

ViewPoint

CONNECT

PACIFIC
UNION
COLLEGE
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PUC STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY FOR SERVICE DAY

By Ally Romanes

On October 19, Pacific Union College students had the opportunity to partner with community agencies to give back to local neighborhoods. During Service Day, students volunteer at service locations to assist residents with various community needs.

Service Day began last year to raise awareness about PUC and encourage student engagement in the community. This campus program implements service learning, where students can get involved in the food pantry, homeless and hospital ministries, and other service-learning activities at the college. Service Day is just one dimension of PUC's commitment to community involvement.

Since last school year and throughout the summer, Director of Student Involvement Niq Ruud and Service Learning Director Tuwan Ussery White have been planning this event—with Ruud facilitating the internal aspects and White dealing with the external elements of the program.

PUC collaborates with several agencies, such as UpValley, Providence Health, Tug McGraw Veterans Home, Adventist Health, California State Parks, the City of St. Helena, and OLE Health.

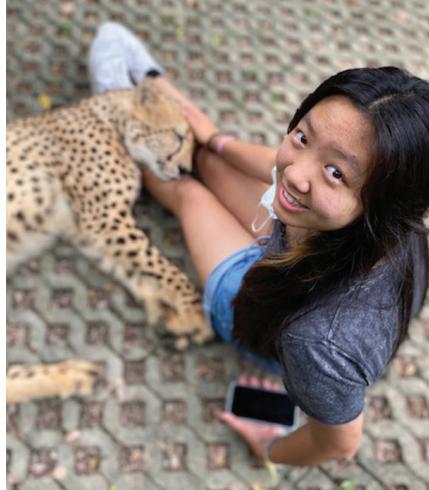
Service Day projects included students working with the Yountville Veterans Home to provide health assistant services at the agency. Students also prepared for the St. Helena harvest festival production, conducted inventories, worked to maintain various trails, helped clean up an Indigenous American plant garden, and assisted with other outdoor projects.

"The agencies that we partnered with last year—we've been able to continue to strengthen those relationships this year, and we want to continue to keep those relationships strong next year," said White. "This is something we plan to do every year, once a year, with service learning."

Community partners told White the students exceeded their expectations. This feedback strengthens these relationships and ensures the long-term commitment to this event.



"It's a wonderful thing to see younger people helping out older people and appreciating them like that," White said. "I think that fits in with the biblical narrative that we are our brother's keeper and that it's more a blessing to give than to receive. It really goes a long way. Not just listening to the spoken word of the Bible, but actually doing like Jesus did—be the living word." 



PUC EXPANDS SUCCESSFUL PACIFICQUEST PROGRAM TO INSPIRE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENTS

By Laura Gang

Students set things on fire. They studied cadavers. They explored marine life on the Pacific Coast. And they came away with an experience and friends that will last a lifetime.

Last summer, Pacific Union College continued to host its annual PacificQuest and PQ Rise summer programs, which offer pre-collegiate students a hands-on introduction to the sciences and more.

The programs have long been one-week summer sessions for curious and dedicated students passionate about STEM subjects and seeking academic challenges while earning college credit. This summer, PUC is expanding its successful program series into new areas, including aviation, film, and music.

Last year, PUC hosted 30 students representing 19 schools across the U.S.

Aimee Wyrick, dean of PUC's School of Sciences, said PacificQuest and PQ Rise's programs are centered on the students—challenging them academically and allowing them to meet like-minded students.

"We offer students an immersive experience, propelling students far beyond the encounters in the typical elementary or secondary classrooms," Wyrick said.

The 2023 series marked the 28th year of PacificQuest for grades 6-8 students and the fifth year of PQ Rise for grades 9-11.

Going forward, PacificQuest remains dedicated to inspiring students from middle to high school. To further this goal, PUC has added three more programs tailored to ignite students' interest in pursuing college and careers in these fields.

Educators also benefit from these summer experiences.

Brian Snarr has been teaching high school math and science classes at Central Valley Christian Academy (CVCA) for nearly 25 years.

He has been taking students to PacificQuest for years and urges other educators to take part.

"Do it!" said Snarr, who had his own three children participate in the program. "The experience is amazing for students."

In keeping with PUC's emphasis on holistic experiences, the programs offer many recreational, spiritual, and social activities in addition to the planned courses.

For Zvi Weber, a junior at Mountain View Academy who has been attending PQ Rise for the past three years, one of the best aspects of the program is making lifelong friends. "My favorite part of PQ Rise," he said, "was definitely bonding with all of the people I had never even met before, who I now think of as really close friends."

PUC is revamping and expanding its summer programming for students who want to explore college and careers early while earning 1 unit of college credit.

*Space is limited and admission requirements apply.
Visit puc.edu/pacificquest for more information.*

PacificQuest 2024

JUNE 23-28: PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE CAMPUS

PQSeek: STEM I (Grades 6-8)

PQSoar: Aviation (Grades 9-12)

PQFlix: Film (Grades 9-12)

PQTune: Music (Grades 8-12)

JUNE 30-JULY 5: ALBION FIELD STATION

PQRise: STEM II (Grades 9-11)



& A

AIMEE WYRICK, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCES AT PUC & PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

By Ally Romanes

Tell us a little about your experience as a dean this school year.

In these early days, my focus is on collaborating with faculty and leaders across departments to identify priorities and action steps. As dean, my responsibilities include academics, enrollment, student life, and advancement initiatives. I look forward to supporting our faculty and students while advocating for the School of Sciences.

What is your vision for the School of Sciences?

My vision is to increase awareness of our academically excellent and Christ-centered education. I want to expand student training, ensuring faculty satisfaction, support, and the freedom for creativity. I want us to illustrate to our students and others that the personal and financial investment in PUC is worth it and that education is priceless.

How can PUC support you in accomplishing your department goals?

PUC, as an institution, should support initiatives to enhance campus morale. Administration should communicate challenges and opportunities and foster collaboration among faculty and staff. PUC should ensure that students' voices are heard and that all students feel safe and respected. The greater PUC (constituency and alumni) can support the college by sharing positive news, sending students our way, and contributing to scholarships.

What is your favorite part about working in academics?

I love fostering open discussions and inclusion with others and serving diverse students. I gain strength from my interactions with my colleagues and students. The encounters and relationships with these people keep me coming back for more.

What is one thing you want people to know about PUC?

PUC offers an excellent Christ-centered education within a supportive environment. I am excited to witness the positive impact my colleagues and I make on students' lives every day. We invest in their academic success, but that's not all—we are interested in them as people and want them to have personal success as well.

What do you love most about living in the Napa Valley?

The Napa Valley is a biologist's dream. I enjoy PUC's extensive acres of wildlands and can even watch bald eagles soar overhead and see pileated woodpeckers in my backyard! PUC is truly "Where Nature and Revelation Unite in Education." 🌳

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With over 50 years of use as a venue for a wide variety of musical and community events, Paulin Recital Hall is long overdue for a facelift. Our planned refresh includes new paint, carpet, seating, and an incredible, fully updated sound and lighting system. You can support this project in two ways:

PURCHASE A CHAIR (OR SEVERAL!):

Each chair includes a personalized plaque with an inscription of your choosing, securing your place as a part of Paulin Recital Hall's continuing legacy. At \$250 each, these chairs also make great gifts for the music-lover, patron of the arts, or PUC alum in your life.

GIVE TO THE RENOVATION FUND:

A gift of any amount to the Paulin Recital Hall fund helps ensure we have the funds necessary to complete the renovation and investment in the future of arts in Angwin and the greater Napa Valley community.



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