

COMMUNITY

Visual arts faculty and other local artists showcased their work at the Rasmussen Art Gallery. Read about their inspirations and their processes.

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CAMPUS

Students in the Music Club produced and performed “Shrek the Musical” over Memorial Day weekend. Learn what it took to bring the show to life.

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CONVERSATION

In our first issue, we asked six freshmen, “Why PUC?” In our final issue, we check in with three of them. Hear what they learned and what they’re still looking forward to.

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Hannah Saravanakumar Named 2024 Educator of the Year



The end-of-year faculty awards recognized excellence in teaching from Professor Saravanakumar and other educators at PUC

By Sherban Cedeno

Nursing and health sciences professor Hannah Saravanakumar was named 2024 Educator of the Year at the Faculty Awards Community on Thursday, May 23. She has been a faculty member at PUC for eight years, and also serves as the assistant director of the nursing program.

Saravanakumar — known to her many students as “Professor SK” — was born in Thanjavur, in southern India, to a formerly Hindu family who had converted to Adventism. Though

she comes from a family of medical professionals, Saravanakumar was not initially interested in a nursing career.

“I did not want to be a nurse after seeing what my sisters went through and the stigma that nurses had in my country,” she said. “So I became a computer science major.”

While at school she fell ill, finding herself bedridden for a year. After recovering, she enrolled in a nursing program, and found the job more

enjoyable than she had anticipated.

“Once I was into it, I just loved what I was doing,” she said. “I strongly believe it’s my calling.”

She graduated with high honors from Annai JKK Sampoorani Ammal College of Nursing in Namakkal, and started working as a bedside nurse. She also worked as a midwife, hiking into rural communities and villages with limited health care providers.

Like many born abroad,

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hey PUC,

On a recent Saturday evening, I drove to campus to attend the opening of the student art show at the Rasmussen Art Gallery. There was a lovely reception in the gallery, and afterward, in a sentimental mood (perhaps from the Martinelli's, or my scenic drive through Angwin), I took a leisurely walk through campus. I bumped into a number of familiar faces, and soon I noticed that something strange was happening to me — I knew almost everyone's name.

As a transfer student, I arrived on campus uncertain whether or where I would ever find a place for myself within this tight-knit community. Two years ago, we'd all just tentatively emerged from the COVID lockdowns. I'm old, Angwin is a small town and I'd never even heard of Seventh-day Adventists before I moved here. Many of you went to academies together, and many of your families have known each other for decades. In fact, my very best friend at PUC is a fourth-generation Pioneer!

I have a shy nature, and at first I convinced myself that all of these factors were barriers to my entry into this student body. One of

the earliest reassurances I had came from Lauren VandenHoven, then editor-in-chief of the Campus Chronicle (the Avatar Kyoshi to my Aang). She told me there were actually a lot of nontraditional students like me at PUC, and that I shouldn't be so quick to assume that I wouldn't fit in.

She was right, of course, and in these two short years — really, no time at all — I've been welcomed at so many tables and dialogued with so many unique students and professors that I've forgotten these were people I once believed were alien to me. In part, I think I joined the newspaper in a misguided attempt to justify holding this world at a distance. Fortunately, it seems to have backfired.

So, if I've learned anything in college, it's this: Find a way to talk to people. Ask people questions, and tell them the truth when they ask questions back. Love and serve in equal measure, even when you want to be alone.

And thanks, PUC. You didn't have to accept me, but you did, and I think some of you might have even read the paper. ■

*Cheers,
Charlie Kefalos
Editor-in-Chief*



CAMPUS

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Saravanakumar chose to move to the United States in search of better opportunities. She received a work visa in 2008, and continued to work as a nurse on the East Coast. She eventually earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Washington Adventist University, where she transitioned from neonatal and maternal care into intensive care and cardiac nursing. It was also at WAU that she discovered an interest in teaching, as her colleagues and professors recognized her passion for lecturing and working with students.

With the expiration of her visa drawing near, she applied for teaching positions to remain in the U.S.

"I applied for colleges and universities in all 50 states," she said. "All my friends got in except for me." PUC was one of the schools that she applied to, although it wasn't her first pick.

"I'd never heard of PUC at the time. I thought this was, like, way far back somewhere in the woods," she joked. She also felt daunted by PUC's hiring process.

"I didn't even know if they would hire me. They had asked me to write a huge essay about my faith ... And I'm like, 'I don't know if I'll meet their standards!'"

Her visa expired, and she did not receive any formal responses to her applications. In desperation, she called the PUC Nursing Office to follow up on her application. By chance, the chair of the nursing department picked up the phone. Within a few weeks, she was offered a job, and she moved across the country to Angwin.

"God is good," she said. "God answered my prayers."

Throughout her career, zSaravanakumar has felt both challenged and blessed to follow what she sees as God's calling for her life. Stigma against nurses, for instance, is an issue in India.

"Nurses are considered to be like servants," she explained. "They give bedpans, they wash people's bottoms,

they clean their wounds. They're made fun of in jokes and movies — very demeaning and disrespectful."

It is only in the last 15 years, she says, that nursing as a profession has seen growing prestige and acceptability, as an alternative for those who cannot become doctors, engineers or lawyers.

Midwifery was another domain in which Saravanakumar had to trust God and her patience for others was tested.

"As midwives, we're trusted with two lives, not just one," she said.

"There was a moment, once, when a young sixteen-year-old girl just ... bit my hand," she recalled. "And my reflex was to slap her, to let go of my hand, you know? But at that moment, what did I do? She was in pain — I had to support her."

Such struggles were compounded by cultural stigma against baby girls, who are often not welcome in India, and absentee families, with husbands who may abandon their wives during labor.

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CAMPUS

Maureen Pakalapati Joins PUC Records Staff

By Joli Weber



Maureen Pakalapati
Courtesy of Andrews University

Meet the latest addition to PUC's Records team: Maureen Pakalapati, the new Assistant Registrar and Graduation Analyst. All students who are preparing

to graduate will check in with her to ensure they are meeting graduation requirements.

Prior to coming to PUC, Pakalapati was an instructor at Andrews University, where she taught courses in both the social science and business departments. Even though her training focused on the management side of education, she enjoyed teaching because of the opportunity to create an interactive, familiar atmosphere that is beneficial for both students and teachers.

"To me, that connection with students can be amplified in a classroom," Pakalapati said. "Certainly, campus events are nice, fun and needed to create a cohesive environment, but classrooms are sacred [spaces] where you build lasting relationships."

Pakalapati initially applied for another position at PUC, but Lindsay Hayasaka, Academic Dean and Vice President of Academics, believed that the position in Records suited her background in management. After two successful interviews, Pakalapati was hired.

So far, she has had no trouble adjusting to her new role thanks to her helpful and welcoming coworkers. She can tell that they care about PUC, and want only the best for their students and community.

"They welcomed me with open arms

"It is a good environment to learn and grow."

and are equally interested in my success in my new role," boasted Pakalapati. "It is a good environment to learn and grow."

Stop by the Records Office to meet PUC's new Assistant Registrar and Graduation Analyst. Talk with Pakalapati about what you need to accomplish prior to graduating, and if you have an extra minute, ask her about her two pets!

"Don't wait until year four to talk to me!" she warns. "You can reach out anytime if there are any questions about degree completion." ■

CAMPUS

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Currently, as a PhD candidate at Capella University, Saravanakumar is researching methods to teach students from different cultural backgrounds.

"In nursing, that's been a challenge, and I want to be able to support them.

Because as a culturally diverse person, I can understand that."

At PUC, her teaching methods have proven very successful, mixing traditional lectures with the more active experiences that nursing education requires, as well as a healthy commitment to knowing students on a personal level. Those who have taken her classes have earned some of the highest scores on ATI assessments, one of the standardized tests for nursing students.

Both in her career of two decades and in her personal life, however, Saravanakumar explains that she has only followed God's calling.

"Everything I did not want to be is what I'm

now doing," she reflected. "I strongly believe God has brought me here to PUC, and that He wants me to be here to prepare our students for His kingdom."

Saravanakumar carries the same attitude in her personal life and her hobbies as well. She loves to travel with her family, organizing road trips up and down both the East and West

"I have a Plan A, a Plan B and a Plan C. But when I sit back, what brings me joy? Yes, it's only God — and God alone."

Coasts.

"This summer I visited Burman University to drop off my nephew, and the loftiness of the

mountains made me wonder how beautiful our Creator is," she said. "I can see his majesty in his creations, and being there just gives me peace."

Even in her cooking, which many of her colleagues and students look forward to, Saravanakumar tries to spread the love of God.

"The best way to enter a person's heart is through the stomach," she said. "So I do it as if I'm doing it for the Lord."

Her advice for people, then, should not come as a surprise: Follow God's leading in life, and you will end up where you need to be.

"Sometimes, we are so bent on our own ways, we're so full of ourselves, that we fail to see where God is leading," she said.

"I want everything to be perfect or organized," she said of herself. "I have a Plan A, a Plan B and a Plan C. But when I sit back, what brings me joy? Yes, it's only God — and God alone." ■

THE ARTS

Double Feature

By Keegan Malan

Editor's Note: Summer is here, and that means there's finally time for a movie night! To round out this quarter of classic cinema recommendations, Keegan suggests two films that have maintained their critical and commercial appeal for over 50 years. From Keegan: "Though dissimilar in genre, both films are greatly entertaining and offer poignant commentary on both societal and human tendencies."

"Rear Window" (1954)

Alfred Hitchcock's "Rear Window" is a brilliant film. Starring James Stewart, the film follows photographer L. B. Jeffries, laid up in his New York apartment with a broken leg. Having little else to do but live vicariously through spying on his neighbors, he begins to suspect that a man across the way may have murdered his wife. With the help of his girlfriend Lisa, played by Grace Kelly, he tries to uncover the truth.

In the film, Stewart gives the greatest performance of his career. Although confined to a wheelchair, he is not limited by it; he leans into his visceral expressions and charming personality, and the audience cannot help but connect with him.

Kelly, as usual, is mesmerizing and endearing. She and Stewart are a charismatic pair, and the viewer falls in love with her charming and strong-willed nature just as Jeffries does.

The framing of the film is impeccable. The setting almost never changes from Stewart's apartment, forcing viewers to identify with

him. This incomplete view lends itself to the film's sense of mystery and suspense, keeping us on the edge of our seats.

The film's plot also acts as an exploration of voyeurism. Stewart pries into his neighbors' most personal moments without batting an eye. On first viewing, this may not stand out. But on a rewatch, it begins to feel somewhat unethical. But even then, the film doesn't ask you to think of him as some pervert, because you can't help but understand. How often have you watched or listened to someone without their knowing, when you knew you shouldn't? We've all done it at some point.

And, like all of us, Stewart bases his conclusions about those around him on what little he can see, but often fails to acknowledge the limitations of his perspective. He is impulsive, as we are impulsive. We are all, in our own way, voyeurs.

"Rear Window" is a masterpiece with more and more to offer on each rewatch. It leaves you breathless by its end, and it is insightful in its commentary on human nature.

"Some Like It Hot" (1959)

Billy Wilder's "Some Like It Hot" is consistently ranked as one of the greatest comedies of all time. The film stars Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon as Joe and Jerry, two Prohibition Era-musicians who witness a mob killing and are forced to flee for their lives. Disguising themselves as women, they abscond with an all-female band. There, they meet Sugar, played by Marilyn Monroe, a singer escaping a stream of ex-lovers who have left her in the dust. In a madcap series



Marilyn Monroe as Sugar Kane in Billy Wilder's "Some Like It Hot."

of events, Joe and Jerry attempt to woo Sugar while maintaining their feminine façades and evading the mafiosos who want them dead.

The three leads are phenomenal in their roles. Lemmon is a zany bundle of energy; Curtis excels as a man trying to play it cool, but teetering on the edge of snapping; and Monroe demonstrates an incredible comedic ability. For those who wonder if she could really act, look no further than this film.

The script is loaded with witty dialogue, memorable characters and plenty of laugh-out-loud moments. Unlike many of today's comedies, the film isn't vulgar and can be watched and appreciated by practically anyone. But make no mistake — this film plays with double entendres and sneaky camera movements, a "blushing" subtext that only enriches the humor for those who pick up on it.

Besides being a great comedy, the film also comments on the treatment of women. When Curtis and Lemmon present to the world as women, they begin to see the world as women do, followed by plenty of leering eyes and snide comments. The characters' own flaws are revealed to them, and the process of improvement unfolds with biting satire and outrageous screwball comedy, making it both delightful and poignant.

"Some Like It Hot" is an old film, but age hasn't dulled it one bit. It remains brilliant, beautiful and biting. Watch it with anyone, and if they don't like it, perhaps you should cut them out of your life. But then again, nobody's perfect. ■



Jimmy Stewart stars as the housebound photographer L.B. Jeffries in Alfred Hitchcock's "Rear Window."

CONVERSATION

Colin Russ Wins High School Essay Contest

By Charlie Kefalos

PUC Prep senior and Campus Chronicle reporter Colin Russ won first place in the English department's second annual "Emerging Voices of the Pacific Union" essay contest, as revealed on Tuesday, May 2. Part of PUC's ongoing outreach programming among local academies, the essay contest challenges high school students to submit personal essays on a theme for a chance to win a \$1000 scholarship.

This year's prompt asked students to write about a moment in which they changed. The department received over 90 submissions from students in grades 9 through 12 attending Seventh-day Adventist academies or junior academies in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah. The judge's panel included English professors Emily Logan, Dr. Jennifer Peñaflorida and Dr. Linda Gill, as well as Academic Dean Lindsay Hayasaka.

"I think it was a really challenging prompt for students," said Logan. "Many of them had undergone significant moments, but they're still high school students, they're young. Could they write about them in a way that demonstrated that something internally had changed?"

"Don't underestimate young writers."

The judges selected the three winning essays based on their high quality of writing and the complexity of their emotional content. Natalie Tio, a junior at Pine Hills Adventist Academy, placed second in the contest with "Beneath that Starless Sky," detailing how her relationship with God changed after her grandfather's battle with cancer.

The third place winner, Kara Wibberding, is a junior at PUC Prep. Her essay, "Burning Woman," described a difficult series of experiences while she was volunteering at the historic Elmshaven house that taught her to stand firm in her convictions.

Russ adapted his winning piece, "Fish



Campus Chronicle journalist Colin Russ won first prize in the second annual high school essay contest with his piece "Fish Essay"

Essay," from ideas initially developed in his college admissions essay. Megan Milholland-Brooks, Russ's English teacher of four years, encouraged him to submit his work to the contest and supported him throughout the revision process.

The final, poetry-inspired composition combined musings on the culinary arts with reflections on the recent passing of Russ's father. He admitted that it was cathartic for him to work through complicated feelings about that event in a creative way.

"It was a bit challenging," he said, of the honesty and vulnerability required for the piece. "It's nothing new, but putting it on paper is different than just thinking about it."

Logan was the first judge to read Russ's essay, and she knew right away that it would resonate with the other members of the panel.

"[His piece] jumped out at me — the vivid imagery, ability to sustain a metaphor, the vulnerability of emotions and the distinct voice immediately stood out," she shared.

Russ was on his senior class trip to Hawaii when he received the news that he'd won. His friends and family "weren't really surprised," he admitted.

"They've always known that I'm a pretty good writer."

"Fish Essay" will be published in the 2024 edition of Quicksilver, the English department's literary and art magazine. Russ will graduate from PUC Prep on Sunday, June 9, and will be attending the University of California, San Diego in the fall as a political science major with an English minor. With this big win under his belt, he feels strongly about pursuing more publication opportunities in college.

"A lot of times, with art, you want it to be the best," he said. "But this wasn't too much pressure. I just published this for fun, and I got a great result. It gave me more confidence to put my art out there more."

Logan is excited to see the essay contest become a tradition at PUC, one that hopefully inspires other high schoolers to study writing, wherever they might end up. She expressed gratitude that potential new students took the assignment seriously, and invested such significant emotional resources into the project.

"Don't underestimate young writers," advised Logan. "They have really important things to say, and are really capable of expressing them in beautiful ways." ■

JOB POSTING

Academic administration is looking for 10-12 dependable, punctual, and professional students to work as ushers over graduation weekend, June 14 - 16. Ushers will be paid hourly, including training, and the role includes attendance at the commencement ceremony. Please email graduationcoordinator@puc.edu for more information.

COMMUNITY

Faculty and Friends Display Artwork At Panoply Exhibition

By Sherban Cedeno

From April 13 through May 11, the Rasmussen Art Gallery hosted “Panoply,” an art show of works by visual arts faculty along with some of their colleagues from outside PUC. Artists exhibited photography, paintings, graphic design, pottery and ceramic work.

Hanging from the ceiling of the gallery, Cliff Rusch’s T-shirt designs for the “Napa Valley Dirt Classic,” a mountain bike race through the PUC Forest, immediately greeted any visitor.

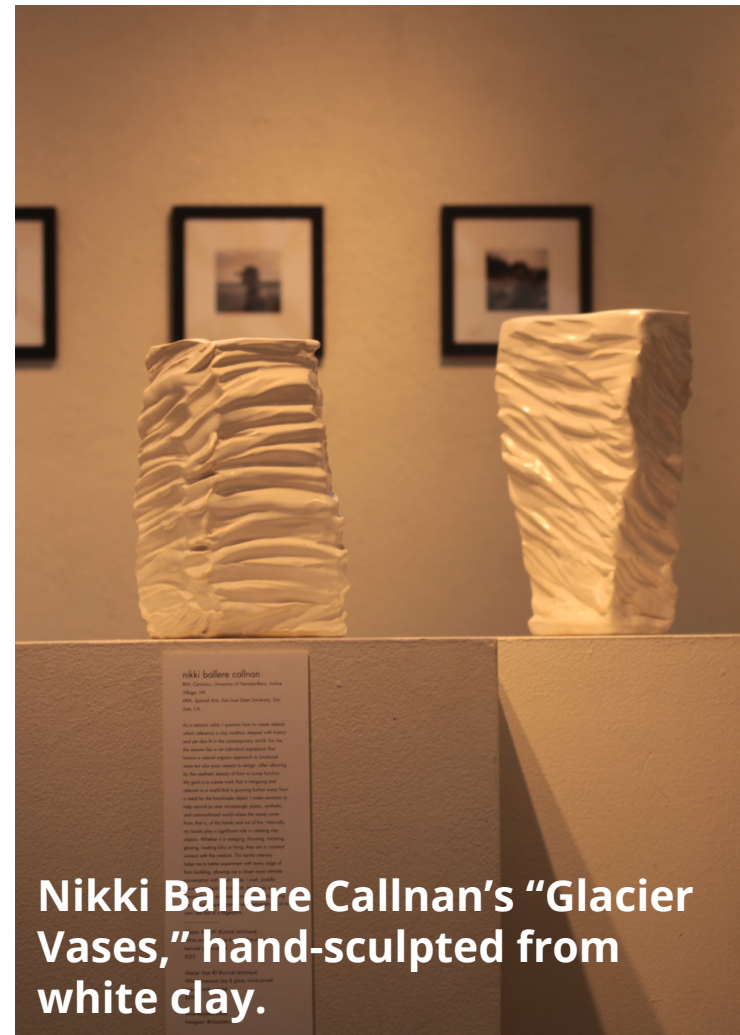
Bob Shaw, a Bay Area race promoter, originally organized the event, then called the “Rumpstomper.” After Shaw passed away due to illness, PUC hosted the race from 1994 to 2016. Rusch was approached to design shirts for the race, and did so every year.

Whereas Rusch’s designs from the ‘90s seem partly inspired by the popular influence of grunge, later shirts sported bold colors and heavy fonts. His final designs in the early 2010s seem influenced by later Soviet propaganda posters — they are geometric, red and black, and far more abstract than the photo-dominated shirts of earlier decades.

Another series that dominated the show were the enormous canvas paintings of William John Callnan III, the local artisan behind NBC Pottery, though visitors might not have noticed them until turning around after making their way through the entrance. Filled with deep colors and brushwork reminiscent of Thomas Kinkadee, Callnan’s surreal landscapes, objects and textures literally escape the canvas to jump out at the viewer.

“The context of the work deals with the contrasting push and pull of despair and hope in one’s own actions and morality, as well as the world at large,” his artist’s statement explained, attempting to capture the strangeness and excitement of creative thinking and inspiration.

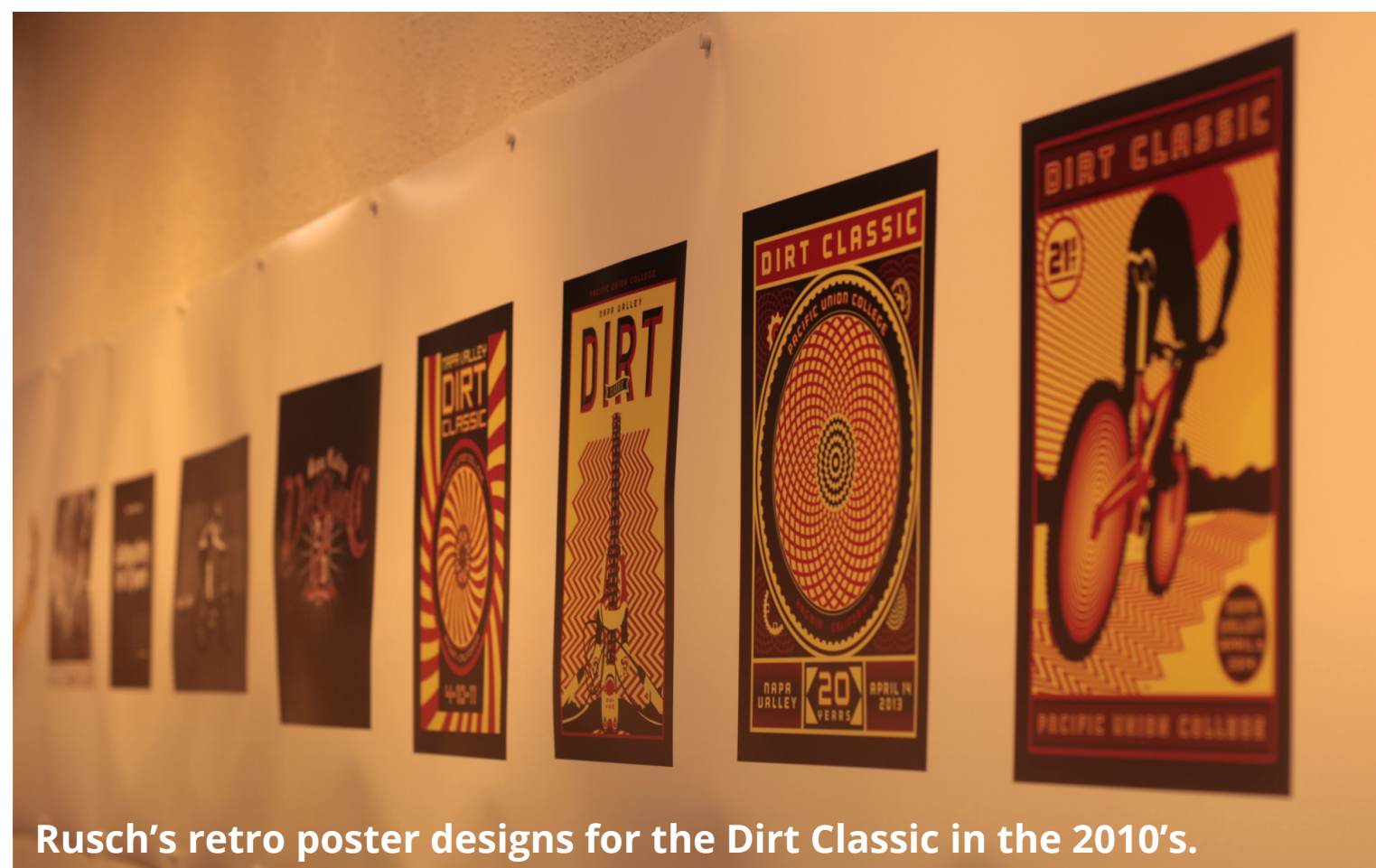
Like Callnan, PUC professor Amy Cronk Gatdula explored facets of the creative process with her piece. Pages carrying several swatches of color, delicate sketches



Nikki Ballere Callnan’s “Glacier Vases,” hand-sculpted from white clay.



Professor Cliff Rusch’s first T-shirt design for the 1994 Napa Valley Dirt Classic.



Rusch’s retro poster designs for the Dirt Classic in the 2010’s.

describing the outline of the finished piece, writings and seemingly unrelated images all connect by string to an abstract watercolor with splines and circles circumscribing patches of textured paint.

“For this panoply of work, I wanted to show all that goes into a single part of art, because the process is quite literally everything,” Gatdula explained.

Perhaps the most striking work at the

exhibition came from PUC professor Jaymie de la Torre: A ceramic piece in the form of a long-sleeved sweater hung from the ceiling in two pieces, decorated in its cavity by a brown braided shirt and on its surface by holes, branches and web-like strings. Beneath the piece sits a brown woolen ring inscribed with a braided white floral design along with more branches and artifacts from nature.

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CONVERSATION

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PUC alum Alexis Haylock’s “AN EXPLORATION OF NATURAL CLAYS.”

The work was meant to be presented as a single piece, but upon installation shattered in two.

Other ceramic works, like Nikki Ballere Callnan’s “Glacier Vases,” sought to reconnect viewers with tactile, natural experiences in an era dominated by commercialism and synthetic materials. Callnan utilized the method of “kurinuki,” or the hollowing out of solid pieces of clay by hand, allowing her to form her vases into shapes that look almost liquid.

“Whether it is welding, throwing, trimming, glazing, loading kilns or firing, my hands are in constant contact with the medium,” she described.

The small clay cups of recent PUC graduate Alexis Haylock also explored nature’s presence in ceramics. With clay

harvested from Angwin, Lake Berryessa and Redwood Adventist Academy in Santa Rosa, Haylock experimented with different processes, ultimately creating cups that stand in earthy reds and browns.

“I have carried with me the fascination of borrowing something from the earth and turning it into forms that are functional and beautiful,” she said.

Leticia Rosado Russell’s monoprints displayed the same earthy colors as Haylock’s cups, and also explored the artist’s relationship with nature. Branches, twigs and stones were pressed into ink, appearing like fossils on the wall. For Russell, the prints — part of her “Natural Impressions” series — were an exercise in printmaking, her speciality.

Finally, the photographic works of the

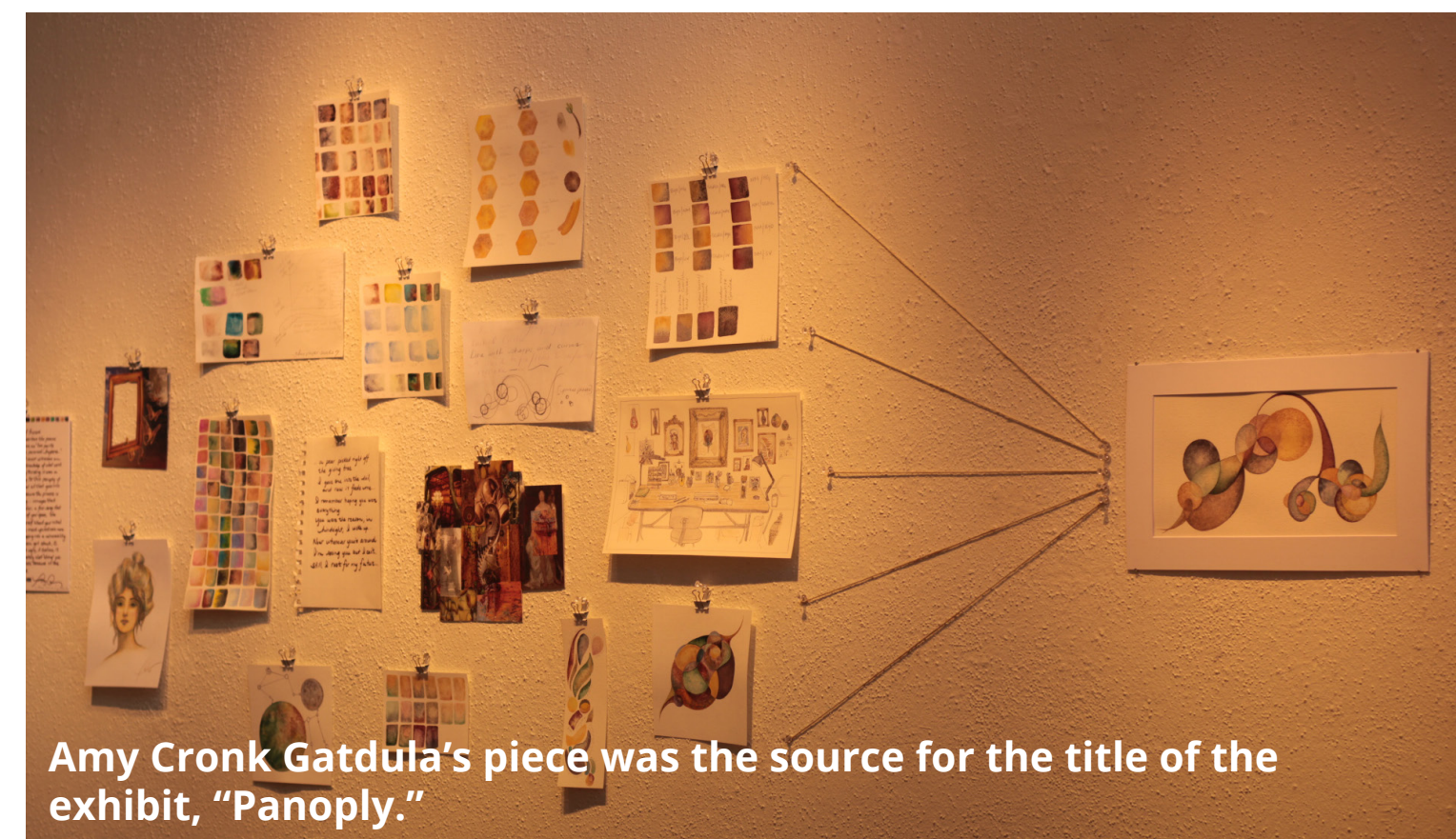
exhibition stood on their own, without any artist’s statements or explanations. Nevertheless, each photographer’s sensibility came through their photographs. Professor Brian Kyle submitted a series of black-and-white film portraits of family members in Idaho, an experiment in the genre of lyrical documentary photography — a combination of fine art and documentary photography.

“I equate fine art photography to be like the image version of poetry,” said Kyle. “I really want to be intentional about what’s there, what’s not there, and when somebody looks at that photograph, I hope they get something out of it that’s not really there.”

The small size of his photographs, as well as Adrian Gregorutti’s saturated Polaroid transfers, invite the viewer to linger, carefully studying their subjects. In contrast, PUC alumnus and adjunct professor Mike Murtaugh and local photographer Robb McDonough’s pictures jump out at the viewer in their size on the wall.

Murtaugh’s photographs recreate for the viewer the feeling of standing between the billowing steam plumes of Yellowstone. McDonough’s are more abstract and complex. One is a black-and-white portrait of a lone shopping cart stranded in a forest, and in the other, a portrait of Christ stands next to an empty chair under a highway bridge. In so many varied examples, these artists’ works showed how photography is anything but an objective medium.

The Rasmussen Art Gallery will next play host to student artwork, including the capstone projects of graduating visual arts majors. ■



Amy Cronk Gatdula’s piece was the source for the title of the exhibit, “Panoply.”

CAMPUS

“Shrek the Musical” A PUC Production



By Meagan Gardner

Over Memorial Day Weekend, the PUC Music Club presented a student-led production of “Shrek the Musical” in the recently renovated Paulin Hall. The club hosted students, faculty and community members at three showings on Friday, June 11; Sunday, May 26; and Monday, May 27 in the auditorium.

The musical, based on the 2001 film, starred co-president of the Music Club Milton Perez as the ogre Shrek. When a caravan of fairytale creatures takes refuge in his private swamp after their banishment from Duloc by the arrogant Lord Farquaad, Shrek reluctantly agrees to help get their homes back. Shrek and Farquaad strike a deal: If Shrek can help Farquaad rescue Princess Fiona from a dragon-guarded keep, everything will return to normal. But all is not what it seems in this topsy-turvy fairy tale, and Princess Fiona has a few secrets of her own ...

Perez’s Shrek is aided in his quest by an unlikely companion — a talking donkey, played by freshman Jacob Duran. Sophomore Gabriel Llanell-Vararaj gave

a hilarious performance as the short king Lord Farquaad, and stellar performances by junior Madeline Eastman as Princess Fiona and sophomore Kyra Grant as the Dragon rounded out the cast.

While the play came together in just eight weeks, the club had bigger priorities than learning lines. The students were also solely responsible for the offstage elements of the show: costumes, props, the set and sound design.

Co-executive producer Kaitlyn Nakanishi voiced these concerns: “If you have a really good cast but a really bad production, it ruins the whole thing.” As a result, students took great care while literally building this production from the ground up.

The production was also a way for the PUC community to enjoy the newly-renovated Paulin Hall. The most notable changes have been in technology, namely a new lighting system, camera equipment and foam microphone heads in the auditorium. The new effects wowed audience members, although production members had some concerns.

“The big thing with the new tech is you never know what is going to happen or if they can troubleshoot it,” said Nakanishi. “Stuff like that is just unpredictable.”

“A lot of the credit goes to Joaquin [Verduzco], Kari [VanHook] and Calvin [Yamada]. They had about two and a half weeks from learning the [lighting] system to show. Jeremy [Hadley] learned it, and then he had to teach Joaquin ... Jaxon [Nelson] figured out how to live stream with our new fancy cameras ... and Paulina [Lozano] helped with photography.”

“Normally, in productions, you’ll have a separate person on the props, costumes, sets ...” she continued. “It was me, Bethanee [Tabura], Leila [Beltran] and Milton doing everything.”

While students focused on memorizing lines and practicing choreography, they were also concerned with behind-the-scenes features like set changes and costume design.

“We were still taping [our sets] ... the Thursday before the show,” recalled Nakanishi, “and one fell apart our first night!”

Still, Nakanishi and the audience felt that the production was a huge success.

“I was impressed with how great our first show went,” she said.

Shrek the Musical is the final production of the school year, but for some club members, it’s the final production of their undergraduate career. Nakanishi and fellow senior Amanda Barnes performed in this play as what Nakanishi calls a “magnum opus,” although they did not initially choose the swamp life.

“I wanted to do a musical; I really didn’t care which one,” said Nakanishi. “[Perez] was the one that was obsessed ... a living, breathing Shrek!”

As the show came to an end, cast members shared a tender moment with the audience, thanking each other for making the show possible and revealing how close-knit the Music Club is. Reminiscing on her time with the group, Nakanishi could only marvel at what is yet to come.

“I’m gonna miss them, but I’m really happy ... it’s gonna be really good next year. It’s in good hands. I can’t wait to see what they do with it as they learn more.” ■

COMMUNITY

Angwin to Angwish: A Challenge With a View



Reiner Garcesa, Neil Nankani, Henry Baek, Joaquin Verduzco, Luke Garcia and Andrew Baluyot celebrate at the finish line on the PUC track.

By Colin Russ

On Sunday, May 5, runners from around PUC and the greater Angwin community gathered atop the Holy Hill for the annual Angwin to Angwish Trail Run. All proceeds from this event were meant to benefit the PUC Athletics Department. Since its inception in 1974, the forested trails of the Back 40 have served as the backdrop for the race.

That Sunday, three distance events catered to everyone’s skill level and interest: a 1-mile fun run, a 10K and a 26K. PUC sophomore Andrew Baluyot placed first among male runners in the 10K, while District Supervisor Anne Cottrell again ran the fastest time among women. In the 26K event, Nathan Blosser of Santa Rosa and Madelyn Chandler of St. Helena claimed the top spots for men and women.

“The main concept of [the race] was to bring more of a sense of community,” shared race director and former PUC cross country runner Abraham Garrido. “Like, why not put it together for the community?”

The goodwill that comes from an event like this is palpable, but they don’t call it

“angwish” for nothing.

Even seasoned runners should not let the beauty deceive them, Garrido warns.

“It’s definitely a relentless course,” he said. “You have a lot of rolling hills, a lot of sharp corners and a lot of really steep hills that honestly feel like they go on forever.”

“It’s definitely a relentless course.”

Rome wasn’t built in a day, and neither was this race. It was the culmination of months of planning, preparation, support and faculty camaraderie. Garrido acknowledged that his previous experience with the Back 40 and races he has run in his own life — mixed with input from former race directors — gave him a sense of logistics, such as where to mark the trails or how to time the race.

“Everything just came together,” he said. “The support that I’ve had from other people to help put this together, especially a lot of people that I work with, and volunteers to

help clear the course and mark the trail ... I can’t do it all [by] myself!”

“I thought it was a great event, definitely smaller than I expected, but lots of beautiful scenery,” said participant Jordan Brown.

Another racer, David Hardman, appreciated the positive experience as well as the challenge that came with the view.

“I thought it was great, a fun challenge,” he said. “The first mile is a kick in the butt, and it’s a beautiful course, along with the gorgeous weather.”

As the race wound down, and runners came barreling down the pavement toward the finish line of the track, onlookers congratulated them with smiles, cowbells and cheers. Photos were taken, medals were awarded, shoes and socks were thrown off, and water was dumped everywhere.

After all runners crossed the finish line, a shared sense of accomplishment lingered among the perspiring participants. Angwin to Angwish serves as more than just a race — it’s a celebration of the beautiful community that benefits us all. ■

CAMPUS

New Athletic Recruits Join Pioneers Teams

By Joli Weber

At this point in the school year, all sports seasons have concluded. However, this doesn't mean downtime for PUC's Athletics Department, as recruitment of next year's student-athletes is well underway.

"We can confidently say that for the upcoming school year, we have signed 22 new recruits for our sports programs," commented Athletic Director Hernan Granados.

PUC participates in four different sports, with a men's and a women's team for each: soccer, volleyball, basketball and cross country. Recruitment is a year-round process, which includes looking at prospective student-athletes through scouting, meet-and-greets, hosting tournaments and through word of mouth.

Once a recruit agrees to sign with PUC, they must be medically cleared before they can begin training. Student-athletes are expected to be on campus by Sept. 10 at the beginning of each school year to begin this process.

"We can talk about the processes that the student-athletes must go through in order to play for PUC, such as what it means to be a student-athlete, the dates for training and meets, gear sizing and such, but until the students prove medical clearance, they cannot officially train," explained newly appointed cross country coach Sharleen Bouit.

The attributes that PUC coaches look for in their student-athletes comes down to their chemistry with the players, what position they can fill on the team and whether they are a well-rounded student-athlete

"We are student-athletes, and that is promoted strongly by the administration and by me," clarified

men's and women's volleyball coach Jack Cowden. "The objective here is to get a degree."

PUC student-athletes have the opportunity to receive a scholarship package depending on school budget, student need and their ability to balance academics and sports.

Tristan Miller, a potential men's volleyball outside hitter, visited PUC after being invited by a current player to practice with the team.

"For me, I look for the capabilities of a gym because, for volleyball, it has to be very specific," he said. "And, outside of that, I do look [at academics] ... for me, I want to do aviation, and PUC offers that."

Recruits from SDA academies and public schools alike will find significant resources and a supportive community in their college experience at PUC. With a lot of hard work and a little bit of luck, each new student-athlete will be able to make a name for themselves as a PUC Pioneer. ■



Basketball recruit Lorenzo Pardo is a transfer student from Diablo Valley College.

CONVERSATION

Freshman Flashbacks, Sophomore Soothsaying

By Colin Russ

Summer is just around the corner, and another year at PUC approaches its close. For some, these will be their last days on campus, while for others, it is only the end of the first chapter. The Campus Chronicle checked in with three freshmen — Xavi Martinez, Alexis Villarreal and Jonathan Fernandez — whose initial thoughts about PUC graced the inaugural issue of the school year. They reflected on adjusting to their first year of college, significant milestones they've hit and what they look forward to accomplishing in upcoming years.

Starting a new school year in a new place can lead to anxiety, but it is a critical turning point in one's life. Martinez, who graduated from PUC Prep, characterized his newfound independence as "a big teaching moment."

"Learning to become independent and making decisions on my own has made my life at college easier," he said.

For some, this abrupt change can make it difficult to feel at home, but familiar or routine tasks can help make PUC compelling and comfortable.

"I found even the smallest things like doing laundry exciting," said Villarreal, joking that it was the one thing that made him feel like "an adult now!" He admitted that the idea of living away from home for the first time seemed "scary," but conceded that the ability to make his own decisions makes every day a blessing.

Finding your footing as a freshman is just one responsibility stacked upon many others, but taking those first steps can lead to



Alexis Villarreal

building a strong community of like-minded individuals. For these freshmen, interacting with these communities was a pivotal and integral experience they all shared.

"The professors, students, and faculty have all been very helpful and supportive," said Martinez.

"Learning to become independent and making decisions on my own has made my life at college easier."

Fernandez also found solace and inspiration in his friends and professors.

"My professors have taught me so much about their specific subjects and about life," he said, "and my friends push me daily to become a better version of myself."

Of course, despite all the positive feedback, not everything was sunshine and rainbows for these freshmen. Villarreal pointed out the stress of balancing school assignments with his social life, a common struggle for many students.

"There were times where I was stressed out over assignments, causing me to miss out on spending time with friends," he reflected, and resolved to improve his time management skills in future quarters to relieve some academic pressure.

As always, the freshmen expressed a desire for more cafeteria food options, but another area of conflict that emerged was housing issues.

Fernandez called for enhancements to the men's dormitories, while Martinez suggested more flexibility in curfew rules, especially for student workers like himself who may have late shifts and looming deadlines.

"If you're out of the dorm after 11:30 p.m., regardless of the situation, you'll be placed on restriction. I'd like for that to be changed, especially for student workers," he proposed.

Looking toward their sophomore year, the freshmen continue to set ambitious goals. Martinez plans to better balance his schedule to enjoy more of what PUC offers.

"My goals for next year would be to focus on studies more, balance my schedule better and enjoy the campus more," he said.

Villarreal expressed a similar sentiment of seeking balance in his social and academic life.

"I will push myself to have better time management so that I can make more memories with friends," he said.



Jonathan Fernandez

Fernandez aims to deepen his spiritual involvement on campus. He is particularly excited about partaking in new leadership activities aimed at engaging students in their faith.

"I want to start preaching and preparing sermons to be prepared for my future career through my theology degree," he shared.

The first year of college is a multifaceted experience, but independence, aspiration and personal growth are common central themes that shaped these freshmen's perspectives and journeys. While challenges will persist, their community will be there to rally behind them, from PUC and beyond. ■

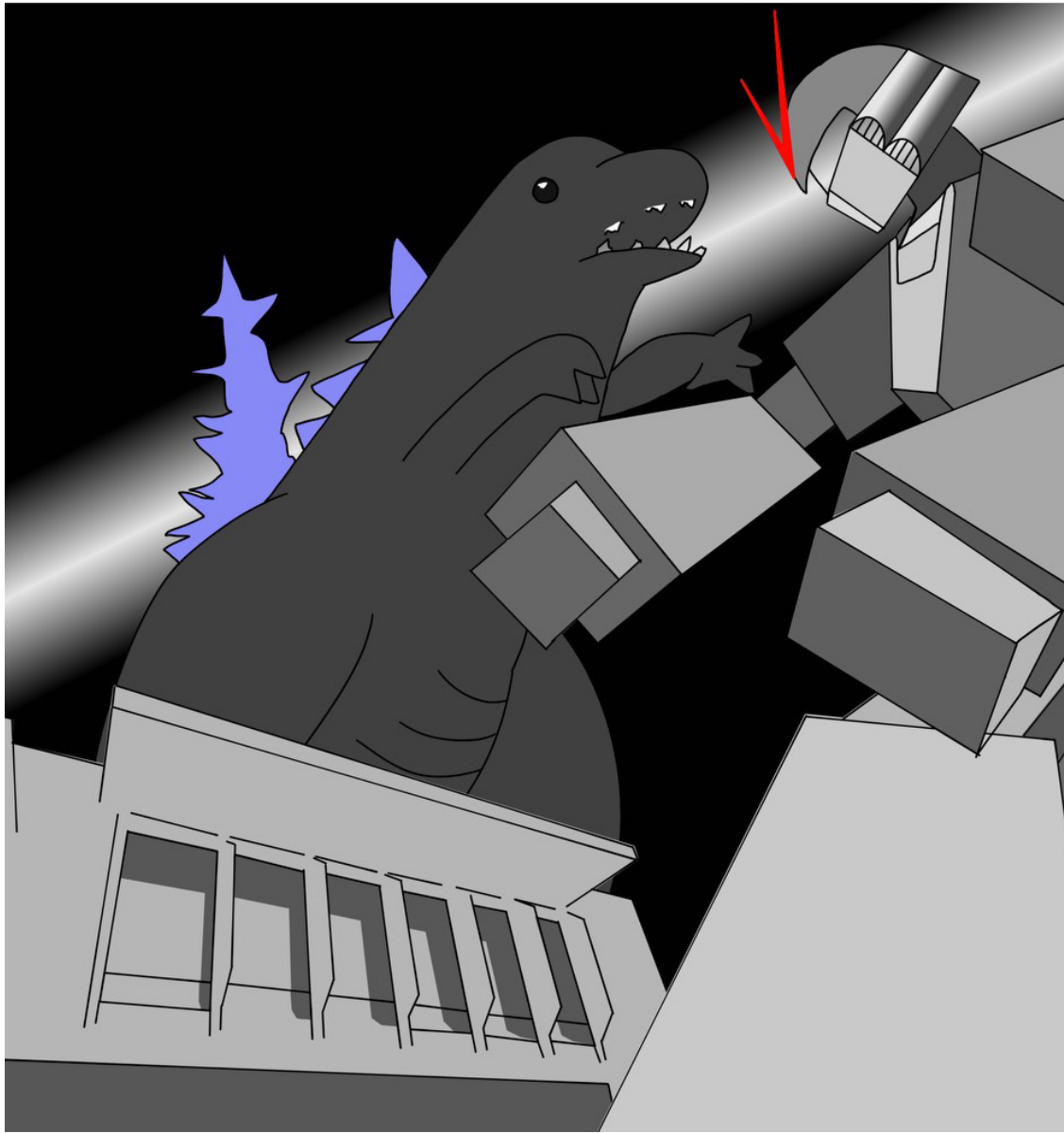


Xavi Martinez

UPDATES

THOSE OF YOU LEAVING CAMPUS MAY WONDER...

WHAT HAPPENS TO CAMPUS DURING THE SUMMER?



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**FIND THE ANSWER,
WIN FREE COFFEE**



The first person
to DM us on
Instagram
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will win a free
drink at the Grind!
This week's
question is:

**At which institution
is Professor
Saravanakumar a
PhD candidate?**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Recital
Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m.
in Paulin Hall

Consecration
Friday, June 14 at 8 p.m.
in the Church Sanctuary

Commencement
Sunday, June 16 at 9 a.m.
on the Maxwell Commons

JOB POSTING

The **Nursing Office** is seeking a Student Assistant, preferably one available to work over the summer and during school breaks. Scheduling will prioritize students' academic schedules. Due to their participation in the program, pre-nursing and nursing students are not eligible to apply. Please contact Ruth Zemansky at erzemansky@puc.edu, or call (707) 965-7617 with any questions.

QUICKSILVER

Quicksilver, PUC's student-run literary and art magazine, is now accepting submissions through **June 21**. If it's creative and something that can be showcased in a print format, we want to see it! If your work is accepted, you will receive a free contributor copy of the magazine as well as an invitation to share your work at the issue launch event. Please contact Professor Emily Logan (ellogan@puc.edu) or Charlie (chderr@puc.edu) for details.