Pomona College
Organic Farm
Annual Report 2013—2014
Highlights.

Over 170 students from more than a dozen departments across all of the 5Cs and CGU visited the Farm as part of a course.

Student, faculty, staff, and community volunteers donated over 800 hours of their time to help tend to the Farm.

Over 1,800 pounds of produce was grown for the Farm Stand, Sagehen Café, Walker Coffeehouse, and Summer Produce Boxes.

Over 600 students of all ages came for organized educational tours led by student volunteers.

A new professional greenhouse was constructed by students, staff, and community members.
Academics. Academics have been at the core of the Farm’s mission since its founding. From 2013-2014, the Farm hosted 179 students from 14 departments across the Claremont Colleges, including the 9th year of the popular “Food, Land, and Environment” course. This class enrolled 48 students with more than 80 on the waiting list.

This year also saw the first student-led independent study course, designed by Jennifer Schmidt ‘14 (who also wrote one of the 13 senior theses that incorporate the Farm). The Farm was also a client for two EA Senior Seminar projects focusing on squirrel management and soil nutrition.

See below for a list of other departments that had students at the Farm this year:

- PO English
- Keck Science
- PZ Art
- PO Chinese
- PO Geology
- SC Politics
- PO Africana Studies
- PZ Media Studies
- PO Math
- HM History
- CGU Botany
- PO Religious Studies
- PZ Political Studies
Collaborations.

Partners working together can accomplish much more than if they were working alone. The Farm teams up with numerous campus groups and organizations every year to run educational programming, co-curricular activities, and social events.

This year, the Farm worked with five Draper Center programs including PAYS, Pomona Partners, the Rooftop Gardening Mentoring Program, and the Coronado Garden Project.

For the third year in a row, over 100 alumni came on Farm tours during Alumni Weekend and even more came to our special Alumni Weekend Farm Stand.

Over 70 people attended each of two performances of the play “The Rimmers of Eldritch” at the Farm.

The student-run ASPC Farm Club had ten regular members who planned numerous social events for the Farm, including the Spring Harvest Festival.

The second annual Honoring the Elements Powwow was hosted next to the Farm and included story-telling in the Earth Dome.

The Pomona College Staff Council brought over 100 staff members to the Farm for the annual Fall Social.
We feel strongly that an educational resource as valuable as the Farm should be open and accessible to all, including the wider community.

So, this year, Farm student volunteers and staff organized and ran dozens of **educational tours for 611 students of all ages** (kindergarten through college)—more than twice as many as the Farm hosted from 2012 to 2013.

During the fall and spring semesters, students and guest lecturers led **workshops for 233 people** covering topics like gardening skills, cooking, bee-keeping, and even food justice.

Even more, external organizations are looking to the Farm as a model. **Nine colleges and universities from across the nation** reached out to the Farm this year for advice to help with their own educational farms and gardens.

The Farm co-wrote a proposal to bring **students from Schuler Scholars**, a college-access program in Chicago, for a week-long visit to the Farm. Out of twelve proposals, ours was one of four that was selected for funding.

Lastly, the Farm **donated labor and materials to eight local youth organizations** including schools and other non-profits.
Working the Farm.

Make no mistake, maintaining a productive educational farm requires a lot of hands-on work, and it’s not always easy.

To help with this labor and to facilitate increasing demand for the Farm, Adam Long ’13 was hired as the first ever full-time Farm Manager to care for the Farm site and coordinate academic, co-curricular, and community programs.

In addition to the Farm Manager, 27 students were hired this year as work-study Farm Assistants and Farm Coordinators (see list below).

Even more, student, faculty, staff, and community volunteers donated a total of 898 hours of labor to help maintain the Farm, including campus groups like the Queer Resource Center, Kappa Delta, and Pomona-Pitzer football and softball teams as well as off-campus groups such as Uncommon Good’s Teen Green program.

Jennifer Schmidt, ’14 Education Coordinator
Lee Moonan ’16 Farm Stand Coordinator
Utsav Kothari ’14, Outreach Coordinator
Naira de Gracia’14, Chickens Coordinator
Nissa Gustafson ’15, Plot Stewards Coordinator
Aaron Cyr-Mutty ’16, Workshops Coordinator

Emily Hill ’16, Farm Assistant
Aidan Orly ’16, Farm Assistant
Mary Alice Koon ’17, Farm Assistant
Marcus McVane ’17, Farm Assistant
Liyanna Sadowsky ’17, Farm Assistant
Lucas Tamminen ’15, Farm Assistant
Jonathan Feingold ’15, Farm Assistant
Sasha Ponomareva ’14, Farm Assistant
Sana Kadri ’16, Farm Assistant
Andrea Green ’17, Farm Assistant

Robert Langat ’16, Summer Farm Assistant
Gerardo Vargas ’15, Summer Farm Assistant
Boyu Liu ’16, Summer Farm Assistant
Peter Ferrin ’14, Summer Farm Assistant
Nicholas Shardelleti ’14, Summer Farm Assistant
Gabriella Guerra ’14, Winter Farm Assistant

Sierra Jones-Frishman ’16, Farm Assistant
Michael Clausen ’17, Summer Farm Assistant
Summy Bor ’16, Summer Farm Assistant
Sabari Kumar ’17, Summer Farm Assistant
Philip North CM ’15, Summer Farm Assistant

Photo by Carrie Rossma
Produce.

While the Farm’s true value lies in education, the healthy and delicious produce that we grow cannot be forgotten.

In the past year alone, the Farm grew 1,832 pounds of produce for the bi-weekly Farm Stand, our summer Produce Box program, campus cafés, special events, other campus activities, and local businesses like Claremont Craft Ales. Hundreds more pounds were harvested by volunteers and students for workshops and personal use.

The student Farm Club, under the leadership of Farm Stand Coordinator Lee Moonan ‘16, organized 15 Farm Stands, selling produce at low prices for the campus and general community.

Utsav Kothari ‘14 delivered produce to the Sagehen Café and the Grove House Café.

This year also saw the first Summer Produce Box program, where Pomona faculty and staff sign up to receive weekly boxes from the Farm.
Physical Upgrades.

The Farm is in a constant state of growth, improvement, renewal, and regeneration. The past year saw an impressive amount of upgrades to the physical space, led by the full-time manager and carried out by a dedicated team of students, staff, faculty, and community members.

In the past year, the Farm crew:

- Constructed a new, professional greenhouse including pouring concrete, assembling components, refinishing seedling benches, and building a misting system, allowing the Farm to produce all vegetable starts in-house.
- Sold or removed tons of old equipment, trash, and debris.
- Restored over 200 fruit trees, most of which were overgrown and poorly maintained, with guidance from local master arborist Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursery.
- Converted the East Farm orchard from sprinklers to drip irrigation and sheet mulched the entire orchard to eliminate weeds and revitalize the soil.
- Cleared all paths of bermudagrass and other weeds.
- Installed new permanent sink on West Farm.
- Regraded and mulched composting area on East Farm.
- Reconstructed many West Farm rock walls.
- Added three new native plant gardens at the Farm’s edges.
Looking Ahead.

There are great things in store for the upcoming year.

Starting on July 1st, 2014, Naira de Gracia ‘14 will take over as Farm Manager. She will bring four years of experience as a student Farm Leader and a wealth of ideas to her new job. She hopes to continue the Farm’s education and outreach mission and will help the Farm reach thousands of people in the year ahead.

The Farm will be working with new Environmental Analysis professor Marc Los Huertos to deepen support for the Farm and develop Farm-related courses.

Farm Staff will continue working with Special Collections at the library to add to the Farm Historical Archive.

There are many exciting collaborations in the works with the Art Museum, Pomona College Catering, gardening gurus at The Growing Home, and more.

Physical improvements will continue with an emphasis on creating spaces for people to enjoy the Farm and construction will begin on an artistic main entry gate and archway funded by an alumni donor.

Construction of an outdoor science preparation laboratory will begin this fall with college funding.
Publicity and Press.

The Farm has been featured online and in print numerous times this year—see below for links.

Pomona College News—Schuler Scholars program at the Farm
www.pomona.edu/news/2014/06/24-schuler-scholars.aspx

Pomona College News—Student construct new greenhouse
www.pomona.edu/news/2013/12/10-greenhouse.aspx

Pomona College News—Summer activities at Pomona College
www.pomona.edu/news/2014/05/27-summer-at-pomona.aspx

Pomona College News—Powwow to be hosted near the Farm
www.pomona.edu/news/2014/03/27-powwow.aspx

Pomona College News—Pomona College on the Green Honor Roll

The Princeton Review—Green Honor Roll
www.princetonreview.com/green-honor-roll.aspx

Pomona College Viewbook—Farm photos on pages 13, 18, and 19

The Student Life—The Roots of Pomona’s Organic Farm

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Claremont Courier—Upcoming events in Claremont
www.claremont-courier.com/mobile/article/111470-claremont

Compostory.org—Composting at the Pomona Farm

CGIE—Mindfulness, wisdom and metaphors in nature
www.cgie.org/blog/2014/05/11/mindfulness-guided-divine-wisdom/

CGIE—Getting to know oneself through manual labor
www.cgie.org/blog/2014/06/24/2505/

Daily Bulletin—Sage Festival featuring the Pomona Farm

Edible Schoolyard—Pomona Farm profile
edibleschoolyard.org/program/pomona-college-organic-farm

Stay in Touch!

Pomona College Organic Farm
130 Amherst Ave., Claremont, CA 91711 (Farm)
185 E. 6th St., Claremont, CA 91711 (Mail)
(909) 607-8341
farm@pomona.edu
farm.pomona.edu
facebook.com/pomonafarm

2013-2014 Supervisory Staff
Richard Hazlett, Farm Faculty Sponsor
Char Miller, Environmental Analysis Director
Adam Long ‘13, Farm Manager
Naira de Gracia ‘14, Incoming Farm Manager
Jennifer Schmidt ‘14, Farm Club Student Leader

All photos taken by Adam Long ‘13 unless otherwise indicated.