



# ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE SUMMER 2011

## HOMECOMING 2011

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top honor 04

Celebrating our  
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Commencement  
weekend 14

# president's message



*"I couldn't help but reflect that Commencement and Homecoming are a part of the same miraculous cycle."*

## The Wonderful Seasons of Life

Spring quarter at Pacific Union College is a wonderful time, and not just because the glorious Napa Valley is in full bloom. During this season, two very special events at PUC bring to mind just how amazing are the seasons of life.

Academically, it's a quarter filled with bubbling activity as students celebrate the coming of summer and the winding down of another school year. From student art exhibitions to senior thesis presentations to theater performances and music concerts, the campus is truly alive with energy and anticipation.

In the midst of that crackling energy, hundreds of PUC alumni returned to campus for Homecoming Weekend in April to recapture a sense of this exuberant college life. Old friends from as far back as 1941 made the trip to reunite in a place that has become a second home—their college on the hill. It was also a pleasure to meet many of our younger alums, the forty-somethings, who are often too busy in their particular stage of life to return to Homecoming Weekend. But there they were, full of energy and happy to see old friends and to be back in the beautiful Napa Valley!

Just a few short weeks later, the other important spring event took place at PUC. On the second weekend of June, we said farewell to 314 seniors at the PUC's 124th Commencement. Over the weekend, families flooded the church, chapel, and campus mall, celebrating their students and the culmination of their hard work. Several academic departments held special ceremonies to mark their graduates' transition into careers of service, and the weekend was filled with beauty, music, worship, and above all, jubilation.

On Sunday morning, students—clad in robes, mortarboards, and stacks of leis—marched down Commencement Grove to the emotional strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" and the cheers of their families and friends. Surrounded by the excitement, school pride, and warm sunshine that connected both events, I couldn't help but reflect that Commencement and Homecoming are a part of the same miraculous cycle. Those same alumni who returned to PUC in April had once been in the

seats of these joyful graduates, and someday, God willing, these graduates will return one shining spring weekend to reunite with the friends they marched proudly with in 2011.

Generation after generation, this cycle continues to reoccur not only for PUC, but also for the families who have been touched by this special institution. I think of the Johnston family from Calexico, California, for example, who celebrated not only the commencement of their daughter Loni, but also the family's collective achievement as its fourth generation graduated from PUC. During Commencement Weekend, I had the opportunity to mingle with many such families and hear stories of struggle, faith, commitment and triumph, enriching my own understanding of why the PUC experience means so much to so many people.

The thrill of completing a task as momentous as college will last each student a few days, maybe weeks. Then they will have to start over, tackling the reality of employment or graduate school, and memories of PUC life will begin to fade. But certainly, life will come full circle when a PUC Homecoming invitation comes in the mail, and those once-young graduates will be surprised to realize it's been ten, twenty, fifty years since they walked the corridors of Irwin Hall. And when they return to the hill, it is my hope that they will recapture some of the elation and joy of springtime at Pacific Union College.

Congratulations to the graduates of PUC's class of 2011!

Heather J. Knight, Ph.D.  
President

## ViewPoint

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**Vision Statement:** *ViewPoint*, the journal of Pacific Union College, connects PUC's alumni and friends in a community that celebrates the college's activities and stories, and supports the continuation of its mission into the future. *ViewPoint* aims to provide quality features about topics relevant to our community; news about the college and alumni; and means to unite, motivate and inspire.

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PUC alumni celebrate memories of life on the hill

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### On the Cover

The Diogenes Lantern flower is the symbol of PUC's Alumni Association. This delicate flower can be found in patches, growing in the

Northern California mountains and woods. The Diogenes Lantern is named after philosopher Diogenes of Sinope, who is said to have walked through ancient Greece with a lantern in search of an honest man.

# ATHLETE, SCHOLAR, AND SERVANT

## The well-rounded life of Aren Rennacker

Eirene-Gin Nakamura



EVERY SO OFTEN, A STUDENT COMES INTO A school with extraordinary talent and makes it difficult for his professors and peers to say goodbye. This year, Pacific Union College graduated a particularly outstanding student whose excellence in athletics, academics, and service has made him a virtual superman on campus.

So when Aren Rennacker was named the 2011 California Pacific Conference (Cal Pac) Male Scholar Athlete of the Year, no one on campus blinked twice.

Cal Pac Commissioner Don Ott said, "To say that I am impressed with all the nominees is a tremendous understatement. Moreover, the two individuals we are honoring have accomplished the incredible academically, athletically, and personally. They all represent the finest traits of Champions of Character, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to impact our society."

The honor is given to a student athlete who has completed their four years of athletic eligibility, displayed excellence in the classroom, exhibited the five core values of the Champions of Characters initiative, been a significant contributor to his or her own team, and has been involved in the community and on campus.

Rennacker's achievements are numerous. He just graduated summa cum laude from PUC with a degree in public relations, was named "Major of the Year" by the communication department, and was awarded the "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" award.

During his four years at PUC, Rennacker did everything humanly possible to better himself in his college experience. On top of being

## Varsity Basketball Players Honored

Each year, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the sports statistics software company Daktronics announce a list of outstanding student athletes competing in NAIA sports. In 2011, Rennacker and five other members of the Pioneer basketball teams were honored for their academic performance and participation in NAIA-eligible sports programs. The NAIA chose these students from a pool of nominees from each school, each of whom must be a junior or senior with a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Team captain **Carla Bartlett**, an exercise science, pre-physical therapy major from Banning, Calif., has played on the varsity team all three years and runs the offense of the Lady Pioneers with great leadership and ability.

While playing as a vital member of the Lady Pioneers for the past three years, **Julie Ford**, from Roseville, Calif., expects to graduate summa cum laude next year with a major in exercise science and an emphasis in teaching.

**Michael Giang** is known across campus as the linchpin of the team's defense. The junior from Loma Linda, Calif., has been an integral part of the varsity team for three years, while maintaining stellar grades as a biochemistry major.

Best known for his miraculous last-second three-pointer to put the team into playoffs in 2009, **Josh Jewett**, from Arizona, has been a part of the PUC men's basketball program for three years and is pursuing a double major in international communication and Spanish.

Redlands, Calif., native **Brent Wild** graduated cum laude from PUC this June with a B.A. in Spanish and will start the doctorate of physical therapy program at Loma Linda University this summer.

a star athlete, an accomplished student, and a head resident assistant for Grainger Hall, Rennacker found time to lead KidzReach, a campus ministry where students volunteer on a weekly basis to serve as mentors to high-risk children and teens. "I wasn't willing to sacrifice grades, basketball, or any of my commitments of service," Rennacker says, who participated in the ministry for three years. "So I prayed about it a lot, and God worked a lot of things out."

Rennacker's character has not gone unnoticed. "Aren is one of the most selfless and respectful young men I know," says Robert Castillo, PUC's athletic director. "Aside from his demanding class schedule and his unwavering commitment to the basketball program, Aren never lost sight of his mission to serve others."

This focus on stewardship led Rennacker to accept a position as a youth pastor at the Oceanside Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southern California, where he seeks to form a "strong, solid, consistent" youth group. The twenty-one-year-old will not be much older than his constituents—a fact for which his solution is to "grow a huge beard so I look really old!"



Rennacker with local children at the end of a recent mission trip in Guatemala.

Though for most of his life Rennacker dreamed of pursuing a career in sports writing, he realized after his second year of high school that he had a much greater desire to do ministry. So when Oceanside Adventist Church approached him about possibly joining their pastoral staff, Rennacker was immediately on board. "High school was when I grew most with Christ, and I know that is a pivotal time in everybody's spiritual journey," says Rennacker.

"So I certainly liked the idea of helping others do the same."

Rennacker, who was raised in Sacramento, Calif., says that the move will take a lot of adjusting. Going from being a full-time student to living on his own and paying bills as a full-time pastor in a strange new city is not an easy transition to make, even for someone like him. Rennacker points out that while everyone in Oceanside loves surfing, the "NorCal boy" is not a beach person. "All the kids love it down there, and I'm coming in, as pale as you can imagine," he jokes. "I'll learn to love it soon enough."

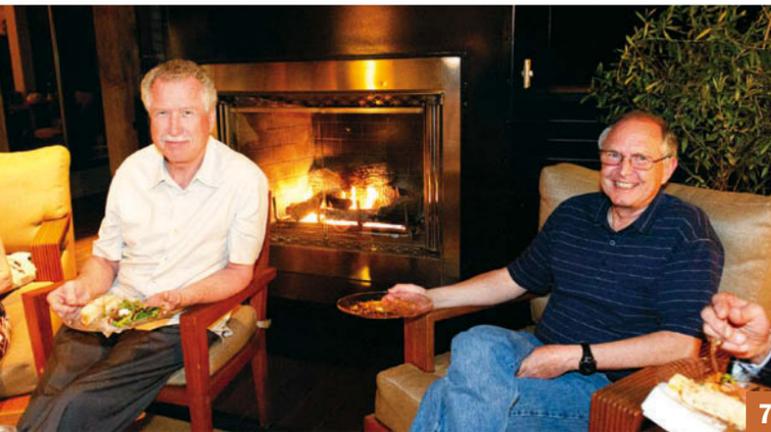
As Rennacker follows his call to ministry, he steps up to the challenge of guiding young people to Christ—a task that is trying and often discouraging. While he understands the difficulties that may lie ahead, Rennacker has faith that God will lead him through it all. "I see the incredible impact God has had in my life—literally all of my successes are traced back to finding Him," he says. "I know how faithful He will always be to me." **VP**



2011

# HOMECOMING

Bringing the Family Together  
PUC alumni celebrate memories  
of life on the hill



Scenes from Homecoming Weekend

- 1. **Steve Case, Ph.D., '79 and '80**, presents sermons at the Majestic and Gathering worship services. Case is the founder of the ministry "Involve Youth" and the author of several books.
- 2. **At the Diogenes Dinner** on Friday evening, Ruth, '42, and Lyle, '45, McCoy (far right) pose with their family and a Vernon Nye watercolor painting, a gift from the college for their years of service.

- 3. **Audrey and Wendell Wilcox, '51**, enjoy an al fresco reception for the honored classes on Saturday evening.
- 4. **Students** perform in a Sabbath afternoon music concert in Paulin Hall.
- 5. **Don Kellogg, M.D., '61**, displays a collection of landscape photographs at Rasmussen Art Gallery.

- 6. **Charles Bloom, '87, (left) and Frank Valdez, '86**, catch up at the 1985 class party at Solage Calistoga Resort.
- 7. **At a class party** about 25 members of the class of '71, including Bill Cochran (left) and Stephen Fox, enjoy a gathering at the Calistoga Ranch.

- 8. **Students and fans of Walter C. Utt** gather Sabbath afternoon in the library to discuss and preserve the late history professor's legacy at PUC.

**Previous Page:** Myron Widmer (left) and Rolando Henry shake hands for the first time since serving as senior class officers together in 1971.

View a gallery of photos from Homecoming Weekend, along with class pictures, at [www.puc.edu/homecoming-gallery](http://www.puc.edu/homecoming-gallery)

Hundreds of PUC alumni returned to the mountain for a beautiful weekend of fellowship and memories, April 15-17. The spring sunshine matched the warmth of old friends reuniting, as class members hosted parties honoring the 50-year class of 1961, the 25-year class of 1986, and the decade classes of '51, '71, '81, '91, and '01. "Life's a journey, and listening to [my classmates'] journey, and how they came to Christ, was great," says Alan Nakanishi, class of '61. "It felt so good to be there, because ... you find out what your classmates have done throughout their lifespan. There's a lot of connection there."

It was a common sentiment among attendees. Although the weekend offered a wealth of opportunities for unique worship experiences, entertainment, and reconnection with the college, the best aspect of Homecoming for many alumni was the chance to visit with old friends. It was a blessed sight, seeing groups of alumni from every generation clustered about campus, catching up, sharing stories, and talking about the many changes on campus and in life.

But despite the many ways things change, there is something that will always stay the same: the support of a loving community. "To know that there's this family, this foundation—it just give me chills," says Brigadier General Loree Sutton, M.D., '81, one of this year's honored alumni. "I'm heartened by it. It gives me strength to go back out and take on the next ... set of challenges."



## 2011 Honored Alumni

### Ruth, '42, and Lyle, '45, McCoy

At a special Diogenes Dinner during Homecoming Weekend, Pacific Union College honored alumni Ruth and Lyle McCoy for their faithful service to their community, church, and PUC. The couple's years of exemplary service seem to add up to more than two lifetimes.

The McCoy's history with PUC stretches far back to when they first met as students in 1941. As a married couple, they made Angwin their permanent home, raising four sons who also eventually went to PUC, and they have become pillars of the church and college community.

"When we came to Angwin, some of the streets weren't even named," says Lyle. "We have lived in the same house for 57 years, so you get to know the needs of the community." He served as a volunteer fireman for 55 years—15 of those as chief. He helped to establish the ambulance service and carried it on for 35 years. He has been on the election board for 30 years. Lyle held all of these positions while teaching in elementary and secondary schools and serving at the Seventh-day Adventist World Headquarters in Maryland, writing health and science textbooks, for a grand total of 30 years. "I graduated 23 eighth-grade classes," Lyle states proudly.

Ruth has worked outside the home as well, while they put four sons through Adventist schools, including PUC. "I also put out the Angwin Directory for 33 years and helped Lyle with all of his projects," says Ruth. "Now we are blessed with nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. It's been a good life. God has been good to us."

Throughout all this, Lyle and Ruth are some of the most consistent PUC supporters as members of the President's Circle.

Now nearing their nineties, the McCoy's are more passionate about service than ever, and they offer young people the following advice:

"Pray to the Lord to put you where you can serve... Make service an important part of your life," says Lyle.

Ruth adds, "Volunteer as much as you can. Make yourself available to what the community needs and be helpful to older people."

### Loree Sutton, M.D., '81

With a long history of dedication to the members of the United States military and their families, Brigadier General Loree Sutton has lived a life of selfless service and considers it her privilege to have spent her career serving the needs of others.

After graduating from Pacific Union College in 1981 and from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1985, Sutton joined the Army where she, through her service, could marry the interests of mind, body, spirit, and health. She was immediately sent to Egypt for a peacekeeping tour, then to Germany with the 1st armored division when the Berlin Wall came down, and was deployed soon after during the first Gulf War. "After this combat experience and peacekeeping experience, I just felt called knowing the sacrifices our troops and their families make," Sutton says. "There is no greater privilege than to serve and to support and to thank the troops and their families for their service."

Sutton spent her career working to address the needs of soldiers and their emotional and mental health. Until her retirement from the service last year, Sutton's leadership extended to a wide variety of areas including public pol-

icy, education, transmedia strategic communications, and combat and peacekeeping.

With this conviction, Sutton designed, organized, and led the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury as the Army's ranking psychiatrist. Thanks to Sutton's efforts, the Department of Defense now has six directorates and six component centers working to treat, rehabilitate, and reintegrate soldiers with post-traumatic stress or other mental injuries acquired in combat.

Sutton's extensive list of accomplishments encompass a span of more than 20 years in the Army, and include numerous awards and honors and an impressive résumé of positions held. Among these are the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star, and the order of Military Medical Merit.

Sutton has held numerous leadership and high-level advisory positions in the duration of her career, including commander of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood, Texas; special assistant to the Army surgeon general; deputy commander for clinical services at General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital; and White House Fellow.

For her outstanding contributions to the service, distinguished professional achievement, and tireless commitment to helping those in need, Sutton was the obvious choice to be named the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus. "When you go out and you're leading change in the world, it's not a journey that's for the faint of heart, so you know that there's this foundation, this family, and it gets me pumped to go out there and take on the next set of challenges," Sutton says. "I really couldn't feel more privileged to be honored."

### Calvin Kim, D.D.S., att. '92-'95

Calvin Kim is a dentist by trade, working three and a half days a week at his own practice in the Seattle, Wash., area. But his true passion is ministry.

"I really enjoy dentistry ... But after I experienced being able to be a part of changing someone's life, it doesn't compare. And as much as I enjoy being able to save someone's mouth—saving a life versus restoring someone's teeth—there's just no comparison," says Kim.

Kim didn't always feel this way. While in dental school, Kim says he was "swept away by the world," living an excessive lifestyle, partying and experimenting with drugs. His life began to spiral out of control.

But a few years down this destructive path, Kim had a conversion experience that opened his eyes to the damage he was doing to himself, as well as his potential for service to God and others. While at a rave, God suddenly made clear to Kim that he must choose between the way of God and a lifestyle led by Satan.

Since then, his decision to follow God has grown into a passion for interpersonal ministry. Kim has helped start a church in Washington and two urban ministries in the Seattle area. He volunteers his dental services for local outreach and has done short-term mission work in Cambodia and North Korea—one of the most powerful experiences of his life.

Kim now considers dentistry his "tent making" occupation—like the apostle Paul's part-time job, a way to support his true calling to spread the message of Christ and His soon return.

His most passionate project is ARME Bible Camps, a ministry he helped found along with

several close friends. ARME stands for Adventist Revival Movement for the End Time, and the program hosts intensive four-day camps all over the country that train believers for Bible study, prayer, and witnessing. The ministry emphasizes urgent local and worldwide evangelism in preparation for Christ's return.

"God keeps opening more and more doors," says Kim. "A lot of times, I feel like the disciples. You know, they were just fishermen. But He qualifies those He calls. I'm certainly not qualified to be doing this kind of work. But God blesses those who make themselves available, and so it's been an exciting time."

### Ray McAllister, Ph.D., '97

"I consider myself madly in love with God," says Ray McAllister, a smile lighting up his face. "When you're a fan of someone or something, you want to do everything about them. If it's the San Francisco Giants, you want all their jerseys; you want their paraphernalia on your wall. I'm that way with God."

That passion is what's driven Ray McAllister to overcome an incredible challenge and earn a Ph.D. in religion with an emphasis in Hebrew Biblical exegesis. In 2010, McAllister became the first blind student at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University to earn a doctorate in this field of study, which requires intimate knowledge of complex texts and ancient languages.

Born with the rare degenerative eye disease Peters anomaly, which claimed his sight entirely by the age of 12, McAllister persevered through education at Redwood Academy in Santa Rosa, Calif., and undergraduate study in theology at PUC. He pressed further to earn a

Master of Divinity from Andrews University.

As a doctoral student, McAllister mastered the reading of Koine Greek, Aramaic, French, German, and the dead Mesopotamian language Akkadian—for which there existed no Braille code. But his favorite study language was ancient Hebrew. "I ended up liking the Hebrew a bit more, especially because there's a beautiful Jewish culture around it," he says. "You sing it. I just had fun with it."

McAllister's dissertation tackled a very personal topic: blindness in the Old Testament, a subject largely untouched by Biblical academia. Having scanned many thousands of pages of related material, he sought and analyzed every mention of blindness in the Bible.

McAllister now serves as a professor in the Master of Christian Ministry program at Griggs University and advocates for the blind by speaking publicly as a representative of Christian Record Services. He has also worked hard to ensure greater opportunities for future blind students interested in Biblical research by developing computer programming codes for Braille translations of a variety of ancient languages. **VP**

**Photos left to right:** President Knight congratulates Kim for his accomplishments; Kim, Sutton, and McAllister are recognized as Honored Alumni on Sabbath; at Friday vespers, Sutton encourages alumni and students to live a vibrant life; the McCoy's greet friends at the Diogenes Dinner; while making origami birds, McAllister tells the Children's Story on Sabbath.

# 2011 MAXWELL SCHOLARS

## Next year's most promising freshmen

Larry Peña and Julie Z. Lee

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE HAS SELECTED THE recipients of this year's prestigious Maxwell Scholarship. The scholarship rewards incoming freshmen for high academic achievement, a commitment to Christian service, and outstanding leadership experience

with \$15,000 in annually renewable funding—\$60,000 over four years at PUC.

These students constitute the third group recognized by the Maxwell Scholar Program, which was established at PUC in 2009 to recognize the late Malcolm and Eileen Maxwell,

former president and first lady of PUC. Applicants must meet GPA and test-score requirements, and the ranking of their applications is based on resumes, essays, and letters of recommendation.

### This year's winners are:



**Tori Fode** Sacramento Adventist Academy, Carmichael, California

Tori served in student government for a number of years, including in the

office of senior class president. She also played varsity flag football, was first chair clarinet in the school concert band, and a member of the school choir and handbell choir. In addition to her academic and leadership accomplishments, Tori volunteered 75 hours at Mercy San Juan Hospital in Sacramento, independently raised \$700 for a local crisis center, and participated in a mission trip to Honduras. Tori, who also volunteers at her church, has preached at several worship programs and hosts a weekly Bible study in her home as outreach to local students.



**Aaron Jewett** Thunderbird Adventist Academy, Scottsdale, Arizona

Aaron was elected class president every year of his high school career. He was

captain of his varsity basketball and baseball teams and captain of his junior varsity basketball team. He was also a member of the school band and Drama Club. Academically, Aaron is a member of the National Honor Society and has received many awards for academic excellence. He also volunteered as a youth leader at Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he has preached and served in numerous community improvement campaigns. In 2008, Aaron was a youth division preacher in the Shawn Boonstra Evangelistic Series. In his spare time he plays on the Jewish Community Center basketball team and has participated in the Mud Madness Triathlon, Walt Disney Half Marathon, and the Christian Wakeboard Tournament.



**Melissa Khoury** Marina High School, Huntington Beach, California

Despite competing among a high school population of more than 2,900 students,

Melissa was a standout on campus. She served as Associated Student Body vice president during her senior year, was one of the homecoming queen nominees, and won second runner-up in the Miss Huntington Beach Scholarship Pageant. Melissa also was an active member of the Key Club on campus, and president of the Active Advantage Club, a group that has a major focus on the Special Olympics. Melissa is a member of the California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society, and an Athletic Scholar. Melissa has served her community in her responsibilities as Miss Huntington Beach Princess, as a certified Special Olympics coach for volleyball, and as a spokesperson for the Christian ministry organization Youth Equipped to Serve.



**Lydia Kore** Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda, California

As senior class president, Lydia Kore has been called a "driving force of change on campus." Her leadership

has influenced her class to focus on service, pushing them to plan outreach at the Ronald McDonald House, area nursing homes, and even on-campus to the underclassmen. In her free time, Lydia tutors and gives Bible studies to underprivileged children in Riverside and on the weekend participates in community service activities with her church. She has served on mission trips to Mexico, Portugal, and Kenya and volunteered at the local food bank. Lydia is actively involved in a number of campus clubs—all service-oriented—and she is a member of the varsity basketball and flag football teams. She also plays in the school brass and wind ensembles and the symphonic band. Lydia has won numerous academic achievement awards and is among the top students in her class.



**Krystal Park** Paradise Adventist Academy, Paradise, California

Krystal is a well-rounded young lady, having participated in everything from music to sports to theater.

During her senior year, Krystal was not only senior class vice president but also Associated Student Body president. Academically, Krystal is graduating at the top of her class, and she was a participant in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine at the University of California, Berkeley, in 2010. Musically gifted, Krystal sings and plays piano, clarinet, and violin. She was first chair violin in the Paradise Youth Symphony, first violin in the Paradise Symphony, and first violin in the North Valley Youth Orchestra. In addition to being the team captain of her school's varsity basketball and flag football teams, Krystal is also a member of the Paradise Piranhas, a competitive swim program, and she has participated numerous times in the Chico Wildflower Century 100-mile bike ride. Krystal comes from a mission-oriented family, and she has served on three

mission trips. She has also volunteered with Korean American Youth Ministry Movement, the Special Olympics, and the Oroville Mission Homeless Shelter.

### Semi-finalists

Semi-finalists for the Maxwell Scholarship receive \$12,000 in annually renewable funds. This year's semi-finalists are Selina Breshers from Los Angeles Adventist Academy; Christopher Helms from El Dorado Adventist Academy; Rebekah Ihn from La Crescenta Valley High School; and Sarah Hall from Fort Bragg High School. **VP**

### Chung Receives First Jimmy Ha Scholarship

The first ever recipient of the Jimmy J. Ha Endowed Scholarship was honored at the Awards Colloquy on Thursday, May 26. Danny Chung, a junior religion major, received the award for his demonstration of the love of Christ, commitment to the Adventist church, and passion for knowledge.

To present the award, scholarship founder Sonia Ha gave an inspirational message in honor of her late husband, a beloved religion professor at PUC who passed away in 2010 after battling cancer. "In the face of suffering we are here together, experiencing and encountering someone—today, particularly Danny Chung," she said. "We do this deed being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Vice president for alumni and advancement Pam Sadler introduced the award, recalling the phone call she received in 2009 from the couple saying that they wanted to begin a scholarship at Pacific Union College. "That phone call will forever remain in my mind as a poignant reminder that no matter what is happening today, we must always have the foresight to be hopeful for the future," Sadler said.

Chung was one of a number of students who were awarded scholarships at the colloquy—all of which totaled nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Many scholarships were funded by generous gifts from families of alumni and former faculty.





# LIFE COMMENCES FOR PUC GRADS

Over 300 students transition  
into the real world Larry Peña

**A**FTER FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL, ANDREW Terrado knew he had a passion for helping people and began exploring ways that he could make a living at it. On June 12, he stood at the end of that journey and the beginning of a new one, as he graduated with an associate degree in nursing from Pacific Union College.

"I feel fantastic, like I have tons of potential," Terrado says. "I feel like now my life's about to start, so here we go!"

Terrado was one of 314 graduates to receive degrees at Pacific Union College's 123rd annual Commencement program, Sunday, June 12. Of those, he was also one of 120 who graduated from the PUC's nursing program, the college's most popular major.

Waves of roaring applause followed the names of graduates echoing through Commencement Grove, PUC's traditional graduation venue located among towering evergreens at the peak of campus. The excitement was evident as students exchanged congratulations and farewells during the ceremony, and after the recessional the thunder of thousands of friends and relatives receiving their graduates could be heard far across campus.

The graduation service reflected PUC's mission as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school. Iki Taimi, pastor of the Genesis Church in Gardena, Calif., and a popular and energetic speaker within the Adventist denomination, gave the commencement address. In his speech, "Present, Active, Imperative," Taimi encouraged students to take a hands-on role in their spiritual journey. "When you leave this

place you will have a choice: Will I seek God actively?" he said. "No one can seek God for you."

In addition to the general commencement ceremony, nursing graduates had their own special recognition service Saturday evening. Don Mackintosh, a preacher and nurse with years of experience in emergency and trauma care, spoke about "Bedpans and His Plan," telling graduates that spiritual ministry was an important element of the nurse's mission of healing. "Nursing is not just about saving people's lives," he said. "It's about giving them the information—when you can—that will lead them to eternal life."

Many students are planning to continue on to graduate school, including the class's many pre-medical, pre-dental, and MBA-seeking graduates. Allie Evans graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting and was recently accepted into graduate school at Loma Linda University in Southern California. "I'm really excited to move on," she says.

But Terrado, like many others in his class, plans to seek work now that he's finished with school. "I've been contacted by a few hospitals in San Francisco and Sacramento, so I'll be following up on those," he says. In the meantime, he seems satisfied to bask in the warm sunshine of Commencement Grove and cherish his achievement. "I want to get busy, but today is a day for celebration," he says. "So I'm just going to relax and enjoy it." **VP**

# TAKING THE LORD'S LEAD

## PUC's outreach chaplain shares how he found his calling

**N**ORMAN KNIGHT, OUTREACH CHAPLAIN for Pacific Union College, is a doctor of ministry and an adjunct professor of homiletics at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. As a powerful Biblical expository preacher, he is listed in the 2006 *Who's Who In America*, as well as the 2007 *Who's Who in the World*. A member of the Academy of Homiletics and the African American Guild of Master Preachers, Knight has preached throughout the United States and worldwide in such venues as Australia, the Caribbean, Europe, Central America and Africa. But it wasn't all that long ago that he was just a young man begging God to show him what to do with his life.

Early one morning in the spring of 1986, Norman Knight stood in his office overlooking the golden shores of La Jolla, wondering what God's plan was for his life. At the time, Knight was a part-time law student, working as a senior student affairs officer for the University of California, San Diego's early outreach program, and living what he calls "La Vida Loca." Knight saw that his entire life was not going according to plan. He remembers that morning as his "rock bottom."

Knight had an epiphany, feeling impressed to "just give 100 percent of his life over to [God]." He uttered his first prayer in years, declaring, "Lord, take my life and do with it whatever you want to do with it, even if you want me to die as an example. I'm ready." He returned home that evening to find a brochure for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in his mailbox. Surprised by the brochure's delivery, Knight asked, "Lord, you want me to be a pastor?" Although he had never considered pastoral work, he reasoned, "I'm a counselor. I'm a manager. I'm a public speaker.



**Pastor Norman Knight** travels around the country preaching at churches and presenting Access to Christian Higher Education seminars for PUC.

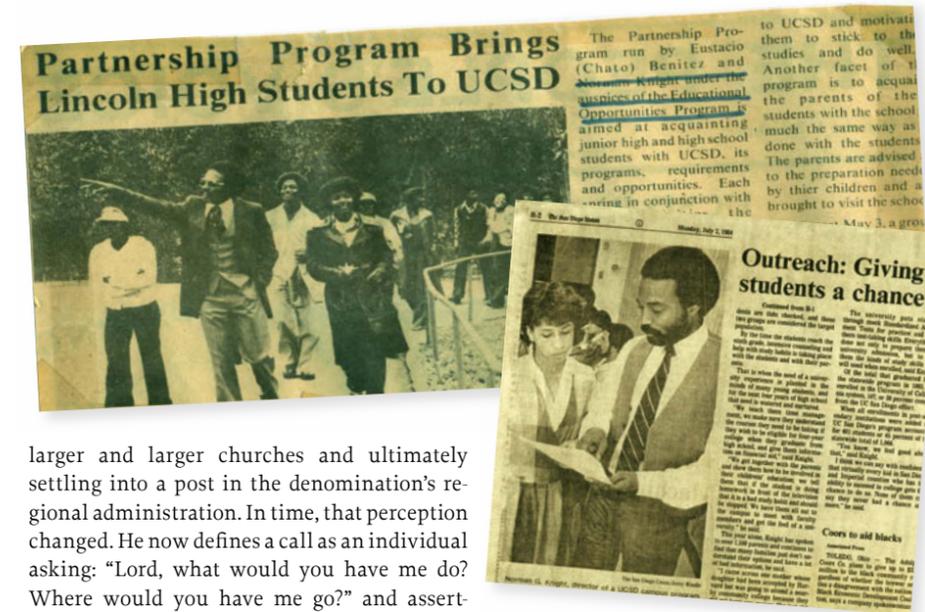
I can do that." His only hesitation related to finances.

Knight's money concerns were put to rest the next day when he received a financial brochure for the seminary, which informed him that while tuition for graduate work at Andrews University was \$160 per credit, his prospective program would cost only \$300 a quarter. He recalls, "It was like the Lord said, 'Norman, you opened your big fat mouth and said you'd do whatever—what are you going to do?'"

That experience, according to Knight, served as the dividing line between his past life and

the future. The next day he withdrew all of his retirement money and tendered his resignation from UCSD after nine years of employment. Less than two weeks later, Knight chose to be re-baptized, and two months after that he arrived at Andrews University. The next year, his class elected him president of the seminary student body, and today, 23 years and 1,000 baptisms later, he says, "It's what I should have been doing all along. I love what I do."

Initially Knight "bought into" an understanding of a call to ministry as a career path—a goal of pastoring a small church, moving to



larger and larger churches and ultimately settling into a post in the denomination's regional administration. In time, that perception changed. He now defines a call as an individual asking: "Lord, what would you have me do? Where would you have me go?" and asserting, "Whatever you'd have me do, that's what I want to do."

"I enjoy every aspect of pastoring," Knight proclaims—and that includes preaching, counseling, visiting members and even attending board meetings. He has worked in pastoral and chaplaincy positions in churches, hospitals, colleges, police departments, and prisons. But that part of his ministry—at least at first—did not come easy.

While working as a young pastor of a church in Oakland, California, Knight ardently avoided prison ministry. "I don't want to go and preach in a prison," he would tell congregation members who repeatedly invited him to join them in their ministry to inmates. "I spent my whole life trying to stay out of prison!" After a year of saying "no," Knight decided to join his congregants, rationalizing, "Let me satisfy my members by going just once and I'll call it 'A Day in the Life.'" But after that one day, he became hooked on prison ministry.

Of the 65 men and women he has baptized in prison, Knight most vividly recalls baptizing a prisoner who faced a double-life plus 30-years sentence. "He was a big guy," Knight describes. "His muscles had muscles." The prisoner's colorful skull, dagger and teardrop tattoos also seized Knight's attention. "When I grabbed his arm to submerge him for baptism, his arm felt like steel," Knight remembers. "He wasn't getting baptized to get out of jail; he wasn't going anywhere. But, when I saw this big muscular guy with rippling muscles, crying and weeping and giving his life to Christ, [it was] a powerful, powerful, powerful experience to witness

**In 1984**, the local newspaper featured Knight and his outreach work at University of California, San Diego. The Partnership Program, as it was called, was aimed at acquainting junior high and high school students with UCSD.

the transformation that the Spirit of God can accomplish."

Additional affirmation of the importance of his chaplaincy work came one weekend while Knight attempted to visit one of his congregation members in the hospital. Knight had to walk through the emergency room in order to reach his destination because the main lobby was closed. "It took me 40 minutes to get through the emergency room because everybody was stopping me, [begging], 'Oh Pastor, would you pray for me?'" And I [realized] this is a powerful ministry!"

Starting in 2009, when his wife Heather J. Knight, Ph.D., was appointed the twenty-first president of PUC, he began working with PUC's enrollment and student services offices as the college's outreach chaplain. Traveling to various churches and academies throughout the Pacific Union, Knight is often a special guest speaker for Sabbath worship services and chapels, and he also conducts workshops on how to make higher education financially accessible—a presentation he mastered while working for UC San Diego. Already his outreach is generating powerful outcomes, as families impacted by his sermons are moved to seek a Christ-centered campus like PUC for their students. On-campus, Knight has taught

a course on the Life and Teachings of Jesus, is a regular speaker for the Fusion freshman worship program, and is the sponsor for PUC's Gospel Choir and Black Student Union.

In addition to his responsibilities at PUC, Knight is the pastor for the Philadelphian Seventh-day Adventist Church in San Francisco, where he ministers every Wednesday and several Sabbaths each month. This position is opening new doors of opportunity for PUC students to participate in ministry at what he has termed the Urban Lighthouse. Knight encourages PUC students to visit the Philadelphian Church in order to gain invaluable service learning and outreach experience preaching, sharing Sabbath School mission stories, feeding the homeless in the church's bi-monthly Community Brunch, or venturing to the notorious Tenderloin district to distribute sack lunches. Most recently, 40 PUC volunteers partnered with the Philadelphian congregation to offer community services as part of a student-led humanitarian effort.

With a background in higher education, a call to ministry, and a passion for reaching out to those in need of meeting Christ as their personal Savior, Knight is enjoying the opportunities to serve students, faculty, and staff in his new post at PUC. He is also charting new ter-



**Drs. Heather and Norman Knight**, president and outreach chaplain of PUC.

ritory as the first male presidential spouse for the campus as he and his wife work together to share the PUC story and to provide hope and opportunity to others through the vehicle of a Christian education. More importantly, he is confident that God will continue to direct his life as He did in La Jolla 25 years ago. **VP**

# collegenews



## REVO Raises \$10,000 for Argentine Village

### Money to fund community kitchen

PUC STUDENTS HELD THE COLLEGE'S FOURTH annual REVO fundraising event on the Campus Mall, Sunday, May 8. Hundreds of students braved damp weather to turn out for the charity event, contributing about \$2,500 toward feeding an impoverished population in Argentina.

The event featured performances by two student bands, as well as the San Francisco rock group I the Mighty. Students also browsed many tables of donated clothing and assorted items for sale, followed by REVO's annual second-hand fashion show. Models in the show strode the runway in fashions inspired by African tribal dress.

A new feature at this year's REVO event was the silent auction in which students bid for goods and services from PUC's staff and

faculty, including music lessons, athletic adventures, and homemade food.

"REVO couldn't exist without the students at PUC, willing to come spend their time and money," says REVO coordinator and junior nursing student Tyler McCulloch. He is one of several student organizers who plans the annual campaign.

This year's project is a community kitchen that will serve a small indigenous village in the Argentine province of Salta. Malnourishment is widespread in this community, and REVO has partnered with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to help improve the lives of the locals.

The kitchen will be self-sustaining with gardens, livestock pens, and training in crop cultivation. ADRA will do the legwork while PUC students provide the funding for

the project, which was estimated at \$10,000. With funds from this event, a charity trail run earlier this year, and a number of private donations, the students met their goal in June.

In 2008 PUC students started the first campus branch of REVO, an international philanthropy movement. The students, who are entirely responsible for the project, select a different cause each year to support with fundraising and awareness events. Hundreds of students on campus get involved each year—through planning, coordinating, event participation, or donations. Past causes have included rehabilitating the victims of human trafficking in Peru, supporting local food banks, and combating a debilitating disease rampant in Ethiopia.

## McGuire Named Educator of the Year

AT A SPECIAL COLLOQUY PROGRAM ON MAY 12, PACIFIC UNION College named the 2011 Educator of the Year: associate professor of communication Tammy McGuire.

At colloquy, a number of faculty friends and students offered a roast, paying tribute to McGuire; each praised her in every aspect, from her innate ability to engage students in the most challenging of subjects to her impossible athleticism. Roasters Elaine Neudeck, Lynne Thew, Michelle Rai and Doug Wilson left no base uncovered,



revealing everything from her love of peanut butter to her ferocious childhood temper to photographs from her days as a lanky Pathfinder. The communication department honored the woman of the hour with a video featuring messages from various family members, students, and staff, and a clip from her infamous game-tying 3-point buzzer shot at the intramurals finals.

In his tribute, PR/journalism major Aren Rennacker said that this shot, which will live on forever in a YouTube video entitled "McGuire on Fire," demonstrates "why it's even weirder that she chooses to teach us about the dynamics of leader-member exchange in an organization and the difference between t-tests and chi-squares in communication research." He added, "And not to mention, she does it really well."

Lynne Thew, a colleague in the communication department, shared her experience with the "landscape" of McGuire's spiritual life. "Thoughtful, late-night conversations with Dr. McGuire have shown me—regardless of how insignificant each one of us seems—that in God's greater plan each dot is equally vital to God's canvas of human history and salvation," Thew said. "Regardless of how ordinary you feel, how insignificant you see your contributions, without you or me God's canvas would not be complete. That is what I've learned from Dr. McGuire."

McGuire, who came to PUC in 2005, completed her undergraduate studies at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. She went on to earn an M.A. in English from Eastern Washington University and a Ph.D. in communication from the University of Missouri-Columbia. In addition to teaching a series of major classes in the communication department as well as courses in the Honors Program curriculum, McGuire is a prolific researcher who has presented her studies on communication, linguistics, religion, and feminism at several national communication conferences.

## Cortes Joins PUC as Campus Chaplain



PASTOR LAFFIT CORTES HAS accepted the position of Pacific Union College campus chaplain and associate pastor of the PUC Church, and began the new post effective July 1.

"I hope to collaborate with others as we develop future servant leaders that will not only love God, but live lives dedicated to serving as Christ did," he says. "By God's grace, He will use us to raise an army of youth ... that will live the

message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior."

Cortes previously served as the youth director for the New Jersey Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and he comes with a wealth of outreach and young adult ministry experience that makes him an ideal fit for the position. As youth director, Cortes coordinated ministry events and programs for young people within the 13,000-member New Jersey Seventh-day Adventist community. He has also been a featured speaker at a variety of programs for young people within New Jersey and across the country.

Cortes began laying the groundwork for his ministry at PUC April 7-15, when he met with student leaders and administrators on campus to begin planning for the 2011-2012 school year. He also led PUC's Friday night vespers service that week and took the opportunity to meet and greet the campus, April 8, at a special program for PUC students.

Incoming Student Association religious vice president Wally Peralta will work closely with Cortes in his ministry next year, and the two met to discuss plans and strategies to enhance spiritual life opportunities on campus. "I think he's a guy that takes action. As soon as I met him he wanted to get down to business," says Peralta. "Next year will definitely be a blessing."

Tentative plans include a recurring Friday night program that will engage a diverse group of panelists with the student body on a variety of spiritual issues. Cortes and Peralta plan to delve into even controversial, hot button issues as they encourage students to take an investigative look at their faith.

Cortes will travel to Angwin with his wife Lynda, an occupational therapist, and his children Raylyn and Caleb, in seventh and fifth grades, who will finish this school year before transitioning to their new home in July.

Cortes replaces interim chaplain Tyler Kraft, who has been serving the campus since January. Former chaplain Roy Ice, who had been PUC's chaplain for five years, accepted a call in January to be the executive pastor of the Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## Congressman Praises PUC-Comcast Partnership



DURING A SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT ANGIN'S 2011 FLEA MARKET AND Car Show on May 22, Congressman Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena) congratulated Angwin on the expansion of broadband technology to the community, thanks to a partnership between Pacific Union College and Comcast. Last fall, the college worked with Comcast to update the campus telecommunications network with a fiber-optic infrastructure. The move increased PUC's bandwidth by 1,000 percent and also allowed Comcast to expand its services into Angwin, where communication and entertainment services have been limited.

"This is a partnership that is going to pay dividends for the entire community," said Thompson, listing the number of educational online programs that can benefit school-age children, businesses, and families. "The amount of information that is at our fingertips is truly awesome, and so much is available because of the expansion of broadband."

The program also welcomed Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon, who commended Comcast and PUC and called it a "step forward" for PUC and the community. Heather Knight, president of PUC, also spoke at the event along with Tom Bartee, district director for 7th District Assemblyman Michael Allen; and Paul Gibson, East Bay area vice president for Comcast.

## PUC Releases New iPhone App

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE LAUNCHED ITS OWN APPLICATION FOR IPHONES and other iOS-enabled devices. The new application, PUC Mobile, will keep students connected easily and efficiently, on and off campus. PUC Mobile is now available for free download at the iTunes App Store.

Features on the app include quick access to college news updates and photo galleries; a schedule of upcoming campus events; a real time menu for PUC's Dining Commons; a phone and e-mail directory that initiates contact with one click; and an interactive map of the campus and surrounding attractions.

"With the explosion of mobile devices in the past few years, PUC wanted a way to stay connected with users and allow them to easily get information from and about PUC on their phone," says PUC webmaster Nic Hubbard, who developed PUC Mobile. "Students want to be able to check the cafe menu and view the events calendar quickly while on the go, without having to get onto PUC.edu."



## PUC Offers Unique Film and Theater Studies Degree

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE NOW ABLE TO COMBINE TWO creative fields, the stage and the screen, into one degree with the associate's in film and theater studies. The range of interdisciplinary coursework now available to PUC students through this program is sufficient to stand alone as the foundation of a career or to supplement any four-year degree.

The new joint degree is the only one of its kind within the Seventh-day Adventist system and is a rare find in higher education at large.

"We're very, very excited about this new A.S. degree," says Rodney Vance, director of the film and television program. "It provides an opportunity for students who have a strong interest in [the areas of film and theater] to get strong training that will benefit them no matter what career they choose."

In addition to a core curriculum that offers exposure to film production, theater, and writing, the degree features three emphases to suit diverse student goals. "We felt there was much to be gained by combining our two programs since our film students need more experience working with actors, and our drama students need more experience with the technical side of production," says English department chair Cynthia Westerbeck. "An interdisciplinary program offers students a wider range of faculty and learning experiences."

Students with a primary interest in acting may select an emphasis in performance. This track includes courses like voice and speech, movement, and Shakespeare in performance. Such training is valuable for those pursuing a career in front of the camera or involvement in community theater. It also provides a useful dimension of training for students pursuing PUC's bachelor's degree in film and television.

Those interested in a production-oriented curriculum may choose the technical emphasis. This specialization includes coursework in sound design, editing, cinematography, and marketing and distribution. It provides a basis for entry-level work in technical and production assisting. The emphasis also provides skills useful to students preparing for a career utilizing media, such as journalism or public relations.

Students wishing to focus on the use of language to relate stories may opt for the narrative/writing emphasis. This curriculum involves classes such as short script writing, screenwriting, Bay Area theater, and film history. This track is an opportunity for students to develop their writing and storytelling abilities.



## Students Minister in Costa Rica build home for outcast family

THE TORRES FAMILY HOME SAT IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE BEAUTY OF THE LUSH COSTA RICA LANDSCAPE SURROUNDING it. Roughly constructed of tin and wood, the structure lacked insulation, running water, a bathroom, and flooring. The nearby river—the only water source—was used for everything from laundry to dishes to cooking, often causing the six young Torres children to be ill. Furthermore, water leaked into the house, creating uncomfortably humid and muddy situations with the dirt floor.

"When can I serve my family food without dirt in it?" prayed Mrs. Torres, a Nicaraguan refugee to Costa Rica.

The answer to her prayer came in the form of 18 Pacific Union College students and faculty, who decided to make the Torres home, in the community of Santa Rita, their Spring Break mission project. The students had heard about the family's needs from Seventh-day Adventist missionaries in the area and began raising money to go towards building them a new home.

In March, during PUC's Spring Break, the missionary team arrived in Costa Rica with a \$5,000 budget and a timeframe of one week. The team quickly tore down the Torres family's house and built a soundly framed three-bedroom home with running water, a bathroom and indoor plumbing, flooring, and a fresh coat of paint. They also left money for door and window installation.

"We stood [on their property] where it was hard to believe that was their home," says Sarai Machuca, one of the student missionaries and a nursing student at PUC. "One week later, to stand in that same spot and have the concrete floor and have the walls up ... and it wasn't that hard. It just took going and doing."

During the week, Machuca and other students also directed an evening Vacation Bible School program for local children, including songs, stories, crafts, and games. The kids, who Machuca describes as joyful, loving, and eager to participate, spread their enthusiasm by distributing hand-made invitations to other local children. By the end of the week, daily attendance grew from 15 to 30 children—some of whom walked two miles every day to join in.

"We fell in love with the kids there," Machuca says. "I think a lot of showing God's love was through us just being there, hanging out with the kids and trying to find out more about them—actually show that we cared about them ... [and] build more of a relationship with the family and the kids."

This is PUC's second short-term mission trip to Santa Rita. Last year, the group built the community a church. Next year, they hope to return to Santa Rita to help construct an Adventist elementary school.

### academic highlights

**Bruce Ivey** and **Robert Ordoñez**, professors of math, physics, and computer science, attended the SIGCSE 2011 Technical Symposium in Dallas, Tex., March 9-11. The symposium offered full-day and shorter workshops on various aspects of teaching computer science using cutting-edge technology—including the characters from computer game *The Sims*, and *Unity*, the game engine behind many Windows, Mac, Wii and iOS games. The professors came back with a variety of new ideas to apply in their own classrooms.

**Charo Chambers**, professor of modern languages, attended the conference Effective Use of Technology in the World Language Classroom at Chabot



College in Hayward, Calif., this April. Heinle Cengage Learning hosted the event, which attracted professors from all over the Bay Area and covered new digital resources for classrooms.

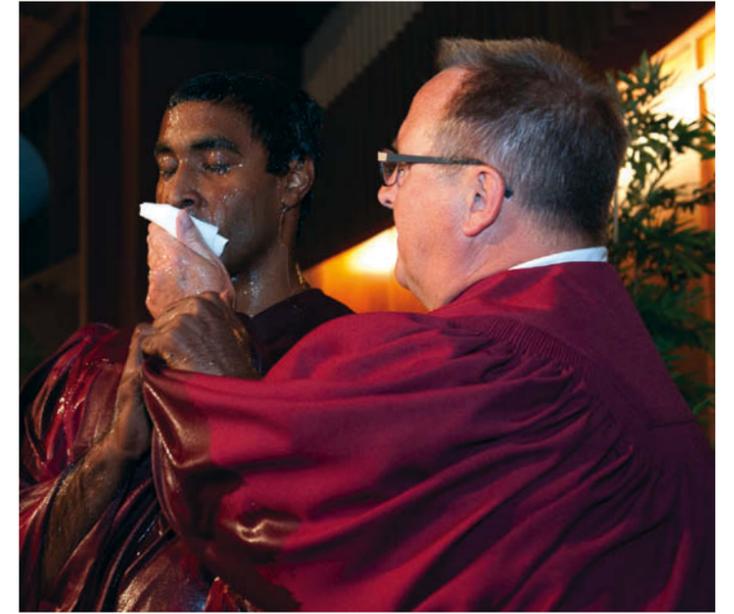
**Bruce** and **Charlene Bainum** and **Aubyn Fulton**, professors of psychology, as well as contract professors **Christian Von Pohle** and **Priscilla Miranda**, attended the Western Psychological Association Convention in Los Angeles, Calif., April 28 and 29. Along with 27 psychology majors, the group presented five research papers at the conference.



At the annual Student Art Show, the gallery showcased more than 100 pieces by current students, ranging from photography to painting to graphic design.



Students delight in homemade Indian food served at a faculty home for the Visual Art Department's quarterly pre-vespers dinner.



Senior Sanjay Moses commemorated his graduation weekend by being baptized on Sabbath. (PUC Church senior pastor Tim Mitchell, '76, on right)



As part of REVO PUC's fundraising efforts, the students organized a benefit trail run in the back woods of PUC's property during Homecoming Weekend.



At the President's Reception during Commencement Weekend, Cabel Bumanglag got an early start collecting the ubiquitous leis.



Nelson Memorial Library is undergoing the first stage of a transformation into a modern, interactive learning commons.



Myron Widmer, associate professor of religion (right), recognized seven religion and theology seniors at the Senior Consecration service on May 6.



The Dramatic Arts Society's original production, My Alice, was wildly successful, selling out the majority of the 10 shows.



Elisa Huckvale received a Certificate of Excellence at the Nursing Graduate Recognition program during Homecoming Weekend.



Part of the Green Week festivities included making green-awareness buttons in the dining commons.



Students Jennifer Ariza, '11, and Abraham Baldenegro showed off their REVO PUC t-shirts at the event rummage sale.



## Environmentalism Annie Leonard Speaks at PUC

### Author encourages students toward responsible stewardship

A VISIT FROM INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTALIST ANNIE LEONARD HIGHLIGHTED Pacific Union College's celebration of Green Week, Thursday, April 21. Leonard spoke for the annual Green Week lecture at Colloquy, and her presentation, entitled "Stewardship for the 21st Century," capped a yearlong campus discussion on consumerism and society. Following the lecture, roughly 200 students attended a Q & A session with the speaker.

Leonard is founder of The Story of Stuff Project, author of *The Story of Stuff: The Impact of Overconsumption on the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health—And How We Can Make it Better*, and creator of a documentary of the same name. This year, PUC students read her book as part of the college's new PUC Reads program, through which the college aims to foster a rich learning community by providing a shared reading and critical discussion experience to students and faculty. Last summer, all incoming freshman for the fall 2011 quarter received a copy of Leonard's book. *The Story of Stuff* was then incorporated into several classes, including English and communication courses.

Beginning her lecture, Leonard described the events that led her to a career in environmentalism. Having grown up in a family that frequented nature and valued conservation, Leonard faced a shock when she moved from Seattle to New York City for college. She became intrigued by the quantity of trash littering the six blocks between her apartment and college campus, tracked it to a landfill in Staten Island, and ultimately dedicated herself to the environment. Since then, her book and documentary have become standards in the environmental movement.

According to Leonard, there are three parts to the problem facing Earth's environment. "We are trashing the planet; we are trashing each other; and we are not even having fun," she supplied. To illustrate the rate at which resources are consumed, Leonard shared that humans use 1.5 times Earth's annual resources; "If everyone consumed at the U.S. rate," she exclaimed, "we'd need five planets!"

Further, she pointed out that the U.S. exports toxic waste to third-world countries, where one-sixth of the world's population suffers starvation. She also discussed the extent to which human bodies carry toxic chemicals. "Babies are being born pre-polluted," she noted; newborns can harbor as many as 250 toxins.

Even with the high level of consumerism causing these side effects, Leonard maintained that people are still not fulfilled. "Once [we] have our basic needs met, the things that make us most happy aren't actually [material] things," Leonard asserted. She cited the quality of interpersonal relationships, time spent with friends and family, a sense of meaning and purpose, and a common goal as the makings of true happiness.

Leonard concluded her presentation by recalling the large role college students have played in social justice movements throughout history. She encouraged PUC students to involve themselves in the cause for sustainability and social equity now and to continue to strive to preserve the environment throughout their careers.

# alumninews

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

### Class Notes

#### 1970

**Bill Cochran, '71**, retired from Pacific Union College on July 1, 2011, as the director of budgets and fiscal services. Bill began his career at PUC in 1970 as a junior accountant before moving into the roles of chief accountant, controller, and, finally, budget officer. In 1980, he and his family temporarily left PUC to serve as missionaries in Africa before returning in 1988. In all, Bill has served at the college for nearly 33 years. His wife **Linda (Stockton) Cochran, '70**, also retired after more than 20 years of service at PUC. A registered nurse, Linda worked in the health services office and as a part-time instructor in the nursing department before becoming a full-time faculty member in 1992. The Cochrans will be moving to Florida to be near their children and grandchildren. Bill will also be working part-time with Adventist Risk Management.

The San Jose (Calif.) *Mercury News* reports that **James Marxmiller, '72**, a science teacher at Mountain View Academy in Mountain View, Calif., was selected by the Alumni Awards Foundation (AAF) for the 2011 Excellence

in Teaching Award. The AAF award includes \$2,000 and an award medallion. Marxmiller has taught science at Mountain View Academy since he graduated from Pacific Union College.

**Randall Younker, '75**, a former PUC faculty member, is now a professor at Andrews University in Michigan, teaching at the Institute of Archaeology. Randall just received Andrews' 25 Years of Service Award.

**Donna (Wood) Church, '79**, continued her education at Northern Arizona University with a BSN in nursing after graduating from PUC. She then went on to complete an MSN, CNS and credential in health services at Cal State San Bernardino. She lives in California's Inland Empire with her husband Jim. Her two children, Jonathan and Debbie, are 25 and 18. She currently works as the district school nurse for the Yucaipa Calimesa Joint Unified School District.

#### 1980

**Richard Magnuson, Jr., '82**, has recently been appointed director of the trust and property management department of the Northern California Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists. Since 2001, Richard has served the Conference as director of Risk Management, and also as director of Human Resources. Richard replaces **David Yoshioka, '89**, who has retired.

**Robert Zdor, '83**, now a professor of biology at Andrews University in Michigan, has been singled out for the Daniel A. Augsburger Excellence in Teaching Award by the university. "Students comment on his open spirit toward others and faith that has obvious priority in his life," notes the award citation. "Student evaluations routinely use words such as 'phenomenal,' 'awesome,' 'incredible,' [and] 'passionate.'"

**Wayne Ferch, '84**, who has been serving with distinction as president and CEO of Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif., became president and CEO of Central Valley Network, a group of hospitals serving Central California. Both organizations are part of Adventist Health Systems. **Kevin Erich, '82**, replaced Ferch as president and CEO of Feather River Hospital. Kevin was formerly president and CEO of Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, Calif. **Scott Reiner, '87**, is serving as

senior vice president and board chairman of the Central Valley Network of Adventist Health.

**Lori (Tripp) Peckham, '84**, a freelance writer living in Maryland, is the author of *Guide's Greatest Rescue Stories*, a children's book recounting narrow escapes with happy outcomes. More information about the book can be found at [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com).

**Clinton Wahlen, '84**, an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was recently cited as a source in a scholarly article published internationally by the *Religious News Service*. The article discussed the Biblical record of the death and resurrection of Jesus over three days. In the article, Wahlen defended the accuracy of the Biblical account, noting that ancient Jews used what scholars call 'inclusive reckoning,' meaning that any part of a day was counted as a whole day.

#### 1990

**David Edgren, att. '91-'95**, who also served as a student missionary while at PUC, published the new children's book *Giant Boots*, an allegory dealing with the values of

## births



► Avery Lin Down, daughter of **Shelia (Hsu) Down, '97** and

her husband Chris Down of Torrance, Calif. Born 1-7-11.



► Hanna Grace Ketcherside, daughter of **Heidi (Utt) Ketcherside, '00**, and **Michael Ketcherside, att. '97-'98**, of

Dixon, Calif. Born 10-24-10.

humility, responsibility, interdependence, and trust. More information about the book can be found at [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com).

**Kris Cabreira, att. '95-'96**, writes, "I've been keeping busy even with no actual job to go to every day. God has been good by blessing me with side projects, especially volunteering at my church, Carmichael Seventh-day Adventist in Sacramento [Calif.]. Helping out in Community Services, children's programs, and during the summer VBS, and co-leading a new Collegiate Sabbath School class—among other ways that I'm able to serve—is helping me continue serving God being His hands and feet. Still looking for a job though, preferably back in the health care business field."

**Beth Lincoln, '95**, a nursing instructor at PUC, is the author of a new book, *Reflections from Common Ground: Cultural Awareness in Healthcare*, published by PESI Health Care. Beth, a nurse practitioner, is president of the international Transcultural Nursing Society,

and founder of Celemonde!, a cultural awareness program for healthcare, scholastic and business institutions and individuals.

**Tammie Lindsey, '96**, was named Operations and Special Events Coordinator of the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. In this role Tammie coordinates and collaborates with the conference president, pastors, ministry groups and church members to encourage members to lead and participate in ministry and evangelism. Tammie holds a law degree from the University of Southern California Law School and a master of divinity from Andrews University in Michigan.

**Daniel S. Blum, '98**, gave a presentation to a group of business majors at PUC on May 20. Daniel is currently working as a financial services professional at NorCal Wealth Management and Insurance Services in Roseville, Calif.

## 2000

**Garrison Chaffee, '00**, now serving as associate pastor of the Santa Rosa (Calif.) Seventh-day Adventist Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry in late 2010. Garrison served a year as a student missionary in Chuuk, Micronesia, was a task force member in Angwin, and then became a ministerial intern at the Calimesa (Calif.) Adventist Church.

**Ansel Oliver, '00**, as assistant director of the Communication Department of the General Conference (world headquarters) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is editor of *Adventist News Network*, a major arm of the denomination's communication operations. Ansel holds a master's in journalism from San Jose State

## weddings



► **Beth Carlson, '09**, married Charles Condon in Santa Cruz, California on 4-26-09.

University and was for a time the city beat reporter of the Roseville (Calif.) *Press-Tribune*.

**Clifford S. Lim, '01**, was ordained to the gospel ministry in late 2010 while serving as interim senior pastor of the Loma Linda (Calif.) Indonesian Seventh-day Adventist Church. Born in Bandung, Indonesia, Clifford was brought by his family to the United States one year after his birth. Before his affiliation with the Loma Linda Indonesian church, Clifford was the youth pastor of the Indonesian-American Adventist Church in Azusa, Calif.

**Jaymes Cheney, '06**, recently passed the California Certified Public Accountant exam and received his CPA license. He currently works for Adventist Health in Roseville, Calif., as a budget and reimbursement analyst.

**Nathaniel Gamble, '09** submitted a successful master's degree thesis application at Denver Seminary and will begin writing his thesis proposal. The project will simulate a theological conversation between 20th century theologians Edward Heppenstall and T. F. Torrance regarding the doctrine of Christ's humanity.

**Carol (Trivett) Williams**, a faculty member of PUC's nursing program from 1997 to 2009, was recently named Clinical Outreach Coordinator

for Napa Valley Hospice and Adult Day Services.

## 2010

**Tyler Cantrell, '10**, is pursuing a graduate degree in community and international development at Andrews University. He has been volunteering his time with The One Project, a ministry aiming to promote Jesus as the central and all-encompassing element of Adventist life and theology. This summer he is also serving as an intern at the Loma Linda University Church for ReLive Ministries. "PUC prepared me very well for grad school at Andrews," he says. "I am finding most of my classes have some element of research, writing, or elemental logic thought process I learned at PUC."

## Your Update Here

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

[viewpoint@puc.edu](mailto:viewpoint@puc.edu)  
[puc.edu/alumni/news-memories](http://puc.edu/alumni/news-memories)  
707-965-6303

## In Memory

**Mabel Miller, '31**, died January 12, 2011, in Paradise, Calif. She was born October 11, 1910, in St. Helena, Calif. Mabel is survived by her son, Larry, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

**Charles T. Smith, '35**, dean emeritus of the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, died April 21, 2011, in Palm

Springs, Calif. He was born March 22, 1914, in San Diego, Calif. After dental school, he joined his father's practice in San Diego, eventually becoming president of the San Diego County Dental Society. He volunteered for the U.S. Army Reserve Dental Corps during the Korean War, serving as a major at Fort Bliss in Texas. He then began a 14-year career at Loma Linda University. After his retirement in 1971, he joined the faculty of the University of Texas at San Antonio, before returning to California and involvement with LLU. His first wife, Ruth, preceded him in death in 1978. He is survived by his son, Charles; his daughter, Charlyn; eleven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and his wife, Mary Lou.

**J. Gordon Burdick** died March 15, 2011, in Sequim, Wash. He was born August 6, 1917, in San Fernando, Calif. After practicing family medicine in Michigan for eight years, Gordon became medical director for Ethyl Corporation, first in Baton Rouge, La., then in Houston, Texas. After his retirement in 1979, he continued as a part-time consultant for Ethyl and traveled the world giving seminars on toxicology. Gordon was an avid reader, loved boating and sailing, and time with his family. He leaves behind his wife, Aural; his sons, Dwight and Bruce; his daughter, Penny; as well as 11 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

**Ruth I. (Osburn) Copeland, SHSHSN '38**, a retired nurse with more than 40 years of active nursing service, died May 30, 2011, in Salinas, Calif. She was born on September 1, 1917, in Newport, Ore. Ruth is survived by her daughter-in-law Ann; her two nieces, Vicky Darrel and Mary; four

step-grandchildren and eight step-great-grandchildren.

**Carlyle D. Millar, '39 and '40**, died March 27, 2011, in Paradise, Calif. He was born September 8, 1917, in Wichita, Kan. During and after World War II, he served in the Merchant Marine and the U.S. Army. He then returned to college and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1950 with bachelor's degrees in business administration and public administration. His career spanned a variety of state, county, and municipal administrative positions across California. He was married 69 years, enjoyed 35 years of travel, and was a Rotary Club member for 33 years. Carl leaves behind his wife, Marjorie; their children, Claudia and Robert; and two granddaughters.

**Joyce (James) Rice, '41**, died April 9, 2011, in Dallas, Texas. She was born on October 2, 1916, in Hankow, China. Paul, her husband of 61 years, preceded her in death. She leaves behind her sisters, Irene and Beth; her daughter Pauline; her son Leland; as well as four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

**Theophil "Ted" Fischer, '42**, a retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor and teacher, died January 18, 2011, in Placerville, Calif. He was born on June 21, 1917, in Golden Valley, N.D. He is survived by his daughters, Sharon Tininenke, Jerolyn Baldwin, Marsha Fischer, and Gay Sharp; and five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Harold Hare, '42**, a retired pastor, died February 3, 2010, in Campbell, Calif. He was born January 14, 1920. He leaves behind his wife, **Marjorie (Sather), '41**; and his children, **Helen, '75**, Robert, and Dodie. His daughter Anne preceded him in death.

**David W. Harrison, '42**, a retired physician with over 30 years of missionary medical service in Africa, died May 26, 2011, in Gainesville, Fla. He was born in Nebraska in 1921. After finishing medical school at Loma Linda University, David began his medical career in North Carolina. He was called to military service in Korea, working with the United Nations Civil Assistance Command, and later began a self-supporting venture, introducing soybeans and soy foods into Africa in the 1960s. He leaves behind his wife, Edith; sons, Kenneth, Michael, and David; daughters, Liza and Linda; and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**May Chung, att. '43-'44**, died on December 2, 2010, in Riverside, Calif. She was born on February 15, 1925, in Richmond, Mo. May is survived by her daughters, Cherie, Laurie, and Lani; and her sons, Kevin, Mark, and Kirk.

**John D. Rhodes, '44**, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Southern California for 27 years, died March 26, 2011, in Riverside, Calif. He was born on June 9, 1920, in Los Angeles, Calif. John is survived by his wife, Jo; his daughter, Robin Jolene Tapanes; a son, John D. III (Randy); one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

**Louise M. Francis**, died Tuesday, May 3, 2011, in Kootenai, Idaho. She was born August 21, 1922, in Clearwater, Idaho. After graduating from PUC, she lived in Glendale, Calif., for many years and worked for the Voice of Prophecy radio program. She was an excellent seamstress and an accomplished cook, and she loved working in the garden with her roses. Throughout her life Louise showed courage and a positive attitude in dealing with health challenges.

**Eudeen F. (Rogers) Nelson** died Thursday, March 31, 2011, in Norfolk, Neb. She was born December 8, 1923, in Stratton, Colo. After marrying Donald E. Nelson in Glendale, Calif., in 1947, they moved to the family farm in Oakdale, Neb., where she spent the rest of her life. She leaves behind Donald; their daughters, Sandra, Cherilyn, and Donna; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Her son, Kern, and sister, Eunice, preceded her in death.

**Dalton D. Baldwin, '48**, an emeritus professor of Christian theology at Loma Linda University, died March 21, 2011, in Loma Linda, Calif. He was born on April 12, 1925, in Angwin, Calif. Dalton is survived by his wife, Barbara; his daughters Cheryl Goyne and Yvonne Foster; his son, Duane; and eight grandchildren. (*Pacific Union Recorder*)

**Robert G. Letcher, '50**, died November 15, 2010, in Stayton, Ore. He was born October 4, 1922, in Oakland, Calif. After serving as an Army medical technician during World War II, he studied theology at PUC. He began pastoring in the Northern California Conference in 1951 and in 1956 moved to Oregon where he served until his retirement in 1987. Robert leaves behind his wife, **Winona (Slater), '49**; his son, David; his daughter, Sharon; and two granddaughters.

**Donald B. Fink, '51**, a retired sales manager with Union Oil Company of California, died December 26, 2010, in Issaquah, Wash. He was born March 1, 1929. He leaves behind his wife, **Anne (Voelker) Fink, '50**; and two daughters, Debra and Candace.

**John D. Briggs, '51**, a former teacher, died November 7, 2010. He was born on September

## Your Last Impression—Planned

The first impression we make on others is likely the most important. For example, a person applying for a professional position in scruffy clothes creates an initial impression that may cause the interview to end before it starts. The impression can signal a casual attitude and careless concern for personal appearance.

Initial impressions, for better or worse, linger in the eye of the beholder. While positive first impressions remain into the future, negative first impressions can also last for years and may require sustained effort to change.

Perhaps the most important last impression is what transpires at death. How we die, of course, is important, but so is the lingering effect of how we have arranged our affairs prior to death. A person who dies with a well-considered estate plan in place will create a more positive impression than one who leaves behind a hodge-podge of loose ends and ambiguous or non-existent directions.

A competent estate-planning attorney can help us prepare for a positive final impression. Such thoughtful planning may include final gifts to organizations we have supported during life. These gifts can take various forms, including will bequests and life-income arrangements. They can be used to fund endowments or as outright gifts directed toward specific programs.

We in the planned giving office at Pacific Union College have complementary material to help you consider the elements of a positive estate plan, including charitable disbursements. This information will introduce you to some tried and true ways to leave a good last impression, not only on family and friends, but for many who share your commitment to the mission of Pacific Union College.

*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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8, 1929, in Springfield, Mass. John taught at Seventh-day Adventist schools for more than 50 years and in six different states, and in retirement taught English to students in China via the internet phone service Skype. John is survived by his wife, Judy; daughters, Kathleen Rogers, Marilyn Ruth Heath, and Jennifer Bertleson; a sister, Charlotte Chevier; 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Kenneth H. Ackerman, '53**, died April 1, 2011, in Lodi, Calif. He was born June 3, 1920, in Vancouver, Wash. After serving in the Navy during World War II, Kenneth attended La Sierra College but transferred to PUC to follow his future wife, **Joyce Powell, '53**. Kenneth earned a master's degree in education, serving at Seventh-day Adventist elementary schools throughout California. He loved camping, hiking, gardening, and farming, and after his retirement enjoyed RV travel all across the country. He leaves behind Joyce, his sons Craig and Gary, and six grandchildren.

**Alton Williams, '53**, died March 21, 2011, in Visalia, Calif. He was born May 14, 1921. Alton worked as a logger, a teacher, a mechanic, a salesman, and finally as a supervisor in the Tulare County Department of Social Services. He served his church as a Sabbath School teacher, a member of the finance committee, and a head deacon for many years. He leaves behind June, his wife of 63 years; his daughter Sharon; and his son Timothy. His daughter Eulynn preceded him in death.

**Iris E. (Ermshar) Anderson, '56**, a teacher, died on February 24, 2011, in Paradise, Calif. She was born on October 7, 1932, in Los Angeles, Calif. Iris leaves behind her husband, Frederick;

her daughter, Karin Haynes; and sons Jeffrey and Mark.

**John W. Scott, '69**, retired dean of the School of Information Technology of Tulane University Medical School, died February 10, 2011, in Paradise, Calif. He was born on November 28, 1917, in Lajunta, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Edith; daughter, Marian Chrispens; son, Robert; seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Bessie (Lobsien) Siemens, '74**, a retired librarian, died March 19, 2011, in Redding, Calif. She was born on August 20, 1926, in Spearman, Texas. Bessie is survived by her husband, John; her sons, Larry and Victor; two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

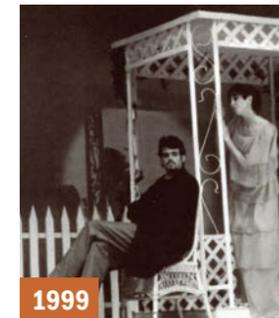
**Susan (Ogren) Kidder, '80**, a retired teacher, died October 12, 2010, in Paris, Ky. She was born December 18, 1943, in New York City, N.Y. She leaves behind her husband Dave, her daughters Bethany and Sharon, and her son Brian.

## Remembering Friends

➤ In Memory is our opportunity to honor and remember fellow alumni. Currently, we receive obituaries from various sources and information may not always be complete. Family members with obituaries or information can contact the Alumni Office; 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



## Camaraderie Through Performance Theater at PUC adds a little drama

Theater at PUC has always been about community. From a range of productions from *Steel Magnolias* in 1991 to *My Alice: The Story Behind the Story of Alice in Wonderland* in 2011, the Dramatic Arts Society has inspired faculty, students and staff from all areas to join together to create moving art on the PUC campus.

What began as a group of students itching to bring some drama to PUC grew into an official program housed by the English department in 2003. Each year, cast and crew members work to display their various talents in outstanding productions that leave the audience in awe of the creativity we find among the PUC family.

### 1992 | Spending time with the neighbors

The cast photo for *Our Town*. Recognize the girl in the middle row with the beaming smile? That's PUC's Teaching and Learning Center programs coordinator Leticia Rosado Russell!

### 1992 | Cold War kids

The cast photo from the 1992 performance of Peter Ustinov's *Romanoff and Juliet*, a comedy of love and politics. The production program read, "The great virtue about history is that it is adaptable!"

### 1996 | Passionate performance

Psychology and social work professor Aubyn Fulton, '81, portrays the Savior in DAS's Easter Passion Play.

### 1999 | 'Ow do you do?

Professor Henry Higgins (Thorvald Aagaard, '00) and Eliza Doolittle (Kirsten Gerking, att. '98-'00) share the stage in a production of *My Fair Lady*. Thor will return to campus next year as PUC's new drama professor.

### 2000 | Frontierland

The chorus listens in as *Calamity Jane* (Corrine Siebly, '03) learns that sometimes the best thing for you is right beside you.

### 2005 | Pop culture

Danielle Devitt (att. '02-'05) and Zach Dunn ('06), satirize celebrity culture in a modern twist on Moliere's *The Misanthrope*.

## What's your memory?

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

# the interview

## Chip Gabriel—Keeping Connected



Chip Gabriel (top row, second from right) with the class of 1986 at Homecoming.

Chip Gabriel, '86, above all else, is an engaging guy. When you meet him, your first impression will be that he's having the time of his life, and when he hits you with his broad smile and glad handshake, you'll feel like you're a vital part of the party. This natural passion for interaction made him an ideal host for the jam-packed Class of '86 Reunion at this year's Homecoming.

That winning personality has also guided him into an important role on PUC's board of trustees. We spoke with Chip not long after Homecoming about the reunion, his mission as a college trustee, and his goals for the 50-year party.

*"I want people to be comfortable as themselves and celebrate the friendships we made during our times at PUC."*

**Q: What was your favorite memory from your time as a student at PUC?**

**A:** The friendships I made in the dorm at Grainger Hall. Trying and learning to enjoy sushi made by Nobu Hatanaka late Friday nights in the dorm. He was one of the most talented people I have ever known.

**Q: Which of your close friends from those days did you meet up with at Homecoming?**

**A:** It is hard to single out any, but some of the guys in Grainger, Steven Zane, Paul Kim, Alec Cummings, Joe Kabilka, and others were very special to reconnect with.

**Q: What was the highlight of the weekend for you?**

**A:** Getting several of these people to get together and share memories of PUC. Many are not engaged with PUC or the church, but they are great people with great values and great Christians—and it is in big part because of their time at PUC. We need them to get reengaged with PUC.

**Q: How did the party go?**

**A:** It was a perfect night, except there were a lot of old people there! Really, we had a wonderful time,

reconnecting, laughing, and remembering why we love PUC and the Napa Valley.

**Q: In planning the event, you did something unconventional in inviting the classes of '85 and '87 to join. Why?**

**A:** You have a lot of friends and people you had classes with in the years before and after you, and I thought it would be great to see them also. I also want more of this generation to reconnect with PUC, and inviting them to a great resort in the Napa Valley would be a good way to get them to reconnect.

**Q: Your next big reunion will be your 50th. What are you looking forward to at that party?**

**A:** Hopefully a much bigger get-together. We probably had 50 to 60 people [this time]; I would hope that we could quadruple that amount. I want people to be comfortable as themselves and celebrate the friendships we made during our times at PUC. We aren't there collecting worship credits or making any judgments; it is about relationships. And for PUC to be successful going forward, it needs to grow its relationships with alumni and its neighbors in the Napa Valley.

**Q: It's a major responsibility to be on a college board of trustees. What makes it important for you to serve on PUC's board?**

**A:** There are things that I found to be very negative about my experiences in Adventist education from 3rd grade through college. The only way change happens is by being personally involved in a positive manner and working hard with open dialogue. I can do that as a board member. I hope that PUC is better off now than when I joined the board five years ago. The school and the Adventist Church need to constantly evaluate themselves to make sure we are being the stewards of the mission that Christ expects from us. I hope that I can help do that as a board member.

# my viewpoint

## Adventist Education: Preparing us for purpose

When we attended PUC, we, like most other students, had very limited and vague goals on what we were going to do after college: we hoped to find a profession, get married, and somehow integrate God into our lives. When Dan was drafted into the U.S. Army after finishing medical school at Loma Linda University, we didn't realize that PUC's western art course (taught by Alice C. Babcock, J. Paul Stauffer, and George M. Wargo) would be the basis for our cultural growth during three years abroad. Neither did we realize that the rigorous freshman English sequence would prepare us to communicate effectively for the rest of our lives. And we would discover that Biblical theology, taught by William T. Hyde, had a lifelong impact on Dan's view of God and religion.

While Dan was finishing medical school, he taught a Sabbath School class in Los Angeles and Elissa served as a Sabbath School superintendent on the church board. After Dan graduated and was drafted and stationed in Germany, we began hosting and ministering to young GIs in the region. Upon returning to the U.S. and joining Seventh-day Adventist communities in Boston, Mass., and then Rochester, N.Y., we began to act as surrogate "parents" for Adventist students in secular universities. Everywhere we went we were struck by how directionless these young people seemed to be, how much they underestimated their own abilities, and how out of touch they were with their Church and God.

After a stint in St. Louis, Mo., Dan was soon recruited to practice at Loma Linda University Medical Center, and Elissa was offered a temporary position at La Sierra University, which eventually led to a position as dean of the School of Education. During her tenure as dean, Elissa learned of the dramatic shrinking of enrollment in K-12 Adventist schools in North America. An informal survey of parents indicated that many of them were convinced their children would receive an inferior education in Adventist schools. Can schools with limited facilities and equipment provide a quality education? Can small schools provide good learning opportunities for their students? Can Adventist schools properly accommodate gifted and special needs students?

To help answer such questions and to help strengthen and improve the denomination's schools, Elissa organized CognitiveGenesis, a research study that spanned four years (2006-2010) and amassed data from standardized tests and surveys of almost 52,000 students in K-12 Adventist schools across North America. To protect the study's integrity against bias and conflicts of interest, private foundations and individuals funded the research.

The results of the study showed that

- Students in Adventist schools scored above the national average in achievement in all subjects and at all grade levels.
- Students at all ability levels scored higher than their expected achievement based on assessment of individual ability.
- Students in small schools (three or fewer teachers) did as well as students in larger schools and in some cases even better.
- The longer students attended an Adventist school, the greater the improvement in achievement and ability.

These results have attracted national media attention. In November 2010, Elissa published an op-ed in the *Christian Science Monitor*, focusing on the study's findings and the positive, holistic benefits of an Adventist education. Within days a *Los Angeles Times* opinion writer cited Elissa's article in a column, "The Conversation: Pursuing successful education reform might mean going the way of Adventists." Since these articles were published, researchers from non-Adventist universities have asked to partner in research utilizing data from the project.

We remain grateful to PUC for giving us the background to live meaningful lives. We understand that without professors like Graham Maxwell, Walter Utt, Ervil Clark and Vernon Winn, who modeled how God's ideas could be integrated into their lives, it would have been difficult for us to figure out how to live purposeful academic lives. We trust we have communicated that we think Adventist education does an excellent job of communicating information. But even more, we want to emphasize that because it integrates God into the curriculum, it can also help give life purpose.



*"We remain grateful to PUC for giving us the background to live meaningful lives."*

Dan and Elissa Kido, '61 and '64



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