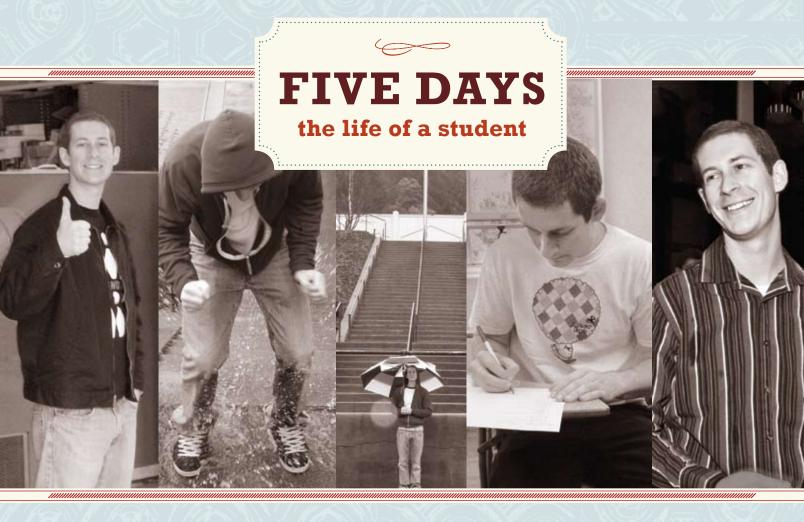
# ViewPoint

**PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE SPRING 2010** 



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# our college perspective



Our goal will be to align our mission and our vision for the future with our present and potential markets and resources in an effort to continue to fulfill the destiny that God surely has in store for this very special institution of higher learning.

## Planning for Now and for Eternity

Many of us have no doubt heard the old adage which says, "Those who fail to plan, plan to fail." At PUC, we have taken this perennial piece of wisdom quite seriously as we get ready to embark upon what will become the most important foundational work of our institution this year — the task of Strategic Planning.

The act of strategic planning requires, first of all, strategic thinking as a good friend of mine who was a graduate of the Wharton School of Business always reminded me. In fact, in order for strategic planning to truly be effective, it must be preceded by strategic thinking and then followed by strategic acting.

But why spend almost a full year on the sometimes arduous and tedious task of strategic planning some may ask? The answer to this question is quite clear — PUC must by necessity have a deliberate roadmap for the next five years in order to fulfill its short-term and long-term goals, as well as to articulate a grander mission and bolder vision for its future. This plan must then be effectively operationalized through action steps and timelines, building in the type of accountability which will make PUC's Strategic Plan a living, breathing document.

So, as the campus embarks together, as a collective learning community, on this exciting journey, our goal will be to align our mission and our vision for the future with our present and potential markets and resources in an effort to continue to fulfill the destiny that God surely has in store for this very special institution of higher learning.

None of this planning will be of any real value, however, if it emerges as just planning for its own sake. Rather, its aim and purpose will be to fuel the educational purpose which is at the heart of PUC's educational enterprise, making clear the value of a Seventh-day Adventist education in preparing our graduates for meaningful lives in this world and the world to come. Surely, this is exemplified in no better way than in Dr. Adu Worku's inspiring story featured in this issue of *Viewpoint*, which vividly illustrates the virtues and value, as well as the transformative nature, of a Christian

education. Dr. Worku's story also reminds us that this type of distinctive education, which truly has the ability to change lives for the Savior, requires an investment from all of us involved in this sacred endeavor. Just as students invest four years of study in the college experience and dedicated professors, like the Hemmerlins, invest their own energies and disciplinary expertise in translating important worlds of knowledge to those entrusted to their tutelage, so must our community of alumni and friends also invest in the work of this historic institution.

And so, as we recognize the extraordinary generosity of our donors during this past year, it is a reality, yet again, that without their continued philanthropy, PUC would simply not be able to carry out its sacred mission. As I have had the opportunity to meet with many PUC alumni as I traverse the state and the country, I am struck over and over again by their great love and loyalty to the campus on the hill. Many recount stories of fond friendships, love stories of meeting their lifelong mates, and their sheer love for this idyllic location. As PUC's most senior male alum, Dr. Thomas Geraty, shared with me recently, "PUC is the perfect locale for a college education." I most certainly concur.

I invite you then to take this journey with us. Share with me your hopes and dreams for PUC as we enter more fully into this New Year characterized by new hopes, dreams and possibilities. Continue to invest in a PUC education for our current students who continue to be heirs of the generosity of former members of the PUC community. I guarantee you that this will be an investment that will pay dividends into Eternity!

Heather J. Knight

Heather J. Knight, President

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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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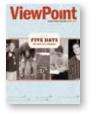
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## On the Cover

Jason Silber is a senior business major who is involved in a little of (almost) everything. Photos by Jason Silber and friends.

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# To Witness **Their Success**

## A retiring Hemmerlin talks about his students Larry Peña

T'S A SPECIAL MOMENT WALKING INTO A ROOM for your first conversation with PUC chemistry professor Bill Hemmerlin. Even if you've been prepared for the experience by the multitude of his admirers, it's still surprising how quickly he engages you, how eagerly he jumps into a conversation, and just how genuinely glad he is to meet you. Now as he prepares for retirement at the end of this year, it's easy to see what has made him one of the most effective, best-loved professors on campus for the

The proudest moments of his career are not awards won, degrees earned, or research published. They're the students he's known. One he's especially proud of was a student with a learning disability. Halfway through the quarter, the student was barely passing organic chemistry. Working with Hemmerlin, the student finished the quarter with a strong A, and went on through medical school to become a high standard, but he's very willing successful orthopedic surgeon.

It's heartwarming to watch Hemmerlin tell stories like this, and he has many. He's fiercely proud of his students and visibly lights up when he talks about their success stories. And although the details clearly suggest that his encouragement and support was what prompted these students to succeed where they never had before, there's never the sense that he's proud of what he's pushed them to achieve—rather, it's awe and gratitude for the chance to be a witness to their success.

This is most evident when he talks about Richard Clark. Clark was a student of Hemmerlin's at Union College in Nebraska in the 1970s. After teaching chemistry at several other Ad-

ventist schools. Clark was reunited with his old professor as a colleague at PUC in 2000. Toward the end of a long interview. Hemmerlin leans

back in his chair. His voice takes on a low, reverent tone, as if he's about to whisper a cherished secret. "It's not my success story, but to watch Richard Clark get the Educator of the Year award made me feel really good," he says. "He cares very much for his students, not just for their chemistry, but for their very souls. And to see him get that recognition, as humble a man as he is, that really was a great day."

Clark, a professor of chemistry, is one of the few people on campus who has experienced Hemmerlin as both a student and a colleague. "As a teacher, [Bill] will drive you to a

to help you to get there," the younger professor says. "I see the way he works, the degree of organization, the degree to which he inspires his students, and it inspires me to want to do the

It's a common sentiment among Hemmerlin's departmental colleagues. They've all learned from him, if not always in a formal way. "I attended his class every day for my whole first year," says Ray Rajagukguk, an assistant professor of chemistry and the most recent addition to the department. "Just to see. Just to watch his technique, to see how good of a teacher he actually is."

"I came to PUC with no teaching experience and he has...shown me how to teach...by ex-

ample," says Marie Pak, chair of the chemistry department. "He gives us freedom to make our own mistakes and learn from them. But he's al-



Bill and Darlene are retiring (more or less), but they'll still be around to enjoy students' success stories.

ways available to give advice...and encouragement. And many of us have thrived under that kind of supportive environment."

He appreciates such accolades from his peers, but he also chuckles a bit. "My first few years of teaching I was green as can be! I learned far more than my students did," he says. "I'm embarrassed for what I've put some of my first students through. So I don't want to impose myself on any new teachers. But if they're going to come to me and ask, then I'm going to be flattered and humbled."

Hemmerlin's never had much use for the sense of awe and fear some teachers strive to instill in their students. "I did better with teachers that seemed to be more user-friendly," he

explains. "If students can believe that I really want them to learn. I think that means a lot psychologically."

His students have an open invitation to his office—to talk about chemistry, to work out homework problems, or just to chat. One of Hemmerlin's most cherished memories from his career was of a student who would just stop by on a regular basis to shoot the breeze. They got to talking about baseball one day, and Hemmerlin was expounding on his favorite pitcher, Warren Spahn. A few weeks later, the student stopped by his office with an original autographed Spahn baseball. "That's what I'm gonna miss," he says. "Not gifts, but that exchange and getting to know students."

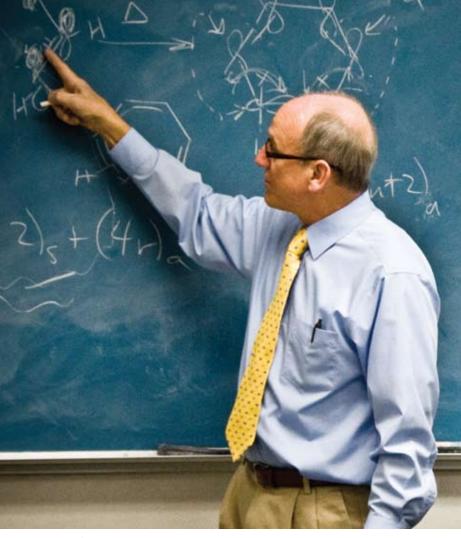
Sports have always been a beloved point of contact between Hemmerlin and his students. One of his few regrets in his career is when he was sidelined from PUC's intramurals for health reasons. Until about 12 years ago, he would regularly mix it up on the field or court, playing football, baseball, and basketball with the kids. "In sports we got to interact on literally a more level field," he says. "They can see me drop passes, miss a fly ball, strike out. I'm just another guy out there."

Whether it's that bonding approach, or just his effectiveness as an instructor, his students are fond and loyal. "Dr. Hemmerlin is an incredible teacher," says Trevor Gomes, who has taken classes from the professor and worked for him as a lab instructor. "He wants you to do the best you can. He's really engaged. He gets excited about it with you."

"He is honestly, hands down, the best professor on campus," exclaims Joe Kim, a chemistry major and lab stockroom assistant in the department. "All the chemistry professors are dedicated, but he goes out of his way to help you. And he's just a fun guy to be around."

The impression Hemmerlin makes on students has a tendency to last, even years after the student is gone. Pam Sadler, PUC's vice president for advancement, recalls one unusually generous gift from a dentist who graduated from PUC in 1998. "I asked him what had inspired him to make that gift, especially as a young alum, and he didn't hesitate," she says. "He said, 'Dr. Bill Hemmerlin. When I was there, Dr. Hemmerlin was giving of himself, doing for us all the time. I decided that I would give back to PUC as soon as I was capable because he had inspired me to give."

Hemmerlin insists that he has never formally solicited a dollar on behalf of the school and seems uninterested in discussing his own giving. But his example is palpable. According to



A high standard: "Bill will drive you to a high standard, but he's very willing to help you get there."

Sadler, both Hemmerlin and his wife Darlene, a beloved and successful local dentist, are among the school's most consistent benefactors. In addition to their regular personal financial support, which goes toward worthy student scholarships, Darlene has been teaching PUC's pre-dentistry orientation course for years, free of charge. "The level of involvement, for both Bill and Darlene, demonstrates a passion for excellence in Adventist education and a love for young people," says Sadler. "Together they have made so many student experiences at PUC meaningful and memorable."

For all these reasons and more, Hemmerlin's presence will be missed around campus. "It's going to be very hard to say goodbye to him," says Pak, who has been his next-door neighbor both in the office and at home.

Fortunately for Pak and the PUC community, he won't be far away. His home is in Angwin, and Darlene is still involved in dental practice. And while he is making some out-of-town retirement plans—spending more time with his two sons and their families, visiting friends in Italy with Darlene—he plans to continue to be involved at PUC, at least unofficially. "If one of the chemistry faculty needs me to cover their class or something like that, I'd be happy to come in," he says. "I promise not to annoy them with my presence regularly, but they'll know that I'm still around."

Leave it to Bill Hemmerlin. Even when he retires, he's still going to find a way to remain involved and engaging. VP

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# WEEK IN THE LIFE of a student just (sorta) like you were



Welcome to the life of **Jason Silber**, a senior business major from Lodi, California. He documented one school week in his life on campus this winter. Go ahead — get into the spirit and let those good-ol'-days memories come rolling back!

## **MONDAY**

6:50 a.m.	So much for <i>bright</i> and early. It is still dark out but we're off to the gym to work out.
7:45 a.m.	 Go upstairs to the Fitness Center for my "Physical Fitness" class.
9:22 a.m.	Breakfast time. It's still raining.
10:00 a.m.	My friend and I are playing a concert on February 27th. Practice makes perfect!
11:30 a.m.	 Finish up the color wheel we started last week … in "Art, Music and Movement" class.
3:30 p.m.	 Call up the Teaching and Learning Center to let them know I will be tutoring for Professor Lighthouse's "Business Law" class again.
6:00 p.m.	 Hurray for "Intro to Guitar" class! I've played for nine years but there are some minor things I could improve.
8:30 p.m.	Intramural basketball. I'm on the team Banana Slugs. We win!
10:00 p.m.	 Study time with Kristianne.



## **TUESDAY**

7:30 a.m.	<u></u>	Grab breakfast	before work
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8:00 a.m. Working at Grainger front desk. Best job on campus in my opinion. Best dorm

on campus, that's for sure.

10:10 a.m. Shower!!!!!! Grainger showers have the best water pressure in the WORLD!

11:10 a.m. Stop by the Records office. Turns out the guitar class I have been attending is not the

one I am registered for.

11:30 a.m. I think the storm is leaving. The flags aren't blowing around anymore.

12:10 p.m. How come the display plate always looks so much better than what they give me?





12:40 p.m. Watching some tennis on Grainger's beautiful 55" TV. Now if we only had surround sound. Your donations can be made out to Grainger Hall and are tax deductable.

1:15 p.m. Oh boy! Words cannot describe the joy of grading "Taxation" homework . . .

2:00 p.m. "Marketing Problems" class.

4:45 p.m. Using my office for the first time to tutor

"Business Law" students.

Rush to the gym to

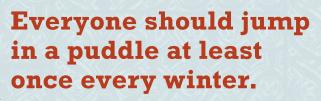
6:00 p.m. get in a quick workout before tutoring for another hour.

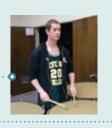
7:00 p.m. Quiz more "Business Law" students.

8:00 p.m. This year our orchestra tour is to Portland, OR

10:30 p.m. The best part about having an office is a quiet place to study.









## WEDNESDAY

**8:27 a.m.** On my way back from the gym. It is still cold out and there is frost on the ground.

12:50 p.m. Ten minutes of basketball drills.

1:35 p.m. Rice (crunchy) at the cafeteria.

**5:45 p.m.** Dinner consists of three pieces of bread dipped in oil and vinegar.

6:30 p.m.

We may be a week late but we finally celebrate Michelle's

birthday. The cake looks like

a burger before they put the rest of the frosting on it.

7:30 p.m. Michael and I work the score board and books at the girls' intramural basketball

game

8:35 p.m.

My first REVO meeting. I am really excited about this year's projects. (REVO is

projects. (REVO is a student humanitarian movement that started two years ago.) I think I aced my "Intro to Public Relations" quiz.



## THURSDAY

1:50 a.m.	Drop "Business Law" exams off at Professor Lighthouse's office.
8:30 a.m.	Drive down the mountain. This is my only opportunity to drive home (to Lodi) and grab the cold-weather clothing I have so badly needed.
12:20 p.m.	Back to school with sweats, flannel, and freshly washed clothes.
7:45 p.m.	Go Pioneers! There are few things I enjoy more than watching Aren shoot 3's,  Kameron block shots and dunk, and Brandon take it in like a beast!

9:40 p.m. I can't complain about the caf's hours of operation.

10:00 p.m. Dorm worship. Brad Gienger talks about what it means to be a Christian.



8:10 a.m. This is one of the most interesting marketing books I have ever read.

1:50 p.m. Bradley borrows my water shoes to go mud caving while I sort a couple hundred pieces of Grainger mail.

· · · Hanging out with Benji in his room.

## FRIDAY

10:35 a.m.

Getting paid for saving the environment. I make \$9.44 from turning in water bottles.

Observe a friend's student-teaching lesson at PUC Elementary. The kids make collages and write stories.

I wish I could tell you all these "Taxation" assignments are easier to grade than they look.

# Oh we're going to the Hukilau

learning hula in my education class



11:00 p.m.

Casey (one of the first floor Resident Assistants) stops by for room check. He brings the "Raise \$80 for Haiti" jar with him.

Wee hours

..... Sho helps me install more RAM into my desktop computer.



By Friday we have \$133.80 for the Haiti relief effort 8:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

··· No better way to end the week and start the Sabbath than with vespers

9:30 p.m.

· At Interactions (after vespers) they have peanut-butter-filled pretzel pieces. One is enough sodium for the rest of my life.

10:30 p.m.

·· Spencer, Bradley and I have a little jam session back in the dorm.



# **Nuts & Bolts**

## A Glance at College Numbers

HERE ARE ALWAYS GOOD FEELINGS IN THE AIR ON PUC'S EVER-GORGEOUS campus, but one that's particularly refreshing right now is due to numbers and stats moving in those upward directions that institutions are so eager to see. So when we started compiling an at-a-glance annual report of 2008-2009 for *ViewPoint*, we realized that showing last year's stats reflects on last year's economic pressures but not this year's definite signs of improvement.

For this current academic year, expenditures are down and revenues are up; enrollment increased; retention improved; and, in general, the outlook has been positive in recent months — and we're confident that this trend is only going to build. That's why we've chosen to present a variety of stats here: Some show figures for last year, some show general areas of revenue and expense; and some show where we're headed so far this year.

## PEOPLE AT PUC

## Student Enrollment 2008-2009 Total students 1360 Men (freshmen) 48.4% Women (freshmen) 51.6% International Students 76 Countries represented 28 Degree Completion Program students 62 Off-campus nursing program students 20 Adventist Colleges Abroad 42 Student Missionaries 15

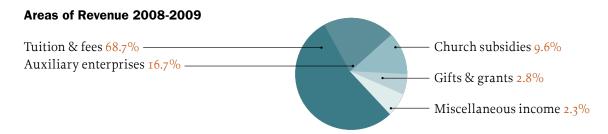
## Faculty & Staff 2008-2009

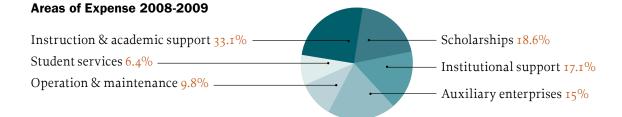
Full-time faculty	94
Part-time faculty	13
Total faculty	107
Student/faculty ratio	13/1
Full-time staff	159
Part-time staff	34
Total staff	193

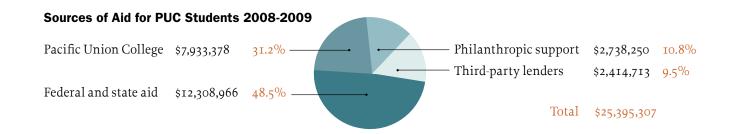
## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

	2007	2008	2009
Total philanthropic support	\$6,225,133	\$6,238,047	\$5,129,660
Unrestricted gifts (operating fund)	\$2,640,883	\$2,569,270	\$1,357,069
Educational subsidy from church-related organizations	\$3,661,707	\$3,774,457	\$3,854,589
Alumni contributions	\$935,885	\$800,273	\$694,931
Number of alumni donors	1,877	1,589	1,335
Percent of alumni participation	11%	10%	8%

## **REVENUES, EXPENSES, & AID**

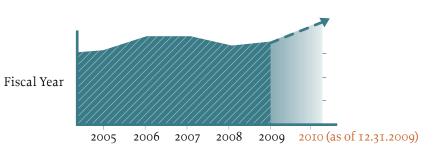






## **Endowment Fund**

An endowment is a fund in which the principal is invested and the interest provides a perpetual source of income. One of PUC's financial priorities is increasing its endowment to reduce vulnerability to economic trends and depend less on tuition.



BY COMPARISON				
Total enrollment	<b>2007/2008</b> 1495	<b>2008/2009</b> 1360	2009/2010 1511	
Tuition & fees (before aid)	\$21,435	\$22,695	\$23,844	
Degree Completion Program	86	62	67	
Off-campus nursing	44	20	67	

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# **Words of Thanks**

## Acknowledging the people who keep our mission alive

HEN THAT LETTER CAME FROM THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE, YOU might have filled out a check and mailed it back. Or you might have recycled it and opted instead for hitting the "give to PUC" button on the website or pledging a gift when a student voice said, "Hi, I'm calling from PUC for the annual phonathon..."

Maybe you didn't give a penny. Maybe you pitched in at an Albion work-bee, donated a piece of equipment you heard we needed, or sponsored a student event. Or perhaps you joined a prayer team during our 40 Days of Prayer, participated in the Maxwell Golf Tournament, or hosted a Sabbath home lunch for students.

Whatever traditional or creative way you've participated in this community, two things are certain: You've made a difference for PUC; and we're really grateful.

In the past, we've said "thank you" by printing the name of every financial donor in ViewPoint. This year we decided to try something different, filling these pages instead with the stories that you have actually helped make possible — the stories of success, hope, service, whole-person education, and adventure. But we don't want to let the thanks go unspoken. Each of last year's donors are listed at www.puc.edu/contributors, where you can see giving amounts by class and by special groups such as faculty and staff, friends, and board members. And on these two pages, we note a few specific ways your support has made a difference.

We owe this and every issue of *ViewPoint* to our supporters around the globe, because they sustain the stories that fill this magazine.

## **A Note from the VP** *Pam Sadler, Vice President for Advancement*

alumni gifts to Pacific Union College increased. In fact, 162 new donors have invested in the college already this school year!

As usual, the gifts come in a variety of shapes and styles. They range in size, and they support a variety of projects. The givers also range in age. Some are recent grads who are ready to give back whatever they can — such as the Class of 2009, who gifted a lovely bench in honor and memory of their classmate, Luke Nishikawa. Others are our more ma-

I am pleased to share that during the first half of the 2009-10 school year, ture and established alumni; in fact, our oldest living alumnus made a gift this year.

> Each of these various gifts propels PUC toward a stronger future and empowers young people to live productive lives of useful human service

> To quote Shakespeare, "I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks." Because of you, lives are changed.

## **Projects You've Made Possible**

One area where donations make a very tangible difference is special projects either funded specifically by a donor or made possible by gifts to the general PUC Fund. Recent or current projects, including the three here,

are making the facilities better for the education. health, and comfort of our students.

#### **Winning Family Room**

With a gift from an anonymous donor, Winning dean Kristi Horn completely re-decorated the fourth-floor family





A human physiology lab was installed, next to the fitness center, for advanced fitness assessments used in the exercise science/teacher education program.



**Angwin Food Pantry The Angwin Food** Pantry, run by the social work department and the PUC church, continues to serve hungry families in Angwin every week.

### The President's Circle 2009

We have several "recognition levels" honoring donors. The highest level of annual acknowledgement is the President's Circle, which recognizes generous investors in the college who provide vital resources to educate deserving students, attract and retain great faculty, maintain facilities,

and create innovative academic and student life programs. Membership to the President's Circle is based on an annual combined contribution totaling \$1,000 or more for individuals.

Bernhard A. and Nancy L. (Neal) Aaen Victor I. and Louanne S. (Ruminson) Aaen Victor F. and Jana M. (Ford) Aagaard William H. and Glenda L. (Casey) Abildgaard Hiam Akrawi Bruce N. and Audrey A. (Thompson) Anderson Stanley D. Baker Harold R. and Lacy Batin S. Kenneth and Elizabeth I. (Mever) Benson John Billington and Martha A. Utt-Billington Stephen R. Bonney and Jennifer M. Uffindell Jeffrey F. and Deborah L. Boskind Allen L. Brandt Agnes Breitigam Delford G. Britton Kathryn M. Bussell Monte D. and Lisa S. (Wilcox) Butler

Del W. and Lois A. (Vipond) Case Stephen W. and Marit (Balk) Case Sarah E. (Rodriguez) and R. Ernest Castillo Daniel E. and Shane Catalano Stanley C. and Roberta Chaffee

Iames H. and Shirley Chang Rhona L. Chen M. Robert and Phyllis Ching Philip T. and Beverly S. Ching Victor C. Ching Paul Y. and Iris J. (Lee) Chung Iulia S. Clary John I. and Rosemary L. (Hardcastle)

Collins James L. and Bonnie J. (Hernandez)

Comazzi Ronald D. and Patricia A. Cople James J. and Cheryl C. Couperus

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Robert Dickson Alice Ding

Wendell E. and Susan F. Dinwiddie Dennis L. Donovan

Lawrence G. and Arleen L. (House) Downing

Iennifer Dunbar Richard G. and Marie (Pearson) Duncan

Anna V. Emard Douglas E. and Susanne E. (Gruwell)

Ermshar Bryan L. and Bonnie (Hadley) Fandrich

Donald L. and Sylvia E. (Lee) Fillman

Galen M. and C. Suzanne (Trout) Fillmore David and Juliette F. (Hemphill)

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Vernon W. and Velma L. (Harris) Gomes

Arthur B. and Cherie L. (Jasper) Goulard Iim Grossman

Michael Gun-Munro Ellen Hanks

Vernal and Tamara A. (Wheeler) Hansen Patti (Martin) Hare Cyril G. and Charlotte M.

(Miller) Hartman Dannielle O. Harwood and

Michael Hieb William M. and Darleen H. (House) Hemmerlin

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Alice L. Holst Tom N. and Patricia L. (Butler) Hopmann

Candace E. Horslev and Robert Ross Eckhard Hubin Christopher A. Hutchins

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George E. and Paultrisha Johnston

Rodney C. Kang David and Melody M. (Bak) Kim

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Philip Law Scott E. and Daina E. Lebard George C. and Lillian P. Lee

Ioshua K. Koh

Scott M. Lee Sonia S. Lee and Jimmy J. Ha William P. Linnane

Donald J. Logan Lawrence D. and Betty J. (Mundall) Longo

Ivan T. and Diane L. (Kuniyoshi) Loo David D. and Lisa D. (Batch) Mack M. C. Theodore and Linda Mackett

Gemini O. Maikowski Richard A. and Sharon (Crane) Malott Richelle L. Malott and Douglas Weeks Frederick J. and Beverly J. (Cales)

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Doyce Z. and Janice A. Nicola Shinichi B. and Margaret N. (Brence) Noguchi

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John E. and Julie F. Osborne Roger K. and Claudette S. (Engel)

Ottman Lloyd L. and Doris E. (Hansen) Owens James E. and Deborah (Rose) Pedersen Orval A. and Sally (Conzelman)

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Charlene N. (Ngo) Vizcarra Jack W. and Yolanda M. (Heeren) Wagner

John S. and Cynthia F. (Oberg) Webster David V. and Kathi Westcott Dorothy J. (Roberson) Westphal\*

Gordon A. and Elle V. (Wohlfeil) Wheeler Jonathan W. Wheeler and

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Ernest G. and Mary A. (Terranoua) White

Frank E. and Kaye E. (Sprengel) Whitney Myron K. and Karen S.

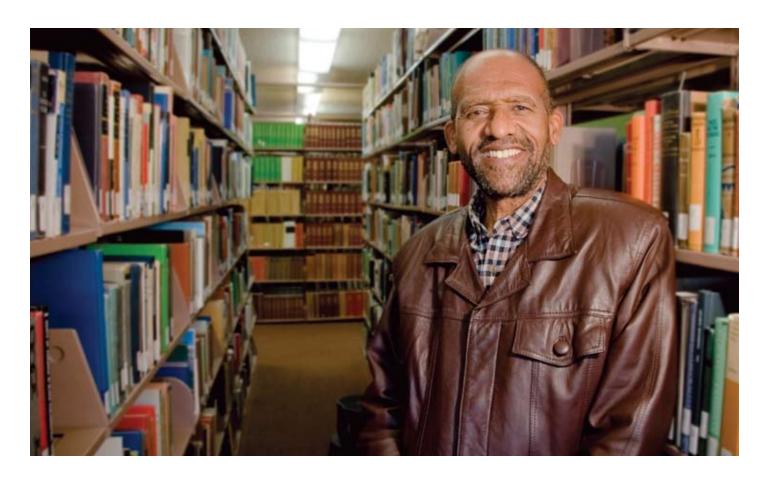
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Ronald N. and Annie L. Wong Adugnaw Worku and Zewuditu Yimer Wayne L. and Jean (Jackson) Wright

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# What a Difference

## A child shepherd discovers education and the difference it can make By Adugnaw Worku

From a speech Worku gave for the December, 2009, graduation ceremony at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas.

HAT A DIFFERENCE EDUCATION MAKES! And what a difference especially Christian education makes! Most of you, if not all of you started first grade when you were 6 or 7 years old. At age 15, you were done with elementary school. And you were done with high school at age 18. By age 22 or 23, you graduated from college.

Let me tell you what I was doing during those formative years of my life. At age 7, I became a shepherd, and I roamed the vast meadows and rolling hills of rural Northwest Ethiopia with goats, sheep, cows, and a few donkeys. This was my daily chore from dawn to dusk, and I did that until I was 12 years old. At age 12, I handed over the shepherding assignment to my younger brother and moved on to the family farm. I learned to plow the field with a pair of oxen and also learned how to plant, weed, and harvest. I learned the dignity of work very

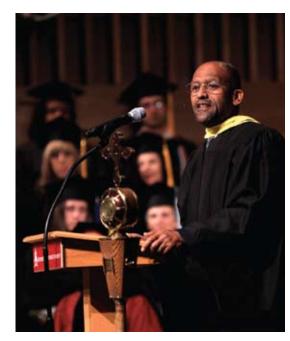
early in life and assumed progressively greater responsibilities with each passing year. We were subsistence farmers, and we grew everything we needed to live on. The work was backbreaking, and we lived by the sweat of our brow in a literal sense. What we did was not a matter of choice; it was a matter of survival.

At age 15, I had a devastating accident that left me blind and disfigured in my left eye. The best medicine men and women of my village tried to help me with traditional medicine, but nothing worked. So my family decided to send

me to a modern hospital. I walked to the nearest hospital with a group of merchants, and it took us two days to get there. That hospital happened to be a Seventh-day Adventist mission hospital in the middle of nowhere.

My family and I were not Adventists at the time but many of my mother's relatives were. So, I knew a little bit about Adventists. When I went to that mission compound, I found three things: a church, a school, and a hospital. I have learned since then that Adventists have always done that wherever they go. In fact, that is how the Adventist Church began its work way back in the early 1860s. It built a church, a sanitarium, and a college in Battle Creek, Michigan.

While I was in that mission compound seeking treatment, I closely observed the school and the students there. I observed what they were doing, how they were dressed, and how they conducted themselves. I sensed immediately that they had something special that I didn't have. I knew instinctively that education is inherently useful. I noticed 7- and 8-year-olds reading and writing. And here I was at 15,



Worku presents a commencement address, excerpted here, at Southwestern Adventist University — shortly before being surprised to become a Doctor of Humane Letters.

peasant, and I knew it.

I decided right there and then to go to school. But I had two big problems. I didn't have permission from my parents and I didn't have any money at all. I had only the clothes on my back,

literally. In my rural culture, parents wield considerable power and influence over their children. They choose their children's careers, their spouses, their religion, and their place of residence. So, the very thought of going against my parents' wishes weighed on me heavily. But that risk was overtaken by my intense desire to go to school.

I didn't know how to pray formally in those days, but I remember praying a very short prayer over and over. "God, please help me. Dear God, please help me." And you know what? The Lord heard that simple prayer and answered it. And the Lord's children cooperated with Him and reached out to me. It became miraculously possible for me to be a proud first-grader in the middle of the school year. I was exceedingly happy and grateful, and I consider that day my second birth.

At age 20, I found an ever-loving and everforgiving personal God and joined the Adventist Church through baptism. I learned in my Bible classes and in Sabbath School and church that this personal God has very high standards

> and expectations. But He never casts out a repentant sinner from His presence. He forgives and says "go and sin no more." But He never says "go away." Never! That discovery has given my life direction, meaning, purpose, peace, and stability in the ups and downs of life.

> At age 22, I graduated from the eighth grade— first in my class and in the state in the national examination. That was not bad for a peasant boy! That same year, I met a wonderful American missionary family from Southern California in that mission compound, and they took me in as one of their own. Dr. Harvey Heidinger was the medical doctor in the hospital. His sister-in-law, Carolyn Stuyvesant, was a nurse. She was also my eighth grade Bible teacher. Mrs. Elizabeth Heidinger was our mama at home.

> This missionary family left the comfortandconvenience of Southern California and came to that remote mission outpost in Northwest Ethiopia. I am thankful that they came

unable to even sign my name. I was an illiterate there when they did, because they have made a huge difference in my life and in my family's life. These missionaries educated me and my siblings all the way through college.

> I graduated from high school first in my class and as class president at age 25. What a



## MEET THE WORKUS

Adugnaw Worku is PUC's director of library services. He's a musician, writer, and activist and has earned master's degrees in history, education, and library science. At the graduation ceremony where he presented the speech partially reprinted here, Worku was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Southwestern Adventist University. The doctorate was awarded because he

- -has demonstrated the power of education to transform a man's life;
- -has experienced and articulated the role of Christianity in shaping education;
- -and has committed himself to sustaining the Adventist educational system
- -has achieved excellence as a librarian, historian, and student of science;
- -has promoted democracy and rule of law in Ethiopia;
- -has reached significant audiences with his writings.

Worku's family also has a collection of educational ties to PUC, beginning with his own. He received his undergrad degree at Avondale, but at that time PUC and Avondale were affiliated so his degree was actually from PUC. His wife, Zewuditu Yimer, is a '92 PUC nursing grad, and his sons Danny and Tad both graduated from here as well, Danny with a BBA in finance in '07 and Tad with a BBA in marketing in '08. Danny is a licensed financial advisor and Tad is pursuing his music career (he performed for a concert at PUC in February).

14 VIEWPOINT | Spring 2010 VIEWPOINT | Spring 2010 15 difference education makes! And what a difference especially Christian education makes! After high school, these same missionaries sponsored me to go to Australia, and I attended Avondale College. I graduated from college at age 30 and came to this great country and attended Andrews University for graduate school. As you can see, I am a product of Adventist education through and through. And not

states what our schools are intended to accomplish and how they should accomplish it. On page 13, she wrote thus: "True education means more than the perusal of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiri-



**A musician** and an activist for his homeland, Ethiopia, Worku sometimes performs music and speaks for such events as the African Cradle Ethiopian Heritage Camp.

only am I grateful for it, but I am also proud of it. It may appear that I was late for everything, but I got it done eventually. I got married at 36 and became a father at 40. Well, what can I say? Call me a late bloomer.

Our church commits enormous amounts of financial, human, and material resources to educate its youth. It provides young people with an opportunity to find a personal God in a safe and supportive environment, where they can ask about and explore the fundamental facts of life. In a nutshell, the purpose of Christian education is to help young people discover a loving and forgiving personal God and to develop an unshakable faith in Him. It is also to help young people develop their God-given talents in a distinctively Christian way, and then serve God and humanity.

In the book *Education*, Ellen G. White clearly

tual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of the wider service in the world to come." Summarized in these statements are the thoughts of a well rounded and reflective education, love to God and our fellow humans, as well as service to both. That is why we have our own schools and expend a lot of resources and efforts to run them.

Again in *Education*, page 57, White describes another big reason to have our own schools. She says that "The greatest want of the world is the want of men (and women) who will not be bought or sold, men (and women) who in their inner souls are true and honest, men (and women) whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men (and women) who will stand for the right though the heavens fall. Such character is not the result of accident.

A noble character is the result of self-discipline and the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man."

The world desperately needs men and women with uncompromising personal integrity. The current economic crisis that has left millions of people jobless and homeless is caused by smart and well educated men and women holding degrees from prestigious educational institutions.

I did some reading on the subject of honesty and integrity and found the following startling facts. A study of 24 major retail businesses in the United States discovered that these businesses lose close to six billion dollars every year through theft. And 80 percent of the theft is committed by employees. I also read that 30 percent of businesses that fail do so because of employee dishonesty. Similar studies in Britain and Australia have found the same results.

Seventh-day Adventist education is value-added education. I came across a book recently, which describes our educational institutions when they started as junior colleges. I found their mission statements remarkably enduring and similar to our mission statements today: "To develop character of the highest type; to develop scholarship of the best quality," or "To help those who are sick to recover their health as completely as possible, and teach those who have health how to keep it." The education we provide is both timely and timeless. It is purpose driven with consequences for this life and for the life to come.

In our schools, we teach that we are all God's children. If we accept God as our father, we cannot pick and choose who our brothers and sisters are. You are my brother and sister and I am your brother, no matter who we are or where we come from. We don't always live up to this lofty ideal, but it is our ideal. That is why missionaries cross the ocean and help people on the other side of the world. I am a living example of such brotherly and sisterly love. God tells us to love not only people who are like us but also those who are unlike us.

Let me remind you of one more thing we believe in. And that is this: Learning does not end at graduation from college and even from graduate school. It is a life-long process. As Adventist Christians, we believe that this life is a rehearsal for the life to come, and common to both is learning. We learn in this life, and throughout eternity, about God, His vast and complex universe, and about ourselves. Lifelong learners believe that gaining new knowledge and acquiring new skills is inherently worthwhile. So, be a life-long learner. VP

# collegenews



# Global Medical Brigade Students

contribute to social change

During the Christmas season, PUC held its first Global Medical Brigade (GMB) trip. The site was in Honduras, the second-poorest country in Central America, and 22 students and one physician devoted a week of their vacation with the mission of providing medical care.

GMB is an organization developing sustainable health initiatives and providing relief in areas of limited healthcare access, with a focus in Central America. It is a program of Global Brigades, Inc., the world's largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization. They define "brigades" as "groups of passionate volunteers who mobilize toward positive social change."

Last year, several PUC students went on a GMB trip with UCLA, and this year the movement spread to our campus. In December, the PUC students were joined by a few La Sierra University and Loma Linda University students, PUC staff member Edilson Garcia, and student Janna Vassantachart's father, Prasit Ben Vassantachart, who works in internal medicine. The PUC brigade traveled to Tegucigalpa and settled into brick cabins alongside Sociedad Amigos de los Niños—Nuevo Paraiso Village, the orphanage project of a nun named Sister Maria Rosa.

They spent a day with the orphans and then three days taking the mobile brigade clinic to different communities up to four hours away on rough roads. On site, triage, physician consult, and pharmacy

stations were set up. Global Brigades provided two additional physicians, and University of Southern California's dental group also joined the brigade for a day.

Once seen by a physician, patients waited for medicines to be packaged and labeled by students in the pharmacy. The medicines were donated by various organizations and brought to Honduras by the volunteers. Sophomore Carissa Kan said, "Working in the pharmacy was a good learning experience... After the trip, I was even more convinced that pharmacy was the right choice for me." Other new skills included learning to wrap blood pressure cuffs from LLU nursing student Elisha Ilio. On the first day, the team provided medical service to 250 people. On the second day they served 365 people, and 250 again on the third day.

The Honduras medical mission trip was a meaningful experience for each volunteer. Students bonded over a singular purpose and worked together towards a mission. New goals were set: learn Spanish. Appreciation was renewed for the simple things: fluoride. And, a purpose as humans was revitalized: service.

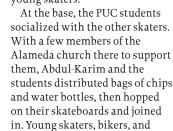
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## **Alameda Extreme**

THIS PAST SUMMER, STUDENT ROBERT ABDUL-KARIM BEGAN COLLABORATING with Pastor Marshal George of the Alameda Seventh-day Adventist Church to take a unconventional approach to evangelism for Abdul-Karim's theology degree. While working on a small-group ministry on the Bay Area island of Alameda, they witnessed young children skateboarding down the former naval base with no particular purpose. So they planned a ministry in the form of a skate clinic called Alameda Extreme.

"We wanted to give the kids something to do," says Abdul-Karim. "To help them out, to encourage them." Taking this approach, the PUC students who volunteered to join Alameda Extreme went to the skate

> park simply to interact with the young skaters.



roller bladers came over to see what Alameda Extreme was all about.

Freshman Royce Jones says he believes the simple act of being around the kids at the skate park is the most effective tool in witnessing for Christ in a place like Alameda's naval base. "You could talk with one person for an entire week without mentioning God or Jesus or anything spiritual," he says. "But if you just treat them like a good friend by showing them love and compassion, by the end of the week I guarantee you that they will give you an opportunity to introduce your faith."

## **Presidential Inauguration**

On April 15, PUC will hold the official inauguration ceremonies for Dr. Heather J. Knight, who this fall became the college's 21st president. Since her appointment in the summer of 2009, Knight has been working to embark the college on strategic planning, to strengthen finances, and to move PUC to the next level of excellence. With her husband, PUC outreach chaplain Dr. Norman Knight, she has also represented the college across the country.

The inauguration will be a formal celebration of Knight's new role at PUC. Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, will give the homily. Ella Simmons, the first female vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, will also be part of the program, along with Del Britton, mayor of St. Helena; Jonathan Brown, president of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities; and Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon.



## **The Power of Mentoring**

Last winter, after education professor Margo Haskins spoke to the campus about "the importance of showing God's love in tangible and real ways," she got to thinking that she needed to bring something meaningful to the campus to get people involved.

Haskins was inspired by a program pastor Bill Loveless started in Washington, D.C., to mentor at-risk children. Haskins held an informative meeting and was surprised to see 26 students eagerly waiting to sign up to tutor at two local schools: Howell Mountain Elementary and PUC Elementary. "We have pre-med students, history majors, all different kids of people," Haskins says. "They're all excited because it takes one hour once a week, and it can impact the life of a child forever!"

Sophomore biochemistry major Anthony Yeo signed up last year and has found that mentoring helps him combat stress while helping in his community. This year, he's mentoring a quiet fifth-grader. "It's almost like a game trying to get him to open up," Yeo laughs. "But I really enjoy spending time helping him; it's very rewarding." He's also received an unexpected side benefit: a potential career shift. "I'm now seriously considering a career in pediatrics," he says. "And that's something I hadn't thought of before."



# Faith, Service, Team The Pioneers varsity teams build family spirit

THE SCOREBOARD IS IMPORTANT TO ANY TEAM THAT'S PRACTICED HARD, AND PUC's varsity teams have taken satisfaction in some good scores during this year's seasons. But the Pioneers team members and coaches will tell you that there's a lot more to a team than winning scores.

In November, the women's basketball team traveled to Southern California for a tournament. Between four games in four days (they won two), the team took holiday spirit to a nearby senior living facility. For over two hours they mingled with residents, playing games and singing. "The atmosphere was filled with energy, laughter and smiles," assistant coach Doug Wilson says. The students helped residents beat their "total hits" record in chair volleyball by over 200, and team member Vanessa Felder sang a solo to a couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

The visit ended with hugs and even tears. The director of the home told the team, "There was such friendliness, good-natured humor and love shown by each of your players... It felt that we'd known you for a long time, instead of just a few short hours."

But the players felt they'd been impacted the most; and the experience fits perfectly with the program's dedication to making a difference in

the community. "It is so important to teach our student-athletes the value of giving back," says Wilson. "We hope to do much more of this."

The men's soccer team also had a memorable season, partly because they ended in second place in the conference. This year, head coach Jesus Medina was joined by supporting coaches Carlos Medina and Hernan Granados. With extra coaching support and some other changes in place, the team's confidence improved. "It took a lot of work, but it's been a pleasure seeing ourselves becoming what we'd hoped to be," says Medina.

But strong playing was only part of the story. Impressed that they needed to strengthen team spirit if they were going to represent not only PUC but also Christ, team member Jonathan Groschel started devotionals before games. "It was a little strange the first time I took out my Bible in the locker room and asked everyone to quiet down," Groschel recollects, "but they respected my request." He found that sharing a common faith connected the team on a new level. "We were warriors on the field — but more importantly brothers in Christ," he says. "Sports should be a way to show a godless world what it means to be men of character, men of Jesus. This year we tried to do that."

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# Rallying in Response Alumni respond to Haiti crisis

January's disastrous earthquake in Haiti was followed by community after community around the world rallying to make whatever small difference they could. The PUC and Angwin community was no exception, with various stories of giving developing in the weeks that followed the quake. In immediate response, Angwin Community Services pledged \$10,000 in matching funds to send to ADRA, and the community raised over \$18,000 in response. A total of \$28,395 was sent.

Two PUC alums also mobilized to make a difference. On January 14, Scott Nelson, '92, arrived in Haiti to set up an orthopedic surgical unit. Nelson works as a medical director for CURE International at a hospital in the Dominican Republic and has made numerous trips in the past to Haiti to perform corrective surgery for children.

At Hopital du la Communitie Haitien, Nelson and his team found many orthopaedic cases filling the parking lot and patio, as people were too frightened to go inside the building. On the 18th, Nelson arrived at the Adventist hospital in Portau-Prince, Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti, and worked in an operating suite in the parking lot under a blue tarp. Scott reported that there were weeks' worth of orthopedic surgical cases to be done, and he understood that he was one of the only surgical teams operating in Port-au-Prince at the time.

Nicole Wilson, 'o6, had just returned from Haiti when the earthquake hit. She and a group of Christian missionaries had been ministering to the medical, social, and spiritual needs of the people there in the wake of several hurricanes last year. This most recent disaster served as a call to Wilson, who is now in the process of developing an international organization devoted to providing care to people living in underdeveloped countries. Wilson plans to open the organization's first center—which will contain a clinic, orphanage, and learning center—in Haiti, a place that has grown very close to her heart.

The quake also had direct impact for several students. The campus rejoiced with a student from Haiti, Pierre Julov, when he was finally able to speak with his parents and learned that they were alive and well. In the meantime, film and television major Timothy Wolfer and a friend from Andrews University were given airline tickets by an anonymous donor and went to help at the Maison des Enfants de Dieu (Children of the House of God) orphanage in Port-au-Prince, where many children had American families waiting for them but could not be evacuated. The trip included some filming, being interviewed by a television program, and finally accompanying 82 orphans who flew to Orlando on the 23rd.

## academic highlights

#### Tammy McGuire,

communication professor, presented two papers at the National Communication Conference in Chicago in November. One was "Negotiating spiritual dissonance: Approaches and strategies," and the other, presented for the "Stability and Change in the Study of Spiritual Communication" panel session, was "Spiritual vs. Religious: Differences that matter."

Thomas Morphis, visual arts professor, curated a painting exhibition that was displayed January 21 through March 6 at the Santa Rosa Junior College Art Gallery. "Working With Wax: Contemporary Encaustic Painting in Northern California" featured 11 artists and approximately 65 paintings.

Bob Paulson, physical education professor, finished his dissertation defense and completed his Ph.D. in leadership from the Andrews University School of Education. The title of his thesis is "Readiness for interinstitutional collaboration among Adventist institutions of higher education in North America: stages of change."

#### Michelle Rai,

communication professor, was a reviewer for the Marketing Public Relations textbook, recently printed by Pearson Prentice Hall. The book is for undergraduate public relations, new media, and marketing courses.



## **Nursing Program Expands**

THIS YEAR, PUC STARTED A NEW PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH QUEEN of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, a hospital where many PUC students do clinical rotations and seek employment after graduation. QVMC is working to achieve Magnet Status, and their goal is to have 100 percent of nursing leaders and 65 percent of staff nurses have at least a BSN by the year 2013. The PUC nursing department offered to set up a special RN to BSN program that would allow the QVMC nurses to continue working while taking the evening classes necessary to earn them their bachelor's degrees.

"We have similar missions," nursing chair Shana Ruggenburg explains. "We both come from a religious mission perspective."

For the new program, PUC provides the courses and teachers, and QVMC provides classroom space and tuition support for their employees. The 17 students currently enrolled attend classes together throughout the program — which lends itself to a supportive family atmosphere as they work together. This group will finish in October.

## **Love of Old and New Earth**

At the Biennial Longo Lecture this year, Christianity Today Media Group editor in chief and vice president David Neff presented "Earth Day and the New Earth: Is creation care in competition with secondcoming Christianity?"

The Longo Lecture was presented on the evening of January 28, but in the morning professor and lecture coordinator Greg Schneider and environmental studies major Molly Reeves interviewed Neff for the colloquy program. At that time, he talked about the founding of *Christianity Today* magazine by Billy Graham in the '50s and also



opened discussion about environmental stewardship and how Christians do and should address it.

At the lecture in the evening, Neff presented a more formal and thorough look at how the Christians with a strong eschatology have viewed the environment.

Neff proposed that, as Christians who look forward to Jesus' second coming, "we can love both the planet as we know it and the world as God will remake it."



# **Alums Speak for Winter Revival**

The 2010 Winter Revival brought the annual series of morning and evening programs to inspire spiritual growth among students with a new twist: The speakers were all recent PUC grads who have gone into ministry.

The revival took place during January and was themed "The Word from the Frontlines," with alums Beejay Wheeler, '09, Dustin Comm, '07, Brian Simmons, '06, Zach Reiber, '09, Godfrey Miranda, '05, and D'andre Campbell, '07, presenting.

Each of the speakers brought PUC thoughts on where God is leading our church, especially through this generation's leadership. Comm, pastor of youth and media for Calimesa (California) Adventist Church, talked about his basketball days at PUC, explaining that there's a "big difference between being a player and being a fan." In the three years since leaving PUC, he said, he's noticed that some people become "spiritual fans" who are supporters of the cause of Jesus, but fail "to engage him in the dynamic relationship that he calls us to." He posed a question to the PUC congregation: "Are you a fan or are you a player?"

pucinpictures







Cross Country. Pioneers run in Golden Senior Recognition. The annual colloquy program honors 270 graduating seniors.



Valentine's Day. Students prepare for Valentine's Day by decorating cookies in the cafeteria.



**Fine Art Series.** Six faculty musicians perform in a January concert.



New Works. The Dramatic Arts Society presents three original plays written and directed by current or former students.



Rainy Days. Winter in Angwin brings the usual variable weather, with umbrellas blooming across campus.



**SA Banquet.** Held at a golf club in Napa, this year's banquet made an Oscars-style celebrity of everybody, with everything from the red carpet to the paparazzi.



Reprise. In a show titled "Reprise," the Rasmussen Art Gallery features the work of local community artists.

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## **Students Intern with Zoetrope**

During the fall 2009 quarter, two film and television majors got a chance to intern with American Zoetrope, the film production company of legendary filmmaker and Napa Valley local Francis Ford Coppola. Seniors Ryann Pulido and Tim Wolfer were accepted



Tim Wolfer with filmaker Francis Ford Coppola.

into an internship working at Coppola's Napa Valley studio in Rutherford, about 20 minutes from PUC.

The work itself, as with many internships, was not very glamorous — but the two were able to gain some valuable insights into their future careers. "Seeing filmmaking firsthand instead of reading about it was valuable," says Pulido. "It takes you from what you think it will be to what it actually is."

Wolfer was encouraged to dig deeper into his field. "It's one of those things you've read about in a book but once you see it you're like, 'Uhh, I probably should have paid more attention to that book," he says. "Talking to the people

that worked there, I realized most of them had at least one bachelor's degree. Most of them spoke at least two languages. And some of them have technical training on top of that."

Wolfer and Pulido were originally hired on for just a short-term internship, but their performance was good enough to get them a job offer working on an actual film project — Sofia Coppola's upcoming film *Somewhere*.



## **Gospel Choir Reaches Out to All**

A GOSPEL CHOIR HAS JOINED THE LIST OF MINISTRIES AT PUC. MEETING FOR TWO HOURS ON Wednesday nights, the group prepares to sing for worship services not only on campus, but also at churches all over northern California. The PUC Gospel Choir, which members of the Black Student Union started at the end of fall quarter, underwent a rapid growth in membership, jumping from about 20 members to 45 in a matter of weeks. "We have a little bit of everything in our members," says alto Emily Wills. "We want to reach out to everyone, every race, and spread God's word."

In February, the Gospel Choir collaborated with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency to put on a benefit concert entitled "Hope for Haiti," with proceeds going to the aid of the victims in January's catastrophic earthquake in that country.

leave a legacy

# Outlining the Story of Your Life

Have you ever thought about what things you would quickly gather if there was a fire or earthquake? Then you have already done many of the things that are important in making an estate plan.

In reality, an estate plan is nothing more and nothing less than a listing of what you have (or expect to have) and what you want done. It is arranging for the things you have to go to the people or organizations you want to have them.

"A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow."

- Anonymous

Once you have made the decision to have a will (or update the one you already have), call us and ask for a free Wills Guide. It has a simple format (like a questionnaire) that is easy to complete and looks similar to types of planning forms you have used before.

You will not be surprised to see that the guide asks many of the questions you would expect and is organized to help you begin to think about the people, things, and priorities in your life.

Writing your plan is easy, especially when compared with the cost and trouble of trying to determine your wishes when you are not here to explain them. Writing a will with the guide and your attorney is so easy that you will be glad you did, and so will those you care about. With a little planning, you can make a big difference.

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

#### Office of Planned Giving

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

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# alumninews

Class Notes, Births, Weddings, and In Memory

## **Class Notes**

1960

Bernhard A. Aaen, '67, '69, an attorney who has had 15 years experience in business as president and owner of several companies, now heads Aaen Law Partners APC, in Angwin, Calif. Earlier in his legal career, Bernhard was legal counsel for a real estate development company, and later owned a law firm of a dozen attorneys. His current law firm, found at www.aaenlaw.com, focuses on estate and business planning and asset protection.

## 1970

J. Gary Norman, '72, who has been secretary/treasurer of the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the past 10 years, has retired. Previous to his church service, Gary was employed at four Adventist hospitals. Gary says retirement will bring opportunity for traveling with his wife Rosanne throughout the U.S. and abroad, perhaps even in one of the classic cars he has been rebuilding for some time.

Donald Thompson, '73, is a candidate for the California State Assembly, with election on June 8. Donald ran for this

office in 2008 but was defeated by a strong incumbent. Donald states that he is a candidate because he "has deep concerns for the people in his district and for the people of California." You can write to Donald at dthompst@comcast.net.

Mark Pacini, '76, recently joined the PUC staff as the Housing Coordinator, overseeing student family housing and employee housing. Mark is also the chair of the Angwin Community Teen Center board of directors and serves on the Prep Board, the Board of Elders at the PUC Church, and the Silverado Credit Union Supervisory Committee.

Bryan Mershon, '77, has worked for the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health since 1987 and has recently been promoted to District Chief for Child, Youth and Family Program Administration. The memo announcing his appointment explains that "he has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and excellent customer service" and that he has held positions including everything from forensic evaluation to HIV education and risk reduction.

**Steve Case, '79, '80,** noticed that few young people (and older ones as well) are reading

### weddings



McCoy, '01, in St. Helena, Calif. 8-8-09. ➤ Nadya Krivoy and Robert

**Stotz.** '03, in

Keene, Texas.



➤ Lainey S.
Cronk, '04, and
Barry Low, '05,

Calif. 11-7-09.



the Ellen White classic *Steps* to *Christ*. The book was pivotal for his spiritual turn-around during his adolescence, so he rewrote it for today's readers. Entitled *Connection*, the subtitle spells out its intention: "How to have a Relationship with God." Pacific Press published the book and it's available at ABCs or online at adventistbookcenter.

com or amazon.com.

## 1980

Keith Neergaard, '83, was the 2009 Patroller of the Year at Heavenly ski resort in South Lake Tahoe. Neergaard, who is chair of the business administration department at PUC, joined the volunteer patrol team several years ago and spends about 30 days a year at Heavenly.

Craig Philpott, '86, '98, went on a photography trip in the fall to Maine and Nova Scotia. He and his wife, Linda, took pictures of fall colors, little villages and lighthouses. Craig was in PUC's first photography program graduating class; he is PUC's associate director of admissions and some of his photography is featured in this year's PUC calendar. Linda works in the PUC music department. You can view Craig's photos at photo.net/ photos/cphilpott and Linda's at photo.net/photos/llphilpott.

## Sheri (McCulley) Seibold,

'86, whose Sheri Berry Design Studio creates designs and illustrations for a variety of manufactured products, found her "Swell Noel" collection of ornaments and other Christmas items appearing in the Holiday Lane section of most of the well-known Macy's department stores throughout America during the 2009 Christmas season. Read

more about Sheri's designs at sheriberrystudio.blogspot.com.

Rufus Arthur, '88, has been a health care consultant and Medicare fraud investigator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly known as the Health Care Finance Administration. He has now accepted a position as the Director of Hospital Operations with regulatory oversight of hospitals in California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii that participate in the Medicare program.

Kimberly Pichot, '89, now living in Greeley, Colo., is president of Complete Success, Inc., a business that teaches and trains in business ownership, and business consulting. A graduate of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Kimberly has lived, studied and worked in South America, Europe and Africa. Clients of her organization benefit from seminars and coaching in numerous areas aimed at business success. Kimberly can be reached at complete-success.blogspot.com.

## 1990

Terry Farris, '91, became the CEO of Unitus Capital, based in Bangalore, India, at the beginning of the year. Before that, Terry was Head of Global Strategy at Ammado, a service that connects nonprofits and other groups with tools for online fundraising and communication. Terry has also in the past worked at PUC in fund raising.

Andre Wang, '94, an attorney who lives in Gresham, Ore., will find out on May 10 if he is to represent the people of District 50 in the Oregon House of Representatives. A Republican candidate, Andre will serve a two-year term if elected. His law studies have been done at Golden Gate University School of Law, Northwestern School

## births



➤ Jennalyn Eve Bennie, daughter of Kim (Shaw), '01, and Matt

**Bennie, '01,** of Highland, Calif. Born 2-26-09.



➤ Hailey Rachelle Anderson, daughter of **Ruth** (**Fitzpatrick**), '02, and Donald Anderson of

Bend, Ore. Born: 5-17-09.



➤ Brianna
Estelle Littman,
daughter
of Renee

(Fitzpatrick), att. '97-'00, and Travis Littman of Lansing, Mich. Born: 10-10-09.



➤ Zoe Elise Mundy, daughter of Cherith and **Rico Mundy, '98,** of Angwin, Calif. Born 10-25-09.



➤ Juniper Raquel Slaton, daughter of Bridget (Lupton) and **Tim** 

Slaton, '90, of San Diego, Calif. Born 11-2-09.



Noah Scott
Davidson, son
of Keriann
(Hoskins) and

**Scott Davidson,'02,** of Minden, Nev. Born 12-28-09.



► Annalise Marie Hill, daughter of **Heidi** 

(Ensminger), '01, and Timothy Hill, att. '98-'01, of Portland, Ore. Born I-6-IO.



Luca Lee Mariano, son of Julie Z. Lee, '98, and Milbert Mariano, '91,

of Angwin, Calif. Born 1-21-10.

of Law at Lewis and Clark College, and at the East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai, China.

James Burnham, '96, just published a book called *The Fruit of the Fallen*. James, who currently lives and teaches in Riverside, California, earned a master's in school counseling and doctorate in education. His recent novel, published through Xlibris, is described as follows: "Will the fruit of the fallen bring destruction or salvation to the world? New book tells a gripping tale about a child of prophecy and the destiny she must fulfill."

## 2000

Debbie Klimeck, '00, is about to complete her MBA in marketing. She first attended PUC right after graduating from PUC Prep in 1981 but left PUC due to a volleyball injury. "In my early 30's PUC introduced DCP [the Degree Completion Program] for working adults and I enrolled," Debbie says. "Working fulltime, I managed to finish a business degree and marched in 1998, although I had a couple of credits to finish and officially graduated in 2000. Since completing my bachelor's degree I went on to increasing levels of sales and marketing management in the professional work world."

Joseph S. Oh, '00, associate pastor of the Los Angeles (Calif.) Central Korean Seventhday Adventist Church, has been ordained to the ministry of the church by the Southern California Conference of Adventists. Now teaching, and developing and coordinating a variety of programs for the Korean Adventist community in the Los Angeles area, Joseph has been active in youth and other ministries of the church since 2000.

Julie Merrell, '01, is a 2009-2010 psychiatry and psychology fellow with the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute. Julie, who earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Loma Linda University in 2008 and did an internship at the Henry Ford Health Sciences Center, is a year-one fellow in health psychology.

## Salvador Garcia, '03,

currently serving as a pastor at the Central Spanish Seventhday Adventist Church in Los Angeles, Calif., was ordained to the gospel ministry in late 2009. Salvador's ordination follows his earning of a Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University in Michigan, and service in several Los Angeles area Adventist churches.

## Shara (Tornga-Gunby) Torres,

'03, went on from student teaching to marry Rogelio Torres on December 21, 2003, at the St. Helena Spanish



church. "We both worked as teachers until the birth of our son

Orlando in 2008," she reports. Roger still teaches high school Spanish, and Shara is now a stay-at-home mom. They live in Vacaville, Calif., along with their Costa Rican kitty Sefora.

Erica Davis, '04, currently living in Carlsbad, Calif., headed to Africa in January to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, the first female paraplegic to do so in the world. The climb was for the Challenged Athletes Foundation, and they started on January 26 with two challenged athletes, a team of eight other documentors (they're making a documentary) and climbers, and a crew of 35 porters to help with equipment. They summitted on the 31st. You can read more at the climb's blog at theroof.tumblr.com.

**Melinda Fletcher, '06,** is currently in her fourth year of

## **In Memory**

**Nurses Notes Goes Online** 

All nursing alumni are invited to join the nursing department's

**new online news source.** "Nurses Notes." our annual newsletter.

has transitioned from the former print-and-mail version to an

electronic version that nursing alumni can receive by e-mail or

find online. To sign up to receive the newsletter by e-mail, write

to nursing@puc.edu. You can also find the current and previous

And to your inbox

issues at www.puc.edu/nursing.

teaching kindergarten in the

San Jose area. "Keeping up with

a class of 5-year-olds requires a

lot of energy, but it is also a lot

of fun," she writes. "During the

summers I have the privilege of

being back at PUC, where I am

Morgan (Vogel) Chinnock,

'07, completed ghost-writing

a book this summer. The War

Within was published by Pacific

Press and is the autobiography

of a gentleman who grew up

in Germany during WWII,

had his village invaded by the

Russian army, and spent his life

searching for fulfillment, only

to find God's love in Adventism

**Your Update** 

Let us know about your

adventures, jobs, and family!

variety of sources, but we like it

best when they come from you.

puc.edu/alumni/news-memories

Class Notes come from a

viewpoint@puc.edu

707-965-6303

in the early '90s.

Here

pursuing my M.Ed."

Richard Bernal, '75, died November 17 in Garden City, Kan. He was born Jan. 25, 1950 in Fresno, Calif. He was pastor of Garden City Spanish, Great Bend Spanish and Dodge City Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Churches. Survivors include Richard's wife, Milagros "Mili" (Robles); two daughters, Sara Elizabeth Stumph and Michelle Angelica Bernal; a son, Jonathan Richard Bernal; a grandson; three brothers and three sisters.

'63, died November 23, 2009, in Grants Pass, Ore. He was born June 13, 1928, in Kodikanal, India, where his parents were serving as missionaries. He was a pastor, principal and teacher. When he retired in 1990, he served as principal of the Pakistan Adventist Seminary in Farooqabad Mondi. He is survived by his wife, Audrey Manthey; children Raymond, Robert and Rosemary; two sisters, Ellen and Eloise; eight grandchildren, 10 greatgrandchildren and one greatgreat-granddaughter.

Howard W. Carter Jr., '50,

Roberta Louise Collier, '65, died December 21, 2009, in Redding, Calif. She born in June 1943 in Tucson, Ariz. She was a high-school teacher, photographer, and travel agent. Roberta is survived by her husband, Dale Wilson; stepsons Luke and Cody Wilson; her brother, David Collier; her sister, Barbara Acquistapace; and a granddaughter.

C. Suzanne (Trout) Fillmore, att. '62-'64, died December 20, 2009, in Loma Linda, Calif. She was born January 9, 1944 in Santa Monica, Calif. Suzanne worked as a speech pathologist for Sutter County and Yuba County schools. She is survived by her husband, Galen Fillmore; her three children, Alec, Alicia Wenberg, and Allegra; her brother, Steven Trout; and her sister, Julie Bursey.

Vernon O. Glantz, who worked at PUC plant services in the '6Os and '7Os, passed away December I, 2009, in Vacaville, Calif. He was 94 years old.
After retiring from PUC, Vernon became part of Mission Church Builders, and he helped build churches all across the western U.S. and Hawaii.
Vernon is survived by his sons, Keith and Don; his daughters, Gerry, and Arlene Siebert; six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

John Kinzie Hardesty, '53, died on December 21, 2009, in Glendale, Calif. He was born May 22, 1931, in Modesto, Calif. He received his M.D. degree and ran a family practice in Los Angeles until 2005 as well as serving on the medical staff of several hospitals in Glendale. He is survived by his wife, Florence; three sons, Robert Alan, Jeffrey Steven, and Timothy John; daughter, Candra Lynn Hardesty Garcia; 12 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

'33, an Adventist school teacher in Hawaii for 24 years, died December 26, 2009, in Healdsburg, Calif. She was born on March 6, 1913, in Laton, Calif. Lua is survived

by two daughters, Carol

Leach and Lua Lee Spockler;

Lua (Pickrell) Horning,

three grandchildren, a stepgrandchild, and nine greatgrandchildren.

R. Dale McCune, who served as PUC's dean of students from 1963 to 1970, passed away December 4, 2009, at his home in Cameron Park, Calif. He was born March 23, 1929, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Dale had an incredible lifelong dedication to education, serving as a teacher, boys dean,



principal and pastor at various academies; as dean of students at PUC; as a vice president at Walla Walla

College; as president of Atlantic Union College; and as provost of La Sierra University. He also served on PUC's Board of Trustees for several years. Dale is survived by his wife, Betty; three children, Cheryl Henry, Richard McCune Jr., and Luanne Rice; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His granddaughter, Melissa Pratt, currently teaches at PUC in the Department of Visual Arts.

Arthur Amott Milward, a lecturer, and editor in the PUC College Press in the 1970s, died on October 28, 2009, in Avondale, Pa. He was born in Derby, England, on October 26, 1923. A medic in World War II with the British Army and an Adventist missionary in Kenya in the 1950s, Arthur wrote and published many short stories. He is survived by his daughters, Veronica and Victoria; six grandchild.

Vincent I. Morgan, '46, died on Nov. 4, 2009, in Columbia, Mo. Vincent was born in Boulder, Colo., on Oct. 19, 1926. He went on to be a professor, medical director, and malpractice consultant, and also had a private practice and cared for nursing home

## **Mark Richard Jewett**

Exuberance for Life & Helping



Mark Richard Jewett, '82, passed away on February 7, 2010, in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the age of 50. Mark had an adventurous exuberance for life and was devoted to his family, friends, and "all his other kids."

When not spending time with his family, Mark was always looking for ways to help others, whether it be church friends, students at his sons' school, clients, or any one else who needed a boost — he was an equal opportunity "how to live life" coach.

His 25-year law career provided him with the opportunity to share his passion of helping others. He spent the last 15 years in his own solo practice helping all who needed it, and many of his clients also became friends. His first and foremost priority was always what was best for them.

Mark is survived by two sons, Joshua and Aaron; his wife, Julie Dee May; his parents, Richard and Billie; a brother, David; sisters Julie Marie Colon and Jill McClelland; and a large extended family.

patients. During the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He married Betty Dillender Gaunt and is survived by their children, William Stephen and Ruth Ellen; and four grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

## Kathy (Ainsworth) Narbona,

'88. passed away on January 10, 2010, in Modesto, Calif. She was born March 24, 1963. Kathy earned a master's degree in choral conducting and taught music for all grades from kindergarten to community college, including teaching at PUC Prep from '88 to '91. An accomplished pianist, flutist and singer, she also created the Modesto Boys Choir. She is survived by her parents, Phil and Pacita Ainsworth; her husband, David, '91; one son, Michael; and brothers Phil Jr. and John.

Nora Catherine (Leffel) Nye, former staff died on December

former staff, died on December 23, 2009, in Fresno, Calif. Nora was born on November 8, 1912, in Waitla, Alberta, Canada. She lived in Angwin with her husband, Vernon Nye, who taught art at PUC from 1955 to 1976, and she worked as an administrative assistant to the manager of PUC's college mercantile store. Nora is survived by her husband, Vernon; a daughter, Paulette; a son, Gilbert; a sister, Thelma; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Kenneth V. Plumlee, '71, died on November 4, 2009, in

Sacramento County, Calif.
Ken was born on March 3,
1938, in Madera, Calif. With
his wife, Myrna, Ken farmed
in Madera for many years; he
later operated a construction
business. Ken is survived by his
wife, Myrna; his son Ken; his
daughter Shana Ruggenberg;
two grand-daughters; his
mother, Mary; and three sisters,
Ida Moses, Sandra Ruiz, and
Carolyn Miller.

Alice Yvonne (Smith) Purdy, '49, '50, passed away on

November, 24, 2009. She was born March 4, 1922, in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. She earned a nursing degree and will be remembered for her passion for helping others. She is survived by her husband, Francis; her daughter Glenda; son Jim Goodman; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Robert Sheldon, '58 died October 14, 2009. He was born January 11, 1935, in Bakersfield, Calif. He was a physical therapist for 40 years. Bob is survived by his three children, Steven, Cynthia, and Brandy Bassett; his brother, Richard; and four grandchildren.

Barbara W. Simons, '50, died November 25, 2009. She was born May 31, 1926, in Oakland, Calif. Barbara earned master's degrees in clothing and textiles, public health, and religion. She taught elementary school and academy home economics and served as a women's dean. She also taught in the home economics department at PUC. where she developed the early childhood education major and designed the preschool facility. Barbara is survived by her brother, Howard.

Helen L. (Hauselt) Stiles, att.

'57, died on December 14, 2009. She was born in Santa Cruz, Calif., on Feb. 28, 1937. Helen and her husband, Gene, served the Adventist Church in India for 15 years and the Pacific Press Publishing Association for almost 20 years. She is survived by her sister Marjorie Sundean; her son Marvin (GJ); her daughter Rani; and four grandchildren.

Lois Ann (Drummond)
Stoops, '46, died on December
23, 2009, in Beaverton, Ore.
She was born on September

23, 2009, in Beaverton, Ore.
She was born on September
29, 1925, in Hilo, Hawaii. Lois
taught English to returning
WWII vets at PUC. She and
her husband, Albert, taught
at many western Adventist
academies; and Lois also served

as a dean of women for Walla Walla University and worked in the Heritage Room at Loma Linda University Library. Lois is survived by her daughter, Michele Stoops-Engel; her son, Alan Drummond Stoops; and one grandchild.

Harold Beebe Stout, '33,

died on November 20, 2009. He was born January 9, 1913, in Hughson, Calif. Harold attended medical school and worked in Washington, serving as Douglas County physician and health officer. The Stouts helped found two hospitals and received several honors. Harold is survived by a son, Luwayne; a daughter, Luvon; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## Melvin Graham Underwood,

'40, passed away on December 14, 2009, at the age of 88. He was born in St. Petersburg, Fla., on February 18, 1921. He served as a Surgical Technician in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Victory and Good Conduct medals. He worked at several hospitals, a veterans' home, and Stockton Developmental Center. Melvin is survived by a son, Larry; a daughter, Kathy Parsons; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

# Remembering Friends

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

alumni@puc.edu
puc.edu/alumni/news-memories

707-965-7500

## back in the day







## Join the Club or make one up

Through the decades (at least back into the '40s), PUC yearbooks have printed photos of student clubs from the Intenational Relations Club and Future Teachers of America to the Metronome Guild and the Ski Club. This year, there are 28 registered clubs including Amnesty International, the Global Medical Brigade, and the Outdoor Club — to name just a few.

In the '8os, a spate of humor took over the club pages, advertising everything from the Procrastination Club (tentative name) to the Perry Como Fan Club. We featured several of Funny Club Awards on Facebook this winter (such as the Silver Bullets, pictured above, who stated their membership qualifications: "Only hip people can join"). Other unique clubs, however, were genuine and active.

## 1968, Alpine Club 1

"The clubs at PUC have attempted to provide an atmosphere where their members might enjoy educational recreation... The addition of the Alpine Club this year has rounded out the nonacademic club's sphere of influence in a Christian institution."

#### 1980, Sons of the Titanic 2

"Organized by all living survivors of the infamous ship Titanic, this club is one of the campus' lesser known organizations. Shown at right is the clubs' third annual "Angwin Memorial Titanic StrokeA-Thon," where several of the survivors met to re-enact their fateful paddle to safety. Also shown at right is club president Carlyle 'Skipper' Manous."

#### 1986, I Hate it When That Happens Club 3

"Size: 237 million and one. Description: People hate it when these things happen: getting hit and run over by cars (especially those on fire), being smashed by falling safes, flesh wounds, severed arms and legs, being killed, etc. Activities/quirks: Jamming pencils in our eyes... we hate it when we do that."

## 1997, Parable Players 4

"Parable Players are ten energetic, dedicated thespians who share Christianity through drama. Some of our best memories include visiting the Vacaville California State Prison Medical Facilities."

## What's your memory?

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





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## letters



"The only truly great are humble, teachable, and always learning from everyone and in every circumstance by the grace of the Almighty."

## **Hot Rod Hill**

As I read of the 1970 autocross in ViewPoint, it reminded me of my days at PUC. I lived at Angwin 1948-1958 and as a faculty kid attended the college picnic down the road behind the elementary school. My cousin Bruce Anderson, who still lives at Angwin, built a house on the site. I remember a hill at the picnic grounds where "old" cars (they were old even then) would race up to see how high on the hill they would stall. I seem to recall them racing backward up the hill — I'm interested to see if anyone remembers "backward."

- W. Malcolm Caviness

Our family moved to Angwin in 1949, and I attended PUC Elementary, Prep and PUC up to 1960. I recall use of the picnic grounds on one or two occasions during my Prep years for games, races and a picnic lunch. Attempts to drive up "Hot Rod Hill" were frequent when the college held picnic skip days. I have never heard of anyone attempting to back up the hill but I did hear of cars rolling over attempting to back down the hill after a failed attempt. As I recall most attempts to climb the hill were not successful. I made the climb a couple of times using a war surplus jeep belonging to the farm during the summer I worked at the poultry division. Climbing the hill with the jeep in 4-WD was not difficult except the hill was so steep it was very difficult to see where you were going.

– Bill Wells

Recollections from the 1940s: At most gatherings out at the picnic grounds, several cars would attempt to drive to the top of the hill, only

occasionally succeeding. I believe there may have been a few rollovers trying to back down the hill. When I was a small child I remember my dad, Herschel Wheeler, trying to drive our 1938 Terraplane up the hill. I was impressed! In the late 1940's, Carlton Wagner's parents had an immaculate late '30s Chevrolet sedan. Carlton's parents were out of town, and the car was to be used only in emergencies. Carlton, Dick Lewis, Don Wheeler and I drove to the picnic grounds and of course attempted the hill. We were unsuccessful and the Chevrolet gained speed backing down the hill, slowly rolled over and landed on its top. All four of us, uninjured, climbed out and righted it with only wrinkles on the fenders and roof. We weren't around when Carlton presented the wrinkled car to his parents.

- Gordon Wheeler

### **Several Points**

Excellent issue. Excellent copy. Fine design.

I really liked the interview

I really liked the interview with President Knight. Great asset to our college. Bet her husband is too.

Not sure I liked the use of "great" as the superlative in Julie's editorial, but know what she means. The only truly great are humble, teachable, and always learning from everyone and in every circumstance by the grace of the Almighty. This is the PUC grads' calling... the Advent calling to every race, religion, creed, or social class. But you know this as do I.

I was interested in the note about the Gimbie Hospital in Ethiopia. In 1968 I was a student missionary in Gimbie and have long had an interest in development/public health issues in the Horn of Africa and an appreciation for the peoples of the region, Muslim, Jew, Christian, and otherwise.

 J.R. Becraft, Anthro/Health Communications

## Write to Us

We welcome letters from ViewPoint readers, which can be e-mailed to viewpoint@puc.edu or mailed to ViewPoint at Pacific Union College, One Angwin Avenue, Angwin CA 94508. Published letters are subject to editing.

## notes from facebook

## February 5 excerpts

## **Pacific Union College:**

Guess Who: Can anyone guess this faculty member? This photo is from 1968.



Samantha Mills: Haha – I was just thinking about the three point speech the other day. If I never remember anything else from college, I'll still remember how to give a speech, James Chase style.

Nicole Ann Wilson Yahoo!!!! Wowzy zowzy!!! It's chase!

Dallas Anderson: Dr. Chase was always the very standard of positivity and authenticity in communicating like that. I can honestly say it was a pleasure to have him as a teacher. None of that was staged. Regardless of the situation Dr. Chase always would find the best in it. Great educator!

## my viewpoint

## Long-distance Relationships

When students come to PUC, unless they live in the Napa Valley, one inevitability always crops up: the long-distance relationship. Parents worry about how their child will survive so far away. Children exult (usually outwardly) in the distance that represents freedom they crave and weep (usually inwardly) that first night in the dorm when realizing that home is 200 miles away. Young couples agonize over whether to stay together when the distance is all but overwhelming and requires a better text-messaging plan. Whatever the situation, long-distance relationships are often painful to navigate.

My first experience with distance of any kind came when my family left rural Zambia (my father's home) for Japan (my mother's home), and we had to leave our fox terrier, Lucky Boy, on the farm. I was 5 years old. This was the 1970s, and Al Gore was still thinking about inventing the Internet. All non-emergency, long-distance communication took place via letter. I couldn't write anything other than my name yet, but I remember asking my dad to write a letter to Lucky Boy, who, for obvious reasons, could not reciprocate. With that inauspicious and unsuccessful beginning, long-distance relationships became a part of my life.

One of the contributors to the success of the long-distance relationship is the opportunity it provides one to shape an identity and reality from a distance. I went to academy/boarding school for five years before coming to PUC for college. I missed home so much that I wrote daily. I wrote more than I would have actually talked to my parents had I been home. When I went home for vacations, I was so used to writing that I remember watching a bunny family hop across the yard and thinking, "I should write to mom about that," and then realized that I could just go into the next room to talk to her. By the time I graduated from college, I had hundreds of letters from my parents. We essentially grew to know each other as the individuals we had constructed in letters. In fact, it recently took over two years of living with my mother in a one-bedroom apartment to realize that we were completely different people in person than the personas we had created on paper.

This characteristic of creating any identity or reality from a distance need not be negative. All it takes is a level of trust for the relationship to

work. Most college students are not intentionally fabricating realities for their significant others and parents back home, and the distance can allow them to present themselves more positively without immediate emotions or miscommunication to interfere, thereby enhancing the relationship. Granted, with the cell phone and FaceBook, the distance doesn't feel quite as long now.

One benefit of the distance is that daily idiosyncrasies that usually annoy a couple or a family who live together are less of a consideration. Moreover, no one takes each other for granted if they know that their time together is now limited. With the distance from my parents, I realized how unappreciative I had been when I lived at home. I suddenly craved a home-cooked meal and would have given anything to hear my mother's calm voice when I was stressed. My dad's 6 a.m. off-key singing that had previously irritated me would have been a welcome substitute for my alarm clock in Graf Hall. I realized how much it physically hurt to miss my family, and when we did spend time together, bickering and fighting seemed less important than capitalizing on the moments we could now share in the same place.

Once again, I am in a long-distance relationship. My husband Morris teaches at California State University, Chico. We see each other about twice a month during the school year and spend as much time together as possible during vacations. While there is nothing easy about being separated from my best friend and life partner, negotiating the distance has only strengthened our commitment. Because of distance, we view *time* differently now. Time is not to be wasted on moments of pettiness or anger. It should be used to show our appreciation of loved ones, no matter the distance.

If anything, negotiating earthly long-distance relationships can be a reminder of the one we also cultivate between earth and heaven. True, the distance can be more daunting — we can't hop on a plane for a Thanksgiving Break visit with Jesus. But in an invested relationship with Jesus, just as with our earthly ones, the long distance doesn't have to weaken our commitment or eliminate quality time together. In *all* our long-distance relationships, it's the way we negotiate the distance between us that shapes the relationship.



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by Maria Rankin-Brown, '95, PUC English professor

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## **Albion Field Station**

### **Special Events for 2010**

### Spring Birding Workshop

May 21-24

Three expert birders lead out in birding field trips and lectures. The area around Albion is impressive for its wildlife, especially birds; last spring, 110 species were sighted.

### Summer School of Art

June 13-25

Spend one or two weeks expanding your skills as a watercolor, acrylic, or oil painter with the scenic coastal area as your studio. All skill levels are welcome.

## Digital Photography

July 11-23

Three tracks make this course, offered in two consecutive one-week classes (you can attend one or both), valuable for all levels of photographers.

#### Fall Birding Workshop

September 23-26

In the fall, a different batch of birds can be sighted at Albion, with a workshop again led by three expert birders. Last fall, 134 species were sighted.

## **Our Cabins by the River**



PUC's Albion Field Station is reveling in its renovations, which have included private bathrooms, refreshed cabin interiors and exteriors, a renovated laboratory, and many other additions. The improvements have made these facilities, nestled beside the Albion River just minutes from the coast, one of the Mendocino area's lodging treats.

#### Who Gets to Visit



Most people know that church, school, and other groups can reserve the facilities at Albion; but individuals and families can also make use of single cabins or rooms that are available through-

out the year. Volunteers are also

more than welcome to assist in the ongoing projects that keep Albion beautiful.

#### For more information:

Visit www.puc.edu/albion or call 707-937-5440

Pacific Union College

