in the process wrestled with new budgetary realities. The grim news in the media served as a background for the Finance Committee’s deliberations.

Fortunately, the College has been in budgetary financial equilibrium for the last four years, based on actual results of operations going back to fiscal year 2005-06. Also, we are projecting we will end the current fiscal year with a $500,000 operating surplus. Scripps has always operated on a lean budget, and that has significantly helped us stay financially healthy and be able to move ahead in this current economy.

Q. What is financial equilibrium and why is it important?
A. Financial equilibrium is a condition where operating revenues equal or exceed operating expenses. Financial equilibrium is important because it provides a stable base from which to absorb financial shocks to the system. The whole financial structure of a college is, by design, crafted for slow, incremental change, rather than supple, quick moves.

Q. The College hired 11 new faculty this year, as well as four last year. How was this possible?
A. These new faculty are all replacements for already budgeted faculty positions. Although many other colleges canceled or deferred searches this year, Scripps elected to maintain our commitment to small classes and a low student-faculty ratio. With the buyer’s market, we were able to hire a superb cohort of young teacher-scholars and to fill some positions that had been vacant for several years.

Q. Are we growing the student body?
A. Not at this time. This fall, we anticipate bringing the total enrollment of students to 900, down from 932 in 2008, when we had an unusually high yield from those admitted. This decrease will bring the student-faculty ratio closer to our goal of 10:1. We will move toward our strategic plan goal of 1,000 students only when this growth is consistent with the priorities of the plan, including academic excellence and other measures of quality.

Q. What are the highlights of the 2009-10 operating budget?
• We are increasing student charges by 2.2%, the lowest percentage increase since 1972, and most likely among the lowest percentage increases in the nation this year.
• Financial aid dollars in support of Scripps students will increase 10%, or five times the rate of the tuition percentage increase.
• Endowment spending in support of operations will increase by $325,000 (from $10.9 million to $11.2 million), based on Scripps’ approved spending policy. Our policy will be modestly adjusted to slow the impact of market changes on the budget in both up and down markets.
• An anonymous pledge of $5.7 million over the next three years in support of the James E. Scripps (IES) Scholars Program has added some budgetary flexibility to future operations. Next year’s budget includes use of $1.9 million received in support of the IES Scholars Program. The remainder of the pledge will be used strategically over the following four years.
• Modest salary increases for faculty salaries are being supported in part through spending from the Scripps College Faculty Retention and Hiring Endowment Fund.

Q. Historically, tuition has gone up each year, by an average of 7% over the last three years at Scripps. The 2.2% increase in total student charges is the lowest percentage increase in the past 20 years. Why so low this year?
A. We recognize the difficulties our students and their families are facing in today’s economy. If we can balance our budget, maintain the academic programs, and keep up our staffing levels, and at the same time keep our fees as low as possible, we will do so.

Q. In a year when other businesses and organizations are laying off employees, freezing salaries, and increasing revenue where possible, how can Scripps have such a low tuition increase and give salary increases, too?
A. Scripps finds itself in an unusual budgetary position relative to its competitors, principally due to the anonymous gift in support of the IES Scholars Program. This astonishingly generous and timely gift has really made all the difference in allowing the budget process to avoid program cuts and the postponement of all strategic plan goals.

Q. What are the College’s contingency plans?
A. In addition to our $500,000 surplus, the College has identified $500,000 of cost savings that could be made as a mid-course correction should enrollment be short or financial aid exceed the budget.

Q. Shouldn’t we suspend capital expenditures until the economy turns around?
A. This year’s total budget of $2.5 million for capital expenditures is $1 million less than last year’s, and capital equipment in the operating budget is 4% less than last. A total suspension would not save money in the long run; it would create deferred maintenance, something the College worked very hard to address over the last 15 years. It is estimated by some that every dollar of deferred maintenance creates $2-$3 of eventual spending down the road.

Q. What’s ahead for Scripps?
A. What is clear is that Scripps is obliged to make decisions that advance its mission based upon current conditions. Since we find ourselves in an advantageous budgetary position, we are using this opportunity to gain some ground on strategic plan goals. We are confident that the College is in good financial shape—with sound advice and management from the Board of Trustees—to continue to thrive in the years ahead and support its mission of providing the finest liberal arts education to our students.
Students Take Action for Good Causes

When Scripps students care passionately about a cause, increasingly they turn to creative and productive ways to get out the word—and raise money.

In March this year, two groups of students literally put their bodies on the line to help fight two deadly diseases, AIDS and cancer.

The first group, composed of members of the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) soccer teams, Scripps Activities Team, and Peace and Justice, held a barefoot soccer tournament on the College’s new athletic field on March 7, with 125 student participants. Funds raised will go to Grassroot Soccer, an organization that uses soccer as a tool to teach people in Africa about AIDS prevention and works to reduce the stigma around AIDS/HIV.

The barefoot soccer organizers from Scripps are Arlyn Madsen-Bond ’11, Madden Rowell ’11, Anna Fiastrro ’11, and Amanda Drasny ’09. Madsen-Bond reports that they raised $3,275 (more than double their goal) and are waiting for the approval of a Watson Fellowship to be awarded this year. The awardees will each receive a $28,000 grant to fund their travel and research. Delblyck called the fellowship “the opportunity of a lifetime.” Praising the help she received from Scripps, she added: “The Scripps committee was so supportive and helpful throughout the whole process.”

Led by Susan Rankaitsu, the Fletcher Jones Professor of Studio Art, the committee includes Gretchen Edwards-Gilbert, associate professor of biology; Amy Marcus-Newhall, professor of psychology; Dion Scott-Kalures, the Mary W. Johnson and J. Stanley Johnson Professor in the Humanities; and Yvonne Frame, program administrator, Office of the President.

The second student organization helped put on a 24-hour dance-a-thon to raise money for City of Hope, a comprehensive cancer and research center focused on research and treatment. Dance-a-thon, now in its fourth year, is much like a walk-a-thon, except participants dance the Lindy Hop, nonstop. Six Scripps students in The Claremont Colleges Ballroom Dance Company were Jessica Hurley ’09, Ellyn Brady ’10, Paulina Sanchez ’10, Elena Hernandez ’11, Julie Lapidas ’11, and April Wong ’12.

Scripps students—putting their words and beliefs into action.

—Ilena Zhiran ’09 contributed to this article

A Bright Future

Graduate school acceptances, awards, and job offers pour in for the Class of 2009. Here are just a few of their opportunities, as of April 2:

- Fullbright finalists: 9 seniors
- Davis Projects for Peace grant
- Watson Fellowship
- MS in Molecular Epidemiology, Harvard
- MBA in dance, UC Irvine
- Montessori Teaching Certificate, St. Mary’s College, Dublin, Ireland
- Corps member, Teach For America
- Consulting associate, Cambridge Associates
- 2+2 Program, Harvard Business School
- MA in history of art, Courtauld Institute, London
- PhD in neuroscience, USC
- PhD in behavioral and social neuroscience, Caltech
- MA in landscape architecture, UC Berkeley, Cornell, University of Oregon, and USC
- PhD in cultural anthropology, Washington State
- Intern, Vogue magazine
- PhD in history, UCLA
- MA in Russian and Slavic studies, NYU
- PhD in Italian studies, UCLA
- MATCH Corps member, MATCH Charter School
- Environmental education intern, IslandWood
- PhD in developmental psychology, Caltech
- MA in journalism, Stanford
- PhD in music theory, U of Chicago
- PhD in chemistry, Stanford
- JD at UC Berkeley (Boalt), UC Hastings, USC, Duke, Georgetown
- MA in Latin American studies, Oxford University
- Instructor, Williwaw Adventures

Scripps Senior Alissa Petrites Wins Davis Peace Grant

Alissa Petrites ’09, a humanities major from Oakland, Calif., is the recipient of a 2009 Davis Projects for Peace grant, in the amount of $10,000, to facilitate her “Fusing the Social and Biological, Changing the Nutritional and Immunological Benefits of Breast Milk through the Very Social Grassroots Path of Breast Milk Donation” project in South Africa.

Petrites’ project is designed to further the practice of breast milk donation in Durban, South Africa, and will have three components: a promotional campaign geared toward potential breast milk donors, the creation of a combined history and manual of the Ithema Lethu breast milk bank to aid the development of further milk banks, and focus groups to explore possible challenges and cultural taboos that women might face in accepting donated breast milk for their premature infants. She will work in collaboration with the director of the breast milk bank at Ithema Lethu, and a professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Petrites describes her project as one that “fuses the social and biological, channeling the nutritional and immunological benefits of breast milk through the very social grassroots path of breast milk donation. It, therefore, engenders peace on both a material and interpersonal level.”

Petrites is currently co-director of Challah for Hunger, a student-run organization that, through baking and selling challah, raises funds and awareness about genocide in Darfur.
The editors of Scripps Magazine were so impressed with the coverage of recent faculty awards in the student newspaper, voice, that we are pleased to reprint the article, written by Vritti Goel ’12. It has been qualified for the honor. that if the decision were up to them, they would give the students. Professor Marina Pérez de Mendiola said: “The students I teach here are the reason why I stay at Scripps. I have been blessed with incredibly intelligent and dedicated students, and whatever I give them, they give me back 100 times more.”

Professor Gail Abrams agreed: “This type of academic environment is so stimulating. I feel most fortunate to be at Scripps because of the freedom I have to teach what I want and how I want. I believe that significant, lasting learning takes place when students recognize the relevance of course material to multiple and diverse aspects of their lives.”

Eric Haskell, professor of French and humanities, has received the award eight previous times. His accomplishments for the 2007-08 year include 32 public lectures, a book, scholarly papers and articles, and international travel for research. He particularly focused on “image-text inquiry as it relates to the illustrated book and garden history.”

Nancy Macko, professor of art, received the award for integrating art with other fields. Her works were displayed worldwide, especially in the Czech Republic; the RISD Museum of Art, and the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Amy Marcus-Newhall, professor of psychology, studied two different topics: genocide and the intersection of work and family. She focused on social justice, intergroup relationships, and women’s issues. Marcus-Newhall also contributed to three books in the past year and has begun a series of studies on genocide and activism.

Stacey Wood, associate professor of psychology, focused on decision making, even going so far as to joke that “some students say my classes make them better poker players!” She also focused on law psychology, serving as editor for the Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Psychologists.

Two professors who have done extraordinary community service also received the faculty award. The recipients are Nancy Neiman Auerbach (politics/international relations), currently on sabbatical, and Rina Roberts (history and black studies). With their extraordinary accomplishments, these professors set the bar very high for this year’s recipients, who will be announced in the next academic year. Their many accomplishments have benefited Scripps and the outside community. Even after receiving this award, these professors have their feet firmly on the ground and modestly applaud their fellow faculty members for their accomplishments. Their numerous accomplishments show us just how superhuman they are.

So, to the professors who won: If it weren’t for your passion and dedication to giving us a high-quality education, academics at Scripps would not be nearly as fulfilling as it currently is. Let’s break out the Champagne (or the sparkling cider) and celebrate these wonderful professors who make Scripps what it is and make our lives more wonderful every day! Congratulations!

Eric Haskell

Mary Wig Johnson ’35, a major of the Mary W. Johnson Faculty Community Service Award, is a music professor who recorded a CD of Arnold Schonberg’s Pierrot Lunaire with the chamber music ensemble in which she plays. Blankenburg performed in many concerts on and off campus and was part of the Scripps music delegation to Xiamen University in China, where she both performed and taught.

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So, to the professors who won: If it weren’t for your passion and dedication to giving us a high-quality education, academics at Scripps would not be nearly as fulfilling as it currently is. Let’s break out the Champagne (or the sparkling cider) and celebrate these wonderful professors who make Scripps what it is and make our lives more wonderful every day! Congratulations!

Eric Haskell

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Eric Haskell
The Questioning Life of a Humanities Major

by Clio Korn ’10

I t’s late afternoon, and Professor Crowley is insisting to his Humanities Major, “...it’s late afternoon, and Professor Crowley is insisting to his students to come to the lecture hall to prepare for their final exam.” I am sitting there, listening to his words, when I realize that this is my last class at Scripps College. All my classes have been over for two weeks now, but I still cannot believe that this is my last class. I feel emotions welling up inside me, emotions that I have been trying to suppress for the past few months. I feel a sense of sadness, of loss, of knowing that I will never be able to experience the same learning environment again.

But then, I realize that this is not the end. This is just the beginning. I am now a Humanities Major, and I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. I am looking forward to exploring new topics, to meeting new people, and to learning new things. I am ready to take on the challenge of being a Humanities Major.

Interdisciplinary Humanities – a grand old Scripps tradition

By Tony Crowley, Hartley Burr Alexander Professor in the Humanities

I knew about Scripps and its distinctive curriculum before I arrived on campus for my interview, but once I started to talk to prospective colleagues, I realized, as many people do, that there was something very special about this place. Others have their own reasons for finding Scripps attractive, but my interest was stimulated by the Core Program and the Humanities Curriculum and the Major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Culture.

Forget the beautiful landscape, the modern facilities, the blend of tradition and innovation, the outstanding students, the great colleagues, the soccer pitch also known as Jaqua Quad. It was the opportunity to work in interdisciplinary studies in the humanities that brought me to Scripps.

What I didn’t understand until I actually arrived is that Scripps and the humanities majors are directly linked—both historically and intellectually. Originally designed 10 years ago to cater to the interests of a number of students who wanted to pursue the issues and ideas raised in the Core program, the development and success of the major (26 students declared in the field this year with 12 graduating seniors) indicates that there is a clear demand among our students for the type of interdisciplinary education that will enable them to analyze and engage with the local, national, and international aspects of our globalized world.

The Humanities major is fascinating and fun for a number of reasons. First, it takes as its object of study the topic that has dominated intellectual life in the humanities in modernity—culture. From anthropology to history, sociology to English literature, language study to political science, the recognition that we are the subjects of culture and cultures has completely transformed our knowledge of ourselves and our sense of our place in the world. We are now aware of both the complexity of the cultures we inhabit and the opportunities and dangers we face. And if anything can be said to characterize the humanities major, it is precisely a focus on the possibilities and difficulties of our contemporary historical situation.

Another reason why the humanities major is so exciting is the emphasis on interdisciplinarity, which is built into the structure of the degree. The major are then well-equipped to study disciplinary topics that complement their interests and prepare them to focus on future careers.

My final reason for finding the humanities major exciting and rewarding is that it allows me to participate in an example of Scripps collaboration at its best. I get to work with a set of colleagues drawn from different disciplines, all experienced teachers, and Core I, who come together voluntarily to teach the degree. It would not be possible without the invaluable contributions of Andrew Asenberg (history), Roswitha Burwick (German), Marc Katz (German), Marina Pérez de Mendivilo (Hispanic studies), Nathalie Rachlin (French), David Roselli (classics), and Cheryl Walker (English). I suppose one way of accounting for the interdisciplinarity of the humanities major is to see it as a reflection of the significant recent shift in scholarly method that has taken place internationally. But there is another way of thinking about it. Although the term wasn’t used in those years (its first use dates from the 1970s), interdisciplinarity has been at the heart of the Scripps education since the inception of the College.

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Although the term wasn’t used in those years (its first use dates from the 1970s), interdisciplinarity has been at the heart of the Scripps education since the inception of the College—part of what has made the place unique. In that sense, rather than being a radical innovation, the humanities major is simply a continuation of a grand old Scripps tradition. Given the problems and complexity of our present moment in history, it’s one we should embrace, celebrate, and cultivate.

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The uncertainty this questioning uncovers can be troubling and unsettling, but I also find it thrilling. This is another reason why the humanities major is so exciting is the emphasis on humanities education, which is built into the structure of the degree. The humanities major is a social construction. A fellow humanities major looks troubled, and Professor Crowley remarks, “Feel like the floor’s been pulled out from under you?” We laugh because we’ve all had that feeling. When you major in Humanities: Interdisciplinary Studies in Culture, you come to expect that your most basic assumptions will be challenged and your worldview thrown into question on a regular basis. I love these challenges, the paradoxes, the questions with no final answers. That’s why I’m a humanities major.

Humanities classes train you to question everything—to recognize the layers of meaning in a situation, assess how these meanings are created, notice who creates particular meanings and who benefits from them, and examine the validity of the assumptions inherent in these meanings. While visiting a museum, a humanities major might ask why a Picasso painting, but not a child’s doodle, is considered great art and afforded a spot on the museum’s wall, or she might reflect on how the meaning of a ceremonial mask changes when it is moved from a ritual context into a museum case. While reading the newspaper, a humanities major might consider who decides what violence counts as war, what as terrorism, what as revolution, and contemplate how these distinctions influence people’s views of foreign policy. These are hard questions. They lead to more questions, not firm answers. You push them to take a close look at how you think, to ask why you think the way you do, and to assess the consequences of thinking in this way. The uncertainty this questioning uncovers can be troubling and unsettling, but I also find it thrilling.

The world is a very interesting place when seen through a humanities major’s eyes: boundaries become blurry, distinct categories melt into a continuum, and interpretations multiply.

I find that things get even more interesting when you look at them from the perspectives of both humanities and neuroscience, which is why I’m pursuing a second major in molecular and cellular neuroscience. Both fields investigate how our minds work—neuroscience at the level of the physical brain, humanities on a more conceptual level. The combination of these perspectives is very powerful.

For example, writers in humanities have exposed the continuum of gender and society that underlies the socially constructed categories of “male” and “female,” and their arguments are backed by scientific studies of people who are born with an indeterminate sex. Yet our society still overwhelmingly operates on the assumption that “male” and “female” are distinct, mutually exclusive categories. In other words, questions are posed and experiments conducted in the context of this view. A humanities perspective, supported by critically examined scientific data, can reshape our thinking and rid it of faulty assumptions.

Humanities offers insights into every aspect of my life. Last semester I did a project on Facebook: we examined how it forces people to define themselves in terms of predetermined categories and the potential for individual creativity within the confines of these categories.

When I visited Uganda last summer, the mindset I cultivate in humanities classes helped me stay intellectually interested in my experience even when I felt emotionally disconnected from the people around me because their culture was so different from my own; as I taught neuroscience to Ugandan counseling students, that humanities mindset helped me be sensitive to their emotional and intellectual needs.

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The capstone of a Scripps student’s academic career is her required senior thesis. It is a culminating opportunity to show she has developed the skills and abilities to make a significant, meaningful contribution to the body of knowledge in her chosen major.

Here are just a few of this year’s subjects explored by seniors:

Lauren Latta’s English thesis focuses on the works of Jumot Diaz and Julia Alvarez—two contemporary writers from the Dominican Republic. She became interested in Latin American literature while studying abroad in Argentina and wanted to explore how Latinos/a immigrants have integrated themselves into the broader American canon.

Samantha Cheng, biology and ecology major, used genetic analysis to evaluate paternity in two species of rockfish that are a widespread commercially exploited species off the coast of California. “If these fish are fertilizing their eggs with the sperm of multiple males, this greatly increases the level of genetic variation in populations,” said Cheng. “Understanding how genetic diversity might be maintained (or not), is vital information for proper management of fisheries stocks so that they can be harvested sustainably. I wanted to research something that had practical applications.”

Fatima Elkabti’s thesis is about Palestinian-American hip hop, poetry, and novels and the ways they recall African-American protest literature in form and content. She was intrigued by the evolution of Palestinian-American writing—the way some authors appeal to white normality while others reject it for “blackness” or “otherness.”

Sarah Iker, a double major in math and music, wrote one thesis on perfection, detachment, and otherness. “I chose perfection because it is a recurring theme in my music,” said Iker. “I also wanted to explore how this concept is represented in the works of some of the great composers.”

Camille Frazier examined food as symbolic of the ways they recall African-American protest literature in form and content. She was intrigued by the evolution of Palestinian-American writing—the way some authors appeal to white normality while others reject it for “blackness” or “otherness.”

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Camille Frazier examined food as symbolic of the ways they recall African-American protest literature in form and content. She was intrigued by the evolution of Palestinian-American writing—the way some authors appeal to white normality while others reject it for “blackness” or “otherness.”
Imagine finding yourself far across the globe in the remote village of Delani, South Africa, population 500—miles and miles away from Scripps’ lush California campus. You don’t speak the language, and, as a virtual stranger, you need to draw upon all of your interpersonal skills to gain people’s trust. Your mission: help Delani’s villagers develop and improve their schools, library, sports field, water and sanitation, as well as empower the young people to improve their health and education.

Beth Olesen ’10 accomplished all that during her summer 2008 Global Development Internship (GDI) with the Student Movement for Real Change organization.

Olesen, a Judith Nelsen Keep Leadership Grant recipient, is one of many Scripps women who each year take advantage of internships that enhance their academic and personal interests. But more than simply complementing their studies, these internships give students a chance to create professional networks and gain job-specific capabilities.

"An internship is a great way for our students to explore a particular interest in 10 weeks rather than going to graduate school and discovering that they don’t want to pursue that direction," says Valinda Lee, career counselor in Scripps’ Career Planning & Resources. "Or, students realize how much they love something and want to continue in that field. Working with students to secure internships based on their interests is a big part of what we do."

From social justice, community-based programs, and international relations to sports, entertainment, and fine arts, the following is a brief glimpse into the wide range of internships Scripps women pursue.
Understanding Israeli-Palestinian Relations
Becky Fogel ’09

Conflict Resolution Grant

This past summer, thanks to a generous grant from Margaret Towne D’Albert ’54 to study conflict resolution, Becky Fogel was able to learn more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through Sadaka Reut, a Jaffa-based non-profit organization that focuses on peace and conflict resolution.

Fogel, a Jewish American, grew up within an environment supportive of Israel. However, when she was studying abroad in Egypt her junior year, she found her views challenged by fellow students. This led her to realize the importance of education to peace and conflict work.

Sadaka Reut provided a perfect fit, as it works to introduce teenagers to Palestinian narratives that are absent in the Israeli school system. According to Fogel, “This education not only empowers Palestinian and Jewish youth as separate groups, but allows them to engage with each other and craft an alternative and integrated community, while still cognizant of broader social disparities.”

Fogel’s primary work centered on activities related to Sadaka Reut’s summer youth campaign, which utilized art, music, theater, and public presentations to address the ongoing repression of Palestinians within Israel and the occupied territories. One of her most eye-opening experiences was seeing the process the facilities went through before working directly with the youth. “I particularly enjoyed learning about the kinds of activism they felt best achieved their goals—and that sometimes they disagreed on how to do this.”

Fogel notes that the internship gave her incredible insight into different forms of conflict and resolution work can take. “After the summer,” she says, “I realized something I definitely want to pursue.”

The Middle East history major is currently writing her thesis on colonial representations of Palestinian women. Through her strong commitment to conflict resolution, D’Albert, the grant’s donor, hopes to expand the study to a broader group of Scripps students, perhaps resulting in a seminar at Scripps. “Education is the pathway from battle, but the study of such ongoing conflicts is vital to our global survival at all levels,” she says.

Understanding Brain-Behavior Relationships
Laura Loesch ’09

Claremont Colleges Neuroscience Fellowship

If you’ve ever watched the television show Lie to Me, you’ve probably familiar with the lead character who studies facial expressions and involuntary body language to discover if someone is lying. Laura Loesch undertook a similar project this past summer at Caltech.

One of five recipients of The Claremont Colleges Neuroscience Fellowship, Loesch joined the Caltech Emotion and Social Cognition Lab run under Ralph Adolphs, Bren Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience. The laboratory investigates the neurobiological underpinnings of human social behavior, pursuing questions such as: How do we recognize emotion from facial expressions? How do we make social judgments about other people? How do we look at people’s faces (how do we move our eyes)? How do we make moral judgments about what is right and wrong?

At Caltech, the lab works to answer these questions using various techniques, including assessment of behavior in neurological patients following specific brain damage, recording of electrical activity in the brains of neurological patients, probing the behavior of individuals with neuropsychiatric diseases, such as autism-spectrum disorder, and investigating the behavior and neural activity of neurologically normal people during social cognition tasks.

Over the summer, Loesch worked to understand these questions of social processing by investigating how gaze behavior, a useful window into cognition, changes during deception for both high-functioning autistic and non-autistic individuals in a realistic social setting. The resources available at Caltech allowed her to use a new technique called “head-mounted eyetracking,” which allows the participant to speak as if in a normal conversation, while an eyetracker allows for three-dimensional recording of the participant’s gaze patterns. This allows scientists to study social behavior in an unprecedented realistic setting.

Loesch has continued at the Caltech lab this year as a hired assistant and, based on her research there, will present a poster this summer at the Association for Psychological Science conference.

Loesch has already been accepted into Caltech’s social behavioral neuroscience graduate program, as well as doctoral programs at USC and UCLA. Reflecting on her summer fellowship, Loesch finds that doing this novel research has enhanced her academic career and opened the door to even more opportunities ahead.

Giving Young People a Voice
Orissa Stewart-Rose ’10

Angelica Kusar Clark Grant

Northern California native Orissa Stewart-Rose remembers seeing the Oakland-based Youth Radio at work when she was a student at Berkeley High School. All she knew about them was they were a non-profit that offered students media training and exposure to the communication industry. Several years later, thanks to the Angelica Kusar Clark Grant, Stewart-Rose got an inside look as an intern at the vibrant, community-based organization.

She says it was the hardest job she’s ever had—and the best.

Youth Radio was founded in 1990 on the belief that underserved youth, ages 14-24, have the creativity, technical skills, and entrepreneurial spirit to become leaders in the multi-media industry and mentors in the community. Staff, volunteers, and interns train young people from under-sourced public schools, community-based organizations, group homes, and juvenile detention centers in broadcast journalism, media production, and cutting-edge technology. Its goals are to strengthen basic life-skills, motivate youth to graduate from high school and attend college, and prepare them for multi-media and other careers.

Stewart-Rose worked in Youth Radio’s education and career area as a youth advisor to 20 students. “I would talk to them about everything from how to improve their studying to writing a résumé and looking for jobs,” she says. She created workshops, tapping into what she had learned in her Core classes about how to engage discussion through a diversity of questions and begin opening to let conversations go in different directions. “I was able to put into practice what my professors taught me. I could give Youth Radio students a historical context to what is happening and relevant to them,” she says.

Through the Clark Grant, Stewart-Rose was able to work full time at Youth Radio without having to worry about how to finance her summer. “The organization was so happy to have me, and I was so happy to be there. I feel like I got out as much as I put in. I’ve loved my Scripps academic experience and, before Youth Radio, I felt hungry to put that experience to work.”

Above left, Becky Fogel spray paints Arabic words, with a Hebrew translation/transliteration, on a building in Jaffa as part of the summer youth campaign’s efforts to put more Arabic in public spaces, and to do it in a way that promotes understanding, rather than fear or dissociation.

Above right, Orissa Stewart-Rose and Jacinda Albicarian, executive director of Youth Radio.

Supporting the People of Chiapas
Elizabeth Lopez ’09

Virginia Judy Estes Award

Through the Virginia Judy Estesty Award, Elizabeth Lopez was able to assist the non-profit Meléj xojibal (“the true light” in the local Toolt language) in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. The goal: improve the quality of life for the indigenous urban and rural population in Chiapas, mainly children.

For three months last summer, Lopez lived in the Southern Mexico town on her own. This gave her experiences she would never have had without the Scripps grant, including a close-up view of how international non-profit organizations work to improve communities. As Meléj xojibal’s administrative assistant, she organized the library where the group houses key information. “I was able to read all these studies about the street children of Latin America that I normally wouldn’t have access to.”

Lopez is an active figure on the Scripps campus through the Chiapas Support Committee, which educates the community about the state of Chiapas and fundraise. It was this involvement that led her to pursue an internship with Meléj xojibal.

The next step for the sociology and Chicano studies major includes a return visit to Mexico City, where she hopes to work with other non-profit organizations. “I have already been on two trips to the area, experienced living with indigenous families, and worked closely with the Human Rights Center;” she says. “I am Mexican, and this work is part of my identity.”

Above, a mural promotes children’s rights at Meléj xojibal, where Elizabeth Lopez worked. Below, Lopez, center, with two local teens at the state zoo in Chiapas, Mexico, during a Meléj xojibal-sponsored fieldtrip for more than 200 children.
Emma Porterfield '09

Emma Porterfield loves sports. So much so that she gave up a semester abroad so she could stay with her CMS softball team. It was no surprise then that the self-described "major" Chicago Cubs fan would land a summer internship with a major league baseball organization. Through Scripps, she was able to meet Seattle Mariners owner Chuck Armstrong, who is married to Scripps alumna Susan Yunker Armstrong '66. Emma sent him her résumé and got the job.

Porterfield was introduced to the fast-paced life on the baseball diamond right off the bat. The third day as an intern, with her boss and his assistant out of town, she was essentially "in charge" of a game-day event. Everything ran smoothly, "but what an introduction!" she relates. She was also put in charge of managing the schedules of a group of eight Japanese interns, led stadium tours, and collaborated with the marketing department to increase the Mariners’ visibility. She also got to eat lunch in the press box and stand on the field for the singing of the national anthem.

In that first meeting, Greenberg gave Lind a crash-course in navigating the tricky waters of the entertainment industry. "Sarah spent 15 minutes trying to scare me—telling me you work crazy hours, you don't sleep, won't have time to see your family," Lind recalls. "All the while, my eyes were glowing. After Sarah realized she intimidated me as much as she could and I was still excited, she offered me an internship after graduation."

The job was just as advertised. Far from the glamorous image of attending movie premiers or rubbing elbows with the stars, Lind performed typical "gopher" tasks. "There were days when I thought she was kidding. Like when she asked me how fast I could put 600 CDs on her iPod. It was important to remember that the things being asked of me as an entertainment intern were not equal to the level of respect you had for me."

Greenberg introduced Lind to Lions Gate executives and showed her how to network. Before the end of the summer, a job opened up and Lind jumped in as the assistant to the other co-president of marketing. In her year-and-a-half at Lions Gate, Lind was also helpful in securing internships for two other Scripps students.

Lind has been accepted to several business schools and says she most likely will attend Indiana University in the fall to study brand management.

Ready for Her Close Up
Katy Lind '06

As a theatre and dance major, Katy Lind wanted to pursue a job in a creative field. After graduation, she turned to the Scripps alumni network. It was through this vast resource in Career Planning & Resources that she found Sarah Greenberg '93, co-president of marketing at Lions Gate Films.

"Sarah had the job I thought I wanted for the rest of my life, and it was a bit nerve-wracking thinking about meeting with her," says Lind, whose bubbly personality seasons her conversations. A dedicated student at Scripps, she laughs about the time she blithely told her mother: "I want to work somewhere where people wear cute shoes…hip, creative people. So when I walked into the Lions Gate offices, I looked through the glass doors at a woman down the hall with blond hair, a great outfit, and the cutest shoes. She turned out to be Sarah."

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Batter up!
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The psychology major came out of her internship with great enthusiasm: "I learned how to deal with different types of people, and really appreciate the amazing opportunity I was given. This internship was definitely not all about answering phones or getting coffee."
For Sarah Falltrick, interning in the research department at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work closely under the supervision of Scripps parent and economist Dr. Geoffrey Tootell. “I knew I would be a part of real economic research at a level I had never experienced,” she says. Joining a broader summer internship program at the bank, Falltrick interacted daily with more than 30 interns in different departments. “I learned what the Fed does other than research and conduct the resulting monetary policy.”

“The Claremont Colleges were a great place to start looking for an intern, given that we aim high in recruiting,” Tootell says. “Since my daughter attends Scripps, I had a few discussions with Scripps representatives on other matters, and the subject of internships came up naturally. These representatives helped the Boston Fed and me make a connection with the school.”

Falltrick spent the majority of her time entering, organizing, and re-checking data in Excel. “Not the most glamorous task I can think of, but absolutely necessary in economic research,” she notes. She also participated in a research project on modeling forecasting error in the recent reporting of the Phillips Curve. “I was surprised by the level of involvement I was offered. I did not expect to be included in any of the ‘real’ research projects at such an intimate level. One day, after entering, checking, and re-checking data in Excel for weeks, Geoff asked me to run the data in Stata. It stands out as one of the best days of the internship when I successfully modeled his equation in Stata.”

Tootell adds: “Sarah contributed to our ability to conduct both monetary policy research and monetary policy analysis, and she did a great job. Secondly, I think it is important to provide people from the West Coast with an early opportunity to experience life on the East Coast. The place is much different, and the people are different.”

Today, Falltrick is an analyst and account manager at a rice brokerage firm. She buys and sells rice, produces market analysis regarding the commodities markets (particularly for rice), and manages day-to-day logistics for clients. In the coming year, she plans to attend law school.

As an Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP) fellow, Duyen Tran is participating in a prestigious and unique five-year, multi-part program. It includes a combination of short seven-week summer global policy institutes; a study abroad opportunity that focuses on global public policy, service, and research; and a master’s degree program in international affairs that provides up to $15,000 in matching funds to fellows.

In May 2008, Tran began her fellowship by studying discrimination in the HIV/AIDS communities in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam. For two weeks, Tran researched the effectiveness of two key non-government organizations that worked with the HIV/AIDS communities and other NGOs. Then, she returned to the U.S. in the summer for the seven-week fellowship program at Spelman College.

The politics and international relations major found the last two weeks of the summer program took learning to a new level. IIPP fellows went to New York and Washington, D.C., to meet with United Nations officials and explore international community organizations. “We had one-on-one discussions with State Department members, as well as those at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.”

Later, Tran went back to Vietnam for her study-abroad semester. “When I was in Vietnam, I explored economic development further, and I want to continue to study the concept in Southeast Asia,” she says.
Demystifying Financial Aid

By Kristina Brooks

With personal attention and a new 24/7 online portal for students and families, Scripps Office of Financial Aid goes increasingly proactive.

As part of the tide of gloomy economic news, the uncertain future for student financial aid has become a regular topic for reporters and worried families alike. By mid-February of this year, the number of federal financial aid forms filed had risen by 20% over last year, while a headline in the Los Angeles Times of December 27, 2008, bemoaned “Students learn too late the costs of private loans.” Parents are confused; students are anxious. What is the future of student financial aid, and how is Scripps preparing for it?

“Our guiding principle continues to be that we don’t want finances to be a reason a student doesn’t come to Scripps,” says David Levy, who has been director of financial aid at the College since September 2008, after serving for nearly 19 years at Caltech as director of financial aid and director of educational outreach. “Less than half of the students at Scripps pay the full amount of their costs.”

In fact, Scripps is one of a small number of colleges that promises to meet the full demonstrated need of its eligible aid applicants through grants, scholarships, low- or no-interest loans, and employment. This is an area of some confusion, as many colleges and universities pledge that they are “need blind” in their admission process, meaning that they do not consider applicants’ ability to pay. However, these schools often do not meet the full need of their admitted students.

A recent report by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) found that, while 93% of public and 81% of private institutions claim to be need blind, only 32% of public and 18% of private institutions promise to meet the full financial need of accepted students. Thus, “gapping” is prevalent, a situation where a college admits a student but provides an aid package that falls short—sometimes far short—of meeting that student’s financial needs.

When Angela* applied to Scripps in 2008, the total cost of attendance was “very scary,” she said. Neither of her parents had attended college, and Angela had been on scholarship at a private, all-girls school since seventh grade. Her father’s small landscaping business in Dallas was heavily dependent on both weather and general economic ups and downs. However, Angela “was willing to take out loans because I so strongly believed in Scripps’s values and felt I couldn’t easily find this kind of education.”

Angela applied to Scripps Early Decision, a binding agreement that holds the applicant to attend the College if she is accepted. “My first reaction when I saw my financial aid offer was ‘Wow, that’s a lot of money they’re giving me.’ I was really comforted by Scripps’s promise to meet my financial need.”

But how is “need” determined? Step into the world of financial aid, a complex zone somewhere north of college admissions and south of managing a stock market portfolio. Lesson number one: every student who wishes to apply for any federal grant, loan or work-study program must file the FAFSA, or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Scripps also requires that first-year applicants complete the CSS PROFILE. Like most colleges, Scripps uses the PROFILE and FAFSA information to perform an eligibility calculation to determine each student’s “need” and fulfill it with grants.

“We try to remain sensitive to a family’s situation throughout the year,” says Levy. “We’re there for them throughout a student’s entire career here. I had a case this morning with a Scripps family that suffered a $40,000 reduction in their college savings plan. Basically, in a situation like that, we do a brand new eligibility calculation.”

*Student names have been changed for reasons of confidentiality.
By the Numbers 2008-09

Student Charges
Scripps tuition, fees, room and board $49,450
Average need-based grant aid per aided student 24,280

Financial Aid by Type
Institutional scholarships $11,022,623
Student Loans 2,180,554
Parent Loans 1,411,556
State Grants 583,097
Federal Grants 446,165
Outside Scholarships 438,666
Work Programs 480,645

TOTAL $16,563,306

Scripps Financial Aid Awards
Scripps Grants 323
James E. Scripps Scholars 117
QuestBridge Scholars 14

TOTAL 454

Average loan indebtedness for Scripps graduates $13,207
Average loan indebtedness for graduates of all U.S. colleges $22,700

* from the College Board report for 2007-08.

One area that remains of broad concern to most students and their parents is loans: how much debt should students expect to graduate with?

of applying for more federal aid, I take out a Scripps revolving loan so that I wouldn't have to repay it until after graduation. Additionally, a new resource that the financial aid office was able to offer Wendy was a book stipend that she could use at the Huntley Bookstore on campus or online to purchase up to $400 worth of books for her semester's classes. "We try to remain sensitive to a family's situation throughout the year," says Levy. "We're there for them when a pipe burst under their family's home in August 2008. Wendy*, a sophomore dual major in English and legal studies whose mother is not fluent in English, also filled out the forms herself, with the help of her older sister, who contacted David Levy and Virginia Miller, senior associate director. Even in light of the general economy, they were so helpful and accommodating. Virginia suggested that, instead institutional scholarships, and other financial aid.

For middle- or upper-to-middle income families, this calculation can be a major pitfall in the financial aid process. A family's definition of "need" and a financial aid officer's definition are often at odds. "We employ national standards and formulas," says Levy. "Based on the information a family provides, we determine the amount that family can realistically be expected to contribute. However, numbers may not always tell the whole story, so we are open to other situations and circumstances." Each family is like a snowflake, though, with a set of financial circumstances unique to itself. Are there other children in college? A non-custodial parent with financial resources but no intention of contributing to college tuition? Unexpected medical expenses? A job loss after the FAFSA was filed? A huge stock market loss? Obviously, one form cannot cover every drop in income or loss of assets.

While campaigning, President Obama pledged to eliminate the six-page, more than 100-question FAFSA form, which just about everyone agrees is both intimidating and overwhelming. Many families resort to professional services just to fill out this form. Students whose parents did not attend college or whose first language is not English face special hurdles in completing the form themselves.

"I had to figure out the CSS PROFILE and the FAFSA myself," reports Angela, who is now a first-year planning to dual major in sociology and Chicana/o studies. "I got to know David Levy and Ms. Doty very well through phone calls to make sure all my documents were in and filled out correctly. I also had a couple of outside scholarships, such as the Gates Millennium Scholarship, and Scripps had to communicate with those organizations to work out my package."

Wendy*, a sophomore dual major in English and legal studies whose mother is not fluent in English, also filled out the forms herself, with the help of her older sister, who graduated from Scripps in 2005. Wendy recently had reason to contact the Office of Financial Aid for assistance in the middle of the year.

"My family had a financial hardship recently, and I contacted David Levy and Virginia Miller, senior associate director. Even in light of the general economy, they were so helpful and accommodating. Virginia suggested that, instead of applying for more federal aid, I take out a Scripps revolving loan so that I wouldn't have to repay it until after graduation. Additionally, a new resource that the financial aid office was able to offer Wendy was a book stipend that she could use at the Huntley Bookstore on campus or online to purchase up to $400 worth of books for her semester's classes.

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upset and worried, and there were allegations that students were leaving the College because of a lack of financial aid. We had about 90 appeals by the end of August.”

To tackle the problems and the escalating anxiety, the Office of Financial Aid addressed each appeal, trying to contact every family by phone, letter, and email, and extended payment deadlines.

“We became more proactive than we had been in the past,” explains Miller. “We used to contact students only, but that led to delays. In general, students are here to get an education. They don’t always know the details of their financial aid situation. We now communicate with students and their families, and we find we’re getting more timely responses from parents.”

To effect real change, the office went beyond putting out the brush fires and began addressing systemic problems.

“When I got here, I realized that students didn’t understand the award letter brochure,” says Levy. “We formed a student focus group, revised the brochure, gave it to the students, and then rewrote it again based on their comments and suggestions. When we heard students complain about how difficult it was to find campus jobs for their work-study, we initiated online listings they can access 24/7, rather than having to physically consult a notebook in Career Planning & Resources.”

How does work-study fit into a student’s aid package?

“With our students and their parents on their financial aid applications at the beginning…so that by their senior year, they can do it themselves. A lot of seniors are shocked by what they owe. I managed to keep my loans down by what they owe. I managed to keep my loans down by $1,000 to $3,000 in loans her first two years, Lisette found it “definitely comforting to be debt-free when I graduate” because I plan to go on to graduate school and ultimately want to go into the non-profit sector. Not having debt will make a big difference to me.”

While Lisette chose to take out more loans because of her complicated family situation, and faces about $25,000 in loans to repay, she is proud to be financially independent and completely knowledgeable about her own finances.

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From the Alumnae Association President

Dear sisters of the Scripps College Alumnae Association:

I would like to thank the many alumnae who, in their capacity as trustees, council members, staff, and key volunteers, participated in the selection of the incoming president of Scripps College. This has been a long process, and many people assisted along the way; special thanks to Lori Steere ’66, who represented the alumnae by serving on the Presidential Transition Committee 2008-2009. On behalf of the Alumnae Association, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new College president, Lori Bettison-Varga.

Many of you have attended or will be attending a Scripps College regional event in your area this spring. Scripps College On the Road 2008-2009 has brought Core newsletter, alumnae news and posted dates of event schedules in the online newsletter. We have responded to the online regional survey, the compiled results of which have helped the Office of Alumnae Relations better serve alumnae in the various regions.

Don’t forget to access alumnae event information and announcements via the Scripps website and to read about alumnae news and posted dates of event schedules in the online newsletter, 10th & Columbia, which is updated every other month. Several significant summer events are not to be missed (participation is limited, so send in your registration early).

Sonoma Wine Tour Weekend, June 12–14
16th Annual Camp Scripps, June 25–28
15th Annual Oregon Shakespeare Festival Weekend, August 13–16

The Shakespeare Festival weekend is co-sponsored with Harvey Mudd College and featuring special guest Scripps Professor of English Gayle Greene.

I had the opportunity in February to join faculty, students, staff, and guests who attended various weekend activities and events when the Lois Langland Alumna-in-Residence, Dana Cook-Dakin ’64, founder of WomensTrust, Inc., spoke about the microloending nonprofit in Ghana that is making a difference one woman and one girl at a time.

Congratulations to three alumnae who are receiving special recognition at Convocation during Reunion Weekend, May 1-3. They are, Volunteer of the Year: Evelyn Nelson Senior ’70, Camp Scripps representative and coordinator/collector of Scripps Archives’ photo identification/real histories; Outstanding Recent Alumna: Jenny Sedlis ’04, director of external affairs of Success Charter Network; and Distinguished Alumna: Pae White ’85, artist. To alumnae who plan to be on campus during Reunion Weekend, you have the opportunity and pleasure of meeting these women and hearing each of them speak about their challenges and accomplishments.

I look forward to seeing many of you either on campus or in your region in the upcoming months. If you haven’t done so, I encourage you to reconnect with the College, your classmates, and the vast array of Scripps sisters who comprise the Alumnae Association—you’ll be glad you did.

Fondest regards,

Merrilee Stewart Howard ’70
President, Alumnae Association
merrileehoward@alumna.scrippscollege.edu

Elizabeth Cundiff ’84

Elizabeth Cundiff is the new president-elect of the Scripps College Alumnae Association, with duties beginning July 1, 2009. She will become president following Merrilee Stewart Howard’s term, which ends June 30, 2010.

After graduating from Scripps in 1984, Elizabeth’s career focused on marketing and program management for technology companies, including Peter Norton Computing and Symantec. Elizabeth retired in 2006 from her position as an IT e-business program manager for Hewlett-Packard’s software business focused on translating business objectives into managed web services for customers.

Elizabeth has been a Scripps volunteer since 1997, serving as a class representative, Alumnae College chair, EBSS committee member, and chair of the 2004 and 2005 Volunteer Leadership Conference. She also served on her 20th and now 25th reunion class committees, in addition to being the 2009 National Reunion Giving chair. In 2003, she established the Elizabeth Cundiff Endowed Scholarship for students with financial need. Elizabeth is a resident of Culver City, Calif.

NOTICE

Scripps College seeks to name “Alumnae Field”

Shortly after the College was founded, before there were any Scripps alumnas, a group of 50 women supported Scripps in its early years and called themselves the "Association of Honor Alumnae." This group of 50— which corresponded to the number of students in the first-year class— contributed $500 each to purchase property between Amherst and Columbia, north of the residence halls, so that Scripps students could pursue sports activities. The land came to be known as Alumnae Park, named for the honorary alumnae.

Although the land was indeed used by students for a few sports, plans for Alumnae Park were never fully realized— until now. Today, the College has the Sallie Tiernan Field House, a recreational athletic facility, which includes a superb sports field, which was completed in full 2008. Thus far, the field has been used for Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (CMS) women’s lacrosse practice and league games, women’s intramural ultimate Frisbee, an intramural sports tournament, volleyball, and pick-up soccer games for students and faculty. And next fall, CMS women’s soccer practice and league games will be held on the field, as well as a physical education course in fly fishing.

Now, to collectively honor and pay tribute to all Scripps alumnae and complete the funding for the field, an anonymous donor has issued a $200,000 matching challenge to name the Tiernan Field House athletic field Alumnae Field.

You are invited to participate in this generous tribute to all alumnae by making a gift specifically designated to that purpose. You may wish to recognize a friend, alumna, current student, special coach, or a fellow teammate with a gift in her honor, or you may simply wish to share in a project that represents the cooperative spirit for which Scripps alumnae are known.

For more information, contact Mary Weiss, director of constituent relations, at (909) 607-7534 or email mweis@scrippscollege.edu.

2009 Donate Life Float in the Rose Parade

Lucille House Burke ’70 and Merrilee Stewart Howard ’70 display the floragraph of Burke’s son, Evan, for the 2009 Donate Life float in the Rose Parade. Burke and Howard flew to Pasadena the weekend of December 20 to create the floragraph, one of 38 circling the float. According to Rose Parade officials, floragrams are life-like portraits created with organic materials such as rice, nuts, and flowers. Evan’s image was chosen by Donate Life because of the many lives he affected through his organ donations and his parents’ commitment to the organization. Evan died in 2003 from injuries suffered in a skateboarding accident. His heart, liver, and one kidney were used to save three persons’ lives, and through an eye and tissue bank, Evan’s corneas were transplanted, granting two people sight. The Donate Life float carried more than 1,000 roses along with personal messages of love, gratitude, and hope. — Photo courtesy of Donate Life
Dana Cook Dakin ’64, founder of Women’s Trust, Inc., a non-profit micro-lending company in Ghana, was this year’s Lois Langland Alumna-in-Residence (LLAIR). Dakin spent a week on campus, in late February, speaking to and interacting with students, faculty, staff, and alumnae on topics related to her work with microfinance, including philanthropy, Africa, racism, and the history of Colonialism, among others. Dakin spoke of living life in thirds: learning, earning, and returning—practices that have defined her interests and passions.

Dakin graduated from Scripps in 1964, with a major in international relations and an honors thesis on Pan-Africanism. She worked in institutional investment management in the late ’60s, and, in 1976, started her own business creating award-winning marketing materials for money management companies; in this way, she learned about entrepreneurship, as she launched new firms and emerging investment ideas. In 2003, inspired by her interest in Africa, Dakin used her financial skills to start a microlending project. One of her former professors, Kathleen Wicker, helped her learn about entrepreneurship, as she launched new firms and emerging investment ideas. Dakin spoke of living life in thirds: learning, earning, and returning—practices that have defined her interests and passions.

In honor of their 50th reunion, we hope our class will raise $65,500 to be directed toward the Class of 1959 Scholarship project. Our collective Annual Fund gifts will support the QuestBridge® program and two one-year Class of 1959 scholarships.

Committee members: Jean Buxy Smith, Judy Smith Ware, Meredith Green Wiberg, and Barbara Cook Wormser

In honor of their 40th reunion, our class gift will be directed to scholarship support. Our collective Annual Fund gifts will help to ensure that a family’s financial situation is not a barrier to a woman obtaining a Scripps education. We hope that our class will raise $20,000 in order to establish two one-year Class of 1969 scholarships.

Committee members: Ellie David, Sady Dostal, Merrily Smith Haas, Marga Rosencrans Hancock, Margi Riles Murray, and Charla Connelly Shadduck

In honor of our 25th reunion, our class gift will implement a water conservation project to help Scripps become even “greener.” This project includes retrofitting sprinklers to a drip-irrigation system, reusing pool water for the lacrosse field, and using gray water systems for irrigation.

Committee members: Connie Butler, Elizabeth Cundiff, Jennifer Wells Green, Andrea Jarrell, and Ofelia Velazquez-Perez

In honor of our 15th reunion, we would like to challenge our class to raise $20,000 for scholarship support at the College. Our goal is to fund two one-class 1994 scholarships. We all know the value of our Scripps experience, and we want to ensure that a student’s financial situation is never a barrier to obtaining a world-class Scripps education.

Committee members: Devane Candelaria Doete, Beth Feinberg, Michelle Maltais, and Kalpana Singh Rhodes

In honor of our 10th reunion, our class gift will support a program at Scripps that ensures that a family’s financial situation is not a barrier to a woman obtaining a Scripps education. QuestBridge helps bright, motivated, economically disadvantaged students with highly selective colleges, such as Scripps. Our goal is to raise $15,000 to assist QuestBridge® scholars at Scripps.

Committee members: Amy Drayer, Rebecca Eacret, Lisa Gear, Deepika Sandhu, and Georgina Seabrook

A Real Shoe-In

As manager of the Christian Louboutin store in South Coast Plaza, Amita Ongra Singh ’06 is surrounded by some of the most gorgeous and expensive shoes in the world. But while she admits to a lifelong obsession with fashion, she didn’t expect to have a career in it.

Her degree from Scripps was in environment, economics, and politics, and her first job was in the technical area of hydraulic modeling, such as pumps, drains, and sewers. A far cry from the glamorous world of four-inch heels.

Then, Amita married an IT consultant assigned to Paris, where she earned a degree in French language and civilization, followed by another in design, textiles, and merchandising at the Paris American Academy. Her big break into the fashion world came from a job with Loulou de la Falaise, a muse of Yves Saint Laurent, with her own couture house. “I did everything,” says Amita, “from sales associate to stuffing necklaces together.” At the end, I was the assistant director of wholesale.”

Later back in the United States, she held a series of random jobs in the fashion world, eventually getting a call from Christian Louboutin. She jumped at it. “I’ve been collecting Louboutins for five years, so it was a no-brainer,” she says. Amita describes her first pair of Louboutins: “They were yellow, satin, peep-toe shoes. They have this embellishment. It’s round and it’s a beautiful flower. There’s pleating on the sides. It’s from 2003. I still wear them.”

At 29, Amita is one of the youngest on the sides. It’s from 2003. I still wear them. At 29, Amita is one of the youngest at South Coast Plaza, in Orange County, and is already at the helm of her third store.

Committee members: Jean Buxy Smith, Judy Smith Ware, Meredith Green Wiberg, and Barbara Cook Wormser

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*QuestBridge, an initiative of the Quest Scholars Program, serves as an intermediary between the nation’s brightest, underserved youth and leading institutions of higher education. QuestBridge provides a single, internet-based meeting point that links outstanding students with the colleges, scholarship providers, employers, and organizations seeking students who have excelled despite obstacles. By facilitating these exchanges, QuestBridge aims to increase the percentage of talented, low-income students attending the nation’s best universities, and excelling beyond. Scripps has participated in this program for three years, and there are currently 14 QuestBridge Scholars on campus.
In These Uncertain Times

Nina Rosloff ’65, PhD

No whining, please! Scripps women are not inclined to whine. Yet these are tough and uncertain times.

At 2:00 a.m., it’s hard to sleep. Still awake, at 4:30 a.m. I sip my Costco green tea. A sardonic grin pulls at the left corner of my mouth. I chuckle quietly to myself, and a full-blown smile sweeps over me.

My grandfather, Harry, was 14 years old in the late 1800s. He boarded a boat with his girlfriend, Anna, and her sister, Fran. It was the middle of the night. The Cossacks had just rounded up their next group of young boys to take to the Siberian work camps. There they would die.

Harry, Anna, and Fran’s parents agreed to force all three children out. Their “hope” was for their safety and life in these uncertain times. With two brass pots filled with flour and sugar water, and the clothes on their backs, they headed for the ship going to America before the Cossacks came. They crossed the Atlantic, landing safely in Philadelphia. Harry, Anna, and Fran spoke Russian but had neither skills nor a way to make a living. It was the middle of the night. The Cossacks had just rounded up their next group of young boys to take to the Siberian work camps.

Harry became a barber. He and Anna had four children. They were poor; dirt poor.

Lee built a successful company. He and Josie had two children. Lee fought his way back from the Great Depression and was no longer penniless.

Ray and Polly fell in love in high school, went to the University of Pennsylvania where Ray became a lawyer, Polly a social worker. They boarded a train to Texas the night they married. Ray and Polly had three children, I am one.

Today, January 18, 2009, the world of prosperity is but a memory, 25% drop in the housing market; Wall Street, the auto industry, retail fail daily. You know what, these are... Uncertain Times... yet, for many of us, we have what we need: food, family, friends, faith, freedom, and our health.

I walk into the kitchen to fill the beautiful teacup my daughter gave me. Both hands feel its warmth. I chuckle, shake my head, and think, if these great women before me, Anna, Fran, Josie, and Polly, along with these great men, Harry, Lee, and Ray, could do what they did in uncertain times then I'd better, right now!

I’m less scared, a little excited about the next chapter in our history books and wonder what each sentence will say... in these uncertain times.

No whining!

Scripps women are made of faith, peace, purpose, and hard work. We’ll do fine.

What Does Money Mean to Me?

Michelle Kwok ’98

Here is a dark secret of mine: I have been waiting for the market to crash. However, not even in my wildest dreams has it occurred to me that the housing bubble would burst, the financial market would collapse, unemployment would rise to a 15-year high, and my own portfolio would lose about 40% in the last few months.

Of course, my intention isn’t for the world economy to suffer from the worst recession since the Great Depression. I just want the housing bubble to burst so our family will be able to afford a nice house! Having an MD after my name and an Ivy League MBA after my husbands, I feel like we ought to be able to afford a sizeable home in an attractive area—maybe even a “McMansion.” The price hikes in the last few years have made this impossible. Thus, I have been impatiently waiting for housing prices to “adjust” themselves.

As a psychiatrist who spends all day asking other people questions, I have been digging deeper into my own desire of wanting a “gigantorous” house. Why is a house important to me? Why do I feel entitled to have this house? Why does it bother me that I can’t do it? Why do I want more money? What does money mean to me?

In general, there are two subjects that patients in psychodynamic therapy would rather not discuss: sex and money. But, given the choice, most people would rather discuss their sexual dysfunction over their issues with money. Money brings up all kinds of feelings, and it sure makes relationships messy, to say the least. For instance, who pays for dates was a hotly discussed topic when I lived in Browning Hall. In a way, many of us felt that if they guy paid for our dinner, we were somehow inferior to him, or that we then owed the guy something. If the woman insisted on paying, somehow that would hurt the guy’s feelings. But going Dutch seemed so cold!

While I have moved on beyond that—being married makes the question of who pays for dinner a non-issue—my view of money has been enlightened due to our current financial crisis. I am relieved I am nowhere near retirement age and have plenty of time to build up our portfolio again, and perhaps this may be the only time I am able to afford more than two shares of Google.

At the same time, I am also struggling with this question: Where does my comfort lie? Given the volatility of today’s market, I don’t want my hopes and happiness to be connected with how much money I have lost/gained!

At the same time, I am also struggling with this question: Where does my comfort lie? Given the volatility of today’s market, I don’t want my hopes and happiness to be connected with how much money I have lost/gained!

I don’t have all the answers. But, life is a journey and perhaps the journey is meant to be explored with an inquisitive mind—and to be traveled with thrifty habits.
**36 Elizabeth Rulung Sedat**

(Bradford, CA) I am still going strong in my little beach house. Being 90 has many connotations—a little scary! Virginia Rupp Beatty (Portland, OR) I am moving into a retirement home with continuing care; it was a difficult, but wise decision. We’ve found many old friends and made many new ones. We’re in walking distance of downtown Portland and are keeping very busy with all the social and intellectual activities we can handle. Love to hear from old Scripps friends! Mary Treanor Schairer (Los Angeles, CA) My husband, Bob, died March 28, 2018. Deborah Bassett Wakenam (Balboa Island, CA) I am now, truly, an "ancient mariner" but thanks to the Scripps infirmary, I continue to learn.

**36 Elizabeth Merrick Balderston**

(Corona Del Mar, CA) I am still going strong at the age of 87. Virginia (Corona del Mar, CA) I am still going strong in an assisted living facility at a Presbyterian retirement community in Los Angeles. Dorothy Bright Davis (Arcadia, CA) I am working hard in northern Virginia to "Turn Va Blue!" (a democratic political campaign) That, plus painting, pottery, gardening, citizens’ association issues and meetings, and tennis keep me busy.

**36 Betty Blumok Hohwiesner**

(Laguna Woods, CA) I’m still going strong after 18 moves) we bought here in 1971. Virginia (Portland, OR) I am still working, mostly during tax season, and traveling—a cruise up the Atlantic coast in June and another from St. Petersburg to Moscow. At the moment, I’m holding at six great-grands. Connie Parrett Morris (Orinda, CA) I have two new great-grands, Avery and Caydence. Adorable!

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**37 Scrips Camps - June 25-28, 2009**

If you haven’t tried camp, what are you waiting for? In July 2008, more than 100 campers enjoyed four relaxing, fun-filled days on Scripps’ beautiful campus—living together in historic residence halls (Toll and Clark) and recalling grand old days from their youth. We’re in walking distance of downtown Portland and are keeping very busy with all the social and intellectual activities we can handle. Love to hear from old Scripps friends! Mary Treanor Schairer (Los Angeles, CA) My husband, Bob, died March 28, 2018. Deborah Bassett Wakenam (Balboa Island, CA) I am now, truly, an "ancient mariner" but thanks to the Scripps infirmary, I continue to learn.

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**37 BIRTHS**

- To David Arthur Weick (CMC ’05), to Fabian Moreno, June 2008
- To Angela C. Dickey, to Marcelo Vergara, a daughter, Sofia Celeste, September 20, 2008
- To Skye Wagstaff Kihn and Rob, a daughter, Parley Casey, August 30, 2008
- To Poornam Sharma, and Ali Jeavonie, a son, July 15, 2008
- To Kirsen Rostad and Jackie Puckett, a son, Jack Joseph, September 22, 2008
- To Lisa Lefournier Hebrew and (HMC ’00), a son, Miles Joseph, September 26, 2008
- To Nicola Burkholder Walsh and Jason, a daughter, Vivian Nowland, November 18, 2008
- To Courtney Heilbr Wucher and Peter, a son, Alexander Peter, December 13, 2008
- To Brittany Henage and Daniel, a son, Lincoln Kindrick, May 7, 2008

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**37 MARRIAGES AND COMMITMENTS**

- To Lorna Andersson to Kathleen, October 11, 2008
- To Gabrielle “Ginger” Kyle to Nabi Arword, November 8, 2008
- To Emily Gilman to Jason Lewis, June 8, 2008
- To Kerren Rostad to Jackie Puckett, February 5, 2008
- To Holly Rushing to Jeremy Douglas (PO ’96), November 8, 2008
- To Carla Atkins to Alyssa Armenter-Wilko, October 2007
- To Mariasha Moore to Chistian Shelby, August 9, 2008
- To Normelena Rios to Fabian Moreno, June 2008
- To Bonnie Brayton to David Arthur Weick (CMC ’05), December 2007
- To Elizabeth Obreza to Philip Hunt, August 8, 2008

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**37 Scrips Alumnae:**

Have you recently tied the knot? Added to your family? Published a book? Please let us know your news by writing us at Editor, Scripps Magazine, Office of Public Relations, Scripps College, 1030 Columbia Avenue, Claremont, CA, 91711, or editor@scrippscollege.edu.

Scripps Magazine does not publicize engagement or pregnancy announcements.

When possible, we publish wedding photos and other professional-quality images. Digital photos must be at least 4” x 6” at 300 dpi. We do not print baby photos, though we do “ohh” and “ahh” over them.
A wonderful trip to California. I visited my daughter, Linda, son, Alan, and wife, Tracy, and old friends. We drove in our trusty 1981 Ford Explore. Caryl Chesmore Hinckley (Bellingham, WA) moved into town May 2, but hadn’t sold the house on Lake Whatcom yet. My new house is highest on the hill with an awesome view of Mt. Baker to the east and Bellingham Bay to the west. I’ll come see me sometimes. Shirley “Shley” Eaves (IA) Greetings to all old friends (and old is the right word!). I think of you and our years at Scripps with fondness and happy memories— in 1953 a two-horse show this year, Las Vegas in June, and the state fair in Pueblo, in August. It was great fun, and we did fairly well. We also rode in the Vail 4th of July parade. In September, [my son] Chris and I flew to Germany to see Werner’s sisters and nephew—in Berlin and Wiesbaden. Then we had a lovely time driving to a resort/pa in Vail. Switzerland. Patricia Oliver Powell (Sonoma, CA) I’m happy—and still pursuing interests of travel, entertaining, and gardening. I took a wonderful trip to Thailand in October, luckily, before the airports shut down. I’m looking forward to our 60th! Carole Segar (San Diego, CA) I am still working in clay sculpture, and am also taking some adult education printmaking and Chinese classes. The family is well, though one son lost his home in the Iowa floods and the “Tea Fire” was not so far away here in Santa Barbara. Cordy Eby Zajac (Santa Cruz, CA) My husband, Jim, and I are in the mountains, Italy, in the summer, and Santa Cruz, during the winter.

53 Helen Peak de Alessi (Coral Gables, FL) We had another wonderful summer in Grand Lake, Colo., at our lovely summer home; the land was bought by my parents in 1929. It was enhanced by a three-week visit from our son, Mike, wife Rachel, and two grandchildren, Annabel (5) and Charlie (3), and, of course, our champion Viszla, “Beach,” who somehow managed to collect a handful of porcupine quills. Joan Warehouse Flacke (Wolcott, CO) It has been both a good and bad year. Sadly, my husband, Werner, died in April from complications after a stroke. All three sons were here when he died, and also for the beautiful funeral mass afterward a few days later. The good news is that I have a new grandson. Ruth Anne Flacker (Dundalk, MD) born on July 5, just a few weeks after her family moved from Vermont to Boston. I was able to take our horse, Don Romo, to 51 Abbie Gail Weiser [I will not even consider giving up my [BMW] Z3, which I still drive year-round with the top down.]

52 Dorothy “Dottie” Jirgal (Carlsbad, CA) I spent a lovely pre-Christmas celebration with Alex Baugie Perkins and some other Scripps classmates and alumnae at a beautiful dinner and boat party in Newport Beach.

53 Ann Terry Wade Haven (Seal Beach, CA) Our daughter and her husband presented us with our first grandson. They live and work in Budapest. Andrew Mandenhall Mahoney (Ramco Cucamonga, CA) For the last three years, I’ve discovered Camp Scripps Fun and creativity galore, with learning and memories deep. Thanks to all who make it fabulous! Idele Feenish Weber (New York, NY) [My art was featured in the] Scripps Exhibition “Place in Time” contemporary landscapes andlecture, and [at the] Baca Raton Museum “Shock of the Real” Show. My son, Todd, and family are in Stockholm, Sweden. My daughter, Stephanie, has finished a new book, Cost of the Universe: Tip, That Would Be Me. She and her family have moved to Los Angeles.

55 Brent Shaw Foster (San Diego, CA) In October, I traveled to Transylvania with a good friend who is an expert in Eastern European folk art. We drove across fields and up mountains in horse-drawn wooden wagons and stayed in pensions in small villages. It was a beautiful time—she was doing research, and I was having fun.

56 Nina de Croeff Ward (Santa Barbara, CA) I am still working in clay sculpture, and am also taking some adult education printmaking and Chinese classes. The family is well, though one son lost his home in the Iowa floods and the “Tea Fire” was not so far away here in Santa Barbara. Cordy Eby Zajac (Santa Cruz, CA) My husband, Jim, and I are in the mountains, Italy, in the summer, and Santa Cruz, during the winter.

59 Linda Lewis Kramer (Winnetka, IL) I am making my art show at Printworks Gallery and Corbett vs. Dempsey art gallery in Chicago.

60 Marcia Davidge Baugh (Palo Alto, CA) I am busy with many volunteering—AIA, a women’s chorus, and work for a youth counseling service, as well as phoning at the local senior center. I see Sue Alpert Dimenwick and Nancy Lubliner Highy ’62 regularly. Nancy and I join Janet Cook (SEMCC ’90) for Magga Curn Murder (a mystery convention) in Municie, Ind., each year. Mary Eaton Connor (San Marino, CA) I have created a monoprint, the Korra Academy Education, and organized programs to inform educators about Korean history and culture.

61 Farida K. Fox (Santa Rosa, CA) My 16-year-old grandson is now living with me—suddenly there are backpaks, drums, oversized clothing, and a gaggle of gangly guys all over the house! I am trying to learn the subtle distinctions between rap and hip-hop, but I’m not a very good student. Carolyn Sheets Owen-Towle (San Diego, CA) Recently, my memoir about my father, Millard Sheets, was published by Oceanide Museum of Art. An exhibition of his work ran from September 15 to January 4, 2009. This is a joyful realization of a commitment I made to my dad and myself. [Editor’s note: Please refer to article that ran in the fall of 2008 Scripps Magazine of Damagnorgeous.] Valerie Thom Read (Capitans Beach, CA) Melody Purcell of Fleetwood 60 and I have gone twice to see the Millard Sheets show at the Oceanide Museum of Art—the last time with Carolyn Sheets Owen-Towle as our docent. The exhibit is, as titled, “Damagnorgeous” and Carolyn’s book is a stunner.

58 Elizabeth Cook Mitchell (Middletown, NJ) I enjoyed the reunion and was tremendously impressed by the presentations of senior independent projects. Our college is one to take great pride in, now as in our shared past. Adele Toepfer Montgomery (McMinnville, WV) I really enjoyed reminiscing with my classmates. It was great to see all of my classmates after such a long time. Thanks to everyone who made this such a memorable experience.

62 Allen Goldie Sneath (Waterloo, ON) “Historic Sunset Over a decade in the making, Caution: Funny Signs Ahead is the result of Edwards’ addiction to photographing roadside billboards that began back in 1994. That’s when she and her co-author Mark Gedakink embarked on a six-month journey that ended up lasting over six years. Survivors of this dark, rocky Road to the Ashes: an Odyssey in Real Life on the Virtual Frontier, Caution: Funny Signs Ahead showcases over 200 full-color photographs, the work of more than 90 photographers, in addition to the authors. The images hail from the United States, Canada, and beyond. From crazy spelling, sketchy grammar, odd juxtapositions, and shocking double entendres, to plain old creative madness, the signs in this book have one basic feature in common—they make people laugh. (Oxymus Press, November 2008.)

Lynus Wagner ’88 Problem-Solving and Bargaining in International Negotiation: Problem-Solving and Bargaining in international Negotiation is based on Wagner’s PhD dissertation, which she received from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Awarded the Best Book award by the International Association of Conflict Management, Problem- Solving addresses the theory of many analysts “that negotiation processes determine negotiated outcomes, but none have empirically tested this hypothesis across multiple cases of international negotiations.” (Leiden, The Netherlands: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2008.)
1938 Louise Harris Venselkist • A Scripps booster all her life, Marianne died December 10, 2008, in Redlands, of a fast-moving intestinal infection. In robust health most of her 93 years, she had only recently given up playing her beloved golf. Marianne was a member of the Scripps Board of Trustees from 1943 to 1948, and again from 1968 to 1973. Because of her lifelong civic involvement, the City of Redlands named her one of its Redlands’ 2007 Women of the Year. The Times-249 reported, “Successful a life had in life was because of my Scripps education.” Marianne spent more than 30 years selecting and acquiring original artwork for the walls of Redlands Community Hospital, to create a healing atmosphere. Marianne is survived by three children, several grandchildren, including Brook Craig Walker ’86, and several great-grandchildren.

1939 Doris Leinau Butler • Longtime Claremont resident Doris Leinau Butler died on December 13, 2008, at Mt. San Antonio Gardens after a long battle with cancer. Doris earned a teaching credential and master’s degree from Claremont Graduate School (now University), and taught fourth grade. Doris was active in numerous organizations, including the Alumnae Association, Assistance League, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Foundation, PEO, and Ability First. Doris is survived by her three sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1940 Dorothy June Clark Schaefer • Dorothy Schaefer died in Scottsdale, Ariz., on May 19, 2008. She was 86. June, as she was known by family and friends, attended Claremont Graduate School, and later served as the dean of student activities at California State Polytechnic College in Pomona. She was a past president and active member of the Nevada State Chapter of Phi Epsilon. June is survived by her two daughters.

1946 Roberta Bond Rainey • Roberta Bond Rainey died on June 22, 2008, in Corvallis, Ore. Raised an Army “brat,” Roberta moved frequently due to her father’s military career. Her travels continued after graduation from Scripps, meeting her husband in occupied Japan in 1947, where he worked in the occupation forces. She and her husband raised a family while moving from Japan back to the U.S., then to Germany, and finally Iran, where he retired. Roberta served as executive director of the Benton County American Red Cross from 1973 to 1989, and later concentrated on supporting the arts and music scene in the Northwest. Roberta is survived by five children and nine grandchildren.

1950 Frances Kay Brossy • Frances Brossy died on December 15, 2008, in Honolulu, after a long and courageous struggle with progressive supranuclear palsy. Fran was born and raised in Hawaii, a descendant of early Christian missionaries. She was a generous benefactor to many organizations, including Scripps College. In 1999, she endowed the Fran Brossy Internship for Scripps students. In 2006, Frances was recognized by the Hawaiian Senate for her outstanding volunteer work. Included in her volunteer work was her devotion to Habitat for Humanity. Fran and two partners organized the Oahu affiliate of the Habitat for Humanity project. She also helped establish and volunteered at the Time Out Nursery, providing free daycare for working mothers, and was a member of the Daughters of Hawaii. Fran is survived by her husband, Frederic Brossy, Jr., four children, and nine grandchildren. For her service, Martha Krutes, Scripps’ former vice president for institutional advancement, wrote: “She had a true beauty and dignity to the very end. . . . [Fran] and Fred will always be my models for the defining nature of love.”

1954 Joanna Swanson Benne • Joanna Swanson Bonnall, age 75, died peacefully at home with her three children. Joanna is survived by her brother, five children, and 14 grandchildren.

1959 Lorna Darmour • Lorna Darmour died on September 15, 2008, in New York. She had been the New York-based East Coast editor for 25 years. Century-Fox. Lorna was also a benefactor of several organizations, including the Central Park Conservancy and The Morgan Library and Museum in New York.

1957 Judith Butts Kyle • Judith Butts Kyle died on November 24, 2008, after a long illness. Judith was active in the California Federation of Women’s Clubs, and she enjoyed bridge games and social activities with her many friends. She was a warm friend and companion, and enjoyed traveling with her husband, venturing to Japan, Russia, and the Panama Canal. Judith is survived by her husband, Douglas, her three children, and three grandchildren.

1962 Hamilton. launched in August 1962. She and her first husband, Valentine Hollingsworth, Jr., established the Hamilton Fund, in 1963, to provide educational scholarships for the children of the servicemen who perished on the U.S.S. Iowa. Carole is survived by her brother, five children, and 14 grandchildren.

1964 Joanna Swanson Benne • Joanna Swanson Bonnall, age 75, died peacefully at home with her three children. Joanna is survived by her brother, five children, and 14 grandchildren.

1967 Elnita Russell Moore-Cone • Kirsty Russell Moore-Cone died on October 14, 2007, at age 61. She was such an unusual person — full of life, very intelligent, tremendous sense of humor, absolutely beautiful, and a perfect wife. She was the highlight of my life for those five years. I consider myself extremely lucky to have met and married her,” writes her husband, Frank Cone.

1977 Alison Shink Cox • Alison Shink Cox died on February 2, 2009, after a lengthy battle with breast cancer, with her husband, George (CMC ’77), and her family at her side. Alison taught elementary school for 15 years and enjoyed photography, travel, and time spent with her four children. Friends from her years at Scripps will remember Alison for her love of history, insightful writing, and sense of humor.

1979 Diana Davies Frank • Diana Davies Frank died in her sleep on December 4, 2008, at her home in Pacific Palisades. Diana and her husband, Harold R. Frank, moved to Santa Barbara in December 1987, and purchased herself in philanthropic work. Her favorite cause was children, and she was instrumental in the growth and prosperity of Girls Incorporated, helping to raise millions of dollars and spearhead numerous initiatives over the last 20 years. She and her husband have also been generous supporters of UCSB, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Santa Barbara Zoo, and the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara. She is survived by her husband, Harold, three children, and six grandchildren.

1985 Jennifer Thomas Brown • Jennifer Thomas Brown died in November 2008, in Chicago. She spearheaded the Palisades breast cancer with Jennifer worked in the nutrition department and the CHF (congestive heart failure) floor at Christ Hospital. Her Scrapbook at the Conference of Women’s Giving the President for her kind and generous spirit, imagination and creativity, and unswerving commitment to her academic pursuits. She is survived by her husband, Michael, her parents, brother and sister, and numerous other family and friends.

* A member of the Elm Tree Society, having made a planned gift to Scripps College.

Some photos are from La Samasse, courtesy of Denison Library.
'61 Barbara Johnson Murray (Tucson, AZ) I spent a magical week in Tucson real estate. Elizabeth “Betsy” Neighbor Smith (Portland, OR) In September 2008, Felicia Schaps Tracy, Sherrill O’Tulle Walker ’62, and I attended the rehearsal dinner for her son’s wedding. We’re probably crazy, but what fun it is! You’ll love our son Davis CD called Dare Cohen. Cheer to everyone. Anne Hanes Harvey (Lemon Grove, CA) In August 2008, we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in Sweden. Among the guests were Susan Lovell McLaughlin, Joanne Glass Keith ’63, Margi Riles Murray ’69, and Diana Rainier, daughter of the late beloved Scripps professor Jesse Swan.

'62 Katharine Weston Cohen (Murray, KY) A little plug here for our family’s newest venture—we’ve gone into the music business. We’re probably crazy, but what fun it is! You’ll love our son Davis CD called Dare Cohen. Cheer to everyone. Anne Hanes Harvey (Lemon Grove, CA) In August 2008, we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in Sweden. Among the guests were Susan Lovell McLaughlin, Joanne Glass Keith ’63, Margi Riles Murray ’69, and Diana Rainier, daughter of the late beloved Scripps professor Jesse Swan.

'63 Nancy Hunt Brandt-Erichsen (Anchorage, AK) I regret to inform you that my husband, Thor, died in May 2008. We had an adventurous life together for 47 years. Anna King Gregerson (La Pine, OR) Thanks for all the notes from the 45th reunion! I am sorry I missed it for health reasons. I am now totally recuperated, and I am enjoying Central Oregon living.

'64 Margaret Schack Davis (Lakeside, MT) Roy Kenneth was born to my daughter, Margaret Davis ’89, and Brian L. Perleberg on April 11, 2008, in Portland, Ore. Every once in awhile, Roy steps out to see Barbara Burns Meyers ’64 and Lee Meyers’ first grandson, Angelina, born May 12, 2008. Patricia Greene Frost (Lincoln City, OR) I’m looking forward to our reunion—45 years in May! Karen Diehl Merris (Hastings, CA) My husband, Russ, and I are enjoying retirement—traveling, visiting our children in Tennessee and Alaska. We had a wonderful time at the Scripps/HMC Oregon Shakespeare Festival. We visited Anne King Gregerson ’63 in La Pine. I enjoy keeping in touch with classmates via the class of ’64 email list. Suzanne Urquhart Reed (San Diego, CA) I had lunch with three alumnae from our class on August 17, 2007—Judy Harvey (San Diego, CA) Judy gave the luncheon at her home in Newport Beach, and we chatted with her husband. John. I have a new grandson, James, born on March 31, 2008, in New York.

'65 Catherine E. Coulton (Ashland, OR) All is well in Ashland. I am going to active again, in the 2009 Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s 74th season, in May. Come visit me. Elaine Drew (Monrovia, CA) I tut Medicare age and it’s really good. My hard winter trip in three years was to Churchill, Manitoba, in March to see the aurora borealis.

'66 Marilyn McDonough Vinson (The Woodlands, TX) We are sad to report that we lost our younger son, Gregory ‘85, to diabetes this past spring. My husband, Lance, and I have been very comforted by the outpouring of love and support for him and us.

'67 Carole Cochran (Playa del Rey, CA) It has been a wonderful family year. My daughter is back in Los Angeles after several years in New York, teaching at a dynamic, pioneering, charter elementary school. My son is in San Francisco with my adorable grandson, Cole (almost two). I am struggling with health issues, but still having fun.

The Lawrence Asher Gallery featured the art of Lisa Adams ’77, painter and public artist, earlier this year. The exhibit, The Future of Paradise Past, showcased Adams’ recent oil paintings. Adams says, “The images that appear and reappear in my work stem from a desire to sufﬁce sources of inchoate matter—the formal elements, the grist of art—with a deeply felt, psychologically-charged worldview, which in turn allows my personal integrity to merge with larger, more universal concerns, cathartic to me, accessible to the viewer.”

Upon graduating from Scripps with a degree in studio art, Adams completed her MFA from the Claremont Graduate University. She now lives and works in Los Angeles.

'Obee Cocke (Manhattan, KS) I thoroughly enjoy my retirement. We were able to spend our summer at our second home in Colorado and to make a wonderful trek to Nepal in OctoberNovember. Andrea Fast (Seattle, WA) Janet Watson and I got together for dinner in Seattle’s International District in December. Janet and her husband spent an eventful six weeks creating their own tour of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam early in 2008. My husband and I managed a five-day car tour to the Canadian hot springs resorts in the Kootenay Mountains, lured by the name of one of British Columbia’s primitive provincial parks, Valhalla. I feel new hope given the election, for serious work suffering climate change, a fresh approach to national security, and renewed interest in public and voluntary service. I hope my fellow alumns feel the same energy! Carol Crowley Lunkenheimer (Wilmette, IL) I retired in August 2007 after 37 years in college admissions work. I’m doing some consulting, but mostly traveling to see family in San Diego, Colorado, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. It has been fun to see Connie Wagner a lot since she has been in Chicago for several years. Sharon Donnelly Sabin (Newberg, OR) My son, Eric Landesone, and his wife, Laurie, became parents of twins (one of each) on July 10, 2008. I love being a grandma! With my husband Peter’s additional eight grandchildren, we have lots now. We love living in beautiful Oregon.

68 Paula Cooper Patterson (Gainesville, FL) I loved being at my 40th reunion and visiting old dorm rooms, marveling at the innovations, and appreciating the old familiar haunts. I feel ready to start college now—I appreciate it all so much more!

‘70 Joan Flaxman Raci (Urbandale, IA) I received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the Society for College and University Planning at its annual international conference in Montreal. My husband, Jane Friedendorff Flaxman ’40, and I then took a cruise up the St. Lawrence Seaway.

‘71 Margaret Collins (Santa Cruz, CA) Tempe Johnson Javit, Roberta Simon Quirue ’74, and I had a great trip to Italy and France last spring, where we viewed many of the masterpieces of Western art and architecture, drank some good wine, and ate excellent food. Mary Rule Dryden (Los Angeles, CA) I’m looking forward to my class’s 40-year reunion in 2011. We should start organizing!

16-year-old daughter.

69 Belinda Burstead Burum (Lexington, MA) I’m teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), and loving it. My kids are all in college—Harvard, UMass Amherst, and Lewis & Clark. Dana Mayhew (Altadena, CA) My wonderful son, Paul, graduated from USD in winter 2008. Harold and I have enjoyed his political accomplishments on and off campus. I continue to consult in human resources and training and development. Harold has a law and mediation practice in Pasadena. I’m showing my jewelry in museums and gift shops. Of course, I am on the Camp Scripps planning committee, and love it!

‘75 Constance De La Vega (Oakland, CA) Human Rights Advocates, an NGO I helped found, recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. We continue to send students to UN human rights bodies to learn about their procedures so they can help promote human rights.

‘76 Jan M. Kawabata (Honolulu, HI) I’ve been teaching in Hawaii’s public schools for 16 years. I enjoy my life inside and outside the classroom.

‘77 Cindy Clarke Dellinger (Los Altos Hills, CA) After 15 years with Bear Stearns, I have relocated to Stifel Nicolaus, and am enjoying my new home immensely. Even in those turbulent times, I still love what I do and continue to find new challenges.

‘78 Laurel Bonham-Duvall (Portland, CT) Rick, Alex, and I are well in Portland. We wish you all a happy and prosperous 2009. Audrey Perez Silverberg (New Vernon, NJ) I now work to bring art into my children’s middle school. It’s great fun!

‘79 Georgia Galanopoulos I resigned from the American Embassy in Athens recently (after 22 memorable years of work) to spend time with my 16-year-old daughter.
Gabrielle ‘Ginger’ Kyle ’93 and her husband, Nabi Arwadi, on their wedding day, November 8, 2008.

By Bombshelter Press. The book comprises 71 bold and intimate narrative poems that read like short stories. Each poem plunges the reader into the essence of the female experience with unflinching candor. The work has been called brave, but in the words of Anais Nin: “And the day came when risk was too dear not to be enjoyed.” Now that the seeds I have planted are finally flowering, I’d love to hear from the “garden” of Scripps women that nourished me. I gave a reading at the Lankershim Arts Center in North Hollywood in September. Lynan Hatch Uekoping (Pasadena, CA) My husband, Bill, and I continue with our Coldwell Banker commercial office in Glendale, Calif. Our oldest son, Nick (20) is a sophomore at Santa Clara University. Grant (18) is applying to colleges now, and Conrad (15) plays football and soccer at Loyola High School.

Open to Design
POOHAM SHARMA ’95

Pooham Sharma ’95 and her husband, Ali Javanepour, faced an unusual challenge. The husband-and-wife team of LOC Architects had recently purchased two apartments in Los Angeles Chinatown and were now struggling to find a way to combine them into a single space where they could both live and work. They also wanted to be able to enjoy the same sense of openness and scenic views along with relative privacy they had found in their last home in nearby Silver Lake.

Because they enjoy dining outdoors, the couple focused on an open living area and kitchen that connected to an outdoor space, furnished with a movable-top table they had designed themselves.

“You could say that the entire apartment was designed around a table,” says Sharma. “Once we had that, everything else fell into place.”

Their new home is the first project that Sharma and Javanepour co-designed. It incorporates many of the couple’s shared interests, including using an abundance of plywood with aluminum accents throughout, for contrast.

In the kitchen and office, they used basic IKEA cabinets, which they accentuated with hardware of their own design. “That was our basic challenge,” says Sharma. “We made everything from cactus, coconut flan, risotto, to tortellini in many sauces; we also enjoy dancing in the kitchen to CDs she has burned for me from the Dominican Republic! I have also delighted my family with outstanding desserts, such as lemon mousse and cupcakes with triple sec. I’ve learned many techniques of the cooking world and enjoy it very much. I also take drum lessons with my stepfather. We’ve been learning to play the Indian [drum]

Another Andrea Harpole (Brooklyn, NY)

After 14 years as a librarian, most recently at New York University, where I also took classes part-time and earned a master’s degree in ergonomics and biomechanics, I quit my job, and am now a full-time student in an industrial design program at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

’85 Naomi Lester (Rothwell, WA) This year, I was promoted to the academic rank of full professor at Basta...
In summer 2008, I launched my own photography business—Tell Grass Photos. I am really happy to be spending more time doing what I love. Also, last summer, my son, Linus, turned four. Nicole Burkholder Walsh (San Clemente, CA) After I spent a year in Hawaii working for a federal judge, Jason (CMC ’98) and I moved back to San Clemente in late 2007. While we were sad to say goodbye to Hawaii, we have a new adventure—we welcomed Vivian Nidziani Walsh on November 18, 2008. I am working as a deputy county counsel doing general litigation for Orange County.

Melissa deCardi Hladek (Ukiah, CA) I continue to enjoy teaching full-time and working as a nurse practitioner. Wine country is beautiful, especially when the leaves are turning. I hope to see some of you at our 10-year reunion. Holly Rushing (La Jolla, CA) On November 8, 2008, Jeremy Douglas (PO ’99) and I were married near Santa Cruz, Calif., at a beautiful park in the redwoods. Many alums from the S-Colleges were in attendance at our wedding tea-party, and cupcakes and croquet were enjoyed by all. We are now living happily with our two cats.

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Reality in Watts
By Rachael Warecki ’08

I was halfway through fifth period when one of my students pulled a gun from his pocket, aimed it at me, and pulled the trigger.

I’d been teaching for only four months, but I was savvy enough to recognize the gun was a fake. I put out my hand, the student handed it over, and the incident became just another moment in just another day at Locke High School in Watts.

Such is my life as a Teach For America corps member. It is a grueling existence: not only am I a full-time first-year teacher, I am also the varsity softball coach and a full-time graduate student. It is a difficult lifestyle, and there are some days when I wonder if it’s sustainable.

But the hardest part isn’t juggling the numerous commitments or stressing over the 24/7 nature of the job. It’s knowing that the difference I try to make every day is not enough.

The reality of this was brought home to me over Thanksgiving, when I shared an airport supershuttle with some freshmen from Caltech. They were discussing the difference I try to make every day is not enough.

Yet most people don’t want to discuss the achievement gap. All they ever want to hear about are the “bad” stories—the stories they expect when they hear the words “I teach high school in Watts.”

Sometimes I oblige them, because I’m human, and there are times when I need to vent. I teach students who can’t afford to waste a minute of class, so I’m frustrated when I have to write an office referral within the first two minutes because one of my 10th graders throws a paper ball across the room. Or when a student whom I call “Inspector Gadget”—because I have to confiscate at least three electronic devices from her every period—raises her hand to inform me that her cell phone doesn’t get service in my classroom, or when I have to “take away” another student’s imaginary cell phone because she’s pretend-texting while I’m teaching. Or when I find out that girls are pregnant and won’t be continuing their education. The “bad” stories range from the darkly comic to the soul-crushingly depressing, and every time my classroom runs amok, I’m reminded that, as an educator, I am failing my students—students who are not undeserving, just unused to being in an academic setting.

After I’ve satisfied preconceived notions of what teaching in Watts must be like—and letting off steam—here’s the story I like to tell.

This past semester, I had a 12th-grade student named Roberto. As a new father and a former gang member, Roberto was trying to turn his life around, but in 2008 he fell just short of the A-through-G requirements needed to graduate. Instead of giving up, he came back again this year. The only class he had left to pass was the first semester of 12th grade English. One semester of my class.

However, since the school year started, his attendance was off-and-on, and, with one month left in the semester, he had a failing grade.

Having a failing grade in one of my English classes is fairly common, even though a D is considered passing in the state of California. Often, my students’ response at the sight of an F is to give up for the rest of the semester. Never mind if they’ve received an A for the first quarter—all it takes is one F and they refuse to take education seriously for the remainder of the course. Take Carlos, who up through October had an A but refused to write the last paragraph of his personal narrative, even though I stood over him for 15 minutes and tried to talk him into finishing it. He never turned the essay in, received a zero for the assignment, and hasn’t done a bit of work since. The same can be said for some of my 12th graders.

So, when Roberto’s counselor emailed me to ask about his grade—“All he needs is a D!”—I told her I didn’t think he was going to make it.

Realizing this, Roberto busted his butt for the last month of the semester. And guess what? It paid off. On the last day of the semester, I had the pleasure of handing back his final research paper with a C and the following note:

“Congratulations, Roberto! You have officially graduated from high school!”

I didn’t say anything, just watched him read the note:

“Oh, thank you, Miss, thank you, thank you,” he said. And then we pretended that neither of us was on the verge of tears because we had street cred to maintain.

When school was over, he brought me pancakes and a balloon. But seeing Roberto’s expression when he realized that he’d received his diploma was all the thanks I needed.

This is why I teach for America.
When your phone rings, a Scripps student may be calling you.

In the coming weeks, you can expect a call from one of our Phonathon students with exciting news from campus and an update on this year’s Annual Fund campaign.

Our student callers are involved in many aspects of campus life. We have soloists in a cappella groups, stars of the lacrosse team, actors in the theater, officers of Scripps Associated Students, dancers, researchers in the science labs, and accomplished artists.

They’re excited to hear about your time at Scripps and what you’re doing now. We hope you’ll be just as pleased to speak with them.