Thoughts from the Director

The Powell Scholar Senior Capstone Retreat was held at Bear Valley Lodge right before the spring semester started. The snow pack was light, but the warm and sunny weather, the trails that were open, and good instructors made for excellent conditions for learning how to downhill ski. Our major reason for the retreat, however, was to give the students who met as freshmen in fall 2010 a chance to reflect on what it means to be a Powell Scholar, on what we’ve learned about leadership, and to share their next steps once they graduate from Pacific. The way the seniors described the program was downright inspiring. They value the way the program encourages intrinsic interest in broadening themselves intellectually and internationally. They mentioned how much they enjoy the cultural events we attend each semester, and how they view the nine dimensions not as requirements, but as a roadmap of opportunities, which leads to fostering the “Renaissance people” Powell Scholars become. Each student reflected back on the leadership portraits they crafted as freshmen. All had not only pursued leadership experiences in various venues and forms, but showed strong and concrete insight into how their approach to leadership has changed and been strengthened over the years. Learning about their varied plans for the future was energizing, and I look forward to seeing how each of our seniors continues to evolve.

2014 Dimen Project Team Selected

Since summer, 2012 the Powell Scholars have conducted a unique study in the small, rural village of Dimen, China. Dimen is located in Southwest China and its inhabitants are primarily members of the Dong ethnic minority. The Dong are one of 56 ethnic groups recognized by the People’s Republic of China. Their culture is characterized by an agrarian livelihood. Tourists from throughout the world come to Dimen to learn about village life and particularly their special way of singing. Small groups of Powell Scholars travel to Dimen each summer to teach the villagers basic English. The original curriculum revolves around village life and aims to allow students to communicate with tourists. After a successful pilot study in the summer of 2013, a new China team has been selected for the trip in May 2014. We are also pleased that Regent Dianne Philibosian and her husband Tom Seifert will join us this year!

2014 Powell Scholars Dimen Team
• Jackson Campbell: (Junior) Biology
• Lindsey Cunningham: (Junior) Education and Math
• Jennifer Iverson: (Freshman) Education
• Alison Kobayashi: (Junior) Athletic Training
• Colleen Motoyasu: (Freshman) Bioengineering
• Katie Teague: (Junior) Environmental Science

Speaking of bright futures, you might be interested in where the students who graduated as Powell Scholars last year are now. There’s an update at the end of the newsletter. Thank you, seniors, for reminding all of us what a Powell Scholar is. And thanks to all of our freshmen, sophomore and junior Powell Scholars, who individually and collectively continue to make our program exceptional.
Adventures Abroad

Students aspire to enrich their undergraduate experience by studying abroad in different countries. Lindsey Cunningham and Selena Kaffer both took advantage of the support offered to Powell Scholars to study abroad.

Lindsey Cunningham spent her 2013 spring semester in Italy, studying at the American University of Rome, with the goal of gaining insight into the Italian culture. She was also able to acquire a deep understanding about a different culture that she hopes to incorporate in her future career as an elementary school teacher.

Selena Kaffer traveled to Istanbul, Turkey during the summer of 2013, where she studied at the Boğaziçi University. Selena took classes on the History of the Modern Middle East, studied Elementary Turkish for Foreigners, and learned about Art and Architecture of Historical Capitals. She hopes to utilize her engineering degree internationally in the future.

NEW! Powell Master Classes

Thanks to the efforts of Megan Deino, Selena Kaffer and Siena Gerbert, Powell Scholar Master Classes were offered for the first time in fall, 2013. The Powell Scholars have a wide variety of talents and interests, which they can share with their colleagues through these classes.

Sam Costigan (Mechanical Engineering major) hosted the first Master Class. He explained and demonstrated the basic techniques of meditation. Meditation is useful for relaxing the body and mind and decreasing stress and anxiety.

Paige Law, (Conservatory major) hosted the second Master Class. In this class, Powell Scholars practiced origami, which is the ancient Japanese art of paper folding. Students learned how to create beautiful shapes – cranes, butterflies and flowers - using nothing more than sheets of colored paper.

Additional classes are being planned for the upcoming semester.
Student Profiles

Lindsey Cunningham
Junior; Education and Math major
Lindsey Cunningham took part in the first study trip to Dimen, China, and is excited to be returning this summer in 2014. She also studied abroad for a semester in Rome, Italy. Her academic honors include the Pine Tree, which is awarded to Tri Delta sorority members whose GPA is over 3.5. She is also a member of the Order of Omega, which is a Greek honors society.

Michael Feliz
Junior; Computer Engineering major
Michael Feliz was a member of the team that tested the original curriculum in Dimen, China in summer of 2013. Together with Sam Costigan, Michael also developed a prototype touch table top computer for use in Callison Hall. He is researching control systems and sensors, and has had internships with both Adobe and Synopsys. He has received academic honors, including Phi Kappa Phi and Tau Beta Pi.

Ricky Estrada
Sophomore; Applied Mathematics major
Ricky Estrada assisted in developing the radio station KGUA in summer 2013. KGUA brings news to the community in Spanish and English. He assists in Saturday Partners in Education and also volunteers at a local Stockton Homeless shelter. He was honored by his fraternity with the award for the earning the highest GPA for a new member.

Katie Teague
Junior; Environmental Science major
Katie Teague is currently president of Pacific Geocentric Society and Vice-President of Sigma Gamma Epsilon (Pacific’s Professional Earth & Environmental Science Fraternity). She received a research fellowship for summer 2013, and presented her results at the Geological Society of America’s annual conference in Denver, CO. Katie won the 2013 Delbert H. Brown award for academic excellence in the Earth & Environmental Sciences department, and also received the 2013 Jerrold L. McNey Sigma Gamma Epsilon Fellowship.

Sarah Anne Wong
Senior; Biology and Pre-Dentistry major
Sarah Anne Wong participated in the Bay Area Chapter Meeting of the Neuroscience, had a poster presentation at the Bay Area Neuroscience Gathering, and attended the Society for Neuroscience’s National Conference. She earned the Goldwater Fellowship, and has co-authored two scientific publications. Sarah participated in the study in Dimen, China in summer of 2013, and also travelled to Guatemala for intensive Spanish language immersion. Sarah has been inducted into both Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honors societies.

Shelly Zeiser
Senior; Music Therapy major
Shelly Zeiser is Vice President of Campus Affairs for Alpha Phi, as well as an Executive Board member for the Center for Community Involvement. She is also President of the Pacific Stocktones, an a cappella ensemble at the University. Shelly studied abroad in Jamaica in summer of 2013, and while there worked in a school for children with disabilities, a homeless shelter and a geriatric facility. She also took part in the Dimen, China study in both 2012 and 2013. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Kappa Lambda honors societies.
Following their Passions: Powell Scholars Graduating Class of 2013

Chris Buller: Attending the School of Engineering and Computer Science blended masters program

Carolyn Dozza: Engineer at PMC-Sierra, Sunnyvale CA

Alexis DuClos: Operations Coordinator at Youth Venture, Ashoka

Alex Edfort: Pursuing professional golf, and is also a golf assistant, Neshanic Valley Golf Course in New Jersey

Collin Grant: Attending law school at UCLA

Jillian Hall: Pursuing a masters degree in speech, language pathology at San Diego State

Brianna Juhrend: Pursuing a masters degree in civil engineering at University of Michigan

Andrew Mendoza: Business Analyst at Cisco, and pursuing a masters degree in Data Analytics from Northwestern University

Genevieve Murphy: Student Teacher, Music, Martin Luther King Elementary School, Stockton, CA

Nadia Shaheen: Will enter the DDS program at USCF in fall 2014 and is currently a Research Assistant in the biology lab of Drs. Geoff and Joan Lin-Cereghino

Alicia Still: General Education Instructor, San Joaquin Valley College in Modesto

Ann Tran: English teacher in Viet Nam this spring, and will enter law school in fall, 2014. She has been accepted at several universities, including Georgetown, Davis, UCI, McGeorge, Duke, University of Michigan and NYU

Scott Tyler: Finishing his masters degree in the School of Engineering and Computer Science blended program, and has already accepted a position at Edwards Life Sciences in Irvine, CA, where he just completed his co-op

Newsletter designed and authored by Alison Kobayashi
alisonkoby@gmail.com

Hold the Date!
April 2, 2014

Photographer Brandon Stanton, author of the best-selling book, Humans of New York, is being honored with the Powell Emerging Leader Award

Organizing team: Celja Uebel, Connor Morales, and Noelle Tutunjian

Open to the public on 4/2/14!
Talk: 6:00 pm, Long Theater

Create this human pyramid, but upside down...