

Fall 2008

# ViewPoint

## Campus Connections

How the personal side of college  
impacts life and learning





# editorial viewpoint



YOU HAVE TO *BE* THERE  
by Nancy Lecourt, academic dean

Once a quarter I hear a loud *clank!* outside my office. For a split second I wonder, What on earth...? And then I remember: Physics students are measuring the speed of sound.

Why would teachers take their students outside on a blustery day with a bunch of instruments and a gong to measure the speed of sound, when we already know what the speed of sound is? After all, it's been accurately measured by others for a long time. What's the point?

We remember what we have experienced, ourselves, personally. We recall the smells, sounds, tastes, colors, and textures of our lives, long after the facts and figures have faded.

That's why the best learning occurs when one's senses are engaged. Those physics students will not soon forget the speed of sound — they measured it for themselves.

Here are the makings of just a few learning memories at PUC:

- Chemistry students who attend pre-vespers at a faculty home are treated to this fabulous dessert, concocted by Kent Davis: "As people are starting to finish their meal I take a big bowl out on the lawn, mash up some strawberries or raspberries, add some cream, milk, and sugar, and then pour in a couple liters of liquid nitrogen. The liquid nitrogen boils vigorously (its boiling point is  $-196^{\circ}\text{C}$ , which is something like  $-320^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for a while as I stir, clouds of condensing water vapor obscuring the scene. In about a minute the nitrogen boils away and we are left with some of the smoothest, creamiest ice cream you can find."
- After a home-made breakfast, Cheryl Daley's ceramics students do a pit-firing in her backyard. "Pots are formed and burnished using ancient

methods, then wrapped in seaweed and placed in sawdust in a pit. A carefully built bonfire is lit and covered and the flames and coals paint beautiful abstract colors and patterns on the pots."

- Students in Myron Widmer's Life and Teachings of Jesus class get to find out what it was like to be "only a boy named David": "I take the students outside and into the field across from the church to demonstrate the power of the sling — to tell about shepherds protecting their flock, and attacks on cities. Then the students try it. They use red potatoes and Italian tomatoes as ammunition — both a bit safer than stones."

This issue of *ViewPoint* is about the personal side of learning at PUC, and that means presence: being there. The teacher who is there — in class and out, after hours, on weekends, in the lab — creating active learning experiences that engage the senses to help students learn and remember. It's listening to a patient's heartbeat, tasting a bowl full of borscht while studying Pushkin, comparing your own hand to a plaster cast of Chopin's — experiences you don't get sitting alone at a computer. Even as I write this, our Honors students are on their way to Venice, to ride the canals and hear the bells of San Marcos. No doubt they would agree: You have to be there. **VP**

## viewpoint

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**Vision Statement:** *ViewPoint*, the Journal of Pacific Union College, aims to be a vehicle for the school's motto: "Thinkers, not mere reflectors of other men's thoughts." *ViewPoint* provides PUC's alumni and friends with features that further the college's educational and spiritual ideals, with news about the college and its alumni, and with means to unite, motivate, and inspire.

Produced quarterly by the Pacific Union College Office of Public Relations for the alumni and friends of the college.

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Printed in U.S.A.

**Volume 32 no. 2**



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# Campus Connections

## How the personal side of college impacts life and learning

People at PUC say they love their teachers. In this year's senior survey, for instance, "Personal contact with faculty" had higher ratings than any other category. The survey asked, "What did you appreciate most about your experience at PUC?" Over half of the responses mentioned faculty, with phrases like "personal interaction" and "they really care" showing up over and over again (see page 31 for a few of their comments).

Most of us on campus are familiar with students hanging out in a professor's office just to chat, seeking out professors for photos after graduation, staying at their houses when they visit Angwin as alums. That's why we wanted to look beyond the survey results and give you a few snapshots of how those personal interactions play out from day to day; how teachers make that personal investment; and why it's such a key element of the hilltop experience.



Cheryl Daley, visual arts, combines hospitality and experiential learning when she treats ceramic students to a home-made breakfast and a pit firing in her backyard.

## Why I'm Still Here

Students may appreciate professors because of excellence in their field, passion for their topic, or eloquence and open-mindedness. At least around here, it also has a lot to do with simple things like pre-class chats, a close game of softball, or the use of a kitchen. Often these don't happen spontaneously; they're the result of professors who constantly find ways to make personal connections.

Lary Taylor, who's been on the business faculty since 1978, is essentially the King of Campus Connecting. Many years he's been the sponsor of the very active Business Club, getting to know officers and members at planning meetings or cooking breakfast in Yosemite. He's sponsored the senior class and the collegiate Sabbath school, played intramural sports, acted in stage productions. He tries to learn students' names quickly and use them often. He and his wife, Kathy, have students to their home on Friday evenings and do Sabbath "home lunches" through the church. Taylor tries to arrange his classes away from Irwin Hall so he gets a chance to walk through campus. Sometimes he eats or wanders in the cafeteria, finding people to talk to. And he always tries to be around on alumni weekend.

"My first two or three years I didn't do any of that because I was spending all my time trying to stay ahead of the students," he remembers. He didn't expect to stick with teaching, but

Pre-vespers get-togethers are a popular way for students and professors to interact informally. Here, Kent Davis, chemistry, makes his liquid nitrogen ice cream at a chemistry professor's home.







Friendships with students sometimes last into years of conversations, visits, and momentous occasions. Pictured here: Lorne and Marilyn Glaim, history and English respectively, with Jenne Billings Bulat, '99, at her wedding.

once he was a little more relaxed in the classroom, Taylor started to have fun getting to know students. “That was a bonus I was not expecting, and it’s the reason I’m still here.”

John Collins, vice president for financial administration, demonstrates that it’s not just faculty who build individual relationships. “To me, there’s no substitute for being interested in students,” Collins says. And it can be as basic as demonstrating simple interest in an individual. John recounts a recent conversation with a student. “They said, ‘I want to talk to you because every time you see me you ask me questions, and I feel like you are interested in my life, and I need to talk to somebody.’ It made me realize that simply wanting to know about people is an important way of connecting.”

Collins doesn’t see that process as a job or a duty. “It’s not a sacrifice; it’s a privilege to be a part of other peoples’ lives, whether they’re students

or neighbors or fellow employees, because there’s so much that we learn from each other and so much joy in sharing our lives.”

English professor Marilyn Glaim, dubbed “emeriti” this year, recounts how she and professor emeritus of history Lorne Glaim started doing Friday night reading groups early in their 25-year career at PUC. “The students we developed the longest-term relationships with were those who came to the Book Club over the time they were in school,” she says. At the time, the Glaims were pretty much the only people on campus offering that kind of gathering, and some students came consistently for four years. “A lot of students say that was the most memorable thing for them in college, having those Friday night discussions,” Glaim says.

When pre-vespers became popular and other faculty, departments, and student groups were offering Friday evening programs with worship credit, it was harder to get consistent

groups. Glaim turned to other ways of connecting, such as the quarterly English department soup suppers, keeping Stauffer Hall friendly with snacks and couches, and lots of individual conferencing.

Some of these relationships extend beyond graduation. One couple visits the Glaims almost monthly, bringing their dogs. A young family from Idaho recently stayed with them. E-mail has made staying in touch especially easy, and Marilyn always responds to messages, even group e-mails, to make the point that she’s genuinely interested. These relationships will continue, even though both the Glaims are now officially retired.

The Elements of Community

PUC is not the only campus that boasts a close-knit community, but it’s certainly one of the benefits of being a small private college. And there are

a few things that really add to that element here.

For one thing, we’re centered in a very small community. Students gather at teacher’s houses for pre-vespers, department parties, random get-togethers. When they return as alumni, they know where faculty and staff members live, sometimes showing up on their doorstep.

“One of the greatest advantages of having a small college where most of the faculty live within a mile or two of campus is the ability of PUC to create a family where all learn together in community,” president Richard Osborn remarks. “How many campuses do you know where faculty, staff, and administration frequently have students to their own homes for meals or give out their home phone numbers?”

Collins agrees with the impact of that small community. “Over the years we’ve had lots of students in our home, to just have a place to relax, or to have a group for a meal, or have a group that cooks their own food,” he explains.



Richard Osborn's (2nd from right) house is one of many in this campus community that often hosts student meals and meetings.



Barbara Youngblood (English) was/ is one of my favorite people! Barbara was both a brilliant teacher and a wonderful, mysterious woman. As an instructor, her knowledge seemed boundless to me, and she told the stories of authors and their works in a way that made literature come alive.

She always had time to help and clarify, and she was fair and thorough in her assessments. I always wanted to “grow up” to be like her!

- Erin Kurtz, '82, '06, 6th grade English teacher, Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School



Cliff Rusch (visual arts) didn't just teach design, he fed it to us. A diet that he ate and drank. He didn't talk about when he used to do design — he was still in it and continuing to educate himself.

always contemporary. I always felt he was involved in every one of the projects that he had for the students and as my boss at the public relations office. However, he always gave me the freedom and challenge of trying my own concepts and ideas.

He brought attention to detail and real-world experience to the table. I have always depended on Cliff for advice and suggestions as I went out into the real world. Things I learned in his classes and while working with him, I still quote and use to this day. And we still have lunch every once in a while.

- Jonny Halversen, '95, associate dean of men, Pacific Union College



After a year in Argentina, I was trying to figure out how to graduate in four years with my double major. Unable to get ahold of my advisor, I left Lary Taylor (business administration & economics) a message, not

sure he would remember who I was. He contacted me right away and helped me figure out my schedule.

I also owe him a great deal for the direction my career has taken in recruiting. I had a job after graduation, but no plan or idea of what I was going to do — until Mr. Taylor suggested I apply for the PUC enrollment counselor position. While working there, Mr. Taylor stopped by from time to time between my many trips, and I knew his door was always open when I needed to chat. Even now, I know that whenever I see him I will be greeted with a smile and open arms.

- Kimberlee Low, '04, recruiter, Adventist Health



Tom Turner (visual arts) was my advisor and major professor as a photography major, and he was incredible. I do not know if or when he ever slept. The photo studios were open for labs and student photo shoots at all hours of the day and night, and it seems Tom was

always there. Since the photography programs were just beginning in those days, he had much on his plate in building the program and the dark rooms and the studio spaces; and yet, he always had time for each of us students. He was an advisor in every sense of the word — technical advisor, artistic advisor, academic advisor.

- Craig Philpott, '86, '98, Associate Director for Admissions, Pacific Union College



Norman Wendth (top left) with the English department in 1981.

**Norman Wendth** (English) stands out to me as a teacher who was/is at once both practical and mystical. I recall many engaging discussions about the earthly and spiritual nature of things, pouring my heart out to write an “A” paper for his classes, and gathering at his and Winona’s invitation to an “all chocolate” banquet (except for vanilla ice cream) for all the English majors — where we all overdid ourselves! I am thankful for his love of language and thinking, and for his being so real and connecting. And I’m glad we’ve been able to be in touch here and there over the past two-and-a-half decades.

- **Heather Miller**, ’83, Director of Special Projects and SIFE Faculty Fellow, La Sierra University School of Business



Linda Gill (left) as a dinosaur

I needed to cast a 10-year-old boy for Stoppard’s *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, and someone had recommended **Linda Gill** (English). I had serious doubts about a female English professor in this role, but by the end of the night, I still hadn’t cast the role; and with Linda’s name last on the list, I crossed my fingers.

A force of nature with shocking orange hair, Linda burst into the room with ferocity and verve. She was hysterical, exceedingly humble, and extraordinarily brilliant. I knew from that moment that this was an actor to be reckoned with (especially since it was her very first audition).

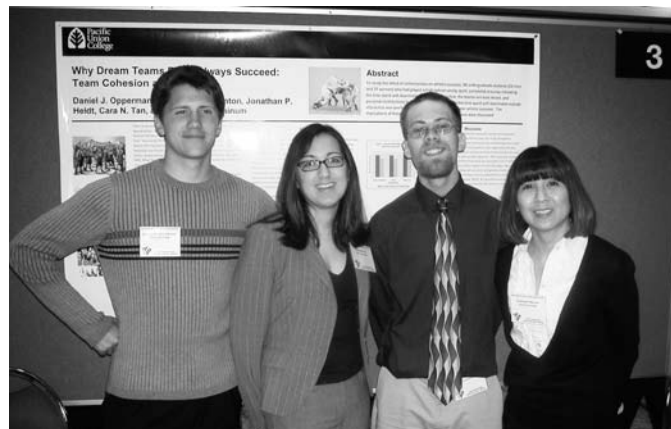
In the last nine years that we have done theatre together, she has been an inspiration to me, the other members of every cast she works with, and her audience. What other actress could play a boy, mentally handicapped milkman, hip hop sidekick, matchmaker, joker with an invisible friend, seducing gypsy, grungy neurotic blast from the past, Fez-like translator, bridesmaid, and dinosaur?!

- **Mei Ann Teo**, ’02, resident artist, Pacific Union College

“We’ve had students live with us, stay with us for short periods of time... I think it starts with the concept of a residential college where students live on campus and employees live on or near campus. If we all lived 30 minutes away we wouldn’t have those natural connections.”

Of course, not all faculty and staff members can entertain students in their homes. New teachers who are single and living in very small quarters — or who have to commute from less expensive living areas — find this a particular challenge. “I have a TINY little house and non-existent cooking/baking/food preparation skills, so I don’t have the luxury of entertaining students in my home,” says Tammy McGuire, who joined the communication department in 2006. “Frankly, I feel badly about that when I read all the comments about the fact that PUC is such a great place in part because students come to know faculty members by spending quality time in their homes lounging around talking and eating fabulous baked goods!”

Despite the challenges, new teachers find creative ways to connect. One of McGuire’s favorites is the intramural sports program. “I do appreciate the opportunity to participate with students in the intramural program and give them a chance to knock me to the ground in flag football or basketball.”



Psychology professors working with students on professional research papers is a perfect combination of interaction and academics . Pictured here: Professor Charlene Bainum (right) with students at a Western Psychological Association convention.

For McGuire, the benefit of that interaction goes both ways. “I’m far, far more grateful that they let this old lady participate with them than I think they are to be interacting with a faculty member, but it’s just one way that I have at my disposal to try and build connections with students. And that’s important to me because it’s one of the primary reasons I’ve chosen to teach at PUC rather than at a larger university.”

McGuire’s words point out another pillar of PUC community: the dedication to undergrads, with the conscious choice to remain a college both in name and function. Because our focus is foremost on teaching rather than on research and publication, professors can

be more directly and personally invested in students.

Psychology professor Aubyn Fulton works with students each year on research papers presented at national conventions. In this way, Fulton can do research and still be true to that emphasis on students. “I like spending the time with the students, and I like being able to engage in research — but in the service of teaching, as opposed to the ‘publish or perish’ environment of a university system that makes teaching of students a much lower priority.”

The tension with that is the movement seen today of institutions to become “universities” and the fear that we will earn less academic respect if we don’t become a university. The question really becomes one of emphasis: Will we emphasize teacher academics or student academics? PUC’s choice has been the students, focusing on a superb educational experience for each student — and encouraging faculty scholarly work that enhances that, rather than getting in the way of it.

A third factor contributing to community may be the age of college students. In *On Being a Mentor*, Brad Johnson talks about developing identity in young adults and their need for mentors. Working from Daniel Levinson’s model of adult development, with a stage called “early adult transition” around ages 17 to 22, Johnson explains that students develop a life dream, an idea of who they

want to become and how they want their life to look. “A time of excitement and possibility, the undergraduate years are a time when students may seek mentors who can assist them with defining, clarifying, and nursing the dream. The excellent mentor to undergraduate students is both attentive to and supportive of the life dream” (123).

Our college students, now away from home, are looking — no doubt often unconsciously — for those mentoring relationships. The willingness of our professors to engage personally means many students look up to them as mentors. Collins remarks, “It seems to me that there are some students who can go through the college experience seemingly effortlessly. But there are lots of students that need some help sorting things out, and the main thing they need is someone to listen to them. Because as they verbalize their ideas it shapes their thinking, and it’s useful to them to have someone who’s willing to listen.”

## The Little Things Count

Learning from people we admire, not just random “experts,” can make a big difference even beyond students’ social experience.

“Some research has suggested that students who interact with their professor outside of the classroom have a more positive affective response





Rosemary Collins (bottom right) makes the most of every opportunity to connect with students—in and out of the classroom.

to their educational experience,” McGuire says. “That in itself is not surprising, but what struck me about this study was how little interaction it took — briefly chit-chatting with a professor in the cafeteria, seeing him/her at a sporting event or concert, or even having a brief conversation on the sidewalk, made a huge difference for the students in this study. This has given me hope that I need not possess the gift (or opportunity) of hospitality to make meaningful connections with students. Even the little things count.”

Taylor has seen the academic difference that interaction and availability can make. If a relationship is formal and strictly student/teacher oriented, he says, students may not approach a teacher. Here, though, he feels that students have recognized that he’s approachable. “I don’t think the students are afraid to come to my office, or to accost me, or even joke with me. I think it’s a little easier for them to approach me with an academic problem.”

Rosemary Collins, assistant professor of communication, has found that conferencing can serve double purpose for academics and personal interaction. “Research tells us that students are naturally intimidated by faculty. They think they have to have something significant to say in order to be in the personal presence of a faculty member. The way I deal with that is I require students to have a conference with me at least once during every class.” Even with academics in mind for these meetings, Collins finds that they’re great

opportunities to connect one-on-one. “It’s amazing how much you can learn from a conference even when you’re focus is on academics,” she says. “You start asking questions and you just find out such interesting things about them.”

## Even if You’re Just Passing Through

“You start asking questions.” In some ways, it’s the PUC style. We encourage students to ask questions in their faith walk. We expect them to ask questions of academic exploration. And perhaps our faculty best embody the question approach by simply showing genuine interest in students.

That’s why from badminton games to Shakespeare productions to advice on the third paragraph of the eighth page, the investments of faculty and staff members in relationship and real-life involvement create a unique community. It’s a community that embraces students as valuable and interesting members, even though they’re only here temporarily. And perhaps it’s not surprising that being welcomed into a community like that is one of the biggest factors in giving kids a positive experience on this campus. **VP**



Food, “parties,” and other informal moments make even the classroom a community environment. Pictured here: Tom Lee (right) in an education department classroom.



Gibby Muth (right) at the 1987 Albion summer session.

When Gibby graduated from studying for his Ph.D. at UC Davis, a few of us attended his graduation. He was also the one responsible for getting me an internship with the Napa County Planning Department, which started off my career.

- Brent Cronk, '77, environmental health specialist, Merced County

The closest relationship I’ve had with a teacher came through taking 24 quarter hours from **Gilbert “Gibby” Muth** (biology). I spent time with his family as well. Once they came along on a plant-collecting trip where we camped out in the mountains, the fog causing constant dripping off the trees. Gibby had a big canvas tent which also held the propane-operated plant dryer. It was a warm, dry place to hang out, and Mrs. Muth fed us hot Tang. The family also visited when we spent a summer at the Albion Field Station. At the time, Gibby was in charge of the facility. Any disciplinary actions he needed to do were done quietly and personally.



wasn’t to avoid taking a stance, but to be willing to watch your idea change shape as it bounced around on the court of discussion. He also left me with some golden words of wisdom on humility and learning: A good education teaches you how little you really know.

- **Darren Hagen, '99, Assistant to the Vice President of Marketing & Enrollment, Pacific Union College**

Interacting with my public relations professor **Fred Kinsey** (communication) both in and out of class helped me see the value of asking questions and taking in a variety of perspectives on a given topic or challenge. He would often take a strong opinion on a topic, but then freely give ground to an alternate view expressed by someone else present. These discussions happened in class, in the hallway after class or just one-on-one while crossing paths on campus. The idea



Parshall Howe

taught English in Japan and Indonesia. Later, they continued to show a personal interest in my undergraduate studies, even though I majored in neither of their departments. They had become true mentors through shared experience and through their commitment to a personal investment in the lives of students; a commitment, really, to the essence of Christian education.

- **Ed Moore, '71, associate academic dean, Pacific Union College**

In the '60s, two of the faculty members who had both the mission of the college and the worldwide mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church at heart were **Elton Wallace** (communication) and **Parshall Howe** (mathematics).

Both of them had experienced the challenges and rewards of overseas service and believed wholeheartedly in the new volunteer program for Adventist college students. Their stories, insights, and counsel prepared me for student missionary service and guided me while I



Elton Wallace (top, far right) at Philippine Union College.



**Sacrifice and freedom are not things people typically pair in the same sentence. But surgeon Scott Nelson, '92, wants his life experience to inspire people to just that — “to make sacrifices and live with freedom.”**

## Lives of Sacrifice and Freedom

His story is, in some ways, straightforward. At the age of 8, he felt the first tug of destiny when he visited his grandfather Olavi Rouhe, a surgeon who spent 25 years of his career in central Zaire (and also a 1929 graduate of PUC). That visit sparked Nelson's ongoing interest in medicine and, he says, “With a sense of adventure and a desire to serve it was only sensible that I would follow in his footsteps.”

Other influences were added to his grandfather's. “I owe a great deal of thanks to Pacific Union College, Adventist education and a heritage of sacrifice and mission which we can proudly share with the world,” Scott says. At the PUC dining commons, Scott met one person who would be a big part of that influence: Marni Miller, '91. After their PUC graduations, Scott and Marni married. “It is largely because of her sacrifices and encouragement that we have been led to do the work we do,” Scott says now.

Together, the two experienced Scott's years of medical school, residency, and fellowship, and their first trip to the Dominican Republic. And at the end of 2004, they sold their house, packed all their belongings and car into an ocean container, and headed for Santo Domingo. “Not many doctor's wives are willing to give up the trips to Nordstrom's and a comfortable home to accustom themselves to a different culture in a polluted city without modern conveniences, not to mention the distance from friends and family,” Scott says.

But it was a move both of them were ready to make. “Ever since our first trip to the Dominican Republic six years ago, Marni realized that we needed to live in a place like this. Seeing children living a hard life with crooked feet and legs enter the operating room and then several hours later come out with dramatic corrections and the hope of a new life convinced her that we needed to mobilize ourselves.”

By Lainey S. Cronk



Scott's grandfather, Olavi Rouhe, '29, spent 25 years of his career in central Zaire.



Scott with his wife, Marni (Miller), '91, and their two sons.



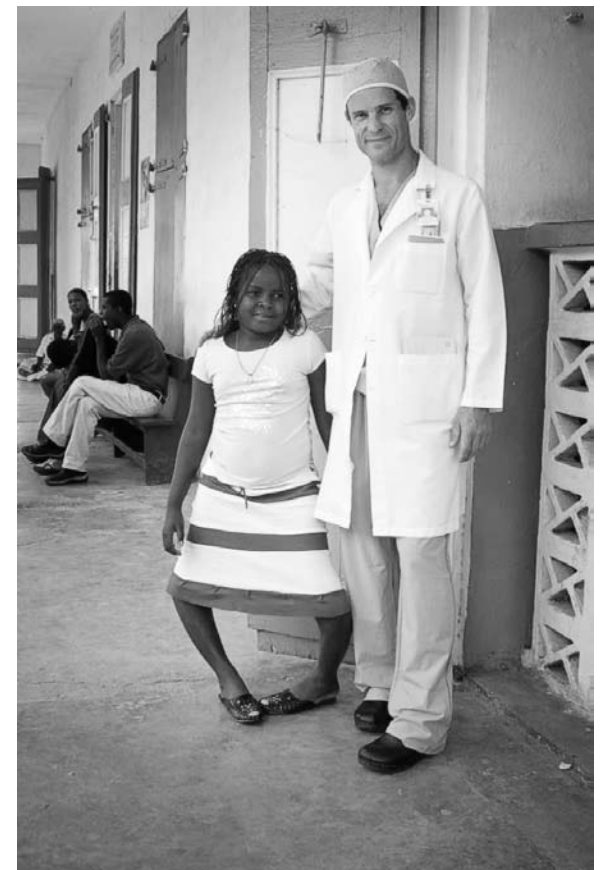
Scott makes the rounds in Haiti, where he performs corrective surgery for some of the poorest children in the western hemisphere.

That's just what they did. The difficult transition included four months living out of suitcases, only speaking a few words of Spanish, and trying to operate a hospital. But three years later, things are in full swing. Scott works for CURE International, an organization that seeks to combat diseases that often destroy lives and families in the Third World, but that are very treatable with modern medicine in the Western World. A hallmark of CURE is their teaching hospitals, through which they train national medical professionals and students in first-world medical techniques to help to raise the standard of medical care in the countries it serves.

Each of the eight CURE hospitals around the world is led by a spiritual director, executive director, and medical director. As the medical director of the hospital in Santo Domingo, Scott has administrative responsibilities, clinical teaching of orthopedic residents, and a full-time surgical practice that mostly serves children with developmental, congenital, and post-traumatic deformities and disabilities.

Every three months, Scott also travels to Cap Haitien in northern Haiti, where he performs corrective surgery for some of the poorest children in the western hemisphere. “The grinding poverty in Haiti makes even some of the most well heeled travelers feel uneasy, but for myself I find it motivational,” Scott says. “Most of our patients in Haiti would live with life-long disabilities if we were not there to give them the treatment they deserve. ... In many cases it is only a one- or two-hour operation that can make the difference between someone living with life-long disability or having a relatively normal life. For this we treat all of our patients with a high level of urgency, sometimes operating all through the night just to help a few more people.”

The impact of this work is immeasurable, but Scott reminds people that it's a responsibility. “As Americans, as Christians, and as privileged graduates of a great institution, we have a responsibility to those around us who are less fortunate,” he says. “To turn our backs on this responsibility is to deny ourselves and others the true meaning of life and love.” **VP**



Scott in Haiti this spring with a corrective surgery patient.





# THE CLASS OF 2008



**O**n Father's Day, June 15, 2008, the 317 graduates of the PUC Class of 2008 marched through the Grove to receive 338 associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees.

Commencement was the culmination of a full weekend of events that included guest speakers Samir Berbawy, '79, president of the Egypt Field of Seventh-day Adventists; Jonathan Henderson, '98, and senior pastor for the Grand Avenue Adventist Church in Oakland, California; and Kevin Erich, '82, president and CEO of Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital/Adventist Health.

During the commencement program, class president Tadele Worku presented the valedictory. "Today is not the fairytale ending of our college careers," he said. "It is a fairytale beginning." Worku expressed gratitude for what PUC has meant to the class: "Thank you for giving us the opportunity and environment to continue to dream."

President Richard Osborn also expressed appreciation for several groups, including the students who brought a humanitarian movement called REVO to the PUC campus and raised more than \$10,000 to end human slavery; nursing students who were deployed in the military; student missionaries and task force workers; and student leaders.

The commencement address was provided by Eric Anderson, former chair of the PUC history department and current president of Southwestern Adventist University. He spoke of his PUC memories — of graduations, of commencement addresses, of hugs and handshakes, of his own sons graduating. He told the audience that in contrast to many of the stereotypical commencement addresses, "graduation ought to be a time for reflection of what education really is."

And what it really is, he said, doesn't change with time and



technology. At heart, real education is still about the big questions: "What is justice? Are all men created equal? Is anything worth dying for? What is beautiful?" Real education is also something that continues after graduation. "It is a process that never ends," Anderson told the graduates.

Anderson took it a step further, addressing the elements and goals of education at a Christian college. Though we can't test students on their Christianity or their walk with God, Anderson said, "Jesus Christ should be the organizing principle of our education." He concluded with the title of his address, "In Luce Tua Videmus Lucem," which comes from Psalm 36: "In Thy light we see light." **VP**

- 1:** Tadele Worku present the valedictory. **2:** The 2008 class of officers.  
**3:** Commencement speaker Eric Anderson (left) with president Richard Osborn.  
**4:** Monty Perry, just-retired admissions official and retention advisor, receives the "Dean's Special Survey Award" for his service to students since 1986.





# A Global Community Starts at Home

By Elizabeth Rivera

As she neared the end of her studies at PUC, Rossina (Seville) Gil, '91, was living in Angwin — where she'd grown up since age 12 — and discussing her schedule with advisor



and business professor Richard Voth. She had no idea her life path would be highly altered by a filing cabinet, a job directory and a block party. She also didn't know these things would lead to a perfect job in Southern California: interculturalist.

Interculturalists help people adjust to living and working in a different country and with a different culture. Rossina works with people from all over the globe as they exit or enter the United States and eases the transition to their new community. She says people do what they learned and are conditioned to do. Her role is to help them deal with going places where people are conditioned differently.

When Rossina began her academic career at PUC, she'd never heard of an "interculturalist." She thought she'd be an international accountant or banker. Possessing a love for other cultures and a head for business, she majored in business with a minor in Spanish. It was in the PUC Career and Counseling Center's career files that she discovered a position called "foreign service officer." Intrigued, she did some research and kept it in her mental file.

After graduating from PUC, Rossina went on a mission trip to Denmark and concretized her career goal: She wanted to be ambassador to Denmark. She decided to pursue becoming a foreign service officer and attended Claremont University, receiving a master's degree in international studies with an emphasis in foreign

policy. There she discovered her new career was highly political and experienced an "early mid-life crisis." Still determined, she bought a one-way ticket to Washington, D.C., and hit the streets, intent on making things happen.

She met with success and was even offered a job by the CEO of McDonalds. But it wasn't until years later that she found her true calling when she stumbled upon the field of intercultural specialization during a keyword search in a job directory. She applied for a position with Berlitz, a major cross-cultural training company, and became their youngest certified cross-cultural trainer. Rossina went on to become a freelance interculturalist and now lives in Southern California with her husband and two sons.

Throughout her wanderings, Rossina held on to the most valuable thing PUC taught her: the value of community and accepting others. She says, "PUC prepared me very well to accept people from various backgrounds. We had a pretty diversified campus and the rural setting allows us to be more open and receptive towards others."

Her love of community and people doesn't stay at work. "I think the more we help each other connect and do better personally, the happier we'll all be." She now lives in Calabasas, which, like most Los Angeles neighborhoods, used to be marked more by a lack of community than a presence. This summer she hosted a block party and invited the entire neighborhood. Now people wave as they drive home and know each other's names. Several people have thanked her personally for bringing about this change. "I have Angwin and PUC in me, and it helps people around me feel safe and happy." In fact the whole world is a little happier as Rossina continues to bring the global community closer by helping those transitioning to new countries do so happily and equipped with the knowledge they need to succeed. **VP**



# Caring for the Planet

## PUC Adds Environmental Studies Major

As of the fall of 2008, Pacific Union College students can choose a new major in environmental studies. The interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science degree is based in the biology department and allows students to choose a specialization from a variety of course electives.

The major was established because of numerous requests from students in the environmental science class, taught by associate professor of biology Floyd Hayes. "We decided to submit a proposal in which the degree could be offered without hiring a new faculty member, but asked for a full-time laboratory coordinator to assist us with our teaching loads," Hayes says. The original environmental science course has now been split into three sections as part of the curriculum for the new major.

PUC is the perfect place for this program, with its natural setting and location in environmentally conscious California. "Green" awareness and commitment on campus has increased with projects such as Green Week, a Green Club, discussions about the eco-village project, and the building of our own cogeneration plant several years ago to supply the college's electrical, heating and air conditioning needs with cutting-edge, forward-thinking energy production.

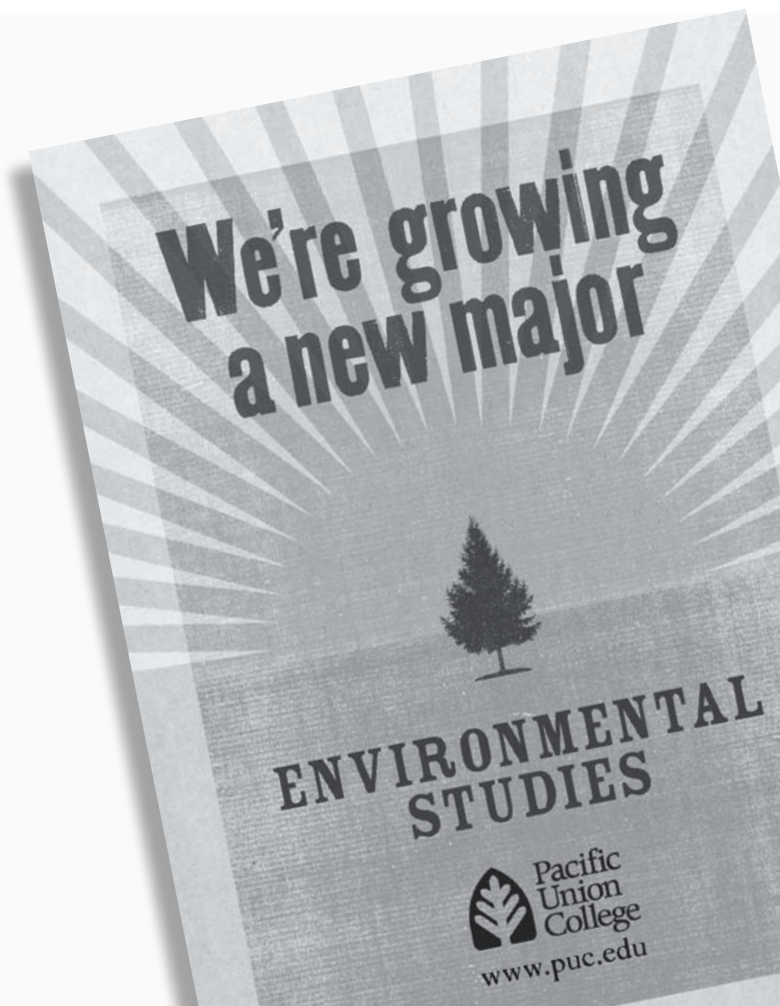
Hayes explains that instruction in environmental studies at PUC is "enhanced by PUC's management of its own cogeneration plant, water supply, wastewater treatment plant, recycling plant and forest reserve, as well as PUC's proximity to an agricultural preserve, public lands, power stations, and large cities dealing with issues of air quality, water availability, rapid development and congested traffic."

Students learn through hands-on and out-of-classroom experience, leading to real-life and physical understanding of environmental science. "We are surrounded by interesting opportunities for field trips, practicums, and internships," says academic dean Nancy Lecourt. "Our belief that God created and sustains the world moves us to

educate students who will be involved in caring for the planet."

Job prospects in the field are broad and continue to grow. Positions around the world are available in areas including natural resources and conservation, environmental education and advocacy, and renewable energy. Options include environmental internships and fellowships with non-profit organizations, full-time positions with government agencies, and higher education. The bachelor's degree in environmental science prepares students for entry-level environmental careers or for graduate work in related fields.

Lecourt explains, "We are thrilled to be able to offer this major, which will allow our students to find work restoring and safeguarding the natural environmental and making life better for humans for whom it is home." **VP**





## 2008-2009 EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

# ROBIN VANCE

Each spring, PUC students are asked to vote for a professor who has had a tremendous impact on the lives of their students. This year, hundreds of students went to the polls during a two-week period in April, and on May 8, the results of the vote were announced at the annual Educator of the Year colloquy program.

"Because of the grace, sweetness, and courage with which he lives and works among us, PUC is pleased to name Dr. Robin Vance as 2008-2009 Educator of the Year," said Nancy Lecourt, academic dean and vice president of academic administration.

The honor was a surprise to Vance and, he admits, overwhelming. Fellow professors offered up a roast, a student gave a tribute, and Vance's brother, Rodney, surprised him with a humorous and touching slideshow that followed Vance from childhood to present.

"It was really neat to have some heart-felt appreciation from the students, and that was very touching to me," said Vance. "I was uncomfortable being the center of attention but enjoyed the affirmation from the students. That was very nice."

The youngest of three brothers, Vance grew up in California and earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from Loma Linda University. After completing his Ph.D. in physiology, he began teaching at Union College in Nebraska. He taught there for twelve years and chaired their Division of Science and Mathematics before being offered a job at PUC.

"PUC always had such a strong academic reputation, especially in biology, so I was very eager to be part of that. And with my graduate work in physiology and PUC's strong reputation in the pre-professional programs, such as medical and dental, I felt my background would be helpful. So I thought it was a good fit," said Vance, who also specializes in neurobiology.

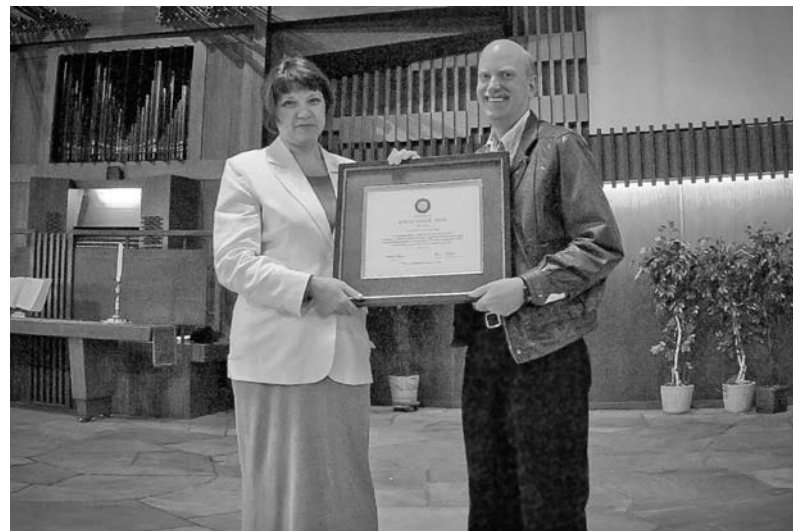
Vance did prove to be a good fit for the college; he is not only chair of the biology department, he is also one of the premedical program advisors. It's a role that

Lauren Harris, senior biology major, appreciated.

"He's not just a great teacher, he's a great advisor as well," said Harris during the ceremony. "His door is always open, and he's always ready to give advice and listen and support in any way he can."

Harris closed her tribute with a quote from Cullen Hightower. "'The true measure of your worth includes all the benefits others have gained from your success.' And this is true of you, Dr. Vance. My fellow students and I have gained so much from you as a teacher and as an adviser. So you are truly worthy of being called Educator of the Year. Thank you."

As part of the honor, Vance received a check and a place on the illustrious list of educators of the year. As is tradition, he will also be required to give a speech at a special colloquy next year — a program that is highly



**Dr. Robin Vance (right) with academic dean Nancy Lecourt**

anticipated on campus. For a person who shuns the limelight, it's a lot to absorb.

"It feels great, but it's also very humbling," said Vance. "There are so many good teachers at PUC. So being singled out for special recognition — it's nice but you always wonder if you really deserve it. There are so many others that are deserving. But it feels good." **VP**



## Look Good, Feel Great: The PUC Health Fair



**Students enjoy interactive learning at the health fair.**

There was celebratory atmosphere in and around the PUC dining commons on May 29. That's not always what you expect at a health fair, but the "Look Good, Feel Great" fair organized by PUC Health Services found fun, hands-on ways to present serious, life-changing information.

"The focus," explained Sandra Sargent, director of Health Services, "is to give the college and community exposure to different approaches to health care. It's not always one-size-fits-all." The fun side of the event was purposeful, as well. "I like to find a party," Sargent said. "We need something fun to draw people in."

At the fair, students wandered among 40 indoor and outdoor booths with representatives of local and nationwide organizations, featuring everything from self-defense demonstrations to aromatherapy to a mangled car from a drunk driving wreck. Some students earned attendance credit, participated in prize drawings, or just explored the information and displays. Students also helped with the fair: Senior nursing student Zetta Gore helped organize the event as a nursing management project, and ten nursing students also participated at a booth.

In the end, the fair fulfilled the goal of presenting key health information in a fun way. "We had a blast," said Sargent. "Of all the [health] fairs we've had so far, this was the happiest I've been at."

## PUC Ranks High Again

For the 15th year in a row, *U.S. News & World Report* named Pacific Union College among the best educational institutions in the country. PUC ranked in the top tier, at number 17, for the baccalaureate colleges (West) region in the 2009 "America's Best Colleges" issue. It also ranks first in its region for ethnic diversity (not including international students), first for international students, and sixth for both freshmen retention rates and least debt among graduates.

One of the most well-known and widely referenced sources of college rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* released its 2009 "Best Colleges" material in August, 2008. They collected data from more than 1,400 colleges for this year's rankings.

"As a learning community, we are pleased to be recognized not only for outstanding academics, but for the success of students from diverse backgrounds," said Nancy Lecourt, vice president for academic administration and academic dean. "We are proud to see our graduates changing the world."

PUC is ranked in a category for institutions that focus on undergraduate education and grant fewer than half their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. High scores are based on such elements as peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, and alumni giving.



**PUC once again ranked at the top for academics and diversity in our region.**



## Skills for the 21st Century



PacificQuest gave 24 young students a week of learning and fun.

This summer, the annual PacificQuest program at PUC gave 24 academically advanced students, who had just completed seventh, eighth, or ninth grade, a chance to earn college credit and enjoy fun activities. The students also earned \$500 scholarships for future study at PUC.

Professors Richard Rockwell, Maria Rankin-Brown and Robert Ordóñez taught the classes in mathematics, creative thinking and writing, and interactive computer programming. On the final day of the program, the students delivered individual demonstrations and group skits that were entertaining and even riveting proofs of concepts and skills learned.

This year, professor Aimee Wyrick-Brownworth was camp director and professor Lindsay Petersen served as academic director. Wyrick planned evening activities consisting of "cultural diversity," a quiz bowl and hike to the observatory, and an annual talent show and farewell luau at the pool. The students all enjoyed it so much that those who will be too old to come back next year begged the leaders to extend the age limit so they could return for another year!

## Painting & Photos on the Coast

Every summer for 41 years, painters have been convening at the Albion Field Station on the Mendocino coast. In recent years, another group of artists started using the camp as its home-base, this group armed with digital cameras and computers.

This summer brought many participants for both the Summer School of Art and the Digital Art Photography Workshop to the station. The artists enjoyed the beautiful scenery and the chance to learn and explore in an outdoor setting, and their family members took advantage of the recent extensive renovations (including individual bathrooms added to each cabin).

From the kids who ride their scooters down the main "road" of camp to the long-time artists who have seen Albion in all its phases, the summer art courses provide a chance to get away and revel in the beauty and richness of this coastal area.



The Mendocino Coast is an ideal setting for artists and photographers.

## SIFE PUC: Face-to-Face in the Community



Two awards affirmed the community work done by PUC's new SIFE team.

This year, a SIFE team formed at PUC, bringing three significant projects to the campus and community — and winning recognition at the regional competition.

SIFE, or "Students In Free Enterprise," is an organization for university students around the world to help their communities and to develop business leadership skills. Each year, SIFE teams take their written reports and live presentations to a series of competitions judged by panels of business leaders.

The team at PUC embarked on three community projects, all managed and staffed by student team members: a Dollars and \$ense program teaching young kids the value of saving money and financial literacy, a business lecture series, and a public service announcement on anti-piracy.

The team presented their projects at the regional competition and won a Rookie of the Year award and 2nd Runner-up award. "Bringing home two trophies from the regional competition gave a big boost to the morale of the team," said Wally Light-house, associate professor of business administration and the SIFE PUC sponsor. But he added, "However, the PUC SIFE team is not focused only on the competition but is dedicated to making a difference on our campus and in our local community."

## 2009 HEUBACH LECTURESHIP SERIES



# BARRY C. BLACK

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009

5:00 P.M.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE SANCTUARY



Barry C. Black, United States Senate Chaplain, will be speaking at Pacific Union College as part of the 2009 Heubach Lectureship Series. Black is the first African-American and the first Seventh-day Adventist to hold this office. His autobiography, *From the Hood to the Hill: A Story of Overcoming*, was published in 2006.

*A reception and book signing will follow the lecture.*

For more information, contact the PUC office of public relations at (707) 965-6303 or write to pr@puc.edu.



## Third Annual Student Film Festival

The third annual PUC Student Film Festival took to the screen on June 5. The festival showcased the short films of Aaron Marshall, Marcus Klonek, J.R. Rogers, Blake Penland, Allison Kurtz, Vienna Cornish, Kenneth McMillan, and Craig Church. "This work has been a year-long experience for many of the students," said film instructor Stephen Eyer. "They poured heart, soul, and very long hours into these films."

The most extensive of the films was a 25-minute drama by Church, *The White Abyss*. It was filmed with the innovative new RED digital film camera and professional actors — who also attended the screenings. "I learned a lot of things on this project," said Church, who worked with a dedicated crew of actors, PUC students and instructors. "The biggest thing anybody gains ... is being on a real film scene and not just another class. Taking everything you learned and coming together as a team trying to create this story ... It was a big learning experience for me."

After the screening, Eyer hosted a short Q&A session with the filmmakers and audience. Students talked about the learning that goes on with these projects. "Every time you do a project, you always learn more," explained Cornish. Kurtz added, "Learning to accept criticism ... is when your film really begins to grow."



Student work was premiered for the community at the Student Film Festival.





# class notes

COMPILED BY HERBERT FORD

## Staying in the Loop

Class Notes is one of the most popular *Viewpoint* sections, with at-a-glance news on your colleagues. But we need your help to keep current. You can drop us an e-mail at [viewpoint@puc.edu](mailto:viewpoint@puc.edu) to let us know about your adventures, jobs, and family. Our news currently comes from a variety of sources, so if you have further information for us on a note that's already been printed, let us know about that, too!

## Board, Faculty and Staff

**Stephen Guptill**, who served as PUC's development and public relations director in the 1980s, is now serving as president of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies located at Silang Cavite, in the Philippine Islands.

## Alumni

### 1930

On May 30, 2008, the Africa-American Friendship Society (AAFS) and a committee of African friends presented a Divine Religious Service and Banquet honoring the many years of selfless, humanitarian service in Africa of **Sherman A. Nagel, '32, '35, '39**, and his wife, Edith. The Sherman Nagel African Health Foundation was established to provide health services in Africa and is an on-going tribute to the Nagels' many years of medical missionary service. Information about the foundation is available at [info@nagelafricanfoundation.org](mailto:info@nagelafricanfoundation.org).

### 1940

**Joyce (Wilson) Hopp, '45**, recently received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the alumni association of the School of Nursing of Loma Linda University (LLU). The retired dean of LLU's School of Allied Health Professions, Joyce is a graduate of LLU's nursing school and holds a master's in public health from Harvard University and Ph.D. in health education from the University of Southern California. In 1987, the Association of Adventist Women named her one of their "Women of the Year," and in 2005 she was a PUC Honored Alumna.

### 1950

**Carleton, '52**, and **Patti (Shryock), '53**, Wallace, along with the help of "a large group of hard-working, dedicated individuals, many of whom are PUCites," have recently served as co-chairpersons of a successfully completed \$52 million fund-raising campaign for the new "Centennial Complex" being erected on the Loma Linda University campus. Carleton, a

physician, and Patti are also members of LIGA International and have made numerous private plane flights to three medical clinics in Mexico that provide treatment for people who have no other access to medical care.

**Karl and Betty (McEachern) Bahr, both '52**, have recently taken up residence in the Fletcher Park Retirement Community in Hendersonville, N.C. However, retirement doesn't keep the Bahrs from staying busy; they serve in the Adventist Park Ridge Hospital auxiliary and as active members of the Hendersonville Adventist Church. "God is good, and we look forward to a PUC Homecoming in heaven," writes Betty.

### 1960

**Wendel Tucker, '66, '69**, has been named superintendent of the 20,000-student Alvord Unified School District in Southern California. He has spent 16 years in education in the district and has lived in Riverside, Calif., for 24 years. Wendel's educational leadership role comes amid glowing statements about his abilities. One of the district's board members said, "The community knows Wendel and respects him. He's probably one of the best superintendents I've seen in terms of community relations." In addition to his public education posts, Wendel earlier served for more than two decades in Adventist education at PUC Preparatory School; in Ohio; and in Riverside, Calif., according to a feature article about him in the *Riverside* (Calif.) *Press-Enterprise* newspaper.

**Andrew Hanson, '63**, now a professor of education at California State University, Chico and a member of Grace Connection, runs an interesting blog at [adventistperspective.blogspot.com](http://adventistperspective.blogspot.com) in which he provides informative, enlightening, and humorous comment about most anything under the sun. "I don't have an advisory group or an editorial board (for the blog), although friends donate their time and give me advice from time to time," notes Andy.

**Clarita F. (Kaufman) Burden, '69**, was inducted in June into the Washington State Music Teachers Association Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place during the state conference of the association in Bremerton, Wash. Clarita has taught music in Washington, Southern California, Maryland, Puerto Rico and Washington. Although she retired from teaching private lessons four years ago, Clarita stays active in the Lewis County Music Teachers Association, which she helped revitalize in the late 1970s.

**Lawrence Geraty, '62**, recently retired president of La Sierra University, has since his retirement renewed his long-time scholarly work in archaeology. The former director of a series of major archaeological expeditions to the Middle East, Larry joined an archaeological dig in Jordon during the summer of 2008.

**Dwayne and Janet (Brown) Toppenberg, both '66**, now live in Campbellsville, Ky. Dwayne is a retired Adventist pastor and keeps busy preaching the "Good News." He completed, with Janet's organ-playing contributions, a successful evangelism series late in 2007.

**D. Reid McCrary, '67**, and his wife **Marilyn (Raber), '66**, retired from careers in teaching and now make their home in the hills of Orofino, Idaho. Recently, in an Adventist World article called "Preparing to Grow Apples," Reid shared their experience in selecting apple trees for their property and how the selection process compares with the wide variety of choices God offers.

### 1970

**Dawn (Lindquist) Holbrook, '79**, and her husband, Tim, are now leading Adventist Frontier Missions projects in Southeast Asia. Their address is [timholbrook42@hotmail.com](mailto:timholbrook42@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 1401, Collegedale, TN 37315.

**Daniel Bates Jr., '76**, and his wife, Judith, of Livingston, Tex., left their home in February of 2008 to begin Adventist Volunteer Service as English language and religion teachers at the Adventist Language Schools in South Korea.

**Teryl Loeffler, '75**, is now overseeing the operation of the Adventist schools of the Hawaii Conference. Teryl's home is in Kailua, Hawaii.

**Roscoe J. Howard III, '78**, who has been serving as secretary of the North American Division, has recently been named president of the Mid-America Union Conference, an administrative oversight organization of some 60,000 members. Earlier Roscoe was vice president of the Mid-America Union and also served in Africa, Canada, England, Jamaica, Korea, the Philippines, and throughout the U.S. Currently he is a candidate in the Doctor of Ministry program of Fuller Theological Seminary.

**Leonda (Stickney) George, '79**, and her husband, **Kent, '81**, have been church planting with Adventist Frontier Missions among the Palawano people of Palawan in the Philippines since 1995. Leonda's address is 5305 Brookes Point, Palawan, Philippines.

### 1980

The promotion of **Loree K. Sutton, '81**, to the rank of brigadier general of the United States Army was held at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., on May 9, 2008. Sutton is director of the U.S. military's Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury and is a special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). A much decorated officer, Sutton has had a broad range of medical military. She was also president of her PUC graduating class and a 2003 Honored Alumna.

**Joe L. Pimental, '85**, and his wife, Karina, now operate The Silverado Group Int'l LLC in Vernon, Vt., an executive search firm to the health care industry. A division of the group places interim leaders into health care roles. The Silverado Group was recently named a member of the Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries organization.

**Edward Fergusson, '80**, is assistant to the president of the Northern California Conference. In that capacity he is in charge of pastoral placement and event planning, is





**Terry Bork, '82**



**Heather Lynne (Osborn) Ng, '01**

a representative to the Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries organization, and handles a host of other duties. Edward and his wife, Ann, have twin sons, Joseph and Michael, both of whom are seniors at PUC. Edward recently led a 15-member group to Mozambique, Africa, to build a Maranatha church and provide medical care.

**Terry Bork, '82**, is now a judge in the Los Angeles County (Calif.) Superior Court. The *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, a legal newspaper, quotes the praise of attorneys who appear before Terry in trials. Their remarks include these: "'He's one of the most learned judges I've been in front of,' said La Habra criminal defense attorney Felipe I. Plascencia. 'He's extremely professional, courteous, polite,' Deputy District Attorney Diana M. Weiss said. 'He knows what he's talking about . . . I wish every judge was like him.'" Terry was sworn in as a superior court judge in August of 2007 by PUC classmate **Harold Hopp, '83**, a judge in the Riverside County (Calif.) Superior Court.

## 1990

**Greg, '91**, and **Sheri (Williams), '92, Fayard** now live in Roseville, Calif., where Greg is an attorney for a civil litigation firm. Earlier Greg was a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice after graduating from the McGeorge School of Law and gaining a master's in political science from the University of Utah. Sheri, who earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Loma Linda University, has been in nursing service with the Pediatric Services of America in Sacramento, Calif. The parents of three children, Gil, 9; Natalie, 7; and Gwen, 5; Greg and Sheri are active members of the Carmichael (Calif.) Adventist Church.

**Dona L. Dunbar, '91, '97**, has recently been named teacher and principal of the one-room Willits (Calif.) Adventist School. A one-room-school veteran of more than 10 years, Dona has moved to the 20-year-old Willits school from the Napa Valley. She is listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers for 1998, 2005, and 2007.

**Joey Freitas, '95**, whose home is in Captain Cook, Hawaii, is now the principal of the Kona (Hawaii) Adventist Christian School.

**Monte, '93**, and **Danika (Lassman), '96, Bischoff**, are the owners and operators of Payroll Specialties Inc. of Medford, Ore., a full-service payroll processing company. The founding and growth of the Bischoffs' firm is profiled in a recent issue of Medford's *Mail Tribune* newspaper. Previous to starting their business firm, Monte was employed by the First Interstate Bank in Medford, while Danika was doing advertising and public relations work.

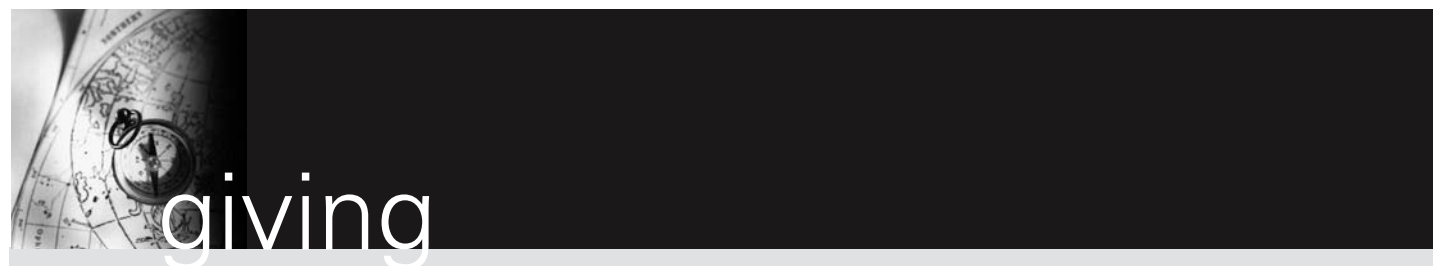
## 2000

**Richard Sung Hoon Lim, '06**, left his home in Loma Linda, Calif., in March of 2008 to serve in the Adventist Volunteer Service as an English language and religion teacher at the Adventist Language Schools in South Korea.

**Heather Lynne (Osborn) Ng, '01**, recently graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law. The daughter of PUC president Richard Osborn and PUC Church family pastor Norma Osborn, Heather gave birth to baby Ainsley in October 2007 while she was pursuing her law studies. Norma sewed a tiny, complete graduation gown and hat, and on graduation day Heather received her degree with fully-robed Ainsley in her arms. USF President Stephen Privett reached across to Ainsley's hat and moved its tiny tassel from one side to the other, to the joyful applause of the audience. Heather also received special recognition for being editor-in-chief of USF's *Intellectual Property Law Bulletin*.

The Colusa (Calif.) County *Sun Herald* gave a helpful fund-raising boost by way of publicity to a mission trip of **Adel (Arrabito) Torres, '03**, in June of 2008 to Rusinga Island in Kenya, East Africa. During her stay on the Island, Adel planned to help in the feeding of children orphaned by AIDS, building a water system infrastructure, and working in a medical clinic. Adel is the wife of **Jose Torres, '06**, who is pastor of the Corning, Orland & Willows Adventist churches.

In Adventist Volunteer Service, **Leticia (Dumpson) Bryan, '03**, and her husband Tyrone, left their home in Richmond, Calif., for South Korea on February 24, 2008. In Korea they are teaching the English language and religion classes at the Adventist Language Schools.



## A Tale of Two IRAs By Karen Roth

PUC President Richard Osborn's parents, Robert and Evelyn Osborn, had been church workers all their lives, serving in the mission field and at the conference level. As associate treasurer of the General Conference, Robert was responsible for investing millions of dollars of funds. He also played a key role in establishing many of the General Conference Trust Services policies that are still followed today. Richard recalls, "My parents were always very open about their estate plan and included their children in all of their decisions regarding the disposition of their estate. All of their documents were signed and in order." So when Robert and Evelyn passed away, it was a surprise for Richard and his brother to discover that there were two Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) that would pass outside of their parents' trust. He and Ken had been named as direct beneficiaries. Their parents' intentions were good, but Richard and Ken had a problem.

Since the IRAs passed directly to Richard and Ken, they were not required to divide the funds with any of the beneficiaries named in the trust. However, they wanted to honor their

parents' wishes and made the decision to divide the funds according to the trust's guidelines. This meant cashing out the IRAs, but they soon discovered that this presented its own problem. If they cashed out the IRAs, the withdrawals would be included on their tax returns as income along with their wages. As a result they would be bumped up into a higher tax bracket. Thankfully, there is a provision in the law to keep the IRAs and stretch the withdrawals out over the heir's lifetime, but this would mean the grandchildren and the church would have to wait for their portion.

After speaking with Eckhard Hubin in PUC's Estate Planning Office and with financial counselors, Richard and Ken found a solution that helped to lessen their income tax liability and still honor Robert and Evelyn's original wishes.

What could have been done differently? There are some very good ways to pass IRAs to family that can minimize the income tax liability. If you'd like more information, please feel free to contact us at the Estate Planning Office. We'll be happy to talk with you. **VP**

Estate Planning Office | (707)-965-6596 | [www.pucestateplanning.org](http://www.pucestateplanning.org)





# obituaries

COMPILED BY HERBERT FORD

## Former Administration, Faculty and Staff

**Charlotte Louise Cassell**, a former PUC “first lady” as the wife of John W. Cassell Jr., PUC’s president from 1972 to 1983, died April 28, 2008, in Colton, Calif. She was born on April 16, 1928, in Strasburg, Va. She worked as a registered nurse for 40 years at hospitals in Maryland, Michigan, Tennessee and California, and retired in 1996 from Redlands (Calif.) Community Hospital where she was a medical/surgical nurse. Charlotte is survived by her husband, John W. Cassell Jr.; a daughter, Jan Mitsch; a son, Jon; four grandchildren; and a brother, Bill Carper.

**Audrey B. (Beekman) Wargo, ’66**, who was an instructor of music at PUC from 1959 to 1970, died March 29, 2008, in Redding, Calif. She was born December 31, 1915, in Washington, D.C. Audrey was the wife of George Wargo, a faculty member of PUC’s music department from 1959 to 1973. Audrey is survived by a son, Paul; and two grandchildren.

## Alumni

**Richard Bernal, ’75**, an Adventist minister, died November 17, 2007, in Garden City, Kan. He was born on January 25, 1950, in Fresno, Calif. Richard served as a pastor in the California, Texas, Idaho, Alaska, and Kansas-Nebraska conferences. He is survived by his wife, Milagros; two daughters, Sara and Michelle; a son, Jonathan; and one grandchild.

**June (Thorpe) Blue, ’47**, a retired elementary school teacher who made her home in Collegedale, Tenn., died on February 20, 2008. She was born on June 5, 1921. June is survived by her husband, Clarence W.; two daughters, Janette, and Patricia Ann Schaffer; and a son, Clarence D.

**Karen L. (Krooskos) Bowers, ’75**, a diet consultant, died on February 3, 2008, in Spring Valley, Calif. She was born on September 10, 1952, in National City, Calif. Karen is survived by her husband, Larry; a son, Nicholas; a daughter, Lauren; and foster sons Brandon and Josh Bernard.

**Margaret I. (Jolin) Campbell, ’41**, a retired accountant, died December 12, 2007, in College Place, Wash. She was born on February 26, 1911. Margaret is survived by her daughter, Voncille Flemmer.

**R. Patrick Cochran, ’76**, a painter and owner of PC Productions, died Sunday, June 15, 2008, at his home in Angwin, Calif. Pat was born on June 9, 1952, in Oakland, Calif. With an interest in child and youth education, natural science, and music, and an active participant in chorales and choruses, Pat was a consistently helpful member of the PUC Church. He is survived by his mother, Geraldine, ’44; a sister, Peggy Voegele, ’79; and a brother, Michael.

**Janet (Montgomery) Deckard, ’86**, a retired nurse, died May 10, 2008, in Modesto, Calif. She was born on August 20, 1947, in Modesto. Janet is survived by her sons, Brent and Tyler; and five grandchildren.

**William (Bill) Dounies Jr., ’69**, a retired laboratory technician, died January 30, 2008, in Exeter, Calif. He was born on February 2, 1946, in Bakersfield, Calif. Bill worked for the Kaweah Delta District Hospital and for the Sierra View District Hospital until his retirement in 2007.

**Russell A. Dunn, ’39**, a physician who lived in Meridian, Miss., died on April 19, 2007. He is survived by a daughter, Marilyn Nicholson.

**Oliver Q. Foust, ’48**, an estate planner and tax consultant, died on October 9, 2007, in Carmichael, Calif. He was born on May 11, 1922, in Rosser, Tenn. Oliver’s wife, Tillie, died April 6, 2008. Oliver and Tillie were long-time supporters of education and of PUC. They established the Anabelle Dennis Education Foundation Trust to benefit worthy students at Sacramento Adventist Academy and PUC.

**Nancy Darlene (McCluskey) Gaede, ’63, ’67**, died on May 16, 2008, in Stockton, Calif. She was born on October 10, 1941, in Stroud, Okla. After working for 30 years as an administrative secretary, Nancy became co-owner of two print shops until her retirement. She is survived by her daughter, Pam Nickels; a son, Randall; and five grandchildren.

**Julianne (Weaver) Hanscom, SHSHSN ’50**, a retired nurse who lived in Fletcher, N.C., died on June 28, 2007. She was born on September 16, 1920. Julianne is survived by her husband, Alfred; a daughter, Carol; and three sons, Alan, David and Robert.

**Florence (Nagel) Winton Longway Fisher Howlett, ’31, ’33**, died July 22, 2008, at her home in Angwin. Born on October 16, 1910, in Macau, China, to missionary parents, Florence taught at White Memorial Hospital. She served as an Adventist medical missionary in Thailand, helped in the establishment and administration of the Saigon Adventist Hospital, and with her husband Ezra Longway, served for 15 years in the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital. After age 90, Florence authored two books. She is survived by her husband, Rolland Howlett; her brother, Sherman Nagel; a daughter, Mary Dunn; a son, William Winton; step-daughters Pat O’Neil and Louis Driver; three grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Florence was married to four Adventist missionary husbands and is survived by a host of step-descendants of these marriages.

**Ronald William Jarrett, ’89**, died January 15, 2008, in Nampa, Idaho. After Ron’s graduation from PUC, the Jarretts moved to Caldwell, Idaho, where Ron worked as a cab driver and salesman. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Shirley Jarrett, and two sisters, Barbara Bryan and Sharon Klatt. He is survived by two brothers, Richard and David; two sons, James and Tony; and six grandchildren.

**Georgia (Perrin) Kuhlman, SHSHSN ’43, ’46, ’48**, a retired nurse who lived in Stockton, Calif., died

## Edna Mae (Fong) Chung: Changing History



Edna Mae (Fong) Chung’s story is one of miracles, faith, and a history-making career.

The oldest of 13 children, this 1937 PUC graduate was born in Toishan, Guangdong Province, China, on November 1, 1911. When she died on January 10, 2008, in Sonoma, California, she left a life-long legacy of her

abiding faith in the providence of God.

Edna knew it was her God who saved her from drowning at age 3. In 1920, she miraculously immigrated to California as the only girl to leave her village, since the Chinese Exclusionary Laws prohibited female children from coming with their parents. Edna had no schooling in China and didn’t know any English when she came to California, but she graduated valedictorian of Sacramento High School after five grades of elementary school and three years of high school.

When Edna was two college credits away from finishing a bachelor’s degree at U.C. Berkeley, her father sent her to PUC solely because of one conversation with Mr. Beckman, an Adventist macaroni salesman whose company supplied the Fong’s family-owned grocery store in Sacramento, California. While taking her pre-med studies at PUC, Edna became the first convert to Christianity in her family, which would eventually grow to twelve brothers and sisters.

Undaunted by advice that, because of her gender and race, she should not pursue a career in medicine, Edna graduated from The College of Medical Evangelists in 1942. Following a two-year internship at Los Angeles County Hospital and a residency in pediatrics at Los Angeles Childrens Hospital, Edna began her medical practice in 1948 in Sacramento and became the first practicing Chinese female physician in Sacramento’s history.

Edna spent 37 years in continuous medical practice before she retired in 1985. In spite of her many awards and recognition as a “pioneer” in her field, Edna was always quick to give her God the credit for His leading and providences. Her life-long prayer, that other members of her family would know the God she had met on “the mountain,” is being fulfilled. Over 30 of her family members have studied and graduated from PUC — all from that one conversation her father had with that Adventist salesman.

Edna is survived by her sons, Richard and Ronald, ’70; her daughter, Rebecca Strickland; and seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



June 6, 2008. She was born on August 9, 1924. Georgia is survived by two daughters, Susan, and Sharon Miller; and four sons, Howard, Lawrence, Mark and Wayne.

**Roma Rosalee Thatcher Nelson Lewis, SHSHSN '37**, who was a retired registered nurse and made her home in St. Helena, Calif., died on May 24, 2008. She was born on October 9, 1915, in Upland, Calif.

**Larry R. Owens, '50**, a retired dentist, died June 25, 2008, in Sacramento, Calif. He was born in Fresno, Calif., on December 18, 1926. A veteran of post-World War II military service, Larry graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Stockton, Calif., after completing his undergraduate education at PUC. He practiced dentistry in Sacramento for 43 years. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; sons David and Cy; a daughter, Nancy Sterling; nine grandchildren; a sister, Rae Hopkins; and a brother, Lloyd.

**John H. Proctor, '57**, who was a business owner in cardiovascular research and lived in St. Petersburg, Fla., died in Jacksonville, Fla., on June 19, 2008. He was born on January 4, 1929.

**Ethel (Emery) Rasmussen, SHSHSN' 32**, who was a retired registered nurse and lived in Portland, Ore., died April 5, 2008. She was born on December 14, 1907.

**Leonard R. Reavis, '33**, a retired draftsman who had lived in Cupertino, Calif., died July 12, 2008 in Sunnyvale, Calif. He was born on July 20, 1915. Leonard is survived by his daughter, Judy Claire Davidson; and two grandsons.

**V. Florance Sackett, '53**, who worked before her retirement in the accounting department of the Central California Conference, died February 23, 2008. Florence was born on October 10, 1917.

**Melvin D. Starr, att. '42**, who was a registered nurse and for 18 years served as an Adventist literature evangelist, died November 29, 2007, in Waco, Texas. He was born on June 20, 1904, in Woodward, Okla. Melvin is survived by three sons, Don, Merlin and Nathan; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Dennis Stribling, '81**, who lived in Paradise, Calif., died June 10, 2008. He was born on March 14, 1956. From 1983 until 1987, Dennis served in the United States Navy and was on duty in Japan, Hawaii, India and Diego Garcia. He served in the Persian Gulf War aboard the U.S.S. Ranger. Dennis is survived by his parents, Elverna and Mildred Stribling; sisters, Ann Thomas and Verna Sarumi; and a brother, Michael.

**Ray Turner, SHSHSN '35**, a member of the original King's Heralds Quartet, died on May 15, 2008, in Killeen, Texas. Born in 1909, Ray, a bass singer, began harmonizing with Louis, Waldo and Wesley Crane, all SHSHSN '34, while they were students at Southwestern Junior College (now Southwestern Adventist University), calling themselves the Lone Star Four Quartet. In 1936, H.M.S. Richards, founder of the Voice of Prophecy, asked the group to join his evangelism and radio team. Ray sang with the group, re-named the King's Heralds, until 1947, and also directed Voice of Prophecy live broadcasts. Ray is survived by his wife, Ouida; two daughters, Bonnie and Arlene; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Enid (Thompson) Van Asperen, '42**, a retired elementary school teacher, died January 12, 2008, in Jackson, Calif. She was born on August 24, 1916, in Buckley, Wash. Survivors include a daughter, Sharon Wheeler; a son, Tom Van Asperen, att. '76; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Ronald C. Wiggins, '65**, died March 22, 2008, in Philadelphia, Pa. He was born in San Francisco, Calif., on January 25, 1943. During his professional career he worked for White Memorial Medical Center, Florida Conference, Adventist Media Center, Florida Hospital, and private firms in health care and long-term care industries. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Claudia (Green), '65; daughter Tara; sons Ryan and Jonathan; his brothers, Don, Curtis, and Richard; sisters Marlyn and Charlyn; his father, Finis; and one grandchild.

**Kenneth Alvin Wickersham, '62**, a retired educator, died at his home in Homewood, Calif., on June 22, 2008. He was born on August 18, 1924, in Springfield, Mo. A veteran of World War

II military service, Kenneth and his wife lived in Houston, Texas, before completing his college education at PUC. He served in educational administration for the Arizona Conference. Kenneth is survived by his wife, Natalie; a daughter, Jeanette; and a son, Ron.

**Kenneth H. Wood, '38**, a former editor of the *Adventist Review* and chairman of the board of the Ellen G. White Estate, died May 25, 2008, in Takoma Park, Md., only two months after the death of his wife, Miriam. He was born in Shanghai, China, November 5, 1917, and was a 1975 PUC Honored Alumnus. After assisting in evangelistic meetings in Central California, Kenneth and Miriam served in pastoral ministry in West Virginia and Ohio and took up administrative duties in the Columbia Union Conference. In 1955, he joined the staff of the *Adventist Review* and was its editor from 1966 until his retirement in 1982. Kenneth was chairman of the Ellen G. White Estate from 1980 until his death. He was the author of two books, and co-author with his wife of the book *His Initials Were F.D.N.* Kenneth is survived by two daughters, Carole Xander and Janet Stoehr; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Janet Chalmers.

**Miriam G. (Brown) Wood, '38**, a teacher and writer, died on March 16, 2008, in Silver Spring, Md. She was born on November 10, 1918, in Atlanta, Ga. The wife of *Adventist Review* editor Kenneth H. Wood, Miriam was a teacher and a 31-year columnist for the *Adventist Review*. Miriam was also the author of 16 books, including a 1977 biography of U.S.

Congressman Jerry L. Pettis, '38. Samples of her columns may be accessed at [www.adventistreview.org](http://www.adventistreview.org). In 1988, Miriam was a PUC Honored Alumna. At the time of her death, Miriam was survived by her husband, Kenneth; two daughters, Janet Stoehr and Carole Xander; a half-brother; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

### Updated Obituaries

**F. Ronald Jessen, '57, '79**, an ordained minister who worked for the Southern California Conference for 18 years prior to retirement, passed away on August 22, 2007, in Sherman Oaks, Calif. He was born on December 3, 1934 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He is survived by his wife, Marin; a son, Jeffrey; a daughter, Suzanne Taylor; a step-daughter; and a grandson. He was preceded in death by his wife Maryan.

#### Our condolences to families and friends

This section is our opportunity to honor and remember fellow alumni. We receive information from a variety of sources, and it may not always be complete. If you are a family member with information on an incomplete obituary, please feel free to contact us. Please also note that we edit all obituaries for length and standard wording.

707-965-6303 | [viewpoint@puc.edu](mailto:viewpoint@puc.edu)

## Commemorative Gifts



**Randall R. Butler, Friend**  
Bob and Teresa Fletcher

**Herbert M. Westphal, '27**  
Earline Miller

**Lawrence R. Winn, '63**  
Lawrence and Arleen Downing

**Lauralee (Trainor) Scheideman, '65**  
Lawrence and Arleen Downing

**Albert S. Whiting, '54**  
Jack E. Bynum

**Evabelle Winning, '40**  
Beverly J. Lorenz





# announcements

## Births:

**Lachlan James Snook**, son of Shelley Peterson, '90, and Jim Snook, '97, of Oakland, Ore. Born: 10-10-07. **(1)**

**Joshua Raymond Copithorne**, son of Carrie (Koger), '99, '00, and Mike Copithorne, '02, of Napa, Calif. Born: 11-9-07. **(2)**

**Micah Dean Branin**, son of Camile (Meeks), '96, and Rhett Branin of Temecula, Calif. Born: 1-26-08. **(3)**

**Ryan Richard Wimer**, son of Heather (Toelke), '01, and Gary Wimer, att. '01, of Walla Walla, Wash. Born: 3-27-08. **(4)**

**Steven Patrick Shaw**, son of Mary (Tostenson), '99, and Tim Shaw, of Fairfield, Calif. Born: 5-17-08. **(5)**

**Stephen Mishael Tasker**, son of Janel (Klinger), '04, and Nathan Tasker, former faculty, of Port Augusta, South Australia. Born: 6-25-08. **(6)**



## Weddings:

**Stacey Guffey**, '05, and Casey Smith in Camp Pendleton, Calif. 4-6-08. **(1)**

**Allison Rusch**, '04, and **Jeremy Hanson**, '97, in Napa, Calif. 7-6-08. **(2)**



Have a birth or wedding announcement? Send your good news to [ViewPoint@puc.edu](mailto:ViewPoint@puc.edu). Be sure to include a photo.

# president's message



Join Our Conversation | by Richard C. Osborn

*The Sound of Music*, a favorite movie based on a Broadway musical by the same name, features Maria singing,

"Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens  
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens  
Brown paper packages tied up with strings  
These are a few of my favorite things."

During their years at PUC, students get asked in several formal surveys about their favorite things. Once again, as in every survey we have done for many years, the class of 2008 praised the faculty as their favorite thing about PUC. Eighty-eight percent evaluated faculty teaching as "excellent" or "good," and amazingly not a single student rated them as fair or poor. Eighty-eight percent evaluated the personal contact with faculty as "excellent" or "good." Eighty percent found the availability of faculty for advising as "excellent" or "good."

In open-ended comments on what these 2008 graduates most appreciated, you begin to get a sense of why our students feel the faculty are the best thing about PUC. Read a few:

- My heart was touched so many times by so many of the faculty. So many of them are the nicest people I've ever met \*sniff\*. I don't want to go out into the ugly world! Many times I have left a lecture feeling better about myself or encouraged to be a better person. Sometimes I wanted to hug them after a lecture! Many of the faculty bring so much insight and love into the classroom.
- They all seemed to be doing their job because they truly loved it, not for the paycheck.
- They were very open to my plans, but advised me when necessary to help me reach my goals most successfully.
- All teachers have tried to apply what they are teaching us to the "real world" and show the students that it is possible to be a strong Christian without being unintelligent or blind.
- I suppose the best thing about PUC is how the professors genuinely care for the students. Having the

opportunity to get to know the teachers personally has been a big part of enjoying my time here at PUC.

- I have been affected by several teachers that have not only challenged me by the content of the course, but challenged me to go beyond the realm of the classroom to think critically and to open my eyes.
- The teachers created life-long relationships with us.
- The love I received from the PUC faculty. I always felt that they truly cared about me!
- I have appreciated the passion many of my professors have for teaching here. I can tell that they care deeply for their students. My academic advisors have become mentors in my life and have gone beyond just advising me academically.

This issue of *ViewPoint* focuses on the importance of our faculty in the lives of our alumni which began in similar relationships described by our most recent graduates. The faculty help make a small Christian college one of the most important assets of our Church and our country.

Maria concludes by singing,

"When the dog bites  
When the bee stings  
When I'm feeling sad  
I simply remember my favorite things  
And then I don't feel so bad."

And so it is for our graduates. When you are down or when you're up, you can think of the loving care you received from your professors. You may even be able to call some of them or send an e-mail and get the same kind of encouragement and prayer you received when you were a student.



# OUR NEW FACE ONLINE

The web has become one of the foremost places people meet and connect with a college. That's one reason we've launched a rebuilt, redesigned, and renewed Pacific Union College website with a host of new features and capabilities.



- News, announcements, and calendar events are constantly updated to reflect the latest campus happenings and schedules.
- User portals build the campus's online community by allowing different sets of users to get their most-used resources in one handy place and to share information with each other.
- Fun features show up in a variety of places, including faculty, student, and ministry profiles, monthly devotionals, recordings of many of our campus programs, and photo galleries of recent campus events.
- An enrollment page gives new and prospective students an easy way to gather information and figure out what they need to do next.
- "About PUC" features everything from the school song to contacts for our leaders.
- You can view the most recent *ViewPoint* or peruse the archives on the Public Relations page.

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