

# ViewPoint

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE • VOL 43.2





# President's Message

*All In This Together*

After a refreshing and rejuvenating summer, faculty, staff, and students are back on campus and all in for a new school year. As you may already know, PUC's mission is for students to learn with purpose, rise in faith, and serve with love. None of this is possible without our community.

When I think of community, I remember going to a canoe race with my father as a child. It was a cool spring day, with 100 people on both sides of the river to watch the exciting two-person canoes try to navigate an exceptionally challenging section of rapids. Several canoes tipped over, but all contestants swam to shore with the help of their life jackets. Things took a turn as one of the canoes flipped over, with only one man escaping. He was buoyed by his life jacket, but his partner could not be seen. Seconds passed. Then a minute. The canoe became wedged over a small waterfall.

The other canoeist was pinned beneath, and everyone mentally dithered about how to reach him. The pressure of the pounding water held the canoe on top of the unfortunate man—submerged underneath it all. The crowd yelled, "Someone do something!" In a flash, my father plunged into the water to save the man.

My father's heroic act inspired others to charge into the water and aid in the rescue. They gave the man a blanket while my father went to the car and immediately turned on the heater. That day I witnessed him save someone's life and discovered how strong a community

can be when everyone works together. The mission to bring this man to safety was completed.

We at PUC have not completed everything we are striving to accomplish, but our team members immerse themselves in their diligent work in helping students achieve their potential. In everything we do, we give Him the glory and trust His process. Don't forget that He knows the plans for our lives better than we do.

I am reminded every day how special PUC is, and it is a privilege to serve as president. With our goals for our campus and students, we move forward with alacrity—there is no turning back. Faculty, staff, and students need to be all in for us to achieve our mission. I ask our alumni, parents of our students, and all our supporters to continue to pray for our college. Nothing is achieved alone.

I welcome you to be all in with us to achieve our mission. We need to be completely committed, immersed, and dedicated together to PUC and its purpose.

I look forward to sharing more news with you this school year.

God Bless!

Ralph Trecartin, Ph.D., MBA  
President



**About the Cover:**  
Our cover photo is a drone shot by PUC Web Developer Jason Lee.

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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.

[viewpoint@puc.edu](mailto:viewpoint@puc.edu)

Produced by the PUC Marketing & Communication Department for the alumni and friends of the college.

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# ViewPoint

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# PUC GETS SOCIAL





 @PUCnow

Facebook: JUNE 18, 2023  
 Graduation Day! Here we go!



Instagram: MAY 8, 2023  
 Happy #NationalNursesWeek

We wanted to take a moment and thank all of our PUC nurses, whether you are a professor, a current student, or an alum, you truly make a difference and we are SO very proud!

Nurses Week celebrates the effort, dedication, and sacrifice nurses make every day. Nurses are essential and provide care through every stage of life, working with patients at their most intimate and vulnerable moments.

*Pictured are some of our fabulous nursing professors!*



Instagram: JUNE 1, 2023  
 Congratulations to all our winners from today's Student Awards Community!



TikTok: APRIL 22, 2023  
 Once a Pioneer, always a Pioneer! Here we have our #PUCAlumni sharing their words of wisdom to our current students.



Twitter: JUNE 22, 2023  
 Happy #WayToGoWednesday Pioneers

Today we are showing off our Social Work Consecration, Nursing Pinning Ceremony, and Teacher Dedication from Graduation Weekend!



Instagram: AUGUST 13, 2023  
 Please join us in congratulating our first Andy Bishop Scholarship Fund awardees, 2023 graduates Demario and Jenica!



LinkedIn: JUNE 2, 2023  
 Faces of PUC - Susan Bussell, Educator of the Year

"She has a gift for inspiring and motivating her students and has been a mentor to many young nurses throughout her career as an educator."  
 – Milbert Mariano, then Academic Dean

Read more here:  
[tinyurl.com/twr3e8hm](https://tinyurl.com/twr3e8hm)



YouTube: JULY 21, 2023  
 Happy Friday, Pioneers!  
 Check out our Fiji mission trip video!!!!

Visit: [puc.edu/missions](https://puc.edu/missions) for our upcoming mission trips!



Facebook: JULY 27, 2023  
 Hello, Redwood Camp Meeting!

Don't forget to stop by our booth and spin the wheel for a chance to win some PUC swag!




**NOW ON TIKTOK!**  
[TIKTOK.COM/@PACIFICUNIONCOLLEGE](https://tiktok.com/@PACIFICUNIONCOLLEGE)

# FACES OF OUR GRADS

## MEET SOME OF PUC'S NEWEST ALUMNI

**1. Misael Bernard, B.S.** in History, Ethics, Political Studies & Pre-Law; Minor in Emergency Services

**Future Plans:** "I plan to travel and do student mission work in Hawaii as the assistant dean for a year before going to law school."

**2. Sarah Franklin, BFA** in Graphic Design

**Future Plans:** "My plans after graduating are to sleep a lot. I'm also going to work as a graphic designer and exhibition designer for a local gallery!"

**3. Enoch Heckman, A.S.** in Nursing

**Future Plans:** "God brought me through it all! So, in everything I do, I just want to honor Him. I hope to be an R.N. in the ICU in Turlock, CA."

**4. Courtney Russell, B.S.** in Emergency Management; A.S. in Emergency Services

**Future Plans:** "I plan on working as an EMT for the summer, then I'm going to France with ACA as a postgraduate experience."

**5. Matthew Ocegueda, B.S.** in Communication; Minor in Journalism/Public Relations

**Future Plans:** "After graduation, I plan to find a job in my county working with the community and later apply for graduate school of occupational therapy."

**6. Anzarath Chavez-Duron, B.S.** in Health Communication

**Future Plans:** "I plan to work and train for my thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail in the year 2024!"

**7. Aaron Ramos, BSW** (Bachelor of Social Work)

**Future Plans:** "I plan on doing my master's in military social work to help my fellow veterans and families."

**8. Ariana Bautista, B.S.** in Liberal Studies

**Future Plans:** "After graduation, I will be completing my credential at Bel Air Elementary teaching 1st graders."

**9. Isai Martinez, B.A.** in History (European Emphasis) and Film (Writing Emphasis)

**Future Plans:** "I am attending CSU San Bernardino to get my master's degree in history and earn a Ph.D. later. I also plan to keep writing scripts and hopefully get into the casting world."

**10. Grace Perkins, B.S.** in Business Administration (Management Emphasis)

**Future Plans:** "My plans after graduation are to get my real estate license and start garnering some work experience in preparation for my master's."

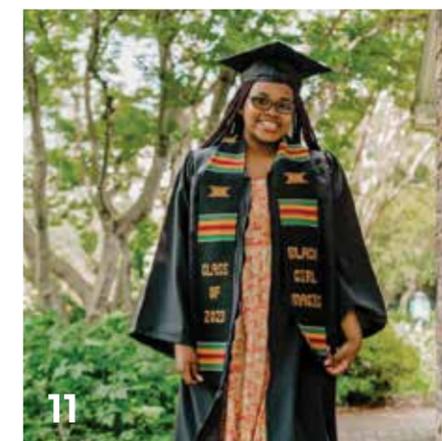
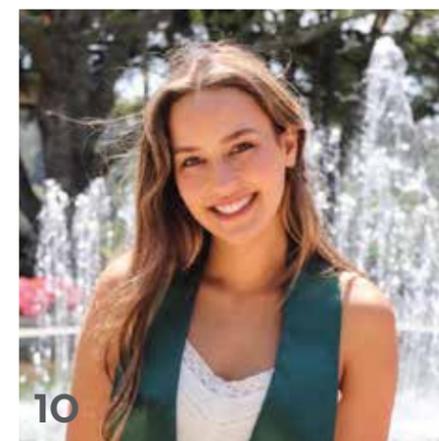
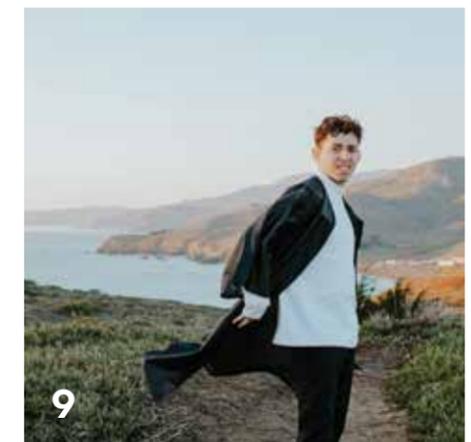
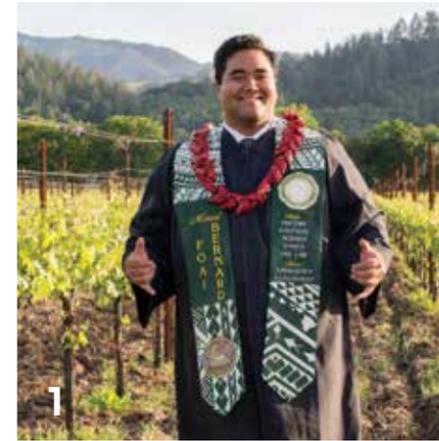
**11. Jaclyn Clark, BSW** (Bachelor of Social Work)

**Future Plans:** "I'm going to Loma Linda for grad school to obtain my MSW"

**12. Van Velarde, B.S.** in Nursing

**Future Plans:** "After graduation I plan to continue working and learning, so I can best serve those who are in need."

*Compiled by Ally Romanes.  
Responses have been lightly edited for length and clarity.*





# New Academic Leadership

## PUC Launches Three-School Model

by Laura Gang

Pacific Union College has embarked on a new three-school model this academic year. Last spring, the college announced the appointments of the deans who will help lead the efforts to maintain and grow PUC’s academic excellence.

The three-school model stems from a recommendation initiated and developed by the college’s academic leadership. The three schools are Nursing & Health Sciences; Arts, Humanities, & Professions; and Sciences.

To lead each school, the PUC administration announced the following leadership appointments:

**Kimberly Dunker**, who led the Nursing and Health Sciences Department and is a professor of nursing, now serves as dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

**Milbert Mariano**, who had served as PUC’s vice president for academic administration and academic dean, is now the dean of the School of Arts, Humanities & Professions.

**Aimee Wyrick**, professor of biology, has become the dean of the School of Sciences.

“Each of these leaders is committed to PUC and its Christ-centered mission and will help us better serve our students and build a bright future,” President Ralph Trecartin said. “I am proud of their accomplishments.”

The three school deans:

- Advocate for their school’s programs.
- Innovate in curriculum, new programs, and classroom technology.
- Manage efficiency, program growth, and departmental needs.

In addition to saving money as part of the restructuring, the three-school model offers PUC students a modernized, simplified, and Christ-centered college experience on campus and beyond.

Discussion about the new schools began about two years ago among leadership and several academic committees. But the plan rose and took on greater urgency as part of PUC’s recent financial and vision realignment.

The Board of Trustees approved the plan in February, and because of the short time frame, strong internal candidates were chosen to lead the schools. If and when there are future vacancies in these positions, PUC will develop a formal search process and evaluation for the new deans.

Dunker already oversees one of PUC’s successful academic programs and wants to build upon those successes as dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. She said she will continue seeking outside funds and representing the school within the PUC community and beyond.

“I am hopeful that as the dean, I will be able to represent my programs at the president’s cabinet when they are being discussed,” Dunker said earlier this year. “I will also plan to represent my school in seeking funds for our programs from outside entities.”

Dunker’s core values focus on student outcomes, retention, and academic and clinical faculty satisfaction and development. In addition, she is a SIGMA adviser and author for new nursing educators.

Mariano voluntarily expressed interest in leading the new School of Arts, Humanities & Professions. Trecartin said the new post allows Mariano to continue serving and guiding a variety of majors with a special emphasis on honors classes.

“I have endless gratitude and appreciation for his dedication to PUC,” Trecartin said. “We aren’t losing his wisdom. This position will let him continue his passion and care for people, and he will remain a trusted counselor. His leadership has blessed us in difficult times.”

Wyrick said in her new role, it is important for her to support the school’s faculty, encourage them in their research, and as they develop new programs for students.

“Faculty need and deserve encouragement and meaningful support from administration to reinvent curriculum and to develop new research or other relevant projects for our students,” Wyrick said. “I look forward to the work our team will do on behalf of our college, church, and God.” 🙌



## » PUC’S NEW ACADEMIC DEAN IS LINDSAY HAYASAKA

by Laura Gang

Lindsay Hayasaka, an experienced educator with a heart for Christ and the college’s mission and vision, became vice president for academic administration and academic dean in July.

Last year, Hayasaka served as associate academic dean and for two years prior as an English professor at PUC. Before coming to the United States, she taught in Australia at Avondale College of Higher Education for seven years. She was also the college’s assistant dean for the Faculty of Arts, Nursing, and Theology.

“Lindsay is a strong leader with insight and wisdom,” President Ralph Trecartin said. “She is innovative, pragmatic, and a consensus builder.”

Among her duties, Hayasaka serves on the president’s cabinet, drives accreditation, oversees academic support areas, and creates additional pathways for students through new strategic partnerships. She continues to evaluate and reinvigorate the student experience, manage student requests and issues, and work to deepen the integration of faith and learning.

“I want PUC to be known for the quality of its instructional design,” Hayasaka said. “Students will want to come to us because we offer the best experience—both in the classroom and online. PUC already has a history of teaching excellence, so now it’s about retooling for an ever-changing digital landscape.”

Hayasaka studied at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and sociology. After completing her Bachelor of Teaching degree at Avondale College of Higher Education, she returned to Deakin for her master’s degree. In 2012, Hayasaka received her Ph.D. from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

# WEEK OF WELCOME

STUDENTS HAVE MOVED IN AND  
OUR CAMPUS IS BUZZING!



ALL OUR STUDENTS ARE  
BACK ON CAMPUS AND  
WE COULD NOT BE  
HAPPIER! HERE IS WHAT  
HAS BEEN GOING ON:

- Freshmen Move-In-Day
- Rock, Paper, Scissors Tourney
- Food Truck & Games
- Decorate Dorms
- Picnic
- Club Rush
- Vespers
- Food Around The Fountain



For where two or three gather in  
my name, there am I with them.

- Matthew 18:20



# NEWS @ PUC

FOR MORE PUC NEWS VISIT [PUC.EDU/NEWS](https://puc.edu/news)



## » PUC FILM STUDENTS WIN AT THE 2023 SONSCREEN FILM FESTIVAL

by Ally Romanes

The Sonscreen Film Festival is an event hosted by the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that brings Adventist filmmakers to celebrate excellence in film, encourage new work, and focus on student filmmakers.

In April, over 20 PUC film students and alumni represented the college, along with professors Rajeev Sigamoney and Tim de la Torre. PUC showcased two projects worked on by faculty and students in front of a packed house.

Eight PUC student films were official entries in the festival. Two students were finalists in the Pitch Competition, along with the two additional projects featured during the PUC showcase. PUC won three categories and was runner-up in two other categories. “Minutemen” by Jonathan Salvador and Nephtali Marin won the Audience Choice Award. “Taste of Love” by Adam Adreveno won Best Comedy. “Echoes” by Sierra Lewis won the Jury Award and was also the runner-up for Best Documentary. “Broken Circuits” by Melaney Klinedinst was the runner-up for Best Experimental Film.

“Winning is always fun, and as a department, we love to cheer our accomplishments and push ourselves to be the best versions of ourselves that we can become,” said Sigamoney. “But as great as the awards were, the best part of attending Sonscreen was being able to showcase our students’ films and celebrate their diverse voices, which we hope will help grow the Adventist church into what we hope it can become.” 🙌



## » PUC RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT TO ASSIST MASTER’S STUDENTS ASPIRING TO BECOME NURSE EDUCATORS

by Laura Gang

In July, Pacific Union College received a grant of more than \$203,000 from the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) for a Nursing Loan Faculty Program. This grant will provide PUC with the resources to assist prospective MSN students financially. The loan program was created to help alleviate financial concerns for graduate nursing students interested in becoming educators.

Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences Kimberly Dunker said, “This is the perfect opportunity for nurses who want to teach in academia or the practice setting to obtain funding through this loan forgiveness program.”

Funds from the loan program are available to accredited nursing schools to help offer loans to students in advanced education nursing degree programs who want to become nurse faculty. In exchange for becoming a full-time nurse educator after graduation, the program authorizes canceling up to 85% of their loan.

Applicants must be enrolled in PUC’s MSN program with the intent to teach following completion of the program. The program prepares those who want to teach or lead in health care and academic settings. In addition, a certificate in the education specialty area can be obtained.

The California Board of Registered Nursing has lauded PUC’s nursing program as one of the top in the region. Recent program highlights include a partnership with Adventist Health to expand PUC’s ASN program to employees and community members in Lake and Mendocino counties. In March, HRSA awarded PUC’s nursing program a grant of more than \$500,000. The money will go toward scholarships, high-fidelity simulation technology, and other areas such as faculty support, development, and simulation training. 🙌

Learn more about the MSN program at PUC. [puc.edu/msn](https://puc.edu/msn)



## » HERNAN GRANADOS NAMED AS NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

by Ally Romanes

Hernan Granados became Pacific Union College’s new athletic director in July. He looks forward to supporting the coaching staff and helping the Pioneer student-athletes become the best version of themselves in and out of competition.

“I want to create a supportive environment where student-athletes can be safe to be themselves,” said Granados last spring. “I want the athletes to be able to celebrate their wins and bounce back from a loss.”

Granados has been working at PUC for 17 years. He was hired in 2006 to be the residence hall dean at Newton Hall. He also taught religion classes as he holds an M.Div. in theology. During the last two years, Granados was the assistant soccer coach for the PUC Pioneers men’s and women’s teams. His training and experience as a dean give him the ability to connect with students.

“The coaching staff and athletes are unique at PUC,” Granados said. “The coaching staff cares about the students and has the best interest of the athletes at heart. Athletes come from all across the U.S. and represent our diverse campus.” 🙌



# New Pastors at PUC!

## Meet the Pastoral Team

by Ally Romanes

### PASTOR NATE FURNESS

Lead Pastor [far left]

#### FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING PART OF THE PUC FAMILY:

The people. I love that we live in a community where we run into people we know all the time. I love the campus and that PUC has hundreds, if not thousands, of acres to explore on bike and foot.

### PASTOR GARRISON CHAFFEE

Youth & Associate Pastor [middle left]

#### WHY HE CHOSE TO WORK AT PUC:

I love PUC! Not only is it an incredibly beautiful place to live, but the community is amazing. Kids can ride bikes around town, we have the Back 40 available to enjoy anytime, and most importantly, I love the real-life, real Jesus vibe that is PUC.

### PASTOR LEM GARCIA

Associate Pastor for Worship & Administration [middle right]

#### WHAT MAKES PASTORING AT PUC SPECIAL TO HIM:

I really enjoy being able to collaborate with very talented multi-disciplinary teams on various projects throughout the year. I also appreciate the energy and creativity that our students bring to the life of the college and the church.

### PASTOR ARTURO LOPEZ

Campus Chaplain [far right]

#### WHAT HE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO AT PUC:

During my visit to PUC for interviews, I had the privilege of meeting numerous incredible individuals who wholeheartedly dedicate themselves to serving and working for the betterment of the PUC community. The warm and inviting atmosphere, the inspiring vision, and the ongoing commitment to nurturing students professionally and spiritually ignited a strong passion within me to be part of this fantastic community. This experience has filled me with enthusiasm and motivation to serve and collaborate with the leadership as we collectively shape the future of PUC. 🙌



# A Tribute to Asher Raboy

## PUC's Newest Professor Emeritus

by Becky St. Clair

Asher Raboy is what many people would term “a big nerd.” At age 9, he received his first-ever Beethoven score. By the sixth grade, he conducted his first summer festival band. But it was Puccini’s opera, *La Bohème*, that really caught Raboy’s heart for music.

“I understood music intellectually and as a set of skills to master, but I really didn’t get the power of music, the emotional punch that it contains, until I attended that opera and was surprised to find tears in my eyes and my heart full,” he explains. “Puccini taught me the real meaning of music.”

It was only natural Raboy follow this lifelong passion for music into a successful career. After earning both an

undergraduate degree in music and a Master of Fine Arts, he conducted for myriad ensembles, including Diablo Ballet, Columbus Symphony, Las Vegas Philharmonic, California Symphony, and Belleayre Festival Orchestra, among many others. He has also lectured for the New York Philharmonic.

Just prior to beginning work at Pacific Union College as resident artist, professor, and director of the Wind Ensemble, Raboy enjoyed a 20-year tenure with the Napa Valley Symphony.

Of note, Raboy also writes his own music.

Throughout his life, Raboy has continued to compose independently, as well as creating commissioned pieces

for major ensembles such as the Stockton Symphony, Binghamton Philharmonic, and Hudson Valley Philharmonic.

In 2018, Raboy wrote a multi-movement piece specifically for Pacific Union College ensembles called “The Beatitudes,” which was performed during Alumni Weekend in April of that year.

Though much of his career has centered around classical music, Raboy is a firm believer in appreciating all forms of musical expression—a passion he has brought daily to the classroom and the conductor’s podium at PUC.

“The energy in music has always rested in songs written for people, not for academics,” he says. “This is true of church music of the 13th century or the string quartets of the 18th. In our time, Paul McCartney is just as good a songwriter as Schubert. Movies are the new operas, and John Williams may be as important as Verdi. This ‘non-classical’ music is the expression of our time, and we should value it.”

For the past 15 years, Raboy has inspired aspiring musicians at PUC in composition, theory, and music history and has conducted the college’s Wind Ensemble. In June 2023, he retired and was named the most recent professor emeritus at Pacific Union College.

“I came to PUC from the outside, but I was never treated as an outsider,” Raboy said. “Being awarded this honor is one more recognition that I am, and always will be, part of the PUC community. It’s a wonderful gift, and it means so much to me.”

Raboy says what he will miss most about PUC is the faculty, staff, and students he has come to love.

“It’s the people that make a place special,” he says.

Raboy’s students feel similarly about him as he acquired the descriptor “beloved professor” from the moment he stepped into the classroom.

“Asher is always the first to tell us how great we are,” states Lewis Govea, 2021 music and pre-pharm graduate, “that we did a good job, to remind us we need to be kind to ourselves, that I am valuable.”

It is these connections which make retirement more difficult than one might expect.

“Teaching at PUC has been a most gratifying experience and has brought me great joy,” he says. “I will truly miss it.”

Despite the sadness of leaving a place he’s come to call home, Raboy looks forward to retiring to Michigan, where he will relocate to be closer to his sister and her family.

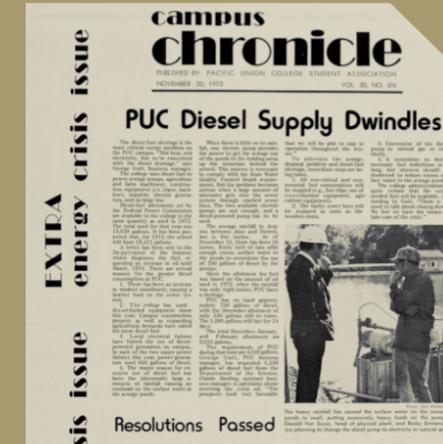
“I plan to sit in my backyard with a cup of tea and enjoy nature until I’m bored,” he says with a grin. “Then, I will seek out a new adventure and see what the future has in store for me. The prospect is exciting as I plunge into the unknown.” 🍵



# REARVIEW MIRROR REARVIEW MIRROR

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE HAS CREATED A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF. WE'VE FORGED LIFELONG RELATIONSHIPS HERE AND LEARNED TO LIVE IN FAITH AND SERVE GOD WITH PURPOSE.

HERE'S A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE MAKING THE HEADLINES AT THE COLLEGE ON THE MOUNTAIN OVER THE DECADES.



## 10 YEARS

2013 – The first four recipients of the Maxwell Scholarship graduated from PUC: Samantha Angeles, Matthew Phelps, Colleen Uechi, and Dana Yoon. The Maxwell Scholar Program recognizes incoming freshmen who have demonstrated high academic achievement, a commitment to Christian service, and outstanding leadership skills. These students received full tuition at PUC based on their unweighted cumulative GPA and test scores. The program honors the late Malcolm Maxwell, his wife Eileen, and their long-time commitment to Adventist education. He was the college's longest-serving president and the first PUC alum to serve in the role. The scholarship program remains a vital part of PUC to this day.

## 25 YEARS

1998 – It's hard to imagine now, in the age of smartphones and AI, but 25 years ago, one of the big tech advances on PUC's campus came in the form of Ethernet. The wired connections gave students access to speedier connections. "Ethernet Connection: Faster Than Ever!" the Campus Chronicle declared in a headline. Also, in 1998, the campus radio station changed its call letters to KNDL, The CANDLE. "We wanted our call letters to have a statement in themselves! We wanted people to see the mission of this radio station simply through its name," then-station general manager David Shantz told the Campus Chronicle. The college sold the station in 2011.

## 50 YEARS

1973 – In October 1973, the world was thrust into an energy crisis after OPEC declared an oil embargo against nations, including the U.S., that supported Israel in the Yom Kippur War. The crisis sent prices soaring by 300 percent. And PUC wasn't immune from the uncertainty. Rumors swirled that college would not be held in January, partly due to its reliance on diesel fuel. As a result, a special energy crisis council met in November to discuss how PUC could conserve energy—including banning Christmas lights, limiting shower times, setting all thermostats to 68 degrees, and turning off the fountain by Paulin Hall, except for Friday, Sabbath, and Sunday. The Campus Chronicle produced an entire special edition on the crisis and its impacts on the college.

## 75 YEARS

1948 – Many of us have fond memories of visiting the college market. In 1948, construction was well underway to build the Howell Mountain Community Market—for \$20,000—the equivalent of about \$250,000 today. At the time, plans for the store included "fountain service and a public telephone booth," selling a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, and carrying "a full line of groceries and sundry items," the Campus Chronicle reported. Meanwhile, that year, the college's engineering department built a rural fire truck that could carry more than 400 gallons of water. The truck was "one of the best-equipped fire trucks for rural fire fighting to be found in this part of California," declared E. A. Erickson, a district fire warden for California's forestry division.

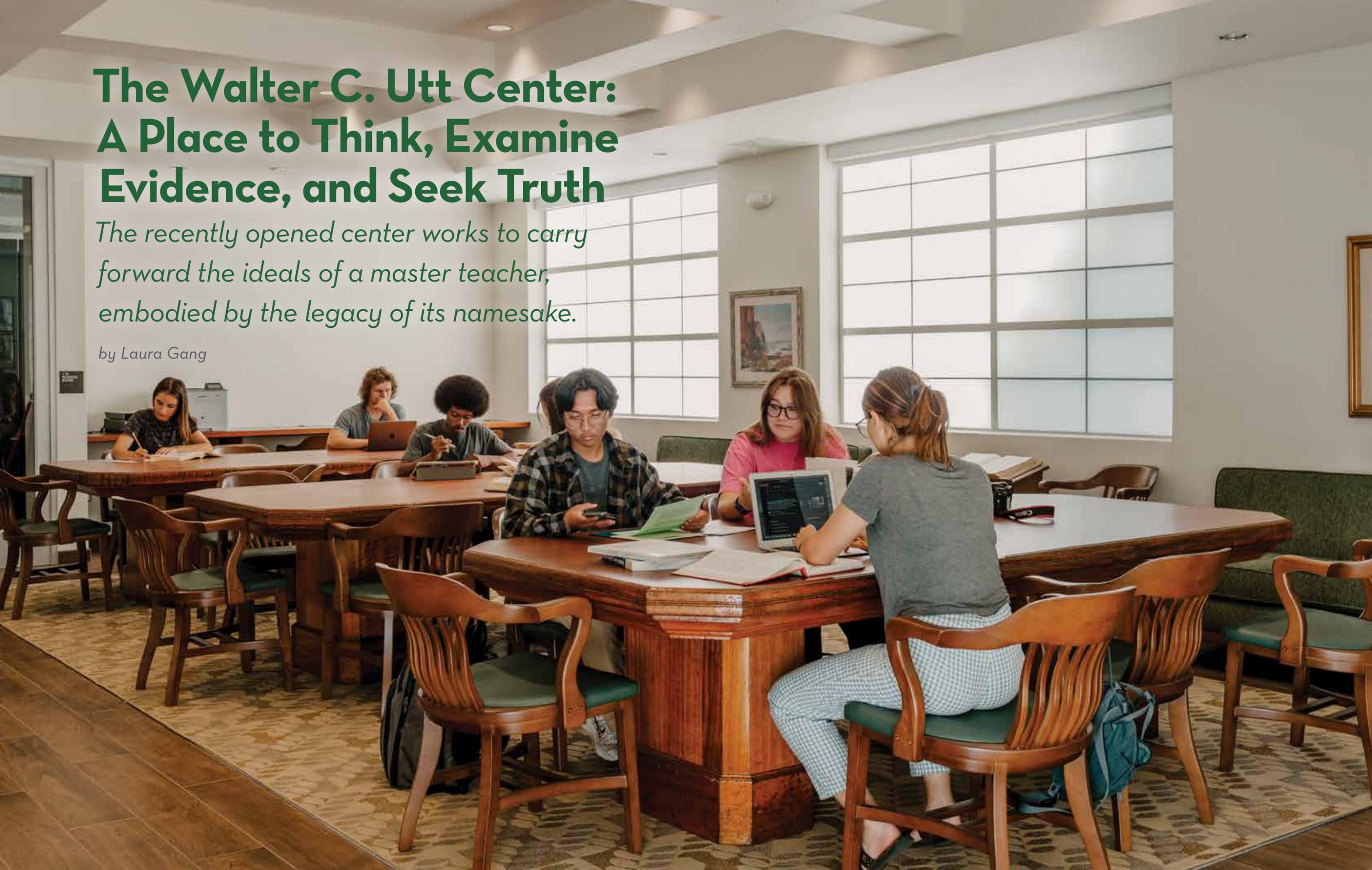
## 100 YEARS

1923 – For 10 years, the Angwin Hotel, started by Edwin Angwin in the 1860s, had been a men's dormitory for PUC. But by 1923, it was showing its age. So, a crew of 15 demolished the old hotel and began constructing what is now known as Grainger Hall. Construction took three months, and at the time of its completion, the building was the largest dormitory in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Today, the driveway leading to Grainger's front door and the stone fence remain from the original hotel landscape. In fact, there's a ring fixed to the stone wall that once tied visitors' horses at the hotel.

# The Walter C. Utt Center: A Place to Think, Examine Evidence, and Seek Truth

*The recently opened center works to carry forward the ideals of a master teacher, embodied by the legacy of its namesake.*

*by Laura Gang*





When we think of a master teacher, one whose legacy we hold up to emulate, we think of one whose impact goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. We do not think only of a vibrant scholar with a vast depth and breadth of expertise but also of one who takes a personal interest in students and remains a source of support and mentorship beyond graduation.

Walter Utt was that kind of master teacher.

Utt was an extraordinary history professor at Pacific Union College who left an indelible mark on the lives of many. An intellectual, yes, but his wit and humor engaged his students. Students clamored to be in his classes because his lectures were different. He rarely regaled them with personal stories of his own life. He kept them hooked with riveting narratives about historical figures and causes.

He didn't stand at his lectern tied to a neatly typed outline. Instead, Utt engaged with the class, referring only to a few errant cards or scraps of paper with quotations and probing discussion questions. He never drove at a specific answer but was genuinely interested in the ideas and opinions of his students.

"He enjoyed laying out a range of possible interpretations and asking students to join the debate," writes former PUC President Eric Anderson in a forthcoming biography of

Utt. "His students needed to create their personal syntheses, he believed, not simply to learn and repeat someone else's interpretations."

In a memoir of Utt written for *Spectrum Magazine* in 1986, retired psychiatrist Bruce Anderson recalled, as a history major, being "entertained and overawed" by the professor and his engaging yet unconventional lecture style.

Yet, Utt disdained the idea of being lionized as a professor. "I don't want to be singled out as some saintly Mr. Chips or anything of that sort," he once told Bruce Anderson.

But Utt does deserve recognition, Bruce Anderson said, as the kind of high-caliber, dedicated Christian teacher our Seventh-day Adventist institutions should always be working to cultivate and nurture.

Now, the new Walter C. Utt Center, officially opened this summer, embodies the hallmarks of its namesake. But as opposed to a monument or tribute to one man, the center has a larger goal and an extensive reach into the future. It's meant to carry on the spirit of a unique kind of teaching that combines critical thinking and a love of history—whether it be the college, the Seventh-day Adventist church, or the world—to students for years to come.

Karl Wilcox, director of the Utt Center and the Utt Professor of History, said he hopes the facility will preserve and carry forward the late professor's legacy. "The Utt Center should be a place where students come to think, hear and tell stories, examine evidence, seek truth, interpret the past, and evaluate truth claims," he said.

The top floor of the Utt Center features the Percy and John Christian Conference Room and seminar room. The PUC Board of Trustees will commence holding its meetings in the conference room this fall.

Milbert Mariano, PUC dean of humanities, arts, and professions, who also serves as director of the Honors Program, will hold discussion-based courses in the seminar room this year.

In October, Wilcox said, a workshop on the Old Testament narrative, sponsored by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, will be held in the Utt Center. Additionally, Wilcox has plans to revive the Rine Lectures. Named after PUC's first English professor, George Washington Rine, the series was initially established in 1939.

On the lower floor of the Utt Center is a library, archive, and scholars' study area, along with offices for the director and others. Found here are a wide variety of historical materials, including documents, photographs, and a host of other collections.

Wilcox also plans to teach his upcoming Shakespeare course in the scholars' study area.

The creation and construction of the Utt Center were made possible by the generous contributions of a group of donors, many of whom were personally touched by Utt during his time as a professor at PUC and beyond. Indeed, Bruce Anderson—along with others in the group who received them—counts 72 letters from Utt as one of his most prized possessions.

Following his untimely death in 1985, the group was determined to keep his memory alive and raised several million dollars to help do so—including through the creation of an endowment. Led by Bruce Anderson, they sponsored regular visiting professors and also found co-authors to complete several books. The endowment provided essential funding toward the building of the Utt Center, along with contributions from PUC and other donors, including the Christian family.

"What kept Walter Utt going was his students," Bruce Anderson wrote in *Spectrum*. "Like many Seventh-day Adventist teachers, he saw the chance to have an impact on thoughtful young people."

Although the Utt Center is a brand new building, it is dedicated to preserving and understanding the past, Wilcox said.

"In the post-modern world we live in, much of our collective past has been suppressed, distorted, discarded, or just plain ignored. We do not live well if we live exclusively in the present—the past is not only revelatory in terms of what is best (and worst) in human experience, it is also vastly interesting, complex and, thus, valuable," Wilcox said. "History is story, and PUC students need stories as well as credits and qualifications. As I often tell my students, to be human is to love stories, and the Utt Center Archive is chock-full of stories waiting to be discovered by students and established scholars alike."

For Wilcox, he sees the Utt Center as "a place that models vital and lively teaching and where Socratic dialogue prevails over didactic content."

He wants the center to help promote "an intelligent and lively interest" in the humanities, something he said is of vital necessity.

"The Utt Center holds as virtuous the pursuit of truth and wisdom through history, and as a scholarly enterprise, it exists to practice that particular virtue no matter what the surrounding culture might demand or think to prefer in its place," Wilcox said. "The Utt Center has a radical agenda—to relieve students of the terrible burden of not knowing and thus not caring about their own past." 🙌



# Alumni News

## CLASS NOTES

Written & Compiled by Herbert Ford, '54

### 1950

**Robert Johnston, '53**, who has been fondly called “the reigning rabbi” of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (Andrews University), is, at a total of 49 years, getting dangerously close to having taught at the Seminary for half a century! Otherwise, Bob has received a “Festschrift” from the faculty of Sahmyook University in Seoul, South Korea, where he taught for 11 years, and the Adventist Society of Religious Studies. He also recently taught for a term at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines.



**Cyril and Charlotte Hartman, both '57**, are taking life a bit easier in Orofino, Idaho, these days after their 16 years of serving in mission hospitals in Nigeria, Ghana, and Monument Valley, Utah. They met at PUC and married in 1958 while Cyril was in medical school. In their “empty” years,

the couple sang with a chorale and visited friends across the U.S. Now, in Orofino, they find that gardening and supporting local churches keeps them active.

### 1960

After 49 years of medical practice, **William Oh, '69**, and his wife have been helping at the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic since March of 2023. “It is amazing how many missionaries and others who work on this tiny Pacific island are fellow PUC alumni,” writes William. “Significant needs are here, and there are many opportunities for any able bodies to join us while the harvest is ready.”

### 1970

A lot of nostalgia was wrapped up in a recent nuptial event at which **Nancy, '74**, and **Bob, '73, '80**, Thornton were the principals: On their 50th wedding anniversary, on June 8, 2023, in Sacramento, California, with 50 friends and their families at the celebration, Nancy wore her wedding gown from their original wedding day.

Pastor **Elliott C. Osborne, '77**, has finally gotten out of jail, he says. “After many years in ministry, and three retire-

ments, and as a professor and county jail chaplain, I am now unemployed,” writes Elliott. His service as a minister of the Seventh-day Adventist faith includes a co-ministry of 34 years, along with his wife, Sonia Marie. Those were years that also included service as missionaries in Kenya, East Africa. The Osbornes are the parents of five children and four grandchildren.

### 1980

**Geoffrey Sewell, '88**, has been called to serve as Senior Youth and Young Adult Ministries director of the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, headquartered in Glendale, California. Although a physician, Geoffrey has served the church in various non-medical roles. In December 2022, he received a master's in pastoral ministry from Andrews University in Michigan.

### 2000

In July 2023, **Jesse A. Clark, '03**, was announced as the new head coach of the Urban Knights women's basketball team at the Academy of Art University (AAU) in San Francisco, California. Jesse brought over 25 seasons of collegiate coaching experi-

ence to his new role as an AAU coach. Before coming to AAU, he served on the coaching staff of the Tritons basketball team at the University of California, San Diego. Earlier, he coached the Sea Lions women's basketball team at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego.



**Stacey (Guffey) Smith, '05**, who operates a child care center for 95 children in Big Timber, Montana, is rejoicing over the fact that the State of Montana has recently awarded her a grant of \$383,000 to expand her facility, the only state-licensed childcare center in Montana's Sweet Grass County. Stacey and husband Casey are the parents of two kids, Sequoia and Chev-elle. Casey is the founding member of the Sweet Grass Technical Institute, which teaches high school students auto mechanics.

» Tell us about your adventures, accomplishments, weddings, and family additions! Please send us your update by **February 1, 2024**, to be included in our next issue.

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### 2010

**Heidi Jorgenson, '12**, has recently been named superintendent of education of the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, whose headquarters is in Reno, Nevada. As the education leader, Heidi is now superintending the teaching and operations of the eight schools of the two-state administrative unit of the church. Her appointment came after she had gained years of education experience from her association with elementary and secondary educational institutions of the Northern California Conference, the Mid-America Union, and the North American Division of the Adventist church.

**Ruben Vargas, '14**, has been assigned to pastor two California Seventh-day Adventist churches and serve as the leader of an additional church “company.” In April, he was appointed by the Northern California Conference of Adventists to be pastor of the Napa and St. Helena Spanish Adventist churches and the Sonoma Spanish Adventist church company. Earlier, Ruben was pastor of the Tracy Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church.

# SOUNDS OF THE SEASON AT PUC

## 2023 CHRISTMAS CONCERT SCHEDULE

Admission is free and open to all!

### WIND ENSEMBLE HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m.  
in Paulin Recital Hall

The PUC Wind Ensemble, directed by Rachelle Berthelsen Davis, presents its annual holiday concert. Enjoy exciting and beautiful versions of old favorites and discover new Christmas songs.

### CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

Friday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m., in the PUC Church

PUC's music department presents its annual Christmas Candlelight Concert at two different times. Revel in the sacred sounds of the holiday season with PUC Orchestra, directed by Rachelle Berthelsen Davis, and PUC Chorale and Vox Pro Musica, directed by Ronnie Zanella.

# Announcements

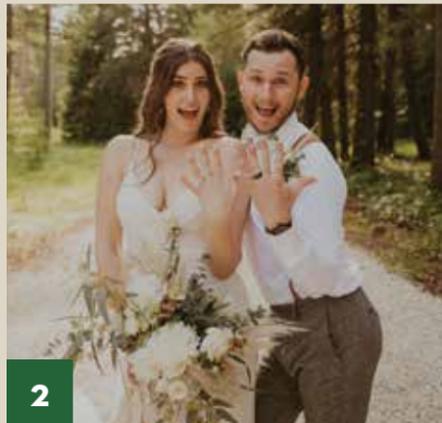
## WEDDINGS & BIRTHS



1



4



2



5



3

- 1 **Lindsay Morton**, PUC vice president for academic administration, and **Jonny Hayasaka, att. '97-'98**, were married in Angwin, Calif., on June 11, 2023.
- 2 **Evleena Bouit, '21**, and **Stefaan Dick, '19** and **'20**, were married in Deer Park, Wash., on May 28, 2023.

- 3 **Zaira Wilson, '22**, and **Reuben Dick, '20**, were married in Angwin, Calif., on July 30, 2023.
- 4 Sydney Elizabeth Casey, daughter of **Allie (Evans) Casey, '11**, and Jon Casey was born in Encinitas, Calif., on March 4, 2023.
- 5 Oliver Kosta Scales, son of Chris Scales and Kalli (Avila) Scales was born in Laguna Niguel, Calif., on February 24, 2023. (PUC Payroll Coordinator **Bonnie Rick, '81**, is one proud Grandma!)
- 6 Shiloh Rose Hernandez, daughter of **Carolyn (Benner) Hernandez, '19**, and **Johnny Hernandez, '16**, was born in Napa, Calif., on May 25, 2023.



Please send us your wedding and family addition updates by **February 1, 2024**, to be included in our next issue.

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# THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE!

Pacific Union College depends on the generous support of alumni and friends to continue our crucial mission of providing quality, Adventist, Christ-centered education. During our last fiscal year, donors showed their support in a big way, increasing giving by 34%! Your support this year will help us grow even more! There are many ways to give.



## PIONEER FUND

*Gifts to the Pioneer Fund make an impact today, tomorrow, and for years to come!*

Gifts to the Pioneer Fund sustain and support our students and campus through funding of essential scholarships, academic and student life resources, and our dedicated faculty. These gifts provide an even greater benefit to PUC because they are put to work immediately, supporting areas of greatest need.



## NURSING DEPARTMENT: DAVIDIAN HALL

*Great things are happening in the PUC nursing program.*

Our nursing department continues to grow, and through major improvements, we will be able to significantly increase the number of students we enroll in the coming school year and better train exceptional nursing graduates!



## AVIATION PROGRAM

*Aviation is poised to take off!*

With the current shortage of pilots and the great weather and sunny days that the Napa Valley offers, the aviation program at PUC is growing. As enrollment increases in the program, the need for new training airplanes becomes more essential. Your support ensures the next generation of pilots are able to take to the skies.



## PAULIN RECITAL HALL

*An important site on campus, Paulin Recital Hall is getting a refresh.*

Efforts are already underway to improve one of the iconic locations on campus to provide much-needed updates. Your support means that we can complete this important project. Paulin Recital Hall remains a center of culture and education for our campus and the community!



Visit [puc.edu/waystogive](https://puc.edu/waystogive) or scan this QR to learn more about current projects across campus and how you can make a gift today.

# IN MEMORY

Written & Compiled by Herbert Ford, '54

## FACULTY AND STAFF



**Allison Denise Fox, Faculty, '01**, PUC Access Services Librarian and Honors Director, died in St. Helena, California, on May 9, 2023. She was born on February 10, 1978, in St. Helena. After graduating from PUC, Allison earned two master's degrees, one in British literature from San Diego State University and the second in library and information science from Simmons College. After working at the University of Redlands library, she was employed by two Napa Valley organizations. Allison began her service at PUC as an adjunct professor for the English Department. In 2017, she became the Access Services Librarian at the Nelson Memorial Library. In 2020, she took on the additional role of Honors Director for the college. Allison is survived by her parents, Cheryl and Chuck Fox; and by her sisters, Heidi and Lizzie.

**Betty Lou (Barnacle) Jackson, Former Staff** died in July 2023. She was born on July 12, 1937, in Oto, Iowa. Betty Lou lived in Glendale and Ventura, California, before she moved to Angwin, California, where she was employed in the register's office at Pacific Union College. She is survived by her daughters: Debbie, Teresa Schweizer, Cindi Rafoth, Vicki Grenier, and Kathy "Katie" Jackson. She is also survived by her son, Robert "Bobbie" Jackson; by six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and by her sister, Beverly Montagne.

**Fred M. Kinsey, Former Faculty**, a Seventh-day Adventist mass communicator, and former Voice of Prophecy radiobroadcast speaker, died on July 17, 2023, in Walnut Creek, California. He was born on May 3, 1952. Fred began his Adventist service career as a church pastor in Ohio and afterward joined the Northern California Conference as its communication director. He also served as a public relations professor and chairman of the communication department at PUC. He was an assistant to the president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. His last period of service was as a speaker of the Adventist Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast.

Fred is survived by his wife, Lynette; by his two children, Stephanie and Jeffrey; and by his four grandchildren.

## ALUMNI

**George Boghosian, '80**, a nurse, died on May 1, 2023, in Santa Rosa, California. He was born in San Francisco, California, on December 2, 1948. Proud of his mother, Alice, who served as a nurse during World War II, George earned an associate degree in nursing at Pacific Union College. As a nurse, he worked in correctional facilities and drug rehabilitation centers in Sonoma and Marin counties. George is survived by his long-time friend Linda Harper and cousins in Wisconsin.

**Joy Cho, '99**, a teacher, pastor, lecturer, and missionary, died on August 11, 2023, while hiking in the Grand Teton Mountains of Wyoming. She was born on August 3, 1976, in Busan, South Korea. After graduating from PUC, Joy earned an MS from La Sierra University and then served as a teacher at Bakersfield Adventist Academy for five years. In 2006, she was the music director and secretary of the Bakersfield Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. For four years, she was the youth pastor of the Loma Linda Korean Seventh-

day Adventist Church. She served as a missionary in China, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Korea, Australia, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Joy is survived by her father, Joseph Cho; her mother, Anita Cho; and her brother, Mike Cho.

**Marlin D. Czajkowski, '75**, the creator of the off-road-vehicle "rock crawler" industry, died on March 9, 2023, while on a cruise in the waters of the Mexican Riviera. He was born on September 16, 1955, in Southern California. Through his Marlin's Crawler auto parts store in Fresno, California, and his assistance to hundreds of rock-crawling off-road vehicle owners who found themselves in trouble on the boulder-strewn, world-famous Rubicon Trail in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Marlin became a famous and beloved person by thousands of off-roaders worldwide. Marlin is survived by his wife, Christine; by his daughter, Chrystal; and by his son, Michael.

**R. Merrel Olesen, '54**, a plastic surgeon, died on May 11, 2023, in La Jolla, California. He was born in Petaluma, California, on December 26, 1932. After graduating from PUC, Merrel joined the U.S. Army and served in its biologic warfare testing program called "Operation Whitecoat." He received his doctor of

medicine degree from Loma Linda University in 1960. After completing a medical residency in otolaryngology in 1965, he practiced medicine in Maryland and then in La Jolla for ten years. After completing a second residency at the University of Michigan, he began his long career as a "double-boarded" plastic surgeon in La Jolla. Merrel and his second wife, Marie, created helpful medical devices and authored medical books. For ten years, he made monthly trips to the La Mesa Penitentiary in Tijuana, Mexico, to do cosmetic surgery on prisoners in that large penal institution. Merrel is survived by his wife, Marie; by his children, Scott, Matthew, and Laura; by his two grandchildren; and by his sibling, Ole C. Olesen.

**Jerry Lynn Schull, '60**, physician and military officer, died on May 4, 2023, in Las Vegas, Nevada. After receiving his M.D. degree, doing a medical

internship, and completing a fellowship in gastroenterology, Jerry, in 1966, joined the United States Air Force, with initial duty at the Grant Medical Center of Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. He retired from military service as a colonel and chairman of the Internal Medicine Department at the USAF Regional Medical Center in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1986. He practiced medicine in Napa, California, following his 20 years of military service. In 1992, he moved to Las Vegas to train physicians with Southwest Medical Associates. Jerry is survived by his wife, Carol; by his children, Cheryl Palmer, Jerry Lynn Schull, Jr., and Teresa Melendez; by his eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Rodney Allen Weis, Att. '56-'58**, a retired farmer, died on June 7, 2023, in Napa, California. He was born in Coalinga, California, on November 9, 1938. Raised on his parents'

farm near Madera, California, Rodney attended Ripperdan Elementary School, Fresno Union Academy, and Pacific Union College. As a farmer, Rodney raised grapes for raisins and almonds. He was an innovative farmer, implementing integrated pest management that allowed his crops to flourish. Rodney was predeceased by his son Greg. He is survived by his wife, Kathie; by his son, Russell; by his daughter, Janet Wellington; and by four grandchildren and one step-grandchild.

## Remembering Friends

"In Memory" is our opportunity to honor and remember fellow alumni. We currently receive obituaries from various sources, and information may not always be complete. Family members of alumni who wish to submit obituary information directly can contact the alumni office.

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To read more alumni obituaries, please visit: [puc.edu/alumni/stay-connected](http://puc.edu/alumni/stay-connected)



## PUC ALUMNI!

TELL US YOUR NEWS

## STAY IN TOUCH

We are saying prayers of gratitude for all of the blessings we've received at our "college on the mountain" this year, and we hope you will share in those prayers with us! If you would like to stay updated with all of the latest PUC news, please subscribe to our e-newsletter at [puc.edu/newsletter](http://puc.edu/newsletter).

## UPDATE US

We love hearing from you, as does the rest of our PUC family. Please send us your update by **February 1, 2024, to be included in our next issue**. Alumni News comes from a variety of sources, but we prefer news that comes from you. [alumni@puc.edu](mailto:alumni@puc.edu) | (707) 965-7500



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## WHAT IS YOUR WHY?

*“PUC is special, a place Ellen White helped set aside. It is particularly special to me because we are a community that has come together time and time again and persevered—we are resilient. I am honored to keep the PUC spirit and legacy alive. I look forward to leading the School of Sciences in continued academic excellence for many years to come.”*

**Aimee Wyrick-Brownworth,**  
Dean of the School of Sciences

# 2024 HOMECOMING *is April 19-20*



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### 2023-2024

## UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS!

- Oct. 22** Paulin Recital Hall Fundraiser Brunch, **Angwin, CA**
- Nov. 4** Sabbath Luncheon, Arlington SDA Church, **Keene, TX**
- Nov. 11** Sabbath Luncheon, English Oaks Church, **Lodi, CA**
- Nov. 13** Mission: Ukraine Event, **St. Helena, CA**
- Dec. 9** President's Circle Luncheon, **Angwin, CA**
- March 1 - 5** Annual Postgraduate Convention, **Loma Linda, CA**
- April 19 - 20** Homecoming Weekend, **Angwin, CA**
- Aug. 22 - 25** Albion Biology Alumni Weekend, **Albion, CA**

### For locations and times:

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