BY WANDA LAUKKANEN | Ryan Aiello MA ’06 talks faster than a speeded-up TV commercial.

“I have to teach myself to slow down,” he says with a laugh. “I tend to speed up when I’m excited about things.”

And Aiello, who is director of Residence Life at Pacific University, finds himself excited about both his job at the university, as well as his extracurricular activities, including his indie band, Ill Lucid Onset.

Aiello has been employed by Pacific’s Residence Life since July 2002 and currently runs the Office of Student Conduct, which deals with both professional and undergraduate student issues.

In addition, he is the founder, lead vocalist and a songwriter for the Portland alternative rock band, Ill Lucid Onset, founded in 2005. The band is currently in the No. 2 spot on the Portland alternative rock band charts.

The two positions share a common goal, he said.

“My job here (at Pacific) is about connecting with students and helping them achieve their goals, helping them through their struggles or challenge areas, and helping them define their strengths and help them grow those,” he said.

“For me as a songwriter … I just want to connect with people. If it’s something they can really feel deep emotion with and they can connect to, that’s great. That’s where I think those roads parallel.”

Aiello graduated from Washington State University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1999 and was a Residence Life coordinator at Eastern Washington University before coming to Pacific.

He earned a master’s degree in counseling psychology from Pacific in 2006 and noted that some of his roles have to do “with the

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Aiello: Life experiences inspired university post

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terrible things that happen on campus,” everything from sexual assault to suicide ideation to other life-changing events. His job is to get students to grow within their own development, he said.

“I think I work in the best field of education: student affairs. I believe that sometimes, that’s where the richest growth happens and I really get to the issue of people developing and growing,” he said.

He comes to the role having faced many obstacles in his own childhood and adolescence.

“I actually grew up in Southern California in a pretty rough lifestyle,” Aiello said, adding that his father was a high school dropout. “My dad, most of the time until I was in high school, was dealing and doing dope.”

In addition, Aiello said, his father worked a variety of “on and off jobs.” His mother also worked different odd jobs. As a result, Aiello said, the family moved around a lot, and he attended several different schools in California.

Life changed for him, however, when his parents divorced and his mother moved with him to Vancouver, Wash., where there was family.

His mother became a nurse, and Aiello graduated from Columbia River High School in Vancouver, lettering in theatre and maintaining a 3.0 grade point average.

Aiello then went to college, but attributes the idea of going on to further education to the family of a former high school girlfriend whose father was a Harvard educated lawyer.

“They saw something in me,” he said. “They encouraged me to look at schools, even took upon themselves to say, ‘Hey, let’s go for a drive and visit these schools.’ If it wasn’t for their family, I’m not sure I would have considered college.”

Aiello said his background as a young person gave him “my passion for students who are struggling.”

In addition to the family who encouraged him to continue his education, Aiello’s aunt encouraged him to play music.

“My aunt gave me a hand-me-down guitar, an acoustic guitar, and I taught myself how to play and just started taking stabs on writing and really learning how to sing,” he said.

His band’s name is a representation of his life. The acronym “I.L.O.” — if each letter is pronounced — indicates how Aiello’s last name is pronounced. The words themselves — “Ill Lucid Onset” — is “something cool, transparent and new,” he said.

“It’s a very introspective sort of music, a very thoughtful kind of atmospheric rock,” he said.

“You’re not going to hear cheesy music from us. Most of our songs are about the human experience.”
Faculty & staff highlights

SHILPI BANERJEE, Audiology, was awarded “Honors of the Academy” from the Minnesota Academy of Audiology in February in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the organization. An active member of the Minnesota academy for seven years, Banerjee served the organization in several capacities, including working as an ad hoc volunteer, then serving as a member and chair of several committees, on the board of directors and as president of the organization. She recently was elected to a three-year term on the American Academy of Audiology’s Board of Directors.

JASON BRUMITT and ERIN JOBST, Physical Therapy, have published a book, Physical Therapy Case Files: Orthopaedics, a collection of orthopedic cases that highlight the best examination and treatment strategies.

MICHAEL BURCH-PESSES, Music, was the guest conductor for the United States Navy Band in a concert Feb. 15 at Willamette University. Burch-Pess served in the U.S. Navy for 33 years, rising from seaman recruit to commander, and was the former executive officer, second in command of the Navy Band before he retired and came to Pacific.

HANNU LAUKKANEN, Optometry, presented a lecture at the annual Northwest Congress of Optometry, sponsored by the Optometric Extension Program Foundation, Feb. 24 at Pacific University. Laukkanen talked about his 2012 sabbatical work at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center with soldiers who displayed vision defects due to traumatic brain injuries.

MICHAEL MILLARD, Pharmacy, was recently named to the Oregon Governor’s Prescription Drug Abuse Force. The new task force is the recipient of a grant by the National Governor’s Association to develop a plan to address the epidemic of prescription drug abuse. Milliard has been a pharmacist for 40 years, was named the 1990 Oregon Pharmacist of the Year, and has served in several other advisory roles.

JAMES MOORE, Politics and Government, spoke Feb. 21 at the Rogue Valley League of Women Voters meeting on “We’re All Globalized Now: Politics, Economics and the U.S. in the World.”

TAMMY SPENCER, Marketing & Communications, has joined the Audubon Society of Portland Board of Directors. She brings extensive knowledge and expertise in marketing and communications strategy development and implementation, as well as event and volunteer experience to the board, along with her passion for protecting habitat, birding and continuing the legacy of her father, Ron Spencer, an active and engaged member of the board and volunteer.

Submit your publication, presentation and professional recognition news to Pacific News at news@pacificu.edu
# April Birthdays

1. Kathlene Postma
2. Connie Taylor
3. Rachel Sanchez Thwing
4. Dina Erickson
5. Suzanne Ahn
6. Jamy Borbridge
7. Jon-Erik Larsen
8. Jennifer Smythe
9. Tawny Flores
10. Eric Lambert
11. Liz Davis
12. Miguel Munoz
13. Troy Strass
14. Susan Schubothe
15. John Lockhart
16. Elaine Coughlin
17. Nicholas Fillis
18. Suzanne Byers-Connon
19. Martha Rampton
20. Stephen Prag
21. Milo Holden
22. Doug Ryan
23. Amanda Stead
9. Patricia Parker
9. Beatrix Loper
9. Gregor Yanega
10. Rose Engelfried
10. Charles Carpenter
10. Heidi Grubbs
10. Junko Iijima
10. Arlyn Curtis
11. Hollie Garvin
11. Libby Schoene
12. Jason Lawson
13. Travis Gregory
13. Harold Vreeland
13. Kihei Castillo
13. Lisa Downing
14. Ian Doyle
14. Santha Zaik
14. Mike Geraci
14. Elena Sherbina
15. Brandon Holiday
15. Jennifer Wuite de Valle
15. Nathan Nebergall
16. Terry O’Day
16. Sarah Thomas
16. Pam Kofstad
16. Karen Sellars
17. Phil Friesen
17. Anthony Dunn
18. Raquel Avalos
18. Timothy Hamlet
18. Curtis Ray
18. Mary Kay Schwab Perry
18. Andrea Stewart
19. Staci Hallanzini
19. Paula Simon
20. Denise Giesbers
20. Kay Waldron
20. Sandi Miles
20. Vicki McGee
21. Olivia Mandujano
21. John Lowery
21. Theresa Floyd
21. Linda Hunt
22. Chad Rosen
22. Beth Lynn Lindstrom
23. Thomas Hemenway
23. Erik Monson
23. Chelsey Chamberlain
23. Susan Menen Jessing
23. Lisa Frech
23. Elizabeth Klinger
23. Bill Ray
23. Saje Davis-Risen
23. Stephanie Stokamer
23. Rebecca Schulte
26. Rachel Oakes
26. Brianne Riley Olivera
27. Jeremy Hughes
29. Bradley Baker
29. Mark Brist
29. Cassie McVeety
29. Michael Clark
30. Tamara Duvall
30. Deborah Parsons
30. Irene Arroyo
30. John Reid-Hresko
30. Claude Vanzant
30. Teresa Perrin

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**LIBRARIES CELEBRATE WRITINGS OF ALL UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES**

The scholarly and creative achievements of the university’s faculty, staff and administrators will be celebrated by the Pacific University Library with displays on the Forest Grove Campus April 8 to 12 and at the Hillsboro campus April 15 to 19. Displays of the works of published authors will be featured at each location along with the works of grant writers, whose scholarly work is often unsung and unpublished.

In addition, two receptions will be held to honor the authors: the first from 4 to 5:30 p.m. April 9, at Forest Grove and the second from 4 to 5:30 p.m. April 16 at Hillsboro.

Authors who would like their publications added to CommonKnowledge, the libraries’ digital repository, should contact Isaac Gilman, Pacific’s scholarly communications and research services librarian.

**NEED A BREAK? ENJOY CONVERSATION AND GOODIES AT THE BOXER BOOST**

Coffee and goodies are available for university staff at the Staff Senate’s monthly Boxer Boost. April’s event is from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 18 in the Alumni Room at the University Center on the Forest Grove Campus and in Room 430 at the HPC2 building in Hillsboro. All staff members are invited to come enjoy the treats and meet their staff senators.