

ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE WINTER 2012



The Learning
Commons 08

Astronaut José
Hernández at PUC 04

Baptisms at Fall
Revival 14

president's message



“The Lord knows what is best for His college, and we put our trust in His providence!”

Seeking God’s Doors

Over the last several issues of *ViewPoint*, I have shared the careful planning we have undertaken in the past few years as administration prepares for the college’s future. But a recent development on campus reminds me that sometimes our best plans are nothing compared to the wisdom of God. As the old saying goes, when God closes a door, He opens a window—and right now we are in a process of seeking out every door He may be opening for the benefit of PUC and our students.

The development I’m referring to is the update of the Nelson Memorial Library, which you can read about in this issue of *ViewPoint*. This project has been in the works for many years. It began more than a decade ago as a campaign to build a new, bigger library at the cost of \$18 million. But the effort had a slow start and never really took off, and in the meantime, the funds we did receive waited. Opportunity, it seemed, had shut its doors.

Fifteen years later, the landscape of college libraries looks dramatically different. The way students learn has changed as dramatically as the rest of the world, and a library design in 1996 may not have anticipated the way the internet has impacted and changed a campus’s needs. So we took the gifts we had received for the original project and funneled them into a high impact renovation to modernize the library. Although that closed door had initially disappointed us, the result ended up being even better than our original plan.

Can we ever doubt God’s marvelous wisdom?

There are more opportunities around campus to use or enhance our resources, to maximize the benefit to our students. The library renovation was only one part of the PUC Campus Master Plan. In the coming months, we will be determining the feasibility and priority of several major projects: a second phase of the library renovation; a solution to the welcome challenge of quality housing for our growing student population; enhanced teaching and technology resources for every classroom on campus; and catching up with many years worth of deferred maintenance. Surely God has a door in mind as we consider these vital projects on behalf of His school.

In the first stage of the library renovation, we were able to count on significant help from some very generous donors. The support of our alumni community is so important to PUC’s development. Additionally, our growing enrollment is a big help as we determine what we are able to accomplish in terms of our resources here on campus.

Thankfully, God has given us another avenue of opportunity as we seek to develop a bright future for PUC. In his wisdom He guided our founders, way back in 1909, to provide us with an abundance of land—a truly substantial investment. I prayerfully recognize that God will open or close this door according to His perfect plan. The Lord knows what is best for His college, and we put our trust in His providence!

God has led us into a vast corridor filled with doors—each of them leading to a new blessing, each to be opened, or not, in His own time. With prayerful consideration, we here at PUC are eagerly seeking out which door He will open for us next. I’d appreciate your continued prayers and generous support, as we look for His plan in each new opportunity.

Heather J. Knight

Heather J. Knight, Ph.D.
President

ViewPoint

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Students take advantage of the new lobby in PUC's renovated Nelson Memorial Library. Photo by Kerry Chambers.

DON'T EVER, EVER, EVER GIVE UP

Astronaut José Hernández shares his inspiring journey

Larry Peña

ASTRONAUT JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ ENCOURAGED students to persevere in their lifelong pursuit of ambitious goals, at a presentation at Pacific Union College, September 29, 2011. “Don’t ever, ever, ever give up on yourselves, because you can do it,” he said to an overflow audience in the PUC Church.

Hernández addressed PUC students, faculty, and staff at the morning Opening Convocation, the ceremony that represents the formal start of the school year. Beginning with a clip from his TV interview on *Oprah*, Hernández recounted his inspirational journey from the strawberry fields of California’s Central Valley all the way to his 5.7 million mile voyage on board the International Space Station in 2009.

The astronaut, who has received a flood of media attention because of his inspiring story, also revealed that at the urging of President Barack Obama, he was considering a run for Congress in California. He officially entered the race on October 11.

The son of migrant farm workers who traveled with the growing seasons from Michoacán, Mexico, to the farmlands of California, Hernández grew up picking produce alongside his brothers and sisters. His parents, despite having only a third-grade education themselves, did their best to keep the children in school as much as possible. “They were master motivators,” says Hernández. “After a long day of work, my dad would look each of us in the eye and say, ‘You have the privilege of living your future now. If you don’t want to go to school, you can come back and work with me in the fields, seven days a week.’”

At the age of nine, Hernández discovered his dream of becoming an astronaut when he

watched the final Apollo lunar mission on TV. “I kept running outside to look up at the full moon, then back in to watch him walk across the surface,” he said. “I couldn’t believe that in 1972 we had humans on the surface of the moon.”

When he shared his newfound dream with his parents, they sat him down at the kitchen table and gave him what they called the ingredients to succeed: a clear goal; an understanding of the steps to get from where you are to where you want to be; hard work; education; and *corazon*—heart. “I remember thinking, ‘Wow! My parents actually think I can be an astronaut!’” he says. “Really, they were giving me a license to dream.”

At the urging of a concerned teacher, the Hernández family began to put down roots in the Stockton, Calif., area in order to give their children a better environment for effective learning. Graduating from high school with good grades, Hernández enrolled at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, overcoming initial difficulties to earn a B.S. in electrical engineering.

After the morning presentation, PUC held a special luncheon in Hernández’s honor. Guests included Hispanic business and civic leaders from the Napa Valley, Latino members of PUC’s faculty and staff, and several of PUC’s engineering, aviation, and Latino-heritage students. Hernández continued his story at the luncheon, elaborating on how the conscious career decisions he made after graduation steered him ever closer to his goal.



Big dreams PUC invited students from local elementary schools to meet with Hernández, who encouraged them to follow their dreams through education.

“It takes perseverance, but it’s got to be smart perseverance,” he said, describing his career during his 12 years of continuous reapplication to NASA’s astronaut training program. “Each year I applied, I was also navigating my career to maximize my potential for selection.”

With the dream of space travel still foremost in his mind, Hernández took his first post-grad job in 1987 with the U.S. Department of Energy at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory—a weapons research facility that was developing an x-ray laser for deployment in space. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, he volunteered to lead a project coordinating American and Russian efforts to secure the two nations’ nuclear arsenals. “It wasn’t because I wanted to go work in Siberia,” he said. “It was because I had heard that the U.S. and Russia had signed an agreement to work together on an international space station.”



Continuing to seek out anything that would give him an edge on his NASA application, he earned a master’s degree, learned Russian, became a certified pilot, and took SCUBA training. Each year he applied, he got further and further in the selection process. Finally in 2001, the space agency gave him his most encouraging verdict yet: *Come work for us so we can get a closer look at you as a candidate.*

Hernández relocated his family to Houston, Texas, taking a job as a research engineer at NASA’s Johnson Space Center. He was finally selected for Astronaut Candidate Training in 2004, training as a jet pilot, performing rigorous physical preparations, and learning the technical aspects of operating the spacecraft. In 2009 he was assigned to be the flight engineer on mission STS-128 aboard the space shuttle Discovery—a mission to dock with the International Space Station to deliver an astronaut and several tons of technical equipment.

Describing his mission’s midnight launch to the luncheon audience, Hernández said it was the first time since that night watching the television in 1972 that he nervously wondered, “What am I doing?” The trip from the Earth to the space station takes eight and a half minutes, with the rocket accelerating from zero to 17,500 miles per hour. “The first four minutes feel like the best E-ticket ride at Disneyland,” he said. “The second four minutes, things really get interesting.”

The mission lasted 14 days, during which the shuttle crew witnessed 214 sunrises and sunsets as they orbited the planet once every ninety minutes. Hernández described two profound revelations he experienced during the mission. Seeing just how thin the Earth’s atmosphere appeared from space, he thought, “That’s the only thing keeping us alive! It seemed so delicate, I became an instant tree-hugger.”

Second, recalling the multicolored maps one sees in elementary school, he realized that from above, he couldn’t tell where one country began and the next ended. “I had to leave this world to come to the realization that we are all just one.”

He took the opportunity to joke about his upcoming political prospects. “I used to say that we should send all our politicians into space to get that perspective—maybe on a one-way ticket,” he said. “Since I may be one of them soon, maybe I shouldn’t say that anymore.”

Wrapping up the lunch presentation, Hernández answered several questions from the audience, expressing optimism about the Obama Administration’s controversial decision to end NASA’s operations close to the Earth. “The new plan is incentivizing private companies to take over low Earth orbit,” he said. “Been there, done that. We need to focus on bigger goals, like Mars.” But he predicted that we would need to return to the Moon and

From the fields to the skies At Thursday morning Colloquy, Hernández described his early life as a migrant worker in California’s Central Valley.



“Smart perseverance” Hernández shared his strategic approach to achieving his dreams at a luncheon for local business leaders and select PUC students.

establish a permanent, intermediate base before launching off on such ambitious goals.

He also said his faith in God grew stronger from his experience in space. As he looked out from the shuttle window at the Earth below and the vastness of the universe beyond, he said he realized, “I’m a scientist...but it’s too perfect to be a coincidence.”

Hernández wrapped up the day at PUC by recounting his story to a group of several hundred elementary school children from Angwin, St. Helena, and Pope Valley. Unlike at the earlier presentations, he wore the bright blue flight suit he had worn during his astronaut training. He received round after round of enthusiastic applause from the audience of children. **VP**

FINDING GOD IN THE WORLD

Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier Speaks at PUC

Lauren Armstrong

MARTIN DOBLMEIER, AWARD-WINNING documentary filmmaker and president and founder of Journey Films, was at Pacific Union College on November 10 for the 2011 Longo Lecture, a lecture series featuring topics such as religion, society, and learning. Doblmeier has produced over 25 films, including *The Power of Forgiveness*, *Bonhoeffer*, and *The Adventists*.

In his Thursday night lecture, titled “Through the Lens of Faith,” Doblmeier focused on Jesus’ question to His disciples in Matthew 16, “Who do you say that I am?”

As a measure of our authenticity, Doblmeier says that we must ask that question honestly, repeatedly, and faithfully to ensure that our message is coming across correctly. The words we speak do not always convey the message we intend, he said. For this reason, Doblmeier said that he shows his films to trusted friends to ensure that his message is coming across the way he intends.

Doblmeier acknowledged that college students are always asking “What do I want to do with my life?” He encouraged the audience not to ask “What do I want to do with my life?” but instead “Who do I want to be?”

In his lecture, Doblmeier also talked about how genuine listening is not valued today. To listen, you have to be truly present, he said. Recalling Joseph Bernardin, a cardinal in Chicago who was falsely accused of sexual abuse and faced a battle with cancer that he eventually lost, Doblmeier spoke about how everyone is valued by Christ. He explained that believing our challenges are manageable if our mission is for God—that’s what “Through the Lens of



Panel interview At Thursday morning Colloquy, Doblmeier discussed a variety of topics with a group of student interviewers.

Faith” truly means. If we did not have doubt, he said, we could not understand the gift of faith.

Doblmeier talked about the state of our world today, saying that “for evil to flourish, all it needs is for good people to do nothing.” He says that a look at the world today should bring feelings of restlessness and discomfort. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one who wasn’t afraid to stand up. Bonhoeffer saw through the Nazi regime from the start. He joined the resistance and the plot to kill Hitler, ultimately losing his life in the process. Bonhoeffer answered the

question, “Who am I?” by actively responding to the problems he saw around him.

PUC professors screened two of Doblmeier’s films on campus in the days leading up to his arrival. Monday night saw the screening of *Bonhoeffer*, a film about the controversial life of a German theologian who lost his life plotting to assassinate Hitler. The following night was the screening of *The Power of Forgiveness*, a film that examines the role of forgiveness in religion and health. There were between 75 and 120 students in attendance each night. “I had



Longo Lecture On Thursday evening, Doblmeier presented PUC’s lecture series of faith and society, focusing on Christ’s question, “Who do you say I am?”

several good conversations with students on the topics of forgiveness and justice promoted by the screenings,” says Alexander Carpenter, instructor of visual arts. “For the most part, they seemed provoked by the serious issues raised by the films.”

On Wednesday night, there was a screening of *The Adventists*, followed by a Q-and-A period with Doblmeier. During the session, he shared his fascination and passion for religion, faith, and spirituality. “I’m always looking for those things that, in some way, I find that are revealing God in the world,” says Doblmeier. With his background in broadcast journalism, Doblmeier is able to craft his message in such a way that it will be well received by a large audience.

“I think of myself less as a filmmaker and more as someone who is on a quest to learn about religion and faith and spirituality, and the medium that I use to do that is filmmaking,” says Doblmeier. “It’s an important distinction to make.”

Although Journey Films, located in Alexandria, Va., deals with many religious and spiritual matters, it is important to Doblmeier that the company is genuinely interfaith. With *The Adventists*, Doblmeier wanted to give the public an introduction to the doctrine of the church and clear up any misconceptions that people may have had about Adventists. Although his main goal was to educate the public, Doblmeier was pleased to hear that some Adventists also learned something from the film.

In the film, Doblmeier brings attention to the unique way Adventists approach health-care—by treating the body, mind, and spir-

it. During his visit to Loma Linda in 2005, Doblmeier toured the hospital and the health facilities. It was then that he saw the potential for a documentary.

“I became convinced that if I was interested in it, that I really cared about it, that actually it might have an impact on other people,” says Doblmeier. “There were so many wonderful and unique notions—the whole notion of Sabbath—because as a Christian, I feel as though Sundays have been lost for most people. Most Christians will get up and go to church on a Sunday and then wind up painting the house for the rest of the afternoon.”

Doblmeier, who holds a bachelor’s in Religious Studies, a master’s in Broadcast Journalism, and an honorary degree in Fine Arts, has won numerous awards, including an Emmy award and six Gabriel awards, which recognize “broadcasting that uplifts the human spirit.”

Doblmeier is currently working on three films. The first will be a two-hour pilot about interfaith chaplains in many different professions. The second will be an hour-long documentary about the international aspect of Adventist health care. The third will be a one-hour comparison between public and private education. They will simultaneously start production in January 2012. **VP**

ABOUT THE LONGO LECTURE:

In 1992, an endowment in honor of Frank and Florine Longo was established at Pacific Union College by their son, Lawrence D. Longo, M.D. This endowment was designed to establish a lectureship with topics related to religion, society, and learning. In harmony with this stipulation, the series has been entitled “Faith, Knowledge, and Human Values.” Dr. Longo’s goal for the lecture series is to increase the breadth and depth of ideas and matters of the mind in the Christian experience.

PREVIOUS LONGO LECTURERS

1994 Robert N. Bellah, author, sociologist, and professor at University of California, Berkeley, *Education for the Good Society: The Role of Science, Ethics, and Religion*

1996 Martin Marty, author, church historian, and professor at University of Chicago, Divinity School. *Christians in America versus Christian America*

1998 Chaim Potok, novelist. *The Writer and the Community: A Personal Journey*

2000 Philip Johnson, author and professor at University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. *The New Evolution Controversy and Where it is Going*

2002 Anne Lamott, author, essayist. *Writing and Faith*

2004 Karen Lebacqz, author, bioethicist, and professor at Pacific School of Religion and Graduate Theological Union. *Genetic Enhancement: Christian Ethics in a Cyborg Age*

2006 Robert Alter, author and professor at University of California. Berkeley, *An Agenda for the Literary Study of the Bible*

2008 David Batstone, author, activist, and professor at University of San Francisco. *Living Justly in a Complete Global Age*

2010 David Neff, editor and vice president of editorial for Christianity Today Media Group. *Earth Day and the New Earth: Is creation care in competition with second-coming Christianity?*

2011/12 Martin Doblmeier, founder and president of Journey Films. *Through the Lens of Faith*

The Learning Commons

A new vision of the
academic library at PUC

By Larry Peña



For thousands of years, libraries have been sacred institutions. Far more than just a place to store books, libraries have served as wells of knowledge and learning themselves.

“The role of the library throughout history has been two things: a resource center for the community, and a place where people come together,” says Adu Worku, director of Nelson Memorial Library, the place that has served Pacific Union College in this noble tradition since 1958.

Now for the first time since then, the library has received a major renovation—not only aesthetically, but in the way it functions as a learning center. As the main form of knowledge transitions from books to electronic media, and from individual study to collaborative learning, PUC is taking steps to ensure that its resource center has made the leap into the 21st century.

The Renovation

The majority of the renovation focused on the main floor of the library. In the weeks before the construction started, the library staff sorted and relocated 60,000 books to a storage facility across campus, opening up a tremendous amount of room for student study areas.

The new floor plan was designed by noted local architect and PUC alumnus Jarrod Denton, who also created the look for last year’s well-received renovation of the Dining Commons and Campus Center. His plan for the library called for a bright and open space, illuminated by abundant natural light and spacious seating areas for individual and group study. The plan also features a pair of glass-walled private rooms that larger groups of students can reserve for study sessions and collaborative projects.

New study tables dominate the room facing the campus mall, each wired with dozens of electrical outlets to accommodate modern students who take their computers to go. For those who don’t, the computer lab on the main floor has also been expanded, with a new fleet of Apple computers to supplement the existing PCs available for public use.

The floor is equipped with all new furniture, including mobile individual desks, a unique curved sofa installed with more power outlets, an inviting lounge area in the foyer, and a new circulation desk that enhances not only the look of the lobby, but also the accessibility for wheelchair-bound guests.

Finally, electricians have replaced the controls for the library’s heating, cooling, and ventilation system—a move that saves energy by making the process of adjusting the airflow more efficient.

“New ways of doing things mean that we’re able to do a lot more with the old building than we were able to before.”





PUC contracted the renovation project to the Angwin-based construction firm Helmer & Sons, Inc., whose workers swept into the library early last summer and completed the major work by the time school started this September.

“As far as projects go, I’d give this one a 10,” says PUC facilities director Dale Withers, who oversaw the construction on the renovation. “It went off without a hitch. It was on time, it was on budget—and we had a wonderful team that really clicked.”

A Changing Resource

The smooth flow of the project stands in contrast to how it initially started—long-time supporters of PUC will remember that a new library has been in the works, in one form or another, since 1996. The original plan called for an entirely new, much larger building, at a cost of \$18 million. Funds for that goal did not pan out, and PUC administrators successively chipped away at the project’s scope. But what seemed disappointing at the time ended up providing an unexpected benefit.



“I think that was a blessing in disguise. While we were trying to raise the money, libraries were changing,” says academic dean Nancy Lecourt. “New ways of doing things mean that we’re able to do a lot more with the old building than we were able to before. It’s turned into a much better project than we could have imagined. So I was pleased with the amount of serendipity in the project.”

The biggest change in library function, of course, was the rise of Internet, database, and computer technology as a dominant means to store and transmit knowledge. Before the mid-90s, the most vital practical concern of managing a library was having the space to store all the books. That need is rapidly declining in importance, replaced by a need for better access to online resources.

“The resource has shifted from print to electronic. So what has that changed?” says Worku. “There has been a perception that since the Internet is here and you can Google, why are libraries relevant anymore? They are relevant for the same reason they have always been relevant—they are a resource center and an access point.”

The electronic factor has two implications in PUC’s library—providing better resources, and providing opportunities for students to use their own resources. That means plenty of well-equipped computer workstations. It means subscriptions to hundreds of databases of research archives and peer-reviewed journals online. It means a team of librarians trained to help students find and select the most relevant and accurate information from the dross that can be found on the Web.

It also means wall-to-wall Wi-Fi accessibility and the now-ubiquitous power outlets for students using laptops and tablet computers. “They were having to sit on the floor next to the drinking fountains to use the plugs,” says Lecourt. “Now it’s much more convenient for students.”

“Ever since the library was redesigned, I’ve found myself in there a lot more, studying by myself or with others.”



Ribbon cutting ceremony Project donors Herb Ford, Nancy and Hans Boksberger, (left) and Bonnie and Jim Comazzi (right) joined President Knight and library director Adu Worku (center) in dedicating the renovated library for student use.

The Learning Commons

But the technological aspect of learning is not the only thing that has changed in the last decade and a half. Concurrent with the rise of Internet technology, the education world has seen a shift from the traditional lecture-based approach to college learning, to a model based on student collaboration with their professors and with each other.

Many educators describe the benefits of this approach—better learning outcomes, improved knowledge retention, more creativity, and the development of cooperative skills vital in the modern workforce. For these reasons, colleges and universities across the country are changing their libraries from mere book depositories with carrels for individual study, to spaces that facilitate group learning and group work. This philosophy sees the contemporary educational library as something more—a learning commons.

“When done well, [collaboration] enhances the learning process,” says PUC communication professor Tammy McGuire, who teaches courses on group interaction. “According to studies done at Harvard and elsewhere, for example, learning groups score better on tests

than those who study alone. And in the area of critical thinking, groups can bring a multitude of perspectives and ideas that lead to a richer, more nuanced survey of issues.”

“Working together in diverse groups helps students learn to solve problems as a team and sharpen their own understanding with serious listening,” says Lecourt. “The new learning commons in the library is meant to support and foster collaborative learning and prepare students for life and work in the twenty-first century.”

The Response

Since the completion of the library renovation, PUC students have approved of the changes with their feet. “Our door count compared to last year has shown a significant increase in students using the library,” Worku says. “We want to do a formal study to find out the students’ opinions, but anecdotally, people seem overwhelmingly pleased.”

“I love the new set up in the library. I think the design is very well done and easier to concentrate in,” says visual arts student Jasmine Kelley. “Ever since the library was redesigned, I’ve found myself in there a lot more, studying

by myself or with others. It was a great idea to redo the library, and if I was a student in high school coming for academy days and saw this—I would want to attend.”

At a grand opening ceremony in November, President Heather Knight, along with Worku and several of the project’s major donors, cut the ribbon on the renovation project, unveiling the changes to the alumni community and dedicating the new space.

The ceremony attendees overall were very pleased with the project’s results. “It’s come into the 21st century,” said Bonnie Comazzi, ’75. “It’s definitely more user-friendly.”

“If the students don’t use it, I don’t know why!” added Jim Comazzi, ’75. “It’s all there.” The Comazzis gave generously toward the project in honor of Jim’s late mother, and the central study area of the library’s main floor has been dubbed the Comazzi Family Learning Commons in honor of their efforts.

The Next Step

This renovation is just the first phase of a larger library overhaul. The second phase will have a greater impact on the physical structure of the library, connecting the main student space with the media services department, installing an elevator, and retrofitting the building for better earthquake stability.

Tentative plans also call for the creation of spaces for several unique research resources the college owns, including the Walter Utt Center for Adventist History, the Pitcairn Study Center, the PUC archives, a small museum dedicated to the college’s history, and literary collections from several Adventist pioneers and scholars.

PUC’s facilities department will begin assessing the feasibility of those plans, as well as other possible changes around campus, in spring of 2012. President Knight has described plans to enhance classrooms across campus and expand the residence halls to keep pace with PUC’s continuously growing enrollment.

“As a Christian college, we’re called to be the model for best practices in higher education—to be excellent as a reflection of the excellence of Christ himself,” says Knight. “The library is an important part of that calling, and we can be truly proud of our new and improved academic resource. But we’re not done yet.”

For a gallery of more images of Nelson Memorial Library, visit puc.edu/renovation. VP



REVIVAL FALLS ON PUC

Cortes challenges students to live their faith

Samantha Angeles

Family support Junior Sianna Stewart took advantage of a Skype video link to share her baptism with her family in New York.

BECAUSE OF YOUR LOVE FOR JESUS, I NOW baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” On October 14, four students heard these words at the culmination of an especially powerful week of spiritual renewal—PUC’s Fall Revival. Hundreds more responded to the call by reaffirming their personal commitments to Christ.

The series, themed “Grounded in Christ,” is a quarterly event, and there was an unmistakable sense of God’s presence on campus. “It’s something strong and deep,” said Andrew Lloren, a junior. “By just being here, you know that God is doing something big.”

Laffit Cortes, PUC’s new campus chaplain and the series speaker, made five compelling challenges to students to honestly evaluate

their faith and make a decision about where they stand spiritually.

“I saw that there’s definitely a struggle – the Great Controversy is being played out here,” said Cortes. “But there’s definitely a hunger and thirst for God.” This spiritual desire was evident in the ever-increasing number of students that attended the revival programs throughout the week.

The first program, held on Wednesday night, was a challenge to students to reach out their hands to Jesus for spiritual healing, so that they could walk with Him. “It was a much-needed wake-up call,” said Angela Anjejo, a second-quarter nursing student. “It showed me that there’s a difference between talking about my faith and living it.”

On Thursday, Cortes taught students how to pray, and students called out praises, thanks, confessions, and requests. Yet Cortes went beyond the usual invitation to prayer, demanding respect for the exercise of talking to God. “We’re going to pray right now,” said Cortes. “And some of you are on laptops or reading books. Close them, or walk out the door – but don’t dis[respect] my God.”

Cortes continued his intense appeals for students to surrender to God on Friday morning. “Lots of you say you’re Christians,” said Cortes, “but really, you’re just a fan of Christianity. If you want to follow God, you need to be a bondservant of Christ.” Cortes emphasized both the rewards and difficulties of a life lived with Jesus. When he called for those who were willing to “bear your cross” for God, hundreds of students stood.

“If you’re standing right now, it’s either because you want to renew your commitment to Jesus, or because you’ve never made a public commitment to Him,” said Cortes. “If you’ve never been baptized and you want to make that decision today, come forward.”

Four students – Ashley Adams and Markus Baumbach, both freshmen, Gina Lee, a sophomore, and Sianna Stewart, a junior – responded to Cortes’ call. “After always striving to commit to God, there was no way I would back out when the opportunity seemed so in reach,” said Stewart. Baumbach said, “I wanted to do it because [I realized] it was my decision, no one else’s.” Regardless of their reason, all four students decided that they wanted to be baptized that evening at vespers.

“I believe God wanted this to happen here,” said Stewart. In front of her assembled friends and family, who connected from New York via Skype, she was baptized. “The experience was amazing!” she said. “It feels great to be officially connected to God and to never have to doubt that I am His and always will be.”

Stewart’s statement summed up the message of the “As I Am” vespers, the final program of Fall Revival. On stage, large cards read, “I had sex before marriage,” “I cut myself,” and “I lust,” just three of over 250 cards that students submitted in response to the question, “What keeps you from God?”

More than twenty other cards were displayed in a powerful movie created by Lloren, in which students held up cards expressing everything from, “My boyfriend and I go too far” to “I’m a hypocrite.” The message was simple – regardless of what PUC students struggle with, they can come to God and be accepted as they are.



Grounded in Christ PUC chaplain Laffit Cortes called students to “bear your cross” for Christ, rather than just being “a fan of Christianity.”

“We wanted to show the school that no one is struggling alone,” said Wally Peralta, student association religious vice president and Fall Revival coordinator. “We are a community trying to get closer to God.”

“After always striving to commit to God, there was no way I would back out when the opportunity seemed so in reach.”

Many students experienced and treasured the Fall Revival time. Taryn Richert, a senior, said, “It was so powerful and moving – I never wanted it to end.” But while many students look back on the week with warm memories, Cortes is looking to the future. “God’s spirit was with us this week,” he said. “Now the challenge is the follow-up.”

That follow-up will be directed by Cortes, Peralta, PUC church pastors, and student leaders through prayer groups, ministries, and Bible studies. But one thing is undeniable: the Spirit of God is present at PUC. **VP**

IMPROVING THE WORLD

Pulitzer Prize winner urges PUC to make an impact

Julie Z. Lee

ACCORDING TO PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING author Tracy Kidder, goodness isn't a virtue that people naturally embrace, particularly when you're considering the goodness of another human.

"We all tend to push away evidence of virtuousness that exceeds our own," said Kidder at a lecture at Pacific Union College. Kidder was in Angwin on October 27, 2011, as part of PUC's Colloquy Speaker Series and to discuss his book, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*. The book is this year's selection for PUC Reads, a campus-wide book club.

His colloquy presentation recounted the story of Farmer, a Harvard-educated physician and anthropologist who has committed his life to diagnosing and curing infectious diseases in impoverished communities. Kidder first met him by accident in 1994 while researching American soldiers in Haiti. But it was specifically the virtue of Farmer—his insistent idealism and courage—that kept Kidder from actually pursuing his story for another six years. Kidder surmised that a character "so gifted, so self-sacrificing, so passionate for the cause" would cause a reader—most of who are a lot less virtuous—psychological discomfort.

In addition, Kidder said he wasn't ready to face the reality of what Farmer was confronting in his work: the relentless adversity of people living in the developing world. Kidder said that as a seasoned world traveler and journalist, he did not expect to be shocked by the scene in Haiti.

"I had never seen anything like Haiti. So much misery and unnecessary sickness ... starving children at the airport, women giving birth unattended at the sides of dirt roads," Kidder recalled.

While he recognized that the doctor would make an intriguing subject for a book, Kidder also knew he would have to confront Haiti

once more since Farmer's international health organization, Partners in Health, worked extensively in Haiti.

"This problem of goodness isn't just a literary problem. It's also a personal problem. The personal problem is that good provokes and forces us to think about things that we would rather not think about," said Kidder.

When he returned to the United States from that trip in 1994, Kidder reflected on what he had seen, trying to reconcile the situation in Haiti with his own life in the United States.

"[I tried to] hang on to my belief that I had earned all my privileges," said Kidder. "The problem with taking a notion like that ... it begins to fall apart the moment you ask yourself the simplest question, which is 'What if I had been born a Haitian peasant?' What would my privileges look like then? And I knew, I just knew that if I started following Paul Farmer around, it would disturb my peace of mind."

It wasn't until 1999 that Kidder reunited with Farmer, eventually launching a book project that would span several years. Kidder accompanied Farmer all over the world, detailing his life and his work with Partners in Health. As he predicted, the experience changed his life.

"In my travels with [Farmer], he showed me more reasons to despair than I had ever witnessed or even imagined before. And yet it was the most exhilarating experience in my life to see what one small group of people ... could begin to do to ease some of the world's dreadful problems," said Kidder.

Kidder, who now helps to raise funds for Partners in Health in addition to writing books, closed his lecture with two points. First, he asked the audience to see the world as it really is and to not fall prey to "the collective



Mountains Beyond Mountains Kidder discussed his book, the story of a unique humanitarian, with PUC students at an October presentation on campus.

amnesia for the suffering that seems so distant but in fact surrounds us."

Second, Kidder emphasized that the goal is not to reproduce Farmer's life, but to find genuine inspiration in his example. He urged the audience to remember that the study they are doing now is not for the purpose of passing an upcoming exam but to fulfill a greater goal years from now.

Said Kidder, "If one of your goals is to find a way to improve the world, I don't think you have to worry a whole lot about improving yourself. If you begin to do the first thing, you will, by my definition anyway, have already begun to do the second."

The lecture was followed by an hour-long question and answer session with Kidder, where he discussed his writing process, how he chooses his subjects, and career advice for aspiring writers. Journalism majors were also invited to an exclusive luncheon with the author.

This is the second year of PUC Reads. "Mountains Beyond Mountains" is being featured as part of the English and Communication curricula, as well as integrated into other classes as appropriate. The PUC Reads program is designed to engage the campus in shared discussion of critical issues. The 2010 PUC Reads selection was *The Story of Stuff* by Annie Leonard, which focused on consumerism and society. Leonard spoke on campus last April as the Green Week Colloquy speaker. **VP**

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

PUC students brighten local kids' holiday

Julie Z. Lee

FOUR WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THE HOLIDAY came early for 25 Napa Valley kids. On Sunday, December 4, Pacific Union College students held their annual Christmas Party for KidzReach, a campus ministry focused on connecting local at-risk children and teens with college student mentors, many of whom can relate to their challenges.

During the event, which included a full meal for the kids and their families, KidzReach handed out nearly 40 presents, from trucks to princess dress-up sets to skinny jeans. PUC students sponsored the items, which they selected from each child's wish list.

"We tell the kids to reach pretty high," says Libiny Cruz, one of the student leaders of KidzReach. "There are a lot of [college students], and we don't all have money. But if a couple of us get together, we can get them something nice. And these are the only gifts the children will get—or the nicest things they'll get."

The most expensive gift was a laptop computer, requested by one of the oldest teens in the group and purchased by religion major Cameron Haley and his classmates. It is a generous gift by any count, but more so for KidzReach, where many kids come from families who can barely afford to keep a roof over their heads. The computer, says KidzReach director Lauren Waychoff, will give the young man a chance at graduating from high school.

"I was really hesitant in the beginning because he lives in a bad neighborhood," says Waychoff, who graduated from PUC in June with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies. "But he wanted a computer to do home study because it's his last chance. I want to get together an accountability group of students and adults to visit him once a week, do homework with him, and make sure his laptop is working and not stolen."

Waychoff, who has been with KidzReach since 2006, is no longer a PUC student but remains involved to train the group's new leaders. The program is built on volunteers spending most Saturdays with two-dozen children,

planning activities and providing meals—which the students themselves prepare. Waychoff leads the effort while completing her student teaching requirements. She says kids are her passion.

"I grew up in a single parent home. I saw my mom struggle, but I was fortunate that she chose to stay in the church... the church helped to raise me. But these kids, their parents are into drugs, in prison, or in the wrong company," says Waychoff. "All of the kids have been abused in some way, whether it's emotional, physical, verbal—all of them have some kind of story."

KidzReach grew out of a local prison ministry whose director discovered that the children of the people he was serving desperately needed some positive attention. Eight years ago he contacted PUC's campus ministries office to ask students to help, and KidzReach was born. Today, PUC students run the entire program with support from the PUC Church. It is one of the strongest and most consistent student-run ministries on campus.

For Cruz, who is studying to be a physician's assistant and respiratory therapist, the idea of providing stability to the kids, week after week, is important.

"I think why I came [to KidzReach] is because I can relate. I didn't have that good of a background when I was little," says Cruz. "We moved around a lot, and I wanted something consistent. I think that's what these kids are getting from KidzReach."

Among the student volunteers, empathy for the family situations seems to be the key for persistent involvement. After all, given their tough home situations, some kids are unruly, defensive, and in some cases ungrateful. For the less resilient volunteer, KidzReach can be too much of a challenge, and they don't return. But those who do understand life in a broken family—and how this type of program can make a difference—are hooked.

Josue Tobar, an engineering major at PUC on a merit-based, full scholarship, has been in-



involved with KidzReach since last year. He has enjoyed hanging out with the children each weekend, but it wasn't until last year's Christmas party that he realized that the ministry had brought him full circle in his own life.

Growing up, Tobar's family relied often on charity groups to help during tough times. "I remember we would go and [the volunteers] would have tables for us with toys and food, and I would come home with my mom with a shopping cart filled with food," Tobar says.

Watching the kids gleefully unwrap their presents last year reminded Tobar of his own childhood, when he received a teddy bear outfitted with a soldier's uniform, helmet, and parachute at a similar type of charity event. He says the memory brought tears to his eyes.

"I am just hoping I can do something back—make someone's life better," Tobar says. "To think that you can be the mentor, you can be a help... and the next thing you know when you're older is you see this kid that came from nowhere and become something.... You had something to say in that. You made a difference rather than standing on the side." **VP**

collegenews



PUC Students Begin Serving at Home

New missions coordinator leads a wave of community involvement

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE students volunteered to assist Napa Valley senior citizens with home maintenance with a project called Rebuild Calistoga. The project is a partnership between PUC's Office of Missions, Service, and Justice and the Calistoga Affordable Housing program (CAH). It's part of new missions and service coordinator Fabio Maia's campaign to get PUC students involved in community service, both locally and abroad.

"We're young—we have all the energy," says freshman Arve Lloren, who volunteered on a crew repainting an elderly woman's home. "I think it's better to use that energy to help people rather than wasting it, sitting around in front of the laptop."

In addition to repairing and restoring homes, the student volunteers helped CAH distribute subsidized carbon monoxide detectors to senior citizens at ACE Hardware. The detectors are not only important lifesaving devices, but were recently made a requirement for all homes in California.

Maia, only a few months on the job at PUC, anticipates that Napa Valley residents will come to know PUC by the selfless volunteer service of its students. "It is a way for them to have hands on [experience], going out and serving the community," he says. Maia has already laid the groundwork for long-term partnerships with the local community, with more Rebuild Calistoga projects scheduled for the school year.

But his campaign for increased PUC-community interaction is about more than just putting PUC's best face forward—it's an act of ministry. "I don't see any difference," he says. "That's what Jesus did ... and that's our goal. Wherever there is a need, we want to be there and fill that need. And if there is an opportunity to share, that's what we're going to do, but our goal is to serve."

This past Saturday, October 15, Maia staged a second local service project, leading a group of students about an hour away to Berkeley, Calif., to feed and clothe homeless people in a public park there. Student turnout to that

project was overwhelming; Maia had been expecting 50 students, but over 80 ended up attending. With such a positive response from students so far this year, he hopes to eventually have local volunteer projects scheduled every week.

On a larger scale, PUC students will head to the Navajo Nation in the Southwestern U.S. later this year to partner with La Sierra University and the University of California, Berkeley, to provide building and health services. Maia also has plans to take students to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Brazil to perform similar ministries.

"It's not about feel-good trips for our students," he says. "We're looking for projects where we can build relationships and make a real, long-term impact in those communities."

Larry Peña

College Lists Select Property with Broker

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE HAS LISTED PROPERTY THAT IS NON-ESSENTIAL TO the core educational mission of the college. The listing encompasses the property east of the airport and Belleau Field—all of which is zoned agricultural or agricultural/watershed and cannot be utilized for a future expansion of the main campus. This property is currently not in use by the college and is not being planned for use in PUC's long-term Campus Master Plan, which was completed in June 2011 and extends to 2050. A portion of the property, the 900 acres of forestland, if sold, would be preserved and protected in its natural state. All net proceeds will go into the college's endowment.

The decision to list property is in accordance with a 2002 board resolution to liquidate non-essential assets to ensure that the college has resources to meet its current financial obligations, as well as to achieve its long-term financial objectives for future growth and development.

Over the past three years, PUC has had a steady growth in enrollment, experiencing an 18 percent growth from Fall 2008 to Fall 2011 for on-campus students. Despite the increase in enrollment, Knight says that the board must be prudent and systematically address concerns and issues with proper planning.

"Even as we are on a path of growth and progress, PUC must make some important decisions," says President Heather Knight. "Among our most pressing issues, we need to address our institutional debt, years of deferred maintenance, and an inadequate compensation plan for our faculty and staff. Increased enrollment and philanthropy alone will not correct these issues."

Knight also emphasizes that as a faith-based institution, the board relies on sound business strategy and prayer for all decisions.

"We are praying for God's guidance, and we ultimately have faith in His wisdom," says Knight. "We will work hard towards an appropriate solution, but I also know the Lord will open or close doors of opportunity to bless us or protect us."

Since 2004, PUC has had Napa County's approval to build 191 housing units in select parcels zoned urban residential. However, those parcels are not part of this listing, and currently the college has no plans to develop those parcels. Knight and the board will be analyzing the housing needs of both the college and St. Helena Hospital before developing plans in this regard. She also plans to continue dialoguing with the community to explore ways in which to strengthen PUC's linkages and service to the surrounding community.

For more information, including a letter from the president, visit www.puc.edu/endowment

Julie Z. Lee



Stained Glass Skylight Installed in Scales Chapel

IN SPRING 2011, THE PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE CHURCH PASTORAL STAFF decided that it was time to do something about the stained glass window in the roof of Scales Chapel. Originally installed in the 1970s, the joints had begun to weaken and leak. The situation became so bad that a board had to be placed under the window to protect people from falling glass.

The church called in Robert Pappas, '76, to take a look at the ceiling. Pappas taught in the art department at PUC from 1977-1981 and has been an art glass professional for 30 years. After looking at the glass, he knew it needed to be replaced.

"I thought that an art student could donate their time and then have a significant commission to have in their portfolio," Pappas says. He recommended Cabel Bumanglag, who graduated with a fine arts degree from PUC in 2010 and had studied stained glass. Bumanglag agreed to volunteer his time.

To launch the renovation, Bumanglag came up with three different designs and color schemes, meeting with the church numerous times to narrow it down. He noted that the stained glass windows in the chapel were of two varieties: one with a rough edge and the other with a geometric design. "I was trying to bring the two together and mix something of my own with it," he says. The outcome was an abstract sunburst design and a color scheme that coordinates with the other stained glass windows in the chapel.

The project took Bumanglag and Pappas about three months to complete, with Bumanglag staying on over the summer. The project was completed September 30, 2011.

The skylight now houses a total of 16 windows, made up of eight sections of glass, with two panels in each section. The new sections of stained glass are only about 1/8 inch thick and weigh about 60 pounds—approximately one-third what the old glass weighed. Bumanglag and Pappas also installed rebar reinforcement to ensure that the skylight will be stable into the future.

About 10 colors of stained glass are included, from sources including Germany, Washington, and Iowa. Spotlights situated inside, near the bottom of each panel and turned on each night at sunset, create a beacon that can be seen from the cafeteria, the library, and a number of other locations on campus.

Tim Mitchell, head pastor of the PUC Church, says of the skylight: "It will enable beautiful colored light to create a quiet ambience in Scales Chapel, just as the building was originally designed to have."

Lauren Armstrong

Religion Department Hosts Annual Retreat

“YOU’RE GROUNDED.” THESE WORDS MAY BE HEARTBREAKING TO A CHILD, BUT at Pacific Union College’s annual religion department retreat, the term “grounded” was the talk of the weekend.

The annual getaway to PUC’s Albion Field Station, located on the Mendocino, Calif., coast is designed for students and faculty to escape the frenetic pace of school and connect with one another and with God. This year, the theme for the retreat was “Grounded in Christ, Grounded in Faith, Grounded in Love,” borrowed from PUC Campus Ministries. The three spiritual programs of the weekend each focused on one aspect of the theme.

The first program highlighted the significance of being “Grounded in Christ.” Senior Wally Peralta, student association religious vice president, delivered a compelling sermon about the need to have



an authentic relationship with Christ.

“Wally set the spiritual tone for this weekend,” said Danny Castanaza, a senior. “His Christ-centered

message was, as always, inspiring and uplifting.” Afterwards, students continued the department’s tradition of singing praise songs long into the night, maintaining an atmosphere of worship.

The next morning, PUC chaplain Laffit Cortes delivered a powerful homily about the importance of being grounded in faith. “What really stood out to me was when Pastor Laffit said, ‘What people want to know is how this changed your life,’” sophomore theology major Cesar Machuca commented. “It reminds me that we need to turn head knowledge into practical knowledge.”

Yet students also used their head knowledge about the Bible immediately after Cortes’ sermon. As per tradition, teams competed to win the annual Bible trivia game, which included racing to find verses and spelling the name “Melchizedek.” “My favorite part of the retreat was the trivia,” said freshman theology major Salvador Fariaz. “It was fun to work with and get to know more people in my major.”

After lunch, students had the option of canoeing and kayaking on the Albion River, venturing to the coast to hunt for hermit crabs in the coastal tide pools, or visiting the nearby lighthouse.

As the retreat came to a close, the department gathered for Sabbath evening vespers. After a stirring worship service, Dick Montanez, a junior theology major, presented a moving message about the magnificence of God’s love, and the transformation that it can bring.

Bridgette Munoz, a senior religion major, commented about the weekend, “It was very moving for me personally. I felt like God spoke to me in a way that I needed,” she said. “It was like He was reminding me to open my heart to Him and trust Him completely.”

Samantha Angeles

PUC Students Restore Blue Oak to Berryessa



ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, A GROUP OF PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE STUDENTS spent the day restoring the wildlife habitat surrounding Lake Berryessa. The recreational site, just a half hour drive from the PUC campus, has been damaged by human impact. The students’ hope was to rebuild it by planting native species that once flourished in the habitat but have been unable to survive in the current conditions.

There were 18 students involved with the project, which was led by Aimee Wyrick, assistant professor of biology. Students in Wyrick’s conservation biology class made up the majority of the group, although the event was also open to biology majors and anyone else who was interested. Three park rangers from the Bureau of Reclamation also helped with the project.

“As a biology major who has taken ecology and conservation classes, I’ve always studied cases of habitat degradation and how we need to conserve what we have left,” says senior Brian Lee. “The habitat restoration that we performed really drove home the fact that these ecosystems are incredibly fragile and that these problems may be witnessed in our own backyard.”

Students planted blue oak acorns, native trees that take about a decade to establish. Because humans are constantly active in the area, restoration is not a one-time thing. “There’s a lot of other work that can be done, and they always need volunteers,” says Wyrick.

Among other things, conservation biology is about preserving species. Wyrick organized this service learning project because she wanted her students to have hands-on experience with a project related to conservation and restoration.

One of her goals is to help students become aware that there is more than one type of community service. “I feel like there’s really a contribution we can make as a church, not only to the human health aspect but also to restoration,” says Wyrick.

“In our Seventh-day Adventist society, we’re very mission oriented, but it’s usually focused on humans,” she says. “People get really excited about going on mission trips to build churches and provide medical care, which is wonderful... but I think that we miss too often that we are also charged with protecting what God has created for us, and that includes plants and other animals.”

She plans to make habitat restoration a recurring project at PUC, ideally happening once a quarter in Napa County. “I think PUC needs that good face in the community, showing them what our students are capable of and trying to give back locally,” says Wyrick.

Lauren Armstrong



Getty Center Reception Brings Alumni Together

PUC ALUMNI IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TURNED OUT FOR A UNIQUE ART experience when the college hosted a special reception for President’s Circle and Committee of 100 members at the world famous Getty Center in Los Angeles, Calif., November 4. Carolyn Carpenter Hamilton, ’81, interim vice president for advancement, hosted the event, welcoming Southern California alumni and sharing the latest news from their alma mater.

“I thought it was such a wonderful opportunity to catch up with what’s going on at PUC,” said Amabel Tsao, a PUC supporter and former board member who attended with her husband, Eric Tsao. “It was such a nice little break to go to the Getty Museum. We really appreciated it!”

As part of the reception, the Getty invited the attendees to a viewing of their exhibit “In the Beginning Was the Word: Medieval Gospel Illumination,” a collection of antique artwork from European, African, and Middle Eastern biblical manuscripts. Alumni also took advantage of free audio tours of several of the museum’s other collections.

That same weekend, representatives of the college also visited Loma Linda, Calif., to host a dinner reception and an informal breakfast for the many PUC alumni in that area. The dinner featured an especially well-received game of PUC trivia that sent the group on an exciting trip down memory lane.

“Southern California is a great place to visit,” says PUC alumni relations officer Kirt Brower, ’04, who coordinated the weekend’s events. “With so many of our alumni all in one area, it’s a perfect place to bring the community together to reconnect.”

PUC is planning more alumni receptions throughout California and across the country for 2012. The next events on the schedule include a dinner in Phoenix, Ariz., in January, and a reception and Pioneers basketball away game in Redding, Calif., in February. Tentative plans also call for events later next year in Palm Springs, San Luis Obispo, and Sacramento, Calif., as well as Portland, Ore., and Seattle/Tacoma, Wash.

Larry Peña

Pioneers Players Win Post-season Volleyball Honors



LAST WEEK THE CALPAC CONFERENCE RECOGNIZED TWO PIONEERS volleyball players for their performance in the recently closed season. Senior Casey Miller, above left, was named to the 1st Team All-Conference group, and junior transfer student Calai Brown, above right, was named one of the conference’s two Newcomers of the Year.

Head coach Brittany Brown had glowing praise for the two players. “[Casey] is one of those players that really gives 100 percent every day and helps set the tone for PUC volleyball for years to come,” she says. “[Calai] has come into this program with a strong understanding of collegiate volleyball and really excelled this season.”

Miller finished the season leading the Pioneers in kills, with 205 (3.1 kills per set). She was second on the team with 23 service aces on the season, and she also finished second on the team with 191 digs and third with 18 total blocks on the year. Brown finished the season third on the team in kills, with 123 (1.68 per set) and second on the team with 27 total blocks on the year.

“I’m glad that it was my senior year,” says Miller. “It’s a nice way to finish. I consider it an honor.”

“It feels great to be recognized for something,” says Brown. “I felt like I wouldn’t have done that well without [Coach] Brittany [Brown] helping me and actually believing in me.

“Both Casey and Calai are amazing people and athletes,” says coach Brown. “However their success is completely wrapped up in a team that kept growing and supporting each other up until the last practice and game.”

Larry Peña and Robert Castillo



“Clarity of Vision: Scanner Photography” Students admired the unique work of visiting artist Tim Fleming at his November show at Rasmussen Art Gallery.



College Days High school students, including these Hawaiian Mission Academy seniors, from Northern and Central California got a preview of life at PUC at this fall's recruiting event.



Pioneers Soccer PUC defeated the visiting Arizona Christian University Firestorm, 2-1, in a non-conference match in October.



Career Day Peter Thornburgh, consultant and former creative director at Yahoo!, urged students to get ahead by investing themselves in their careers.



Community Service Dozens of PUC students traveled to nearby Calistoga in October to help elderly citizens with home maintenance projects.



Ancient Life Religion professor Myron Widmer led his “Life and Teachings of Jesus” class in the ancient art of grape stomping, for a glimpse of what life was like in the 1st century A.D.



The Sounds of Christmas PUC's music ensembles gave their annual Christmas performance at the PUC Church.



Improv PUC students and chaplain Laffit Cortes, right, put on an impromptu comedy show for visiting high school students at College Days, November 6-11.



Oh Christmas Tree PUC students bundled together on the campus mall to welcome the holiday season at the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.



Open House The women of PUC welcomed their male friends to a festive dorm open house in December.



Stopwatch Film Festival A crowd gathered to watch the results when PUC's film and television faculty challenged students to tell a compelling story on-screen in 60 seconds or less.

More Enrollment Growth at PUC

Third consecutive year of increase



FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, Pacific Union College is seeing an increase in enrollment figures as the new school year begins. The 2011 fall quarter enrolled 1,511 students on campus. When including the off-campus nursing and Degree Completion Programs, overall enrollment at PUC is at 1,567 students. Compared to last year, there has been a 5.2 percent growth for on-campus students and a 2.6 percent increase in total enrollment for the college.

“Pacific Union College is absolutely thrilled with the number of students who have made PUC their college of choice,” says President Heather Knight. “In terms of the campus’s enrollment goals, we have actually jumped ahead a year in achieving these numbers,” says President Heather Knight.

Campus spirit has also come alive with the arrival of new students. There was standing

room only at PUC’s Opening Convocation in October as students filled the PUC Church. The enthusiasm in the air was noticeable as guest speaker Jose Hernandez, NASA astronaut, captivated the audience. Attendance for Friday evening vespers and the Colloquy Speaker Series, a campus-wide gathering that features high-profile speakers, has also been high, with the church filled to capacity for most programs so far this year.

As for the future, Knight has a vision to consistently keep PUC’s enrollment high. “Our goal is to continue to make PUC the most attractive choice academically, spiritually, and financially for our families in the Pacific Union Conference and beyond,” says Knight.

Lauren Armstrong

academic highlights

Vola Andrianarijaona, professor of physics, along with two students and a colleague from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, presented a research poster at this year’s Midwest

Astrochemistry Meeting, October 21 and 22, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The research topic was “Investigation of the Direct Charge Transfer in Low Energy D₂⁺ + H Collisions using Merged-Beams Technique.”

Ross Winkle, professor of religion, presented two papers at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco, November 18-22. The first was “Armed with the Censer

Weaponized Incense: Censer and Incense as Articles of Dress for the High Priest,” presented at the Levites and Priests in History and Tradition Consultation. The second, “Apocalyptic Optics: The Ancient Extramission Theory of Vision and John’s Apocalypse,” was presented at the Sensory Perception in the Bible and Early Judaism and Christianity Consultation. Both presentations received very positive responses from the scholars in attendance.

alumni news

Class Notes, Births, Weddings, and In Memory

Class Notes

1940

Robert L. Horner, M.D., '48 and **Lirlie (Elliot) Horner, '46**, sponsored a trip for the Corona, Calif. Seventh-day Adventist Church seniors to learn about creation science in October. The group visited the Grand Canyon, where **Ariel Roth, Ph.D., '48** and his wife **Lenore (Hardt) Roth, '51**, presented scientific evidence of a worldwide flood. Excited by the traveling and learning opportunity, the Corona senior group is planning a May 2012 trip to Northern California to visit the various homes of James and Ellen White and the original PUC campus in Healdsburg, Calif.

1960

Sandra Eickmann, att. '63-'67, who lives in Glendive, Mont., is a licensed professional clinical counselor in private practice. She writes that she is also a happy grandmother who enjoys hiking with her husband, **Tim, '66**, who has been a dentist.

1970

Jimmy Hague, '71, and **Sharon (Brock) Hague, '71**, are thrilled to have become new grandparents. Their grandson, Kayleb James Hague, was born October 18, 2011.

Tom Shepherd, '73, teaches New Testament at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., and is the director of the university’s doctoral programs in religion. He enjoys playing cello and daily walks. He is married to Sherry Marie Bom Shepherd, M.D., and they have two children, Amy and Jonathan, and four grandchildren – Malachi, Nadia, Nathaniel, and Isaiah.

Bert Williams, '75, lives in Lincoln, Neb., and is now serving as the editor for Christian Record Services, Inc., a ministry that provides free Christian publications for people with visual impairments.

Rosanne Tetz, '76, who now lives in Silver Spring, Md., is the author of *God’s Big Idea*, a Review and Herald book for primary-age children. The book takes children on a journey from Creation to the New Earth and is available through

www.AdventistBookCenter.com.

Gerald “Jerry” Lutz, '77, who now lives in Laurel, Md., with his wife, Janet, is the senior pastor of the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Md.

Merlin Burt, att. '77-'79, who lives in Berrien Springs, Mich., is the author of the recently published Review and Herald book *Adventist Pioneer Places*, which includes maps, current photos of Adventist landmarks, historic photographs, and stories about Adventist pioneers. The book is available through www.adventistbookcenter.com, or toll free at 800-765-6955.

Richard and Zetta Gore, '79 and **'07**, along with Richard’s mother Norma, moved to Clarkdale, Ariz., two years ago leaving Levi, Laura, and Zackary Gore in Angwin to carry on. Richard is a self-employed contractor, and Zetta is a nurse at the local medical center. Richard heads up the Heaven Bound Bluegrass Band, a musical group that inspires people to sing and praise the Lord each Friday night. A number of church duties, including teaching primary Sabbath school, keep them busy when they’re not working. Grandma Gore is in her own

place and is as independent as ever. She often states how she misses her friends in Angwin. “We want everyone to know our door is open whenever you want to visit the ‘Verde Valley.’ God has been good!” writes Richard.

1980

Brian D. Wilcox, '83, who lives in Smyrna, Tenn., is now an elementary teacher at the Rutherford County Board of Education. For five years, Brian was a radio announcer and board operator. Brian was also into program production for four radio stations before moving on to be a sales manager for Spectra, Inc. For 15 years before taking up his present teaching position, he was an “AdSmart” teacher with the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

Monica Gullon, '86, who earned journalism and photography degrees at PUC, now lives in the Los Angeles area where she is a self-employed freelance writer and editor. Monica is a past contributor to *Tu Ciudad* magazine and has been senior editor for the magazines *Shape* and *Living Fit*.

Siu-Lan Tan, '87, now an associate professor of

psychology at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, was awarded the college's highest annual honor for classroom teaching—the Florence J. Lucasse Lectureship for Excellence in Teaching. Born in Indonesia, Siu-Lan grew up in Hong Kong where she taught music. After earning her B.A. in music at PUC, she became interested in psychology and earned both an M.A. and a Ph.D. in psychology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Per Lucasse tradition, Siu-Tan will speak to students, faculty, staff, and guests about her work at a spring 2012 lecture.

Gordon Miller, att. '87, '93, who teaches at the Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School in Virginia, has been named as one of 10 “highest quality teachers” among hundreds in the Seventh-day Adventist educational system in North America. In connection with the distinction, Miller has received a 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alumni Awards Foundation, which also includes a \$2,000 gift, a medallion, and a certificate of excellence.

Demi Bekele, att. '88-'90, who earlier made her home in Walnut Creek, Calif., is now living in Missouri where she was recently recognized for her successful real estate sales. Demi is the lead associate and co-chair of Flex Work Forum at Booz Allen Hamilton, a leading American public consulting firm. Earlier, Demi was the sales and marketing coordinator of MyPoints.com Inc., and manager of Egghead software.

1990

Joel Kindrick, '92, writes that he was delighted to read in a recent issue of *ViewPoint* about the continuing tradition

births



► Payton Fahey Michael Gienger, daughter of **Brad Gienger, '10**, and **Kristen (Feldbush) Gienger, '10**, of Pierre, South Dakota. Born 9-24-2011.



► Andrew Grainger Hartman, son of **Charles Hartman, '93** and **Lorna (McFarland) Hartman, '94** of Spokane, Wash. Born 9-2-2011.



► Dexter Raymond Hill, son of **Tim Hill, M.D., '01**, and **Heidi (Ensminger) Hill, D.D.S., '01**, of Hillsboro, Ore. Born 11-10-11.



► Sumi Abigail Kim, daughter of **Paul Kim, '04** and **Kimberly (Osborn) Kim, '04** of Glendale, Calif. Born 6-11-2011.



► Allison Whitney, daughter of **Jason Whitney, '05**, and his wife Jennifer, of Roseville, Calif. Born 8-15-2011.

of drama at PUC. As a student, Joel was one of the founders of PUC's Dramatic Arts Society, and was involved in several of their early productions, including directing *Our Town* and starring in *Romanoff and Juliet*. He and his wife currently live in Los Angeles, where he

works as an actor in film and television and occasionally teaches film and theater studies.

Jongsung Kim, '97, an active duty dentist with the U.S. Air Force, was recently promoted to a major. He and his family are currently stationed at Anderson Air Force Base in Guam, where his wife **Joanne (Park) Kim** teaches English at Guam Adventist Academy. Their four children, Joelle, Janelle, Jordan, and Jaira, ranging from ninth grade to pre-kindergarten, all attend the academy. The family will transfer to San Antonio, Texas next summer.

2000

Nathaniel Gamble, '09, found out last month that his submission of a thesis proposal for the MA theology degree was unanimously approved and accepted by all the theology faculty of Denver Seminary, without any need of correction. This was his first submission, which means the theology faculty did not feel anything was missing, in need of change or addition, or in need of clarification. “According to other students writing a theology thesis, my thesis proposal appears to be the first that has ever been accepted on the first submission,” he writes. His thesis is entitled, “An Evaluation of Edward Heppenstall’s Doctrine of Christ’s Humanity in Light of T. F. Torrance’s Doctrine of Christ’s Humanity.”

Your Update Here

► Let us know about your adventures, jobs, and family! Class Notes come from a variety of sources, but we like it best when they come from you.

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In Memory

Goldie M. (Raley) Caviness, '34, a homemaker, died December 18, 2011, in Centerville, Ohio. Her husband, **George L. Caviness**, who taught at PUC in the 1940s and 50s, preceded her in death. She leaves behind her children, Malcolm, Arthur, and Dorothy.

Leona L. (Bates) Watson, '37, a homemaker and retired printer, died July 4, 2011, in Loma Linda, Calif. She was born April 15, 1917, in Manfred, N.D. Leona leaves behind her daughters, Margie Reck and Penny Friesen; her sons, Robert and Don Randleman, and James and Joe Watson; nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Edith (Gallion) Scott, '39, passed away on September 11, 2011, in Yucaipa, Calif. She was born March 10, 1920. She taught elementary school for one year at Pleasant Hill School in Paradise, Calif., before marrying John P. Scott and starting a family. She spent her life as a homemaker and bookkeeper for John's home building business. John preceded her in death earlier this year. She leaves behind her son, John, and her daughter, Marian Scott Crispens.

Richard A. Rentfro, '42, a Seventh-day Adventist minister and evangelist who worked across the western United States and Canada, died October 21, 2011, in Thorp, Wash. He was born February 4, 1920. He was a prolific writer for the *Adventist Review* and other denominational publications, and for the last 13 years he also wrote a weekly religious column for the Ellensburg, Wash., *Daily Record*. His congregations knew him as “the loving pastor” and “the pastor’s pastor.” His wife, Rosalyn, and son, Richard Jr., preceded him in death, and he leaves behind his daughter, Connie Coleman; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Robert R. Torrey, Sr., '42, a resident of Pasadena, passed away on August 13, 2011. He was born July 7, 1922, in Stoneham, Mass. His parents were missionaries, and he grew up in India. He served as a captain in the United States Army from 1946-1949, then went on to work at White Memorial Medical Center. He leaves behind his wife, Shirley; his three children, Robert Torrey, Jr., Louise Allen, and Anita Torrey; six grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Marilyn (Dutcher) Waggy, '42, a retired nurse and homemaker, died May 31, 2011, in College Place, Wash. She was born March 12, 1923. Her husband Joseph, preceded her in death, and she leaves behind her four children, Jean, Timothy, Holly, and Thomas.

Ethel M. (Cole) Behner, '43 died peacefully on August 29, 2011, in Mount Vernon, Ohio. She was born April 4, 1921, in Lima, Peru. She was preceded in death by her sister, Mildred Reiger; and her brother, Vernon Cole. Ethel leaves behind her sister Adda Sheldon; her

husband Russell Behner; children Marjorie Behner-Sands, Kathleen Behner, and Howard Behner; and two grandchildren.

Kenneth R. Brigham, '43, a physician, died December 23, 2010, in Garden Grove, Calif. He was born on March 12, 1923, in Dinuba, Calif. Kenneth leaves behind his wife, Charline; his daughters, Carol Brigham and Jan Harris; his son, Ken; his brother, Floyd; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Paul Plummer, '50, who was a teacher in Pacific Union College's education department from 1980 to 1998, died September 20, 2011, in Napa, Calif. He was born October 3, 1925, in Huntington Park, Calif. A superintendent of the Education Department of the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists before coming to PUC, Paul spent his entire career in the church's educational system as a teacher and educational leader. He leaves behind his wife, Elva; his daughters, Nancy Wilkinson and Emily Boyd; his son, Charles; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

James Arlen Wilhelm, att. '52, died September 18, 2011, in Visalia, Calif. He was born on February 21, 1934, in Cyril, Okla. In 1958, he was drafted into the Army and served as a physical therapy specialist until his honorable discharge in 1960. He leaves behind his mother, Opal Wilhelm; his sister, Karen Armstrong; his wife, Beverly; and three children, Jeff Wilhelm, James C. Wilhelm, and a daughter, Julie McConnell; and four grandchildren.

John Wesley Taylor IV, '56, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary and educator, died Nov. 26, 2010, at Collegedale,

Tenn. He was born on Feb. 2, 1933, in Bolivia. John served as a missionary in various Adventist educational institutions in the Inter-American Division. He leaves behind his wife, Jessie Fay; a daughter, Karen Lucille Glassford; a son, John Wesley, V; and four grandchildren.

Jerry Louise Chilson, '56, a retired teacher who taught at Seventh-day Adventist schools in Oregon and California, died April 7, 2010, in Walton, Ore. Jerry was born on April 12, 1935, in Takoma Park, Md.

Roger L. Lutz, Sr., '57, passed away September 28, 2011, at the Veterans Home of Yountville, Calif. He was born Dec. 27, 1919, in Chungking, China, to Earnest and Lillian Lutz. Roger was inducted into the Army in 1942 and provided vital support to front line troops in France. After graduation from Pacific Union College, Roger bought a bottled water company. He leaves behind his wife, Marlys; his son, Roger L. Lutz, Jr.; his daughter, Marcia D. Lehman; his sister, Doris Klopping; five grandsons, and three great-grandchildren.

Virginia Tuchalski (Finkle) Hastings, '59, a Seventh-day Adventist grade school teacher and principal in Nevada and California, died June 10, 2011, in Renton, Wash. She was born on Sept. 8, 1918, in Neilsville, Wis. Virginia leaves behind her daughters, Yvonne Lev, Marcey Sweet, and Lorna Carranza; her son, Peter; her brother, D. Michael Kasum; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Marlene “Marley” June Sierra passed away September 17, 2011. Marley was born January 12, 1933, in Grand Island, Neb. After taking nursing studies at Pacific Union College, she moved to Las Vegas. She was crowned Miss Nevada in

1956 under the name Marley Sanderson. Friends knew her as a bubbly and glamorous personality. She and her husband Albert traveled the world, visiting Italy, South Africa, and Australia. She leaves behind her mother, Margaret E. Schnepfer; her brother, Dr. Fred Schnepfer; her sons, Larry Mendes and Michael Sierra; three grandchildren; as well as great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews, and many other relatives.

Howard Wilson Carter, '63, a retired school principal, business manager, and Seventh-day Adventist church pastor, died November 23, 2009, in Rogue River, Ore. He was born in Kodaikanal, India, on June 13, 1928. Howard leaves behind his wife, Audrey; a daughter, Rosemary Withem; two sons, Raymond and Robert; two sisters, Ellen and Eloise; seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Stanley Rouhe, M.D., '65, and **Anne-Louise (Sonestam) Rouhe, '65**, both passed away in June of this year in Redlands, Calif. — he on June 25, she on June 7. Stanley was a neurosurgeon and partner in a medical distribution company.

David Alan Williams passed away August 19, 2011, in Lodi, Calif. He was born October 25, 1949, in Benton Harbor, Michigan, the first of four children. He was very interested in the investment potential of real estate, and his work in real estate became his passion. He leaves behind his loving wife, Kathy; his daughter, Amy Reeves; and his son, Michael; his parents, Robert and Ann Williams; his two brothers, Chuck Williams and John Williams; and his sister, Marci Henley.

Richard A. Rentfro, Jr., M.D., '68, a retired orthopedic surgeon, died March 2, 2008, in Ellensburg, Wash. He was born May 28, 1945. After practicing for 22 years in Sacramento, Calif., Richard served as a missionary in Nepal from 2000 until his death. He was impassioned for the cause of saving souls and particularly loved ministering in rural areas. He left behind his wife, Nishu; his daughters, Kimberly and Brianna; his son, Benjamin; his sister, Connie; and his father Dick Sr., now deceased.

Kay Darlene (Lewis) Erickson, att. '78-'83, who served in the Pacific Union College health services office, and later in the Loma Linda University student finance office, died July 10, 2011, in Redlands, Calif. She was born on June 11, 1936, in La Crosse, Kan. Kay leaves behind her daughters, Cynthia Kay Erickson-Gilman and Lorie Jean Speegle; her son, Leonard Wayne; and three grandchildren.

Correction: In the last issue, we published an obituary under the wrong name. The obituary we published under the name **James N. Lee** was actually **Norman Lee James, '50**.

Remembering Friends

► In Memory is our opportunity to honor and remember fellow alumni. Currently, we receive obituaries from various sources and information may not always be complete. Family members with obituaries or information can contact the Alumni Office; the names we receive are also read each year at Homecoming.

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leave a legacy

Economic Bequests Supporting your school in an uncertain economy



Everyone I know seems to be watching today's economy, wondering what will happen next. We here at PUC are doing that too. It surely has been quite a ride since August 2008, and it doesn't seem to be settling down any time soon.

In July of that year, the market had been in a steady uptrend for quite some time—it was booming really—and investment accounts were looking really good. The value of real property had risen to new heights. Although some of the experts were saying it couldn't last, many others were saying there would be even bigger, better returns. A lot of people felt secure about their retirements, and our office was taking calls from alumni who were thinking of using their appreciated assets to make a gift to PUC in the form of a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.

Then only one month later the real estate bubble burst and the stock market tanked, and by December, Americans' retirement accounts were worth only about half what they had been in July. Millions were reeling from the loss. With home loans and retirement accounts suddenly "underwater," it became obvious that some plans would have to wait.

This dilemma faces many of us now: Tying up cash or appreciated assets in a gift annuity is out of the question, so how can I make ends meet and still support PUC? The solution may be a bequest in your will or trust. Studies show that even with the economic downturn, most of us will not exhaust our retirement reserves and funds will be left to be distributed through our estate plans.

For those who need all their income from retirement accounts in order to meet their day-to-day expenses, leaving a bequest to charity in a will or living trust can be a good option. It may be a specific item or amount, a percentage, or the residue of your estate, or perhaps leaving a bequest of an IRA or insurance policy works better for your individual situation.

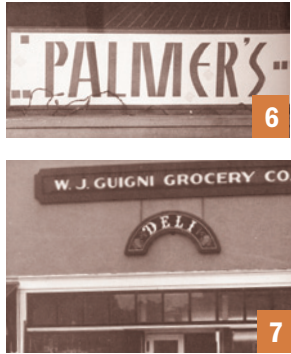
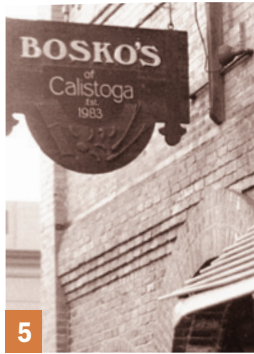
If you are considering leaving a bequest to PUC in your will or trust and would like more information, we have a wonderful tool on our website. Just go to pucplannedgiving.org and click on Plan Your Will on the right side of the page.

You can also call our office any time. We're always glad to assist you in making the best possible decisions for yourself, your family, and your alma mater.

For more information on wills, estate plans, and other types of planned gifts, please contact Eckhard Hubin at the Office of Planned Giving.

Office of Planned Giving
plannedgiving@puc.edu
www.pucplannedgiving.org
Local: 707-965-6596
Toll-free: 1-800-243-5251

back in the day



Places We Ate Because students aren't always in the mood for the cafeteria

As wonderful as the Angwin crater may be, PUC students have always been afflicted by a desperate need to just...get...off...the...hill. And more often than not, those trips down Howell Mountain Road have been directed by the students' stomachs.

These are just a few of many PUC favorites. We know we missed places like Taylor's Refresher, The Spot, and Teng's. Where in the valley did you love to eat when you were a PUC student? Continue the conversation at facebook.com/pacificunioncollege.

1. Tomatina was a favorite spot for Italian food in recent decades. The restaurant and trademark tomato are still there, but the sign now bears a different name—Pizzeria Tra Vigne.

2. La Prima's thick, fluffy pizza has been a St. Helena standard for decades. The classic sign, here in 1988.

3. They may have given up the old glass mugs, and they've added KFC to their menu options, but A&W remains the only chain fast food option in the upper Napa Valley.

4. For great ice cream and snacks, students were willing to make the trek to Napa for Swenson's. You could count on it being full of other PUC-ites every Saturday night.

5. Up the road in Calistoga, Bosko's Trattoria has been serving Italian comfort food since 1983. You can still get a vegetarian Glorioso there—but if you graduated since 1993, look for their new location on the other side of Main Street.

6. Palmer's, a favorite breakfast joint for the PUC crowd, became Gillwood's Café in 1991. It's not on the menu, but you can still order the "Palmer's Breakfast" today.

7. Perhaps the ultimate PUC student favorite, Giugni's Market and Deli has been making the Valley's tastiest sandwiches for generations. Decades after graduating, PUC alumni still crave Giugni juice.

What's your memory?

viewpoint@puc.edu or online at www.puc.edu/alumni/share-your-memories or by post to ViewPoint Editor, One Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508

the interview

Serving God’s Purpose



Wally Peralta, '12, is PUC's Student Association Religious Vice President.

“My goal for this year is to make our Christian experience as genuine as possible by fulfilling our theme: becoming grounded in Christ, in faith, and in love.”

At PUC, spiritual life is not something handed down by the pastors and administration. Students are directly involved in leading the campus in a closer walk with God—and none more directly than Student Association religious vice president Wally Peralta. We spoke with the senior theology major after his involvement in last quarter’s Fall Revival series.

What inspired you to run for student association religious vice president?

One of the reasons why I ran for student association religious vice president was because I knew that God had a plan and a purpose for me this year. Last year I was heavily involved in campus ministries and was able to learn a lot from the RVP and assistant chaplains. They inspired me to become more involved with vespers and different ministries on campus, and it was through working with them that I developed a vision for where PUC could go spiritually, and I wanted to be involved in the journey.

What does your role require? What are you in charge of?

As religious vice president, I am responsible for planning vespers and revival weeks, which includes contacting speakers and taking care of their accommodations and expenses, developing themes, providing other program elements such as music, scripture, and prayer, and managing the budget for all of campus ministries. I am blessed to have an amazing team to help oversee different elements, provide ideas, and help make things happen.

What are your goals for the students?

My goal for this year is to make our Christian experience as genuine as possible by fulfilling our theme: becoming grounded in Christ, in faith, and in love.

What was the week of Fall Revival like?

Revival weeks are always full of running around, trying to manage the logistics of six or seven programs. Because of that, it’s easy to forget the purpose behind it – to bring PUC closer to God. Pastor Laffit’s sermons, however, kept students

coming – it was a record attendance – and the baptisms at the end were a powerful testimony of God’s hand in PUC.

Tell us about spiritual life at PUC. What’s happening on campus?

Fabio Maia, the new missions coordinator, has been a huge blessing. He’s been very involved with the ministries, strengthening ones such as Homeless Ministries and KidzReach to become more effective, as well as providing service opportunities such as Rebuilding Calistoga, and several mission trips that are in the works. Spiritual life has ceased to exist only in the church building, and has moved to the dorms for weekly dorm worships with Pastor Laffit and lots of Bible studies all over campus. Pastor Laffit has been working to create an environment of worship, and it shows. In addition, the campus and church get together for Big Wednesday, a big prayer meeting for the campus. Operation Daniel, a three-times-a-day prayer circle in front of the library, has been operating to lift PUC before God. Vespers is only one part of the spiritual happenings on campus.

What are students seeking in their spiritual life these days?

I can’t speak for the whole campus, but my impression is that students are seeking an authentic, genuine connection with God, and a faith that does not necessitate abandoning intellectual pursuits. Most of all, I think students need faith to be relevant – less a list of DOs and DON’Ts and more of seeing how those things can make a difference in everyday life.

What do you think young people value most about the Adventist Church?

I think that young people value the community that it provides and the strong Biblical foundation of its beliefs.

What is your prayer for PUC?

My prayer for PUC is that it can become a place of constant worship and prayer, where students actively are involved in seeking and meeting God, and leading others to do the same.

my viewpoint

Golden Memories

I was attending Glendale Junior College when I became a Seventh-day Adventist and decided to attend Pacific Union College for my junior and senior years. At that time PUC was primarily a pre-theological, pre-medical prep school, so the curriculum was heavy on Bible and biology but quite weak in chemistry, physics, and math, which were my main interests. I took every physics class they offered, and they were all taught by the same teacher. Their math did not go beyond elementary calculus, which I had already taken, and chemistry courses were limited to what was required for nursing and medicine. At that time it was a requirement for a student to take a Bible class every year of attendance. Well, I had never had a Bible class in my life, and here I was a junior.

The counselors didn’t know exactly how to handle the situation. I finally ended up in freshman Daniel and Revelation and an upper division Bible course entitled “Major and Minor Prophets.” I’ll have to admit I was floundering. I received a D on the first test and was ready to bail out. Then the professor, Elder French, announced that those who received a D shouldn’t feel too bad, as half the class of upper division theology students had received Fs. I went on to get C as a final grade. The class in Daniel and Revelation was a breeze because I had previously devoured the Uriah Smith book on that subject. As it turned out, I knew more than those students who had taken Bible all through elementary school and academy.

In 1943 there was only one men’s dorm. Grainger Hall had three floors, and new students usually ended up on the third. Things were pretty wild up there. I heard that they played bowling in the hallways with glass milk bottles. Once, before my time, they flooded a shower room between the first and second floors, and when the dean opened the door he was washed down the stairs and out into the street. Well, since I was a new Adventist, they didn’t want me in that environment, so they put me into a first floor room with Bob Gildersleeve. Bob was a night watchman and had keys to everywhere on campus. We would sneak down to Paulin Hall at midnight and listen to scary music like *A Night on Bald Mountain* by Mussorgski.

In my senior year I roomed with Graham Maxwell, who was to be a good influence on me. Graham

was a weight lifter and had a set of weights. Guys would come from all over the dorm to test their muscles. One night we were making such a ruckus during the prescribed study period that the hall monitor, Bob Olson, came down to investigate. We persuaded him to try his skills, but unbeknown to him we loosened the nuts on each end of the bar. When he heaved up about 100 pounds, suddenly the weights fell off one end of the bar, and then the other, and hit the floor with two loud thuds that shook the building. Bob never outlived that incident. One time Bob Reiger, who lived across the hall from me, forgot the key to his room. Each room had a transom above the door for ventilation, and this was open. A group of us were standing outside in the hall wondering what to do. If someone could squeeze through the transom, he could open the door from the inside, but none of us was physically qualified for the job. Then along came a tall lanky fellow named Neil Wilson who seemed to fit the bill. He agreed to try it, so we hoisted him up, and he squeezed through the narrow opening and opened the door. Even then Neil showed signs of rising to the occasion.

In my senior year I broke my leg on a Thanksgiving outing and was hauled off to St. Helena Hospital in the back of a pickup truck without my leg being immobilized in a splint. I was in the hospital until after Christmas, about four or five weeks. During that time I grew a beard, and when I returned to campus it caused quite a stir. In those days beards were a no-no. The theology students had a private club called “the Sanhedrin,” and because I looked like a rabbi, they made me an honorary member. Finally, Dean Clark made me shave it off, and the status quo was restored.

In the “good old days” the rules concerning the mixing of the sexes were very strict. In church services all the guys sat on one side of the sanctuary and all of the girls on the other with a no-man’s land between. After all, if they sat together, they might even (gasp) hold hands. If you had a date with a girl, it was in the girl’s dorm parlor under the watchful eye of the dean.

Yes, those were the golden days of carefree youth, and the memories are still fresh in my mind and the friendships are ever dear. May that spirit live on today, and God bless PUC.



John McConnell, '43, is a retired academy teacher and former rocket scientist. His current project is series of devotionals, collected online at www.morningglorydevotionals.net.

“In 1943 there was only one men’s dorm. Grainger Hall had three floors, and new students usually ended up on the third. Things were pretty wild up there.”



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