

Presented by Stewart Smith, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Good

Merit to persons who have rendered outstanding service to Pomona or who have brought distinction to this institution through their actions or achievements. Today the Trustees are pleased to bestow such an award on Professor Frederick Sontag.

Fred Sontag is, by any measure, an extraordinarily magnanimous member of this community one who has deeply affected generations of students at Pomona College, which has been his academic and spiritual home for 57 years. Born in Long Beach in 1924, Fred and his remarkable wife Carol arrived in Claremont in 1952 after he had graduated from Stanford University in 1949 and earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University in 1951 and 1952.

metaphysics, philosophy of religion, philosophical psychology, existentialism, and philosophical theology are brilliantly reflected in the profoundly influential life he has led. He has been a gifted teacher and an insightful author of nearly 30 scholarly books, while contributing almost 100 essays and articles to major publications and more than 300 articles and opinion pieces to professional journals, magazines, and newspapers.

extraordinary scholarly achievements and the immense range of his academic interests in philosophy, religion, and literature, today we honor Fred Sontag for his compassionate mentorship and counseling of students. He has taught, guided, encouraged, and inspired thousands. He has contributed to the social fabric of this college by serving as adviser to the Kappa Delta fraternity for nearly five decades. His commitment to sustaining an appropriate academic and social environment for Pomona students bolstered by his quiet and persuasive behind-the-scenes influence has served the College well. For Fred, every student, however mischievous, is (as he would say) generous support and guidance.

As a Pomona student, I was a member of the Sigma Tau fraternity, but my father, my brother, and my son, separated by 30 years at Pomona, each benefited from a deep personal relationship with Fred Sontag. And I did as well, even though a Siggie, because Fred an ordained minister was the officiant at my marriage; he also presided at my brother's wedding. Fred Sontag always meets the challenge until he gets it right!

