

Firsts, Bests & Honors



- 1849** | Founding of Pacific University
- 1863** | Education Program offers baccalaureate degree in teaching
- 1911** | State approves the offering of teaching certificates
- 1945** | Optometry program adopted
- 1975** | Physical Therapy program established
- 1984** | Occupational Therapy Program established
- 1985** | Professional Psychology program adopted
- 1989** | State approves the offering of 5th year master's degree in Education
- 1994** | College of Education established
- 1997** | Physician Assistant Studies program established
- 2004** | College of Health Professions established • MFA in Writing program established
- 2005** | New Silver LEED-certified library opens
- 2006** | Dental Health Science program established • Pharmacy program established • Gold LEED certified Health Professions Campus (HPC) opens in Hillsboro • Burlingham Hall, a Gold LEED residence hall, opens
- 2007** | Lincoln Park athletic complex constructed • First annual Legends Golf Tournament benefiting Pacific Athletics hosted by Pacific Trustee, Tommy Thayer
- 2008** | Gilbert Hall, a gold LEED residence hall, opens • Berglund Hall, a gold LEED academic building, opens • Masters of Healthcare Administration program established

Firsts

- Pacific University was granted the first charter that provided for the establishment of an institution of higher education by the Oregon Territorial Legislature in 1849. The Orphan Asylum, operated by Tabitha Brown, focused on “the instruction of persons of both sexes in science and literature.”
- Gamma Sigma is the first Greek letter society west of the Mississippi River. Pacific’s fraternity was established in 1863.
- The Pacific University College of Optometry (formerly the North Pacific College of Optometry) is the first program of its type to award a Doctor of Optometry degree in the U.S.
- Pacific is the first university in Oregon to offer graduate and professional training in Optometry, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, and Education.
- Pacific’s first teacher was a young man named DCL Latourette. He only lasted 6 months because he “was unable to resist the allurements of the gold fields of California.”
- Pacific’s first class was held in College Hall (now Old College Hall) in October 1851. Old College Hall is one of the first educational structures in the western United States and longest-standing academic buildings west of the Mississippi.
- In August 2007, the Pacific Fight Song rang out for the first time from the Marsh Hall bell tower carillon. The music, by Professor Charles Dietz, plays daily at 5 p.m.
- Pacific’s first woman president, Faith Gabelnick, served from 1995-2003.
- The Pacific University Fieldhouse, built in 1970, was the first athletic facility in the northwest specifically built as an indoor practice facility for outdoor sports. The Fieldhouse predates facilities now in place at most larger colleges and is one of only a handful of such facilities among small colleges in the West.
- Burlingham Hall is the first “gold” rated LEED-certified green residential building on the west coast.
- In August 2007, The Kathrin Cawein Gallery of Art hosted “Amusement,” a first-ever video exhibition by Hayley Barker, in the Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Center. Barker’s fascination with fairs began early when she started working at the Oregon State Fair as a teenager and is exemplified in this video installation that attempts to synthesize the entire experience of a fair into twenty minutes.
- The Pacific baseball team was the first to use an experimental contact lens, developed by Pacific Optometry professor Alan Reichow, designed to help players see the ball better in varying light conditions. The lenses were made and marketed by Nike and used by professional athletes in a variety of sports.
- A film first in September 2007, *Stolen Again*, was created in the Pacific University Media Arts Department under the mentorship of Erik Fauske. It screened along with 18 other Portland area shorts at Living Room Theaters in Portland.
- The Iris Clinic, run by the School of Professional Psychology at the Hillsboro campus, is the first training clinic in Washington County to offer psychological services to both English and Spanish speaking clients.

Bests

- Built in 1912 by the Carnegie Endowment, Carnegie Hall was the only academic Carnegie library located in the Pacific Northwest and only one of three academic Carnegie libraries in the West.

- Pacific's MFA in Writing program was rated as one of the top five low-residency programs by *Atlantic Monthly* and the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest in 2007.
- The new multi-million dollar Lincoln Park Athletic Complex features separate stadiums for lacrosse/soccer/track, baseball and softball. The project was a collaboration between Pacific University and the City of Forest Grove, and is also home to the world's largest barber pole. This is one of two 9-lane track facilities in the northwest.
- Pacific University was named a "Best in the West" 2009, by *The Princeton Review*.
- Pacific University's College of Education is the only college in Oregon with a Center for Gifted Education to offer certificates in cultural competency and talented and gifted studies.
- The Clinical Psychology program's Forensic Track is the only such training program in Oregon.
- In 2006, Pacific's chapter of National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) received a number of regional awards, including "Of the Month" awards and "School of the Year."
- Pacific is one of a few select universities to combine an undergraduate liberal arts program with graduate and professional programs in healthcare.
- Music in May, one of the longest-running high school music festivals in the U.S., was founded in 1948 at Pacific University by Richard A. Greenfield to encourage the development of string music in the public schools of the Pacific Northwest. Band and choir were later added.
- The 49th annual Luau raises money for community service projects and club activities, and features traditional Polynesian dance, music, entertainment and an authentic Luau menu. The luau is produced and presented by the Pacific University student Hawaiian Club which was founded in 1959.
- The Chronicle of Higher Education named Pacific University one of the "Great Colleges to Work For" in 2008.

Honors

- Pacific faculty helped research the HI-VIS soccer ball for Nike. This yellow and blue ball has been used in games, making it easier for fans, referees and players at the game and on television to see.
- Pacific's women's wrestling program, created in 2001, is one of only NINE varsity women's wrestling programs in the United States and the first at a school in the West.
- The "Touch the Future" program in the College of Education brings first generation college-bound students to campus each year to introduce them to college life and a variety of professional careers.
- Pacific is a charter member of the Northwest Conference, one of the longest continually operating athletic conferences in the United States. The conference was founded in 1926 with Pacific, Willamette, Whitman, Linfield, Puget Sound and the College of Idaho as charter members.
- Pacific University is the only institution that boasts a "Boxer" as its mascot. The Boxer is based on a Chinese statue, resembling a mix of a dog and a dragon, dating back to the Ming Dynasty. The name "Boxer" references the Boxer Rebellion and was coined by the *Index* staff in 1908.
- Wynne Lobel was named West Region Lacrosse Coach of Year in 2007. Lobel, a second year coach was honored for her work with the new Pacific women's lacrosse program and her efforts to grow the sport in the Northwest.
- In May 2007, Susan Hartner, a Pacific University staff member in the College of Education, won the National Senior Spelling Bee. The winning word was "bharal."
- Dr. Michel Hersen, Dean of the School of Professional Psychology, has published 140 books on psychology. He also serves as editor of six professional journals and is an accomplished nature photographer and noted art collector.
- Jennifer Smythe, the first female dean of the College of Optometry, has been listed by *Vision Monday* as one of the "50 Most Influential Women in Optical" for 2006. She is recognized for her abilities to teach in both lecture and laboratory settings, effectively administer programs and national publications and speaking engagements. She is also a cornea and contact lens Diplomate in the American Academy of Optometry.
- Pacific University is one of 20 Oregon institutions that offers teacher licensure programs. Of the 14 independent colleges, Pacific University is the leader in preparing newly licensed educators in mathematics and the sciences, foreign languages, special education and overall number of endorsements/specialties.
- Pacific University has been the home of 19 Fulbright scholars.
- Professor Jim Flory was one of only 100 credentialed photographers at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene in the summer of 2008.
- DeeDee Arnall received the *Ad Rutschman Award*, honoring the top small college athlete in Oregon in 2005. She is the second athlete in Pacific history to be named an all-American in two sports (women's basketball and track & field).
- Professor Jules Boykoff made scholarly contributions to Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" in 2006.

2043 College Way
 Forest Grove, OR 97116-9915
 503-352-2218, 800-677-6712
 www.pacificu.edu