

COMMUNITY

One student was evacuated from the ACA campus in Beirut, Lebanon. Find out how ACA directors are responding to the crisis in the Middle East.

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CAMPUS

The Facilities Management team is hard-pressed to keep up with campus service requests. Read what's been going on behind the scenes.

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CONVERSATION

Adjunct professor Dr. Scott Butterfield wants to bridge the gap between nature and technology. Learn how he does so, at PUC and beyond.

P5

College Days Welcomes Tomorrow's Pioneers



Academy students line up for snacks at Afterglow.

By Charlie Kefalos

From Friday, Nov. 3 to Monday, Nov. 6, PUC welcomed 265 academy students from 13 high schools across California as part of their long-running, biannual College Days program. College Days offers high schoolers the opportunity to experience college campus life through a holistic itinerary that involves them in academic sessions, community events, worship services and dorm life.

Enrollment coordinator Abraham Garrido, who spent nearly a year conceptualizing, researching and realizing this year's College Days, was enthusiastic about the outcome. "It was probably the best College Days we've had in the last 8 years," he said.

Planning for the weekend began just after last year's fall event, and plans were not finalized until the end of this past September.

A core team of six people, led by Garrido and senior Andrianna Massena, executive assistant and PUC's visit coordinator, synchronized students, staff and faculty across numerous departments to execute their vision for the event. The meticulous organization of the itinerary, essentially a complete overhaul, brought College Days to a new level.

"I personally believe it was the best
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FROM THE EDITOR

I wonder whether we've all felt the same way these last couple of days? Trapped in a bit of a tailspin, somewhere between the cool, exhilarating Top Gun kind and the total panic kind?

Thankfully, someone has arranged for us to have a week off from our regularly scheduled responsibilities, just in time to right the plane. There are many ways that we can use this brief reprieve to re-energize ourselves for the few weeks that remain.

For those of us who chose majors where instructors actually assign homework over break, let's forgive them. For those of us who have second and third jobs outside of school, let's not forget to take some time to rest, too. And for soon-to-be-seniors, well, let's try to forget that we have only one good option to keep this gravy train a-rolling, and that's grad school ...

Let's hope we all get to spend our time off with someone special, whether it's our families, our kin, our furry friends, our followers or ourselves. Let's appreciate knowing that Thanksgiving is the one day a year no one can complain about us, because we're all supposed to be practicing gratitude. It'll have to wait until the next day. Yes, that's how it works.

But most importantly let's focus on the things we have now, the things that make it all worthwhile: our relationships, our liberty, our safety and the beauty of our natural world. These are things that come with no guarantees.

*Cheers,
Charlie Kefalos
Editor-in-Chief*



COMMUNITY

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College Days since I started working for PUC," said admissions counselor Pauline Cidro. "It was 100 to 200 times better than last year." She noted that at least 10 academy principals reached out to her to personally deliver positive feedback from their students and sponsors.

Part of the success stemmed from the Admissions team's focus on the feedback they received about last year's College Days. Some sponsors, many of whom are themselves PUC alumni, commented that the last few College Days had felt almost formulaic, and that the students had too much downtime during their visits.

Their reactions suggested to the team that perhaps College Days was being held just for the sake of holding it. Garrido, Massena

and their team endeavored to bring fresh ideas to show students a good time this year. They held opening and closing meetings with sponsors to ensure that they felt heard and included. The resulting itinerary was much more intentional, focusing on tangible benefits to the students and introducing innovative and popular new events.

More focus was placed on spiritual and fellowship events like Vespers and Sabbath School. Students also attended additional morning worship sessions, led by teams of freshman musicians organized by enrollment counselor Glanelle Ejurango.

The Admissions team also diligently promoted College Days among the academies, even offering to pick up groups from the airport who were unable to drive in. Noticeably more students came this year over last year, causing surprise and some consternation among the PUC student body. Prime parking spaces were scarce, and employees in the Dining Commons warned PUC students away from trying to dine during peak hours.

As PUC's enrollment numbers trend positive year-over-year, successful turnout for academy outreach events like the high school essay contest, Publication Workshop, PacificQuest and PacificQuest Rise will continue to be a priority. There is a lot at

stake for the high schoolers, too, as they carefully evaluate dozens of colleges or universities courting their attendance to find the best fit for them.

"It's like buying a car," suggested Garrido. "If you can't test drive it, how do you know you'll like it?"



The Pathfinders welcome academy students with waffle dogs at Fall Fest.

And unlike a traditional campus tour, the academy students get to experience authentic student life. Professors, deans and administrators led them through labs, studios and lecture halls in academic sessions. Visitors slept in the dorms and joined PUC students for Friday night Vespers, a card game tournament organized by SA and the intramural flag football championship games. The weekend culminated in PUC's annual Fall Festival, where campus clubs and organizations hosted them with food stands, tabletop games and even a bounce house.

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PUC, PUC Prep and academy students bond over boba at Afterglow.

COMMUNITY

ACA Student Evacuated From Lebanon Campus

By Joli Weber

An Oakwood University student was evacuated from the ACA campus in Beirut, Lebanon on Oct. 27, 2023, just after war broke out between neighboring Israel and Palestine. She has since been relocated to the ACA campus in Sagunto, Spain to continue her studies abroad.

The *Campus Chronicle* was unable to contact the evacuated student, but ACA administrators shared what information they could about the situation.

On Oct. 7, Hamas-led militants attacked civilian and military targets across southern Israel in a surprise armed offensive. The Israeli government responded immediately, initiating retaliatory aerial and ground counteroffensives.

There was some concern that other countries in the region — Syria, Egypt and Lebanon among them — could be drawn into the conflict. Hezbollah, a political party and militant group in Lebanon, clashed with Israel along the Lebanese border shortly after the attacks by Hamas.

The ACA Board of Directors, including ACA Director Juan Antonio López, met in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 25, two days prior to the student's evacuation. They evaluated their existing safety protocol and established lines of contact between ACA Lebanon, the student's home university, the student herself, and

the student's legal guardians.

The board ultimately decided that, in the interest of the safety of both current and future students, the program in Lebanon would be suspended through the 2024-2025 academic year. Summer programs in Israel will also be relocated to the Sagunto campus.

The Oakwood student's education has been moved online, with the faculty in Lebanon providing continuing course work via Zoom. However, she participates in cultural trips organized by the Spain program. She will stay in Spain until December and then decide whether to continue online schooling or return home to the States.

"[The situation] has affected her ... emotionally because she was very determined to learn Arabic and to be there. She felt like God had taken her there, to the campus, but ACA pulled her away," said López. However, all parties involved did not want to take any risks regarding the safety of the student.

"She felt like God had taken her there, to the campus, but ACA pulled her away."

Currently, faculty and staff at ACA Lebanon who are permanent residents there remain safely on campus. Decisions of this magnitude by the ACA board members are made following the home institution's decision, in tandem with the home country's protocols. The board receives daily email updates from the U.S. State Department regarding the progression of the conflict and regional safety guidelines. Board members also receive daily updates from the affected campus itself.

The Israel-Hamas war is yet another test of strength for Adventist campuses across the globe. In March 2020, as the first COVID waves hit Europe, ACA directors including López scrambled to evacuate dozens of students from campuses in Italy, France and Spain before those countries shut their borders. Just two years later, administrators were forced to evacuate the Ukrainian Adventist Center of Higher Education in Bucha, a suburb of Kyiv, as Russian forces descended on the city.

The ACA board members and administrators in Beirut are closely monitoring the situation at the southern border. The Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education is considering implementing procedures for transitioning to online education, should conditions worsen. ■

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"There are some students who are not even thinking about going to PUC, but when they see the campus and how much fun we have, they are amazed," said Cidro.

Of course, not everything went exactly as planned. It poured rain during Sunday's "Amazing Race," adding an extra level of difficulty as students competed in a campus-wide scavenger hunt.

Nobody seemed to mind, however, and the Amazing Race became the most talked-about event of the weekend. Students from Monterey Bay Academy, who elected to arrive late Sunday afternoon, missed the event completely. They were so devastated,

Cidro recalled, that they resolved to come back for the full weekend next year.

"... when they see the campus and how much fun we have, they are amazed."

Other pivots tested the Admissions team's flexibility and adaptability. According to Ejurango, the College Days team had planned to offer hot chocolate after Sunday's late-night flag football championship,

but the large kettles they needed were not available. In a moment of quick thinking, the team sourced propane tanks from the hardware store and cooked out on a camping stove, and no one was ever the wiser.

The Admissions team will have the opportunity to refine their new processes during PUC's second College Days weekend in February, which will welcome students from academies outside of California.

"So many sponsors asked me, 'When can you come visit our academies?'" Ejurango laughed. "As a new member of the team, it felt like such a huge success." ■

CAMPUS

What's Going On With Facilities?

By Justin Taina

Facilities Management is a key department at PUC that operates relatively quietly on campus, responsible for the smooth functioning of the college with tasks ranging from carpentry to plumbing to electrical work. However, like many other departments on campus, Facilities is experiencing a significant labor shortage that is making it difficult to keep up with their workload.

When asked to comment on the issues currently facing Facilities, Director of Facilities Management Dale Withers declined an interview, saying that he was “short on time due to our short staffing.”

“Facilities is definitely short-staffed ... running on a skeleton crew,” according to senior Abigail Mayan, a Facilities receptionist and office assistant. “There’s not enough student workers or staff. If we can’t get to you immediately, it’s not due to a lack of effort — it’s due to a lack of people.”

The shortage has created a significant backlog of maintenance requests, particularly in the residence halls. Mayan pointed out that long-term projects for Facilities have diverted much-needed manpower away from short-term student requests.

“The kitchen [renovations] in Newton and Winning are a couple [of] big projects,” she said. “This summer, they turned Nichol into apartment-style housing for traveling nurses, but that’s only mostly done.”

Another major project for Facilities Management has been repairing PUC’s cogeneration plant, which provides much of the electricity and steam power for campus.

“I believe it broke down [in] March of last school year,” said Mayan. “This shutdown was the longest it’s ever been out of operation. They just started getting it up and running again.”

Some positions with Facilities, like welders, can be more difficult to fill with student workers because they require candidates who have specialized knowledge or experience. Students’ schedules are also a source of conflict, as many Facilities shifts begin in the early morning hours and stretch throughout the school day.

Additionally, Facilities is such a large umbrella that it can be difficult to

identify their exact responsibilities. Dorm maintenance and renovation falls under their purview, but general cleaning does not; they will change light bulbs and unclog drains, but landscaping and large-scale repairs of machines like washers and dryers are outsourced to local companies.

However, simple repairs and requests can be completed by student workers, some of whom find the job rewarding.

Sophomore Isaiah Johnson, a dorm maintenance worker, said, “I like it ... it keeps me very busy. There’s always something to do. Right now we have to fix curtain rods, people need window screens — stuff like that. Anything that people need done, we do it.”

“Anything that people need done, we do it.”

And despite being short a few pairs of hands, Facilities maintains a generally positive reputation among students, who voiced appreciation for the staff’s efforts.

“Upkeep’s not bad,” commented sophomore Ethan Durns. “I had a sink problem that was fixed within a day ... Maintenance in the dorms is good, they work really hard.”

“I think the campus is pretty well maintained in general,” added sophomore Gabriel Llanel-Vararaj. “What is there is maintained.”

Junior Alejandra Dietrich, a student desk worker in Winning Hall, bemoaned the difficulty of getting a service request addressed but conceded that the Facilities Department has quite a lot on its plate.

“I can definitely see the effort for the upkeep,” she said. “Maintenance workers are keeping on top of it, it’s just such a big job.”

In any case, it seems unlikely that these big projects will stop any time soon. Bathroom renovations are at the top of many students’ wish lists, and there is hope that this year’s administration or SA will allocate funds to that undertaking. David Ringer, PUC’s Associate Dean of Men, is

sure that those renovations will be made sooner rather than later.

“I am confident that the right people are working on it,” Ringer said. “The right people in administration completely understand the conditions.”

According to Mayan, “It’s hard to say exactly how many new workers we’d need, but the more the better.” She plans to organize a recruitment drive on campus similar to one held last spring to hopefully address the staffing issue. ■

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CONVERSATION

Of Leaves & Machines: A Talk With Dr. Scott Butterfield

By Sherban Cedeno

“Neural networks,” “Internet of Things,” “CRISPR” — modern news is buzzing with the excitement of new innovations that have profound implications on how humans relate to one another and with their world. Dr. Scott Butterfield, an adjunct to the School of Sciences, is intimately familiar with this world. Passionate about expanding interest in a field that, to many, may seem niche and technical — if not completely unheard of — Dr. Butterfield sat down with the Chronicle to give his own thoughts about conservation, his work in the field, and his hopes for reaching students.

One of PUC’s former IT employees and an old friend, David Rai, reached out to Dr. Butterfield as part of an effort in bringing more technological education into the school’s curriculum, with the aim of growing PUC’s enrollment. The field of conservation — those branches of biology and ecology concerned with maintaining and protecting the natural environment and its diversity — is no exception to the new wave of technology. Just within the past decade or so, emerging technologies like AI and wireless networks have reshaped the way that research is conducted and policy enacted.

Though Dr. Butterfield was only asked to meet with the Biology Department, things went well enough that he was asked to work on creating a conservation technology major and teach classes. This school year is



Dr. Butterfield teaches St. Helena High conservation technology students to set up a wildlife camera.

the first time CNTC-201: Introduction to Conservation Technology is being offered.

For the past few years, Dr. Butterfield has taught high school classes about conservation technology — he calls them “college-early,” since students could get college credit — in St. Helena, Napa and Santa Rosa. Dr. Butterfield has been tasked with, in essence, creating a subfield that does not currently exist in any meaningful capacity in education. In addition to doing the actual work of teaching, one of Butterfield’s major obstacles is fostering an awareness of what conservation technology even is.

“As you can imagine, it’s really hard to recruit students into a new class, and it’s even harder to attract students in the Adventist faith,” he said, citing the pressures of drawing people to a profession that many do not even know exists. In an economy in which the value of a college degree is being contested more and more, parents and students are concerned with whether their education will lead to jobs, a stable income, and further opportunities.

But Dr. Butterfield’s professional career should put those concerns to rest. When not in the classroom, Dr. Butterfield is the lead scientist for the California chapter of The Nature Conservancy, an environmental organization with one million members, over 125 million acres of land under protection, and operations in more than 70 countries. He has worked with TNC for 17 years, starting as a regional ecologist in 2006, where his work focused on a swath of grassland about one-and-a-half hours west of Bakersfield known as Carrizo Plain.

Now, as lead scientist, he is in charge of the California chapter’s Land Program, leading efforts to bring new properties and lands under TNC’s protection. He is busy with several projects, from restoring water availability to genomic analysis of blue oaks to Vence, a type of “virtual fencing” technology. Just last week, he made a visit to Spain to meet with collaborators concerned with dryland ecosystems, sharing his own work in overseeing cattle-grazing throughout the 400,000 acres that TNC protects in California.

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Dr. Scott Butterfield

CONVERSATION

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An ocelot passes in front of wildlife cameras in Peru.

Courtesy of Dr. Joseph Kolowski, The Smithsonian Institute.

Of all his projects, he is most proud of laying the groundwork for the scientists and researchers who joined TNC after him. He maximized the annual \$25,000 endowment that the Carrizo Plain project received to develop projects from small endeavors into important components of TNC's work in the San Joaquin Valley. As he grew in seniority in his career, he has also taken on somewhat of a "mentoring" role, trying to provide the sorts of opportunities to younger colleagues that had allowed him to broaden his own work.

With his connections in the field, Dr. Butterfield offers a unique approach within PUC's programs, providing students with the chance to learn real-world skills and to connect with ongoing, important projects.

"These are real things," he reiterated. "There isn't a conservation technology textbook that we're just going through chapter by chapter. We are trying to build a class and a degree program that is grounded in how we are actually using these technologies. I want students coming out feeling like they have a real-world understanding of the field."

With climate change looming and technology advancing at breakneck speed, the field of conservation technology will only grow more and more in relevance. "This technology is embedded in everything we do," Butterfield said, citing the prevalence of Google Maps on our phones and virtual assistants in our homes. Even in his own

work — from determining the best place for solar panels to restoring water in drying habitats — Dr. Butterfield has already faced the challenges that lie in the future.

"The environment is spinning out of control, and these technologies really do give us one of our best last hopes," he concluded. "I want people to be aware that conservation isn't just this sort of, like, 1960s hippie thing. The environment is one of the few topics that can bring a lot of people together." ■



Wildlife cameras capture a mountain lion prowling the Back 40.

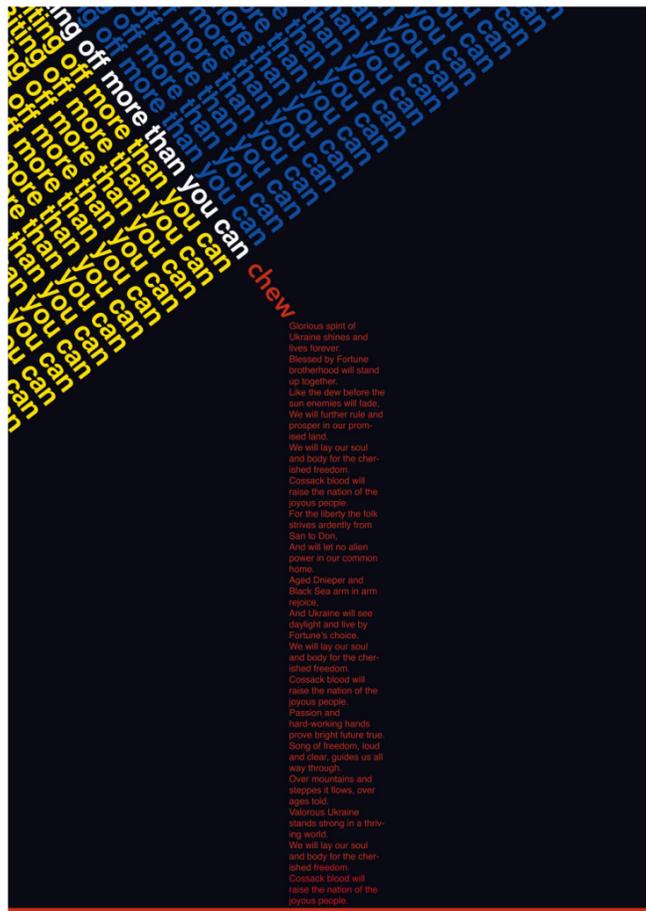


A grey fox passes by the conservation technology students' camera.



A black bear marauding the trails in the Back 40.

THE ARTS



Kateryna Propavkina, "Biting Off More Than You Can Chew," digital typography.

"Glorious spirit of Ukraine shines and lives forever.

Blessed by Fortune, brotherhood will stand up together."

-Ukrainian national anthem

I understood these words very well on the first day of the war.

Try to imagine that the world you lived in disappeared. All rules and behavior patterns no longer apply. The law is in question because war is not something written in the Constitution. No one taught us how to behave. We only saw horrifying scenes in history textbooks.

I was afraid that people would lose their minds and resort to violence, desperate to survive. I was scared that lawlessness, theft, and violence would prevail. I was cautious.

To my surprise, when I descended into the subway, the workers opened all the gates, so no one had to pay. When I struggled to carry my suitcase up the stairs, a man approached me and offered his help. As I reached the top, an old man started talking to me,

calling me his granddaughter, worrying about my future.

At the border we joined a long queue that lasted for several days. It was February, and everyone was freezing to the bone. Despite this, people made way for mothers with children, creating a corridor for them. Mothers, with tears in their eyes, forced themselves to move forward for the sake of their children, even though their hearts were breaking, leaving their loved ones behind.

The Ukraine I saw in the first days of the war became even more beautiful. A passerby became my brother, the old man spoke to me as if he had been a part of my family for 20 years, and the children in the queue found hundreds of new friends ready to cheer them up and share their last cookie saved for the journey.

Ukraine is my home. Ukrainians are my family. I believe that the best art comes from the heart. The strength of Ukrainian souls has become my inspiration for everything I do.



Emma Fedchenko, *Untitled*, paper collage.



Emma Fedchenko, *Untitled*, pencil on paper.



Emma Fedchenko, *Untitled*, pencil on paper.

What I love the most about art is the opportunity to create my own world and something that represents me. The process of thinking about an idea and bringing it to life is the most exciting part for me. I am usually inspired by every piece of work I create and I can sit up 24/7 on a project, just because I'm passionate about the idea I've come up with.

Art is a part of my life that makes me happy!

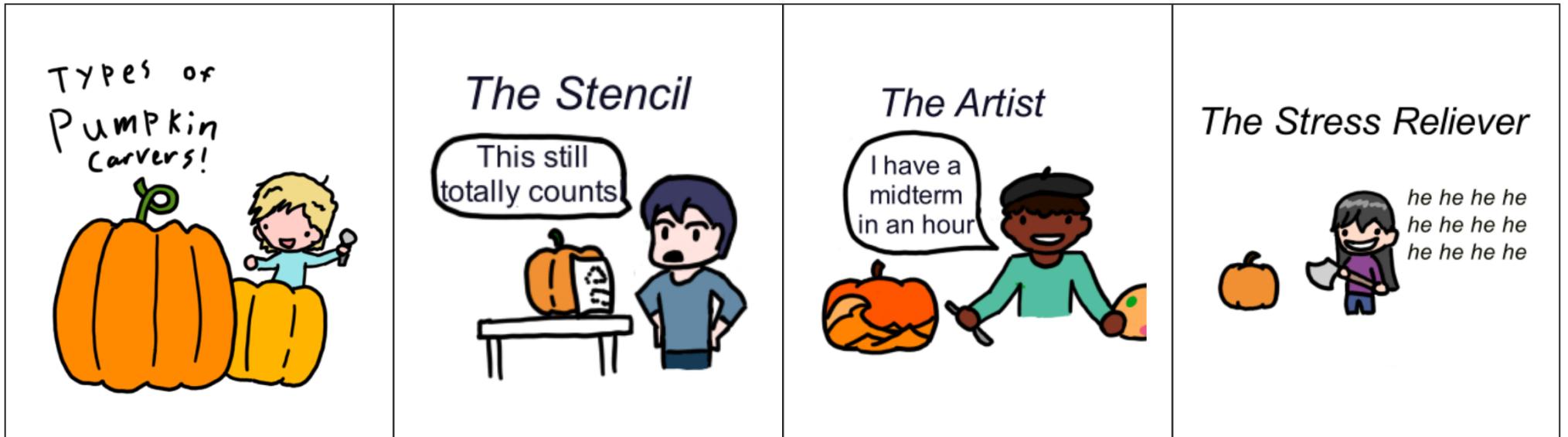
**CALLING
ALL
ARTISTS!**



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

Instagram: [@pucchronicle](https://www.instagram.com/pucchronicle) | Email: chderr@puc.edu

UPDATES



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Break
Saturday, Nov. 18 through Sunday, Nov. 26

Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, Nov. 23, wherever you are!

Academic Senate
Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 4 p.m.
in the Fireside Room

Christmas Tree Lighting
Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m.

Women's & Men's Basketball vs. Saint Katherine
Thursday, Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m.
and 7:30 p.m. in the Gym

Board Debrief
Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. in
Davidian Hall

PITCH IT!



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

FIND THE ANSWER, WIN FREE COFFEE



Find the answer hidden somewhere in the paper. The first person to DM us on Instagram @pucchronicle will win a free drink at the Grind!

This week's question is:
How many times has PUC offered CNTC-201: Introduction to Conservation Technology?