The Election Issue
Whether you are a political insider or an interested onlooker, the 2016 presidential election has undoubtedly captured your attention at some point over the past six months, and even the most disinterested voters will likely tune in as the campaigns sprint toward the climax in November.

Regardless of your view of the current state of U.S. politics, presidential races offer important teachable moments for society at large, and institutions of higher education in particular, as we reflect on the candidates, the issues, and the electoral system in the context of our identity as a nation.

Hillary Clinton, a former Ellen Browning Scripps Medal recipient, is the first female presidential nominee for a major political party. Her candidacy was made possible by centuries of tireless advocacy for women’s rights, and it represents a historic moment in the fight for equality of opportunity for women. Debates on issues ranging from the environment to immigration to economic disparity also signify an important moment, as voters and elected officials alike reexamine the founding principles of the Constitution to ensure its guarantees of freedom. For these reasons and more, this election serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of the political process in shaping the future of our society.

At Scripps, political, social, cultural, and intellectual engagement is a way of life. The Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities’ focus on Histories of the Present teaches students how to critically examine timely issues at the forefront of the current political conversation. The current Core I theme, “community,” is especially fitting as we explore the ways in which politics and society are interrelated. The political process tackles questions such as, how do we define community, whom does community include or exclude, and what does a community stand for? Scripps students hone their skills as involved citizens by serving as Laspa Center for Leadership fellows, Scripps Associated Students leaders, CLORG members, and campus activists, among other roles. This issue of Scripps shows that the civic engagement initiated as a student is often the precursor to a life of effecting change.

My hope for the students who will vote for the first time this year is that their Scripps experience will continue to translate into an understanding of the importance of political participation, now and throughout their lifetimes. Whether they become candidates, campaign managers, volunteers, or advocates, I couldn’t imagine a group better qualified to define our political future.

LARA TIEDENS
PRESIDENT
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Lara Tiedens Joins Scripps as the College’s Ninth President

ON AUGUST 1, LARA TIEDENS ASSUMED THE ROLE of Scripps’ ninth president, having been appointed by a unanimous vote of the College’s Board of Trustees on June 21.

“Lara’s professional demeanor, combined with her personable style and commitment to creating leadership models for women at a liberal arts college, make her the ideal choice to lead Scripps into the 21st century,” said Board of Trustees member Lynne Thompson ’72.

Prior to joining Scripps, Tiedens was senior associate dean of academic affairs and a faculty member of the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, where she oversaw educational technology, executive education, case writing, and faculty development for the finance and marketing areas. In prior years as an associate dean, she led the school’s PhD program as well as its Global Innovation Program.

Tiedens also served as the Jonathan B. Lovelace Professor of Organizational Behavior at Stanford Graduate School of Business since 2008. Her scholarship focused on the psychological roots of inequality and the role of emotions in organizational life. She taught in a variety of programs, including the MBA, Executive Education, and PhD programs at Stanford, and designed the leadership curriculum at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, which has become one of the hallmarks of the MBA program.

“Lara has a proven record of leadership, a deep commitment to teaching and research, and a broad understanding of higher education,” said John Etchemendy, provost and Patrick Suppes Family Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences at Stanford. “She has a remarkable ability to identify the crux of an issue and superb judgment about how best to deal with it. Combined with her personal warmth and devotion to students, these traits will serve Scripps College well.”

Tiedens also helped create the Research Fellows Program at Stanford University Graduate School of Business, which aims to increase the representation of women and underrepresented students in the academy. She was the Stanford representative at the White House convening on expanding opportunities for women in business, a member of the Stanford University Task Force on Women in Leadership, and served on the faculty advisory board of the Stanford Center for the Advancement of Women’s Leadership.

According to trustee Bob Sacks P’14, who co-chaired the Presidential Search Committee, “Lara has been a powerful advocate for women faculty and students at Stanford. Her experience and success as a woman leader in that environment will serve as an excellent role model for Scripps students.”

For more about Lara Tiedens, please visit scrippscollege.edu/president.
VOTES for WOMEN
90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Scripps will celebrate its 90th anniversary this academic year by acknowledging the collective contributions, achievements, and impact of our students, faculty, staff, alumnae, parents, and friends throughout the College’s history. Over the course of the year, Scripps will sponsor various activities to engage the community in recognizing this historic milestone.

TYRA ABRAHAM ’18 MAKES CMS ATHLETICS HISTORY WITH A NATIONAL WIN IN TRACK
In May, Tyra Abraham ’18 won the first national championship in the women’s 100 meters in CMS history, leading the Athenas to fifth place with 33 points at the NCAA Division III Track and Field Championships, the highest finish in program history. Abraham is only the second CMS woman to earn All-American honors in the 100-meter dash, and the first since 1986. She came into the championships as the top-seed, led the field in the preliminaries, and then won the gold medal at 12.10 seconds to win by just 0.01 second.

SCRIPPS WELCOMES 11 NEW TENURE-TRACK FACULTY
This fall, 11 new tenure-track faculty members joined the Scripps community, including two at the W.M. Keck Science Department. “This is an exciting moment for the College, as new faculty contribute creative perspectives, additional fields of study, and innovative ideas from which we all can learn. This is the largest cohort of new faculty in quite some time, and their impact on our community will be positive and significant,” said Amy Marcus-Newhall, dean of faculty and vice president for academic affairs. Joining Scripps in Africana studies is Maryan Soliman, PhD, University of Pennsylvania; in American studies, Wendy Cheng, PhD, University of Southern California; in economics, Nayana Bose, PhD, Vanderbilt University; in English, Tessie Prakas, PhD, Yale University; in genomics, Findley Finseth, PhD, Cornell University; in German, Kevin Vennemann, PhD, New York University; in Italian, Marino Florino, PhD, Rutgers University; in media studies, Carlin Wing, PhD, New York University; in physiology, Jenna Monroy, PhD, Northern Arizona University; in psychology, Lahnna Catalino, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and in Spanish, Gabriela Santizo Bacsan, PhD, University of California, San Diego. For more information, visit scrippscollege.edu/faculty.

NEW HALL FEATURED AT GREENBUILD CONFERENCE
Scripps’ NEW Hall was selected for inclusion in the world’s largest conference and expo dedicated to green building, Greenbuild, in the Educational Tours Program. The 2016 expo takes place in October in downtown Los Angeles. Conference attendees interested in learning about the College’s newest 110-bed residence hall, designed to LEED Gold standards, may register for a guided tour of the building and the Scripps campus.

FROM THE ARCHIVE
Women’s suffrage postcard, c. 1911. From the Woman’s Suffrage and Equal Rights Collection
Held in the MacPherson Collection By and About Women, established in 1936 at the Ella Strong Denison Library, the Women’s Suffrage and Equal Rights Collection traces the development of the American women’s suffrage movement, with a significant focus on California’s history.
Photo courtesy of the Scripps College Archives.
On June 11, California Senator Barbara Boxer joined Los Angeles journalist and radio host Warren Olney for “The Art of the Tough: A Conversation with Barbara Boxer,” the final event in the Scripps Presents: Conversations series.
“I hope to inspire you to engage in your own life with a spirit of determination to fight for change.”

—Senator Barbara Boxer
ON JUNE 30, BARBARA BICE AND ROGER ENGEMANN P’93, P’96 ENDED THEIR SERVICE TO THE SCRIPPS COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Barbara Bice was a trustee for 13 years, from 2003 to 2016. She and her husband, Scott Bice, are generous benefactors to Scripps who have supported student internships, the Bice Fund for Faculty-Student Social Interchange, and the Scripps Fund. At different junctures, Bice served on the Buildings and Grounds, Executive, Institutional Advancement, Nominations and Governance, and Student Affairs Committees as well as the Ad Hoc Committee on Life Trustees. As chair of the Nominations and Governance Committee, she effectively and enthusiastically recruited new members to the Board. She also led many important efforts related to Board governance, including instituting trustee term limits and self-assessment procedures and improving the onboarding process for new trustees.
Roger Engemann, father of Susan ‘93 and Carrie ‘96, served on the Board for 25 years, from 1991 to 2016, generously supporting Scripps over the decades since his daughters attended. He was variously a member of the Audit, Educational Policy, Executive, Investment, and Student Affairs Committees. As the Investment Committee chair for 10 years starting in 2006, Engemann was instrumental in focusing on the importance of diversification and asset allocation. He steered the committee to make informed decisions during the market downturn of 2008–09, keeping focus on long-term goals and adhering to the investment thesis. He also dedicated his considerable investment acumen to build the Scripps endowment through careful stewardship and superb financial judgment, advocating vigorously to gain Scripps access to top investment talent by identifying and recruiting top consultants and investment managers. Engemann also provided leadership for the Scripps Fund and capital and endowment support, including for More Scripps: The Campaign for Scripps College.

Scripps is extraordinarily grateful for their leadership as Board members and for their deeply held commitment to the College.
Recent contributions have included an anonymous $2 million bequest commitment and six new gifts of $500,000 from donors of all ages and constituencies. Three of these gifts came in June: from the Seaver Family, for upgrades to the Sallie Tiernan Fieldhouse; from Chris Larson and his daughter, Shauna ’08, to endow a new need-based scholarship; and from an anonymous Scripps family, to support renovations to the W.M. Keck Science Department, the beginning of a larger initiative to enhance and enlarge the Keck facilities in the coming years.

There is still much work to do. While the Scripps Fund, the College’s annual giving program, raised a record $3.6 million during the last fiscal year, the number of alumnae who made donations to the College fell to 29.4 percent. That’s a sizable shift from 15 years ago, when 60 percent of alumnae regularly gave each year.

The College depends on alumnae donations to the Scripps Fund to support initiatives such as scholarships and tuition aid, academic programs, and student life. Alumnae engagement is also crucial to the overall health of the College. “Rating magazines and agencies, foundations, and major donors all decide their level of support in large part based on the percent of alumnae who give,” explains Michael Archibald, vice president of institutional advancement. “At Scripps, every gift counts.”

The College has initiated a study to address the continuing decline in alumnae donor participation, and Archibald is hoping that more alumnae are inspired to give this year, as Scripps celebrates its 90th anniversary. “A gift is like voting—it’s an expression of support for a community you love,” he said. “And Scripps students are a worthy cause.”

Every gift supporting More Scripps: The Campaign for Scripps College propels the College closer to its strategic goals. To support the part of Scripps that is closest to your heart, please visit scrippscollege.edu/giving today. Every gift counts!
In Person with Lara Tiedens

This year, alumnae, parents, and friends of the College are welcoming Lara Tiedens, Scripps’ ninth president, to the Scripps community. Attend an event in your area to learn about our new president and what drew her to Scripps.

Fall 2016 Presidential Tour Dates

SAN FRANCISCO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 6–8PM
Hosted by Chalan Colby ’61, Ruth Owades ’66, and David Lahar

NEW YORK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6–8PM
Hosted by Betsy Smith ’74 and Linden Wise P’18

BOSTON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2-4PM
Hosted by Laura Hockett ’85

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 4-6PM
Hosted by David and Cheryl Scheidemantle P’17

LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 3-5PM
Hosted by Don Johnson

DATES TO COME FOR:
Chicago, Seattle, West Los Angeles, and London

For more information, please visit scrippscollege.edu/presidentialtour.
On April 29, alumnae and their families gathered for Reunion Weekend to reminisce, celebrate, and experience Scripps all over again. Highlights included an alumnae leadership panel hosted by the Laspa Center for Leadership and Career Planning & Resources, a tour of NEW Hall, the College’s newest residence hall, and a Core lecture with Professor of Chemistry Mary Hatcher-Skeers and Professor of Psychology Judith LeMaster. Here are just a few great moments from the weekend.
CLOCKWISE, FROM FAR LEFT

The Class of 1996 strikes a pose.
The Class of 1966 celebrates their 50th reunion.
Class of 1976 friends check out NEW Hall.
Alumnae from the Class of 2006 enjoy the wine-tasting event on Elm Tree Lawn.

For more photos, visit flickr.com/photos/scrippscollege.
FOCUS ON THE FACULTY
Myriam J. A. Chancy
By Marie Condron

THERE IS A TREE CALLED THE FLAMBOYANT.
Its blooms resemble that of an orchid; four scarlet petals frame a central petal streaked white, yellow, and red. The tree’s branches reach far and wide, and when its flame-colored flowers bloom, they cover the canopy, creating a stunning riot of color. A native of Madagascar, the tree has spread throughout the tropics—making bold statements and offering shady refuge in gardens from Australia to India to the Caribbean.
When Myriam J. A. Chancy discovered *In Search of Our Mother's Gardens* (1983) by Alice Walker, the flamboyant trees of her native Haiti were a distant but searing memory; Chancy was a 14-year-old girl living in Winnipeg, Canada. Walker’s collection of essays, both an examination of the Civil Rights era and a search for voices—of self-awareness, and of women and African American writers—struck a chord in her. “I believe in listening,” Walker wrote, “To a person, the sea, the wind, the trees, but especially to young black women whose rocky road I am still traveling.”

Inspired by Walker’s search for “unsung heroines” and, soon after, by the work of James Baldwin, Chancy set off on a literary journey of her own, pursuing a career of research and scholarship as well as essay and novel writing. Now a leading scholar of the diaspora of Caribbean women writers as well as an acclaimed novelist, Chancy joined Scripps’ faculty this past spring as the new Hartley Burr Alexander Chair of Humanities.

After her childhood move to Canada, it took several years for Chancy, born to a mother trained in accounting and law and a seminarian father, to realize that she no longer lived in Haiti. Given the political instability of the Duvaliers (Jean-Claude and François) dictatorship, her parents sought out teaching positions in French Canada, going back and forth between Haiti and Québec City for several years before ultimately settling in Winnipeg when Chancy was five. They visited extended family in Haiti often, filling Chancy’s childhood with memories of her paternal great-grandmother’s aromatic “douces,” a fudge-like candy, the open markets in quiet Port-au-Prince streets, and the flamboyant trees in the backdrop. The memories would inspire her later creative work, prompting details for settings in novels, including *Spirit of Haiti* (2003), *The Scorpion’s Claw* (2005), and *The Loneliness of Angels* (2010).

Chancy completed her PhD in literature at the University of Iowa in 1994. Her first teaching job was at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, the year that the U.S. decided to send troops—also from Nashville—to return ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide to office. “I grew up with strong feelings about foreign interference with Haiti, because of the previous implications of the U.S. occupation of Haiti from 1915 until 1934, especially the racial politics of it all,” she said. “As a result, I started seeking out writing by women of Haiti, which, as it turned out, began in earnest during the first occupation (works in French) and ended with two novels written by Haitian American writers in English, Edwidge Danticat’s powerful novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, and Anne-Christine d’Adesky’s equally powerful *Under the Bone*.”

This survey of Haitian women writers led to Chancy’s second (but first published) book, *Framing Silence: Revolutionary Novels by Haitian Women* (1997), a first-of-its-kind, foundational exploration of the work of Haitian women writers. Previously, while completing her PhD, she had been reading her way through the Caribbean, building relationships and connections with other women writers, many living in exile across the Anglophone world. This research helped establish the area of Afro-Anglophone Caribbean women writers and led to her book *Searching for Safe Spaces: Afro-Caribbean Women Writers in Exile* (1997), an exploration of women writers and filmmakers of the Caribbean whose work articulates the oppression and vulnerability of being women—both in the poverty and exploitation of their homelands and in their search for identity, connection, and belonging amid race, class, and gender politics in their adopted countries.

Chancy says she’s nearly always juggling both a creative work and a project of critical writing. She’s currently writing a novel set in post-quake Haiti, and in the late stages of a monograph, supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship, analyzing how written and visual artists of the African diaspora (African, African American, and Caribbean descent) “anchor their works in mobile, indigenous African cultures and those of their diasporas, while also assuming the universal practice of seeking freedom in the constitution of personhood.”

Chancy’s work branches out across cultures and geographies, not unlike her favorite flamboyant tree. It’s not surprising that she has cultivated a fertile creative ground among a far-reaching community of women writers. “I think that the study of literature lends itself well to pursuing a better understanding of the large ethical, moral, social, and even psychological challenges that face each of us,” she said. “In a way that very little else can, it introduces us to the inner worlds and landscapes of others unlike ourselves. In that sense, it is an ideal tool for exploring the world.”
The Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities, one of the hallmarks of the Scripps education, is a set of three courses that looks at the relationships between the historical production of knowledge and contemporary issues and debates. This year, Core I, the first of these courses and a common curricular experience for all Scripps students, has a new theme: “community.” Sixteen faculty members representing departments across the College worked together for many months to choose the new theme and craft a syllabus around it.
“Since Core I is a class every student takes, it’s one way we set an intellectual tone for our Scripps community and bring big issues to the table,” said YouYoung Kang, Elizabeth Hubert Malott Endowed Chair for the Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities and associate professor of music. “We look at what’s going on in the world, and we consider what students are thinking about.”

Each Core I theme has a term of three years; since 2013, the theme has been “violence.” As committee members discussed and researched areas of inquiry, sharing inspiration from their fields, Kang said a few themes began to emerge, including futures, the environment, bodies, and empathy. “We eventually landed on a consensus: How do we define a community? What’s the need for it, and how do communities function?”

A course began to take shape, with source material as wide-ranging as the role of Demeter’s rituals in Greek communities, to literary explorations of identity by Virginia Woolf and Zora Neale Thurston, to contemporary takes on belonging and boundaries—from the famed annual desert celebration Burning Man to Rebecca Solnit’s recent essay, “Men Explain Things to Me.”

“The theme itself is just a word. The interesting part is the readings and lectures and subjects we’ll talk about,” said Babak Sanii, Core I faculty member and assistant professor of chemistry at the W.M. Keck Science Department. “It was fascinating to me how every field had something to say about community in ways I hadn’t expected.”

How does chemistry relate to community? Sanii will draw on his scientific study of the self-assembly of molecules, featuring a lecture and readings that include a first-person narrative of a carbon atom and a white paper describing emergent behavior.

“My lab deals with how things form and un-form. Millions of molecules, with their own rules, come together and form structures, such as a cell membrane—a beautiful sphere,” said Sanii. “How does that happen? It’s just simple design rules that create complex structures, with a freedom to form and break connections. And we can use this language to describe human systems, too.”

Sanii’s lecture falls within the first section of Core I, Formation, Negotiation, and Transformation. Beginning with Imagined Communities, a now-classic 1983 academic text by Benedict Anderson, the course moves through science, communal singing and dance, questions of citizenship, and the effect of gender and sexual orientation in forming personal and community identities. Core I then transitions into Exclusion and Resistance, connecting dots among a diverse set of topics such as the struggles of oppressed indigenous peoples, religious martyrdom, the prison-industrial complex, community among those living with disabilities, and the issues behind musical censorship. The final section of Core I, Imagining
Communal Possibilities, looks forward while drawing from mythology, literature, and visual art. There will also be a series of guest lectures on race and belonging in the U.S., the status of Syrian refugees, and perceptions of Islam in America.

“We live in a very multicultural society, a world where cultural differences are very visible and exposed,” said Claudia Arteaga, assistant professor of Spanish. “But that doesn’t mean the rights of diverse communities are always recognized. Academia should be in constant dialogue with the world in which we live so we can challenge stereotypes and discrimination.”

Arteaga’s Core I lecture focus will be the testimonio of Rigoberta Menchú, a native and activist of the K’iche indigenous peoples of Guatemala, Mayan Indians who were targeted and killed by Guatemalan armed forces during the country’s decades-long civil war. Menchú’s social justice work in support of the rights of indigenous peoples won her the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992.

“Menchú was part of a culture that was resistant to national and international forces who were trying to impose policies on Guatemala that diminished the life of indigenous people,” said Arteaga. “Her story is a profound lesson, a testimonial of a people in a struggle to survive, to literally keep their culture alive. That connection between culture and politics, culture and identity, is what made me want to teach this. I think her message, that people have a right to define in their own terms how they want to live, is very relevant today.”

Following the Core I course, a selection of interdisciplinary Core II classes, many of which are team-taught, will delve into special topics to be defined this fall, and students will complete the curriculum with Core III, undertaking interdisciplinary research and creative projects rooted in Histories of the Present.

“It can be challenging for young students, still often so idealistic, to see that the world, and their community, is not perfect,” said Kang. “We want them to explore how communities set boundaries and critique them at the same time. I’m excited for students to gain a rich and diverse concept of community and develop a new way to understand the world—where we are now, and where we might go from here.”
Predicting the Unpredictable

Poppy MacDonald ’97 and Assistant Professor of Politics Vanessa Tyson on the 2016 election, with photographs by Ilana Panich-Linsman ’06
Poppy MacDonald ’97: We’re in the midst of a historic and wildly unpredictable election, and we’d be hard-pressed to identify anyone who accurately forecasted the results we’ve experienced or the behavior of the American voting public. In an election cycle that has been bursting with surprises, what aspect has surprised you most?

Vanessa Tyson: I’ve been very caught off guard by the rise of Donald Trump as the Republican Party presidential nominee. To be honest, I was shocked he even won a primary. I think about the candidates who came before him, particularly Senator John McCain and Governor Mitt Romney. Both had tremendous experience in crafting public policy and saw themselves as public servants. Trump seems to hold certain groups in disdain, particularly persons of Muslim faith, persons from Mexico, and women. I find his approach to these groups unsettling and counterproductive to the goal of good government.

On the other hand, I’ve been pleasantly surprised by millennials, who fervently support public policies that would prevent debt, alleviate poverty, protect the environment, and grow the middle class. Their willingness to carefully assess the presidential candidates and make concrete decisions about the direction U.S. politics should take encourages me. When I was in college in the 1990s, many of my classmates seemed apathetic about public policy. I’m incredibly enthused by the students in Claremont, who are both politically aware and passionate about improving the conditions of society, especially for the most downtrodden among us.
PM: Trump’s ascendency certainly took Washington, D.C., pundits by surprise, as the American people reminded everyone who ultimately controls the reins. Given that public opinion for over a decade has shown a majority of Americans feel the country is off on the wrong track and trust in government is at an all time low, the rise of a true outsider candidate should have been predicted. This contributed not only to the rise of Trump, but also the success of another surprise candidate—Bernie Sanders—who made a competitive run in the Democratic primary up until the end.

What has most surprised me is the lack of excitement around the first female major party nominee for president. In her endorsement of Hillary Clinton, Oprah Winfrey described it this way: “There is no ceiling, that ceiling just went boom!” For me, it has felt much more like a slow chiseling away of the glass ceiling. If you compare it to the enthusiasm for Barack Obama’s candidacy, the prospect of our first female president doesn’t seem to have engaged the electorate in the same way as with our first black president.

What factors do you think play a role in the lackluster enthusiasm: Is it a millennial generation that no longer recognizes a glass ceiling for women? Or is it the unprecedented unpopularity ratings of Clinton (and Trump)? Or would history tell us that glass ceilings are slowly chiseled away by women, not broken in one fell swoop?

VT: Millennials definitely recognize the glass ceiling for women, but they remain every bit as concerned about lifting the floor. That is, their skeptical approach to Clinton seems to stem from a more class-based analysis of privilege both in the U.S. and abroad, and improving the conditions of a global society, which may require upsetting more privileged elites. They gravitate toward—and want to vote for—candidates they believe will offer the most substantive support to women and families living at or below the poverty line.

And yes, history has shown the glass ceiling is slowly chiseled away by women and people of color. I have to imagine that in many ways the presence in the 1980s of Jesse Jackson, Sr., Geraldine Ferraro, and Pat Schroeder made dents and cracks for candidates like Obama and Clinton. But another dynamic is that many individuals evolve—and that includes the voting public. Voting for a woman or a racial minority (or both) has become a nonissue for many Americans, particularly younger generations. Meanwhile, the number of women and minorities—and members of numerous groups historically excluded from the political process, such as the LGBTQ community—running as candidates has increased substantially.

That said, Obama ran a campaign based on hope and change, which invigorated young voters and older cynics alike in 2008. He argued for a politics that could rise above partisan acrimony. He addressed issues like the environment and race and offered tremendous authenticity in his speaking engagements. Clinton faces circumstantial hurdles that Obama never faced—coming from the incumbent party, she almost inevitably represents the status quo, but also her resounding support for her husband’s policy agenda back in the 1990s means that she is held accountable for the adverse consequences of such policies as the crime bill and welfare reform. The electorate, particularly the Democratic base,
has shifted significantly in the last 20 years to a more progressive median, and Clinton seemingly lacks ease convincing Democratic voters across the country that her decisions will reflect their priorities.

**PM:** In your recent book, *Twists of Fate*, you explore how some members of Congress have exercised power by forming multiracial coalitions as a strategy to provide for their diverse constituencies. Is this a model for the larger Congress, or is it unique to members who share common traits based on representing communities of color? Do you see these members continuing to be successful advocates for their constituents no matter who ends up in the White House—and controls Congress—in 2017?

**VT:** In my book, I argue that members of Congress from and representing racial minority communities do indeed have tremendous incentive to work together. Their constituents have suffered indisputable resource deprivation and desperately need their assistance. Members of the Congressional Black, Hispanic, and Asian Pacific American Caucuses witness the marginalization of the districts and communities they represent. These lawmakers also experience personal marginalization during the process of policy formulation on the Hill.

Their binding force is firmly rooted in a perception of a linked political fate—a term I introduce in the book—where members from and representing communities of color believe that the political fates of the social groups they are most closely tied to are inextricably linked to the fates of other racial minority groups. As such, they’ve built a multiracial coalition to better advocate for the unique needs of all racial minorities. What’s more, the advocacy of their coalition extends beyond traditional civil rights issues to a much wider anti-discrimination agenda and more salient support for social welfare measures.

As to whether this coalition will continue to successfully advocate for their constituents, well, that remains

*“What has most surprised me is the lack of excitement around the first female major party nominee for president.”*

— Poppy MacDonald ’97
to be seen. They were infinitely more successful—if you measure success by the number of bills signed into law—during the first two years of Obama’s presidency, when Democrats controlled the Senate, the House, and the presidency, than they have been from 2011 to the present. Regardless, they now offer their constituents greater voice in the process. They may not win the legislative battles, but with more than 75 members in the House of Representatives, they almost always have a voice in the room during committee hearings, markups, and in conference.

PM: Hearing more about the thesis of your book, that members of Congress representing diverse racial communities have incentive to work together because of their shared challenges, I wonder how you view Black Lives Matter. Do you think this grassroots organization focused on equality will evolve into a broader movement representing all minority communities who have suffered discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, and gender? Will shared challenges also bring people together at the grassroots level to impact change, similar to the coalitions that formed in Congress?

It has been fascinating to see the significant impact of Black Lives Matter; what began as a protest over the killing of an unarmed black teenager three years ago has evolved into a political force demanding national reforms to address a broad range of perceived injustices. And their efforts are having an impact at the highest levels. Black Lives Matter has organized to influence the presidential elections, and the movement is credited for reforms proposed by Hillary Clinton for a “new” New Deal for communities of color that includes criminal-justice reform, requiring body cameras for all police officers, and strengthening federal authority to review alleged police misconduct. The movement has also begun to inspire change at the grassroots level that goes well beyond police violence, advocating for equality in education, raising the minimum wage, and addressing racism on college campuses.
You teach a course at Scripps, Black Americans and the Political System. Some pollsters predict that black voter turnout will be depressed in comparison to Obama’s two elections. Given some of the recent tragedies involving both black citizens and police officers, do you see this being a rallying cry that motivates black voters in a similar way to having the first black nominee for president? How do you see black voter turnout—whether higher or lower—impacting the election outcome?

**VT:** I don’t think the Black Lives Matter movement needs to evolve in that fashion. People of all races are already welcome to join the Black Lives Matter movement, and many persons of Latino and Asian descent actively participate in BLM activities. But the main focus of the movement is on the systematic targeting of black lives and the history of state violence against black bodies. A group that focuses on a particular issue or set of issues does not need to broaden their focus, though it’s safe to say that members of the BLM movement are sufficiently aware of the myriad ways that other groups have suffered. An analogy you could use is cancer—I tend to focus my energies on breast cancer because many of my loved ones are survivors. While I strongly support research on all types of cancer, breast cancer is the type that has had the greatest impact on my family, friends, and loved ones in general, and so my focus is more specific.

In forming the Congressional Tri-Caucus on Capitol Hill, the Congressional Black, Hispanic, and Asian Pacific American Caucuses didn’t cease to exist. They decided to work together and coalesce around their common understanding and experience. That reflects the kind of solidarity politics that I’d like to see among Black Lives Matter and other grassroots organizations that champion social justice in the U.S. and around the globe.

The entire 2016 election cycle has been odd—very odd—which makes the results in November difficult to predict. Black voter turnout in 2008 and 2012 was extremely high, with strong support for Obama. I suspect that black turnout will remain well above average for Clinton, in that she has solid support from black elected officials, and elites play a significant role in turning out voters on Election Day. That said, her unfavorable ratings (among all voters) are notably high, which could signal lower turnout overall. In all, black voters may have a more measurable impact down ballot, particularly in U.S. Senate races in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. If black voters turn out at the same levels as they have in the past two presidential elections, the Democrats could take back the Senate.
PM: An odd—or very odd—election cycle is perhaps the best way to summarize 2016. A few historic firsts in this election include: Two of the four final candidates for the nomination of the two major political parties were arguably not a Republican or Democrat. The nominees from both parties have unprecedented unfavorability ratings. A foreign country is presumed to have aimed its counter intelligence operation at influencing the election. The Republican nominee, Trump, is challenging conventional wisdom that leading with a positive message for the future is the only way to win an election; his campaign also challenges assumptions about the importance of money and voter analytics in winning elections, instead leveraging earned media and social media. And, finally, because it remains a very big deal in my view, a woman is a major-party presidential nominee.

I’m fascinated to see how this election impacts the traditional two-party system and the makeup of Congress and the White House in 2017. In what has felt like a stagnant, partisan environment for too long in Washington, one can only hope this very odd and often negative election leads to positive change. ☝️
Will I be next? #BlackLivesMatter
How Scripps alumnae and students are shaping the issues that matter to voters
The heat of a political campaign season brings lots of talk. But for many Scripps alumnas and students, the issues confronting the country call for action as well as thoughtful discussion.

Scripps women who are passionate about tackling today’s issues aren’t waiting for election outcomes or fulfillment of campaign promises. In legislative corridors, schools, business boardrooms, nonprofit organizations, and other settings across the nation, they are improving the systems that shape American society and the lives of people within it. They are informing education and criminal justice reform, advocating for better healthcare, promoting job growth and environmental justice, empowering communities, and protecting the rights of workers and voters.

“At Scripps, being politicized is about organizing and action,” says Thomas Kim, associate professor of politics and chair of the Department of Politics. “If we told students they get to be politicized every two years by voting, they’d say that’s not enough.”

Assistant Professor of Politics Sumita Pahwa sees other reasons for their engagement. She explains, “I think it results from the support and encouragement they receive here. That women take chances and run things is completely standard for them.”

“The education students receive at Scripps enables them to look at politics through a variety of lenses, not just institutions or conventional political processes,” adds Pahwa. “Students learn to see how the stories we tell ourselves about the world, cultural norms, historical processes, and hierarchies related to gender, ethnicity, and race shape how power is experienced and exercised. Their understanding of society and power is multidimensional.”

Of course, not every alumna passionate about tackling today’s key issues started out studying politics. Regardless of major, however, many graduates voice sentiments similar to those of Pandwe Gibson ’04.

“Scripps laid the foundation for me. I learned to think critically, solve problems, and position myself to be competitive and be a force,” says the black studies and history major who has since made her mark in both education and green manufacturing. “I would not be as successful without that foundation.”

Scripps prepares students and alumnas to not only get involved, but also make an impact. The interdisciplinary nature of a Scripps education is crucial, says Kim. Graduates have a greater capacity to understand and address complex issues than those with more narrow training.
ADRIENNE LINDGREN ’11
Business Development Manager
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

Adrienne Lindgren ’11 applies her experience in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to mobilize support for economic development and workforce training in Los Angeles. Working primarily with the manufacturing and aerospace industries, she is helping the city capture a share of U.S. companies choosing to return, expand, or relocate within the area, contributing to the creation of stable jobs for the Los Angeles community.

“My work is about public service, generating employment, and matching people with opportunities. I am able to give back to my community through jobs creation, and I enjoy helping businesses articulate what it is they bring to a community so that it is well-received and achieves positive outcomes.”

THE ECONOMY

PANDWE GIBSON ’04
Founder
EcoTech Visions, Miami

After starting charter schools in her native New Orleans, Pandwe Gibson ’04 moved on to a new challenge: create a business incubator in Miami focused on green manufacturing. Through her company, Gibson brings together budding entrepreneurs, workers seeking to develop skills for new industries, and her particular business expertise. In the process, she’s revitalizing low-income communities and promoting economic development.

“My greatest reward is seeing companies grow. An example is Earthware, which went from an idea to a contract for sustainable cutlery in schools. That means they can hire more people at $15 per hour. It also means some of the issue with Miami-Dade County landfills can be addressed—they’re filling up. The byproduct of innovation is often a better society for everyone.”

Illustrations by Pierre Nguyen

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HEALTHCARE

EMILY TAYLOR '05
Policy and Engagement Manager
Solve ME/CFS Initiative, Los Angeles

Working with legislators and policymakers in Washington, D.C., prepared Emily Taylor ’05 to advocate for patients whose health issues are often neglected or misunderstood. As a director of policy and advocacy at the Special Needs Network, Taylor represented those with autism from low-income families of color living in South Los Angeles. Now an advocacy and engagement manager at Solve ME/CFS Initiative, she increases awareness of myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), a debilitating disease that leaves one quarter of patients bedridden. ME/CFS disproportionately affects women at a rate of four to one. Taylor’s own mother has suffered from the disease since 2008.

“I don’t see policy—I see the people behind policy. My passion is the patients. I want to be the voice and make change for patients who can’t do this for themselves. Their story needs to be told.”

GRACE RECKERS '18
Laspa We Act Grant Recipient
Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA), Los Angeles

A Scripps politics class initially inspired Grace Reckers ’18 to pursue community outreach efforts, and she partnered with Los Angeles’ KIWA. Through her Scripps’ Laspa Center for Leadership We Act grant, Reckers spent some time in Guatemala, where she perfected her Spanish, and Cuba, where she assisted in a medical program designed to increase access to care. She then returned to KIWA to administer health outreach and raise awareness about the dangers of lead paint poisoning in the predominantly Latino neighborhood.

“Through my time with KIWA and in class discussion, I learned about political organizing and was able to reflect on my own beliefs about politics, justice, and organizing. I realized I want to serve those who are most exploited and support the long-term struggle for health for all.”

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

ELIZABETH MCELVEIN '14
Senior Research Assistant
Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth McElvein’s ’14 original research, data collection, and writing toward rethinking the U.S. criminal justice system earned her a co-author credit on the major report “Framing the Debate on Criminal Justice Reform: What Citizens and Policymakers Should Know,” published this year by the Brookings Institution. The report explores a range of key issues, including the causes of prison overpopulation, the cost to taxpayers, and the demographic makeup of incarcerated individuals.

“I jumped at the opportunity to work on a project that would allow me to apply an intersectional lens to public policy research, a kind of analysis that was central to my education at Scripps. The point of our report is to inform policy debate, and I feel I helped set the framework for thoughtful, evidence-based legislation.”
EDUCATION

JUSTINA ACEVEDO-CROSS ’02
Program Officer, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation; and Los Altos Board Chair, Californians for Justice, San Jose, California

In her job and as a volunteer board member, Justina Acevedo-Cross ’02 looks for ways to improve education. Her work in grant making at the foundation supports kindergarten readiness and after-school and summer learning opportunities for children of all ages. At Californians for Justice, she provides leadership for an organization focused on making public education more equitable and empowering students to advocate for themselves. Acevedo-Cross knows the importance of this role: She once served as a student advocate at her own high school in Hawaii.

“I feel our educational system is where I can make the greatest difference. The changes aren’t happening as fast as I’d like, but that’s the challenge. I hope all decision makers, from presidents to local leaders, are thinking about what we can do as a society to support all children and families, both in and out of school.”

ALICE OPALKA ’12
Project Manager
Center for Reinventing Public Education, Seattle

Alice Opalka ’12 started in education by working directly with students as an AmeriCorps literacy coordinator and college coach. Now she contributes to research and policy analysis, where she makes a positive impact on educators and students in cities nationwide, while gaining a big-picture perspective on improving public schools.

“If students aren’t getting a good education, we’re not fulfilling their civil rights and standing in the way of progress as a country. Fortunately, there’s a lot of interest and momentum in improving education, which is encouraging, because it means people are paying attention.”

KRISTEN LIU ’19
Laspa We Act Grant Recipient
Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, Menlo Park, California

Realizing that not every student in the Silicon Valley has the same educational opportunities, Kristen Liu ’19 wanted to help the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula reduce the gap. She combined her interest in understanding how social media can be used in positive ways to create social media, website, and video content to expand the organization’s outreach efforts, especially to much-needed volunteer tutors.

“In Silicon Valley, there’s not only a wealth gap, but also an achievement gap in public education. We’re trying to make it possible for every student to finish high school, go to a four-year college, and then come back to the community and work for a high-profile company like Google or Facebook.”
Two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali led Sarah Rich ’03 to think about laws that dictate whether people can migrate to better their family’s lives. Today, she works on behalf of migrants in the Southeastern United States, primarily on employment and civil rights cases involving guest workers in low-skilled jobs. Rich helps ensure they are paid in accordance with the law and also advocates for improved working conditions for immigrants vulnerable to abuse.

“When you’re engaging in advocacy or policy, you need to think about how society influences who succeeds and fails. The impact of the Immigrant Justice Project is based in recognizing we’re a nation of immigrants and reaffirming the humanity of immigrants.”

Interests in politics, policy, and international human rights led Lisa Ramirez ’96 to work in all aspects of immigration law. Ramirez helps businesses as well as artists, scientists, educators, and athletes meet the legal requirements for workers to come to the United States. She also addresses the immigration and humanitarian needs of families and individuals, guiding them through the citizenship process and providing pro bono legal services to victims of violent crime and individuals seeking political asylum.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to play a small, yet significant, role in helping people navigate our U.S. immigration system. It’s an honor and a privilege to help businesses grow and help families and individuals succeed.”
POLITICAL REFORM

ISELA GUTIERREZ-GUNTER ’03
Associate Research Director
Democracy North Carolina, Durham

Isela Gutierrez-Gunter ’03 is dedicated to increasing access to voting in a state with newly restrictive election laws. In addition to research and policy, her work for the nonpartisan organization involves an election protection hotline, polling-place monitoring, voter advocacy strategies, and documenting violations of voting rights. While pushing for reform, she and her organization serve as an educational resource for advocacy groups, political parties, and voters alike.

“I was raised with a strong sense of self as someone who could have an impact, and at Scripps, I was encouraged to speak out. Voting rights and democracy issues are ideologically contested. They’re connected to empowerment and disenfranchisement, and to larger questions: What kind of country are we? What kind of history are we writing?”

THE ENVIRONMENT

SARAH GOODSPEED ’07
Policy Analyst
Center for Earth Energy & Democracy, Minneapolis

Sarah Goodspeed ’07 researches and analyzes energy and environmental policy from multiple perspectives, including its impact on racial and economic equity and intersections with other policy issues, such as housing or city planning. Much of her work to promote environmental justice involves building a long-term movement for change, but Goodspeed can also point to instances of more immediate progress, including seeing community members empowered to act after attending her workshop on reducing energy use and costs.

“We try to balance research with action. The most rewarding part of my work is connecting people to the decisions affecting their communities and giving them an opportunity to have a voice in those decisions.”

EDITH JAICEL ORTEGA ’18
Laspa We Act Grant Recipient
San Antonio High School, Claremont, California

Knowing firsthand that few students from low-income communities have the opportunity to participate in paid internships or sustainable agriculture, Edith Jaicel Ortega ’18 helped coordinate summer culinary and agricultural internships that provided both. Through the internships, students from an alternative high school tended and harvested a vegetable garden, assisted in the production of jam making from local fruit, and visited an organic farm to learn about sustainable agriculture on a larger scale.

“My goal was to bring together groups of people from different disadvantaged communities and increase their awareness of sustainable agriculture through practice as well as learning. I also wanted students to feel the empowerment that comes from having a paid internship.”

In Madison Hobbs’ ’18 home, family dinners were a time to eat and discuss the news of the day. She continues her interest in debating current issues while engaging with others through her involvement with IGNITE, a national nonpartisan organization that promotes political ambition and community participation among young women. Though the math major plans to become a statistician after graduation, she doesn’t rule out running for political office someday.

“There’s a false sense of activism when we’re talking to friends and on Facebook. Talking is important, but it’s not often translated into policy. We also have to get involved by running for office and being allies on the front where decisions are made.”

MADISON HOBBS ’18
Member
IGNITE, Scripps College
As a legislative and policy advisor in California state government, Jennifer Richard ‘91 delves into numerous workplace and civil rights issues, including caregiver benefits, disability insurance and accommodations, and safe schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Among her contributions is work on the country’s first paid family leave program and the first hate crimes legislation to include protections for transgender people.

“When people engage in the political process, they think about national politics. They ignore the real power of what happens at the state and local levels and the opportunity to have national influence through that work. I’ve had an incredible opportunity to be involved in creating policies that have an impact on people’s lives.”

Anna Salem ’10 focused on racial and gender inequality in U.S. public policy as a Scripps student, and she hasn’t stopped since. Salem advocated with transgender classmates as student body president at Scripps, she ran a youth center tutoring program, and worked for the ACLU of Northern California, where she promoted inclusive, welcoming school environments for queer and transgender students. Today, she trains young people in advocacy while also offering guidance to schools about supporting LGBTQ students.

“Working with queer students and their families to provide a support system, tools, and resources is rewarding. But my biggest reward is watching parents advocate for their young people—their unconditional love—and seeing students advocate for themselves.”
Think Students Are a Tough Crowd?

Try Voters

Associate Professor of Economics
Sean Flynn’s campaign for Congress

By Joshua Kamensky

A campaign car should be totally nondescript, so that nobody attending an event will ever be able to remember what car the candidate drove up in,” says Sean Flynn as he walks toward a white Honda, made in the U.S.A. and appropriately tame. Flynn, 43 years old and an associate professor of economics at Scripps, has just finished his first foray into politics, running for the House of Representatives in the Inland Empire’s 31st Congressional District, a compact crescent located just northeast of the Claremont Colleges that stretches from Rancho Cucamonga to San Bernardino.
He pops the trunk and finds a campaign mailer, a matching door hanger, and a copy of his 246-page manuscript, *The Singapore Solution: How Singapore Delivers the World’s Best Healthcare While Spending 75 Percent Less Than We Do*.

Flynn, a scholar of behavioral economics, author of the best-selling *Economics for Dummies*, and now an experienced Congressional candidate, is that increasingly rare breed in politics, an engaging wonk. “I learned over the course of the campaign to use stories,” he says. As much as he might enjoy giving every registered voter a copy of *The Singapore Solution*, his pitch is nicely tailored to Rotary luncheons and door visits. “Compare a Michael Jackson nose job with a current nose job,” he says, by way of illuminating the 30-year drop in price and rise in quality of the kind of surgeries that fall outside “our complicated and burdensome insurance schemes.” Stacking anecdotes and statistics, he builds an intriguing case. “What matters are outcomes,” he says, more than once.

A search for better outcomes from an economist’s perspective also animates his plan to slash student loan debt. “After the Baby Bust slashed college enrollments in the 1970s, colleges and universities started begging the federal government for a solution. Unfortunately, the government’s solution was to start pushing the federal loan system.” Today, Flynn says he sees “brilliant students of modest means carrying debt burdens in the hundreds of thousands” (though not, he hastens to add, at Scripps, which has a strong record of pushing down students’ debt burdens). The easy availability of federal loan dollars not only let college costs balloon, but they also disproportionately increased the number of administrators due to numerous accompanying regulations and mandates. Flynn’s plan would divert the money currently set aside for loan financing and spend it “increasing supply, not demand”—requiring it be used strictly to hire faculty, while slashing the regulatory burden that requires colleges to bulk up on admin.

But isn’t lowering the cost of college a Democratic Party plank? Are we in Bernie territory? Here, the economics lesson comes out. “There’s cost and price. Cost is the amount of resources you have to take away from other things to produce something. Bernie only wants to reduce the price, no matter the cost. And that’s missing the point.”

Flynn jumped into the race for CA-31 only six months before the June 7th primary. And he only began considering a run a couple of months earlier, in November 2015. An old friend who had considered running for office herself convinced Flynn that he would be better suited for the hustings than she would. He booked a two-hour appointment with a Burbank-based political consultant. Two hours turned into eight, “most of which was him trying to talk me out of it.” A trip to visit the National Republican Congressional Committee in Washington, D.C., exposed him to the tiny rooms with phones and desks where members of Congress spend an average of four hours a day raising funds for their next elections. “This may be the worst part about politics right now,” says Flynn. “It’s not even that the vast amount of money causes political corruption per se. It’s the likelihood that everyone’s elected representatives spend so much time calling for money that they can’t actually write good legislation or even know what’s in the bills.”

Flynn had weeks of sleepless nights staring at the ceiling. “But then I woke up one morning and decided I was angry enough to do it.” He called the dean. He called his department chair. They
were surprised, but they were encouraging. A behavioral finance class, already part-enrolled, and a Core II class on gender economics, co-taught with art and gender studies professor Nancy Macko, had to be postponed.

All of a sudden, Professor Flynn was a candidate. He recruited a campaign staff of five and dozens of volunteers. He dialed for dollars, he knocked on doors, he refined his stump speech. The Michael Jackson line got a good response.

“The mainstream apparatus of both parties,” reports Flynn, “is filled with thoughtful people who are not extremists in any way, which was great to see.” On the campaign trail, he learned a key difference between voter and student interactions. “As a politician, most of what you do is listen,” he says. “I’d say, ‘crazy election year, huh?’ to a voter I’d just met, and it didn’t matter what their politics were, they’d agree. Then I’d ask what the government could be doing better for them. They’d be talking for 90 to 95 percent of the interaction, which is 100 percent different from lecturing.”

California uses the “jungle primary” system for all non-presidential primary elections. A voter may cast a ballot for any candidate, regardless of registration. The top two vote getters in the June primary proceed to the general election in November.

In the right district, this system would favor Flynn. He calls himself a conservative, but he rhapsodizes about having lunch with every single colleague in the House in search of common ground; the Grand Old Party he champions is the one formed to end slavery, out front on women’s suffrage, and part of the anti-Jim Crow coalition. You could see him winning in a solidly Republican district as a Republican whom even Democrats could support. You could see him finding his footing on the House floor, floating the kinds of policy proposals that might strike common cause with Washington’s business-friendly “Mod Caucus” Democrats.

But political observers call the 31st “solid Dem”—incumbent Pete Aguilar led the primary returns with 43 percent of the vote—and in the Year of Trump, its Republican voters favored Tea Party-affiliated Paul Chabot with 23 percent and the runner-up slot. Flynn came in last, clustered with “Bernie Democrat” Kaisar Ahmed and party-switching former Congressman Joe Baca.

Unfazed by the loss, Flynn says that he might consider running for office again someday. In the meantime, he’s excited to return to Scripps, where, “as far as I know, I’m the only ‘out’ Republican [faculty].” Flynn, the son of a Japanese mother and a Caucasian American father who moved to the United States so that his mother could pursue medical school free of Japan’s patriarchal limitations, offers a friendly critique of Scripps’ latter-day approach to single-sex education. Citing evidence that women’s educational attainment has outpaced men’s, he says, “What I would like to see at Scripps is an assumption that our current students, when they are 50 or 60 years old, will be running the world. I think we are now overly focused on fighting battles against patriarchy that, thankfully, are well on their way to being resolved. The focus needs to be put on preparing women to govern, preparing them to be in charge—which they will be.”

This fall, Professor Flynn is scheduled to teach Democracy in Theory and Practice, a millennium-spanning Core III class. It’s one he’s uniquely qualified to teach.

It’s the likelihood that everyone’s elected representatives spend so much time calling for money that they can’t actually write good legislation or even know what’s in the bills.

— Sean Flynn, associate professor of economics
In Colorado, the process for becoming a national convention delegate is straightforward, but not necessarily easy. I campaigned to stand for Hillary Clinton in Philadelphia at the precinct, county, and Congressional district levels, putting years of campaign training into practice to win the experience of a lifetime.
PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN PHILADELPHIA, I’D ENGAGED WITH FRIENDS in plenty of speculative talk about how the 2016 Democratic National Convention (DNC) might get rowdy. But after the relative lack of visible dissent at the Republican National Convention, and Hillary Clinton’s win coming out of the primary, I assumed the culture would be unified, similar to that of the last four or five conventions I’d seen on TV.

Making assumptions is rarely a good idea.

It was clear by the first gavel fall that this was not going to be a Kumbaya convening. Many Bernie Sanders supporters were far from done with their campaign, and fueling their passions was the release of emails hacked from DNC servers, some of which painted a bleak picture of Sanders’ treatment by a handful of DNC staffers. Many believed that they had been systematically excluded from the chance to win, and their anger was directed at the televised stage.

I had a front-row seat to the discontent. Our Colorado delegation consisted of 40 Sanders reps and 20 Hillary reps, and our group culture was one of the most fractured, rivaled in anti-Clinton activism only by California and Washington. Hillary and Sanders supporters had their first dust-up early on, when Sanders protesters began to boo as former Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) came to the podium.

Frank, the first openly gay member of Congress, has been a longtime champion of the LGBTQ community and a longtime Clinton supporter. Those who love him for the former and those who detest him for the latter were gathered together for the first time since the end of the primaries. Heated words were exchanged, and they continued when civil rights champion, Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD), took the stage an hour later. We quickly realized that the protests were not a passing fad; anyone who didn’t actively back Sanders, or was pro-Hillary or pro-DNC, was in for a bumpy ride once they hit the stage. Fueled by a much larger and very visible California-led, pro-Sanders protest, our 40 Sanders reps were becoming more vocal by the minute, inspiring another 10 or so from Washington, just behind us.

In a moment of serendipity, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb spoke that afternoon, just as the tensions were at a breaking point for Colorado. Webb served as our Clinton delegation chair, but he’s also revered among Democrats in our state. He’s well known for his decades of effective civil rights work and steady governance. He spoke at the DNC as a co-chair of the Unity Reform Commission, charged with brokering Clinton and Sanders constituency demands in evaluating the nominating structure, including the call to do away with caucuses and super delegates.

Webb delivered the right speech in the right way at the right time. As the protests continued, he managed to diffuse the arena just enough with statements like, “As a party, it is not required that we always agree, but it is vital that we always move forward together,” and “Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are our champions. They both deserve our cheers.”

Anxious exchanges began between the Sanders and Clinton leaders in the Colorado delegation before tensions could rise again. A détente was reached, and an agreement was brokered that, at minimum, Michelle Obama’s speech would not be disrupted.
FOLLOWING A TENSE COLORADO DELEGATION BREAKFAST,
I found my people at the DNC Women’s Caucus. The primetime show is the most visible part of the convention, but the constituency caucuses and state breakfasts make up the critical remainder of the programming when it comes to energizing delegates. The caucus opened with remarks from former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Her introduction by the DNC chair was almost casual, and I had another moment of adjusting expectations. It began to sink in that, over the course of this one week, I’d be experiencing a lifetime’s worth of once-in-a-lifetime moments.

Donna Brazile, Democratic activist, CNN political analyst, and former campaign manager for Al Gore, stepped up to the mic after Albright. I had the privilege of working for Brazile for a year and a half while I was in D.C. during my early 20s, and I started cheering as soon as they told us the Louisiana native was on deck.

Brazile delivered a barnburner. I originally learned the term “red meat” (highly partisan issues and language deployed to fire up the base) from her, and she fed us plenty. We came right out of our chairs, raising voices and hands as she spoke about the history we were making and our incredible stamina in this fight. She called on us to shout out loud to our heroes, from Susan B. Anthony to Eleanor Roosevelt, Fanny Lou Hamer to Rosa Parks, Dolores Huerta to Carol Moseley Braun, and, finally, Hillary Clinton. I thought, “Now this—is what I came for.”

Tuesday night at the DNC was everything I had ever wanted and more as a feminist activist and a Democrat—it was chock-a-block full of the second-wave feminist nostalgia and celebration that so many of us had been waiting for, made richer for the lack of protest in the arena (Sanders supporters had staged a walkout not long after the nomination was officially bestowed on Clinton). To my surprise, the state roll call delegate count and formal nomination might have been the most emotional moments for me. In contrast to Monday’s chaos, Tuesday definitely felt like our time; we set aside the work of decades, centuries, just for a bit, and reveled in the glory. It’s hard not to cry remembering it, standing in a rocking arena and shouting “aye” to pass the motion making Hillary Clinton the first female to ever be at the top of a major party presidential ticket in the United States.

As of that moment, every door I’d ever knocked on, every call I’d ever made, was worth it. Every moment I spent standing on hot asphalt canvassing for voter registration, or in the freezing cold distributing Get Out the Vote door hangers, was worth it. Every argument I’d had on the playground about why girls couldn’t be team captains was worth it. All the tears cried over the female candidates I’d backed with all my heart and who’d lost anyway—in that moment, it was all worth it.

As we left that night to catch the buses back to the hotels, my roommate for the week and I compared notes. I’d had a somber conversation with her that morning, asking about previous conventions and expressing my surprise that it felt so hostile and contested on Monday. A DNC veteran, she replied that this was the first time she had ever been to a convention that was like this. As we walked, she said, “But tonight is what it’s supposed to feel like; this is what the other conventions have been like, what Obama in ’08 was like. I’m glad you were here for it.”
ON WEDNESDAY THE DNC DEPLOYED THE HEART OF ITS LINEUP, rhetorical heavy hitters who know how to get a crowd on its feet and keep it there. Jesse Jackson may not be delivering with much firebrand force anymore, but his effective deployment of the rhetorical triple worked for me, and he had a message I was ready to hear: “It’s healing time. It’s hope time.” Not to mention, it was a pretty awesome experience to be in the audience doing call and response with the one and only Jesse Jackson.

IT’S HARD NOT TO CRY REMEMBERING IT, STANDING IN A ROCKING ARENA AND SHOUTING “AYE” TO PASS THE MOTION MAKING HILLARY CLINTON THE FIRST FEMALE TO EVER BE AT THE TOP OF A MAJOR PARTY PRESIDENTIAL TICKET IN THE UNITED STATES.

One of the most difficult experiences of the entire convention was the perpetual feeling of being on the emotional edge of my seat. At many moments through the week I had been on the precipice of the ugly cry. Wednesday was a roller coaster; the gun violence block was tough. We heard from survivors of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church shooting, the daughter of the principal of Sandy Hook Elementary, and a mother who lost her son at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. I was on my feet for Gabby Giffords ’93. As a fellow alumna, how could I not cry at her words? “Speaking is difficult for me. But come January, I want to say these two words: Madame President,” she proclaimed. It was difficult to listen with an open heart to Gabby and to each of those victims of gun violence, especially because we, as a nation, seem only to be able to respond with, “I don’t know what we can do to stop your pain. We can’t possibly agree on a solution.”

Wednesday was also the beginning of the chant wars that carried into Thursday, which reached a fever pitch during Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta’s address. Convention organizers were caught flat-footed when the “No more war!” chants began, led by the California delegation. Luckily for DNC organizers, the “USA” placards were in our waiting hands, and the response was immediate and organic.

Over the last decade, my desire to chant “USA!” has waned. But, by this time, I was so over anything and everything that was abjectly anti-Clinton or anti-DNC, I couldn’t help myself. For weary Clinton delegates, it was simply another way we felt that people we respected were being actively disrespected. I shouted “USA!” for Panetta, because I wanted him to know I was with him, and that I believed he offered a better vision, a more viable vision, than any other on hand.

He acknowledged the support and sealed my commitment; during the speech he paused, pointed to the “Stronger Together” placards, and said, “Thank you.” If nothing else, the DNC reminded me that the more time you spend shouting at someone who’s mind you seek to change, the less you’ll accomplish.
BY THURSDAY I HAD ALMOST NO EMOTIONAL STAMINA LEFT.
The clapping and cheering and chanting had become a reflex; it was no longer essential that I listen closely to a speaker to understand when I was expected to stand and applaud. There were plenty of genuine moments that brought me to my feet, but plenty of vacant stares, too, which were quickly covered up by “excited face” whenever a camera was trained on Colorado. We had great seats in the Colorado delegation, just up from the floor, meaning we were only five or six rows up from the camera operators constantly looking for B-roll shots. Thursday was the big dance; all eyes were on the DNC, and organizers wanted us looking ready for prime time.

We had a TV visuals whip all week, responsible for making sure we had enough signs and for trouble-shooting protests, but on Thursday he was full-time engaged. He stood on the floor at the foot of the seats, like Mickey Mouse in the Sorcerer’s Apprentice, conducting a full-scale visual symphony for the cameras. We had a couple dozen protesters in our section who had been holding various anti-Clinton signs all week. But for closing night, the DNC wanted to project unity. So, we followed the instructions of the man in the yellow vest. As soon as the protest signs came up, we stood and held support signs. He pointed to particular individuals to fill any pro-Clinton gaps. If you got the nod, you were expected to respond—and with enthusiasm.

Despite my endorphin fatigue and the obviousness of the media orchestration, there were still moments of absolute sincerity, when speakers managed to grab the last remaining bit of passion and bring us to our feet. Reverend William Barber shot us full of hope and love and faith in Democracy—there’s nothing like a good old-fashioned Sunday sermon to revive the soul. Khizr Khan tapped a nerve, too. The move with the pocket Constitution was stunning, but the volume from the crowd when he proclaimed, “Mr. Trump, you have sacrificed nothing!” was off the Richter scale—one of the most impassioned, unified responses of the week. We all knew sacrifice when we saw it, and Khizr and Ghazala Khan had sacrificed for America, and for us, and for the process in which we were all so wholeheartedly engaged. For all our internal disagreement, there was at least one thing every delegate shared, and that was the sense that we had given all we could for our candidate, and that our candidate had given every piece of himself or herself back to us. So the call to honor sacrifice resonated like none other.

What’s left to say about the closing moments and Hillary’s speech? How do you describe being present at an indelible moment in American history? Despite my own expectations (which had been deceiving me all week), it wasn’t a hurricane of ecstasy. Instead, I had that quiet, still, centered feeling that comes when I’m simply at peace with what’s happening in the exact here and now. It was a pause at the oasis in the midst of a definitive journey. It’s hard to achieve nirvana surrounded by 30,000 people, but that was my experience.

This was followed by lots of cheering, clapping, and a metric ton of balloons and confetti. The finale balloon drop was as Bacchanalian in person as it was on television—I’d guess even more so. The perfect visual representation of a week of total partisan indulgence: joyous, blinding, and overwhelming. ✈️
Amy Drayer '99 signs the paperwork to certify her delegate vote for Hillary Clinton. Former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb presided.
Alumnae News
Announcements and Updates for Alumnae and Families
From the Alumnae Association President

Kendra Armer ’93

Change has been in the air at Scripps over this past summer. In mid-May, the Alumnae Association welcomed the Class of 2016 to our ranks, and in August the Class of 2020 arrived on campus. We also welcomed Lara Tiedens to Scripps as our ninth president, just in time to celebrate the College’s 90th year. And, now, I am so excited to follow in the footsteps of Libby Greig DeMeo ’95 as Alumnae Association president.

Spending this past year as president-elect has helped strengthen my connection with other alumnae and with the College. It has also reminded me what powerful mentors and leaders Scripps graduates are. We are leaders in our professions, our communities, and our institutions. This issue of the magazine highlights just some of the passion, commitment, and change that we bring to the world every day. I hope to connect with many of you during my term as Alumnae Association president and to hear more of your stories.

And let me know what I can do, and what the Alumnae Leadership Council can do, to help you get connected and stay connected to Scripps. What do you want us to know about the Scripps community and your experiences in it? Email me at ksarmer@yahoo.com or reach out to the Office of Alumnae Engagement at alumnae@scrippscollege.edu.

Whether you attend a milestone reunion or a regional event, establish new relationships with other alumnae, or reconnect with a long-lost classmate this year, I hope you add your voice to our community.

Best wishes,

KENDRA ARMER ’93
MARRIAGES

Lindsay Lennox ’01 (Wheat Ridge, Colorado) My wife, Michelle, and I were married in April 2014. We took a road trip to the Santa Fe courthouse at seven months pregnant, since at that time same-sex marriage wasn’t recognized in Colorado. We welcomed a baby boy, Simon, in October 2015. He joined big brother, Benjamin (one), and big sister, Taylor (21).

Jenna Goddard Partlow ’03 (Playa del Rey, California) I got married on January 10, 2016, at La Venta Inn in Palos Verdes Estates. My husband, Bryan Partlow, is a firefighter with El Segundo Fire Department, and we live in the South Bay. I am still at Ernst & Young as a senior manager.

Elisa Beneze ’09 (Nashville) I was married in August 2015 to Riley Roberts, in Normal, Illinois. Kara Schnabel was a bridesmaid, and Holly Poole, Jacque Heston, Carrie Schneider, and Carey Wickham were flower girls. This May, I graduated from Vanderbilt Law School. I will be moving back to Washington, D.C., where I will study for the bar and start as an associate at the law firm Baker Botts in the fall.
1939
Elizabeth “Betty” Kesler (Long Beach, California) Family and friends gathered for a lovely brunch to celebrate my 100th birthday on October 11, 2015, hosted by my three children, at the Virginia Country Club in Long Beach. Among the 64 guests were four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and relatives from Spain, Montana, and Florida.

1941
Claire Thurmond Roberts (Carpinteria, California) I am still in my home, amid avocado and cherimoya groves. It is challenging to keep up with news of nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

1947
Jean Boyd Ransdall (Sacramento, California) I attended Scripps for two years and transferred to the University of California, Berkeley, to finish there. I received my master’s degree, married, and taught high school advanced placement students. It was an excellent use of Scripps classes!

1950
Pat Lear (Reno, Nevada) I can’t believe I turned 87 this year! I’m almost finished with my book (yes, of course there’s a chapter at Scripps). Reno is a great place to live, but there are so few friends from the old days at Scripps. Still doing remote healing, and especially on pets, with amazing results.

1951
Linda Hardesty Densmore (Solomons, Maryland) I survived a serious stroke in July 2014. Getting back to my own apartment and my glorious river view was a joy! And I’m so glad I live in this retirement community. After two weeks in the hospital, I was returned to Asbury’s Health Care Unit, where I finished recovering among my friends.

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world (yes, and even including the antics of the Dreadful Donald), still I manage to have a very happy and busy life. Even 86 has been great, and I have much to look forward to!

1952

Kathleen Niven Lechner (Laguna Niguel, California) I’m still writing my memoirs and hope to finish this year. Remembering friends and happy times is the best part! The hardest is the writing. I do long to get back to painting. I am so happy to have Amy ’91 and my grandson, Peyton, nearby. So happy the Broncos won the Super Bowl, since my Peyton was named for Peyton Manning! Yoga two times a week and a lovely circle of friends enrich my life—also my cat, Mozart.

1953

Nancy Shroyer Howard (Colorado Springs, Colorado) My grandsons, Ulysses and Gideon, live in Geneva, so en route to Switzerland, I stop off in New York to see young William Howard. My last book, Mischief in Tuscany, is indeed my last. Better read all the wonderful books I’ve not got around to or are just coming out.

1956

Nancy Nelsen Rude (Walnut Creek, California) My daughter Patricia and I participated in a chamber music workshop in Loches, France, in July and August. We also enjoyed a reunion with our French-Swiss cousins. Joan Turner Stingley (San Carlos, California) We are enjoying our second home in Oakmont (Santa Rosa) and all of our grandson’s activities.

1957

Anne Arthur Gottlieb (White Plains, New York) I just celebrated my 80th birthday with all my children and grandchildren. It was perfect! Valerie Thom Read (Capistrano Beach, California) Contrary to what I wrote last time, Larry and I have been married for more than 55 years (not 50), and it does seem to be working out!

1958

Ann Marie Kitchen Haney (La Jolla, California) I continue to find great satisfaction in being able to loan musical instruments to students in San Diego Unified Schools. This year, the Community Council for Music in the Schools has more than 1,400 instruments out on loan. Ann McEven Standridge (Harpswell, Maine) Paul and I just keep rolling along. I keep busy with the Garden Club, the Jane Austen Society of North America, and a book group, and Paul is busy with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

1960

Marcia Davidove Baugh (Palo Alto, California) I will miss Camp Scripps this year, as we are taking a trip to Scandinavia. Katherine “Katie” E. McLeod (Green Valley, Arizona) My husband, Robert McLeod, died on May 21, 2015. There was a celebration of his life in Valley Falls, Kansas, on June 11, 2016. I headed for Montana at the beginning of July for two months with dog in tow.

1961

Jean Pratt Arnold (Wrightwood, California) Our granddaughter, Madison Welsh, graduated from Scripps this May. Nancy Parish Gripp (Los Altos, California) Joe and I enjoyed a wonderful Mississippi River paddlewheeler trip with Carol and Bob McCrary. We danced in a Beale Street blues club, among other delights. Liz Hargrove (Sedona, Arizona) I was not at the reunion because I was recovering from hip replacement surgery. I’m always proud to be a Scrippsie! Roxie Scott Stouffer (Phoenix) I had fun having lunch with Barbara Murray. Granddaughter Molly Murphy graduated high school. Bonnie Youngdahl (Encino, California) I’m a docent at the Autry Museum of Western History. I continue to travel to Eastern Europe and beyond. I spent some time in Athens a few years back and felt the spirit of Dr. Palmer’s all-things-classical
Greek and Roman history in the atmosphere.

1962

Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey
(Lemon Grove, California) I had a year of several theatrical events. There was a production of my play, Dinner with Marlene, in San Diego, as well as my translation of Hedda Gabler in Sweden. Michael (HMC ’61) and I will participate in the Andree Expedition Project, combining American composer Dominic Argento’s song cycle with the epilogue of Fade to White, another play of mine. When it rains it pours. I was thrilled that Joanne Keith ’63, Barbara Strona, and Jill Drexler ’68 were able to see Marlene, as did Jesse Swan’s son, Rollin!

1963

Margaret Scrogin Chang
(Bainbridge Island, Washington) Raymond and I are enjoying a quiet life spiced up by visits to Seattle, a lively growing city, and summer visits by our three grandsons. Susan Sumner Sullivan (Fallbrook, California) A family reunion in Kentucky is coming up. I enjoy weekly watercolor painting with friends.

1964

Karen Diehl Morris (Hayward, California) I love the email conversations among my classmates. Sixty-seven of us are on the group email list.

1965

Elaine Drew (Monrovia, California) I spent four wonderful days at Christmas in Williamsburg and just returned from North Dakota. I saw my 39th state. In September, I will cruise the entire Mississippi River! Gail Wagenseil Gelles (Carpinteria, California) I am picking up my oil paint brush and going to Tuscany to paint among the vineyards.

1966

Emily R. Gill (Peoria, Illinois) I retired from teaching political science at Bradley University after 43 years. I am continuing with research, writing, and presenting papers, with the title of Caterpillar Professor of Political Science Emerita. Our three grandchildren are in South Bend, Indiana, and are five, three, and under one year. (Editor’s note: We are reprinting this note with a correction: in the spring 2016 issue we mistakenly reported that Gill retired after 30 years at Bradley University.) Heidi Dole Howell (San Francisco) I so enjoyed seeing my classmates again after nearly five decades.

1968

Suzanne DeWald Towery (Walla Walla, Washington) 2016 has set forth as a year to rebuild: at home, a new car, dishwasher, and furnace, and outdoors, some heavy gardening. And in the next orbit, we have two grandchildren—to our eldest, a second boy, and to our younger, her first, a daughter. We are blessed with a healthy and happy family!

1970

E. Adele Piccinati Swan (Scottsdale, Arizona) As the years roll by, I appreciate my delicious times at Scripps and great Scripps education and campus, and professors, and peers more and more.

1971

Linda “Lin” Nelson Benedek (Los Angeles) I am thrilled to report that my poetry book, I Was Going To Be A Cowgirl, will be published soon and released in November 2016. M. Robin Hinshaw (Claremont, California) I moved to Claremont last year. I enjoy walking through the campuses with my dog, Pippin. I had fun at my 45th class reunion dinner, seeing old friends and making renewed connections. Elizabeth Reiley (Haworth, New Jersey) I retired from 30 years as a pediatric surgeon last year and am thrilled to have real time for fencing (foil and épée) and
traveling. My husband and I went to the Verona Opera this summer. **Mary Weiner Ruggles (Santa Rosa, California)** We just had our fourth granddaughter—so fun! I’m still doing my art and doing shows. I’m branching out from watercolor to collage, mixed media, and even oil. Retirement is great!

1972

**Bonny Bulmer Becker (Seattle)** The kids are grown: Katie is senior beauty editor at Harper’s Bazaar, and Alice got married last summer. I continue writing and publishing children’s books. I’m up to 14, with three more on the way. **Kathy Taylor Robertson (Davis, California)** After 32 years of full-time work in a newsroom, I “retired” in December to focus on in-depth reporting as a freelancer. No more daily web updates—yeah! Keep buying newspapers, please.

1973

**Hulda Nelson (Oakland, California)** Ah, the joys of late parenthood—our son is earning his master’s degree in astrophysics at Stanford. Congrats on your handsome magazine redesign!

1974

**Cynthia Ann Speegle Hyneman (Lithia Springs, Georgia)** My husband retired from Hewlett Packard. My eldest granddaughter, Alexia, was killed in a car accident after a high school drama/vocal performance. The city of Atlanta has dedicated $2.5 million to redo the intersection. My other grandchildren are prospering. My son Daniel’s coffeehouse, Community Bean, celebrated its first year. Daughter Mary is president of the county PTA. Daughter Garnet is still writing. My husband still sits on the boards of several nonprofits. **Tena Kari Mitchell (Burr Ridge, Illinois)** I have been cohosting a wellness series since February 2016, with Dr. Pat of the Dr. Pat Show on Transformation Talk Radio. My holistic health-coaching business, Lifestyle 120, is celebrating one and a half years.

1977

**Ainsley “Angel” Smeeth Lafferty (Versailles, Kentucky)** I am still working in the field of veterinary medicine as the lead technician, licensed vet tech, for Green Tree Animal Hospital. I have six wonderful grandkids, four boys and two girls, ages one-and-a-half years to almost four. I am blessed to be their “Gamma.” I am so very proud of my three ladies, who have grown up to be thriving contributors and God-loving women with beautiful families. **Joan Romick (Duncraig, Western Australia)** I am looking at retiring from 20 years of teaching English and ESL to high school students. Our three children are scattered all over; David (34) is in China, Reyna (32) is at Berkeley, and Aaron (30) is...
(20) is getting married in September in northern New South Wales. I look forward to continuing my engagement with our temple’s Hebrew school and my craftwork. I’m at joanie@arach.net.au for any Scrippsies in the area.

1980
Margaret Kean (Pasadena, California) This year I chose to not wait until retirement to pursue a long-held desire to write poetry. I’ve dived in, devouring books of poetry, writing daily, participating in writing groups, and signing up for a summertime week-long poetry workshop. This has added much richness to my life, and I’m thrilled. My family is thriving: Annie (23) is teaching in Thailand until October and then pursuing her masters in teaching upon her return to Seattle; Lauren (20) is completing her junior year at UCLA in atmospheric sciences, and Jeff and I are celebrating 33 years together in July.

1982
Gwen Storey Feher (Briarcliff Manor, New York) Donna Cheng ’83 and I hit many New York City art shows together. Esther Chiu, come to New York again for a visit!

1983
Linan Hatch Ukropina (Pasadena, California) Our company has grown, and I am now the Southern California regional business manager for five offices with Coldwell Banker Commercial. The market is keeping us busy!

1986
Jeanette Solimine (Colfax, Washington) My oldest daughter turned 18 in January, and I have become her legal guardian because of her severe autism. Learning the ropes of guardianship and life caring for an adult disabled child has been interesting, to say the least. Part of my life continues to be raising awareness about autism and the huge differences that exist between those at the top of the spectrum and those nearer the bottom. My younger daughter has mitochondrial disease, so I work with raising awareness for that, too. Disability awareness and access are a constant part of my life. I still serve on the Colfax City Council, volunteer as clergy at the hospital, rehab center, and assisted living facility, and serve on the board of the Colfax and Community Fund. My “title” is circuit-riding preacher, as I preside at funerals and fill in for pastors in local churches all over the county and beyond.

1987
Lisa Hatten (Portland, Oregon) I’m living in Portland with my husband and two daughters. I focus on social justice both in my paid and volunteer work. I hope to see many classmates at our reunion next year. Can’t believe we’ve been out of college for 30 years!

1988
Ingrid Nystrom (El Paso, Texas) We had a great tour of the campus this past March. Our tour guide was a dynamic neuroscience major from Washington. The campus is beautiful, and so many impressive programs are available to the students. It was a treat for us to be back!

1991
Gen Anderson (Los Angeles) I run Studio 10 North Gallery, a still photography and film studio in downtown Los Angeles. I’m also getting my master’s degree at Claremont School of Theology.
1992

Anne Schwartz Marx (Oakland, California) My boys are seven and 10, my marriage is 16 years old, and we are all well in Berkeley. We traveled to Israel this summer. I have been eight years with California’s judicial branch. Content is good, but the bureaucracy is thick.

1995

Rebecca Ennals (San Francisco) I am currently in my fourth season as artistic director of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. I live in San Francisco with my partner and two-year-old son, Henry.

2000

Kristin Jorge Steele (Denver) I’ve been living in Denver for 16 years. I’m married with two kids, Kaia and Reier. I’m a consultant for exciting new software for the craft beverage industry. I just won an award for our development of it.

2001

Sage McRae (Chico, California) I continue in my career as a wedding planner and designer, now in San Francisco. Over the past few years, I got divorced, traveled to Thailand, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, moved back and forth across the country a few times, and dabbled in photography and baking. Rochelle D. Smith (Goodyear, Arizona) I am enjoying life in the Phoenix area. We have three beautiful kids and still like what we are doing with the government. Always looking forward to the next adventure! Rhiannon Wood (Portland, Oregon) In June 2014, I began working at a public accounting firm in Portland as a staff auditor. When I am not working, I am spending time on the trails running ultra-marathons.

2006

Miriam Lazewatsky (New York) I started an MBA program at Baruch College’s Zicklin School of Business in fall 2016.

2007

Abigail Armstrong (Minneapolis) I have beautiful peonies on my table this morning! Amy Marcus-Newhall has been an excellent interim president for Scripps. Mary Catherine “Katie” Tutwiler Coby ’07 (Lafayette, Louisiana) The nine years since graduation have been eventful. In short, I moved to New Orleans, got my first job, quit, completed my MBA, met my future husband, moved to Nashville, and moved back to Louisiana and found a full-time gig in higher education.

2012

Emery Hilles Heffernan (San Jose, California) I was recently hired by the University of California, San Francisco, as an occupational therapist.
Barbara Bruner ’76 Reflects on Her Service as an Alumna Trustee

SINCE 2011, BARBARA BRUNER ’76 HAS SERVED as an Alumna Trustee, representing alumnae with her voice and her vote at Scripps College Board of Trustees meetings. Bruner has served on the Building and Grounds, Student Affairs, and Presidential Search Committees as well as the Board Committee on Diversity and Inclusivity, which she co-chairs. She is also the vice chair of the Student Affairs Committee.

In accordance with the bylaws of the Alumnae Association, Bruner was nominated by fellow alumnae and appointed with a vote of approval by the association. Because service is limited to two consecutive three-year terms, Bruner will vacate her post at the end of June 2017.

As Bruner begins her final year as an Alumna Trustee, former Alumnae Association President Libby Greig DeMeo ’95 asked her to reflect on her experiences and accomplishments.

LIBBY GREIG DEMEO: Why did you decide to become an Alumna Trustee?

BARBARA BRUNER: I distinctly remember being asked to consider being nominated, and I immediately said no. I thought the Board of Trustees was “somebody over there.” I had never envisioned myself in such a role, and it took me a while to understand I had something to offer. And, at the time, I was supporting Scripps in the way I saw fit. But I was encouraged to go through the nomination process, which I did, and then I was hooked!

LD: What has been the most rewarding part of being a trustee?

BB: Seeing more diversity on the senior staff, which has been a byproduct of putting highly qualified folks in those roles. Interacting with students. Getting to know more members of the faculty. And seeing the impressive level of commitment that members of the Board have for Scripps.

I am also proud of the work of the Board Committee on Diversity and Inclusivity. For the Board, for senior staff, and beyond, it has helped frame diversity and inclusivity as clear institutional priorities.

Being a trustee has had a bigger impact on me than I could have imagined. The opportunity to participate in decision making that will affect Scripps’s future is a both a privilege and a responsibility, and I strongly encourage other alumnae to consider becoming trustees.

LD: What were some challenges that surprised you?

BB: Being a trustee has required a significant time commitment. In fact, Board service for higher education is much more rigorous and demanding than board service for other kinds of organizations. There is extensive reading material to review and reflect on and meetings to attend. Since I joined in 2011, there have been significant improvements in onboarding and training for new trustees, which is good.

At the same time, I’ve learned so much. I have tried to make a point of reaching out to alumnae to get them involved in conversations about the College and to better understand the variety of perspectives that are out there. What I’ve learned has increased my appreciation for Scripps and its impact.

Nominations for the next Alumna Trustee are now being accepted online at scrippscollege.edu/alumnae.

The deadline for nomination is November 1, 2016.
From the Scripps Association of Families and Parent Leadership Council Co-chairs

Cheryl and David Scheidemantle P’17

As children, we were taught that religion and politics were taboo for genteel discourse because of the controversy they engender. As adults, we realize that controversy is unavoidable, particularly at a vibrant academic institution such as Scripps, where we and our students learn to embrace controversy as a high manifestation of critical thinking. Having in mind the words of physicist Niels Bohr, “The opposite of one profound truth may very well be another profound truth,” we arrive at the topic at hand: politics.

Politics is no stranger to the Scripps campus. Last year, pundits, bloggers, online commenters, and media outlets unleashed criticism on our students for supposed intolerance of divergent perspectives. It was gratifying that even the critics acknowledged Scripps as a “prestigious women’s college” standing tall on the national stage. The criticism, though, struck us as ill-founded and opportunistic. As Daniel Siegel explains in Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain (2015), students confront grave problems of injustice with deep passion and pursue their own profound truths with a conviction so strong that, in the eyes of critics, it masquerades as rigidity. Activism borne of the student mindset offers an opportunity for societal adaptation, as older adults are prodded “to find solutions to the grave problems that our and previous adult generations have created in this world.”

Inspired by student inquisitiveness and activism, we are challenged as parents to examine our own beliefs, biases, and complacencies in a fresh light. Through engagement with other Scripps parents about the shared campus experiences of our students, we are exposed to alternative points of view and the profound truths of others. With the wisdom gained from age and these experiences, we can prepare ourselves as parents to usher our students into mature adulthood, modeling tolerance for divergent political perspectives. We hope you will also join us in modeling a lifetime of service for our students by sharing your time, talent, and treasure with Scripps. Please visit families.scrippscollege.edu.

Warm regards,

CHERYL AND DAVID SCHEIDEMANTLE P’17
BARBARA BROOKS TOMBLIN ’66
The Civil War on the Mississippi: Union Sailors, Gunboat Captains, and the Campaign to Control the River

Flowing from its source in northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River borders or passes through 10 different states and serves as one of the most important transportation systems in the United States. During the Civil War, both North and South believed that whomever held the river would ultimately be victorious. Drawing heavily on the diaries and letters of officers and common sailors, Barbara Brooks Tomblin explores the years during which the Union navy fought to win control.

BELLA MAHAYA CARTER ’83

In her contribution to this memoirist’s companion for when the going gets tough, Bella Mahaya Carter shares her personal memoir-writing wisdom, tips, and encouragement.

NORA ZELEVANSKY ’99
Will You Won’t You Want Me?
A Novel

Marjorie Plum never meant to peak in high school. Now, 10 years later, she’s lost her sparkle. But, at her bleakest moment, she’s surprised by renewed interest from a questionable childhood crush, and the bickering with her cranky boss grows increasingly like flirtatious banter. Suddenly, she’s faced with a choice between the life she always dreamed of and one she never thought to imagine.
Remembrances

The College has learned of the deaths of the following alumnae.

1932

Mollie Clyde Wilson, of Big Bear, California, on June 13, 2015. Every year, the Mollie Clyde Wilson '32 Athlete of the Year Award is presented to a Scripps senior who has demonstrated outstanding athletic ability as well as active campus participation and service. Mollie is survived by her four children, 14 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

1934

Marcia Jane Knight McGilvray, of Denver, on June 28, 2015. Jane was born in Denver and earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry at Scripps. She returned to Denver after graduation and, in 1937, she married William “Bill” Andrew McGilvray. During WWII, Bill was called into active duty, and Jane worked at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Hospitals as an x-ray technician. After the war, the couple settled in Lakewood, Colorado, where Jane lived for the next 67 years, 40 of those with Bill at her side. The couple had a large circle of friends with whom they regularly enjoyed square dancing, league bowling, and Bridge. They also traveled the world, usually as part of the Ports of Call travel club, with whom they took over 50 trips. Jane had many interests; she enjoyed making ceramics and loved to experiment with glazes and colors, and clay types. She and her brother Steve also owned Technical Equipment Corporation (TEC), which sold medical and industrial x-ray and testing equipment and supplies. Among other things, the company created the Deltatherm, a differential thermal analysis device. Jane
was very involved in the development and prototype testing of the high temperature furnaces and instrumentation that were its heart. When TEC closed its doors after more than three decades, Jane soon found a new hobby, woodcarving. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mary Crouch Lilly, of Carbondale, Colorado, on April 26, 2016. Mary was born in San Diego and grew up in Southern California. She studied art at Scripps before marrying John Lilly, a renowned neuroscientist and psychoanalyst known for his work on human sensory deprivation and human-dolphin communication. The couple had two sons, and during the 1940s, the family left California and relocated to the East Coast. Mary earned an advanced degree in art from American University and taught at Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland. The couple later divorced. Mary and her son Charles moved to Carbondale and bought into the Four Pines Ranch, where they grew heirloom apples and boarded farm animals. Mary was active with the library, her church, and the historical society. She was also instrumental in getting the town’s historical museum in operation and was a regular participant in the “Wake Up Now” gatherings outside Town Hall to honor lives lost in the Iraq War. In 2013, Mary made a trip from Carbondale to Scripps for her 75th reunion.
1939

Joan Elizabeth “Libby” Shambaugh Gregory, of Irvine, California, on April 28, 2016. Libby was born in Des Moines and, after graduating from Scripps, made California her home. She married Ted Gregory in 1939 and lived in Pasadena and then Laguna Beach. There, Libby raised the couple’s three children and involved herself in numerous community activities, including the League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood, American Field Service, and the Women’s Opportunity Center. She also served on several boards, including the Scripps Board of Trustees. Libby had an adventurous spirit and enjoyed traveling, sailing, hiking, reading, and attending classical music concerts. She also loved spending time with her large family and wide circle of friends. She is survived by her three children, nine grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

Sally Monsen Wilkinson, of Santa Barbara, California, on July 29, 2016. Sally was raised in the bohemian world of the Arroyo Craftsman movement in Pasadena, California, surrounded by many artists and writers. After graduating from Scripps, she founded the Pasadena alumnae group and, most recently, chaired the Class of 1941 75th reunion committee. She designed clothing, worked in the movie industry, was active in the Artists Association, and taught art at the Pasadena Art Museum. In 1939, she married Lupton Wilkinson, Jr., and they had two children. Sally moved to Montecito, California, in 1953, where she served as the executive director of the Santa Barbara Film Society (she was the first woman theater manager there), which brought foreign film to Santa Barbara. In retirement, she worked at Kayser’s Nutrition, where she made many friends. She is survived by her children and grandchildren.

1941

Dorothy “Dottie” Bright Davis, of Arcadia, California, on June 18, 2015. Dorothy was a supportive advocate of Scripps throughout her life as an alumna. Her husband, Richard, who died in 2008, attended Pomona College. Dottie was the mother of seven children and lived an active and bountiful life, responding to its joys and challenges with exemplary resilience and indomitable wit. Her oldest daughter, Gale ’68, attended Scripps, and two of her sons, Bob and George, graduated from Claremont McKenna College.

Prudence “Prudy” Talbot Rolfe, of Seattle, on August 6, 2016. Born in Seattle, Prudy attended Scripps and the University of Washington. She married James Rolfe after a three-year courtship interrupted by Pearl Harbor and WWII. After the war, Prudy and Docky raised a family of five children, and Prudy returned to school to study organic chemistry and botany. She became very interested in natural remedies and naturopathic medicine and was one of the founding contributors to Bastyr University; in 2003, she received Bastyr’s Mission Award in recognition of her contributions to the university and to natural medicine. She served on the Board of Directors of Bastyr for many years as well.

1944

Darlene Rebhausen Brandt, of Normal, Illinois, on April 14, 2016. Darlene was born in Nebraska, and her family later moved to California. Darlene graduated from Scripps as valedictorian and student body president. Soon after, she met and married John Lewis Clark, a captain and flight instructor in the Air Force. After World War II, the couple moved to Palo Alto, California, where John attended Stanford University. They then moved to Buffalo, New York, where both taught in the English department at State University of New York at Buffalo, and then back to San Francisco, where John worked as a professor at San Francisco State College and Darlene worked as personnel director at Macy’s and founded and ran the Jewish community center nursery school. The couple had a daughter and later moved to Illinois. John died in 1987, and Darlene remarried the following year. The couple traveled the world and enjoyed retirement together. Lively, witty, and a great reader, Darlene was a woman of strong, unique opinions and many talents. As teacher, professor, architect, and artist (she experimented with sculpture and painting), elegant in her own personal style and producer of wonderful dinner parties, she created a unique life for herself in two parts of the country with two families at a time when self-determination was not always the purview of women. She is survived by her husband and daughter.
as on the Scripps College Board of Trustees. She was also a member of the Seattle Tennis Club, the Junior League, and the Sunset Club. Her friends and family remember Prudy as a woman of remarkable beauty and grace who was ahead of her time.

1947

Jean Vail, of Pasadena, California, on April 6, 2016. Jean was born in Spokane, Washington. She attended Scripps for two years, and then transferred to Stanford University, where she majored in English and journalism. She married Nathan Russell Vail, Jr., in 1948. Jean served in the Junior League of Pasadena, including editing their magazine for several years. Returning to school in 1975, she earned her nursing degree at Pasadena City College and worked as a Registered Nurse at both St. Luke’s Hospital and the Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, and also for Visiting Nurses of America, specializing in the care of cancer patients. Jean and her husband enjoyed an active social life with their friends and traveled to many destinations, including Mexico and Australia in the pursuit of their interests in tennis and scuba diving. In later years, Jean took up golf. She was also an avid Bridge player; she joined the Town Club of Pasadena in 2009, where she continued to play Bridge and socialize with her Pasadena friends. She was known for her open personality and ironic and quirky sense of humor. She is survived by her children and grandchildren.

1953

Lillian Rickenbaugh Lumpkin, of Newport Beach, California, on April 19, 2016. Born in Los Angeles, Lillian was raised in Pasadena and spent her summers in Newport Beach. She attended Westridge School for Girls and Scripps, where she met her husband, Keith Charles Lumpkin, whom she taught to sail. They enjoyed racing their Luders out of the Newport Harbor Yacht Club, cruising to Catalina, and family vacations in Kona Village. She and Keith lived in Pasadena for many years and later moved to Newport Beach. She passed away at home with her family by her side. She is survived by her son, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1959

Jane Allen Monro Peddicord, of Homewood, Illinois, on June 26, 2016. She is survived by her sister, her nephew and niece, and her grandnephews.

1960

Emery “Mimi” Ottey Goity, of Palo Alto, California, on April 25, 2016. Mimi grew up in San Francisco and attended Burke’s School and Lowell High School before graduating from Scripps. She had many passions, including community service, the outdoors, tennis, gardening, and, most of all, music. Mimi taught piano for 26 years and devoted much of her life to introducing and teaching music to children. She was one of the founders of Music for Minors, a nonprofit organization that now provides music education programs for 23,000 elementary school students in the San Francisco Bay Area. For the past 20 years she also volunteered as a music teacher at Redwood City’s Taft Community School. As an active member and volunteer in such organizations as the Junior League and the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club, Mimi touched many lives. She will be remembered by friends and family for her laughter, warmth, and kindness. Mimi is survived by Jean, her loving husband of nearly 56 years, her three children, and four grandchildren.

1980

Kerry Pillmore Fiske, of Scottsdale, Arizona, on April 17, 2016. Kerry worked as a graphic artist for more than 20 years before returning to school at the University of Arizona, where she earned her master’s degree in library science in 2006. Kerry loved being a librarian at Mustang Library, and she had a passion for singing, pottery, and hugs. Her beautiful voice resounded in the church choir and in her band, Electric Librarian. Kerry was a beloved wife, mother, sister, and friend. Her warm and joyous spirit made a lasting imprint on countless lives. She is survived by her loving husband, Steve, and her two daughters.
Tuesday, October 4, 6pm

Maria Hinojosa

As the host of National Public Radio’s “Latino USA” and founder of the Futuro Media Group, Hinojosa is committed to sharing stories overlooked by traditional media. She visits Scripps for a conversation on immigration, politics, and family, among other issues.

This Scripps Presents program is presented in partnership with Scripps 360: The First-Year Experience at Scripps College, and the Laspa Center for Leadership at Scripps College. This program is made possible by the Alexa Fullerton Hampton ’42 Endowed Speaker Fund.

Thursday, October 6, 7pm

Molly Crabapple

Crabapple is a visual artist and memoirist who has taken up subjects ranging from burlesque shows in New York City to torture trials in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Her talk will explore the role of the artist in contemporary society, reflecting on the challenges of working in a sphere where men and their work are often privileged.

This Scripps Presents program is presented in partnership with the Scripps College Humanities Institute.
Saturday, October 29, 8pm

Bessie Bartlett Frankel Concert: Ensemble Dal Niente

This contemporary classical music collective, recognized by The New York Times for its superb musicianship, has a unique take on new music, pushing the art form in unexpected directions.

This Scripps Presents program is presented in partnership with the Bessie Bartlett Frankel Chamber Music Festival, the Scripps College Department of Music, J. C. Harper Lecture Funds, and the Joint Music Program of Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer, and Scripps Colleges.

Tuesday, October 11, 8pm

Vijay Prashad

As part of the Scripps College Humanities Institute series, “The ‘War on Terror’: 15 Years Later,” Vijay Prashad, George and Martha Kellner Chair in South Asian History and professor of international studies at Trinity College, will deliver his lecture, “The Global War on Terror from the Standpoint of Its Victims.”

Thursday, November 15, 6pm

Eddie Huang

Restaurateur, chef, and writer, Huang took on race and assimilation in his 2013 memoir, Fresh Off the Boat, which was adapted into one of the first television programs on a major network to feature an Asian family. His new book, Double Cup Love, reveals a man at a crossroads between his past and his future.

This Scripps Presents program is presented in partnership with Scripps 360: The First-Year Experience at Scripps College and is made possible by the Alexa Fullerton Hampton ’42 Endowed Speaker Fund.
I grew up in Sacramento, California, a city that, while perhaps lacking in the hustle and bustle of a major metropolis, happens to be the state’s capital—a state with 32 million residents and the world’s sixth largest economy.

After graduating from Scripps with a major in American studies, I moved back home and, upon the suggestion of a friend (now a partner of her own female-owned lobbying firm), I applied for the Capital Fellows Program, a year-long fellowship with placement in one of the branches of state government. Post fellowship, I worked on a campaign, lobbied for a trade association, and, since 2013, have worked at Political Solutions, the largest female-owned lobby firm in the state.

The challenge and intrigue of the job has yet to wear off, and not a day passes that I don’t learn something new. But like so many of those tread by my generation, the path towards female equality in the political sphere was at least tilled, if not paved, by those who came before me, and for that I am grateful.

In the 13 years since they founded the firm, the partners at Political Solutions have built an impressive client list and helped to foster some amazing talent along the way. Today, the firm employs 13 women, several of whom began as interns and have persevered and been mentored to become successful lobbyists.

People often comment about our firm being all women (this is not by design, merely by chance), joking that we need to diversify, or asking in hushed voices what it’s like to work with so many women. I can almost guarantee that no male-owned firms get the same remarks.

For decades, lobbying, and politics generally, has been an industry for the “good ol’ boys,” but this is starting to change. As the numbers of female staff, legislators, and lobbyists grow, so too does the sense of community among the women in Sacramento politics. We gather regularly for social events, to provide mentorships, and to create space to ask the tough questions about what it’s like to be a woman in a field still heavily dominated by men as well as to make the perennial inquiry into finding balance between personal and professional life.

I’m fortunate to have been educated at a women’s college and owe much of my success to the skill sets learned at Scripps. I am also privileged to have entered my career when I did, at a time when a female-owned lobby firm is able to not merely exist, but thrive. And politics aside, let us not fail to acknowledge the country’s first female presidential nominee, and women’s college alumna, as a significant advancement for women in politics.
Calling all alumnae from the Classes of 1990 to 2016

Help wish Scripps College a Happy 90th by taking the Scripps 90 Years Participation Challenge

In honor of the College’s 90 years of changing students’ lives through academic excellence and meaningful experiences, a group of generous alumnae is issuing a special challenge.

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Can your Class round up 90 donors by June 30, 2017?

When a Class reaches 90 donors, an alumna will make a $10,000 gift in honor of that Class.

What’s more, each alumna challenger will give the first $5,000 when the Class reaches 45 donors.

Reach out to your classmates, share Scripps’ impact on your life, and make a gift of any amount to help support the College.

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Was there a faculty member who changed your perspective?

DONATE TO OUR FACULTY FUND!

Did financial aid make a difference in your ability to attend?

DONATE TOWARD TUITION AID!

Do you have great memories of being on campus?

DONATE TO SUPPORT FACILITIES AND GROUNDS!

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It’s not the dollar amount that matters—every gift helps support the College.

Connect with your classmates at alumnae.scrippscollege.edu/90years, and make a difference in someone’s life today.
ON THE COVER
Our Election Issue cover illustrates the continuum of women’s engagement in American politics by highlighting just a few of the issues they have fought for through the years, beginning with the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1919.

Illustration by Ryuto Miyake