Calkins brings smiles, enthusiasm

BY WANDA LAUKKANEN | Shesna Calkins is nothing but enthusiastic when she talks about Pacific University and her job as the student services manager for the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Her enthusiasm, as well as her work, earned her accolades from the university this spring when she was given the Outstanding Contribution to the University Award, which is bestowed on an employee who promotes and exemplifies the values of Pacific, such as supporting sustainability, encouraging diversity and openness to ideas and cultures, and fostering a sense of community.

Calkins, who moved to Forest Grove some 13 years ago, started working at the university seven and a half years ago as the customer service representative for the Financial Aid Office.

“I'd always really enjoyed Pacific as part of living in Forest Grove, and enjoyed the functions we attended just as townspeople,” she said, adding that was the reason she began applying for positions at the university.

“Working here in town and working for a place that I both enjoy and appreciate — I thought was a perfect match for me.”

The School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, opened in January 2012 in the College of Education, offering a master’s in speech-language pathology, as well as an undergraduate minor in communication sciences and disorders. Today, the two-year graduate program enrolls a total of 70 students, or 35 per class.

Calkins became the student services manager for the school when it opened and, in that role, does a variety of tasks.

“The most obvious is really helping the students administratively, everything from registration to immunizations, making sure they have everything,” she said.

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I feel I’m their representative here.” That help not only involves paperwork, but extends to making students know how to get around campus and how to find places in Forest Grove, “just helping them transition,” she said.

Chris Wilkes, emcee of the ceremony in which Calkins was honored, noted in his speech about her “She is a role model in using technology.”

Calkins joked that “I am far from a role model,” but one of her first duties when she started her job at CSD was to order every student and faculty member at the school an iPad. Her supervisors surprised her with her own iPad.

“Since then, I have cherished the productivity and usefulness that the iPads bring,” she said. “I firmly believe that all admins here on campus should have one, especially those who take minutes.”

“I am lucky to be surrounded by a very tech-savvy faculty and staff that is willing to share tips,” she added.

Calkins said she is very appreciative of the CSD faculty. “They do real live important things,” she said, “They do research on things that matter. They volunteer time and do outstanding work in the community. … I feel really lucky because I landed in a spot not knowing that these people were really going to affect me and inspire me.”

Calkins herself is very involved in both university and community activities, which she attributes to Pacific’s culture.

Among her volunteer activities, Calkins works with the College of Education, which annually “adopts” a family during the Christmas season.

She also works with Gifts for Good, a program the Center for Civic Engagement oversees to turn used items into treasures that are sold with proceeds supporting local nonprofits.

In the summer, she, her husband Ron ’10 and their two daughters, ages 7 and 10, help with the free lunch in the park program, a summer meal program for children, one day week. She also serves on the advisory board for the Forest Grove Farmer’s Market.

“How great it is to do functions at Pacific and reach out as a Pacific representative,” she said.
TIFFANY BOGGIS, Occupational Therapy, and Pacific University’s Nicaragua project were featured in the journal OT Practice in July. Boggis helped institute the project, which started seven years ago, as a study abroad experience for students in the School of Occupational Therapy. Today, it is an interdisciplinary program in which students and professionals work with elderly patients in homes run by nongovernmental organizations.

JULES BOYKOFF, Politics and Government, authored “At Brazil’s Confederations Cup, A Dress Rehearsal for Dissent” in the quarterly publication Dissent.

KARL CITEK, Optometry, provided analysis for an article, “Made in Your Shades: Protect your eyes with the right pair of sunglasses,” that appears in the magazine, The Real Deal.

AMY COPLEN, Dental Health Science, has been invited to join the Scholarship Review Committee for the Institute for Oral Health of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association. The institute’s mission is to advance the profession of dental hygiene through scholarships, research and service in collaboration with ADHA. Members of the committee serve a two-year term and each is asked to review approximately 100 scholarship applications each year.

LINDA HUNT, Occupational Therapy, and student Sarah Jaehnert PsyD ’14 presented a poster, Early Onset and Staying Employed, July 19 at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Boston. The poster focused on the education needs of clients who are working rather than those in retirement.

ELLEN MARGOLIS, Theatre, wrote a play, Licking Batteries, which had its world premiere in August at The CoHo Theater in Portland. The play blurs realism and fantasy while following a woman whose mother has undergone treatment rendering her unrecognizable. Margolis is the author of many plays produced throughout the United States.

TODD SCHULTZ, Psychology, interviewed author Tim Kasser about his book, Lucy in the Mind of Lennon. The interview is featured in the July issue of Psychology Today.


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Many activities slated for Pacific’s Day of Service

Faculty and staff and their families, as well as students, are invited to participate in the annual Pacific University Day of Service on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Participants will have a range of service projects to choose from, both in the local communities of Forest Grove and Hillsboro, as well as a beach cleanup at Nehalem Bay State Park, sponsored by the nonprofit organization, SOLVE.

“The Day of Service is open to the entire Pacific community, and faculty and staff are encouraged to join,” said Stephanie Stokamer, director of Pacific’s Center for Civic Engagement, which organizes the Day of Service. She added that many activities are family-friendly and children are welcome to participate.

Participants may sign up as individuals or in groups, including departments, clubs, teams, residence halls or classes.

Projects will take place throughout the day from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 28 and will include options such as the Volunteer Action Center at the Oregon Food Bank, working in parks, gardens and on school ground in Forest Grove and Hillsboro, helping senior citizens, playing games with children at a Family Bridge Shelter, painting a mobile home through Rebuilding Together Washington County and many others.

The day will conclude with a celebration with food and entertainment.

Transportation will be available to sites not within walking distance.

An announcement will also be posted on the CCE’s Facebook page about how to register, said Stokamer.

Those interested in participating can contact the Center for Civic Engagement at ext. 1570 or cce@pacificu.edu.
GOVERNANCE GROUPS MEET IN SEPTEMBER

University Council meets at 4 p.m. Sept. 5 in HPC2, room 502, at the Hillsboro campus. The council recommends changes in policy to the faculty, president and Board of Trustees. Meetings are open to members of the university community, unless otherwise noted. For information, email universitycouncil@pacificu.edu.

The Staff Senate meets from 3 to 5 p.m. Sept. 18 in Berglund 200 on the Forest Grove Campus. Staff Senate is the official representative body of non-faculty personnel. Comments and suggestions may be emailed to staffsenate@pacificu.edu.

The Faculty Senate meets from 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 26 in HPC2, room 518, in Hillsboro. Faculty Senate has primary control over academic policy matters, faculty personnel issues and faculty research. To contact the Faculty Senate, email facultysenate@pacificu.edu.

EARCLINIC IS NOW OPEN FOR UNIVERSITY MEMBERS

The Pacific EarClinic is open for members of the university community to schedule appointments. The state-of-the-art audiology clinic, part of the School of Audiology, is located at 333 SE 7th Ave., Suite 4150, Hillsboro.

Hours of operation are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the Pacific EarClinic at 503-352-2692 or earclinic@pacificu.edu.