Highlight on
The Women and Leadership Alliance
By Erikan Obotetukudo and Shree Pandya

“I am honored to be part of a group of committed individuals and organizations who have come together to focus on women in leadership. The programs and speakers involved with WLA help CMC and our larger community highlight the amazing potential of women leaders within our community and beyond.”
– Mary Spellman, CMC Dean of Students

In the late Fall of 2009, a number of female senior students spoke to Sarah Smith Orr, Executive Director of the Kravis Leadership Institute (KLI), expressing their wish to have more exposure and access to successful women leaders. In April 2010, Sarah and Jessica Briggs, KLI Assistant Director for Leadership Programs, facilitated a workshop that featured research on the state of women and leadership globally and allowed women students to interact with women leaders on a one-on-one basis.

The successful outcome of the Women and Leadership Workshop led to a committee of CMC women faculty and staff that met regularly during the summer of 2010 in order to launch The Women and Leadership Series 2010-2011. The series was a joint endeavor to support and promote student programs at Claremont McKenna College and highlighted issues faced by women leaders in business, government, science, and other professions. Notable events from the twelve group-sponsored events included:


- **Women and Leadership Brunch and Conversation**, sponsored by the Kravis Leadership Institute, with assistance from CMC’s Development staff, at the Athenaeum for students and alumnae/ni with President Gann, Jean Lipman-Blumen, and Doug Peterson ’80 P ’14, with Sarah Smith Orr moderating, on February 5, 2011.

- **KLI/Berger/RDS Women and Leadership Workshop** in Founders Room and the Athenaeum, on February 25, 2011 sponsored by KLI, The Berger Institute for Work, Family, and Children and the Robert Day School of Economics and Finance. This half-day student workshop for students at the Claremont Colleges included: Theory & Research Presentation, Table Rotations and Keynote luncheon with author and leadership coach, Dr. Lois Frankel.


- **Centennial Celebration of International Women’s Day** Angela Oh, Executive Director of the Western Justice Center Foundation, Pasadena, sponsored by KLI on March 8, 2011 in the Athenaeum and Pardis Mahdavi, Professor of Anthropology, Pomona College, as part
of the International Place’s Lunch and Conversation program at McKenna Auditorium on March 10, 2011.

After the success of the Women and Leadership Series, the Women and Leadership Alliance (WLA) formed this year to continue the initiative and goals of the original series. The goal of the WLA is to support and promote student programs at the Claremont Colleges that will highlight issues faced by women in leadership in business, government, and the professions. Members of the WLA are enthusiastic and passionate about offering events, talks, and workshops dedicated towards developing leadership, negotiation, and networking skills. Students, faculty, and staff from all of the Claremont Colleges can look forward to events including “A Career in Government: Can You Achieve Work/Life Satisfaction?” (October 26th, 12pm, in the CMC Athenaeum) and the Women and Leadership Workshop to be held on CMC’s campus on February 10, 2012.

We welcome the Women’s Leadership Alliance and look forward to its collaborations with students, faculty, staff, and those beyond our campuses in our quest to develop influential, global leaders.

Entities currently include:

Kravis Leadership Institute • the Berger Institute for Work, Family, and Children • The Robert Day School of Economics and Finance • Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum • The Center for Writing and Public Discourse • Dean of Faculty Office • Dean of Students Office • The Office of Development • Intercollegiate Women’s Studies of the Claremont Colleges • CGU’s School of Educational Studies • CMC’s student-run Women’s Forum • CMC’s Military Science/ROTC Program

Faculty/Staff members include: Heather Antecol, Hilary Appel, Rena Bever, Audrey Bilger, Jessica Briggs, Susan Castagnetto, Michelle Chamberlain, Barbara Dehart, Dianna Graves, Sarah Smith Orr, Bonnie Snortum, Mary Spellman, Anneliese Steele, Sherylle Tan, and Kirsti Zitar.

Student members include: Samantha Abril ‘13, Malissa Gaitan ’14, Erikan Obotetukudo ‘13, Shree Pandya ’14, Jillian Raftery ’12, and Wendalyn Tran ’14.