

## CAMPUS

Director of Student Involvement Niq Ruud is moving into a new role. Learn where he's going and how he got there.

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## COMMUNITY

A flock of sheep on campus gave students and faculty a unique excuse for being late to class. Find out what they might have been up to.

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## CONVERSATION

Professor Emeritus LeRoy Peterson is a prolific musician and collector. Read about his travels and his eclectic office decor.

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## “Songs of Hope & Freedom” Balance the Scales



Professor Ronnie Zanella leads Chorale in a performance of “Let Everything That Hath Breath.”

By Colin Russ

On Saturday, March 2, the PUC Orchestra, Vox Pro Musica and Chorale shared the stage in Scales Chapel to showcase “Songs of Hope & Freedom.” Attendance at this unfamiliar venue was free, as the long-awaited renovation of Paulin Hall is still underway.

Dr. Rachelle Davis and Professor Ronnie Zanella curated songs for this concert to tell stories of hope and freedom amidst

oppression and strife. One of their primary goals was to incorporate songs by Black musicians and composers into the program, in honor of Black History Month. Davis and Zanella included “Adoration,” composed by Florence Price, as well as several traditional spirituals.

It was a packed house, and attendees came in the midst of rainstorms and squalls of strong winds. Davis and her orchestra of

31 performed first, followed by Zanella’s 18 Chorale members and the VPM ensemble of ten strong. The orchestra played five pieces of increasing energy, while the choir presented ten songs in two acts, a mixture of coordinated pieces and solo performances.

“We wanted to create a flow that would engage the audience from start to finish,” explained Davis. “We started with the majestic ‘Finlandia’ by Jean Sibelius,

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Hey PUC,

These are strange times that we're living in, to be sure, and it can feel impossible to secure any certainty from the world around us. I never feel like I'll survive winter quarter, and this year has felt more hectic than any other, but there's one thing I can always rely on to bring me comfort in the last few weeks — that someday, winter will break, revealing to us the spring that had been taking shape all along. Here in the Napa Valley, it's a particularly dramatic transformation, the blues and grays and browns of the rainy season transmuted into the vibrant greens and yellows of the vineyard, the stoic woods suddenly adorned with blooming buds and winsome wildflowers.

Since I've lived here I've learned to look forward to this time of year, even though it also signals the inevitable return of the tourists and pleasure-seekers who flock here in the finer months. They actually make me feel so lucky, because it reminds

me that they've come seeking just a taste of the bounty we have been blessed with. In spring, I can't help but feel gratitude for all the forces that have led me here. If only I could extend that gratitude to my professors and finals!

There are endings and beginnings in this issue, our last one of the quarter. I've spoken to you before about how everything feels a little bit topsy-turvy during winter quarter. In my experience, things begin to right themselves in the spring — we're a little surer of our footing, and we know that there's a light at the end of the tunnel, whether that's vacation or graduation or just the luxury of free time.

I hope that, if you've been struggling this quarter, spring brings you a renewed sense of purpose, the closing of a dark chapter and a fresh start to lift up and praise. Don't be afraid to give yourself another chance. Let the sun shine on your spirit, and let the glory of creation give you courage. If the leaves, the flowers and



the tourists can bounce back year after year, trust that the same resilience rests somewhere inside of you.

*Cheers,  
Charlie Kefalos*

## CAMPUS

# Niq Ruud Hired as Assistant Professor of History

**By Natalie Nakanishi**

After gaining the approval of the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, Feb. 20, Director of Student Involvement Niq Ruud will be joining the faculty of the history department as an assistant professor.

As Director of Student Involvement, Ruud has organized campus clubs and Service Day, led the Publication Board, advised the Student Association, managed the Grind and overseen the freshman orientation program Fusion. He enjoyed working in student affairs, but his long-term goal has always been to become a full-time professor.

Ruud got his bachelor's degree in religious studies at Walla Walla University and became a pastor working for the Arizona Conference of Seventh-day Adventists before coming to PUC. In addition to his on-campus duties, he is pursuing postgraduate research at The University of

Edinburgh on the history and philosophy of science and religion.

Ruud has also been an adjunct professor at PUC, teaching a 100-level religion class on biblical worldviews and a 300-level history class on World War II.

In November 2023, PUC's history department posted a job opening following the departures of Dr. Howard Munson and Dr. William Logan at the end of the previous school year. Ruud immediately requested an interview, which involved a mock lecture for administrators, current history majors and professors.

He was offered the position, and will start working as a full-time professor in July 2024.

"I am looking forward to refining students' critical thinking skills, and being able to use skill sets I feel are more up my alley is super

exciting," Ruud said.

The classes he will be teaching in the fall are History of the United States I, Foreign Relations of the United States, and the honors course Narrating the Quest. During the winter quarter, he will be teaching History of the United States II, World Regional Geography, and Intro to Political Thought. In the spring, he will be teaching History Methods II and Introduction to Middle East History.

Ruud wants to grow the history department and encourages students to pursue a history major or minor. He is "not particularly" concerned with the process of transitioning into his new role, but more so with moving into his new office in Irwin Hall.

"I am excited to use the skill set that I'm good at," he said. ■



## CAMPUS

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featuring the exquisite sounds of four French horns. This piece set the tone for the evening, with its grandeur and power.”

Each piece built upon the momentum of the last, developing a bigger and bigger sound that filled the intimate venue.

“We wanted to stretch the ensemble and challenge them with these pieces,” added Davis. “But at the same time, we wanted to ensure that the audience was fully engaged.”

**“We wanted to stretch the ensemble and challenge them with these pieces.”**

“Cadence Everlasting” by Rossano Galante was chosen to challenge the orchestra as they performed it for the first time, and the performance of Price’s “Adoration” carried with it the excitement and the epic feeling that had begun early in the program. The orchestra closed with “Millennium” by Richard Meyer, followed by a short break.

“We decided to do Millenium at the end because it would blend more with [the choir’s] spirituals,” said Davis.



French horn players Adam Baluyot and June Eo after the orchestra’s performance.



Professor Ronnie Zanella accompanies the Vox Pro Musica ensemble during a solo performance by Milton Perez.

“I thought the orchestra’s hard work paid off, and it was so cool to see our work come to fruition,” said violinist Amy Park, immediately after leaving the stage.

As VPM took to the stage, the audience was treated to a series of traditional spirituals and gospel music, interspersed with solos by Leila Beltran and Milton Perez. Just as the orchestra had done before them, VPM gradually increased the scope and scale of their set.

They began with William Dawson’s arrangement of “Soon I Will Be Done,” an energetic traditional spiritual about the joy of reuniting with loved ones after death.

“It’s a classic that every student should sing once in their life,” Zanella said, noting that he always felt a special attraction to this kind of music, especially while growing up in his native Brazil.

Moses Hogan’s arrangement of “We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace” was another song Zanella wanted to highlight. From “Take it to the Lord in Prayer” to “Ezekiel Saw the Wheel,” these songs followed a biblical narrative that reiterated themes of hope and freedom, but stuck to the “traditional soul” Zanella was looking for.

“I thought they were very classic pieces that students need to connect with,” he said. “Whenever I’m playing for concerts, I like to be able to connect the songs [and] create a story in between, stories that can connect to people.”

VPM member Jai Almaraz felt very proud of what the group accomplished.

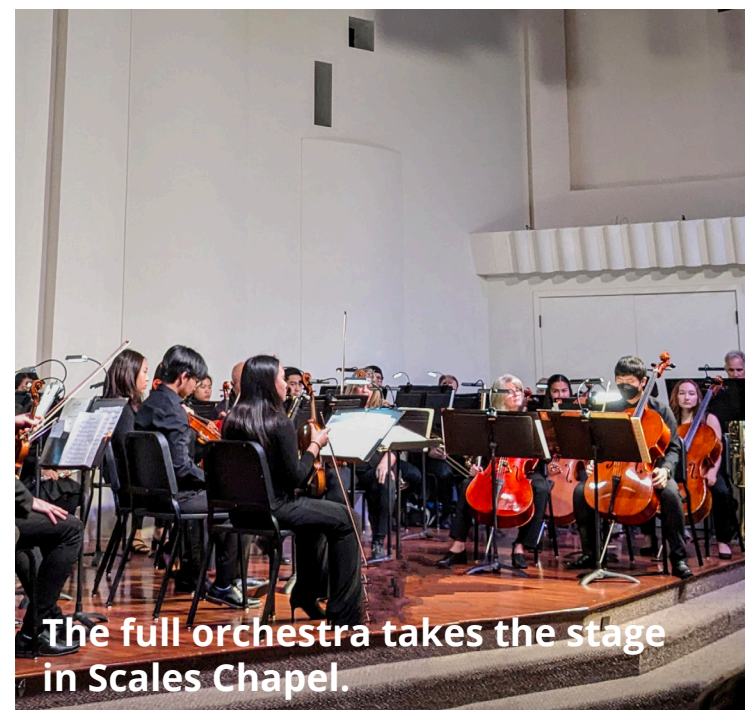
“It was such a beautiful experience being able to come out and see our hard work put to use and to worship, too,” he said.

For Lead Pastor Nate Furness, the show was “stirring.”

“I think they’re amazing,” he said. “I was sitting here thinking, ‘Why would I go anywhere else when we have such great quality music here?’”

Audience member Addison Fuller perhaps put it best.

“I like to see people’s hard work pay off, and also their freedom to express themselves in an artistic way, which you wouldn’t usually see them doing on a day-to-day basis,” she said. “Seeing them in that space really makes you feel!” ■



The full orchestra takes the stage in Scales Chapel.



## COMMUNITY

# Mysterious Sheep Stop Traffic on Campus



Onlookers gather as handlers shepherd the flock up La Jota Dr.

By Charlie Kefalos

On Monday, March 11, a flock of sheep and goats drew attention across Angwin as handlers and shepherd dogs drove them around and through campus.

The visitors' purpose was not immediately clear. Several members of the PUC and greater Angwin community subsequently spotted the fluffy foragers on White Cottage Rd., College Ave. and Cold Springs Rd., but their final destination was unknown.

Several lucky PUC and PUC Prep students and employees encountered the spectacle as they were getting out of school for the day. Professor Catherine Tetz, leaving campus after her Themes in Literature class, found her car completely surrounded by the sheep for several minutes on La Jota Dr.

"Honestly the best day of my life," gushed Tetz.

The PUC Pioneers Instagram account posted a photo of the parking lot in front of the gym overrun with the ruminants.

Athletic Director Hernan Granados also encountered the flock, and posted several videos on Instagram and Facebook.

**"Honestly the best day of my life."**

"I love to work at PUC, one with nature. Got to love it!" read one caption.

Many vineyard managers in the Napa Valley retain the services of flocks like these in order to "mow" weeds and grasses that proliferate in winter while the vines lay dormant. As PUC is surrounded by grape-growing activity, it's likely that the sheep were heading out for an honest day's work. The campus' close connection with the natural world is just one of the many blessings that make life at PUC so unique. ■



A view of the flock from the inside of a vehicle.

Photo Credit: Catherine Tetz



## CONVERSATION

# LeRoy Peterson, the Wondrous Collector of Howell Mountain



Peterson with two unusual stringed instruments — a Russian balalaika and a Chinese erhu.

By Sherban Cedeno

If you were to be asked which teacher's office at PUC is the most memorable, you would probably be confused and dismiss the question out of hand. If, however, you've ever visited the office of Professor Emeritus of Music LeRoy Peterson on the second floor of Paulin Hall, you would immediately know the answer.

Since his childhood, Peterson's life has been one of constant travel. The son of missionary parents, he was born in Canada but raised in Singapore. He gave his first recital in Geneva, Switzerland at 14, but later returned to the United States to continue pursuing his musical career. A violinist by training, he taught at Andrews

University for 15 years before coming to PUC in 1983, where he taught for 35 years. In retirement, he has continued to visit schools to share his knowledge. Even so, all throughout his career, Peterson never shied away from his travels, and has visited a total of 39 countries. He has most frequently visited Russia, Ukraine, and East and Southeast Asia.

Over many decades, he has amassed a hefty and diverse collection of cultural artifacts: Native American carved masks, Norwegian wooden trolls, Russian Matryoshka dolls, large sea conches and taxidermied animals immediately greet any visitor to his office.

"You might say I'm sort of a collector, as you can see," he said. "What do I like to collect? Anything unusual — how many people have a piranha, or a cobra?"

One of his most prized possessions is the head and skin of an Indian tiger. About 8 feet long when spread out from tip to tip, the skin is some 75 years old — about as old as India's independence from Britain.

"This tiger was killing livestock, and I met the guy who got it," Peterson recalled. "The natives asked him to put the tiger down because it would become braver and become a man-eater."

As a musician, Peterson has also acquired many world instruments, from the Chinese erhu to the Australian didgeridoo to the African mbira. He is something of a "jack of all trades, master of none" regarding his instruments — except, of course, for the violin.

"I tried to learn as many as I could," he said. "It's not easy, but it's fun."

By his admission, he is most skilled with the Russian balalaika, a chordophone — or stringed instrument — with a triangular body and a bright, plucky sound.

"I enjoy it," he said, "[because] it reminds me of places I've been."

For many years, Peterson taught a class called "World Music & Culture,"

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One of Peterson's most prized possessions is this tiger pelt from India.



## THE ARTS

# “Dune: Part Two” Review: An Interrogation of Blind Faith



Timothée Chalamet as Paul Atreides and Austin Butler as Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen face off in “Dune: Part Two.”

By Keegan Malan

“Dune: Part Two,” continuing the story of Paul Atreides as he seeks revenge on the Harkonnens, is blockbuster cinema at its finest. Director Denis Villeneuve has truly outdone himself with a film that is equal parts thrilling, with one of the greatest knife fights in cinematic history; and thought-provoking, with its examination of blind faith.

Most of the complaints aimed at “Part One” were either toward the pacing — which many thought to be too slow — or the feeling that the film’s story was lacking clarity or resolution. By comparison, each installment in the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy felt very much like a whole story. “Part Two” has removed these issues, running smoothly and, unlike its predecessor, feeling like a complete film. As Christopher Nolan said, “If ‘Dune: Part One’ was ‘Star Wars,’ [Part Two] was very much ‘Empire Strikes Back.’”

The performances are excellent across the board. Timothée Chalamet, as Atreides, portrays a character at odds with himself, trying to prevent a horrific future that

only he can see. Through this struggle, we become so endeared to him that we overlook his selfishness and deception of the Fremen people.

Playing Feyd-Rautha, the psychopathic nephew of Baron Harkonnen, Austin Butler completely shakes off any association with his role as the title character in 2022’s “Elvis.” Butler transforms himself into a chilling beast who loves pain and whose path puts him directly in Atreides’ way. The atmosphere Butler casts extends beyond his screen time, and looms over the film just as much as Atreides’ plight, making him the perfect villain for such a film.

Faith — primarily blind faith — is put under the microscope through the characters of Atreides and Stilgar, played by Javier Bardem. Stilgar, leader of one of the Fremen tribes, falsely believes that Atreides is the promised messiah, a lie planted by the Bene Gesserit thousands of years before. Atreides, however, asserts that he is not their messiah; this leads to one of the funniest scenes in the movie that, while amusing, is also deeply disturbing in

its self-delusion and twisting of the truth.

“Part Two” asks us to look closely at our belief systems and the figures behind them, serving as a warning against blind faith. There are many like Stilgar in this film who willfully ignore the obvious to maintain their faith in a false prophet that may ultimately be using them as a means to an end, rather than truly leading them to paradise.

The film suggests that, unlike Stilgar, one should never submit blindly to any person, thing or prophecy that will inevitably lead to destruction, whether an internal destruction of the heart and soul or the external destruction of society and human life. He would rather cling to a lie than face the bitter truth and, in doing so, sways many others, deluding himself to the point of fanaticism. It is not the invaluable spice found on Arrakis that everyone desires, but rather the blind faith that allows one to exert control, domination and, ultimately, bring an empire to its knees. ■



CONVERSATION

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demonstrating his instruments and showcasing his artifacts for every country that was covered. Nowadays, including this quarter, it is taught by Dr. Rachelle Davis, a former student of Peterson's. Still, Peterson takes the time to visit the class with his instruments every now and then, and he still believes in the importance of the class. He understands the way that music can connect people. Even as a master violinist with a career spanning over 50 years, he is still captured by its power.

"We live in a world that's very cosmopolitan — it's shrunk," he explained. "I found that anyone who takes the class, it's been an eye-opener for them. We tend

to isolate ourselves. We think, 'Oh, music? This is my kind of music.' Well, what is Chinese music like? It's so much older than Western music."

Unfortunately, some of Peteron's instruments have fallen into disrepair after the COVID-19 lockdown put a hold on his visits and demonstrations. As he fiddled with the tuning pegs of his balalaika, a string popped out, and he opened the case of his erhu to find that moths had chewed on its horsehair. Some of his playing skills have also withered since then, but he is not too upset about this.

"Anything in life you have to practice, you have to keep it up," he said. ■



Curiosities and souvenirs from Peterson's travels adorn his office in Paulin Hall.



A sculpture of a dragon from China, carved entirely from only one block of wood.

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Did you know that some animals like cats and dogs can predict a storm approaching?

...and some flowers will close before it starts to rain!

*Stop telling me weather facts and study!!*

But my exam is on meteorology!

**CALLING  
ALL ARTISTS!**

Showcase your art in the Campus Chronicle. Now accepting submissions in graphic design, visual art, photography, poetry and flash fiction (~500 words). Hybrid pieces are also welcome! Send us your best work for a chance to share your creativity.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOB OPENINGS

The **Custodial Department** is hiring students to help set up chairs for graduation in June. Pay is **\$17.00/hour**, and hours are flexible. If interested, please contact Jonathan Aguilar — [joaguilar@puc.edu](mailto:joaguilar@puc.edu).

QUICKSILVER

**Quicksilver**, PUC’s student-run literary magazine, is accepting submissions through April 14 in the genres of fiction, poetry, painting, photography, graphic design and mixed media. Hybrid works are also welcome. Please send your best work and a short bio to [chderr@puc.edu](mailto:chderr@puc.edu) to be considered for publication.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Hide & Seek**  
Saturday, March 16 at 9 p.m. in the Library

**Men’s Volleyball vs. Simpson**  
Sunday, March 17 at 4 p.m. in the Gym

**Finals Week**  
Monday, March 18 to Thursday, March 21

**Movie Night: “Arrival”**  
Tuesday, March 19 at 6 p.m. in Stauffer Hall

**Spring Break**  
Friday, March 22 to Sunday, March 31

**Men’s Volleyball vs. Westcliff**  
Saturday, March 23 at 8 p.m. in the Gym

**Men’s Volleyball vs. St. Katherine**  
Sunday, March 24 at 12 p.m. in the Gym

PITCH IT!



Are you taking a class that more students should know about? Have an idea for a campus story that must be discussed? Make your voice heard in the PUC community — send your pitch to the Campus Chronicle! Contributing writers are always compensated for their work and receive a publication credit in the issue.

FIND THE ANSWER,  
WIN FREE COFFEE!



Find the answer hidden somewhere in the paper. The first person to DM us on Instagram [@pucchronicle](https://www.instagram.com/pucchronicle) will win a free drink from the Grind!

This week’s question is:  
**What four countries does LeRoy Peterson most frequently visit?**