



2026

H O M E  
C O M I N G  
A P R I L 17-18

P A C I F I C U N I O N C O L L E G E



# WELCOME



## Welcome to Homecoming 2026!

I am so happy to welcome you back to Pacific Union College. This weekend, we gather to celebrate you. We wish to celebrate where you have come from and the monumental moments in your life, especially any moments when PUC played a small preparatory role in your success—let's celebrate.

What is of great importance this year, and the changes it brings since you graduated? What was meaningless then and is important today? What did you think was important then, but turned out to be meaningless now? 25 years ago, we faced the devastation of 9/11. This event captivated our minds then and continues to shape our country and our mindsets now. Y2K in the year 2000, which was a huge deal and concern then, turned out to be meaningless going forward. 50 years ago, in 1976, we had the U.S. For the bicentennial, Jimmy Carter was elected President, Apple Computer was founded, and the first commercial Concorde supersonic flight took place. Were any of these more important to your life than when you went on that first date or when you and your friends spent the day walking and talking together?

Yes, your Apple products may impact your life today—but even more so is your worldview, honed by your professors, or the marriage proposal that led to marriage, which perhaps led to your children and grandchildren today. Often, we don't recognize the truly important things, such as friendships and educational experiences, in the moment but focus on things that turn out to be less important later.

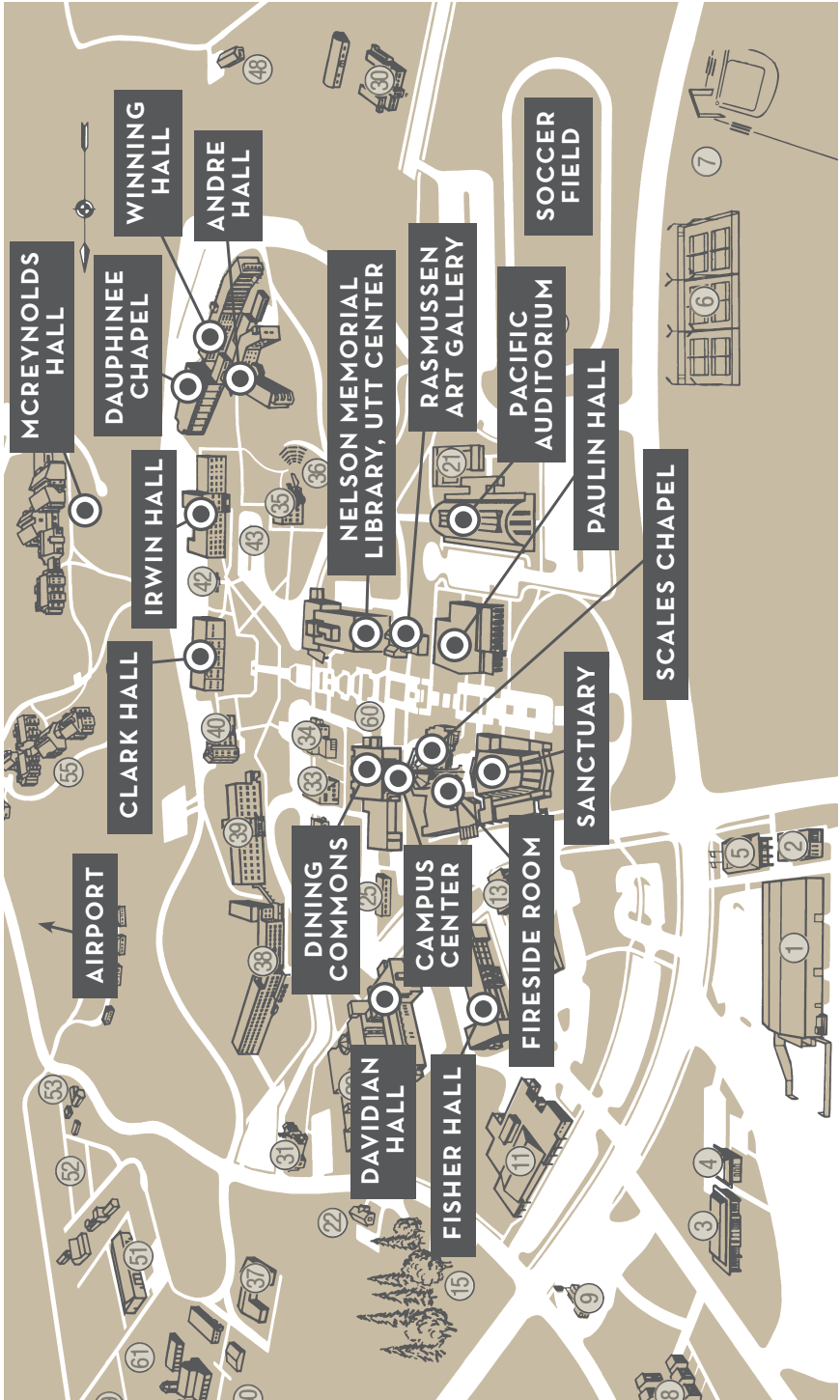
What a special opportunity we have this Homecoming. Enjoy reconnecting, walking down memory lane, and recalling your days here. Between the hallways, classrooms, and places, remarkable things happened that you still carry with you to this day. You were shaped by nights studying, dorm room conversations, campus traditions, spiritual moments, shared laughter, and maybe even a few tears. Think of the people who walked that journey with you: your professors who challenged and inspired you, the dean who encouraged you, the friends who became like family, and the person who would one day become your spouse. You were shaped by this place, people, and community.

This campus holds your stories of growth, discovery, and transformation that prepared you to make your own impact in the world beyond Howell Mountain. Because you are here, I know PUC still holds a special place in your heart.

I invite you to savor this weekend. Let the memories and the mission of PUC continue to inspire you. We are thrilled that you're here.

*Ralph Trecartin*

Ralph Trecartin, Ph.D.  
President, Pacific Union College



# WEEKEND OVERVIEW

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## Friday, April 17

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### Pickleball Tournament

Pacific Auditorium (Gymnasium)

**12 - 4:30 p.m.**

Childcare

**12 - 4:30 p.m.**

### Homecoming Registration

Pacific Auditorium (Gymnasium)

**12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Church Foyer

**4:30 - 8 p.m.**

### Pioneer Dinner

Fireside Room, **6 p.m.**

*Meal Ticket Required*

### Vespers

Church Sanctuary, **8 p.m.**

Speaker: Dwight Nelson

## Saturday, April 18

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### Continental Breakfast

Fireside Room, **8 - 9:30 a.m.**

### Homecoming Registration

Church Foyer, **9 - 11:45 a.m.**

### Sabbath School

Church Sanctuary, **9:30 a.m.**

Speaker: Dwight Nelson

### Church Service

Church Sanctuary, **10:40 a.m.**

Honored Alumni Presentation

Speaker: Aileen Bauer

### Lunch

Dining Commons, **12:15 - 1:30 p.m.**

Mexican Cuisine

*Meal Ticket Required*

### President's Cabinet Q&A

Dining Commons Side Rooms

**1:30 - 2:30 p.m.**

### Afternoon Activities, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

#### Open House

Aviation, Biology, Communication,

Education, Newton Hall Chapel,

Nursing, Visual Arts

#### Forest Tours

Church Loading Zone

**2:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.**

1 van per tour, first come, first serve

#### Hansen Wildlife Museum

Hansen Museum, May Pavilion,

Clark Hall, Ground Level

#### Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition

Rasmussen Art Gallery, **2 - 8 p.m.**

Reception, **6 - 8 p.m.**

#### Visit with President's Cabinet

Alumni House Lawn

#### Friends of Walter C. Utt Gathering

Nelson Memorial Library Utt Center

**3:30 - 4:50 p.m.**

#### Heritage Singers Concert

Church Sanctuary, **5 p.m.**

#### Corn Dogs

Fireside Room, **6 - 7:30 p.m.**

*Donations accepted*

#### Honored Class Parties, 6 p.m.

*(See page 14)*

# GUEST SPEAKERS

## Dwight Nelson Speaker



For 40 years, Dwight Nelson served as lead pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, concluding his ministry there in

June 2023. He continues to preach and teach, and writes a monthly column, “The Endgame,” for the *Adventist Review*. Dwight also chairs the board of Adventist Frontier Missions. He and his wife, Karen, are blessed with two married children and three beautiful granddaughters.

## Aileen Bauer, '96 Speaker



Aileen Bauer first attended PUC in 1967, following a family tradition that spans generations. She began her studies in pre-nursing before completing

her nursing degree at Loma Linda University.

After marrying and starting a family, Aileen returned to the Napa Valley in the early 1980s, where she felt called to continue her education at PUC. 29 years after first enrolling, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 1996. She went on to teach in both the PUC Department of Religion and the Walla Walla University School of Theology, experiences she found deeply rewarding.

Aileen and her husband, Carl, now live in the Walla Walla Valley, where they enjoy time with their five children, 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, along with a wide circle of cherished friends.

# HONOREES

## John Anderson, '96 2026 Honored Alumni



A fifth-generation PUCite, John's connection to PUC stretches back to his great-great-grandfather, Charles C. Lewis, who joined the faculty in 1910.

John's parents, Dr. Bruce Anderson and the late Audrey Anderson, are longtime Angwin residents and supporters of the college. Through five generations, the Anderson family has helped shape the life and history of PUC, and John continues that remarkable legacy through his own life of service.

An "Angwin kid" through and through, John attended PUC Elementary, starting in the first grade, and later PUC Prep. After graduating from PUC in 1996, John earned his medical degree from Loma Linda University in 2000, but more importantly, married Jeannette Larson (another PUC graduate) on December 28, 1997.

John completed his orthopedic surgery residency at LSU in Shreveport, followed by a sports medicine fellowship at Baylor in Houston. During those years, he and Jeannette welcomed Joshua and Katelyn into their family.

For the past decade, John has focused primarily on orthopedic trauma, caring for patients facing

some of life's most difficult injuries. He has also participated in numerous overseas medical missions, providing care in Haiti, the Marshall Islands, Chad, and Ethiopia. Today, he serves as chair of the board of Ultimate Mission, an organization dedicated to bringing health education to underserved communities worldwide.

## Ernest Castillo, '70 2026 Honored Alumni



Elder R. Ernest Castillo's life reflects more than four decades of faithful leadership, ministry, and service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Born in Monte Vista, Colorado, and raised in Denver, he was part of a third-generation pastoral family, shaping an early calling to ministry. After attending Adventist schools across several states, he graduated from Fresno Adventist Academy and went on to PUC, where he earned a degree in theology. He later completed a Master of Divinity at Andrews University.

Elder Castillo began his pastoral ministry in 1973 in the Southeastern California Conference. He quickly distinguished himself as a gifted leader, serving as a senior pastor and later as Associate Youth Director. In 1985, he was elected Vice President of the Southern California Conference, and

in 1990 became Executive Secretary of the Pacific Union Conference, a role he held for 15 years.

In 2006, Elder Castillo was elected Vice President of the North American Division, serving until his retirement in 2017 and concluding 45 years of denominational leadership. Along the way, he contributed to numerous boards and initiatives, including helping establish Esperanza TV, expanding the church's Spanish-language media outreach.

He and his wife, Sarah, a PUC alumna, have built a strong family legacy, with two sons and four grandchildren. Through every role, Elder Castillo has remained committed to strengthening the church and its mission.

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## **Peter Han, '12** **2026 Honored Alumni**



Peter S. Han's journey to PUC was unexpected. Born in Los Angeles and raised near San Diego, he attended public school and had not considered PUC until his

mother submitted an application on his behalf. When he received a full-ride scholarship, he decided to give it a chance.

Peter majored in biology and film and television production while preparing for a career in medicine. He embraced campus life, serving in Student Senate, participating in the Biology Club, joining the Honors Program and orchestra, and eventually being elected senior class

president. Today, Peter continues his connection to the college as a member of the PUC Board of Trustees.

After graduating, he earned his medical degree from Loma Linda University and completed a residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. During this time, he met his wife, Mijin, a nurse at the same hospital. The two were introduced by their fathers and married during COVID in a small ceremony on her family's front lawn.

Peter later completed advanced fellowships at UCLA and now serves as Chief of the Division of Head and Neck Surgery at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. In addition to caring for patients, he is a researcher, educator, policy advocate, and mentor committed to serving others through medicine.

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## **David & Elena Casanova** **2026 Honored Pioneers**



David and Elena Casanova's story is one of courage, resilience, and enduring commitment to PUC, a place they have called home for more than four decades.

Born and raised in Cuba, David and Elena began their life together surrounded by family, faith, and community. But when political unrest threatened their future, they made the difficult decision to leave everything behind in search of a better life. With the help of relatives, they arrived in the U.S. in May 1980 with their three children, determined

to remain together as a family.

Within days, the Casanovas were welcomed to Angwin, where they began the challenging process of starting over. Adjusting to a new culture and language was not easy, but through perseverance and faith, they built a new life. David began working at the college bakery and later became a respiratory therapist, while Elena joined the dining commons, where her warmth and kindness would leave a lasting impression on generations of students.

Though they briefly relocated to Southern California, their hearts led them back to Angwin, where they continued to invest deeply in campus life through their steadfast support of church, music, and student activities. Through their service, generosity, and unwavering dedication, David and Elena have helped shape the spirit of PUC, leaving a legacy of hospitality, faith, and community.

## Herbert Ford 2026 Honored Pioneer

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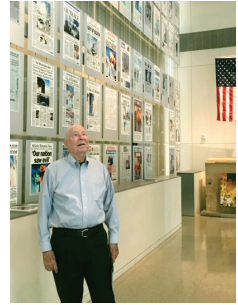


Herbert Paul Ford's life is a remarkable story of service, curiosity, and a lifelong commitment to sharing stories that inform and inspire.

Born in San Benito, Texas, in 1927, Herb served his country in both the U.S. Merchant Marine and Air Force, including time at the Pentagon during a pivotal period in history. He later

graduated from PUC, continued his studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and earned a master's degree in journalism from California State University, Northridge.

After his military service, Herb began working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was ordained to the ministry in 1967. Over the years,



he served in a variety of leadership and communication roles, including work with the Voice of Prophecy and the General Conference.

Herb's deepest legacy, however, is at PUC. Beginning in 1974, he taught journalism, shaping generations of students to think critically, write clearly, and communicate with purpose. He also served as vice president for development and alumni relations, strengthening the college he loved.

A gifted author and historian, Herb founded PUC's Pitcairn Islands Study Center and even contributed to United Nations discussions on decolonization. Alongside his wife, Anita, and their family, Herb built a legacy of service, humility, and devotion.



# VESPERS

Church Sanctuary | 8 p.m. | April 17

## Opening Song

Jacob Duran, '27; Charlotte Fenk, '30; Angela Murillo, '30;  
Natalie Nakanishi, '26; Lee Phillips, '30; Riley Ramirez, '27

## Welcome & Opening Prayer

Pastor Arturo Lopez, '14, PUC Chaplin  
Kyler VanHook, '26, Student Association Religious Vice President

## School Song

"Our College on the Mountain" (See music on page 17)  
Kathryn (Hopgood) Sculatti, '05; Elle Wheeler, '79

## Music

Jacob Duran, '27; Charlotte Fenk, '30; Angela Murillo, '30;  
Natalie Nakanishi, '26; Lee Phillips, '30; Riley Ramirez, '27

## Introduction of Speaker

Jacob Duran, '27

## Message

Dwight Nelson

## Closing Song

Jacob Duran, '27; Charlotte Fenk, '30; Angela Murillo, '30;  
Natalie Nakanishi, '26; Lee Phillips, '30; Riley Ramirez, '27

## Benediction

Dwight Nelson

# SABBATH SCHOOL

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Church Sanctuary | 9:30 a.m. | April 18

## **Prelude**

Sacred selections by PUC Brass Quintet  
Kristian Leukert, Assistant Professor of Music, Director

## **Welcome**

Pastor Lem Garcia, '09  
PUC Associate Pastor for Worship & Administration

## **Song Service**

Jacqueline Esposito, '08; Sivasa Laupati, att. '99-'03;  
Max Magpayo, att. '10-'13; Michael Magpayo, '10;  
Rachel (Cordis) Shoemate, '07; Vince Singuillo;  
Tim Swanson, att. '15; Joshua Wendt, '14

## **Mission Spotlight**

Nathan Tasker, PUC Flight Center Director

## **Introduction of Speaker**

Niels-Erik Andreasen

## **Message**

Dwight Nelson

## **Benediction**

Dwight Nelson

## **Postlude**

Ronnie Zanella

# CHURCH SERVICE

Church Sanctuary | 10:40 a.m. | April 18

## Prelude

“This is My Father’s World,” arr. by Dan Goeller

PUC Orchestra

Rachelle Berthelsen Davis, '94, Professor of Music, Conductor

## Welcome

Ralph Trecartin, PUC President

Carlos Garcia, '88, Vice President for Alumni & Advancement

## Presentation of Honored Alumni

Carlos Garcia, '88; John Anderson, '96; Ernest Castillo, '70; Peter Han, '12

## In Memoriam

*Ringing of the Healdsburg Bell*

Sylvia Rasi Gregorutti, Professor of World Languages & Communication

## Call to Worship

“Bonse Aba,” by Victor C. Johnson

PUC Chorale

Ronnie Zanella, Assistant Professor of Music, Conductor

## Invocation

Kyler VanHook, '26, Student Association Religious Vice President

## Hymn of Praise

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less,” Hymn #522, arr. by Travis Cottrell

PUC Chorale and Orchestra

## Alumni Roll Call

Carlos Garcia, '88, Vice President for Alumni & Advancement

Abiel Irving, '26, Senior Religious Vice President

### **Offering Appeal**

Madison Alejandra Dietrich, '26, Senior Class Executive Vice President

### **Offertory**

“How Great Thou Art,” arr. by Dan Forrest  
PUC Chorale and Orchestra

### **Scripture**

Jana (Ford) Aagaard, '76

### **Prayer**

Ernest Castillo, '70

### **Special Music**

“Holy Forever/Holy, Holy, Holy/Worthy of It All”  
Jackie Esposito, '08; Sivasa Laupati, att. '99-'03; Max Magpayo, att. '10-'13;  
Mike Magpayo, '10; Rachel (Cordis) Shoemate, '07; Vince Singuillo;  
Tim Swanson, att. '15; Josh Wendt, '14

### **Introduction of Speaker**

Ralph Trecartin, PUC President

### **Message**

When the Lights Go Out  
Aileen Bauer, '96

### **Hymn of Response**

“A Song of Heaven and Homeland,” Hymn #472  
Kathryn (Hopgood) Sculatti, '05, Chorister

### **Benediction**

Nate Furness, att. '95-'97, PUC Church Lead Pastor

### **Postlude**

“Toccatà” from Symphony No. 5, by Charles-Marie Widor  
Ronnie Zanella, Assistant Professor of Music, Organist

# FRIENDS OF WALTER C. UTT

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**Nelson Memorial Library Utt Center, 3:30 p.m.**

## **Welcome**

Dr. Ralph Trecartin, PUC President  
Bruce Anderson, '60, Chair of the Utt Committee

## **Devotional**

Vic Aagaard, '78

## **Remembering Walter C. Utt**

Jana Aagaard, '76; John Anderson, '96;  
George Burton, '56; Lori Tetz, att. '74-'75

## **Knowing Walter Utt Posthumously**

Katherine Van Arsdale

## **Walter's Friends**

Eric Anderson

## **The Teaching Style of Walter Utt**

Karl Wilcox, Director of the Utt Center,  
PUC Utt Professor of History

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*Thank you to all the volunteers, alumni, faculty, and staff  
who have helped curate this year's Homecoming weekend program.*

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# AT REST

*I heard a voice out of Heaven, "Write this: Blessed are those who die in the Master from now on; how blessed to die that way."*

*"Yes" says the Spirit, "and blessed rest from their hard, hard work. None of what they've done is wasted; God blesses them for it all in the end."*

—REVELATION 14:13, THE MESSAGE BIBLE

## Alumni

Earl Aagaard, '69, '71  
Betty (Landstrom) Adams,  
'53  
Audrey (Thompson)  
Anderson, '60  
Frederick Anderson, '72  
Bonnie (Isakson) Blythe, '55  
Bonnie (Tym) Corson, '75  
Jerry Cravey, '66  
Claudia Davis, '73  
Delmer Davis, '62  
Donna (Porter) Fisher, '66  
Charles Fox, '72  
Rod Gaede, '64  
Jack Gilliland, '61  
Frances (Jenks) Gorton, '45  
Janice (King) Hackett, '62  
Bryan Henry, '01, '14  
Patti (Butler) Hopmann,  
att. '57-'59  
Julius Jackson, att. '77  
Robert Kalua, '62  
Darayl Larsen, '63

Kenneth Laughlin, '89  
Richard Lee, '59  
Rubilhyn (Ampon Santos)  
Magpayo, att. '07-'09  
Margaret (McGavock)  
Marshall, '51  
Lamont (Eller) Murdoch, '71  
Doris (Hansen) Owens, '42  
Sophia (Cominos) Poulos, '47  
Marilyn (Mohr) Roberts, '69  
Manuel Rodriguez, att.  
'79-'80  
James Ross, '37  
Darrell Rott, '75, '85  
Marshall Rub, '80  
Vivian Vonhof, att. '78-'79  
Joseph Wheeler, '59, '63  
James White, '62  
Glenn Wilhelm, '56  
Harlan Wolfe, '60, '67  
Annette (Jicha) Young,  
att. '50-'54  
Michael Youngberg, '82

## Faculty & Staff

Marilyn Beach  
Mary Cronk  
Melvin Ferguson  
Tom Hopmann  
Gail Imthurn  
Julia (McConnell) Pearce  
Bob Harley Seyle  
Gwen Spuehler  
Doris Sterling  
Norman Wendth

# CLASS PARTIES

## 1955, 1956, 1957

Fireside Room, **6 p.m.**

## 1965, 1966, 1967

Host, Larry Provonsha, 916-747-6692  
RSVP to Sharon Follett, 423-304-1927  
530 Viewridge Drive, Angwin 94508

### **Special Agenda:**

Friday:

*Early Bird Meet and Greet*  
Scales Chapel, **4 - 5:30 p.m.**

Sabbath:

*Class Photo*  
Scales Chapel **1:30 p.m.**  
*Casual Meet and Greet*  
Scales Chapel **1:30 - 3 p.m.**

## 1975, 1976, 1977

Host, Jana Aagaard, 916-203-6312  
Walter C. Utt Center, **6 p.m.**

## 1985, 1986, 1987

Fireside Room, **6 p.m.**

## 1995, 1996, 1997

Fireside Room, **6 p.m.**

## 2000, 2001, 2002

Fireside Room, **6 p.m.**

## 2005, 2006, 2007

Fireside Room, **6 p.m.**

## 2015, 2016, 2017

Fireside Room, **6 p.m.**

## STAY SOCIAL

See what is happening on campus daily by  
following PUC on social media!



[blog.puc.edu](http://blog.puc.edu)



@PUCNow



[puc.edu/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/puc.edu)



@PUCNow



## THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT PUC!

Because of our generous donors, PUC is able to invest in Christ-centered education that impacts students today and prepares them for tomorrow. When it comes to your gift, there are many ways to support PUC!

Whether you choose to support the **Pioneer Fund** and give to areas of greatest need, support students directly through scholarships, or donate to a department or program that personally impacted you, the choice is yours!



### PIONEER FUND

Give to the Pioneer Fund to make an impact today, tomorrow, and for years to come!

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Your gift provides essential support for PUC students.



Visit **[PUC.EDU/WAYSTOGIVE](https://puc.edu/waystogive)** or scan the QR code to find opportunities to support and sustain PUC in a way that is meaningful to you. You can also call (707) 965-7500 to speak with our team.





June 28-July 3, 2026

## PUC Summer Experience

PacificQuest programs are for students in grades 6-12. Each week-long academic program is held at PUC and focuses on a specific area of study, with daily worship, recreational opportunities, team-building exercises, and evening activities. Students who complete the week of programming successfully earn 1 unit of college credit.



### PQSeek - grades 6-8

**STEM I Program:** Students participate in daily academic programming guided by PUC professors. This year's theme is intelligence, with classes in biology, psychology, and mathematics.



### PQRise - grades 9-11

**STEM II Program:** Students participate in academic programs guided by PUC professors in biology, psychology, and mathematics classes, focusing on themes of intelligence.



### PQSoar - grades 9-12

**Aviation Program:** Students immerse themselves in aviation experience as they discover a love of flying. Activities will include flight simulation, airplane flight lessons, and an aviation field trip.



### PQFlix - grades 9-12

**Film Program:** Students engage in filmmaking, learning the art of visual and narrative storytelling, while collaborating with peers to write, shoot, and edit an original film.

Visit [puc.edu/pacificquest](http://puc.edu/pacificquest) to apply and learn more about our programs.

- **Program fee: \$750** (additional \$250 for PQSoar)
- **Application deadline:** Friday, May 8, 2025
- Apply early to receive a discount: [puc.edu/pacificquest](http://puc.edu/pacificquest)



Learn more about PacificQuest



See the PacificQuest video



Come and spend time with fellow bird lovers and alumni to relive your favorite college memories and catch up with the Biology department. Join us for worship and participate in a variety of activities and outings focused on coastal birds & biology.

### TWO EVENTS, ONE WEEKEND!

#### Birding Bonanza - August 14-17

3 nights and 8 meals at Albion Field Station

#### Alumni Retreat - August 14-16

2 nights and 5 meals at Albion Field Station



For more info and to register visit [puc.edu/birding](http://puc.edu/birding)



# OUR COLLEGE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Words By —George H. Jeys

Music By—Margaret Vollmer



Our college on the moun-tain, Among thy fir clad hills, The light of inspi-  
Pacific Union College, The pride of all our hearts, The school where book and  
Dear school on Howell Mountain, Thy loyal sons we'll be, We'll none of class dis-



ra - tion my heart with rapture fills; We love each precious moment that in thy  
Nature each plays its proper part, Dear "College in the Crater," we love you  
tinc - tions, we'll stand for liberty. We'll carry forth thy message to all the



halls we spend, Thy principles shall guide us unto our jour - ney's end  
more and more; Your halls, your hills, your wood - paths, we all of them a - dore.  
wait - ing land In spirit of un - self - ish love, in purpose true and grand!



P. U. C. is our school you know, we're P. U. C.-ites where'er we go. P. U. C. we all



love you sol May we always be, Dear Old P. U. C., loyal to Thee!

# Welcome Home!

Join us again next year!  
Save the Date

Homecoming Weekend | April 16-17, 2027



Homecoming is streaming online on YouTube!



**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CHANNEL**

[YOUTUBE.COM/PUCCOLLEGE](https://www.youtube.com/puccollege)



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