president’s message

Prepared for a Full and Successful Life

When PUC alumni become proud parents and draw their newborn in a PUC onesie, it is probably not just because they have fond memories of working on the staff of the Campus Chronicle. Years later, when they start handing their teenager every PUC mailer they can get their hands on, it is most likely not just because they met their future spouse in the PUC cafeteria one special day 25 years ago.

Indeed, the welcoming environment and rich experiences embraced on the Angwin campus may be a compelling part of their wish to send their child here. However, I believe that there has to be more to it than that. In other words, if PUC had not given those parents a well-rounded, authentic learning experience that prepared them for a full and successful life, they would be much less eager to continue a PUC educational legacy.

As we enjoy in this issue a conversational journey with multi-generational PUC alumni families, we are reminded of the academic prowess, spiritual environment and high quality of education that continue to make PUC a distinctive and superb learning environment.

The high expectations that we emphasize with programs like the Maxwell Scholar Program — and which is so beautifully illustrated by that program’s participants (see page 4) — are at the heart of PUC’s purpose as an institution of Christian higher education. This emphasis is built firmly on our spiritual foundation, which is the message of Christ, His love for us and His place in our lives.

The two constantly go hand-in-hand at PUC, where we ask students to integrate faith and learning in the classroom, in their lives while at college, and in their plans for the future. This thoroughly excellent education directly impacts their contributions to our church and to their communities.

It has truly been an inspiration to see our vibrant Maxwell Scholars lead the way in this endeavor, demonstrate lives of excellence and hope, and look forward to equally illustrious professional careers and personal lives after they graduate.

As I often tell parents of newly enrolled students, I am so proud to be able to assure them that they have made an excellent choice in entrusting their young people to PUC. I am confident that students will benefit from learning in a community that is dedicated to a truly holistic approach to education — the harmonious development of the physical, mental and spiritual powers. My confidence is supported each week as I see example after example of excellence, creativity and service in and around the classrooms. The Maxwell Scholars are just one of these many shining examples.

Other examples from across campus come to mind. It is my joy to see biology students already putting their learning to work in ways that serve and better the world around them, through internships ranging from the African Conservation Experience in South Africa to the U.S. Forest Service in Tahoe National Forest. The English department is gearing up to celebrate 70 years of departmental history this Homecoming Weekend and boasts a thriving new A.S. in Film & Theater Studies. The math and science students using cutting-edge equipment at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the 100 percent pass rate by our Angwin campus nursing program on the recent Nursing Boards…all programs like the Maxwell Scholar Program — are at the heart of PUC’s ongoing learning experience and examples of excellence, creativity and service in leadership.

This, I believe, is what keeps bringing families back to PUC and what makes PUC truly a place called home.

Heather J. Knight, Ph.D. President

Heather J. Knight, Ph.D. President

― Heather J. Knight, Ph.D. President

“Those tangible examples of PUC’s outstanding learning experience are what make me so proud to offer that experience to new students — indeed, to generation after generation of PUC students who thrive on faith, learning, and true excellence.”
The First Four
Maxwell Scholars Prepare to Graduate

Midori Yoshimura

For many Pacific Union College seniors, the months just before graduation are full of “lasts”—the last time they worship with friends at vespers, the last time they bite into a fresh sandwich at Giugni’s (a popular local deli), the last Tuesday morning lecture with their favorite teacher. But among this year’s PUC graduates are four “firsts”: Colleen Uechi, Dana Yoon, Matthew Phelps and Samantha Angelle. Together since 2009, these students form the first class of Maxwell Scholars to graduate from PUC.
The Maxwell Scholar Program honors Dr. Malcolm Maxwell and his wife Eileen, and their commitment to Adventist education, by awarding recipients a $15,000 scholarship for their freshman year—and the opportunity to renew that scholarship each year. Each year, winners are selected based on academic success, leadership experience and Christian service.
Four years after the first scholarships were awarded, Colleen, Dana, Matthew and Samantha share how the award has impacted their lives of excellence, leadership and service at PUC.

Motivation and Passion
As a main Campus Center is unusually dark and quiet—mostly. Under the door to the Campus Chronicle (CC) office, light and determination stream from lights in the room before PUC’s student newspaper is “put to bed,” journalist Jargon for sending a publication to the printer. “It’s one of the best things I’ve done at PUC,” says Colleen, who is majoring in international communication and Spanish. “It’s one of the best things I’ve done at PUC.”
Colleen was writing for the CC as the sports columnist last year, after returning from studying in Spain with Adventist Colleges Abroad. While a good growing experience for Colleen, studying in Spain reminded her of things she loved and missed at the PUC campus—KidzReach ministry, intramurals, insightful religion classes, and vegetarian cuisine (“I missed the PUC food!” she says).
Colleen says that the Maxwell Scholar Program has given her motivation. “PUC was counting on me to do big things, and I want to make it worth their money and time,” she continues. The renewable scholarship inspires Colleen to give back the best to her student body, parents and the post-PUC world that awaits. Next on her career itinerary is service as a student missionary, followed by graduate school for international development. But before Colleen found a fond adieu to PUC, she shares her advice for new students: “Find ways to make your PUC experience something unforgettable.”

Finding Her Stride
Strolling into the Campus Center during day-time, one might find Dana Yoon doing the off-duty work she loves: helping her lab students. Dana, a student instructor for chemistry labs, often meets students here, outside of her official working hours, to help them with their homework or just to see how they’re doing. "I really connected with my kids, inside and outside the chemistry lab," she says. "I found my stride in the chemistry department.
Dana’s professors have noticed, honoring her with the chemistry department’s Commitment Award and the Chemistry Major of the Year award. The biochemistry major has also volunteered with KidzReach and Homeless Ministries, and held leadership positions in the Korean Adventist Student Association. She’s following her own advice to others—

to enjoy all the benefits of the college’s close community.
The Maxwell Scholar Program was a major factor in her decision to attend PUC. “The program has helped me reach higher than what would have been easy, and hold myself to higher standards,” reflects Dana. “It’s made me realize that I am capable of moving on to professional school.” As she juggles the demands of work, school, and community activities that her “higher standards” call for, Dana says that taking a day off, to “give it to God,” has been key.
After completing her courses in winter 2013, Dana plans to travel and participate in a dental mission trip to Thailand before attending dental school in the fall. Until then, Dana wants to continue helping her lab students as much as she can. She is grateful for her PUC mentors and community, who, she says, “shaped me into the kind of person I want to be.”

Confidence for Success
Across the PUC campus, Matthew Phelps is known for his drive to thrive. It’s earned him a 4.0 science GPA, and a place on the Dean’s List every quarter of his PUC career. “PUC really wants students to succeed,” says the psychology major and biology minor. “You can go into a professor’s office and they’re willing to talk to you, show you what you need to do, and explain a concept to you, other than just during a lecture.”
As a Grainger Hall resident assistant, Matthew also keeps an open door for the other students on his hallway. “It’s been rewarding,” he says of his new position, a step up in responsibility from his position as head desk worker the year before. He adds this new job to his PUC resume, along with work in the psychology and biology departments as a teaching assistant. Matthew is also a familiar face on the campus field and in the gymnasium. He’s played nearly every inter-collegiate sport at least once, leading his teams to victory several times. Matthew is also a first-year member of Enactus (formerly Students In Free Enterprise), an international club that applies business principles to projects that improve others’ quality of life. In his work with Enactus, Matthew continues reaching out to others in a new way through a water purification project in Nicaragua.
Entering the college, Matthew remembers that being invited to join the Maxwell Scholar Program “gave me some confidence when I didn’t really know what to expect.” Knowing he was one of just a few students chosen, he thought, “It’s OK; I can handle college, I can work through this.” This encouragement helped him work hard toward his goal of becoming an ophthalmologist or a neurologist.
Whether as a resource for the students in his residence hall, or a skilled teammate at the gym, Matthew has added to PUC’s environment of care for others. “I’m glad I came to PUC!” Matthew concludes. “I hope I’ve helped people at PUC improve their experience.”

Leading and Serving
After searching for “Samantha Angelle” on the PUC website, the long list of results makes one wonder if this 2009 Maxwell Scholar has a twin. Samantha doesn’t have a twin—but she does have a double major (communication and theology); a 3.9 GPA; a 3.35 ACT score; a Zeta Tau Alpha Award for outstanding achievement in Greek language; a Twin Falls Award for outstanding achievement in Greek language; and an acted-on love for God packed into just four years. “My goal is to do my best in whatever I do, so the doors God wants will be open,” she says.
As the 2013 Student Association President, Samantha has led the student body while simultaneously serving it. Her past years of service in campus ministries—planning vespers, running Sabbath Schools, organizing Fusion (an icebreaker weekend retreat for freshmen)—prepared her to lead a SA team known for its strong teamwork.
Samantha joined a different team last summer, as a pastoral intern at the 2,500-member La Sierra University Church, the second of two church internships. Under the supervision of senior pastor Chris Oberg, eight- to 18-hour days flew by as “Pastor Samantha” coordinated the 200-member volunteer staff for Vacation Bible School, among other support and leadership roles. Samantha remembers learning “to run in heels and lean on God more than ever before.”
“I wouldn’t be at PUC without the Maxwell Scholar Program,” Samantha says. “The scholarship is an honor, recognizing areas of achievement that I value. Other grants may have offered the same amount of money, but they wouldn’t have meant the same thing.”
Samantha adds, “One thing I will carry from PUC is that every single question I had helped make my relationship with God more authentic.”

Ready to Soar
The remaining days until graduation bring Colleen, Matthew, Dana and Samantha the chance to create their last PUC memories and earn their first college diplomas. As they fly off their post-PUC, the first four are headed for careers of distinction, forming part of the Maxwell’s PUC legacy. And when tattoos fly off the air and mortarboard-makers take flight, PUC will send the first Maxwell Scholars soaring, too .
An Outstanding Education in an Environment of Faith

Christian education is at the heart of PUC’s purpose, as an Adventist institution of higher learning with a 150-year history. Throughout the college’s long story, its faculty and staff have inspired students with knowledge relevant to their academic and spiritual lives.

“Great teaching is a part of the PUC heritage; it’s had great teachers all along and still does,” says Bruce’s grandmother, and Bruce’s brother Eric Anderson, former chair of the PUC history department, is currently president of Southwestern Adventist University.

Bruce remembers one teacher in particular that shaped his college experience: Walter Utt, a professor of history from 1955 to 1985. “My college memories of teachers center around him,” reflects Bruce, who taught during Utt’s tenure. “I [Utt] was an amazing professor who knew everything...he had enormous knowledge and tremendous humor.” Bruce honors his memory in the co-founder and chair of the Walter C. Utt Endowment, which supports research and publication in the areas of Walter’s interests, such as Adventist history.

Even as a youngster, Walter was a scholar in the making. His brothers, Theodore Utt, ’47, a retired physician, remembers that “Walter was a whiz” at age 4 or 5, and “was a great storyteller,” the oldest in a family of five boys. Walter would later bring his love of story to PUC, helping generations of students with his vast knowledge of history, and his ability to retell it. A Mountain, A Place, A College: Walter C. Utt’s History of Pacific Union College is one of Walter’s many gifts to PUC, among his other published texts.

The Utt family legacy really begins with Walter and Theodore’s father, Charles D. Utt, ’27, believed to be one of the first students to register at PUC in 1909. Like his wife Miriam (Clark) Utt, ’16, whom he met at PUC, Charles was a straight-A student, the first of his siblings to attend college. Before Charles, “people in his family weren’t educated beyond the sixth grade,” Theodore notes. After graduating, Charles returned to teach and raise his family at the institution he loved; all five of his sons attended PUC.

Like the Utt family, the Maxwell family has long been a PUC presence. All six children of Arthur S. Maxwell (best known as “Uncle Arthur,” the popular children’s book author) attended PUC. Malcolm Maxwell, ’56, was the college’s longest-serving president, and the first PUC graduate to serve as college president. While still a student, Graham Maxwell, ’59, began teaching at PUC and later chaired the PUC theology department, then the Loma Linda University division of religion. Twin brothers Mervyn and Lawrence both graduated in 1946. Mervyn chaired the church history department at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, and Lawrence became the editor of Signs of the Times. Maureen, ’50, founded LLU’s graduate school of nursing, and became one of the first females in the nation to earn her Ph.D. in nursing. Their youngest sibling, Deirdre, ’61, followed her passion for history, working in the library and earning her degree in library science.

“Growing up surrounded by academia, it’s a privilege to be around educators,” says Malcolm’s daughter, Wendy, who is herself a teacher. PUC’s “world-class education” is one of the main reasons why Wendy is glad that her own daughter, Sydney, currently attends PUC. “The education offered to us through generations...has always been applicable to what’s going on in the country at large,” adds Wendy.

Steve’s wife, Linda, ’61, an ophthalmologist, particularly remembers the education he received at a 2 a.m. in the morning, miles away from the PUC main campus. As a biology major, he visited the Albion Marine Field Station one summer—memorably digging in the mud for ghost shrimp during the pre-dawn hours. On the main PUC campus, Steve also added a term as Student Association President and a pilot’s license from the college’s then new airport to his college education.

“Kids [in our family] understood that we would go to PUC; it was a given,” says Steve’s brother, James Chang, a retired superior court judge who attended PUC from 1960 to 1964. Like many others, James and Steve’s paternal, Stephan, ’42, and Elsie, ’43, wanted their progeny to see how faculty and staff related to God in the context of daily living. “PUC was ideal in that regard,” says James. “A Christian atmosphere exudes at PUC.”

PUC’s “strong spiritual base” remains unchanged, says Earl Larsen, ’63, although now men and women are no longer separated across the chapel aisle, as in his day. With a “good academic program in the
Jaali Dort Aubrey’s recent memoir of family life in La Junta, Colorado, in a rural setting during the late 19th century, provides a glimpse into the lives of her grandparents, who were instrumental in shaping her life.

A Beautiful Location
Voted 2013’s “Most Beautiful College” by Alumnae and the news commentary site thedaily-beast.com, PUC’s backyard is a popular place to hike, bike, run, and, in Theodore Uts’ case, roam. “I don’t know many places nicer to live than PUC,” says Earl. He couldn’t have grown up in a newer place for kids. There were essentially no fences; we just had hills and mountains, and could roam everywhere.” Now retired, he returned to the PUC area. Aside from a few improvements to local roads (People think there’s a lot of curves now, they should have seen it 75 years ago!), the beauty of the area is much as he left it.

For Jan Davidian, 79, PUC’s multidimensional education—spiritual, as well as skill-based—is why he wouldn’t trade places with anyone else in his profession. “Many other schools don’t often address the dimension of being a good person,” the orthodontist adds, “but PUC addressed it very well.” Jan points out that the Adventist system is unique in its breadth; students can enjoy the benefits of spiritual, as well as professional education—spiritual, as well as academic.

The learning legacy at PUC reached many generations—and many have contributed to the legacy that the grandparent generation of students, in turn (from top: Walter Utt, ’42; George Caviness, ’36; and Lena Davidian, ’39), who served as professor and administrators at PUC, Newholm College, Union College, and Walla Walla College). And from dreamseeking at Healdsburg to digging for shrimp at Albion, the legacy is full of variety for students.

Lifelong Connections
Bonded by dormitory life, community worship and perhaps group projects, friendships formed during college often last well beyond graduation. For many PUC students, those relationships developed into lifelong unions.

“My father was full of stories,” Wendy Maxwel says. “One favorite tale was when, as a student, Malcolm met his wife, Eileen (Rolander) Maxwell, ’51. “When my dad was interested in my mom, the sexes couldn’t intermingle. Mother used to practice the organ in Irwin, so my dad went to the bottom of the dorm and cut the electricity to her room. She had to come down to the basement to turn on the electricity.” The two became betrothed.

“My grandparents became Adventists in 1915,” Jan says. A dedicated student, he also explored the world outside his dormitory, whether Linda Falls or just across the street at the Campus Market, where fresh sandwiches beckoned.

As a child growing up on the PUC campus, the animal life outside residence halls appealed to Audrey (Maxwell) Zinke, Graham Maxwell’s daughter and the literary agent for Arthur S. Maxwell’s writings. “The college was a great place for a critter lover like me,” Audrey reflects. “I learned a love of biology from PUC.” Audrey remembers collecting lizards, polliwogs and other out-of-doors mementos—which she would then take home and stash under her bed, with the patient permission of her mother, Rosalyn Gildersleeve, who attended PUC from 1940-1942.

After Rosalyn suffered a stroke in her retirement, Audrey continued to bring her vivid remembrances of Angwin’s colorful yellow Disenora Lanterns. Following one visit to PUC, Audrey brought her parents an especially large bouquet. “When I walked into that house, you should have seen my mother’s face,” she recalls. “It was pure joy for her to see those Lanterns; it was something that meant so much to [both of] them.”

At a Founders’ Day address in 1936, Agnes Caviness, (Bruce Anderson’s grandmother), commented on the hold that the area’s natural beauty has on people. While Angwin might experience the range of heat from hot sun to cold storms, she marveled, “there are days so perfect that the Angwin-bred will be lonely for them wherever he goes.”

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“A family; that’s what you want for your children,” adds Audrey Anderson, ‘60, who met her husband Bruce at PUC. “Almost any place you go in the world, there’s a connection.”

This year, a new bearer of the Maxwell legacy, freshman Sydney Henderson, Wendy Maxwell’s daughter, is exploring family history and spiritual connection with God, and relationships (romantic and otherwise) with one’s fellow man reaching the Adventist family is.”

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“One of my biggest loves has always been theology and film,” Sigamoney explains. “I’ve always loved theology and religion, obviously in relationship to my relationship with God… And I’ve always loved film.” Observing a culture in which people seem more willing to pay for movies than to attend sermons, he remarks that “at some level film is shaping culture and world view in a lot larger of a scope than I think that religion is in a lot of places.”

So it makes perfect sense that he’d combine these two loves in a project called The Recordkeeper, a web series that Sigamoney and Jason Satterlund are producing for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. (“GC.”)

The GC was looking for creative ways to promote their worldwide Great Hope Project, which aims to distribute massive quantities of an unabridged version of The Great Controversy and get people engaged in topics that are important to Adventism. So far Sigamoney and Satterlund have produced two episodes of The Recordkeeper and are working on nine more, and Rajeev Chang has high hopes that the project will become a “still aims to be relevant, and still aims to work in the secular world, to succeed and have an impact on mainstream culture. Both are valuable and relevant and both have challenges that are unique.”

In his own journey, Sigamoney has come to focus on authenticity. And he asks that his students follow that path as well. “The one thing that I strive for each student that I interact with is to maintain honesty,” he says. “Honesty to who they are as an individual. Honesty to what God has called them to do. And honesty to their coworkers in giving their all to the work that they have committed their lives to. If a student in Film & TV at PUC can commit to this journey, then I know they will be successful whatever tasks God gives them, and that they will have joy in their career.”

THEOLOGY & FILM
Sharing a passion for Christian media
Lainey S. Cronk and Giovanni Hashimoto
A MESSAGE FROM “LITTLE ROCK NINE” Terrence Roberts opens Black History Month at PUC

Terrence Roberts opens Black History Month at PUC Giovanni Hashimoto

**T** he celebration of Black History Month at Pacific Union College began with a prestigious guest sharing his experiences from the American Civil Rights Movement. Congressional Gold Medalist Terrence Roberts, who became one of the iconic Little Rock Nine as a 15-year-old Adventist, spoke to the gathered PUC students, faculty and staff on February 7.

To his PUC audience, Roberts spoke about his motivation and participation in the journey toward civil rights. While still in high school in 1957, he became one of the Little Rock Nine when he and eight other African-American students put their lives on the line to integrate Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. In 1999 he received his Congressional Gold Medal from President Bill Clinton for his part in this remarkable moment in U.S. history.

Roberts reminded us about life in Little Rock in those days — noting that people had had hundreds of years to develop an expertise in discrimination: “For 335 years, it was legal and constitutional to discriminate against people based on racial group memberships,” he said. “Discrimination seemed to be second nature to white people in Little Rock.”

For Roberts and his young friends who became “the nine,” it wasn’t about making a revolutionary change in their world. At that point in their lives, the motivation was basic: “We simply wanted to go to school, that’s all,” Roberts recounted.

The nine black students who enrolled at Little Rock Central High were to begin its desegregation process, as supported by the United States Supreme Court’s Brown Decision. “The Brown Decision was a bold step towards changing the narrative,” Roberts noted, “but such a change was truly not welcomed by the masses.”

Over 100 congressmen signed the Southern Manifesto detailing plans to prevent implementation of the Brown Decision. Meanwhile, in response to the students’ actions, the governor of Arkansas called for armed resistance. Roberts called the situation “bizarre” but “not so unusual when you know the history of America—not an aberration, when you understand the dynamics of racism.”

For Roberts, that momentous experience was the beginning of a life work. Since the ultimately successful effort to desegregate the high school, Roberts has been a strong voice at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. At PUC, he spoke about lessons he has carried with him from those early experiences, and noted areas in contemporary American life in which improvement is still necessary.

Finally, noting the disparity in education and other measures of success affecting African-Americans in the United States, Roberts asserted that “the real question facing us today is not why there are so many people of color who don’t prosper, who don’t flourish or bloom to their full potential. The real question is, why are there so many who do?”

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**First Door**

Renovating for a Warm Welcome

A high school senior, thrilled but apprehensive about pending freshmanhood and accompanied by equally thrilled but apprehensive parents, opens their first door at PUC, the door to the Office of Enrollment. They step into a lobby that may very well be giving them their first impression of PUC’s interior.

That’s why PUC is particularly pleased at the outcome of a recent beautification project—the renovation of the entry and lobby for the offices of enrollment, admissions, and public relations. Changes ranged from opening up the space to re-painting (in a chic new palette) to adding a flat screen that displays snippets of PUC scenery and information. Together, these renovations not only create a welcoming first impression but also offer practicalities such as a conference room where parents can meet with enrollment counselors.

Guests are invited to enjoy the comfortable seating, reading selections that include the Diogenes Lamp and the latest ViewPoint, and a hot drink.

“The purpose of this renovation was to create a warm and welcoming space for prospective students and their families that would help to give a better first impression of PUC, as well as to provide free-star customer service to our wonderful constituents,” says PUC President Heather J. Knight.

This is part of Knight’s goal to undertake a high-impact project on campus every summer. Other projects in this line-up have included the Dining Commons, Campus Center, and Nelson Memorial Library.
To THE ENDs OF THE EARTH
A revival in missionary service at PUC

Larry Peña

“Go off and be a catalyst around the world for one year of your life.”

There’s an old wooden map stored in a back room at Pacific Union College. Thick and heavy, its surface shows a flattened image of the globe, beams of light radiating out from a certain point just below the middle of the western edge of the United States. Older alumni will recall the tiny light-emitting dials poking out of each country, and how those lights used to twinkle when the map was hung in the church sanctuary every Homecoming Weekend—each light representing a nation where PUC students were currently serving as long-term missionaries.

But a few years ago, the inevitable began to happen. A few at a time, the transistors and fuses in the complex system behind those lights began to wear out. It wasn’t long before the whole map went fully dark, as the decades-old parts went out of production. In the disappointment of many at PUC, the old map disappeared from the Homecoming service—a seeming symbol of the simultaneous decline in students volunteering to leave the country for a year as international missionaries.

This year that trend began to reverse, when scores of students answered a call to action from visiting speaker José Rojas, att’l ’78 ’81. A PUC alumnus who recently served as the director of the office of volunteer ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, Rojas visited PUC last fall to deliver a presentation encouraging students to return to the mission fields.

“It was an intentional God thing,” says PUC campus chaplain Laffit Cortes. “When we invited him to come and speak, it was for the purpose of helping us recruit student missionaries. Before he went up front, he asked us for a goal—how many students we wanted to sign up. We asked for 50.”

Citing the Book of Malachi in the Bible, Rojas drew an analogy between service to others and the prophet’s role as a catalyst in melting ice. Saying today’s students are part of the most advanced generation in history, he appealed for them to use their abilities to become catalysts for change.

“If your mind is that of a catalyst, if you’re out to make this world a better place no matter how many people make fun of you for being an idealist—if you really have a vision for your life—then you can turn this world upside down,” he said. “Go off and be a catalyst around the world for one year of your life.”

He urged students to participate in service and mission opportunities while in college. In addition to the Adventist Church’s student mission programs, Rojas mentioned government programs, such as the Peace Corps for international service and AmeriCorps for domestic volunteerism, as opportunities for service.

“We have a million American young adults going around the world, across the countries serving, and most of these people don’t even know it,” he said. “It changes your life when you serve. Jesus said, ‘If you really want to know what it means to serve me, do unto the least of the people as you do unto me.’ You want to serve God? Serve people.”

Rojas’ call resonated deeply with students, and so signed up that day to express their interest in taking up missionary postings around the world—no more than the campus ministries team had hoped for. That number is a significant jump from the eight students who began this year as student missionaries, and the 11 who served the year before.

“Really enjoyed José Rojas’ visit to PUC,” says Ben Speegle, a PUC student and the director of the student missions program. “He speaks with real conviction about serving God as a way of life, and I think that heartfelt message really speaks to people, students in particular. Having had the chance to talk with him after his message, I was able to clearly see that this isn’t just a job to him—it is something he lives. I know that he gains real joy out of being able to inspire people to live their faith and beliefs.”

But even before Rojas’ visit, PUC’s office of service, justice and missions had been laying the groundwork for renewed efforts to recruit students to volunteer missionary service. Chaplain Cortes and mission and service coordinator Fabio Maia, both hired in 2011, started their jobs with a plan to refresh the missionary culture on campus.

“When I first got here, we decided to focus right away on ministries—local, international, and eventually long term,” says Maia. Under their direction, short-term mission trips, such as excursions to Latin America and under-served communities here in the U.S., have been huge draws in recent years, as have local community service projects in the Bay Area. Rojas praised those efforts in his presentation.

“PUC already has incredible projects—for the homeless, [community services] projects in Calistoga—you got stuff going everywhere!” he enthused. “I praise God for the vision of this campus which has been steady for many years.”

“When Fabio and Laffit welcomed me to the team, we talked about the fact that we were all committed to seeing more student missionaries and mission-minded people this year,” says Speegle, who has been a key part of the campus ministries team. “José Rojas’ message definitely helped us with that goal, and that was the reason we invited him to come speak. But I think the culture of the campus is changing to a more spiritually real environment. Students have the faith and they are willing to demonstrate it by their willingness to get involved as missionaries.”

Whether they were inspired by Rojas or are just part of that regenerative culture of volunteerism, many students are excited—if a little nervous—to get out into the world to preach, teach, heal, or serve others in a variety of ways. “It was just an instinctual feeling. I’ve always wanted to do it,” says Kylie Rook, who signed up for a year of foreign service and is hoping to work at an Adventist school in Denmark. “I spent two and a half weeks [on a mission trip] in Vietnam. But I’ve never spent a full year so far away from home.”

“I actually was unable to go to José Rojas’ presentation... I decided to go last year because I felt like God had called me to go,” says Timothy Giang, who hopes to spend next year teaching in either Vietnam or Norway. “After much prayer and thought, I cannot think of a better way to show God’s love to others.”

As the missionary culture returns at PUC, it feels like the beginning of a new generation of students committed to serving God and others around the world. The light bulbs may still be out on the old missionary map, but as student missionaries fan out across the globe, the light of the Gospel is still radiating from Augsburg.
Fifteen students braved the freezing deserts of northern Arizona over Christmas vacation to provide aid to a Navajo community. This was PUC’s third trip to the community with a student-led ministry called Project Pueblo.

“The whole idea for these repeat mission trips is to develop relationships with people in the community,” says Fabio Maia, PUC’s service and missions coordinator. “We’re there to minister to their practical needs.”

Initially, the project was intended to focus on repairing and renovating a church that the Adventist group on the reservation had recently purchased. However, when the student group arrived in the reservation town outside of Page, Ariz., they discovered a more immediate need — the winter’s unusually cold weather had frozen the water lines serving the town’s community center.

“We had to change our plans and spent two days digging deeper trenches and heating the pipes up to get water,” says Jeremy Lam, one of the student leaders of the group. That meant more than just shoveling dirt — to get to the pipes, the students had to build fires to thaw the frozen ground and back at the icy earth with picks.

With water flowing again to the vital community center, the group turned to the church project. Although well-built, the old building badly needed cleaning and insulation to keep out the below-freezing winter temperatures. “We worshipped in the church on Sabbath, and even with radiant heating in the sanctuary it didn’t get above 45 degrees,” says Lorie Johns, the student success advisor in PUC’s nursing department and a co-sponsor on the trip. “It needed a lot of work to be usable.”

Students set to work clearing out dust and debris from the old building and installing insulation into the cinder block walls.

Although the tight schedule didn’t allow them to finish everything they had planned, they left behind a much warmer sanctuary.

In the coming months, the church will host Adventist evangelistic meetings and health seminars, and will likely host PUC students again when they return for a planned trip over spring vacation. Like the new pipes in the community center, the church and the students will be a lasting blessing to the community on the reservation.

The repeat trip highlights PUC’s emphasis on practical, relevant service to people in need. “There are great opportunities to help the community out,” says sophomore Clifford Young. “Every student here can help serve, because there are so many opportunities — every weekend, every month — to do something. I think PUC does a great job of pushing the service role and doing what Jesus would do.”

Larry Pina

President José Martini, Dr. Norman Knight, and Dr. Bahia in Brazil.

PUC Partners with Brazil Adventist University

This year Pacific Union College launched a partnership with Brazil Adventist University (UNASP). Discussion began last spring, when UNASP president José Martini suggested the partnership to PUC president Heather Knight, initially with the main objective of UNASP students learning English.

“Having more international students on our campuses helps to foster global understanding,” commented Knight. “Being part of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist global church, we want to help other institutions as well, by partnering with them.”

With the residence halls open in the summer, PUC offers UNASP students the opportunity to study here at PUC for a five-week program. Students will also take field trips to places like the Bay Area, including San Francisco.

“This idea is that they come for a short term, [and gain] language and culture experience, where there is an opportunity to be exposed to American culture and to have some formal language instruction at the same time,” said Assistant Academic Dean Ed Moore.

But the partnership is an opportunity for both schools — UNASP will send students to study at PUC while PUC students will have the chance to learn Portuguese and study in Brazil. Knight noted Brazil’s emerging economy, and the especially great opportunities it presents for PUC’s business students.

“This is part of a larger vision that I have, in terms of international partnerships,” explained Knight.

Additionally, PUC will host a group of three administrators from the Euro-Asia division of Seventh-day Adventists in January 2013 for a similar five-week program. “They want to improve their English listening and speaking skills, primarily, so that they can more effectively participate in international meetings,” Moore said.

Both Hong Kong Adventist College and Sabbath University in South Korea have also approached PUC about partnerships. This partnership with Brazil — a first for PUC — will help lay foundations for similar relationships in the future.

Lauren Armstrong

PUC Named “Healthiest Company”

In recognition of excellence in “supporting mind, body and spirit” and being a trendsetter in employee wellness, PUC was named one of the “Healthiest Companies in the North Bay” this year. The Healthiest Company awards, announced by the North Bay Business Journal at its annual Health Care Conference in November and in the November 12 issue of its publication, recognize “outstanding efforts of organizations and businesses across the North Bay in the critical movement toward wellness.”

The award nominations are gathered through the summer and companies are surveyed about their health practices. The Business Journal then selects companies to honor at their Health Care Conference. PUC was cited as earning its award for a thorough and accessible wellness program that includes onsite health screenings, health risk assessments with progress reports, and health education opportunities. Such wellness programs as the “Inertia Initiative” and “Lunch and Learn Series,” the Wellness Studio and Health Services Clinic, and classes ranging from the Archibald Fitness Boot Camp to martial arts and Zumba were also mentioned.

PUC employees are listed as having 27 percent fewer health risks than the national average. “We work in a faith community that acknowledges our Creator’s wisdom in weaving each person into a seamless combination of mind, body and spirit,” PUC president Heather J. Knight told the Business Journal.

Latoya S. Crenk

Following in Your Footsteps

This year when PUC began its annual Phonathon fundraising endeavor, we decided we wouldn’t ask for help with one big project. Instead, Phonathon gave alumni the chance to provide better opportunities for students who are following in their academic footsteps. The result was $123,428 in gifts with $19,352 in additional pledges. Of the $113,488 raised, almost half specifically supported a series of department projects, while the rest went to support the Pioneer Fund, student missions and the Worthy Student Fund.

Through additional fundraising, the total raised for the department Special Funds was $118,125, which allowed a number of department projects to be fully funded. The biology department was delighted at funds for a high-powered sterilization unit for the microbiology lab; new data loggers and sensors will be purchased for the chemistry department; and computers for the testing lab can become a reality in the nursing department. That’s just a start on a number of projects which are fulfilling wishes for the faculty and students! To see a department’s wish list, visit puc.edu/phonathon.

Lauren Armstrong

ViewPoint | Winter 2013
Biology Club The PUC Biology Club retreated to Albion Field Station, PUC’s remote campus, for a weekend of fellowship and exploration on the Mendocino coast.

Academy Basketball Tournament Sixteen men’s and women’s teams visited campus for four days of nonstop action at the Academy Basketball Tournament.

President’s Circle PUC president Heather J. Knight hosted a Christmas dinner for the President’s Circle (major PUC supporters) at her home in Angwin.

College Days Seniors from Hawaii, Northern California, and Central California academies visited the PUC campus in November to participate in spiritual, academic, and social activities – including sitting in on real college classes.

Women’s Basketball The Lady Pioneers basketball team ended their season with two players receiving league awards.

Rasmussen Art Gallery Artist Anthony Hansen opened his “Recycled” exhibit, featuring reclaimed metal art, at the Rasmussen Art Gallery.

Sophie-Veronique Cauchefer-Choplin This world-renowned improvisational genius performed a recital on PUC Church’s Rieger organ.

Career Day The Dining Commons was filled with career consultants in just about every field, giving students the chance to ask professionals any questions they may have about the industry.

Open House Women’s Christmas open house was a chance for residents of the four women’s dorms to invite friends to come visit their rooms and to enjoy refreshments provided by the dorm.

Christmas Vespers Students welcomed the Christmas season with candlelight and choral music at the Christmas Vespers program.

Live Vespers Just before finals, a vespers service embraced the meaning of the Christmas season with a live nativity.

Winter Revival A week of revival gave students the chance to rest and renew spiritually, featuring various faculty and staff members speaking on the week’s theme: “In One Accord in Fellowship.”

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Tyner Joins Administrative Team

Pacific Union College has named Jennifer Tyner the new vice president for enrollment management and public relations. Tyner has extensive history in Adventist higher education, communication, and administration. She officially began her position with PUC during winter quarter 2012.

At PUC, Tyner oversees recruiting and enrollment efforts and all of the college’s communication and publications. “I am really excited about PUC’s growth and development,” says Tyner. “It’s inspiring to be a part of the college’s increased enrollment, improved retention, and commitment to innovation.”

Since 2007, Tyner served as project director for Community Care of Western North Carolina, a nationally recognized health care delivery system aimed at providing better, more efficient and more cost-effective health care for our country’s most vulnerable individuals.

Her duties included collaborating with government agencies and local health care providers, developing the organization’s brand, and overseeing marketing and communication.

Before that, Tyner served from 2000 to 2006 as vice president for student life at La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif. In that role she provided strategic leadership for a department of 35 employees, directing all areas of student affairs, including campus ministries, counseling services, health services, and overall student satisfaction. Perhaps most notably, under her direction La Sierra’s student retention increased by six percent and graduation rates by 13 percent.

Tyner holds an M.A. in English from La Sierra, and a B.A. degree in business administration and English from Loma Linda University. Tyner is pleased to return to the higher education environment. “There is an energy on a college campus that just does not exist anywhere else. I feel I am returning to a very special place of learning, empowerment, and transformation.”

“She’s a go-getter. She’s very entrepreneurial. If she sees something that needs to be done, she’s going to go get it done,” says PUC president Heather J. Knight, Ph.D. “She is someone who is very passionate about Adventist education, and she certainly understands how Adventist higher education works.”

Larry Folia

PUC Students Take Top Honors at National Communication Convention

Two of the top four awards, including the top award, in the Lambda Pi Eta division of the National Communication Association (NCA) convention were awarded to PUC students this year at the NCA annual event. Three of the students and communication professor Tammy McGuire traveled to Orlando, Fla., to present their research at the convention.

The NCA convention is the largest annual gathering of communication teachers, researchers, students and other professionals in the nation. Over 5,000 attendees from every state and around the world were present at the convention.

A paper by five PUC students, “Conflict Resolution Patterns in Intercultural Couples,” won the Stephen A. Smith award for the top group paper in the Lambda Pi Eta division. The other award-winning PUC paper was titled “Birth Order and Communication Styles in Romantic Relationships.”

The research was done as a part of a communication research class taught last year by McGuire. The class is a graduation requirement for communication students, and papers are submitted the previous year and undergo a peer review process before being accepted.

“The experience of presenting was very educational, as well as the exposure to the other various communication research studies,” said Janna Vassantechart, ’12. “I even attended panels on health communication. The studies in these categories looked at improving physician communication in the context of end-of-life care and health care websites.”

McGuire said she was impressed by how prepared her students were at the convention. “They did as well or better than students from bigger universities,” she said. “They showed a level of professionalism, a level of preparedness and a level of knowledge that was impressive not only to me, as their instructor, but to the people in that room. They fabulously represented the department and PUC and themselves and their families... I was extremely proud.”

Giovanni Hadzimuto

Charles White: Prioritizing People

PUC celebrates Adventist heritage

With the warmth of a family member, Charles White, a pastor and great-grandson of Ellen G. White, drew students closer to their Adventist inheritance at PUC’s annual Adventist Heritage Colloquy this year. White is the senior pastor of Cameback Seventh-day Adventist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., and a PUC alumnus.

The Heritage Singers opened the morning’s program with a toe-tapping rendition of “Satisfied.” Afterward, Dr. Heather Knight introduced White and the accomplishments of his great-grandmother, Adventism’s co-founder and the world’s most translated female author.

“Our priority should and always must be on people,” White said, as he shared family stories to create a “sense of connection.” Often asked if he met his great-grandmother, White called on the reasoning skills of math majors in the audience to do the calculations: Ellen White passed away in 1915. However, through his stories students had the chance to become better acquainted with members of the White family, such as Dr. Guy Bullock, ’83, and Fiona Bullock, ’83, as the students listened to their great-grandfather and great-grandmother.

“I thought it was very interesting to hear about E.G. White from a family member. Even though the speaker had never met E.G. White, obviously he had many stories that many sources didn’t,” said PUC student Michael Borchik. White also noted his family’s passion for the gospel and commitment to sharing the advent hope, whether in the U.S. South or abroad in Australia.

Ellen White’s great-grandson began and ended his morning talk at PUC by referencing the college’s rich Adventist heritage. Adventism’s co-founder was instrumental in the formation of PUC, and also spent the last years of her life at nearby Elmhaven. White spoke from the pulpit his great-grandfather used when preaching at PUC, but also noted that “just because I’m a great-grandson of Ellen White doesn’t make me any closer to who she was and her mission than any of you can be.”

“I’ve been in ministry for over 40 years, and every day I use something I learned or was directed to learn from my education at PUC,” he said. White also noted that “God has a purpose and destiny for this school,” and that PUC and its students “were not here by chance.”

White encouraged students to take full advantage of their time at PUC. “Offer a blessing to everyone, not a bowed-head blessing, but an open-eyed one,” he advised. “May God be with you as you continue your growth in education here at PUC.”

Makoto Ishidama
A Call to Civic Engagement

PUC hosted Representative Mike Thompson for the Election 2012 installment of the Colloquy Speaker Series. His lecture was part of a campus focus on civic engagement in the run up to the 2012 General Election, as well as supporting the Colloquy theme, “Knowledge for a World Lived in Common.”

Thompson urged students to involve themselves in the civic process and the upcoming election. “What happens in politics influences your day-to-day life,” he noted, explaining that many issues at stake in this election would affect students. “I happen to believe education is one of the most important things for the future of our country,” he said. “What you’re learning today, you’re going to put in practice tomorrow. The future of our country — our economic well-being, our national security, the health of our environment, the sustainability of our country, our principles and our values in part are going to be formed by what you and your colleagues put in practice tomorrow. The future of our country, “he said. “What you’re learning today, will count for the future of our country,” he said. “What you’re learning today, is looking forward to attending Homecoming this year as a member of the golden hallowed class!

Class Notes

1960

Honesta C. Pascual, ’63, has been a resident of Riverside, California, since 1977, and has practiced internal medicine, adult and pediatric allergy, all that time. Other adventures have included three medical missions to the Philippines and serving as President of Alumni of Western North America of Philippine Union College (now Adventist University of the Philippines). He and his wife are members of La Sierra University Church. Honesto, who turned 70 in January of 2013, is looking forward to attending Homecoming this year as a member of the golden hallowed class!

1970

William Bossert, ’70, has recently been named pastor of the Riverview Church of Seventh-day Adventists in Reno, Nev. Formerly pastor of The Edge Christian Worship Center near the Twin Cities of Minnesota, Bill has also served other Adventist congregations in California, Oregon, Massachusetts and Wisconsin.

1980

Nick Walters, ’85, has spent 40 years in medical missions. After studying family medicine at Florida Hospital and Tropical Medicine at the University of London (at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), and then serving in Singapore, Guam, and Ethiopia, he’s now in Bangkok, Thailand.

1990

Lysa Wright, ’96, writes: “Much time has passed since PUC days, though the memories are vivid and often fill my dreams. I have been involved in online ministry the last ten or so years, talking with people, individually and in chat rooms.” You can find more about that on Lysa’s website, OneMoreHeart.org. She has been doing more with music recently, working on...
In Memory of Jon Speyer

A man of authenticity and impact

When Jon Speyer, ’80, passed away on December 31, 2012, he left a legacy of mentoring, authentic faith, and joy. Jon had touched the lives of thousands of young people, especially during the 26 years he spent at Monterey Bay Academy teaching religion and drama and serving as associate pastor of the academy church.

Jon was born in 1953 in Charleston, South Carolina, to a couple named Fred and Patricia. They traveled as musical evangelists, raising a family in a 10x50 trailer and moving to a new location every few weeks. Eventually they settled at MBA, where Jon graduated in 1975. He earned his bachelor’s at PUC in 1980 and a master’s in counseling from the University of San Francisco in 1982.

Jon was a talented musician and skilled at woodworking—he had originally been interested in studying architecture but felt called to ministry and, while a freshman at PUC, changed his major to theology with the goal of teaching Bible. While at PUC, Jon also married Kimie. He became the reader for the theologian Desmond Ford, and when Ford left PUC, Jon even took over some of his teaching duties while still a student.

After PUC, Jon and Kimie moved to Oregon to work at Klamath Lake Youth Ranch. Jon was the education director for the facility, which served delinquent boys who were wards of the state. In 1989 Jon returned to teach at MBA.

In his work there, he was known as a wise, real, trustworthy mentor and a man who was honest about life and the gospel. Many people remember his support and lessons with profound gratitude.

Jon is survived by his wife, Kimie; father, John Frederick; two brothers, Randy and Stephen; sons Ryan, Brandon, and Jordan; and five grandchildren.

Grover Riegler, ’46, died February 9, 2012, in Lakeport, Calif. He was born on May 27, 1927, in Mountain Dew, Calif. Grover was a minister of the Christian gospel, a veteran of the U.S. Army military service, and an early civil rights activist. Grover was survived by his wife, Shirley; their sons, Greg and Gary; his daughter, Sonja; and two grandchildren.

L. Beth Robinson, ’46, a former teacher and librarian, died May 3, 2012, in Cannon City, Colo. She was born on June 18, 1923, in Warburton, Australia. The daughter of missionary parents, Beth grew up in China, received her American citizenship in 1951, and lived in 21 places in seven countries during her married life. She is survived by her husband, Arthur; her

In Memory of Jon Speyer
Clearfield, Utah, to her parents, Romeo and Natalie Caroline and Noah Haney. She graduated from UC, Davis. She attended Rio Lindo Adventist Academy, and played tennis and soccer through high school. After graduation, she worked at UC, Davis and Cortney's School. She developed her talent as a tennis player throughout California. She also developed the President's Forum for the St. Helena Viewpoint School. She graduated from UC, Davis in 1984 and law school in 1989. She practiced law in San Diego and then became a partner in her law firm. She is survived by her partner, Robert Kohn, and their son, Reid Kohn.

Holly; her mother, Carol Squier; her sister, Janna Hubert; her brothers, Steven Sage, and Anthony Moffitt; her daughter, Victoria; her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She is survived by her parents, Romeo and Natalie Caroline and Noah Haney. She graduated from UC, Davis in 1984 and law school in 1989. She practiced law in San Diego and then became a partner in her law firm. She is survived by her partner, Robert Kohn, and their son, Reid Kohn.

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plant services for 12 years, died August 24, 2012, in Napa, Calif. He was born on June 29, 1915, in LaCross, Kan. Larry is survived by his two sons, Lonny and Lowell; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and four sisters, Vema Coy, Norma Todorich, Glenn Lewis and Gloria Hore.

Margarete (Seilaz) Petersen, a former assistant librarian at PUC, died May 7, 2012, in Walla Walla, Wash. She was born on June 29, 1915, in Knoxville, Tenn. During the working part of her 96 years of life, Margarete was a school teacher, a Bible study leader, and a librarian. She is survived by her two daughters, Beverly Scott and Glenda Merklin; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Evelyn I. Werner, who worked at PUC for a number of years, died June 14, 2012, in Charleston, S.C. She was born July 12, 1926, in LaSalle, Colo. After service at the college along with her husband Roland, Evelyn retired to Florida. She is survived by her daughter, Sharon Kay Werner; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Corrections

Roslyn H. (Gildersleeve) Maxwell attended ’42–’44. (Note: ’59)

Rememoboting Friends

In Memory is our opportunity to honor and remember fellow alumni. Currently, we receive obituaries from various sources and information may not always be complete. Family members with obituaries or information can contact the Alumni Office; the names we receive are also displayed each year at Homecoming.

Rosalyn H. (Gildersleeve) Maxwell attended ’42–’44 (Note: ’59)

Never Too Young Now is the time to plan for your family’s future

You may have something sitting in your drawer and not realize how valuable it can be. Most of us acquire life insurance to help our loved ones or cover expenses in case we should not live as long as we hoped. Fortunately, many of us outline our worst case scenario. The typical result is that our insurance contract is paid regularly (maybe even paid up), and growing in value even as our life is lengthening. In most cases our other assets have also grown to the point where the protection we sought isn’t as important.

Your insurance policy can become a “hidden” asset evidenced only by a file you add to when the annual statement arrives. The value of the policy seems to be essentially frozen, even dormant. It has little benefit to you today, what does that suggest if it really isn’t necessary for your heirs or to provide estate liquidity? Is there a better use for such a policy?

You might want to consider using that insurance policy to establish something meaningful to you at Pacific Union College, such as a named endowment. A future endowment named for you or a loved one would leave a lasting legacy. That nearly forgotten contract could add significantly to your favorite project or program at PUC as such a capital project or annual scholarship to help worthy students.

If you are currently paying premiums on an older policy or have insurance you may like to contribute, you will want to contact PUC’s gift planning director, Eckhard Hubin. He can describe the ways insurance might prudently create an important planned gift. He can talk you through this over the phone or, better yet, by meeting with you and your adviser in person. His goal is always to help PUC friends and alumni like you meet all your financial goals.

Call or e-mail Eckhard Hubin at the Office of Planned Giving today, for our complimentary brochure on gifts of life insurance or for more information on other types of planned gifts.

Office of Planned Giving
plannedgiving@puc.edu
www.pucplannedgiving.org
Local: 707-965-6596
Toll free: 1-800-243-5251

Social Events Bringing PUC Students Together

All year long, social events bring students together on the PUC campus. Beginning with the Get Acquainted Party right at the beginning of the year to the Christmas Tree Lighting to the SA Picnic, by the end of the year PUC students are like a family.

What social events at PUC did you especially enjoy? Share a memory at facebook.com/pacificunioncollege.

1944 The “Handshake,” as it was called, was a way for students to get to know one another as the school year began. Later it became the Get Acquainted Party. Now, this event is known as the Welcome Back Party. Though the name has changed, the sentiment has remained the same—for friends, both new and old, to come together.

1970 Women, who undoubtedly spent hours choosing the perfect dress, and men, dressed in their best suits, enjoy refreshments by PUC’s weatherman’s promise of sunshine came true just in time for some fun in the sun. The games, both on the football field and in the pool, lent to some friendly competition but really ended up contributing to everyone’s appetites.

1997 PUC’s annual Fall Festival still features dancers from the Mabuhay Filipino Club. The choreography and the attire may vary each year, but this performance is always sure to draw a crowd.

2001 At PUC, the Christmas Tree Lighting is the unofficial start of the holiday season. It’s an event where students get to come together, share some hot cocoa and celebrate together.

What’s your memory?

viewpoint@puc.edu or online at www.puc.edu/alumni/share-your-memories or by post to ViewPoint Editor, One Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508
The interview

An Experience of Humility & Gratitude

This winter, 15 PUC студенты traveled to northern Arizona to provide aid to a Navajo community there. This was PUC’s third time participating in Project Pueblo and junior biology/pre-med major Miriam Petersen’s first time on the project.

Why did you decide to go on this service trip?

I really thought it would be a good experience! I hadn’t been on many mission trips focused on a location in the U.S., so I really wanted to check it out! I had heard from friends who went last year that it was a fun trip, so that definitely helped me in deciding. Plus, to be honest, I’d never been on a mission trip in my life, mostly because of financial issues. When I realized it was only about $200—$300, I took it as a sign to take the offer!

I have done several small local Sabbath service projects such as food packaging, but never an actual mission trip. So this was definitely a new experience for me.

What stood out to you most while helping the people of the Navajo Nation?

I guess what stood out the most to me was the sense of community. The Navajo were extremely humble and thankful people, despite all of the work they had to do for heat and water — things that I and many others tend to take for granted every day. My favorite thing about the Navajos was the way they talked to us as if we had known them our whole lives. I felt they truly exemplified what God is about.

Were there any challenges?

The biggest challenge was trying to adjust to the lifestyle. We had to conserve water for everything! Brushing our teeth, taking showers, and other things. Then there was the drastic drop in temperature once the sun went down. We had to have a fire constantly burning in the furnace throughout the day and night to keep warm. And then of course there was the daily work we did! We had to dig a trail to fix some pipes leading to a water heater, which seems like a pretty simple task. The only problem was that the ground was frozen solid. We had to hit it out and loosen it with a pickaxe. It ended up taking us two days of physical labor to install those pipes!

Any surprises?

I was pretty surprised by how cold it was over there — I don’t know why we view Arizona as a warm state! When we first got to the community center, we were told we were going to have running water. When we got there, we found that because the water in the pipes was frozen, we had to use the outhouse, which was a few feet away from the house. That was quite the experience.

How did this experience change your perspective on life?

While this wasn’t a huge mission trip, I felt very blessed that I got to go. There are so many things that we take for granted in our city. I realized how important it is to just take time out of the day to thank God for what I have — my friends, my family, basic utilities, etc.

Do you have any advice for others who might be considering a similar service project?

Definitely pray about it. If you’re not sure about whether or not you should go, then pray about it. God might be trying to tell you something. That’s what I did, and I had an amazing experience.

I think that even a small mission trip, such as Project Pueblo, is enough for God to make an impact on our lives, be it through the people or just the environment that you’re surrounded by.”

my viewpoint

Four Years of Freshman Fusion

Miriam Petersen’s "I helped dig up frozen pipes."

Freshman Fusion. Just one of many quintessential PUC experiences. It consists of three days designed to help new students “find” with one another and with God. Some love it and make friends they’ll have for the rest of their time at PUC. Others don’t love it, for various reasons including weather, a failed pickup line or just plain homesickness.

Unfortunately, as a freshman, I fell into the latter category. It wasn’t anyone’s fault — it was just hard for me, a homesick freshman, to suddenly be with hundreds of peers at a faraway camp and asked to do the “wave” on a regular basis. Sitting in one of hundreds of chairs in the chapel, entering a new stage of life, I felt lost in a sea of faces.

It’s so ironic, then, that the girl who disliked the Fusion retreat so much didn’t just go once — but four years in a row! Now, I see the Fusion retreat as my “emotional stone,” the place that serves as the reminder of God’s presence and faithfulness in my life, year by year.

I may not have loved my first retreat, but one very special thing happened there. Pastor Roy Ice, PUC’s chaplain at the time, challenged all the freshmen to spend 15 minutes a day for 40 days in total silence with God, just listening. That challenge changed my year. For 40 days, I lifted all the worry and anxiety in my heart to God and began to learn how to listen to Him, developing a habit of daily devotion. This habit kept me close to God, even when events that year severely challenged my faith. It spurred me to get involved in campus ministries and vespers. And it gave me peace about the future.

That practice of listening to God is how I ended up at the Fusion retreat again. Freshmen and transfer students aren’t the only students who attend Fusion. Assistant chaplains and musicians, Fusion leaders, and Student Association officers also attend to introduce the new students to PUC life.

My freshman year, I never dreamed that I’d have the privilege of holding any of these positions — I just wanted to get good grades and have fun. So imagine my shock when, as a sophomore (who still looked like a freshman) I was in the camp chapel once again! I knew I was important and adequate as I went up front to share the God Loved, but I knew God had called me, and He would be faithful. That year was a lot of “crash-learning” as co-assistant chaplain Cameron Haley and I ran the college Sabbath school, overseas camps ministries and helped with vespers, and said goodbye to Pastor Ice and hello to Pastor Laffit Cortes, the new chaplain.

God used that year of crashing and learning to teach me that He can fix any mistake, to depend on Him, and to grow in me a deep love for Him and for my campus.

After that hectic year, I was ready for a break. But when Cameron and I were offered positions as head Fusion leaders, overseeing the men and women’s Fusion groups, we both saw an opportunity to keep serving and growing. This third retreat, I wasn’t up front, nor was I participating as a freshman. Instead, I got to be in the background and work behind the scenes, learn the dynamics of working with a team of leaders, and learn to be faithful whether or not anyone is watching. I gained a new appreciation for the work that went into the Fusion I had so casually “hated” my freshman year. That year, I realized that PUC felt like “home.” And as I looked at my “home,” God put one more thing on my heart, something that terrified me — running for Student Association president to serve Him and PUC in that way, using each year’s lessons and jumping into a new adventure with Him.

This year, at my fourth Fusion retreat, I stood before the freshman class (still looking like a freshman) and talked about PUC’s greatest gift to me — the ability to challenge and personalize my faith in a supportive environment — and encouraged them to take advantage of such a place.

Now, as my PUC faith line inches closer and closer, freshman Fusion is finally over for me. But the lessons learned from each retreat, and the God who taught them, will stay with me. It’s the retreats where I’ll be when the next Fusion retreat happens, sans me. But I do know that just as God was with me from Fusion retreat to Fusion retreat, He’ll be with me no matter what lies ahead.

Samantha Angelas, ’13, is a member of the first graduating Maxwell Scholar class and is serving this year as the Student Association president.

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HOMECOMING
2013 | April 19-21

Weekend Highlights

Featured speaker Lonnie Melashenko
Adventist evangelist, author, and former speaker/director of the Voice of Prophecy

Honored Alumni
Adventist pioneers Shigenobu Arakaki, ’51; Larry Downing ’63 & Arleen Downing, ’63; Michael Carrick, M.D., ’68; Laura Koplitzke LaBore, ’94; Zachary Benton, ’09

Class and Department Reunions
Watch your mailbox for an invitation to your honored class party.

Honored Classes

English Department Reunion
Recall, commemorate, and celebrate 70 years of English department history with past and present faculty and alumni.

Chemistry Department Reunion
Relive the ‘bonding’ between friends and faculty while reminiscing about chem labs and Bunsen burners.

Nursing Department Tea
Join your fellow nurses for a special afternoon social in Davidian Hall.

Classes of the ’40s
1940s classes will have a special reunion area at Sabbath lunch.

Friends of Walter C. Utt
All are welcome as the group gathers to celebrate the legacy of a pioneering Adventist educator and historian.

Performance by Committed
Listen to the smooth harmonies of Committed, a Seventh-day Adventist a capella group and winners of NBC’s The Sing-Off.

Alumni Basketball and Volleyball
Relive the glory days with both varsity and recreational players from all generations.

Pioneer Dinner
Honoring the spirit of volunteer service at PUC. This year’s Honored Pioneer: PUC Board of Trustees leader, Shirley Chang, Ph.D., att. ’62.

Music Department Concert
Enjoy a music program from today’s student ensembles.

PUC Heritage Archives
Browse yearbooks, Funnybooks, Campus Chronicle issues, and artifacts from the Maxwell family and Pitcairn collections at Nelson Memorial Library.

Join us for a weekend of memories at your College on the Mountain!

Maxwell Cup Golf Tournament
April 19 | 2013

Unwind with friends at the spectacular Silverado Resort golf course, rated one of the 2012 BEST resort courses by Golfweek. All proceeds go toward PUC student scholarships. Register at maxwellcup.com

Visit alumni.puc.edu or call (707) 965-7500 for the latest information on this year’s Homecoming schedule and to register for the weekend’s events.