

# ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE WINTER 2010



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# our college perspective



## Becoming Great

"A third of the campus is new," said Dr. Nancy Lecourt, academic dean, earlier this academic year. We had been reviewing the increase in total enrollment, which showed a considerable increase in freshmen and transfer students. "It's a chance for us to create a new culture on our campus," she said.

We needn't worry. Change was happening.

On September 15, 2009, Dr. Heather J. Knight started her first day of work at Pacific Union College. She hit the ground running by presenting her vision for PUC at our annual Faculty and Staff Colloquium. She talked about the distinct advantages of a Seventh-day Adventist education and how we could nurture those ideas at PUC. She shared what has become a mantra of sorts for her — a personal philosophy to guide her work ethic: the idea of going from "good to great." She emphasized that PUC is a good college. We've had a reputation of outstanding academics, inspiring stories of service, and a wonderfully committed faculty. Yet Dr. Knight pushed us further, encouraging PUC to relentlessly pursue excellence in all areas and surrender our "culture of scarcity" for "a culture of abundance," trusting that God will bless us if only we believe.

In the following weeks, the administrative council talked about what changes we needed to achieve greatness, from curriculum to community relations to building improvements. "This campus should sparkle," Dr. Knight said with a sparkle of her own.

When she used the word "sparkle," we were talking specifically about renovations — paint, plaster, and carpeting. But in essence, she could have been talking about every aspect of PUC. Shouldn't we glisten, gleam, radiate light in everything we do?

In early December, I attended a student life committee meeting. There, Dr. Lisa Paulson, vice president for student services, asked members how we might infuse our campus with more spiritual vitality. One student representative spoke up.

He shared his story of having gone to a Baptist high school, although he was Adventist. At his

school, which had students from a variety of faiths, passion for Christ was not just a notion but a genuine way of life for the students. Imagine his surprise when he learned that such a culture could be scarce in college. Students, busy with life and studies, found it difficult to integrate a spiritual language into everyday language.

"It's hardest to be an Adventist when you're around other Adventists," the student said.

He could have been disheartened, but he decided to change the culture. He began an accountability group in his residence hall, where friends were sure to ask each other about their walk with God. He started praying with teammates before varsity soccer practices and found that overall sportsmanship greatly improved as a result. In every aspect of his life, the student's faith and commitment to Christ shined.

There are 11.1 percent more students at PUC than last year. More than 1,500 students have chosen PUC as their college. As the 2009 fall quarter wraps up we can already report that the culture has shifted. Overall, people report a positive spirit on campus. Attendance at campus events has in some cases doubled. A recent pep rally brought 600 students out to the gym to celebrate PUC.

"The vibe that the new freshman class gives to the campus is awesome," said upperclassman Geoff Brummett. "They are so full of life and energy, and best part of it all is that they participate in campus activities."

The landscape is broadening, and change starts one corner at a time, one person at a time, and one decision at a time before it blazes into a cultural revolution of good to great. Scarcity to abundance.

A glint, to a blindingly bright, brilliant sparkle.

Vice President for Marketing and Enrollment Services

*The landscape is broadening, and change starts one corner at a time, one person at a time, and one decision at a time before it blazes into a cultural revolution of good to great.*



# ViewPoint

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**Vision Statement:** *ViewPoint*, the journal of Pacific Union College, connects PUC's alumni and friends in a community that celebrates the college's activities and stories, and supports the continuation of its mission into the future. *ViewPoint* aims to provide quality features about topics relevant to our community; news about the college and alumni; and means to unite, motivate, and inspire.

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Heather J. Knight stepped into PUC's presidency this fall. Read about her views and vision on page 10. *Photo by Briana Marie Clark-Forgie.*

# POURING MONSOON AND HYDROGEN COLLISIONS

## Professors get elbow-deep in their fields

By Lainey S. Cronk, Eirene-gin Nakamura, Larry Peña

**C**ALLED TO A COMPLETE INVESTMENT IN THE instruction of undergraduates, our professors are hardly measured or marked by getting continually published or pursuing high-profile research. But these one-hundred-percent-teachers are still deeply committed to their respective areas of study, and somehow they find time to squeeze in monsoons, national labs, glocal Adventism, manga, and other pieces of their chosen fields.

### Sidetracked to Kenya

Victoria Mukerji was looking forward to a leisurely start of a one-year sabbatical in Goa, India. And then she was asked to go to Kenya.

A PUC professor of anthropology, she headed back to Goa this year to finish anthropological fieldwork and research she had started while on a Fulbright grant a couple of years ago. When she accepted a sudden request from Andrews University's International Development Program to take a one-week teaching detour to Baraton, Kenya, it meant buckling down in the pouring Indian monsoon to conceive and develop an intensive

graduate curriculum in developmental anthropology. With thorough support from the Andrews program director, Dawn Dulhunty, and from Mukerji's friend James Faubion, chair of the anthropology department at Rice University, they pulled it off; and Mukerji headed to East African University.

aid and rebuilding to care of AIDS orphans in the Lake Victoria region, to more microcosmic fields such as mother/child post-natal care or programs for the terminally ill. "It was incredibly broad," Mukerji recounts, "but everyone, without exception, was dedicated, grassroots, on the ground and in the field."

*"I heard the most remarkable stories of my career from these fabulous people and experienced the most incredible hospitality and sincere humanity I have felt within the structure of the Adventist Church."*

In the airport at Nairobi, Mukerji experienced the first taste of hospitality she'd find "unparalleled in my experience." She waited in line for a visa for hours, and by the time she got to the front of the line, she was exhausted. "The first thing the man behind the counter did was say, 'How are you tonight Professor? I hope your stay in Kenya will be enjoyable.' Hardly what I would expect from an immigration officer in any country!"

At a new facility funded by ADRA at the University campus, Mukerji was met by 50 humanitarian aid and development master's students, mostly in their 30s and 40s with extensive field and personal experience with human conditions hardly imaginable in the United States. Their experiences ranged from Rwandan resettlement of refugees to post-war Afghanistan

Mukerji had built her course to engage students in "a highly critical and analytical historical approach to the grand narratives of development since World War II." They turned a critical eye on the established (mostly Western) ideas of aid and development. The point was to "encourage a 'bottom up' direction of understanding the issues of a people — listening to them and offering intervention at a level relevant to, and on, their terms of what constitutes 'improvement' of their lives."

For the five days of the class, they delved into serious discussions. "Our conversations were daily workouts!" Mukerji says. "Because no one was a novice, they kept me on my feet, bringing in real life examples at every step of the way." As a class, they talked about brideprice (a very sensitive African subject, Mukerji explains),



**A week in Kenya:** On the verge of a research stint in India, Mukerji is called on a detour that turns out to be life-changing.



the dictates of grand narratives of international donors, dealing with governments and corruption, and compromising for the sake of funding. They explored the roles of ideology, ethnocentrism, and politics in what is a compassionate field of service.

The combination of highly experienced and motivated students with an intensive curriculum led to an experience that was something of an epiphany for Mukerji. "I heard the most remarkable stories of my career from these fabulous people and experienced the most incredible hospitality and sincere humanity I have felt within the structure of the Adventist Church," she says. Her first experience with a program at one of PUC's sister institutions, this detour turned out to be "a tremendously charged five days" and one of Mukerji's best experiences as a professor.

Mukerji is eager to incorporate pieces of her experience in Kenya into her curriculum at PUC next year. Her goal is to develop an upper-division course to follow PUC's introductory cultural anthropology class. "Invariably after teaching the intro, there is always a sizeable portion of students whose appetites for cultural studies has been whet and they want more," she says. "We send so many students out into the world — as Christians on mission trips, but also just as Christians and citizens of the world — and we should be offering them more on how to more fully and compassionately engage with others."

Back in Goa, Mukerji reflects that whatever happens during the rest of this year, "I will remember my week in Kenya as life-changing."

### Now or Never for Colliding Atoms

When physics professor Vola Andrianarijaona sent an abstract to DAMOP (the Division of Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics), the acceptance e-mail was quick to come. When he sent it to the much more expansive ICPEAC (the International Conference on Photonic, Electronic, and Atomic Collisions), there was a long wait while they processed 800 abstracts from around the world. When they chose the 590 to be represented at the convention, the work of Andrianarijaona (as first author) and his colleagues was included. When they accepted a much smaller number of authors to present on their research, the abstract was still in. Delighted, the research team celebrated the recognition of their ongoing work measuring

the collision of hydrogen molecules. When, two days later, they were one of just 26 invited to give "special reports" on the most recent advances, it was a truly unexpected rush. Andrianarijaona accepted the invitation instantly.

And then he realized there were several challenges: raising the money to attend the convention in Kalamazoo, Michigan; getting a sub for a PUC summer class; and covering his PacificQuest course. In a perfect twist, Andrianarijaona gave his final on Thursday, flew to Kalamazoo on Friday, and flew back to hit Paci-



**Compelled to research:** Deciding it's now or never for getting back into research, Andrianarijaona soon finds himself in a guest professorship — and a spotlight (at least in the physics world).

ficQuest on Sunday. And the Herber Family Endowment, which has supported Andrianarijaona's research, helped with the cost.

This research started in the fall of 2008, inspired by a looming 40th birthday. "If I do not do research now, I'll never do it again," Andrianarijaona said to himself. Andrianarijaona's background is in both teaching and research, but during the years before coming to PUC, he had always been engaged in research. When he came here after working at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he turned his focus entirely on teaching, true to PUC's academic commitment. But that first summer, he went back to Lincoln to do research. By last year, he knew he needed another research opportunity.

Andrianarijaona contacted his Ph.D. supervisor in Belgium. Through a quick succession of connections, he found himself an invited professor at Oakridge National Laboratory in Tennessee for two years. He was to work with professor Charles C. Havener, who grudgingly sacrificed a Thanksgiving break since Andrianarijaona couldn't work while PUC was in session.

After three days of research, there was no more grumbling. In a relatively short research

## IN OTHER FIELDS

**Mei Ann Teo at La Mama** For two weeks, Mei Ann Teo lived in an old stone mansion in Umbria, Italy. With help from a Herber Grant, Teo, PUC's drama program director, attended the La Mama International Directors Symposium this past summer. She found her teaching perspective refreshed. "As teachers we forget how much pedagogy matters, how you teach is just as important as what you teach. So it was fantastic for me to regain the critical eye of the student."

### Floyd Hayes in Antigua and Yosemite

In July, biology professor Floyd Hayes traveled to Antigua to participate in a workshop on bird banding — a crucial aspect of tracking bird populations for research purposes. Hayes also took several trips to Yosemite National Park over the summer, where he and PUC biology sophomore Doug Weidemann conducted research on attraction of wild birds to human food. Currently, Hayes is involved in local research studies at Clear Lake, one on the abundant seasonality and demography of gulls and one on the status of breeding populations of fish-eating birds.

## IN OTHER FIELDS

### Heather Reid at the Huntington

**Library** English professor Heather Reid received a Herber Grant to pursue summer research at the Huntington Library, which owns the only known surviving Middle English copy of *The Storie of Asneth*. Reid already has research background with this literary work, and this fall her chapter “Female Initiation Rites and Women Visionaries: Mystical Marriage in the Middle English Translation of The Storie of Asneth” was published in the collection *Women and the Divine in Literature Before 1700*. At the Huntington, Reid spent time in the library and the “rare books—medieval manuscripts” reading room.

### Rachelle Davis at the Conductors

**Institute** Music professor Rachelle Berthelson Davis was accepted to the advanced level of the Conductors Institute at Bard College in New York this summer, where she was given a new musical excerpt to direct every day and was critiqued by other professors. Davis made good connections with other conductors, was paid to play violin in the orchestra for two days, and came back to PUC energized to make some changes. “It will affect how I use my baton, but also how I teach Basic Conducting,” she says. “And I can take my conducting to the next level, so [the orchestra members] can bring the orchestra to the next level.”

time, they were already getting interesting results — data that was missing for applications ranging from NASA to DNA damage — from measurements that nobody else was doing. Andrianarijaona went back during Christmas break for a second session.

When asked to provide an explanation of his research to the non-physicist, he says, “It’s simple!” and launches into a ten-minute explanation that includes a white board completely covered in letters, arrows, and diagrams. The gist of it is that he’s measuring the collisions involving atomic hydrogen and derivatives and isotopes.

What made the research a “hot topic” at ICPEAC, Andrianarijaona says, is how it plays into research on ionizing radiation and its damaging affects on DNA. Their measurements address an unexplored element of that research. In general, the research has significance for the high atmosphere and might impact the missions of NASA and the early universe conception — as well as having value for experimental physics in general.

Though Andrianarijaona has to squeeze research between teaching, he’s bringing one very tangible opportunity to students: the chance to be involved. Last year, senior physics major Jerilynn Rada helped by analyzing data and making graphs. At the same time, four other students worked on research at the Advanced Light Source in Berkeley through Andrianarijaona’s connections there. The three who have not graduated will continue to work on both projects, joined by new students in the department.

### Glocal Adventism & Other Memes

Alex Carpenter’s summer was divided up between running a clapboard, “glocal” Adventism, and aliens. An instructor in the visual arts department, Carpenter teaches art history and film and television. His prevailing interest in pop culture, visual culture, and new media keeps him on the cusp of many fantastic — in both senses of the word — happenings.

In Orlando, Florida, Carpenter attended his fourth year of the five-year-old Global Internet Evangelism Network (GiEN), a General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists initiative and now an North American Division initiative that connects people from around the world



In a widely varied summer, Carpenter runs a clapboard for the filming of “The REAL Escape,” a short live-action film.

interested in evangelism, the internet, and media.

Carpenter has presented before, mostly on topics related to his work with *Spectrum* magazine online (*Spectrum* is the journal of the Adventist Forum), but this was his first time taking center stage for a workshop. His presentation was titled “Glocal Adventism, Social Media, and the Jesus Meme.” The “glocal” is a combination of “global”

and “local,” and the “meme” (a unit of cultural information or ideas passed from one generation to another) showed up because of Carpenter’s interest in social media.

Carpenter has been following Twitter memes, looking at “how we can track what’s hot in conversation around the world, at least on Twitter.” At the workshop, he talked about how he’s tracked the word “Adventist” on Twitter. “It’s really interest to see how that gets used in everyday discourse in the English-speaking world.”

So during his workshop, Carpenter suggested that “counting members” was an outdated method for Adventism. “What would be a better way to think about what it means to be an Adventist in the 21st century?” he asked.

He’s looking to this new media as a current method of assessment for Adventism. “We have to measure things, right?” he says. “I mean we’re a corporation — in the best and worst sense of that.” But, he asks, “Why don’t we track our success by seeing how our messages get out into the world... We could trace those into society now and use new media to attract that instead of counting baptisms.”

GiEN was a bit of a gear shift from some of Carpenter’s other summer adventures. In Berrien Springs, Michigan, he served as a production assistant on a 10-day shoot of a film that will show at the Columbia University graduate film festival. In New York, he visited museums and hit it off with an artist who created the Homeless Museum of Art. In Roswell, New Mexico, Carpenter attended talks by producer Paul Davids at the annual UFO Festival.

These adventures and explorations tie to Carpenter’s interest in visual culture and pop culture, which in turn tie in to his classes (he teaches everything from history of photography to modern art). And maybe, one of these days, he’ll get the chance to bring it all home by teaching a class in new media.



### You Might Be Japanese

If you grew up watching Ultraman and Ampanman, you might be Japanese. If you think Ichiro Suzuki is Superman, you might be Japanese. If you can identify a literary work on a wall and immediately converse about its significance to history, culture and society, you might be Japanese. “The Japanese view reading and writing as a patriotic, nationalistic act,” says English professor Maria Rankin-Brown. “It’s like they’re saying, ‘We’re being Japanese by reading.’”

Rankin-Brown, whose mother is Japanese, returned to the island nation for the third consecutive year this summer to continue her research on Japanese literature and literary behavior, with special focus on *manga* — a literary form unique to Japan and composed of comics and graphic novels (book-length comics). Rankin-Brown chose to research Asian literature to supplement her Great Books course’s “Global Perspectives” subtitle, which concentrates on non-western works. Through her work, she hopes not only to publish a book, but also to find a method to motivate her American students to take the same pride and enjoyment in reading that she witnessed in the Japanese culture.

Japan is ranked among the most literate countries in the world, boasting a national literacy rate of 99 percent. This high percentage inspired Rankin-Brown to set out on a mission to find whether or not the existence of manga (which is far more expansive than U.S. comics, encompassing every genre and age group) affects literacy. She developed a theory that the older Japanese use manga as a way of instilling Japanese values into the younger generation, who do not understand the traditional and “closed-minded” ways of the older generation. Oddly enough, the highly Americanized younger generation, however different they are from the aging population, continues to read constantly — a behavior that may be attributed to the availability of manga. Her studies on this subject are to be part of an article entitled “From Samurai to Manga: The Function of Manga to Shape and Reflect Japanese Identity,” in which Rankin-Brown will explore “how manga reflects the identity struggle that the Japanese face as they negotiate an ultra-modern world influenced by old-world traditions.”

This modern-day society is the third in a series of social eras Rankin-Brown has studied.

Winning Herber Grants in both 2007 and 2008, she began her research on ancient and post-World War II Japanese literature. She traveled all around Japan, interviewing museum curators, patrons of museums, survivors of World War II, and even her own family mem-



**Rankin-Brown travels to Japan** for her third summer of literary research (pictured here with a cutout of the famous Totoro from the Japanese anime film *My Neighbor Totoro*).

bers to study the change in literary behavior that the war had brought to the country. She found that the ambiguity of Japanese culture and subsequently, literature, decreased, giving way to a new, more overtly expressive style. “A lot of [older] Japanese literature has a ‘find your way yourself’ feel,” she says. “Themes are hidden, symbols, like the culture itself. You have to dig deep in order to find the meaning.” In a culture so focused on details and subtleties, “when one appreciates these characteristics, one is simply appreciating the act of being Japanese.” **VP**

## THE HERBERS

**The Herber Grants**, showing up as a supporting element in the work of so many of these and other PUC faculty members, were established in 2006 to do exactly what they’re doing: facilitate teachers in their quest to achieve and sustain innovative, quality instruction. Established by St. Helena physician Steve Herber and his sisters Sandra and Susan Herber (all of whom attended PUC), along with their father Ray Herber, the Herber Family Endowment annually provides PUC faculty with professional development grants.



**Hernan Granados**, a pastor and PUC dean, helped with the 1,200 baptisms that concluded the two-week series.

# UNDER FIRE

## Student missionaries baptize 1,200— and one of their own

By Larry Peña

**I**F YOU'VE EVER TALKED TO A YOUNG PERSON JUST back from the mission field, you know the story they're going to tell. There's the initial expectation that they're going to be a blessing to others, and then the inevitable sense that God is leading throughout the experience. And then by the end of the trip they realize that they themselves ended up being the ones that were blessed.

Then again, most of those mission stories don't include gunfire in the streets and missionaries heeding their own altar calls.

Every year for the past seven years, PUC has participated in an international evangelistic trip with ShareHim, an organization that empowers Adventist lay people in ministry through exposure to evangelism. This year a PUC group of 10, led by pastor and Newton Hall assistant dean Hernan Granados, joined the organization on their trip to El Salvador for a two-week evangelism series. The group would

preach at 34 churches in and around the capital of San Salvador — with each student missionary preaching the entire series, 19 sermons in 14 days, at their very own church.

"This was a lot harder emotionally than anything else I've done," says Chelsea Schroeder, a junior photography major and mission field veteran. "It was the first time I figured out that there were things that I was incapable of doing. I had to put aside all my pride and fear and self-consciousness and realize that I'm a tool for God."

While ShareHim provided the sermon topics, the student missionaries from PUC, as well as some from Southern Adventist University and Canadian University College, provided the enthusiasm and the willingness to share.

"The whole day was spent studying together, preparing for the sermon that night. Then by around six everybody would go their own way, preach, and come back together later on



**The group of 10** from PUC joined other Adventist students to preach at 34 churches in San Salvador.

after the meeting," says Granados. "That was the most exciting part, just going back to the hotel and sharing what happened, or how the sermon went. We were all so happy to see that we had one little part in one soul giving their heart to God."



But emotional wear wasn't the only difficulty facing the student missionaries. Several members of the group also faced physical danger in the streets of San Salvador.



**Jaymee Leamer** heeded her own altar call and was baptized by Granados on the last night of the series.

After a meeting one night, Schroeder and several other PUC missionaries, along with a few members of the local church, took two cars to have dinner at the home of one of the translators. Slowing at an intersection, the missionaries in the lead car suddenly found themselves facing a gang of teenagers armed with handguns. The driver, one of the local pastors, hit the gas, but not before several shots were fired. When the group finally stopped at what appeared to be a safe spot, they found a bullet lodged in a deflated tire and holes in the panel, frighteningly close to where Eric Silvas, another PUC student missionary, had been sitting.

"I was upset, but also very focused and on edge," said Silvas, a senior communication major. "I wasn't sure what was happening."

The trailing car, which had been several blocks behind at the time of the shooting, found the rest of the group recuperating in a restaurant parking lot not far from the scene. Together they went inside to get their bearings. But when they returned to the cars 20 minutes later, they discovered that they had been robbed — a camera and several of the missionary's computers, containing their sermons and materials, were gone.

The missionaries that lost their equipment didn't let that set them back. "They were down for that moment, but they borrowed laptops and just worked harder and harder," says Granados. "They didn't get disappointed or give up. They

said, 'God has brought us here for a reason, and we're going to keep doing it because this is where the Lord wants us to be.'"

Schroeder believes her next sermon was the highlight of the trip. After unfolding the story of the incident to her congregation, she closed with a defiant appeal. "I just told them that Satan must be angry that we're here, sending people to shoot and rob us," she says. "I told them, 'I hope you want to keep making Satan angry too by serving God.' The whole church got up and came forward."

During the two-week mission, the group recorded 1,288 baptisms. But one of the most surprising baptism stories occurred not to a Salvadorian, but to one of the PUC missionaries.

When senior Jaymee Leamer signed up for the trip, she thought she knew what to expect. "I didn't really think about what effect it could have on me," she says. "I only was thinking about how the Lord could use each of us to

*"This was a lot harder emotionally than anything else I've done... I had to put aside all my pride and fear and self-consciousness and realize that I'm a tool for God."*

change the lives of those around us." But soon after the preaching got underway, she began to feel inadequate. Her Catholic family had converted to Adventism when she was 12 years old, and she had never thought to get baptized into her new church. Now, 10 years later, she was hearing the message of her home church with new ears, and from her own mouth.

As she preached the sermon on the importance of the baptism commitment one night, she suddenly saw clearly that something wasn't right. "Giving that sermon to my church, telling them how important it is to be baptized and make that choice to stand for the Lord, I felt like the biggest hypocrite of all," she says. After wrapping up the message and giving the altar call, she began to weep. "I stepped down

## SEVEN YEARS AND COUNTING WITH SHAREHIM



- 2003:** Philippines
- 2004:** Eastern Indonesia
- 2005:** North Philippines
- 2006:** Mexico-South
- 2007:** Kenya
- 2008:** Venezuela
- 2009:** El Salvador
- 2010:** *scheduled:* Guatemala

from the podium with a number of the other members of the church and decided it was time to make that choice," she says. The local pastor who was translating for her didn't know what was going on, until she explained her situation. He finished the call for her, and invited the audience to join the speaker in committing themselves to the Lord. Granados baptized her on the last night of the series.

"I just wish that every PUC student could have this opportunity, because it just makes you see life from a different perspective," says Granados. "You can talk about it, and you can get passionate about it, but it doesn't compare with when you are there and seeing all those miracles that God does for you and through you. Just to be part of it is amazing." **VP**

# Catalyst for Positive Change

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## President Heather J. Knight talks about her dreams for PUC

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**I**n September of 2009, Heather Joy Knight stepped into the presidency at Pacific Union College as its 21st president. On April 15, the college will host an official inauguration ceremony. In the meantime, Knight is full of ideas, goals, and plans for PUC, driven by her passion for educational excellence, for the value of Adventist higher education, and for enabling the college to fulfill its potential.

A native of Jamaica, Knight spent her first nine years there, receiving a solid educational foundation in the British system. When her parents, Austin and Herolin Evelyn, immigrated to New York, Knight attended public school in the Bronx — which, she says, “provided me with a very diverse academic and cultural background.” She saw *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* on Broadway while still in junior high school, had field trips to many famous museums and historical sites, saw her first opera at the Metropolitan Opera House, and had her high school graduation ceremony at Lincoln Center.

Accepted into the High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, the high school featured in the musical film and

television series *Fame*, Knight majored in vocal performance. She went on to study at Howard University, Oakwood College, Loma Linda University, Stanford University, and Harvard University. She holds bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees in English and completed postdoctoral studies in management and leadership in education at Harvard.



Knight came to PUC following three years as provost of Andrews University and 18 years as a professor, assistant provost, and associate provost at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. She moved to Angwin with her husband, Dr. Norman Knight, an ordained minister and educator

who now serves as the outreach chaplain for PUC, traveling the Pacific Union Conference and other areas of the country to speak at many churches while also presenting workshops on “Access to Christian Higher Education.” The Knights both have a passion for ministry and higher education. In ViewPoint’s interview with Heather Knight, we ask her to share with alumni a little about her background, her vision, and her goals for PUC.



# QA

## Tell us about your own secondary and post-secondary education, which included non-Adventist schools. How does this journey impact your perspective on Adventist higher education?

I grew up in a large urban church with many Jamaican immigrants, who at that time were not very exposed to the Seventh-day Adventist educational system. Adventist schools were simply not in our neighborhoods. So, my friends and I were very active in church activities — Pathfinders, Missionary Volunteers (M.V.), Harvest Ingathering and church socials — but we did not have the privilege of attending Seventh-day Adventist schools. After excelling academically at Music and Art and Performing Arts High School, I was awarded a National Competitive Scholarship to Howard University, where I was also in the Honors Program. After two years at Howard, however, I grew weary of the secularism on campus and yearned for a more spiritual environment. Oakwood College became my refuge. Finally, I fit in, and I received a spiritual education par excellence while sitting at the feet of the prophets — E.E. Cleveland, C.T. Richards, Henry Wright, Benjamin Reaves, Mervyn Warren and so on. Because of this experience, I believe that it is important that Adventist institutions reach out to Adventist students beyond the traditional academy feeder systems. I know that there are many young people like myself who would benefit from an Adventist college or university experience even if they did not attend the feeder academies. Presently, only 30 percent of our Adventist college-age students attend Adventist colleges and universities. We must aggressively seek to recruit the young people in our churches by working in partnership with our pastors and parents.

## After 18 years of working at a university outside the Adventist church, why did you decide to go to Andrews?

As you can see from my educational background, God had opened a variety of doors for me to have a very interesting educational journey. Howard then Oakwood. Loma Linda then Stanford. Harvard for post-graduate work. Eighteen years at the University of the Pacific, a distinctive institution of higher learning that used to be Methodist. All of these diverse experiences connected me to the broad issues and trends in higher education and allowed me to focus on what constitutes “best practices” in higher education. High impact educational practices, essential

learning outcomes, and inclusive excellence are all terms that became part of my vocabulary or academic discourse as I participated in the larger agenda of 21st century liberal arts education. In the end, I felt that it was time to marshal all of the gifts, talents and opportunities that God had given me and to give back to my Church in a way that could finally bring together all of my core values and spiritual commitments.

## What do you think an Adventist education should offer? What makes it special?

An Adventist education should be solidly based in the Seventh-day Adventist educational philosophy. Did I mention that I had a secondary education minor at Oakwood and am CBEST credentialed? In other words, I studied Adventist educational philosophy in an Adventist setting. This type of education is whole-person education, as Ellen G. White says in the book *Education*, “the harmonious development of the physical, mental and spiritual powers.” It also intentionally integrates and engages faith and learning in a very powerful way, thus leading our young people to accept Christ as their personal Savior and to make a commitment to our Church. This type of education helps us to have meaning and purpose in our lives and to possess the intellectual and spiritual skill sets to thrive in the 21st century and make a true difference in our communities. Of course, an Adventist education should also equip our students to find their true vocations in order to achieve success and happiness in service to God and humankind.

## In a broad sense, how do you see your role at PUC?

First of all, let me say that I believe the task of leadership is to help groups develop a shared sense of vision, direction and commitment. Therefore, as PUC’s CEO, I want to provide intentional leadership to get us to the next level of excellence, and we’re looking at what that means for PUC at this particular historical moment. We certainly want to restore good financial health to the institution, and we want to grow our enrollment in order to be financially viable and to serve many more Seventh-day Adventist students and students in our local community as well.



**Eighteen years at University of the Pacific** included service as associate provost, and such ceremonial moments as Clint Eastwood receiving an honorary doctorate.



**Undergrad:** Knight found an educational home at Oakwood College (now University), graduating in 1982.

We also want to keep on being a first-rate institution academically. Having had our Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation visit in October, which was focused on our capacity and infrastructure to function as a viable institution of higher learning that fulfills our mission, WASC will next focus on our educational effectiveness. We will need to keep developing a culture of evidence, a focus on student learning outcomes and the accomplishments of our graduates. Of course, PUC has many, many outstanding graduates, so that should not be a problem.

Additionally, a president has to set a compelling academic and spiritual vision for her institution and inspire and empower others to do their best work and to achieve their hopes and dreams. I also want to focus on institutional sustainability by recruiting the best and the brightest faculty and staff to teach and mentor our students, both academically and spiritually. I believe that we must also be a light to higher education at large, which, by the way, is now experiencing a religious renaissance of sorts. We can help show the way. We must be elite without being elitist. So I really see my role as being a catalyst for positive change.

#### **What are some goals for your first year here?**

The first one is to restore financial stability to the college. I also want to connect with our multiple constituents — our alums of course, individuals in the regions that we serve, the different conferences, our conference and union leadership. I want to get out and about and get a sense of what people need from PUC

and whether or not we are meeting their needs. We want to be a viable choice for our Adventist families in the region, so we need to know what they want and to deliver the product that they want for their young people. Furthermore, I am interested in exploring how PUC can provide intellectual, cultural and spiritual capital to our region. If PUC disappeared today, would our community miss us? I hope so. I am already working on developing several partnerships with other community organizations as we work to enhance town/gown relationships.

I also want to have a really vibrant, relevant, memorable, engaging learning environment, so that every classroom that students walk into on our campus will be transformative. I want to challenge faculty members who are already doing a wonderful job to keep thinking about continuous improvement of their courses. Our students now, the Millennials, are really in a whole different modality than we were. They're using technology in a very seamless and natural way. Are we really engaging them in the modality in which they learn best? We want to provide a

powerful context for learning here, and empower our faculty and students with the tools they need to have powerful and transformative learning experiences.

My other first-year goals include beginning Strategic Planning, enhancing internal and external public relations, as well as supporting PUC's goals to enhance and celebrate our wonderful ethnic and international diversity.

#### **One of your mantras is “from good to great.” Tell us about this philosophy and how it applies to your leadership style.**

Jim Collins, the author of *Good to Great*, was a professor at Stanford Business School, so I knew about his research on the factors and business practices that helped companies make the leap from being just good companies to becoming great companies. In fact, Collins often said, “good is the enemy of great.” This often becomes true as institutions become complacent and settle for the status quo and forget about innovation and excellence. For me, the good to great framework is a theoretical framework for institutional improvement and excellence. I have always believed that God calls us to true excellence and empowers us to be able to achieve high levels of performance. As the Lexus mantra says, “the relentless pursuit of perfection.” My leadership style, I hope, inspires and empowers others to envision and to enact higher and higher levels of performance as we work collectively to improve organizational culture and performance.

#### **What do you think is PUC's biggest asset as an educational institution?**

Its reputation as a Christian liberal arts college that delivers an ivy-league quality education through the medium of committed Christian professors and staff. We have students who go on to medical and dental school at a very high rate and also to very prestigious graduate schools and workplaces. PUC, though, is also very much a destination campus nestled in the spectacular mountains of Napa Valley, so our location provides both nature and nurture.

#### **In the first months of your presidency, have you picked up on any quirks or cherished traditions at PUC?**

The campus really has a “green ethos” in that there is such an emphasis on nature activities like mountain bike riding, hiking and the like. The campus community is also very committed to recycling and other ways of trying to sustain the environment. I have also started a new tradition, the ringing of the Healdsburg Bell at our Opening Convocation program, which takes place at the beginning of each new school year.



**“I love interacting with people,”** says Knight. The Family Gathering, held just before school started, gave her a chance to meet and converse with many faculty and staff members.



**The ringing of the Healdsburg Bell** at Opening Convocation was Knight's first contribution to PUC traditions.



**You are a self-professed lover of the arts. What role do the arts play in a student's intellectual and spiritual development?**

My premise is that God is the ultimate Creative Force in the universe. He has given us as human beings creative faculties as well, which we express in a variety of artistic venues. By engaging the arts, we understand more fully the beauty and complexity of the human condition. The arts also offer us opportunities for emotional and spiritual catharsis through the joys of music, art, literature and so forth. In the end, students can experience God's creative power through an engagement with the arts.

**What does it feel like to be the first female president, and the first Black president, of PUC?**

God has provided me with this marvelous opportunity to be a bit of a pacesetter and pioneer. It is, therefore, a tremendous honor to be able to use all of the gifts and experiences that He has enabled me to have in service to PUC as the College's first female and first Black president. In many ways, this position is a culminating experience for me, and I am deeply grateful. Many individuals, of many different backgrounds and hues, have served as my mentors and colleagues over the years and are also responsible for my present success. Of course, I have to also thank my parents, husband and children for their support over the years as I have worked hard to balance familial and career goals.

**How do you see your relationship with alumni?**

I have already attended a number of alumni events, and there are many others planned. My advancement vice president Pam Sadler and I will be out and about up and down the state, seeing alums in Southern, Central and Northern California, as well as other areas in our constituency. By early next year we will be heading to the East as well, to Tennessee and to Andrews, my former institution. So we'll be visiting with alums, visiting with donors, thanking them for their gifts, and seeing how they may want to continue helping PUC as we move forward to become a great institution.

I love interacting with people, and so I want to be able to connect with our alumni, find out who they are, their concerns, their joys, and get a sense of how they feel about PUC and how to maintain those critical connections with them.

**Many alumni have followed the process of and debate over the Angwin Ecovillage proposal. How do you approaching this hot topic?**

This is a hot topic indeed. In my two months on campus so far, I have been learning more about the Ecovil-

lage project, while also being willing to listen to other points of view. It is fair to say that my approach is to try to find common ground even among opposing points of view.

**Sometimes there is tension between higher education and the church, especially when it comes to ideas that conflict with our faith. How do we deal with these as a Christian institution of higher learning?**

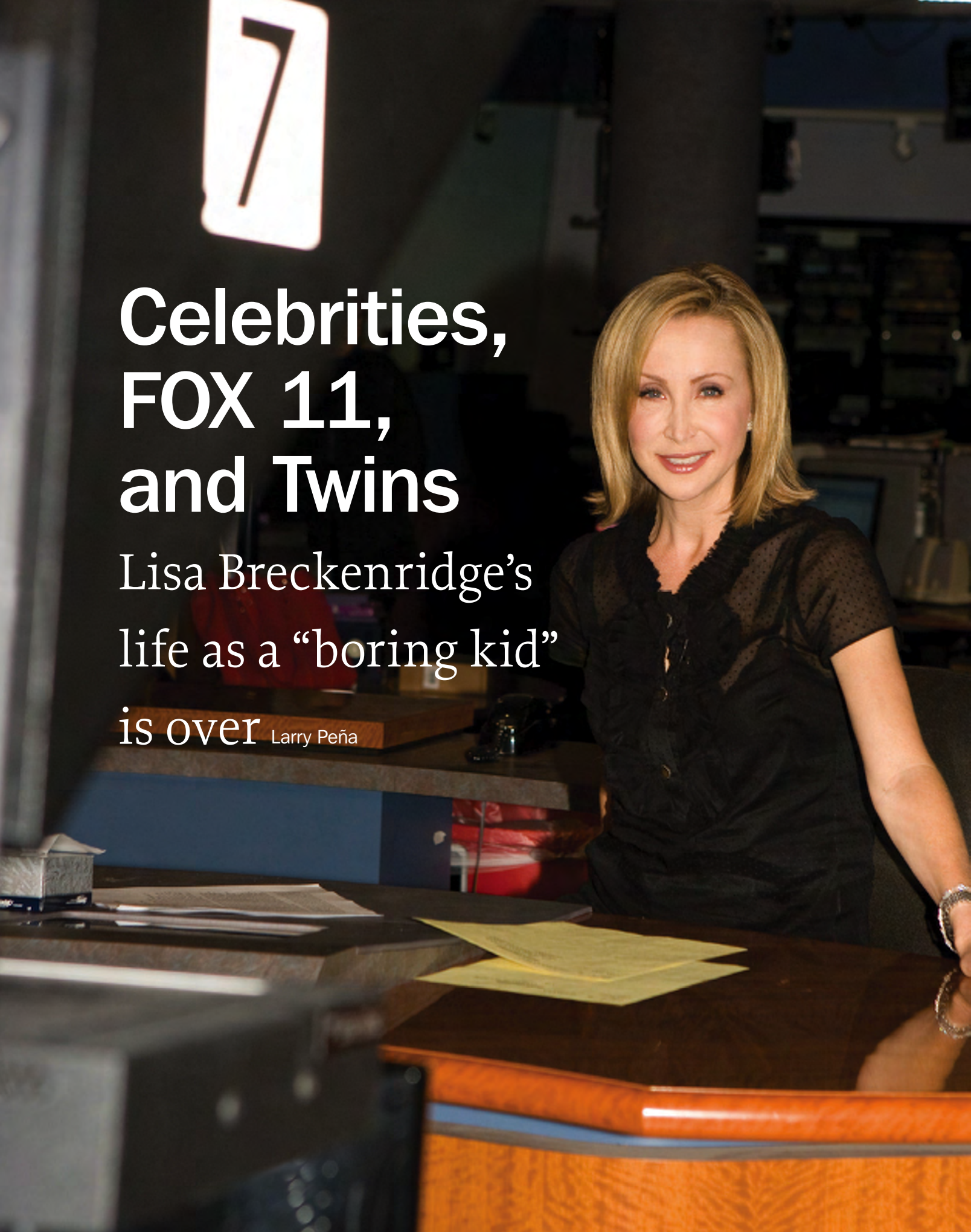
I always start with the realization that God is the Author of all true knowledge, and He is an Infinite God. Therefore, as a Christian intellectual, I am committed to critical inquiry and "thinking about my thinking" but always with the knowledge that I "see through a glass darkly." There are moments in my spiritual and intellectual journey when I may have to live with some ambiguity as God continues to reveal Himself to me through the lens of faith. This attempt to integrate faith and learning is an exciting lifelong project. My dissertation project at Stanford, for example, was an attempt to integrate religion and literature, and I am still passionate about the integration of faith and learning in my work as a Christian administrator.



**Knight celebrates the arts** at PUC with Margrit Mondavi at Piano Fantasia (see page 16).

**You stepped into the presidency at a difficult time in higher education, and PUC has its own challenges. How do these impact your approach to leading PUC?**

John Gardner, founder of Common Cause and author of the classic leadership text *On Leadership*, was the speaker at my 1991 commencement at Stanford University. Gardner described himself as "a tough-minded optimist," and I have always loved that phrase. For leadership, optimism and moderation are best. I am not someone who believes that the past was better than the present or the future. God has placed me in this historical moment to play a crucial role on His world stage right now. Therefore, I embrace this moment, and I believe that He has empowered me for the work that He has called me to do. I also believe that if we pool our collective wisdom and energies together, we can be creative problem solvers who create new solutions that do not presently exist. Therefore, I am very optimistic about the future of Pacific Union College, and I believe that our best days are ahead! **VP**



# Celebrities, FOX 11, and Twins

Lisa Breckenridge's  
life as a “boring kid”  
is over

Larry Peña



LISA BRECKENRIDGE INTERVIEWS CELEBRITIES for a living, on television, in the largest media market in the United States. She is entertainment and lifestyle anchor for Fox Los Angeles's 11 Morning News, the Fox 11 News at 10 a.m., and the Fox 11 News at Noon and occasional stand-in for the anchors of these shows as well as the hugely popular Los Angeles morning show *Good Day LA*. It's a pretty heady job for someone who claims she was the boring kid at PUC.

"I was the kid who never wanted to get into trouble!" she says, laughing. "I was the one who was always in bed by eight o'clock."

Her only shenanigan, she says, was during her 1986 campaign for Student Association Social Vice President, when she dropped her skirt onstage as part of a skit about not resorting to sensational gimmicks to win the election.

She's come a long way since then. There have been no recorded "wardrobe malfunctions" at any of her jobs on live television. She has also stepped into a life that could be described as a little less boring. "Whether I am on the red carpet getting a kiss from George Clooney or sitting across from Sarah Jessica Parker, it's all fun," she says.

Lisa graduated from PUC in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in public relations. As many college graduates discover immediately after finishing their degree, she found that she didn't know exactly what she wanted to do. "I was going to go a different route," she says, "and all of the sudden I realized that [journalism] was always something I had been interested in."

After talking to her former professor, then-communication department chair James Chase, she decided to pursue journalism in earnest. He advised her on how she might get into the business. Her first step was an internship at KFTY TV in Santa Rosa. "I think I had maybe

one or two days where they'd let me go out and report," she says. She also took a summer program at Stanford University's Mass Media Institute of Broadcast Journalism.

Having grown up in Lodi, she had watched Sacramento's KCRA channel 3 as a kid. After finishing at Stanford and doing reporting stints in Yuma and Reno, she came home to anchor the morning news on the station she had



**While a senior at PUC,** Lisa (front right) served on the 1986-87 Student Association as the social vice president.

grown up watching. "My whole dream was to go to Sacramento to work at KCRA," she says. "Once I got that I really felt like the goal had been achieved."

She reported hard news—floods, earthquakes. She covered the Polly Klaas murder and trial. She served as an official state witness to an execution. One of the most difficult stories she ever reported was when a drunk driver killed a high-school student. "I remember knocking on that family's door and asking if I could talk to them, and having to prepare the story for that night," she tells me. "What was weird was to look back at my life more than a decade ago and realize just how painful those days could be when you were really watching the breakup of a family and the destruction of a life."

So when she got the job as entertainment and lifestyle anchor at KTTV in Los Angeles, it provided a much-needed break from the crush of the bad news she had to report every day in Sacramento. "They created this position for me, which was really wonderful," she says. "It's fun! It doesn't even seem like work."

Some journalists in this situation may have qualms about switching from hard news to entertainment journalism. Lisa has a far different take. "The one thing that is nice for me now is not having to knock on someone's door who has just lost a loved one," she replies. "I'm doing lighter news now; it's like being in the toy department. I get to have fun."

Anyone who has seen a broadcast of *Good Day LA* knows what she means. The show is renowned for its informal style and easy banter. "A lot of the times you know how we feel about things!" she says. "We do try and be unbiased, when need be, but on the lighter stuff, we figure people like our station because we have fun when we can have fun. I think our personalities do present in our stories probably more than what I ever learned they should."

The topics and format of her work at KTTV are also conducive to her other important role: mom to a set of four-year-old twins. "I have the perfect mom job in that I am done by noon," she says of morning show work. "I'm there to pick them up every day at 3:30 and I'm there with them all afternoon. And when I'm there I'm one hundred percent their mom. The good thing about my job is that once I leave the station, it's done."

Not everyone has an opportunity to find their dream job, but this "boring" PUC student seems to be one of those lucky few. "As long as they'll let a 44-year-old woman be on TV in LA, I'll be here," Lisa laughs. "It's more than I could ever hope for." **VP**





# IN THE PRACTICE ROOM, ON THE STAGE

## A piano vision adds cultural capital to the Napa Valley

By Lainey S. Cronk

### The Piano That Came Too Soon

When he was 6, David Tsao started piano lessons with Anita Ford at Pacific Union College's Paulin Hall. A few years later his family left Angwin for Hong Kong, but David took piano lessons continuously right up until he came back to PUC to study biochemistry — and to take five years of lessons from music department chair Lynn Wheeler. “It was a surreal experience going back to Paulin Hall when I was in college,” he remembers.

These days, this '99 alum and associate IT manager at Gilead Sciences is still inspired by the piano — his fascination re-ignited by one of his favorite Japanese anime series, “Nodame Cantabile,” recording piano and cello recitals, and going to concerts in the Bay Area.

In fact, David became interested in buying a concertized grand piano. A family friend put David in touch with Lillian Wu, a vivacious

and serendipitous concert pianist and piano broker. A concertized piano is hard to get — institutions use them for five to seven years before selling them, and only so many come up every year. If you're next on the list, you buy the next piano that comes up, but people sometimes wait for many years!

But David figured that was about right for his life scenario. He waited two years, then in

2006 put himself on the list so he could get a piano several years down the road. Six months later, he got a call saying there was a piano for him. His response was, “Wait, that's not what I was expecting!” He didn't yet have any place to put a grand piano; his Burlingame apartment was barely big enough for the digital piano he'd had since high school.

So he called up Lynn Wheeler. “What sorts of [music] things would benefit the college?” he asked. “Some people donate money for scholarships,” Lynn replied, “or an instrument.”

“Like what kind of instrument?” David asked. Lynn responded that it might be a violin, for example. “What about a piano?” David pressed. “Well,” Lynn said, “yes, some people have donated an upright.”

“What about a grand?” said David. You could imagine Lynn's raised eyebrows. “Well, now — we haven't had one of those since the 1950s...!”



David Tsao's grand piano has become a hot item in the music department.

David finally gave the climax: “What would you think if I donated a grand piano?” David laughs as he remembers. “I don’t think he knew what to do with that.” Lynn chuckles, and agrees. “It was kind of a surprise, I will say that,” he admits, adding, “I was thrilled!”

And that’s how it came to be that David’s concert Steinway grand is on indefinite loan to the college.

### Links in Hong Kong and the Napa Valley

Meanwhile, Lillian Wu (the piano broker) discovered a connection to David’s family from 50 years previous in Hong Kong. There, David’s father, Eric, and Lillian’s brother, Bill, had been best friends as kids in elementary school. David’s grandma used to ask Lillian to play the piano for church. Because of David and Lillian’s connection, Eric and Bill were able to get together in San Francisco before Bill went back to Shanghai, where he later passed away from lung cancer.

David and Lillian later discovered another connection: PUC. Lillian just happened to know Bruno Santo, who had been commissioned to work on PUC’s “Pianos for Paulin Project.” Santo was conducting a piano fleet study and helping PUC to replace the old pianos. By this time, Lillian was focusing her energies on helping schools and non-profits raise money through piano sales and concerts. She is phenomenally well-connected in the music world, and she proposed a concert idea for PUC.

At the opera with long-time family friend and Napa Valley arts leader Margrit Mondavi, Lillian brought up PUC and the concert idea. Margrit’s response was something like this: “Yes, I want to be a part of it... how about October 5?” This was in early September!

Everybody went into high gear to pull together the many pieces for a major concert, including a line-up of world-class pianists from the Bay Area. On an October evening in 2008, the first Piano Fantasia concert welcomed more than 300 guests (including David), who attended the beautiful, exclusive piano concert in honor of Mrs. Mondavi and the memory of her late husband, Robert. Piano Fantasia celebrated the art of the piano and paid tribute to the Mondavis’ visionary leadership in the music arts, including their founding and support of arts institutions, projects, and festivals in the Napa Valley.

The event was so inspiring that continuing a second year only made sense. For the 2009 concert, Lillian and Margrit brought in more Bay Area artists, this time including a violinist, a cellist, and a ballerina as well as several pianists. “I’m delighted to be back,” said Daniel Glover, who also played at the first concert. “It’s been a fantastic experience.”



**Daniel Glover**, performing and recording artist, performed at both Piano Fantasia concerts.

Several pieces brought the audience to their feet, including 15-year-old Nathan Chan’s performance of a classical crossover piece by contemporary composer Mark Summer, “Julie-O,” a cello solo that includes the use of the instrument as percussion as well as being played with and without the bow.

The second Piano Fantasia served the same purpose as the first: to be a tribute to the music arts in the Napa Valley and the people who make it so rich. As PUC president Heather J. Knight said at the beginning of the program, this is an area celebrated for its arts culture, and as a Christian liberal arts college, PUC’s role is “to add intellectual capital, spiritual capital, but certainly also cultural capital.”

When Lillian shared a few words with the audience before the performances, she referred them to the world encyclopedia to see Margrit Mondavi’s “contribution to every spectrum of the arts,” adding how proud they were to present once again “some of the cream of the music society.” She noted that the young musicians especially exemplify the high standard of musical excellence, with young performers from the first concert going on to yet greater achievements. The hope of Piano Fantasia, she said, is that music majors at PUC will follow in these musicians’ path — “particularly,” she added, “if they possess quality instruments!”

### Coincidence and Opportunity

In retrospect, the beginning of this story is a little unusual. Many young alums feel that they’ve given — and are still giving — their dues to the college in the form of tuition and loans. Here’s David, whose piano gift is his second hefty contribution to the college since graduation. (Earlier, David had made a major contribution to the drama program at PUC.) Why?

“My two passions [at PUC] were drama and piano,” he recalls. “When I talked to col-

## THE PIANO PROJECT AT A GLANCE

### What:

A campaign to replace 90 percent of the PUC piano fleet.

### How big:

\$1.2 million

### Beginning:

Commissioned piano fleet study in April, 2007

### First pianos:

Initial shipment arrived in January, 2008

### Funded so far:

12 pianos and eight practice room renovations

### Classroom piano:

\$8,000

### Upright piano in practice room:

\$12,000

### Grand piano in practice room:

\$55,000

### Total cost for Phase I:

\$458,000 (plus matching funds)

### Total still needed for Phase I:

\$296,000



**Margrit Mondavi:** (Right) talks with visitors and PUC administrators before the concert.

## THE PRACTICE ROOMS

*Donors have outfitted these seven practice rooms with new pianos and room improvements.*

**Room 110:**

The family of Jessie James

**Room 127:**

David Tsao

**Room 214:**

The family of Thelma Hardcastle

**Room 215:**

The family of Jessie James

**Room 224:**

The family of Anita Ford

**Room 225:**

David Tsao

**Room 227:**

Eric and Amabel Tsao

leagues at the time — I mean we were already getting letters from the Alumni Association, and we hadn't left the building!" He and his classmates were hesitant, he explains, to just give money for general PUC costs, but agreed among themselves that "it would be great to support the professors. We *would* like to do that, because they had the personal connection." That's why his major gifts have been to his two passions — a life-saving gift to the Alice Holst Theater that enabled the original play *Red Books: Our Search for Ellen White* to happen, and now the piano. He'd long thought the drama program needed a place of its own, and hinted to his mother Amabel Tsao, who's on the PUC board, about that need. "I was just waiting for the opportunity," he says.

And as for the piano? Well... "The piano was just coincidence." That "coincidence" has become one of the hottest items in the music department. They're treating it with exclusive care, and only using it for larger concerts or major recitals. But the students love it. "They all want to play on his grand!" Lynn says.

### Details and Vision

The Pianos for Paulin project is currently in phase one, with a goal of funding 24 pianos and renovating 17 practice rooms and classrooms.

PUC acquired a number of new pianos even before funding came in, thanks to a generous arrangement by Bruno Santo. Twelve of the 24 pianos have now been funded and several practice rooms renovated. Though getting funding for the rest of the pianos that have already been delivered is a big challenge, the fact that students have had access to them in the meantime has given the project a lot of energy and early pay-off. Alum Elben Capule, who performed in the first Piano Fantasia, said, "The pianos in Paulin Hall were in bad shape. I mean really bad shape." He admits he's biased (he's never been a fan of stand-up pianos, and he's particular about what a "good" piano is), but as a student he appreciated the new grand pianos in the teachers' studios. In addition, Lynn says, students are enjoying the new ones in the piano lab and the practice rooms.

While Piano Fantasia is the keystone event of the Pianos for Paulin Project, the concert is not really about money. Yes, it's part of the process of expanding and continuing renovation. But it's also about creating community and celebrating the role of music in our lives. Pam Sadler, vice president for advancement and the PUC coordinator for Piano Fantasia, loves Knight's wording of contributing "cultural capital." As Sadler says, "We *have* added cultural capital." The response to Piano Fantasia and the pride with which community leaders have supported it shows, Sadler says, that "we can engage the community in PUC's mission of providing an academically excellent Adventist education to young people. Our community believes in what we do and wants to be a part of this important mission."

Even beyond these relationships, a concert like Piano Fantasia is about the role music plays in the lives of not just students or performers, but all of us. At the second concert, vice president for marketing and enrollment services Julie Z. Lee marveled at the power of music. "I was reminded of the beauty that exists in our world, and how art reminds us of God the Creator," she reflected. "The art in our lives reflects something that is bigger than mere science — something sacred, complex, transcendental."

At the end of the second concert, Mondavi summed it all up well: "Art makes us richer. It makes us appreciate." **VP**



# college news

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## Enrollment Up for Fall Quarter

PUC OPENED THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH INCREASED ENROLLMENT AND high student enthusiasm. Official headcount for fall quarter is 1,511 — an 11.1 percent increase from last year. Retention numbers are also up from 71 percent to 79 percent.

“We’re off to a great start with increased enrollment numbers this fall, and there is such a positive spirit and a spirit of hope on the campus,” said Heather J. Knight, PUC president. “Everyone is excited about creating a really exciting and dynamic learning community characterized by the intentional integration of faith and learning. Truly, PUC is becoming a real destination campus.” Also inspiring is the energy exuded by this year’s student body. “The vibe that the new freshman class gives to the campus is awesome,” said upperclassman Geoff Brummett.

There are 378 new freshmen on campus and over a hundred more students who transferred from another institution to PUC. The total headcount also includes students in PUC’s Degree Completion Program, which has campuses in Napa, Santa Rosa, and Lake County, and in the off-campus nursing programs in Hanford, at the Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, and the Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa.



## Top Speakers Lecture for Inaugural Series

THIS YEAR, THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL LECTURE Series celebrates the inaugural year of president Heather J. Knight by hosting a series of lectures from major speakers. The goal of the series is to host community events that bring intellectual, spiritual, and cultural capital to the Napa Valley, strengthening “town and gown” relations.

The first speaker, lecturing on November 14, was David R. Williams, a Harvard professor and an internationally recognized authority on social influences on health. His topic was “Religion and Health: Findings, Challenges and Unanswered Questions,” and community members joined the campus to hear from one of the most cited researchers in the social sciences.



Left to right: Doug Stowers, Austin Nystrom, Matt Freedman, Bobby Hutton, Derek Hartley, Robert Negrete, Nolan Negrete, Kami Kostenko.

# Students Honored by Red Cross Counselors become National Heroes

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS HONORED THREE PUC STUDENTS ON OCTOBER 13 FOR THEIR HEROIC ACTIONS IN AN aquatic rescue this summer at Leoni Meadows, an Adventist summer camp in Northern California. Matt Freedman and brothers Robert and Nolan Negrete, who worked as counselors at Leoni Meadows this summer, saved another counselor from drowning at the nearby Cosumnes River.

The three, along with other counselors who were involved, were selected as National Heroes and given a Good Samaritan award at the Sacramento Sierra Chapter of the American Red Cross "Hometown Heroes" ceremony. They were also interviewed at the Channel 3 newsroom in Sacramento.

The incident occurred the first week of the summer, when several of the counselors had the afternoon off and decided to go for a swim at the local river. Finding what appeared to be a good natural rock slide, they soon discovered that a strong current at the base was sucking the water down under a nearby rock. One counselor, Derek Hartley, was pulled under, and despite being a trained lifeguard, was unable to fight his way back to the surface.

Several counselors made various attempts to reach Derek from the rocks above and by diving in. When they were finally able to pull him out of the water and begin CPR, two counselors ran for the nearest cell phone service area — which they found in an area where there had been no service earlier that day. The counselor woke up after a few sets of CPR compressions, and after a precautionary one-night stay in the hospital, he was back at the camp with little more than cuts and bruises.

Most of the counselors had just taken their camp-required CPR classes the day before the incident, and everyone involved was amazed at the unlikely cell phone service in the area, as well as the fact that the counselor had lodged underwater in an accessible spot instead of getting pulled further down or being swept downstream. "Always trust in God," says Robert. "He'll make whatever needs to happen, happen."

## academic highlights

**Alex Carpenter**, visual arts instructor, had his book review of *Shaking the Gates of Hell: Faith-led Resistance to Corporate Globalization* printed in a recent issue of the triannual international academic journal *World Views: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology*.

**Asher Raboy**, music professor, was awarded the Key to the City of Napa by Mayor Jill Techel at the annual River Festival in Napa. Raboy also received commendations from Representative Mike Thompson, the Friends of the Napa River, and Assemblywoman Noreen Evans. Raboy started the River Festival, which is the Friends of the Napa River's biggest fundraising event, 20 years ago.

**Paul McGraw** and **Gregory Schneider**, history professor and psychology professor respectively, participated in the Ellen White Project conference in Portland, Maine, in October. The conference brought 65 American religious historians to work on a



major scholarly work on Ellen White's life and influence. McGraw presented his chapter "Epilogue: The Legacy" for critique; Schneider was a respondent to a chapter



written on White and the religious culture of her times. Schneider also attended the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Montreal, Quebec, in November. He presided over a panel discussion of religious schisms in various traditions.



## WASC Team Visits Campus

A VISITING TEAM FROM THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND Colleges (WASC) was on campus from October 26 to 28 for the PUC Capacity and Preparatory visit, one step in the ongoing process of reaccreditation. The team members spent over 36 hours in direct meetings and interviews with faculty, students, staff, administrators, and trustees.

PUC psychology professor Aubyn Fulton, who chairs the college's WASC Planning Committee, felt the experience was positive. "[The team] really listened to us, and read our materials, and made the effort to understand who we were, for good and for less good," he said. "We could not have imagined, much less asked for, a more conscientious, collegial and good-natured group of colleagues to visit with us."

At the final meeting with the Planning Committee, the visiting team read informal and provisional commendations and recommendations, with PUC administration to receive a written draft of the full report on November 25 with a chance to make factual corrections. The WASC team will make a confidential recommendation to WASC about PUC's preparation; and in February the WASC Commission will formally decide whether PUC is ready to proceed to the next phase of reaccreditation, the Educational Effectiveness Review, or whether the college needs to carry out additional steps before moving on to the next phase.



## Young Americans for Freedom

IN OCTOBER, STUDENTS ORGANIZED A PUC CHAPTER OF YOUNG AMERICANS for Freedom (YAF), a national organization dedicated to increasing awareness on campuses across the country about the ideology of conservatism. Combating the stereotype that all conservatives are Republicans, the PUC Young Americans for Freedom chapter was started by a libertarian student. "We're not about party politics," says student and PUC YAF chief executive officer Trevor Gomes. "We believe it's our duty as young Americans to learn about our nation's foundations in order to make decisions about how much control over our life, liberty, and property we should hand over to our government." After four days of sign-ups, YAF was the second largest club on campus.



## 100 Years in Angwin

IN 1909, AFTER A LITTLE OVER A YEAR OF SEARCHING FOR A SITE ON WHICH to relocate "Healdsburg College," the Seventh-day Adventist Church purchased a 1,600-acre health resort called Angwin's in the Napa Valley's forested hills. Just a few weeks later, they dedicated "Pacific College" and started the school year.

On October 3, the PUC community celebrated its centennial in Angwin with a special Sabbath program. The day welcomed special guest speaker Dr. Lou Vendon, former PUC religion department chair and senior pastor of the PUC Church; a choir representing students from PUC, PUC Preparatory School, and PUC Elementary School; and a historical play featuring a conversation between Ellen G. White and founding members of the college and church. Among the activities offered in the afternoon was a campus tour, which outlined various historical sites on campus.

Said White at the college's dedication in 1909, "God wanted us here, and He has placed us here. I was sure of this as I came on these grounds. ... I believe that as you walk through these grounds, you will come to the same decision — the Lord designed this place for us."





**Tree lighting** Students gathered for the popular annual tradition of lighting the Christmas tree.



**Forty Days of Prayer** The PUC Church, campus and community spent the 40 days leading up to the new school year praying for God's blessing on this community.



**Lift** This mid-week worship service helps students keep their focus on God.



**Fall Festival** A good crowd enjoyed the performances and food booths hosted by student groups.



**Midnight Madness** At a late-night pep rally, students met the Pioneers teams, held contests, and won t-shirts.





**Who we are** Students filed in for the annual process of being photographed for the Funnybook.



**Porter Power** Upperclassmen, faculty and staff helped new students move into the dorm for the new school year.



**Pioneers soccer** The mens soccer team had a great season this fall with nine wins, one tie, and only two losses, placing second overall in their division.



**Homeless Ministries** Students prepared food to take to People's Park in Berkeley.

## Guests & Productions

THIS FALL WAS BUSY FOR THE Dramatic Arts Society (DAS): They hosted open mic nights and performances by their improv team; spoken-word poet Bryonn Bain performed “Lyrics from Lockdown” just before making his New York City debut; Russian theater artist Irina Kruzhilina, on tour in the United States, made PUC a stop for a costume design workshop; and San Francisco playwright Christopher Chen taught four sessions of a specialized training class in playwrighting.

The same quarter, DAS hosted its second annual 24-hour Theater Festival and was commissioned by the Association of Adventist Women and the Adventist Forum to create and perform a special feature called “This Adventist Life.” The acting company also saw its youngest member, PUC Elementary student Alani Denton, take on a professional role with a production in San Francisco.



**Bryonn Bain** performs at PUC on his way to NYC.

## Bobby Bovell Speaks for Fall Revival



THIS YEAR FOR THE ANNUAL FALL Revival, young British pastor Bobby Bovell led out at meetings on a Wednesday through Sabbath in October. Bovell leads a contemporary church in Copenhagen, whose members meet at a local café on Sabbath afternoons. He spoke to PUC students about the freedom God gives them to choose to follow Him. Bovell went from re-enacting scenes from his

childhood to acting out awkward social encounters, incorporating some British humor, to illustrate the beauty of God’s love. Breaking down the core of the revival, Bovell passionately explained, “Jesus comes into our reality to make sense of what doesn’t make sense. He comes to say, ‘Listen, I’ve got a plan for you.’”

## How to Make a Gift Without Missing a Thing

SOME OF PUC’S MOST GENEROUS DONORS ARE those who include a provision for the college in their will or estate plan. You can include a gift in your will to a nonprofit with a few simple words. The effect can be tremendous.

Everyone should have a will. Those with a will should update it regularly. If you don’t have a will, make an appointment with your attorney to draft one. If you have one, call your attorney and ask if it needs updating. Drafting or revising an estate plan is surprisingly simple and almost everyone who does is glad they did.

Perhaps the best part of including a gift in your will is that you can live every day knowing you have secured a legacy that matches your life’s goals. You will be remembered for the good you did and for the impact you made on the future.

If you would like to include PUC’s mission in your plans, please let us know. While it takes only a few words to include PUC, it is crucial that they be the correct words. We can give you and your attorney the right phrase so that you can all be sure your gift will go exactly where you want it to go.

If you have already included PUC in your plans or will be doing so, please let us know so we can thank you. You are among the most important stakeholders in PUC and we want the opportunity to thank you now for what’s coming later. We can also document your gift and learn more about your wishes and how they will be enacted.

*For more information on wills, estate plans, and other types of planned gifts, please contact Eckhard Hubin at the Office of Planned Giving.*

**Office of Planned Giving**  
[plannedgiving@puc.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@puc.edu)  
[www.pucplannedgiving.org](http://www.pucplannedgiving.org)  
 Local: 707-965-6596  
 Toll-free: 1-800-243-5251



# alumni*news*

Class Notes, Births, Weddings, and In Memory

## Class Notes

### 1920

**Marge H. (Hodge) Jetton, '25, '45**, PUC's oldest alumnus, quietly marked her 105th birthday on September 29, at the home in Loma Linda, Calif., where she currently resides. The story of Marge's healthy life style has been chronicled by print and electronic media throughout the world. As a toddler at the time of the great 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Marge says she recalls seeing water sloshing out of the animal trough on her family's farm caused by the upheaval.

### 1940

**Lyle McCoy, '45**, was honored as "Mr. Angwin" on Sunday, August 30, with a big turnout of current and former Angwin citizens paying him honor. The honors came from Lyle's



Duane Cronk

55 years of service in Angwin as teacher, fire chief, ambulance driver, and befriender of hundreds in the community. Among those honoring Lyle were **Avery Browne, '85**, California Highway Patrol

special representative to the state legislature; **Jim Krussow, '70**, one of the founders of the Angwin Community Ambulance company; and **Rodney Sterling, '80**, chief of the Deer Park (Calif.) Fire Department.

**Anita (Cavagnaro) Ford, '96**, attended a reunion in late September of Golden Gate Academy (Oakland, Calif) graduates of the 1940s and 1950s. Her husband, **Herbert Ford, '54**, attended with her. GGA has long been an important "feeder" school of PUC — clearly demonstrated by the fact that 50 percent of the GGA alums at the reunion were also PUC alums!

### 1950

**Dick, '51, '55, and Doris (Jauch), '54**, Williams, have both been retired for over 15 years now. "We moved from Sandpoint, Idaho, to McMinnville, Ore., six years ago — after having lived there 24 years," they write. "We're enjoying being closer geographically to our two daughters (Celene and Cecily) and their families who both live and work in the Portland area. We're enjoying our independent living and the cultural advantages of the Great Northwest. Our blessings of health and family continue!"

## John and Heide Wilson At Home in Guyana

**If you're a missionary-physician in Georgetown, Guyana**, as John David Wilson, '96, is, you have to learn to put up with some inconveniences in your medical practice: The electricity may go out while he's in the midst of a medical procedure; the water at the Davis Memorial Hospital where he works is not drinkable, so one has to filter rain water; instead of packaged cotton alcohol wipes, the nurses soak cotton balls in alcohol (which means the hand-made wipes leave bits of cotton in things).



"But you make do," says John, who, with his wife, Heide (Kellison), '95, has been in Guyana since 2004. Devan, 4, and twin girls Aubree and Kilee, 19 months, were all born while they were abroad. John characterizes Heide as a "stay-at-home domestic goddess, home economist, and domestic engineer." In the past she served as a dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator.

Davis Memorial, Adventist owned and operated, is one of five private and one public hospital in Georgetown. "Because the city's free public hospital is always overcrowded, the doctors and nurses are called on to see many more patients than they can really see thoroughly and sometimes people lose trust. When they do, they save their money and come to a private hospital like Davis Memorial."

**Joseph L. Wheeler, '59**, who now lives in Confier, Colo., may be the most published of all living PUC alumni authors. Joe has seen 70 of his books published by 11 different publishers. One of his many books, *Abraham Lincoln: A Man of Faith and Courage*, has recently been published by Howard/Simon &

Schuster. To view all of Joe's published books, go to [www.joewheelerbooks.com](http://www.joewheelerbooks.com).

### 1960

**Lynn Martell, '64**, a former collegiate and Golden Gloves boxing champion with a broad range of service thereafter in the Adventist church, is

now the director of Special Services for the Department of Radiation at Loma Linda (Calif.) University. In his special services role, Lynn is host and producer of "Journey of Hope," a television interview show that airs daily on the Loma Linda Broadcasting Network. Lynn's wife, **Karen (Weber), '62**, is the Prayer Ministries coordinator for the Southeastern California and Pacific Union Conferences of Adventists.

**Robert K. Krick, '65**, has been the chief historian at the Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore, Md., and for 30 years was chief historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Virginia. The author of countless works on the Civil War, Krick was recently the featured speaker at the 30th anniversary celebration of the Harpers Ferry Civil War Round Table in Harper's Ferry, W.Va.

## 1970

**Rhonda (Dees) Memmer, '77, '84**, currently works as an admission RN for Vitas Innovative Hospice Care. She also serves as the Music Minister at First Lutheran Church of Glendale.

**Heather Armbruster, att. '72-'74**, founded a company called The Heathers Senior Care. They are opening their eighth facility this winter in Costa Mesa that will specialize in Hospice patients. Heather's other locations deal with assisted living, dementia care and Hospice Care — and provide vegetarian meals. Heather's son is 12 and her daughter is 7. "We spent the summer traveling Europe and the Baltic," she reports. "My children were particularly impressed with St. Petersburg, Russia and Berlin! I loved Estonia and all the tall gorgeous blonde-haired blue-eyed people in Denmark,

### births



► Matthew Ethan Layne, son of **Sharon Dey-Layne, '91**, and Godfrey Layne, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. Born 3-29-09.



► Keaton Bramham, son of **Sharee (Herman), '99, '00**, and **Michael Bramham, att. '92-'97**, of Angwin, Calif. Born 6-25-09.



► Camille Scarlett Anderson, daughter of **Tara (Russell), '02**, and **Christian Anderson, '01**, of Portland, Ore. Born 7-23-09.



► Landon Sungbae Park, son of **Elizabeth (Park), '94**, and **Eric Park, att. '96-'97**, of Gardnerville, Nev. Born 8-30-09.



► Rachel Elizabeth Javor, daughter of **Gina Elizabeth (Cummings), '94**, and **Edward Daniel Javor, '94**, of Fontana, Calif. Born 10-9-09.

Sweden, Finland and Poland. My daughter would tell you her favorite was our mother/daughter week in Maui." Heather is retired from the dental business but is "loving working with seniors..."

**Glen Robinson, '75**, is now a professor of communication at Southwestern Adventist University in Texas, after having served for 10 years as a book and magazine editor at the Pacific Press Publishing Association in Idaho. The author of seven books, the

latest of which is titled *Not My Son, Lord*, Glen has served as manager of the university's radio station and is editor of its alumni magazine in addition to his teaching duties. Glen's wife, **Shelly (Scheffer), '75**, is clinical coordinator for the Community Hospice of Texas in the city of Cleburne.

**Warren R. Rood, '78**, a magazine art editor, had his lapidary creations featured in a recent issue of the Walla Walla, Wash., *Union-Bulletin* newspaper. His "free form" cut-and-polished creations from what were once ugly rocks are displayed in gem and mineral shows. In the newspaper feature, Warren notes that his interest in gem-making from rocks began in a lapidary class at PUC.

## 1980

**Donald D. Barton, '81**, has joined the faculty of Andrews University in Michigan as an associate professor in the Department of Clinical & Laboratory Sciences. Before teaching at Andrews, Barton worked at St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction, Colo., as a medical technologist, laboratory client service educator, laboratory information systems coordinator and point-of-care coordinator. Earlier he taught at California State University in San Bernardino, Calif.

**Kevin R. Erich, '82**, is now serving as president of the Frank Howard Memorial Hospital, an Adventist Health institution in Willits, Calif.

**Gladys Muir, '86**, went on a mission trip to North Peru this past summer with dental students from LLU, a pediatric nurse practitioner, and a few doctors. As the certified nurse-midwife of the group, Gladys saw women for OB and gyn complaints; she found a 2.5-kilogram pelvic/

abdominal tumor in one lady. "We were able to arrange and pay for her to have it removed," says Gladys. "She had taken transportation for a bit and walked 5.5 hours to come see us." Gladys also teaches in the nursing program at PUC.

**Emily (Imperio) Louie, att. '87-'88**, is currently raising three boys in Aurora, Ontario, Canada. She married Todd Louie in June of 1993, and she is assisting him with running an accounting/tax consulting firm.

**Laurie (Franklin) Parson, att. '89-'91**, has joined the nursing faculty at PUC this year. She's coordinating the preceptorship program and teaching in the clinical setting. Laurie and her husband, Dan, lived in Placerville until the beginning of 2008, when they bought a sailing catamaran in Florida and spent most of the rest of the year moving it to the West Coast through the Panama Canal. Dan is a nurse at the Clearlake Hospital.

## 1990

**Aimee Wyrick-Brownworth, '96**, is an assistant professor of biology at PUC. This summer, she attended the Geoscience Research Institute's (GRI) second Conference on Teaching Origins, held in Colorado Springs. Aimee presented a paper entitled "Using surveys to start the conversation on science and origins." She participated in an all-day fieldtrip including a visit to an historic fossil quarry where type specimens of T. rex and other "really cool" dinosaurs were excavated. Aimee also had a chance to drive to the top of Pike's Peak — which she calls "quite an experience!!"

**Johanna (Reeve) Pewitt, att. '97**, and her husband Brandon and children Keenan and Jaden recently returned to their Cambodian mission post

after a furlough in the U.S. The Prewitts are Adventist Frontier Missions workers doing church planting among the Pnong people of Cambodia.

## 2000

**Laura (Taylor) Alto, '00**, received a Ph.D. in biology from the University of California, San Diego, in 2007. Her research, entitled "Chemotropic guidance facilitates axonal regeneration and synapse formation after spinal cord injury," was published in *Nature Neuroscience* magazine in September of 2009. Laura is currently pursuing postdoctoral studies at the University of Texas Southwestern.

**Richard Osborn, PUC president '01-'09**, accepted a position as Associate Director of the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) with the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges & Universities in Alameda, California. Osborn's portfolio includes 38 of the 161 institutions accredited by WASC ranging in size from UC and Cal State campuses to small independent colleges. The Osborns continue to live in Angwin, where Norma serves as an associate pastor of the PUC Church.

**Nancy Schoonover, '02**, received a 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award for her work at El Dorado Adventist School. Nancy earned her credentials at PUC by attending summer classes from 1998 to 2002 and has taught at El Dorado all of her teaching career. She has taught kindergarten and various combinations of second, third, and fourth grades. A favorite subject is California history, and during the summer she and her husband visited all 21 California missions.

### weddings



► **Kimberly Weeks, '08**, and **Jeffery Gleaves, '09**, in Phoenix, Ariz. 5-16-09.



► Aiko Miyade and **Kevin Kimura, '98**, in Folsom, Calif. 6-7-09.



► **Jessica Shine, '01**, and Eric Richmond in Laguna Beach, Calif. 8-9-09. Photo by Christine McDowell/The Image Artist.

**Rochelle (Ward), '03**, and **Shem Aguila, '03**, who have been living in Greenfield, Calif., are training with Adventist Frontier Missions to begin church planting in Turkey.

**Kaye Varney, '02**, has taught in PUC's aviation program since 2003. This year, when director **Bill Price, '67, '69**, retired, Kaye took over directorship of the program. Her favorite plane is the WWII Supermarine Spitfire, one of a few airplanes that have an elliptical wing. She enjoys reading, camping, hiking, and various other outdoor activities.

**Priscilla Miranda, '09**; **Benjamin Silber, '08**; **Christian von Pohle, '08**; and **Nicholas McCluskey, att. '06-'07**, collaborated on an article recently published in the *Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research*. The article was titled "Effect of Adult Disapproval of Cartoon Violence on Children's Aggressive Play." The research was carried out two years ago in PUC psychology

professor Charlene Bainum's child development lab. Priscilla is now in a master's program at San Francisco State University, Ben is in the Ph.D. psychology program at Loma Linda University, Christian is finishing his master's in psychology at Cal State Fullerton, and Nich finished studies at Walla Walla University.

**Kimberly (Weeks), '08**, and **Jeffery Gleaves, '09**, who are in our weddings list this issue, met at PUC. Both English majors, they started dating after taking Cynthia Westerbeck's "Classical World" class together. "The class traveled to Berkeley to see a play entitled *The Trojan Women* and Jeff asked me to go with him," Kimberly says. "We knew almost immediately that we would get married and six months later he proposed to me on a camping trip at Crater Lake in Oregon." The Gleaves currently live in Larkspur, Calif., and still have contact with many PUC English professors. "We will always be grateful to Professor Westerbeck for tolerating us talking during her class, and to Professor Marilyn Glaim for cutting Jeff some slack after he told her he was 'in love.'"

## Your Update Here

► Let us know about your adventures, jobs, and family! Class Notes come from a variety of sources, but we like it best when they come from you.

[viewpoint@puc.edu](mailto:viewpoint@puc.edu)  
[puc.edu/alumni/news-memories](http://puc.edu/alumni/news-memories)  
 707-965-6303

## In Memory

**Clifton Anderson, '91**, died on August 13, 2009. He taught at Bakersfield (Calif.) Adventist Academy for 17 years before teaching at El Dorado Adventist School in Placerville, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Melody.

**Frances Rae (Markham) Anderson, '41**, died on July 20, 2009, in Millville, Calif. She was born on June 24, 1923, in Loyalton, Calif. Frances is survived by her son Jack; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Marjorie (Holbrook) Bacchus, '48**, died on July 12, 2009, in Oakhurst, Calif. She was born on December 23, 1926, in St. Helena, Calif. Marjorie is survived by her daughters Cher Miller-Johnson and Cindy Wiseman; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**James "Jim" Briggs, '52**, died on August 4, 2009. Jim was born in Springfield, Mass. He served in the U.S. army during WWII. Jim graduated from medical school at Loma Linda University and started an 11-year private practice in Lansing, Michigan, before going back to school to become an anesthesiologist. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; his sons, Jim, Bill, and Kent; daughters Deborah, and Therese Hansen; and seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Virginia "Ge Ge" (Richards) Cason**, a member of the PUC Board of Trustees from 1980 to 1991, died on April 1, 2009, in Vancouver, Wash. She was born on April 9, 1924, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She wrote books and songs for children's Sabbath School. Virginia is survived by her husband, Walter; daughters, Laura and Pat; and brothers Kenneth and Jan Richards.



**Andrew Dahl, '50**, died on September 14, 2009, in Lancaster, Calif. He was born July 1, 1916, in Loyalist, Canada. He served in the Army 1943–1945 as a medic in the South Pacific aboard a troop transport. He was an Adventist pastor for 45 years. Andrew is survived by a son, Rockne; brothers Arthur and Alfred; a sister, Adina White; two granddaughters and eight great-grandchildren.

**Elaine (Pellymounter) Denmark, '38**, a retired executive secretary and homemaker who lived in Hollister, Calif., has died. She was born on September 20, 1921.

**Dorothy (Ellegard) Smith English, att. '32-'33**, died August 12, 2009. She was born September 1, 1910, in Oakland, Calif. She worked for the Children's Home Society, raising infants who were up for adoption until they were placed in permanent homes. Later, Dorothy worked as a nurse's aide. She is survived by her son, Kenneth Robert Smith; a daughter, Shirley English Tsagris; six grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**Robert A. Folsom Sr., '50**, died on August 9, 2009, in Bakersfield, Calif. He was born on March 30, 1922, in Glendale, Calif. Robert is survived by his sons Bob II and Larry.

**Leonard N. Hare, '44**, died on July 25, 2009, in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Dr. Hare was born on Dec. 5, 1921, in Rangoon, Burma. He served as a school principal in Burma and India and as a professor at Andrews University in Michigan. Leonard is survived by his wife, Esther; his daughter, Penny Tkachuck; and a niece and nephew.

**Henry "Hank" Hilderbrandt, '49**, died on July 23, 2009, in Napa, Calif. He was born Oct. 7, 1914, in Mobile, Ala. During

World War II, Henry served as a machinist at Brookley Field. He worked for Napa and Placer counties in social services as a case manager and later as a supervisor, and then he worked as a machinist at Mare Island. He is survived by his daughter, Lori; a son, David; extended family daughter Rene Comstock; two grandchildren and one extended family grandson; a sister, Mildred Wade; and a brother, Ed.

**Marguerite (Brusch) Jespersen, '44**, a homemaker living in Eugene, Ore., died July 25, 2009, at age 87. She was born May 26, 1922, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Survivors include a daughter, Della Rodman; a sister, Wilma Duffy; a brother, Leonard Brusch; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Muriel M. Kaneshiro, '58, '75**, a teacher who lived in Honolulu, Hawaii, has died. Muriel was born on April 30, 1935.

**Marie (Bolton) Lutz, SHSHSN '51**, a longtime College Place (Wash.) resident, died June 18, 2009, at age 84. She was born April 10, 1925.

**Edith Madsen, att. '61**, died on August 30, 2009, in La Jolla, Calif. She was 66. Edith shared a medical practice with her husband and co-owned an ice cream shop in Watsonville, Calif. She is survived by brothers Odom and Ray Sewell; stepdaughters Caroline Hebbel and Chelle Jones; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

**Spencer Lawrence Maxwell, '46, '50**, died on October 27, 2009, in Ellicott City, Maryland. Born in Watford, England, on January 13, 1925, Elder Maxwell was a pastor, author and the editor of *Signs of the Times*, *Primary Treasure*, and *Our Little Friend*. He also began *Junior Guide* magazine and wrote the

*Pathfinder Field Guide* in addition to numerous other books. He is survived by two daughters, Heidi and Heather; and six grandchildren.

**Muriel (Westemeyer) McHenry, '81**, who endeared herself to thousands of Bangladeshi women through her marketing of their craft products by her "Pollywog Handicrafts of Bangladesh," died on October 12, 2009, in Angwin, Calif. She was born on December 20, 1922, in Shelton, Neb. An Adventist missionary with her husband, Milton, in India, Ceylon and Bangladesh, Muriel is survived by her four children, Esther, Milton, Clareen Eagen and Lottie Cline.

**Velma (Sackett) Moniot, att. '44**, died in Lacey, Wash., on August 11, 2009. Velma was born November 22, 1922, in Tillamook, Ore. She completed her education in law at the University of Santa Clara and specialized in Probate and Internal Revenue Law, working at a Los Gatos, Calif., law office for over 20 years. Velma is survived by her sister, Margaret Sackett Best; and brothers Ronald and Harry.

**L. Alden Roth, '51**, a teacher and accountant whose home was in Kent, Wash., has died. He is survived by his wife, Fawn; and sons Lars and Nils.

**Howard Swenson, '65**, died on August 7, 2009. He was born September 24, 1941, in Monterey Park, Calif. He worked as a child welfare social worker for the Department of Social Services of Stanislaus County. After retiring from the county, he became a licensed Court Investigator working for the Stanislaus County and Merced County Superior Courts. He also received a Private Investigators License from the State of California. He is survived by a brother, Ralph.

**Daniel Hernandez Venegas, '59**, a veteran of service with

the United States Air Force and a driving and traffic school instructor, died on October 9, 2009, in Napa County. Born in Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1930, Daniel is survived by his wife, Luz Ayala; twin sons and a daughter; and two grandsons.

**Clinton Luther Walker, '52**, died on August 23, 2009. He was born in Boswell, Okla., on September 28, 1917. He worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps and, during WWII, he served in Algeria, Tunisia, and Italy. He worked as a farm laborer, a CCC supervisor, a clerk, a typist, a grape farmer, a farm manager, an elementary school teacher and a handyman. Clinton is survived by his two children, Clinton Lee Walker and Verna Lynn Lee; and six grandchildren.

**Ben Youngberg, '56**, died on October 18, 2009, in Poulsbo, Washington. He was born on July 14, 1925, in Sweden. He was stationed at the Army Letterman hospital in San Francisco, Calif., during World War II and was later employed by Lockheed Missiles and Space Corporation. He is survived by his wife, Elva; children Ingrid, Eric, and Bruce; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## Remembering 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; and the names we receive are also read each year at Homecoming.

[alumni@puc.edu](mailto:alumni@puc.edu)  
[puc.edu/alumni/news-memories](http://puc.edu/alumni/news-memories)  
707-965-7500

# back in the day



## Roaring Engines

Crowd turns out for second annual autocross

With a two-page photo spread, the 1970 Diogenes Lantern reported on PUC's second autocross: "The sound of roaring engines and screeching brakes brought a crowd of observers to Angwin Plaza for the second annual auto cross. Paul Layman coordinated the MOG-sponsored event." The caption for the photo above read "are you ready elsa."

**What we don't know:** The autocross event must've ended years ago, with cultural changes and insurance regulations. The yearbook also says nothing about competition details. So here's the question for our readers: Do you remember more about the autocross event, or how long the tradition lasted?



## Chronicle Snippets

**Building campus:** The front page of the April 14, 1949, Campus Chronicle featured the logging operations that were resulting in amphitheatre seats.



**"Illusive" Elvis:** This Elvis sighting showed up in the April 1, 1994, issue of the "Khronickle." Other April 1 issues throughout the years ran stories in varying levels of believability. A 1986 headline read "20,000 Baptized in Napa flash floods"; and in a 1954, a Southern California paper picked up an April Fools story about the discovery of gold behind Newton!

## What's your memory?

[viewpoint@puc.edu](mailto:viewpoint@puc.edu)  
or online at [www.puc.edu/alumni/share-your-memories](http://www.puc.edu/alumni/share-your-memories)  
or by post to ViewPoint Editor,  
One Angwin Avenue,  
Angwin, CA 94508

# letters



*“Some of my happiest days were spent at PUC. Met two of my very dearest friends there.”*

— Trish Hamburg,  
PUC Facebook conversation

## More for Gimbie

Last Sabbath I had about 65 in Sabbath School and handed out all the ViewPoints... We gave a mission emphasis on the Gimbie Hospital where Becky Carlton is and also Mark Squires. Becky is the Nursing Director and Mark, also from PUC, is the Chief Operations Officer. Mark gave an update on the hospital outlining a few of their needs: power (a 60KW generator), Land Rover, nursing school building, flat-bed truck, 60 new beds.

The class really rallied and gave \$40 K last Sabbath. I know there will be more coming. They can purchase the generator in Addis Ababa and a new vehicle also. What an inspiration.

—Jeff Veness

## Determination and Tenacity

Thank you so much for the excellent Viewpoint article you wrote about our nursing program at TAFB [Travis Air Force Base]. I think it really captured the determination and tenacity of the airmen/students to complete their PUC nursing degrees in very unusual circumstances. We are certainly proud of Debbie Winkle's role in making their success a reality.

—Joan Hughson, PUC  
nursing professor

## Clean Look

Just received the new ViewPoint and I love the new clean look. It's very tastefully designed and the typography is beautiful. The college should be very proud of it.

—Lauren Smith,  
Lauren Smith Design

## notes from facebook

### November 30 Conversation

#### Pacific Union College:

Tonight's the annual Christmas Tree Lighting! Do you remember that one time when Santa rappelled down Irwin while President Maxwell lit the Christmas tree?



#### Eli Creamer:

No I don't remember that... Cause it didn't happen...

#### Laci Coe:

I remember that...it was great!

#### Rebecca West Westenrider:

I've been around long enough to remember that!

#### Pacific Union College:

Does anybody know who played the adventurous Saint Nick?

#### Lollie Chaffee McCall:

No--but I remember the lighting of the Christmas Tree when I was a student there.

#### Emanuel D Simon:

I wish that I could be there to see it!!

#### Laci Coe:

I don't remember who it was either but do remember it being someone well-known to the student body.

#### Nanci Adkinson Smith:

Wow!! Irwin Hall has so many memories!!

I won the Fall Festival Grand Prize in 1970....A Schwinn bike....which I surprised my brother with for Christmas. It was truly an answer to prayer.

I had to ride it around the chapel as a "Thank You" to the committee. I'll never forget it!! My brother was so grateful!!!!...(tharr be more) Peer into the depths

A Christmas to remember!!

#### Joel D. Gregg:

My guess is Kurt Jensen, if it's the same suicide Santa I remember.

Join the conversation at

[www.facebook.com/pacificunioncollege](http://www.facebook.com/pacificunioncollege)



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# my viewpoint

## A Place of Safety by Marilyn Glaim, professor emeritus

With childish excitement I watched my father carefully fill one end of a box car. Our furniture made a tidy cube in one corner, and on the top of the pile went a mattress for him to sleep on. He made snug stalls for the cow and the calf and piled in enough hay and water to last for several days. Mother helped him tuck lunch boxes of canned fruit, homemade crackers and bread, peanut butter—anything that could withstand the boxcar trip. At last the greatly used pick-up truck was carefully urged up the ramp; the cow and her calf, accompanied by the cat in his wooden box and the little mongrel dog came last. Dad pulled the heavy door closed—all but a crack for fresh air and he waved till we couldn't see him any longer.

Our trip was easier. My mother, older sister and brother, and I climbed aboard the passenger train which would take us from the Okanogan Valley to Lacombe, Alberta, where we would settle into a tumble-down farm house near CUC (now Canadian University College). To me, the move was exciting. Only years later did I come to appreciate why this move was made. Mom and Dad had talked over the job and church school prospects in British Columbia and had decided that their best chance for earning a living and educating their three children would be at CUC.

We started school in September. My father found carpentry work, and together he and my mother turned the run-down place into an inviting home. They added a barn and broke up land for a garden big enough to feed us through each year. Long hours of struggle paid the tuition. My parents' commitment to Adventist education was absolute and did not stop with their own children. We found out that they helped pay the tuition for other children as well.

I sometimes overheard Mom and Dad talking in puzzled tones about why some people wouldn't sacrifice to keep their children in church school. As they aged, they grieved about families who sent young people to public schools. To them, Adventist education meant children would be educated for service in the church, but more than that, they would be safe from "worldly" ideas, from associates that might lure them away from the church, from marriages with "unbelievers."

My husband Lorne and I spent our entire careers at

Adventist colleges, teaching for a combined total of more than 70 years. While it may be true that a higher percentage of Adventist families do send their children to non-church schools, we celebrate the thousands of parents who have made sacrifices every bit as great as the ones my family made in order to make schools like Pacific Union College their place of safety.

While my parents saw Christian education as a way of walling out the world, we have seen it as a way of helping our students understand the world more fully. As teachers of history and English, we deliberately sought to expose our students to a wide variety of history, culture, religion, and literature. We've made a concerted effort to bring to life myths and stories from around the world. We compared and contrasted them to our Adventist heritage and to the stories and myths of the broader Judeo-Christian tradition. With many other teachers we worked to make Adventist college education a place where students can question, find answers, and question again.

So if students read and discuss much of the same material they can read in other schools, what makes PUC a place of safety? First of all, we need to understand that Adventist education is not an absolute guarantee that students will leave school believing exactly as their parents or teachers believe. But they will leave having had many opportunities to discuss beliefs in a supportive environment. They will have studied with teachers who share their own faith journeys.

Students can discover in this setting that teachers and students hold a great variety of opinions on spirituality, religion, politics, and culture. All are able to share their experiences in a supportive community where they can grow into the lifestyle and ideas that best suit their needs. In maintaining relationships with many graduates over the years, we have found that some of them remain church members and enjoy coming back here to visit their church family. Others have joined different religions or have stopped attending any church. To Lorne and me, their beliefs at any given stage in their lives make no difference. We really are tied to people more than beliefs, and we are happy to stay connected with them and to have them stay connected with the school where they found it safe to ask questions and find their own answers.



*While my parents saw Christian education as a way of walling out the world, we have seen it as a way of helping our students understand the world more fully.*



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# 2010 PUC HOMECOMING

**APRIL 16-18 JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE PUC!**

Honor classes are 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, 2000 and 2010

Homecoming Weekend is your opportunity to reconnect with classmates and friends, share memories, and celebrate PUC's past and future.

**WEEKEND TO INCLUDE:**

Meet Our New President, Vespers, Meet the Professors, PUC History Museum, Class Parties, Nature Walk and Trail Ride

[Watch for more information.](#)

