

CAMPUS LIFE

After 30 years at Pacific Union College's Copy Center, Bob Wilson is preparing for retirement. Known for his reliability and relationships with students and staff, Wilson leaves behind a legacy.

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COMMUNITY

In a college town with few affordable dining options, Azteca's has become more than a restaurant for PUC students. For many, it is a routine, a gathering place, and a small reminder of home.

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STUDENT LIFE

PUC student volunteers respond to emergencies ranging from medical calls to wildfires while balancing school and daily life. Through training and service, many find experience, purpose, and a close-knit community.

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The Man Behind the Press

By Sebastian Alvarez

For over three decades, the rhythmic hum of the printing press has served as the heartbeat of the Pacific Union College Copy Center. At the center of it has been Bob Wilson, a man whose career has been defined by precision, patience, and a commitment to the campus community. This July, after 30 years of service, the mailroom and Copy Center will be forever changed as Wilson prepares for his well-earned retirement.

Wilson joined the Copy Center in the summer of 1995, navigating the transition from flash technology to high-speed digital printing. To many faculty and staff, Bob was more than just "the Copy Center guy," he was a master problem-solver who could turn a last-minute request into a polished final product.

"The biggest change I've seen is the internet," said Wilson. "Looks-wise, it's almost the same, but the addition of high-speed printing has been the biggest shift. Instead of handpicking typos, I only have to click the mouse a few times and it's ready in a few minutes."

Beyond the technical demands of the job, Wilson's legacy is found in the relationships he's built with faculty, staff,

students, and community members. Generations of student workers have passed through the Copy Center doors, learning not just the mechanics of the printers, but about Wilson's life and the challenges he's faced.

"I'm going to miss the students the most," Wilson said. "Interacting with them each and every day has helped me stay young in



this high-demand job." As Bob prepares to clock out for the final time in July 2026, he will leave behind a department that bears his mark in every corner. While he looks forward to a slower pace of life, the PUC community will feel the absence of the man who kept the college running, one print job at a time.

FROM THE EDITOR

It is a natural human instinct to want a legacy—to know we made a difference in some way, somewhere.

To those of you graduating and moving on: you have. Whether your impact feels small in the grand scope of PUC’s history or whether you helped shape this place in more tangible ways, your presence mattered. You leave behind a legacy.

As you go on to pursue what’s next, do so with pride. Remember the challenges, the frustrations, and the growth you experienced here—and, in time, I hope you look back on it all with appreciation.

In a world where we constantly see the accomplishments of others, do not get lost in comparison. That phone screen may keep your attention, but do not let it dictate your journey. There will always be someone who got a better grade, answered a question better, or wrote a stronger essay.

Theodore Roosevelt put it best: “Comparison is the thief of joy.”

Focus instead on becoming better than you were yesterday, and you will find joy in the process.

Whether you were here for one year or five, the most meaningful change that took place was within you. Your perspective evolved. That is what lasts.

As you get that one last rainy-day acai bowl, walk the overly loud stairs in Irwin, or spend your final late night at the Grind, carry those moments with you into whatever comes next. And remember: that perspective is always yours to shape.



CALEB KAST
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

COMMUNITY

A Modest Proposal for More Squirrels

By Isaac Baek

Walking around Pacific Union College, one can see a range of wildlife—from lizards to earthworms to the occasional deer—but most importantly, squirrels. They can often be seen dashing up and down trees and almost always away from people. But what if we, as a campus community, could change that?

The Western gray squirrel, or *Sciurus griseus*, appears to be the most common squirrel species on campus. Over time, squirrels can become less fearful of people through slow and careful interaction, such as feeding them unsalted nuts still in their shells.

The goal should not be to fully tame the squirrels. Instead, it could be to improve the campus atmosphere. Imagine walking to class and seeing a

squirrel calmly watching from a tree branch, or a small feeding station where squirrels occasionally gather peacefully. The idea is not to domesticate wildlife, but to make these animals a more visible and natural part of campus life.

“The goal should not be to fully tame the squirrels. Instead, it could be to improve the campus atmosphere.”

PUC already has large conifers, flowers, and plenty of greenery. Encouraging more small wildlife activity could make the environment feel even more lively.

Anything larger than squirrel-sized animals could become dangerous in one way or another, so focusing on smaller wildlife would be a safer way to add more variety to campus scenery.

So what could be done? PUC could start by setting up small feeding stations in areas students frequently walk through. Over time, animals may grow more accustomed to human activity, making encounters more common during walks to and from class.

To support the idea, students could contact Student Life and advocate for designated wildlife feeding stations around campus.

STUDENT LIFE

First Stop, Last Stop:
How Azteca’s Became a Student Institution

By Lilia Albert

Nestled in St. Helena and a short drive from Pacific Union College, Azteca’s Market has quietly become a go to food spot in the student community, where food options are scarce. There is no fast food for miles, and most nearby restaurants carry price tags that make a student’s wallet weep. Azteca’s, however, tends to fill that gap. Whether it’s a celebratory meal after graduation, a study-break burrito, or a pick-me-up after a rough exam, Azteca’s has embedded itself into the routine of student life.

For Irvin, executive manager at Azteca’s, connection to students runs deeper than just business. “I understand what it means as a student and as a Latino to find that comfort food,” he explained, a perspective stemming from his own time at Sacramento State. “It especially gets busy during graduation week,” he said. “A lot of students come here after graduation and say it was their first stop and their last stop” Students from Southern California frequently tell him they wish they had a place like this back home. “When you’re having a bad day and you just want a good burrito, I understand that.”

Ari Ward explains that Azteca’s is more than a lunch spot for PUC students. “I’ve been there with a lot of different people for a lot of different reasons — celebrating canceled classes, or after a hard lab, or just for food when the cafeteria isn’t edible.” She calls it a “pick-me-up” on hard days, and a gathering place. “I would definitely recommend it to other students — I have recommended it, and I always put them on.”

Some students find Azteca’s through the

“I cannot function as a college student without Azteca’s.”



Aztecas PC: Caleb Kast

people closest to them. Taylor Hatch learned about it from his friend—now he makes the trip at least once a week. When asked what keeps him coming back, he answered “The price.” For sophomore Diego Mariano, it’s not a preference, but a necessity: “I cannot function as a college student without Azteca’s.”

“Many will tell me if they’re having a bad day or if they are stressed for a test,” Irvin emphasized.. “It’s enjoyable to see them come in here despite having a hard day. It’s the highlight of my day.” When asked what it means to him and his staff to have become a home away from home for students, a smile crossed his face before he even answered: “It means the world to me.”

For students navigating the stress of exams, the monotony of campus dining, and the homesickness that comes

with being far from family, Azteca’s offers something that keeps a lot of students coming back.



Tacos From Aztecas PC: Lilia Albert

COMMUNITY

Men’s Ministry: Brokenness to Belonging

By Micheal Madla

After months of prayers, planning, and many interviews, PUC has officially launched its Men’s Ministry. Its mission? To build a sense of belonging and brotherhood for men through all parts of their journey and walks of life. With newly appointed director James Park, the ministry aims to create a safe space for men to find support and connection, with others who have a drive and desire for spiritual growth.

Chaplain Arturo Lopez has longed for a ministry catered to college men, and now there is a group of men who are willing to carry out this project. “There is a resurgence of young people wanting to get involved,”Lopez explains. While safe spaces are already being made for some, the mission now is to offer and make those spaces accessible to all men. Lopez makes one thing exceptionally clear: this

is a fully student-led project.

Students like James Park are placed in positions to reach other students with similar struggles of fear, vulnerability, and support. Park provides a student’s perspective on the needs of men at PUC. In his eyes, there is brokenness all around, and that brokenness affects the journey of men. He desires to show young men that they can walk with Christ and to abolish the idea that they need to be perfect before coming to God.

Through the Men's Ministry, many will taste and see. James wants to show men “there are no unique struggles.” He hopes men ask what their lives may look like with God. “If other young men see other young men, it will give them the confidence to be faithful, bold, and outspoken,” he states. Even if one may not initially desire to encounter Christ,

the mission remains to create a community for men to open up and share their stories.Whether it be planned camping trips or spontaneous late night talks. Ultimately, James wants men to know, “Whether or not you may see it, there is someone out there that loves you.”

Men’s Ministry is a movement toward openness, faith, and brotherhood where men reshape their views on themselves and each other, creating belonging amidst brokenness. Through student leadership, support systems are being developed and outreach is being planned to bring men together with similar struggles, desires, and questions. Through this ministry, men will take steps from brokenness toward restoration, a journey that does not need to be done alone.

COMMUNITY

First Stringers: PUC's String Quartet

By Anneliese Luxton

At Pacific Union College, a lesser-known musical group on campus is not even an official ensemble. A small yet entirely student-led string quartet made up of sophomores Derek, Jenny Beck, Elena Blum, and Angela has formed a strong presence within the student body through their shared passion for music and community.

What makes their story especially compelling is not just their talent, but also how unexpectedly and naturally the group came together—and what it says about student leadership on campus. The quartet formed almost entirely by accident. The four students were originally brought together for what was expected to be a one-time wedding performance. Although the event ultimately did not happen, the group collectively decided to continue playing together.

Over time, that decision strengthened both their friendship and their chemistry as musicians, something that becomes clear

when they describe rehearsals. “Practice is actually kind of fun,” Jenny said. “Half of the time we’re just yapping about how our day went, and then the other half we’re locked in.”

Beyond rehearsals, the quartet’s role on campus extends into the wider community, especially through performances at PUC Church. Derek described the experience as something deeper than simply performing for an audience. “It’s not for the performance of it all,” he said. “It’s all for God’s mission of community and love and for bringing people together.”

His perspective highlights how the group views music not as a way to gain recognition, but as a way to contribute to something larger than themselves. In many ways, their performances strengthen the connection between the church and the campus community at PUC.

The group’s motivation ultimately comes from a shared passion for music rather

“Half of the time we're just yapping about how our day went, and then the other half we're locked in.”

than an obligation to perform. Jenny emphasized that they all “do it purely for the love of the game.”

Their story serves as a reminder that meaningful opportunities on campus do not always come from official ensembles or student organizations. Sometimes, they begin with a simple decision to collaborate and take initiative. By becoming more aware of student-led groups like this one, other students may feel inspired to create communities of their own. The quartet’s story reflects how much of campus life can grow from students simply choosing to come together and create something meaningful.

STUDENT LIFE

From Campus to Crisis Calls: A Unique Job at PUC

By Jaylyn Drennon and Yatyn Anderson

At Station 18 of the Angwin Volunteer Fire Department, part of Napa County Fire, student volunteers manage school, work, and training while serving others.

For Eden Salazar, the decision to join began during a visit to Pacific Union College where she met the chief who told her about the chance to volunteer while attending school. Salazar originally came for the English program, but the opportunity to learn while serving the community stood out to her.

Connor Phillips came to PUC for nursing, and after realizing it wasn’t the right fit, entered the EMT program.During his first quarter, he saw an ad encouraging students to volunteer. What started as an opportunity became the career path he wanted to follow.

“Emergencies range from medical calls to flooding, cats stuck in trees, wildland fires, structure fires, and more.” Salazar explained. Volunteers work alongside CAL FIRE crews and ambulances. The public often doesn’t see a difference between volunteer and paid firefighters—they are all firefighters arriving to help.

The biggest difference between the two is scheduling;paid firefighters work set shifts, while volunteers respond whenever they are needed. Many volunteers live, study, work, and attend church in Angwin, and are often on call



Firefighters putting out a fire PC: Eden Salazar

while on the hill. When alarms go off through pagers, phones, or the station, they run to the rig and respond.

Why volunteer? Phillips and Salazar say experience is one of the biggest rewards. Frequent training, local service, and real calls give them hands-on experience for the careers they hope to pursue.

Beyond experience, both said helping people is the most meaningful part of the job. While it can be emotionally draining to meet people on

their worst days, it is ultimately rewarding because they can support others and help.

Through training and responding together, volunteers build friendships and a family-like environment. Many of the people they work with have become some of their closest friends.

Training is a major part of preparing for calls. The academy lasts five months with sessions on Wednesdays and Sundays, plus extra training days. Volunteers learn about gear, fire attack, ladders, pumps, vehicle rescues, and wildland firefighting.

Medical training is also important because many calls involve emergencies. They practice assessments, patient care, and drills to stay ready. Physical fitness is another key part of training, especially for wildfire season. Volunteers hike with packs, work out, and train regularly.

Balancing firefighting with school, work, family, and friends can be difficult. Both Salazar and Phillips described it as a juggling act, but the support and friendships at the station make the hard work worth it.

Phillips and Salazar show that volunteering is more than answering calls. It is about training, teamwork, and helping others.

“Emergencies range from medical calls to flooding, cats stuck in trees, wildland fire, structure fires and more.”

STUDENT LIFE

ACA in France: 10 Years in The Making



Anna in Paris PC: Anna Ramos

By Caleb Kast

For those who know Anna Ramos, her ending up in France feels less like a surprise and more like destiny. Years before she ever applied for the Adventist Colleges Abroad program, Ramos was already captivated by French culture. She studied the language on her own, dreamed about Paris and even discovered the school she now attends nearly a decade before arriving there.

“It was very humbling, the kids were better at fractions and French than I was.”

“I always wanted to speak French,” Ramos said. “I started with Rosetta Stone, and then my dad was like, ‘Girl, learn English. And then you can learn French.’” Today, Ramos is studying near the Swiss border, where her days are filled with language classes, train rides across Europe and frequent trips to a local kebab shop. Which she jokingly credits for keeping her emotionally stable. Beyond the food, Ramos said adapting to life abroad pushed her outside her comfort zone. She worked with second-grade students as part of an internship, where children often corrected her French pronunciation during reading activities. “It was very humbling,” she said. “The kids were better at fractions and French than I was.” Ramos also traveled throughout Europe during school breaks, visiting cities like Paris, Lyon and parts of Spain. When asked if there was a story she’d share for 20 years after this trip, Ramos recalled a trip to Paris when she and her friends narrowly avoided being robbed in a train station. Despite moments of homesickness and cultural adjustment, Ramos said the experience helped her grow personally and encouraged her to become more independent. “You learn so much about yourself when you’re out of your comfort zone,” she said. “I would absolutely recommend ACA to other students.” As her time in France comes to an end, Ramos said she will miss the friendships, the travel and even the long walks into town. Just maybe not the cafeteria food. Ultimately, for a student who once only imagined France through movies and language lessons, the experience became everything she hoped for: challenging, unforgettable and entirely her own.

STUDENT LIFE

Creators Lab

By Jaylyn Drennon

From May 1–3, Creators’ Lab brought together students, creators, and professionals at the Holden Event Center near Portland, Oregon. The event focused on storytelling, creativity, and connection. Pacific Union College was represented by Professor Hargrove, myself, Jaylyn Drennon (junior), Fabiola Ixcot (senior), Patricia Simamora (senior), and Ashley Castro Rodriguez (senior). Throughout the weekend, attendees had the opportunity to hear from a variety of influential speakers and media creators. One featured guest was Kaleb Eisele, producer of *Bridges Over Walls* and executive producer of Creators’ Lab. Eisele shared insights from his experience interviewing more than 1,000 people and producing cross-cultural media that encourages understanding and human connection. We also heard from Kat Armas, author of *Abuelita Faith* and *Liturgies for Resisting Empire*, who spoke about wisdom, resilience, and community. Another memorable speaker was Everett Patterson, who discussed how creativity and visual storytelling can make biblical narratives feel fresh and approachable to modern audiences. “Creators lab gave us the opportunity to make real life connections rather than just sharing our LinkedIn.” Ashley said. Additional presentations came from Kevin Wilson, Benjamin Lundquist, and Eunice Reyes. Each speaker brought unique perspectives on leadership, creativity, media, and personal growth.

“Creators lab gave us the opportunity to make real life connections rather than just sharing our LinkedIn.”



Jaylyn Fabiola Patricia and Ashley PC: Jaylyn Drennon



Jaylyn Fabiola Patricia and Professor Hargrove PC: Jaylyn Drennon

UPDATES

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