

ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE • SPRING 2026





President's Message

When New Seasons Bring Rejuvenation and Renewal

I guess I never thought about all the “R” words related to the concept of getting a fresh start, like a new year, a new season, or a new life opportunity. Some words that come to mind are recharge, revitalize, restore, and revive—each word holding intentional purpose for personal reflection.

Some thoughts occurred to me while I was walking through our own Mill Valley on a cool spring morning. The sights of lush green grass, dark green forests, and the smell of a multitude of flowers that surrounded me gave me a newfound sense of appreciation for the beauty that surrounds us at Pacific Union College. We are truly blessed with an amazing campus.

Yes, it is springtime, and spring break has taken most of our students away on mission trips, micro-vacations, or just to their ancestral homes for a period of renewal and rejuvenation.

As I write, I am now sitting in my office thinking about the past and the future. And of course, I am working—solving problems, answering emails, and also trying to share a glimpse into my thoughts with you. Even in the pressure-packed world of external endeavor, we all have opportunities for renewal every day and every week, if we structure our lives appropriately.

I have pondered why great professors often insert jokes and stories into their lectures. There are several good answers to this question. It may be that the story reinforces the knowledge covered in the notes or brings practical application to a complex theory. Maybe it also has to do with our minds' ability to reset, recharge, and start fresh during a break. All those years ago, your professor was giving you mini-breaks. You may have thought that the professor was only trying to entertain you, but while entertainment has its benefits in the classroom, there is ample

evidence that we often remember things better if they are at the front of a list, “Primacy Effect,” or at the end of a list, “Recency Effect.”

A 20-second or even a 60-second mind break provides the opportunity to reset the mind and start learning more robustly again. When we break the class period into more segments, there are more first and last items to absorb more effectively. After all, the average university student can only concentrate for about 15 or 20 minutes. So, a mini-break refreshes our students' concentration and helps them learn and retain more.

At PUC, we are all about providing great teaching and learning opportunities on the academic side of the ledger. We also care deeply about the physical and mental benefits of walking in the forest or taking a Sabbath day of rest. The fourth commandment uses the word “remember” (another “R” word). At PUC, we rejoice in our experiences of Sabbath rest. Our Sabbath has multiple benefits in social and spiritual dimensions. We believe it also provides better academic support for our students. With a “Sabbath” time to renew, recharge, and refresh, our students have an easier time remembering their academic studies.

If you haven't taken time to restore your mind for a while, I urge you to do so. While you are at it, spend some time reading (another “R” word). This ViewPoint magazine is a good place to start.

God Bless!

Ralph Trecartin

Ralph Trecartin, Ph.D., MBA
President



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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.

viewpoint@puc.edu

Produced by the Marketing & Communication Department for the alumni and friends of the college.

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ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE • SPRING 2026



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PUC GETS SOCIAL





 @PUCnow

Threads: FEB. 3, 2026

Last Sabbath, PUC Connect Ministries had the joy of worshipping beyond our campus.

Our PUC Brass Quintet shared music at Yountville SDA Church, while the Mosaic String Ensemble served at Healdsburg SDA Church—bringing connection, community, and praise through music.



LinkedIn: FEB. 17, 2026

Empathy isn't just studied here—it's lived. At PUC, the Psychology & Social Work Club is creating a supportive community where students connect, serve others, and grow into compassionate professionals ready to make a difference. Read how they're making an impact at blog.puc.edu



These moments are part of Connect's off-campus ministry, and we're SO proud of the way our students continue to show up and serve.

Also pictured: our Connect worship team leading worship at Galt SDA Church last Sabbath.



Instagram: FEB. 26, 2026

Shared from PUC Chaplain Arturo Lopez: One of the greatest gifts is getting to serve in a place you truly love, surrounded by people who support each other deeply and still know how to laugh, be goofy, and enjoy the moment together.



YouTube: APRIL 1, 2026

Dr. T picked up a shift in the cafeteria today! He said he wanted to "connect with students"... but just didn't realize it would mean learning the register mid-rush, decoding mystery buttons, and suddenly being in charge of ketchup.

Honestly? Not a bad first day. A few free meals, a few extra charges... it all evens out, right?

Happy April Fools' Day!



Facebook: APRIL 20, 2026

Shared from the Angwin Volunteer Fire Station: On Saturday, we had the privilege of being visited by a legend. Herb Ford returned to visit at 99 years young. He served the department while working at PUC, and we are so excited to add his name to our alumni ladder.

Thank you for sharing your wisdom, Herb, and for your service!



Instagram: APRIL 22, 2026

Sonscreen 2026 recap! We had a very successful weekend at the annual Sonscreen festival. Jacob won the Musical Storytelling award, and Ben won the Visual Storytelling award. We also have to highlight Katya for presenting "Albedo."

We are so proud of our film students! Thank you to everyone who made this Sonscreen possible. See you next year!



TikTok: MAY 1, 2026

Albion Marine Biology adventure! Exploring tide pools, studying marine life, and making unforgettable memories along the Mendocino Coast.

Want to experience Albion for yourself? Learn more at puc.edu/albion



Albion Field Station: *The Coastal PUC Experience*

by Keegan Malan

Quietly nestled in the valley of an old lumber camp near the Pacific Ocean and amid forested hills, Albion Field Station lies in the heart of the Mendocino coast. Since Pacific Union College acquired the station in 1947, it has offered extraordinary opportunities for students, families, and groups to explore the beauty of the natural world and to learn more about its history, wildlife, and biology. Many proud PUC faculty, staff, and alumni have worked hard to maintain the station over the years so that people of all ages and career backgrounds can visit and enjoy what Albion has to offer, all while experiencing God’s creation firsthand. Bill Hemmerlin, former professor of chemistry at PUC from 1979 to 2010, expressed, “Going to Albion was always a great experience, for me and my family, and everyone. People always had a great time, and we knew it was a special place.”

Harold Clark, the PUC biology department chair at the time, had been running a summer field school studying the fauna and flora of California and their ecological relationships. The tour would last several weeks, from leaving campus, traveling to the coast, exploring the Sierras, and then returning. In the spring of 1946, Clark struck a deal after checking out all potential properties between Albion and Fort Bragg: to rent the ten acres of land for the summer of 1947 for exactly \$1, where Mendocino Biological Field Station was born. In 1952, the PUC administration voted to purchase the 10 acres for \$5,000.

From 1947 to 1989, the biology department held regular classes at Albion. For most of that period, it was hard to offer enough classes to meet the demand. In the early 80s, it became harder to get biology students to take a summer class at Albion, and the department subsequently changed its requirements so that the summer class was no longer necessary. Gibby Muth, former PUC biology department chair said, “Students wanted to come every year, it was



that much fun, because we were all together doing the same thing and enjoying it.”

Sometime in the 90s, the station’s name was shortened to Albion Field Station, which is how it is known today. When 2000 rolled around, the Friends of Albion members came together for a weekend in January and raised \$120,000 for private baths and sleeping cabins, a project that sat on hold until they obtained more funds and recruited more volunteers. The property just upriver of Albion, containing a lagoon, was purchased in 2004 for \$200,000. This purchase solved several logistical problems and was a beautiful addition to the 17.5-acre station.

Recently, there has been significant interest and movement from outside organizations interested in what Albion has to offer. In November of 2021, Moss Landing Marine Labs began research on Kelp restoration and Purple Sea Urchin Mitigation, based out of Albion Field Station. And in 2023, Sonoma State decided to research estuaries, using Albion Field Station as a base of operations, which has helped both SSU and members of Albion in their respective research projects. And beyond that, yet another

addition has been made to the premises in the form of a 5-acre gift made this past summer, which will buffer PUC from any future neighbors that would build on and occupy that property, which also includes the north half of a breathtakingly beautiful lagoon.

Albion is a special place to those who have visited, holding fond memories that will last a lifetime. Beyond the faith and mushroom retreats, birdwatching, photography, and biology classes and expeditions, the station has been a place where some have met their spouses, proposed on a canoe ride up the river, experienced a deeper spiritual connection with the Lord, and been baptized. These retreats have helped people reconnect with nature and experience the wonders of God’s creation firsthand, for both children and adults. The story of the Albion Field Station continues, serving as a peaceful and educational sanctuary for everyone to enjoy and experience one of PUC’s most remarkable gems. 🌿



Learn more:
puc.edu/albion



The Beauty of Narrative: *Told by Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson*

by Marina Maher

With roots in Angwin, Pacific Union College was no stranger to '97 alumna and passionate children's author and illustrator, Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson, who grew up witnessing the early-morning fog over the valley, the sound of the Paulin Hall fountain, and the winding roads adorning the hill. Having been inspired by these experiences, Fujimoto-Johnson said it was during her time at PUC that she tapped into some of her most significant and creative projects, which, to her, marked the roots she is pursuing all these years later.

In her early years, she recalls writing poetry at the tender age of six, which grounded her in a love and fond appreciation for expression. She said, "The truth is that I feel most alive when I am creating, and I have circled back to that truth many times in my life so far. But really, I create in the hopes that my work will outlive me and continue to make an impact for many years. I am committed to making space for diversity, beauty, and kindness in my work."

Her family moved to Japan when she was 9, which exposed her to her cultural and familial roots, and her passion for writing grew while being homeschooled there. Fujimoto-Johnson returned to the United States a few years later to attend Rio Lindo Academy, and then continued her education at PUC, where she majored in international communication, French, and graphic design.

Being deeply involved in her love for writing, Fujimoto-Johnson maximized her five-year experience at PUC—studying abroad through Adventist Colleges Abroad in the Adventist University of France - Collonges, and editing both the yearbook and Campus Chronicle. A memory she holds

deep, all these years later, is her multidisciplinary senior honors project, in which she translated her grandmother's written biographies and tanka poems from Japanese to English, wrote a personal commentary, and compiled three handbound books for display. Since then, she has circled around books and publications for years, preparing to begin writing her own.

"Professors from the English, history, art, and honors departments supported me in mapping out and producing this project, which held the threads of work that are just now coming to fruition many years later," said Fujimoto-Johnson. "I'm so grateful for the time and space to work on this project that held such deep meaning for me in my current work."

It was at PUC that she had the opportunity to meet people who would have a lifelong impact on her, including Jeremy, her husband of almost 28 years, whom she met on campus; friends; and professors who were mentors and are now friends. Fujimoto-Johnson also reminisced about her spiritual life blossoming while on campus, as she felt grateful to have professors who allowed her to ask questions about life, God, and herself, further shaping her belief that faith is organically cultivated.

After graduating in 1997, Fujimoto-Johnson worked as an assistant editor and designer at Spectrum. These experiences instilled a deep fire in her heart to create her own books, and since then, she has been endlessly inspired by other writers and poets as she has begun to compile her own works, feeling whole as she savored the creative process.

"It is the feeling of knowing that I am doing what I was meant to do in this life. I'm deeply committed to living a creative life and to creating books that I believe should exist

“Our lives are all stories, and we live out our stories, not as singular threads but as interwoven stories in the fabric of history. When we understand that our stories are all interwoven, we can claim our roles as both storytellers and story listeners.”

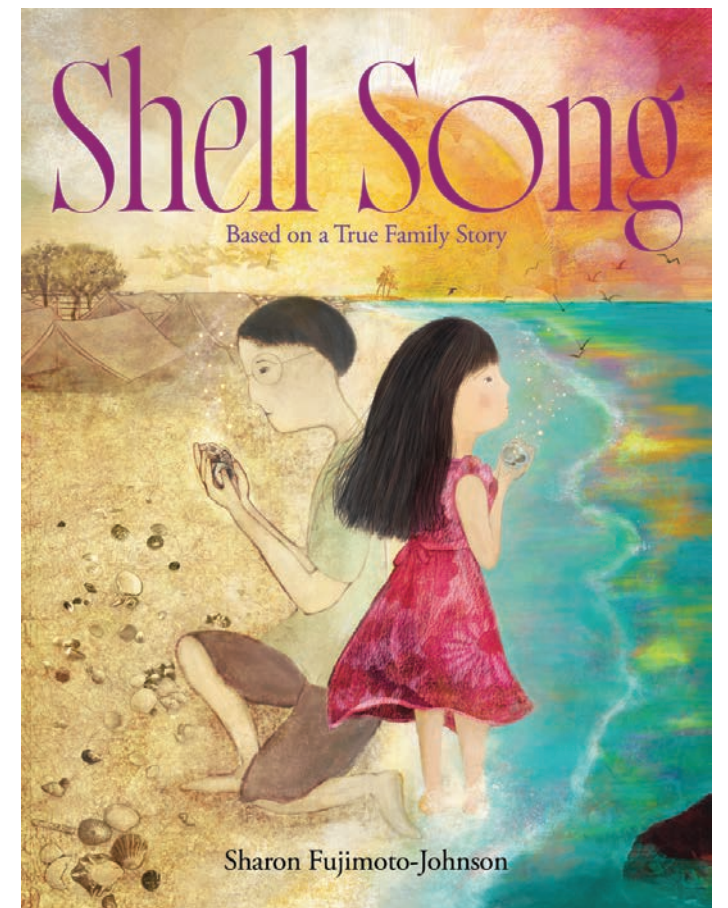
in the world. I believe that the stories we live and the stories we tell to children matter,” she passionately said. “Children need to see themselves in stories, and children need to see children who are unlike them in stories. This is the space in which empathy can grow.”

Fujimoto-Johnson believes that stories inform worldviews, life philosophies, and theologies that speak to who people are as human beings, and immersive and transformative experiences in the ways people choose to live.

One of her children's books, *Shell Song*, was inspired by her grandfather, Shigeki Fujimoto's experience in Japanese American incarceration camps in Hawai'i during WWII. At the time, he was a young and innocent husband and father who was mistaken for the enemy. Fujimoto-Johnson inherited her grandfather's shell collection and incorporated it into the book's artwork, which also features color and textures from her grandmother's wedding kimono. Her hope is to preserve and share her stories for generations to come while celebrating diversity, beauty, and kindness.

“Our lives are all stories, and we live out our stories, not as singular threads but as interwoven stories in the fabric of history. When we understand that our stories are all interwoven, we can claim our roles as both storytellers and story listeners. Stories connect us with each other, with those who came before us, and with the generations after us.” 🌿

To read more of Fujimoto-Johnson's work, visit sharonfj.com





“When that happens, be happy!
Yes, leap for joy! For a great
reward awaits you in heaven...”

– Luke 6:23 NLT



Alumni Feature:

Jon Wood and Jesus for Asia Ministry

by Keegan Malan

After graduating from Pacific Union College with a B.S. in psychology and an A.S. in Photography in 1987, Jon Wood began his career as a 3D Motion Graphic Artist, then returned to PUC as a professor of film and television. In 2005, the Lord impressed him to start Jesus for Asia, a missionary organization that sends missionaries to unreached areas of Asian. And now, 21 years later, the ministry has worked in over 10 countries, with nearly 1,000 workers worldwide, touching the lives of many with the good news of Jesus.

It was not easy to start a ministry, especially one of this caliber, but Wood and his wife, Natalie, also a PUC alumna, were determined, so the first thing they did was pray about how God would work and lead them as they felt called to lead others. “We spent months, actually years, praying about what that would look like, how it would be set up, what principles we would use to run it, and what project we would start with to make the biggest impact,” he said.

In the winter of 2004, Wood, along with a small team of students, traveled to Thailand around the time the Indian Tsunami hit, one of the deadliest natural disasters of this century. He ventured to India, where he filmed some of the survivors on the beach. Wood took this footage back with him, and his students edited it into a short video that was shown at the PUC Church. Immediately, \$6,000 was raised for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. He then uploaded the video to YouTube, where he raised an additional \$2,000.

With this second donation, Wood hired five Bible workers, helped 10 families in India by purchasing food for them, sponsored an evangelistic series, baptized 35 people, and started a church. He also discovered something rather remarkable: the more he shared what was happening, the more people gave. Finally, in March of 2005, Wood tendered his resignation at PUC, where everyone sent him off in prayer and encouraged him to pursue this mission and start the ministry full-time. The ministry began as Jesus for India, but they felt called to expand the work to Thailand and Cambodia, so they changed the name to Jesus for Asia.

Many schools have been established, and plenty of evening tutoring schools with free meal services are in operation for the benefit of children and adults alike, serving an estimated half a million meals each year. Adding to this are the rather incredible testimonies from this ministry, shared by both missionaries and everyday people, describing miracles such as people being raised from the dead and healed of tuberculosis and elephantiasis. The churches planted continue to grow, and more missionaries tell their amazing stories, keeping Wood and the ministry motivated to do more.

In 2010, they launched Mission TV, a 24/7 channel that focused on the Great Commission, which encouraged viewers to share the Gospel. In 2022, an office was built in Collegedale, TN, to accommodate staff growth with the expanding work in Asia. God’s hand



was visible in every step of this process and continues to guide them as they seek new ways to spread the word.

Since he decided to pursue this mission 21 years ago, Wood has remained incredibly motivated and driven to continue the work the Lord has laid out for him. For him, seeing souls won for Christ remains the motivator. “Honestly, we’ve never been more excited than now as we see the work affecting more and more lives every year, with new projects being added that bless more and more people,” he said. “And the Word of God keeps unfolding new revelations in His grace and power.”

The work is not yet finished. There is always a need for more missionaries who feel truly called by God to serve in the good and bad times, and who are willing to go to far-off places to spread the name of Jesus to those who have not yet heard the good news.

“Anyone can do easy, but hard things build character,” said Wood. He hopes that more and more people will work hard with him and his ministry to save souls, furthering the reach of the Gospel in Asia. “There is room for many ministries in the world. Grab a map and go. You can go as a tourist first, just explore and see where the needs are and where there is a lack. Learn to trust God by reading His word and seeing what He has done in the past for His people, and know that He wants to do things like that for you! 🙌”

**To learn more and support
Wood’s ministry, visit jesus4asia.org
or email info@jesus4asia.org.**

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2026



A HOMECOMING MOSAIC: MILBERT'S WEEKEND IN SELFIES

by Milbert Mariano, '91



» FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Pioneer Dinner

1. Enjoyed the Pioneer Dinner with family and fellow alumni, including my wife, **Julie Lee, '98** (third from left), current PUC Church Lead Pastor, **Nate Furness, att. '95-'97** (center), previous PUC Church Senior Pastor, **Tim Mitchell, '76**, and his wife, **Carleen Mitchell, att. '74** (right).

2. A selfie alongside PUC President Dr. Ralph Trecartin and Nate Furness.

3. Pastor Dwight Nelson passionately preached a soulful message of remaining focused on Jesus as we await His second coming during Vespers, which was the start of alumni weekend and the end of PUC's Spring Week of Worship.

» SABBATH, APRIL 18

Sabbath School & Church

4. Sabbath morning at alumni weekend registration at the PUC Church with **Paul Kim, '86**, and his wife, **Marilyn (Martin) Kim, att. '81-'82**.

5. PUC alumni proudly delivered a soulful rendition of "Holy Forever," "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "Worthy of It All."

6. PUC Music Department Chair Rachelle Davis conducted the PUC Orchestra as they beautifully played the prelude of "This Is My Father's World."

7. My wife and I met up with friends **David Tsao, '99** (current PUC board member), and his wife, **Jenny (Oh) Tsao, '98**, after a great church service.



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Scan this QR code for more photos and streaming content or visit: puc.edu/homecoming



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Sabbath Afternoon Activities

8. Sabbath afternoon tours included the Visual Arts Department's film studios with Pastor Nate, **Nic Hubbard, '05**, director of marketing and communications, and **Brian Kyle, '04**, chair of our visual arts department.

9. I toured the Communication Department's Podcast Room in Irwin Hall with Communication and World Languages Chair Tara Hargrove.

Heritage Singers Concert

10. We were treated to the vintage Seventh-day Adventist sounds of the Heritage Singers,

five of whom are PUC graduates and one current faculty member, David Bell, who is the chair of our business department.

» SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Air Expo

11. Community members were wowed by this CalFire helicopter and a variety of other aircraft at the Air Expo.

12. A homecoming for a legend: Flight Center Director Nathan Tasker and the team who served with 'Charlie' in the mission field officially dedicated our newest aircraft. It was an honor to share the history and legacy of this plane with the PUC community.

WHAT AN AMAZING WEEKEND! HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR AT HOMECOMING!

APRIL 16-17, 2027

Thank you to all who joined us in celebrating our college and making Homecoming a success! We are grateful to the alumni, family, and friends who came to share this meaningful weekend at Pacific Union College.

YESTERDAY & TODAY



1919

A popular printing class in 1919 carries that same classroom excitement forward to students in the 2025-2026 academic year.

2026



1929

PUC's Acapella Choir and Vox Pro Musica continue to share the passion of God through their devotion to song.

2026



1934

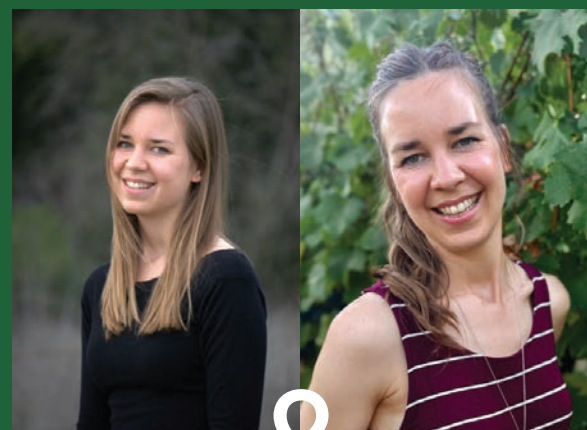
Walter I. Smith served as the PUC President from 1934-1943. Dr. Ralph Trecartin has been taking the lead as the current PUC President since 2021. We love Dr. T!

2026

FEATURED ALUMNI

MINNA NUMMELIN, '12, graduated with a B.S. in Liberal Studies and a B.A. in Spanish. Now, she teaches at the Napa Valley Language Academy.

"I graduated from PUC in 2012 with a teaching credential, a Bachelor of Science in liberal studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish. I now teach at the Napa Valley Language Academy, a Spanish/English dual language school in Napa, CA. Since moving to Napa, I've been fortunate to graduate with a master's in teaching Spanish language and culture and a master's in education in innovative learning. The learning base I received at PUC from dedicated professors and from the personal connections with the diverse student body has been a huge benefit to me as I move through life."



THEN & NOW



1948

Faithful PUC SA Officers then and still faithful now. Not much has changed... except this photo is in color!

2026



» READ THE
FULL STORY

NEWS @ PUC

FOR MORE PUC NEWS VISIT [PUC.EDU/NEWS](https://puc.edu/news)



» TOUCH DOWN: CHARLIE ARRIVES AT PUC

by Marina Maher

On February 23, Pacific Union College’s aviation program’s newest addition to its fleet, affectionately known as Charlie, landed at its new home at Virgil O. Parrett Field. Many students, faculty, staff, photographers, and PUC board and community members waited in excitement for Charlie’s arrival, tracking the aircraft’s tail number on the FlightAware app and monitoring the skies.

Upon its landing, everyone warmly applauded Assistant to the Flight Center Director Andrew Hosford as he climbed out of the aircraft. Because of his experience in mechanical and avionics skills, he helped complete the refurbishment of Charlie. After receiving an airworthiness certificate, Hosford flew it home.

This Cessna 206 has faithfully served in some of the most remote and challenging corners of Papua New Guinea, Australia, and Vanuatu since it was brand new in 1976. Flight Center Director Nathan Tasker proudly shared Charlie’s story. “This was the longest-serving aircraft in the history of our church,” said Tasker. “It will have its 50th anniversary this year.”

Pointing to the colors adorning the aircraft, he continued, “The red, white, and blue color scheme is original to its factory paint, but is also painted this way because 1976 was the bicentenary celebration year of the United States. The emblem of the three angels’ message was added to the tail upon its arrival in Papua New Guinea.”

This aircraft holds a special place in Tasker’s heart, since he and his family flew on it in the 1990s while serving as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. “God has miraculously protected this special plane over many years. I am excited for how it will serve our community and inspire our pilots here at PUC. Thank you, Jesus, for this airplane,” said Tasker.

At PUC, this technically advanced aircraft will be used for commercial pilot flying, per the program’s 10-hour flight requirement, and to teach bush flying techniques. The aviation program is incredibly grateful to those who have donated to bring Charlie home, but it still needs \$81,245.09 to cover the balance. 🙌



Give today! give.puc.edu/charlie

Or you can mail a check to:

**Pacific Union College
Advancement - Charlie Fund
1 Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508**

» JORDAN DELARMENTE: CHRIST-CENTERED SERVICE IN THE MILITARY

by Marina Maher

Driven by his passion for service, Pacific Union College alumnus Jordan Delarmente was inspired by his time on campus to redefine the essence of worship and to be a light to people in a dark place, even in the heart of deployment overseas.

After graduating in 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in marketing communications and an associate degree in health science, Delarmente immediately began working in healthcare for six months in San Jose, CA. However, he has always felt a deep calling to serve in the military because his great-grandfather served in WW2 and survived the Bataan Death March, which gave his family the opportunity to come to the United States.

Delarmente will have been in the National Army Guard for eight years this year and currently serves in operations and logistics, supporting hundreds of troops throughout the Middle East. When he is not deployed or working weekends, Delarmente works for the U.S. Air Force as a Nuclear Test Equipment Manager, supervising technical aspects of nuclear-related testing environments.

His family highly values Adventist education that equips them with the skills for a service-oriented career, which is why they sent him to PUC. Delarmente passionately stated that PUC prepared him to take on the military, especially in his logistics and operations roles. Not only did he feel equipped to take on a service position in the real world, but to cherish day-to-day connections, building, fostering, and creating relationships with everyone he came across. He attests that people gravitate towards him because he embodies the joy, light, and love of Jesus.

“PUC’s rigid curriculum, opportunities to work and help pay for school, and the volunteer work taught me the importance of planning and scheduling. PUC also taught me the importance of leaning on God because, for instance, there were many times I was unsure how I was going to pay for school; however, God always opened a door,” he said.

Along with his grandfather, he looks up to his father, who served for 20 years in the United States Air Force, and the 60+ soldiers that he serves as a direct line leader. He maintains a vision to create a solid foundation for his future family and to continue to make his parents proud, since he is the first commissioned officer in his family’s bloodline.

A motto that he lives by is inspired by the classic hymn “It Is Well With My Soul,” emphasizing that no matter how hard life is, God’s hands are always present, no matter the circumstance. PUC is proud to have prepared Delarmente to pursue a passionate career full of service, mission, and God’s love. 🙌



Announcements

WEDDINGS, BIRTHS, & ENGAGEMENTS



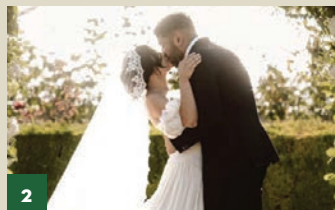
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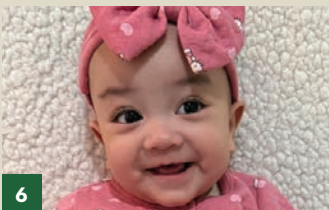
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WEDDINGS

- Gillund Fayard, '23,** and **Faye Rippe, '26, '27,** got married on August 31, 2025, in Santa Rosa, CA.
- Esthefany (Lopez) Aguilar (att. '18-'19)** and Eduardo Aguilar got married on August 24, 2025, in Yorba Linda, CA.
- Yessenia (Sanchez) Cuellar (att. '18-'19)** and Juan Carlos Cuellar got married on August 25, 2024, in Salem, OR.

- David Urbina, '19,** and **Marina (Ensminger) Urbina (att. '19)** got married on October 6, 2024, in Truckee, CA.

- Alexander Garcia, '19,** and **Davina Camarena (Ochoa) Garcia, '22,** got married on May 10, 2025, in Selma, CA.

BIRTHS

- Karina Mayzus, daughter of **Kayla (Violanda) Mayzus, '12,** and Anton Mayzus, was born on June 25, 2025, in Layton, UT.

- Wren Cacho, son of **Bradley Cacho, '10,** and Erica Cacho, was born on January 14, 2026, in Loma Linda, CA.

- Amelia May Jimenez, daughter of **Airolynn Salazar (att. '18-'20)** and Able Jimenez, was born on November 8, 2024, in Visalia, CA. Her younger brother, Able Enrique Jimenez II, was born on February 24, 2026, in Visalia, CA. Alongside their brothers Aiden and Jeremiah Jimenez, the family is now complete.

BIRTHS (continued)

- Stella Blue Garcia, daughter of **Alexander Garcia, '19,** and **Davina Camarena (Ochoa) Garcia, '22,** was born on February 6, 2026, in Hanford, CA.

- Aiden Carter Baumbach, son of **Dustin Baumbach, '12,** and Devon Baumbach, was born on January 17, 2026, in Redlands, CA.

ENGAGEMENTS

- Airolynn Salazar (att. '18-'20)** and Able Jimenez will be getting married in 2028 in Visalia, CA.

- Jan Paige Jernigan, '23, '25,** and Jonathan Isaac Early will be getting married on June 21, 2026, in Cobb, CA.



Please send us your engagements, weddings, and family additions by **August 1, 2026** to be included in our next issue.

alumni@puc.edu
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PUC FORWARD

A CAMPAIGN FOR TRANSFORMATION: MOMENTUM BUILDING

Pacific Union College is moving forward with vision, purpose, and faith—and our community is answering the call.

The PUC Forward Campaign was launched with a bold vision to transform our campus and the future of every student who calls it home. Today, we are thrilled to share that donors are stepping forward, believing in this mission. Together, we are making tangible progress on all five transformative initiatives.

Your gift to PUC Forward advances:

Renovating Newton Hall: Thanks to generous support, we will create increasingly comfortable, modern living spaces where students can thrive. This work continues to grow in scope as we expand our vision for residential life.

Accelerating the Irwin Hall Remodel: Phase I focuses on revitalizing classrooms, expanding windows, and creating dynamic, collaborative spaces where learning comes alive. We are energized by the growing interest in this project. Irwin Hall is a place where many students have walked the halls. We encourage you to support this project so future students can walk where you walked.

Completing the Aviation Program Expansion: We are in the homestretch! This groundbreaking initiative is nearing completion as we prepare our Christ-centered pilots for lives of service, emphasizing technical skills, safety, and spirituality

to pursue high-demand careers in flight and aeronautics. The momentum here is extraordinary as we continue to fulfill the Seventh-day mission to serve God and our community.

Growing the Maxwell Scholarship Fund: Your contributions are removing barriers and opening doors. This fund continues to expand, ensuring high-achieving, academically gifted students are not prevented by financial need from becoming tomorrow's leaders.

Fulfilling the Pioneer Promise: This commitment to student success, from enrollment through graduation, is deepening across campus. More students with excellent character, leadership potential, and significant financial need are experiencing the comprehensive support that defines PUC.

PUC Forward is more than a campaign; it is a vision taking shape. We invite you to keep standing with us, to accelerate this transformation, and to help us write the next chapter of PUC's story.

**Every gift moves us forward.
Every commitment builds a legacy.**



Let's move PUC Forward — together.

Give today! puc.edu/puc-forward

Alumni News

CLASS NOTES

Written & Compiled by Herbert Ford, '54

1970

Gary Wareham, '75, will transition into full retirement at the end of this year. A grandfather of two, Gary and his wife, Donna, make their home in Lindsay, CA, from which town Gary travels to his work as director of the laboratory at the Porterville Hospital in California's southern Central Valley. After graduating from PUC with a medical technology degree, Gary had worked at a hospital in Lindsay, CA, moving up to chief technologist after beginning as medical technologist.

Robert B. Wareham, '75, '78, a lawyer, who was a member of PUC's campus security staff during his student days, has recently been admitted to the practice of law in North Carolina. Working in association with the Mountain West Legal firm, Robert writes, "I look forward to serving clients and community in Buncombe County and throughout Western North Carolina, assisting individuals in navigating federal and North Carolina firearms law, restoration of rights, and matters relating to lawful concealed carry."

Merlin D. Burt, Att. '77-'79, Director of the Ellen G. White Estate, was voted to

carry additional duty as a Field Secretary of the General Conference.

1980

Cyndie Sue Pontynen, '80, '81, '83, has had a 48-year career in nursing and is "now ready to be a stay-at-home mom (never mind that the girls don't live at home anymore)," she writes. A member of PUC's first bachelor-of-science-in-nursing (BSN) degree class, Cyndie's nursing history includes three years in Intensive Care Units; 35 years in emergency room nursing at the First North Bay Trauma Center; and last year in Family Medicine. She said, "There was also 2020 which was spent in Hell, aka the VJC Covid testing tent – but with the best team ever – people I would have never met otherwise."

Scott Moncrieff, '82, a life-long lover of books, now has more time to indulge his literary passion: he has just retired as a Professor of English after having taught for 37 years at Andrews University, MI. "It's been a privilege to help many talented writers along the developmental path by giving them a safe space to write, and by taking their writing seriously and doing my best to give them useful

feedback and encouragement," said Scott about his teaching career.

J. Raymond Wahlen II, '84, was re-appointed as Under-treasurer of the world church organization. Several members of PUC's alumni family have recently been appointed or voted to terms of service at the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The actions were taken at the church's 62nd General Conference session in St. Louis, MO, and at the Autumn Council meeting of the denomination, in Silver Spring, MD.

Clinton L. Wahlen, '84, was re-appointed as an Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute.

C. Maurine Wahlen, '84, was voted as Vice President for Finance of the Hope Channel International at the autumn meeting.

Gina R. Wahlen, '82, '84, was voted to be Editor of the Mission Quarterly of the church by the General Conference Committee.

1990

Jennifer Swenson, '93, has been appointed president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Adventist-

Central Texas health care organization. She will direct the operations of a hospital in Killeen and Adventist Health-Rollins Brook, TX. Jennifer has had more than 20 years of executive leadership in health care. For nine years, she was president and CEO of Adventist Health in Simi Valley, CA, before being named to the Texas health-care leadership position.

Jill A. Karmy, '98, was appointed by Governor Bob Ferguson of Washington to the position of Cowlitz County Superior Court Judges, effective November 1, 2025. Formerly, Jill was the county's Superior Court Commissioner in Kelso, WA, for three years. In her new position, Jill joins an ever-growing number of PUC graduates who are serving as superior court judges in various states, mostly in California. A career public servant, Jill also runs a solo-practice law firm. She also serves as a contract prosecutor for the Washington cities of Battle Ground, Ridgefield, and La Center.

2000

Guillermo Leal, '01, was voted as Associate Director of the General Conference Auditing Service, which occurred at the church's 62nd General Conference session

in St. Louis, MO, and at the Autumn Council meeting of the denomination, in Silver Spring, MD.

Cynthia Adams McClain, '05, earned her bachelor of science in nursing degree (BSN) from PUC, and went on to earn a Master of Health Administration degree from the University of Phoenix in 2008. She later completed her Doctor of Education in educational leadership, specializing in Health Administration at Grand Canyon University in 2023. Cynthia's academic and professional paths show a strong commitment to advancing excellence and leadership within the health care field.

Isaac Lee, '05, and Loren Yutuc, '03, were ordained to the gospel ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist faith during sacred religious ceremonies that include the traditional "laying on the hands." Isaac was ordained at the Yorba Linda Adventist Church in Southern California earlier this year, and Loren was ordained at the Elko Adventist Church in Nevada on June 14, 2025.

David Trim, Faculty '08, '09, was re-appointed Director of the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.

2020

Katharine Van Arsdale, former PUC Faculty, is now the associate director of the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research. She recently played a major role in a promotional project that won a 2024 Associated

Church Press Award of Excellence in the Marketing and Social Media category. The project enhances social and spiritual connectivity among members of the Seventh-day Adventist faith in the Lake Union Conference of the church.

LIFE EVENTS UPDATES:

Jeff Kolkman, '89, attended his 10th Olympic Winter Games and 19th overall Olympics this year, dating back to 1984 in Los Angeles, CA. Because of his rich background in sports television, previously employed at ABC Sports, CBS Sports, and NBC Sports TV, he is now an Olympic observer and historian. At every Olympic game he has attended, he has tried to find athletes who are believers in Christ and, if possible, Seventh-day Adventist competitors.



Kolkman with USA gold medalist Ullia Malinin.



Kolkman with Erin Jackson, speedskater and USA Team flag bearer at the Opening Ceremonies.



Kolkman with Matthew Boldy and Jake Oettinger from Team USA Men's Ice Hockey.



Kolkman with USA Women's Ice Hockey Team members.

CORRECTIONS:



Aliesha (McEvers) Hollar, '14, has been married for four years and has moved to South Carolina since graduating from PUC. She works for the Department of Social Services in western North Carolina (marking seven years this year) as a processing assistant, where she helps process paperwork for adoption. Aliesha finds it rewarding and makes her heart happy to see kids get new and happy homes. Her husband, Paul, and she have two cats, Matty and Ethel, and enjoy spending their time attending concerts.



Bennett Yee, Siannah Yee, and Brad Yee at the 2025 PUC graduation ceremony.

TELL US YOUR NEWS!

We love hearing from you. Tell us about your adventures, accomplishments, weddings, and family additions! Please send us your update and photo by **August 1, 2026**, to be included in our next issue. Alumni News comes from a variety of sources, but we prefer news that comes from you.



puc.edu/alumni-updates
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STAY IN TOUCH

We are saying prayers of gratitude for all of the blessings we've received at our "college on the mountain" this year, and we hope you will share those prayers with us! If you want to stay updated with the latest PUC news, please subscribe to our e-newsletter at puc.edu/newsletter.

facebook.com/PUCalumni
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Visit puc.edu/alumni for the latest on your classmates.

IN MEMORY

Written & Compiled by Herbert Ford, '54

FACULTY AND STAFF

Marilyn Gibbs Beach, Staff, died on January 9, 2026, in Loma Linda, CA. She was born on February 22, 1929, in Portland, OR. Marilyn is survived by her daughter, Barbara Jean Currier; by her sons, Paul, and Peston; by 10 grandchildren, and by six great-grandchildren.

Marge Lou Ferguson, Staff, died on December 16, 2024, in Missouri. Born on November 1, 1935, Marge was a student financial aid counselor at PUC, and was a long-time member of the college's Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was predeceased by her husband, Ralph, in 1996, and by her youngest son, Mark.

Melvin L. Ferguson, Staff, died on October 7, 2025. He was born on August 12, 1933. Melvin was predeceased by two sons-in-law, two grandsons, and one great-granddaughter. He is survived by his wife, E. June Grenz Ferguson; by his four daughters, Wanda, Carol, Elaine, and Kathleen; by four sons-in-law; by six grandchildren; and by four great-grandchildren.

Thomas N. Hopmann, '59, Admin., died on November 7, 2025, in Placerville, CA. He was born on December 23, 1938. He was employed by the California State Transportation Agency, CalTrans, and

then served as Vice President for Financial Administration of PUC for many years. He was predeceased by his wife, Patricia Hopmann. He is survived by his two daughters, Juliana L. Tam, and Jennifer L. Rieseberg.

Dwight Larry Shogren, Staff, the former director of PUC's Physical Plan, died on September 8, 2025, in Angwin, CA. He was born in Oregon on December 12, 1943. Dwight was the facilities manager of PUC's Physical Plant department, beginning in 1984 and continuing into the 1990s. Previously he had been the plant manager of a hospital in Beeville, TX. A lifetime craftsman, there was little that Dwight couldn't build or fix. He had a familiarity with all the trades and was a fine finish carpenter of rare skill. Dwight was predeceased by his wife, Verna; and by his sister Loree. He is survived by his partner, Ann; by his children, Pam, Steven (Taylor) Shogren, and Charis Shogren; by his sister, Nancy Shogren, and his brother, Donald Shogren.

Gwen Sofia Spuehler, '64, Staff, died on May 4, 2025. She was born on May 10, 1935, in French Camp, CA. A graduate of Lodi Academy, Gwen earned a degree in history at PUC. She began working at the Northern California Conference of Adventists, and later served at San Gabriel Academy in

Remembering Friends

"In Memory" is our opportunity to honor and remember fellow alumni. We currently receive obituaries from various sources, and information may not always be complete. Family members of alumni who wish to submit obituary information directly can contact the alumni office. alumni@puc.edu | (707) 965-7500

southern California. She then returned to Angwin to work in the PUC Records Office where she was employed for 48 of her 52 years of service for the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Gwen is survived by her niece Pam Gaskell; and by her grandniece, Julie.

Doris Sterling, Staff, died on October 30, 2024, in Angwin, CA. Doris was predeceased by her husband, Claude Blois Sterling to whom she had married on August 30, 1953. She is survived by her sons, Keith and Rodney Sterling, and one grandchild.

Larry Walter Williams, Faculty, died on January 8, 2026, in his home in Apison, TN. He was born on May 24, 1938, in Niles, MI. Larry taught in PUC's Religion Department, before moving to a similar teaching position at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee. He was predeceased by his wife, Nellie Jo Williams, and two of their five children. Larry is survived by his three children.

ALUMNI

William "Bill" Rossier Alder, '50s, a chemist, died on February 24, 2026, in Newport, OR. He was born on May 9, 1937. Bill's entire work career was spent in research and development of refractory raw materials for Kaiser Aluminum Chemi-

cal Corporation. A number of products, processes, test procedures, two patents, and several technical papers grew out of his employment. In 1999, Bill and his wife began enjoying their retirement in Oregon. Bill is survived by his wife, Rita; by his stepchildren, Kelly Stewart, Lynn Kennell, Tim Springer, Natalie Swanson, and Noel Rodgerds. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; and by his two sisters, Karen Scriven and Mary Jo Garrison.

Frederick Lee Anderson, '72, a retired science teacher, died in Calhoun, GA, on November 5, 2025. He was born on May 16, 1946, in Clinton, IA. Fred grew up living on several farms in Iowa that his parents owned. Following his graduation from Union College in NE, he pursued graduate study at PUC, graduating with a master's degree in biology in 1972. For 43 years, Fred taught science at Seventh-day Adventist academies in Missouri, Indiana, California, and Georgia. During his teaching years, from which he retired in 2011, he received the Thomas and Violet Zapara Award for Excellence and was nominated to the "Who's Who Among American Teachers" in 1998, 2000, and 2005. He had a sister, Karen Mae Anderson Worrel, and a brother, Robert William Anderson.

Bonnie Jean (Isakson) Blythe, '55, a former teacher, died on September 7, 2025, in Stanford Hospital, CA. She was born in Oakland, CA, on July 24, 1932. Bonnie graduated from PUC with an elementary education major, but even before graduation, she taught at the Placerville-Camino Seventh-day Adventist school in CA. After her marriage to William (Bill) Blythe in 1955, she taught at the Miramonte Elementary School in Mountain View, CA. While at PUC, Bonnie was president of the Women of Alpha Gamma. She often worked at the PUC cafeteria door, on the boys' side, directing the young men to tables. Bonnie was a strong supporter of all PUC alumni activities; she spoke often of the bonds she formed at alumni homecomings. Bonnie is survived by her husband, William (Bill) R. Blythe; by three children; and by six grandchildren.

Claudia Davis, '73, died on July 14, 2025, in Poulsbo, WA. She was born on May 25, 1949, in Santa Rosa, CA. Claudia is survived by her sister, Majorie Sullivan; by her niece, Vasthi Kanahale; by her nephew, Howard Munson IV; and by two grandnieces, and two grandnephews.

Delmer Ivan Davis, a retired English professor and administrator, died on June 2, 2025, in St. Joseph, MI. He was born on November 6, 1939, in St. Helena, CA. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees at PUC, he earned a PhD at the University of Colorado-Boulder, and Delmer began his teaching career

at Loma Linda University in California. Teaching at Walla Walla University in Washington, and a return to teaching at LLU followed, before he began a 28-year teaching and administrative career at Andrews University in Michigan in 1977. In addition to his teaching, he also held several administrative positions at AU. Delmer is survived by his daughter, Rhonda Davis-Cheshire, and son, Ivan; and by six grandchildren.

Douglas William Dunn, '75, a mental health advocate and communications manager, died on August 20, 2025, in Antioch, CA. He was born on October 24, 1952, in Fountain Head, TN. As the son of a Seventh-day Adventist educator, Douglas lived in a number of East and West Coast U.S. towns before his attendance at PUC in the early 1970s. A few days after his graduation in 1975, Douglas married Linda, a fellow PUC classmate. Although he started law school at Pepperdine University, Douglas ultimately settled into the telecommunications field where he enjoyed a successful career for most of 20 years. However, his great love of life was in helping others see their way through mental health crises and challenges. Douglas is survived by his wife, Linda; by his sons, Jeffrey Dunn and Daniel Hardun; by his two grandchildren; and by his brother, Kirk Dunn.

Charles "Chuck" Lynden Fox, '72, a businessman, died on February 18, 2026, in Bonners Ferry, ID. He was born in Napa County, CA, on May 22, 1949. As a mechanically inclined teenager, Chuck spent

much of his time in rebuilding and then installing engines in cars. After graduating from PUC, he worked on heavy equipment and trucks, and in association with his father, Walter, owned and acquired nursing homes. In 2009, Chuck, with his wife, Cheryl, moved to Bonners Ferry where he built and operated a Sno Tac business. Charles was predeceased by his daughter, Allison; and by his parents, Walter and Velma Fox. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl; by his daughters, Heidi and Lizzie; and by four grandchildren.

Rodney Gaede, '50s, a program manager, died on September 26, 2025, at Lake Tahoe, CA. He was born on January 14, 1940, in Lodi, CA. Rodney graduated from both PUC and California State University-Sacramento. He served for many years as the program manager of the San Joaquin County food stamps and public assistance programs. Rodney is survived by his wife Linda, and by his daughter, Rolinda.

Jack L. Gilliland, '61, a physician, died on December 31, 2025, in Lodi, CA. He was born on June 18, 1939, in Lodi. He was a veteran of service in the U.S. Navy, and a 1965 graduate of Loma Linda University School of Medicine in California. In 1970, Jack began a practice of medicine in Lodi, and for the next 36 years he served as a leader in medical practice and medical facilities growth in the broader Lodi area. He played a key leadership role in the acquisition of numerous medical service buildings in Lodi, Tracy, Manteca, and

Modesto in California. Jack was the president of the San Joaquin Medical Society; a Board member of the Hospice of San Joaquin; and he served on the boards of Lodi Academy, and the Fairmont Seventh-day Adventist Church. Jack was predeceased by his wife, Jaquilyn; by his parents, Cleo and Virgil Gilliland; by his brother, Darrel (Bub); and by his close friend, C. Robert Breckenridge. He is survived by his daughter, Melissa Gilliland Frank; by his sons, Goeffrey Gilliland, Michael Schenone, and Ryan Schenone; and by seven grandchildren.

Weiland Alexander Henry, Jr., '44, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, and a businessman, died on February 11, 2005, in Santa Rosa, CA. He was born in Hot Springs, NC, on July 15, 1923. After his graduation from PUC with a degree in theology, Weiland was employed as a singing evangelist in Oklahoma. He then served as a minister in Northern California, and, then named pastor of the Santa Rosa Seventh-day Adventist church. During his Santa Rosa pastorate, he designed and built a new church home, even as he did when he was pastor of the Sacramento Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, CA. Returning to Santa Rosa in 1971, Weiland and his wife, Lois, opened and managed a convalescent hospital, and a home residential care facility. Weiland is survived by his wife, Lois Margarette (Stump), and by their four sons, Weiland III, Bryan, Ric, and Doug.

Christina “Christie” B. Silverio-Hao, ’62, a business-woman, died on September 6, 2024, in Sebastopol, CA. She was born on March 3, 1944. Christina served as a nurse for 28 years before transitioning to the role of an administrator and owner of a residential care facility for the elderly. She was a very active member of the Filipino Community of Sonoma County and was a featured singer in numerous churches and on holiday occasions. Christina is survived by her husband, and by a brother.

Patricia “Patti” (Butler) Hopmann, ’61, the wife of Tom Hopmann, former PUC Vice President for Financial Administration, died on October 29, 2025, in Placerville, CA. She is survived by her husband, Thomas N. Hopann, who died on November 7, 2025; and by her daughters, Juliana L. Tam, and Jennifer L. Rieseberg.

Gail Evan Imthurn, ’76, a former missionary, died on January 2, 2026, in Angwin, CA. She was born on April 1, 1955. Gail served the Seventh-day Adventist church in Singapore for several years before returning to the United States and residing in Angwin. She was a member of the PUC Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years. Her church activities included service as information desk attendant, piano playing for children’s Sabbath School; and memberships on the church’s Finance, and Handbook committees. Gail is survived by her brothers, Carl, Paul, and George Imthurn.

Richard Norman Lee, ’59, a retired dentist, died on October 1, 2025, in Sharpsburg, GA. He was born on October 5, 1937, in Croswell, MI. Richard was raised in St. Helena, CA, and after his graduation from PUC he achieved his dental degree from Loma Linda University’s School of Dentistry in California. In 1963, he moved to Georgia and established his dental practice in the town of Hapeville, a practice that continued there for 42 years. In 2005 he relocated his practice to Lake Oconee, GA. Returning to Sharpsburg in 2015, he continued his practice there until his retirement in 2022. Richard’s life work beyond dentistry included trucking, timber, and firefighting. Friendship making during these activities encouraged many to consider dentistry as a career. Richard is survived by his wife, Karen Lee; by his children, Jill and Jason; by his four grandchildren; by his sister, Mary Lynne Shaw; and by his brother, Pastor Donald Lee.

George M. Lessard, ’62, ’64, ’72, an Emeritus Professor of Dental Education Services of Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, died on January 5, 2026, in Loma Linda, CA. He was born on September 27, 1939, in San Jose, CA. In addition to his three degrees from PUC, George earned a Ph.D. from the University of Riverside in 1973. In addition to holding numerous faculty and School of Dentistry appointments, George’s community activities included serving as a commissioner on the Redlands Airport Advisory Board in California. He is survived by his wife, Joanne.

James (Jim) Meyers, ’56, a long-time Seventh-day Adventist church volunteer, died on October 16, 2025, in Rancho Cordova, CA. He was born on June 20, 1927. Serving as a U.S. Army combat medic in the Korean War, Jim was wounded and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal. His church service included more than 25 years as Head Deacon of the Carmichael Adventist Church, CA, and for more than 20 years he was the Pathfinder leader at both the Carmichael and the Orangevale Adventist churches. In retirement he was a volunteer for the Amazing Facts International ministry. Jim is survived by his daughter Shelley Kramer; by his son, John; by four grandchildren, and by five great-grandchildren.

Joan “Joani” G. Moss, ’75, died on June 14, 2024, in Baker County, ID. She was born on January 2, 1944. Joan lived in Boise, ID. She is survived by her husband; by her daughter; and by her grandchildren.

Doris Elaine Owens, ’42, died on October 12, 2025, in Lodi, CA. She was born on July 12, 1921, in Los Angeles, CA. Doris married Lloyd L. Owens on June 28, 1942, in Hanford, CA. They were married for 77 years. Doris was a very active member of the English Oaks Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lodi. She was predeceased by her husband, Lloyd L. Owens; by her sons, James Owens and Thomas Owens; by her parents, Louis and Beulah Hansen; and by her sister,

Nadine Ball. Doris is also survived by her brother, Wesley Hansen, and by many nieces and nephews.

Julie Lee Anne Pearce, ’62, ’65, the former chairperson and dean of the PUC School of Nursing, died on August 7, 2025, in Colton, CA. She was born on November 11, 1940.

Angel Uriel Perez, ’71, an X-ray technologist, died on September 24, 2025, in Yuma, AZ. He was born on January 9, 1939, in Guayama, Puerto Rico. In the several Seventh-day Adventist churches in which he held membership through the years, Angel served as a chorister and as a deacon. Angel is survived by his wife, Carol; by his children, Linda Perez Smith, Ruth Perez Hodge, and Allen Perez; by eight granddaughters; and by three great-grandchildren. His son, Angel Perez Jr., died 10 days after his death.

Sophia Poulos, ’47, died on December 3, 2025, in Whittier, CA. She was born on September 3, 1925, in Salinas, CA. With her husband, Nick Poulos, Sophia was a pioneer Seventh-day Adventist missionary for eight years in Greece, a difficult country to serve in due to the pervasive power of an entrenched religion. In Greece, Sophia introduced children’s Sabbath School classes in all Adventist churches in the country, and, together, she and Nick pioneered youth camps and Pathfinder Clubs. Very active in every church of which she was a member, Sophia co-authored three mission story books while in her 90s: *The Unorthodox Orthodox*; *Choices: Where*

He Leads; and *RX: Laughter*. Sophia is survived by her children, Elaine Poulos Valles, and Nicholas Poulos; by eight grandchildren, and by five great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Roberts, ’69, died on September 1, 2025, in Loma Linda, CA. She was born on May 31, 1947, in National City, CA. Marilyn is survived by her sister, Judy Mohr.

Richard Morris Rush, ’61, a retired physician, died on February 27, 2026, in Manhattan, MT. He was born on August 10, 1937, in Santa Maria, CA. Several of Richard’s early years were spent in Saudi Arabia, where his father was employed in the oil industry. After graduation from PUC, Richard studied at and graduated from medical school in Guadalajara, Mexico. He practiced medicine in several locations before settling in Worland, WY, where he was a community physician in the late 1970’s and 1980’s. He concluded his medical career as an emergency room physician in Banner the Banner Health Hospital in Worland. Richard was predeceased by his parents; by his former wife, Deborah Featherstone-Rush; and by his children, Michelle Rush-Amaya, Cheri Rush-Cheff, Richard Rush Jr., and Trey Rush. He is survived by his former wife, Barbara Rush; by his nine grandchildren; by several great-grandchildren; and by his brother, C.D. Rush.

Lewis A. Shipowick, ’62, died January 30, 2025 in Gladstone, OR. He was born on February 1, 1927, in Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada.

He is survived by his wife, Eugenia (Huges Greenlaw) Shipowick; by his daughter, Lora (Greenlaw) Thornton; by his sons, Stephen, David, Brice and Lyndon Shipowick, and Bryan Greenlaw; by 13 grandchildren and by 13 great-grandchildren.

Mary Jane Tait (nee Terry), ’67, ’68, a retired nurse and minister’s associate, died in Fredericksburg, TX, on September 14, 2025. She was born in Visalia, CA, on December 17, 1946. Raised in a boys’ military school where her father was employed, Mary married Myron Tait in Oakland, CA, while she was a student of nursing and theology at PUC. Their life together included post-college advanced theological training for Myron, nursing staff and leadership positions for Mary, and years of caring for numerous church pastorates in Wyoming, Colorado, and California. Their retirement years found them living in Texas. Mary is survived by her son, John; by her daughter Faye Louise McKenzie; and by her grandson, Perry.

Glenn Willhelm, ’56, a Seventh-day Adventist educator, died on November 26, 2025, in San Diego, CA. He was born on September 27, 1928, in Mena, AR. Glenn was an accountant and teacher at Rio Lindo Academy in California, and at Columbia College in Takoma Park, MD. He is survived by his daughters, Lisa Willhelm Cooney, an attorney with the San Diego Superior Court, and Carol Willhelm, and by two grandchildren.

Joseph (Joe) L. Wheeler, ’59, ’63, an educator and the author of more than 100 books, died on December 16, 2025, in Annapolis, MD. He was born on May 30, 1936, in St. Helena, CA. Best known for his Christmas in My Heart series of books, Joe spent 34 years teaching at the junior high, high school, junior college, college, and university levels, sharing his passion for storytelling which was ignited during his student days at PUC. Joe was an emeritus professor of English at Washington Adventist University; general editor of Focus on the Family; and co-founder and executive director of the international Zane Grey’s West Society. His Great Stories Remembered series received Family Television’s highest honor, the Seal of Quality, and Christmas in My Heart was a finalist for the Christian Bookseller Association Gold Medallion award. Joe was widely regarded as one of America’s leading short-story anthologists. Combined, his books have sold more than 1.5 million copies. The late Dr. James Dobson, founder of “Focus on the family,” called Wheeler “America’s Keeper of the Story” when his 100th book was published. Joe is survived by his wife, Connie; by his daughter Michelle Wheeler Culmore; by his son, Greg; by two grandsons; by his sister, Marjorie Raymond; and by his brother, Romyne.

Annette Jeanne (Jicha) Young, ’50s, a musician and music educator, died on December 14, 2025, in Arcata, CA. She was born in Arcata

on February 20, 1932. After graduating from PUC with a degree in music education, Annette began her teaching career at Willows Creek Elementary School. She married Vernon Young, a fellow teacher at the school. In addition to their teaching, the couple owned and operated a fruit farm, famed for the quality of its fruits. From 1955 to 2007 she taught mostly private piano, organ, and voice lessons, and musically participated in many other music-related occasions. She helped start the Music Teachers Association of California – Humboldt County Division; and was involved with the American Guild of Organists, serving for years as its Dean and Secretary. She was also a lifetime member of the Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9561. She served as organist, pianist, and choir director for the Arcata McKinleyville Seventh-day Adventist Church. Annette was predeceased by her husband, Vernon V. Young; by her parents, Vencil Francis Jicha and Lois Lorraine McNeil Jicha; and by her sisters, Edna Jicha Irland and Adrienne Jicha Young. She is survived by her children, Dale Young, Donald Young, and Deanna Albright Young; and by five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Michael A. Youngberg, ’82, a software engineer, died on June 30, 2025, in San Bruno, CA. He was born on March 15, 1960, in San Jose, CA. Michael’s work as a software engineer led to his becoming the Vice President of Software Development at Sy-

nacom Technology, a Silicon Valley-based company that specializes in mobile phone systems. During his work at Synacom, Michael pioneered technology that made wire-less roaming possible across different mobile networks. After retirement, he became an every-day philanthropist, putting five-dollar bills into the hands of scores, if not hundreds, of street people. Mike co-founded the Hillside Community Church of South San Francisco, CA. He also became a prison chaplain, giving Bible studies to prisoners who requested them. Michael is survived by his wife, Sharon, who he married on June 21, 1981. He is also survived by his three sons, Jonathan, Joshua, and Joash; and by three grandchildren.

ATTENDED

John W. Kizziar II, Att. '60s, a former missionary and retired dentist, died in Hayfork, CA, on January 12, 2026. He was born in 1942 in Bakersfield, CA. Following his graduation from Loma Linda University's School of Dentistry in California, John and his wife, Linda, served as medical missionaries in Okinawa, Japan, from 1967 to 1974. He established a dental practice in Hayfork, CA, that continued for more than 50 years. John led the Pathfinder Club of the Hayfork Seventh-day Adventist Church for four decades. He also served as president of the Hayfork Cemetery Association. John was predeceased by Linda. He is survived by his wife, Shellie; by his children, Adam,

John, Karin, Matthew, and Ron; by his six grandchildren; and by his sister, Joyce.

Jim Manning, Att. '60s, died on September 16, 2025, in Riverside, CA. He was born on June 10, 1943, in Grants Pass, OR. Jim is survived by his daughters, Lynette Lewis and J'Leen Saeger; by siblings, Janet Margart, Alice Seiber, and Darrel Manning; and by five grandchildren.

Sandra (Sannie) Breaux, Att. '70s, a nurse and missionary to the Navajo Nation, died on August 20, 2025, in Fredericksburg, VA. She was born on April 7, 1958, in Portland, OR. Sandra did her pre-nurse's training at PUC, after attending several secondary schools, including the Monument Valley School on the Navajo reservation in Utah. Sandra earned her nursing diploma from the School of Nursing of Bismarck State College in North Dakota. Along with her parents and sisters, she served as a nurse and worked at other duties at the Monument Valley Adventist Mission and Hospital, in Rock Door Canyon, UT, service for which she served as an honorary member of the Navajo Nation. Sandra was preceded in death by her father, Harold Harrison. She is survived by her husband, Ralph Breaux; by her mother, Wanda Peterson; by her sons, Asa and Heath Barstad; by her sister, Marie Ogle; by her four stepchildren; and by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Vincent Dahunan Verzosa, Att. '70s, died on September 5, 2022, in Santa Rosa, CA. He was born in San Francisco, CA, on October 27, 1957. Vincent attended San Francisco Junior Academy and Monterey Bay Academy before enrolling at PUC.

Richard Theus Rogers, Att. '80s, a businessman, died in San Jose, CA, on January 2, 2026. He was born on May 15, 1963, in San Jose. Richard was the sales manager of a group of teenagers selling candy door-to-door, before he formed "Just Windows," a window cleaning business. Later, with his wife, Janet, he added janitorial services in their "Just Facilities Services" company. Richard is survived by his wife Janet Little; by his mother, Juanita Macaron; and by his sister, Donna Chaffin.

Ina Tichenor, Att., a retired real estate broker and manager, died on January 23, 2026, in Las Vegas, NV. She was born on September 6, 1939, in Miami, FL. After completing her education, Ina returned to Clark County, NV, in 1976, where she sold real estate for nearly 50 years. She spent most of her career as a manager and broker for various real estate companies in Clark County. Later, she partnered with her sister, Caroline Hansen, for the remaining 15 years of her career, retiring from Legions Realty in Battleground, WA, in 2019. Ina is survived by her daughters, Angela Hammond, and Pamela Tichenor; by her sons,

James Linford, and Theron Karrick; by two grandchildren; and by her sister, Suzanne Meyer.

Barbara Ivanette Roskott Gitter-Hanson, Att., died in March 2025. She was born in 1955.

Maurice Woods, Sr., Att., an entrepreneur, died in Cripple Creek, CO, on February 28, 2026. He was born in Los Angeles, CA. Maurice graduated from Glendale Adventist Academy and studied at Walla Walla University before enrolling at PUC. A veteran of the U.S. Army service, he settled in Cripple Creek in 1991 after having worked for, and then starting a motor home manufacturing company in California. He lived there for 55 years, purchasing, building, renovating and operating businesses of various kinds. He became a vigorous advocate of tourism for Cripple Creek. Maurice is survived by his wife, Doris; by his daughter, Sandra; and by his son, Maurice Woods, Jr.

Editorial Note: *Reflections*, the journal of the retirement office of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, lists the following Pacific Union College alumni as having died recently:

Melvin L. Axt, '54; James E. Brackett, Att. '50; Jerry Cravey, '66; Sylvia Ellis, '59; Donna Fisher, '66; Cheryl Griffith, '02; Milton Kendrick, '75; Jerry C. Prouty, '72; Manuel C. Rodriguez, '05; Darlene Williams, '57.

New Life from an Old Grave

by Jim Wibberding

My shoe strikes something hard and flat in the ashen dirt. I kick crushed leaves aside, then brush the dirt away. It's not him. A family of deer watches through the mid-morning chill as we disrupt their tranquil cemetery, inspecting headstones. "W. S. Kellogg." Closer. "Francis Elizabeth Kellogg." Still no "Merritt Gardner Kellogg."

I've been after this grave for three years. Some say it's lost to history. A year ago, I found an obituary listing Oak Mound Cemetery in Healdsburg, CA, but the office said, "No card on file for a Merritt Kellogg."

Why does Merritt matter to me? It's not about corn flakes or John Harvey Kellogg. He matters because his gritty voice was the first to preach my Adventist faith in California—and he spent half a century expanding its reach. He was a pioneer. We need pioneers.

The story begins with a 26-year-old Merritt heading west with his wife and three kids. Before leaving Jackson, MI, he bought two pairs of new shoes. As he walked beside his oxen, the wooden pegs holding the soles on his shoes fell out, one by one. He walked hundreds of miles barefoot, but he reached California.

That pioneering spirit ran in his family. His father ran a station on the Underground Railroad. His stepmother, Ann Stanley, took on five stepchildren at 18 and turned their fortunes around. In 1859, Merritt, Louisa, and their three kids reached San Francisco, where he shared his faith in the fading glint of the Gold Rush.

It feels personal to me. Merritt preached my Adventist faith in the same region where I now train Adventist preachers. That stirs me deeply. It's a big part of my drive to find his grave.

I look up from my work to check in with my daughter, Kara, and my brother, Lonnie. They offered to help me try this again this Sabbath morning. "Find anything yet?" They shake their heads. I climb over a fallen oak, peer through gnarled branches, then clamber deeper into the woods toward more collapsed monuments. Maybe he bought a hilltop plot. Maybe Adventist frugality meant a simple



Merritt G. Kellogg's grave with a new headstone at Oak Mound Cemetery in Healdsburg, California.

stone. I steady myself on the uneven hillside to peel back layers on another buried headstone.

When they came west, the movement was so new it had no name yet. Merritt was a farmer turned carpenter, but when he preached, 14 people accepted the Adventist message. For seven years, he urged Battle Creek leaders to send evangelists. Eventually, the Loughboroughs and Bourdeaus came. Even with help, Merritt didn't slow down. He redoubled his mission work. Over five decades, he started churches, built hospitals, served as a doctor on the missionary ship Pitcairn, and more.

"Hey, guys, I found something," Lonnie calls. It is a tiny white stone that reads, "M. G. K. 1833-1921." Close. Maybe close enough.

I waited until Monday to call the caretaker at the cemetery. I give Sarah the grave's location, and she promises to call back with excitement in her voice: "You found it!"

There's a card in the catalog now, and we dedicated a new headstone with Merritt's name on it in November 2025.

Does it matter? It feels like it does. I think God helped us find it. Why? I believe God wants us to remember that Merritt's mission, our mission, still matters. 🌿



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