

# ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE FEBRUARY 2014

## FROM PUC CHURCH TO YOUR CHURCH

KEEPING A GENERATION OF  
YOUNG ADULTS CONNECTED



Preacher on the  
Prairie 04

God Let Me  
Fly 11

Grainger Hall  
Update 14



# president's message



*“Truly successful faith-based education deliberately engages students in forming Christian relationships, developing a moral and ethical compass, and adopting a very personal, authentic faith.”*

## The Sacred Spaces

In the heart of Pacific Union College’s campus, there is a structure that may be unfamiliar to alumni who have not spent time on Howell Mountain in recent years. Surrounded by tall pines, gorgeous Japanese maples, and fragrant rosemary, visitors to this place will hear resonant wind chimes and a fountain’s trickling waters. They will also hear a poignant and deeply moving sound: the prayers and worship of Christian young people.

This space, PUC’s Prayer Garden, beautifully illustrates the true advantage of being a distinctively Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education. For over 130 years, Pacific Union College has been proudly dedicated to the integration of faith and learning. We prayerfully seek guidance from the Source of true wisdom as we provide instruction and support to young adults who are in a pivotal moment in their spiritual journey. Set in the very center of campus, the Prayer Garden, along with our on-campus PUC Church and numerous chapels and other smaller spaces, provides a spiritual center and a physical demonstration of our dedication to this mission.

While these spaces are important, and indeed sacred, it brings me much joy to know with certainty that at PUC, prayer and worship are not isolated to the chapels and the Church. Instead, at PUC our Adventist faith is powerful, pervasive, and palpable. Families continue to choose Pacific Union College because of the vibrant expression of this faith, this year boosting our enrollment to the highest level in 24 years. Nearly 1,700 students are currently receiving the blessing of attending a college where they will encounter an education built, in the inspiring words of Ellen White, to produce “thinkers, not mere reflectors of other people’s thoughts.”

Having spent part of my career as an English professor in secular university settings, the freedom to openly acknowledge and celebrate faith in the classroom is something I specially treasure. In October, Martin Doblmeier, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker of such films as *The ADVENTISTS* and *The Blueprint*, spoke movingly of the blessing of Christian education, describing classrooms at institutions such as PUC as sacred spaces. Each

classroom at PUC is a space where young people are taught not just of history, biology, or business, but of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Truly successful faith-based education deliberately engages students in forming Christian relationships, developing a moral and ethical compass, and adopting a very personal, authentic faith. The result of this engagement is committed church members and thoughtful spiritual individuals who continue to serve others as witnesses for Jesus Christ.

The Prayer Garden is a space that is truly of PUC. Built of wood harvested from redwood trees grown on the property, it was a project born of love for this community and the spiritual nurture of the students of this College. Inspired by an alumnus and his PUC pastor wife, Steve and Marit (Balk) Case, and guided by the passionate eye of Victor Aaen, another graduate of PUC, the chapel and garden were the work of many people who believed in the transformational power of faith in young people’s lives.

Carved in to the wood of the chapel are the words “All Taught of God.” You will also find those words in the College’s seal. As the Prophet Isaiah and Jesus Christ taught us, it is by being taught of God and knowing God that we receive His grace and His peace. As a College family, there is much we can do to support the education and mentoring of our young adults. We invite you to join us—praying for our young people, supporting their spiritual growth, and continuing to engage them once they graduate from PUC—in developing sacred spaces in each of our communities.

*Heather J. Knight*

Heather J. Knight, Ph.D.  
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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Keeping a generation of young adults connected

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**On the Cover**  
Students transition from the PUC Church to local churches, like Resurrection Seventh-day Adventist Church in West Covina, Calif. (Bottom photo: Bianca Rodriguez Schneider)



# PREACHER ON THE PRAIRIE

## Pastor Bradley Gienger ministers to those three times his age

Martin Surridge

IT WAS DURING WINTER QUARTER OF BRADLEY Gienger's junior year at Pacific Union College that he was struck by a life-changing thought so clear, so powerful, so completely foreign to him that he knew it just had to be a message from God. Gienger, '10, was two and half years into college and a degree in physical education, but up until that point, he felt apathetic towards nearly everything except the power of worship. The moment that would change so much more than his class schedule came during a morning spent driving in his car in the Napa Valley and listening to praise music.

"I was feeling especially down and I pulled over beside a vineyard in disgust with my life," he recalled.

"I was fed up and in that moment I prayed, 'God I am doing an awful job of running my life, so from now on I just want whatever You want.'"

When he turned the car engine back on, a song came on the radio by Aaron Shust called "Give Me Words to Speak." It was in that musical moment that the thought hit Gienger as clear as day:

"'You need to be a pastor,' which was nothing I had ever considered seriously before," he explained, "but I didn't think twice about it. I drove back to PUC and changed my major that day. Five years later I think God knew what He was doing."

Today, Pastor Bradley Gienger leads three churches in South Dakota, where he lives with his wife Kristen (née Feldbush, class of 2009), and two children, a two-year old daughter, Peyton, and a four-month old son, Lincoln. The joy and hilarity of having two young children is clearly seen in their church life as well as their home. In Peyton, Brad and Kristen definitely have at least one church attendee willing to challenge the preacher each week.

"One Sabbath," Gienger began, "I asked from the pulpit, 'Does Jesus really love sinners?' In the silence that followed Peyton, who was just over a year old, shouted 'No!'

"She also shouts 'No!' almost every time someone invites the congregation to pray."

Their expanding family has brought a lot of happiness, but the cold expanses of farmland and prairie surrounding Pierre, S.D., where the Gengers live, is hundreds of miles from either of the places Kristen or Brad used to call home. Kristen grew up in Colorado, a state that shares the Dakotas' proclivity for snow, but perhaps little else; whereas Bradley was born and raised in sunny Santa Rosa, Calif., graduating from Redwood Adventist Academy, less than an hour from PUC. Moving to work in the Dakota Conference was a massive shift, culturally and geographically.

"It has been a great experience living in Pierre," assured Gienger. "It's safe for the kids, people are kind and generous, but it was a shock moving to South Dakota. The culture, in the church and in the state, is a major shift compared to where I grew up in Northern California."

In South Dakota, Gienger has faced challenges ministering to especially impoverished Native Americans families, struggled with evangelism and outreach efforts in communities where nearly everyone already belongs to a church, and has encountered low attendance levels unlike anything he has ever seen. Growing up, Gienger attended Santa Rosa Seventh-day Adventist Church where the average attendance was several hundred each week, and he preached during PUC's graduation weekend as the student pastor to a crowd of a couple thousand. Now, in Mobridge, S.D., he preaches to a group of five or six.

"It was a big shift," he said. "You can't come to church with the same expectations, trying the same strategies when you have five people compared to when you have a thousand. I've found it's best to embrace it. If you have five people you have the opportunity to be so much more about the relationships; it becomes more of a family than a church service."

Gienger explained that Mobridge is an older

church, where even the youngest member, 78 years old, has belonged to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for twice as long as he and Kristen have been alive. Since he's been the pastor there he's already had three funerals. Recently, however, the tiny church near the banks of the Missouri River has seen an influx of youthful energy, and not just because Gienger drives a 220-mile round trip every other Sabbath to pastor there.

"A family of ten have started showing up," he explained, "two parents and eight kids. It's the craziest thing. God has an immense sense of humor. The average age now feels like fourteen."

"This family literally started reading the Bible and decided to keep Sabbath and started attending. We've also had a mother and two kids who will come every once in a while and that helped overcome the deaths in the church."

An ability to laugh at the unusual and bizarre elements of life has been invaluable for Gienger and his family as they seek to make it through the tough winters and long commutes. They've come to develop a deep and abiding friendship with Super WalMart, the average Dakotan is unfazed by regular 180 mile trips to buy groceries, and last year, he explained, it snowed on Thanksgiving Day and the drifts didn't melt until March. There was so much snow that Gienger had to dig a trench around his backyard so that the dogs wouldn't walk over the fence.

While the snow may seem to be attempting to bury him alive at times, Pastor Bradley Gienger knows that at the moment, rural South Dakota is exactly where God wants him to be. It was a state they moved to because they knew it was what God wanted. The timing of his call to serve in the Dakota Conference is an astounding story in and of itself: during a spring when Gienger had no other job prospects, he received a phone call from a conference elder literally ten minutes before he would walk onto the stage to receive his diploma and graduate from



*"It was a big shift, and I've found it's best to embrace it. If you have five people you have the opportunity to be so much more about the relationships; it becomes more of a family than a church service."*

PUC with his bachelor's degree in religion.

Looking back to his final few months at PUC, Brad praised PUC's department of religion for having given him the tools he needed for such a demanding, but rewarding profession.

"The religion department, the theology classes, the openness that the teachers allowed for discussions and sharing of opinions were all so valuable," Gienger said, "especially because the students in those classes were from every major. It really enhanced the experience and gave a wide breadth of thought."

Being exposed to that breadth of view prepared Gienger for his new life far away from

home. He said that if it hadn't been for those conversations and debates, those moments of growth and intellectual honesty in the classroom, he wouldn't have made it as a pastor in South Dakota.

"Honestly, if I hadn't had that experience, I'd be so lost," he admitted. "When you start doing ministry and talking about God, you have to be prepared for different opinions."

Gienger confessed that while he may officially be the pastor of the Mobridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, in actuality, the elderly, conservative members of the congregation end up teaching him more than he teaches them.

He credits PUC for that receptivity to and abiding respect for such a different way of thinking.

"It was those classes at PUC that taught me how to understand that people view things differently and how to express my views to people who think differently."

Now with those congregation members, a group of five or six seniors, Gienger said excitedly that, "I might be the one preaching, but I can use their stories, because this is about us as a church." **VP**





# FROM PUC CHURCH TO YOUR CHURCH

KEEPING A GENERATION OF YOUNG  
ADULTS CONNECTED Martin Surridge with Cambria Wheeler

Visit nearly any Seventh-day Adventist church on a Sabbath morning and the reason that Adventist congregations are so often referred to as “church families” will be easy to see. Members greeting each other with warm hugs, deacons and musicians and elders all serving in their roles, and the sense of comfort and home all demonstrate the beauty of corporate worship. The family dynamic is also seen in the different generations who fill the pews: the graying pioneer who helped build the church, the couple who have been members for seventy-plus years, the young families with teething babies, and the Primary kids reading their Sabbath School lesson.

Look around at this beautiful, multi-generational church family and you may notice the absence of a key group: the young adults. Increasingly, the post-collegiate, young adult Adventist has been missing from the pews and the potluck table, and the news from Adventist pastors and researchers is becoming a cause for concern.

## A Congregational Crisis

Despite the tremendous emphasis on Adventist education and youth ministry in North America, it is hard to argue with the absence of thousands of young Church members across the country. It’s also hard to argue with statistical findings.

Research from Adventist young adult experts Monte Sahlin and Roger Dudley, author of *Why Our Teenagers Leave the Church*, as well as from the Christian research organization the Barna Group lays bare the statistical findings that confirm the fears of many: approximately 60 percent to 70 percent of young Adventists are leaving the church within the North American Division, and the rate of young adult attrition may have risen by as much as 20 percent since the end of the 1990s.

To label this issue as a problem may be an understatement. Given that over 60 percent of the post-collegiate demographic may soon be disappearing from Adventist churches, including those in the Pacific Union, it may be more accurate to label this a congregational crisis.

As an institution dedicated to the growth and education of Adventist young people, Pacific Union College is uniquely positioned to address this issue head on. Not content to merely support students on their spiritual journey during their college years and then see them drift away after graduation, PUC is developing a system to continue providing spiritual nur-

turing while connecting graduates to people and churches in the area they move to after leaving Angwin.

## Retention in Adventism

The Retention in Adventism project, as this effort is called, involves a group led by Lisa Bisell Paulson, PUC’s vice president for student services and dean of students. Other members include Laffit Cortes, campus chaplain; Fabio Maia, service and missions coordinator; Mark Witas, lead pastor of the PUC Church; Leo Ranzolin, professor of religion; Bradford Newton, executive secretary for the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and Mark Ishikawa, director of engagement and alumni relations.

Ishikawa, a 2001 graduate of PUC, joined PUC’s alumni relations team in October 2012 after pastoring at the Grand Advent Church in Oakland, Calif. With a background in youth ministry, Ishikawa brings a practical set of skills and a unique leadership approach to a project he sees as a way to continue his ministerial calling.

“I see myself as being the pastor of a church of 25,000 alumni and friends,” Ishikawa shared. “I have the opportunity to minister to this PUC alumni church and just make sure they’re connected with each other and with this school

**“What I love about PUC is that from that every level of leadership there is a passion and a mission to ensure that our students are not only cared for here on campus, but well beyond their days at PUC.”**

because the Young Alumni Retention Project is arguably the most important endeavor we can undertake in our alumni department.”

Just as integral to the project is the development and implementation of a three-step model for how PUC, church congregations, and other alumni can reach those Adventists who have graduated within the last decade. Research cited within the model explained that nearly half of all Adventist youth, specifically between the ages of 15-26, will end up leaving the Church and that the “objective of this project is to significantly reduce the percentage of Adventist youth that leave by providing meaningful and purposeful spiritual and social connections for our students and young alumni.”

## Spiritual Development on Campus

The Retention in Adventism’s first mission element is based on the assumption that college students with a connection with Christ will be more likely to stay connected post-graduation. As an Adventist college, PUC has the opportunity unavailable in most secular settings like public universities or community colleges to focus on the spiritual development of students in all areas of college life: in the classroom, in the residence halls and cafeteria, through social activities, and in spiritual programming. Indeed, being on an Adventist campus is to be

in the truest young adult welcoming setting possible.

The Retention project's first goal is to focus on spiritual programming in order to strengthen the spiritual walk of current PUC students. Through an increased emphasis on spiritual mentoring, small group Bible studies, as well as mission and service opportunities, PUC students are surrounded in a culture of faith. They are also provided with an example of how to make that faith a lifelong journey by observing the committed Adventist teachers and staff who care deeply about them.

An additional part of the goal is the teaching of new Practical Christianity classes, focusing on relevance and application, one of which will be taught by PUC's lead pastor, Mark Witas. As Witas sees it, the major problem that the Adventist Church faces with the retention of post-collegiate members is relevance.

Witas shared his thoughts on the root of the matter, explaining that a generational shift may be a significant part of the issue and that the theological priorities of recent alumni are different than previous generations of Adventists.

"This world has changed a lot in the last 150-plus years," Witas began. "The demographic of people in our lives isn't what it was in the 1800s. Young people are more concerned with the things that Jesus was concerned about: justice and mercy and love.

"It seems that young Adventists who put their life of service on this earth as the most important thing they can do right now end up valuing their faith more than those who are concerned with believing the right doctrine.

"My general experience with this generation," he continued, "is that believing the correct theology to ensure an afterlife simply doesn't resonate. I think that young people would more resonate with what we started out to be: a movement. We were a purpose-driven group of people that set out to change the then world about their vision of who God was and what He was doing in the world."

Pastor Witas's aim to incorporate relevance and applicability into theology classes would probably not have been a priority of many Adventist colleges and universities a few generations ago. But as he pointed out, young alumni and current students make up a new and changing demographic and the need for relevancy and a personal faith is greater than ever. Through the course of his career and several decades as a Bible teacher, spiritual mentor, youth pastor, academy

## “The objective of this project is to significantly reduce the percentage of Adventist youth that leave by providing meaningful and purposeful spiritual and social connections for our students and young alumni.”

men's dean, chaplain, and now college pastor, Witas has maintained contact with hundreds of former students and youth group members through the influence of social media.

PUC's lead pastor recalled how young adults who have left the Adventist Church continue to seek his mentorship, "There are a good amount of my former students who are still in the Church. Very few have moved on to other denominations, many still consider themselves SDA, and the ones who don't attend church anymore often ask me questions about their lives.

"The ones who have left the Church don't seem to harbor ill will against it," Witas explained. "It just doesn't seem to have given them purpose and meaning like we'd like it to."

### A Time of Transition

The secret to the purpose and meaning that may be eluding so many young Adventists may be found in just the type of relationship that Witas continues to cultivate with those he baptized and ministered to many years ago.

The mentorship provided to young Adventists through social media, personal interaction, and numerous other avenues is the second of three objectives within PUC's Retention in Adventism project. The group states that "when a PUC student becomes a PUC alumnus, our responsibilities to them do not end. The PUC family has a duty to ensure that its young alums continue to be nurtured and mentored post-PUC."

PUC's department of advancement and alumni relations is taking the lead on this element. With such clearly stated goals as providing opportunities for young alumni to remain connected to the PUC campus, identifying spiritual mentors in their region, and matching young alums with a welcoming church family, the department hopes to produce more encouraging mentorship connections like those of Pastor Witas and his former youth-group members and academy students.

The chances are high that some of the new

students who enroll in Pastor Witas's Practical Christianity classes will have passed through a college fair at an Adventist academy. There, they may meet PUC alum Larissa (Ranzolin) Church, '08, who works for the College as an enrollment counselor based in Southern California. While handing out brochures and answering questions, Church interacts the young Adventists of this new emerging generation on a daily basis.

Church understands firsthand the significant transitions high school students will experience. Many academy students currently attend weekly services on a very regular basis, and most leave a large portion of their religious, academic, and financial decisions to their parents and guardians. Soon, they'll experience the transition to living independently from their parents in a college setting, one she hopes will be the type of nurturing spiritual environment PUC provides. After graduation, they'll have yet another transition as they leave the young adult welcoming PUC environment for a church setting that may be entirely new and unfamiliar. During these years, the statistics show that they have a 60 percent chance of leaving the Adventist Church.

Church and her PUC classmates graduated too early to benefit from the mentoring efforts of the Retention in Adventism project. Like other young alumni, Church discovered post-collegiate Adventism to be a challenging and rather isolating experience when she graduated and moved to Los Angeles.

"I think my struggle with the Church post-college is one echoed by many graduates," she shared. "It can be difficult to connect to a much smaller church after being involved with one as large as the PUC Church. College also feels like such a collective experience—we're all in this together, working for the same common goal, whether that's getting a paper done on time, or simply graduating; I felt very united with my fellow college students while at PUC."

While this sense of camaraderie and unity while at college is certainly to be expected and applauded even, it wasn't until after gradua-

tion that Church realized in a smaller congregation that met only weekly, togetherness was apparent, but was also different than what it had meant at PUC.

Describing her search for a congregation, she explained how "some people had found jobs, others hadn't; some people got married, others didn't; some people had children and others didn't." Like nearly every other aspect of life after college, it was yet another reminder of how she was in a period of transition and unsure of where she belonged.

"I'm in my late twenties, married, without children. I've obviously moved past collegiate activities, yet I don't feel like I necessarily belong in the adult world either and I definitely didn't belong with young families that churches often group together with people my age. It can be a very weird place to be."

Church may not have had one specific experience that made her not wish to return to a specific congregation, but she shared a story about a friend who was welcomed into a less-than-hospitable worship environment.

"For some friends," she explained, "it goes back to the judgmental attitude of a church member. One friend had a deacon question their shoe choice for church—they were wearing tennis shoes. That friend hasn't returned to church since, and it's been many years since this incident."

Other incidents featured less hostility but resulted in decreased attendance nevertheless.

"Other friends of mine have tried to connect with their local churches, but unsuccessfully. There just weren't others of their age group attending the church, so they felt the church had nothing to offer them.

"It is important to point out," Church continued, "that this is a common experience for young alumni who have moved away from the church they grew up in; these alumni are in completely new environments."

Ishikawa explained that incidents like these, where young Adventists attend a church service and do not return, are commonplace.

"I recently read a study," he recalled, "that said young adults will give one church three chances, or three churches one chance, and if they don't find a church that they feel welcome and connected with in those three tries, they will just stop trying."

### Coming to Your Church: A New PUC Grad

While most PUC students come from within California and the Pacific Union, opportunities post-graduation may take them throughout the United States and the world. Churches

are very different, each having a personality set by the location, the members, and the pastor. Ensuring that young alumni feel welcome within whichever church they move near to may seem like it is beyond PUC's immediate scope and responsibility.

Yet, this challenging goal is the third element of the young alumni retention effort. While research has shown that less than eight percent of the 5,000-plus churches in the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists have a significant young adult presence or are considered young adult welcoming, it's also true that Adventist churches throughout the nation desire young adults in their congregations and have much to offer in the way of community and service.

Miljoy Gallego-Savino and her husband Bryan Savino, both '07, found this to be true when they left the very young adult welcoming setting of the PUC Church. "I have found that the church homes I have chosen after graduating from PUC have largely been a result of the sense of community they offer," Gallego-Savino shared. "I may not always agree with how the service is run, or even on certain points of theology, but when members are taking care of each other, letting people know that they matter in simple ways like a phone call saying you were missed at church, or being God's hands and feet in bigger ways like taking up a collection for a struggling family, that is when I see God most clearly and that is the kind of church of which I want to be a part." (Find the rest of Gallego-Savino's story of finding a church home, as well as the stories of two other recent graduates, on page 30.)

Mark Ishikawa and the alumni relations team want to make these connections easier. "What we are doing is working directly with our PUC Alumni Pastors Council," Ishikawa explained. "When a student graduates, we will connect them to an alumni pastor within the church near them." This personal connection provides a true link between the graduate and the Adventist church. The pastor will then connect the graduate to a mentor within their church who will extend personal invitations to church and ensure that the grad is recognized and valued within the congregation during a time when it is easy to feel anonymous or uncomfortable.

"Many people believe that a charismatic pastor or leader is what leads to successful young adult churches. But contrary to popular belief, young adults aren't necessarily drawn to flashing lights, loud music, or jeans-wearing preachers," Ishikawa argued. What this miss-

ing generation desires instead are genuine connections and relationships, which mentors can provide.

"With very little training, anyone can be a mentor and any church can develop a mentoring program," explained Ishikawa. "Time and time again, mentoring has proven to be an effective and sustainable way of young adult retention." Ishikawa looks forward to collaborating with the PUC Alumni Pastors Council to develop this program and work on mentorship training opportunities. "Mentoring is going to be key in connecting alums to young alums, and then alums to our current PUC students," he said.

### The Church Family and PUC Family

It's the hope of the whole College and PUC family that this project succeeds. If the statistical findings prove accurate and trends continue on their current trajectory, it is hard to imagine the stakes being much higher. The Retention in Adventism project might be an ambitious endeavor, but it's an endeavor that is already starting to pay dividends across the country as alumni of PUC are benefitting from newly made friendships with other alumni and from connections with local church families. Ishikawa shared one story of a young woman who recently graduated from PUC and had moved to the East Coast.

"She contacted our department asking if we knew any PUC alums in the area and immediately we connected her to five PUC alums within ten miles of her grad school campus. Of those alums, one picked her up from the airport, one arranged for her a place to live, and another immediately got her connected to a local church and invited her to Sabbath lunch."

Ishikawa pointed out that given how research has shown that the key to retention of post-collegiate Adventists is mentoring, there is no reason why an Alumni Association of over 25,000 members "can't leverage their caring power to really make an impact in the lives of our young alums.

"What I love about PUC," he declared, "is that from that every level of leadership there is a passion and a mission to ensure that our students are not only cared for and mentored during their time here on campus, but that this continuum of care extends well beyond their days at PUC." **VP**



# GO FOR GOLD

## Olympian Mary Whipple inspires campus

Emily Mathe and  
Cambria Wheeler



WITH HER MEDALS DISPLAYED ON THE platform of the PUC Church, Mary Whipple described her journey to gold during the November 7 installment of the Colloquy Speaker Series. Whipple was the coxswain of the United States Women's 8+ Rowing Team, leading the team to five world championships, a silver medal in the 2004 Athens Olympics, and gold medals in the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London games.

Whipple's presentation began with a video clip of her team's victory at the 2012 London Olympics. The footage showed the intensity, as well as the incredible precision exhibited by the American team. Whipple's presentation described the extraordinary teamwork and determination required on the journey to that finish line.

As the team's coxswain, Whipple serves as an in-boat coach and calls instructions to the rowers. Her job is primarily to unite her teammates, Whipple explained. "It's my job to turn eight individuals into one person—one dream."

Whipple's Olympic dream and involvement with rowing started out "innocently." While a student at Sacramento Adventist Academy,

the Orangevale, Calif., native joined a rowing team at a local aquatic center, and was eventually recruited to the University of Washington. In 2001, she was invited to try out for the national team.

As a coxswain, the 5'3" Whipple is surrounded by much taller and larger athletes. "It's not how big or strong you are," Whipple asserted. "It's the words you use and how you use them."

In their first race representing the United States at the World Championship, Whipple admitted that the team thought of themselves as hotshots. They had a chance to show the world that the American team was a force to be reckoned with. However, during the first race they quickly fell behind the rest of the teams, leading Whipple to realize that they needed to raise the bar to a new level of competition.

The U.S. team continued training hard, but their attitude towards the race had changed. "We made sure to back each other up and validate each other. We'd remind each other of the bigger picture," said Whipple. After winning silver in the 2004 Olympics, they came confidently to the World Championship in 2005. After starting the race with a lead, their

momentum changed drastically and they came in fourth. Whipple said they learned to support each other through even more intense training.

After their fourth-place finish in 2005, the U.S. Women's Eight took the 2006 World Championship, kicking off a six-year winning streak that included gold medals at the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics. "When I look at these two medals, I see two very different journeys to the finish line," Whipple shared.

Whipple's proudest achievement was realizing her team was victorious because of their mutual support and collaboration. "Faith is what allowed me to be a leader among my teammates," she said. "It's about how we did it as a team, and being a part of something bigger."

Before inviting students to take a closer look at the medals she had brought, Whipple brought forward a challenge to the audience: "How do you want to be remembered? What impression do you want to leave on your journey?" After the closing prayer, a crush of students came up to the stage to see the gold and silver medals and to meet Whipple in person. **VP**

# "GOD LET ME FLY"

## Sophomore Bryan Soderblom recalls missionary year in Guyana

Emily Mathe

BRYAN SODERBLOM, A SOPHOMORE AVIATION and religion major, experienced a life-changing journey during his year as a student missionary in Guyana, a small nation on the northern coast of South America. Although as a freshman he initially planned to go to Brazil as a pilot, personally he felt the call for a homeschool teacher in Guyana was stronger. "The more and more I thought about it during long hikes in the Back 40, it felt like if I went to Brazil I'd be serving my own purposes," said Bryan. He liked the opportunity in Guyana because it seemed more of a service mission than a way to advance his own career as a pilot.

Bryan was set up teaching the children of PUC alum Laura (Kopitzke) LaBore, '94, and her husband Bill, who directs the Guyana project for Adventist World Aviation (AWA). Shortly he began giving guitar lessons to local kids, and then was bumped up to teaching high school math to about a hundred students at the secondary school. He said the job was rewarding as well as demanding; he was able to help the high school kids push through the basics of math up to a solid high school level. "By the end, I'm glad to say we got to factorization of polynomials," he said.

For the first few months, Bryan's teaching was his sole job, but eventually he was invited to come along on some of the medevac flights for Adventist World Aviation's Wings for Humanity. Although AWA has missions and service projects all over the globe, Wings for Humanity is specifically in Guyana. These medevacs flew sick and injured people from their small villages to the main hospital, and were also chartered by the government to transport local officials. Also, one of the medevacs' most important functions was to perform body flights so burials could take place in the home villages. Bryan's experience in the medevacs was at first limited to the copilot's seat—he was able to make adjustments and use the controls from there, but soon graduated to making solo flights.

Bryan said he felt very blessed by the flying experience he had in Guyana. "I didn't



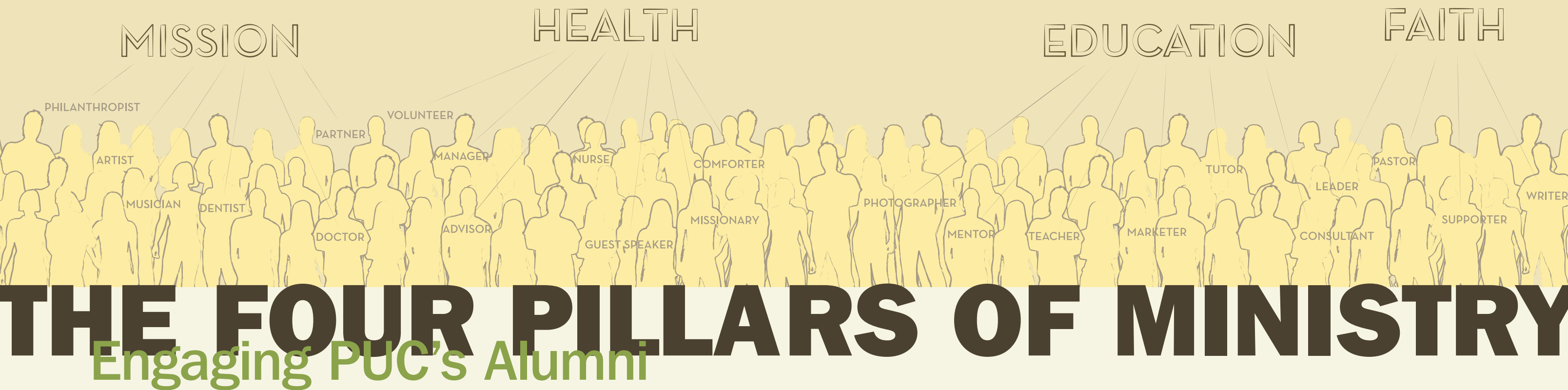
*"Looking back and seeing how God really did lead through it all, and took things and put them beyond my wildest imagination—I wouldn't change it for anything."*

go to Guyana to fly—I turned down flying somewhere else to go and do something hopefully not for myself," he said, "and yet God still brought it around and let me fly." As he made more flights with the medevacs, he gained experience as a pilot, learning how to cope with situations that required quick thinking and snap decisions. On one of these occasions, Bryan had to figure out what to do with a full plane, two critically injured passengers, and a crucial weight restriction. To his relief, after crunching the numbers Bryan was able to transport every passenger to the correct destination without maxing the weight limit.

Even though he was constantly challenged by the isolation, the lack of familiar culture,

and a close up view of death, Bryan described his time in Guyana as very fulfilling. "Throughout the whole time I was there I couldn't feel God leading in any way. I was out there—just me," said Bryan. "Just looking back and seeing how God really did lead through it all, and took things and put them beyond my wildest imagination—I wouldn't change it for anything." **VP**





## Engaging PUC's Alumni

Walter Collins and Mark Ishikawa

The four pillars of ministry—faith, education, health, and mission—each provide our growing alumni community with the opportunity to get engaged and help further the mission of the College. By organizing around these pillars, our alumni chapters become relevant hubs of support, led by committed PUC alums ready to make a difference in the world around them.

### The Caring Power of PUC Alumni

Inspired by coming together with meaning and purpose, our alumni become effective agents of change inside and outside the Adventist community, volunteering their time, talent, and resources to confront some of the most pressing problems facing our Church today.

Adventist Church retention rates are not growing, and our educational system is facing the daunting challenges of a generation. Even as these structural problems expand, the need for direct ministry grows around us. The world staggers under the weight of hunger, poverty, and poor physical health, with very little support that is effective and sustainable, and few organizations with the capacity to respond in meaningful ways.

PUC's vast alumni community is well positioned to confront the structural challenges facing our Church and schools, and expand its ministry to nurture and care for those in need. We will leverage the caring power of our alumni to help churches retain members and grow, save and strengthen our schools, comfort the needy here and abroad, and minister through health. Mindful of PUC's legacy

of thought leadership, our alumni work with students, faculty, and staff to form seamless partnerships anchored in service, innovation, and relevance. This type of engagement will garner transformational changes both for our community and our College.

### Connect. Invest. Transform.

PUC invites its alumni to get involved in two important ways: through connecting with and investing in Pacific Union College. If we, the PUC Alumni community, can connect and collaborate together and invest of our time and resources we will fulfill our mission as PUC alumni and change the world around us.

**Connect:** The PUC Alumni Association offers you multiple ways to stay involved and connected to PUC, students, and fellow alumni, while making a difference in your community and supporting PUC's mission. From Homecoming to local PUC alumni receptions in your community, the Association serves to connect you with PUC in meaningful and rewarding ways!

**Invest:** Giving of your time, talent, and resources is an investment in PUC's future and the future of your community. By mentoring a student or young alum, making a gift to PUC, or volunteering your time and talent, you join a group of alumni leaders who believe in PUC's mission for the world and are ready to make a difference.

**Transform:** The PUC Alumni Association invites you on a journey of transformation. Your support transforms lives, both on campus and beyond, and we provide a variety of opportunities for you to have a transformational effect on your College and your community. Mentor a student. Volunteer your expertise to help a struggling school. Make a gift to support PUC's mission. Be a part of the PUC transformation!

Contact the office of alumni and advancement at [alumni@puc.edu](mailto:alumni@puc.edu) or (707) 965-7500 to connect to your campus, invest in its future, and be part of the transformation. **VP**



# AN UPDATE TO HISTORY

## Grainger Hall's high-impact renovation

James Shim

**D**URING THE SUMMER OF 2013, GRAINGER HALL UNDERWENT A HIGH-impact renovation. The men's residence hall, one of three at PUC, now has a bright, inviting lobby and entirely renovated restrooms on all three floors. The updates to this historic building have made the hall more comfortable for residents and visitors to this very busy, well-loved space.

Grainger Hall has a history that goes back to PUC's first years in Angwin. The building was originally the Angwin Hotel, and after PUC bought the property in 1909, the structure was renamed Adelphian Hall and later North Hall. Rebuilt in 1923 and named Grainger Hall in 1930, the men's residence hall was always a vast improvement over the accommodations that early male PUC-ites experienced. Since the Angwin Hotel was the nicest building around, it was used as a dormitory for female students until 1912. Before the men of PUC took over Grainger, they slept in tents, barn lofts, and the dark, damp cellar of the former dance hall.

While the building was a far cry from the rough conditions of 1909, and had received numerous renovations to accommodate the growing size of the College and the needs of twenty-first century students, the lobby had not gone through a major change over the years.

Jonny Halversen, Grainger Hall dean and a '95 grad of PUC, felt that the change was long in coming. "Over the past few years, all the lobbies were getting a little love. However, Grainger had kind of gotten put on hold," says Halversen. "However, President Knight had always said she didn't want to forget about Grainger. Then with the additional much-

needed renovation of the men's residence bathrooms, the Board of Trustees came into play to see that something could finally happen."

Instrumental in the project was PUC Trustee Clyde Holland, '83. Holland, chairman and CEO of Holland Partner Group, a Washington-based investment and development firm that builds urban apartment complexes, recognized that Grainger Hall was due for an update. With his resources and expertise, the project entered planning phase in May.

"I was really convinced that this was the year for Grainger Hall to sparkle," says President Heather J. Knight. Knight joined Lisa Bissell Paulson, vice president for student life; Jim Boyd, dean of men; Halversen; and the professionals in PUC's Facilities Management department to choose the design elements for the renovation. Work began in the summer, with new furniture, carpet, and paint in the lobby and new tile, paint, and fixtures in all bathrooms.

The renovations have had a positive impact on the Men of Grainger and their visitors. "It's nice to see that PUC cares about making major renovations that affect the student experience every year," comments Grainger resident David O' Hair. He went on to say, "Grainger's old look was long overdue, and the new furniture and renovations to the lobby make a positive experience for the students here at PUC."

The Grainger Hall project joins a series of high-impact summer renovations spearheaded by Dr. Knight. Past projects have included the Dining Commons, Campus Center, Nelson Memorial Library, and Enrollment Services lobby. **VP**







## PUC Revives Angwin to Angwish

### Classic race enjoyed by alums, community, and current students

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, PUC RESTORED A WELL-LOVED TRADITION BY hosting Angwin to Angwish, a run that brings the community and school together on the College's trails. Over 200 runners of all ages took part in the run, which offered three distances: a Family 4k Run/Walk, 12k, and 24k. The race benefitted PUC's Student Association and Service-Learning programs.

First run in the 1970s, the race was a popular event and well-remembered by many. The revival, organized by Doug Wilson, PUC's

director of student activities, and Jake Scheideman, '90, owner of St. Helena Cyclery, once again featured the beauty of the College's trails and the steep and grueling Angwish Hill. "I had run Angwin to Angwish a few times in the eighties, so I was very familiar with the hill," said Charlene Bainum, a professor in PUC's department of psychology. "However, it certainly didn't seem to get any easier with the passage of time. It's a killer!"

James Shim

## Department of Business Receives IACBE Re-Accreditation

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS STUDENTS RETURNED IN September to find their department newly recognized as a dedicated provider of scholastic excellence. The International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) Board of Commissioners reaffirmed the accreditation of the business programs offered by Pacific Union College in April 2013. The department of business and economics, which has been accredited by the IACBE since 2002, will maintain its member status through its next review in 2018.

"Before selecting a college, every business student should check the accreditation status of the school's business program," says Rodney Hardcastle, chair of the department of business administration and economics. "Accreditation by a reputable agency helps to ensure that the school's business majors will be receiving a first rate education as the result of a quality curriculum taught by qualified faculty. The IACBE requires its members to go through a very rigorous process to receive its accreditation, which assures PUC students that they will receive a quality business education."

Emily Mathe



## Lady Pioneers Volleyball Record-breaking Season

AFTER FINISHING 3RD IN LEAGUE PLAY IN THE CALIFORNIA PACIFIC Conference, Pacific Union College's Pioneers women's volleyball team completed their season at the Cal Pac playoffs. The Pioneers fell to Menlo College on Friday, November 15. After the playoff match, three Lady Pioneers and their head coach Brittany Brown were honored with Cal Pac Conference Awards.

Senior libero Lauren Secchitano was named to the All Conference 1st Team and received the 2013 Conference Libero of the Year Award. Setter Kailey Faust and outside Viridiana Gallardo were named to the Conference 2nd Team.

Brittany Brown, head coach, was named the 2013 Conference Coach of the Year. In her fourth season as head coach, Brown has nurtured PUC women's volleyball from the bottom of the league to becoming a league championship contender. With the addition of nine recruits this season, the Pioneers went from last place to 3rd place in the span of a year. Under Brown's instruction, the young PUC team quadrupled last year's win record with 17 wins.

## Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier Revisits PUC



EMMY AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER MARTIN Doblmeier, creator of over 25 films and owner of Journey Films, visited Pacific Union College on October 10 to address students at the Adventist Heritage installment of the Colloquy Speaker Series.

During Colloquy, Doblmeier shared clips of his two newest films, *The ADVENTISTS 2* and *The Blueprint*, and screened both films on Thursday evening. Doblmeier told students

about his approach to religion, faith, and spirituality. "I find myself looking for God through the people of this world ... this is my mission," he began. Recognizing PUC's many healthcare-oriented majors, Doblmeier encouraged students to engage in medical missions. "The greatest sign of our human character is to travel to other lands, other cultures, other religions, and to touch them, interact with them, and, if you can, heal them," he stated.

Doblmeier's upcoming film, *The Blueprint*, profiles the Adventist private school system. Himself a product of Christian education from elementary school through college, Doblmeier described classrooms at Christian schools as sacred spaces. "Inviting God in to that space is genuine faith-based education," Doblmeier concluded.

James Shim

## Students Win Top Communication Award

IN NOVEMBER, STUDENTS LAUREN ARMSTRONG, ARIANNA DURAN, and Benjamin Speegle received recognition from the National Communication Association at the 99th National Communication Convention in Washington, D.C. The group's paper, one of four papers selected from 80 submissions to the Lambda Pi Eta division, received the Stephen A. Smith Award for Top Group-Authored Undergraduate Research Paper.

The trio, all now graduates of PUC, conducted their study for a class in Communication Research taught by Tammy McGuire, professor of communication. Armstrong and Duran presented their research at the convention, where they received the award from Stephen A. Smith, founder of the Lambda Pi Eta communication honor society, himself. Armstrong, Duran, and Speegle were also asked to send in their paper to a communication journal for future researchers to use as a reference. "We put a lot of work into preparing the paper," said Speegle. "It is always nice to see that other people find what you did to be worthwhile."

"I was extremely proud of the way they represented PUC in general and the communication department in particular," said McGuire. "Ari, Lauren, and Ben's paper represents the potential of quality undergraduate research when it is done carefully and well."

Emily Mathe





## Rojas Inspires During Fall Revival

DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, PUC WELCOMED PASTOR JOSE ROJAS to campus as the speaker for Fall Revival, an annual week of spiritual emphasis. Pastor Rojas, a PUC alum and acclaimed speaker, inspired and electrified the student body for a solid week, leaving many individuals with the new resolution to devote more of their time to ministry and missions.

The well-attended weeknight meetings followed the theme of “Believing God,” while the special vespers and church services were focused on the missionary aspect of one’s Christian journey. At the conclusion of Revival, a total of 105 students had signed up to be student missionaries and 200 students signed up for on-campus ministries or local service activities. Most excitingly, 25 students answered Rojas’ call for baptism; one sophomore, Zach Tierce, was baptized during church on Sabbath, October 12. “It was awesome to see the commitment the students were making, whether through baptism, student missions, or just giving their life up into God’s hands,” said Kristen Beall, one of PUC’s student chaplains.

Emily Mathe

## History Major Wins International Essay Contest

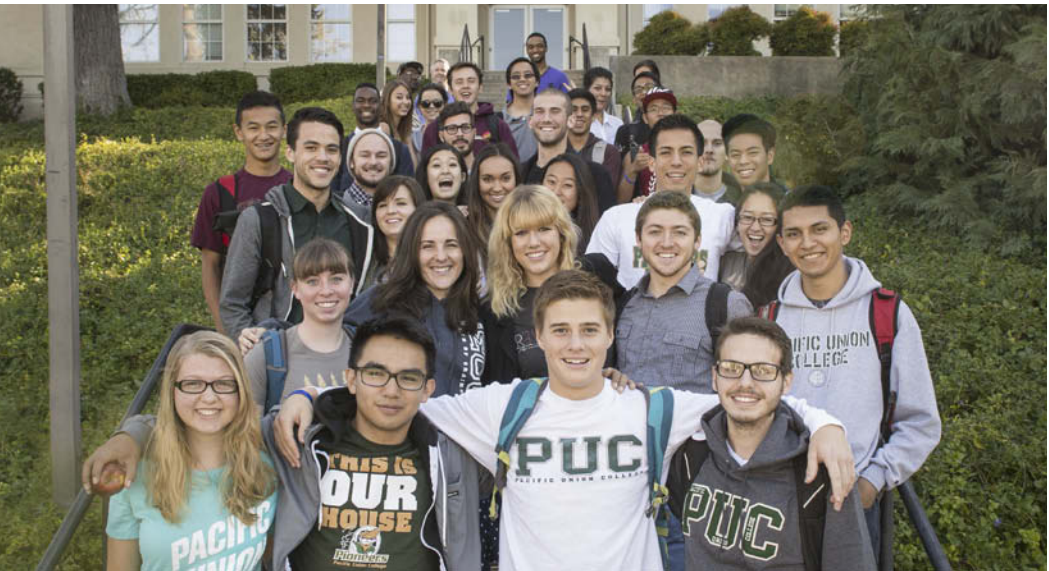


SENIOR HISTORY MAJOR ERIKA WEIDEMANN GREW UP LISTENING TO HER grandmother’s stories of her childhood as a German refugee in Europe. During her junior year at PUC, Weidemann ran across an essay contest sponsored by the Germans from Russia Heritage Society. The winning essay would be printed in the society’s publication, and the author would receive a \$1,000 scholarship. During Christmas break, Weidemann submitted an essay to the international contest. While the academic paper included historical facts about the life of German refugees after World War II, it also became a way for Weidemann to share her grandmother’s experiences with the rest of the world.

Weidemann’s essay, formatted in the style of a journal, includes entries adapted from her grandmother’s experiences. Born in the Ukraine, Weidemann’s grandmother and her family were evacuated from their home when the German army retreated during World War II. They were put on trains and sent to different resettlement camps around the continent. A child’s perspective of the evacuation upped the interest level of the essay. “It was also the combination of historical accuracy with a creative writing element,” says Weidemann.

Weidemann gives credit to the department of history for preparing her to write this essay and giving her the tools to be successful in later education. One of the best parts of winning, she said, was hearing how proud her teachers were of her success. In her pursuit of a graduate degree, Weidemann states that this essay could be fodder for a later dissertation. “It’s been a lot more than just winning scholarship money,” she says.

Emily Mathe



## PUC Celebrates Highest Enrollment in 24 Years

### Increases in new students and retention fuel growth

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE BEGAN THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR WITH THE HIGHEST ENROLLMENT IN 24 YEARS. On October 14, the College’s census date, total enrollment stood at 1,678, an increase of 62 students over the 1,616 students at this time in 2012. The College realized both an increase of new students and growth in retention. Enrollment is the highest it has been since 1989, when the exact same number of students, 1,678, attended PUC.

Significantly, the College saw an increase of 89 students attending PUC on the Angwin campus. There are currently 1,610 people pursuing degrees at PUC’s destination campus in the Napa Valley. “We are delighted to have many more students on campus and pray that each student will truly thrive at PUC,” shares Lisa Bissell Paulson, vice president for student services and dean of students. “We are already experiencing such a strong campus climate as students get involved in spiritual and social life! Student participation is amazing and we look for opportunities to continue to enrich the student experience at PUC.”

A remarkable jump in new students fueled the enrollment increase. PUC was blessed to have 503 new students join the student body. The freshman and transfer students were welcomed by classmates who have returned to PUC to complete their degrees. The freshman to sophomore retention rate leapt from 77% to 84% as students who began their experience at the College returned to PUC for a second year.

“This is my fourth year here at PUC and it is very exciting to see the high enrollment with students who came from around the world,” says Ivan Ostrovsky, Student Association President. “To have so many students on this campus is a huge blessing ... I am very excited about this year and can’t wait to see how it is going to turn out.”

Cambria Wheeler

### academic highlights

**Volta Andrianarijaona**, professor of physics, continued his research on particle physics during the summer of 2013, first travelling to the Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium, then to Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tenn. Andrianarijaona, a recent recipient of a National Science Foundation grant, took two students along to assist him in his research.

**Jim Roy**, professor of education, traveled to Beirut, Lebanon to give presentations to other teachers on choice theory in October, 2013. His co-presenter was Dr. Ed Boyatt, former Dean of the School of Education at La Sierra. The presentation was given to 150 teachers and staff members from three different schools: two from Beirut and one from Tyre.

**Ross Winkle**, professor of religion, presented a paper at the Apocalyptic Literature Section of the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in St. Andrews, Scotland in mid-July. In November, Winkle presented a paper in the Sacrifice, Cult, and Atonement Section at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Baltimore, Md.





**Fusion** Incoming freshmen experienced a weekend of spiritual and social bonding—and ziplining—at the Fusion Retreat, part of New Student Orientation.



**Fall Revival** Pastor Jose Rojas was the featured speaker for this week of spiritual emphasis, inspiring many students to pursue baptism and missionary service.



**Christmas Concert** The PUC choir, orchestra, and handbell choir performed a variety of festive, sacred music for the holiday program.



**Jesus Painter** Mike Lewis, the “Jesus Painter,” showcased his powerful artwork for a Friday-night Vespers program.



**Midnight Madness** Students crowded into the Covered Wagon to show school spirit and support their varsity teams—and grab free T-shirts!



**Linsanity** Actor and producer Brian Yang came to PUC on Nov. 11 to screen the film *Linsanity*, a film about the career of NBA player Jeremy Lin.





# PUC Sends Thirty Student Missionaries Abroad

THIRTY PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE STUDENTS WILL BE DEDICATING THEIR TIME and talents to God by serving as student missionaries during the 2013-2014 school year. From medical clinics in the Amazon to classrooms in South Korea, these students are answering the call to serve God by serving others. The 30 young men and women are an exciting increase from the eight students who served during the 2012-2013 year. The renewed commitment to service demonstrates a revival of long-term mission service as they join the 1,300 student missionaries that have served from PUC during the College's history.

Robert Henry, a theology major from Riverside, Calif., started his service as a teacher at Indonesian Adventist University on August 1, 2013. "The main reason why I decided to become a student missionary is because I saw the need," Henry shared. "Last fall Pastor Jose Rojas came to PUC for a midweek vespers speaking on the topic of missions. That night I made the commitment to serve for a year overseas; with God's leading and the assistance of the PUC missions office it has become a reality."

The office of Service, Justice, and Missions is excited that Henry and his classmates have answered the call to serve. Bringing popular speaker Jose Rojas to campus last October was part of an intentional effort to recruit and support future student missionaries. Chaplain Laffit Cortes and Service, Justice, and Missions Coordinator Fabio Maia set an ambitious goal to infuse the campus with a culture of service and opportunities to give back. PUC's missions program will be working hard to support those who answer the call to serve, with the goal of increasing the number of student missionaries to 40 next year.

Cambria Wheeler



# PUC Church Installs New Lead Pastor During ONE Church

THE FIRST SABBATH OF THE PUC SCHOOL YEAR WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY two significant events: the first meeting of ONE Church and the installation of new lead pastor, Mark Witas. Although Witas has been preaching at PUC since June, the September 28 installation service was a ceremonial occasion, memorializing the beginning of a new school year and officially recognizing Witas' position as part of the PUC Church staff.

Mark Witas comes from a well-rounded background of service and ministry, most recently as pastor of the North Cascade Seventh-day Adventist Church. He also has history as a youth pastor, academy men's dean, Bible teacher, and college and high school chaplain. His wife, Wendy Witas, is a teacher and musician who enjoys utilizing her skills to lead children in worship. Wendy Witas serves as the PUC Church's pastor for family ministries.

"God created me to teach and preach about His good character," Witas says. "It's my joy to stand and deliver the good news about God each time we gather to worship in the PUC Church."

A result of joining the Majestic service and the Gathering, ONE Church unites the entire PUC church family together for worship at 11:15 a.m. This unique new service brings the PUC student body together with the multiple generations of church members in the Angwin community. ONE Church will take place twice a quarter.

Emily Mathe

# alumni news

## Class Notes, Births, Weddings, and In Memory

### Class Notes

#### 1940

There is a veritable "PUC East" of alumni located in and around the relatively small university town of Morehead, Ky. The veteran of the group in years is **Earla G. Aagaard, '42**, a retired psychiatrist and a decade-long member of PUC's Board of Trustees, who moved there with her husband, **Carl M. J. Aagaard, '44**, a retired pathologist and a cofounder of PUC's Committee of 100, in 1996 after long years of medical service in Ukiah, Calif. Carl passed away in 2008.

Five graduates of PUC's nursing program also live in the Morehead area: **Jean (Aagaard) Turner, '50; Lola (Aagaard) Boram, '81; Lynette (Warren) Vonkuster, '79; Jerry Burmeister, '70; and Cindra (Crawford) Greene, '77**. Morehead area resident **Carla (Aagaard) Martir, att. '64-'65**, is the Academic Counseling Coordinator for Morehead State University, while Lola Borman is an assistant professor of education at the university. Also in the area is **Marilyn Boram**, whose husband Arnold was manager of PUC's poultry business in the 1950s.

#### 1950

Two PUC grads in the 1950s have been honored with "Lifetime Achievement Awards" by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. **Millie (Urbish) Youngberg, '51**, received the award from the Church's Health Ministries Department for her many years of service in health ministries of the Church, while **Herbert Ford, '54**, received his award from the Church's Communications Department for his 60 years of providing Seventh-day Adventist news to newspapers, radio, and television newsrooms and news wire services of the world.

#### 1970

**R. Ernest Castillo, '70**, a former member of PUC's Board of Trustees, now serves as a vice president of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Castillo's area of service involves leadership of ministry to immigrant populations of the church in North America. In a recent article he wrote in *Adventist World*, Castillo notes that there are 386,000 Adventist people groups in the North American Division, the largest being Hispanic with

209,488 members, and the smallest being Greek with 300 members. He also notes that 104,000 refugee/immigrants come to the United States every day!

According to a recent article in the Red Bluff (Calif.) *Daily News*, **Robert A. Clark, '72**, has been named and is now serving as pastor of the Red Bluff Seventh-day Adventist Church. Previous to his present pastoral post, Robert served in Adventist churches in Temple City, Van Nuys, Baldwin Park, Sutter Creek, Eureka, and Orangevale, Calif.

**Richard Stewart, '76**, who began his career in education as a teacher at a Seventh-day Adventist school in Modesto, Calif., shortly after his graduation from PUC, is now Community College Professor at Western Nevada College in Carson City, Nevada.

#### 1980

**Guadalupe Negrete, '80**, is one of two teachers in schools of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists who recently received a "2013 Excellence in Teaching Award" from the Alumni Awards Foundation. The award includes a medallion and a \$2,000 gift to awardees.

A seventh and eighth grade teacher at El Dorado Adventist School in Placerville, Calif., Guadalupe earlier taught at Golden Gate Academy, and was teaching principal of Sutter Hills Adventist School before beginning her eight years of teaching at El Dorado Adventist School.

**David Colwell, '82**, after having served for some years with the Office of Philanthropic Services at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is rounding out 23 years of service at Loma Linda University Health (LLUH), 15 years as Director of Development for LLU's Medical Center and, since 2005, Executive Director of Philanthropy Services for LLUH. The father of three adopted children, David adds to his busy schedule by volunteering for Loma Linda University Church's Media Ministries as a producer for Sabbath School and Vespers broadcast services, and as treasurer of the Milton Murray Fund for Philanthropy.

**David Banks, '87**, has been appointed as Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer for Florida Hospital, part of the Adventist Health Systems network of hospitals. In this role he will take responsibility for development,



alumni events

You are invited to a special Homecoming! April 25-27, 2014

Return to your College on the Mountain for a weekend celebrating the PUC experience, reminiscing with friends, and recalling the countless special memories you made during your college years.

Honored Classes: 1940s, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1989

Homecoming Weekend Highlights

- Friday, April 25
- Annual Maxwell Cup Golf Tournament at the Silverado Country Club, Napa, Calif. (www.maxwellcup.com)
  - PUC Pioneer Dinner Honoring Dr. Bill Hemmerlin, PUC's 2014 Pioneer Award Recipient
  - PUC Alumni and Student Vespers with a message from Aren Renacker, '11
- Saturday, April 26
- PUC Alumni Sabbath sermon from Bradford Newton, D.Min, Executive Secretary of the Pacific Union Conference
  - PUC Alumni Luncheon
  - Heritage Singers in Concert
  - Honored Class Parties and Young Alumni Party
  - Modern Languages Department Reunion and Charo Chambers Retirement Party
  - Art exhibit featuring pieces by PUC artist and professor Vernon Nye

Find a full list of weekend events and more details online at [www.puc.edu/homecoming](http://www.puc.edu/homecoming) or by calling the Alumni Office at 707-965-7500.

Join us for the PUC Family Mission Trip to Brazil!

We are excited to extend a warm invitation to participate in first annual Pacific Union College Family Mission Trip! PUC is thrilled to be partnering with Marantha Volunteers International for this exciting opportunity to serve together and share the love of God with our brothers and sisters in Belem, Brazil. The trip is open to all PUC Alumni (attendee or graduate), current or former PUC faculty and staff, current PUC students, plus the family members of all these groups!

Mission Trip to Belem, Brazil July 16-27, 2014 \$1,200 covers food, room and board, travel within Brazil, and various other expenses.

[www.servicereef.com/events/pacific-union-college/brazil-belem-mission-trip](http://www.servicereef.com/events/pacific-union-college/brazil-belem-mission-trip)


Contact Fabio Maia, PUC's Missions and Service Coordinator, at 707-965-7190 or [fmaia@puc.edu](mailto:fmaia@puc.edu) with any questions.

births

 ➤ Brenden Tyler Anderson, son of **Ruth (Fitzpatrick) Anderson, '02**, and Donald Anderson of Bend, Ore. 12-30-11

 ➤ Owen James Jurgensen, son of **Laura (Yunker) Jurgensen, '06**, and Shawn Jurgensen of Topeka, Kan. 7-4-13

 ➤ Gabriel Collin Ketcherside, son of **Michael Ketcherside, att. '98**, and **Heidi (Utt) Ketcherside, att. '96-'00**, of Dixon, Calif. 7-8-13

 ➤ Yuna Avaline Kim, daughter of **Paul B. Kim, '01**, and **Kimberly Osborn Kim, '04**, of Niles, Mich. 12-8-13

 ➤ Hannah Rachelle Littman, daughter of **Renee (Fitzpatrick) Littman, att. '97-'00**, and Travis Littman of Eugene, Ore. 6-18-12

 ➤ Selah Capri Phillips, daughter of **Mark Phillips, '97**, and **Becky (Kendall) Phillips, att. '99-'01**, of Reno, Nev. 3-20-13

marketing, and government relations, among other duties. Most recently David was the CEO of Florida Hospital Orlando.

**Scott Reiner, '87**, executive vice president and COO



of Adventist Health, has been appointed president of Adventist Health, succeeding Robert G. Carmen, who is retiring. Previously the CEO or Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Reiner will transition in to the role by March 2014. In his role as COO, Reiner was responsible for the day-to-day operations of Adventist Health.


1990

**Christopher Hagen, '95**, who is a chaplain at St. Helena Hospital's Center for Behavioral Health, was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Before his hospital service, Chris served as associate pastor of the Napa Community Church, and more recently was PUC's director of student activities and creative ministry. His work as chaplain follows studies at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center and at Stanford Hospital and Clinic. Chris is married to **Julie Anderson, att. '96**, and they have two daughters, Chloe and Amelie.

2000


After a number of years in medical practice in Nebraska, **Michael, '02**, and **Elizabeth (Allen), '01**, **Johnston**, have

weddings

 ➤ **Kirt Brower, '04**, and Kelli Streelman, in Petoskey, Mich. 8-11-13

 ➤ **Eric Eckhart, '08**, and Sarah Keeler, in Fresno, Calif. 9-15-13

 ➤ **Juliana Dalotto, '06**, and John Rolecki, in Pinetop, Ariz. 8-24-13


 ➤ **Jennifer Jackson, '04**, and Lars Lindhal in Mendocino, Calif. 7-20-13

 ➤ **Erica Jimenez, '05**, and Byron Claiborne in Napa, Calif. 5-19-13

 ➤ **Julie Vieau, '07**, and Richard Dickerson III in Oak Glen, Calif. 7-7-13

 ➤ **Jordan Wareham, '04**, and Rachel Mauldin in Ann Arbor, Mich. 8-31-13

 ➤ **Andrew White, '12**, and **Carrie Moore, '11**, in West Linn, Ore. 9-8-13

 ➤ **Doug Wilson, '94**, and Melody Albano in Sonoma, Calif. 9-7-13

recently moved to Northern California where they now practice medicine at Orville

Hospital in Orville, Calif. Also a member of Orville Hospital's medical staff is **Randall Skau, '78**, who when he was director of the Adventist mission Ile Ife Hospital in Nigeria, inspired Elizabeth to become a surgeon while she was in service there on a short-term mission assignment.

**Tiffany (Anders) Dos Santos, '06**, worked with a small team of teachers and union education associates from across the North American Division over the summer to create resources to help teachers utilize new math standards in Adventist education. Dos Santos, a teacher at Foothill Adventist Elementary School in Milpitas, Calif., worked alongside textbook publisher Houghton Mifflin Hartcourt to help support excellence in math instruction in Adventist elementary schools.

Your Update Here

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

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707-965-6303

In Memory

**Verna Lucille Robson-Towsley-Unger, '32**, a retired physician and medical missionary, died August 24, 2013, in Loma Linda, Calif. She was born on September 17, 1922, her death coming not long before her 102nd birthday. After Verna's graduation from the College of Medical Evangelists, she went to Pakistan to serve

in the Seventh-day Adventist hospital. While there, she was the doctor for the royal family of Hunza and spent some time as the guest of the Queen. Upon her return to America, Verna served in health departments in Southern and Northern California. Verna is survived by her niece, Marilyn Sellers; her great-niece Shasta Robson; nephew Robert Robson; step-daughter, Dorothea Ragsdale; and step-son, Robert Towsley.

**Francis Walter Ruddle, '40**, passed away on July 12, 2013, in Lodi, Calif. He was born November 19, 1917 in Wellington, Kan. He was ordained as an Adventist pastor in the same church he had attended as a boy in Wichita, Kan. He pastored at churches in Kansas, Idaho, Washington, Montana, and Northern California. He is remembered for his ready smile, kindness to all, and love of Jesus. His wife of fifty-five years, Pansy May (Curry) Ruddle, died in 1995. He is survived by his son, Clifford; daughters Levine Ray, Patricia Rosich, and Carolyn Apigian; nine grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

**Leslie (Schooley) Rebok, '41**, died August 23, 2013, in Modesto, Calif. She was born on June 27, 1922, in Gooding, Idaho. She is survived by her daughters, Lynn Mautz and Peggy Hierache; her son, Douglas; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Chris R. Keszler, att. '42**, died June 14, 2013. He was born in Eureka, S.D., on April 7, 1920, and married his first wife La Veta Irene Vance (d. 2009) in 1943. A graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he practiced dentistry in Lodi, Calif., seeing patients until he was 90 years old. Dr. Keszler served in the United States Army during World War II and the Korean War. He also worked as a real estate

developer, and was known for his love of airplanes, automobiles, and his friends and family. He is survived by his wife Genevieve Tonge; son Gary Keszler; daughters Tena Graves and Camy Baker; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Evelyn (Kaft) Wallace '43**, died December 9, 2013. She was born January 9, 1922, in Tokyo, Japan. Evelyn was a lifelong missionary and teacher for the Seventh-day Adventist Church with her husband Elton H. Wallace. She spent time in Saigon, Vietnam building churches and teaching as well as forming a seminary in Africa. She spent a total 48 years living overseas before retiring in Angwin, Calif. She is survived by her daughter Karen; son Stephen; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Lucile Lewis, '45**, died October 21, 2013, in Candler, N.C. She was born January 27, 1919, in Calabasas, Calif. After graduating from PUC, she went on to earn her master's degree in Medical Surgical Nursing at Loma Linda. She later joined the faculty at the Loma Linda School of Nursing, where she taught for 30 years. Lucile is survived by her brother Glenn.

**Arthur R. Teesdale, '47**, died October 1, 2013. He was born October 10, 1923, in Nevada, Iowa. After completing dental school at USC, he moved to Bakersfield where he opened his own practice and became an active member in the community. He served as an elder at his church and was board chairman at Bakersfield Adventist Academy. He is survived by his wife Ruth; sons Bill, David, and Jon; daughter Laurie; and two grandchildren.

**Eva Marjorie Goodgame, att. '46-'49**, born March 3, 1928, in Fresno, Calif., died in Crescent



City, Calif., on June 23, 2013. She met her husband, Lou, in the dining hall at PUC. An elementary school teacher for a number of years, she is survived by Lou, her husband of 64 years; sons David and John; daughters Mary, Ruth, and Rachel; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Orlando E. Knittel, att. '50-'51**, died on December 10, 2013. He was born May 22, 1929, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He served as a lab tech at Ukiah hospitals until his retirement in 1992. He enjoyed farming and tending his land on his 1934 John Deere Model A tractor. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children Marlan, Carrie, Beth, Marta, and Heidi; and three grandchildren.

**William P. Linnane, '50**, died July 17, 2013, in Belevdere, Calif. He was born on March 25, 1922. William served as a general surgeon in Sacramento, Calif., for many years. He is survived by his daughter, Cynthia Gilbert, and his son, William.

**Gordon Cutler Mathe, '50**, a retired nurse, died September 4, 2013, in Napa, Calif. He was born on February 5, 1922, in Almond, Wis. Gordon is survived by his sons, Wayne, Myron, and Glen; four grandchildren; and his sister Lois Booth.

**Richard Hubbard, '51**, a nutritional biologist at Loma Linda University, died March 27, 2013, in Redlands, Calif. He was born in Battle Creek, Mich., on December 24, 1927. Richard is survived by his wife, Connie; his daughter, Karen; his sons, Jeff and Robert; and five grandchildren.

**Marvin Martin Seibel, '53**, died August 15, 2013, in Gladstone, Ore. He was born on July 31, 1925, in Beiseker, Alberta, Canada. Marvin was an Adventist pastor in Northern

California and Oregon, and in the Hawaii Mission where he was a pastor, teacher, and youth director. He established the Mission's youth camp in Hawaii. Marvin is survived by his wife, Eva Nelson; his daughters, Wendi Williams and Marlene Lovenguth; his son, Doug; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Billie Ann (Wright) Case, '54**, died July 10, 2013, in Sonora, Calif. She was born on November 7, 1931, in Mullen, Neb. Billie Ann is survived by her husband, Marvin; her daughters, Cynthia Ackerman, Carol Moses, and Pam Railsback; her son, Steve Case; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**Norman Goodwin, '54**, who was chief of Chaplain Services at the Veterans Administration hospital in Loma Linda, Calif., died May 10, 2013, in Loma Linda. He was born in San Francisco, Calif., on August 22, 1927. A member of the U.S. Merchant Marine at the start of World War II, Norman was drafted into the U.S. Army and served as a surgical technician. After graduating from PUC, he became a U.S. Navy chaplain, with periods of service in the Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the United States Coast Guard. He retired with the rank of Commander from the Navy before beginning his service with U.S. Veterans Affairs. Norman is survived by his wife, JoAnn; his daughter, Karen Johnson; his son, Dwight; four grandchildren; and his twin brother, Leslie Goodwin.

**Marthann (Lang) Demchuk, att. '54-'55**, died July 4, 2013 in San Clemente, Calif. She was born September 20, 1936, in Iowa. She was a nurse and ran homes for the elderly in multiple cities in California. Her husband Gene preceded her in death. She is survived by her sons Michael,

leave a legacy

## Planning Is Important

### Keep your resolution to make an estate plan

As always in the beginning of the year, there is plenty of talk about making resolutions. “This year I will \_\_\_\_\_.” I’m sure you can fill in the blank. I’ve heard quite a number of really good resolutions: live a healthier lifestyle, spend more time in prayer, etc. But when I ask people if they have a plan that will help them stick to their resolution, most don’t really have an answer.

Unfortunately, the decision to create an estate plan (a will or living trust) often falls into this trap. People know it’s something they need to do, but they don’t have a plan for how to proceed. Having a plan is extremely important in every facet of life, not the least of which is end of life decisions. If you have taken the time to create a will or living trust, give yourself a big pat on the back. You resolved to act, you made a plan, and you followed it through. For those of you that haven’t, we would be happy to help.

Now I have a question for people who currently have estate plans: When did you last update your documents? If your answer is something like, “Well let me think, it’s been a while ago ...” I have an additional question for you. Since you created your will have your circumstances changed? Perhaps you have gotten married or lost a spouse. Or you have new family members, children or grand children. Maybe you moved to a different state. Most are aware that the federal estate tax rules have changed in the last few years, but many people do not know that some states also collect estate tax.

If your answer to the above question is yes, our office would like to help you by sending you a free book entitled *Provide & Protect* by Charles Schultz. This book will answer many estate planning questions for you and your family. We have a limited supply of these books so contact us soon if you are interested. A donation to help cover the cost of postage would be helpful but is not required. In addition to the book, our office is always willing to answer questions and help you with the process of updating your existing documents, or to help you make new ones. As you create or update your plan, please remember that a gift to PUC from your estate can help to offset estate taxes and also to make Christian education possible for young people who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

We here at PUC wish you all the best in the coming year and pray for you and yours that you will be blessed. Let us know how we can pray for you.

**Office of Planned Giving**  
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Marc, and Matthew; her daughters Mariann Beddoe and Martha Fessenden; thirteen grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Ellen Mae Campbell, '57**, died on June 23, 2013, at the age of 90 in Grass Valley, Calif. A science teacher at Adventist and public schools throughout California, she completed her career in Vallejo, Calif. Her classroom was always full of live animals, including mice, snakes, fish, and guinea pigs. She is survived by nieces Marie Campbell Morgan, Judy Turner, and Mary Campbell; nephew Richard Campbell; numerous great-grand nieces and nephews; and many beloved cousins.

**John E. Collins, '58**, died on May 1, 2013, in Altadena, Calif. He was born in Biloxi, Miss., on November 23, 1924. John is survived by his wife, Gwendolyn, and his son, Jonathan.

**Howard Flynn, Jr., '60**, Adventist minister, died May 18, 2013, in Glendale, Calif. He was born on July 6, 1938, in Lynwood, Calif. Howard's pastoral ministry began and ended in the Southern California Conference. He began the “Good News Report,” a radio broadcast ministry that continued for 26 years. Howard is survived by his wife, Joan; his daughters, Lynette, Rhonda, and Gigi; his son, Ron; and five grandchildren.

**June M. Williams, att. '60**, died October 25, 2013 in Visalia, Calif. June had a long career in nursing, working nearly 40 years as a registered nurse and serving as Director of Nursing. She was also an active member of the Adventist church in Visalia, serving as a deaconess and children's teacher. She is survived by her son, Timothy Williams; daughter Sharon Martin; eight grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

**Jeanette Lewise Rice Hoyt, att. '62-'64**, died in Napa, Calif., on August 18, 2013. She was born on September 8, 1937, in Madras, India. Jeanette, who worked at Lockheed Aircraft for eight years, published a book about her life, *From Bombay to Basra*. She is survived by her son, Steve Hoyt; five grandchildren; and her brother, David Rice.

**Earl W. Larsen, '63**, apple farmer, surveyor, and musician, died on August 7, 2013, in Camino, Calif. He was born on November 10, 1941. Earl taught music at Adventist schools in California, the Dakotas, and Arizona. Following his teaching career he returned to Camino to participate in the family's large apple-growing business. Earl is survived by his wife, Elaine; his children, David and Cara; his sister, Winnifred Plubell; and his brothers, Eugene and Roswell Larsen.

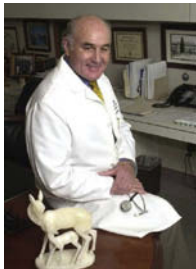
**Arvel A. Sage Jr., '63**, died on April 6, 2013, in Yuma, Ariz. He was born on March 10, 1928, in Berkeley, Calif. In addition to teaching archaeology at PUC, he also helped build the Gilroy, Calif., Seventh-day Adventist School and an Adventist mission school in Chiapas, Mexico. He is survived by his wife, Vernita; his daughters, Teresa Carter Clifford and Delnita McCormick; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Boyce B. Dulan, att. '64-'66, '71-'72**, died September 19, 2013 in Bakersfield, Calif. He was born on June 24, 1941. As a life-long advocate of Adventist education, Dulan spent time as a math and science teacher at Oakwood Academy, Oakwood College, and Golden Gate Academy before earning his medical degree from Loma Linda University. He later went on to found and direct the Boys to Men and Girls to Women tutorial program in

## In Memory of Delmar Tonge, M.D.

### Physician and PUC Trustee

Delmar Rey Tonge, '53, prominent physician and longtime member of the PUC Board of Trustees, passed away on September 27, 2013, at his home in Modesto, Calif., at the age of 82.



Tonge was born in Los Angeles, Calif. on November 5, 1930, the third son of Dr. Archie and Eloise Tonge. Shortly following Tonge's birth, his family moved to Africa to work as medical missionaries. His father's example of building hospitals and providing compassionate medical attention to the African people laid a firm foundation for the passion of Tonge's life.

Tonge graduated as the valedictorian of the Class of 1949 at Modesto Adventist Academy (now Central Valley Christian Academy), and continued his studies at PUC, where he majored in history and took minors in biology and communication. He obtained his medical degree from LLU in 1957, and his specialty training at the University of Southern California and Los Angeles County Medical Center.

On completing his medical training, Tonge proudly served his county for two years as a Navy physician, during which time he met his first wife, Joan (d. 2002). He later returned to Modesto to join Modesto Arts Medical Group founded by his father. Tonge was a former president of the Stanislaus Medical Society, a board member for the California Medical Association, and served on a state health planning commission.

In addition to medicine, Tonge had a deep passion for education. He was an ardent supporter of PUC and served on the Board of Trustees for 24 years, where he was the second lay vice-chairperson. His daughter, Kristine Johnson, a current Board of Trustees member, now carries on his legacy. The family has also supported the College through the Archie Tonge Foundation, which has gifted over \$1 million to PUC, primarily in the form of student scholarships.

Dr. Tonge's dreams were made visible through his work. His interests in medicine, community development, education, and the fine arts resulted in the creation of successful for-profit and non-profit organizations, including the Gallo Center for the Arts. His visionary leadership and charismatic style was respected and admired by many.

Tonge is survived by his wife, Cher (Warner) Tonge; four children, Adorey Kramish (Michael), Archie Richard Tonge (Janine), Kathleen Tonge, and Kristine Johnson (Scott); seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; and sister-in-laws Bertha (Batch) Tonge and Genevieve (Baumbach) Tonge-Keszler. He was preceded in death by his parents Dr. Archie and Eloise Tonge, his two older brothers Dr. Newton and Dr. Burnett Tonge and his late beloved wife Joan (Hulbert) Tonge.



Bakersfield. He is survived by his wife Monica; his son Michael; six grandchildren; five brothers; and one sister.

**Jerrold James Aitken, '65**, was born July 4, 1944. He died June 13, 2013, in Janesville, Wis. He worked as a religion teacher and missionary in Thailand before pursuing a doctoral degree in theology. He returned to Thailand to work with Cambodian refugees and established Projects Asia Inc. He is survived by his wife, Chawee; daughters Pepper, Jolene, and Julia; his sons Jay and Jayson; and six grandchildren.

**Albert Mel Long, '65**, a pastor and missionary, died on February 19, 2013. Shortly after graduating from PUC, Albert and his wife Myrna were called to be missionaries in Rwanda, where they developed the first 2-year ministerial training course in the French language for pastors. He then went on to earn his Master's of Religion degree from Andrews University. During his second term in Africa, he assisted with the Kasai Project and eventually became the Ministerial Director for the Trans Africa Division. In 1980, Al and his family returned to the United States where he became the pastor of the Walla Walla City Church in Walla Walla, Wash. He later went on to serve as Executive Secretary for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He is survived by his wife, Myrna; daughter, Valerie Radu; son, Kevin; and four grandchildren.

**Donna (Goins) Kibble, '67**, a retired nurse, died September 27, 2013, in Albany, Mo. She was born on August 1, 1932, in Pocatello, Idaho. Donna is survived by her two daughters, Rachel and Donna Marie; her son, Gerald; eight grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

**Linda Walter, att. '68**, the director of Adventist Media Services Agency at the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Md., died on December 19, 2013. She was born in St. Helena, Calif., in December 27, 1948. The daughter of former PUC Registrar Edwin C. Walter, Linda began her service to the church at the Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast headquarters in 1970. In 1978 she began working at the church's Faith for Today television ministry, and in 1989 transferred to the Adventist Media Center television production department where she worked as a producer. She was appointed director of AMS in 1999.

**Clarita (Kaufman) Burden, '69** died September 12, 2013, in Chehalis, Wash. She was born on November 20, 1928, in Beaumont, Calif. She was a former music teacher and was inducted into the Washington State Music Teacher's Hall of Fame. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth; her daughter, Debra Evetts; her sons, Dan, Don, and Gary; and six grandchildren.

**Kenneth Day, '69**, died in Plentywood, Mo., on June 17, 2013, at the age of 98.

**Jim Retzer, '69 and '74**, a beloved teacher and principal, died Oct. 29, 2013, in Chico, Calif. A teacher in Adventist schools in Colorado, Central California, and Northern California Conferences, he served as a principal at Echo Ridge Christian School, PUC Elementary, and Paradise Adventist Academy, where he taught seventh grade at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Marti; his sons, Greg and Travis; and his daughter-in-law Jacqueline.

**David Willard Nelson, '70**, died March 3, 2013, in Bakersfield, Calif. He was born

on Feb. 23, 1948, in Glendale, Calif. David was employed as a physician by the Adventist health care system for 42 years. He is survived by his wife, Beverly Rose; his daughter, Emily; and his sons, Timothy and Michael.

**Charles Watkins, att. '72**, died August 17, 2013, in Corona, Calif. He was born on July 6, 1928, in Los Angeles, Calif. Charles served as a teacher, principal, and educational superintendent for the Southern California Conference. He is survived by his daughters, Nanci Robison and Michelle Beach; his sons, Charles III and Dennis; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Gary E. Brown, '76**, died on Oct. 21, 2013, in Deer Park, Calif. Born on Nov. 27, 1952, in Indiana, he was a businessman and long-time resident of Calistoga, Calif. Gary is survived by his wife, Barbara; his daughter, Brittany; his son, Kyle; and his parents, Royce and Gladys Brown.

**Kristine "Kit" (Swanson) Seltman, '84** died August 29, 2013. Kristine was born November 7, 1943. She is survived by her husband Kent, a former professor of English at PUC; her daughters Lee and Ann; five grandchildren; and her sister Kathleen (Kathy) Taylor.

## Faculty & Staff

**John Molesworth Staples, '54**, professor emeritus of religion, passed away on July 21, 2013, in Angwin, Calif. Staples taught in PUC's department of religion for 18 years. Born in Sanderton, South Africa, Staples had degrees from PUC, Andrews University, Princeton University, and

Fuller Theological Seminary. A lifelong evangelist and educator, Staples impacted the lives of thousands of people, working in South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and the Southern California Conference before returning to his alma mater PUC in 1969. Staples retired in 1986. He is survived by his wife Ruth, his partner of 70 years; children Graham Staples, Irwin Staples, and Marilyn Clark; and two grandchildren.

**Ellen Elizabeth Thomann, '64, '70**, died September 1, 2013, in Bridgeman, Mich. She was not only a former teacher in PUC's Foreign Languages department, but also a Seventh-day Adventist missionary with her husband Donaldo Thomann. They served many Latin American Countries including Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Colombia. She is survived by her daughters, Betty Hoehn and Janet Carlson; and her son, Donaldo.

## Remembering Friends

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

[alumni@puc.edu](mailto:alumni@puc.edu)  
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**707-965-7500**

# back in the day



## The Influence of Vernon Nye Artist, Professor, Mentor

Each issue, *ViewPoint* dedicates this page to photographs that remind us of the amazing impact of PUC's past. This issue, our images capture the incredible impact of Vernon Nye, who died on July 24, 2013.

Nye was born on December 16, 1915 in Batavia, N.Y. He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Nora Catherine Nye, who passed away in 2009. He is survived by his son, Gilbert Nye; his daughter, Paulette Diehl; his sister, Vivian Redmon; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He died in Fresno, Calif., at the age of 97.

**2007** The Rasmussen Art Gallery hosted a "Celebrating 90: Vernon Nye" show that featured work from throughout Nye's artistic career, from his days as an illustrator at the Review and Herald to his freelance and staff artist work for the U.S. government.

A noted watercolor artist, Nye attended the Mechanics Institute, the Rochester Art Institute, and the Corcoran Art School. He studied with Ted Kauzky, Eliot O'Hara, Roy Mason, and Harry Anderson. He was a member of the American Watercolor Society and the Society of Western Artists.

**2013** Generations of students enjoyed Nye's work at the "Remembering Vernon Nye" exhibit that ran from October 5-27. Featuring Nye's paintings as well as those of his students, the show honored Nye as an artist and a mentor.

Dennis Simpson is one such student of Nye's. A watercolor artist in Napa, Calif., Simpson was mentored by Nye for over 40 years. Simpson and John Hewitt, who studied art with Nye at PUC, now teach for the Albion Summer School of Art on the Mendocino Coast that Nye founded.

Current students appreciated Nye's artistic work at the show, and also enjoy his legacy every time they step inside Fisher Hall. During his time at PUC, from 1955 to 1976, Nye transformed the visual art department, taking it from a group of dilapidated easels in the basement of West Hall to its present home in Fisher.

### What's your memory?

*Did you study with Vernon Nye? Study art in Fisher Hall? Take a summer course at Albion? We'd love to hear your memories! You can also share your thoughts with others at the Vernon Nye art exhibit during Homecoming Weekend, April 25-27.*

*facebook.com/PUCAlumni  
viewpoint@puc.edu  
www.puc.edu/alumni/share-your-memories  
ViewPoint Editor, One Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508*



# the interview

## Finding a New Home

*“We had to stop looking for what would meet our needs and, instead, were asked what we could give to the community.”*

—Jonathan Fox

Each June, PUC graduates leave their educational home and embark on the next step in their professional or academic journey. At the same time, they leave an exceptionally welcoming church environment and set out to find a new church home. This issue, *ViewPoint* posed a question to alumni of the last decade about their experience seeking a spiritual home after graduation. Here are three responses.

**Q: How did you find a church home after graduation?**

**A:** After graduation from PUC with my degrees in nursing and music and spending time at the Universidad Adventista del Plata in Argentina, I moved to Loma Linda to for my bachelor’s degree



in nursing. Fortunately, I had some friends from the East Coast who invited me to attend their church, Advent Hope. At the time I was “church hopping.” However, since my friends kept inviting me to help out with music, I eventually settled on attending Advent Hope. I initially did not feel comfortable because I thought the sermons were too fundamental for my tastes. Honestly, the problem was not the church or its doctrines, the problem was with my viewpoint. I believe that the Holy Spirit was working in my life and convicting my heart. During this time I had friends and family praying for me. I believe it was the fact that I had caring Christ-like friends which kept me in the church.

**Jessica Rice, '08**, is currently pursuing a master's degree in nutrition and dietetics at Bastyr University in Seattle, Wash.

**A:** I feel like my church experience at PUC was rather idyllic—being so closely connected to the community and being part of the Gathering planning team created a sense of ownership. It's been a tough act to follow and I still consider that time my most meaningful church experience. I have found that the church homes I have chosen after graduating from PUC have largely been a

result of the sense of community they offer. I may not always agree with how the service is run, or even on certain points of theology, but when



members are taking care of each other, letting people know that they matter in simple ways like a phone call saying you were missed at church, or being God's hands and feet in bigger ways like taking up a collection for a struggling family, that is when I see God most clearly and that is the kind of church of which I want to be a part.

**Miljoy Gallego-Savino, '07**, currently resides in Kalamazoo, Mich., where she works as an adoption specialist at Bethany Christian Services. She and her husband, Brian Savino, '07, are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first child.

**A:** After graduating from PUC, we both moved to the southern California area where churches abound. We tried a new church almost every weekend but couldn't seem to find one that met our desires. It wasn't until we moved to



Orcas Island with a fellowship of about 30 regularly attending members—where the couple closest in age to us was 13 years older and most members were our parents' age, where the church service didn't fit our worship style in the least, and where we felt like none of our needs were met—that we finally found a church home. What seemed to change was that we had to stop looking for what would meet our needs and, instead, were asked what we could give to the community.

**Jonathan Fox, '06**, and his wife Rachel (Jensen) Fox, '07, live on Orcas Island in the town of Eastsound, Wash., with son Jacob. Jonathan is a teacher at Orcas Christian School.

# my viewpoint

## A Young Couple, an Even Younger Church

Attending Pacific Union College is a unique experience for any Adventist. As an ecosystem of Adventist tradition, many of the cultural norms are preserved in a way that permeates the campus environment. We found an unspoken comfort in a college town environment where “the Sabbath” is commonplace, even among the non-Adventist students. Unfortunately, this routine state of existence can be taken for granted until you graduate and transition into the secular, professional world. Jackson realized the extreme difference between his college environment and professional existence around the second or third time he found himself explaining Seventh-day Adventist beliefs to an atheist co-worker. Furthermore, being on an Adventist college campus provides for a diverse spectrum of Adventist culture. This is not always the case with a specific church community. This is probably the most challenging part of the process of finding a home within an Adventist church after leaving PUC.

Leaving Angwin placed us in the very common, post-grad “church hopper” category as we searched for a church community that could duplicate the socially-connected dynamic of attending an Adventist college. While bouncing from one church to another can be satisfying to the “sermon spectator” in many, it left us desiring a more well-rounded worship experience: one that connects the church family beyond the sanctuary walls and every day of the week. After all, one of the most difficult parts of transitioning into a new church is building authentic relationships with people you don't see during the week. At PUC, you worship with the same students and faculty you study, eat, and live with every day, so the connections are already formed.

It was an existing relationship with Pastor Manny Arteaga that ended up leading us to Resurrection Seventh-day Adventist Church, a West Covina-based church plant we helped form in the fall of 2011, a little over a year after we had gotten married. Pastor Arteaga and his wife Keren were already close friends of ours when they proposed the idea to plant a church in the East San Gabriel Valley three years ago. This exciting, if humbling invitation quickly shifted our consideration from “What type of church are we looking for?” to “What

type of church do we want to be?” And after much prayer and consideration we found ourselves in the core group of 12 that would become a group of 24 a few months later, and then a group of 84 a couple of years later.

While joining a new church can be intimidating, starting a new church was a leap of faith. In this case, that leap of faith launched us out of our comfort zone and into the embrace of a thriving church family we had spent years looking for but didn't exist until now. Resurrection Seventh-day Adventist Church is a steadily growing church plant consisting entirely of people who were all at one point in time searching, in the same way we found ourselves searching after graduating. The congregation's relationship ranges from one person's first encounter with Adventism to another's last resort. For some it has been a place of learning, for others, a place of healing. It's a strong, inclusive, and very family-oriented community founded on an outwardly-driven mission to share the love of Jesus Christ with the un-churched, de-churched, and those who simply want a home in which to experience God.

This isn't “home” just one day a week, but a spiritual environment we exist in daily. Jackson is currently head elder and has served as the director of the small group ministry, Life Groups, which has weekly small groups meeting in West Covina, Pasadena, Riverside, Rancho Cucamonga, Brea, Pico Rivera, and Chino Hills. Ketita is currently a Sabbath School teacher and is involved in the worship ministry, Revive. Through our involvement, we get to see God working in the lives of people around us every day. Faith is obviously a personal decision that requires a dedicated commitment to God. But when you see faith carry close friends through the most trying times in their lives, it profoundly impacts your own perspective. The faithfulness of Jesus Christ is undeniable in times of struggle and in times of celebration. Through personal reflection, our spiritual walk took us from simply accepting the scriptural truths and fundamental beliefs of Adventism to embracing them as the basis for our own faith. That faith led us to Resurrection, a church that feels more like home than any we've ever been a part of.



**Jackson and Ketita Boren, both '08**, live in Riverside, Calif. Ketita teaches 7th and 8th grade English at La Sierra Academy, while Jackson works in public relations and marketing for Citrus Valley Health Partners. They are expecting their first child, daughter Naomi, in the spring.

*“While joining a new church can be intimidating, starting a new church was a leap of faith that launched us out of our comfort zone and into the embrace of a thriving church family we had spent years looking for.”*



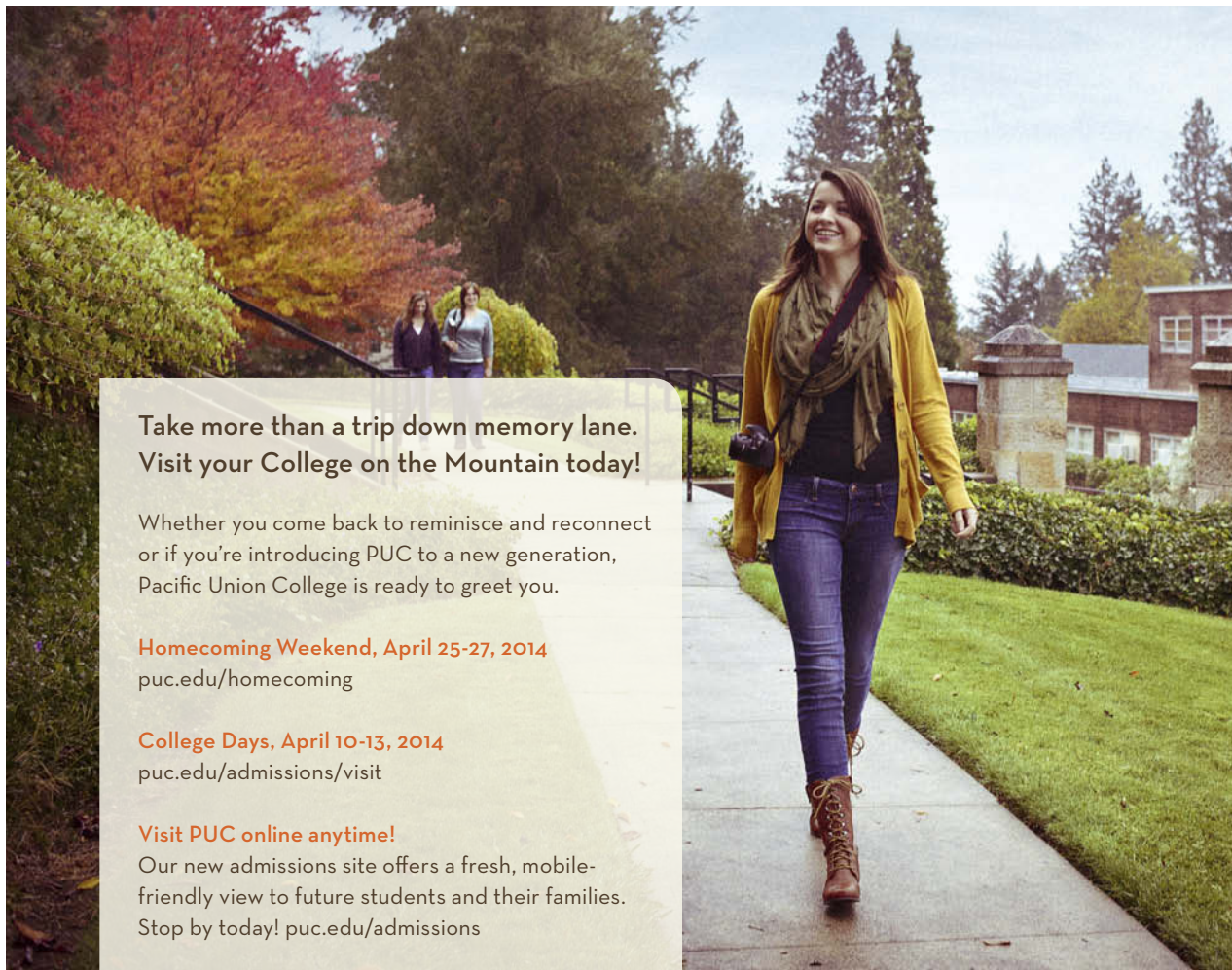


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