Ellen Margolis is a professor of theatre with a lot of hats to wear. She is a prolific, award-winning playwright whose productions have won national awards. She chairs the Department of Theatre and Dance at Pacific University and teaches classes in acting, playwriting and directing. She is a founding member of Playwrights West, a Portland professional theatre company. She finds room in her “spare time” to write new plays every year and works professionally as a director, dialect coach and voiceover artist. And, she is a wife and the mother of two sons, ages 17 and 11.

Growing up in the San Francisco Bay area, Margolis said she found her calling to the theatre profession as a young person who occasionally made treks to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

“I think it was a production of *The Time of Your Life* that I saw in middle school, and I thought to myself, ‘That’s where I want to live,’” she said.

The theatre bug bit, and, after graduating from high school, Margolis went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in dramatic art from the University of California, Berkeley.

“At the time, I saw myself as an actor, and then over the years, it was if my circle of interests kept getting bigger, so I got interested in directing so I could be involved with all parts of the storytelling,” she said.

“Then I got interested in theatre history, because it’s full of questions about what stories are told and whose stories are told.

“I acted all through high school and college,” she said. “I acted professionally when I got out of college. Then I started to get my feet wet with directing, and at that point, I said, ‘I should go back to school to understand the whole picture.’”

*See MARGOLIS, page 2*
Volunteers needed at Homecoming

Pacific University employees are invited to volunteer at — and enjoy — Homecoming on Oct. 10-13. Volunteers should contact Ginger Moshoff, assistant director, at ginger@pacificu.edu, or 530-352-2828.

“It would also be fantastic to encourage employees to help us celebrate the Class of 1965,” said Martha Calus-McLean ’65, director of Alumni Relations. Members of that class will be inducted into the Golden Guard. The new Golden Guard members will parade from the UC to Old College Hall at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, to sign the sidewalk.

Faculty and staff also may participate in the events along with alumni. Pre-registration is required for many of the events, and there are fees associated with some activities.

Homecoming begins Thursday, Oct. 10, with a lunch for the Golden Guard, the groundbreaking of Pacific’s new residence hall and a reception for alumni award winners. Activities slated for Friday, Oct. 11, range from a golf scramble for Gamma Sigma alumni to reunions for several classes. The day ends with a volleyball match at the Stoller Center, followed by the 9 p.m. noise parade, bonfire and rally.

Saturday, Oct. 12, begins with a pancake breakfast. The Boxer Nation Celebration, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Parking Lot M. The Homecoming football game against University of Puget Sound starts at 1 p.m. Homecoming ends Sunday with a brunch for grads from the late 1960s, a tea for Alpha Kappa Delta alumnae and a 2:30 p.m. men’s soccer game.

Faculty & staff highlights

MICHAEL BURCH-PESSES, Music, is the founding board member of the Western International Band Clinic University, joining several leading music educators from across the nation to form the new board of directors. The Western International Band Clinic is a long established and highly respected annual event in Seattle for high school musicians and is now expanding its program to include college students. The new board will establish goals and procedures for college students to become involved in the clinic and will offer master classes and performing opportunities at the college level.

DONNA HEPLER and JUDY COOK, Mail Services, each earned executive mail center manager certification this past spring. The course provides training specifically designed by the U.S. Postal Service for mailing industry professionals. Instructors from U.S. Postal Service traveled to Portland to conduct the comprehensive certification training program.

ERIN JOBST, Physical Therapy, presented a lecture, Rehabilitation for individuals with diabetes mellitus, to Acute Care Rehabilitation Services at Oregon Health Sciences University in August.

JUDY SHERMAN, Athletics, was inducted into the Forest Grove High School Athletic Hall of Fame in September. A 1960 graduate of FGHS, Sherman coached the Boxer softball team for 28 years and served as Pacific University’s athletic director for 12 years. Although retired, she still works in game management at Pacific.

TODD SCHULTZ, Psychology, will discuss his book, Torment Saint: The Life of Elliott Smith, at Powell’s Bookstore in Portland at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6. Singer-songwriter Smith was a Lincoln High School graduate who rose to mainstream prominence in the 1990s. He died in 2004 under questionable circumstances in Los Angeles.

KEN SCHUMANN, Athletics, presented a talk with two other athletic directors on the topic “Leadership in Athletic Fundraising,” at the National Association of Athletic Development Directors held in June in Florida.

Margolis: Connecting ideas is central to her stories

Margolis earned a master of fine arts in acting at University of California, Davis and then a doctorate in theatre history from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

She came back to Oregon with her husband after a stint at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, because they wanted to live on the West Coast. She started teaching at Pacific in 2004.

Margolis is quick to point out that the idea of sitting in a coffee shop and being discovered as an actor rather than having an education is “a very American sort of slant on education.”

In Europe, it would be natural for an actor, the idea of sitting in a coffee shop and being discovered as an actor rather than having an education is “a very American sort of slant on education.”

Dan torment Saint: The Life of Elliott Smith, at Powell’s Bookstore in Portland at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6. Singer-songwriter Smith was a Lincoln High School graduate who rose to mainstream prominence in the 1990s. He died in 2004 under questionable circumstances in Los Angeles.

MIKE STEELE, English, will present a paper, Reflections of Robert E. Lee in American Culture, in January at the Hawaii University International Conference on Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in Honolulu. The presentation will preview a book-length manuscript currently under consideration by two publishers. It builds on two years of research by Steele, including time spent at the Museums of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va.

SHARE YOUR NEWS! Is there a staff or faculty member you would like to see profiled? Do you have a presentation, publication or other professional achievement to share? Send your ideas to news@pacificu.edu.
**October Birthdays**

1 Alan James  
1 Jolynn Graham  
2 Diane Simpson  
2 David DeMoss  
2 Dana Zurcher  
2 Michael Daniel  
2 Kelli Stephens  
2 Todd Twyman  
3 Keith Buckley  
3 Kylie Hepler  
3 O’Neill Solanky  
3 Michael Fulop  
3 Megan Serenco  
4 Laura Siltanen  
4 Ralph Vasey  
5 Kelly Elliott  
5 Piper Menke  
5 Jason Damron  
5 Megan Doren  
5 David Brown  
5 Cristian Barajas  
6 Chad Wiener  
6 Sara Pisa  
6 Rosario Mendez-Rodriguez  
6 Nancy Morrison  
6 Nicole Wegrzyn  
7 Benjamin Griffin  
7 Susan Pedersen  
8 Johathan Pope  
8 Kathy Read  
9 Michael Millard  
9 Erica Chiotti  
9 Joe Sepulveda  
10 Karina Guzman-Arroyo  
10 Niki Brooks  
11 Pilar Sayago  
11 Teresa Lara  
11 Kyle Johnstone  
11 Donna Hepler  
11 Nancy Christoph  
11 Damon Kupper  
12 Sandra Pelham-Foster  
12 Jeff Cummins  
12 Lonnie Anderson  
13 Rosa Mejia Gaona  
14 Erica Findley  
14 Rachel Elliott  
14 Barbara Colter  
15 Michael Iacolucci  
16 Howard Smith  
16 David Cookman  
16 Catherine Miller  
17 Lorely French  
19 Ashim Malhotra  
19 Carole Billings  
19 Kenneth Johnston  
19 Wynne Lobel  
20 Amanda Ryan Fear  
20 Fraser Horn  
22 Lois Hornberger  
22 Valerie Cleary  
23 Matthew Allen  
23 Lori Hobbs  
23 Juliet Brosing  
23 Jeffrey Turay  
24 Lisa Geraci  
24 Kyle Carey  
24 Sarah Tomlinson  
25 Ian Falconer  
25 Paul Sabah  
26 Robert Smith  
26 Ryan Garcia  
26 Paula Lugubuhl  
27 Susan Orchard  
27 Julia Pence  
27 Maria Escutia Andrade  
28 Sarah Phillips  
28 Stanley Tang  
28 Sandra Guyton Doan  
29 Leslie Devaud  
29 Jody Victoria  
29 Patricia Montoya  
30 Karla Stahar  
30 Jordan Mittelsdorf  
30 Yvette Ly  
31 Dane Joseph  
31 Alissa Nielsen  
31 Ted Krupicka  
31 Kristy McGinnis  
31 Emily Nichols  
31 Dane Joseph

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**BOXER BOOST REFRESHMENTS SET AT TWO CAMPUS LOCATIONS**

Coffee and light refreshments will be provided free for Pacific University staff at 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Hillsboro and Forest Grove campuses, courtesy of Staff Senate and ARAMARK. At the Forest Grove Campus, the refreshments will be offered at the Alumni Room in the University Center. The Hillsboro Campus refreshments are available at HPC2 Room 430.

**TRI-MET OFFERS DEEP DISCOUNT**

Pacific University benefit-eligible employees may purchase a 2013-14 Tri-Met transportation pass at a heavily discounted price. The pass is valid for all times, all days and all zones for Tri-Met buses, MAX light rail and the Portland street cars through Aug. 31, 2014.

Cost is $159.74, taken as a one-time deduction out of the first paycheck following purchase of the pass. Normal retail cost for an annual all-zone Tri-Met pass is $1,100. To purchase, contact the Human Resources office for more information.

**FACULTY SENATE PLANS MEETING**

The Faculty Senate will meet Thursday, Oct. 31, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Berglund Hall on the Forest Grove Campus.