

# ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE • VOL 39.2





# President's Message

It has been a whirlwind of activity since July, when my wife, Judy and I began serving here at Pacific Union College. To give you a glimpse of our activities, we visited alumni in northern, central, and southern California before school started in September. In early October the PUC board reversed an earlier vote and chose not to sell just over 100 acres of college-owned land to a Napa Valley vintner. The PUC campus and Angwin community overwhelmingly supported this change of direction. A week later, fires struck Napa and Sonoma counties and we watched and grieved as our neighboring communities suffered tragedy in the loss of loved ones and property. In the midst of these challenges and opportunities, we see clear evidence of God's grace and care for PUC.

As a senior leadership team, one of our most pressing responsibilities this fall was to resume the strategic planning process begun last year in the midst of the leadership transitions here. As of today, our vice president for academic administration, Nancy Lecourt, and I have facilitated over a dozen listening sessions where we solicited ideas and concerns from our PUC board, faculty, staff, and students. Attendees at these sessions were asked a series of six questions to initiate our conversations. In these listening sessions with the campus, several key concepts surfaced that I would like to share with you.

The first question, "What one word or phrase would you use to describe PUC in this moment and why?" elicited a broad range of responses. Words and phrases such as community, family, in transition, optimistic, destination, historic, resilient, diverse, accepting, and potential, were expressed.

Many of the attendees experienced first hand the challenges that accompanied the recent leadership transitions and they are anxious for PUC to move forward and fulfill its God-gifted potential.

"Why does PUC exist?" was a question intended to help us reflect on our mission. Several attendees mentioned PUC's

history and the choice of this location by Ellen White. Others mentioned the value of our unique natural setting along with our forest and agricultural lands and the opportunities for using these resources for education and for generating alternate revenue streams. Often mentioned was the opportunity for PUC to provide an Adventist education in the midst of our exceptional natural setting and to transform student's lives through the mentoring and teaching relationships of faithful role models.

"What is most important right now?" was a question designed to help us establish our priorities moving forward. Responses to this question included comments such as the need to take new, bold approaches to the challenges here; to develop alternative revenue streams; to think differently about the future than we have about the past; to rethink our student life programs; to be more intentional about aligning our academic programs with career development; to increase enrollment; and to develop a campus physical master plan that aligns with our evolving strategic plan.

As our PUC campus lives in the moment and plans for the future, it is important we recognize our place in Adventist higher education. God has blessed us with tremendous resources waiting to be utilized in furthering Adventist education here at PUC. It is critical we care for those here now—our students, staff, and faculty—while we are planning for a future with Christ-centered education as our focus. We are grateful for your continuing engagement and support of PUC.

Dr. Robert A. Cushman Jr.  
President

## 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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“Take a good look at God’s  
wonders—they’ll take your  
breath away.” (Psalm 66:5)

# What's Your PUC Reason?



**Bruno de Oliveira, '22**

"One of the biggest things that caught my attention about PUC was the quality of the photography program. Now that I'm here I love the diversity on campus and how accepting and caring everyone is. People from the administration like Jenn Tyner to enrollment counselors like Janae Bowman, I have felt supported and accepted from day one."



**Carissa Paw, '18**

"Originally I planned to come to PUC because a long line of family members attended and loved it. My brother was also attending at the time. When I came for College Days I fell in love with the campus. The people have made me feel like it's home."



**Shekinah Francis, '19**

"Attending College Days was what affirmed PUC for me. Friday night, after spending time with students, they made me feel like I already went to PUC. We laughed and chatted until late, I felt welcomed left and right. When I left they all said, 'So girl I'mma see you next year, right?' It was just a floodgate of welcome and that was wonderful."



**Lindsey Orellana, '15**

"I wanted to continue my education in a Christian environment, and strengthen my faith with God. PUC was the perfect fit. I knew right away this was the place God wanted me to be."



**Chris Romero, '17**

"I chose to come to PUC because the people are welcoming and the environment is beautiful. I chose to stay and work here because I believe in the product. I believe in the quality Adventist education PUC produces and I love being able to help students figure out what they want to do in life."



**Steven Felty, '15**

"I really loved everything about the atmosphere; spiritually, socially, and academically."



**Nephtali Marin, '19**

"PUC has a really great department of visual arts. The faculty are very involved and make sure we get a lot of hands-on experience and out-of-class opportunities."



**Quinn Lindell, '18**

"I chose PUC because when I visited, the staff were extremely supportive and willing to answer my questions. The campus and surroundings are also very beautiful."



**Brett Dickinson, '18**

"I love PUC because of all the people who represent God's character every day."



**Gabe Riojas, '17**

"The people at PUC make you feel like you were meant to be here. It's a really warm and inviting environment."



**Shelina Sifuentes, '17**

"I transferred to PUC because of the people here. My favorite professors are not just my favorite because of classroom time; it is because they are like family."

**FOR MORE REASONS,**  
follow PUC on Instagram at  
**@PUCNOW**

**WANT TO SHARE YOURS? EMAIL:**  
[viewpoint@puc.edu](mailto:viewpoint@puc.edu)

# Honoring Our Newest Emeriti

*In Recognition of 247 Years of Combined Service / Nancy Lecourt*

Last spring, we honored several distinguished faculty members upon their retirement for their dedicated service to the college. We are forever in their debt for the countless hours they have spent both in and out of the classroom, helping make Pacific Union College the place it is today. We are truly grateful to have called them faculty members. Their legacy will live on within the lives they touched as teachers, mentors, and friends.



*Jennifer Wareham Best*



*Lloyd Best*



*Ileana Douglas*



*Linda Maberly*



*Edwin Moore*



*A. Gregory Schneider*



*Myron Widmer*



*Lynn Wheeler*

## **Jennifer Wareham Best, Professor Emerita of Speech Pathology**

Jennifer Wareham Best has given 40 years of service to PUC with a strong passion and purpose. Beginning in 1977, she taught in the department of communication, eventually becoming chair for many years. Alumni attest she always found time to address student concerns directly and efficiently. She was engaging and dynamic in the classroom and a strong leader in the department. In 2003, inspired by the dreams and generosity of John and Rosemary Collins, she started the Teaching and Learning Center, serving as director from the very beginning. The TLC has become the heart of the campus, where students may go to feel at peace. They are accommodated in several ways, which include tutoring, mentoring, test-taking skills, and a boost in morale and determination.

Professor Best also directed the PacificQuest program with her husband, Lloyd, for many years, attracting some of the highest-performing young people from the Pacific Union Conference for a week of academic challenge and learning as well as an opportunity to meet and connect with others during the summer. Her leadership as PUC's graduation coordinator has also been nothing short of stellar. Most recently, she has provided effective academic mentoring to our varsity athletes, attending their games and cheering them on—both on the field or court and in the classroom. Jennifer and Lloyd plan to spend their retirement traveling and enjoying the company of their growing troupe of grandchildren.

## **Lloyd Best, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics**

Professor Lloyd Best recently completed his 32nd year in department of mathematics here at PUC, and 47 total years of denominational service. He chaired the department of mathematics for many years; served as vice-chair of Academic Senate three times; chaired the Academic Standards Committee twice; and served as a member of two special study committees. He was also co-director of PacificQuest with his wife, Jennifer, for 10 years, graduation co-coordinator for 12 years, and GNST 401 coordinator.

Professor Best has taught thousands of students over the years, patiently guiding them to better understanding and appreciation in the field of mathematics. In 2016, he was voted Educator of Year by the

student body. In retirement, he plans to hike and bike new trails and help his wife to spoil their many grandchildren—possibly with some math lessons!

## **Ileana Douglas, Professor Emerita of History**

Professor Ileana Douglas has served PUC with distinction as academic dean and as a member of the history faculty for 19 years. She is retiring in June, after 40 years of devoted service to higher education. Her selection as the 2010-2011 Educator of the Year confirmed what her colleagues already knew; she is devoted to students through her fervent passion of history, as well as her commitment to Christian education.

As a historian, Douglas works tirelessly to remain current with the most recent scholarship in the field, as her courses indicate through frequent revisions. As a colleague, she has willingly taken on new classes, facilitated departmental assessments, and taken students on summer tours to many places such as Japan, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Czechoslovakia. Her focus over the entirety of her career has been in her devotion to students. Her passion and enthusiasm for student learning—about both the past and the present—can be attested by many to transform lives, which manifests in her students the love of learning. Her office hours overflow with students who stop by for help with classes and for help with life. Ileana is the heart of the department, an educator who has devoted her career to her students and her colleagues and, in doing so, has inspired us all.

## **Linda Maberly, Librarian Emerita**

Linda Maberly has served in the Nelson Memorial Library at PUC for 30 years. During that time, she has worn many hats. As the public services librarian, she has assisted thousands of students and faculty. As a cataloger, she has mentored many students while developing a progressive collection of books and databases. Forensic analysis would reveal her fingerprints are on over 150,000 volumes in the library. The library's website—accessed by students over 100,000 times per year—is the direct result of her efforts. She has also served as the program manager for the library's remodeling project. Although many of her accomplishments have been behind the scenes, her contributions have enhanced the learning of tens of thousands of students. We wish Linda a peaceful and well-deserved retirement.

**Edwin Moore**, *Associate Academic Dean Emeritus*

Dr. Edwin Moore has served at PUC for 20 years, first in the department of English, teaching English as a second language, then moving to the academic dean's office in 2004. Dr. Moore has provided a steady, reassuring presence during calm weather and in storms. He has been especially helpful when the college needed him to be interim chair of departments in transition. He has also taken on the job of chairing the Assessment Committee, the Institutional Review Board, and the Pre-Professional Committee. He has inspired trust and confidence in his colleagues and leaves a significant hole in administration. Dr. Moore looks forward to spending time with his wife, Carol, and their 10 grandchildren.

**A. Gregory Schneider**, *Professor Emeritus of Religion and Social Science*

Dr. Gregory Schneider has been a professor of religion and social science at PUC for 40 years. He has challenged and inspired students in honors, religion, psychology, and social work, and supported the gospel calling to social justice by working with students to establish a campus chapter of Amnesty International. Dr. Schneider has been central to his department by integrating faith and learning. He has chaired many campus entities, including the Longo Lecture Committee, Academic Senate, a general education review committee, and the department of psychology and social work. Numerous awards should also be noted: Dr. Schneider was a 1983 fellow at an NEH Summer Seminar at Yale University, a 1985 recipient of an NEH Fellowship for College Teachers, a 1988 National Zapara award winner, and the 2005-06 Walter C. Utt Professor of History at PUC. An active scholar, Dr. Schneider is a member of the American Academy of Religion and the author of "The Way of the Cross Leads Home: The Domestication of American Methodism."

Despite his success as teacher, writer, and scholar, Dr. Schneider has also taken time to be active in many dramatic productions on campus, including a prominent role in "Red Books: Our Search for Ellen White," and the roles of Grandpa in "You Can't Take It With You" and, most memorably, Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof." He is also an enthusiastic kayaker and cyclist. Fortunately for PUC, Dr. Schneider will continue to teach part-time in retirement.

**Myron Widmer**, *Professor Emeritus of Applied Theology and Religion*

Dr. Myron Widmer, professor of applied theology and religion, taught at PUC for more than 20 years. After receiving a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University in 1978, he went on to earn a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2004, with an emphasis on pastoral praxis and worship. Early in his career, he pastored three churches in the Pennsylvania Conference and was associate pastor of the Walla Walla University Church. He then became an associate editor of the *Adventist Review* for 12 years, writing hundreds of articles for various publications. During that time, he also traveled abundantly and preached around the world. He was privileged to be on the first government-approved trip to China by Seventh-day Adventists after the Communist Revolution of 1949.

Dr. Widmer joined our faculty in 1986, teaching such classes as Encountering Jesus, Heroes and Villains, Biblical Culture and Archaeology, Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs, Ministry of Healing, Creative Church Participation, Christian Spirituality, Sharing Your Faith, and Church Missions in the Modern World. He was also director of the Ministerial Studies program. Dr. Widmer enjoyed providing real-life experiences for the students in his class. On such occasions, students had the opportunity to stomp out grape juice with their bare feet, and other times, were able to baptize each other and make communion bread. Myron enjoys bird-watching and hiking. Married to the love of his life, Karen, he is the father of three children, Joel, Christina, and Brita, and is enjoying being a new grandfather.

**Lynn Wheeler**, *Professor Emeritus of Music*

Dr. Lynn Wheeler has taught at PUC for 46 years, chairing the department of music for 24 of those years (1986-2010). He has guided the department through rough times and smooth, and seen significant changes over the years. Dr. Wheeler was a participant in an NEH institute on Beethoven in 1991. He has presided over four National Association of Schools of Music accreditation visits, after each of which the department accreditation was renewed for the maximum allowable time. Most significantly, he has inspired piano performance majors to love the instrument, and to become dedicated musicians in their own right. Over the years, he has led several music tours, performed in countless concerts, and in many ways become "Mr. Paulin Hall."



## Introducing PUC's 2018 Emeriti



**Roy Benton, Ph.D.**,  
*Professor Emeritus of Mathematics*



**Cherie L. Goulard, Ph.D.**, *Professor Emerita of Nursing*



**Rodney Hardcastle, M.B.A.**, *Professor Emeritus of Business Administration*

An aerial photograph of a dense, green forest. A narrow, light-colored path or streambed winds through the center of the forest, creating a vertical line of contrast. The trees are thick and vibrant green, covering the entire landscape.

# OUR FOREST, OUR HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE

*Peter Lecourt, PUC Forest Manager*

Our story begins in November 2013. A group of officials from CAL FIRE's (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) Forest Legacy Program were on their annual field trip to conserved forests throughout Northern California. While on a stop at the Las Posadas State Forest, the group came across a fence marking the state forest's boundary. Wondering about the woods on the other side, one member of the group asked, "What's the deal with that land?" "It's owned by a small college named PUC, and it's for sale," replied retired U.S. Forest Service forester John Henshaw. Immediately, the group began to talk about what they could do to help conserve the forest, and the seed that is the PUC forest conservation easement was planted.

Those who have hiked through the PUC forest know it as a special place, where one can wander through the shady oaks and majestic pines, forgetting the troubles of everyday life. If you ask a PUC alum, "What makes PUC a special place?" Chances are the forest is near the top of the list. Owning a forest with such character helps PUC stand out as a unique school where students, faculty, and staff have opportunities to learn about complex natural ecosystems in a 1,000-acre forest and connect with a pristine and natural environment. Our forest is a big part of who we are at PUC.

As you may have heard, the college is now working with the Napa County Land Trust to help protect our forest through a conservation easement, which is a legally binding document limiting what landowners can do on their property. Under the terms of a conservation easement, a landowner sells the right to conduct certain activities such as development or commercial activity; however, the landowner retains ownership of the land. It's the land equivalent of "having your cake and eating it, too." PUC will be selling a number of development-related rights on the forest land to CAL FIRE's forest legacy program through the Napa County Land Trust, ensuring these rights will never be exercised. In return, PUC will receive \$8.1 of the \$12 million the land would be worth through state grants and private donations. Receiving the \$8 million to protect the forest for the future is a special opportunity for the school.

Our forest is currently being used for the purposes of education, research, and recreation. These activities are ensured to continue once the conservation easement is established. Many among our PUC family and the wider community regularly enjoy reconnecting with nature while exploring our forest on foot, cruising the trails on a bike, or clomping around on horseback. The department of biology regularly takes students out on field trips in the forest, providing hands-on learning experience as well as the opportunity to see concepts learned in the classroom realized in nature. Students are even starting to get opportunities to work with outside organizations conducting research in the forest.

Pumas, or mountain lions, sit at the top of the food chain within the forest. Understanding the health of this species helps scientists better understand the health of a broader ecosystem. The Felidae Conservation Fund is conducting research on puma populations throughout the Bay Area. Dr. Floyd Hayes of PUC's department of biology is working with Felidae to monitor the puma population within the PUC forest. He and a group of students have set up and collected data from a number of wildlife cameras spread throughout the forest.

On the other end of the food chain, a number of plant species growing in the forest are either federally listed as threatened or endangered. Aimee Wyrick, chair of the department of biology, is working with the California Native Plants Society to help monitor and understand the health and distribution of these plant species on our land. She is even working with a scientist from Germany on research about the coast redwood, as PUC has a unique grove of redwoods on its land.

*Sequoia sempervirens*, or the coast redwood, has a range spanning from Monterey Bay to the Oregon border. The trees' needles are poor regulators of water loss, forcing the trees to grow near the coast where the air contains ample water. At 38 miles from the coast, Angwin receives just enough cool coastal air and fog to allow for redwood growth. Our redwoods grow on the eastern side of our forest's main ridgeline, where the north-facing slopes create cooler temperatures favored by the redwoods. This



combination of geographic location and topography create a special ecological niche allowing for the growth of a special grove of coast redwoods.

Another unique species calling our forest home is the northern spotted owl. Habitat loss from intense commercial logging activity created a decline in spotted owl numbers, causing this species to be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in the 1980s. Helping to preserve their remaining habitat is one of the best ways to protect this species. The presence of spotted owls has been recorded in our forest on several occasions in the past. In fall 2016, Erin Erickson, a member of the Napa County Land Trust staff and an experienced owl biologist, managed to use bait to call in a pair of spotted owls.

The PUC forest is home to a diverse array of plant and animal life. The term “biodiversity” refers to having a variety of species of plants and animals living in an ecosystem. In a survey of all land in the county, the Napa

Land Trust found our forest to be the second highest in biodiversity within the county. They also note the PUC forest connects the Las Posadas State Forest in the south to private forest lands in the north, and serves as an important corridor for wildlife to move freely among our local forestlands. Preserving our forest will help preserve the homes and ranges of a wide range of animal and plant life, protecting the well-being of these species into the future.

All life depends on water, and the PUC forest plays an important role in the hydrological cycle of Angwin and the nearby area. Forest lands are better able to absorb water and store it in underground aquifers than cleared or agricultural lands. Once absorbed in the ground, the water slowly seeps out of springs, or can be drawn out by wells. Water flowing out of our forest pours into major watersheds on both sides of Howell Mountain, and some of it even ends up in Lake Hennessey, the major water supply for the city of Napa. Keeping our land in forest cover is a major step PUC can take to help ensure that both the

college and surrounding communities have an ample supply of water moving forward into the future, an all-too-real concern in modern California.

Our forest has always provided for the college, and has played a major role in life at PUC since the college moved to Angwin in 1909. Many of the original campus buildings were constructed from timber harvested in the PUC forest, and some of that timber is still in buildings on campus today. Countless students, faculty, staff, and alumni have strolled through the forest on a Sabbath walk, reconnecting with God through nature. Some students even choose to come to PUC because of its pristine forested setting. Being able to take a quick hike on a whim to refresh the brain and spirit is a true asset to being a member of the PUC family here in Angwin. As we plan strategically for the future, we need to remember our heritage as a “college on a mountain, among the fir-clad hills.” The importance of the natural environment to who we are and what we have to offer students and families is intimately tied to our forest, an

asset making us distinctive among Adventist colleges and universities.

As urban areas continue to grow, having less access to a pristine forest for study, recreation, and inspiration, this forest here in Angwin can only become more valuable. Our forest has served us well in the past and will do so in the future, so long as we practice good stewardship. The conservation easement is an effort to do just that, and with the help of CAL FIRE, the Napa County Land Trust, and our community, PUC will be able to preserve our forest for the benefit of generations of plants, animals, and people to come. With God’s continued blessing, we will remain a place “where Nature and Revelation unite in Education.”

# Saving Our Legacy

*Board of Trustees Votes Not to Sell PUC Land / Jennifer Tyner*

In a historic move, the Pacific Union College Board of Trustees voted on Monday, October 2, 2017, to withdraw from negotiations for the sale of more than 100 acres of agricultural land. Trustees rejected a multi million-dollar proposal from a Napa County winery.

“I am pleased the board has given PUC the opportunity to pursue a vision that includes stewardship of the PUC lands,” said Dr. Robert Cushman Jr., PUC president. “We intend to develop a campus physical master plan that will include the development of auxiliary revenue streams while preserving the legacy of our land. The land is our endowment.”

This decision follows a similar vote at the May 11, 2017, meeting when the board voted to remove four other land parcels from the market. The board also voted to suspend further discussion of land sales until the campus physical master plan is approved by the board. Dr. Cushman outlined a 12-15-month timeframe to revise a plan that has not been updated since 1975.

“The new college senior leadership team is offering an attractive vision for the future of the college, one that myself and the board are excited to see put into action,” said Bradford Newton, board chair. “We are encouraged by this new view of how PUC’s land can be utilized as part of our endowment, and for the land to stay in our possession.”

“This vote is a clear indication PUC is changing course and moving in a new direction,” said Dr. Eric Anderson, past president and chair of the college’s ad hoc agriculture planning committee. “The board agrees with Dr. Cushman that ‘our land is our endowment.’ It must be preserved for productive use, as the college’s founders intended.”

“It’s hard for an institution to say, ‘We were wrong.’ But the policy of trying to sell off large portions of college land was a failure—and did not lead to permanent improvements for PUC,” continues Dr. Anderson. “From mission-minded Adventists to secular viticulturists, we have heard one recurring message: ‘Your land is your endowment. Don’t ever sell it.’”

Nearly the entire board meeting was devoted to the discussion of PUC’s land. After a field trip to some of the land and to the PUC Preparatory School Farm, much of the afternoon was spent discussing whether or not to proceed with selling the parcel in question or to pursue alternative opportunities for sustainable revenue streams.

Dr. Nancy Lecourt, vice president for academic administration and member of the agricultural committee, said, “Keeping this beautiful farm land at the center of our campus allows us to plan for innovative new academic programs. We look forward to getting more students involved with growing food and appreciating the natural environment.”

Dr. Cushman and the senior administration team are looking forward to further exploring new opportunities pertaining to the use of the college’s land. “Much prayer has been devoted to the long-term well-being of PUC,” said Dr. Cushman, “As we develop the campus physical master plan, we will consider and vet opportunities for agriculture, light industry, and education. We will be looking to utilize the full potential of the land that makes PUC unique among higher education institutions. We sincerely ask for and encourage continued prayer for PUC’s future. God has blessed PUC with rich resources, and we are determined to be faithful stewards of His gifts.”

## HELP PROTECT THE PUC FOREST

Please give as generously as you can to save the forest. Your gift will help us leverage additional government grants to meet our goal. Donate today at [puc.edu/give](https://puc.edu/give)!

For more information, call (707) 965-7500 or email [alumni@puc.edu](mailto:alumni@puc.edu).



# Unearthing PUC's Untapped Potential

*Dr. Cushman's Vision for Our College on the Mountain / Larissa Church*

Pacific Union College had never been on Dr. Robert Cushman Jr.'s radar. Over 700 miles north of their future home of Angwin, Calif., Cushman and his wife of 38 years, Judy, were happy and content in Washington State where he was serving in the administration of Walla Walla University. "I'm happy at Walla Walla," he told PUC's board chair when approached about the possibility of becoming the college's 23rd president. "I'm not looking to leave." After spending over eight years at Walla Walla—more than half of which had been as vice president of academic administration—the Cushmans had always assumed if they left the northwest it would be for the east coast to be closer to family. In spite of their hesitations, they allowed the PUC board to consider Cushman's CV. "If God is trying to tell me something," he explained, "I'm willing to listen."

## *A Call to Academic Leadership*

Heeding God's call is a steady theme in Cushman's life, and it was what drew him to a career in education. After receiving his Ph.D in geology from the Colorado School of Mines in 1994, he transitioned to teaching at Loma Linda University after a career as a geologist and paleontologist. Prior to that, he had received his bachelor's degree in biology at then Walla Walla College in 1979, which was quickly followed by a master's degree in geology from Loma Linda University in 1983.

Throughout his 12 years at LLU, he wore many hats; assistant professor, chair of the department of earth and biological sciences, and "resident rock doc." In addition to advising graduate student research, Cushman assumed administrative duties for his department; overseeing the department's budget and coordinating the undergraduate geology program. He soon found that the administrative side of things was more enjoyable than he anticipated. "I got into teaching because I love working with students and helping them learn and meet their potential," he says. "The longer I worked with students, the more opportunity I saw to work with faculty in the same respect." The joy of bettering those around him grew, leading him to take seats on more committees around campus. "I saw the opportunity to impact the campus at large," he recounts, "and helping the campus reach its potential."

Cushman's ability to impact an entire school eventually blossomed into his next adventure, when in 2006 he assumed the role of vice principal at El Dorado Adventist School in Placerville, Calif. In addition to his academic duties, he also put his leadership experience to work coaching the men's varsity basketball team, which would coincidentally bring him to Angwin during PUC's annual basketball tournament. After two years, in 2008 the Cushmans left California for Walla Walla University where Cushman had accepted the position of professor of paleobiology. It didn't take long for his administrative talent to lead him to the duties of biological science department chair, which he served as for four years before joining the university's leadership team as vice president for academic administration in 2012—a role he would hold until a certain Californian college came calling.

During his time as part of WWU's administration, Cushman's passion to help those around him meet their full potential was amplified. Under his supervision, nearly 40 new faculty members were hired and new student evaluation processes were developed. Honed by his time teaching biology and helping students understand varied scientific viewpoints, Cushman provided academic leadership that focused on helping students grow and strengthen their faith by allowing them to grapple with tough questions in a safe, Christ-centered environment. In everything he does, Cushman seeks to help both students and faculty alike to fulfill their potential in both mind and spiritual walk. "Probably my favorite thing about being in academics," he replies when asked why he decided to become a college president, "is helping people fulfill their potential."

*In addition to talking with Dr. Cushman about his plans for PUC, I also asked him about several other important matters.*

**If you had a pet rock, what would you name it?**

Its name would be Shelly, after Sheldon Cooper on *The Big Bang Theory*. Sheldon hates geologists and he doesn't believe geology is a real science. He doesn't think biology is a real science, either. He says so in several episodes. I used to show video clips of him saying geology isn't a real science in my classes.

**When you were younger, what was your dream job?**

My dream job, when I was a kid, was to either be a DJ or a sports broadcaster. That didn't work out so well, did it?



Setting a New Course

It was the potential Cushman saw at PUC that wound up rendering him unable to turn down the board’s offer to become president. “To be a college president, frankly, is a lot of fun,” he elaborates. “You have a whole lot of opportunity to work with students, faculty, and staff as well as a variety of stakeholders and constituents and make a difference in meaningful ways in their lives.” At the same time, Cushman inherits a school that presents challenges and frustrations he acknowledges must be overcome to secure its future. In addition to managing the college’s debt issues, Cushman also faces the daunting tasks of improving a campus that has endured years of deferred maintenance and mending a frayed relationship with the school’s more recent alumni. All of this comes during an era in which colleges across the country are seeing declines in student enrollment and retention. “I think there are opportunities for improvement in every department on campus, both academic and non-academic,” Cushman admits. “It’s going to be a process of identifying what those opportunities are, and working through them.”

In order to fully wrap his head around the issues most pressing to PUC and its community, Cushman spent time throughout this past fall conducting “listening sessions” in which faculty, staff, and students had the chance to voice

their opinions and concerns about the current state of the college. “They see PUC being in a time of transition,” he explains. “They recognize the challenges we have. I think that’s a good thing. Everything is right out in the open. The challenges are right out there.” Cushman not only asked session attendees about their concerns, but about what they believe PUC’s mission and purpose truly are. “I’ve been pushing us to think about what makes PUC unique,” he explains. “One of the questions for the listening session is, ‘Why does PUC exist?’” At the same time, Cushman has been working closely with Credo, a higher education consulting company, to create data-driven ideas for PUC’s future that will feed into a new strategic plan for the school. That includes improving the customer experience and streamlining processes with crucial departments like Enrollment Services and Student Financial Services.

Additionally, Cushman has started work on a new master physical plan for the college’s campus—which will be PUC’s first Napa County-approved update since 1975 and detail the college’s vision for how all of its assets—including land and other natural resources, educational, residential, and commercial buildings—will help the school achieve that vision. “Everybody has a great idea,” says Cushman in regards to the PUC community’s suggestions on how to improve the campus. “We need to

make sure that we maximize the benefit of those different projects, so that they all kind of fit together, and we can get the most potential out of those things. Both for what we have to invest in them, as well as what we can get out of them. And, make sure that they correlate well with our strategic plan.” A significant staple of Cushman’s vision for this plan is building on the college’s recent decision not to sell its land. He’s excited about the joint effort between PUC and the Land Trust of Napa County to permanently protect, preserve, and manage the 856 acres of forestland adjacent to the college’s campus by way of a conservation easement. Moving forward, he says, “We want to find ways to meaningfully engage with our land, both for education and for auxiliary revenue streams.”

As for the management of those revenue streams, Cushman’s planning also extends to the colleges finances—including managing the school’s debt. Currently in the first year of a three year turnaround plan to ease the debt’s burden on PUC and work on paying it off, Cushman has worked to reign in unnecessary spending and focused the college’s financial resources into the most efficient uses possible.

As these plans develop and begin to take shape, Cushman has felt encouraged by the progress he has already begun to see. “People are saying that they’re cautiously optimistic,” he reports. He is also excited for the planning to reach a stage where he can share that progress with PUC alumni and gather their feedback. “It’s been fun getting to know people who care deeply about PUC and its history,” he explains. “We want their opinions and we want their support.”

While evaluating what PUC could be doing better is important part of Cushman’s planning, he’s careful not to let the culture on campus get too caught up on focusing what isn’t while ignoring what could be. “We had to kind of hit the reset button when I came,” he admits, “because much of the previous strategic planning listening sessions were focused on frustrations with where we were at the time, rather than where we needed to be going. There’s still some of that, but we’re also starting to think about where we could be.” Indeed, it’s in talking about where he intends to guide PUC that Cushman gets most excited.



How do you build your haystack? Do you use Fritos or tortilla chips?

This is important. There is a method, all right? So, the Fritos go first. And yes, Fritos, not tortilla chips. And then cheese, because you want the beans on top of the cheese to melt the cheese on top of the Fritos. Then, the lettuce, tomato or red bell pepper, olives, and salsa.

What was the last book you read?

Patrick Lencioni’s *The Advantage: Why Organizational Health Trumps Everything Else In Business*, which has to do with healthy workplace culture.



*The Promise of PUC’s Future*

“There’s huge potential.” Cushman is animated when asked about the places he sees the college being able to go. “Frankly, that’s one of the things that attracted us to coming here, was that there’s a lot of untapped potential,” he says. “Not only with PUC in this place, with our land, with our local community, but also in a broader sense.” He sees the various plans being formed coalescing into a vision in which PUC begins to unlock untapped potential, including developing a closer, strategic relationship with the Napa Valley community to harness the opportunities it has to offer the school and its students. “I’ve met with the general manager of the Culinary Institute in St. Helena,” Cushman details, “and we’ve talked about ways we can partner. I’ve talked by phone with Ron Kraft, who’s the president of Napa Valley College, with some of the same intent. We’re hoping to get together soon with some of our senior leadership teams, and talk about ways we can work together.” Perhaps most significantly, Cushman, along with the senior administration team, has mended the college’s often-fraught relationship with Save Rural Angwin (SRA). Together, PUC and SRA are committed to working together to protect and preserve the rural setting of Angwin. Moving forward, leaders from both organizations have pledged to focus on collaborative efforts to address issues affecting both Angwin and the greater Napa Valley. “I think PUC is very tied to this place,” Cushman summarizes. “It’s the place that gives us some of that advantage, but we haven’t taken it. We haven’t used our advantage, the land, the setting, the placement in the North Bay area, and all of the industry. We’ve got to do better at that. We impact Angwin, we impact St. Helena,

Napa, and Calistoga. We’d like to be a full partner in our communities, both our faith-based and our secular communities.”

On the academic side of things, Cushman takes the responsibility to continue PUC’s mission to offer “an excellent Christ-centered education that prepares its students for productive lives of useful human service and uncompromising personal integrity seriously.” He stresses the importance of the college to facilitate, mentor, and nurture both the spiritual and academic development of its students, and provide a safe place for them to ask hard questions without feeling threatened. “We want to nurture them along on their journey,” he says. “If we want to create a different tomorrow, today is our opportunity to really mentor and shape our students, to shape the conversation for them to learn and grow, and help them create a different tomorrow and a society that watches out for those who are marginalized and less fortunate in our society.”

While many people question whether or not an Adventist education is worth the cost, Cushman believes a large part of its value—in addition to academic excellence—is the sense of high ethics, community, and service PUC’s faith-based education instills, setting its graduates apart from others entering the workforce. It’s that reputation Cushman plans to nurture and trumpet to potential employers of alumni. “Our alumni are different in the workplace, in a number of ways,” Cushman posits. “If you want somebody who has high ethics and moral values, why not choose a PUC alum? If you want somebody who has experienced collaborative learning experiences and knows how to work as part of a team, why not choose a

PUC alum? If you want somebody who has a social conscience, why not choose a PUC alum?”

Cushman also looks forward to forging a stronger relationship with the school’s alumni, especially more recent graduates who haven’t felt as strongly connected to the college since their departure. “I look forward to hearing PUC alumni stories,” he says, “and hearing about how much they love this place and its people, and their memories of interactions with faculty and staff.”

\* \* \*

Just a couple months after the Cushmans arrived at PUC in the summer of 2017, the Napa Valley was engulfed in a series of some of the most devastating wildfires in California’s history. As the flames drew closer to Angwin, Cushman found himself walking the campus with his wife, Judy, and thinking about whether PUC could survive a natural disaster striking its campus. “It occurred to me,” he says, “what would happen if, like Redwood Adventist Academy, this place burned? Is our mission enough to rebuild?” While Angwin and PUC were spared the heartache and destruction found elsewhere in the valley, Cushman quickly arrived at the conclusion that PUC is more than just a cluster of buildings on a hill—it’s a key part of the Adventist education mission and legacy. “What if the place was burned so much,” Cushman asked himself, “that we couldn’t rebuild here. Should we rebuild? And, I would say, ‘Yes. Absolutely.’ I think the mission of PUC is big enough, that it’s not just dependent on this place, but it’s enhanced by this place.” It’s with this mission at heart Cushman will lead Pacific Union College into the future, doing what he’s always found God calling him to do—shepherding a college and its community towards its best self.

**What’s your favorite place to eat in the Valley?**

My exposure has been somewhat limited, but I do like Rutherford Grill in Rutherford.

**If you had to play one sport for intramurals, what would it be?**

Basketball. I like the exercise, and the teamwork. In some ways, being a college president is somewhat like being a point guard on a basketball team, where you get to pass the ball to the right person, in the right place, at the right time.



# Hearts of Service

*PUC's Summer 2017 Mission Trip to Kenya / Megan Weems*

PUC Student Association President, Megan Weems, spent her summer a little differently than the average college student. She embarked on a nearly 30-hour trek to Maasai Mara, Kenya, with others from the PUC family for several days to serve the community there. We asked her to talk about her inspiring experience learning about a new culture and giving back to those less fortunate in our world. Here is Megan's story.



## HELP FURTHER GOD'S MESSAGE ACROSS THE GLOBE

Make a donation today to the Student Missions Fund at [puc.edu/give](https://puc.edu/give) to assist students like Megan and others serving around the world in places like Kenya.



Our team was comprised of 15 people. We had two doctors, one nurse, one professor, and 11 other people, all who had hearts for service. We left on a Monday afternoon to embark on a long journey from small town Angwin, Calif., to the middle of the Maasai Mara in Kenya. It took one 15-and-a-half hour flight to Dubai, a six-hour flight to Nairobi, and then an eight-hour safari car ride from Nairobi to the Maasai Mara, our final destination.

We arrived on a Friday, and the next day we went to a Maasai Adventist church. On Sabbath afternoon and Sunday, we went on a safari around the Maasai Mara, with beautiful views and a plethora of animals. After resting up for the few days on the Mara and shaking off the jetlag, the team was in preparation mode for the week to come. We were separated into bush clinic teams, a Vacation Bible School team, and a painting/construction crew. Our group was small but all very driven and excited to be doing our part to help the Maasai community.

We set up five bush clinics during our time in Maasai Mara. The bush clinics consisted of a team of doctors; PUC's Dr. Jonathan Wheeler and his wife, Dr. Julie Perry Wheeler; nurse Francis Aho; and recent PUC nursing graduate Elizabeth Shown. Each day they packed their

lunches, put on their scrubs, piled into a safari truck, and drove to a surrounding village in need of medical attention. They offered basic medical checkups, eye checkups, a pharmacy, triage station, and lots of prayer for each Maasai native seen. On a typical day, the bush clinic team would see as many as 70 people.

Upon arrival, our VBS team first met with the headmaster of the primary school. We discovered the school had over 700 students enrolled and only eight teachers overseeing them. Each morning began with song service led by recent PUC grad Kelly Siegel and myself. Following song service, Dr. Peterson, adjunct professor of music at PUC, would give a Bible story complete with puppets and various instruments. Each day closed with an arts and crafts section which allowed each child the opportunity to create something they could take home. Toward the end of the week, the children were excitedly awaiting our arrival at the beginning of each day. At the end of our weeklong program, the children showed their thanks by treating us to a traditional Maasai tribal dance, grabbing our hands and making us join in.

After spending the mornings with the children, we began painting the staff quarters of the first all-girls high school in Maasai. Each afternoon we teamed

up with a Maasai native, our very own Fabio Maia, the service and missions coordinator at the college, along with five other PUC students. Our crew scraped, primed, and painted the walls. Once school let out, the students would come and dance, sing, and play along as we worked. A great memory for me will always be the Maasai children teaching us Swahili songs, as we taught them English.

Our group was extremely fortunate to have amazing American native hosts. The Aho family are the owners of Mara West (accommodation) and African Missions Services. They run their own community clinic and led our bush clinics. We were blessed to be able to serve the community in the capacity we did and then come back to safe and comfortable accommodations. The Maasai Mara area is blessed to have them and we are blessed to know them.

This trip is something each of us will never forget, and it will stay with us throughout our lives. The PUC missions office strives to create lasting relationships around the world and hopes to return to Maasai Mara soon. The PUC family is expanding from Angwin to all over the world, from Brazil to Fiji and beyond. Now we have just added more beautiful souls: the people of the Maasai Mara.



“Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.” (Gary Snyder)

# Student Profile: Adriana Rieke

*PUC Student and Volunteer Firefighter Adriana Rieke Continues Her Family's Tradition of Service / Carissa Paw*

Late Sunday evening, October 8, 2017, multiple fires broke out throughout the Napa Valley and the adjacent Sonoma Valley. While most of us here in Angwin were glued to TVs, radios, and the internet keeping close tabs on the developing situation, a group of brave men and women from the Angwin Volunteer Fire Department sprang to action. The AVFD is comprised of members from the Angwin community, as well as PUC faculty, staff, and even students. These volunteers have dedicated countless hours of their lives to keep their community safe. One of these courageous young people is PUC student, Adriana Rieke, who is a sophomore studying exercise science and also volunteers with the AVFD. I talked with her about her experience helping fight the recent fires and what she finds rewarding about volunteering.

## What made you decide to attend PUC?

I decided to come to PUC because I liked the location. PUC also had the major I wanted which obviously was very important.

## How long have you been volunteering with the AVFD?

I started the fire academy in January 2017 and we graduated in June 2017. I have been volunteering since my graduation.

## Do you have another job?

I do. I also work at public safety as a student dispatcher.

## How difficult is it balancing volunteering and going to school full-time?

It honestly is really difficult. The main thing I always have to deal with is time. Making time to go to class, study, and go to drills for training because in this field, training never stops. Finding the balance to fit everything I need in a day can be difficult.

## What made you want to be involved with the fire department?

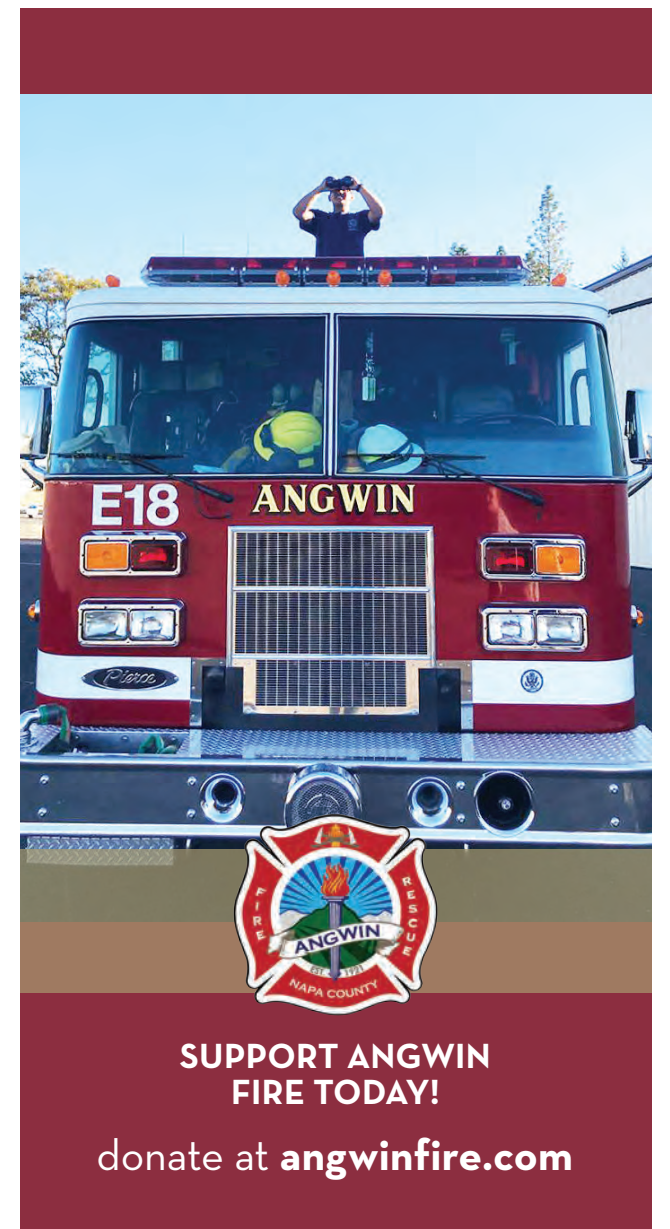
I've had many family members go through the AVFD throughout the years and I thought it would be fun to continue what my family has done. Plus I have been interested in firefighting since I was a little kid.

## What was your involvement in the Napa Valley fires? Tell me about your experience.

I was on the initial attack on Truck 18. The first night we ended up going to the Tubbs fire over in Calistoga and when we approached the fire I was shaking from excitement but also nerves. This was one of the first big fires I had been dispatched to. Later in the evening our engine was diverted to another smaller fire in Calistoga. The following morning we were sent back to Tubbs, before making our way home to Angwin for an unrelated call. Once PUC's classes were canceled, I was assigned to Water Tender 18 which went back to Tubbs for the whole week. We had many different assignments. I ended up getting released from the fire on the Tuesday before classes started back up, even though the fire was still not fully contained.

## What was the most challenging part during the fire? What was the most rewarding?

The most challenging part was the number of hours spent. We started off doing 24 hours on, then 24 hours off. It was difficult to be on the go and active for most of a 24 hour shift. During the 24 hours off, I would go and sleep for most of it, only waking up to eat and call my family to talk to them to let them know I was okay and doing well. This fire pushed me mentally and physically to be better. The most rewarding thing for me was coming off our assignment for our day off completely exhausted and seeing people be so thankful to us for everything we were doing. Seeing the containment slowly going up each day and knowing everything we were doing was helping. With how difficult everything was, I would drop everything in a heartbeat to be able to respond again.





During the Napa Valley fires, PUC's very own Virgil O. Parrett Field became a staging area for CAL FIRE's helicopters and other aircraft assisting with fire-relief efforts. The aircrafts helped with water dropping, supply runs, mapping fire hot spots, and coordinating with air tankers dropping fire retardant. PUC also provided housing for many of the pilots to help with these efforts.

The college continues to remain committed to helping rebuild our community during the months and years to come. Information regarding how you can get involved will be forthcoming.

# Faculty Profile: Kent Davis

*A Conversation with PUC's Department of Chemistry Chair and 2017 Educator of the Year*

On April 27, 2017, the PUC Church sanctuary was packed full of students, faculty, and staff, all excitedly awaiting the announcement of PUC's next student-selected Educator of the Year. As PUC tradition states, the winner is a tightly kept secret known only to a few people on campus and is announced at the annual Educator of the Year Colloquy.

When Dr. Kent Davis' name was announced, there was loud and extended applause for the ever popular chemistry professor and department chair. As he sat in the seat of honor on the platform, the audience was treated to funny stories from his wife, Rachelle Davis, a fellow PUC faculty member in the department of music, as well as touching stories from a few close students.

Not everyone has the privilege of taking classes from Dr. Davis, so we asked him a few questions to get better acquainted with the man behind the 2017 PUC Educator of the Year award.

## What's your favorite thing about teaching?

Seeing my students grow and learn and become successful is very satisfying. Talking about hard problems and seeing students struggle (along with me) and gradually catch on is also a lot of fun.

## Tell us about your family.

My wife, Rachelle, is a violinist who teaches in (and chairs) the department of music at PUC. Our elder son, Ethan, is a freshman at PUC Prep, and our younger son, Benjamin, is a fifth grader at PUC Elementary. We have two dogs, Sammy and Gigi.

## You knew it was coming—is PUC the best school to study at to get into Loma Linda medical school?

To get into any medical school requires dedication to study, ability to avoid

distractions, capable and available teachers, and a culture among your classmates that supports excellence. I think PUC has that. Of course, students who find these less important than the ease of getting to Taco Bell or luxury living accommodations may not be PUC material but those values suggest they might not be getting into medical school anyway.

## Describe your typical work day.

I generally arrive at my office around 8 a.m. I finalize preparations for my classes and then go teach. Afterwards I talk with students, prepare class assignments, do other administrative tasks, or just relax for a bit. I often spend the noon hour in wind ensemble or chorale rehearsal before going back the chemistry offices to get ready to supervise labs for the afternoon.

## What's your favorite thing about PUC?

The location. I run in the forest and along mountain ridges almost daily. I walk to work every day. Most people at PUC live close by so it's a real community in a way most other places I've worked have not been.

## How did you end up teaching chemistry at PUC?

My wife, Rachelle, was teaching music at Washington Adventist University (then Columbia Union College) and I

was teaching as an adjunct professor at a Catholic women's college in DC. The position in chemistry at PUC opened with the likelihood of a soon to open position in music and we decided to come to PUC.

## We hear you love to bake. What is the most delicious thing you've ever made?

I'm fairly critical of anything I bake so I don't think I'd apply terms like 'most delicious' to things I made but I make a pretty good loaf of bread. We got a bread maker as a wedding present and I started there but soon got into sourdough. I've had my sourdough starter for about 20 years now. I feed and water it daily kind of like a pet (that I plan to eat). The sourdough experience has led me to explore other uses of bacteria/yeast cultures in food like cheesemaking. I wouldn't say I'm an expert and many cheeses need to age for several months which makes experimenting difficult. But a nice dollop of fresh homemade goat cheese on a slice of freshly baked sourdough is quite enjoyable.

## What are your other hobbies?

In another twist my 20-year-old self would be surprised to learn, since coming to PUC I have become a runner. The trails in PUC's forest, the adjoining state forest, and the ridge between Angwin and Calistoga are great. I try to be out there around dawn, when I think it's at its most beautiful. I also enjoy traveling.

I've visited all 50 states and, in the last few years, I've been in Sweden, Costa Rica, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Cambodia, and Taiwan.

## When you were younger, what was your dream job? Is teaching similar?

I don't know if I had a "dream" job, at least after the firefighter, astronaut, zookeeper, etc., stage of early childhood. I started college as an engineering major and switched to chemistry after my first year. My 20-year-old self would be horrified at the idea of standing in front of people and speaking out loud for a living. So no, teaching is, in that way at least, about as far from what I would have expected as possible.

## Why should someone choose to study chemistry at PUC?

We have a long history of students having success in achieving their goals. If you do well in chemistry (or the sciences in general) at PUC, you will be well situated to do well in medical school, dental school, pharmacy, or doing study in science at a higher level.



# Department Profile: Alumni & Advancement

*(Re)Meet Kellie Lind, a PUC Pioneer*



**What’s your favorite place at PUC?**

The swimming pool! I life-guarded, taught swimming, taught Swim and Stay Fit, played water polo, and took lifesaving classes from Dr. Reynolds!

I’ve thought numerous times, “I am the lucky one,” since returning to Pacific Union College as the chief advancement officer last spring. Each day I’m interacting with students and faculty and get to work on the PUC campus and again enjoy working at place where I spent many happy days making great friends as an 18 to 22-year-old!

I get to walk in the back doors of Irwin Hall and breathe in the familiar musty smell and think I am 19-years-old again and heading up to room 323 to see my friends, Carolyn Carpenter Hamilton, ’80, Ken Plumlee, ’82, Brenda Pfeiffer, ’82, and my classmates in Herb Ford’s, ’54, news writing class. Sometimes when I walk by the Hansen pool and hear someone jumping off the diving board, I remember Steve Case, ’79, and Drew von Pohle, ’79, diving on school picnic days. The sounds remind me of afternoons lifeguarding with Charles Larson, ’81, and Liz Studt, ’80, under the watchful eye of Dr. Reynolds, aquatic director.

I am the lucky one, as Dr. Bob Cushman, the 23rd president of PUC, and his wife, Judy, start their tenure as PUC’s new leaders. I am relieved and grateful the Cushmans embrace the “PUC experience” and already care for the PUC we all know and love. They agree there are so many things going well that do not need to be changed. Yet Dr. Cushman does not shy away from the challenges brought on by long-term deferred maintenance

and recent overspending. His steady, thoughtful evaluations of campus life and PUC’s mission are refreshing and reassuring. His first order of business as the new president was to overturn the decision to sell 868 acres of forestland. I can tell you we have strong leadership in the Cushmans and are in good hands!

When I walk by the front of Graf Hall, I still rather expect Susie Small, ’82, Jolene Westphal, ’82, and LaVonne Wesner, ’82, those lively girls from Sacramento, to call out their windows and ask me when I am going to the cafeteria for dinner.

You left your mark on PUC. And believe me, you are thought of often and fondly. One of PUC’s greatest assets is the strength of its alumni community. We would love to welcome you back to campus! We’ll walk up the stairs to Clark Hall, take a spin around Irwin Hall, and then after we catch our breath, we’ll have lunch. Hope to see you soon!



Kellie Lind, ’82  
Chief Advancement Officer



**Christina (Shin) Im, att. ’91-92**  
**Title:** Alumni & Special Events Coordinator

**What professor had the biggest impact on you?**

I really enjoyed several of my English professors. Although they each had very different perspectives and teaching styles, it was so stimulating to be taught by a group that inspired you to think as an individual.



**Nic Miller, ’17**  
**Title:** Database Manager & Gift Records Specialist

**What professor had the biggest impact on you?**

Tammy McGuire in the department of communication, because of her creative and collaborative approach to learning that forces one to push beyond average performance and achieve academic excellence.



**Leticia (Rosado) Russell, ’93**  
**Title:** Director of the Annual Fund

**What’s your favorite place at PUC?**

The honors seminar room in Irwin Hall. If the walls could tell stories ... All the great discussions held in the room and the great history faculty meetings held in the same room when I returned as a history professor after graduation.



**Laurie Trujillo, att. ’92-93, ’95-96**  
**Title:** Director of Philanthropy

**What’s your favorite place at PUC?**

I enjoy the prayer garden. It is quiet and serene. When there, it feels like I am transported into a different world. My daughter also loves to just sit there. Quite a feat for an 18-month-old!



PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**MEET THE TEAM**

While several members of the alumni team are new to their positions, you likely will recognize their names or faces. Here’s a quick introduction to the PUC alumni who you will be seeing out on the road or talking to on the phone sometime soon!

# HIGHLIGHTS



- 1 2017 Pioneers men's basketball team won the California Pacific Conference championship!
- 2 Dr. Terrence J. Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine, shared his wealth of knowledge and experience at the annual lecture of the Percy and John Christian Civil Rights Conference Center.
- 3 The championship softball intramural team poses for a celebratory photo.
- 4 Professor Aimee Wyrick and students learn about plant life during one of the many biology classes.
- 5 PUC students continue to not only give back locally, but globally during one of the many mission trips taken each year.
- 6 A student praise team leading out in song during a worship service.
- 7 The department of visual arts take a group photo during their annual trip to the Albion Field Station.
- 8 Students gather and sing carols during the annual Christmas tree lighting.

*For more campus life photos, follow PUC on Facebook, and Instagram!*



“Our college on the  
mountain, among thy fir clad  
hills, the light of inspiration  
my heart with rapture fills.”

*(Excerpt, Our College on the Mountain)*

# CLASS NOTES

Written and Compiled by Herbert Ford, '54

## 1930s

**Jane (O’Ffill) Pihl, att. ’35-36**, has lived long enough to see 16 U.S. presidents live in the White House. That fact, along with her recently turning 100 years of age, has made her the subject of a feature article in the *Record Gazette* newspaper, located in Banning, Calif. In her century-long life journey, Pihl has served in medical missionary work with her late husband, Dr. Kern Pihl, in Baghdad, Iraq, and in Peru. What is the reason she has lived more than a century? “Two reasons,” she says, “Love the Lord, and stay healthy.”

## 1940s

Retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor and “Your Bible Speaks” radio host **Richard E. Tottress, ’43**, reached the age of 100 in November 2017. Today he remains active in ministry, and is a colorful figure as he drives himself around Atlanta, Ga., in his big gold Mercedes automobile. Tottress can usually be found every Wednesday afternoon at Atlanta’s Berean Outreach Community Center food distribution center, greeting the participants, and sharing the Gospel message with them. He is the author of the widely-distributed book *Heaven’s Entrance Requirement for the Races*. During his years at PUC, he served as the editor of the religion section for the “Campus Chronicle.”

## 1950s

**Robert M. Johnson, ’53**, retired New Testament scholar of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, was recently honored at a meeting of the Adventist Society for Religious Studies in San Antonio, Texas, by the publication of a Festschrift, a collection of essays

by colleagues, one of the highest tributes scholars may receive for their work. Johnson’s service to his church spans 60 years, and includes Bible teacher at Fresno Adventist Academy; head of the department of religion for the forerunner colleges of Sahmyook University in Korea; acting dean of the graduate School of Religion at Philippine Union College; and New Testament professor at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary from which he retired in 2002. Throughout his career, Johnson has been accompanied and aided in his service by his wife, **Madeline (Steele) Johnson, ’55**.

**Marilyn (Schilling) Rentfro, ’53**, after nearly 20 years of service, first in the PUC business office and then at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, she now lives in “active” retirement in Mariposa, Calif. Recently, she had to cope with being an evacuee from one of California’s big wildfires, but her day-to-day involvement is with Bangla Hope, an organization devoted to changing the lives of orphans, destitute women, and children in the country of Bangladesh.

**Herbert (Herb) Ford, ’54**, former journalism and public relations professor and PUC vice president, has recently left his Angwin home in favor of semi-retirement on his daughter—**Cindy Evans’, ’80**—fruit ranch near Exeter, Calif. From a “south campus” office of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center in downtown Visalia, Calif., Ford continues all internet direction and caring for administrative duties of the widely-known PUC research-museum facility, while PUC librarian Katherine Van Arsdale handles all on-site matters of the Center. Ford’s second in-retirement duty continues to be that of writing PUC alumni news notes,

and the obituaries of PUC alumni for “ViewPoint” and the web. Ford can be reached at hford@puc.edu, (559) 732-0313, or by snail mail at 303 N. West St., Visalia, CA 93291. All PUC alumni are invited to send news of happenings in their lives or obituary information to Ford, or to the PUC alumni office at alumni@puc.edu, or by mail to One Angwin Ave., Angwin, CA 94508.

In June, **Beth (Loop) Petersen, ’55**, who makes her home Glendale, Calif., walked her 56th marathon, the Rock ’n Roll Marathon in San Diego, Calif. Petersen is 84-years-old. Her participation in the San Diego event adds miles to the many other marathons, totaling some 30,000 miles, including what she’s walked in the past 30 years. “Being 84-years-old in as good shape as I’m in, my marathon participation encourages others, and because of my experience, they’ve taken up exercising too,” she writes.

Though retired from a distinguished teaching career, **Nancy Thymeister, ’58**, and her husband Werner have recently given service to several institutions overseas, including the Adventist University of Africa, where Werner was influential in planning for the new university, and where in 2006 she taught the first course offered by the institution.

**Joseph Leininger Wheeler, ’59**, known to thousands as “America’s Keeper of the Story,” has recently seen the 25th book of his *Christ-mas in my Heart* series published by the Pacific Press Publishing Association and made available in Adventist Book Centers. Wheeler has edited and compiled 94 books of stories that have sold more than 1.5 million copies. Professor emeritus of English at Washington

Adventist University, he is one of America’s leading story anthologizers. He is also a PUC Honored Alumnus and lives in Conifer, Colo., with his wife and publishing partner, Connie.

## 1960s

Andrews University has recognized **Jon Dybdahl, ’65**, for his outstanding contributions to Seventh-day Adventist education and theology. He was named a 2016 Honored Alumnus of Andrews at its recent Homecoming. Dybdahl’s service to his church has included being a pastor in the Northern California Conference; a professor at Southeast Asia College; two periods of mission service in Thailand; faculty member and president of Walla Walla College; president of Thailand Mission College; director of the Institute of World Mission, and chair of Andrews University’s department of world mission. He currently serves as president of Gospel Outreach. Dybdahl is the author of eight books, and the editor of the *Andrews Study Bible*.

Prolific author **George R. Knight, ’65**, has had another book published, titled *Adventist Authority Wars, Ordination, and the Roman Catholic Temptation*. Known for their provocative approach, Knight’s books have had a wide readership around the world, and his new book will not disappoint, according to his publishers, Oak & Acorn Publishing. The book raises issues critical to the Seventh-day Adventist faith and points to possible solutions. More information about the book can be found at adventistfaith.com/oakandacorn.

Two PUC alumni, **Mames Ford, ’69**, and **Robert Zdor, ’83**, were recently honored by Andrews University for 25 years of service

to that institution. Ford is the associate director of the Center for Adventist Research while Zdor is a professor of biology.

## 1970s

**Merlin Burt, ’77**, whose home is in Berrien Springs, Mich., is director of the Center for Adventist Research and the Ellen G. White Estate branch office at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Burt is the author of a recent article, “Remember the Mighty Acts of God,” in *Adventist World* magazine in which various Adventist historical sites are highlighted.

**Cheryl Van Ornam, ’77, ’96**, is now the traditional music director at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Richmond, Va. She is also the organist at the First Church of Christ Scientist in Richmond, and has an active piano studio. In addition, she serves as adjunct faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University. Active with the American Guild of Organist, She is dean of the Richmond Virginia chapter of the guild.

**Elizabeth J. (Taylor) Rocke, ’77**, is currently serving as a library technician at the California State Prison, Los Angeles, Calif., in Lancaster, Calif. Previously, Elizabeth served at the Avel State Prison in Avel, Calif., and at the California State Prison, Solano, in Vacaville, Calif.

**Karen Tilstra, Ph.D., ’77**, is co-founder of Florida Hospital’s recently created Innovation Laboratory, which is a design-thinking, creative, and problem-solving unit that serves the hospital’s employees, patients, and community. Tilstra is listed as an “inventor, creative researcher, coach, consultant, and trainer to large companies and their employees. She wants to live in a world where work is fast, people are free, and chocolate is devoid of calories.” Florida Hospital is comprised of 25 distinct hospital campuses from the east coast to the west coast of central Florida.

**Deborah (Morel) Tonella, ’77**, who earned her master’s degree in education at PUC in 1988, has served as a teacher at Angwin’s Howell Mountain Elementary School. She has taught some courses at PUC in the department of education as a contract teacher, and today is vice president of Tonella Vineyards in Rutherford, Calif. Committed to supporting many Napa Valley performing arts organizations, Tonella served for six years on the Napa Valley Symphony Board of directors, including a stint as board president. For another six years, she was a member of the Music in Vineyards board of directors, including two years as board president. Committed and consistent supporters of PUC, She and her husband, Raymond Tonella, donated an airplane to the college’s Flight Center in 2015.

**Monty Knittel, ’78**, has recently been chosen as president and chief executive officer of the Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif. Knittel most recently has served as president and CEO of Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash. He has worked nearly 30 years for the Adventist Health system.

**Steven Vistaunet, ’78**, has recently received the “2017 AMC Lifetime Achievement Award in Communication” for his long-time contribution to Seventh-day Adventist mass communications, a service that “exceeds the communication standards” of the church. Vistaunet currently serves as assistant to the president of the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and is also editor of the *GleanerNow* publication of the conference.

**Cynthia (Case) Ackerman, ’79**, has recently been named the principal of the Galt Seventh-day Adventist School. In addition to serving as principal, She also teaches kindergarten through grade two in the mornings, and up to grade four in the afternoons at the 20-student parochial school. “Finding time to do everything is

challenging,” says Ackerman, but now that she has her hands on the reins she is planning for growth and a facelift for the school grounds. Her husband, **Craig Ackerman, ’76**, attended PUC during his education studies.

**Steve Case, ’79**, who is a veteran spiritual leader of young people, is now president of Involve Youth, which develops books, magazines, websites, games, DVDs, and CDs. He is also coordinator for the youth and young adult ministry concentration in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry program. Case recently teamed with **Eddie Heinrich, ’91**, who is the director of youth ministries for the Northern California Conference of Adventists, in writing “Sabbath Orphans,” an article published in the *Adventist World* magazine that calls for a strengthening of youth Sabbath schools in the church.

**Douglas A. Tilstra, ’79**, has recently been elected vice president of student life at Walla Walla University in Walla Walla, Wash. Tilstra is making the move to Walla Walla after 17 years as director of outdoor education and leadership at Southern Adventist University. Earlier, he was a pastor in the Gulf States Conference, the Northern California Conference, and the British Columbia Conference. He is married to **Lorraine (Bouma) Tilstra, ’78**, who has been serving as a hospice nurse.

## 1980s

**Laura (Herman) Canby, ’80**, now lives on Whidbey Island, Wash., and has a life full of interesting and varied communication activities. She edits a quarterly, full-color magazine, works on her church’s website, and has delved into low-cost video for nonprofits. She has even built a studio of her own right in her her basement. She also works for widely known religious author Philip Yancey, administering his website, helping edit some of his books, and serving as one of several editors of his memoir. “One of these years I

have a goal of doing some writing of my own,” writes Canby.

**Cynthia R. (Ford) Evans, ’80**, after having taught grades 1-4 at Sierra View Junior Academy in Exeter, Calif., for some 30 years, has recently retired and is enjoying life on her (and husband **Bruce L. Evans’, ’79**) pomegranate ranch near Exeter. Evans also enjoys babysitting her three (and soon-to-be four) grandchildren, and doing church and community service. Bruce is the owner and operator of the large Mr. Evans Property Management firm in Visalia, Calif.

**Yvonne Fankhanel, ’84**, has been honored by the International Nurses Association with the publication of her name and nursing background in the *Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare* publication. Fankhanel is currently serving patients at Loma Linda University Medical Center as a wound, ostomy, and continence registered nurse. She is a member of the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society, and the United Ostomy Association of America.

**Russell K. Weis, ’85**, is currently the general manager of Silverado Vineyards, a group of five Napa County vineyards. After his graduation from PUC, Weis taught English language and literature for two years at a small liberal arts college in Japan. Returning to the U.S., he served as a tour guide at the Christian Brothers Winery in St. Helena, Calif. In 1993, he joined the Robert Mondavi Winery where he initially led the winery’s Asian/Pacific export business, before becoming senior vice president for international business development. In 2004, Weis moved to his present position at Silverado Vineyards.

Hundreds of delegates to the 69th Regular Constituency Session of the Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-day Adventists voted recently to make **James Shires, ’86**, executive secretary of the church conference. Before his election to

the leadership position, Shires was prayer ministries coordinator of the Oklahoma Conference.

**Scott Reiner, '87**, chief executive officer of Adventist Health, with headquarters in Roseville, Calif., has been cited by the trade publication *Becker's Hospital Review* as one of 135 nonprofit healthcare CEO "Leaders to Know" in its 2016 rankings. The health system Reiner directs provides care through 20 hospitals, more than 260 clinics, 15 home care agencies, seven hospice agencies, a health plan, and four joint-venture retirement centers serving more than 75 communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

**Tamara M. (Testman) Shankel, '88**, has recently been named the senior associate dean of Medical Student Education at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, located in Loma Linda, Calif. She is an associate professor in the department of pediatrics with secondary appointments in the departments of internal medicine and medical education. Previously, Shankel was the associate dean for clinical education at the medical school from 2001.

1990s

**Christopher K. L. Tsai, '90**, a physician who specializes in urology in Southern California's San Bernardino County, has recently been named secretary of the San Bernardino Medical Society, at the society's annual 125th officers installation and recognition dinner.

**James Appel, '94**, who is a physician at and the director of Moundou Adventist Surgery Center and Baraka Adventist Hospital in the Republic of Chad, was awarded the University Global Service Award by Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

**Raymond W. McAllister, '97**, a member of the Semitic Scholars, a group of three blind academics who have created a Braille code

for ancient biblical languages, has received the prestigious Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award from the National Federation of the Blind, an award that includes a \$20,000 cash prize. The award recognizes individuals working in the field of blindness who have made outstanding contributions toward achieving the full integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality. McAllister is an adjunct teacher for the School of Distance Education & International Partnerships at Andrews University.

**Joy Fackenthall, att. '98**, has been teaching for a number of years, along with her husband, Peter, who has been principal at Pacific Union College Preparatory School. They are moving with her family to Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Wash., where she will teach Spanish, religion, and English as a second language, while her husband serves as principal of the school.

**Greg Taylor, att. '98**, has recently been appointed youth director of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Previously Taylor was youth director for the Wisconsin Conference, a teacher in two church conferences, and a congregational pastor in Indiana.

2000s

**Barbara Harrison, '02**, who has been a member of the nursing staff of St. Helena Hospital, has recently been named clinical associate professor of nursing at Andrews University, and is now teaching at that educational institution.

2010s

Seven PUC alumni were among the 157 students graduating as physicians at the 2017 graduation exercises at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Following is a listing of the graduating PUC alums, the area of medicine in which they are now interning, and the medical center at

which they are interning: **Daniel Betat, '13**, internal medicine, Loma Linda University Medical Center; **Robert Chi, '13**, family medicine, Loma Linda University Medical Center; **Calvin Fesler, '13**, physical medicine and rehabilitation, Loma Linda University Medical Center; **Jeremy Lam, '13**, medicine-prelim, Loma Linda University Medical Center; **Beverly Lauw, '13**, pediatrics, Loma Linda University Medical Center; **Mark Monterroso, '12**, emergency medicine, Kaweah Delta Health Care, Visalia (Calif.); and **Matthew Phelps, '13**, medicine-prelim, Riverside Community Hospital.

**Alexandra "Alex" Dunbar, '14**, recently accepted a position as community education specialist for Shasta County Health and Human Services, Public Health branch, Healthy Communities Division. She is a member of the Social Emotional Resiliency Unit, the Coordinator for Adverse Childhood Experiences in the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Unit, and the Coordinator for the Strengthening Families Collaborative. Alex's work before her assignment to Shasta County included completing her MPH in Health Education and Promotion in 2017, and working as a enrollment counselor for PUC from 2015-2017.

**Jeffrey Maxwell, '14**, was recently elected as risk management director of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. His tasks include handling crises, mitigating liability, and preventing problems. Maxwell's work before his assignment to the risk management post included service for two lay Adventist ministries, a lifestyle retreat in Georgia, and a literature ministry in Tennessee.

Former Faculty & Staff

According to *The Grundy County Herald* newspaper, **Irene**

**Wakeham Lee**, who taught at PUC in 1946, is a busy woman and is looking forward to her 106th birthday!

Born of Seventh-day Adventist missionary parents in England, Lee's varied, adventuresome life found her in Honolulu on December 7, 1941, where she witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor. She taught at Hawaiian Mission Academy, and after teaching at PUC she was off to a teaching mission in the Philippines for 24 years. On a furlough to the U.S. she earned a Ph.D. in linguistics at Stanford University. After her service in the Philippines, Irene taught at Oakwood College, La Sierra University, and Weimar College, as well as Antillean College in Puerto Rico. In between teaching assignments, she found time in 1982 to marry James Lee; both were 70 at the time.

How does she do it all? According to *The Herald*, "Lee credits her longevity to good genes and the 'good fortune of being born into a Seventh-day Adventist family.' Her daily routine includes trust in God, exercise, fresh air, water, sunshine, and rest. She eats temperately. Lee has never smoked or used fermented or caffeinated drinks of any kind, and stays away from junk food, and takes care of her daily needs."

**Yew Chong Wong**, who worked in PUC's development office in 2005, was named as a 2016 Honored Alumnus of Andrews University at the school's most recent Homecoming. Dr. Wong's career has included serving at Southeast Asia Union College, Hong Kong Adventist College, Walla Walla College, CEO of Adventist Health in Hong Kong, Dean Witter Reynolds, and Advent Links-SAUC Singapore. He earned a Ph.D. at Andrews in 1976 and received an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from Asia-Pacific International University in Thailand in 2010.

WEDDINGS



1



2



3



4



5

**1** **Bridgette Munoz, '12**, and **Larry Graack, '09**, in Placerville, Calif., on October 9, 2016

**2** **Kristen Beale, '14**, and **Travis Martin, '09-12**, in Oak Glen, Calif., on May 4, 2017

**3** **Dustin Baumbach, '12**, and **Devon Heinrich**, in Corona, Calif., on March 19, 2017

**4** **Erin Nicole, '11-12**, and **Kim Quiambao**, in Ben Lomond, Calif., on September 3, 2017

**5** **Devin Tinny, '12**, and **Eric Tua, '13**, in Cloverdale, Calif., on November 11, 2017

# IN MEMORY

Compiled by Herbert Ford, '54

We remember our lost brothers and sisters in Christ and pray for the day we are all reunited with our Heavenly Father. For full obituary information, please visit [puc.edu/alumni](http://puc.edu/alumni).

## 1930s

**Lois Lenora (Dillon) Anderson, '38**  
December 19, 2016

**Ronald C. Gregory, '39**  
November 18, 2017

## 1940s

**Laurita E. (Wineland) Jacobson, '40**  
July 5, 2016

**Muriel Fischer, '41**  
March 24, 2017

**Marian Mulder, '41, '43**  
September 20, 2017

**Marjorie R. Belben, '43**  
February 6, 2017

**Helmuth Friedrich Fischer, att. '43-44**  
November 18, 2016

**Rae Lucile Owens Hopkins, att. '43**  
December 2, 2016

**Louis Livingston Smith, att. '43**  
September 9, 2016

**Geraldine A. (Baumbach) Cochran, '44**  
November 30, 2017

**Thomas J. Cummings, '44**  
March 18, 2017

**Paul William Kemper, '44, '81**  
August 30, 2017

**Mary Jean Ceour-Barron Thompson, '45, '48, '79**  
December 12, 2017

**Phyllis Annette (Sidle) Smith, '45**  
June 16, 2016

**Stanley “Jack” D. Wheeler, '45**  
November 25, 2016

**Joyce Beatrice (Gillian) White, '45**  
May 2016

**Dorothy Marie Price, att. '48**  
January 27, 2017

**Vera Lyau Smith, '48**  
July 10, 2017

**Herbert G. Toews Jr., '48**  
March 14, 2017

**Ardis M. Borg, '49**  
February 20, 2017

**Beverly “Bev” Lorraine Galusha, '49**  
January 28, 2017

**Walter D. Hofmann, '49**  
November 7, 2016

**Ruth Sanders Holm, '49**  
March 12, 2017

**Frances Adelaide Gregg Quattlebaum, '49**  
April 18, 2017

**Nadine Garcia, att. 1940s**  
January 28, 2017

**Winona Dawn Kaiser, att. 1940s**  
November 29, 2017

**Dana “Seke” Mulder, att. 1940s**  
October 13, 2016

## 1950s

**Virgil “Kenneth” Juler, '50**  
November 20, 2016

**Maynard Christian, '51**  
April 28, 2017

**Donald Belos Lake, '51**  
January 2, 2017

**Carlos Ross von Pohle, '51**  
May 27, 2017

**Walter N. Tinlin, '51**  
February 28, 2017

**Phyllis Helena (Skau) Brown, att. '52**  
October 5, 2016

**Milton A. Miller, '52**  
December 25, 2016

**Ward B. Studt, '52**  
June 27, 2017

**William Arthur Jacobson, '53**  
October 26, 2017

**Ivylyn R. Traver, '53**  
January 28, 2017

**Donald Leroy Beglau, '54**  
October 29, 2016

**Melvin A. Beglau, '54**  
September 1, 2016

**Velma Leona (Harris) Gomes, '54**  
February 1, 2017

**Gilbert L. Plubell, '54, '62**  
November 23, 2017

**Frances (Klingbeil) Arnold, '55**  
November 4, 2017

**James Lyall Lansdown, '55**  
January 20, 2017

**Clark B. McCall, '56**  
October 27, 2017

**Carl Curtis Culpepper, '57**  
September 15, 2016

**Robert “Bob” Walter Pohle, '57**  
April 11, 2017

**Ronald Lawrence Sackett, '57**  
May 1, 2017

**Donald Perry Williams, '57**  
March 30, 2017

**Granville Gene Wilson, '57**  
January 16, 2017

**James Jacobson, '58**  
September 10, 2017

**Susan Folkenberg Wilcox, '58**  
September 2, 2016

**Kenneth Harvey Abbott II, '59**  
June 25, 2017

**Janice Elaine Simmons, '59**  
June 16, 2017

**Arthur Ford, att. 1950s**  
June 13, 2017

**James Ronald Logan, att. 1950s**  
November 9, 2016

**William Robert Simpson, att. 1950s**  
February 1, 2017

## 1960s

**David Wesley Wilbur, '61 November 24, 2017**  
Ramona Dunson, '62  
January 25, 2017

**William Larry Richards, '62**  
March 18, 2017

**Earl “ET” Samuel Tresenriter, '63**  
October 14, 2016

**Dennis W. Anderson, '64**  
November 19, 2016

**Delmer G. Ross, '65**  
March 12, 2017

**Jeanne Rae Munson, '66**  
October 22, 2016

**James Sconza, '68**  
June 6, 2017

**Marilyn McIntosh, att. '69**  
March 15, 2017

**John Davis Butler Sr., att. 1960s**  
June 13, 2017

**Mary Alice Cobb-Hill, att. 1960s**  
December 9, 2017

**Paul Lowell Connor, att. 1960s**  
May 12, 2017

**Sharon M. (Santos) Simpson, att. 1960s**  
November 23, 2017

## 1970s

**Erna Irene Coon, '71**  
November 20, 2016

**Douglas A. Wing, '71**  
October 6, 2016

**Sylvia Ann Ruppert, att. '72**  
September 21, 2016

**Louanne Jade (White) Bursell, att. '73-77**  
December 11, 2016

**Donald Chase, '73**  
May 22, 2017

**La Mont Del Ponder, '74**  
February 14, 2017

**Robert M. Sanders, '76**  
May 5, 2017

**Jane Davis, att. '76-78**  
December 22, 2016

**James Brian Hoffer, '77**  
June 25, 2017

**William M. Moors, '77**  
December 24, 2016

**Robert Franklin Chapman, att. '79**  
November 25, 2016

**Maurice Morgan, att. 1970s**  
December 27, 2012

**Ronald A. Putman, att. 1970s**  
March 10, 2017

## 1980s

**Cheryl Diane (Simmons) Horner, '80**  
July 21, 2017

**Debra R. “Debbie” Jones, '82**  
March 13, 2017

**Douglas Alan Weeks, '82**  
October 16, 2017

**Eunice Pauline Collins, att. '83**  
June 3, 2017

**Ralph E. Hendrix, '85**  
June 15, 2017

**Tina R. Nelson, '85**  
April 20, 2017

**Ansel Leroy Bristol, att. '88**  
April 13, 2017

## 1990s

**Rudy Bermudez, '90**  
October 4, 2016

**Janice Carolyn (Hansen) Weisser, '92**  
November 27, 2016

**Wendy Elayne Wilson, '93**  
December 7, 2017

**Anita Alice (Cavagnaro) Ford, '95**  
April 30, 2017

**Beverly Johnson, att. '95**  
May 8, 2016

**Sarah Naomi Krieger, att. 1990s**  
November 29, 2016

## Former Faculty & Staff

**Ellis R. Rich, '48**  
December 2, 2017

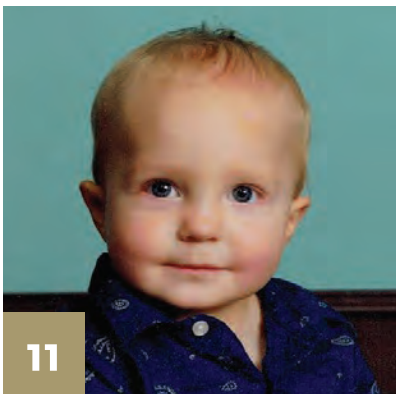
**Cheryl Grove, att. 1960s**  
October 26, 2017

**Alice L. Holst, att. '63**  
December 4, 2016

**Geraldine “Gerry” Clare Glantz, '68**  
March 2017

**Perry D. Campbell, '79-81**  
June 13, 2017

**Gary Wayne Shearer, '83-08**  
December 6, 2016



# BIRTHS

- 1** Wren Augustus Hans Gienger, son of **Kristen Feldbush Gienger, '09**, and **Bradley Gienger, '10**, of Bismarck, N.D., was born on July 1, 2016
- 2** Christina Renae McMillan, daughter of **Maria (Araujo) McMillan, '09**, and Kyle McMillan was born in San Bernardino, Calif., on November 4, 2016
- 3** River Graham Qualls, son of **Candice (Seyfang) Qualls, '06**, and **Tyson Qualls, '07**, was born in Martinez, Calif., on December 11, 2017
- 4** Haley Nicole West, daughter of **Kayloni (Hagelgantz) West, '14**, and **Darin West, '11**, was born in Loma Linda, Calif., on June 12, 2017
- 5** Abigail Olivia Bunch, daughter of **Hannah (Burkhardt) Bunch, '10**, and Brian Bunch, was born in Angwin, Calif., on June 6, 2017
- 6** Gabriel Robert Moeller, son of **Laurie (Sanford) Moeller, '08**, and Mark Moeller, was born in Citrus Heights, Calif., on May 16, 2017
- 7** Levi Allen Chapman, son of **Jenny (Wood) Chapman, '12**, and **Korey Chapman, '12**, was born in Sandpoint, Idaho, on June 12, 2017
- 8** Bennett Reid von Pohle, son of **Carli (Ashlock) von Pohle, '08**, and **Carignane von Pohle, '10**, was born in Loma Linda, Calif., on January 16, 2018
- 9** Miguel Alexander Padilla, son of **Mariegrace (Salamanca) Padilla, '08**, and Miguel Padilla was born in Walnut Creek, Calif., on July 23, 2016
- 10** Ethan James Martell, son of **Kate (Osena) Martell, '11**, and **Jonathan (JD) Martell, '09**, was born in Fresno, Calif., on December 5, 2016
- 11** Jonathan Steven Hopkins, son of **Camille Hopkins, '10**, and **Neal Hopkins, '09**, was born in Ogden, Utah, on Septemeber 17, 2016
- 12** Levi James Brooks, son of **Caitlin (Boren) Brooks, att. '06-09**, and **Steven Brooks, '10**, was born in Loma Linda, Calif., on August 13, 2017
- 13** Alice Olivia Marie White, daughter of **Carrie (Moore) White, '11**, and **Andrew White, '12**, was born in Santa Rosa, Calif. on January 25, 2017
- 14** Callie Nalani Wilson, daughter of **Joycelyn (Ampon) Wilson, '10**, and **Timothy Wilson, '09**, was born in Minneapolis, Minn, on January 13, 2018
- 15** Iris Elise Chambers, daughter of **Diana Klonek, '12**, and **Kerry Chambers, '11**, was born in Vancouver, BC Canada, on June 19, 2016
- 16** Soren Grant Gildersleeve, son of **Krystal Gildersleeve, att. '06-12**, and Evan Gildersleeve was born in Boulder, Colo., on September 23, 2016



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

*We love our alumni family and can't wait to catch up with you throughout the year. We look forward to seeing many of you soon!*



**GRADUATION WEEKEND**  
June 15-17, 2018



**REDWOOD CAMP MEETING**  
July 19-28, 2018



**SOQUEL CAMP MEETING**  
July 12-22, 2018



**HOMECOMING**  
April 19-21, 2019

## UPDATE US

Let us know about your adventures, careers, family, and service projects! 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](https://puc.edu/alumni) | (707) 965-6303

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## HONORED CLASSES

1940s, '59, '64, '69, '79, '89, '94, '99, '09

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