



# COMMENCEMENT

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE  
ANGWIN, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 13 ~ 15, 2025

# CEREMONY & CELEBRATION

Welcome to Pacific Union College’s annual Commencement Weekend. We’re so glad you could join us in celebrating the hard work and achievements of the students you have entrusted to us. As this year’s graduates prepare to begin their busy lives after college, we hope this weekend will include many moments you and your graduate will treasure forever.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025

- 4:00 p.m. Social Work Consecration (SC)
- 5:30 p.m. Adventist Colleges Abroad  
& Student Missions Stole Conferral (IL)
- 8:00 p.m. Consecration (CS)  
*(Refreshments for seniors and guests immediately following)*

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### SABBATH, JUNE 14, 2025

- 8:30-9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast (FR)
- 10:00 a.m. Sabbath School (CS)
- 11:15 a.m. Baccalaureate (CS)
- 3:00 p.m. Nursing Graduate Recognition Service (CS)
- 4:00 p.m. Teacher Dedication (SC)
- 5:30 p.m. President’s Reception for Graduates,  
Parents, and Faculty (DC)

### SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Commencement (MC)
- (CS) Church Sanctuary
- (DC) Dining Commons
- (FR) Fireside Room
- (IL) Irwin Lawn
- (MC) Maxwell Commons *(near Paulin Hall)*
- (SC) Scales Chapel

## ABOUT PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

Founded in 1882, Pacific Union College is an accredited Seventh-day Adventist Christian college where students learn with purpose, rise in faith, and serve with love. PUC has been recognized as a best value college for its diverse student population, strong retention, and high acceptance rates of its graduates into medical school, dental school, and prestigious graduate programs. The college is committed to providing students with an exceptional undergraduate experience focused on outstanding academics and Christian values.

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## POINTS OF DISTINCTION

- The college prides itself on a long tradition of high acceptance rates to medical and dental schools and graduate programs. Alumni have attended Loma Linda University, UC Davis School of Law, UCLA, Yale, and other prestigious institutions.
- PUC ranks third in the nation for associate degree schools that provide the best return on investment after graduation (Payscale.com).
- The department of biology houses several first-rate collections, including a geology and paleontology museum, a vertebrate animal collection, and a herbarium.
- The Herbert Ford Pitcairn Islands Study Center houses the largest collection of Pitcairn artifacts in the world.
- The Albion Field Station serves as a 17-acre satellite campus on the Pacific Coast near Mendocino, California.
- PUC has sent over 1,400 student missionaries to serve in countries including Chile, the Czech Republic, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Marshall Islands, and South Korea.
- Students participate in over 20 cultural, academic, and special interest clubs; 11 honor societies; and six community outreach programs.
- PUC is one of only 58 NAIA Institutions to achieve gold level Champions of Character Five-Star status, among 250 member schools.
- PUC has over 27,000 graduates who are making a difference in our world.

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## PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

PUC equips and empowers students to pursue wisdom and serve others in an academically outstanding and spiritually authentic Seventh-day Adventist learning community.

## PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

Ralph R. Trecartin, Ph.D., M.B.A.	<i>President</i>
Lindsay Hayasaka, Ph.D.	<i>Vice President for Academic Administration &amp; Academic Dean</i>
Joy Hirdler, M.B.A.	<i>Vice President for Financial Administration &amp; Chief Financial Officer</i>
Aimee Leukert, Ph.D.	<i>Vice President for Student &amp; Spiritual Life</i>
Gene Edelbach, M.A.	<i>Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing &amp; Communication</i>
Carlos Garcia, M.Div.	<i>Vice President for Alumni &amp; Advancement</i>

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## SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

<i>President</i> .....	Josue A. Hilario
<i>Executive Vice President</i> .....	Dakota O. Hrabowy
<i>Religious Vice President</i> .....	Luiz F. Casillas
<i>Public Relations Vice President &amp; Social Vice President</i> .....	Jayleen M. Casillas
<i>Financial Vice President</i> .....	Christian J. De Jesus
<i>Class Sponsors</i> .....	Sharleen Bouit, Rachele Davis, Nephtali Marin, Niq Ruud

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SEATING

There is an open seating plan for all weekend events. No more than one row per graduate may be reserved. A person must be present and remain present to reserve seats. Seats may not be held past 11:05 A.M. for Baccalaureate; seats for Commencement may only be held from 7:00 A.M. until 8:45 A.M., when all seats become available for the general audience.

### PHOTOS AT BACCALAUREATE

Other than during the processional, please refrain from using flash photography during the service. The processional will take place down the center aisle. Please stay behind the rope boundaries.

### PHOTOS AT COMMENCEMENT

1. Graduates will march down the left and right center aisles. Check the seating chart board at the back of Maxwell Commons for your graduate's marching side (left or right).
2. For pictures of your graduate actually receiving their diploma, please rely on the professional photographers from GradImages (gradimages.com or 800-261-2576). Other photographers are not allowed near the stage or inside the roped-off area.
3. On the left side, as you face the stage, the ropes are located near where your graduate will come down the steps after receiving their diploma. That will be your best position to snap your own picture of your graduate.
4. Following the ceremony, graduates are requested to go directly to the designated meet-up areas of their academic home department. Please meet at these locations for photos.

### COMMENCEMENT LIVE STREAMING

Commencement will be streaming live on our website at [puc.edu](http://puc.edu).

## SPEAKERS



### CONSECRATION

PASTOR KEVIN MORENO serves as senior pastor of Green Bay Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wisconsin. He took this role after being the associate pastor for youth and young adults at the Green Bay Church, where he has served since 2020.

He grew up in central California and completed his B.A. in theology at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he later completed his Master of Divinity. Pastor Moreno is especially committed to youth and young adult ministry—a passion reflected in his work with camps, transitional foster care programs, and spiritual mentorship. He sees his ministry moving beyond the walls of the church building and into the homes, schools, and activities his members inhabit.

Pastor Moreno is happily married to his wife of 13 years, Amy, and together they have four children: Liezel, Viviana, Tobiaz, and Rowena. You may hear him speaking to his children only in Spanish to help them learn the language, his first language.

In his free time, Pastor Moreno enjoys collecting rocks, growing his bonsai tree, and playing sports, especially pickleball.



### BACCALAUREATE

PASTOR LAFFIT CORTES is a seasoned Seventh-day Adventist minister with over 25 years of experience, dedicated to a life of discipleship and service. His ministry journey has taken him from the church's Greater New York Conference to its Florida Conference, touching countless lives along the way. Wherever he ministers, Pastor Cortes remains passionate about the Great Commission—making disciples of Jesus in every community he serves.

One of the most fulfilling seasons of Pastor Cortes's ministry was serving as youth director for the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He later followed this passion to serve as chaplain at Pacific Union College, equipping and empowering young people to become disciple-makers in their generation. He lives by Paul's exhortation: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young" (1 Timothy 4:12), always encouraging young believers to lead by example. Pastor Cortes delights in seeing young people step into leadership, proving they are not just the church of tomorrow but today.

He currently serves as the pastor of the Escondido Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southeastern California, where he continues to mentor believers of all ages and cultivate a spirit of discipleship. Pastor Cortes resides in Fallbrook, California, with his wife, Lynda, their two young adult children, and their beloved dog, Mila. His heart remains anchored in the mission to raise the next generation of passionate, Spirit-led disciple-makers who boldly follow the call of Jesus.



## COMMENCEMENT

AIMEE (SAESIM) LEUKERT is a Southern California native who graduated from La Sierra University with degrees in music and liberal studies. She began her career at Crescenta Valley Adventist School, first as an elementary teacher, then as principal, returning to La Sierra to complete her master's degree in educational administration and leadership.

She pivoted to the secondary level when the opportunity arose to teach at her alma mater, Newbury Park Academy, followed by a call in 2010 for her and her husband, Kristian, to teach at Monterey Bay Academy, where they served for four years.

Then returning to Southern California, Dr. Leukert began working in La Sierra University's Center for Research on K-12 Adventist education. During this time, she earned her Ph.D. in education from Claremont Graduate University, where her research centered on Adventist culture and school choice. The data Dr. Leukert acquired through extensive work for her dissertation has garnered much interest and discussion at schools, churches, and union and division levels of the church.

Dr. Leukert recently published a book, "Thriving: 31 Stories on the Impact of Adventist Education," a collection of stories she gathered from individuals across the country who credit the successes they've experienced to lessons they learned in Adventist education.

As the new vice president for student and spiritual life at Pacific Union College, Dr. Leukert's responsibilities will allow her to continue engaging with other stakeholders in conversations about Adventist education, while also leading the work of cultivating a positive, dynamic, and sacred space on campus for students.

CONSECRATION SERVICE  
SANCTUARY  
FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025, 8:00 P.M.

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Welcome		Dakota Hrabowy <i>Class Executive VP</i>
Invocation		Luiz Casillas <i>Class Spiritual VP</i>
Song Service		Praise Team
Tribute to Families		Josue Hilario <i>Class President</i>
Special Music	<i>It Is Well</i> BETHEL MUSIC	David Bui
Scripture	<i>James 1:2-4</i>	Jayleen Casillas <i>Class PR &amp; Social VP</i>
Introduction of Speaker		Josue Hilario <i>Class President</i>
Address	<i>Trials, Perseverance, and a Finished Work</i>	Kevin Moreno <i>Pastor, Green Bay Adventist Church</i>
Benediction		Christian De Jesus <i>Class Financial VP, SA President</i>

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PRAISE TEAM:  
David Bui (acoustic guitar & vocals)  
Mika Palitang (piano)  
Kyler Vanhook (cajon)  
Ashley Castro Rodriguez (bass)  
Chaivut Tony Chungcharoenpanich (cello)  
Beryl Maghinay (vocals)  
Joyce Figueroa (vocals)  
Josue Hilario (vocals)

Please refrain from using flash photography during the service.

SABBATH SCHOOL  
SANCTUARY  
SABBATH, JUNE 14, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

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Welcome & Invocation		Benjamin Rangel & Luiz Casillas <i>Class Religious VP</i>
Special Music	<i>Take My Life and Let It Be</i> PAUL BALOCHE	David Bui
Bible Study	<i>Victory that Goes With You</i>	Benjamin Rangel & Luiz Casillas <i>Class Religious VP</i>
Benediction		Benjamin Rangel & Luiz Casillas <i>Class Religious VP</i>

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BACCALAUREATE  
SANCTUARY  
SABBATH, JUNE 14, 2025, 11:15 A.M.

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Prelude	<i>Arabesque and Berceuse</i> LOUIS VIERNE	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>
Processional	<i>Marche de Procession op. 41 Nr. 5</i> ALEXANDRE GUILMANT	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>
Invocation		Sharleen Bouit <i>Senior Class Sponsor</i>
Welcome		Nate Furness & Lem Garcia <i>Pastors, PUC Church</i>

(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)



# BACCALAUREATE

(CONTINUED)

Song of Praise	<i>Praise to the Lord</i> HYMN #1	Praise Team
Congregational Prayer		Christopher Mesa
Children's Story		Benjamin Rangel
Offering		Sarah Privat
Offertory	<i>Cara a Cara</i> MARCOS VIDAL	Christian De Jesus <i>Class Financial VP; SA President</i>
Scripture	<i>James 1:2-4</i>	Humberto Lujan
Special Music	<i>Here as In Heaven</i> ELEVATION WORSHIP	Josue Hilario <i>Class President</i> & Liz Hilario
Introduction of Speaker		Arturo Lopez <i>Chaplain, PUC</i>
Address	<i>Defying the Odds, Leading the Change</i>	Laffit Cortes <i>Pastor, Escondido Adventist Church</i>
Benediction*		Niq Ruud, <i>Senior Class Sponsor</i>
Recessional & Postlude	<i>Festival Toccata</i> PERCY FLETCHER	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>

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ORGANIST: Ronnie Zanella

PRAISE TEAM:  
Mika Palitang (piano)  
Jacob Duran (guitar & vocals)  
Ashley Castro Rodriguez (bass)  
Adam Parker (drums)  
Jayda Hamilton (vocals)  
Emily Lalas (vocals)  
Leila Beltran (vocals)

\*Following the benediction, the congregation will be seated until after the recessional.

Junior class members Bethanee K. Tabura & Leila A. Beltran will usher the senior procession.

Please refrain from using flash photography during the service.

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Graduates and their families and friends are invited to the  
President's Reception at the Dining Commons at 5:30 P.M.

NURSING GRADUATE RECOGNITION SERVICE  
SANCTUARY  
SABBATH, JUNE 14, 2025, 3:00 P.M.

Prelude	<i>Fanfare for a Farewell</i> PAUL FEY	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>
Processional	<i>Phoenix Processional</i> DAN LOCKLAIR	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>
Invocation		Isabella Contreras, RN
Welcome		Aric Cortez
Musical Selection	<i>The More I Seek You</i> GATEWAY WORSHIP	David Bui, RN; Beryl Maghinay; Samantha Trinidad, RN; Chaivut Tony Chungcharoenpanich, RN
Scripture Reading	<i>1 Peter 3:8</i>	Mary Bayabaya
Introduction of Speaker		Kimberly Dunker, PhD, DNP, RN, CNE, CNEcl <i>Dean of The School of Nursing and Health Science</i>
Address	<i>Embrace Your Journey</i>	Michaela A. Davis, PhD, MSN, RN, CNS, CCNS, NEA-BC, CPHQ <i>Nursing Professional Development Director Kaiser Permanente Vallejo Medical Center</i>
Presentation of Awards		Kimberly Dunker
Significance of the Pin:	MSN DEGREE BSN DEGREE ASN DEGREE	Francis Cacacho, BSN, RN Norman J. Weitzel, EMTP, RN Victoria N. Welz, LVN
Pinning		Kimberly Dunker
Significance of Florence Nightingale Pledge		Yerim Kim, RN
Florence Nightingale Pledge		Arun Iyer, RN
Tribute to Families	Ke'ana Coverson, RN; Nidya Martinez; Kayla L. Schnitzius; Nancy O'Connell, RN; Cynthia Valezquez Mendez, BSN, RN	
Benediction		Lilliana Barrera-Lemos
Recessional	<i>Festive Trumpet Tune</i> DAVID GERMAN	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>

Graduates and their families and friends are invited to the President's Reception at the Dining Commons at 5:30 P.M.

COMMENCEMENT  
MAXWELL COMMONS  
SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

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Processional	<i>Intrada Festiva</i> PAUL FEY	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>
	<i>Military March No. 1</i> EDWARD ELGAR	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>
Welcome		Ralph Trecartin <i>President</i>
Invocation		Sandra Roberts <i>PUC Board Chair</i>
Scripture Reading	<i>James 1:2-4</i>	Luiz Casillas <i>Class Religious VP</i>
Introduction of Speaker		Ralph Trecartin <i>President</i>
Commencement Address	<i>Of Course</i>	Aimee Leukert <i>VP for Student &amp; Spiritual Life</i>
Musical Selection	<i>Carry the Light</i> ANDY BECK	Senior Class Ensemble
A Valedictory	<i>Wrestling 'til Daybreak</i>	Josue Hilario <i>Class President</i>
Presentation of Class Gift		Christian De Jesus <i>Class Financial VP, SA President</i>
Presentation of Class		Lindsay Hayasaka <i>VP of Academic Administration &amp; Academic Dean</i>
Conferring of Degrees		Ralph Trecartin <i>President</i>
Ringling of the Healdsburg Bell		Milbert Mariano <i>Dean, School of Arts, Humanities, and Professional Studies</i>
Alumni Welcome		Aimee Wyrick <i>Dean, School of Sciences</i>
Benediction		Joy Hirdler <i>VP for Finance</i>
Recessional	<i>Procession of the Nobles</i> NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV	Ronnie Zanella <i>Assistant Professor of Music</i>



CLASS MOTTO:

Defying The Odds, Leading The Change

CLASS SCRIPTURE:

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever  
you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the  
testing of your faith produces perseverance.  
Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be  
mature and complete, not lacking anything."

JAMES 1:2-4

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SENIOR CLASS ENSEMBLE

VOCALISTS:

Leila Beltran

Jayda Hamilton

Josue Hilario

Sean Pratt

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ORGANIST: Ronnie Zanella

REGISTRAR: Craig Philpott

COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS: Sylvia Rasi Gregorutti & Floyd Hayes

Junior class members Bethanee K. Tabura & Leila A. Beltran will usher the senior procession.

Please remain seated until graduates and faculty have exited.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE  
CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES ~ JUNE 2025

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Pascal Alain Harly Hirwa  
(Management)  
Parfait A. Migisha  
(Management)

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Alondra Alvarez Camargo  
(Leadership and Business Management)  
Mary JoAnn Aug  
(Leadership and Business Management)  
Russell Barikdar  
(Leadership and Business Management)  
Courtney Blohm  
(Leadership and Business Management)  
Francis Darnell Cacacho  
(Education)  
Chaivut Tony Chungcharoenpanich  
(Education)  
Cynthia Ruby Vanessa V. Mendez  
(Education)  
Grace Cruz Myin  
(Education)  
Kalilah Joy Nueske  
(Leadership and Business Management)  
Brandon James Romero  
(Education)  
Amanda Lynn Villareal  
(Leadership and Business Management)  
Christine Jennifer Woodlief  
(Education)

CLASS OFFICERS

Josue Antonio Hilario Lopez  
Bachelor of Arts in Film; minor in Italian  
(Cum Laude)  
*Senior Class President*  
Dakota Ohiyesa Hrabowy  
Bachelor of Science in Psychology  
(Cum Laude)  
*Senior Class Executive Vice President*  
Luiz Casillas  
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science  
(Cum Laude)  
*Senior Class Religious Vice President*

Jayleen Marie Casillas  
Bachelor of Social Work  
*Senior Class Public Relations Vice President  
& Social Vice President*  
Christian J. De Jesus  
Bachelor of Business Administration  
(Finance); minor in Biblical Studies  
(Summa Cum Laude)  
*Senior Class Financial Vice President*  
*Student Association President (2024-2025)*

STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Olivia Claire Brown  
Bachelor of Science in Biophysics  
*SA Executive Vice President (2023-2024)*  
Olivia Alice Newman  
Bachelor of Business Administration  
(Accounting); minor in Spanish  
(Magna Cum Laude)  
*SA Financial Vice President (2024-2025)*  
†Jayda Ellyn Hamilton  
Bachelor of Science in Data Science  
(Summa Cum Laude)  
*SA Publication & Marketing  
Vice President (2024-2025)*

SCHOOL OF ARTS,  
HUMANITIES,  
AND PROFESSIONS

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BACHELOR OF ARTS

Andres Becerra  
Business Administration  
Javad Karimabadi  
Film  
(Cum Laude)  
Keegan Malan  
English (Writing)  
(Cum Laude)  
Christopher Mesa  
Theology  
Khalid Javeed Pal  
English (Education)

Benjamin Rangel  
Health Communication  
(Cum Laude)

Rebecca Sing  
Graphic Design

Elijah Siregar  
Fine Art

Hunter Valerio  
Business Administration

**BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**  
Caitlin Rebecca Raymond  
(International Business)

**BACHELOR OF FINE ART**  
Malachi Semaj Dyson  
(Film)

Atlas Snarr  
(Film)  
HONORS PROJECT: *Traditions to Keep*

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**  
Lilyana May Driver  
Liberal Studies  
(Summa Cum Laude)

\*Blake Dunn  
Aviation

Jazlynn Celesti Hardy  
Marketing Communications

Gisselle Alejandra Hernandez  
Liberal Studies; minor in Spanish  
(Cum Laude)

Steve Jong  
Health Communication  
(Cum Laude)

Hezekiah Valdez Manlongat  
Management for Medical Professionals

Daneca Nelsen  
History, Political Studies, and Ethics;  
minor in Pre-Law  
HONORS PROJECT: *The Ambiguity of Sexual  
Harassment in the Workplace*  
(Cum Laude)

Madison Louise Mikiaala Nelson  
Liberal Studies; minor in History

Sarah Privat  
Liberal Studies  
(Summa Cum Laude)

Valerie Marie Robison Mortensen  
Aviation  
(Cum Laude)

Gaby Rodas  
Health Communication

Shannea Minell Yturralde Santiago  
Strategic Communication  
(Cum Laude)

Natalia Toral  
Liberal Studies

\*Myunghoon James Yang  
Business Administration;  
minor in Aviation  
(Cum Laude)

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT**  
George Glover Jr.

**ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE**  
Andrew Thomas Antonetti  
Aviation

Micah Christopher Dyer  
Aviation  
(Magna Cum Laude)

## SCHOOL OF SCIENCES

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**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**  
♦Katelynne Simone Atterberry  
Exercise Science; Associate of  
Science in Emergency Services

William James Biondini  
Psychology

†Lauren Dominique Duquez  
Biochemistry  
(Summa Cum Laude)

Kyle Durham  
Psychology

Madeline E. Eastman  
Biology  
(Magna Cum Laude)

Spencer Fitzgerald Gibb  
Biology  
(Magna Cum Laude)

Isabella Huerta  
Exercise Science  
(Cum Laude)

Asia Aaliyah Ayana Ibarra  
 Psychology  
 Isaac Anthony Nauliuli Kaneakua  
 Biology  
 Monica Koshelia  
 Psychology  
 (Cum Laude)  
 JT Kuderca  
 Physical Education  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Crystal BáoChâu Lê  
 Biology  
 HONORS PROJECT: *The Impact of Keyboard  
 Ergonomics on Carpal Tunnel Syndrome*  
 (Magna Cum Laude)  
 Humberto Lujan  
 Exercise Science  
 †Mika Palitang  
 Biology; Music; minor in Business  
 Administration  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Nyllah Wulan Sulamania Safotu  
 Physical Education  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Bailey Sierra Stockton  
 Psychology  
 Breanna Khai Huyen Tran  
 Biology  
 HONORS PROJECT: *How are Cosmetic  
 Products Harmful to Children?*  
 (Summa Cum Laude)  
 Yazmin Valenzuela  
 Environmental Studies  
 Darii Vereshchak  
 Data Science  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Trinity Vuong  
 Biology  
 (Magna Cum Laude)

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK  
 Alyssabeth Fresse  
 minor in Communication  
 Eimy Dinora Margil Molina  
 Yosef Seneserat-Ayele  
 Danielle Whiteside  
 (Magna Cum Laude)

# SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
 Areli Castro  
 Global Health  
 Luis Jimenez Nolasco  
 Emergency Management;  
 minor in Global Health  
 ♦Adam Parker  
 Emergency Management (EMT);  
 Associate of Science in Emergency  
 Services  
 Sean McHugh Pratt  
 Bachelor of Science in Emergency  
 Management (EMT); minor in Spanish  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Theodora Adriana Sirghi  
 Emergency Management  
 Amy Ruth Sosa De Jesus  
 Emergency Management (EMT)  
 Aaron John Xavier  
 Emergency Management;  
 minor in Global Health  
 Siannah Yee  
 Emergency Management  
 (Cum Laude)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING  
 Tiffany Ahn  
 Levi Alamo  
 (Cum Laude)  
 \*Mara Alejo  
 (Magna Cum Laude)  
 Erin Nicole Arciaga  
 ♦Aidel Arcinas  
 Associate of Science in Nursing  
 ♦Esiteri Ash  
 Associate of Science in Nursing  
 Alex Azadi  
 (Magna Cum Laude)  
 Darryl Brad Gardiola Baena  
 Rumi Rachel Bairagee  
 (Magna Cum Laude)  
 Jarrod Bothwell  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Ashley Michelle Bridgman

◊Rheanna Cabacungan  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
(Cum Laude)  
Rodriane Angelo Hernane Calos  
◊Maria Concepcion  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
(Magna Cum Laude)  
◊Isabella Contreras  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
\*Mazie Contreras  
Keilalani Corpuz  
(Cum Laude)  
Leigh De Chillo  
Renne Monica Alipio Descallar  
(Cum Laude)  
◊Madeline Dicristina  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
◊Abbey Esperanza  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
(Cum Laude)  
◊Ma Alyssa F. Esperanza  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
(Cum Laude)  
◊Misty Farias Manzo  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
(Cum Laude)  
\*Vanessa Farias  
◊Adriana Fausto  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
◊Breaunah Fitch  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
Jamie Amber Flores  
◊Berenice Garcia  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
(Cum Laude)  
Nina Marie Garcia  
\*Zoe Claire Gjestvang  
Veronica Gomez Dingman  
\*Jerrica Harnois  
(Cum Laude)  
\*Camila Hernandez Ochoa  
(Cum Laude)  
Alena Hill  
(Cum Laude)  
Michiko Alexandra Imai  
\*Hannah Kahrs  
(Magna Cum Laude)

\*Seoyoung Kim  
(Magna Cum Laude)  
\*Madison Dawn Kindred  
(Magna Cum Laude)  
Peyton King  
Mica Languerand Hanks  
‡Angeline Lee, Nursing  
(Summa Cum Laude)  
\*Lorlani M. Mendoza  
Chiviamor Meriales  
(Magna Cum Laude)  
Jesse Alejandro Morales  
\*Alexander Neal  
◊Dominique Nerecina  
Associate of Science in Nursing;  
minor in Health Communication  
◊Nancy O'Connell  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
Kenneth John De Leon Perena  
(Cum Laude)  
\*Jocelyn Yatzarely Perez  
Frances Gabrielle Catapang Samson  
◊Ireland Saxton  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
\*Alyssa Semjenow  
Andrew Martin Spinetti  
(Summa Cum Laude)  
\*Hui Tao  
(Cum Laude)  
Caleb Teshome  
Sara Tevini  
Erik Jerome Mangiliman Tiatco  
(Cum Laude)  
\*Desiree Traverso  
(Magna Cum Laude)  
◊Tristan Elias Uribe Hernandez  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
◊Laura Valdez  
Associate of Science in Nursing  
Guadalupe Varela  
(Cum Laude)  
\*Norman J. Weitzel  
Tyler Martin Williams  
Aliyah Star Wood  
(Cum Laude)  
◊Zachary David Zagarra  
Associate of Science in Nursing



## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Clarence Reiner Araba Garcesa

Health Sciences

Madeline K. Lo

Health Sciences

(Summa Cum Laude)

\*Gabriela Lobato

Emergency Services

Akemi Ari Ohara

Health Sciences

(Cum Laude)

Sharmaine Aliscad Umali

Health Sciences

Adrian Villanueva

Health Sciences

Malia J. Wallace

Health Sciences

Mari Weber

Health Sciences; minor in French

(Cum Laude)

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Jayme Bongco Advincula

Tirza Nicol Alvarez

Yaw Appiah-Boateng

Emily Arizabal

Isabella Bandy

\*Ryan Barikdar

\*Liliana Barrera Lemos

(Summa Cum Laude)

Rafael Lorenzo Bautista

Mary Dennise J. Bayabaya

\*Maia Blundell

(Cum Laude)

Krystina L. Brixie Domeier

David Em Bui

(Cum Laude)

Reanna Marie Calantas

Celeste Arisbeth Calderon

(Cum Laude)

Lauren Caldwell

(Cum Laude)

Cynthia Morales Camarillo

Jacob Capicoy

Patrick Cavanaugh

(Cum Laude)

Maritza Ceja

Lisette Chavira

(Cum Laude)

Amandeep Kaur Cheema

♦Noel Ted Cidro

Associate of Science in Health Sciences

Aric Luis Cortez

(Cum Laude)

Ernest Joshua Padre Coscolluela

(Magna Cum Laude)

Ke'Ana Dodson

Cielo Donis

Mandy Duong

(Cum Laude)

Princess Aniyah Espinoza

Alexandra Figueroa

(Cum Laude)

Joyce Figueroa

(Cum Laude)

\*Ibette Garcia

Jessica Lizbeth Garcia Guillermo

Yesenia Garcia Trinidad

Adam Hidalgo Gaviola

Alexandra Gil

Kristina Gold

(Cum Laude)

Miguel Angel Gomez

\*Sydnie Gradek

David Joshua Gutierrez Pineda

Leslie Denisse Gutierrez Rodriguez

\*Nicholas Michael Hansen

(Cum Laude)

Tamera Marie Henry

Kare-Lee Henry

Arun Iyer

(Magna Cum Laude)

Sheena Dawn Jewell

\*Kirstin Johnson

Tatiana Danae Jordan

(Magna Cum Laude)

Yerim Kim

(Cum Laude)

\*Brittney Kitchens

\*Rania Kloub

\*Jessica Knight

(Cum Laude)

\*Cyra Jayde Korbe

(Cum Laude)

Kylie Justine Lampela  
 Ynarose Lara  
 Alexis Lares  
 Kristen Sarah Lawrence  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Joshua Le  
 \*Morgan Marie Le Derout  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Michael Magnus Olbrantz Lehman  
 Andrea Kaylie Gallego Liwanag  
 Coleen Loria  
 (Cum Laude)  
 \*Hillary Luciani  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Kiana Navarro Lulu  
 Thai Hoang Luong  
 Areli Machuca  
 †◇Beryl Shane Sorilla Maghinay  
 Associate of Science in Health Sciences  
 (Summa Cum Laude)  
 Allyssa Gabrielle L. Mallari  
 Vanessa Marie Manzanares  
 Nidya Monserrat Martinez  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Katie McDaniel  
 \*Ashley Christine Medlin  
 Kyle Mendoza  
 Rawnie Marie O'Connor  
 \*Brian Ogilvie  
 Eiden Kylvie Bagang Paras  
 Elle Lilia Correa Ramos  
 Michaela Elizabeth Reed  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Paula Regalado  
 Erika Zaragoza Rege  
 \*Jose Luis Reyes III  
 \*Shaylin Rivas  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Elizabeth Rivera  
 Edyan Bless Rodriguez  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Shauna Rogers  
 Hamza Sabha

Mishael Joice Salido  
 Liam Samia  
 Ariana Sanchez  
 \*Taylor Shaye Sasso  
 \*Kayla Schnitzius  
 (Cum Laude)  
 \*Elaha Shams  
 Rachel JoAnne Sheridan  
 Lawrence Ani Sobrejuanite  
 Jasmyne Spencer-Wheeler  
 (Cum Laude)  
 Rachel Starr  
 Nathaniel Anthony Bagang Suarez  
 Jeri Lacey Renee Talley  
 Crystal Tamayo  
 Leslie Maria Tamayo  
 Catherine Isabella Tarango Castañaza  
 Sara Lynn Tayag  
 (Summa Cum Laude)  
 Elaine Maria Tedeschi  
 Adriana Aleeyah Ticer  
 Sergio Toral  
 \*Cristina Leticia Torres  
 Jennifer Tran  
 Samantha Trinidad  
 (Cum Laude)  
 \*Melinda Trost  
 \*Eril R. Udarbe  
 (Cum Laude)  
 \*Adilene Vazquez Reyes  
 David Villagomez Barcenaz  
 \*Emmanuel Villegas Meza  
 \*Reilly Waddington  
 (Magna Cum Laude)  
 Quinn Alexandra Washburn  
 Victoria Nhang Noi Welz  
 Cheyenne Williamsen  
 Bailey Wong  
 Jasmine Marie Wood  
 \*Crystal Yanez  
 \*Amber Young  
 (Cum Laude)

# ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Banner Bearers

Platform Party:

Program Participants

Vice Presidents

Board Members

Commencement Marshals

Administration Associates

Professors Emeriti

Faculty:

Professors

Associate Professors

Assistant Professors

Instructors

Lecturers

Staff

Graduating Class of 2025:

Master of Business Administration

Master of Education

Master of Science in Nursing

Senior Class Officers

Student Association Officers

School of Arts, Humanities, and

Professional Studies:

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Business Administration

Bachelor of Fine Art

Bachelor of Science

Associate of Science

School of Sciences:

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Social Work

Associate of Science

School of Nursing and Emergency Management:

Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Associate of Science

Associate of Science in Nursing

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACADEMIC BANNERS

The eight banners used in the graduation procession and displayed during the ceremony represent the college seal and the seven areas of study that are part of the college's legacy of academic offerings. Each banner incorporates either the torch or the book—elements of PUC's college seal. The colors and other symbols employed in each banner represent the academic fields.

- ~ APPLIED ARTS: *Symbols*—Torch and Symbol for Constructing  
*Colors*—Maroon, Orange, and Green
- ~ FINE ARTS: *Symbols*—Torch and Spiral (symbolizing the golden mean)  
*Colors*—Gold Yellow, Crimson, and White
- ~ HUMANITIES: *Symbols*—Book and Quill Pen  
*Colors*—Light Blue and Citron
- ~ NATURAL SCIENCES: *Symbols*—Book and Symbol for the Four Elements  
*Colors*—Green and Gold Yellow
- ~ PROFESSIONAL STUDIES: *Symbols*—Torch and Scroll  
*Colors*—Burnished Gold, Silver Gray, and Apricot
- ~ RELIGION: *Symbols*—Cross and Book  
*Colors*—Scarlet and Purple
- ~ SOCIAL SCIENCES: *Symbols*—Torch and Globe  
*Colors*—Citron and Sage Green

## SIGNIFICANCE OF ACADEMIC REGALIA

Caps and gowns worn in formal academic convocations in American colleges and universities are the descendants of the everyday attire worn in the universities of medieval Europe.

Three basic types of gowns are worn: bachelor's gowns have long, pointed sleeves; master's gowns have long, closed sleeves; and doctorate gowns have full sleeves with velvet bars. The bars may be black to indicate any doctoral degree, or the color of the particular degree, e.g., dark blue for Doctor of Philosophy.

The part of the regalia that tells the most about the degree is the hood. Hoods for master's degrees are lined with satin in the colors of the academic institution conferring the degree. The edging or trim of the hood is a wide velvet band, the color of which indicates the academic area in which the degree is earned. The wide, velvet edging of the doctoral hood indicates the particular kind of degree held, e.g., dark blue for Ph.D., light blue for Ed.D., and green for M.D.. The length of the hood reflects the level of the degree represented.

Some universities include stoles specific to their university. PUC graduates have the option of adding the college's stole or stoles representing their cultural heritage, status as a first-generation college graduate, or status in the U.S. military to their regalia. PUC's stole is green with the college's seal in gold. Graduates who have participated in the Adventist Colleges Abroad and PUC World Missions programs wear white and light gray stoles, respectively, with the flag of each country in which they studied or served, while members of the National Society of Leadership & Success may wear platinum stoles with black embroidery.

The mortarboard or beret is worn with all degrees. The tassel should be black or the color appropriate to the subject, with the exception of the doctor's cap that may have a tassel of gold.

## STUDENT ROBE COLORS

M.A.T., M.B.A., M.Ed., M.S.N., B.A., B.S., B.B.A., B.F.A., B.Mus.....	Black
A.S. ....	Navy
A.S. in Nursing .....	White

## TASSEL COLORS REPRESENTING FIELDS OF STUDY

Arts, Letters, and Humanities .....	White
Aviation.....	Orange
Business .....	Burnished Gold
Communication, Speech.....	Silvery Gray
Education, Liberal Studies.....	Light Blue
Emergency Management .....	Kelly Green
Health Sciences.....	Salmon Pink
Journalism .....	Crimson
Kinesiology, Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Music.....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Psychology.....	Gold
Religion, Theology .....	Scarlet
Social Studies .....	White
Social Work.....	Citron
Sciences, Mathematics .....	Gold Yellow
Visual Arts.....	Brown

## HONOR CORDS & MEDALLIONS

- ~ Seniors graduating Summa Cum Laude have attained a G.P.A. of 3.90 or above and wear three gold cords.
- ~ Seniors graduating Magna Cum Laude have attained a G.P.A. of 3.75-3.89 and wear two gold cords.
- ~ Seniors graduating Cum Laude have attained a G.P.A. of 3.5-3.749 and wear one gold cord.
- ~ Honors Program graduates wear blue, white, and gold cords.
- ~ Maxwell Scholars wear a medallion with green and gold ribbon.
- ~ Officers of the senior class wear a gold stole.
- ~ Student Association Senators wear a medallion with gold ribbon.
- ~ Officers of the Student Association wear a medallion with green and yellow ribbon.
- ~ Veterans, reservists, and active duty military personnel wear a red, white, and blue cord.
- ~ Members of the International Honor Society in Business, Management, and Administration (Sigma Beta Delta) wear a medallion with forest green ribbon.
- ~ Members of the National Honor Society for Homeland Security, Intelligence, Emergency Management, and all Protective Security Studies Disciplines (Omicron Sigma Sigma) wear blue and gold honor cords.
- ~ Members of the International Honor Society in English (Sigma Tau Delta) wear black and red honor cords.
- ~ Members of the International Honor Society in History (Phi Alpha Theta) wear red and blue cords.
- ~ Members of the International Honor Society in Music (Pi Kappa Lambda) wear gold and white honor cords.
- ~ Members of the Communication National Honor Society (Lambda Pi Eta) wear red and white honor cords.
- ~ Members of the PUC Nursing Honor Society wear apricot and green honor cords.
- ~ Members of the Nursing National Honor Society (Sigma) wear lavender and white cords.
- ~ Members of the Psychology National Honor Society (Psi Chi) wear a blue and silver cord with blue and silver tassels.
- ~ Members of the Social Work National Honor Society (Phi Alpha) wear a blue and gold cord with blue and gold tassels.
- ~ Members of the National Society of Leadership & Success (Sigma Alpha Pi) may wear platinum and black cords.
- ~ Certified Nurse Educators or Clinical Nurse Educators wear red or red and white cords.

## STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Christian J. De Jesus.....	<i>President 2024-2025</i>
Olivia Alice Newman.....	<i>Financial Vice President 2024-2025</i>
Jayda Ellyn Hamilton.....	<i>Publication and Marketing Vice President 2024-2025</i>
Olivia Claire Brown.....	<i>Executive Vice President 2023-2024</i>

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NURSING PIN

Florence Nightingale is the first nurse known to have been presented with a professional nursing pin, awarded by Queen Victoria for her outstanding patient care to soldiers during the Crimean War.

The Associate of Science graduates' pin is in the form of a Greek cross, which has become a symbol of unselfish nursing service given with professional knowledge and skill. The lamp in the center of the pin symbolizes the relief of suffering by nurses who give love, care, and healing.

The Bachelor of Science graduates' pin has three circles surrounded by a laurel wreath. Within the inner circle is a flaming torch denoting Christ as the light of the world, and an open book which represents the book of life and the wisdom of the scriptures. The next circle contains the motto of the college, "They shall be all taught of God," and the outer circle identifies the college name, Pacific Union College. The wreath signifies the achievement of the victors of the baccalaureate nursing program.

## CLASS VITAE

GRADUATES	LARGEST	ACADEMIC DISTINCTION
Total Graduates ..... 276	DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS	Summa Cum Laude..... 12
	Nursing..... 235	Magna Cum Laude..... 20
DEGREES	Psychology &	Cum Laude..... 71
Associate ..... 152	Social Work..... 11	With Honors..... 4
Bachelor ..... 133	Business	Maxwell Scholars ..... 5
Master ..... 14	Administration..... 9	
Minors..... 15	Biology ..... 8	
Total Degrees ..... 297	Visual Arts..... 6	
Total Majors ..... 299		

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## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS REPRESENTED

STATES REPRESENTED	COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
Arizona ..... 1	Philippines..... 1
California..... 241	South Korea ..... 1
Colorado ..... 2	Ukraine ..... 2
Florida..... 3	
Georgia..... 1	
Hawaii ..... 5	
Idaho..... 2	
Massachusetts ..... 1	
Maryland..... 2	
Michigan..... 3	
Nevada..... 2	
New Mexico..... 1	
Ohio ..... 1	
Oregon ..... 2	
Tennessee..... 2	
Texas ..... 1	
Washington ..... 2	
Wisconsin..... 1	

## SEATING

There is an open seating plan for all weekend events. No more than one row (up to 14 seats) per graduate may be reserved. A person must be present and remain present to reserve seats. Seats may not be held past 11:05 a.m. for Baccalaureate; seats for Commencement may be held from 7:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. when all seats become available for the general audience.

## PARKING

Plan to arrive at least an hour early to Commencement to find parking and get seated. Guests can park on the main campus. Campus parking lots will be closed as they become full. Overflow parking will be at the Howell Mountain Market on Howell Mountain Road. *See map on the following page for parking locations.*

## CEREMONY ETIQUETTE

Service dogs accompanying their designated person are the only animals allowed on campus. Emotional support animals and pets are not allowed onsite. As weather may contribute to heat exhaustion of animals, pets should not remain in cars throughout the ceremony and will not be permitted to stay unattended.

Air horns and confetti bombs will be confiscated by event staff and held at the Information Booth for guests to pick up after the ceremony.

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If tortillas are thrown, they should not reach the platform and should only be used at appropriate times in the program. Please be respectful of those speaking on the platform.

Pacific Union College is a drug-free and alcohol-free campus. The possession and/or use of any alcohol, smoking device, or smoking equipment on campus is strictly prohibited at all times and will be confiscated by event staff.

## ABOUT MAXWELL COMMONS

D. Malcolm Maxwell was the nineteenth president of PUC and the first alumnus to serve in that role. He had the longest tenure—18 years—of any president of the college. Maxwell passed away in 2007, but his legacy and impact on PUC continue to live on. He is remembered for his energy, passion, and commitment to higher education, and it is in this spirit Maxwell Commons was named.

## THE HISTORY OF THROWING TORTILLAS

The tradition of throwing tortillas at graduation began in the mid- to late-90s during Pacific Union College's graduation in Commencement Grove. Beach balls and confetti poppers were a time-honored tradition, but then tortilla tossing was introduced. Due to its novelty, it quickly gained popularity, and slowly the other traditions (i.e., beach balls and poppers) faded.

The tortilla-throwing tradition possibly began at Bay to Breakers, the annual footrace in San Francisco. No one really knows when it started, but for decades now, thousands of people have gathered at the starting line and tossed tortillas in the air before the official race begins.

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## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

### EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

NICOLETTE PIAUBERT, FNP, B.A., RN

A dedicated Family Nurse Practitioner, published author, and dynamic nursing professor, Nicolette Piaubert exemplifies excellence in nursing education. As a faculty member, she teaches foundational and advanced courses, equipping students with the clinical knowledge and critical thinking needed to succeed in the profession. Her impact extends nationally as an ATI Nurse Educator, where she leads multi-day NCLEX prep courses and empowers students with effective test strategies and clinical insights.

Professor Piaubert holds degrees from SUNY Albany, Atlantic Union College, and Pace University, and is currently pursuing her doctorate at Liberty University. Also active as a Pathfinder Club director and mission volunteer, she is the author of four books, including "The Light We Are," a devotional for nursing students.

### PROFESSORS EMERITI

ROBERT PAULSON, PH.D.

Since 1981, Dr. Robert Paulson, known to many as "Bob," has served the Adventist church as an educator. Dr. Paulson served in the department of kinesiology for 30 years (1994-2024). During that time, he developed and maintained a thriving intramurals program.

Dr. Paulson served on the Curriculum and Efficiency Committee for many years, including nearly a decade as chair. For several years before his retirement, he served as the chair of the department of kinesiology.

Passionate about innovation, Dr. Paulson pioneered an online jogging course and fostered collaboration across North American Adventist higher education institutions. He also championed collaborative education through his work with the Adventist Virtual Learning Network and CAREOnline (Consortium of Adventist Higher Education Online).

Dr. Paulson has been a coach, teacher, mentor, and colleague for several generations, and his legacy ties thousands of people together.

ROBIN VANCE, PH.D.

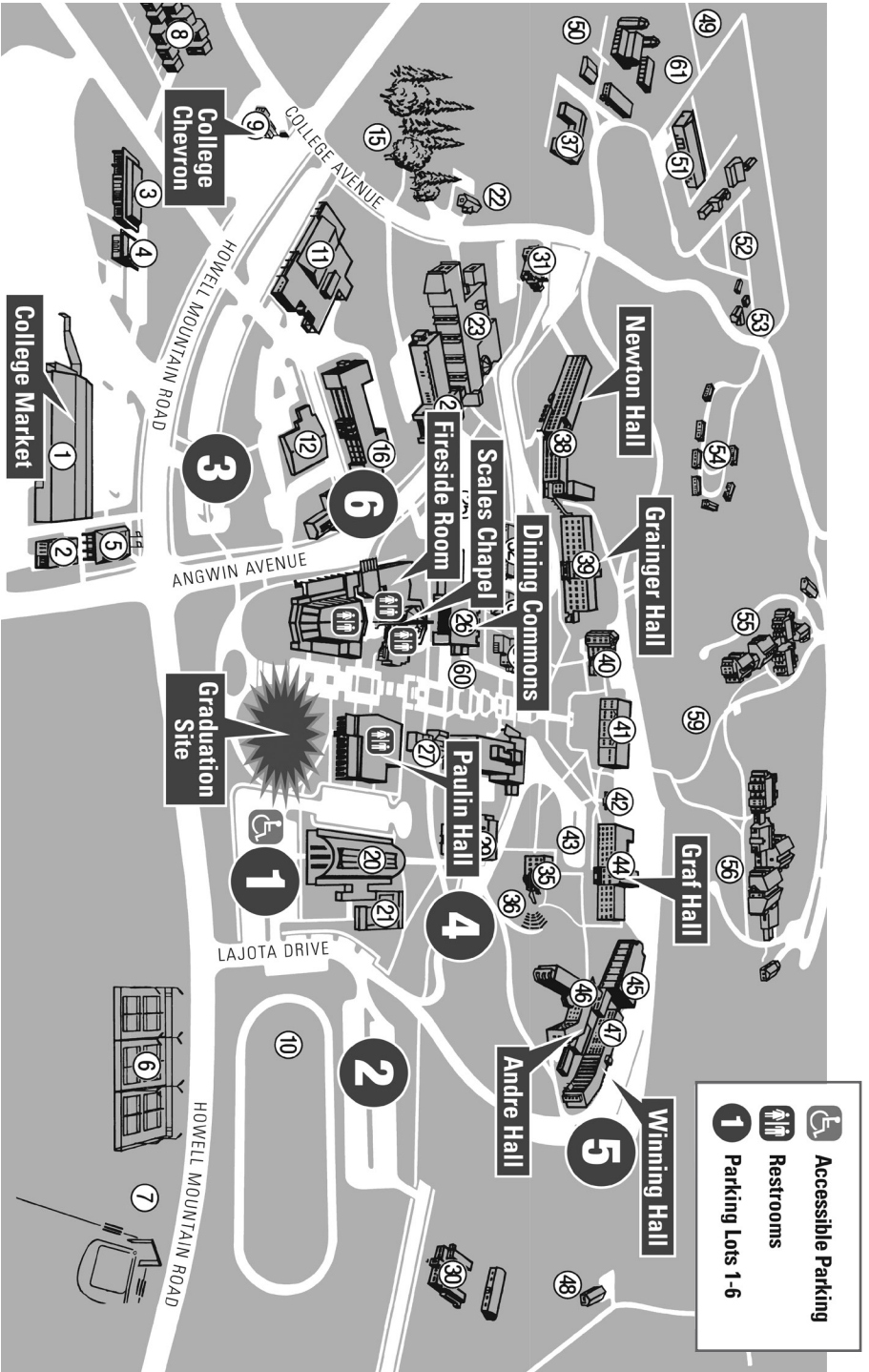
After a 24-year tenure teaching in PUC's department of biology, including serving as chair from 2005-2014, Dr. Robin Vance has a reputation for excellence in teaching, kindness, and effectively preparing students for success in many programs and careers, such as medical and dental school.

Dr. Vance is an expert in academic advising, especially in his work with pre-med students, and he was twice voted Educator of the Year.

As department chair, Dr. Vance led several program changes and helped navigate the department through institutional challenges. He has also served on various campus committees, and as chair of the Rank and Tenure Committee, Pre-Professional Recommendation Committee, and ASGE.

Since starting at Pacific Union College in 1988, Dr. Vance has dedicated more than 36 years of his life to Seventh-day Adventist higher education and has remained a faithful member of the PUC community throughout his tenure.







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