

# ViewPoint

## CONNECT

PACIFIC  
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## RENOVATIONS ACROSS CAMPUS BRING NEW LIFE TO PUC

by Joli Weber

Renovations to Paulin Recital Hall, West Hall, and the Hanson Pool undertaken at the beginning of the calendar year are nearing completion. Funded by generous anonymous donations and gifts from alumni, these projects improved campus facilities that are widely used by students, faculty, and community members alike.

### PAULIN RECITAL HALL

Music department faculty and staff felt it was time to replace worn seating and embrace advancements in performing arts technology since the last renovation was in the '90s.

PUC alumni Quentin White and Brad Setterlund determined the allocation of donations from the Angwin Community Ambulance, opting to support the refurbishment of the Paulin Recital Hall.

Phase one included a new lighting system that replaced the interior lights and a light bar above the stage. Phase two will begin in early August. The music department is offering the opportunity to name and personalize seats in the new theater for donations of \$250 per chair.

### WEST HALL

West Hall houses PUC's education and psychology departments and hosts future educators within its walls. Faculty of the education department wanted to repair water damage and rotting walls in the historic building, which celebrated its 100th birthday. A million-dollar gift from the Ricchiuti family enabled the planning of a renovation. The Facilities team prepared the building in March by temporarily relocating department functions, fixing the electricity and lighting, and installing new plumbing.

Over spring break, crews helped repaint the building's interior and exterior, installed new windows, and placed new carpets. One addition was a reception window in the main entry hall, which ensured security of the building. The Archie Tonge Education Fund grant supported the purchase of new furniture, two projectors, sound equipment, recording equipment, STEM educational materials, a greenscreen, two smartboards, laptops, iPads, and headphones.



### HANSON POOL

Hanson Pool renovations began during winter quarter. The refurbishments were necessary to comply with Napa County building codes and California's Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, designed to prevent entrapment hazards in public pool drainage systems. Around two-thirds of the funds to restore the pool were reallocated from an extraneous insurance fund, with the remaining amount donated by the St. Helena Hospital Foundation.

The next steps will entail drilling in dowels, filling in cracks with epoxy resin and overlapping rebar, then pouring concrete and plastering it to finish the job. Director of Facilities Management Dale Withers expects the pool renovation to be completed by June 2024.

These three projects are a new chapter for this historic campus. 🌱

# Q&A

## VISUAL ARTS CHAIR RAJEEV SIGAMONEY RECEIVES THE SONSCREEN FILM FESTIVAL VISION AWARD

by Ally Romanes

### How did it feel to receive the Sonscreen Vision Award?

I received the Sonscreen Vision Award for my support and work with the festival over the past 20+ years. It's kind of like a lifetime achievement award, which I cringe over being old enough to receive. Lol. But I am honored.

I realize now that I was part of the festival for nearly ten years as a professional filmmaker, panelist, and even festival director—getting to grow my film portfolio, see the festival grow, and develop projects with the community. And then, I was part of the festival for the last 12 years as a faculty member, supporting my students and the overall festival. It really is special to have been part of a community for so many years, and I hope that I can continue to do so in the future.

### How did it feel to see your students win in their respective categories?

It is always a joy to see our students celebrate receiving an honor for their hard work and thoughtful projects. The festival, over the years, has bonded our students and faculty, started many thoughtful conversations, and pushed our students to make the best work they could possibly make in future years.



### What do these awards and showcasing their work mean to you and your department?

The awards and the showcase are really just a symbol. Film at PUC, with our students and faculty, is a family. We support one another. We cheer for one another. We uplift one another. So when films win, we cheer for one another, and when films don't win or don't get played, we uplift one another. The wins are only one side of the coin for what I believe is a healthy department that values all our students, even those who don't get to screen or receive trophies.

### What do you want the PUC community to know about your department?

It's the best. The department I joined has been an inspiring, creative community since before I got here and will continue to be so for years to come. 🙌

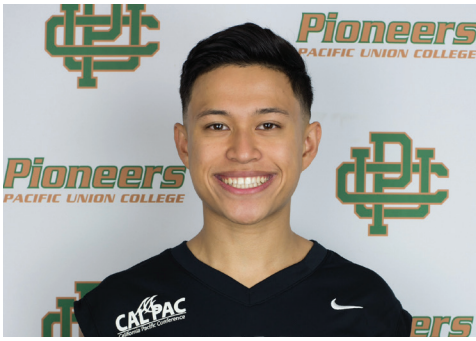
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## JUSTIN VITAL RECEIVES DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN CAL PAC CONFERENCE

by Ally Romanes

Captain of Pacific Union College's men's volleyball team, Justin Vital, received the 2023-2024 Defensive Player of the Year in the California Pacific Conference. He was named First Team All-Conference, averaged 3.49 digs per set (#1 in conference), and totaled 181 digs in 15 season games. Vital was also Nationally Ranked #3 in digs per set in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

"This recognition is an absolute honor," said Vital. "I receive this award with gratitude and see it as the fruits of the work, grit, and relentlessness I strived to exemplify throughout my college career. The standard of consistency and discipline I set for myself preparing for this season helped me reach this honor. Being recognized as the top libero and defensive player in Cal Pac truly feels surreal."

Growing up in Miami, Florida, Vital began playing volleyball as a high school freshman at Greater Miami Adventist Academy and continued on to attend PUC, where he is completing his degree in business administration with a healthcare emphasis.

He joined the Pioneers as the first recruit for the men's volleyball team in the inaugural 2020 season and closed out his four-year collegiate volleyball career. Vital credits much of his achievement to the team's support, emphasizing that it meant the world to him seeing his teammates' excitement when he received Defensive Player of the Year. When he moves on from PUC, he will miss his friends, teammates, and coaching staff—who he calls his "family."

Vital explained that PUC taught him about his own strength. "Coming into PUC, I did not think I could amount to the level the competition was competing at," he said. "I felt I was behind and that success was out of reach. Throughout my time at PUC, I learned that, through discipline and consistency, I was stronger than I thought, and this attitude helped me achieve things I could only dream about." 🙌



## » EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Hannah Saravanakumar is a highly respected nursing professor. She has over 20 years of experience in nursing education, and in her current position, she combines her expertise in leadership, didactics, clinical and simulation experiences, curriculum development, and faculty mentorship. She is well-known for her ability to connect with students and create a supportive and engaging learning environment. Saravanakumar is also known for her passion for supporting all learners to achieve their academic and professional goals while inspiring them to reach their potential. 🙌



## » PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Jon Carstens, a cornerstone of PUC's Visual Arts Department, has dedicated over 45 years to nurturing a love for art and history on campus. As both department chair and faculty, his wisdom and warm demeanor earned him the title Educator of the Year in 1989. His mentorship has left an indelible mark on colleagues and students alike. Carstens' vision led to the establishment of the graphic design program, propelling the department to prominence with more than 100 students and prestigious alumni at companies like YouTube, Pinterest, and Apple. His extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for diverse styles and eras have enriched the educational experience of countless students. 🙌

# ViewPoint

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ViewPoint Connect is a newsletter designed to help alumni stay connected to activities and news from Pacific Union College. It is published twice a year between issues of ViewPoint magazine.



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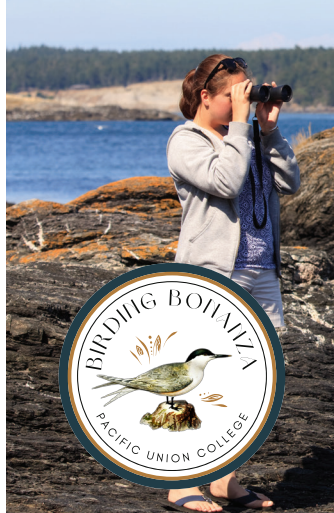
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## BIRDING BONANZA & ALUMNI RETREAT - AUGUST 22-25

You are invited to experience the Albion Field Station with PUC alumni and current PUC faculty. Relive your favorite college memories and make new ones! Worship with us and enjoy various activities and outings focused on coastal biology.



FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER VISIT

[puc.edu/birding](http://puc.edu/birding)

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**2024**  
PUC GRADS!

