



Thoughts from the Director



Dr. Cynthia
Wagner Weick

Since its advent in 2009, the Powell Scholars Program has evolved into a community of multi-talented, committed individuals with high expectations

of themselves and others. While various program elements have helped bind the community together – guest speakers and musicians, seminars, luncheons, formal and informal events, and our interview process - the *major projects* we have undertaken are arguably most central to our identity. These projects demonstrate the power of inter-disciplinarity, originality, overcoming challenges through the interplay of different opinions, and intrinsic engagement. Common principles guide the choice of projects and the manner in which teams undertake them. However, the focus of each is unique.

In our first major project, we developed an original curriculum to teach English as a foreign language to school children in Dimen, China. The materials used were tailored to the culture and surroundings in the village. The book incorporates



Powell Scholars teaching in
Dimen, China

phrases related to their home and work life, animals and landmarks. The children can now introduce themselves and their village in English to visitors. The three-year effort culminated in a peer-reviewed article on the project and its approach to education in the journal *Honors in Practice*.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nchchip/243/>.

The Verdevis project, which spanned two years, required a different set of skills. We began with the open ended challenge of creating a way for a local Food Bank to grow vegetables in the winter. We ended up with a novel, low cost and energy efficient system for cultivating microgreens. The system not only helped the Food Bank, but is serving as an educational tool at middle and high schools in Calaveras County, and will soon be placed in Stockton's Children's Museum.



Powell Scholars presenting the
Verdevis system to Toyon Middle
School students.

A website developed by a Powell Scholar, <http://verdevis.org/> provides information on how to make and use the system, and offers a related downloadable book.

The next project, *Leadership Refocused*, is well underway. It takes a unique approach to surfacing fresh insight into a topic seminal to the Powell Scholars Program: leadership. Over the past five months, the

students have crafted an accessible on-line venue where people can share answers to a set of thought-provoking questions. The output will be posted to a searchable, public database with dynamic graphical representations. The initial respondents are current Powell Scholars and alumni of the program. Bolder plans include distributing the questionnaire more widely, so others will have the opportunity to help enlighten, change, and reframe the ways we view leadership.



Leadership Refocused Core Team
discussing the project at the annual
luncheon hosted by the President.

Still another project is in the early planning phase. A core team of Powell Scholars is brainstorming ideas for crafting a collaborative work of fiction that will be submitted to a national competition. Each author will contribute a short story tied to a common underlying theme.

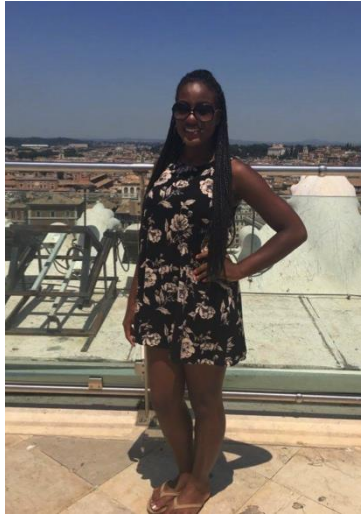
Who knows what's next. It is clear, however, that these initiatives ensure the Powell Scholars community has a dynamic and progressive future. To paraphrase Jean Paul Sartre – the existentialist philosopher who also recognized the value of projects – we must continue to invent our paths, individually and collectively.

Adventures Abroad

Ashley Abraham
studied abroad in
Antigua, Guatemala
in Summer, 2016.



*Ashley in Antigua,
Guatemala (above)*



Neriah in Rome, Italy (above)

Neriah Howard
studied abroad
in **Viterbo, Italy**
in Summer,
2016.

Noelle Tutunjian
studied abroad in
Vienna, Austria in
Spring, 2016.



*Noelle at the Brandenburg Gate
in Berlin, Germany (above)*

Powell Scholars Alumni Event

In October of 2016, Callison Hall was home to the first alumni event to celebrate the Powell Scholars Program and our benefactors, Robert and Jeannette Powell. Since 2009 about 100 students have benefitted from the program. Nearly seventy Powell Scholar alumni and current students participated in the lively celebration. Alumni joined us from eight different states, and travelled from as far as Finland.



*Participants at the
first Powell Scholar
Alumni event*



Student Profiles



Ashley Abraham
Junior; Bioengineering

Ashley studied abroad in Guatemala through Pacific's summer immersion course. She has pursued research projects with Dr. Tara Thiemann of Pacific's biology department, as well as with CREST (Clinical Research on Emergency Services and Treatment), a research division of Kaiser

Permanente. She has presented her research at the Pacific Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference (PURCC), and co-authored an article accepted by the *Permanente Journal*. She is a freshman Student Advisor, and a Resident Assistant. Ashley is a member of the honor societies Phi Kappa Phi and Tau Beta Pi.



Mina Afnan
Sophomore; Biological Science

Mina is working closely with Drs. Joan and Geoff Lin-Cereghino on a research project focused on the yeast, *Pichia pastoris*. She is also assisting economics faculty with a study on child malnutrition in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. She serves as a Biology Supplemental Instructor, and is the Philanthropy Chair of her Pre-

Health Fraternity, Delta Epsilon Mu. She is co-activities coordinator for Tri-Beta, the Biology Honor Society. Mina also serves as a mentor for the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program in Manteca.



Courtney Banh
Junior; Computer Science

An active member of the Verdevis Core Team since January 2015, Courtney helped invent and implement the intensive system for growing microgreens. She presented the system to the Calaveras Food Bank as well as to Toyon Middle School students. Courtney also joined the Powell Scholars as they toured

Singularity University. In summer, 2016, she worked on an indie film set in Sacramento, serving as an assistant to the department head for the movie. Courtney is on the Dean's Honor Roll in the School of Engineering and Computer Science. In Spring, 2017 she is undertaking her co-op at Intel.



Sabrina Boggs
Sophomore; Music Performance: Violin

Sabrina nominated Vijay Gupta to be the Powell Scholar's guest speaker for Fall 2016, and spearheaded the event. She created the website dedicated to the Verdevis Project. She is President of Pacific Loves Animals, Treasurer of Conservatory Student Senate, and Community Service Honors Peer for the Freshman Honor's Program.

Sabrina has completed community service at a variety of locations including the Stockton Shelter for the Homeless, Stockton Animal Shelter, and Valley Oak SPCA. She teaches violin and piano, and has performed with Stockton's Friends of Chamber Music.



Andrew Lu
Sophomore; Music Performance: Flute

Andrew plays flute in Pacific's Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. Over the past two summers he worked with Palo Alto-based youth theatre company, A Theatre Near U, to put on two original musical productions. Andrew is crafting a project to produce a musical theatre work on campus. In addition to

performing, Andrew is an avid composer and orchestrator, and has produced several songs and classical works. He gained international exposure by traveling abroad to Japan and Taiwan. Andrew has earned honors from Pi Kappa Lambda, the honors society for musicians.



Connor Morales
Senior; Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering

Connor is working on an original research project titled "Bathymetric sensing of wetlands from UAV," with Dr. Elizabeth Basha. He has served as webmaster for the Powell Scholars Program for three years, and redesigned the website to be more informative and easier to navigate. He

is the technical advisor for the ongoing Powell project, *Leadership Refocused*, and is in charge of the database, website and dynamic graphical interface. Connor served as a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Rahim Khoie's courses, Circuits and Electronics. He completed his co-op at SanDisk, where he performed characterization on device ASICs.

Vijay Gupta



Vijay Gupta speaking at Faye Spanos Hall

On November 3, 2016, the Powell Scholars hosted LA Philharmonic violinist Vijay Gupta as their annual speaker. Gupta played his violin and discussed his work with homeless people in Los Angeles. He inspired the audience to use their gifts and skills to benefit others. Gupta also delivered a master class at Pacific's

Conservatory of Music, and shared dinner with the Powell Scholars.

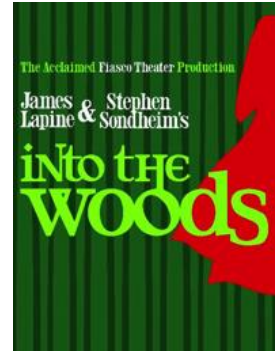
Vijay Gupta teaching a master class with Pacific students, including Powell Scholar Sabrina Boggs



Save the Dates!

March 25, 2017

Golden Gate Theater
San Francisco



April 8, 2017

Sound Maze
Mondavi Center
Davis



Singularity

A group of Powell Scholars and other guests visited Singularity University in the Bay Area in Fall, 2016. The University, founded by Google executive and futurist, Ray Kurzweil, focuses on leading edge technology that will radically transform our world. The Scholars were invited to visit Singularity by Pacific alumna Venilde Jeronimo.



Powell Scholars tour Singularity University

Gil Dellinger

Nationally known *plein aire* artist, Gil Dellinger, joined the Powell Scholars for an informal lunch in Spring, 2016. Dellinger, an emeritus professor at Pacific, was joined by art professors Lucinda and Dan Kasser. Dellinger now lives and paints in Laguna Beach, California.



*Gil Dellinger speaking with the Powell Scholars
Left to right: Lucinda Kasser, Dan Kasser, Gil Dellinger (and Buster)*



Newsletter designed and authored by Alison Kobayashi
a_kobayashi1@u.pacific.edu

