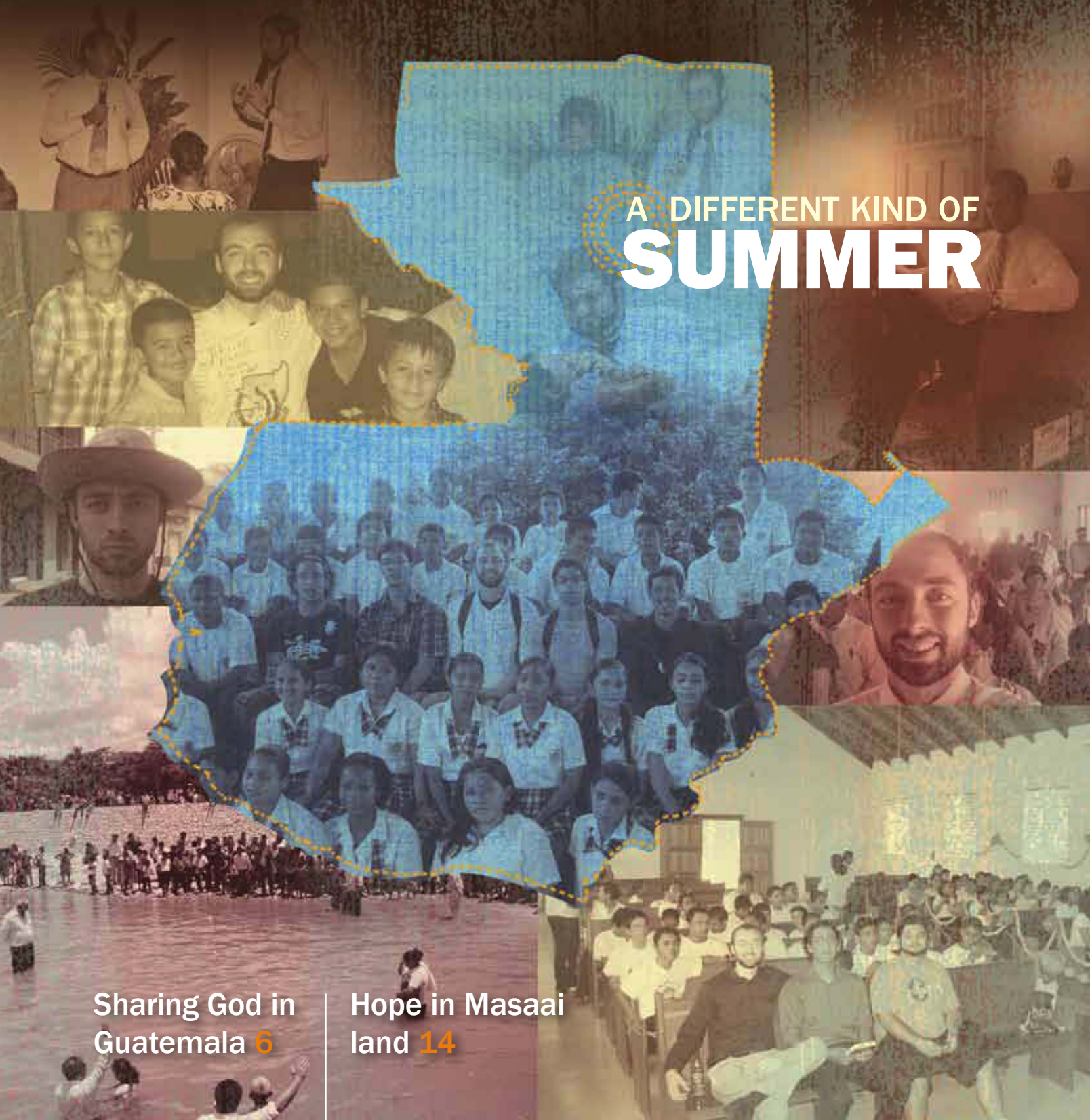


# ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE FALL 2010

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF **SUMMER**



Sharing God in  
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# our college perspective



*“It is the work of the educational arm of the Church... that enables us to embrace unity despite our diversity and also to change the world through Christian service.”*

## “Heaven Must Be Like This”

During the recent General Conference session held in Atlanta, Georgia, I had the pleasure of representing Pacific Union College at this exciting two-week event.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is now a global church 16.8 million members strong. I had many powerful impressions during this period of time, and one of the most powerful realizations was that of the relevance and significance of the Adventist message to so many individuals around the world regardless of their nationalities, gender, racial, ethnic or cultural backgrounds. Truly, we are part of a movement that is powerful and transformative!

And yet, even as I listened to the many reports and testimonies from around the world, I wondered about the significance of this meeting for “my part of the vineyard,” for PUC. Was God’s Spirit still working miracles for us here on the hill in terms of our mission to educate Seventh-day Adventist young people? How important is the work of Seventh-day Adventist higher education in terms of helping to build up and develop our Church?

Even as I pondered these important questions, I could see that we are a people who value both love and literacy. Indeed, it is the work of the educational arm of the Church that has given us the type of intellectual and professional foundation that enables us to embrace unity despite our diversity and also to change the world through Christian service.

Below are some impressions that I was asked to write by the *Adventist Review*, recording my impressions of the first Sabbath of the General Conference, for their daily feature, “Voices From the Dome.” I hope that these reflections will give you a taste of the actual experience:

As I exited the bus that we had taken from our hotel to the Georgia Dome, the heat from the hot, humid Atlanta air immediately enveloped my husband Norman and me. We immediately looked at one another, and I thought, “If it is this hot out here, what is it going to be like with over 69,000 Adventists from every nation, kindred and tongue, inside the Georgia Dome itself?”

But when we entered the Dome, all of our senses were enlivened. Not only did we feel the cool air that seemed to transport us to another dimension in time and space and instantaneously allowed us to forget about the heat outside, but we heard the melodious sounds of the International Brass Choir, the Pine Forge Academy Choir, Wintley Phipps singing “Amazing Grace,” and the voices of people singing so sweetly that I expect the angels were leaning over the battlements of Heaven to hear the harmonious music of the saints of God.

Amazingly, we saw and experienced the beloved community of Christ, a people in one accord worshipping on the Sabbath day. This was beautiful to see—women and men adorned in their colorful native dress from so many countries around the world, yet there seemed to be no strangers there.

What was surprising, though, was that even in a crowd of this size, we were able to find long lost friends whom we were so very happy to see. For example, I ran into Pat Langley, the Bible worker who had given me Bible studies when I decided to be baptized at 13 years old in the Bronx, New York. I had not seen her since that time, and how wonderful it was to share with her that this little girl from the Bronx had now become president of Pacific Union College. Upon hearing this news, she immediately burst into a prayer of thanks.

And then, to hear Elder Matthew Bediako proclaim God’s grace, the session’s theme, brought a fragrant spiritual bouquet and aroma to our senses, which reminded us that we were all a part of something much bigger than ourselves.

If I magnify this experience a million times, I suspect this is what heaven will be like. Yes, heaven must be like this, it must be like this! Let us all pledge to be there.

Heather J. Knight, President



# ViewPoint

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

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## 06 A Different Kind of Summer

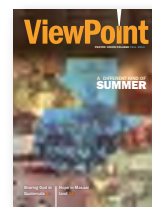
One student's experience in short-term missions

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### On the Cover

A collage of photos from a mission trip in Guatemala.

# A YELLOW-RIBBON SCHOOL

## Support and scholarships for veterans

Lainey S. Cronk and Eirene-Gin Nakamura

**M**ORE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN recently to the post-war lives of American soldiers, ranging from hit movies to efforts to educate troops and the general public about post traumatic stress. As this attention makes clear, the transition from military life to “normal” life back home is not simple to execute. “It’s extremely frustrating to go from the battlefield to a civilian environment,” says Iraq veteran Adrian Avila. “The adjustment is really painful sometimes.”

What many people may not realize is that a number of students are now going through this transition at PUC. During the 2009/2010 school year there were approximately 40 students at PUC, either veterans or family of veterans, receiving army benefits — including 17 who qualified for the benefits of the new Post 9/11 GI Bill. This group consists of veterans who have served in the Air Force, Navy, and/or the Marines.

Like Avila, who just graduated from PUC this June, they return to studies here after their military service and have to readjust not only to civilian life but also to academic life.

Motivated by his own experiences and those of other veterans, Avila joined forces with social work professor Fiona Bullock to establish PUC’s official Veterans Club. Bullock is an ’83 PUC graduate who earned her master’s in social work at the University of California, Berkeley. As a social worker, she specializes in bereavement trauma, death, and dying and has worked in hospice, school grief support, inpatient psychiatrics, and medical social work.

A particular relevant interest of Bullock’s is in researching loss and grief issues of families of deployed military personnel and war-related post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) issues. About two years ago, Bullock started working as a PTSD counselor at the Veterans Center in Sacramento, so she was already familiar with



**Students** learned all about the bill and legislative process and then shared their knowledge with others.

the re-assimilation challenges facing veterans — and very sympathetic to their experience and complications they face at college. Bullock became the Veterans Club sponsor and the veterans support group facilitator, and she and Avila set out to address challenges and offer a support system.

For one thing, Avila found that the details of paperwork, processes, and credit were confusing when he returned to PUC after five months in Iraq. While PUC has historically served many veterans and the policies are all in place for college credit, finances, and such technicalities, they be very confusing for students to wade through. “Military service can be

translated into current school credit,” explains former staff sergeant of the Honor Guard Cliff Keith, who arrived at PUC in January 2010 and will be the next president of the Veterans Club. But when it comes to getting those credits, he says, “this process is intricate and complicated.”

So the Veterans Club has been instrumental in clarifying the procedures, making them more accessible, and helping students understand how it all works. “The main focus of the club within this last year at PUC has been to assist the process that ensures a veteran can attend PUC and maximize the benefits they have earned,” says Keith.

But in addition to helping with technicalities, the members of the club hope to provide support and recognition for veterans. They hope to mentor anyone considering joining the service. And they hope to support students and community members who have family or friends currently serving.

While the Veterans Club is one step toward increasing support systems for veterans, various other connections are helping to spread the impact. Jennifer Wareham Best of the Teaching and Learning Center was appointed as PUC’s veterans services coordinator to “ease the transition from military service to college life.” As PUC’s registrar Marlo Waters explains, Wareham Best “is filling an important role at PUC by serving as the point person for student veterans; she connects students with the veterans resources available at the college and she assists with the navigation of all the different offices, processes, and paperwork.”

Other connections across campus ranged from nursing professor Debra Winkle (who directs a nursing program on the Travis Air Force Base) to assistant registrar Jonathan Bradley (for assessing veteran benefits eligibility). A new page on the PUC website was created for student veterans. PUC is now also a “Yellow





**In Sacramento, Calif.,** Students rally in support of a legislative bill regarding veterans.

Ribbon" school listed with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). That means PUC contributes scholarship money to student veterans, and the VA matches funds, making a private college education even more affordable for veterans.

Keith is encouraged that support is growing and that PUC has networked with government agencies to ensure that veterans have a smooth transition. "As the club's identity forms through the friendships made," he says, "new veterans that arrive at PUC can integrate in with the networked resources in place."

### A Justice Project for Forgotten Veterans

This year brought PUC another link to veterans issues — again through Bullock. Every year, Bullock asks students in her Social Welfare Policy and Contemporary Social Issues class to work on a legislative project focusing on individuals, families, groups, or communities in need. Last year's project was geared towards emancipating foster youth in transition from the child welfare system; this year's project focused on forgotten veterans.

Bullock has the students learn about the legislative process a bill passes through in order to present an educational meeting on campus. Students also become familiar with a specific current bill and take on a worthy cause in order to get first-hand experience with social justice. She takes the group to the State Capitol armed with their new knowledge and interest, ready for real-world experience with social justice.

"It shows the class (and other students from the department) how accessible govern-

## PUC'S HISTORY WITH VETERANS

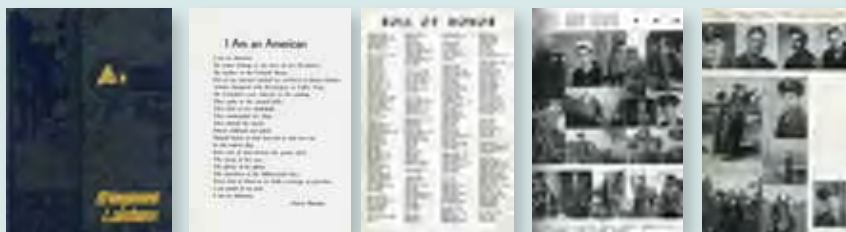
### World War I Vets

"Students were drafted or volunteered and efforts were made to keep track of them at the various camps. When the war was over President Irwin called to encourage former students to return to PUC. He also made explanations to the local draft board to obtain deferments for the ministerial students."

### World War II Vets

"The outbreak of World War II was felt on the campus... primarily in the drafting of the male students as the war progressed... Eventually the number of PUC alumni and students in the service passed 400."

The 1943 *Diogenes Lantern* was dedicated "To the boys who were once our classmates... the boys who studied, worked, played, and worshipped with us only yesterday... the boys who would be here today had not a war dictated otherwise... to the men now serving our country and witnessing for our God in the armed forces of the great United States of America ... to these we gratefully and proudly dedicate these pages."



ment is to them and that apathy is not acceptable," Bullock says. She also finds that it gives the students a chance to make valuable community connections, "to network with other community agencies and consumers impacted by the legislation and to partnership for change."

This year's project was inspired when two Patriot Guard Riders came to Bullock's Death and Dying class and spoke about the Missing in America Project (MIAP). MIAP locates unclaimed cremated remains of veterans for proper military burial with full military honors, and Patriot Guard Riders is a group of motorcycle riders and others that support veterans by attending funerals. One of them asked the class, "What would it take for college students to get involved in this project?" Bullock decided to take on that question. "That was enough for me to research the subject for current legislation, and off we went from there," she says.

Students started becoming familiar with Assembly Bill 1644, a current bill proposing to simplify the effort to locate, identify, and honorably inter the remains of forgotten veterans. They presented an educational meeting and orga-

nized student participation and educational materials for a rally in Sacramento, Calif. In Igo, Calif., the students attended the funeral of three MIAP veterans, representing the families of those unclaimed veterans. "Being able to attend the funerals in Igo was humbling and the students were impressed by the warmth of the veterans," says Bullock. "We are going to take the flags presented to us on behalf of the MIAP veterans and hang them in a place of honor in the department."

The students also attended the Sacramento rally and organized a student, faculty, and veteran post-rally party. "Every year is great, but I have to say, this was pretty special," Bullock says. Class member Becky Broeckel, who has a brother in the Navy, found that the projects had everything to do with community. "The veterans that escort newly discharged veterans and attend funerals get fellowship and understanding from each other and from being involved in these programs," she says. "I want to advocate for veterans, and the AB 1644 is a way to promote community and support." **VP**

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# A DIFFERENT KIND OF SUMMER

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## GOD HAD SURPRISES IN STORE WHEN I GAVE HIM MY VACATION

Aren Rennacker

Summer vacation. It's the glorious gift that annually touches the life of every kid. More reliable than chicken pox and more valuable than an iPhone, it wouldn't be traded for all the chocolate milk in the world. It's true for fifth graders, and it's true for college students. We love our break. But with each break comes the same question: Should I do something with my free time? For many years I answered that question with a vehement "No!" and enjoyed endless hours of video gaming. Being a bit older now and realizing my summer breaks are at a minimum, I answered differently this time — and took the biggest trip of my life.



On Monday, July 5, I traveled to Guatemala with eight others from PUC for a three-week mission trip, sponsored by ShareHim ministries and the Quiet Hour. Our work there would not be building churches or providing medical assistance; rather, we would be preaching. Every night. It goes without saying that we were not a group of experienced evangelists, just a group of willing Seventh-day Adventists. Turns out, that was all God needed to work with.

After landing in southern Guatemala, we had to be driven to our hotel in Flores, a small island town in northern Guatemala. It would be a ten-hour drive. We were stopped once at a checkpoint, pulled over twice by the police, and showered by a rainstorm that bordered upon monsoon status, making the sight of our hotel as beautiful as the country's lush landscape.

We spent the next two days enjoying our surroundings, but also preparing for Friday evening, when we would give our first sermon. I stayed up late Thursday night, locking myself in the bathroom past 2 a.m. to get some extra practice in.

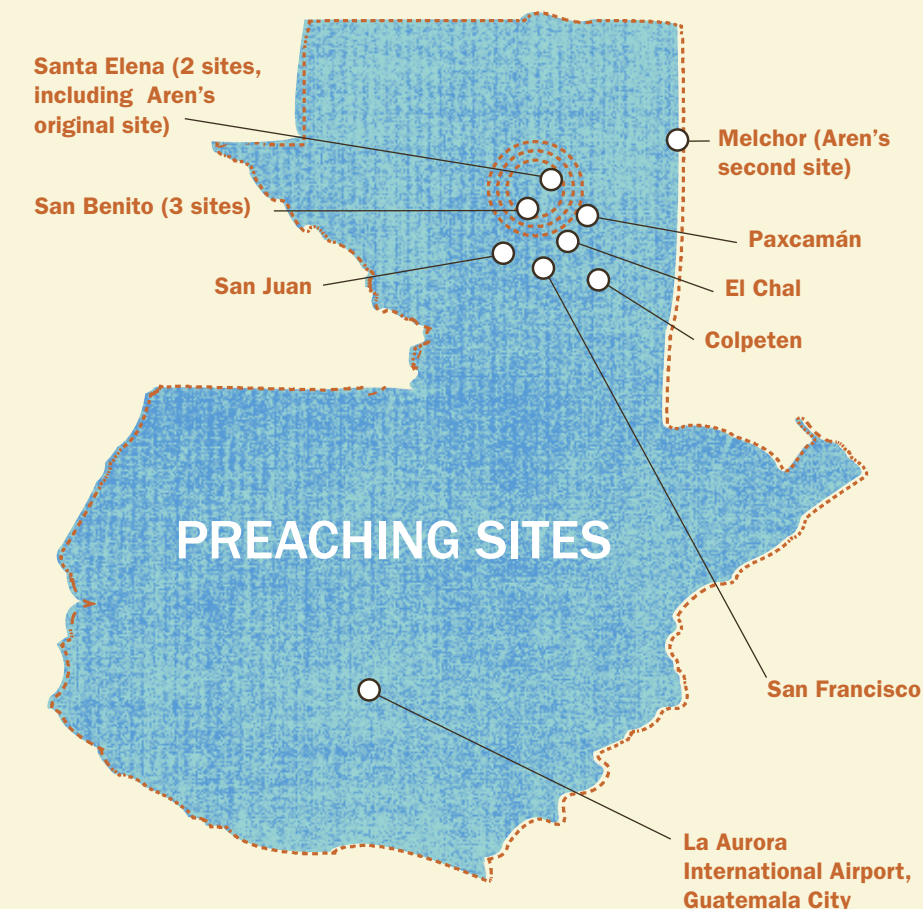
There was a buzz of excitement around our group on Friday. We were anxious to begin our individual missions by meeting the members of our church and delivering that first, long awaited sermon. After lunch, we gathered together and had special prayer.

Two other students and I were picked up at six o'clock to be taken to our respective churches. This was it. We first arrived at Robert's church, where a group of members were waiting to meet him. Next we dropped off David. Now it was my turn. I felt like I was about to meet the Guatemalan orphan I had just adopted online. I was about to meet my family! Ten minutes later, I heard the driver say "aqui." Thanks to my vastly improving Spanish, I knew we were here. It was time to enter my church, meet my flock, and preach the message I had been waiting to give for weeks.

No one showed up.

Well, that's not entirely true. My translator was there. "It looks like we don't have many people tonight," he stated in his heavily accented English. Well said, Gilberto.

After setting up my overhead presentation in case a wandering stranger just happened to be looking for an evangelistic series, I sat on one of the wooden pews. I chatted with Gilberto, who informed me that three months ago the church had been closed down. There also was a



lack of pre-campaign advertising, as evidenced by the untouched stack of flyers sitting on the stage with my name on them.

Thirty minutes later and with the church still vacant, ShareHim associate Don Folkenberg arrived and spoke with me. "We're going to fix this problem," he assured. "We didn't send you all this way from PUC to come to an empty church."

\* \* \*

I found out the next day that I had been relocated to a promising church in the town of Melchor. The catch? It was an hour and a half away. Also, I wouldn't be traveling with the same fun group I had the day before. Instead I would be driven by Pastor Garcia, a nice and thoughtful man who spoke no English. I was disappointed by the change of events and wondered what God was planning.

The inaugural journey included three stretches of pot-holed roads and lots of silence.



**Aren** prepares for an upcoming sermon.

Again parishioners were at a minimum. “Here we go again,” I thought, and started to wonder what in the world God was up to.

Before long, however, the people started to come. By the time I was called up to speak, it was nearly full. I was introduced as “Mr. Aren” and handed a microphone. Now it was time. I exhaled, stood up, and turned around. For the first time, I was facing the members of my church.

I am not sure how the sermon went — it is often hard to read the audience when you’re both nervous and a foreigner — but I loved and appreciated my congregation. They seemed to feel the same about me. I also took some important things away from that first night.

For one, preaching with a translator is not easy. When delivering a divine message, you want to accompany it with a sense of enthusiasm. Stopping every five seconds inhibits that. Secondly, many phrases and jokes do not translate. Using them is a risky play. Finally, I discovered a sense of passion for God from these people that made a passing preacher feel more comfortable than he would have expected.

Every day after that — excluding Sabbath, when we’d preach both morning and evening — followed a similar schedule: wake up, eat breakfast with the group, and study. I would then be the first to get picked up, at least an

**“We’re going to fix this problem. We didn’t send you all this way from PUC to come to an empty church.”**

hour before any of the others, and the last to return at night. Before going to bed, we would recap the success, or struggle, of our messages and the different ways God was working.

Perhaps the most important sermon we did was on baptism. We were asked to make an appeal at the end, something that brought more than an ounce of anxiety upon me. Appeals can



**Aren** with his new friend pastor Garcia.

be wonderful, but also scarier than the act of speaking itself. What if nobody responds? The fact that most of the members were already baptized gave me even more fear of an awkward ending.

That night, as I finished the sermon, I instructed anybody who wanted to be baptized to stand during prayer. I paused to make sure they understood the directions, but after no more than three seconds, a man stood up. Then his entire side of the congregation rose. Soon, everybody was standing. I had yet to begin praying.

Initially I became excited that my whole congregation wanted to be baptized, but soon realized that they had misunderstood my directions. I was disappointed, but rather than drop the appeal, I decided to go to plan B.

Talking as if things were going according to plan, I said, “During prayer, if you want to make the decision for baptism, please raise your hand.” I was thankful that everyone did not raise their hand at that moment — plan C was for them to wink at me.

I began to pray and then asked for hands to be raised. I took a peek to count: four hands. Joy and relief rushed my body. I was especially happy — although confused — to see that the sleeping lady had her hand raised. Nevertheless, four souls within my congregation made the statement that they wanted to accept Christ.



**Aren**, center, and fellow PUC missionaries (left to right on either side) Daniel Castanaza, Dave Wilson, Guillermo Peralta and Ngotel Kuartei with a group of students in Flores, Guatemala.





**The mission trip**, coordinated in conjunction with ShareHim Ministries and The Quiet Hour, resulted in 35 baptisms.

Appeals for baptism can be wonderful, but also scarier than the act of speaking itself. What if nobody responds?

On the last Sabbath of our trip, we held the baptisms at a beautiful lake near the churches (except mine). In all, 35 precious people were baptized, with many more expressing interest. It was a day of celebration as well as good-byes, the last day we would be with our church members. Due to the distance, I had said good-bye to my church the night before, following my last sermon. It was a very special evening, and I knew that God had blessed me with the Melchor congregation.

\* \* \*

My trip to Guatemala was full of hard work, long days, and tired eyes. But it also was a trip that exposed me to an entirely new way of life and a new look at my faith. To see people who have so much less materialistically but possess so much spiritually gave me a fresh perspective on how to conduct my own walk with Christ.

As someone who is blessed to have more back home, it becomes my job to be a faithful steward of what God has given me. Our group was actually able to start this process by donating



## Future Pastor's First Baptisms

The mission in Guatemala provided an especially meaningful experience for one evangelist. Robert Abdul-Karim, '10, graduated from PUC with a degree in theology and joined the summer trip before continuing on to ministerial training. Over the course of his preaching series, several people from his congregation decided to be baptized. When the series ended, the total group of baptismal candidates for the campaign was too large for the few local pastors who had gathered to perform the ceremony. Given the unusual situation, the local conference invited Abdul-Karim to get a head start on a very special part of his future career—baptizing several of his own candidates into the fellowship of the church.

"I was very privileged and honored to be allowed to participate," says Abdul-Karim. "My first baptisms as a minister of the Gospel! What an amazing way to start a life in ministry!"

money to the local Adventist school, which had five of us speak for its Week of Prayer while there.

Fifteen sermons. Fourteen days. One group of willing students. That was all God needed to change the lives of some of His people in Guatemala. At the same time, however, He was also able to change the lives of nine of His people from California.

Isn't that just like Him? **VP**

# ALUMNA WINS EMMY AWARDS

Thio recognized for Loma Linda 360° documentary Midori Yoshimura

WHEN PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE alumna Patricia Thio, '01 began work on two particular documentary episodes for a TV program, she knew the stories were powerful—but she didn't know the national and international recognition they'd bring.

But lights, cameras, and congratulations rewarded Thio at this year's Emmy Awards ceremony for the Pacific Southwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in San Diego, California. Thio, associate director of PR video production at Loma Linda University, won awards for two episodes she produced for the university's documentary-style show, "Loma Linda 360°." The episode "Armed for the Challenge" won in the documentary-cultural category, while "PossAbilities" was honored in the human-interest section.

Thio adds the "winged woman" to a collection of other honors for "Armed for the Challenge," including Best of Show from the Public Relations Society of America, Inland chapter, and six international film festival awards.

Under Thio's direction, "Armed for the Challenge" tells the story of Willie Stewart, an athlete whose loss of an arm has not stopped his athletic ambitions: He is training for the physically challenged triathlon USA championships. In addition, he also directs the PossAbilities outreach program at Loma Linda University Medical Center East Campus. This program offers community and activities for individuals with permanent physical injuries. In Thio's episode about Willie, she explains, "we see him at home, at work... He told us his

passions and the dirt on what it's like having a disability. He's an amazing person and became a wonderful friend of mine."

"PossAbilities" gives voice to four PossAbilities program members as they discuss life before and after their injuries. Exploring ways to adapt, they find that one thing has not changed: their commitment to achieve their goals, just in different ways. Thio says, "I remember laughing and crying with them, even staring at them in awe as I listened to how they have overcome. They are such an inspiration, and I feel so blessed to know each of them."

What sets these two episodes apart from their competition? "I feel that the individuals featured in the films made these projects such a success," Thio says. "I give them props for answering all my questions...some of which they have never been asked before. It's never easy talking about the most traumatic experience in your life. No one wants to relive it. But in the end, they knew that these films could help someone else as well as bring awareness to disabilities."

Emmy nominations and awards for these two episodes just verified their power and impact. The ceremony was also a significant event for Thio. "The night of the Emmys couldn't have been more perfect," she exclaims. Not only did her co-worker and friend, Maranatha Hay, also win an Emmy, but Thio fulfilled her wish for one of her best friends: Kent Allison, a co-director of "Armed for the Challenge." Allison was very sick when they flew to New York to film part of the episode, and Thio told herself, "I need to make this up to him somehow." So later, Thio told Allison that she wanted them



**Patricia Thio, '01** accepts her Emmy award in San Diego, California.

to win their first Emmys for the project. "When we actually did, it was the coolest feeling ever."

Thio, who majored in history and journalism, hadn't really considered working as a documentary filmmaker, even though she loved sharing in-depth stories. However, she discovered her love for the field after embarking on a mission trip to Albania with 16 LLU individuals—and a video camera.

Now, Thio has produced two seasons of "Loma Linda 360°" and is currently in production for a new show, "Life on the Line," that will air in its place next year. Thio describes the upcoming show as highlighting "the essence of LLU by telling stories of hope and transformation through individuals whose lives are on the line."

"My passion is to bring awareness to overlooked social issues," says Thio. With the spotlight gleaming on her two golden awards, she, too, is accomplishing goals. **VP**



# 2010 MAXWELL SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

Freshmen win PUC's most prestigious scholarship Lainey Cronk

**T**HIS SPRING PUC ANNOUNCED THE SECOND ANNUAL GROUP OF MAXWELL Scholarship Program winners. The five winners were selected for their high academic achievement, a commitment to Christian service, and outstanding leadership skills. The scholars will receive up to \$15,000 a year in renewable scholarships, not including additional leadership scholarships.

The Maxwell Scholar Program, was established at PUC in 2009 to recognize the late Malcolm and Eileen Maxwell, former president and first lady of PUC. Applicants must meet GPA and test-score requirements and the ranking of their applications is based on resumes, an essay, and letters of recommendation.

The 2010 finalists are Matthew Dopp of Oceanside, Calif., an Escondido Adventist Academy graduate; Newbury Park Adventist Academy alumnus Josue Tobar of Palmdale, Calif.; Dustin Davis, a Paradise Adventist Academy graduate from Paradise, Calif.; Shenandoah Valley Academy graduate Meena Kim of Falls Church, Virginia; and Alesha Heinz of Martinez, California, who graduated from Capstone Academy.

Each student boasts a long resume of achievements and involvement such as class and church leadership, varsity sports, and academic recognition. In addition, they each have had unique experiences that make them well-rounded individuals.



**Matthew Dopp**

Matthew Dopp has been involved in aid work in Micronesia, Mexico, rural Jamaica, and the Navajo Nation. This Escondido Adventist Academy graduate had a 4.13 GPA and was praise and worship leader at his church, a volleyball and basketball player, and the financial vice president of his senior class. Matthew has also been a surf camp instructor.



**Dustin Davis**

Dustin Davis helped start a Christians in Action organization after having a life-changing experience witnessing to homeless people in San Francisco. He was also his school's varsity football team captain and has been involved in school plays, class leadership, music, and service through the Christians in Action group and Paradise Adventist Church.



**Alesha Heinz**

Alesha Heinz graduated with a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the Eta Sigma Alpha Honors Society. She serves as a leader with Awana, an interdenominational Christian children's ministry that she has been involved with since childhood. She has also volunteered for a host of other projects, from political initiatives to academic tutoring to special needs programs. She enjoys travel and hopes to one day combine that interest with her passion for service and ministry as a medical missionary. **VP**



**Josue Tobar**

Josue Tobar has studied German in Bogenhofen, Austria, has coordinated his school's 30-Hour Famine for two years, and has been very active in music and drama. This National Honor Society member was a Youth With A Mission participant, played varsity sports and intramurals, and has preached twice at his church.



**Meena Kim**

Meena Kim worked as a teacher's aid for three years and was involved in all kinds of leadership, volunteer, athletic, and publication activities at Shenandoah Valley Academy. She was senior class president, Student Council social vice president, and served on the staff of the newspaper and yearbook in addition to her membership in the Invisible Children's Club, International Children's Club, and National Honors Society. She also participated in mission trips, hospice care, and church programs and is inspired by helping others learn.

**2010 semi-finalists** receiving \$10,000 renewable scholarships: Caitlin Hanson of Forest Lake Christian School; Gina Lee of West Salem High School; and Erika Weidemann, a home school student.

# 2010 GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION

## PUC takes center stage in Atlanta

Julie Z. Lee



**Dr. Knight** shared her platform, “The Adventist Advantage” on the North American Division of Adventists stage.

**F**EATURING A NEW PRESIDENT AND A BUZZ-worthy service project, Pacific Union College made quite a splash at the 2010 General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia.

Thousands of visitors from all over the world came by the PUC exhibition booth during the session, and if they didn’t happen upon the booth, they learned about PUC by watching President Heather Knight on the public stage.

During the session, which ran from June 23 to July 3, Knight shared “The Adventist Advantage,” at the North American Division stage, located at the center of the massive exhibition

hall. Knight outlined what she believes are seven distinct benefits of a Seventh-day Adventist education. The “Adventist Advantage” platform, which she debuted in 2009, has been well received and will also be a chapter in a book about Seventh-day Adventist higher education.

Knight, along with her husband and PUC outreach chaplain Dr. Norman Knight, also appeared on a special edition of “A World of Hope,” a television series on the Hope Channel. The interview, taped on July 2 in front of a live studio audience, focused on President Knight’s appointment as PUC’s first female president



**The Knights** appeared on a live taping of “A World of Hope” to discuss career, family, and God.



and the couple's ability to balance high profile careers and family.

Show host Kandus Thorp started the interview by asking how President Knight manages such a hectic life as an administrator, pastor's wife, and mother.

"Well, one thing I do believe is that when God calls on you to do something, He also empowers you and equips you to get the work done," said President Knight, who has worked in education for more than twenty years. She also stated that most important is to "start each day with prayer and you really have to ask God for wisdom."

The couple, who married in 2002, also shared how they raised eight children—all of whom are college graduates or completing their college degrees—by building a corporation of sorts with their family.

"We put together the spiritual expectations of the family, household chores—what everyone is expected to do, the different skill sets that we wanted everyone to know, academic expectations, we put together a mission statement," said Dr. Norman Knight. "And we pounded that out for three, four months, then presented it to the children. And we got their input... and once we put it in motion, it flowed very normally for us."

Thorp asked about women in leadership and the reluctance of some cultures to accept females in such roles. The couple discussed how in their marriage they have had to share leadership roles depending on the context. At Andrews University—where Knight was provost for three years before her appointment at PUC and her husband a professor—he was the provost's husband. On Sabbath, he assumed his role as senior pastor of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Bend, Indiana, and she was the pastor's wife. They worked together to be sensitive to situations and to support each other in their work.

"My manhood and my self-esteem is not diminished by the gifts that God has given my wife to use for the glory of God," said Dr. Norman Knight. "We want everyone to develop their gifts, to use her gifts for the glory of God. And woe be unto me if I suppress one of God's creatures using their gifts for the glory of God. And I think all of us should be able to do that."

Back at PUC's exhibition booth, a steady flow of alumni, friends, and visitors stopped at the booth to make a very tough decision: They had to choose between donating money to KidzReach, an organization that mentors children



**Visitors** to the PUC booth dropped tokens that represented real money into ministries they want to support.

in California; REVO PUC, a fundraiser to provide shoes for families in Ethiopia; or Developing Communities, Inc., an alumnus's effort to build homes in Nicaragua.

For this General Conference Session, PUC eschewed the usual giveaways that dominate convention exhibits and allocated \$5,000 for these ministries instead. The decision of how to distribute the money was left in the hands of visitors, who were given wooden tokens that could be dropped into one of three boxes representing the ministries. At the end of the 10-day session, PUC would count the tokens, each representing 50 cents, and then write checks to the ministries for the amounts collected.

The project fits in with a culture of giving and volunteerism that is deeply ingrained at PUC. "It's just another example of how PUC has this mission—that our students leave here with integrity and a passion to serve. And when I hear it in our current students and see it in our graduates, it just says we're realizing our mission," says Lisa Bissell Paulson, vice president for student services. "Service is a big deal here because our students make it a big deal."

By the session's end, nearly 8,000 visitors had participated, distributing 7,830 tokens amongst the three ministries. KidzReach received the most money with \$1,421.50; REVO came in second with \$1,279; and Developing Communities followed with \$1,214.50. **VP**

## ABOUT THE MINISTRIES

**KidzReach** is a local community volunteer project run almost entirely by PUC students. Volunteers spend their Sabbaths with Napa Valley children whose parents are in prison.

The volunteers provide breakfast and lunch, take the children to church, play with them in the park, and generally provide the kids with stable, concerned adult role models.

**REVO PUC** is a student-led ministry that supports a different charity project each year through a series of fundraisers and awareness campaigns. This year students took on the disease podocniosis, a debilitating foot disease that is especially prevalent in Africa among people that cannot afford proper footwear. Charity dollars went to provide shoes and medical treatment in Ethiopia.

**Developing Communities, Inc.** is an organization of volunteers committed to making life better for the residents of a small community in Nicaragua. The organization is led by PUC alum Jake Scheideman, who came down with giardia while visiting Empalme de Boaco and was nursed back to health. When Hurricane Mitch devastated the town years later, Jake began helping the locals rebuild. After 12 years, Developing Communities has provided the town with a baseball field, a public park, a water tower, a new housing development, and a high school.



# UNDER THE TREE

Bringing friendship and hope to the women of Maasai land

Lainey S. Cronk

**W**HEN JAN (LATSHA) MEHARRY GRADUATED in '76 with a degree in medical secretarial studies, she didn't exactly imagine herself sitting under a tree in Masaai land communicating with mothers via hand signals.

"I had nothing that would prepare me," she admits. But she had the desire to do something and had prayed about it. "When God opened up the doors, I just was on my knees saying 'God I am totally unprepared! I'm willing to do this if you open the doors, and I'll walk through — but then you're going to have to be my teacher; you teach me as we go.' And that's the way it's been."

Jan's husband Marlin, att. '73-'76, worked as a dentist in Nairobi, Kenya. Jan started working with the youth there, but a friend at Maxwell Adventist Academy soon initiated a

shift. Gwen Edwards and her husband worked at Maxwell, which was not far from a Maasai village, and Gwen and Jan were drawn into a growing friendship with the women there. It was an open door for Jan, who'd had an interest in the Maasai people since she first learned she and Marlin were moving to Kenya. "I always had a passion for the Maasai from the time I first went," she remembers. "I wanted to find out more about them and would read up on their culture."

So the beginning of the story was simple and natural, Jan recalls: "It was women-to-women friendships. Just sitting with them, talking, playing with the children." Sometimes they'd have a translator and sometimes they wouldn't. "Then it's kind of hand-language," Jan says, "but somehow, mothers just know how to communicate! We would just share with them.

They would have us in for tea and we'd go in and eat with them... We just developed a trust and a friendship."

It was the women of the village who initiated the next step. They approached Gwen and said, "We notice that you have a church — we want to know more about your God, and what makes you the way you are. Why will you come and spend this time with us?"

Gwen began having church services for them, an endeavor she and Jan worked on together. As the women became more interested, they wanted Jan and Gwen to go out to their home village. The two did a three-day effort together in that village, and from then on Gwen focused on the church behind Maxwell while Jan took care of things in the second village. "And then it just grew," Jan says.

The next step was reading. "The one thing





**Meharri** with a friend from the Maasai village.

is that they were illiterate,” Jan says, “and we wanted them to be able to read the Bible for themselves.” So she started teaching literacy classes for the women.

Jan describes all their work as being “under-the-tree.” They simply became a part of these peoples’ lives on their home territory, sitting with them in their four-foot cow-dung huts, helping them collect firewood, drinking tea with them.

One story that sums up the hard-to-explain experience of these relationships happened when Jan went to visit the mother of one of the ladies. The mother had tuberculosis and they had been providing health help for her. As Jan sat with her in their hut, the mother sat up in bed with tears running down her face and asked, “Why have you come? Why are you here?” She told Jan, “Our own people, if they get out and are educated, will not come back to our huts. They no longer want to sit and eat — but you come in, you eat with us, you drink tea with us. You are a part of us. Why do you do it?”

Jan, who grows teary at the memory, says, “It was the most wonderful privilege, to be able to sit with them and become a part of them... I had as much to learn from them as I had to offer them. I do not know how to explain it.”

One of the biggest cultural learning experiences for her has been lessons of acceptance and contentment. “These women and children live in an environment that will horrify some people, that is so abusive,” she says. “And yet, I have seen them as one man would take on another wife, how they would wail, how they would cry and plead with him not to do it — and yet when he brought in that young girl in her teens (and he’s in his 50s), they embraced her. They may not like the situation but they take each other in.”

The attitudes were not what Jan expected. “When I go out there I am seeing peace and

contentment. Some of these women are beaten, treated terribly, and yet they are always smiling, happy, they accept things. It’s something that we have a hard time imagining,” she says. For her, it’s been a lesson in attitude possibilities. “I have learned that in whatever situation there can be contentment. It doesn’t mean that we don’t go forward to improve situations, but we accept and then we go from there.”

### Change and Growth

By the time Jan and Marlin were leaving Kenya shortly after starting the literacy classes, they had established the first church in the Central Kenya Conference, and the Upper Columbia Conference had come out and built the church. In western Kenya, Jan explains, the Adventist work was established — but theirs was the first church established in the central Kenya area. When the Meharrys moved in 1995 they left money to support two Maasai lay pastors to keep the work going.

About two years later Jan went back with another friend, Celeste Lee, with the idea of seeing how things were going and offering encouragement. But the trip turned out to be a springboard for significant growth. “God just opened up the door and said ‘My plans are greater than what you think!’”

As she experienced what was happening with the projects Jan and Gwen had initiated,

who can’t complete their educations. The MDP works to provide tools these women can use to support themselves and their children — something those women are highly motivated to do.

The MDP team’s dream is that the new rescue center can offer these women education (so young mothers can pass a government test) and practical classes like cooking and computer skills (that they can use to help support their families). They also hope the center will be a place where the ladies can come to do their beadwork and perhaps sell some to tourists, also to raise money for their families.

The 40 workers are carrying on the church work and literacy classes, targeting un-entered areas and constantly starting new stations. The large area (Jan can drive four to six hours in various directions from her home in Nairobi to reach the different stations and villages) is divided into districts with district coordinators. MDP also hosts mission trips three times a year. So far, these have been mostly medical-dental trips, with individuals and groups from throughout the U.S. spending a couple weeks providing health services to people in the villages. But MDP would like to include other kinds of mission trips as well. Jan has an idea for an all-women mission trip that comes to spend time with the people and work on various projects.



**Meharri** (front, center) with young girls sponsored by her organization, the Maasai Development Project.

Celeste told her, “Jan, you’ve gotta think bigger — there’s a lot more here!”

So Jan decided to make things official. The endeavor is now called the Maasai Development Project and has 40 Maasai workers in the field, is in the process of building a rescue center (at the time of this writing, they are hoping to move within the season), and sponsors over 100 students in schools with a focus on the girls — hoping to prevent forced early marriages and female genital mutilation. Many of the women they work with are widows due to the wild animals in the area or are unwed mothers

These days, Jan lives in North Dakota for the better part of the year, doing fundraising and administrative work as MDP’s executive director. At least three months of the year she’s in Kenya doing administrative work on location — workers meetings, government reports, meeting with the children they sponsor. “I don’t get as much under-the-tree time as I long for,” she says. “But I also try to take time out to get out to the field.” Often that

means praying for time to simply spend with the people, and God always provides.

At the very heart of what she does, says Jan, is “just giving hope.” For the women and families, she says, “Our whole goal is to give hope — not just here, but hope for eternal life as well. It’s kind of all mixed in together.”

*If you’d like to learn more about MDP, you can visit [4mdp.org](http://4mdp.org)* **VP**



# collegenews

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## The Graduates of 2010

### A life that matters

THIS JUNE, 290 GRADUATES RECEIVED 305 DEGREES AT COMMENCEMENT. THEY were honored throughout Commencement Weekend, which began with the Friday evening Consecration Service featuring a class video, class remembrance, and speaker Bradley Gienger, a religion major of the Class of 2010.

Jose Rojas, Director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, presented a sermon at the Baccalaureate Service titled "You are the Salt of the Earth." The sanctuary filled again on Sabbath afternoon for the nursing graduate recognition service. This year the nursing graduates included students from Travis Air Force Base who completed the med tech to RN program PUC offers at the base. Colonel Lynne Taylor, 60th Inpatient Operations Squadron commander at David Grant Medical Center, gave the address at the recognition service, and graduates received awards and their Associate of Science in Nursing or Bachelor of Science in Nursing pins. The President's Reception took place on Sabbath evening on the campus

mall and provided an opportunity for many seniors and their parents to meet and mingle with college president Heather Knight and faculty members.

Sunday morning found families saving seats in what quickly turned into a warm day in Commencement Grove. Class president Carignane von Pohle gave the valedictory and Arthur A. Dugoni, dean emeritus of the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, gave the commencement address called "Live a Life that Matters." Dugoni is a professor, senior executive for development, and president of the American Dental Association Foundation. "Welcome to the fraternity of educated people who place service above self, who care to make a difference in their professions and their communities," he told graduates. "Enjoy the ride," he suggested, then added, "However, as you enjoy the ride, I urge you to make a difference. Believe me, I know you can."



## Douglas: Educator of the Year

AT A SPRING COLLOQUY PROGRAM, HISTORY PROFESSOR ILEANA DOUGLAS was awarded the 2010-2011 Educator of the Year award. Known as the “best mother on campus,” Douglas is widely appreciated both for her teaching enthusiasm and her personal interactions with students. At the colloquy program, Brittany Kohler, a history student and nursing graduate, thanked Douglas for her friendship, mentorship, and spiritual commitment. “Her morning devotionals give students the encouragement that we need to survive this crazy life,” Kohler said. “You have been a great mentor, great spiritual friend.”

The Educator of the Year award is voted in each year by students, who can vote for any current faculty member. “This is a gift from the student body to you,” Kohler told Douglas. “It just shows what an amazing teacher you are and all that you have done for us.”

## Student Dramaturg at Stanford

TOWARDS THE END OF HER FRESHMAN YEAR AT PUC, CHRISTIANA ROBBINS was chosen by artist in residence Mei Ann Teo for an internship in dramaturgy for the Mark Twain Anniversary Festival at Stanford University. Robbins spent over 30 hours working with Stanford playwright Kevin DiPirro and a director to put together a production of the culminating final event of the festival.

The production featured a cast of professional actors who performed in front of a standing-room only crowd of 300. “The fact that we have these opportunities for our students that even students at Stanford didn’t get to do is pretty great,” says Teo. “There’s no way another freshman or even a senior at a school without a theater program would ever have been able to get access to a professional reading like this.”

## PUC Welcomes New Vice President for Financial Administration



ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, THE PACIFIC UNION College Board of Trustees confirmed Dr. Dave Lawrence as the college’s new vice president for financial administration. Lawrence officially started his appointment on September 13, in time for the new academic year.

Most recently, Lawrence was university controller at Loma Linda University, where he managed and coordinated the daily activities of the university’s accounting and finance functions: internal control, investment management, chart of accounts administration, and budgetary control of

Loma Linda University’s \$250 million budget. Furthermore, Lawrence provided oversight of all financial reporting, implemented accounting and financial policies and procedures, coordinated cash flow and collaborated with the information technology department in reference to financial systems application, internal audits and tax reporting.

Additionally, Lawrence served on the Financial Operations Committee, the Risk Management Committee, the Human Resources Operations Committee, the Investment Management Committee, the Web Steering Committee, as well as the Plant Operations Committee at LLU. He is also an active member of NACUBO and WACUBO and has published in the Journal of Adventist Education on topics related to school finance.

Lawrence also served as an assistant professor at Loma Linda University’s department of health policy and management where he taught courses in quantitative decision analysis, health care finance and managerial accounting for healthcare organizations among other courses. He was also an adjunct professor for La Sierra University in their School of Education where he taught courses in school finance. He is also a frequent presenter at Seventh-day Adventist educational conferences on the topic of funding the mission of Adventist education.

Lawrence received his Ed.D. from La Sierra University in educational leadership and administration with a concentration in educational finance. He also has an M.B.A. from California State University, San Bernardino, and an Ed.S. from La Sierra University. He completed his undergraduate work at West Indies College, now Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica.

Prior to his work with LLU, Lawrence served for eight years as vice principal for finance at La Sierra Adventist Academy and for three years as business manager at Mesa Grande Adventist Academy. Lawrence and his wife, Darlene, have two sons, Christopher and Michael, presently in high school.

Former vice president for financial administration John Collins will continue to serve PUC in a new capacity as vice president for asset management.



# Taking Haiti Home

## Film student captures crisis

"TAKING HAITI HOME," FILMMAKER TIM WOLFER'S FIRST MAJOR PRODUCTION, TELLS A STORY FROM ON THE GROUND in a post-earthquake Haitian orphanage called La Maison des Enfants de Dieu. Wolfer was in the middle of the school year as a PUC film and television student when the earthquake hit Haiti. An anonymous donor funded Wolfer, who already had international humanitarian filming experience, to travel to Haiti.

At La Maison, Wolfer began filming and captured elements of the situation following the quake, portrayed through the experiences of the orphanage children and staff. The film focused on the story of one orphan



in particular, while also following the staff as they try to figure out how to get 135 children out of their outdoor camp. In the end, they finally get 80 children who have specific families waiting for them onto a military plane, and Wolfer travels with them to Orlando, Florida.

When Wolfer did a test screening of the very-nearly-completed film in St. Helena, California, in early June, he brought with him two administrators

of the La Maison supporting organization, including the one who was in Haiti trying to get the children out. They engaged with the audience in a lengthy and thought-provoking Q&A.

### academic highlights

**Herbert Ford**, director of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, traveled to Noumea, New Caledonia, at the request of the United Nations to present a paper about Pitcairn to delegates from 50 countries at a Pacific Regional Seminar of the UN's Committee of 24.

**John McDowell** and **Maria Rankin-Brown**, English professors, served as judges for the Jessmyn West Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by Napa Valley College. McDowell also served as a PUC representative at a Madaba Plains Project archeological dig at Tall al-'Umayri on the outskirts of Amman, Jordan.

**Joel Lutes** and **Patrick Benner**, librarians, attended the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians (ASDAL) conference hosted at Oakwood University. Joel gave a presentation titled, "When most things are digital OR the end of libraries as we know them." Patrick led a poster session on "Cool tools for 21st century librarians." At the conclusion of the meetings, the ASDAL president stepped aside and Joel, as president-elect, was formally instated as the new president of the organization for the next year. Next year's ASDAL conference will be hosted at PUC.

**Alexander Carpenter**, visual arts instructor, spent two days shooting five episodes at the Adventist World Church headquarters for the Hope TV show "Intersections: Your Faith, Your World."





## Hayes Leads Conservation Research Project

FLOYD HAYES, PUC PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, IS TAKING A LEADING ROLE IN A new project to protect nesting grebes, some of northern California's most elegant fresh water birds.

"I'm really excited about the project because I'll be able to spend a lot of time out on Clear Lake getting intimately familiar with these elegant birds," says Hayes. "[They] have some of the most spectacular courtship displays in the avian world."

Hayes will be responsible for managing \$50,800 from a grant from the National Wildlife Federation to monitor and conduct conservation efforts toward breeding grebes at Clear Lake—California's largest freshwater lake, about two hours drive from PUC. He and his collaborators will conduct weekly surveys during the nesting season to locate grebes and measure their reproductive success.

A few selected PUC students who are aspiring field biologists will have the unique opportunity to assist Hayes in his research. The team will also post buoys and barriers to break up waves in the vicinity of colonies and reach out to local stakeholders through presentations and distribution of printed materials, which will inform locals of the hazardous impact of boat wakes and recreational fishing on grebes' floating nests.

Nesting grebe populations vary dramatically from year to year—from a high of 2,675 birds 2000 to a low of 20 in year 2007. The causes of this fluctuation are not well understood, but are likely related to changes in the availability of grebes' food supply, which consists of small fish, especially threadfin shad and silversides. These fish appear to be highly sensitive to changes in temperature and water and oxygen levels.



## Archaeology in Jordan

THE "CALL TO DIG" BELL CHORUS STARTED PUC ENGLISH PROFESSOR JOHN McDowell's day at 4:15 a.m. While on an archaeology dig this summer with his son Aran, McDowell served as the dig photographer and had to photograph each site before the sun came up and created shadows. The photographs served as daily documentation "so what happens is remembered as each layer of earth is peeled away." After all, once a layer is removed, there's no going back. As Dr. McDowell notes, "archeology is also the careful science of destruction."

The dig is Tall al-'Umayri, a Madaba Plains Project (MPP) dig in Jordan. MPP is sponsored by La Sierra University with many other colleges, including PUC, as consortium members. This year, the program celebrates 42 years of archaeological explorations in Jordan, the biblical home of Ammon, Moab, and Edom. For McDowell, this year's trip to the dig was the latest of several visits, begun in 2000. PUC awarded him a Herber Grant this year to further his work with the project.



**Publication Workshop** These academy students gained experience in video yearbook production at PUC's 2010 Publication Workshop.



**Pioneers Soccer** The men's soccer team started practice before the school year began, hoping to improve on last season's 2nd place conference record.



**Presidential Reception** President Knight hosted a special dinner for graduating seniors and their families over graduation weekend.



**Family Gathering** Before the students arrived, PUC's faculty and staff brought their families to a light supper to welcome in the start of the school year.



**PacificQuest 2010** Outstanding middle school students from California got a preview of college life this summer at PUC's annual PacificQuest.





**Summer on Campus** Although most students left Angwin for the summer, the campus was never truly deserted. These three took a moment to enjoy a warm July day on the campus mall.



**Graduation** Jubilant graduates found unique ways to celebrate their years of academic achievement—even incorporating their caps and gowns.



**Dining Commons** Among the many campus renovations this summer, the Dining Commons project was the most highly anticipated. Look for photos and a full report in the next issue of *ViewPoint*.





## PUC Launches Student Book Club

THIS FALL QUARTER, INCOMING FRESHMEN WILL ENROLL AT PACIFIC Union College with a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and new schedules. Yet they will still share at least one thing—all will have received and read sustainability activist Annie Leonard's book, *The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff Is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health—and a Vision for Change*. This jumpstart for college is part of PUC Reads, a new program designed to engage the campus in shared discussion of critical issues.

Every spring quarter, PUC Reads will invite PUC faculty, staff, and students—including incoming freshmen—to read a chosen book (this year, *The Story of Stuff*) over the summer (incoming freshmen will be mailed a copy in advance). Throughout the following school year, the book will be featured as part of the ENGL 101 and COMM 105 curricula, as well as integrated where appropriate into other classes, especially freshmen-level courses. All are encouraged to participate in discussion groups and find ways to connect with others, in order to develop a “learning community.” The year's emphasis will culminate in a spring colloquy meeting featuring the author.

“It's a lot like a giant book club,” says Steve Waters, professor of mathematics and a member of the task force that presented the program to the college administration. “Although other colleges have implemented summer reading programs, PUC Reads pushes beyond many other school programs.” Not only does PUC Reads ask all freshmen to read the chosen book, the program also directs them towards active engagement with the material, through its inclusion in meetings of FUSION, PUC's all-year freshman orientation program; through requirement as a textbook for at least two courses; and through the book's integration into many other campus activities.

This year, after a rigorous book selection process, *The Story of Stuff* will help bring the campus's core theme of stewardship for the 21st century into classrooms, dorm rooms, and living rooms. An extension of a successful online video, the book promotes the appropriate consumption of resources, while accommodating different points of view—an important part of any PUC Reads book selection, according to Waters, who looks forward to the program's premiere.

To learn more about *The Story of Stuff*, view the author's website and video presentation at [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com).

## History Tour Takes Students to Japan



STAYING AT A TRADITIONAL Japanese inn where guests sleep on floor mats, wear summer kimonos, and eat traditional food was just one of many adventures 15 PUC students experienced in Japan this summer.

The ten-day trip was part of two classes, an Asian seminar

history class and a political science class on U.S. foreign relations, led by history professors Ileana Douglas and Hilary Elmendorf. The students met for several class periods on campus before departing; while on the trip, the learning took place almost entirely on the go, with some meetings or debriefings on buses between tour sites. Each student journaled the experience and chose a topic for a follow-up research paper. They spent time in Tokyo, Nara, Osaka, Hiroshima, ancient capitals Kamakura and Kyoto, a national park where they could view Mt. Fuji. At each stop, the teachers helped students connect history, religion and culture.

The PUC history department leads a history tour every other summer; the next one, in 2012, will explore “The Atlantic World” with half the trip in the Washington, D.C., area and the second half in England.

## PUC Ranks in Top Ten “Best Colleges”

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE WAS RANKED AMONG THE REGION'S 10 BEST baccalaureate colleges by *U.S. News and World Report's* annual “America's Best Colleges” issue—one of the best-known and most reputable sources for college rankings. This is PUC's 17th consecutive year on this list, which was released in August. In addition to the recognition for outright quality of education, PUC was also ranked number two in the region for ethnic diversity and number three for value.

“Pacific Union College is again thrilled to be recognized as one of America's Best Colleges by *U.S. News and World Report*,” says PUC president Heather J. Knight. “This recognition highlights PUC's ability to make a distinctive impact and to deliver superior performance over a long period of time.”

PUC, ranked number 10, is in a category for institutions that focus on undergraduate education and grant fewer than half their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. The ranking evaluates more than 1,400 American colleges and universities. Regionally, PUC competes among colleges in 15 western states, stretching from Hawaii to Texas.

## Young Alumni Give Scholarship

THIS SPRING A PAIR OF recent alumni, siblings Dan and Navi Ganancial, became the youngest scholarship founders in Pacific Union College history. Both are under 30—Dan graduated in 2005 with a double major in business and music performance, Navi in 2007 with degrees in public relations, international communication, and journalism.

The Ganancial Family Scholarship goes to a student who has been at PUC at least two years, is studying in the fields of communication,



public relations, journalism, business, or music, and holds a GPA of at least 3.25. The first winner was Divya Joseph (center), '11, a public relations/journalism major and this year's *Campus Chronicle* editor.

"We hope the scholarship will inspire others to get

involved at any age and do something now to leave [PUC] a better place," says Dan. "It is never too late and never too early to get involved."

"Ever since we graduated, Dan and I have been looking for a chance to give back to PUC," says Navi.

"It's inspiring to see young alumni like Dan and Navi using their resources to make a difference in other young people's lives," says Pam Sadler, vice president for advancement. "Most of us wait until a point in our lives when we're well established, but these two have made giving back a priority."

## Summer Classes

THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE SUMMER SCHEDULE AT PUC ALLOWS FOR A number of exciting classes that could not be held during the year. Many of these are among students' most memorable educational experiences. "Ashland is the perfect atmosphere to fall in love with Shakespeare," says English professor Cynthia Westerbeck, who took her Shakespeare in Performance class to Ashland, Oregon, to enjoy three days of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. There was also the traditional two-week painting class at the Albion Field Station, the Honors program summer term abroad (in Italy), and an International Documentary Experience class that traveled to China to encounter a cultural exchange as they participated in the production of documentaries.

Other students took general education courses such as Energy and Climate Change, Paul and His Letters, and History of World Civilizations, using it as a chance to get ahead on required courses. PUC also demonstrates its dedication to educating teachers by offering nearly 30 education courses geared toward educators in need of refreshing and credentialing. In total, over 350 undergraduate and post-graduate students benefitted from this year's summer course offerings.



## More Recognition for PUC Website

IN AUGUST THE HUFFINGTON Post joined the parade of Internet commentators that have recognized Pacific Union College for excellence in website design. In a brief article on the problems with most higher education websites, Huffington Post writer Randall Munroe singled out puc.edu as one of 25 school sites getting it right.

The list of 25 outstanding school websites is from an earlier article posted on EduDemic.com, a website devoted to digital media in higher education, and it is the latest such ranking for puc.edu. Earlier commendations came from vandelaydesign.com, an online web design resource; educhekup.com, a video blog about educational websites that devoted an entire episode to puc.edu and gave it an A rating; and eduStyle.net, a site for campus web designers.

Launched in its current form in July 2008, PUC's website was produced and is maintained entirely in-house as a cooperative effort by the college's public relations staff.

### Events & Announcements

#### PUC Posts

September was the last issue of the PUC *e-Post*. Current and new stories will be available on *Posts*, a new interactive blog at [www.puc.edu/alumni/posts](http://www.puc.edu/alumni/posts). The new format allows stories to be posted as they come, and comments and discussions will be encouraged. Subscribe online to keep receiving e-mail updates when a new story is posted.

#### Fall Festival

Campus clubs and organizations serve tasty cultural foods and host activities and carnival games for everyone's enjoyment at this annual event and fundraiser, this year hosted on November 7 in the gymnasium.

#### A Celebration of Adventist Historians & History

President Knight, the Friends of Walter C. Utt, and the history department host lectures and a dinner in honor of Adventist historians on November 10 and 11.

#### Music Department Christmas Program

The music department presents their annual Christmas program on Friday, December 3, (followed by the Christmas Tree Lighting) and again on Sabbath, December 4, at 4 p.m.

*Learn more about upcoming events at [puc.edu/news/calendar](http://puc.edu/news/calendar). For info about specific events you can call the Office of Public Relations at 707-965-6303.*

# PUC Director Named Honorary Commander

## Air Force commends Winkle for service



DEBRA WINKLE, DIRECTOR OF PUC'S MED TECH/LVN TO RN PROGRAMS, WAS MADE AN Honorary Commander of the 60th Medical Group's Inpatient Operations Squadron at David Grant USAF Medical Center (DGMC), Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Winkle coordinates a collaborative nursing program for PUC and DGMC that allows medical technicians to complete a degree and become registered nurses. The goal of the Honorary Commander program is to nurture a link between civilian supporters and senior leadership at Travis AFB. Winkle and Colonel Lynne Taylor, 60th Inpatient Operations Squadron commander at DGMC, invite each other to functions at PUC and Travis "to expose each other to the missions of our respective places," Winkle explains — including an invitation to attend a "boot camp" at Travis AFB and Col. Taylor speaking at PUC's nurses pinning ceremony.

Col. Taylor also asked Winkle to address her staff after Winkle was presented with the squadron flag and Commander's pin. Because the 60 IPTS is composed of medical personnel from airmen all the way up to high-ranking officers, not all were familiar with PUC's Med Tech to RN program. Winkle provided an overview and spoke briefly about current events and where nursing is right now in the state of California.

## The Keys to Estate Planning Ease

There are only a few things in life that we can do very easily but still make a big difference. Having a well thought out estate plan is one of them. Those who complete a plan are almost always amazed at how quickly and easily it can be accomplished. Those who include a charity or nonprofit organization in their plans are among the happiest. It's easy to see why: We are free to do so much more in our will than we can while we're alive and still need funds for the worries of day-to-day living.

If you do not have a will or have not included a cause like PUC in it, why not create one or amend it to include your gift? You can be among the elite philanthropists by including as little as 1% or 2% of your estate. If you think on a grander scale, you can leave a fixed dollar amount or a greater percentage. The flexibility and choice rests entirely with you.

Remember that when you include a qualified charity in your will or plan, your estate is reduced by that amount, which means that much less is subject to estate taxes. The money that would have gone to the government can be strategically used to help your family and loved ones as well as the causes you cherish. Writing a will is so simple there is no reason not to have one. Just as your gift is limited only by your imagination, your possibilities for making it a reality are also almost endless.

*For more information on estate planning, please contact Eckhard Hubin at the Office of Planned Giving.*

### Office of Planned Giving

plannedgiving@puc.edu  
www.pucplannedgiving.org  
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# alumni news

Class Notes, Births, Weddings, and In Memory

## Class Notes

### 1950

**Stanley Payne, '55**, has devoted himself to writing since retiring from teaching in 2005 as professor of history emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During the past five years he has published five books, the most recent *¿Por que la Republica perdio la guerra?* (2010). In 2009 the Spanish government awarded him the Gran Cruz de Isabel la Catolica, Spain's highest civilian decoration.

### 1960

**Gary Land, '66**, a professor of history at Andrews University in Michigan, received the university's prestigious John Nevins Andrews Medallion in May, 2010. The medallion recognizes significant achievement in the advancement of knowledge and education by Adventist teachers. After some 40 years of service as an Andrews University faculty member, Land is retiring in 2010.

**Gary Gifford, '67**, has completed 40 years of service to the Adventist Church and headed to the West Coast in retirement, with his wife, **Jerri (Koenig), '68**. Gary has

been serving as an associate professor of leadership and educational administration at Andrews University in Michigan; he was also director of enrollment services at PUC for a number of years.

### 1970

**James McDuffie, att. '72-'74**, is living again in Oxnard, California. He's a technical manager of software development, has a website at [mcduffie.org](http://mcduffie.org), and is selling his plane ("I hate giving it up,"



he says, "but the way things are these days, we have to let go of 'things' and hold onto those relationships which are everlasting.")

**Wanda (Lewis) Westcott, '73**, has lived in Moraga, Calif., for seven years and enjoys doting over nieces and nephews. She writes, "Continue to nurse — all these 37 years. Currently doing high-tech IV home infusions. Would love to hear from former PUCites."

**Leslie A. Briggs, '78**, has recently been named a member of the Stanford Who's Who, a list of industry leaders, for her "exceptional effort in the education industry." Leslie, who has held educational

## Elected to World Church Administration

Several PUC alumni and a member of the college's board of trustees were elected to world administrative posts of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the recent 59th world conference of the church in Atlanta, Ga.

**Gary B. Swanson, '69**, was reelected as an associate director of the church's Sabbath School/Personal Ministries department. From 1984 to 1990, Gary served as associate director of the Health and Temperance Department of the General Conference of the church, and in 2005 was elected to the position to which he has recently been reelected. Gary's wife, **Suzette (Gibbs), '69**, was a public health nurse, and then administrative assistant in the General Conference Treasury department from 1980 to 2006.

**Fred G. Hardinge, '71**, was elected as an associate director of the Health Ministries department of the church. Before his election, he had been serving as the Health Ministries director of the Upper Columbia Conference, and before that at the *It Is Written* telecast of the church. Fred is married to **April, '71**. Alum **J. Raymond Wahlen II, '84**, was elected as an associate treasurer, previously director of the church's SunPlus Accounting Software. **Jerry N. Page**, a member of PUC's board since 1995, was elected at the world conference as the director of the Ministerial Association.

positions for 30 years, is currently principal of Milton-Stateline Adventist School in Oregon, and is working on a master's degree from Western Washington University.

**Jackie (Spindle) Peebles, '78**, is the owner of Special Discoveries Educational Services, Inc. "We serve children who are at risk for

developmental delays," she writes. "We specialize in children on the autism spectrum." Her organization also is a partner with the Early Head Start Home Base Program and Head Start Home Base Program.

**Ron Benfield, '79**, has been named chief operating officer for Adventist Health Portland

## births



► Emmett Vanderveen, son of **Katie (Donaldson), '00**, and Joel Vanderveen of Laguna Beach, Calif. Born 2-21-10.



► Jonah Lawrence Gibson, son of **Jorely (Ocampo), att. '96-'98**, and **Nathanael Gibson, '98**, of Washington, D.C. Born 4-8-10.



► Jenna Makayla Peterson, daughter of **Krista (Hutchins), '93**, and **Todd Peterson, '91, '93**, of Martinez, Calif. Born 6-21-10.



► Finnigan Hendrix Pena, son of **Larry Pena, '10**, and his wife, Jesselle, of Angwin, Calif. Born 7-18-10.

(Oregon), which provides a system of health care services in the Portland/Vancouver area. A press release reports that Benfield has over 30 years of health care leadership experience, including 11 years with Adventist Health. He most recently served as CFO and vice president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Md. He is married to **Joyce (Nilsen), att. '77-'78**.

**Stephen Serafin, att. '78-'79**, is currently the president for Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association and has been on the board of directors since 2000. He and his wife Dorothy have been running



their landscaping business for 24 years.

## 1980

**Jose V. Rojas, att. '81**, who serves as director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, was the baccalaureate speaker for the 2010 graduating class of Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., on May 1, as well as speaker for the PUC baccalaureate on June 10.

**J. Raymond Wahlen II, '84**, who lives in Smithburg, Md., with his wife, Connie, was recently reelected as an associate treasurer of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the denomination's 59th world conference in Atlanta, Ga. Before serving at the world headquarters, Raymond was treasurer of the Montana Conference.

## 1990

**Jolie Trogdon, '90**, who in years past has been a project manager, loans analyst, and accounts receivable and payable manager at PUC, is now an accounting manager at Lake Luciana, LLC, of Pope Valley, Calif., and also an accountant with Trogdon Accounting Services.

**Cindy (Wood) Kothandaraman, '93**, earned her California Administrative Tier I Credential in July of 2010 and is working on her Master of Arts degree in educational administration at St. Mary's College.

**Ken Pierson, '95**, currently works as a dental missionary and administers the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic in



## PUC alum fights poverty in Argentina



Poverty. A daily life that we can't even imagine, yet is so common for the forgotten poor of Argentina. That's what has most powerfully impacted **Zachary Benton, '09**, an Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) volunteer based in Salta, Argentina. It's also the core (and on-going) challenge for the team he's a part of: alleviating the suffering of impoverished indigenous communities in the provinces of Salta and Jujuy.

The kind of poverty they're addressing is something you can't really grasp until you experience it, Benton says. "Even after seeing all of those commercials to 'sponsor a child' in Africa, I was still brought to tears by the surreal experience of seeing in front of me the truly 'third world' conditions that exist here in Argentina. Living in the U.S., it is literally impossible to imagine what it is like or to fathom the fact that a quarter of the world lives in those conditions (extreme poverty)."



Benton headed to Argentina in October of 2009 and became involved in the life of someone who's title is "volunteer" and for whom "there really is no such thing as a job description with a 'normal' day." His work includes everything from office tasks to manual labor and time on the road taking food and clothing to indigenous communities, conducting surveys, or attending planning meetings.

Benton became so involved that he extended the length of his stay. What really captured him was the way he saw poverty being experienced and treated in Argentina. "I became afflicted with the fact that unlike other Latin American countries, where poverty is 'assumed,' Argentina's poor are so easily forgotten and often simply ignored. I felt I needed to stay to bring more attention to that tragedy and help ADRA Argentina in its desire to address this problem in the face of scarce resources and political opposition."

## weddings



► **Terry Slaton, '94,** and **Ralph Bain** in Acampo, Calif. 6-19-10.



► **Ariane Gregory, '10,** and **Peter Katz, '10,** in Redding, Calif. 6-27-10.



► **Ketita Quinteros, '08,** and **Jackson Boren, '08,** in Grand Terrace, Calif. 7-11-10.

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. He married Crystal Edmister (a 2001 Southern Adventist University graduate and also a dental missionary) in 2004. They welcomed their first child, Shylah Laine Pierson, on March 3, 2010. Shylah was born in Saipan, where the Piersons continue their mission work for God.

**Tiffany Gromlich, att. '98,** earned her B.S. from the University of Oregon. She earned her M.D. in 2007 from the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon, and is completing a residency in emergency medicine there.

## 2000

**Steven Morales, '04,** is now serving as the administrative director for human resources at Sutter Medical Center Santa Rosa (Calif.), as noted in the *North Bay Business Journal*. "A past recipient of the *North Bay Business Journal's* 'Forty under 40' award, Mr. Morales

was nominated for the Sutter Health Resources Leader of the Year Award in 2007," notes the *Journal*.

**Kristina Guth, '06,** graduated with a degree in law in June 2010 from the Empire College School of Law in Santa Rosa, Calif.

**Ryan Stephens, '06,** is now the director of sales and marketing for Eco-Absorbent Technologies. He writes, "The education I gained at PUC I am still using on a daily basis here in my new position. In fact, I am working really hard with the EPA and U.S. Coastguard to help in the Gulf oil spill, and I found myself utilizing skills that I learned in Research Methods to write technical white papers for the Coast Guard last week. Building a new company from the ground up is really challenging, but between the skills I learned at PUC and through my MBA I feel equipped to build a great company." At this writing, he was just two classes away from earning his MBA at the University of Redlands.

## 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.

[viewpoint@puc.edu](mailto:viewpoint@puc.edu)  
[puc.edu/alumni/news-memories](http://puc.edu/alumni/news-memories)  
**707-965-6303**

## In Memory

**Frank Amato, '61,** a retired school principal, died May 12, 2010, in Napa, Calif. He was born in Denver, Colo., on August 4, 1921. Frank is survived by his wife, Marie; a daughter, Judy; a son, Tom; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Marian "Betty" (Woodruff) Baxter, '39,** died on May 25, 2010. Betty and her husband, Bill, served as missionaries in Columbia, Venezuela, New Mexico, and Mexico. Betty taught music and English. She is survived by a daughter, Dorothy Toppenberg; a son, Ronald; two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Robert William Bowen, '44,** died July 18, 2010, in Alliance, Neb. Bob was born September 2, 1922, in Atlanta, Ga. During WWII Bob enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was honorably discharged in March 1946 as a Captain MAC. He graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry and ran an optometry practice in Alliance for 40 years. He served in many leadership roles for optometry organizations and community organizations, including serving as mayor. Robert is survived by his daughter, Karen; a son, Steve; and a step-granddaughter and step-grandson and seven step-great-grandchildren.

**Joan Marie "Joanie" Carle, att. '96,** a teacher, died April 10, 2010, in Modesto, Calif. She was born in Glendale, Calif., on May 6, 1946. She is survived by her husband, Lance; her son, Troy; and a sister, Brenda Holden.

**Mervin Chaffin, att. '42-'44,** a retired family practice physician, died March 26, 2010, in Modesto, Calif. He

was born in San Fernando, Calif., on July 1, 1925. Mervin is survived by his wife, LaDonna; sons, Terry and Randy; three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Sheila (Lombardi) Chirco,** formerly of Lodi, Calif., died May 29, 2010, at age 75. She was born December 27, 1934, in San Jose. At PUC, Sheila was the news editor for the Campus Chronicle. She is survived by her husband, Joseph; daughter, Penny Igarashi; son, Daniel Morgan; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Carolyn L. Gentry, att. '87,** died on April 15, 2010, in Los Angeles, Calif. She was born in Los Angeles on March 30, 1942. Carolyn, who was a religious liberty advocate, is survived by her husband, David, and her son David Jordan.

**C. Rex La Grange, '51, '56,** died in Sun City, Calif., on June 17, 2010. He was born in Coburn, Colo., on April 30, 1928. A physician and industrial medical specialist who practiced medicine for 54 years and taught at Loma Linda (Calif.) University's School of Medicine, Rex is survived by his wife, Lily; children Pattie, Crystal, Ethel and Kyle; stepchildren, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; and a brother.

**Letta E. Hemme, '50,** died April 4, 2010, in Meadow Vista, Calif. She was born on April 24, 1919, in Chowchilla, Calif. Letta was an Adventist teacher in California, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. She is survived by her sister, Thelma Wearner; and brother, Earl.

**Derwin Lloyd Landis, '53,** a music educator, died January 3, 2010, in Los Angeles, Calif. He was born on May 9, 1930, in Shanghai, China. Derwin is survived by his wife, Erma;



sons Joseph Zhang, Phillip Ma, David Chen and Daniel Feng; six grandchildren; and a sister, Norma Hilliard.

**Clarise (Gough) Larsen, '41,** passed away on June 13, 2010, in Camino, Calif. She was 91. Clarise taught elementary school, worked as a dental assistant, and was a founding member of the Apple Hill Growers Association. She and her husband, Raymond, established the Larsen Pioneer Farm Museum in the Apple Hill area. She is survived by four step-children, Winifred Plubell, Eugene, Roswell, and Earl; and nine grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

**L. Arno Lejnicks '54, '58,** passed away on February 2, 2010. Arno was born in Latvia on November 18, 1928. With his family, he escaped communism at the end of WWII by going to Germany and then immigrating to the U.S. He attended medical school at Loma Linda and practiced internal medicine in Sacramento, Calif. Arno is survived by his wife, Jean (Rittenhouse); three daughters, Laura Hicks '82, Dianne Reynolds '82, '84, and Lisette, '89; his brother Olav Lejnicks '58, '67; and two grandsons.

**Marilynn (James) Lohne, '51,** died on April 20, 2010, in Santa Rosa, Calif. Marilynn was born in Illinois. She worked as a night administrator of Valley Medical Center in Fresno, Calif., for over 20 years, retiring to San Francisco in early 1990. She is survived by her eight children, 11 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Joan Higgins McEvoy, '57,** died on May 18, 2010, in Medford, Ore. She worked as a Red Cross Recreational Worker for U.S. service men in Korea. For many years she taught social studies at a high

school in Oakland, Calif., prior to taking an early retirement and moving to Mexico, where she lived in a town not far from Guadalajara among international artists and writers to pursue her love of writing. She is survived by her son, Patrick.

**W. Gene Ottinger, att. '48-'54 and '56,** of Lodi, Calif., died on May 9, 2010. He was born November 21, 1928, in Amarillo, Texas. After pastoral work and teaching, Gene trained to become a psychiatric technician and worked for the state hospital system. He was a member of the California Chiropractic Association and served as an independent expert witness in health care arbitration and litigation. He is survived by his daughters, Denise Duffy and Jonelle Ottinger; a son, Douglas; a sister, Katherine Morales; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Cyril E. Roe, '56, '57,** passed away April 7, 2010, at Ormond Beach, Florida. He was born on November 7, 1924, in Ripley, England. He taught in England, Northern California, India, and Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Joy; son, Peter; daughter, Vernita; two sisters; and five grandchildren.

**Kenneth B. Sanford, '71,** died on July 22, 2010, near Lewiston, Idaho. He was born on March 11, 1943, in Los Angeles, Calif. Kenneth was a dentist who practiced in Galt, Calif., for nearly 40 years, and was a strong supporter of Christian education at PUC and the Albion Field Station. He is survived by his wife, Marlene; a daughter, Kari McKinney; a son, Steven; four grandchildren, and brothers Harold and Raymond.

**Steven J. Segoria, '81,** who lived in Chico, Calif., died

March 29, 2010, in Paradise, Calif. He was born on October 24, 1960, in Loma Linda, Calif.

**George Erman Stearns, '59,** died December 14, 2009, in Yountville, Calif. He was born in Glendale, Calif., on July 14, 1921. George was a retired teacher who taught at three Adventist academies. He is survived by his wife, Rhoda-Fyrnn; daughters, Kay, Betty Jean, and Mary Anne; a son, John; step-sons, Wilton and Lyle Helm; step-daughter, Nancy Weeks; 12 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**Donald L. Stilson, '42,** died on April 13, 2010, in Loma Linda, Calif. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 27, 1918. He was a physician at the Loma Linda (Calif.) University Medical Center. Donald is survived by his wife, Mildred A. R.; a son, Eric; and two grandchildren.

**Stella Dawn (Klimosh) Strickland, att. '92,** who lived in Yountville, Calif., died on March 3, 2010, in Napa, Calif. She was born on January 27, 1934, in the Czech Republic. She is survived by her daughter, Dawn Williams; and her son, David Broome.

**Karen Trivett, former faculty,** passed away on July 4, 2010. She was 65. Karen graduated from Walla Walla College and taught nursing. She taught at PUC from 1969 to 1972 and served in home health and hospice programs for 30 years. Karen is survived by her husband, PUC professor emeritus Terry; two sons, Michael and Mark; her mother, Esther Brown; a brother, David Brown; and three grandchildren.

**Lloyd Watson, '58,** passed June 9, 2010, in Colton, Calif. Lloyd was born March 16, 1931, in Kingston, Jamaica. After medical school, he worked

for Kaiser and later opened medical offices in Riverside, San Bernardino and Highland, Calif. Lloyd is survived by his wife, Adrine; six children; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and brothers and sisters.

**Thelma Alvira (Flattum) Weatherall, '44,** died January 16, 2010, in Willows, Calif. She was born on May 26, 1908, in California. A missionary and Bible instructor, Thelma is survived by her daughter, Donna Roberts.

#### Updated Obituary:

The listing for Edward Motsenbocker in the Summer '10 issue "In Memory" section was incorrect. E. Douglas Motsenbocker, '60, is currently a retired pastor. His father, Edward Motsenbocker, did pass away in November but was not a PUC alum. Our apologies for this inaccuracy.

## 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; and the names we receive are also read each year at Homecoming.

[alumni@puc.edu](mailto:alumni@puc.edu)  
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# back in the day



## The Adventist Core A history of thought & service

Though names have changed and sometimes audience too, groups of students gathering to worship, to share, and to serve is an Adventist tradition that PUC has been a part of from its founding to today.

### Master Comrades 1

The Master Comrades program (pictured here at a 1948 gathering) trained students to be leaders in their home churches through classes, instruction, and training requirements and concluded with a grand Investiture Weekend honoring those who finished the training.

### Door to Door 2

An early tradition, now largely replaced on campuses by different forms of outreach, was the "literature bands" (pictured here in 1961) that took pamphlets door to door.

### Prayer Bands 3

Students gathering for prayer sometimes happens formally (in 1956 there were Prayer Bands separated, of course, by gender) and other times spontaneously and informally. Either way, it's a key element in helping students stay courageous and connected.

### Visiting 4

Visiting the elderly and the unwell is an ongoing tradition, whether that's to talk, sing, or pray together.

### Residential Devotions 5

Hall worships don't always literally take place in the hall, as this 1986 one did; but they do involve the residents of one dormitory hall in a mid-week devotional.

### Food & Connection 6

Serving food to people in urban areas around PUC who lack shelter and sustenance is a service opportunity that draws students year after year (this photograph is from 2003). Homeless Ministries hasn't changed its name, either; and students often do more than just pass out food — many engage the people they serve with conversation, an opportunity to share as well as to learn what life looks like from a very different perspective.



## What's your memory?

*viewpoint@puc.edu or online at [www.puc.edu/alumni/share-your-memories](http://www.puc.edu/alumni/share-your-memories) or by post to ViewPoint Editor, One Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508*

# the interview

## A post-retirement interview with Bill Hemmerlin

*“I think I’ve been just about as busy as I normally would be at this time of year, just with different things.”*

Beloved chemistry professor Bill Hemmerlin retired last spring after over 30 years of service at PUC (See profile in the Summer ’10 issue of Viewpoint). Now that the first school year of his retirement has officially begun, we checked in to see how Bill is enjoying the next phase of his life.

**Q:** Now that retirement has kicked in, how do you feel?

**A:** I’m feeling good! We had probably about 120 students at our house last night for the chemistry department dinner and so that felt good to be back in contact with the students. I think I’ve been just about as busy as I normally would be at this time of year, just with different things.

**Q:** What has helped make the transition easy for you?

**A:** Well I think that planning for it, anticipating it—and feeling really good about the chemistry department and the personnel that are there right now. The competence of the faculty and the fact that they’re just incredibly interested in their students’ well being. As far as leaving and my concerns about the department and the students—they’re in very good hands.

**Q:** Is there anything that’s hindered the transition in any way?

**A:** No, I don’t think so! It’s been just fine so far.

**Q:** What’s the most enjoyable thing you’ve done so far in retirement?

**A:** Oh, taking my grandsons to Giants games.

**Q:** What’s the least enjoyable thing?

**A:** Probably more stuff to do around the house, just maintenance. Some of those things are kind of fun and challenging, but some are just kind of ho-hum routine.

**Q:** What things are you looking forward to about retirement?

**A:** One is for the most part setting my own agenda. Deadlines aren’t quite as crucial in retirement. I guess that’s the biggest thing.



**Q:** What do you miss the most about being at work?

**A:** Well, it’s the contact with the people. I have excellent colleagues in the department and just terrific students.

**Q:** A lot of people at PUC consider you one of the most open and effective and beloved teachers on campus. Who do you think will be the next generation’s Bill Hemmerlin?

**A:** (Laughs) Oh boy, I think that’s for somebody else to decide. I don’t think it’s a question of who’s going to be the next Bill Hemmerlin. It’s people who are being themselves who are doing the same things that people thought made me an effective teacher. I didn’t answer your question, you noticed that didn’t you?





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# my viewpoint

## Gratefully Recovering!

After serving as pastor, missionary, and college Bible teacher, my final 25 years in church employment were as hospital health educator. Probably the most life-changing experience for me was running residential and out-patient stop-smoking programs. Through my association with smokers, I became acquainted with many people who had already dealt with other addictions. One evening a recovering alcoholic gave me a copy of *Alcoholics Anonymous* (frequently referred to as *The Big Book*) which of course I did not need!

But when I finally got around to reading it, what a surprise to find its stories and counsel resonating with my own experience and feelings. Page 62 brought it into focus in a painful and powerful way. Rather than alcohol it said that “Selfishness, self-centeredness is the root of our troubles. . . . We had to have God’s help!” Now that was getting real personal, way beyond alcoholism. At the bottom of the page came this painful summary: “First of all, we had to quit playing God.” When I read that I said, “Wow, that’s it. That is my problem. I didn’t originate it, but I did inherit it.” It’s the basic human issue, powerfully biblical and enunciated succinctly in the *Big Book*.

So the power of 12-step programs in life lies in the fact that they address the root cause of real problems such as alcohol, gambling, overeating, overwork, sex, or any other problem. They challenge our selfish nature and remind us to acknowledge our powerlessness and to continually turn our will and life over to the care of God as we understand Him.

A few years ago, while staying with some new friends, the subject of AA came up and the husband expressed frustration with an Adventist church member who would call himself an alcoholic instead of saying he used to be an alcoholic. I replied, “You may have missed a point along the way. There are three kinds of alcoholics. First there’s the *practicing alcoholic*, drinking up a storm under the illusion he or she is having a good time, but messing up their own and other people’s lives. Then there’s the *dry drunk* who, as a teetotaler, doesn’t touch the stuff but is miserable because he wishes he could. Finally, the third one is a *recovering alcoholic*, who also is not drinking but who on a daily basis accepts his powerlessness over

alcohol, acknowledges a power outside of himself that can change him, and is daily turning his will and his life over to the care of God, making things right, keeping things current, sharing with other people. He is at peace — with others, with God and with himself!”

Then it occurred to me that there are also three kinds of sinners. There’s the *practicing sinner*, doing all those things people aren’t supposed to do and apparently having a great time. Then there is the *dry drunk sinner* who obeys all the “rules” but harbors envy for what other people seem to be enjoying. It’s so difficult to let go.

The third is the *recovering sinner* who is also avoiding the “pleasures of this world” but who daily remember their powerlessness and that God can do for them what they can’t do for themselves. They are turning their will and their life over to the care of God, making amends, keeping current, sharing with others, and increasing their daily communion with God.

Another time I was staying with a family and at breakfast the husband said, “I’m going to an AA meeting tonight.” I said, “Oh really? Is it an open meeting?” It was. So Friday evening there were six of us in a memorable meeting — four smokers and two non-smokers!

Memorable, because when it was my turn to share, I simply told the truth — “Hi, my name is Harold, and I’m a gratefully recovering human being. I came with my friend tonight just to thank you and the AA family. You see, the God I worship today is so much better than the one I used to worship even though we’ve always been on good speaking terms.”

A dozen years later, by the grace of God, I’m still recovering. The process continues because He is passionate about my progress and I claim the promise that “He who began a good work in me will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” What a journey! From a self-centered life to a God-centered land where we will see Him face to face, where God himself will be with us and be our God, forever. Now that is eternal recovery and good news!



*“The power of 12-step programs in life lies in the fact that they address the root cause of real problems.”*

Harold Burden, '56, is a CHIP volunteer living in Oregon. He studied theology at PUC (with an interruption for a term of military service) and contributed to our “Lifework in the Church” feature in the summer *ViewPoint*.



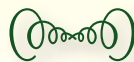
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