



## Palmer Society Alumnae Award First New Scholarships

### *Congratulation Elle Foran '11 and Gaby Gutierrez '12*

The Palmer Society Alumnae are pleased to announce that we have awarded our first ever Palmer Society Alumnae Scholarships this February 17, 2011. The Winter 2011 award winners are Elspeth Foran '11 and Gabriela Gutierrez '12. Both Palmer sisters have distinguished themselves among their peers in their stewardship and leadership within our Society and the Whittier College community. We are proud to honor their service and accomplishments with this inaugural award.

The Palmer Society Alumnae Scholarship is a merit based award given to a currently active Palmer Society member in good standing who models the values of the Palmer Society as stated in our Mission and Values Statement. This new scholarship was established in 2009 and is the inspiration of Palmer Sister and Whittier College Trustee, Barbara (Ondrasik) Groce '57. With her husband David, Barbara will match all donations to the Scholarship up to \$20,000 to initiate this worthy effort. The overall goal is to make this an endowed scholarship by June 2014, for which the Palmer Society community and friends must raise a total of \$50,000.

The newly formed Palmer Alumnae Leadership Council has identified making this dream a reality as

one of its primary goals and they welcome all support and volunteers. Together with the Barbara and David Groce, the group is very pleased to have been able to make an award so soon after the inception of this effort and especially in 2011, the 90th anniversary year of the Palmer Society's founding. Thank you to all who have been a part of this effort so far and most of all, congratulations to our most worthy scholarship recipients, Miss Elle Foran and Miss Gabriela Gutierrez.

#### **Meet Elspeth "Elle" Foran**

Elle is from Rockford, Illinois and originally aspired to be a ballerina. A torn meniscus disk dashed those dreams and focused her on academics with sites on college in California. Elle was finalist in Miss Illinois Teen USA, and in the top 15 for the National American Miss Teen Illinois State Competition. She came to Whittier College on the John Greenleaf Whittier Scholarship and while here, she explored Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Gender and Women's Studies, but fell in love with Neuroscience. She hopes to attend medical school and continue this love. Elle will graduate in May with a major in Psychology and minors in Religious Studies and Gender & Women's Studies. At WC, Elle has also been in Cheerleading Club, Brain Awareness Week Planning Committee, Students for Community Medicine, as well as a member of the Psi Chi-Psychology Honor Society, and the Senior Class Gift Committee. Elspeth pursued an

ambitious neuroscience research program and has presented posters and papers at various conferences in Southern California. Elspeth's senior thesis paper was nominated for the Psi Chi Annual Review publication. Elle was recently honored by the Psychology Department as Outstanding Student in Academics at the Whittier College Spring 2011 Honors Convocation.

#### **Meet Gabriela "Gaby" Gutierrez**

Gaby was born in Arequipa, Peru where she lived for 12 years before coming to California with her family. Having lived in a Spanish speaking country, Gaby characterizes her transition to a new school as very difficult, especially because of the language barrier. She feels that the support that she received from her parents helped her succeed in middle school and high school. In high school, Gaby finally felt proficient in English and she was able to take the challenging AP classes, which helped prepare her for Whittier College. As a freshman, Gaby utilized the liberal education classes to discover what interested her the most. She found her passion in Cellular and Molecular Biology class and this prompted a switch from a major in Business to one in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. Gabriela Gutierrez is now a third year student at Whittier College who will be graduating in 2012. Progressing through her studies and volunteering in a hospital helped Gaby realize that she wanted to pursue an education in the medical field. Her current internship has provided her with hands-on experience with patients, and has strengthen Gaby's resolve to pursue a pre-med curriculum with the goal of attending medical school.

*Continued on page 2*

## Fifteen New Members Complete New Pledging Program

The Palmer Society is pleased to announce that 15 young women have completed the newly reformulated New Member Education Program. This year's pledge class calls themselves "15K Diamonds" and they come from as close as Whittier and as far as Kingston, Jamaica. The program was completed under the direction of Elle Foran '11 and took place during the Spring semester from February 4 to March 12.

The Palmer Society received approval to hold their New Member Education program during the Spring Semester as a part of the new Whittier College academic calendar. The new academic calendar provided substantial cost savings to the college while allowing a new opportunity add an intensive May term. Many colleges and universities have intensive short-term sessions throughout their calendar year, which vary in length from 2-4 weeks; many in fact utilize the 3 week model. WC adopted the interim model between the Christmas break and Spring semester in the 1980s to give students a chance to take experimental courses, often off campus, and not tied to any particular class schedule. The Societies' pledging programs moved to the January period from a semester model

during the 1980s as well. Overtime, the session has become a popular time to do field work, short internships, intensive laboratory classes, and short study-abroad programs. While the plan is to have all societies eventually return their pledging programs to the Spring semester, during this first year, societies were allowed to chose between having pledging during January or to move to it to Spring. The Palmer Society decided to move pledging to take advantage of the opportunity to pace New Member Education over 36 days compared to the previous 19 days, thus providing an environment more conducive to the goals of the Society for our pledging program. It will also encourage more off-campus study and internship experiences for January. Franklins, Orthogonians, and Sachsens also held their pledging programs during the spring this year.

Our newest Palmer Girls are Imelda Castro '13, Rebecca Cruces '14, Lizeth Felix '13, Sarah Kator '13, Melissa Lam '12, Nancy Mercado '13, Noelle Navarro '12, Mirta Ortiz '14, Samantha Quintanar '13, Krizia Rocha '14, Kenya Sanchez '14, Hannah Schaffer '14, Cristian Sepulveda '13, Kallia Wade '12, Carlyn Werderman '12. Congratulations to all our new sisters, the actives, and the pledge mistress.

# Whittier Weekend 2011 — October 21-23

## Save the date! Palmer Society 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The Palmer Society is celebrating a lot in 2011, including the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding. In Spring 1921, a group of women gathered to start a literary society and honored a pioneer in women's education, Alice Freeman Palmer, by adopting her name. This clever endeavor is something Palmer actives and alumnae are each working hard to celebrate this coming Fall, during the annual Whittier Weekend, from October 21-23. We hope all our sisters will show their Palmer Pride and make a special effort to gather their classmates and come home to the Poet Campus for a full weekend of activities and sisterhood around this special Anniversary event.

### Open House – Fri. 10/21

The Palmer Alumnae Leadership Council will be hosting an Open House during the early Friday evening hours at the home of '02 graduates Alyssa (Kahler) and Aaron Ellis in Uptown Whittier. A perfect meeting point for Palmer sisters and their guests, this casual event is a great opportunity to enjoy a warm and friendly atmosphere of conversation, refreshments and reconnecting on your way into town or as a start to a memorable evening. Plus, if you've been wondering what those busy Palmer actives and alumnae have been up to lately, here is the place to find out! The start time is TBA. Ellis Home: 12361 Penn St. Whittier, 90602. Alyssa can be reached at (562) 277-3221.

### Anniversary Brunch – Sat. 10/22

The highlight of the weekend for the Palmer Society is sure to be our annual brunch celebration sponsored by the actives. Palmer Actives have a very special morning brunch planned this year, themed "Diamond Girls are a Palmer Girl's Best Friend." As strong contenders in the All-Society Alumni Participation challenge, Palmer actives and alumnae are each hoping for a lovely view from the President's Wardman House back lawn for this anniversary event, so stay tuned for the final location announcement on July 1.

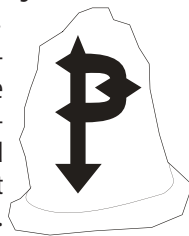
In the meantime, our actives are really excited to be able to spend quality time with our alumnae sisters. As a part of our plans, we do want a bit of your help. The actives are creating a slide show and would like to refresh the offerings by collecting some new pictures of our sisters from all different years. If you have Palmer pictures you would like to share for the slide show, please do send them. Homecoming chair, Wendy Barrios says, "We are also interested in favorite songs for the sound track. Send your pictures by the method easiest for you; if you prefer US mail, let us know if you'd like your photos back and of course, we'll take very good care of them." Pictures can be sent to Wendy Barrios, 10538 Pescadero Ave., South Gate, CA. 90280 or wbarrio1@poets.whittier.edu. For additional information, call Wendy at (323) 854-3187

### No-host Social Hour – Sat. 10/22 - tentatively

In a break from past habits, the Palmer Alumnae are looking into finding an Uptown location for a no-host social hour as a meet up point following the game and prior to the reunion gatherings and Casino Night. "We feel it would be nice to have a friendly location where alumni can socialize comfortably and congregate before their evenings begins" said alumna Harmony Valuet '04. "Casino Night is a great activity," says Jessica Robledo '05, "it would be a lot of fun if we can all meet up beforehand."

As these plans come together, we'll be sure to post them on the Palmer web page and on our Palmer Facebook page. All these details for our complete Whittier Weekend 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be included in your homecoming invitations, to be mailed in early September too.

If you would like to volunteer to help make the Palmer 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special during Whittier Weekend 2011, please e-mail us at thepalmersociety@yahoo.com.



## Palmer Alumnae Plan Summer Tea

### Sunday, June 26 – 2 p.m.

### Villalobos Hall

The Alumnae Leadership Council is planning a lovely afternoon tea in June in celebration of our new scholarship. We feel an event like this is the perfect opportunity for Palmers to take a time out to make new acquaintances as well as renewing continuing friendships when campus is quieter and our active sisters are on break.

This will be the second year the Palmer Alumnae have hosted a summer tea. Last year's July event was well attended with 40 members. Those attending took time to share memories of what Palmers has taught us, demonstrating that our shared values and traditions are truly meaningful and transcend generations of Palmer Girls. The event also launched the Leadership Council, a new alumnae group with the goal of building community and networking opportunities. One of the council's projects is to build support for the Alumnae Scholarship; we feel that this event will serve all of these goals and give us a chance to celebrate our first award. This year's event in June is hopefully scheduled before too many get into their busy summer schedules, a sentiment many expressed last year when responding with their regrets.

Alumnae have expressed a desire to have opportunities outside of homecoming to reconnect. We hope the Palmer Scholarship Tea becomes an event that our members look forward to during summers. This Tea will be held on Sunday, June 26 at 2 p.m. in Villalobos Hall on the WC Campus. We will be serving low tea. Gloves and hats are optional. Cost of the event is \$15. To RSVP, e-mail thepalmersociety@yahoo.com. Send checks payable to "Whittier College" to Sandra Johnson, 13950 Glenn Dr., Whittier CA 90605 by 6/14/11. Please put "Palmer Scholarship Tea" in the memo line. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Palmer Alumnae Scholarship.

## Meet our Scholarship Recipients *From page 1*

### Elle on receiving the Scholarship

It means so much to be one of the first recipients of the Palmer Alumnae Scholarship. Not only does it help my family with some of the tuition costs, but it also means that I represent Palmers to the best of my ability. After pledging Palmers I knew that I would become a leader in the group. As pledge captain, I help my pledge sisters stick together during pledging and take in all the Palmer traditions being taught. As an active, I strived to maintain the high ideals of Palmers, service to sisterhood and scholarship being my main endeavors. As Pledge Mistress this year, my goal was to bring in a wonderful group of young women to enhance the Palmers and to capitalize on our Palmer values. I'm so please to represent the one of the first Palmer Actives to receive this honor, and I want to thank all of the alumnae for all of their support throughout my active Palmer years and especially throughout pledging this year.

### Gaby on receiving the Scholarship

Being one of the recipients of the first Palmer Scholarship was truly an honor for me. I have been a Palmer for over a year now, and I think it was one of the best decisions I have made. I received everything I was promised and more: amazing sisters, life-long friendships, the opportunity to help others through community service, and important values such as sisterhood and loyalty. Now apart from everything we receive for becoming Palmers, we also have the opportunity to be recognized and awarded a scholarship for representing what our Society stands for. This recognition can only help and motivate Palmers to keep doing a great job of modeling the values of our society. I am very grateful to the Palmer Society Alumnae for this scholarship and for the future opportunities that my sisters will have to be rewarded for their outstanding commitment and for representing the values of our Society.

## Erika Perez '12 — My Study Abroad

I studied abroad in Denmark this past fall 2010 and I give some credit to my Palmer sisters for my successful departure, stay and return. Studying abroad had not been a priority when I thought of my college career, but peers and mentors encouraged me with stories of their experiences. I talked to Palmers who had gone to Europe and got useful advice from them. While I was in Denmark, I was glad to have been forewarned of watching out for all the bikes thanks to Miss Ellen Anderson, who unfortunately did not have the same precautions and ended up getting hurt by a bike. Once past all the technicalities of having the right charger and enough toothpaste, I also had to face the change in lifestyle and missing those in California. My Palmer sisters were always keeping me updated with e-mails, tagging me in Facebook pictures of events where I would have been present, and even telling prospective Palmers about me so that while I missed them very much, I also felt included. I biked to where the Baltic Sea and the North Sea meet and clash in Denmark; witnessed a live anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction and a live open-heart pig operation in Sweden and Estonia, respectively; climbed to the Acropolis/Parthenon in Greece; and found the statue of the Fallen Angel in Spain with new found Italian friends. I had a blast and took countless pictures, always thinking of how I would share them with my sisters. Although they were unable to send their care package to me while I was abroad, I was moved when I received it upon my arrival. I had an easy transition back to the Palmer Society and California, and one of the reasons was the support and excitement my Palmer sisters exhibited. I am happy to be back, share my experiences and continue to make more memories with my Palmer sisters.

*Erika Perez is a junior from Bell, California and a part of the Whittier Scholars Program. She is focusing on a Pre-med curriculum with an interest in neuroscience and minor in Spanish. Erika has served as editor of the Quaker Campus. In addition to Erika, Palmer sisters Maria Pizana '12 and Dannea Crespo '11 also studied abroad during the January Interim this year; both studied in Spain.*



### Are you on Facebook?

The Palmer Society now posts news from its own Facebook page. If you have an account too, be sure to "Like" us to help stay up to date with the latest news with postings showing up in your feed.

## Help the Palmer Society win The All-Society Alumni Challenge!

### What is it?

President Herzberger has issued a challenge to all societies in order to improve the alumni giving rate at Whittier College. All gifts given between 7/1/10-6/30/11 will be counted.

### What does the Palmer Society win?

- The President's House as our location for the upcoming Homecoming Brunch. Wouldn't it be great to have our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the President's House?
- The Palmer Actives will win \$1,000 and we all know, they sure can use that!

### Bonus

Your contribution can help build The Palmer Alumnae Scholarship Fund— a great way for us to establish our legacy of excellence and sisterhood at WC. And have we our first awards! Congratulations to Elle Foran and Gaby Gutierrez on earning the first Palmer Alumnae Scholarships.

### The Best Part

This isn't about how much; *this is about how many Palmers who are willing to give just a little to Whittier College.* Any amount counts but to show our Palmer Pride, may we recommend:

- \$15 in honor of the 15 K Diamonds Pledge Class
- \$19.21 for the year Palmers was founded & our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As of May 2, The Ionians are in first place, leaping over both Palmers and Lancers with 32.7%; The Palmers now have 30.4% and have edged out the Lancers who are now in 3rd places with 29.6%.

We only need 16 Palmer alumnae to give any of the above amounts or more to increase our participation rate to 33% and if 58 Palmer alumnae help out, we would improve that lead to 40%. We can do this!

## A Palmer's "Recipe for Saltfish" recognized at Spring Honors Convocation

Palmer member Kallia Wade '12 received the Newsom Creative Writing Award top prize in fiction for her short story, "Recipe for Saltfish" at Whittier College's annual Spring Honors Convocation on April 8. The story was chosen from a group of stories submitted annually to the fiction and poetry writing competition on campus and is chosen by a panel of judges and the English Department. Kallia says, "I'm an English major, however, I like writing critical pieces and I don't think of myself as very creative. I decided to take an advanced fiction writing class to see how I would do. My professor encouraged me to integrate my Jamaican culture into my stories."

This story is written as a recipe; it's actually the Jamaican national dish, Ackee and Saltfish. The story unfolds between the cooking directions and combines what's happening in the plot into the instructions. Told in the first person, the story is about a mother-daughter relationship and the turmoil that arises when a new person, the mother's love interest, enters the household. Set in Jamaica, it focuses on how the daughter grows up and how her relationship changes with her mother after she is raped.

The story will be published in the Whittier College Annual Literature Review, sponsored by the college's Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society chapter. Fitting since this chapter calls itself the Jessamyn West Chapter, for a fellow Poet and

a founding member of the Palmer Society. Kallia is considering entering the piece into a national story competition with the help of her professor. In addition to majoring in English, Kallia is also a Child Development major, a resident advisor, and member of the Black Student Union, Organization Mondiale pour L'Education Presolaire, and P.A.R.I.V.A.R.

The Convocation is a part of WC's annual Family Weekend and includes a formal processional, student speakers, choir performance, and faculty in full academic regalia. During this event, academic achievement, service, and leadership are recognized. Several awards are handed out to students for outstanding scholarly performance at the ceremony.

Kallia wasn't the only Palmer to be honored for her achievement. Stephanie Hui '11 was doubly honored for Outstanding Research in Child Development and Outstanding Student in Psychology: Service Category. Stephanie is president of Psi Chi- Psychology National Honor Society and recently presented her work with two other students, "Conformity in Racial, Religious, Homophobic, and Gender Prejudices: Perceptions versus the Real Deal" at the Society for Research on Adolescence in Philadelphia this past February. Elle Foran '11, our Palmer Alumnae Scholarship Award recipient, was also recognized as Outstanding Student in Psychology: Academics.

# 21st Century Palmer Girls

In 1921 the Palmer Society formed to create a female literary group. Back then, the Society focused on the literary review, performing plays, and holding welcome teas for new members. As interests expanded to include more social activities, the group reorganized in 1923 and again in 1928, eventually becoming a social society with a focus on scholarship and service. Well into a new century and as strong as ever, some may wonder what life is like for Palmer Girls today.

Before the fall semester begins, society leaders attend the Intersociety Council (ISC) Retreat, hosted by the Office of Student Affairs. Members move in early and hold sessions on leadership, yearly goal setting, and new member recruiting. Current Palmer president Marisol Haro '11 notes, "It give us a chance to get focused and organized before classes begin. It is really nice to get to know the leaders from the other societies and have a chance to work together. I believe it opens a lot of doors for interactions." Marisol goes on, "By the time we have the Student Activities Fair in the first week, I feel like we are really ready to introduce the Palmer Society. I appreciate how the retreat has helped me to be a more effective leader." Those at the retreat volunteer during orientation, particularly with "Move-in Day," a great way to meet new students.

And where do the Palmers live? Many are commuters, living with their families but the members also have their own community in the Harris Residence Hall Complex. "We have

an entire secured floor to ourselves, so the common space is ours to hang out in," says Maria Pizana '12, "It's fun to come home after classes and have my sisters around. Sometimes we cook dinner." Haro says, "It is a lot of fun. We decorate the area with our banners and event boards. We have Open House there and it gives potential members a chance to see where we live." Fall '10 President, Tammy Miyata says, "I like it because it supplies a place for all Palmers to congregate and relax." Palmers have a reputation as good citizens for the community. Pizana goes on, "Every year we review with housing why we want the space and it's good; it makes us think about what we want out of our experience. We talk about the responsibilities of living together and problem solving, and it renews our commitment to being good members of our campus community."

The Fall semester remains busy for Palmers, with Whittier Weekend (Homecoming), Open House and Rush. Palmers have an extended recruitment plan that they execute over the semester, with regular sisterhood breaks and outings for potential new sisters; they also host "Un-rush", a less formal but very fun off campus activity for recruits. The results show too, 2007-2011 recruiting is up 12% from 2002-2006 and up 34% compared to 25 years ago (1982-1986).

And what about pledging? New Member Education has moved to Spring this year (see p. 1) and is now extended. Haro says, "It was different, juggling spring classes and pledging at

the same time and trying to manage our time." Long time Faculty Advisor Dr. Mike McBride has stated that he is impressed with the program pledge mistress Elle Foran '11 put together with the actives. Foran writes, "I felt really supported by our (alumnae) sponsors (Aimee Grove '09 and Jenny Smith '07) and by Andre (Coleman, Associate Dean of Students) throughout the process." Fall '10 V.P. Donna Orozco '12 adds, "Andre is always open to hear what societies have to say about events and fundraising (too). I know he has looked into fundraising activities for us and has helped set that up."

Service and scholarship are important too; each member commits to 5 h/ semester of service as a part of her mission for Palmers and as a member of the ISC community. This includes, among many activities, taking part in Shelter's Right Hand 5k Fitness Walk which supports victims of domestic abuse, and Helping Hands Day. Scholarship comes in at the Center for Academic Advising and Success (CAAS). Pizana calls it "Palmer Central" because so many sisters work and/or study there. CAAS offers many services such as mentoring, writing assistance, and tutoring as needed. Pizana elaborates, "Being able to work there as an academic coach or tutor really helps student retention, especially with our freshmen. It also helps develop our leadership skills."

One thing that continues is the social fun. Many of the same stags that were popular before, such as the "5P," are still held and the "Annual Spring Picnic" remains a must. The Little Brother program is still strong and every semester, the "Misses" plan Sisterhood

Week and a retreat. With the help of funding from ASWC, '80s P.O.P. (Palmer – Orthogonian- Party), held for the entire Campus, is now in its 3rd year. They also continue to meet for Rock Lunch— a weekly highlight. This along with spontaneous moments that come from being together allow for many great memories. Memories are shared and passed on especially at the annual send off for graduates, Senior Farewell.

Today's active Palmer Girls are very similar to their sisters who preceded them. They still enjoys many of the same social opportunities that were time-honored events decades ago. Activities and projects fill their calendars, much like they filled the date books of the women in whose footsteps they follow. These and future Palmer Sisters are sure to grow to value the friendship, loyalty, service, and scholarship that are the cornerstones of our society. Miyata says, "I am proud to be a Palmer on campus because of what we are known for and also what we stand for as a whole." Most of all, as we share our life's events, we will do so with fond memories of our Society and true and loyal support of loving sisters. The Palmer Society is sure to be a vital part of Whittier College for many years to come.



## The White Rose

Bobbie Roy '07 will marry Matt Cukro of Huntington, NY on 6/18/11. They met working at a Youth Summer Program.

Jessica Robledo '05 will be marrying Peter Will on 7/3/11. They met the old fashioned way... in a bar.

Alicia McConnell will marry Chad Severson on 7/2/11. The two have known each other since Jr. high from their church youth group.

Laura Guzman '07 will marry Chris Dalley '06 on 9/10/11 at Wayfarer's Chapel.

Daphne Frances Lima was born to Sarah (Brown-Wagner) Lima '03, M.A. '08 and husband Erik on 3/18/11. She joins big sister Violet in the Lima Family.

Krista (Whyte) Cain '99 and Kevin Cain welcomed their first child, Rowan Louis Cain, into their family on 4/10/11. His arrival was natural & unmedicated.

Kristen (McFatrige) Carmichael '05 and husband Buck are expecting their first child in early November.

### Palmer Alumnae Scholarship – Help a Palmer Girl Fulfill Her Dreams: Progress Report

A vision for an Palmer Society Scholarship was shared in Fall 2009. For the Scholarship to become an endowed, the fund must raise \$50,000 by June 2014. So far, we've raised \$14,195.10. These funds matched equal \$28,390.20 total, more than half way to our total endowment goal with \$21,609.80 remaining. Thank you to all our sisters and friends who have made this progress possible.

#### Moving Forward...

We welcome all ideas and volunteers. Palmer resources and ingenuity can create a legacy worthy of our tradition and help a Palmer Girl finish her education.

As we work towards this goal, please consider your part in making this dream a reality:

- Show your Palmer Pride - start a pledge class or class year challenge
- Remember, all gifts to the Endowed Scholarship are tax deductible

