

NAPIER  
INITIATIVE



# NAPIER AWARDS FOR CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

## **TENTH ANNUAL BANQUET**

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

PILGRIM PLACE, CLAREMONT, CA

### **— FEATURED SPEAKER —**

ERIC BENJAMINS

2016 NAPIER AWARDEE

"RABIES VACCINE DEVELOPMENT IN BOTSWANA:  
HOW THE NAPIER EXPERIENCE STAYS WITH YOU."

social justice  
care of the earth  
global peace



# NAPIER AWARDS BANQUET PROGRAM

*Music and Song by Pilgrim Pickers*

Welcome and Invocation

**Ronald Bolding**  
CEO, Pilgrim Place

*Dinner*

Introductions

**Barbara Troxell**  
Chair, Napier Initiative Council

Recognition of Key Partners

**Victoria Valvo Shea**  
Chair, Napier Financial Resources Committee

*Move to Decker, Music and Song by Pilgrim Pickers*

Presentation of Napier Medal to Professor Jerry Irish

**Professor Zayn Kassam  
and David Mann**

*Video Celebrating 10 years - Some Early Awardees*

Introduction of Speaker

**Professor Larry Grill**  
Dean of Research, Keck Graduate Institute

Keynote Speaker

**Eric Benjamins**  
2016 Napier Awardee  
Vaccine Development, University of Botswana

Introduction of 2020 Napier Fellows and  
presentation of Napier Certificate and book

**Joan Stock, Ward McAfee**  
Co-Chairs, Mentoring Committee  
**Joanna Dewey, David Lull, Gale Yee**  
Co-Chairs, Selection Committee

Presentation of \$15,000 Napier Awards  
for Creative Leadership & Response by Awardees

**Barbara Troxell**  
Chair, Napier Initiative Council

*Concluding Music and Song by Pilgrim Pickers*

# THE NAPIER INITIATIVE

The Napier Initiative, part of the life of the Pilgrim Place community in partnership with The Claremont Colleges, works to recognize, encourage, and support students from the five Claremont Colleges who demonstrate promise in creative leadership to advance social justice, sustainable care of the earth, and global peace.

## The Napier Awards for Creative Leadership

Each of the five Claremont Colleges nominates up to three seniors who have demonstrated outstanding leadership promise in one or more of the three areas of the Napier Initiative's focus. Applicants propose a hands-on project they would like to carry out within the year after graduation, partnering with an existing group from the context in which they wish to work, either in the U.S. or abroad. The Napier Fellows are offered an opportunity for mentoring by residents of Pilgrim Place who have life experience in working for social justice, sustainable care of the earth, and/or global peace. Under the auspices of the Napier Council, two Fellows are awarded grants of \$15,000 each year to carry out their projects.

## The Napier Courses

At the invitation of the five undergraduate Claremont Colleges' faculty, the Napier Initiative has stimulated intergenerational learning in five college courses. Elder participants are co-learners with the undergraduates, participating fully in the academic course work, thus creating a rich intergenerational dynamic that enlivens both students and elders. Over the last ten years, more than 160 elders have been enrolled in these Napier courses.

- i. Religion, Ethics and Social Practice at Pomona College is taught by Professor Zayn Kassam and David Mann, a Pilgrim Place Resident.
- ii. HIV/AIDS: Science, Society, and Service at Harvey Mudd College is taught by Professor Karl Haushalter and covers the science and social impact of the disease.
- iii. Professor Susan Castagnetto of Scripps College teaches Feminism and Science and Gender, Crime and Punishment in alternate years. In the first course, the impact of cultural and political values on the practice of science is considered and in the second, students explore crime and punishment through the lens of gender.
- iv. Scripps College Professor Nancy Neiman teaches Political Economy of Food, which focuses on the social, racial and gendered power relationships that impact the production, distribution and consumption of food in the U.S. and the world.

The Napier Initiative has received invaluable counsel and encouragement from our **Claremont Colleges Advisory Board** of faculty members and administrators designated by each of the five colleges. These Board members advise us in program development, screen applications for the Napier Awards, choose nominees to be forwarded to Pilgrim Place, and identify students for the Napier courses.

Overall responsibility for the program lies with the **Napier Initiative Council**, made up of Pilgrim Place residents and administrators, college faculty members, and representatives from the wider Claremont community.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

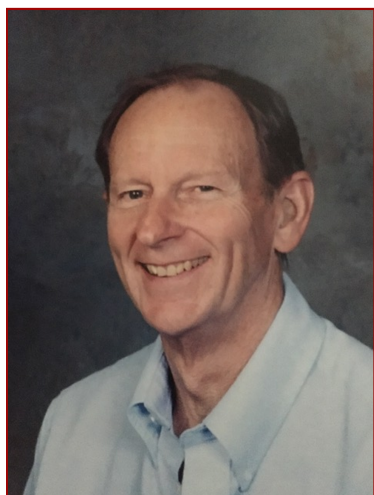
### Eric Benjamins

2016 Napier Award Winner  
Vaccine Development, University of Botswana

Eric's Napier Award project entailed traveling to Botswana for 8 months to continue working on a rabies vaccine development project he started at Pitzer. He was a member of Dr. Larry Grill's Keck Graduate Institute lab that partners with the University of Botswana to produce less expensive vaccines than are currently available to support global health. In addition to gathering data on rabies vaccine candidates, Eric assisted in instructing over 100 students in molecular biology techniques, collaborated on thesis projects, created outreach material for the Ramotswa Youth Clinic, and co-founded the University of Botswana Molecular Biology Club. After returning from his Napier Award trip in 2016, Eric enrolled in the two year Master of Business and Science program at Keck Graduate Institute in Claremont, California. During his time there, Eric remained active in the service community through fundraising projects with American Cancer Society and a secondary school in Burkina Faso. After graduating in 2019, Eric took a position in operations strategy at Amgen, a large biotechnology company in Thousand Oaks, California. He hopes to take what he is learning in his current role back to the non-profit sector. The title of his presentation tonight is "How the Napier Experience Stays with You."



## 2020 NAPIER MEDAL - PROFESSOR JERRY IRISH



Jerry Irish's early teaching was at Stanford in religious studies, where he was a close friend and colleague of Davie and Joy Napier. After stints at Wichita State University and Kenyon College, Jerry was hired to become Dean of Faculty at Pomona College in 1986, after which he became a fulltime professor in the Dept. of Religious Studies. Jerry has received the Wig Award for excellence in teaching 3 times, as voted by students.

In 2012 Jerry agreed to launch the first Napier Intergenerational course through redesigning his "Religion, Ethics, and Social Practice" class of 15 years. He also created a new concept for a Napier Community Educator, and invited David Mann to fill that role, co-instructing the class. Then after three years of this partnership, Jerry recruited Professor Zayn Kassam to take on his faculty role in the class, which

has now been offered 7 times. Over 120 undergraduate "idealists" and 60 "elders" have shared this transformational journey. Young and old report a deepening ethics and expanded social practice, towards a more peaceful and just world. Jerry has been a key advocate for Napier Courses at the five undergraduate colleges, which have now grown to four additional courses.



# WHO MAKES IT HAPPEN ?

## **Napier Initiative Council 2019-20**

Joanna Dewey, Janet Evans (administrator), Paula Goldsmid (vice-chair), Brenda Hill, Paula Hui, Richard Johnson, Mary Kraus, David Lull, David Mann ( vice-chair), Ward McAfee, David Menefee-Libey, Arnaldo Rodriguez, Victoria Shea, Jil Stark, Joan Stock, Barbara Troxell (chair), Joyce Yarborough. Ex-officio: Sue Castagnetto, Karl Haushalter, Zayn Kassam, Nancy Neiman

## **Financial Resources Committee**

Rose Ash, Janet Evans, Philip McKean, Shelly Randles, Arnaldo Rodriguez, Victoria Shea (chair), Joyce Yarborough

## **Mentoring Team**

Bill Dodge, Paula Goldsmid, Mark and Mary Johnson, Mary Kraus, Cheryl and Jacek Kugler, Kay Kukowski, Rich Lumma, David Lutz, Ward McAfee (co-chair), Deborah and Philip McKean, Beryl and Stan Moore, Arnaldo Rodriguez, Joan Stock (co-chair), Ann Marie Sullivan, Barbara Troxell, Michael Witmer

## **Selection Committee**

Joanna Dewey, David Lull and Gale Yee (co-chairs).

## **Selection Panels**

Donna Ambrogi, Chris Caenepeel, Jane Douglass (panel chair), Bob Fukada, Clara Soto Ivey, LaVerne Kroehler, Elizabeth Moore, Bear Ride (panel chair), Steve Smith (panel chair), Sally Timmel, Dick Tipping, Teresa Wilson

## **Public Relations Committee**

Janet Evans, Richard Johnson, and Joyce Yarborough

## **Claremont Colleges Advisory Board**

Sefa Aina, Jennifer Armstrong, Mita Banerjee, Sue Castagnetto, Chris Clark, Brian Davidson, Gabriela Gamiz, Sandy Hamilton, Karl Haushalter (ex-officio), Zayn Kassam (ex-officio), April Mayes, David Menefee-Libey (ex-officio), Nancy Neiman (ex-officio), Jose Ramirez, Emily Wiley, Talithia Williams

## **Napier Courses Professors**

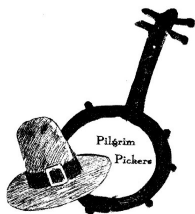
Prof. Sue Castagnetto (Intercollegiate Center for Feminist Studies), Prof. Karl Haushalter (Harvey Mudd College), Prof. Zayn Kassam (Pomona College), Prof. Nancy Neiman (Scripps College)

## **Other Important People**

At Pilgrim Place: Gene Boutilier, Ron Evans, Jeanette and James Miura, Ted Morales, Phil Mount, Jennifer Tones, Rory Sheehan, Sights and Sounds volunteers, Pilgrim Place Dining Services, Buildings and Grounds, and Housekeeping staff members, Pilgrim Pickers, Fabrications, Unidine Dining staff: Mark Claiborne, Chef Chris Hsieh

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banquet program.



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## PAST NAPIER AWARD RECIPIENTS

One of the special joys of Pilgrim Place residents has been to watch the first 21 recipients of the Napier Awards as they capably carried out their planned projects. For each of them, the stipend attached to the award played an important role in moving the project forward.

### **2011: Takako Mino, East Africa**

Takako traveled in five East African countries working with teachers and students to develop a Public Debate Program that helps young people learn the skills they need to become engaged citizens of their nations. This program continues.



### **2011: Jacob Cohen, New Orleans, LA**

In New Orleans, Jacob worked for four years with the isolated Vietnamese American community to improve public school education and to empower youth for constructive social change. The program continues.

### **2012: Celia Neustadt, Baltimore, MD**

Celia developed the Inner Harbor Project in Baltimore, a program giving teens responsibility for helping to reduce the risky behavior of their peers. Their success has created a more welcoming response from local shopkeepers and police in the Inner Harbor area. The teens also train police in non-confrontational interaction with youth. This program continues.

### **2012: Courtney Miller, Peru**

Courtney worked on a clean water project in Puno in the mountains of Peru, laying the groundwork for the development of a small factory to produce ceramic water filters from local clay for the use of communities in the area.



### **2013: Rachel Conrad, Ecuador**

Rachel collaborates with Acción Ecológicas in Quito, on a socio-economic and ecological analysis of the Dulcepamba watershed. Her work informs the development of a just and sustainable water management plan, and she remains engaged in this continuing program.

### **2013: Caitlin Watkins, Claremont, CA**

At Crossroads, a residential program for women released from prison, Caitlin started a social enterprise called "Fallen Fruit from Rising Women". The project creates quality food products from donated produce and fosters job-related skills to provide ongoing employment. This program continues.

### **2014: Marcela Jones, Ontario, CA**

At a community garden in Ontario, Marcela established a literacy program for children who came to the garden site with their parents. Classes for 46 children, ages 2-12, included reading groups, story time, and hands-on activities.

### **2014: Karen Castro-Ayala, Pasco, WA**

Just days after graduation, Karen was in Pasco planting tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelon, and other crops with families in the local Latino community. Her project invited middle and high school students and their families to focus on Food Justice while improving critical thinking and reading skills.

## PAST NAPIER AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2014: Sharon Jan and Bianca Shiu, California College Campuses

Sharon and Bianca created 3W (Weekly Writing Workshop) to empower underachieving children by enhancing their writing skills under the guidance of a college student tutor. The success of the program at Pomona College led Sharon and Bianca to expand the program to other colleges, and it has continued.

### 2015: Hong Deng Gao, Pomona, CA

Hong's project, "Health Bridges" at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, uses bilingual volunteers from The Claremont Colleges to assist patients who do not speak English in navigating the hospital system and obtaining the health resources for which they are eligible. Her project is ongoing.



### 2015: Joyce Nimocks, Chicago, IL

Joyce created a series of workshops for Black women on the south side of Chicago to teach them to make sustainable cosmetics from easily available non-toxic ingredients, thus avoiding the use of potentially carcinogenic cosmetics to alter skin tone and hair texture. With a Watson Fellowship, she continued to hold workshops overseas in South Africa and Morocco.

### 2015: Jacob Shimkus, Marshall Islands

Jacob led a team of students at the College of the Marshall Islands to use an environmental education curriculum with middle and high school youth throughout the Marshall Islands, where climate adaptation is crucial to the nation's future. He is organizing a 2020 conference for high school students living on the islands.

### 2016: Eric Benjamins, Botswana

Eric worked at the University of Botswana in Gaborone, helping to develop a rabies vaccine which will be cheaper and easier to produce, store, and transport. He and his colleagues genetically modify the Tobacco Mosaic Virus to make it mimic the rabies virus in mammalian immune systems. This program continues.



### 2016: Melissa Krassenstein, South Africa

In Cape Town, Melissa used film to document the success of the Ottery Youth Care Center, where the principles of restorative justice produced strikingly lower recidivism rates among incarcerated young boys. Her film has been used to encourage widespread use of these principles and practices for youthful offenders both in South Africa and in California.

### 2017: Tiffany Ortamond, British Columbia

Tiffany worked with the Tia'amin First Nations tribe to create and implement a water-quality testing program to empower local tribe members to address pollution and environmental justice.

### 2017: Java Jivika Rajani, United Arab Emirates and India

In both Dubai and Puma, Jivika conducted workshops for high school students who are learning the principles of social entrepreneurship and design thinking. Students have developed projects for local implementation, thus empowering them to continue to act for social justice.

## PAST NAPIER AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2018: Teofanny Octavia Saragi, Oakland, CA

Working with Cambodian families of deportees in Oakland, Teofanny recorded their stories in documentary-style film vignettes to feature community care and refugee resilience. Teo showed these films widely to spark critical conversation around immigration and human rights.

### 2018: Jasmine Shirey, Zimbabwe

Partnering with the Trans-African Hydro-Meteorological Observatory, Jasmine piloted a program for girls' STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) clubs across Zimbabwe. With Jasmine, the STEM students installed and maintained weather stations in schools and passed along data collected to farmers.



### 2019: Alejandro Guerrero, Pomona, CA

In collaboration with *Gente Organizada*, a grassroots non-profit organization for intergenerational community engagement, Alejandro has expanded the work of *Voces de Cambio*, a multi-media oral history project that empowers youth to discover the history and culture of their own neighborhoods by interviewing neighbors who are agents of change in Pomona, California.

### 2019: Sophie Roe, Pomona, CA

Sophie recognized the enormous need for employment services for homeless persons in the city of Pomona. She started Pomona Employment Partners (PEP), a student volunteer program, to connect and support homeless persons in moving towards employment. As a 2019 Napier Initiative awardee, Sophie has sustained PEP's structure within the 5 Claremont Colleges and greatly expanded employment services for the homeless.

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# NAPIER FELLOWS 2020



## **SOPHIE BASSECHES - Pitzer College**

Concerned about the large number of girls considered at-risk victims of neglect and abuse in Israel, Sophie hopes to implement a project that explores the root causes of violence against young women of all backgrounds. She will partner with The Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village, that currently houses girls who have been victims of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Sophie intends to see how the regional political situation relates to problems that exist for young women and to work towards productive solutions, hopefully through a large conference that addresses these issues. *Mentors: Mark & Mary Johnson*

## **M. CARLA CONDORI BAZAN - Pitzer College**

Through her collaboration in the development of the Claremont Colleges Immigrant Rights Coalition and her international awareness, Carla proposes to create women's cooperatives for sorority, alternative economics, fair trade, and community healing within the immigrant and undocumented community in Mexico City. Carla's goal is to develop at least two migrant women cooperatives and safe spaces for healing in Mexico City. She intends to partner with a professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico who will help her meet diverse feminist cooperatives, collectives, and shelters. *Mentor: Michael Witmer*



## **ALEJANDRA DAVILA - Pomona College**

Through her internship and involvement with San Bernardino Generation Now, a nonprofit that aims to increase civic engagement in the city of San Bernardino, CA, Alejandra founded Young Queens in Politics (YQP) as a two weeks after-school program for high school femme-identifying students interested in politics. She proposes to sustain YQP for a full academic year, implementing it in two high schools in her hometown of San Bernardino with the goals of educating, engaging, and empowering its students. Alejandra is strongly partnered with San Bernardino Generation Now. *Mentor: Rich Lumma*

## **OLIVIA IRWIN - Pomona College**

As a Native Alaskan student with a strong relationship with the Cultural Fish Camp of Nenana, Alaska, Olivia proposes to support and sustain Fish Camp by expanding the Native arts program, by ensuring the stability and safety of the physical camp through necessary rebuilding, and by expanding the language program. Olivia focuses the ultimate goal of her project as sharing the traditional wisdom of the ancestors and empowering the relationship between students and their culture. She is partnered with the Nenana Cultural Camp staff. *Mentors: Phil & Deborah McKean*



# NAPIER FELLOWS 2020

## **NIREL JONESMITCHELL - Claremont McKenna College**

While on a study tour in Cuba, Nirel's meeting with ReglaSOUL, a grassroots organization providing holistic wellness resources to Afro-Cuban persons, led her to propose a project to provide sustaining material resources for the residents of Regla and to facilitate international collaboration towards better wellness of black people around the world. Within ReglaSOUL, Nirel also intends to plan and implement an educational conference on black liberation with many dimensions. Nirel is partnered with ReglaSOUL in the municipality of Regla, Havana, Cuba. *Mentor: Bill Dodge*



## **SOPHIA KNOWLTON-LATKIN - Scripps College**

Sophia proposes to create educational workshops on reproductive health and menstruation for students in an indigenous school within an evacuation center in Manila, the Philippines. Sophia's partner organization of indigenous women, Sabokahan, wants to revitalize their holistic health program to include these workshops, which will subsequently be taught to indigenous community members and future generations. Sophia also is partnered with the Liyang Network, a local-to-global advocacy network supporting the work of indigenous women in the Southern Philippines. *Mentor: Kay Kukowski*

## **SAHANA MEHTA - Scripps College**

As a South Asian American young woman with strong knowledge of the struggles of South Asian American youth, Sahana proposes to develop, launch, and grow a new initiative: the South Asian Youth Action Network (SAYAN). Through SAYAN, South Asian American youth would hope to mobilize intentionally around political advocacy, community organizing, and solidarity building for social justice for their international community. Sahana is partnering with a nonprofit movement organization, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). *Mentors: Beryl and Stan Moore*



## **MICAH SALLUS - Pitzer College**

While participating in the Pitzer in Nepal program Micah learned that suicide is a massive problem in Nepal. With a strong background in mental health issues, Micah proposes to develop a major conference in Nepal where medical professionals, staff of NGOs, and patients struggling with suicide would come together to communicate ways of addressing this major problem. The conference hopefully would be long enough so that partnerships across diverse groups could develop. To accomplish the conference, Micah intends to partner with several NGOs based in Nepal. *Mentor: David Lutz*



# NAPIER FELLOWS 2020



## **TANVI SHAH - Scripps College**

Aware of the high number of pregnancy-related deaths in India, Navi proposes to work in Bihar province which has among the highest rates of maternal, neonatal, and infant mortality. Through interviews, she intends to identify barriers that prevent women from accessing reproductive health care resources; and to investigate the integration of traditional indigenous medical knowledge with allopathic/non-traditional practices to observe where these models intersect. She is partnering with Bihar Technical Support Programme, a CARE-India initiative, to participate in the effort to expand reproductive healthcare. *Mentor: Arnaldo Rodriguez*

## **ANITA SHENOI - Claremont McKenna College**

Having had a summer internship with Claremont Canopy, a local refugee resettlement organization, Anita proposes to address the dichotomy between anticipated and actual situations experienced by resettled Syrian families in the Inland Empire. Through interviewing these persons and documenting their stories, Anita intends to help give interviewed individuals more agency over their resettlement journeys. In partnership with Claremont Canopy, she intends to develop a comprehensive orientation program to provide an honest, accurate briefing on sociocultural factors in the Inland Empire. *Mentors: Cheryl and Jacek Kugler*



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**NAPIER INITIATIVE AWARDS BANQUET**

**MARCH 28, 2020**

# THE LEGACY OF DAVIE AND JOY NAPIER



## THE LEGACY OF DAVIE AND JOY NAPIER

Davie Napier was known throughout the United States as a remarkable teacher of the Hebrew Scriptures and a prophetic preacher. From Yale University to Stanford University and then to Pacific School of Religion, Davie and Joy were deeply influential teachers and mentors to legions of students, drawing them into the struggles against racial discrimination, poverty, war, and environmental degradation. The Napier Initiative honors their memory by continuing their work of nurturing young people into lives of creative justice work.



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**NAPIER INITIATIVE AWARDS BANQUET**

**MARCH 28, 2020**



## NAPIER INITIATIVE



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# NAPIER INITIATIVE



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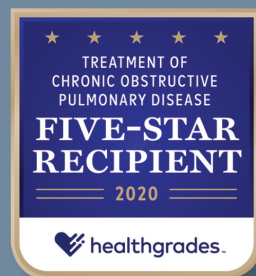
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# NOTES



# NOTES

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