

ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE • SPECIAL EDITION





President's Message

Growing Through the "New"

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 65:17 NIV

In every issue of *ViewPoint*, it is our goal to update you on the latest news from campus and to let you know what's new with our extended Pacific Union College family. But in a year marked so drastically by a global pandemic, "new" hasn't always felt positive. Like most other schools, our campus has faced new challenges over the last several months: new guidelines, new routines, and new distance, all with new uncertainty.

Thankfully, challenge often leads to growth and PUC is blessed to have the kind of faculty and staff who are eager to embrace the opportunities and innovation that come with "new." With a campus united in serving our students, supporting one another, and keeping the focus on moving forward, we even defied higher education trends by achieving new success with our Fall 2020 enrollment numbers!

We have so much to share about how PUC has navigated the ups and downs of this new normal, we decided to devote this entire issue of *ViewPoint* to the COVID-19 experience. In the following pages, I am eager to share with you how our campus family has stepped up and responded over the last several months.

When we transitioned to online classes in March, our professors quickly established new ways of learning. Classrooms went virtual, face-to-face communication became screen-to-screen, and flexibility was critical as students and faculty adjusted to studying and instructing from home under stressful circumstances.

Outside of the virtual classroom, we also had to find new ways to connect with students and help them connect with each other. Moving on-campus activities online was not always easy, but meeting together through online Community services and nurturing students' spiritual lives through virtual

vespers and dorm worships made a difference in keeping the heart of campus alive.

We were even able to support our prospective students by inviting high school seniors to join an online class with us for free. Our admissions team also helped prospects experience PUC through virtual campus visits, online college fairs, and so much more.

One of my favorite things to share with you in this issue is the new way we found to celebrate the class of 2020 by throwing them a virtual graduation celebration. We kept all of our favorite traditions in place and honored our graduates with heartfelt dedication. But we also found ways to include a few fun surprises!

We are proud of the new ways we have found to respond to this crisis, but we are also excited about how much of what we have learned will stay with us as we move forward. Even when all of our students are able to return, we will continue to strive for "new" across our campus and in every classroom because we are committed to continuing to innovate and grow.

The engagement of every member of the PUC community has been vital to our success this year. I thank you for your prayers, your kind words, and for the generosity so many of you have shared to support students who have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Warm regards,

Dr. Robert A. Cushman, Jr.
President



Cover photo: Milbert Mariano, '91

STAFF

Executive Editor
Haley Wesley

Editor
Ashley Eisele

Managing Editor
Dana Negro, '10

Layout & Design
Heidi Lukowicz, '99
Carrie White, '11

Photographers
Milbert Mariano, '91
Bruno de Oliveira, '21,
Craig Philpott, '86, '98

Contributors
Hallie Anderson
Milbert Mariano, '91
Ron Reece, '77
J.R. Rogers, '07
Richie Silie

PUC ADMINISTRATION

President
Robert A. Cushman, Jr.

Vice President for Academic Administration
Milbert Mariano

Vice President for Financial Administration
Brandon C. Parker

Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing, & Communication
Gene Edelbach

Vice President for Alumni & Advancement
Kellie J. Lind

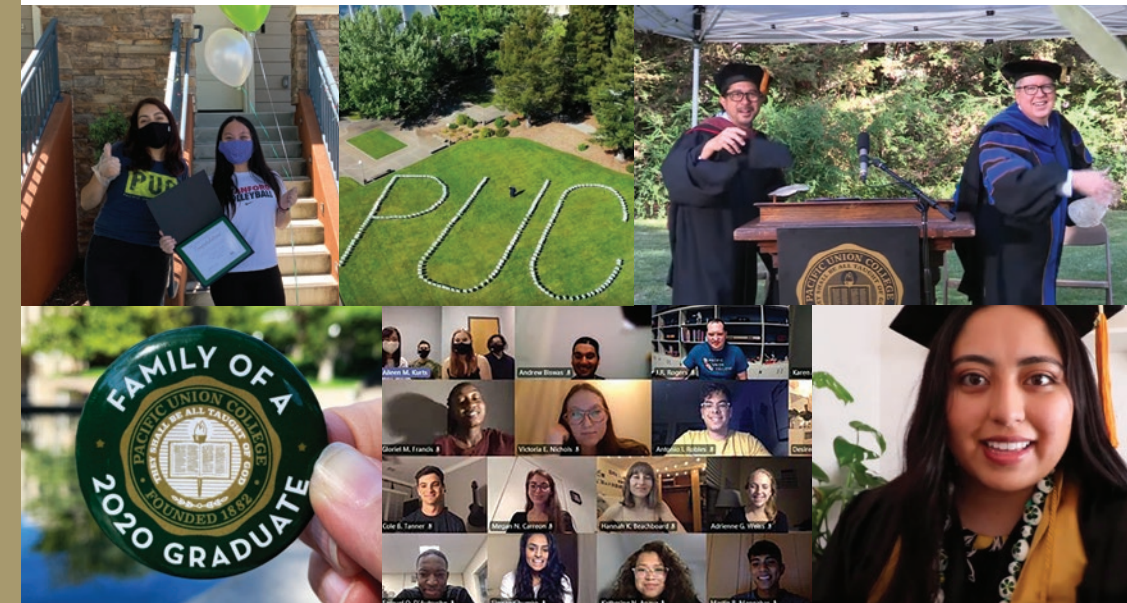
Vision Statement:
ViewPoint, the journal of Pacific Union College, connects PUC's alumni and friends in a community that celebrates the college's activities and stories, and supports the continuation of its mission into the future. *ViewPoint* aims to provide quality features about topics relevant to our community; news about the college and alumni; and means to unite, motivate, and inspire.

Produced by the Pacific Union College public relations office for the alumni and friends of the college.

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ViewPoint

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PUC GETS SOCIAL



@PUCnow #onePUC #PUCtogether



<< @PUCNow

The PUC faculty and staff took our traditional campus prayer walk to pray for all of our students who will be starting classes today. We'd love it if you'd share a prayer for our students as well! Regardless of where everyone may be, we remain #PUCtogether



@puc.edu/youtube

Pioneer Pete is getting a lesson about the importance of wearing masks, which are required on campus for everyone. Luckily, we can learn along with Pete and follow all the health and safety guidelines currently in place.



@Ellenbalk

The senior art show has been postponed, but the family had the privilege of attending Emily's private show set up in her own bedroom. It was an amazing display by a very talented artist. So proud of you Em!



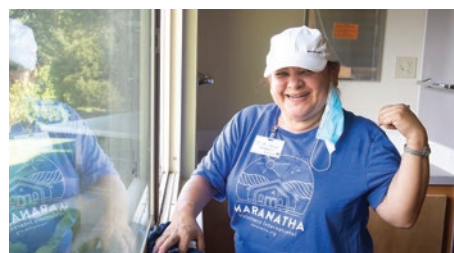
@PUCNow

How do you honor the years of hard work and dedication of your faculty and staff during shelter-in-place orders? You have a drive by party! Judging by the massive line of cars, we're all starting to miss each other.



@PUCNow

Meet our socially distanced brothers of Andre! 🍀 This quarter Andre Hall has temporarily turned into a men's residential hall so our on-campus students can practice social distancing.



@PUCNow

A huge thank you to Maranatha and all the volunteers for returning to PUC for a second summer to continue the Newton Hall refresh! 🍀💪 #Maranatha #NewtonHall



@pucsenate @puc.sa @PUCNow

SA Senate getting started for the 2020-2021 school year!!!



@PUCNow

Look at this stylish group of PUC alumni rocking this season's must-have accessory at the wedding of @arennacker and Paige Matsuda! 😊



@puc.edu/youtube

PUC's Vox Pro Musica presents The Light of a Clear Blue Morning (@dollyparton). Directed by the fabulous Jenelle Westerbeck Anderson. What a blessing these students are!



@PUCNow

This happened today! A huge thanks to Tony Hale (Arrested Development, Veep) for the time he spent with the department of visual arts at PUC today—sharing his experience of being an artist and a person of faith! Great reminder of all the good going on in the world, even in this time of uncertainty.



@PUCNow >>

PUC sent out care packages to each student welcoming them to a new year at PUC! #TogetherAtHeartThoughMilesApart



@PUCNow

PUC alum Jean Myung Kim receives a surprise from Jimmy Fallon! Thank you Jean for your tireless work giving back to your community! We are so proud!



@PUCNow

Even the @pucbiogps are wearing masks! Don't forget yours! 🍀

Learn about health and safety with Pioneer Pete, sing along with Vox Pro Musica, or choose from any number of worship videos by subscribing to our channel!

 **SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CHANNEL**
YOUTUBE.COM/PUCCOLLEGE

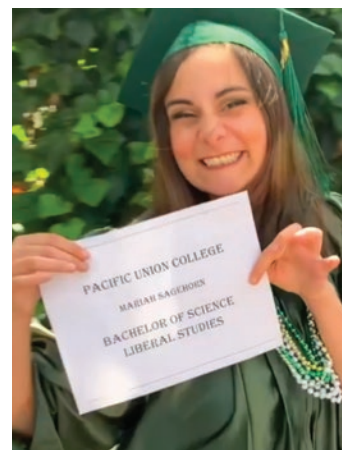
THE TORTILLAS STILL FLEW

A VIRTUAL GRADUATION FOR THE

CLASS OF 2020

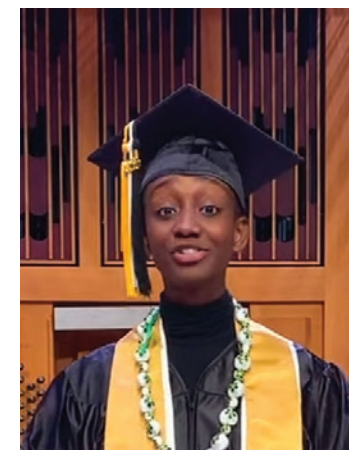
Early foggy mornings, sleeping on chairs to save seats for your friends and family, rushing to join the class photo, the scent of your flower lei, sending your tortilla through the air, and giving the Healdsburg Bell a ring. Graduation day is always one of the most exciting times on a college campus, and the memories that so many graduates have from their big day at Pacific Union College will last forever. While we couldn't mark graduation in person this year, we still celebrated the class of 2020 in the time-honored ways and did our best to make sure they didn't miss out on any of PUC's favorite traditions.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN IN THE FUN » CHECK OUT THE
CELEBRATION FOR YOURSELF AT » [PUC.EDU/GRADUATION](https://puc.edu/graduation)



SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT ADDRESS

Senior Class President Shekinah Francis brought every ounce of the intelligence, energy, and joy she's known for to challenge her classmates and PUC in her address.



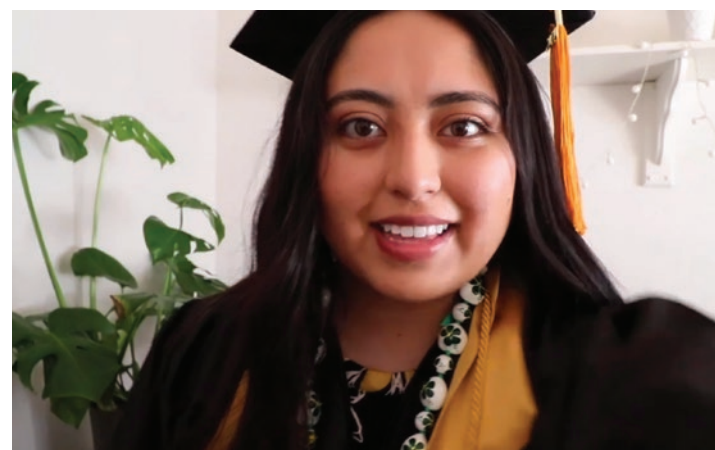
CAPTURING THE CLASS

The smiling faces were missing on campus, so we had to create some fun stand-ins for the traditional class photo. They were nowhere near as special as our graduates, but they kicked off the celebration with a pop!



WORDS OF WISDOM

Our graduates extended a virtual welcome to Pastor Timothy Gillespie, who shared wise words and a challenge for the future in his commencement address.



RECEIVING DIPLOMAS

Graduates couldn't accept their diplomas on stage this year, but they chose some very creative places to accept them instead. We loved seeing each and every one!



THEY WERE HERE

The presence of our graduates was still seen at Maxwell Commons. Each student was represented with a sign in their honor, making their mark at PUC's official graduation site.





SPECIAL MUSIC

Students and faculty shared their talent through beautiful music, lifting spirits, and providing endless inspiration through their songs.

LET THE TORTILLAS FLY

No distance is too far for the traditional tortilla toss! Graduates from near and far let their tortillas fly and shared the results with us.



PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT TRIBUTES

Faculty from departments across campus shared heartfelt tributes and rang the Healdsburg Bell in honor of their graduates to let them know how much they're loved by their PUC family.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

No PUC graduation is complete without warm words and best wishes from Dr. Cushman, president of PUC.



Chaplain

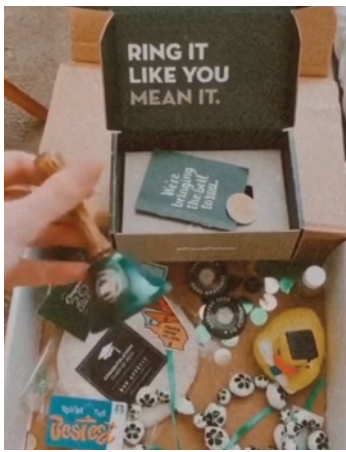
Congratulations
2020 GRADUATE

Yucabeth Bosibori Oyaro

B.S., Health Communication; A.S., Health Sciences
Minor in Religious Studies

RING IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT

Our alumni and advancement office packaged up the joy of ringing the Healdsburg Bell and delivered it straight to our graduates so they didn't miss out.



TRADITIONS TO KEEP

We couldn't bring an in-person ceremony to each graduate, so we did the next best thing and mailed them each a care package with some of our favorite PUC traditions and a few extra treats.

READING THE NAMES

Emotions ran high as every graduate's name was read live by Milbert Mariano, vice president for academic administration and academic dean, as part of the virtual event.



WELCOME TO ALUMNI

Graduation day doesn't just mark the end of college life as Kellie Lind, vice president of alumni and advancement, showed as she welcomed our newest alumni in style.



As you go on your way, we pray that you always
Learn with Purpose.
Rise in Faith.
Serve with Love.



“So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your
God. I will strengthen you and
help you; I will uphold you with my
righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10





Innovation Gets Personal

Meeting the Needs of the Virtual Prospective Student

Haley Wesley

Most businesses have felt the effects of this new environment we live in and have had to change and adapt to meet new challenges. Pacific Union College is no different. What hasn't changed is our love for Adventist higher education and our dedication to making sure every student knows the benefits of what we offer, not just as a four-year college experience but for a lifetime.

Normally, we get the opportunity to share this message by connecting with students through in-person visits and face-to-face

engagement. We meet them in their classrooms during school visits, welcome them to our campus during College Days events, answer their questions on-site at college fairs where we partner with all 13 Adventist colleges and universities, and celebrate them at their graduations.

This year may be different, but we are not letting the pandemic prevent us from connecting with students and building relationships with those who are interested in coming to PUC. The

way we meet their needs may look a little different now but the meaningful conversations with young people about their future are still happening even if they can't be in person.

One of the ways we are connecting with students and families is by offering more online workshops that cover topics that are always on the mind of college seekers worldwide. In our most recent financial aid workshop, we had students join us online from locations as far away as Alaska and Paraguay. While we were in different time zones, we could still share why the investment in their future is important and how we can help make their higher education financially possible.

During the same workshop, we connected with alumni who were making sure their child learns about their beloved alma mater and an international student searching for a solid program that doesn't exist in her current location. Unique situations like these aren't always possible to find in traditional methods of school visits and campus tours, so having the opportunity to engage with them together online was incredibly valuable.

Another way we have connected interested students to PUC is by making some big changes to the tried and true campus visit. These visits have a major impact on the college decision and while our campus is hands down in the most beautiful location, we have so much more to offer. How many of you look back at your time at PUC and only remember the physical campus? While it may be the backdrop of your memories, most vivid are the conversations with your favorite professor that helped set your path or laughing with your friends in the lobby of your residence hall. While we still show off our beautiful campus in pictures and video, we have made sure to incorporate the most important thing we have to offer during the tour: the friendly faces and bright minds that make PUC what it is. For example, during our virtual tour, prospective students are guided by current students who act as ambassadors and share their stories about campus life. The prospective students also meet with professors to chat about classes and careers that interest them. Honest advice and thoughtful answers to their toughest questions are the kinds of personal touches that young people need to have in this very virtual world.

PUC is not the only one changing as we've seen with so many of our academics who are adapting their plans alongside us. Many high school graduation ceremonies moved online or were made into drive-through events, and we were impressed by



the creativity and love that went into making these events so special. Being there for graduation is always a favorite for us because who doesn't love celebrating such a big student achievement alongside proud families?

While we couldn't celebrate in person this year, we still put our hearts into showing up at drive-through ceremonies, creating videos, mailing special care packages, and making some surprise home visits!

We can't wait to get back to connecting with students and families in person again as soon as we can, but that doesn't mean we'll just go back to the way things were. We are so pleased with the new ways we have found to stay connected and plan on incorporating some of them in our plans no matter what the future holds. 🌱

VISIT US, VIRTUALLY!

A PUC EXPERIENCE CUSTOMIZED JUST FOR YOU

We are excited to share our new Virtual PUC Experience with you! Every visit is unique and customized just for you, plus we'll send you some fun, free stuff when you're done. Start your experience now at puc.edu/virtualvisit.



LEARN MORE
puc.edu/virtualvisit or
visit@puc.edu

Hard Work & Positive Results

PUC Sees Enrollment Growth For Fall 2020

Ashley Eisele

The COVID-19 crisis has put a considerable strain on schools across the country and around the world. But despite the challenges that the pandemic has introduced, Pacific Union College began classes this fall quarter with an increase in enrollment, breaking the nationwide trend of enrollment decreases.

The college saw a four percent increase in overall headcount, as well as a related increase in economic full-time equivalent students, while higher education institutions across the country saw an average 3.8 percent decrease. The census date headcount for fall 2020 stands at 966, compared to 929 last year, and is the first enrollment increase that PUC has seen in six years.

Although the causes of the increase are due to many factors, some of the more notable contributions to PUC's increase can be tied to an increase in transfer students, nursing students, students from the local area, and former students who had taken a break but have now re-enrolled.

"I'm proud of the significant efforts done by our admissions and marketing teams, as well as the support they received from the entire campus to create this increase. During the 2019-2020 school year, Pacific Union College began a well-thought-out, three-year turnaround plan. This plan, supported by the board, employees, and administration, is beginning to yield results. These positive results not only represent the hard work of our campus, but also stand as a sign of PUC's academic excellence," said President Bob Cushman.

"These positive results not only represent the hard work of our campus, but also stand as a sign of PUC's academic excellence."

Along with their traditional students, PUC also welcomed 24 high school students this fall for a free online class. "While moving online last spring, we decided to take advantage of the opportunity and offer one free class to graduating high school seniors," said Haley Wesley, associate vice president of enrollment, marketing, and communication.

This online program was a success in spring with about 65 percent of those first-time students enrolling full-time as regular students at PUC this fall. "Our excellent faculty were able to give these introductory students a great experience, which brought them into the PUC family permanently! Because of the overwhelming success, we are continuing this program into the 2020-2021 academic year," said Wesley.

"We are proud of our growth, and especially the reversal of the six-year downward trend in enrollment," said Gene Edlbach, vice president of enrollment, marketing, and communication. "Doing all this during the time of COVID-19 and challenging nationwide enrollment declines says a great deal about the positive direction in which PUC is now headed. We have exciting plans to continue this growth with or without COVID-19. The significant difference we've seen is thanks to the buy-in across our campus in the turnaround as well as the resilience of the PUC family during these difficulties. I'm also proud of our concentrated campus-wide efforts and the hard work of our incredible enrollment, admissions and marketing teams. We are grateful for all the prayers, support, and encouragement we've received—God's blessing and intervention are truly paying off." 🙏

Learn more about PUC's free online classes at puc.edu/free-online.



Care in the Time of COVID-19

PUC Students Receive CARES Act Support

Ashley Eisele

Pacific Union College received \$569,112 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide emergency financial aid grants directly to PUC students affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

The college received the funds on April 28 and by mid-May, close to \$300,000 had already been distributed to 394 students.

PUC estimates around 400 students are eligible to receive grants from this federal fund, which is intended to support those who are experiencing unforeseen hardship from the COVID-19 global pandemic. This includes students who need additional support for their education.

"We are grateful we received the CARES Act funds and that we can reach so many students with the additional assistance," said J.R. Rogers, associate vice president of student life. "Some students couldn't do online learning because they didn't have computers and some have parents who are now out of work and needed to help support their families. Almost anything you can imagine being an issue is the reality for our students right now."

Another avenue of support for PUC students affected by the pandemic has come from the college's Coronavirus Student

Emergency Fund. The fund was started early in the crisis as the needs of PUC students started to become apparent. The fund has passed the \$100,000 goal with donations from around 240 PUC alumni and other donors, with donations still coming in.

"Alumni and friends of the college have shown up in the lives of our students in a big way," said Kellie Lind, vice president of alumni and advancement. "In this short amount of time, over \$100,000 has been donated to support students who are facing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. That number includes an incredibly generous gift of \$20,000 from the PUC Church. On behalf of all of our students, we are grateful for everyone who continues to show their support."

Students who have received the emergency funds have already been able to put the support to use.

"I am very thankful for any type of help during these tough times!" one of the student recipients said. "I appreciate everyone who is helping students at the moment, we need support more than ever. God bless everyone donating to support!" 🙏

Donations to the Student Emergency Fund can still be made online at puc.fund/covid19.



A CAMPUS UNITED

PUC RALLIES IN RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Dana Negro

In this time of great uncertainty, it's comforting to know there's one thing that can always be counted on: our Pioneers family. As cities, counties, states, and countries began to shut down earlier this year, the Pacific Union College campus was heading into finals week and faced what felt like insurmountable challenges. But our beloved College on the Mountain rose to the moment and met each difficulty head-on. Faculty quickly offered their finals online and began the process of transitioning their spring quarter courses 100 percent online for remote learning. Staff members worked together to find creative ways to continue offering impeccable service from their living rooms, kitchens, and home offices. Students set up their remote classrooms, found ways to study and socialize utilizing technology, and then seniors walked the virtual graduation stage with their friends and family cheering them on in text, all-caps, and emojis.

We hoped to begin the new school year together united on campus, but that was not to be. In the fall quarter, the majority of our campus family embraced remote learning with a new vigor. And while all of that is more than enough to make us proud, it's moving to see how many individuals and groups from the PUC family have used this time of crisis to positively impact another person's life, which shows the true Pioneers spirit.

»NURSING STUDENT SERVES HIS COMMUNITY ON THE FRONTLINES

Dana Negro

Growing up, Ralph Edward Valdez wanted to go to medical school and eventually become a pediatric oncologist. It wasn't until the end of his senior year in high school that Valdez sat down with his mentor and listened as she talked about her son's battle with cancer and the incredibly positive experience she had with his nurses who were a continued beacon of hope for her and her family. It was then he realized he wanted to be the one to offer strength and positivity to someone during their time of need as a nurse.

When PUC closed its campus and switched to remote learning in March, Valdez, who transferred to PUC from Napa Valley College last year, returned to his home in Napa. He quickly realized he wouldn't have his regular nursing labs or clinicals, so he applied for the Medical Reserve Corps. After he received the necessary training, Valdez was assigned to work as a nurse at a COVID-19 testing site in Napa. "Truthfully, I did not expect to be working on the frontlines. I just happened to be watching the local news when the reporters were talking about the opportunity to work with the Health Corps in California. I immediately expressed my interest and filled out the necessary forms. I thought I would get called to work at a local hospital or clinic doing simple tasks like taking general vitals and working with registered nurses and certified nursing assistants," said Valdez. "The next thing I knew, I was offered an assignment to work at Napa's new COVID-19 drive-through testing site. I was a little apprehensive, but during our first meeting I was reassured while all of us on the medical staff established the process for testing, making sure to cross our t's and dot our i's."

Each day after checking in, logging their temperatures, washing up, and donning their personal protection equipment (PPE), the team heads out to prep their stations and begin to see patients. Working in two-person teams, they perform nasal swabs

and safely package the samples. "Most of the time I'm the one assisting, but I occasionally get to perform the swabs myself. Our site tests on average about 350-400 people a day, with my shift typically completing more than 200 of those tests." Shifts are spent in head-to-toe PPE and could be easily be considered relatively monotonous. However, one weekend shift early in his volunteering, Valdez found himself in a situation he never expected. "One day, none of the staff could speak Spanish, so upon arrival, I immediately told them I would handle all translations," Valdez explained. Having just completed Spanish for Health Care Professionals the previous quarter at the advice of PUC's pre-nursing advisor Lorie Johns, he felt confident in taking on this role. "I was able to successfully explain the process to the Spanish-speaking patients! More importantly, I was able to keep the patients from panicking and feeling overwhelmed with their situation."

It wasn't until his experience at the testing site until Valdez fully understood the value of being multilingual, especially in the health care profession. He took Spanish courses in elementary and high school, but he credits Dr. Sylvia Rasi Gregorutti's Spanish for Health Care Professionals class with preparing him for his future career. "I can only imagine what it would be like to go and have an invasive test done, all the while with no one being able to explain the process. It would be a scary experience," Valdez reflects. "The importance of being bilingual and able to ease people's potential fears was definitely the most valuable lesson I've learned so far."

During these uncertain times, we are especially thankful and blessed to have students like Valdez, with his desire to learn and commitment to serve his community, as part of our Pioneers family. At PUC, we believe God places us where we are needed when we are needed.



» GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Milbert Mariano

It’s tempting to look at the last several months and focus on the challenges our campus has faced. But as the vice president of academic administration and academic dean, I was blessed to work with our faculty who have been going above and beyond to serve our students through this demanding time.

Professors adapted quickly to remote instruction in spring when students moved off campus and started classes online. While we planned to have students back on the mountain for fall, we spent the summer working hard to prepare for whatever was needed. One tactic that worked well was appointing field leaders from each academic area who researched the best solutions for their subject matter when it came to online teaching and, even more importantly, engaging with students and supporting them when they needed it most.



Our faculty also stepped up in different ways to make sure students were supported through this time of learning. Lab kits were created and sent out to students who needed to complete hands-on courses from home and free online classes were made possible for high school seniors who were able to earn college credit while they were home. For nursing and emergency services students who were able to join us on campus this fall, professors adapted the classroom experience to include appropriate physical distancing, even taking students outdoors for fresh air classes.

I am so proud to work with a group of people who are so dedicated to Adventist education. It gives me hope for the future of PUC and the world.



» REDEFINING THE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Dana Negro

The nursing profession is fundamentally about patient care, so interacting with patients is vital to nursing students. When Napa County went under shelter-in-place order in spring, the typical clinical experience for PUC nursing students needed to be reimaged.

Professor of nursing Tamara Tirado found an alternative to the norm: virtual clinical experiences that focus on real-life nursing issues and experiences. “It has been both exciting and challenging for students to learn how to navigate their critical thinking skills in the online environment,” Tirado explains. “Being able to integrate virtual experiences in our courses has helped us to overcome the obstacles brought on during this challenging time and still meet the learning needs of our students.”

» VISUAL ARTS SHARES THE WEALTH

Dana Negro

Many classes in the department of visual arts require the use of specific (and often expensive) equipment. While PUC is blessed to allow students access to the very best, virtual learning posed a bit of a problem. How would students complete their projects while so far away from the resources they’ve grown accustomed to using? Instructor of film & television production Tim de la Torre and assistant professor of photography Brian Kyle decided to carefully pack and ship super-8 film cameras to their students so they were able to complete their projects remotely.

De la Torre has also personally sent students iMacs from the school’s computer labs and cameras, as well as camera and filmmaking gear. He also knows his fellow professors have sent students from photography and printmaking classes packages of tools and equipment to complete their assignments. He says at least one student went so far as to take an entire ceramics wheel home back in March!

De la Torre speaks for everyone at PUC when he says everything is going to be better once all students are back on campus but for the time being, he and the rest of the department are committed to providing their students with the same level of care and attention they receive in the physical classroom. “We are making this online thing work!” says de la Torre.



» WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SHOWS PIONEERS SPIRIT

Richie Silie

Times are difficult and that is a fact. But even in the midst of a global pandemic, our student athletes are finding ways to be good “teammates” to our surrounding communities.

Members of our women's volleyball team made the decision to volunteer at the COVID-19 testing site in Yountville, Calif. Our athletes didn't just help at the mobile clinic, they also passed out food, toiletries, and various personal health items to families in need. Overcoming challenges and working as a team are part of an athlete's everyday life so it was no surprise to see the selflessness of our Pioneers. These incredible young people lead our athletics department by shining their light “all around the neighborhood.”

The #PUCPioneersNation has really stepped up and shown they are proudly part of the larger Napa Valley community. Though we are more than ready to have all our students back on campus and regain a sense of normalcy, we are blessed to give back in as many ways as possible because that is the Pioneers way!

Follow us on Instagram at [@pucpioneers](https://www.instagram.com/pucpioneers)!



» BUILDING VIRTUAL TOGETHERNESS

J.R. Rogers

As the associate vice president for student life, I never imagined I would need to figure out how to keep a large group of young people connected, socialized, and spiritually engaged, remotely. But if 2020 has proven anything, it's to expect the unexpected. When PUC switched to remote learning and virtual ‘togetherness’ in March, our team wasn't sure how things would play out, but we've learned PUC students are resilient, PUC staff and faculty are strong and dedicated, and our student life team is



creative and able to do amazing things.

We are blessed to live in the digital age, where connections are made and maintained through our smartphones. PUC's student life team embraced the social media

world and decided to use the school's platforms to help build an online community. Throughout the fall quarter, our campus family is being treated to Motivational Monday, Thriving Tuesday with the PUC Church pastor, Workout Wednesday, Friday Devotional with PUC's chaplain, virtual vespers, and plenty of fun social activities both in-person and virtual, planned and executed by the student association and student life team.

“This year has been a challenge as we have planned events in-person (keeping social distancing in mind) and virtually to help students stay connected,” explains Grace Jong, student association social vice president. “So far we've had some really fun activities like a vlog day contest, a fashion lookbook TikTok contest, and a great talent show! I'm really lucky to work with a great team and to have students at PUC really embrace these strange changes.”

Join our online campus community. Follow PUC and student life on Instagram at [@PUCNow](https://www.instagram.com/PUCNow) and [@PUCStudentLife](https://www.instagram.com/PUCStudentLife). Join us Friday evenings for vespers at puc.edu/youtube.

Q&A PUC CHURCH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

Ashley Eisele

In the midst of the pandemic, the PUC Church welcomed new lead pastor Chanda Nunes after more than a year-long search to find the right candidate.

Pastor Nunes was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, and is a graduate of Burman University (formerly Canadian University College) and Andrews University, where she received her Master of Divinity degree. She also holds associate degrees in private investigation and paralegal studies and is a certified life coach practitioner.

Pastor Nunes began her pastoral ministry in August 2003, serving the Alberta Conference at the College Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of Burman. From 2008-2015, Pastor Nunes served the Kansas-Nebraska Conference at the New Haven Seventh-day Adventist Church and was the first Black pastor ever to serve in the Conference, as well as the first Black woman pastor to serve in the Mid-American Union. She was commissioned while there in 2011.

Pastor Nunes has served the Northern California Conference since 2015, most recently at the Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sacramento, Calif. She is the first Black woman pastor to serve within the Conference, where she was ordained in June 2018.

“My biggest hope for right now is that this pandemic will cease and we will have an opportunity to come back together as a church family to experience the love and fellowship that we have been missing all these months,” Nunes says.

While Pastor Nunes is very excited for the unique experience of pastoring in a college town, the pandemic has not allowed her congregation to get to know her as well as she would like so she jumped at the chance to sit down (virtually) and answer some questions.



What is pastoring like during a pandemic?

Pastoring during a pandemic is a unique position to be in. This is something we've never been through or have seen modeled for us, so we're literally starting at ground zero. This is the time for pastors to unleash their creativity like never before, in order that the message of the Gospel can continue moving forward.

How do you connect with a new community when our congregation is virtual?

This part is a challenge. I'm an extrovert and love to meet new people, so with the social distancing that we are expected to adhere to, it will now take (more) time to get to know members individually. Every week, I try to work my way through our church family directory, and make phone calls, send emails, and communicate by text message.

What makes pastoring a campus church special?

Pastoring a campus church is an exciting and unique experience! You have great resources at hand, the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, energy and insight from all age ranges, and the desire to come together to learn and to lift up Jesus!

What hopes do you have for the PUC Church and community in the coming months and years?

My biggest hopes for right now is that this pandemic will cease and that we have an opportunity to come back together as a church family to experience the love and fellowship that we have been missing all these months.

The PUC Church welcomes you to join their weekly worship service each Sabbath morning at 11 a.m. Join us at livestream.com/pucchurch.



» MISSIONS CONFERENCE GOES ONLINE AND AROUND THE WORLD

Ashley Eisele

A global pandemic may have moved the I Will Go Conference online, but its impact was still felt worldwide. Organized by PUC's department of missions and service and hosted by the college's own admissions counselors, Angel Castillo and Kenzie Hardy, the conference explored ways for young people to reach the world through international service.

Dr. Bob Cushman, PUC president, welcomed the audience telling them, "It is my prayer that each of you and your ministries will be both inspired and blessed by the conversations and presentations being held here this weekend."

Inspiration came from every corner of the world through the testimonies from Germany, Lebanon, Kyrgyzstan, Palau, Brazil, and other countries where people are finding new ways to serve.

While COVID-19 has limited travel and changed the ways that ministries can reach people, I Will Go presenters encouraged participants to see these challenges as an opportunity to expand their ideas of service and how they share their spiritual gifts.

Sam Neves, associate director of communication for the General Conference, introduced everyone to the concept of being a digital missionary. He reminded those watching that more and more people are going online, turning to Google, Wikipedia, and other outlets with the kind of deep, spiritual questions that the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its members can answer.

"That's what this project is about, unleashing 21 million members with their cell phones and their computers to enter spiritual conversations online," Neves said.

Elbert Kuhn, director of Adventist Volunteer Service, summed up the excitement of the I Will Go Conference: "What a joy to see the roots of what is our DNA as young adults of the Adventist Church, and our friends. What a joy to have missions in our DNA, what a joy to have this passion for people, for service, and for making a difference in the world today."

To watch the I Will Go Conference in English or Portuguese, and to learn more about missions at PUC, visit puc.edu/iwillgo.



» SAFETY FIRST

Haley Wesley

While PUC was making fall campus plans, the highest priority for the college's dedicated planning team was ensuring the campus would be safe for students, faculty, and staff. Months of preparation went into getting classrooms, offices, residence halls, and other campus spots ready to welcome the PUC family home. Thanks to our facilities management team, the campus was prepared by the time students arrived.

Buildings now feature signage reminding everyone to practice physical distancing, wash their hands regularly, and wear masks, which are required everywhere on campus. For a campus the size of PUC, it's a lot of signs!

Plexiglass barriers were also custom made and installed at many interaction points, including the library's front desk and the visitors lounge in admissions. Limits have also been put on how many people can share tables, elevators, and common spaces at one time.

In addition to the physical additions around campus, a lot of time and effort went into reviewing every classroom and determining what size rooms could be safely used while meeting physical distancing requirements. Thankfully, PUC also has many beautiful outdoor options that have proven to be perfect spaces for learning.

These are just some of the ways that PUC is looking out for the safety of our campus community during this time. It has certainly been a campus-wide effort and we are grateful for the hard work and diligent efforts by everyone involved. 🙌





The Pioneers Spirit is unstoppable even in the face of a global pandemic. The following pages show some of the ways our amazing Pacific Union College alumni have stepped up to respond to COVID-19 in words, actions, and even through their career choices.

Making Masks & Giving Back

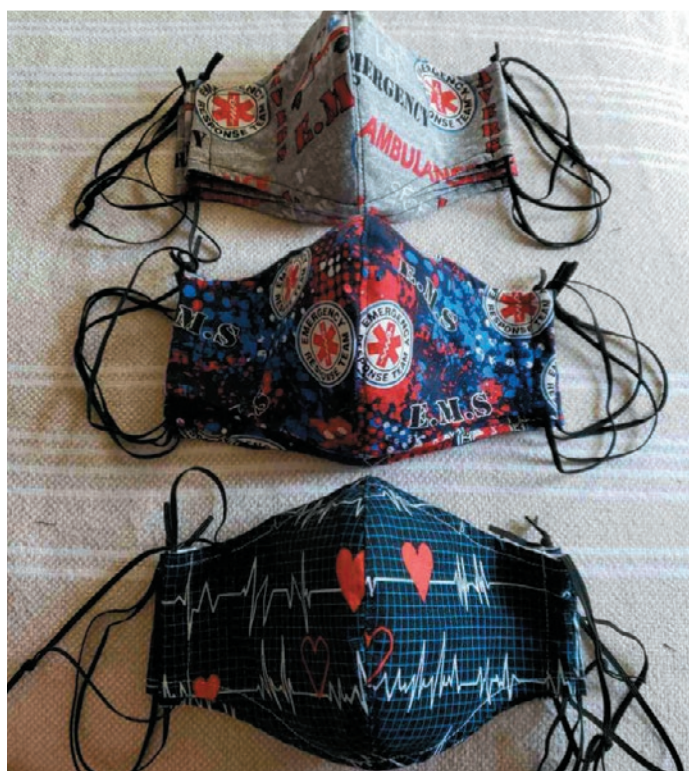
A Passion Project Helps the Pioneers Community

Hallie Anderson

Lexi Haylock graduated from Pacific Union College in 2018 with two bachelor's degrees, one in social work and the other in fine arts. She has put her passion for helping others and her creative interests to use during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When shelter-in-place orders went into effect in March, Haylock hunkered down. About a week in, her neighbor told her he had sewing supplies from his mother, who was suffering from dementia and wanted to know if she would be interested in having them. That's when Haylock got the idea to make and sell masks.

"I wanted to help in some way, to feel like I had some sort of control during the beginning of the pandemic," Haylock said. "I watched a lot of YouTube videos and tinkered around with templates until I ended up designing my own with different sizes."



Haylock especially wanted the masks to include nosepieces and adjustable straps. Between April and July, she created over 100 masks, bringing in about \$500. She donated all the proceeds, half of which went to the PUC Student Emergency Fund to support students during the pandemic.

Haylock specifically wanted the money to go to students who did not qualify for government financial assistance through the college. "I just felt it was a good way to give back," Haylock summarized. 🌱

Where is God in this Pandemic?

A Big Question in Uncertain Times

Hallie Anderson

So many of us have questions about the how, why, and how-much-longer of the COVID-19 crisis. But PUC alumnus Dr. Ron Reece explored an even bigger question recently in a *Spectrum Magazine* article entitled "Where is God in this Pandemic?"

Reece offered some inspiring insight into God's relationship with us, even in the middle of a global pandemic. The following are excerpts from Dr. Reece's article. You can read the full article online at spectrummagazine.org/arts-essays/2020/where-god-pandemic.

"The short answer to this question is God is everywhere wooing each individual from every country and every culture into a deeper relationship with Him. The more I study the Bible and live the Christian life, the more I see God's pervading love and sustaining grace infusing all of life and all of reality.

From a Biblical perspective, God's omnipresence is more than an impersonal Force sustaining far, far, away galaxies and life on planet Earth. God's presence is intimate, up close and personal. For example, God comes to Moses in a burning bush that is not consumed and asks Moses to take off his shoes for the ground he is standing on is holy ground. (Exodus 3)

Moses gets personal and asks God His name, for to know one's name in the ancient world was to be in a special relationship with that person, to have a hold on that person."



Ron Reece, M.D., is a physician and a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist who graduated from Pacific Union College in 1977. Reece was a 2003 Honored PUC Alumnus and has served as a member of the Committee of 100 Board of Directors.

After his time at PUC, Reece graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1980 and went on to specialize in dermatology, receiving his residency training from the University of Tennessee. Reece later pursued a graduate degree in Christian Studies at Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Reece has wonderful memories of the natural beauty of the PUC campus, which was a highlight alongside the Christ-centered education he received from teachers who supported his spiritual journey. 🌱

Many thanks to Spectrum Magazine for their permission to use excerpts from Dr. Reece's article, "Where is God in this Pandemic?"

Thank you!

YOUR SUPPORT IS LIFE-CHANGING

Every person or organization on this list is someone who chose to step up for PUC students in need of support during this COVID-19 global pandemic. We are so grateful for your willingness to ensure that education is always a priority. It's not too late to help us support students through uncertainty, insecurity, and unprecedented challenges. Make your contribution today at puc.edu/alumni/future.

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Give now and watch our latest campus video by scanning the QR code or visiting puc.edu/alumni/future.



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Q&A

BORN FOR SERVICE

Dana Negro

Robert Quiroz’s grandfather, Robert Moreno, served in the U.S. Army for 20 years; executing combat jumps in Korea with the infamous 187th Rakkasans, completing two tours in Vietnam, and was a Purple Heart recipient. Quiroz was named after him and knew at an early age he wanted to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps and serve his country. Just months after his grandfather passed away, Quiroz lost a close childhood friend to an improvised explosive device (IED) in Afghanistan. As he grieved the loss of these two important people, he realized now was the time for him to take action. After a lot of prayer, Quiroz joined the California Army National Guard March 29, 2011.

Quiroz knew of PUC but it was only while reading *Fearless* by Eric Blehm, the biography of Adam Brown, a Navy SEAL who died in Afghanistan, that an idea began to form. The book mentions a young man from Angwin, Calif., and that caught Quiroz’s eye. The thought of completing a college degree was very appealing and it seemed like he was meant to be at PUC. Once he returned from military training, he and his wife moved to Angwin and began attending PUC.

Quiroz graduated from PUC with an associates degree in health sciences in 2016 and a bachelor’s degree in health communication in 2019; Quiroz spent this past year working as a staff member in the public relations office at PUC. Towards the beginning of the pandemic, Quiroz received a call from the National Guard informing him he would need to report for duty immediately. He left his wife and baby daughter and headed out to help serve his country and community during some of the greatest times of uncertainty. We talked with Quiroz to learn more about his experience serving on the front lines.

What kind of regular training do you have to do to be ready to serve at any time?

The National Guard is unique. We are dual purpose, meaning we train for our unit’s federal mission and our state’s mission in case we are called in for a state emergency. Different units have different responsibilities and roles in case of an emergency, and it depends on your MOS or Military Occupation Specialty. My first is 88M or Motor Transportation. I joined a unit that was being deployed to do route clearance in Afghanistan. A job where you find IEDs and save lives. I transferred to that unit and became a 12 Bravo or Combat Engineer. That deployment didn’t end up happening so I switched my focus to our state mission and trained CERF-P which stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and High-Yield Explosive Emergency Response Force Package. It is a homeland response to a disaster, natural or man-made. The unit I was a part of was Search and Extraction. We trained to enter collapsed structures and rescue people. It was hard work, but we were able to train with Urban Search and Rescuer Task-4 firefighters from the Bay Area. It’s very important for the National Guard to work with other agencies because we augment their abilities. In the end, we are citizen soldiers and are a part of the community we serve.

You served while you were a student and a staff member at PUC. You are also married and have a young daughter. How do you juggle your responsibilities at home, in the classroom, and work with the potential to be called in to serve with little notice?

It was tough. Especially when I first started school at PUC. My unit was always training and sending me places during the quarter. I really had to make one-on-one connections with the faculty and explain my situation. Most were understanding and really helped me out! My commitments really made me learn to plan things out. I always knew I would be away at least one

weekend a month and that was the week I really needed to get all my school work done. There were numerous times I was called away for work and it interrupted school. Those connections with the professors really saved me.

It also helps to have a wonderful partner. My wife is amazing. It’s tough on her at times. The military has given so much to my family, but it takes time in return. I’ve missed birthdays, weddings, and special occasions. When I was deployed for a year, I missed everything! Even her graduating from PUC in 2017. That was tough. She is a champ and I am blessed to have her in my life.

You were called towards the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tell us about that.

It was chaotic at first. We had warnings that we may be called up. My unit first tapped eight people for a mission to support the Department of Public Health doing what they called “symptom screenings.” Our jobs were to screen the workers for any symptoms of COVID-19. If anyone showed symptoms, they were sent home. It was important because our locations were vital data gathering hubs that tracked resources and numbers relating to COVID-19 in the state of California. These were operating centers that couldn’t afford to be shut down due to an outbreak, because lives depended on correct numbers to allocate resources according to the most severe areas. It was long days, but I felt like I was contributing to the fight. We were put up in hotels in Sacramento for two months. It was weird being the only people driving around since Sacramento was shut down. It was the longest time I had been separated from my daughter. I saw her twice during my activation. In the end, I was grateful to be home safe and COVID-free.

Where were you sent?

I was sent to Rancho Cordova for a few weeks. Our mission was to conduct symptom screening for the Medical and Health Coordination Center in downtown Sacramento. This center received data concerning COVID-19 from health centers all over California. Eventually, they went remote and we were sent to do the same thing but at the 115th Task Force in Roseville. The 115th were responsible for coordinating California’s National Guard response. They were receiving their information from the California Office of Emergency Response. Again, it was a logistics hub that couldn’t afford an outbreak of COVID-19.

What were you responsible for doing?

I was part of the group of eight that our company activated. I was in charge of the seven. We conducted symptom screenings at three separate locations. My job, in addition to system screener, was Non-Commission Officer in Charge or NCOIC. I handled information flowing in and out of our group. On ESAD (Emergency State Active Duty) orders many things have to be tracked daily. Food, fuel used, gallons of fuel put into the vehicle, miles on vehicles, who has the day off, who is sleeping where, among many other things. All that information had to flow up to a central person (me) and then I had to push that information up the chain of command.

With degrees in health science and health communication, was there anything you learned in your classes or from professors at PUC that you were able to use while serving in the community?

I would actually like to thank professors Duncan, Vance, and Sung. Because of their classes, I was able to understand the various terms the personnel were using at the MHCC. My communication courses played a role in me better communicating with Army personnel. You really need to know how to approach people to effectively get your concerns understood. I was thrust into a unit where I knew nobody and only had one prior working relationship. In the end, we were part of a team, but it takes time to build that team relationship. The better you understand how to communicate across many levels and personalities the quicker you are absorbed into the team. Thank you to communication professors Rai and McGuire. Your knowledge helped in many different ways!

What has been the most memorable part of serving during the pandemic?

I would say the people I met. They were from parts of the California National Guard I never would have had the opportunity to meet before. I met many people from San Diego, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and Northern California. It was such a diverse group that all jumped at a moment’s notice when our state was in need. It was really cool to see everyone playing a part and contributing to the success of the overall mission of helping the state function. I also got to share a hotel room with one of my buddies from my deployment. We were roomies again! 🍀

Career Paths in a Pandemic

The Uechi Siblings Find Their Professional Footing

Hallie Anderson

Two of Pacific Union College's recent alumni have taken their passions and turned them into careers that are crucial to their communities, especially in a pandemic. What's even more special? They are siblings.

Marcus and Colleen Uechi are a PUC alumni sibling duo. Marcus studied emergency management, attaining his associate's degree in 2015 and completing his bachelor's degree in 2018. Colleen studied both intercultural communication and Spanish, earning the two bachelor's degrees in 2013. Since graduating, the Uechi siblings have carved career paths that not only interest them, but also provide them with countless opportunities to help those around them.

When Marcus Uechi was a student at PUC, he knew the emergency services program was the right fit for him academically and professionally. He chose the program because of the many opportunities to learn about emergency response outside the classroom. He volunteered at the Angwin Volunteer Fire Department and took advantage of the school's close partnership with Adventist Health St. Helena. He says he also appreciated the program at PUC included certified EMT training all within the major. He says his professors were both knowledgeable and had practical experience, recalling they all volunteered at the fire department in their spare time and some were even nurses at the hospital too. The real-life application of the education PUC offered was what he found to be the most valuable and appealing.

Marcus Uechi's passion for service, safety, and the fast-paced nature of emergency response has now landed him in San Bernardino County, Calif., where he is an emergency medical technician for American Medical Response, Inc. He spends his



days transporting patients in an ambulance, typically taking them from their stay in a hospital to their next stop at a rehab facility. In his time as an EMT, he has had the opportunity to meet and serve people from all walks of life in his community.

He has also been up close and personal with the COVID-19 pandemic, transporting several patients who were positive for the virus. Not only that, he actually tested positive for the virus himself in early July. He says he experienced a fever, body aches, and loss of taste and smell over the course of a few days. While he is safely recovered now, he says these ongoing months of the pandemic have absolutely affected his work as an EMT. He's taken on new responsibilities and has had to learn and relearn the ever-changing best practices and procedures medical professionals follow. He says he's more careful than ever with himself, his coworkers, and the patients they help. His professional and personal dedication to caring for others continues on, no matter the circumstance.

Colleen Uechi spent her time at PUC creating, writing, and honing her sharp communication skills. As the Campus Chronicle editor-in-chief her senior year, she oversaw a staff of 30 writers, editors, and designers to deliver news to the campus population. She said she swore off journalism as a career path during that time but changed her mind after teaching English for five months in Kazakhstan after graduating.

"I realized I couldn't have a job where I didn't get to write," she says, recalling the experience.

After that, Colleen moved home to Hawaii and got an internship with the Molokai Dispatch, a newspaper for the Molokai Island. That internship turned into a job and ended up taking

her to The Maui News where she has worked for five years as assistant city editor. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has taken on an incredible load of responsibility working in the world of journalism. She has worked closely with county and state officials in Hawaii, attending press conferences to report coronavirus cases and gather news regarding regulations and travel restrictions. She said it was especially stressful in the early months of the pandemic when information was changing every day. The pandemic has changed her job and daily tasks as a professional significantly. Before coronavirus, she said she had a major, late-breaking story occasionally, but after the pandemic hit, it felt like the paper was breaking news all day every day. While it doesn't feel quite as uncertain and hectic now over seven months in, she continues to fully experience the pressures and importance of her role.

She said she is happy where she is and is especially grateful to be near family during the COVID-19 pandemic. She works with a small staff of driven individuals who work every day to accurately communicate important information in their community. Her time at PUC prepared her for a place and purpose just like this because her department was comprised of a tight-knit group of students and their trusted professors. Her work on the Campus Chronicle especially taught her how to manage a

team, beat deadlines, prioritize stories, and deliver a publication. She said she felt her professors truly cared about their students and pushed them to succeed.

The Uechi siblings are just beginning their time as young professionals. What they have both accomplished already speaks to their drive, their passions, and the education that continues to serve them. Whether transporting patients in an ambulance or typing at a newsroom computer, Marcus and Colleen Uechi uphold the PUC mission daily to learn with purpose, rise in faith, and serve with love. 🌿



PUC ALUMNI!

TELL US YOUR NEWS

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 in those prayers with us! If you would like to stay updated with all of the latest PUC news, please subscribe to the monthly e-newsletter at puc.edu/newsletter.



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Even though we can't be with one another in person, this Homecoming we want to take you with us as we host interviews with classmates, honor alumni, take virtual journeys to your favorite places like Inspiration Point in the PUC Forest and the tide pools of Albion. Visit puc.edu/alumni to learn more.

"Being able to take students into nature to study different species and ecosystems and get hands-on experience is invaluable. It's also a beautiful place to worship and fellowship together. The memories made at Albion are memories our students hold on to long after graduation. We are truly blessed to have Albion as part of the PUC campus."

— Aimee Wyrick, associate professor of biology

Photo was taken before COVID-19

2021 HOMECOMING

PLAN ON JOINING US VIRTUALLY! WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

With the current state of the world, we have made the decision to move forward with plans to host a virtual and on-demand Homecoming Weekend in 2021. Please join us April 16-17 as we gather together as classmates, community, and a college family!

Join us as we relive favorite memories, explore campus, and look at the projects and plans that make the future of Pacific Union College bright.

Mark your calendars and stay on the lookout for more details about this special weekend invitation. It wouldn't be Homecoming Weekend without you!



LEARN MORE

Visit puc.edu/alumni today.

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