The Digital Evolution
How digital technology is—and isn’t—changing the liberal arts experience
Looking back over my nine-month tenure as interim president,

I’m amazed at how much the Scripps community has accomplished. The care that staff, faculty, students, alumnae, and parents have for the College is evident in their unrelenting work ethic and hours spent in activities that strengthen our community. It is also evident in their willingness to challenge one another to intensify our investment in the core mission of this institution.

I also have been struck by the dedication of our Board, whose generosity in terms of time, talent, and treasure will significantly impact future generations of students. Some trustees are alumnae, others have seen one or more of their daughters graduate, and still others are connected to Scripps via the memories of their grandmothers, mothers, or aunts. Regardless of the origins of their relationships with Scripps, all of our trustees are dedicated ambassadors and stewards.

The Scripps community has made important progress over the past nine months on a host of critical issues. Conversations about diversity and institutional racism have benefited the College, and the senior staff team—whose professionalism, expertise, thoughtfulness, and collaboration have been invaluable—is leading multiple initiatives in response to students’ concerns and, more broadly, our community’s concerns. We have more work to do, but we are committed to positive change.

Our More Opportunity events continue to cultivate good spirit among alumnae, parents, and friends of the College, offering me a chance to reunite with some of the students I’ve taught over the past 20 years! NEW Hall construction continues apace, with the opening scheduled for fall 2016. Seven new fabulous tenure-track faculty members joined the College this year, and next year we will welcome nine additional members. New initiatives such as the Laspa Center, a new Core 1 seminar theme, and the intercollegiate Sontag Center for Collaborative Creativity are having a positive impact on Scripps.

The past nine months have given me a more nuanced understanding of the complexities of running a college as well as a deeper appreciation for the need to attract an excellent next president for Scripps. I am also more aware than ever that our new president will have the wonderful experience of falling in love with Scripps, just as I have.

Amy Marcus-Newhall
INTERIM PRESIDENT
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PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UPDATE
In February, the Presidential Search Committee reported that it was actively assessing the credentials of several strong candidates for the next president of Scripps. However, as a result of the extensive outreach and vetting process, the committee determined it would not be able to conclude the search in time for the Board of Trustees’ March 2016 meeting, as hoped. For more information about the search for Scripps’ ninth president, visit scrippscollege.edu/president/presidential-search.

SCRIPPS RECOGNIZED FOR FULBRIGHT RECIPIENTS
Scripps is yet again featured in The Chronicle of Higher Education as a U.S. college credited with producing the highest number of student Fulbright recipients in the country, with nine awarded in 2015-16, ranking among the top 15 in its category. The annual list is announced by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is highlighted in the Chronicle; Scripps appears under baccalaureate institutions, or “bachelor’s colleges.”

LECONTE WINS PRESTIGIOUS COTTRELL AWARD
Aaron Leconte, assistant professor of chemistry at the W.M. Keck Science Department, has been awarded a three-year early career grant from the Research Corporation for Scientific Advancement. The $100,000 Cottrell Award will support Leconte’s research on the protein luciferase, a luminescent material produced by the North American firefly that can be used to track and record biological events and processes to better understand cancer, bacterial infections, and more. This is the first year the Cottrell Award has been given to faculty from primarily undergraduate institutions. Among the 24 scholars who received the award in 2016, Leconte is one of only eight faculty winners from such institutions.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS NAMED
Kohsheen Sharma ’18 is this year’s Bekki Lee Memorial Endowed Scholarship recipient. Sharma, a political science major, spent summer 2015 interning with Aarti for Girls, a nonprofit in Andhra Pradesh, India, working to end female abandonment, mistreatment, and infanticide. Suzette Guzman ’18 is this year’s Ellen Clark Revelle Scholarship recipient. Interested in issues related to the quality of and access to healthcare services for minorities and women, Guzman is a peer health educator at The Claremont Colleges’ Health Education Services, a Chicano Latino Student Affairs sponsor for new students, and a mentor to first-year students through Hillel, a 7C Jewish community organization.

SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE
Ceramicist, philanthropist, former mayor, and city councilwoman Joan Rechtin Lincoln ’49 passed away on March 7. A persuasive arts advocate, Joan was named Scripps College Distinguished Alumna in 2005. In 2010, Joan and her husband, David, provided resources to create the Joan and David Lincoln Ceramic Art Building and the Joan and David Lincoln Endowment for Ceramic Art. Scripps is indebted to Joan, grateful for her many contributions to the life of the campus, and proud to be part of her legacy.
From the Archives

Professor of Art Nancy Macko works with students in a digital art class in 1991. The class was offered as part of Scripps’ Digital Art Program, which Macko has directed since 1992. When this photo was taken, the program was housed in the Humanities Building in a classroom equipped with three Macintosh computers surrounded by 15 IBMs. Today it is located in the Lang Studios of the Millard Sheets Art Complex, where students have access to 10 Intel-based Mac workstations, complete with the latest image, video, and audio editing software and other auxiliary equipment.

Photograph courtesy of the Scripps College Archives.
Scripps Presents

In January, the College kicked off Scripps Presents: Conversations, a public events series that explores the lives and work of prominent thinkers and doers. The winter program featured activist Angela Davis, poet Kevin Young, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and media critic Anita Sarkeesian as well as a performance by Ananya Dance Theatre.
“Without artists and writers, there can be no fundamental, radical change.”

—Angela Davis, January 28
Dr. Patricia Y. Fechner is the daughter of an alumna, the late Miyako Y. Fechner ’53. She is a board-certified pediatric endocrinologist in Seattle and has been in practice for 23 years. Dr. Fechner is currently an attending physician at Seattle Children’s Hospital and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington’s School of Medicine. She also serves as medical director of the Disorders of Sex Development Program, a joint program established by Seattle Children’s Hospital and the University of Washington to care for children with disorders of sex development. Her clinical and research interests include Turner syndrome, androgen insensitivity syndrome, and other disorders of sex determination, as well as growth-hormone and IGF-1 deficiency.

Dr. Fechner received her medical degree from Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and her undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She completed a pediatric endocrine fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and was an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins and Stanford University prior to moving to Seattle.

An alumna trustee for 10 years, from 2001 to 2011, Patricia “Trish” Jackson ’82 was also assistant director of the Annual Fund at Scripps in 1983–84. She held various Alumnae Council roles at Scripps between 1982 and 2002 and was president of the Alumnae Association between 2002 and 2004, which began her service on the Board. Jackson has more than 30 years of advancement experience at a wide variety of nationally ranked higher-education institutions. In February 2013, she completed her eight-year tenure as vice president for development at Smith College, where she managed all fundraising initiatives, including the $450 million Women for the World: The Campaign for Smith. Currently, she serves as interim vice president for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health.

Jackson earned an MBA with an emphasis in economics of nonprofits from the Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University. She lives in Norwich, Vermont, with her husband, William Millard, who is professor of psychology and education at Mount Holyoke College.
Gale Picker P’14, P’19

Gale Picker P’14, P’19, the mother of Jean ’14 and Evy ’19, is a certified counselor who specializes in working with parents and families. Picker is the founder of the Family Leadership Fund, a Seattle-area organization that has raised more than $1 million over the past decade to improve the lives of children and families in communities of color. For many years, Picker served on the staff of the U.S. Senate Finance and Senate Budget Committees. She was the first director at C-SPAN, and the political programs that she produced and hosted received awards from the cable television industry. Picker serves on the advisory board of the Seattle Foundation’s Neighbor to Neighbor grants program and Barnard College’s Athena Center and on the board of the Branta Foundation Inc. She has also served as a trustee of Seattle Girls’ School.

Picker received her BA in economics from Bryn Mawr. She lives in Seattle with her husband, John Larsen.

Lucinda Bowen Smith ’88

Lucinda Bowen Smith ’88 is an accomplished global executive with more than 20 years of business experience. She serves as senior vice president of global business services at AGCO Corporation, a Fortune 500 company and worldwide manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment. Bowen Smith is responsible for the functional management of all human resources and information technology organizations worldwide, as well as for AGCO’s Shared Services Center in Budapest, Hungary. She has been a key player in the creation of the AGCO Global Women’s Network, established to develop, promote, and advocate for the leadership of women as grower’s profitability, collaboration, and diversity across the company.

Bowen Smith participated in the first Scripps in Residence Program in October 2015. She serves on the Manufacturing Institute’s advisory board and is a board member of the American Red Cross Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter and the World Affairs Council of Atlanta. In 2011, the National Diversity Council honored her as one of Georgia’s Most Powerful and Influential Women. She lives in Atlanta and Sarasota, Florida, with her husband, Edward Smith (CMC ’88).
Remembering Stephanie Probst Rasines ’71
BY ELIZABETH HAMILTON
WHEN STEPHANIE PROBST RASINES ’71 PASSED AWAY in January from complications of pancreatic cancer, she was remembered as a devoted wife and mother, an accomplished attorney, a passionate advocate for immigrants’ rights, and a dedicated Scripps classmate, alumna, and Board member. However, Stephanie’s story almost didn’t include Scripps. As a high-school senior in Riverside, California, she had been accepted at a handful of other colleges, but when she visited each of those campuses, none pleased her. A family friend suggested she look at Scripps. Stephanie would later say that from the moment she walked through Honnold Gate, she felt at home. But she knew that the deadline for new-student applications had passed. Undeterred, she made her way to the admission office and announced she wished to be admitted and would need a scholarship. She was accepted into the Class of 1971, and the College awarded her the scholarship that enabled her to attend.

Then, the year before she was to graduate, Stephanie left Scripps. A Latin American studies major, she had fallen in love with a student at Pomona College, an engineer from Venezuela named Miguel Rasines. They married and returned to Miguel’s job at a mining camp deep in the backcountry of Venezuela, where there was no television, no newspaper, and no supermarket, and Stephanie had very little contact with the world she had left behind. And yet, her connection to Scripps somehow persisted. A few years passed, and Scripps Professor of Spanish Ruth Lamb tracked Stephanie down, writing to say that she would be coming to South America and planned to “drop by.” (Dropping by was no easy feat—the mining camp was on the way to nowhere, 200 miles from the nearest city to the north and bounded on the south by the Amazon jungle.) But Professor Lamb did come. She convinced Stephanie to reenroll at Scripps and finish her education. Stephanie returned, wrote her senior honors thesis, and graduated in 1977.

Professor Lamb’s visit, and this decision to return to Scripps, altered the course of Stephanie’s life. She returned to Venezuela soon after graduating, but her marriage dissolved and she came back to the U.S. She enrolled in and graduated from law school at Columbia University, joined a prestigious Wall Street law firm, met and married attorney Richard Norton, and adopted a son and threw herself into motherhood. Looking back on Stephanie’s accomplishments, Richard sees her time at Scripps—and her relationship with Lamb in particular—as “transformational,” giving her the tools to take risks and move forward. “She benefited from the beauty and the safety of being at Scripps, at a women’s college, a place that she saw held a lot of promise,” he explains. “She had a sense that this place could be really good for her. And it was.”

Throughout her life, Stephanie generously gave back to the place she felt had nurtured her so deeply. She was an active alumna and donor, and in 2003 she initiated the Scripps College Ruth Lamb Memorial Scholarship for women needing assistance to do what she had done—return to college after a lapse of years. She was also an influential trustee. “That was one of Stephanie’s lifelong dreams—to be on the Scripps Board. She took it really seriously,” recalls Richard. Among her most significant achievements, she instituted a Board review of the College’s finances, which the trustees had never undertaken before. She also successfully opposed a proposal to build a new residence hall where Revelle House now stands because, according to Richard, “she thought Scripps had one of the most beautiful campuses anywhere and that it was worth preserving.” (That project, NEW Hall, was eventually moved to the northwest part of campus.) She was vehement about preserving Scripps as a women’s college and was never dissuaded from advocating for what she thought was right for her alma mater.

Stephanie’s profound connection to Scripps is even visible at her Pasadena home, where she designed a courtyard garden that evokes the many gardens on campus. She undertook the project during the last months of her life as something she had always wanted to do—the primary item on her “bucket list.” When it was finished, though she could no longer walk, she insisted on being moved into the room that afforded her the best garden view—her words upon settling in were, “Oh, how lovely!” Richard reflects, “While Stephanie got to see her garden fully planted, she never got to see it like it is today, or like it is going to be tomorrow.” But, he concedes, that’s not something she would have minded so much, as long as it continues to flourish.
Scripps’ Career Planning & Resources (CP&R) office extends internship grants based on the strength of the applications and the funds available from endowment income and annual gifts. The process requires making tough decisions about which Scripps students are best prepared to search for and secure internships that will help them reach their career goals.

“Internships provide students with valuable experience and can make it easier for them to find meaningful employment opportunities after they graduate,” says Catherine Collinson ’85, Institutional Advancement liaison to the Alumnae Leadership Council (ALC). “Today, there is a critical unmet need for financial assistance. We can work together to positively impact the lives of our students. In doing so, we are establishing a tradition, with graduates who benefit someday paying it forward and helping future generations of students.”

At Scripps, grant application season always presents a conundrum: an abundance of remarkable students seeking funding for unpaid summer internships, and not nearly enough money in the grant pot to go around.

Scripps funded approximately $200,000 of qualified internship grant requests in 2014-2015.

The College denied approximately $167,000 of qualified internship grant requests due to a lack of funding.

Scripps continues seeking support to help more well-qualified students receive needed internship grants.

This year, members of the ALC are launching the Alumnae Association Internship Fund. The goal? Fund 10 students with an average grant of $4,000 each by June 30, 2016. By supporting the Alumnae Association Internship Fund in addition to making your much-needed unrestricted Scripps Fund gift, you help...
June Generosity
SAVE THE DATES!

JUNE 10-12
Scripps’ Weekend of Giving

Last year, the College surpassed its goal of 952 gifts (one for each student enrolled). Thanks to 1,031 donor contributions and a trustee challenge gift of $200,000, Scripps received a total of $755,361! Can we beat that total in 2016? Stay tuned for Weekend of Giving 2016 details. Please visit scrippscollege.edu/engage for more information.

JUNE 30
Fiscal Year End

All gifts made on or before June 30, 2016, support Scripps in the 2015-16 fiscal year. Your generosity helps current Scripps students and the College you love. Please give online today at scrippscollege.edu/giving, by calling (909) 621-8180, or by returning your gift with the business reply envelope provided in this magazine.

SCRIPPS COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS AND GENEROUS SUPPORTERS. AS OF MARCH 2016, TOTAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING PROGRESS HAS REACHED $121m/$175m
Lara Deeb, professor of anthropology and chair of the Department of Anthropology, sits at her desk in an office brimming with books and DVDs that reflect her scholarly area, Middle Eastern studies. Her shelves contain copies of her own latest publication, Anthropology’s Politics: Disciplining the Middle East (2015), which looks at the ways in which anthropological study of the Middle East has evolved alongside the national and global political landscape.

“The dramatic shift in discourse has had a pretty big impact on my career and on the careers of other Middle East anthropologists,” says Deeb.

While she was conducting research on the Middle East during the late 1990s, she recalls, the popular political party Hizbullah was commonly described by U.S. media outlets as “fighters,” but by the time she was finishing her dissertation in 2001, the term “terrorists” was regularly being used.

Interested in cultural anthropology from a young age, Deeb says she was attracted to the discipline because of the perspective on social and cultural differences that it offers.

“I really liked ethnography as a methodology,” she says. “And I believed that ground-up understanding gained from talking to people—the kind of knowledge that ethnographic field research can generate—was a key way to approach social justice advocacy.”
Having moved to suburban Pennsylvania from Beirut as a young child, Deeb also found that anthropology gave her a way to make sense of her experience of being raised between cultures. Growing up, she often returned to Lebanon to visit relatives, even during the Lebanese civil war. Later on, when she was in graduate school at Emory University, her focus on the history of the Middle East expanded her understanding of that region, leading her to do field research in south Beirut with a Lebanese community she was unfamiliar with. From this research in south Beirut, she published her first two books: An Enchanted Modern (2006) and Leisurely Islam (2013).

Starting this fall, Deeb will direct the Scripps Humanities Institute for one year. The fall semester theme is “The ‘War on Terror,’ 15 Years Later,” while the spring semester will focus on “Walls, Borders, Fences.” Both programs will include lectures by invited professors, presentations by Claremont faculty about their research, and student-only workshops and discussions with guests, including prominent activists and organizers as well as a journalist who covered the Iraq war and a civil rights attorney.

“For fall, my goal is to curate a set of events that push us to think critically about the last 15 years both inside and outside the U.S. and to begin to disentangle what has changed during this so-called war on terror from what has in fact been a continuation of former policies and practices in new guise,” says Deeb. “For spring, I am building a program that explores social, spatial, and political divisions in different contexts and pushes us to ask questions about settler-colonialism, anti-immigration policies, and state violence in border zones.”

In addition to her anthropology courses, including one on representations of Palestinians in ethnography and film, Deeb teaches a class as part of the Scripps Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities that examines representations of Arabs and Muslims in the U.S. media and culture over time. Each year, she observes, students come in with a fuzzier memory of life before September 11, 2001.

“It becomes more difficult for them to imagine a world without particular forms of warfare, surveillance, and anti-Muslim racism,” says Deeb. “I want to use the 15-year anniversary of 9/11 as a reminder and a marker, a moment to assess how things have, and have not, changed.”
The Digital Evolution

How digital technology is—and isn’t—changing the liberal arts experience

BY AMY DERBEDROSIAN
Nancy Macko remembers the day her department chair asked if she was interested in teaching computer graphics.

Sure, the Scripps College art professor and printmaker replied. What is it? Macko quickly brought herself up to speed, developing the first course in the College’s Digital Art Program in 1990. At a time when computers weren’t yet in every faculty office, she entered a classroom with three desktop Macs to teach skills that were new to students, including how to use a mouse.

There’s no question that technology in higher education has come a long way. Today’s undergraduates carry smartphones everywhere, and the latest higher-education trends include once-unheard-of technologies and teaching methods. Virtual reality, flipped classrooms (in which students access video and other materials outside class to reserve class time for problem solving), and blended learning that combines online and face-to-face education are just a few.

The technologies that make online education possible have expanded its adoption. The Pew Research Center reported in 2011 that more than 75 percent of U.S. colleges and universities offer online courses. Liberal arts colleges are now among them: in 2012, Wellesley College became the first liberal arts college to have its faculty teach noncredit online courses and the first women’s college to offer massive open online courses (MOOCs).

At first glance, the increased prevalence of technology in higher education seems at odds with the traditions of residential liberal arts colleges. After all, a broad education, small classes, and personal
interaction do not require technological intervention. Yet as Scripps demonstrates, embracing technology doesn’t mean replacing what has long benefited students, either.

Rather than shift its approach to education, Scripps considers how technology can complement it and further strengthen the College’s academic excellence. As Gretchen Edwalds-Gilbert, associate dean of faculty and associate professor of biology, notes, “We believe technology is a critical part of pedagogy, but it should be natural and integrated. Technology has to be in service of something.”

At Scripps, technology serves to enrich the residential liberal arts college experience. This is visible in classrooms where technology is both a tool for creativity and problem solving and a subject for in-depth study and critical analysis. It’s evident in the use of social media and apps that promote information sharing, conversations, and face-to-face connections. It’s even apparent in students’ first encounters with Scripps, during an admission process in which digital communication provides more immediate ways to learn about the College.

Today, many academic programs at Scripps incorporate technology, with the extent varying by field. Edwalds-Gilbert explains, “It’s critical in digital art and the fine arts overall. In the sciences, it depends on how you look at technology. In molecular biology, you need to look at databases and technological equipment such as fluorescence microscopes. A few of our biologists combine global information systems (GIS) mapping with fieldwork.”

Scripps faculty and students in every field already benefit from the Sakai online course management system used throughout The Claremont Colleges. This makes it easier for faculty to post a syllabus, readings, and announcements, for students to submit assignments, and for everyone to communicate outside the classroom. Scripps also participates in a consortium-wide initiative to strengthen and expand digital humanities teaching and research through the Center for Teaching and Learning. Edwalds-Gilbert says, “This center will help people think about how technology can enhance what they do. We’re now more intentional in saying technology is not just for science or engineering. That intellectual shift happened in the last five years.”

Technological advancements have changed what, as well as how, students learn at Scripps. Students can now choose majors such as media studies, computer science, and science, technology, and society (STS) that focus on understanding technology and expanding career options while fitting firmly within the College’s liberal arts tradition.

Media studies majors, for example, both produce and look critically at contemporary media forms, including film, television, video, Internet, and print. They take advantage of computing power to create videos, animations, and digital photographs. But like all Scripps students immersed in the liberal arts, they consider the social
“I think computer science, more than teaching you how to code or build technology, teaches you to think through a problem, which has so much value in the liberal arts.”

— Shinjini Nunna ’16
videos. What our students have that others don’t is a liberal arts education and critical-thinking skills. They stand out as creative problem solvers.”

As student interest in digital art and media studies grows, so does Scripps’ investment in these areas. This year, the College hired its first-ever tenure track position in media studies; in fall 2016, Carlin Wing will join Scripps as an assistant professor of media studies.

Though defined by technology, the computer science major now available to Scripps students through the consortium also hones critical-thinking skills. Computer science major Shinjini Nunna ’16, who will join Google in September, explains, “I think computer science, more than teaching you how to code or build technology, teaches you to think through a problem, which has so much value in the liberal arts. And a technical major with a liberal arts education gives me a better sense of the problems I want to solve through computer science. My goal is to provide greater access to computer science education to women and other minorities.”

Scripps students in computer science help address this significant need. Women earn just 18 percent of undergraduate computer science degrees, according to the National Center for Women & Information Technology, and the New York Times reports that they represent only 30 percent of employees at large Silicon Valley tech companies. Not many Scripps students have chosen computer science—11 majors and 13 minors since 2005—but

TEACHING IN A POSTHUMAN AGE

How does an associate professor of Hispanic studies come to teach the course Cyberculture and the Posthuman Age? Jennifer Wood’s background provides some explanation: she also directs the Modern Languages Resource Center at Scripps and went back to school for a master’s degree in educational technology when she saw the world shifting from analog to digital.

Wood introduced the cyberculture course in 1999 and continues to cover some of the same issues—privacy and cyber ethics, for example—that were in their infancy then. Today’s course, part of Scripps’ Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities, explores the Internet era’s impact on all aspects of life: communication, politics, law, ethics, interpersonal relationships, education, and more.

“Many students say it makes them more aware of how they and others in their lives use technology and what will be important in the future,” Wood says. “Technology is such a large part of our lives now that it’s even more important to be mindful of how it affects us.”
Nunna’s experience as a tech-company intern at Salesforce convinced her that there should be more.

“The other interns may or may not have had stronger technical skills, but I had better communication skills,” she says, attributing this to her Scripps education. “I know how to work with other people, be a leader, and communicate about problems and solutions. That goes a long way in tech.”

Some Scripps students have a deep interest in technology but not Nunna’s desire for a tech-industry career. The STS major—one of few undergraduate programs of its kind at liberal arts colleges—allows them to explore how science and technology inform and are informed by society. Students examine this through the perspectives of the humanities and social sciences, including history, anthropology, philosophy, and policy. Laura Perini, a Pomona College philosophy professor who coordinates the interdisciplinary program, calls STS “the epitome of what you can do as a liberal arts institution.”

Nancy Williams, the Scripps chemistry professor who advises the College’s STS majors, explains, “Scripps students are deeply rooted in figuring out how knowledge is created. STS asks how we create knowledge and how that new knowledge affects us. The questions we ask and how we ask them matter. What do we research as scientists, and what is the process? What kinds of technology do we produce, and who is it for? Technology doesn’t exist freestanding of culture; it comes back to our values.”

These questions appeal to a small—just four in 2015—but varied group of Scripps students. Some STS majors learn about bioethics or medical technologies to prepare for medical school. Others want to apply their study to careers in law, education, or policy. Lauren Burke ’16, a dual major in STS and anthropology, wanted to understand the products of technology and how they change society.

“We designed the major to allow students to apply several different scholarly approaches to a particular area of interest,” says Perini. “The STS major gives them what every liberal arts education should: the ability to analyze something interesting and important using skills they gain at Scripps.”

The same thinking that guides how Scripps integrates technology in academics influences its use in other areas of campus life. In today’s college admission office, the student recruitment process has gone digital. Applications are completed online. Print publications haven’t disappeared—Scripps still mails overview and follow-up materials, as well as a viewbook—but students primarily look to websites for immediate, helpful, succinct information.
“Scripps students are deeply rooted in figuring out how knowledge is created. STS asks how we create knowledge and how that new knowledge affects us.”
— Nancy Williams, Associate Professor of Chemistry

“We use a digital platform to connect in ways that enhance what we convey about the culture of Scripps and encourage students to feel engaged in the process digitally,” says Laura Stratton, director of admission for Scripps.

She turns to email to invite students and their families to connect with Scripps in person. Congratulatory phone calls to admitted applicants have become messages from current students sent via Facebook or e-mail. A Facebook group solely for admitted students encourages them to share information and photos before they’ve even graduated from high school.

But however much the methods employed by the Scripps admission office have changed, the goal of communicating remains as it was in pre-digital days. Stratton says, “At the end of the day, the recruitment and admission process should mirror what students will experience on campus. That’s the only way to make it genuine.”

The desire for well-informed students also led to introducing the Scripps College and LiveSafe apps last fall. Students can use the Scripps College app to manage class schedules, assignments, and study sessions; learn about services and events; join a club; locate a campus map; and communicate with each other. Though the app isn’t meant to replace existing resources, student activities coordinator Eveth Gonzalez notes, “It serves as a handheld alternative to the Scripps website and is an easier way for students to access information.”
THE PAST GOES DIGITAL

With 85 cubic feet of materials in the Ellen Browning Scripps collection alone, digitizing the holdings in the Ella Strong Denison Library is a daunting task. Judy Harvey Sahak ’64, director of the library and Denison’s Sally Preston Swan Librarian, recognizes that digitized collections are the research materials of tomorrow. She says, “We’re using technology to enrich the scholarly community. The justification for having these materials is making them available to students and researchers.”

Why Digitize: To preserve and increase access to the College’s historical, literary, and visual resources.

What It Requires: Handheld scanning of documents and images, many of them rare, fragile, poorly preserved, or oversized; content knowledge to create metadata researchers can use; and dealing with changing image storage and retrieval technologies.

Biggest Challenge: Archiving born-digital materials (those that started as digital files or are available only in digital form because originals no longer exist), a stumbling block for most colleges because the volume is large—for example, born-digital materials include every version of the Scripps website ever created—and specially trained professionals, working in close collaboration with information technology staff, are required.

Even as digitization moves forward, the physical collection retains an important place at Scripps. Sahak explains, “There’s a case for making both forms available. A digital object is useful, but when a student is up close and handling a letter Lincoln wrote, there’s an emotional pull to the document that she will remember.”

SCRIPPS IN THE TECH WORLD

The tech industry intrigues and influences Scripps students, and not just those studying computer science. Students are affected by the technology they use every day, and they’re drawn to entrepreneurial endeavors and start-up culture. Tech is a top career target for current Scripps students, and many choose to stay in California after graduation. The timing was ideal for a Scripps Tech Trek to the Bay Area.

Who: A dozen Scripps students and staff from Career Planning & Resources (CP&R).

What: Three days of company visits and presentations offering a firsthand look at how a Scripps liberal arts education can lead to a tech-industry career.

When: Summer 2015, the first in what CP&R Executive Director Vicki Klopsch hopes will be an annual event.

Where: Nine Bay Area tech companies: Anaplan, Eventbrite, Facebook, Medallia, Nextdoor, Pinterest, Spongecell, Twilio, and Uber.

Why: For students to experience some of the career opportunities in the tech industry; to reveal the wide range of possibilities of a future in tech with a liberal arts degree from Scripps.

How: Claire Shaw ’11, who works in business development relations at Twilio Inc., a cloud communications company founded in 2007, approached CP&R with the tech trip idea and recruited other alumnae to participate. While at Scripps, Shaw studied history and Chinese. Mary Waring ’85 and Mike Waring sponsored the program. After graduation, Waring taught English and writing at Scripps and later created a successful dot com business, MouseSavers.com
This app offers a direct link to the LiveSafe app, which promotes personal safety at The Claremont Colleges. Many colleges now have an app for this purpose, and University Business recently wrote, “Mobile technology will continue to play a crucial role in helping universities maintain a safe teaching and learning environment and communicate updates.”

The LiveSafe app incorporates emergency contacts, information about sexual misconduct and sexual assault, the option to report incidents anonymously, and a safety walk feature that lets students have friends remotely watch them follow a safe path to a destination. Sallie Tiernan Field House Director Deborah Gisvold says, “Our goal is to make sure students have the resources and information to feel safe on campus. Before, students would need to access a computer or the Internet and get information from websites and flyers.”

Scripps students also stay informed and communicate regularly through social media. This, too, provides offline benefits that enhance campus life. Assistant Director of Residential Life Jill Langan explains, “Though we’re a small campus, social media is a way to engage with and stay plugged into the culture here. It helps students find their own niche and become more successful community members.”

Each residence hall, class year, and student club typically has a Facebook group. Students also use Facebook to communicate about events, mobilize around issues such as Black Lives Matter, and volunteer skills. Yet their behavior clearly reveals that they value face-to-face interactions, not only those on social media.

Media studies major Leah Snider ’16 expresses a strong affinity for her cross-country and track teammates. Art major Ishbel McCann ’18 describes a community of digital art students. And media studies major Nicole Zwiener ’16 says, “Facebook isn’t the be-all and end-all—it just connects. To feel a sense of community, I go to the places where I study, eat, and my friends are.”

That students as well as the College favor using technology to support the traditional Scripps experience doesn’t surprise Edwalds-Gilbert. The dean and professor has observed this in the classroom, noting, “Students want to see technology used well, but they still want to build a physical model rather than look at it online. We looked into changing textbooks and were interested in online options because we’re sensitive to cost. Students put a kibosh on that; they still wanted a physical book. Students also seem to prefer faculty who use the whiteboard rather than PowerPoint. It’s funny how old-fashioned students can be.”

A...
Scripps College alumnae are forging their own paths in tech, developing advanced software, working with cutting-edge tools, and using online platforms in innovative ways.
Programmed to Succeed
For your senior thesis, you authored a fictional story that unfolded on Twitter and other digital and social media platforms. Can you tell us about that project and what you learned?

In terms of the story itself, I started with a broad idea: a journalist uncovers a supernatural conspiracy in a strange small town. From there, I developed 11 different characters with Twitter profiles, a website and blog for the small town, and a central “hub” for audiences to find all the elements in one place. It took me two semesters to plan, develop, and write out all the various elements. At the end of the second semester, the story unfolded in real time across all these different platforms for about one month.
There is no tried-and-true method for developing a project like Beneath Still Waters, especially since transmedia projects aren’t usually done by just one person. I had to figure out the pieces as I went along, and there were a lot of pieces. It definitely felt difficult to manage it at times, but it ended up being a really valuable experience. It allowed me to hone a variety of skills, including concept and story development, graphic design, social media management, marketing, and website creation. And when I was first interviewing with the Marketing Arm, talking about this project was one of the things that most impressed my now boss. So yes: Your thesis actually can get you a job!

SC: As a creative “conceptor” at an advertising agency, you tackle storytelling via digital platforms. What are some of the challenges to being able to connect with audiences? What are some of the opportunities?

AG: My team and I are the “idea people” of the agency. We contribute creative, big ideas that tell a compelling story while fulfilling the client’s objective and celebrating the brand. We are responsible for coming up with creative solutions that can work across multiple platforms. No matter what the assignment is, digital and social media are always key components—they are essential in figuring out how to take a big, conceptual idea to the audience so they can participate and become a part of the campaign.

I’d say the biggest challenge has been figuring out how to reconcile the initial creative vision with the realities of client expectations, budget, and execution. There are a lot of factors to take into consideration when we’re talking about how to bring an idea to life. Even if it took months of hard work to develop a concept, audiences have to be able to understand the idea instantly without the benefit of seeing the structure behind it all.

The opportunities are to create something innovative that actually can reach a lot of people. Keeping on top of trends in digital technology is a huge part of what I do, and I get inspired by seeing what others are doing in that space. It’s exciting to be in a position where I get to consider the larger media landscape, search for the white space, and figure out what hasn’t been done before and what might be done.

One of my favorite quotes is from John Lasseter, the chief creative officer at Pixar, who said, “Art challenges the technology, and technology inspires the art.” I think it’s such a great description of how the two should work together. It’s important to understand both sides of the process—to create art that explores the limits and consequences of technology and to use technology to push the boundaries of what art can be.

SC: How did Scripps help prepare you for a career in digital marketing?

AG: I think the study of digital media and technology is so important to the college experience. It’s something that’s at our fingertips every day, so it’s a necessary skill to be able to step back and think about it. That was something I enjoyed about my media studies major—I was able to take concepts I learned in my classes and apply them to things I loved in pop culture, like Harry Potter or Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

During spring 2014, I spent the semester studying graphic design in London at Central Saint Martins, an art school that emphasized creative concept development. I initially wanted to go to an art school to pursue graphic design. But while I was there, I learned to appreciate my liberal arts background. Often the assignments were to design a visual piece in response to an open-ended question such as, “What is graphic design?” It was easy to look at a question like that and have no idea where to start, but I learned how to draw on the research skills and analytical framework from Scripps academics to help narrow down a unique concept I could then design.

People talk a lot about how fields like computer science or engineering are increasingly important in today’s world, and of course they are. But I think it’s also true that the liberal arts education teaches you how to think flexibly in terms of research, critical thinking, and writing skills that will be useful anywhere you go. And when it comes to digital technology, which can change at such a rapid pace, it’s incredibly useful to have a liberal arts background.
Dual major in computer science and linguistics and cognitive science  
Software engineer at Microsoft, Redmond, Washington

**SCRIPPS COLLEGE:** You were a dual major in computer science and linguistics and cognitive science. Those areas would seem to have a lot to say to each other, in terms of understanding how humans use and interact with technology.

**SZEYIN LEE:** Like many Scrippsies, I have many interests—economics, foreign languages, philosophy, the list goes on and on. The graduation requirement at Scripps was 32 credits, but I ended up with 42 credits when I left! I actually stumbled upon cognitive science and computer science during my second year of college. They both fascinated me, and I had a hard time deciding which one to major in, so I decided to major in both. I am very interested in how humans think (or, more broadly, “What does it mean to be human?”) and how technology comes into play when trying to answer such questions.

My senior thesis was titled Designing a Better Internet Search Engine Based on Information Foraging Theory. I wanted to create a new way to visualize search engine results based on Peter Pirolli’s information foraging theory. The theory assumes people optimize their behaviors to maximize the success of accomplishing their goal by selecting paths based on the expected utility from the information cues. The end result of the project was built using Google’s application
programming interface, latent semantic analysis, and data visualization tools to give the user a more human-centered search experience.

**SC:** How did you end up at Microsoft after Scripps, and what do you do there?

**SL:** In college, I had summer internships at Electronic Arts, a gaming company, and Etsy, an online consumer platform. In each of those positions I saw firsthand the ways technology is rapidly developing and changing the way we live. It made me realize that, in computer science, there are a lot of opportunities to make an impact on how the future is unfolding.

During my final semester, I actively interviewed with many companies. A recruiter from Microsoft saw my LinkedIn profile and thought I would be a good fit for a role they were filling. I interviewed and was given an offer to work on “a secret team.” I didn’t know what I would be doing, but the people I chatted with made it sound very exciting, so I took the job. It was mind-blowing to find out on the first day of work that I had the opportunity to work on HoloLens, a mixed reality device. Instead of immersing the user in a totally virtual environment, HoloLens lets her integrate graphics, photos, and video into her real-time view of the world. I am developing the Skype application on this new platform.

Every morning my team has a short meeting to go over what everyone is working on. Depending on what phase of the product cycle we are in, the rest of the day is spent on coding features, fixing bugs, or analyzing usage data to improve stability. Less than one year into my first job, I am proud to say that I have coded for astronauts. It’s pretty amazing that our product is currently being used at the International Space Station as a new way to facilitate communication between space and Earth. I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this journey. It was a big shift coming from Scripps to a male-dominated field, as I was one of very few women in the program at the time. I am grateful that Scripps has taught me to live hopefully, confidently, and courageously.

**SC:** How do you think the world will be different in 20 years, in terms of new technologies and applications?

**SL:** It is difficult to predict the future, especially for a constantly evolving field like technology. My experience of working on HoloLens has changed the way I perceive and interact with the world and challenged me to explore possibilities I once thought unimaginable.

**SC:** As an undergraduate, you developed an app for Scripps’ Motley Coffeehouse. How did that project come about?

**SL:** As a computer science major, one of the things I wanted to do before I graduated was to build something cool for the Scripps community. In my mobile-software development course, the final project was to create my own app, so I contacted the Motley with a proposal, and the project began!

First I researched popular apps related to coffeehouses and analyzed their functionalities. After making initial mockups, I met with the Motley student managers to discuss the functional specifications: a drinks menu, drink recommender, calendar, a page to save users’ favorites, and an “about us” page.

Building the Motley app was the first time I took such intimate ownership of a project, from conceptualization to leading collaboration with others to the implementation of the final product. I gained valuable technical skills throughout the process. And in terms of the larger context of tech, I’m proud that the app was 100 percent made by female students. I partnered with Chelsea Carlson ’14, the amazing artist who created the art assets, to create an app for a prominent feminist on-campus space—to me, the achievement represents the empowerment of female students in technology.

I eventually took the Motley app off the app store because I didn’t have time to maintain it. But if anyone at Scripps wants to further develop my project, I am happy to share my code!
Majored in media studies; minored in psychology
Producer at Institution Post, Burbank, California

Scripps College: You create digital animation and visual effects for film and television. Tell us about your career path—how did you land in Hollywood?

Sarah Mihalec Maloney: I graduated into a challenging time; after 9/11, many studios put a freeze on all new hires. I jumped into an industry—video games—I knew nothing about. I wasn’t even allowed to play video games as a kid! I learned quickly that not every job is going to be your favorite, but it’s important to figure out what you can learn, what you can take away, and what you want to leave behind.

Almost every job since then has been a leap of faith into something I’ve never done before, from video games to animation to traditional visual effects to 3-D to health and beauty. I took a bit of a detour, but it was all an experiment and a chance to test my skills in new industries.

Now I run a post-production company that services the entertainment industry. The company works in both film and television, providing services such as color correction, picture mastering, and visual effects. My day-to-day is looking at a sea of balls hanging in the air and knowing which ones need to be poked, spun, taken down, or just left alone. No two projects are the same, and there is a huge amount of information to keep track of for each. Most days I’m problem solving—schedules, budgets, last-minute studio requests. The
key has always been to remember that nothing is really on fire, and most of the time if you talk through a situation there is a logical and doable solution that won’t keep your crew up until midnight.

I enjoy the challenges and the personalities, and watching a filmmaker view their final product for the first time is one of my favorite parts of the job—the moment they come out of the color suite (the control room for color grading video in a post-production environment), and their film has just come to life in a way they didn’t realize was possible.

**SC:** What have been some of your favorite projects to work on?

**SMM:** It sounds corny, but I really try to learn something from every project, so it’s hard to have a favorite. Alice in Wonderland (2010) was a huge learning experience for me. I was fortunate to work with a computer-generated imagery (CGI) supervisor who was generous with his technical knowledge and taught me terms and tricks I had never seen before. The TV show Drunk History is incredibly entertaining—to work on a show that brings history together with grown-up fun makes work not feel like work.

**SC:** What are some of the ways Scripps helped prepare you for work in the entertainment industry?

**SMM:** When I was at Scripps, the emphasis was on the conceptual and theoretical aspects of film studies, and the practical, hands-on focus was several years off. I think my biggest takeaway was analytical thinking and concept breakdown. A lot of my work centers on putting budgets together for projects with hundreds of shots and sometimes hundreds of individual effects elements. Knowing who is responsible for each item, how much it will cost, how it is being used, and where we can reuse items ensures a level of accuracy in my work and often saves my clients money. I took away a sense of problem solving and never settling for the first answer from my time at Scripps. And while sometimes a project doesn’t turn out the way you thought it would or you think your idea would have been the better solution, I’m not afraid to ask questions and come up with alternative ways of doing things.

**SC:** You graduated in 2001, so you’ve worked in Hollywood for more than a decade. Have animation and visual-effects technologies changed much during that time?

**SMM:** One of the biggest changes was the 3-D revolution that happened in 2009-10. I had been working at Sony on Alice in Wonderland and got a call from the 3-D conversion company Prime Focus. They were converting Clash of the Titans into 3-D in just 10 weeks and asked me to come lead one of the teams. A project of that scale and time frame had never been done before, and to be a part of it was pretty amazing. When there is no path to follow, you find yourself not just scouting the path, but building the road as you go.

There are always innovations happening, and each one adds to the effects artist’s vocabulary and creates another building block to use. Global illumination technology, improved fluid simulations, and increased render speeds are just a few things that have changed since I started—I used to hear stories about artists sending a shot to render at 2:00 a.m., going to sleep under their desks, and waking up hours later when the processing had completed. But while speeds have increased, the complexity of the visual effects has also increased. So you still have renders that take days to do, but the effects being rendered are much more elaborate.

I think no matter how good technology gets, we have to remember that there are people using that technology, and ultimately it is a tool to help in the process. I was fortunate at DreamWorks to work with many fine artists—I don’t just mean they were amazing colleagues, I mean they were highly trained professional painters and sculptors. Anyone can learn a program or hit some keys and make something appear on-screen, but the ability and talent to know about composition, color work, and balance are not answered in sequences of ones and zeros. People want to make it all about the artist or all about the technology, but the reality is that, as with most things, it’s a partnership.
Jessica Ward ’08

Majored in linguistics and French; minored in media studies
Cofounder, Virtual Reality Los Angeles

SCRIPPS COLLEGE: Tell us about your career path—you’ve had an interesting trajectory, from working in more traditional media like music and film to working with 3-D and virtual-reality technologies. How did that unfold?

JESSICA WARD: If you had told me while I was a first-year student that one day in the future, this new social website (Facebook) would acquire a virtual-reality headset company (Oculus) that would revolutionize our world, and I would be a part of that revolution, I would have thought you were crazy. But here we are.

While at Scripps, I thought I would like working in some aspect of entertainment after graduation, but I didn’t really know how I would do it. Every summer I’d find internships in Hollywood, doing everything from assisting on a documentary film project about sex trafficking to getting coffees and lunches for old-school producers on the Warner Bros. studio lot. I began to learn how Hollywood operates and see how vastly different careers in entertainment can be. Through some early connections I made, however, I wound up managing the careers of several DJs in the electronic dance music world. Along the way, I developed a deep interest in new technologies.
Thanks to Scripps’ amazing study abroad program, I spent spring semester of my junior year in Paris. It changed my life—and I returned there for three months after graduation, greatly improving my French language skills. I never imagined my French skills would help me in the working world, but through a simple keyword search for “French” jobs in Los Angeles, I landed a job with a French company in the cinema technology industry. They provided 3-D glasses and 3-D cinema equipment, and they needed help developing their business in Los Angeles. As it was a start-up, I wore many hats and learned many different aspects related to running a business: accounting, invoicing, logistics, hardware, software, and customer service, along with French-English translation.

While there, I kept up to date on new technologies and entertainment. I had been following the excitement around the Oculus Rift and its successful Kickstarter in 2012. People wanted to feel as though they were actually stepping into another world—an experience that made 3-D television and movies pale in comparison. Virtual reality (VR) became the latest buzzword. It was also finally affordable, thanks to cell-phone technology. I couldn’t wait to get my hands on it!

**SC:** You are a co-founder of Virtual Reality Los Angeles (VRLA). What is VRLA, and how did it come about?

**JW:** I had my first real taste of the VR renaissance at the 2014 Game Developers Conference in San Francisco. I tried out many different kinds of VR head-mounted displays and games. The technology was early but promising. A few days later, Facebook announced they had acquired Oculus for $2 billion. Suddenly, the whole world was paying attention to VR.

I went to my first VRLA meet-up one month later in Los Angeles and joined the organizers. I helped coordinate the next event during the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3), and from there we held VRLA events every few months. Because VR hardware was still mostly unavailable to the public, people could get these experiences solely at our events. VRLA has grown from a 100-person meet-up to a full-fledged expo with an attendance of more than 3,000—the largest in the nation—in the last two years. Los Angeles has become the hotbed of VR. The medium is a very welcome thing for game-makers and filmmakers here—they are excited about combining their technical and storytelling know-how and learning from each other. We recently launched a popular new initiative called VRLA School—monthly workshops where people can learn how to produce their own VR content.

**SC:** You are on the cutting edge of entertainment and gaming technologies. What are you most excited about?

**JW:** I’m excited about so many new technologies, but the untold powers of VR incite a passion in me. Many have called VR “the empathy machine,” and female storytellers in particular have a whole new extremely powerful medium in which to tell their stories. VR is already used successfully in areas beyond entertainment, such as cognitive therapy. And immersive journalism experiences like the award-winning Clouds Over Sidra (2015) are virtually transporting viewers to war-torn areas around the world, bringing a deeper understanding and impetus for justice.

The tech industry is still male-dominated, especially the gaming industry, and they’re driving VR adoption. I’d be lying if I didn’t say that discrimination toward women in tech still exists, but I’m noticing a change. Groups like Women in VR on Facebook are growing. Story-driven games with non-linear narratives, like Life Is Strange (a game currently for PC and consoles), are enjoying unprecedented success with female fans. VR might be one of the technologies that can push beyond the male-dominated culture of gaming and entertainment. The barrier to entry is being chipped away such that people of all genders, ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds can be a part of it.

For me, the most important thing has been the ability to adapt to change and evolve with the times. Scripps gave me the confidence to embrace the unknown, take initiative, communicate openly, and bravely interact with new technologies—skills that have been crucial to my career success. I’m exited for the future generations of women who will graduate from Scripps; their education will enable them to take on the challenges of emerging industries.
How Susan Finley ’58 became the longest-serving woman employee in NASA history
Midway through our interview at her home in Arcadia, California, Susan Finley ’58 says, somewhat embarrassedly, “You won’t believe it, but my daughter-in-law called me the other day to tell me that I have a Wikipedia page! I can’t imagine who set it up.”

Finley is genuinely surprised about her celebrity; as she sees it, she has just been doing her job all these years. Since 1958, that job has evolved from “computer,” to software tester, to programmer, to subsystem engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) on some of the center’s most important space missions—making her the longest-serving woman employee in NASA history.

Originally from Central California, Finley attended Scripps on a scholarship. She pursued a major in art, intending to become an architect, but regarded herself as a terrible artist—at the end of her junior year, she dropped out to avoid having to complete a senior thesis project. But she was also interested in math, and while a student, she worked for a professor in the math department at Claremont Men’s College (Claremont McKenna College became coed in 1976), correcting student papers and helping to collect and analyze data. Looking for a job after she left Scripps “is where Scripps really came in,” Finley recalls. “From my time at Scripps, I knew I liked math, so I applied to an engineering company as a typist. I couldn’t type very well, but I could type.”

She did not get the typist job. In fact, Finley is pretty sure she flunked the typing test. “I took the typing test, and then it was quitting time, and so they said, ‘Well, come back tomorrow.’ And so I came back the next morning, and they said, ‘That job is already gone, but do you like numbers?’ And I said, ‘Yes, I like numbers much more than typing!’ So they said, ‘Would you like to be a computer?’”

So, for her first job after college, Finley was a computer. She and one other woman, also a computer, worked in a room alongside 40 thermodynamic engineers, all men. Whenever an engineer needed a calculation done, he would give it to Finley or her coworker to execute on a Friden electromechanical calculator—essentially a giant adding machine. Finley would set up the equation on the Friden and then plug in the numbers the engineer wished to test. During the 1950s and early 1960s, this kind of computing was considered “women’s work,” although it was higher in the chain of command than secretarial work. “All the computers were women,” Finley recalls. “But I never had any problem at all. I was always treated as an equal—and I know the secretaries weren’t.”
In 1957, Finley married. She and her husband settled in Arcadia, and she began looking for a job closer to home. In January 1958, Finley was hired as a computer by JPL; she started working there two days before Explorer 1, America’s first satellite, was launched into orbit. At JPL, the team of women computers was much larger. “They had a whole separate room for computers, and I worked there for the first year, on many different kinds of projects. The women I worked with had different backgrounds—some hadn’t gone to college at all. You had to be good at what you were doing, or they’d get rid of you, but math was not a prerequisite.” Finley was first tasked with calculating trajectories for rocket launches.

Over the years, as technology evolved, Finley’s role changed. Digital computers replaced the electronic calculators, and she learned the computer language FORTRAN on the job, designing and executing the hand calculations and FORTRAN programs that helped successfully launch satellites, point antennae, and send spacecraft throughout the solar system and into deep space. The demographics of the workplace also changed. First the staff of computers shrank, and then the need for them disappeared altogether as engineers learned to be programmers, too. Though Finley was able to successfully adapt to these changes, she acknowledges, “The director of JPL told me that I would never be hired now, as I have no degree.”

Over the years, Finley worked on landmark programs including Voyager, Mariner, and Viking. Her most memorable project came during the early 1980s, when she was writing software for the Deep Space Network (DSN), which assists in the collection of data from U.S. and foreign interplanetary spacecraft. The DSN was asked to facilitate a Russian project called the Vega program, which, among other objectives, sought to probe the atmosphere of Venus by dropping a balloon there. Because of Cold War politics, U.S. calculations had to be relayed through the French. Finley volunteered to help. “At that time my role was software engineer, but I didn’t know anything about engineering. Why they thought I could do it, I don’t know.”

Her job was to write a program that would point antennae at the Russian spacecraft as it dropped the balloon, synthesizing elaborate calculations into a set of commands to detect the balloon and inform the French and U.S. teams whether the mission had been successful. “When the Venus balloon got dropped off, I got to be in the control room at JPL—at that point nobody was controlling it, of course, we were all just watching—and when we got to see the little blip on the screen, I jumped up and down. It was so exciting that the balloon had gotten there, and it was transmitting and we were receiving it!”

In fact, her efforts were so successful that the team asked her to continue to work on the project, this time to figure out how to successfully point the antennae at the spacecraft as it continued on to Halley’s Comet for a flyby. She remembers, “I told the team, ‘If I’m going to have to do the antennae pointing each time, I’m going to have to have somebody check my work, and I want a better parking spot.’ And I got it, for that year!”

More recently, Finley assisted with the launch of the rover Curiosity, helping to write the program that signaled its successful 2012 landing on Mars. In order to communicate with mission control, the rover broadcasts a series of tones; Finley helped develop and run the software that interpreted the tones Curiosity sent as it swiftly descended to the surface of the planet. The process of writing that software was also complex; for example, Finley needed to compensate for the Doppler effect—the change in frequency of a sound wave for an observer moving relative to its source—so that the tones could be properly detected as the rover fell.

Finley admits that she has never owned a home computer, though she now has a tablet for reading and keeping up with her grandchildren on social media. She still loves numbers—her kitchen table is piled high with Sudoku puzzle books—and for now, she is still happy working at JPL. “I’m having a fabulous time,” she says. “You should work as long as it’s enjoyable, and it’s still enjoyable.” When asked whether she has any plans for retirement, she pauses. “I never did get to take physics. That’s first class I’m going to take.”
ABOVE AND RIGHT

Artist renderings of the space probe Voyager 1 in flight and a Vega Project balloon floating in the Venussian atmosphere.

Images courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech.
Little did I know, walking down Elm Tree Lawn in my cap and gown in 1995, that I would spend my first two decades after Scripps in the high-tech industry. Although I did not take computer science or digital media courses at Scripps, my interdisciplinary education provided me with the confidence to jump into the unknown, the courage to thrive in an ever-evolving industry of web and application development, and the hopefulness that technology had the potential to improve our everyday lives.

Full disclosure: I have a love-hate relationship with technology. It has afforded me immediate access to information that led to better decision making, improved efficiencies in my personal and professional life, and the ability to stay connected with family and friends who are spread across the globe, for which I am so grateful. But the always-on, ever-present-ness has produced a tension in my day-to-day life I am still trying to wrestle with, and I have certainly developed an empathy for those on the receiving end of digital messages! The constant push and pull of technology has reminded me that moderation is critical, as is not getting caught up in false senses of reality.

All that said, I am excited to add an important new resource to my technology toolbox this spring—the Scripps Community Network. Our community has been asking for more opportunities to network with fellow alumnae, students, and parents. The network will enable all of us to explore our broad Scripps community through organized networking and events, spontaneous connections, and timely access to upcoming events, whether locally or internationally. I also look forward to greater visibility for the activities of Career Planning & Resources and to connecting current students with even more alumnae mentorship opportunities.

Join me this spring in engaging with our remarkable community—locally, online, and on campus.

Cheers,

LIBBY
MARRIAGES

Jacqueline Craig ’03 (Los Angeles)
I married Fletcher Dennison (PO ’03) on May 30, 2015, in Dornoch Cathedral, a 13th-century cathedral in the Scottish Highlands. I am an independent screenwriter, and Fletcher is director of operations at a software company in Santa Monica.

Alexandra Wojciechowska Tran ’08 (Van Nuys, California)
I married Joseph Tran on May 31, 2015.

Kathryn Frazier ’09 (Woonsocket, Rhode Island)
I graduated from Clark University with a PhD in psychology in May, and I married Jay Johnson in Los Angeles in July. Several Scrippsies were in attendance, including Amy Lieberman ’09, who officiated our ceremony.

Sylvia Richardson ’09 (Durham, North Carolina)
I married Joseph Pellicore on October 2, 2015.

Anna Simle ’09 (Denver)
I married Daniel Schniedwind at Deer Creek Valley Ranch in Bailey, Colorado, on August 1, 2015. Three generations of Scripps alumnæ (mother, aunt, and grandmother) were in attendance, along with many others from the Class of 2009.

Samantha Dubin ’10 (Royal Oak, Michigan)
I got married in June 2015, and we moved to Michigan to start our new lives and medical residencies.

June Lowery Lawson (Mercer Island, Washington)
I spent my 96th birthday in the hospital recovering from major surgery and was happy to return home. I was not able to attend the memorial for my dearest friend “Biz” Balderston, but daughter Wendy ’63 did go. We all miss her so much. Our Class of 1940 is getting very small.

Claire Thurmond Roberts (Carpinteria, California)
Thankfully I am still in my home on the hill in Carpinteria. I look forward to visits from family. I now have 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sue Felt Kerr (Houston)
I am still drawing.

Marlow Rau Belyea (Easton, Pennsylvania)
I enjoy my Scripps memories and phone conversations with my classmates. I participate in the Democratic Committee of Women for the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, and the local historical museum. Pat Odell Coulter (Shoreline, Washington)
After 35 years, I sold my practice and retired last February. Since then, I’ve continued to travel—I took a two-week drive from San Diego to Shoreline and a three-week trip to Paris, Italy, and Barcelona. I celebrated my 90th birthday in June.

Caro Taylor (Sandy Spring, Maryland)
I am still pedaling my tricycle around Sandy Spring and enjoying life lazily.

Pat Odell Coulter (Shoreline, Washington)
After 35 years, I sold my practice and retired last February. Since then, I’ve continued to travel—I took a two-week drive from San Diego to Shoreline and a three-week trip to Paris, Italy, and Barcelona. I celebrated my 90th birthday in June.

Patricia Fisher-Smith (Del Mar, California)
I am “aging in place” surrounded by my artistic Wright house and garden overlooking the ocean. I still lecture on gardening throughout Southern California, paint in oil and watercolors, travel widely, and enjoy my friends and family. I have eight great-grandchildren. Josephine Roberts (Alexandria, Virginia)
Two and a half years ago, Morton and I moved to the retirement community Goodwin House. We are now close to family.

Elizabeth “Betty Lou” Browning Witchey (Santa Rosa, California)
After indulging my love of art by taking sculpture under Albert Stewart and painting under Phil Dike, I married, reared three great kids, and earned a degree in elementary education from Sonoma State College (now University). Teaching fourth-
and fifth-graders for 24 years, I used my art training to incorporate watercolor painting and clay work every Friday afternoon. I’m now a grandmother of three and a great-grandmother of four! I miss Jo Ellen Blythe Huegy, my lovely copper-haired friend. I was so glad to get a phone call recently from Nora Alemany ’53!

1953
Charlene Devine Duncan (Walnut Creek, California) My granddaughter is graduating in the spring from law school at the University of California, Los Angeles. The same day, her sister will receive her master’s degree in environmental studies at the University of Southern California.

1954
Peggy Hays Kingman (Sonora, California) Stu and I turned 82 this year, and we celebrated 61 years of marriage. We have seven children and 13 grandchildren. Our hobby is cars, and we are also involved in many social justice issues.

1955
Brent Shaw Foster (San Diego) In September I spent a lovely week in the home of Ann Kingman Smith ’53, along with my sister Ann Shaw McFarlane ’53, Nancy Shroyer Howard ’53, and Patty Powell ’53.

1957
Diane Divelbess (Langley, Washington) Last June I celebrated my 80th birthday with an exhibition of recent paintings, prints, and drawings here in our home, complete with a small catalog. We had opening and closing receptions and a birthday dinner. Norma Tanega ’60 came up from Claremont, and Maxine Borowsky Junge ’59 was here for a great time! Valerie Thom Read (Capistrano Beach, California) I am still teaching yoga and still traveling. I have the same husband—we just hit the 50-year mark. I think it will work out.

1960
Mary E. Connor (San Marino, California) I am grateful for my good health, family (four grandchildren), and Scripps friends, Marilyn Harper and Ginny Evans. I published my third book on Korea this year.

1961
Carol Buss (Laguna Beach, California) I visited Scripps and Claremont McKenna Colleges’ beautiful campuses with my four grandchildren. They were impressed! Leila Tunis Hall (Albuquerque) I am still painting pastels. I enjoyed a visit in Northern California with some classmates from 1961. We all look wonderful!

1962
Katharine Weston Cohen (Murray, Kentucky) I had a wonderful reunion with Mary Lou Wright, Patty Michaels Kehole, and Dee O’Neill at Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, Arkansas, in October. It was a splendid location for old friends to gather and explore.

1963
Judith Nylen (New York) Now that I’ve retired from my full-time job, I am working as an artist, teaching part-time at Pratt Institute, and making time to travel (to Southeast Asia and Italy). I recently showed work at the Printmaking Center of New Jersey in Branchburg and the Barrett Art Center in Poughkeepsie, New York.
1964

Karen Merris (Hayward, California) Last July, 11 Bay Area members of the Classes of 1963 and 1964 met for “tea” (and wine) at the wonderful art-filled home of Dorothy Nissen. Joining in the fun were Ellen Darling Benson ’63, Carole Helppie Gunn, Sally Eymann Ketchum ’63, Susan Conway Mathews ’63, Lalla Neblett ’63, Ann Wilson Porteus ’63, Sonia Hubner Seeman ’63, Marion Ruth Weil, and Julie Bruner Whitten. Mary Brooks Roden (Evanston, Illinois) Since our 50th reunion, it’s been so nice to be in touch with the whole class. Thanks to Karen Diehl Merris and Marilynn Smith!

1965

Penelope Brewer (San Leandro, California) I enjoyed our 50th reunion immensely. It was wonderful to meet classmates—some not seen at prior reunions—and to hear life stories. The reunion events were fun and well coordinated—what we’ve come to expect from our alma mater! Bob and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in August. I hope to see the class of 1965 at our 55th reunion.

1966

Emily R. Gill (Peoria, Illinois) I retired from teaching political science at Bradley University after 30 years here. 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. Frieda Lee Schwartz (El Paso, Texas) Attending Scripps was a watershed event in my life. I shall be forever grateful for the love and learning I experienced there.

1967

Enid Obee Cocke (Manhattan, Kansas) My husband, Lew, and I are in the wonderful stage where we have the time, the means, and the good health to travel. Last spring we went on a cycling trip across Spain and Barcelona and saw Gaudi’s amazing architecture. This fall we cycled in the Italian Dolomites. Afterward we had a few days in Verona, from which we took a train to Padua to see Giotto’s Scrovegni Chapel. What a thrill that was thanks to my humanities classes at Scripps!

1968

Susan Mersereau (Seattle) I am still trying to balance priorities between grandchildren, watercolor, tennis, music, travel, and friends in my retirement. Work was much easier!

1969

Judith Davies (Santa Monica, California) We returned from a month in Havana in mid-January, and I am taking two workshops this semester—one in glass fusing and the other in bronze casting, so that I can get back into my own work again, possibly combining the two mediums. That’s my personal goal for 2016!

1971

Nancy Hay Carter (Portland, Oregon) Since our last reunion, I have wound down my public relations consulting practice. I never expected to maintain that business for 18 years, but I enjoyed the work and my clients so much that I just kept going! Now I’m trying to figure out what retirement means for me. I’ve bumped up my yoga classes to two times per week, added another book group, and increased the amount of travel with my husband and friends. Having shed a couple of nonprofit board responsibilities, I’m still trying to figure out a volunteer activity. Most important, I became a grandmother three years ago.
My daughter and her family moved back to Oregon from Colorado this year, and I love spending time with our granddaughter. Margaret Collins (Santa Cruz, California) I have adored retirement since 2010. I have had time to travel, to be more involved with a modern dance company whose board I serve on, and to learn to meditate and find some greater peace in life. Diana Ho (Los Angeles) Congratulations to our classmate Gayle Pope Morrison for receiving the well-deserved Distinguished Alumna of the Year Award! We mourn the loss of three classmates who were very much a part of our last reunion in 2011: Cynthia Malmstadt Bloomer, Mary Rule Dryden, and Stephanie Probst Rasines. These ladies each brought such special energy to our gathering and they will be missed! I very recently lost my mother, who lived a long and happy life and celebrated her 100th birthday in fine form, with many, many friends and family members. Her passing was as good as it gets, and I feel so fortunate to have such wonderful memories of our times together. She visited Scripps in the 1930s, fell in love with the campus, and always looked forward to her visits to Claremont. My granddaughter Aleena is five years old, and I share the exuberance toward grandparenting that so many others in our class have expressed. I do think about retiring, but my coaching and consulting projects continue to be interesting and energizing. I am doing more and more rabbinic/cantorial coaching and organizational development work with synagogues across the country. Two honors brought me back to campus recently: in 2014 I was recognized for my role as acting board chair for Challah for Hunger, a national organization founded at Scripps by Eli Winkelman ’07 that brings people together to bake and sell challah in an effort to raise money and awareness for social justice causes. In 2015, I was the Lois Langland Alumna-in-Residence and spent four days on campus interacting with students and other members of the College community as part of my offering “The Wish & The Way: Empowerment and Inspiration Through Life Planning.” Molly Hoffstetter Huffman (San Francisco) I will be in Austin in July having lunches with Patsy Goldman Tankersley and helping with my grandson, Henry, who will be two in June. I am not retired, and I am still the head of Children’s Day School in San Francisco—440 students, from preschool to grade eight. Joan Isaacs (Beverly Hills, California) Since our last reunion, I have continued to be involved in property management and running my small real estate investment company, which fortunately for me only requires my part-time attention. As a result, I have enormously enjoyed my “semi-retirement” and have used my time to fulfill a longstanding desire to take art classes and travel. On the travel front, in the last five years I have visited India, Berlin, Prague, Belgium, Paris, Italy, and France. I have also traveled to Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand (where I had the most delightful visit with Chutatip Umavijani), and China. Other trips have included Austin, Texas, where I had a great visit with Patsy Tankersley, and New York and Chicago with Beth Culp Johnson and great visits with Rebecca Sparks! It had always been a dream of mine to learn how to watercolor, and I am now taking weekly classes at the Brentwood Art Center with Cathy Gilson. In my spare time I try to stay fit with Pilates and dance classes. I still have a 22-year-old daughter living at home. I feel so fortunate to be able to travel, work out, and paint, and I feel so lucky to have all of you dear classmates in my life. Hannah-Beth Jackson (Santa Barbara, California) was included in the list “These 11 Women Are Blazing New Trails In American Politics,” published in the Huffington Post online in March. Beth Culp Johnson (Delta, British Columbia, Canada) During the last reunion, I was recovering from a life-threatening illness and couldn’t do much. I’m so looking forward to being energetic and engaged! I have effectively retired from my consulting business with municipalities and municipal entities, servicing just one client, the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia. Being retired has given me time to spend with our only grandchild, a two-year-old girl who is, as our daughter Adrienne euphemistically puts it, busy. She’s very verbal, and I just love crawling around on the floor.
with her, zooming her around in the air, and coloring with her and reading to her. And I thought I wouldn’t be that kind of grandma. I am breathtakingly smitten! Joanie Isaacs, Nancy Trimble Worthington, Rebecca Sparks, and I keep in touch; Joanie and I visited Rebecca in New York on one trip. The Three Ugly Suckers (Joanie, Nancy, and I) have traveled together and intend to keep doing so.

Suzy Lewis Marzalek (Santa Rosa, California) C. G. Jung: “Our life is like the course of the sun... The afternoon of life is just as full of meaning as the morning; only, its meaning and purpose are different... What youth found and must find outside, the [wo]man of life’s afternoon must find within [herself].” In my youth I enjoyed a successful business career in high tech, raising two daughters, world travel, a fast pace and high productivity. I brought that same youthful energy and drive with me when I retired a few years ago, serving on many nonprofit boards and commissions, exercising, being very scheduled and always busy. But now I am exploring the meaning and purpose of life’s afternoon. I have more time for solitude and reflection, a slower pace. I enjoy my husband and those friends who most nurture my soul. I focus on my philanthropy, I cook, practice yoga, read, and travel. I’m looking forward to hearing how others are navigating the afternoon, too.

Suzy Moser (San Marino, California) In keeping with our age and stage, I too have retired—no longer working full time at the Huntington Library—but I continue to consult, travel, and shape the next chapter. Both my parents died this past year. Commemorating and unraveling their lives has been a full-time labor of love. My daughter is now in college, but she’s definitely not gone. She comes home frequently in search of sleep, food, and money. She continues to be the joy of my life. Vicki Wilhelm Plavchak (Rancho Mirage, California) I’ve been living in Rancho Mirage off and on for the past five years, but now it is permanent. We sold our home in Manhattan Beach this summer, after 25 years of raising our daughter there and doing the everyday things that keep families busy. I retired from a surprisingly successful career in wealth management in Beverly Hills. Surprising, because I chose Scripps due to its no-math requirement in 1967, and even more surprising because I managed to succeed in an all-male environment. I will always be grateful for affirmative action. So, while my class achieved great things in arts and in education, I devoted myself to making rich people richer. Recently, my husband left to forge a new path, while my daughter returned home to regroup. The transition to retirement has been a bit rocky, as I have discovered that I have no hobbies, unless going to rock concerts counts. I did have the supreme pleasure of meeting Kris Kristofferson, which has been a life-long ambition of mine, after buying his album my senior year, then sneaking over to Honnold to read his thesis in the stacks. I’m attempting to learn bridge, grudgingly trying to exercise, and hoping something piques my interest. I just booked a cruise to Sicily at the suggestion of Molly Huffman. We had such a good time on the Scripps trip to Greece with our daughters, we have decided to become roommates on this adventure. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Cyndel Podich (San Jose, California) On the plus side: I have completed several major art pieces in both wood and steel, and recently I formed a partnership (with the man in my life, who is a yacht designer) to design Q and M Class modernized traditional boats. On the minus side: while working on a steel project, I had a significant injury, and I was lucky to escape with all my fingers and the use of my hand after a year of rehab. Caring for my mom, who is 90, takes up a large portion of my time, but we continue to enjoy cruising together at least once a year, and last summer traveled to Engers, Germany, to stay with relatives and experience the town where her father was born in 1900. So what’s this retirement thing? I’m looking forward to being even busier in the next five years.

Martha Reich (Santa Barbara, California) I’m leaving the Bay Area and moving again! Cary and I will be relocating to Santa Barbara soon. He has just retired after 40 years in the biotech field and we decided on Santa Barbara
mostly to be near our daughter, Jennifer, and family. They had three little ones, and then were surprised with twins, so they have five children under 10 years old! I’m still making lots of greeting cards, incorporating watercolor and my latest endeavor, botanical illustration.

Kathy Goodman Reynolds (Saint Leo, Florida) The last five years have gone by quickly. During some of that time my memory and sense of déjà vu were affected by a growth on my parathyroid, which has since been removed, improving my golf game and making me feel guilty about not creating enough art. I have been enjoying friends and family, traveling a little, and reading a lot.

Janet Redding Richardson (San Martin, California) Over the past five years I completed a long career in educational administration. I finished my career at a pre-kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school with a whole-child philosophy (read: humanities) in preparation for my grandparenthood. I retired last August and became a grandparent in January. Like so many of you who are already grandparents, I have fallen in love with this little guy. I so appreciate the advice and support of our class members who have helped me prepare for this new role. Retirement is new to me, but time to play tennis, walk, hike the Santa Cruz Mountains, and ride my aging dressage partner is a gift. My book club is in its 34th year and going strong. Our son Ross lives in Manhattan and works as research director for a hedge fund, using his theoretical math degrees from Harvey Mudd and doctorate in combinatorics from University of California, San Diego.

Chutatip Vadnasindhu Umavijani (Bangkok, Thailand) Five years ago I was completely retired from full-time teaching at 65 (at the moment there are some courses I am still teaching). Now I spend time swimming, practicing Qigong, and playing table tennis as well as taking watercolor painting, singing, and dancing classes. Time in Bangkok passes by so fast, as there are so many things to do. My daughter, Pissara, now spends most of her time in Paris; besides studying French, she is setting up a perfume company. My son, Tassapa, got his second master’s degree in military history and strategic studies from Reading University; his other degree is in ancient history from King’s College in London.

1972

Joane Baumer (Ventura, California) I retired as the chair of the department of family medicine at the JPS Health Network in Fort Worth. My home is in California now.

1977

Diana Crew (Denver) I am enjoying 60 with work, family, and friends. I feel fortunate to keep up with Scripps friends Cathy Blum, Cynthia Dellinger, Sacha Lord, and Sarah Stephenson, not to mention Cheryl Walker! Carolyn Nelson Lawson (Kennewick, Washington) I am still appreciating and using my lessons learned from Scripps and the Seattle University doctoral program. I stay very busy in retirement, mentoring refugee families through World Relief and enjoying community service with Kiwanis and Soroptimists. My term as president of the local branch of American Association of University Women begins in July. Living in Tri-Cities, Washington, is always interesting.

Kathy Ogren (Redlands, California) I was appointed provost at the University of Redlands in June 2015. I am also enjoying my four granddaughters.

1978

Laurel Bonham-Duvall (Portland, Connecticut) All is well in Connecticut—I love it here. I conduct programs for people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias. I am practicing my own art and music, too.
Carol Berry (Bellingham, Washington)  Visit browerandberry.com to see weaving, collage, and photography by my husband, Paul Brower, and me. We are celebrating our 35th wedding anniversary this year.

Kim Hoffman Chetney (Palm Springs, California)  Come visit Alaska at Viking Cove Guest Homes in Haines, Alaska. We are excited to open! Visit vikingcove.com, or find us on Facebook at the Viking Cove Homes page.

Alison Singh Gee (Los Angeles)  For four years during the mid-1980s at Scripps, Renee Katz and I lived a few hundred feet away from each other in different dorms. While we had a nodding acquaintance and a few friends in common, we never quite became close friends. So imagine our surprise when we discovered that, 30 years after graduation, we had both signed up for the same multi-city tour of China. This past summer we spent 12 astonishing days together (okay, so one of them was spent stranded in the Shanghai airport), during which our kids—her 11-year-old twin boys and my 13-year-old daughter—bonded over tennis, Netflix comedies, Mandarin, and scaling the Great Wall. Renee and I did a little bonding of our own, not only laughing at our inability to get all that far on a grueling stretch of the Great Wall (hey, don’t judge—it was a 60-degree vertical hike in 103-degree-Fahrenheit swelter), but also reminiscing over the Spanish-style campus of our college youth and our career and personal paths after that. I liked Renee at Scripps, but I came away from our China trip together knowing that I’d found a kindred spirit, a woman as formed by her years at college as I was. Ghislaine Goddard-La Porta (Orinda, California) I regularly get together with Ann Grantham-Frey to rehash/relive the old Dorsey/Allen House days!


Lynne Brodhead Clark (Los Angeles)  I joined Susan Eisman ’90 at her class reunion and loved visiting campus, seeing how it has grown (especially the art department), and catching up with old friends. I am showing some of my own work at the Annenberg Beach House in Santa Monica and finally have my website up—better late than never! Visit lynnebrodheadclark.com.

Doria Lavagnino (New York)  My partner and I have started a platform on financial literacy called centsai.com. Our goal is to empower people, especially girls, to make smart personal-finance choices.

Indira Odamten Martell (Washington, D.C.)  It is with a heavy heart I write to tell you that one of our own, McKenzie O’Neal, lost one of her own on February 23, 2016. McKenzie and Patrick’s three-year-old son, Jack Manoa O’Neal, has flown to heaven after a brave battle against cancer. In addition to his amazing parents, he leaves behind a baby brother, Kainoa, and countless others who love him. Jack was diagnosed shortly after our 15th reunion weekend last year. His middle name, Manoa, means “fearless,” and his ability to fight meant so much to all who knew him. Anna Nedelisky Zeman (Burlingame, California)  My husband, two sons, and I are loving life in Burlingame. We go for walks, short hikes, and spend lots of time at local parks. I am dividing my time between my private practice, working as a per diem psychologist on the adult inpatient psychiatry unit at Stanford Hospital, and teaching/supervising psychology practicum students at a nonprofit organization for homeless individuals and
Is keeping pets actually good for the pets themselves? That’s the question that animates bioethicist Jessica Pierce’s new book. A lover of pets herself, Pierce understands the joys they bring, but she also recognizes the ambiguous ethics at the heart of the relationship. Through a mix of personal stories, philosophical reflections, and scientifically informed analyses of animal behavior and natural history, she puts pet keeping to the test.

Published by the University of Chicago Press, May 6, 2016

AMY SILVERMAN ’88
My Heart Can’t Even Believe It:
A Story of Science, Love, and Down Syndrome

Journalist, blogger, and NPR contributor Amy Silverman examines her life before and after her daughter Sophie was born and reflects on her transformation into the mother of a daughter with Down syndrome and all that her new identity entails.

Published by Woodbine House, April 15, 2016

KARA PLATONI ’97
We Have the Technology:
How Biohackers, Foodies, Physicians, and Scientists Are Transforming Human Perception, One Sense at a Time

Examining the latest developments in the science of sensory perception, science writer Kara Platoni profiles researchers who are changing the way we experience the world, from creating scents that stimulate the memories of Alzheimer’s patients to constructing virtual limbs that approximate a sense of touch to building augmented reality labs that prepare soldiers for the battlefield.

Published by Basic Books, December 8, 2015
From the Scripps Association of Families and Parent Leadership Council Cochair
Cheryl and David Scheidemantle P’17

As parents, we are interested in exploring the technologies available to help maintain our connections with our daughter, Sara ’17, and the College community. While we were already aware of some of these tools, we learned more as we prepared this letter.

Have you ever wandered the Scripps campus, enjoying the warm Claremont air, eyeing the historic architecture, listening to the birds, and really getting why your student chose Scripps—but not quite sure how to find where you were going? We were relieved to find the helpful map on the Scripps app, available for both iPhone and Android.

Did you miss the latest Scripps student publication? Take a look at applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=scripps. For those interested in leadership at Scripps, the Laspa Center is now online at scrippscollege.edu/laspa.

For examples of ways to share your time, talent, or treasure at Scripps, check out scrippscollege.edu/engage. To help with our essential goal of fundraising participation by 100 percent of families, visit applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=scripps.

Follow SAF at Facebook.com/ScrippsCollegeAssociationOfFamilies; connect with other Scripps families on LinkedIn at Scripps College Association of Families; experience Scripps College campus life on Instagram via @ScrippsCollege; and receive updates by following Scripps College on Twitter via @scrippscollege.

The most exciting new resource is the Scripps Community Network. Launching this spring, the network is an online portal that connects parents, students, and alumnae. For years, Scripps students have asked for a way to link with parents and alumnae in specific fields and regions for the opportunity to seek career advice, attain internships, and secure jobs. The network will satisfy this demand and will also give parents and alumnae the chance to forge their own relationships, just as the SAF mission envisions.

Warm regards,

Cheryl and David Scheidemantle P’17
families. I feel so lucky to have a great family and the opportunity to do the work that I love.

2007

Emmeline Miles (Dallas) I published poetry in Pony Express(ions) and Confluence. I also released my first single, “Something More,” from my upcoming fourth studio album, which you can listen to at emmelinemusic.com. Pacifica Sommers (Boulder, Colorado) In January 2016, I completed my PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona. I am starting a postdoctoral research position based at University of Colorado, Boulder, studying the microbial ecology of Antarctic glacial holes.

2009

Amy Lieberman (New York) I’m still loving life in New York City after almost seven years here! I’ve been working at the Guttmacher Institute, a research/policy nonprofit focused on sexual and reproductive health, for the last two years, and I just started an exciting new position as communications associate for our domestic work. Denise Minton (New York) I received my PhD in pharmacology from Weill Cornell Medical College in May 2015. After taking some time off to travel in Colombia and South Africa, I started a postdoctoral fellowship at New York University’s Langone Medical Center, where I continue to do cancer research. The focus of my current work is to understand the nutrient demands of cancer cells for rapid proliferation in an effort to find new targets for cancer therapy. Ilona Zbirun Nockles (New York) I am finishing my second year of dental school this spring, and I’m about to start clinic full-time this summer. Brittany Nunnink (Winooski, Vermont) I am now the marketing manager of Mamava, a start-up that makes lactation pods for breastfeeding moms on the go. They are getting quickly picked up around the country, in places such as airports, stadiums, zoos, and hospitals. Emily Seaman (Boston) I just began my third year at the Steppingstone Foundation, a nonprofit that provides free college access programs to Boston families, and I am now managing Steppingstone’s communications team. In my spare time, I study graphic design, volunteer at the local animal shelter, and (finally!) take weekly dance classes again. I am hoping to visit Scripps—for the first time since graduation—later this year. Carey Wickham (South Pasadena, California) Last summer, I graduated from medical school in Washington, D.C., and moved back to Los Angeles to start my residency training in general surgery at the University of Southern California. It’s been an intense year, but I’m so happy to be back! It’s been wonderful to reconnect with my Scripps and 5C friends in the Los Angeles area.

2014

Jenn Livermore (Baltimore) While working at the Presidio Trust of San Francisco, I discovered my passion for typography and design, so I moved to Baltimore and enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program in graphic design at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

2015

Lucia Nunez (Arlington, Virginia) I am working in Washington, D.C., at the polling firm Brilliant Corners.
Remembrances

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

ROWS 1-2, FROM TOP LEFT
Helen Murphy ’42, Elizabeth Brooke Mordecai Wissler ’50, Joan Macdonough Evans ’45, Anita Denniston Basset ’46, and Barbara Turner Sachs ’58

1941

Dorthie Duda Hertzler, of Franklin, Michigan, on April 28, 2014. Dorthie was born in Kansas City, Kansas, and her family later settled in Omaha. Dorthie majored in art history and was very artistic. While raising her five children, she renovated a hundred-year-old farmhouse and later creatively transformed a small colonial into a contemporary home for her large family. She loved to garden and work in her greenhouse, was a wonderful cook, and designed and made numerous costumes for family as well as dresses for her very appreciative high-school-and college-age granddaughters. She was always full of ideas; her husband of 70 years, Jack, often and fondly referred to her as “the director.” Dorthie worked for many years as a volunteer in the surgical waiting room of Children’s Hospital of Michigan, comforting and supporting the families of pediatric patients. She was known for her generous, welcoming nature and kind heart. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1942

Helen Murphy, of Red Oak, Iowa, on January 21, 2016. Helen was born in Red Oak and attended Brownell Hall of Omaha (now Brownell-Talbot) before graduating from Scripps with a bachelor’s degree in English and French literatures. A trustee of Montgomery County Memorial Hospital in Red Oak since 1968, Helen served on the building committee for the new hospital, built in 1989. She was a founding member of the hospital auxiliary, a coordinator and buyer for the hospital’s gift shop for over 40 years, and began the Hospital Ball in 1966. She also actively supported
many civic organizations, including the Montgomery County YMCA, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Montgomery County Historical Society, and the Red Oak Community Playhouse. Helen enjoyed traveling and bridge, and she was also an avid tennis player who loved her yearly trips to Okoboji, Iowa, with her tennis friends in the summer. In addition to being a pivotal and dedicated member of her Red Oak community, Helen was supportive and connected to her alma mater. In 2007, she celebrated her 65th reunion with a gift to restore the class murals on the North Wall of the Rose Garden. A lover of literature and the Ella Strong Denison Library, Helen wanted to support the special collection at Scripps College. With the help of Judy Harvey Sahak ’64, director of the library and Sally Preston Swan Librarian, Helen hand-picked outstanding and rare books from her family’s extraordinary private library. Helen is survived by her sister-in-law, nieces, and great-nieces. She will be missed by all who knew her personally and many who knew only the impact of her generosity.

1944
Joyce Paul, of Long Beach, California, on February 4, 2015.

1945
Joan Macdonough Evans, of Kentfield, California, on January 4, 2016. Born in San Francisco, Joan grew up on the Ormondale Ranch, named for the family’s famous racehorse, Ormonde, and the colt he sired, Ormondale. Joan married her longtime beau, Evan Evans III, in Chicago, immediately after Evan completed his naval officer training. The couple moved to Berkeley, California, in 1946.
raise a family while Evan pursued his PhD. In 1969 the family moved to Kaneohe, Hawaii, where they lived until Joan and Evan retired to Kentfield in 1987. Joan was a realtor, a master gardener, an avid reader, and a volunteer for Head Start and the Girl Scouts. She had a dry, sharp wit and was a fierce domino player. She cherished the natural world, mosquitoes excepted. Joan is survived by her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1946

Anita Denniston Bassett, of Oakwood, Georgia, on February 26, 2016. Born in Los Angeles, Anita was an accomplished actress, musician, and artist all of her life. As a young girl, she acted in numerous plays at the Pasadena Playhouse in Southern California, including in the role of Juliet in Romeo and Juliet. At age 14, she had a part in the Mickey Rooney film Hoosier Schoolboy (1937). After graduating from Scripps, she entered the School of Music at the University of Michigan; she was the first woman to receive a master’s in musical composition there. During her time at Michigan, she met Leslie Bassett, her husband of 66 years. In addition to being a loving wife and mother, Anita was an actress, composer, piano accompanist, and church organist. Later in life Anita captured her experiences in her memoir The Composer’s Wife. She is survived by her two children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1950

Constantina “Dina” Skouras Oldknow, of Los Angeles, on October 28, 2014. Dina was born in Skourohorion, Greece. In 1928, Dina’s father moved his family to Athens, where he established himself as a pioneer of the Greek movie industry. Dina lived through World War II in Athens; her brother, Athanasios D. Skouras, was a leader in the Greek resistance movement until his arrest and execution by the Nazis in 1943. She immigrated to the United States aboard one of the first Liberty ships in 1946, arriving at the Beverly Hills home of her uncle. Dina graduated from Scripps, and soon after she married William “Bill” Henry Oldknow. Dina and Bill shared an adventurous life together, energetically involved for decades in numerous philanthropic and civic pursuits in Los Angeles. Dina was appointed to the national board of directors of the Greek Orthodox Ladies’ Philoptochos Society in 1977, and she served as the national president of Philoptochos from 1990 to 1994. During her presidency, the Children’s Medical Fund and the International Orthodox Christian Charities were launched. From 2007 to 2011, she was president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Philoptochos at Saint Sophia Cathedral, which was conceived and built by her uncle Charles Skouras in 1952. She is survived by her children and grandchildren.

Elizabeth Brooke Mordecai Wissler, of Madera, California, on January 15, 2016. Brooke spent many happy years at the family ranch in Madera both as a child and later in life, when she and her husband returned to live there. An adventurous spirit, Brooke traveled extensively after college, journeying across parts of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa by jeep and living and working in Paris. During the late 1950s, she returned to California, where she met the love of her life, career navy officer John G. Wissler. Brooke and John married in 1957 and, as John’s military career advanced, they spent the next two decades raising their four children, moving up and down the East and West Coasts and abroad. During the early 1980s,
Brooke and John settled in Madera, renewing old friendships, making new ones, and becoming active in both the Madera and Fresno communities. Brooke’s associations over the years included the Madera County Historical Society, the Fresno Art Museum, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, PEO, Monday Study Club, La Feliz Guild, the San Joaquin River Parkway, and Town Hall. Following her family’s tradition, she remained a steadfast supporter of Madera’s Trinity Episcopal Church. Brooke is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

1956
Anne Bullock Baldry, of Sacramento, California, on January 15, 2016. Anne was raised in Pasadena, California, and attended Polytechnic High School. She relocated to San Francisco briefly after college, eventually marrying Richard Baldry and relocating to Sacramento. Anne was known for her elegance and beauty as well as her devilish wit. She adored time with her family, as well as tennis, swimming, and golf, and believed that she owed her longevity to a strict regimen of Chardonnay, Godiva chocolate, and Ben and Jerry’s. Anne was a member of the Sacramento Junior League, the Sacramento Opera Association, and the Del Paso Country Club, and she volunteered for the Channel 6 Auction and the Washington Neighborhood Center. Of all her accomplishments, she said that her greatest achievements were her children. She is survived by her children and grandchildren.

1958
Barbara Turner Sachs, of Santa Barbara, California, in February 2016. Born in Chicago, Barbara grew up in Los Angeles. After graduating from Scripps and raising her three sons, she worked for many years as a television and film executive at ABC and Paramount Pictures. She also coedited The Artists’ and Writers’ Cookbook (1961), still a favorite among cookbook collectors, and wrote the Jazz Age novel The Rainbow Box (1984). After moving from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara in the late 1980s, she taught writing at Santa Barbara Community College. She later turned her home into a classroom, continuing her instruction surrounded by devoted students. She was involved in many social justice causes; she served on the board of the Casa de la Raza, was an advocate and fundraiser, and was active in the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration, which this year was dedicated in her honor. She also joined the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, where she found like-minded and lifelong friends. She moved to the Vista del Monte retirement community in 2015, where she became known as the “little person with the BIG personality,” and, with a friend, spearheaded the annual employee gift fund to raise $90,000 for staff and their families as a last act of generosity. In her own words, “I’ve loved the world, and what I wish for you is peace. Simply peace.” She is survived by her two sons and daughter-in-law.

1980
Ann Kington Friedland, of San Mateo, California, on October 26, 2015.

1987
Barbara LeBuhn, of River Forest, Illinois, on June 28, 2015. Barbara was born in Evanston, Illinois, where she attended New Trier High School. After attending Scripps, she graduated from DePaul University with a degree in business and from Northwestern University with a master’s degree in education. Barbara thoroughly enjoyed her career with Houghton Mifflin’s college textbooks division. Throughout her life, she was a wonderful daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mother, and friend. She is survived by her husband and son.
California Senator Barbara Boxer has represented both Congress and the Senate for the past 33 years. As a ranking member of the Environment and Public Works, Ethics, and Senate Foreign Relations Committees, she has championed environmental protection and women’s issues on the global stage. In her memoir, The Art of the Tough, she takes us from her childhood in Brooklyn to the often vexing political playing field in Washington, all the while underscoring her longstanding personal mantra: never compromise about doing the right thing. Boxer visits Scripps to share her story on the eve of her retirement from a lifetime in public service.
Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, June 16, 7pm

LEVITT ON THE LAWN

The Railsplitters

Adventurous, eclectic, and genre defying, the Railsplitters are reshaping Americana music for the 21st century. The Boulder, Colorado-based quintet’s unconventional bluegrass, with its amalgamation of exquisite instrumentation, trip-hop, and even electronica, has seduced audiences and critics alike, taking first place in the RockyGrass Best New Band Competition. They bring their lively tunes to Bowling Green for a summer show.
Back in the early 1960s, Scripps did not offer courses in science and math. The concentration at the College was the humanities and arts. I was somewhat of a renegade and chose a math major, which I was able to pursue because of the collaboration of The Claremont Colleges. Save for one class, a tutorial at Scripps, all of the coursework for my major took place at Pomona and Harvey Mudd Colleges. Scripps served me well for life by teaching me how to learn, write, and research.

Way back in those “prehistoric” times, the only computer class available at The Claremont Colleges was the lab associated with a numerical analysis class. The computer was a Bendix G-15 and filled the classroom. The only language the computer understood was machine code.

Shortly after graduation, I married and soon had two children. After the birth of my second daughter, we moved to Tallahassee, Florida, where my husband, a biochemist, had a position in the chemistry department at Florida State University. He would do an experiment one day and spend the rest of the week on a calculator evaluating the results. He convinced me to write a program to codify his experiments and run it on the big university computer.

By the time I was ready to join the workforce, we had moved to Coral Gables, Florida. I realized that a computer programmer made much more money than a math teacher, so my direction was set. My first job was at the Papanicolaou Cancer Research Center. The upside of working at the “Pap” was that I could have 20-hour weeks and could take time off for teacher workdays and sick children.

When the children hit junior-high age, I moved jobs to a medical device firm. Being in on the beginning of the computer revolution had many advantages, the main one being there were no glass ceilings in the field. I kept to the scientific side and had a successful career.

No matter what field young scholars wish to pursue, I would strongly recommend that they get their feet wet in the computer field. Authors will need word-processing skills, lawyers will need the skills to research and write cases, and artists will benefit from knowing how to inventory their work, set up invoicing, and develop promotional websites.

My daughters both had good jobs working in the computer field, and I am now retired and enjoy teaching my grandchildren the fundamentals behind their digital devices.
Get Connected, Stay Connected.

The Scripps Community Network

GOING LIVE SOON! The Scripps Community Network for alumnae, students, and families is a new space on the Scripps College website where you can:

- **NETWORK**
  - with fellow professionals

- **CONNECT**
  - with Scripps community members

- **MENTOR**
  - Scripps students and recent graduates

- **REUNITE**
  - with classmates

Registration and login information for alumnae, students, and families will be available later this spring.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumnae and Parent Engagement and The Scripps Fund at (909) 607-1542 or apesf@scrippscollege.edu.