





Letter From The President

Pacific University is in a unique position in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our core mission is education — but specifically education that prepares students to be caring, engaged community members who better their world. And right now, our world needs people who can fight this pandemic with whatever skills and abilities they possess.

Our expertise in healthcare gives our faculty, staff and students the power to make a tremendous impact on the world.

In January, we were able to partner with OHSU Hillsboro Medical Center to distribute some of their doses of COVID-19 vaccines to eligible communities in western Washington County. With the incredible hard work of staff, faculty, students and volunteers — including alumni and retirees — our clinics were so successful that Washington County reached out to us to do more.

In the past several weeks, we have built an infrastructure to host drive-through vaccine clinics on our Forest Grove Campus, and local public health entities are directing more and more doses of vaccines to us to administer. We have provided vaccines for thousands of people, especially elders, people of color and people living in poverty, all of whom have been most impacted by the health and economic consequences of COVID-19.

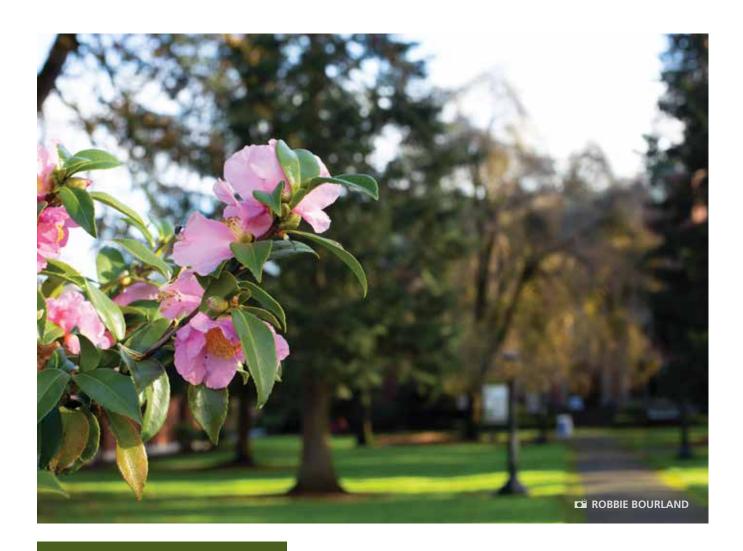
Students have been an important part of the effort. Pharmacy and physician assistant students were already qualified to administer vaccines, and recent changes in Oregon are expanding that scope of practice to students in our optometry and dental hygiene programs as well. Our students are able to log the clinical hours they need for graduation — which have been in short supply during the pandemic — and also gain invaluable experience providing quality, culturally appropriate healthcare and education for our neighbors.

In late April, we were able to open vaccinations to all of our students and employees.

We are the only university in the area that has been able to mobilize a vaccination effort like this, and it means we are all that much closer to returning to normal.

But more, these efforts are a way for the Pacific community to live our mission, of education, justice, and caring engagement with our community.

Lesley M. Hallick, President president@pacificu.edu



Virtual Events

MAY

- 1 NHOH Ho'omau
- 1 Alumni Book Club
- **8** Alumni & Faculty Authors Series with Kelly Garrett '00
- **15** Commencement

JUNE

- **5** Alumni Writers Group
- **12** Study & Sip *Race and Healthcare*

JULY

17 Alumni & Faculty
Authors Series
with Katey Schultz MFA '08

Registration & Information

▶ pacificu.edu/AlumniEvents

News & Community

Early Learners Return 10 Class
Preschoolers through second-graders returned in March to reconfigured learning spaces at Pacific University's Early Learning Community.
Line Up Boxer athletes took to the fields, courts, pools and links again after a long, pandemic-imposed hiatus. Meanwhile basketball shooting guard Noah Lewis '22 hopes to play professionally in Israel.
Briefly Noted 6
For the third year in a row, Pacific University was recognized as the top private research university in the Northwest, according to survey results compiled by the National Science Foundation. Also, the university is preparing for virtual commencement ceremonies on May 15.
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Features

Samantha Trulock '14: Her Aim Is Tru 10

She's gifted, young and on the verge, but the pandemic put a kink in Samantha Trulock's trajectory as a professional musician. Still, her first album, *Cycle*, has won applause, including support from Grammy voters. Now the Boise-based singer is already dreaming about her second. But when can she play again in front of live audiences?

When she was a new graduate, Melissa Lowery produced an award-winning documentary called *Black Girl in Suburbia* about what it's like to be a young woman of color growing up in mostly white surroundings. It was her way to tell stories and raise awareness about the challenges confronting Black girls. Now, as diversity director at Portland's Jesuit High School, Lowery is positioned to support girls like her daughters.

Joshua Pearl learned about the therapeutics of music in the hardest possible way: He was afflicted with an autoimmune disease that caused him severe pain. He turned to the piano as a form of treatment, and it helped lessen the need for painkillers he had been prescribed. Recognizing that music could do for others what it did for him, he became a music therapist.

Heidi Nielsen '96: Using Both Sides Of The Brain 16

As an art major, Heidi Nielsen immediately found professional work at a creative agency. But her skills as a manager and operations chief guided her in a different direction. She no longer produces illustrations for a living, but she is the chief operating officer and a principal for a fast-growing communications and design agency. She and her colleagues are working with clients who want to change the world.

Jeremie Murfin '02: Bending Notes In Changing Times 18

When he attended Pacific, Jeremie Murfin didn't necessarily see himself as an entrepreneur. First he was a teacher, but as opportunities emerged, he seized them, and then persevered through various business challenges and setbacks. He now finds himself as part owner of a Hillsboro, Ore.,-based music business that has thrived even during a pandemic.

Dijana Ihas: Sparking Hope Among The Ruins 20

She always loved playing, but as a member of the Sarajevo String Quartet, Dijana lhas came to recognize the healing and hopeful power of music. She and her fellow musicians performed for audiences that were battered by war, even as the bombs fell. Now she is an acclaimed music instructor a world away, in Forest Grove, Ore.













? Your Voices

Dear editors of Pacific magazine,

Today I received your winter magazine. I was very pleased with the various stories about Pacific students' contributions in

various ways to help alleviate suffering and troubles this year. The mention of Dr. Walter Giersbach brought a host of memories of my own attendance from 1945-1949. "Hap" Hingston was my principal professor. Miss Crane was my favorite instructor.

> Enclosed find ... two old papers from my P.U. scrapbook.

Yours truly,

PHYLLIS (JOHANSON) LUND '49



Homecoming

J 1947

Your article in the 2020 (winter) magazine reminded me of one of our family's best stories. My uncle, James Bushong '32, a Pacific student and also a former trustee, loved to tell the story about his firefighting adventure.

While he was attending P.U., he volunteered to help fight the great fire — Tillamook Burn in 1933. He and Herbert Redzke became trapped behind the burning line. They were forced to spend the night in a creek bed with several deer and a cougar. As you can imagine, the excitement of such an adventure along with his dramatic flare — never failed to fascinate.

This story is referenced in the book, The Tillamook Burn Country — A Pictorial History by Ellis Lucia '44, 2nd printing, 1984, Caxton Printers, Ltd, page 58.

This might be of interest to former P.U. students because Uncle Jim served as president of Kamehameha School in Hawai'i for a number of years. He and Fred Scheller '54 interested many students to attend P.U.

ROBERTA AZURE '64

Note: This incident is also mentioned in the Forest Grove News-Times, Wednesday, June 6,1983, pg. 2C.

Online Extras

With more virtual events, recognitions and resources, our YouTube pages are busier than ever. Check out some of these recent video highlights that you may have missed, and subscribe now to stay up-to-date with the latest from Pacific.



Music is Hope

A short documentary film exploring the experiences of Dijana Ihas, Pacific music education professor and member of the 1990s Sarajevo String Quartet. Story on page 20.



Members of the Pacific Dance Ensemble stay on their toes despite COVID-19. Watch dance performances and interviews from Lianda Lonergan '23, Chika Matsumoto '21 and Abby Schmidt '20.









Celebrating Perseverance

The students of Nā Haumāna O Hawai'i present a virtual Ho'omau, featuring music, dance and memories from students, alumni and friends in the Pacific 'Ohana, debuts at 7:30 p.m. May 1.



Virtual Performances

The Pacific University choirs, Pacific Philharmonic Orchestra and Pacific Dance Ensemble all presented virtual performances in April.



CELEBRATE

Congratulations Class of 2021

Celebrate this year's graduating classes at Pacific University's May 2021 virtual commencement ceremonies, debuting at 9 a.m. May 15.



News & Notes

Early Learners Return To Class

Pacific University welcomed its youngest students back to campus for the first time in nearly a year this March.

Students in Pacific's Early Learning Community have been learning remotely since mid-March 2020. Last spring, that meant teachers provided lessons and resources for families at home. This year, kindergarten, first-and second-grade students have picked up weekly crates of hands-on learning materials and met online for classes with teachers and students each weekday.

With Oregon schools reopening, the ELC was able to welcome back all its preschool through second-grade students in March. Learning spaces have been reconfigured, and students stay in smaller "pods" throughout the day to limit their contacts. They also wear masks and spend extra time learning outside, especially in the Brim Family Learning Center Cedar Classroom.

The ELC is a private demonstration school operated by the College of Education, offering observation and student-teaching opportunities for future teachers in a early childhood setting that focuses on experiential learning in a nurturing environment.



ROBBIE BOURLAND

Line Up

a bumpy road toward a professional basketball career.

The communications and media major played for the U.S. national basketball team in the Pan-American Maccabi Games in Mexico City in 2019. The U.S. men won the gold medal in the all-Jewish competition. "It was a good feeling knowing you are representing your country and heritage," Lewis told the

Intermountain Jewish News that summer.

NOAH LEWIS '22 is taking

His goal after graduating is to play professionally in Israel.

After his freshman year at Earlham College in Indiana, Lewis transferred to Pacific and almost immediately tore the ligaments in his ankle, sidelining him for his sophomore basketball season. By the time he was ready to play again, COVID-19 shut down athletics in the Northwest Conference, which includes Pacific and eight other private colleges in the region.

The Boxer men's basketball team resumed play in late March.

Lewis, a shooting guard, said his goal



is to prove he's a better player than he was before his injury. And he can't wait to get started.



BOXER ATHLETICS ARE BACK

Nothing is quite as it was before — players still practice in masks and observe distancing protocols — but at last, student-athletes are competing again with athletes from other Northwest colleges and universities.

Men's and women's soccer, basketball, golf, tennis, swimming, track and field as well as the women's softball and volleyball teams, and the men's baseball team returned to action in March after the long hiatus prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Already, several Boxers have earned Northwest Conference Student-Athlete of the Week honors, including Jordan Zweifel '21 in volleyball, Sydnie Binder '22 in women's tennis, Nicole Martinez '21 in softball, and Brooke France '21 in track and field.



The schedules for all Pacific's teams may be found at **GoBoxers.com.** By clicking the "Fan Zone" tab, you can learn how to follow Boxer competitions on YouTube and PlaySight. You can also follow Boxer sports on social media.

Briefly Noted

TOPPING THE CHART | Pacific

University is the top private research university in the Northwest, for the third year running. The National Science Foundation released its annual Higher Education Research and Development Survey in February, ranking more than 900 universities nationwide based on their investment in research. Pacific retained its No. 1 rank among private universities in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest and moved up to No. 8 in the Far West region, ranking among

peers like Stanford and the University of Southern California. Research has become an increasingly prominent part of Pacific's vision over the past decade, reflected both in the growth of graduate programs and PhD tracks and in the expansion of research experience in undergraduate programs in the arts, sciences, business and education.

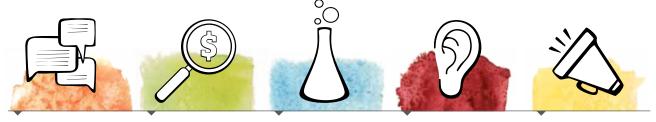
pacificu.edu/research

VOTER FRIENDLY | Pacific University is the only institution in Oregon designated as a Voter Friendly

Campus for 2021-2022. Only about 200 institutions nationwide received the designation from the Fair Election Center's Campus Vote Project. The designation is the result, in part, of the work of the university's Tom McCall Center for Civic Engagement to spearhead Pacific Votes, an initiative targeting voter engagement through voter registration, voter education and voter turnout. Pacific also was named among *Washington Monthly's* 2020 Best Colleges for Student Voting Honor Roll this fall.

pacificu.edu/McCallCenter

Honors & Awards



IAN DOYLE.

Pharmacy, has been named to the Oregon Board of Pharmacy. where he will work on the board's 2020-2024 strategic priorities, which encompass technicians, technology, licensing, regulation and communication. With the expansion of telemedicine services during the pandemic, Doyle envisions technological advancements which will make it possible to safely access prescription medication in rural and underserved areas.

HOSSEIN RIKHTEHGAR

BERENJI, Business, studies the way supply chains foster or dampen sustainability initiatives. The work takes into account competition among suppliers, compliance with sustainability standards and the role of trust in marketplace transactions. Research shows buyers have a "significant opportunity to advance both social good and profit," he said. He also has been looking into the supply chain's response to COVID-19, and has peer-reviewed papers forthcoming on both subjects.

SIGRID ROBERTS AND NICOLA

CARTER, Pharmacy, have been awarded a three-year \$367,572 grant from the National Institutes of Health to research treatment for a tropical disease called leishmaniasis. The disease, transmitted by sand flies, causes sores and ulcers that can affect internal organs. The research team also includes Postdoctoral Fellow Samira Elikaee, Research Assistant Jon Taylor, and graduate and undergraduate students.

CHRIS TEMPLETON,

Biology, was part of a team comprised of Pacific students and led by alumna Ali Osbrink '19 that produced a study showing traffic noise can interfere with the ability of songbirds to function. The study was published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, a UK-based scientific journal. The research suggests it's likely that noise pollution could have major effects on animals, possibly including humans, Templeton said.

LAURA EDWARDS-

LEEPER, Graduate Psychology, is a sought-after expert on youth gender dysphoria. She's been cited by The Economist, The New York Times, the BBC, the Washington Post and Atlantic. Vice magazine in March cited her views of the U.K.'s efforts to ban the use of certain medications for youths — an effort she said is "incredibly alarming." In addition to teaching graduate students at Pacific, Edwards-Leeper has her own clinical psychology practice in Beaverton, Ore.

TASSELS TO THE LEFT | Pacific will celebrate the graduation of more than 800 undergraduate and graduate students through virtual commencement ceremonies on May 15. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the traditional public commencement exercises will not be held, but the university is committed to recognizing the achievements of students who earned their bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees — amid a pandemic. The virtual ceremonies will feature all the pomp and circumstance of typical ceremonies — including

faculty and student speeches, musical performances, individual recognition of graduating students, and the conferral of degrees. The ceremonies will debut on the university's YouTube channel at 9 a.m. PDT Saturday, May 15. youtube.com/pacuniv

CONGRATULATIONS | Pacific has named new members to its leadership team. Long-time Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs John Miller has announced his retirement at the end of this academic year. Following his departure,

Ann Barr-Gillespie, currently the vice provost and executive dean of the College of Health Professions, will become provost and VP of academic affairs. Mary Von, currently director of the School of Physician Assistant Studies, becomes interim vice provost and executive dean of the College of Health Professions, and Saje Risen Davis PA '06 steps up as interim dean of the PA school. Meanwhile, Sarah Phillips will retain her role as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and also become vice president for enrollment management.



BY MIKE FRANCIS
ROBBIE BOURLAND

Being human isn't easy. Especially now.

A worldwide pandemic has trapped us, polarized us, made us anxious, and altered our routines.

Widespread cries for social justice are raw and powerful, forcing us to reckon with long-buried grievances.

Even our friendships and family ties have been strained by these social pressures, narrowing our ability to connect with others.

What softens these hard edges? What provides inspiration, hope and common ground?

A stirring bit of Mozart. A pear, glowing on a canvas. A grounds-eye view of young Black children riding their bicycles. A song of longing, pitched over an insistent drumbeat.

We may find comfort and a restored sense of wonder in any of these forms of artistic expression. Or all of them.

Artistry is a gift given to many through a talented few. The stories on the following pages show how creative expression can flourish in even unlikely places, from digital screens to grassy amphitheaters, to a bombed-out building in the former Yugoslavia.

These artists, and their works, sparkle even more brightly amid challenging times.

We are grateful for their inspiration.





Samantha Truloch'14

HER AIM IS TRU

"We do this every time. You've found a heart that's not mine. I'm done being your in-between. Someone when you need to feel something."

Her voice is warm, clear and inviting. It's pitched just right, with accents that emphasize notes of longing, weariness and resolve. And the voice sparkles on the first Sam Tru album, *Cycle*.

Samantha Trulock '14, known professionally as Sam Tru, has attracted attention for her 2020 debut. *Jazz Weekly* wrote, "She's got a storyteller of a voice, with most of the lyrics dealing with loneliness or failed relationships." *Downbeat* magazine wrote last year, "Sam Tru's debut, *Cycle*, offers up a persistent theme of unrequited love, harmonies that entertain the ear, an excellent band and an Amy Winehouse-sounding

mournfulness that overlays the eight tunes here." The album made it to the second round of selection for the 2020 Grammys in the categories for Album of the Year, Best New Artist, Best Pop Solo Performance and Song of the Year, for "Let Me Down Easy."

"I am constantly
working on new
music and hope that
I can get a second
album out along with
some video content!"

— SAMANTHA TRULOCK '14

Trulock is at a promising but frustrating juncture of her career. Though she has won praise for her first album, which is a polished collection of original jazzy pop tunes with a whiff of blues, COVID-19 has largely kept her from performing live to promote sales.

When March 2020 rolled around and COVID restrictions were put in place, "it stalled everything," she said in a Zoom interview from her home in Boise. She is able to do socially distanced gigs at the dinner theater venue where she works, but in normal times, she'd be on the song circuit, introducing audiences to her songs and her gift of a voice. Instead, she's working full time at the restaurant and living modestly in her apartment.

Fulfilling A Long-Held Ambition

"It always had been a goal for me to put out an album," Trulock said.

Releasing an album, at least a professional album like *Cycle*, is no casual project. It started with the songwriting. Trulock wrote or cowrote all the songs on the album. She shared credits on several songs with her producer, Jeff Baker, who she met when she sang in the jazz choir at Portland State University under his direction.

BY MIKE FRANCIS STEVE KORN

The more they worked together, the more clear it became that there was a Samantha Trulock album waiting to be unlocked.

"I was writing songs, and I'd bring them to him, and he'd kind of push me and produce the songs a little bit, and we'd collaborate a little," she said. "And he'd bring songs to me."

There aren't any rough edges on Cycle. The production is sharp, the mix is right and each member of the band — Tru, guitarist Gregory Uhlmann, keyboardist Justin Nielsen, bassist Clark Sommers and drummer Matt Carroll — brings balance to the sound. And here's the thing: Trulock paid for it all, with some crowdfunding help.

She saved money, played fundraising shows and had a 2017 GoFundMe campaign with a goal of raising \$10,000. But the total tab for Cycle, which included flying the musicians to Los Angeles to record, ended up costing closer to \$20,000, she said.

That's not cheap, but in a normal world, a finished album would lay the foundation for a tour, which would expand awareness, which would boost album sales, which would lay the foundation for a second album. Unfortunately, Cycle was born into a world that is decidedly not normal. Not only did the pandemic disrupt plans in all sectors of the economy, but the music industry itself is undergoing a profound transformation as performers and audiences shift to streaming.

Instead of playing shows to live audiences after the album came out in January 2020, Trulock has been performing online, on Instagram, her Facebook page and in intimate settings online. Her songs are on Spotify, YouTube, Amazon and elsewhere. (They are not to be confused with songs by a rapper who also goes by the name of Sam Tru. It's easy to tell the difference between them.) Trulock is learning about Twitch TV and hopes to produce a consistent Twitchstream soon.

"I haven't chosen the most stable of careers," Trulock acknowledged.

Hitting The Right Notes Along The Way

Trulock grew up in a fertile environment for an aspiring singer. Her grandmother and her sisters recorded professionally, her sister is a practiced

thespian, and her parents were encouraging as she worked her way through school choirs.

"I never thought of doing anything other than singing," she said. "I don't have any plans to stop."

When it came to choosing a college,

Trulock considered a range of schools up and down the West Coast. She already was plugged into the world of choir, having performed with peers from California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Pacific University, she said, "was the most welcoming to me,"

At Pacific, where she was named outstanding vocalist, Trulock's music teachers

included accompanist Janet Coleman and mezzo soprano Angela Niederloh. "I'm so proud of that girl," Niederloh said.

Niederloh, who also teaches at Portland State, steered Trulock to Baker while Trulock was still a student at Pacific. After Trulock graduated, she continued to take voice instruction from Baker and sing in PSU's jazz choir. That was how their collaboration began.

About the same time Cycle was wrapping up, Baker launched a label called Next Records. Trulock became the label's first artist and Baker helped market the artist and the album, leading to reviews in the national jazz magazines and, for a brief time, a No. 1 ranking among Amazon's downloads.

"She is a rare talent that can stop a room twice," Baker writes. "Once when she walks on stage, and again when she opens her mouth."

With the end of the pandemic seemingly on the horizon, Trulock imagines a new chapter in her career.

"My next step is to work on getting consistent with live streaming to promote my current album, and then in the summer work towards outdoor gigs," she said. "I am constantly working on new music and hope that I can get a second album out along with some video content!" ■



Cycle was #1 on Amazon's Top 100 New Releases in January and stayed there for two consecutive weeks.

NextMusicCompany. com/sam-tru

TELLING AND SHAPING THE STORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF COLOR

There's a line in the film *Black Girl in Suburbia* that filmmaker Melissa Lowery '09 has committed to changing.

In her first-person documentary about growing up Black in a mostly white Oregon suburb, Lowery interviews high school teacher Nia Lewis, who declares: "There are no systems in

place to support students of color in predominantly white schools."

"Talking about whiteness, for example, is difficult, but necessary.
My own approach is about educating, not shaming anybody."

— MELISSA LOWERY '09

Six years after that interview, Lowery herself is diversity director at Portland's Jesuit High School, a

predominantly white private school in southwest Portland. It's a job she's held for six years, and a

program that's been in place for 13. But it wasn't reaching everybody.

"When I started," Lowery said, "there were students and parents who didn't even know we had a diversity program."

Lowery started to "build the program up," especially by empowering students of color to create programs themselves. As an affluent high school with high academic standards, Jesuit itself had to work to embrace the lessons of diversity and inclusion. But it's come a long way, especially in the last year, as cries for racial justice rang out in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

At Jesuit, students have created assemblies, led workshops, and participated in community conversations. The efforts have led to a broader acceptance of the need to hear and respond to people of color, including students like those shown in *Black Girl in Suburbia*.

The film was a project Lowery conceived when she was still a student at Pacific, then spent five years producing. It made a splash when it came out, appearing in such venues as the Nevada Women's Film Festival and the African American Women in Cinema in Festival. It landed Lowery on the cover

of 1859 magazine and in multiple interviews in regional publications (including *Pacific* magazine), and radio and television.

The film loosely traces Lowery's own upbringing in the Portland suburb of West Linn and taps into the experiences of other young Black and biracial women of high school age. It touches on standards of beauty, expectations

in the classroom and other topics that challenge young people of color in mostly white settings. The film still is getting private screenings in colleges, high schools and at corporations.

"It's my baby," Lowery said of *Black Girl in Suburbia*. It's been around long enough now that it's as if the film has gone off to college, she said, occasionally checking in with Lowery in the form of requests for screenings. It is, she said, "still pretty relevant."

The movie has been a great way to tell a story and spark a dialogue, she said, even though the conversations can sometimes be uncomfortable.

"Talking about whiteness," for example,
"is difficult, but necessary. My own approach
is about educating, not shaming anybody."

Her work is focused on being a mom and an educator at Jesuit, where her husband Jason is also a counselor, but, Lowery said, "I would love to make films."

Are there more projects ahead?

Lowery laughed.

"I always say I'm waiting for Oprah to write me a blank check."



BlackGirlInSuburbia.com



Joshua Pearl '19

THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC

Joshua Pearl '19 has been improvising his whole life — whether as a student at Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music in the '80s, as a successful musician for decades in Japan and New York, as an autoimmune patient, and now as a music therapist.

"There's a lot to be said for how music can divert signals of pain, not actually take the pain away, but lessen pain perception dramatically by putting our focus and attention on sound," said Pearl, a Pacific University music therapy alumnus.

"It's satisfying to be in the role of witness watching a client's growth and their progress, whatever that looks like and however long that takes them. I consider myself music-centered in my approach."

— JOSHUA PEARL '19

He learned firsthand about the healing power of music when he was diagnosed in 2014 with pemphigus vulgaris, a rare and life-threatening autoimmune disease. The condition occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks proteins in the upper layers of the skin, resulting in blisters on the skin and on the lining of the mouth and other mucous membranes.

Pearl describes the two years before he went into remission as "an odyssey of pain," trying to stave off secondary infections. Treatment with corticosteroids

fueled his energy, which led the musician to turn to music. Pearl started playing dissonant notes on the piano that mimicked the physical pain he was feeling. He recorded those sessions and listened to the sounds and he says that helped almost cancel out the pain. Pearl later learned that what he was doing for his own pain relief is called the iso-principle in music therapy. He credits the technique with helping him to rely less on opiates for pain management.

"Turning to music was a very logical thing to do because I had the energy, focus and the motivation to do something with this pain," he said.

The illness and his subsequent reawakening through music left a profound impression on Pearl. He enrolled in a music therapy program and eventually transferred to Pacific University, where he graduated with a bachelor of music therapy degree in 2019. Pearl's musical background had more than prepared him for the next chapter in his life.



group is presenting and we musically match it rather than trying to change it. We try to resonate at the same tempo or find the musical quality," Pearl said. "If you're working with someone who is experiencing a manic phase and walking around the room, you make the music move with them. A connection is made once you match the energy and qualities that are coming at you. And once that connection is made you can start to affect some change."

Before the pandemic broke out, Pearl maintained a thriving private practice blending both his passion for music and his eclectic spirit. He saw mental health patients at a local hospital, worked one-on-one with adults with developmental

BY ROSIE FIALLO ROBBIE BOURLAND



disabilities, led a memory care group for older adults with acute dementia, and conducted in-home hospice music therapy sessions.

"It's satisfying to be in the role of witness watching a client's growth and their progress, whatever that looks like and however long that takes them. I consider myself music-centered in my approach," he said. "Music has a therapeutic quality and acts as a co-therapist with me. When I can see music making a difference in a client's life who has dementia, watching their eyes light up and coming online, that to me is a testament to the power of music."

The pandemic has forced Pearl to improvise yet again. He registered with a telehealth provider to offer remote music therapy, but many facilities

lacked the technology to connect patients and his client base shrank. Until he can see patients in person again, Pearl is looking inward and writing a couple of books. He's also working with the next generation of music therapists at Pacific University, where he's been supervising a group of students the last two semesters who are working remotely on their practicum.

"The process of going from student to intern to a working music therapist is best thought of as being fluid since you're always learning," Pearl said. Music therapists "are primarily learning from our clients because they are the ones that teach us what we can't get from textbooks or lectures. That's how music therapy really works."

USING BOTH SIDES OF THE BRAIN

There's no telling where an art degree will take you. Just ask Heidi Nielsen '96.

As a senior art student at Pacific, her prints and illustrations were hung in a downtown Portland gallery as part of a student showing. She sold some. That experience led quickly to an offer with Summit Projects, a Hood River, Ore.,-based design firm, even though she had not yet had any professional design experience.

Twenty-two years later, Nielsen is a principal and chief operating officer at Portland's Brink Communications, a respected, fast-growing communications and design firm that sets itself apart by focusing on clients "that are interested in building movements and creating change in the world."

It's not a path she, nor anyone, would have predicted, but it illustrates the importance of being flexible and taking advantage of opportunities when they emerge. Nielsen's path also says something about the importance of thinking with both sides of the brain — the creative side and the analytical side.

"Every experience builds the next step," she said.

"Everything you do, everything that you experience sets you up for whatever is to come. I think I landed where I landed for a reason."

"I thought, 'I can do this,' but I hadn't really thought about what would really bring me joy."

- HEIDI NIELSEN '96

When she graduated from high school in Hood River, she had top-notch grades and a special interest in theater and drama. She chose to go to Pacific because, while she wasn't sure what she wanted to do with her life, she thought she might go pre-med, or into the physical therapy program.

At Pacific, she acted in performances and built theater sets. But about a year-and-a-half into college, she pivoted. She had been taking a lot of biology and related courses. She decided to focus instead on art and art history.

"I thought, 'I can do this,'" Nielsen remembered about her pre-med days, but "I hadn't really thought about what would really bring me joy." Her academic trajectory had changed, but something else hadn't: She still was being pushed to think, not just absorb facts.

"I think that Pacific was really key in developing critical thinking," she said.

Racing Through The Professional World

Nielsen's place in the world of designing looks and messages for clients evolved quickly — more quickly than she might have liked. After about a year at her first job, the designer who had been her mentor left the company, and she was thrust into the top design job.

"I was given the helm at a very young age to do all the graphic design that came through that agency," she said. "To be honest with you, I cried for like a year. It was one of those sink or swim moments."

But she didn't sink. After a few years, she cofounded a boutique design firm of her own, and then her own design studio. Then Leslie Carlson and Marian Hammond, principals in a fledgling agency called Brink Communications, came calling. Would Nielsen be interested in joining them as the third principal? She said yes.

At the time, Brink was as much an idea as a working agency. It sought to do work with a purpose, collaborating with clients who wanted to improve the world, bit by bit. But there was no guarantee it would succeed. Nielsen was one of five employees, and billings were in the range of \$1 million a year.

Flash forward six-plus years to the present day, and Brink has grown to roughly 30 people. The company was listed last year as the 8th fastest-growing company by *The Business Journal* of Portland. Its clients include an array of organizations with social missions, from state health agencies to nonprofits and foundations.

For example, Brink worked with the Oregon Health Authority to create a COVID-19 awareness and response campaign directed especially to communities of color who were being disproportionately affected by the virus. Brink's Safe + Strong campaign launched in April 2020, soon after the lockdown. It included a website in 12 languages and a continuing community engagement effort that included communications,



Nielsen's first commercial work included illustrating a label for organic juice.



branding, advertising, social media outreach, research, video and collateral materials. The agency has done similar work for many other clients.

"Our work is really justice-based," Nielsen said.

"All the work we do uses a justice lens: social justice, racial justice, health justice, environmental, gender, climate, and it really centers communities. We support movements and empower change."

A Well-Rounded Life

If you search Nielsen's name on the web, you'll note her placements in such cyclocross events as the Grand Prix Luciano Bailey, and Cyclocross Crusade: Cascade Locks. She has become an avid competitor in the sport, which resembles track and field's steeplechase, except with bicycles, which compete to cover the greatest distance in 45 minutes.

Her participation in cyclocross grew out of her passion for mountain biking, which she adopted with her husband, David Combe, who had long been an avid outdoorsperson. Then the couple moved from Hood River to Portland, where mountain biking trails are relatively scarce.

So they switched to road-biking. Then Brink principal Carlson persuaded Nielsen to try cyclocross.

Nielsen, Combe and their two daughters, 13 and 15, now lead active lives of backpacking and outdoor activities.

Like their mom before them, the two daughters are budding artists. The oldest is now a sophomore in high school, and she's beginning to think about what comes after her senior year.

"She's talked a lot about going to an arts school," Nielsen said. "And I feel pretty strongly about a liberal arts education. I think the opportunity it provides you to become a critical thinker, and the opportunity it provides you to gain a wide variety of experiences, is really important. I think that narrowing down when you're 18 or 19 or 20 years old isn't as helpful. You don't know what you don't know."

Another thing Nielsen will tell her daughters is to never stop learning.

"If we are open to influence," she said, "if we can be open and see what opportunities are out there, we're more flexible in how we move forward."

Jeremie Murfin '02 BENDING NOTES IN CHANGING TIMES

Rainbowed reflections of guitars dance throughout the dimly lit room. They are hanging on every wall, floor to ceiling: Fenders, PRS, Breedlove. It is a shrine to unplayed sounds.

"It's been a long, windy path to get here," said Jeremie Murfin '02 with a laugh. The Pacific University alumnus has been an owner of awardwinning Five Star Guitars in Hillsboro, Ore., for more than 10 years and has been playing

instruments the whole time, from the electric guitar to the mandolin.

Murfin started teaching private music lessons to students at Five Star while he was still an undergraduate at Pacific. He stopped working and went back to the classroom not long after graduating, earning his master's degree in education from Portland State University and going on to teach elementary school in Arizona.



BY ELLA CUTTER '22 ROBBIE BOURLAND

After the market crash in 2008, Murfin and his wife, Jill, moved back to Oregon to settle down, start a family and, hopefully, start a business.

Murfin reached out to his small business contacts and asked them what he should know about starting his own. One of the people he contacted was the then-owner of Five Star Guitars, Ken Potter.

"His response was, 'Have you ever thought about buying a business?'" Murfin said. "He presented his idea to me and the two guys I'm partnering with, and said 'if you guys think you can work together well, and do Five Star Guitars better than I did, I'm ready to retire.'"

Murfin and his two business partners, Geoff Metts and Jeep Simonet, spent a year vetting each other and the store itself, ensuring that it was a partnership that would work.

"We asked ourselves: Is this something that is viable for us to take over? Is it a good idea, will we work well together?" Murfin said.

Since then, the shop has experienced considerable growth. In 2018, Five Star Guitars won the top NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) award for Best Store Turnaround/Innovation, and in 2016, Murfin and his partners were named Oregon's Small Business Person(s) of the Year. They have proven themselves to be business Houdinis many times over the years, taking a struggling guitar business and turning it into an award-winning turnaround story.

In 2017, Five Star ran into some problems renewing its lease when Murfin and his partners couldn't agree on lease terms with the landlord, forcing them to choose whether to close or move. But, at the 11th hour, they found a location on Corridor Court, in the Cornell Home Court Shopping Center. Because of the quick move and the store's subsequent success, NAMM named Five Star its Turnaround of the Year.

"We almost became homeless as a business in 2017 and then turned it into one of the best retail locations you could have," Murfin said. "We reinvented the wheel while driving the car."

Murfin still applies the knowledge he learned during his time at Pacific into his everyday life owning a business and playing instruments. One of his biggest inspirations was music Professor Michael Burch-Pesses.

"We reinvented the wheel while driving the car."

— JEREMIE MURFIN '02

"I always stress the importance of being on time, knowing your part and knowing what you need to do to contribute to the success of the ensemble," Burch-Pesses said. "If any of those things I had to say to Jeremie affected the way that

he ran his business, then that would be the highest compliment for me. I'm thrilled that he has had the success that he's had."

Five Star Guitars has experienced its fair share of ups and downs since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, as most businesses have. Cash is critical in the highly competitive retail guitar business, and Five Stars' sales took a plunge in April 2020 after the initial shutdown. The losses were so heavy that the partners began to talk about the possibility of the store not surviving the year.

Then June and July rolled around, and everyone who was still in quarantine decided that they were going to pick up guitar to pass the time.

"We finished 2020 strong and 2021 is going really well," Murfin said. "We were able to pivot and now we're in a position where we can take advantage of the vacuum of stores."

Murfin hopes to eventually buy a commercial property in Hillsboro. He lives with his wife, Jill, and two children, Tyler and Kylie, in Portland, Ore. He also continues to play electric guitar in the weekend rotation at Beaverton Foursquare Church.



SPARKING HOPE AMONG THE RUINS

Dijana Ihas knows adversity better than most. As a member of the Sarajevo String Quartet, she endured the longest siege of a capital city in the history of modern warfare, playing her viola in public through the four-year period in the early 1990s when the city was under attack by Bosnian Serbs.

"Music as a symbol of human spirit and creativity is stronger than these bombs that are coming."

— DIJANA IHAS

Today she is an associate professor of music education at Pacific University, teaching music students in a quiet academic outpost in the northwestern United States. Her talent and energy as an instructor and conductor of the Pacific Philharmonic Orchestra has drawn applause from many quarters, evidenced

most recently by her selection in early 2021 as Oregon Music Educator of the Year. The Oregon Music Education Association described her as "a world-class violist, an outstanding conductor, and a devoted music educator."

Surviving The Breakup Of Yugoslavia

In Sarajevo, Ihas played in the city's leading ensembles. But it was the Sarajevo String Quartet, which played for audiences amid the rubble of war, that helped bring international attention to the plight of the city.

It was a harsh and disorienting time, as residents of the sophisticated city of red roofs and classical architecture struggled to survive through shortages of food, water and electricity. They raced through checkpoints to avoid being exposed to enemy fire. Many died during the siege, and funerals punctuated daily life in the city, which had hosted the Winter Olympics less than 10 years earlier.

The members of the Sarajevo String Quartet knew it would be too difficult to assemble as many as 60 musicians to play together, because it would require so many people to cross dangerous intersections, where snipers could strike them down.

"But with four of us, maybe we can find a way,"
Ihas explained, "and we can at least practice."

They did, playing to empty rooms for their own pleasure. After a couple of months, the members of the quartet decided to hold a public concert. They scheduled it for an afternoon in early June. When they arrived, the audience consisted of about five people, all family members. Bombs could be heard in the distance.

The quartet launched into Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. Passersby heard the sweetly familiar sounds of the serenade and began to drift inside. By the time the piece had ended, about 20 people had gathered to listen.

"So we looked at each other, yeah, it's worth playing further," Ihas said. "At this point you hear really strong detonations. Now they are really bombing much closer. So we are on a stage and we are thinking, 'Does this really make sense to keep playing when bombs are coming so close?'"

But the audience was silent and attentive, showing no sign of alarm. So the quartet kept playing.

During interludes when she wasn't playing, lhas said, she began to recognize that playing music wasn't merely something to do to please oneself, but to uplift many. It has a power that reaches far beyond the acoustics of sound.

"Music as a symbol of human spirit and creativity is stronger than these bombs that are coming," she said.

When the concert was over, audience members said they were enchanted by the unexpected beauty beckoning through the rubble of war. Please keep playing, they told the members of the quartet.

And so they did.

Over the next 3-1/2 years, the quartet played 206 concerts. They played in bomb-damaged hospitals, mosques, churches, the front lines — anywhere audiences wanted them to come.

In time, the world pressed for a diplomatic solution to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, and ultimately the presidents of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzogovina signed the Dayton Accords in November 1995. In the aftermath, the United States opened a special window for refugees, and lhas and her child took advantage, followed shortly by her husband.



Coming To America

They landed in Orange County, California, a world away from the old, metropolitan city of Sarajevo. Ihas threw herself into learning English, and then found her way into master's music programs, first at UC-Irvine, where she earned a master's in performance, then at the University of Arizona, where she earned a master's in music education.

Encouraged by her professors, she applied for a PhD program in music education at the University of Oregon, in a town she couldn't even pronounce, and was accepted. As part of the program, she worked in the Salem (Ore.) School District, where she led the Sprague High School Orchestra. Under her direction, the high

school orchestra won multiple state and national competitions.

Then came word that Pacific University was looking for a music professor who could organize and operate a string project. The project would bring high-caliber, after-school music instruction to students in the community who were unlikely to be exposed to it, as well as an opportunity for undergraduates to teach in a rigorous environment. Under Ihas's direction, the project has won multiple awards and national recognition.

Music has taken Ihas from one world to another, from a war-torn city to the leafy campus of a university called Pacific — the Latin word for peace. ■





WATCH

Class Notes

1964

Carmen (Michaels)
Bryant '64 lives in
Hillsboro, Ore., and
works remotely as a
campus specialist for
Missions Door. Her
husband, Rev. Donald
R. Bryant, died on
Aug. 9, 2020, from
COVID-19. The
couple was married
57 years.

1972

Dick Anderson

'72 is Oregon's new Fifth District state senator. The district runs from Tillamook to Coos Bay along the Oregon Coast. He has served previously as the mayor and city councilor for Lincoln City. Anderson and his wife, Sue (Eckard) Anderson '73, met at Pacific University and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

1974

Tim Tran '74

won the 2020 Best Indie Book Award for his memoir, American Dreamer: How I Escaped Communist Vietnam and Built a Successful Life in America. The book highlights the hope America represented for him throughout his life, from gaining an education to ultimately achieving democratic freedom. It's also a riveting and timely memoir that provides a compassionate lens through which to view the current refugee crisis.

1975

Debbie (Holden)

Tracey '75 found success as an abstract acrylic artist based out of Olympia, Wash. Tracey is a member of The Artists' Gallery in Olympia and shows her work there, as well as the Museum Contempo in Shelton, Wash., Xanadu Catalog in Scottsdale, Ariz., and many other locations.

1979

Hugh Alexander '79

was featured in the Kathrin Cawein Gallery of Art at Pacific's Forest Grove Campus. Alexander works as a photographer for international automobile races and uses this as inspiration for his sketches.

1980

Rick Carnaroli '80

was appointed as the Sixth District judge for the State of Idaho on Jan. 5, 2018. He was in private practice and worked as a city attorney for Pocatello for almost 10 years before being appointed as a magistrate judge in October 2004.

1981

Gerald "Gerry" Komarnicky '81, '83,

OD '85 is living in Vancouver B.C., with his wife Zona, son and triplet daughters. Since 1986, he has owned Downtown Vancouver Optometry

Clinic. During his career, Komarnicky served as chair of the College of Optometrists of British Columbia and was instrumental in expanding the scope of practice to include therapeutics for optometry in the province.

1984

Sander "Sandy" Cakebread MAT '84

was featured in *Our Town* community news of Silverton, Ore. Cakebread loves nature, gardening, art and history. He spent most of his career in Forest Grove, Ore., as a teacher and a counselor, following his graduation from Pacific with a master of arts in teaching.

Scott Glabb '84

submitted his book, A Saint in the City: True Stories of Champions Living in the Barrio, to AwesomeGang.com. The book chronicles the true stories of teenagers who grew up in gang-infested neighborhoods, from poverty-stricken families and the young teacher and coach who believed in them.

1995

1999 1999

Clapp '95 and her husband Bruce adopted Lily, 4, and Kinsliegh, 2, in October 2019, adding to their family of four other children. Taylor Clapp '21, previously the youngest of the family, is a senior and

Front to back or back to front? Anecdotal evidence suggests that most readers start with class notes. Help us keep you connected with your

Which way do you read Pacific magazine?

Help us keep you connected with your classmates by submitting a class note or a memorial for a departed alumni for publication in the next issue of *Pacific* magazine. You will even get a gift from the Alumni Association in recognition of marriages, births and adoptions, or new jobs. We honor those who have passed with the quarterly Alumni Remembrance Ceremony. > pacificu.edu/AlumniEvents

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We publish class notes and in memoriam online all year, and submissions received by July 1, 2021, will be published in our Fall edition.

business major at Pacific this year.

1997

7 Colin Fitzgerald

'97 stepped into the role of leading Washington County's Developmental Disabilities program. Fitzgerald took the position after serving 19 years with the county's Health and Human Services Department. Washington County's Developmental Disabilities Division provides coordination to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Lisa Harings '97 was named the 2020 Oregon Youth Soccer Association Boys Competitive Coach of the Year in January 2021. Harings is a coach for Santos FC, a team located in the Hillsboro, Ore. area.

David Slagowski

OD '97 provides patients with services at Shopko Optical Center's new location in Fond du Lac, Wisc. Slagowski administers comprehensive eye care services, including eye exams, contact lens fitting and diagnosis and treatment of eye disease.

2000

[2 lennifer

Thomas '00 earned her PhD in sociology from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, in December 2020. Her dissertation focuses on how physicians gatekeep access to elective genital procedures

by comparing trans folks and male enhancement patients. While earning her degree, Thomas taught several university courses on gender and race.

3 Jeremy '00, MAT '09 and Jenna (Boundy) Vernon PT '12 welcomed son Kai Michael, on April 13, 2020. The couple lives in McMinnville, Ore.

2002

Ryan Miyamoto

'02 was featured in The Destination Everywhere podcast discussing the best things to do in Dallas. Texas. Miyamoto is the general manager of the Statler Hotel, located in downtown Dallas. In the February 2021 interview, Miyamoto highlighted JFK Memorial Park, an arts district and a farmers market. all within walking distance from the Statler Hotel.

2003

Emily Brown '03

was appointed head teacher by the Highland Council. Brown joins the council as the cluster head teacher for Invergarry and Spean **Bridge Primary Schools** in Scotland.

Bobby Chow '03 was featured in a Pacific Business News article on Dec. 11, 2020. He co-manages the mortgage firm B&B Mortgaging Solutions in Kaneohe, Hawai'i.

In the article, Chow talked about the challenges of the pandemic and how his business saw one of its busiest years serving homeowners.

Elizabeth (Atkisson) Upton PA '03

joined George Fox University's physician assistant program as an assistant professor in January 2021. Upton joins the School of Medical Science after 15 years as a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente.

2005

Robert DeCou '05 participated

Oct. 8-15, 2020 in Uberman, described as the world's most challenging ultra-triathlon, to raise funds for organizations fighting against human trafficking. Uberman is a 556mile course, which begins with a 21-mile swim in the open Pacific Ocean. From there, participants bike 400 miles to the Badwater Basin, the lowest point in North America. For the third leg, athletes run 135 miles through Death Valley.

Leah (Penn Boris) Inman '05 welcomed her third child, Margot Ada, on Oct. 16, 2020. with her family in

Inman currently lives Faribault, Minn., and is taking the year off from teaching biology to care for her children.

lohn Lowrev '05 was promoted to chief of the civil division of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in January 2021. Lowrey's prior practice has focused on complex litigation, with particular emphasis on state and local tax, financial and land matters.

James "Mac" McGuire

'05 moved back to Oregon after a 10year stint in Kansas. McGuire recently joined Merck, a pharmaceutical company, as a managing medical writer in the infectious disease and vaccine group.

2008

Christopher Lee '08

has been named a principal with The Jones Financial Companies, LLLP, as of January 2021. Lee was one of nearly 200 individuals chosen this year from more than 50 000 associates from across the United States and Canada. He and his family will remain in Honolulu, Hawai'i, where Lee will continue to serve investors.

2009

Courtney Ratty '09 was promoted to director of training at ADAPT Training in Beaverton, Ore. ADAPT Training offers physical therapy, naturopathic medicine, massage, fitness and athletic training, Ratty has been with ADAPT Training since interning at the company her senior year of college.

2011

Tia Brown MFA '11

was named an Oishei Leader of Color Fellow. The John R. Oishei Foundation enhances the economy and quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara Region through grantmaking, networking and leadership. Brown is the communication engagement coordinator for Preservation Buffalo Niagara, a nonprofit that identifies, protects and promotes Western New York's unique architecture.

Erik Schmidt MFA '11

published his first book, Black Tulip: The Life and Myth of Erich Hartmann, the World's Top Fighter Ace, in February 2020. Black Tulip is the dramatic story of history's top fighter ace, Luftwaffe pilot Erich Hartmann. It's also the story of how his service under Hitler was simplified and elevated to Western mythology during the Cold War.

2012

Sara (George) Babek '12. OD '17 and Robert "Rob" Babek II '12 welcomed their first child, Robert, on Aug. 31, 2020.

They were married on Nov. 9. 2019 and are thankful their paths crossed during their time at Pacific.

2013

Connie Liu '13, OT '16 and Julia Naumes '13,

OT '16 earned their hand therapy certifications in November 2020. The duo studied together virtually to achieve the CHT. There are only 6.000 CHT's in the world. and their mission is to support a high level of competence in hand therapy practice.

Abby (Hamel) Oki

'13 welcomed son, Hudson Oki, on July 6, 2020. Hudson has a congenital heart defect and had open heart surgery at 4 days old. He recovered well and is thriving. Oki and her family live in Hillsboro, Ore.

Nik Streng '13 joined the Idaho Education News staff in November 2020. His focus with EdNews will be to give a voice to students and parents of the state, especially its many historically underserved communities. Streng covered sports before moving over to public education communications.

2014

12 Jacob '14, PA '18 and Kathryn (Onley) Davison '15 moved to

Spokane, Wash., in 2020, where they welcomed son, Cyril Horace, in August. The couple celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary in November. Jacob works at Multicare Internal Medicine and Kathryn was recently promoted to field director with EMC Research, where she has worked for five years.

Class Notes

and Travis George '14 married on July 13, 2019. Many close friends and alumni were in attendance, including Tach Willits '14, OD '20, who officiated the union. Shay works as a registered nurse, and Travis is a high school teacher and coach. The couple now resides in Bend, Ore.

Yzaguirre '14 and husband Alex welcomed their first child, Evelyn, in May

Shelby (Thurman)

2020. The couple also celebrated their third wedding anniversary on Sept. 23, 2020.

John Zylstra '14, MS '15 joined Entrust Community Services

Community Services in Yakima, Wash., in October 2020. Entrust is committed to enriching the lives of people with disabilities by promoting education, employment, and healthcare options that foster integration into their community. Zylstra will join the team as an accountant.

2015

(Wagner) Macuk '15

welcomed daughter, Kinsley Lynae, on Jan. 3, 2020. Macuk and her family currently reside in Lewiston, Idaho.

Chelsea (Van Dyke)
Reich PA '15 joined
the Essentia Health
team in West Fargo,
N.D., in February 2021.
Reich specializes in
occupational medicine,

and is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

2016

Alec Lugo '16 was featured on a Dec. 1, 2020, KBOO radio interview, singing a song written by Ernie Lijoi from his original musical The Pursuit of Happiness. Lugo is a Portland-based actor and singer who has worked consistently for nonprofit theatre companies around the metro area since graduating from Pacific.

Emily Woodworth

'16 joined the KTVZ Family Access Network in Bend, Ore., in December 2020, as a development specialist.

Anna (Geisler) van Valkenberg MFA '16

Valkenberg MFA '16 was interviewed on The Miramichi Reader about her debut poetry collection. "Queen and Carcass" explores identity and the multiple contradictions we each embody, set in locations both real and imagined. Van Valkenberg's work has been shortlisted for the Pangolin Poetry Prize and nominated for the AWP Intro Journals Project.

2017

Jamaica Baldwin MFA

'17 interviewed several writers in October and November of 2020 for the African Poetry Book Fund. She talked to several poets whose chapbooks

are included in New-Generation African Poets: A Chapbook Box Set (Saba). Baldwin's work has appeared, or is forthcoming in Third Coast, Prairie Schooner, Hayden's Ferry, Rattle, The Missouri Review and TriQuarterly, among others.

Wlnsvey Campos

'17 was elected as a state representative for the 28th District of Oregon, which represents Aloha and Beaverton. Campos' campaign focused on addressing the disparities in housing, as well as the education system, healthcare and climate crisis.

2018

Alisha (Ruiz) Martin MAT '18 and her husband Taylor created the fitness brand Brute Fit, which produces premium health supplements. The couple launched their first official product, a preworkout, in November 2020. Brute Fit also has other products in the pipeline, including a vegan protein powder set to launch in late 2021.

2019

Devin Finch OD '19 joined the Tumwater Eye Center in Tumwater, Wash. Finch completed a residency in ocular diseases at Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center in Texas after earning his doctorate in optometry from

Pacific. He has clinical interests in treating retinal pathologies, dry eye disease and glaucoma.

Kaitlyn Iseminger

MA '19 joined Life Encounter Counseling in Tigard, Ore., in November 2020. Iseminger specializes in children and adolescents and believes that there is no such thing as a "bad" kid.

Megan (McDaniel) White MS '19 has

been working full-time at Post Acute Medical Rehabilitation Hospital in Fargo, N.D., since November 2020. She strives to find the most functional ways to help patients reach their goals and is currently working on her certification for eSwallow for the treatment of dysphagia.

2020

Nick Breitenbach

MA '20 joined Insight Psychological Inc., in Edmonton, Alberta, in January 2021. Insight specializes in couples and sex therapy.

Emily Herrmann

PA '20 joined Nova Health's team of healthcare professionals in Lebanon, Ore., in January 2021. Herrmann was also an Area Health Education Centers Scholar in Hillsboro, Ore., while earning her master's degree. Kinsley Hodgson AuD '20 joined Peak ENT and Voice Center in Broomfield, Colo., in September 2020. She looks forward to working in a collaborative environment with other health-care professionals and providing holistic patient and family

Pearl Motkoski OD '20

centered care.

joined Londonderry Eye Care in Edmonton, Alberta, in January 2021. Motkoski provides full scope optometric services to patients of all ages and has a passion for ocular surface disease.

Mathias Reid '20

was named the new programs coordinator by Copper River Prince William Sound Marketing Association. Reid joined the marketing association as a digital marketing specialist earlier this year.

Burhanuddin Shabbir PharmD '20

published an article in Pharmacists Connect in December 2020 about upcoming trends and innovations in biotechnology. "AI in Healthcare: How New GPT-3 Tech Can Revolutionize Medical Data Science" covers how advancements in AI can significantly alter the functions of medical information and possibly other aspects of the pharmaceutical industry. Shabir's article was originally published in Medium in August 2020. ■





















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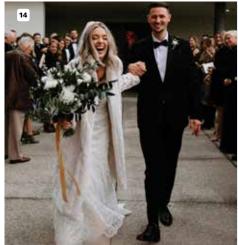
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Submit your class note and photo for the next issue of Pacific magazine by July 1, 2021.

- ▶ classnotes@pacificu.edu
- pacificu.edu/KeepInTouch









In Memoriam

CORRECTION

The Winter 2020 edition of Pacific magazine failed to include the full name and degree information for alumnus James (Jim) Bradley Mayer '81, OD '83. The correct information is below. We apologize for the error.

James (Jim) Bradley Mayer '81, **OD '83** died Sept. 24, 2020, at age 63 surrounded by family in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Mayer's passion was vision therapy and he became a fellow in the College of Optometrists in Vision Development in 2005. Mayer spent much of his time serving others, especially by providing free optometry services to the underserved. He especially enjoyed basketball, going on long drives or hikes, and spending time with his children. Mayer is preceded in death by his wife, Carol, and parents Melvin and Mary. He is survived by his children, James Mayer Jr. and Jalyn.

Friends

Marvin Bell died Dec. 14, 2020, at age 83. Bell served as an instructor in Pacific's low-residency MFA program for several years, mentoring writers on their journey. He is well known for saying there is no one way to write and no right way to write, and for his core belief: "Art is the big yes." Over the past 45 years, he published 21 books of poetry, as well as letters, essays and interviews. Bell received multiple honors, including Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, Fulbright appointments, and the position of Iowa's first ever Poet Laureate.

Walter Giersbach died Jan. 22, 2021, at age 81. Giersbach was the son of Walter C. Giersbach, the president of Pacific University from 1941 to 1953. He grew up on the Forest Grove Campus and looked back fondly on those memories. Giersbach graduated from Grinnell College in Iowa with a major in comparative literature and a concentration in English

and journalism. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as a security analyst, was assigned to units in South Korea and Taiwan and was discharged in 1964. After that, Giersbach served as director of internal communications for the Dun & Bradstreet Corp. Throughout his life, he continued his passion for writing and published numerous short stories with online publications. Giersbach is survived by his children, William and Lisa; and grandchildren William, Megan and Zeke.

Joan Neubauer died Nov. 11, 2020, at age 85 in Yankton, S.D. Neubauer was awarded a summa cum laude master of arts degree from Pacific with a specialization in speech rehabilitation in 1964. She continued with a successful career on the West Coast in public education, including classroom teaching and specialization services. Neubauer was preceded in death by her younger brother, Gene. She is survived by her siblings, Barbara and Gary, four nieces and nephews, several great-nieces and -nephews, many cousins and a crowd of friends.

Pacific University Trustee Emeritus Mike Wright died Feb. 27, 2021, at age 73. He retired as president and CEO of Wellpartner Inc., which he co-founded in 1999. It was recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in the Northwest, and he was named the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2006. Prior to Wellpartner, he also founded two other companies, Gene Therapeutics and MicroHeart, and served as president and CEO of TomTec Imaging. He spent the bulk of his career with Johnson & Johnson family of companies. He also was an active supporter of nonprofit organizations, including serving as chairman of the board of The Neuropsychiatric Institute at Oregon Health & Science University. He joined Pacific's Board of Trustees in 2013 and earned emeritus status in 2020. He is survived by his wife, Cleta; daughters Natalie and Joanie (and Shannon); and grandchildren Anders, Larson, Inga, Grady and Adeline.

1951

Thomas B. Barry '51 died Nov. 1, 2020, at age 94 in El Granada, Calif. Barry attended Pacific following his honorable discharge from the Army Air Corps and serving in Germany from 1945 to 1946. He and his wife were avid supporters of the Peninsula Symphony and involved with the Klein International Violin Competition, hosting up and coming violinists in their home over the years. Barry is survived by his children, Ben, Deborah, and Rebecca; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1953

Robert "Bob" G. Baltes '53 died Nov. 2, 2020, in Tigard, Ore., at age 95. Baltes worked at Swift Meats before starting his career as a chemist at Blitz-Weinhard Brewery, where he worked until retiring at 65. He met his wife, Emma "Elaine" Furby '53, while at Pacific, and they married in Hillsboro, Ore., after dating for two years. Baltes is survived by his children, Steven and Richard; grandchildren Tara, Erik, Stephanie and Rikki; greatgrandchildren Kalyn and Jameson; brothers Mike and Dick; and nieces Mary and Theresa.

Conley Stephenson '53, MA '54 died Jan. 26, 2021, at age 90. Stephenson served in the U.S. Navy stationed in San Diego in radar operations for one year and spent five years in the Naval Reserve. He grew up in a musical family, which led to his majoring in music education at Pacific University and a lifelong connection to music. Stephenson taught band and choir in Oregon at Banks and Canby schools before moving to Independence, where he taught high school band and later mathematics until retirement. Stephenson was preceded in death by his daughter, Alice; granddaughter Ruthie May; sister Jean; and his parents. He is survived by his wife, Darlene; daughters Nancy, Melissa, and Leanne; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

1956

Edward Goodridge '56, OD '57 died Dec. 6, 2020, at age 93. Goodridge graduated from the optometric school at Pacific in 1957 and taught at Pacific until 1959. After that, he moved with his family to Victoria, British Columbia, and opened his first practice. Goodridge was also known to be adept with a sewing machine and, being an avid skier, he started his own company Ptarmigan in the 1970s, which produced bags for winter ski gear. Goodridge was preceded in death by his parents; wife Joyce; sister Phyllis; and brother-in-law Alan. He is survived by his sons, Brad, Brian and Bruce; granddaughter Robyn; stepsons Brian, Glenn, and Rick; step-children Roger, Carly, Robyn, Julianna, and Elizabeth; and nieces Maureen and Barb.

1957

Larry Bosshardt '57 died Dec. 8, 2020, at age 91. Bosshardt joined the Coast Guard in 1950, serving his country until 1953. He continued his education at Pacific University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in education. He began teaching in Hillsboro, Ore., and went on to have a successful career in education, where he was beloved by the children and teaching staff. Bosshardt was preceded in death by his sister, Pearl. He is survived by his children, Ruth, Rebecca, Minden, and Grant; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

1959

Lee White '59 died Oct. 14, 2020. in Addison, Texas, at age 87. During his time at Pacific, White pledged to the Alpha Zeta fraternity before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corp. He received a meritorious promotion to sergeant at age 21 during his four years of service in the Korean War. White joined the Junior Chamber of Commerce in his hometown of Oakland, Calif., following his military service. He worked many sales positions and eventually started a marketing company that developed into a

plastic injection molding company that White owned until his retirement. White is survived by his wife, Valerie; children Jeffrey and Cynthia and their families; sister Carol; and many grandchildren.

Erwin "Jerry" Braun OD '60, MS '71 died Jan. 8, 2021, at age 88. Braun served two years in the Marine Corps and then 20 years in the U.S. Army as an optometrist. He later ran a private optometry practice in Dalton, Ala., for 22 years. He loved to travel and spend time with his family. Braun is survived by his wife of 43 years; their five children and their spouses; and six grandchildren.

Peggy (Wilke) Graves '60 died Dec. 4, 2020, at age 82. Graves earned her bachelor's at Pacific and went on to serve as a teacher for the Vancouver (Wash.) School District. She taught at Shumway Junior High School and Hudson's Bay High School and eventually became an administrator at Covington Middle School and Evergreen High School. She loved baking and interaction with her grandchildren in her free time. Graves is survived by her husband, Larry; children Lori, Darrin and John; and grandchildren Chae, Raymond, Madison, Ryland and Vivianna.

1962

Keith Allison '62, OD '63 died Jan. 3, 2021, at age 86. After receiving his degree in optometry from Pacific, he moved to Spearfish, S.D., and opened his own practice. He provided eye care to Spearfish for 30 years before retiring to spend more time with his family and on his hobbies. Allison was preceded in death by his wife, Louise, and his son. He is survived by two daughters and sons-in law; two granddaughters; four grandsons; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

1965

James "Jim" Elliot '65, OD '66 died Nov. 10, 2020, at age 79. After receiving his doctorate in optometry from Pacific, Elliot served in the

U.S. Air Force as an optometrist in Glasgow, Mont. He then bought a practice in Miles City, Mont., and practiced optometry with offices in Miles City, Forsyth, Baker and Broadus. After 37 years of active practice, Elliot retired to Surprise, Ariz. He was preceded in death by his parents, stepson, and grandparents. He is survived by his wife, Karen; daughters Vikki, Amy, and Heather: half-sister Linda: grandchildren, Deanna, Krysten, Erin, Elliot, Tristyn, Samantha and Dallas; great-granddaughter Rilie; greatgrandson Eric; and stepson Kris.

Inez (Bondurant) Griffels '66 died Jan. 4, 2021, at age 76. Griffels worked many years in the optometry profession and retired in 2003. She loved her family, volunteering, golfing and traveling. Griffels also had a love for Pacific University and served on the Alumni Council for 18 years, received the Outstanding Alumni Service Award in 2004, and was the Alumni Association president for a time. Griffels was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Tim, John and David. She is survived by her husband, Steve Griffels '64; daughters Tina and Teresa; grandchildren Jasmine, Tyler, Richard and Melissa; siblings Richard, Kay and Bonnie; and her sister-in-law Linda.

1967

Robert "Duane" Boak '67 died Dec. 4, 2019, at age 76. Boak served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and was stationed in Da Nang. Following his military service, he returned and completed his teaching degree. Boak then went on to teach math and science and coached football, track and basketball for 28 years for Sutherlin School District in Oregon. Boak was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Ethyl, and his brother, Michael Boak '64. He is survived by his wife, Donna; son Chad; daughter Darci; and loving grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews.

In Memoriam

Merritt Hulst '67 died Nov. 16, 2020, at age 76. Upon graduating from Pacific, he pastored Church of the Brethren congregations in New Paris, Ohio, then joined his brother in agricultural research and construction jobs. Hulst was preceded in death by his brother, David. He is survived by his wife, Analise; sisters Patricia and Dianne; children Torrey, Deborah, Damon, Miriam, Julie, Sarah, Jonah, AnnRachel, Noah, Daniel; and 11 grandchildren.

1969

Molly "Maureen" (Hitchcock) Krogh '69 died Nov. 28, 2020, at age 73. After her time at Pacific, Krogh moved to Kamiah, Idaho, to run her family business, Clearwater Forest Industries in Kooskia. Due to her love of helping others, Krogh went back to school and earned her RN license. She worked in home health in Kamiah and St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood, Idaho. Krogh is survived by her husband, Robert Krogh '67; children Rodney '92, Jeff, Mark '97 and Andrea; and grandchildren Tyler, Dylan, Kristyna, Rhett, Luke, Kathleen, Lyndsie, Marissa, Sydney, Rachel, Emma, Kaden and Kate.

1970

Kent Elliott '70 died Aug. 26, 2020, at age 73. Elliott became a United Methodist deacon to serve the church in Boulder, Colo. In retirement, he turned to writing novels and short stories. Elliott established Wheatgrass Publishing to publish his and his father's books. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Barbara. He is survived by his daughters, Sarah, Heather, and Hannah; grandchildren Kylie, Beau, Gavin, Cashtyn, Olivia, Ian, Jacob and Siobhan; sisters Lynn and Susan; and nephews Alex and Tommy.

1972

Robert McMillan '72 died Nov. 4, 2020, at age 70, surrounded by family in his McMinnville, Ore., home. McMillan was a horseman and cattle rancher and had a gift with animals. He was employed with Cascade Steel Rolling Mills until his retirement at

the age of 68. McMillan was also a talented artist, creating leather belts and horseshoe art. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Clayton; daughter Jody; and sister Annelle. He is survived by his wife, Kelly; daughter Samantha; grandsons Taylor and Carson; brother Tommy; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

1974

Phillip Andrus '74, OD '74 died Dec. 19, 2020, at age 73. Andrus loved teaching, helping people see better, sharing the truth of the gospel and being active. Golfing and supporting his grandchildren were his favorite pastimes. Andrus is survived by his wife of 51 years, DawnEtta; children Gina, Angey, Marci, Keri, Nate, Lori, Staci and Cami; 39 grandchildren; and six greatgrandchildren.

1975

Gerald "Jerry" Pease '75, OD '76 died Dec. 28, 2020 at age 71. Pease enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1970 and served in Vietnam. After receiving his degrees from Pacific, he worked as an optometrist in Oregon until 1991, when his family moved to Minnesota. Pease continued to practice optometry until his retirement in 2010. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Irene; sister Cathy; and brother Timothy. He is survived by his wife, Frances (Yost) Pease '71; son Dustin; daughter-in-law Bridget; granddaughters Stella and Margot; brothers Dennis and Martin; sister Jan; and many nieces and nephews.

1984

Norman Stern MEd '84 died Nov. 21, 2020, at age 73. Stern was considered the father of sports vision at Pacific and credited with helping to create the sports vision elective course. He also played a role in the MEd VFL program and was the first person to earn the degree. Stern went

on to become a beloved faculty member at Pacific teaching in the areas of vision development, learning disabilities, sports and industrial vision. After departing the university, he took a part-time position at Kaiser Permanente, where he earned a reputation for handling puzzling cases needing more than medical and optical vision care. Stern shifted his focus to art, which became the central motivation of his life for the past 30 years.

1986

Geraldyne (Kajihara) Lacno '86 died Oct. 26, 2020, at age 56. Lacno worked for the State of Hawai'i for more than 30 years and recently retired from her role as a research statistician. She was well known at craft fairs for her popular pupu pillows (spam musubi, maki sushi, kamaboko). She was also an active dog walker. Lacno was preceded in death by her father, Roy. She is survived by her husband, Colin; daughter Jamie; son Nicholas; mother Joyce; and brothers Scott and Grant.

2014

Anthony Lombardi MS '14, PsvD '17 died Oct. 13, 2020 in San Francisco, Calif., at age 33. Lombardi was an empathetic and highly skilled clinical psychologist who specialized in OCD and other anxiety disorders. He was a clinical instructor at Stanford University of Medicine and was a licensed clinical psychologist at Pacific Anxiety Group in Menlo Park, Calif. Lombardi had a love for photography, hiking, camping and family. He enjoyed cross country road trips as well as traveling abroad with family and friends. Lombardi was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Cre and Theresa; uncle Ernie; cousin Dean; and his great-grandparents. He is survived by his parents, Guy and Debora; brother Patrick; maternal grandparents Ron and Marilyn; partner Josh; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.





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