A car crash leads Amber Smith '20 to a new path with Pacific support

Experiences outside the classroom set up alumni and students for future success
Shaun Keylock ’15 founded his own dance company in Portland, and this spring, he was named a winner of the Barney Creative Prize from White Bird, the arts advocacy organization. “I think this is a really exciting opportunity for us to be seen on this global platform,” he told Pacific magazine. “From there, it’s really endless possibilities.”

ROBBIE BOURLAND

2020 is here.

This is the year we have been focusing on as the culmination of so many goals and plans — the nebulous future when our dreams come true. And so many of them have.

In the past decade, Pacific University’s enrollment has increased 19 percent, even amid a nationwide trend of fewer college-age students and struggling universities.

We opened the second building on our Hillsboro Campus, two new EyeClinics, an office in Hawai’i, and a new residence hall.

We established new academic programs, from majors in dance, music therapy, public health, and criminal justice to graduate programs in speech-language pathology and audiology, plus the College of Business.

And we added 9,300 new alumni to our ranks as students completed their undergraduate and graduate degrees on their way to fulfilling careers and service.

Still, we dream of more, because 2020 may be a milestone, but it is not the finish line.

We are in the midst of celebrating 25 years at our Eugene Campus and preparing to move that campus to Lane Community College as part of an innovative new partnership to better serve students. We are marking the 75th anniversary of the College of Optometry while growing a PhD in vision science and international partnerships to grow the profession and fight myopia worldwide. And we were just named the No. 1 private research institution in the Northwest for the second consecutive year.

We recently launched the beginning of our vision for 2030, a strategic plan with central goals that include:

- Developing an engineering program that fits with the current strengths of Pacific’s academic programs
- Deepening our commitment to research as an intrinsic component of the Pacific educational experience
- Enhancing opportunities for Pacific students to participate in international programs and for international students to attend Pacific, and
- Aligning and integrating business practices across the university

As we look to tomorrow, we know that the core of who we are will not change — but the needs and opportunities for our future students will. Your support is so critical in helping us to continue to evolve and to help our students fulfill their dreams.

Through Lead On: The Campaign for Tomorrow at Pacific University we are well on our way to raising $80 million to grow our endowment for scholarships and program support, to create world-class learning environments for our students, and to invest in innovative ideas for a boundless future.

These priorities are the bedrock of our vision for the future at Pacific University. Thank you for your commitment to helping make our vision of 2020 a reality and, please, join us in creating the vision for 2030.

LESLEY M. HALLICK PhD

President | president@pacificu.edu
History. The way we live, interact, learn and even think is evolving. But also: We're in the most rapidly changing period of human ideas and discovery. There's great value in having to spend time at a mind-boggling pace, and the skills and expectations our students bring to Pacific are changing every day.

We're meeting that evolution in exciting ways. Just look at Amber Smith, who's working with Professor James Butler on long-term research to create a self-healing superhero suit (Page 9) or Deanté Grinner, whose internship has him flying drones as part of his media arts studies (Page 15).

Forget asking “When will I ever use algebra?” The question now is, “Why do I need school if I can learn this on my own?” I believe wholeheartedly in the importance of a liberal arts education.

There's great value in diverse people coming together to share ideas and discovery. There's great value in having to spend time wrestling with ideas you may not have chosen for yourself. And there’s infinite value in learning to be a critical thinker, questioning the source and intent of the information you consume.

But also: We’re in the most rapidly changing period of human history. The way we live, interact, learn and even think is evolving at a mind-boggling pace, and the skills and expectations our students bring to Pacific are changing every day.

We're meeting that evolution in exciting ways. Just look at Amber Smith, who’s working with Professor James Butler on long-term research to create a self-healing superhero suit (Page 9) or Deanté Grinner, whose internship has him flying drones as part of his media arts studies (Page 15).

It's incredibly exciting to be a part of a university that is actively looking ahead to 2030. After all, by that year, my son will likely be a sophomore in college. I can only imagine what he'll be learning.
It is impossible to express the delight the last issue of Pacific magazine brought to me. Of the women you mentioned who made Pacific, three were members of my branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women). The family of Mary Walker were near neighbors and friends of my family. I am preparing a program on the Japanese internments of WWll and will be delighted to add the information about Pacific awarding degrees to those who were taken from their studies because of what I am calling “The Second Day That Will Live in Infamy.”

Finally, and most important to me, is the picture of the girls’ basketball team. My mother is the first woman on the left as you look at the picture. I had seen a picture of her in the uniform, but not the team photo. She was 19 years old and attending Tualatin Academy. She lived in Forest Grove until her death at 102. Her mind was sharp her entire life. Although my college was Willamette, I still feel a closeness to Pacific because of what I am calling “The Second Day That Will Live in Infamy.”

Your article about Lillian Kurahara brought back memories about Hood River, Ore. My father John H. Chipley played football for Pacific University in the early ’30s as I did in 1956. However, here is the rest of the story.

In the later ’30s, my parents moved to Hood River where dad was hired as a teacher. Since he was still working on his citizenship paper, he joined the police as a reserve police officer. As a teacher he visited many families in the valley and either had coffee or lunch with his students. This included the Nisei families who were hard working farmers with family values and education a high priority. Then, on that fateful day when an executive order was signed, dad had to put on his police uniform, go out into the valley, round up the Nisei families, and escort them to the train station. This was the worst day in his life having to follow orders. Had he refused, dad would have been arrested and our family would be deported.

Dad found a way to repay the Nisei families by working with the Methodist minister in Hood River and arranging to have the church available for Sunday services for the Nisei after the war. I did send a letter to Lillian expressing our family’s thoughts, to which she responded. While my father had passed away, I know her letter would close the gap.

Thank you for letting me share this story with you.

John H. C. Chipley ’50
Pebble Beach, Calif.
Line Up

Ken Schumann as Pacific's head football coach. He played college football as head football coach for the all-Big Sky Conference team after helping to lead the Boxer women to their best-ever finish in the Northwest Conference meet. He is an education major and philosophy minor and was awarded a scholarship by Rotary of Forest Grove.

Honors & Awards

Professor Emeritus Mike Steele, English, received the Heritage Award from Notre Dame's Knute Rockne Memorial Society. He’s written numerous books on Coach Rockne and has a passion for his alma mater’s football history. The honor is the latest in a long list of awards for Steele, who also is known as a scholar of the Holocaust. Steele’s next project is a book about Confederate general Robert E. Lee. He’s also an inductee-in-waiting to the P.S. du Pont Best of the Best Track & Field.

Dr. Fraser Horn ’00, OD ’04, Optometry, has been appointed to a two-year position as interim dean of the College of Optometry. He succeeds Dr. Jenny Coyle ’90, OD ’93, MS ’00. Dr. Horn started his career at Pacific as an undergraduate, joined the faculty in 2005 and later served as director of Pacific's EyeClinics. He is an expert in sports vision, serves as team optometrist with the Boxer Athletics’ sports medicine team, and was previously a consultant for Nike.

Dr. Mary Von, Physician Assistant Studies, has been named the interim provost and executive dean of the College of Health Professions for the 2020-2021 academic year. Von has been the School of Physician Assistant Studies since 2003 and has been named as its director since 2014. She will succeed Ann Barr-Gillespie, who is stepping down from the executive dean role in July to focus on leading Pacific’s research initiatives.

briefly noted

PARTNERSHIP IN LANE COUNTY | Pacific University has partnered with Lane Community College to offer students in the southern Willamette Valley expanded access to higher education and career preparation. Presidents from the two institutions signed a memorandum of agreement in October that will open the way for Pacific to move its Eugene Campus to the Center for Meeting and Learning on LCC’s main campus this summer. Pacific offers undergraduate and graduate teaching programs, as well as its master of social work program, at the Eugene Campus.

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM NAMED FOR ARGOW | Pacific’s social work program is being named in honor of former faculty member Claire Argow. The Claire Argow Social Work Program encompasses the bachelor of social work program and the master of social work program. The MSW program, at the Eugene Campus, offers a two-year master’s, as well as a nine-month advanced standing track for students who already have a BSW. The advanced standing program will expand to Forest Grove in Fall 2020.

PACIFIC AMONG THE BEST | Pacific University is one of the top universities in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. It also is among the best values, best colleges for veterans, and top performers for social mobility. Pacific tied for 185th among all “National Universities” in the country, which includes 400 ranked schools.

U.S. News & World Report also gave Pacific the distinction of being its No. 47 “Best Value School” in the country. Pacific also was tied for No. 138 in the country among “Best Colleges for Veterans,” and tied for No. 186 among the “Top Programs on Social Mobility.”

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS FIGHT OPIOID CRISIS | Pacific’s School of Physician Assistant Studies was awarded a $450,000 grant, which will allow up to 180 students to undergo the training to seek authority to prescribe medications to those suffering from opioid abuse. The students are expected to interact with more than 4,000 patients during the project. The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded the three-year grant. The ability of PAs to prescribe treatment options is an important step in dealing with the nation’s opioid crisis.

CELEBRATING GIVING | Pacific honored the generosity of its most committed donors at its Celebration of Giving in September, inducting 10 new members into its President’s Circle and one new member to its 1849 Society. President’s Circle inductees included Keith Argo, Carl Zeiss, the Ford Family Foundation, John Ham ’68 and Mary Anne Seibert, Dr. Peter and Judy Kohler, Marchon Eyewear, Nelson Olf, Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute, Lisa Rowley (see page 10), and Bill Studdiford ’49. The Laura K. Phillips Trust was inducted into the 1849 Society.
Lead On Campaign Reaches Higher Still

WE’RE HEADING INTO THE HOME STRETCH OF LEAD ON: The Campaign for Tomorrow at Pacific University. Our generous donors have contributed more than $56.2 million to the university as of November 2019, well on the way to our $80 million goal.

The gifts and pledges you have made to Pacific are already changing lives for Pacific students.

Through Lead On, we strive to increase our endowment, funds that support student scholarships and programs in perpetuity. We’re created world-class learning environments for students. And we’re investing in innovation for a boundless future.

The gifts and pledges you have made to Pacific are already changing lives for Pacific students.

They have enabled students like Amber Smith ’20 to take summer internships and gain invaluable real-life experience without taking on additional student debt (Page 15).

They have created new support services for students, like the Veterans Resource Center, to ensure that all students — regardless of their background — find success in college (Page 20).

And they have allowed Pacific to pilot new fields in healthcare that will lead to meaningful careers for alumni and more accessible care for patients (Page 10).

There are countless ways to support Pacific University students today and into the future by contributing to dedicated funds, or creating new funds for the projects that are most important to you.

One of the most meaningful ways to make a difference is by contributing to the Pacific Excellence Fund, which provides funding for the areas of greatest need at Pacific, from emergency scholarships for students in need to new cutting-edge technology.

pacif.edu/excellence

Your support makes the Pacific experience possible for future generations of students and helps carry on the Boxer Spirit. Thank you for your dedication to your alma mater and, please, help us Lead On to a brighter tomorrow.

pacif.edu/Lead-On

Amber Smith ’20 still doesn’t know how she drove herself home after the accident.

When her car was rear-ended in a Portland suburb near her family’s house, her head snapped hard against the steering wheel, then against the seat back. She suffered a severe concussion. And, while she had no broken bones, she also sustained damage to her back, neck and her limbs.

Somehow, she drove herself about a mile and a half back to her family’s house, and her family took her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury and other issues.

Suddenly, she wasn’t a promising college freshman biology major; instead she was a woman who needed to relearn how to walk, perform simple tasks, and remember how to take in information, analyze it and act on it.

It was a dramatic setback, physically, cognitively and emotionally.

Smith had always been a high achiever, meeting and surpassing her goals and deadlines, but now she was bound to simple, repetitive and lonely routines. Because she had to embark on intensive occupational and physical therapies, she took a leave from Pacific.

Away from her classes and professors, she worked hard to return. She made it back to campus the following fall, but she knew better than to plunge immediately back into the demanding coursework she normally would have taken. Instead, on the advice of her advisor, she took a light load of physics courses required for her biology major.

She was careful in her expectations, just hoping to be able to concentrate on her studies. But a funny thing happened.

“I said, ‘Wait, this clicks.’”

— Amber Smith ’20

Something about the accident seemed to have rewired the way she processed information. She had flourished as a biology student, but now physics appealed to her. Biology required significant memorization; physics, she said, “is more problem solving.”

Since then, she’s switched her major to physics and is conducting research with Physics Professor James Butler, examining the behavior of fiber-based optical systems that may have the potential to “heal” themselves when they are damaged. The work, they think, may someday be applied to fabrics, such as jackets that motorcyclists could wear to better protect themselves in accidents.

Smith is the only woman among the small contingent of graduating physics majors, and she’s writing a grant proposal for a women in physics club that she hopes will encourage other women to pursue physics degrees.

In the words of Amber Smith ’20: “I’ve found this passion of wanting to potentially study how your brain kind of switches gears once you’ve had a traumatic head injury,” she said. “If it happened to me, maybe it would be helpful to other people to learn more about.”

Watch | Amber Smith ’20 shares how her brain ‘rewired.’ pacif.edu/magazine

Amber Smith ’20 is a recipient of the Griffith, Fehrs and Brosing Summer Physics Research Endowment, which paid her as she conducted research last summer. It’s the latest in a series of financial supports that have made her Pacific experience — especially with the medical hiatus — possible.

“My family’s not super financially fortunate, so college was something I had to figure out how to pay for,” she said.

Pacific definitely has crazy good scholarships.”

When she graduates this spring, she plans to take a year off to assess which direction to steer her career. Perhaps she’ll seek an advanced degree in physics. Perhaps she’ll enter medical school. But she already has one idea.

“I’ve found this passion of wanting to potentially study how your brain kind of switches gears once you’ve had a traumatic head injury,” she said. “If it happened to me, maybe it would be helpful to other people to learn more about.”

GIVE TODAY pacif.edu/SupportPhysicsResearch
LISA ROWLEY is intent on helping students like herself. The founder of Pacific University’s School of Dental Hygiene Studies (DHS), Rowley stepped down as school director in Fall 2018 following health issues, but she continues to work full time and remains dedicated to supporting future generations of students. “I come from a very low-income family,” Rowley said. “I went to community college because I could never have afforded to come to a school like Pacific. I never could have afforded to attend a private university, and I don’t want that to stand in the way of other people.” Her entire tenure at Pacific has focused on creating a program that focuses on patient-centered care, empowers students to prepare for independent careers, and advances the profession of dental hygiene. Before coming to Pacific, Rowley already had a full career practicing and teaching dental hygiene and had even directed a dental hygiene program at a community college in Pennsylvania. She had taken early retirement and moved to Oregon, where Pacific lured her out of retirement to develop a new dental hygiene program. In 2004, Pacific hoped to create a dental hygiene program within the College of Health Professions where students would be taught by the time they graduate, students also have 500 clinical hours providing care to underserved patients, so they can start practicing independently right away.

Federal studies have found that more than 35 percent of America’s people live in Dental Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, and that another 10,800 practitioners are needed to serve them. The Pew Trusts have long advocated for the licensing of dental therapists in hopes that more people can receive basic dental care. Federal studies have found that more than 35 percent of America’s people live in Dental Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, and that another 10,800 practitioners are needed to serve them. The Pew Trusts have long advocated for the licensing of dental therapists in hopes that more people can receive basic dental care. Pacific’s program will be the first in which participants are already licensed dental hygienists who can continue to work full time during their training.
The point of the pilot project, said Trusts, the Willamette Dental Group and former director of the School of Dental Hygiene Studies, is to begin Feb. 1, 2020.

The university’s vision for the program was “an unusual thing in dental hygiene,” Rowley said. “As soon as I heard that, I was all in,” she said, “because it was something really special and not something I had ever done before.” Oregon offers an expanded practice permit that allows dental hygienists to practice without the supervision of a dentist, to provide care for underserved patients with limited access to oral healthcare.

With input from practicing hygienists, Rowley designed the program to graduate students who would immediately qualify for this permit. Students in the program take specific coursework to prepare them to practice independently. By the time they graduate, students also have 500 clinical hours providing care to underserved patients, so they can start practicing independently right away.

“A large number of our students go out and they don’t work in private dental offices,” Rowley said. “They’ll work in different healthcare systems. And some have gone out and started their own businesses; we have a couple that have vans that go around and provide dental hygiene care. So right out of the gate, they’re going out and doing things like that, because they’re really prepared for it.” But that preparation can come with a large price tag — one that can be a challenge for the students most interested in the approach.

“We’re really looking for students who are committed to public health and providing care for underserved populations,” Rowley said. “And students who are typically interested in that come from underserved populations, which means that they might not be able to afford to go to school here.”

Willamette Dental Group says it’s interested in creating and fundraising for the School of Dental Hygiene Studies Alumni & Friends Scholarship. Last year, she made a major commitment to the fund herself, naming Pacific as the beneficiary of her retirement account.

“I don’t want money to ever be an obstacle to somebody reaching their dream.”

Rowley said.

In a study earlier this year, Pew found that a dental therapist in a rural dental practice could provide basic dental services, including placing fillings and extracting teeth, at a considerably lower cost to providers, and at a slightly lower cost to consumers. The findings suggest that expanded use of these therapists can improve access to oral healthcare … while keeping costs down,” Pew wrote.

DENTAL THERAPY continued

and the fourth training program in the country.

Pacific’s $2 million pilot project, which is backed the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Willamette Dental Group and the Ford Family Foundation, has been provisionally approved by the Oregon Health Authority. Training of the first cohort of 10 students is set to begin Feb. 1, 2020.

The point of the pilot project, said Lisa Rowley, a faculty member and former director of the School of Dental Hygiene Studies, is to test both the professional case for creating a class of dental therapists, as well as the best ways to train them. “It’s an opportunity to test the efficiency, cost effectiveness and safety of using dental therapists to perform basic dental procedures,” said Rowley, who thinks dental therapists eventually will practice independently in some settings, rather than under the supervision of a dentist.

In the pilot project, however, the participants will be working dental hygienists who will practice basic dentistry in dentists’ offices, with one-on-one supervision by a dentist. The Willamette Dental Group has agreed to pair each participant with one of its salaried dentists, who will supervise and evaluate the participants’ work.

“Willamette Dental Group practices a team approach to delivering oral health care,” said J. Toby Alsheer, director of operations for Willamette Dental. “We continue to support the appropriate evolution of our midlevel providers,” he said, referring to dental therapy, teledentistry, the restorative hygiene credential and other adaptations in the field. When participants complete Pacific’s one-year program, they will receive a certificate in dental therapy.

“I don’t want money to ever be an obstacle to somebody reaching their dream.”

Rowley said.

As director, Rowley was instrumental in creating and fundraising for the School of Dental Hygiene Studies Alumni & Friends Scholarship. Last year, she made a major commitment to the fund herself, naming Pacific as the beneficiary of her retirement account.

“I’m not married, I don’t have children, I have no one else to leave the money to, so I’d like to do something a little more significant,” Rowley said.

Pew wrote.

In some places, dental associations and others have argued against adding dental therapists to the dental team. But Pacific and its partners have moved more carefully, said Rowley, freely sharing their plans with trustees of the Oregon Dental Association and others with an interest in the subject. That open-book approach will benefit the dental therapy pilot by involving stakeholders, she said.
Experiences Outside the Classroom Set Up Alumni ...

MARK TRUAX '09

saying some of the most
important parts of his
college education came
outside the classroom.

Take the time he
arranged a 2008
Democratic Senate
Primary debate
televised from
the Taylor-Meade
Performing Arts Center.

As president of the
Politics and Law Forum
at Pacific, he raised the
idea to the then-vice-
president for University
Relations, Phil Akers.

"He told me to go right ahead," Truax said. "So I started
cold-calling news directors of TV stations."

In the end, KATU-TV carried the debate, in which Jeff
Merkley, Steve Novick and two others argued about who
would be the best choice to challenge the incumbent,
Gordon Smith, a Republican. In the end, Merkley won
the primary and the general election that fall. He continues to
represent Oregon in the Senate.

To bring the debate to campus, Truax said, "I was the
operations guy behind the scenes," though he did make
a television appearance to promote the event. It came
together with the help of the League of Minority Voters,
which cosponsored the debate.

Truax was involved in an effort to bring a general election
debate to campus, too, but it didn’t pan out.

"Mark was an enthusiastic participant in politics both on
campus and off," said Politics & Government Associate
Professor Jim Moore, in an email. "He learned a lot as he
negotiated with television people and primary candidates
for the U.S. Senate in 2008. Balancing all their needs and
wishes was a tricky thing. That balance fell apart when
he was younger and developing the skills that
would carry him into his professional career.

"I had a great experience," he said. "Some people
thrive more in a smaller, intimate setting."

"I had a great experience ...
some people thrive
more in a smaller,
intimate setting." - Mark Truax '09

including writing a check, being active in alumni
organizations, attending events or referring potential
students to Pacific. It’s a sense of connection to the
school he said he expects to carry forward.

"As a student, Mark went from supreme self-
confidence to encountering the standards of
academic work in the politics and government major,
to learning how to think in more analytical ways," said Moore, the Politics & Government associate
professor. "He left Pacific as an accomplished
graduate with the tools to succeed in whatever he
chose to do."  

Truax noted he also was “the first and only student to chair a standing university committee” when he led
the university technology committee during his senior
year. When an opening occurred, he said, “I said, ‘If
nobody wants to chair it, I’ll do it.’”

Today, Truax is executive vice president of Pac/West
Communications, a Wilsonville, Ore.,-based
government relations firm that was founded and is
still owned by Paul Phillips ’78 and his wife Nancy
(Knopp) Phillips ’77, MA’82. Truax, who had gotten
to know Nancy Phillips when he was still a student, was
hired in 2009. Left for stints in Oregon then Washington,
D.C., and in 2013, was rehired by PacWest to open
and run the firm’s Denver office.

He is a fan of the environment that Pacific provided
when he was younger and developing the skills that
would carry him into his professional career.

"I had a great experience," he said. "Some people
thrive more in a smaller, intimate setting."

"I had a great experience ...
some people thrive
more in a smaller,
intimate setting." - Mark Truax '09

RARELY HAS $900 accomplished so much.

"The scholarship pretty much laid the groundwork
that propelled me forward into my career," said Deanté Grinner
’20, who was the first recipient of Pacific University’s Arts &
Sciences Endowed Internship Fund Scholarship. The $500
scholarship helped cover his expenses while working as an
unpaid intern during the summer of 2019 at a Cornelius-
based cinematic grip and lighting firm.

It was a happy match for Grinner, Pacific and for Coach
Sarge Cine, a company operated by a pair of brothers and
Pacific University alumni, Bruce ’87 and Brian Fleskes ’87.

The brothers had wanted to create opportunities for Pacific
students and reached out to the Media Arts Department,
meeting Grinner when they guest-taught a cinematography
course last fall.

“’He was the perfect poster child for us to start this
process to engage university students,’ said Brian Fleskes.
“He inspired us to revisit why we do what we do."

“He’s an amazing young man,” said Bruce Fleskes. He and
his brother kept Grinner busy for the summer as a studio
manager and swing grip-electric, and he networked his way
to film projects by virtue of his ability to connect to producers,
cinematographers and drone pilots.

"They see you work hard, you get recommended. You
get an internship, you get out on set.” - Deanté Grinner ’20

Yes, drone pilots. Grinner owns his own drone and flew it
under his recreational pilot license. As an intern, he passed a
test to upgrade to a commercial license. He’s already put that
certification to work on out-of-state film shoots for a gaming
console company and a winery — jobs for which he was hired by
virtue of his work for Coach Sarge Cine.

“It’s almost like a snowball effect,” Grinner said. “They see you
work hard, you get recommended. You get an internship, you get
out on set.”

That’s exactly how the people who funded the scholarship hoped
it would work.

To be able to work for experience, said Norman Scott ’63, a
Pacific University trustee and a member of the College of Arts
& Sciences Advisory Council, “we saw kids having to use their
own money out of pocket. It was a burden on them financially to
make it happen.”

So Scott and others launched the internship scholarship fund,
which became endowed in time to become available to students
seeking jobs this summer. For Grinner, it was perfect timing,
allowing him to work at Coach Sarge Cine without taking on
additional debt.

College of Arts & Sciences Dean Sarah Phillips said lack of pay is
a significant barrier to college students who seek to gain work
experience, she said. Many students “need to make money,” she
said. But if an internship is unpaid, they can’t afford to accept it.

The Arts & Sciences Endowed Internship Scholarship Fund is an
example, she said, “of the kind of program we need to focus on
to match our philanthropy to students’ experience.”

"They see you work hard, you get recommended. You
get an internship, you get out on set.” - Deanté Grinner ’20
Banjos & Bibles: Arnold Taylor ’51 Led a Colorful and Generous Life

BY MIKE FRANCIS

Before enrolling at Pacific, he was drafted into the Army in Providence, R.I., in August 1943, when he turned 18.

“What I had hoped for was to be an aviator. However, a quirk in my color perception disqualified me for that dream job,” he wrote in A Military History Narrative of Arnold Godfrey Taylor, a copy of which is in an office in Marsh Hall. “I asked if I could jump into the fight. One look at me and they laughed. I was a skinny kid, weighing only 120 lbs. One thought that if I were to jump out in a prevailing eastward wind that I would float into Berlin before anyone else — unless the parachute was weighted down with cannonballs, which may make for a loud landing and attract attention.”

As a college student, Taylor played banjo, participated in debates and presided over the Gamma Sigma fraternity, becoming the first editor of the Gamma Gobbler newsletter, where his trademark humor was evident. When Gamma Sigma took over a building that once was the Alpha Zeta frat house, then the Wilcox Hospital, which closed, the Gamma Gobbler noted: “The fact that this was formerly an AZ house doesn’t worry us an iota. A complete fumigation process is being considered, and the bit of walk leading to the entrance upon which those misfortunates inscribed their descriptive name, AZole, will be dynamited with proper ceremony and with dispatch.”

After graduating, Taylor went east again, taking a job as a copy boy at the now-defunct Washington Evening Star. He rose through the newspaper ranks, becoming assistant picture editor. In 1954, he married Lilian Bedinger with whom he had three children. In 1965, he left the Evening Star to enroll at Virginia Theological Seminary.

In an account of his career change, the Evening Star writer noted “Taylor does not believe his shift is as radical as a first impression suggests. As a news photographer, he met all kinds of people, and as an Episcopal priest he anticipates the same general kind of associations.”

He was ordained in 1969 and served at two churches in Maryland, including 22 years as rector at
Christ Church, Durham Parish, a congregation established in 1692, according to his note informing Pacific of his appointment. As a priest, he organized a Boy Scout troop, helped establish a hospice and always, according to his obituary “met people where they were.”

One of the people he met was Dan James ’87, a Pacific University alumnus, then-Rep. Les AuCoin ’69. James and Taylor found themselves seated next to each other for a lunch in a dining room at the U.S. Capitol. AuCoin had arranged the lunch to welcome Pacific’s then-president Robert Duvall during a visit to Washington, D.C.

James and Taylor hit it off, with James visiting Taylor’s church on multiple occasions and drawing closer over time to the Taylor family. Once, James’ mother was visiting from Montana, and they visited Durham Parish together.

“They were doing a procession with a hymn, but the hymn was ‘Hail, Old Pacific, Hail’,” James recalled. In the middle of the procession, he said, Taylor stopped for an announcement. He told the congregation that the hymn was Pacific University’s school song, and that his good friend and fellow Pacific alumnus was present in the congregation. He then sang a few bars of the university hymn.

Then the service resumed. “Love gushed out of his soul, but he was also a blue-collar old salt from Rhode Island with a legendary sense of humor,” James said. “He exuded care and empathy, and he could tell a story or risqué joke with the best of them.”

Taylor retired from the church in 1993, although his retirement was full of movement. He helped organize Honor Flights, which take World War II veterans to Washington to see the World War II Memorial, and he organized members of his old regiment to march annually in the national Memorial Day parade.

He also was a lively swing dancer who sometimes surfaced in news features. “There’s this guy I dance with, Arnold Taylor,” began a Washington Post account in 2003. “He has firm hands and shoulders, and his favorite eight-step swing move has this merry-go-round feel to it. Everything in the periphery is ablur except his face, which usually bears a broad grin.

“He’s strong — a fact he underscores by introducing himself, with a wink, simply as ‘Arnold! This faux Schwarzenegger’s dance card is usually pretty full. And when he walks, it’s more like he’s swaggering to a syncopated beat.

“It’s easy to mistake this 78-year-old retired reverend for a lady’s man. But really, when he’s on the dance floor, he’s just reflecting the spiritual joy he’s gotten out of his favorite form of recreation.

“What do I like most about dance? Oh, well, the sort of happy human relationship.‘Living with somebody and having fun,’ he says.”

Through the decades, Taylor stayed in regular touch with Pacific, sending back chatty updates about people he’d visited, acknowledging contacts from the school and describing things that he was doing, such as, “I am unofficial chaplain of the Bayside Banjo Aggregation, a bunch of 200-300 tenor banjo players.” He and Lilian attended Homecoming several times in recent years and would frequently extend their trips to include visits in the homes of his friends from his time on campus.

James, like many others who came to know Taylor, relished those regular contacts. “Over time,” James said, “I started to describe him as my oldest friend,” adding, perhaps unnecessarily, “Get it?”

Taylor didn’t seem bounded by age, occupation, or much of anything else. Friendships came naturally to him. He never was rich — careers in journalism and the priesthood generally reimburse the accumulation of wealth. But he was a steady giver to Pacific, donating a little something each year for 51 years, beginning with a $10 gift in 1959 and concluding with a $2,000 gift from his estate to Pacific’s Veteran’s Endowed Scholarship Fund. His gifts reflected his values, and the joy he carried through his life.

“There was a faith and a genuineness to him that attracted me and so many others,” James said. “I’m grateful that Pacific brought us together.”

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Edwin Park: Veteran Demonstrates His Appreciation for Education

By Mike Francis

Students who are military veterans say they sometimes feel like outsiders on a college campus. They’re older than many of their classmates and often have had experiences that others can’t fathom.

Pacific University has risen to address this gap by opening the Veterans Resource Center on the Forest Grove Campus and offering a range of new scholarships for veterans.

The initiatives are funded by a generous grant to Pacific by Edwin G. Park Jr., a World War II veteran “who always believed in the value of education,” said one of his sons, Steve Park, an associate professor in the School of Occupational Therapy.

The elder Park, now 97, served during the war in the Pacific as a flight navigator in B-24 Liberators, but when the military’s aviation branch was known as the Army Air Corps. His handwritten “Crew History” records what the war was like.

“The initiatives are funded by a generous grant to Pacific by Edwin G. Park Jr., a World War II veteran ‘who always believed in the value of education,’ said one of his sons, Steve Park, an associate professor in the School of Occupational Therapy.

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When the Veterans Resource Center opened in Clark Hall on Veterans Day 2018, Steve and his brother Daniel attended the opening, along with Pacific’s then-president Catherine Allen Park and their daughter, Theresa Lauren Park. Steve Park said Edwin Park’s gift to Pacific will help student-veterans make the most of the center, such as by serving in speakers and sponsoring special events.

Since then, Pacific has been named among U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges for veterans nationwide.

In his remarks in 2018, Steve Park thanked those who served and those who supported those who served.

“Thank you to those Pacific University veteran students, here and in the future,” he said, “our family looks forward to hearing of your achievements, thankful that our father’s donation helped you achieve your educational dreams.”

More than 70 Pacific University students are currently using veterans benefits to pursue their degrees, but even more continue to benefit from student services and scholarships for veterans.

Join Edwin Park in supporting Pacific veterans.

Give Today ➤ pacificu.edu/veteransupportendowment

Steve Park ’64 and Inex Griffith ’66 celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in September 2019. They traveled around Hawaii’s island’s, spending a week on Maui, a week on Oahu and a week on Kauai.

15 Oct 44 3 Squadron strike to two Jima. Turned back 45 minutes from target. #1 engine leaking oil.

21 Oct 44 Teeters lost over two Jima. Fighter rammed tail.

2 Nov 44 8 Betty raid, shot 9 down, 4 men killed in tent.

When the war ended, Park came home, married Arlene Laura Millar, to whom he was married and attended Washington State College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering.

He volunteered to return to active duty during the war in Korea, again serving as a flight navigator in the newly formed U.S. Air Force. When the armistice ended hostilities in 1953, he stayed in the Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1964. He then entered a civilian career as a mechanical engineer for NASA at the Ames Research Center in California, retiring in 1972.

Through his life, and the lives of his family members, he demonstrated repeatedly that he believed deeply in the importance of education. After earning his undergraduate degree between his military stints, he earned his master’s degree in air ordnance at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. And he helped support his sons and grandchildren as they attended college.

“If you can imagine,” said Steve Park, “when I was 50 years old, I went back to college full-time to obtain a PhD.” That schooling, too, was partly paid by his father. “I work at Pacific University as an associate professor because I had the financial support of our father.”

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1987 Dr. Wayne Ellenbeger ’86, OD ’87 was selected Idaho Optometric Psychiatrist of the Year. He served 4 years on both the Idaho Optometric Physicians Association board and the Idaho State Board of Optometry, including terms as president on both boards. He and his wife, Dr. Cindy Ellenbeger ’81, own and operate Ellenbeger Eye Clinic in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

They opened the clinic in 1991.

1993 Xant O’Driscoll ’85, who recently published her first book, One Teenager at a Time: Developing Self-Awareness & Critical Thinking in Adolescence, founded the SEFL Project, a curriculum for teens and educators or caregivers of teens that offers practical tools to increase resilience, build stronger relationships, and tackle tough challenges.

1994 Kaye Mitchell PT ’94 is a professor in the School of Physical Therapy at Texas Woman’s University in Houston and the coordinator of post-professional programs. Her research interest is exploring the psychometrics of outcome measures in patient populations with variable performance parameters.

1995 Mitch Collier ’95, vice president of product at StayWell, a corporate healthcare consultant, wrote an article for Healthcare Business Today about how employers are taking a broader view of their employees’ well-being.

Todd Hamilton MAT ’96, newly appointed superintendent of Springfield, Ore., schools, was profiled by the Eugene Register-Guard newspaper.

Deedra Mason ’96, director of clinical education and research for nutraMetrix Custom Health Solutions of Greenwich, Conn., contributes to the company’s health blog, including a recent post on Your Superfood Superhero.

After she completed her undergraduate work at Pacific University, she studied naturopathic medicine, graduating from National College of Naturopathic Medicine, graduating from National College of Naturopathic Medicine, graduating from National College of Naturopathic Medicine.

1996 Matt Binkerd MAT ’96 was named the new athletic director for Lakeland High School in Lake Oswego, Ore. Stanley is also the assistant principal at Lakeland.

1997 Xani Goldstein-Bosco ’98 and her daughter visited with her alma mater at a college booth fair in Reno, Nev.

Patricia Runnels-Peason ’89 was elected chair of the Oregon Law Association in September. Runnels-Peason is a partner at the Miller Nash law firm in its Portland, Ore., office. She is the second chair of the commission since its founding in 1997.

Rebecca Weaver ’88, who is an English professor on Perimeter College’s Claytonston Campus, has been named the first recipient of the Potommy Prize for Outstanding Honor’s Faculty, recognizing the Perimeter College faculty member whose “dedication to students” academic achievement, intellectual acuity, and ethical development most clearly embodies the mission of the Honors College.” Perimeter College is part of the Georgia State University system.

1999 Jack Pham ’99 is CEO of PhanU, a marketing and advertising company that assists newspaper publishers, and CTO of AgeSt, he is presently at Oregon and chief operating officer of MoneyChangers, a personal finance education website. He is a member of the United Business Advisory Council, Oregon Venture Fund and Oregon Entrepreneurs Network.
Dallas Wilkinson
OD ’99 is relocating his optometry practice, Vision Source, to a new, bigger building in Hot Springs, S.D. A newspaper story in the Fall River County Herald described Wilkinson’s continuing efforts to get more space for his practice.

2000
Troy Humphreys
OD ’00 was elected the president of the Nevada Optometric Association for 2019-2020. Humphreys is in clinical practice with eight colleagues, four of whom are also graduates from Pacific University. Denis Humphreys OD ’74 (his father), Toyia Rubbard OD ’98, Becky Humphreys MED ’93, OD ’01 (his wife), and Cari Isaza Cooper ’03, OD ’06. Troy, Becky and their two teenage children live in Sparks, Nev.

2004
Jennifer Kales ’04 was promoted to director of communications at the Oregon Department of Energy.

Brenda J. Sanders
MAE ’04 recently published her second book, It Does Not Matter If You Are Black or White. It is a children’s book focused on the impact of words and actions on others. She drew the illustrations in addition to writing the book. Sanders is also the author of Educationally Correct. Academically Sound: Fueling School Programs and Student Achievement.

2005
Robert DeCou ’05 got within 670 feet of shore in his effort to swim across the Strait of Juan de Fuca in July. The 31-mile, 17-hour swim still succeeded in raising more than $10,000 to fight human trafficking. DeCou, who lives in Los Angeles, has engaged in other ultra-athletic efforts, including a 135-mile run to Mount Whitney two years ago to raise money to combat polio. He is executive producer at Lux Virtual, a 3D animation studio in Los Angeles.

2006
Jaime Bennett ’06 and her husband Jake Bennett have welcomed their second child, Brooklyn Ella Bennett, on Aug. 1, 2019. She joins 4-year-old brother, Jackson. Steve Flavin ’06 directed Thirst Jap, a film that premiered at NewFilmmakers Los Angeles’ InFocus LGBTQ+ Film Festival in June. Sarah (Gardner) Saavedra ’06 has joined St. Martin’s University in Lacey, Wash., as vice president of finance and chief financial officer. In that capacity, she will supervise the university’s budget and finances, as well as student financial services, purchasing, and other business functions. She grew up in the Rogue Valley and is a graduate of Pacific University.

2007
Jeanne Hall Galay MFA ’07 was featured in the Speculative Poets Series of Luna Station Quarterly, which publishes short fiction by women. Galay served as poet laureate of Redmond, Wash., and is the author of five books of poetry. Galay’s book made it to BookAuthority’s Best New PR Books for 2019. She has a BS in biology and an MA in English from the University of Cincinnati, as well as her MFA in creative writing from Pacific University. Her poems have been featured on NPR’s The Writer’s Almanac and on Verse Daily. Two were included in The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror.

2008
Jordan Keith OD ’08 was named the Young Optometrist of the Year by the Minnesota Optometric Association. Keith is practicing at the Eye Care Center in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. He also teaches and makes it to Pacific every January to teach a board preparation course to third-year optometry students.

2009
Jaime Zerndt MFA ’08, an instructor in Pacific University’s English Language Institute, has published Jerkwater, a novel about racial tensions surrounding Native American fishing rights. Jerkwater was inducted into Concordia’s Athletic Hall of Fame. After earning her degree from Concordia, Heuckman pursued a doctorate in optometry from Pacific. Heuckman currently is vice president of clinical affairs and optometric residency director at Chu Vision Institute in Bloomingom, Minn. Her community service includes participating in eye care mission trips to the Philippines and Myanmar.

Nathan Lightbizer OD ’09 was chosen to present at the North Carolina Optometric Society’s Fall Congress. Lightbizer lectures nationally on numerous topics, most notably advanced ophthalmic procedures, electrodiagnostics, and ocular disease.

Brandon Porter ’09, head women’s soccer coach at the Oregon Institute of Technology since 2015, has accepted the position of head men’s and women’s soccer coach at the university. Porter previously served as an assistant coach for four seasons at Northern Arizona University. Porter, a native of Carney, Ore., earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Pacific University in 2009. Porter has his United States Soccer Federation (USSF) Coaching License as well as his United Soccer Coaches National Diploma, and Goalkeeping Level 1 and 2 Diplomas.

Jessica Heckman OD ’09 is a board preparation course instructor in Pacific University’s optometry students. She was named the New Prairie’s Best Fantasy and Horror. Jerkwater was inducted into Concordia’s Athletic Hall of Fame. After earning her degree from Concordia, Heuckman pursued a doctorate in optometry from Pacific. Heuckman currently is vice president of clinical affairs and optometric residency director at Chu Vision Institute in Bloomingom, Minn. Her community service includes participating in eye care mission trips to the Philippines and Myanmar.

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Friends

Steven James Cool, former Pacific professor, died Aug. 1, 2019, at age 78. He joined Pacific’s College of Optometry in 1979. Cool was loved by many for his ability to share knowledge in a way that encouraged learners to see things in different ways and that pushed students out of the dull glare of rote learning into that charged light of discovery. In 1987, he taught in the School of Graduate Psychology and the School of Occupational Therapy. It was during this discipline of occupational therapy that Cool found his greatest love of teaching. He greatly admired the ability of OT to apply all that he professed regarding the human nervous system, the human spirit, and the plasticity of the brain as it adapts to life. As a young man of the 1960s, Cool committed himself to social justice and to the service of humanity. He was a compassionate, kind, generous, and gentle man of exceptional integrity. He is survived by his wife, Molly McEwen, sister, Patricia (Patti) L. Cool; brother, Howard A. Cool; son, William; son, Anthony and his wife Jessica of Phoenix, Ariz.; and grandchildren, Shalequa and Tank of Phoenix.

Chatten Hayes, assistant handball coach, died Oct. 21, 2019, at age 59. Born Nov. 29, 1959, she grew up in San Francisco and Yamhill County, attending Catlin Gabel, Oregon Episcopal School and Newberg High School. She went on to the University of Wisconsin and then transferred to Portland State University, graduating with a degree in communications in 1982. Her enthusiasm was many: travel, theater, walking, a long line of adopted cats, Hawaii, backpacking, scuba diving, coffee, purple, all things Italian and her friends and family. In 1990, Chatten married David Steenberg (now Pacific’s head handball coach) and they began a life of travel, adventure and service together. The consummate enthusiast, Chatten dedicated herself wholeheartedly to Pacific’s world of competitive handball. They were a team: David, the champion handball player and coach; and Chatten, the organizer of off-handball fundraising events and enthusiastic spokesperson for the sport, on a local, national and international level. As a Master Reveiter, she became an essential part of the Festa Italia team in 2010, making that annual festival in Pioneer Square sustainable. She handball tournaments, volunteered at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for many years, volunteered at the San Tran Reading Room in the 1980s, and organized many events, including a memorable party at the zoo to raise funds for Transition Projects. She was a wonderful volunteer, whose many features for the Oregonian concentrated on quirky destinations in Oregon, as well as recycling and sustainability. Chatten was preceded in death by her father, Clifford Levy. In 1948, they married. In 1949, she gave birth to their only child, daughter, Billie “Bill” Crawfrod ‘42 died Sept. 4, 2019, at age 99. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and played football during his time at Pacific. He was also a Knight Badger, which was a service group, and he was president of his sophomore class for the first quarter. He was predeceased in death by his wife JoAnn Reed, who died 12 years ago. He is survived by his daughter, Judy Crawfrod ‘94.

Leanne Anne Chambers Ley ‘46 died March 6, 2019, at her home in San Francisco’s Miramar Park. She was 94. Born in Riverside, Calif., she was the eldest of five siblings. After high school, Laura majored in English at Pacific in 1944. In June 1945, a year shy of graduation, she traveled to San Francisco intending to earn some money before returning to complete her senior year at Pacific. But after deciding to stay, she enrolled at San Francisco State University, where she received her BA in English. She also met her future husband, Clifford Ley. In 1948, they married. In the late 1960s, Laura began working for the San Francisco Unified School District and the county’s clerk’s office, finishing her career there in 1987 as an assistant supervising court clerk. After retiring, Laura began work on Siberian Odyssey. Published in 2005, the book was inspired by stories of her mother Clara’s childhood in Siberia. After she received her BA in English, she also met her future husband, Clifford Ley. In 1948, they married. In the late 1960s, Laura began working for the San Francisco Unified School District and the county’s clerk’s office, finishing her career there in 1987 as an assistant supervising court clerk. After retiring, Laura began work on Siberian Odyssey. Published in 2005, the book was inspired by stories of her mother Clara’s childhood in Siberia. After she received her BA in English, she also met her future husband, Clifford Ley. In 1948, they married. In the late 1960s, Laura began working for the San Francisco Unified School District and the county’s clerk’s office, finishing her career there in 1987 as an assistant supervising court clerk. After retiring, Laura began work on Siberian Odyssey. Published in 2005, the book was inspired by stories of her mother Clara’s childhood in Siberia. After
Kenneth Box ‘48, MSEd ‘56

He received his teaching degree from Pacific and went on to obtain his master’s degree. After graduation, Box worked at Yamhill High School, where he met Becky, his wife of 62 years. They settled in the Beaverton area where he taught high school and then became an administrator for the Beaverton School District. Kenneth had a lifelong interest in woodworking, building furniture, woodworking, and even building sailboats, which prompted his involvement in the Willamette Sailing Club. He was preceded in death by his wife Betty, and his brother Donald. He is survived by his sister, Marge Williams of Walla Walla, Wash.; children, Kathy (and Ken) Fish of Camas, Wash.; Jim (and Laura) of Napaville, Ill., Tom (and Jana) of Salem, Ore., eight grandchildren; and 12 great grandchildren.

Donald T. Smith ‘49 died at home on June 27, 2019. He was born on July 29, 1924, in Seattle and grew up in the Sellwood-Woodstock area of Portland. He attended public school and spending his formative years exploring the outdoors with his father and many Italian uncles who worked as local area loggers and miners through the great depression. After graduating from high school to Gaston, Ore., he finished his high school years in Forest Grove and graduated from Pacific University. He was pursuing an engineering degree at Pacific University when World War II began. After training, Smith was shipped overseas and served as a heavy weapons machine gunner in the 94th infantry division, 302nd regiment under the command of General George S. Patton. In 1945, he was commissioned to lieutenant while in high school. Upon his return from service in WWII, they were married in Forest-Merrow on July 26, 1947. They moved to the Willamette Valley, where they both graduated from Pacific University. She began her teaching career in Vernon, Ore., as a PE teacher, and after Ken’s graduation they both began teaching in Pilot Rock, Ore. In 1957, they moved to Pendleton and she continued as a business and typing teacher until her retirement in 1984. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ken, in 1998; brothers, neutron, Earl and Vernon, all of Forest-Merrow; and sister, Marjorie of Emmett, Idaho. She is survived by Steve (and Heather) of Summerville Ore., Dan (and Micki) of Spokane, Wash.; and Tempe (and Steve) Bartell of Inglemore Ore.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Margaret Cooper ‘51

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, in 2019. He was an associate of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon. She joined her church choir. Travel was also important to Cooper, as she took many trips to Hawai‘i, Europe and Mexico in her lifetimes. She is survived by Steve (and Laura) of Camas, Wash., and Tempie (and Steve) Rowlett, passed away three weeks prior to her 93rd birthday. She was born on April, 19, 1926, to Vesper and Minnie Brumbach in Milton-Freewater, Ore. In 1948, she married Elmer “Noni” Bietschek. They moved to the Willamette Valley, where they both graduated from Pacific University. She began her teaching career in Vernon, Ore., as a PE teacher, and after Ken’s graduation they both began teaching in Pilot Rock, Ore. In 1957, they moved to Pendleton and she continued as a business and typing teacher until her retirement in 1984. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ken, in 1998; brothers, neutron, Earl and Vernon, all of Forest-Merrow; and sister, Marjorie of Emmett, Idaho. She is survived by Steve (and Heather) of Summerville Ore., Dan (and Micki) of Spokane, Wash.; and Tempe (and Steve) Bartell of Inglemore Ore.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Robert John Fadhl, OD ‘62 died July 22, 2019, at age 80. Fadhl worked in an optician shop for many years. He graduated with his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Oregon in 1962. After graduating, he served in the Army for 20 years. Fadhl was preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Betty. Lurd. He is survived by his wife, children, Jon, Fadhl, Michael Fadhl, Paula Fadhl-Pohl, and Kimberly Fadhl-Blood; and five grandchildren.

Jack Dean Reeves ‘63

He graduated from the Pacific University with a doctorate in optometry in 1962 and served in the Air Force for three years before opening a private practice in Lawrence, Kan., in 1965. He was a devoted husband, father, coach, and friend to many. He retired from his practice after 45 years and spent his retirement traveling, golfing, and enjoying friends and family. He was preceded in death by his wife, Pamela (Jiles) Joy. He is survived by his sister, Dee and Vicki; his four children, Patrick, Jeffrey, Megan, and Erin (and Joyce); his four grandchildren, Andrew, Molly, Ethan and Graesen.

Marcia Lee Malby ‘65 died June 4, 2019. She was married at the age of 19, young mother, passionate grandmother, sister and treasured friend. She was born in Portland, Ore. and graduated from Tigard High School in 1961 and continued her studies at Pacific University, graduating in 1965. She became an influential educator within Portland Public Schools and made a difference in many lives. She was survived by her husband, Gary; two children, Carson and Laura; two great-grandchildren, Carson and Laura; one brother, Edmund; and cousins, Lorain, Brian, Kris, Mark and Pam.

Jerry Sigel ‘65, former Peace Corps volunteer and U.S. Navy officer, died July 13, 2019. After graduation from Pacific University in 1965, he served in the Peace Corps in Liberia. After returning home, he and Maxim Nakhatau ‘66 married. He became a commissioned officer in the Navy and spent several tours in Vietnamese waters on the Ticonderoga, one of the largest warships in the fleet.
completion of his tour of duty in the Navy, Lt. Sigel and Marion settled in Napa, Calif. He ran a successful business and Marion founded and operated a Montessori school. When their two kids were off to college in the 1990s, he and Marion served in the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan, Central Asia then lived on a sailboat traveling the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay before returning to their professional lives. He always said one of the best things about attending Pacific was meeting Marion. She survives him, along with his daughter, Christine, and son, Ken; daughter-in-law, Kamal; grandchildren, Jason and Gavyn; and five brothers and their families.

1967

Henry Patterson Adams ’67, scion of a pioneer California family, died July 12, 2019. He was born on May 30, 1945, attended Piedmont elementary schools, and was a graduate of Pacific University in 1967, later earning a master’s degree in range management at the University of Idaho. Following military service, he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a land resources specialist from 1977 to 1988. Following retirement he moved to Santa Barbara, where he consulted widely on land issues and was an active volunteer at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and other philanthropic organizations. He was a founder of the Film Music Society of Los Angeles and a long-standing member of the California Society of Pioneers. He is survived by two sisters, Susan Adams Engs of San Francisco and Abigail Adams Campbell of Woodside; eight nieces and nephews, 25 grandchildren and nephews; and one great-grandniece.

1970

Duane Kaneshiro OD ’70 died June 8, 2018, in Vacaville, Calif. He was born in Honolulu, raised in Hawaii and Japan, and graduated from Kubasaki High School in Okinawa. He earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Hawaii and his OD from Pacific in 1970. He served 20 years as an officer in the Air Force, including tours of duty in Vietnam and in Europe, and completed his service at Travis Air Force Base. After retiring from the Air Force, he took on a second career and worked another 20-plus years at Kaiser-Permanente until his recent retirement. He is survived by his wife, Carmen of Vacaville; four children, David, Derek, Gary and Shelby; seven grandchildren; three sisters; one brother, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

1972

Charles “Charlie” Red MA ’72 died July 16, 2018, at age 74. He was a pitcher for Pacific’s baseball team for two years before transferring. After earning his bachelor’s degree from Sonoma State University in Rehnert Park, Calif., he returned to Pacific to earn his master’s degree in physical education. As a graduate student, he ran the intramural program for the athletic department and coached the JV basketball team. After graduating Pacific, he coached basketball at Illinois Valley High School in Cave Junction, Ore., where he oversaw a perfect 20-0 season. He also coached at Laytonville (Calif.) High School and Willits (Calif.) High School, coaching the team to several league titles. He had a 50-year teaching career including more than 30 years of coaching baseball, basketball, and football. He was preceded in death by his son, Evan. He is survived by his wife, Betty; and children, Janey, Michael and Charles.

1975

Ramona Linda Laing ’75 died April 28, 2019. She was born May 26, 1953, in La Jolla, Calif., to William and Anne (Penniman) Ferguson. She graduated from Pacific University in 1975 and married James Palmer. After her divorce, she married Ralph “Chris” Laing in 1989. She volunteered with her local Pony Club chapter giving lessons and also worked with her dogs in the therapy dog program at local hospitals. She was preceded in death by her husband, Chris. She is survived by her father, William Ferguson; her sisters, Helen Ferguson and Julia Anteopo; and her brother, Richard Ferguson.

1980

William Scott Poxon ’80, OD ’83 died Aug. 30, 2019, at age 61. He was born in Drumheller, Alberta, but settled in, Llyodminster, Alberta, in 1988 to further his career. He prided himself on providing excellent optometric care and making himself available both day and night for his patients. Poxon was a member of the Alberta College of Optometrists Council from 2006 to 2011. He was preceded in death by his father, Dale Spencer. He is survived by his mother, Mary Lorraine; his sister, Sandra Jean; and his brother, David Dale.

1985

Lisa Marie Merrett Pearson ’85 died Dec. 6, 2018. She was born May 1, 1963, in Sturgis, S.D., and in 1967, moved to Wrangell, Alaska, with her parents Ron and Marlene Merrett, and siblings, Steven, Brian and Michelle. After graduation from Wrangell High School, she received an undergraduate degree in communication sciences and disorders from Pacific University in 1985. Later, she earned her MS in speech-language pathology from the University of Wisconsin. She married Kerry Pearson in 1984, and they settled in Arizona, where their two children, Kyle Andrew and Jenna Rae were born. She taught school at Gilbert Christian Elementary for 15 years, and then left that career when the couple became foster parents. During the next 10 years, they provided love and care for seven newborn babies until each one was adopted into a forever family. She is survived by her husband, Kerry; son, Kyle, of Dallas, Texas; daughter, Jenna of Gilbert, Ariz.; parents, Ron and Marlene; siblings, Steven, Brian and Michelle; a granddaughter; three nieces; and three nephews.

1987

Dennis Gustafson OD ’87 died on July 18, 2019. He was a nuclear medicine technologist at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle from 1972 to 1983. In 1983, at age 37, he came home from work one day and asked his wife Kathy what she would think if he quit his job and went back to school. She told him she thought it was a great idea. He attended Pacific University from 1983 to 1987. He graduated with a doctor of optometry degree in May 1987. He and his wife opened State Avenue Vision Clinic in Marysville, Wash., until he sold the practice to 1987. He belonged to both Everett and Edmonds Yacht Clubs. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester and Mabel. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; their boys, Jason and Kevin; brother, Lee; sister, Nyla Thies; and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

In Memoriam
STACIE STRUBLE ’15

“I believe that the more you make, the more you should give back.”
– Lisa Rowley

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executive editor | Jenni Luckett
managing editor | Mike Francis
writing & editing | Rosie Fiallo, Ella Cutter ’22
design | Alex Bell ’13, Joyce Lovro Gabriel
video & photography | Robbie Bourland

CONTRIBUTORS
writing | Sarah Marks
photography | Stacie Struble ’15, Deanté Grinner ’20
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