

## COMMUNITY

PUC is considering new standards for student-athlete eligibility. Learn about the changes and opinions on campus.

P3

## CAMPUS

Neither basketball team has been able to record a win this season. Find out what factors might be keeping victory out of reach.

P4

## CONVERSATION

The ITSS Department has had a busy few years. Hear how 2022-23 Staff Member of the Year Chris Vance led them through.

P5

# PUC To Consider Semester System, Name Change



A name change would require renovating most campus branding, like the sign on Howell Mountain Road.

By Sherban Cedeno

Pacific Union College is considering a switch to a semester system, Dean Lindsay Hayasaka announced at a College Assembly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16. A name change may also accompany this transition, though this will not be considered until after the college decides if it will move to semesters.

While details are still under consideration, a semester system at PUC would most likely consist of two 15- or 16-week semesters, starting in mid-to-late August and ending

in late May. This would bring PUC into alignment with other Adventist institutions, such as Southern Adventist University and Andrews University, as well as with 95% of higher education institutions in the U.S.

In her presentation, Hayasaka outlined the benefits and challenges of switching to a semester system. Most of the challenges would involve the stresses of the transition itself, while benefits would include opportunities for in-depth teaching, longer

holiday breaks and a general streamlining of the academic year. The switch would entail around \$500,000 in up-front costs.

Hayasaka also explained that Andrews University, as well as the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which handles academic accreditation for the West Coast, have affirmed that they would support PUC should it choose to make the transition.

While not under primary consideration, a name change could also potentially

**continues on page 2**



## FROM THE EDITOR

Hey PUC,

I hope this message reaches you from where I am ... under what seems like several feet of water. The rational part of my brain understands that without all this rain, we wouldn't have this lush, green paradise to call home. But the reactionary part of my brain rails against it, yearning for a reprieve at least long enough for my shoes to finally dry out.

It strikes me as pretty human, the way we don't always like to admit what's good for us. The rain is good for us. Spinach is good for us. Forgiveness is good for us. Setbacks and challenges, those are good for us, too. Without the bitter pill, we couldn't recognize the moments where life is deliciously sweet.

In this issue, we examine some of the challenges facing the PUC community

today, and the ways that members of our community have responded to those challenges as opportunities for growth. We hope that somewhere in these pages you come across a thought or an idea that can protect you when you face your own storm. Whether you're dealing with loss or uncertainty, with feeling unmoored or feeling overwhelmed, know that you aren't alone, and remember that the world is always so much clearer once the clouds have passed.

Oh, and to all you crazies out there with nothing but a hoodie to keep the rain off — there's always room for one more under my umbrella.

*Cheers,  
Charlie Kefalos  
Editor-in-Chief*



## CAMPUS

continued from page 1

accompany the move to semesters, transforming PUC from a “college” into a “university.” Union College, which will officially change its name to Union Adventist University in May of this year, is the latest Adventist institution of higher education to undergo such a transition. Aside from Kettering College, this will leave PUC as the only Adventist college in the U.S. No serious contenders for a new name have been proposed yet.

These changes come at a time when liberal arts education — the broad, multi-disciplinary curriculum that PUC offers — is in decline. According to one CNBC report, 91 private colleges in the U.S. have shut down since 2016, with 44% of them having a religious affiliation. Among these schools was Atlantic Union College, which, after facing a temporary suspension in

2011, officially closed its doors at the end of the 2017–18 school year. These closures are driven by declines in enrollment and the decreased revenue that comes with it.

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**“Will it be beneficial for the student experience? Because student success is our number one now and for eternity.”**

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This environment poses a challenge for PUC, which, as PUC President Ralph Trecartin explained, remains committed to teaching undergraduate students. This is in contrast to Ivy League universities or top-tier state schools, which are often focused on research and have extensive graduate programs.

“I often say a student gets the best undergraduate education at a small- or medium-sized institution, whether it's a college or university,” Trecartin said. “We always, I believe, will be focused on our primary goal: outstanding undergraduate teaching and learning.”

A name change and a semester system could be one way to prevent PUC from

succumbing to these broader trends. Especially overseas, but also in the U.S., “universities” are seen as more prestigious than “colleges,” a fact which does have an impact on prospective students.

“There is a body of literature called signaling theory,” Trecartin explained. “How does an organization signal that they're excellent?”

“When you look at a fast food organization like McDonald's, every ten years or so they would completely refresh everything,” Trecartin continued. “Well, in a sense, this is a chance to reset and refresh who we are.”

His analysis is backed up by some research: According to one study by Riley Acton of Miami University in Ohio, colleges that became universities saw increased enrollment and revenue, especially if they were the first in their market to do so.

While enrollment and revenue “don't hurt,” Trecartin affirmed that PUC's commitment remains with its students.

“The motivation for these changes has to be, if we decide to go forward, ‘Will it be beneficial for the student experience?’ Because student success is our number one now and for eternity.”

The final decision on whether PUC will move to a semester system or change its name will be made by the college's Board

**continues on page 3**





## COMMUNITY

# A Level Playing Field: PUC Considers Eligibility Adjustments for Student-Athletes

By Colin Russ

Why run on a field when it's sloped at one end?

In December 2023, PUC's Academic Senate voted to amend certain academic policies affecting student-athletes. Pending approval by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, the new regulations would reflect PUC's commitment to addressing issues of equity and inclusion.

Historically, student-athletes with an F midterm grade or more than one midterm grade in the D range could not participate in team play. Critics considered these standards to be too unforgiving, negatively impacting players' performance and ability to form meaningful relationships with their teammates and their communities.

The new policy, if approved, would allow students who do not meet these criteria to continue to practice with the team and play in some games, but any games requiring an overnight stay are still off-limits. Additionally, coaches will no longer contact professors directly regarding grade adjustments. While these adjustments might seem minute in the larger sphere of academic eligibility and student equity, they point to PUC's concern in creating a balanced playing field while upholding the school's commitment to a rigorous, Christian education.

"We want to value the love that the student-athlete has for the sport," explained Dr. Tammy McGuire, head of the SAAC. "But there is also the element of academic excellence, and they are not mutually exclusive. As an academic institution, we want both the student and the athlete."

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics has long established rigorous requirements for student-athletes. From high school graduation requirements to GPA maintenance and credit hour

accumulation to attendance policies, these requirements ensure that student-athletes maintain excellence in the classroom while also actively participating in intercollegiate athletics.

PUC, which has been part of the NAIA since 1996, is no exception. Coaches and student-athletes at PUC, who are to be seen as "champions of character," work hard to embody those values on and off the field.

Leslie Tamayo, captain of the women's soccer team, stands by the old standards.

"I've never had any problems with any policy or ruling for grades while playing and going to school here. I think it's fair that we keep a certain standard," she said.

But student-athletes bear a high mental load, and voices within the community express the need for a moderate approach.

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**"As an academic institution, we want both the student and the athlete."**

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"I believe the GPA requirements aren't inherently wrong, but they needed revamping for flexibility, considering each student-athlete's hard work in academics and on the field or court," said SA President Kaitlyn Nakanishi, a former member of the women's soccer team.

Amanda Barnes, a member of PUC's Vox Pro Musica select choir, defended the athletes, saying, "We're not a D1 school. It seems sensible to lower standards for students on sports scholarships, ensuring they can play and meet scholarship requirements."

However, Barnes also emphasized the complexity of the situation and validated those who defend the policies.

"I take a pretty neutral stance because there are a lot of circumstances that must be considered," she said. "As a future educator, I can never stand behind lowering academic expectations with a clear conscience, but as I said, there are other factors at play."

The need to find ways to balance academic and extracurricular commitments without compromising standards is hard to handle, and not just for student-athletes. Dr. McGuire points to existing academic probation requirements for students in elected positions.

"There are separate rules for those who hold office, and there are ones for those who are athletes," she said.

Professor Katrina Blue, a member of the committee, expressed concern about the isolation of student-athletes from their team, which is also like a family. Blue highlighted the importance of building community and ensuring that student-athletes are in a familial space on and off the field.

"It's important to keep building community, and student-athletes need to be part of that community and not be isolated!" she said. Blue sees the old policies as somewhat exclusionary and a hindrance to that familial and communal approach to the team.

Debates will go on like sporting events, and some aspects of the playing field may remain uneven, but McGuire assured that the policies will continue to be revisited as necessary to ensure equity. As PUC continues to navigate issues and find solutions that suit their mission of athletic, educational and spiritual excellence, these policies may need adjustment to ensure the future success of student-athletes, and all students who represent PUC in their respective realms. ■

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**continued from page 2**

of Trustees. However, before a proposal is presented to them, the college must itself decide whether such changes are worth

pursuing, a process that will have to involve faculty, staff and students.

Students should look out for opportunities

to make their opinions known in the very near future, as surveys will be conducted in the following weeks and months. ■



## CAMPUS

# Pioneers Still Seek First Win in Tough Basketball Season



Coach Jordan Greenwell and the women's basketball team strategize during a timeout.

By Charlie Kefalos

Basketball at PUC is in a serious slump. The men's team is 0-20 this season, the women's team is 0-16, and both stand 0-13 against conference opponents. No wins have been recorded by either team since the men's victory against Park University at Gilbert on Feb. 3, 2023. With only seven games left in the season, time is running out for either team to bring home a win.

"We've been struggling a little bit. At the end of the day, it happens, right?" said head coach Jordan Greenwell, now in his second year coaching both the men's and the women's teams. "It's part of the game. Bad games happen. You're going to struggle sometimes."

Greenwell cited injuries as a hindrance to the men's team's success, robbing some players of the opportunity to gel with a mixture of old and new teammates.

Moving forward, he wants to put more emphasis on making in-game adjustments and on building and maintaining team chemistry, a crucial element of any team sport. But he notes that he's been impressed by the resilience that his players have shown.

"You've got to have a next game mentality," Greenwell said. "This team is ready to play every day, and that's all we can ask."

Daneca Nelsen, a junior guard who also plays on the women's soccer team, pointed to the lack of depth on the Pioneers bench

as a major performance-limiting factor.

"We only have eight players, so that's only three subs ... if anyone is missing because of an injury or someone being out of town, you basically have to play the whole game," said Nelsen, who has played two 40-minute games this season.

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**"You've got to have a next game mentality."**

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Nelsen also believes that the team dynamic is one of the most important components of the game, but also one of the trickiest to improve.

"The relationship can be kind of difficult," she said, "but we play better when we're around each other a lot."

Despite the teams' lopsided records, fans from the PUC community still turn out in support of the Pioneers. Senior Christianne Andrianarijaona has been attending PUC basketball games since she was seven, and makes an effort to attend as many home and away games as she can. To her, it's not the number of wins that is important, but the excitement of the game and the opportunity to get to know and celebrate the players.

"Running out on the court, going

back home at 1:00 a.m., cheering until your voice is shot ... it's that adrenaline," Andrianarijaona said. "It's not necessarily the result, it's the process, because as a fan, I'm cheering during the process, too. But also it's the mere showing up and supporting your fellow classmates while they work on their craft."

"Just so long as the team illustrates their passion, quick thinking and effort, it doesn't make much of a difference to me."

Greenwell remains optimistic that both teams can pull off a win as they face their conference opponents for a second time.

"We're gonna bounce back," he said. "We'll see everybody again, and I think we'll be able to get a few of those back. We've just got to play with a little more effort." ■



Jacob Ebert attempts a free throw.



**CONVERSATION**

# Chris Vance, the Gremlin-Slayer

By Sherban Cedeno

Ever since COVID lockdowns and cyberattacks assaulted PUC in the past few years, students may have wondered about the faces behind the efforts to address such issues. Who is in charge of the Information Technology Support Services — the ITSS Department? His name is Chris Vance.

Vance graduated from PUC with an English degree and a Film & Theater degree with a technical emphasis. Though he has “always been nerdy and geeky,” as he describes himself, Vance did not start in IT. Instead, he worked in freelance audio design. Though he enjoyed working on audio and music for small indie films — many of which were produced in PUC’s Visual Arts Department — the bulk of his freelance work was in advertising for Napa Valley’s wineries. In time, though, this took a toll on him.

“So much of it was making material that no one actually wants to see,” he said.

He transferred to ITSS in late 2016, working with PUC’s phone systems as a temp. He enjoyed it enough that he decided to stay. Since then, from the labyrinthine ITSS office in the basement of the library, Vance has worked tirelessly to ensure that PUC’s computer systems stay afloat. For his role in steering the department’s work during PUC’s recent troubles, he was named Staff Member of the Year for the 2022–23 school year.

Vance’s official position is “ITSS Operations Manager.” This means he coordinates the sub-departments of ITSS so that they work together as a cohesive group. It’s a common misconception, Vance explained, that all IT workers do the same thing. Rather, ITSS is home to employees with markedly different areas of expertise, organized into sub-departments.

He compared ITSS to the Facilities and Maintenance Department. Just as they employ electricians, plumbers, welders and carpenters, so too does ITSS specialize.

“There are areas where someone says to me, ‘Hey, I need you to program this thing,’” he recalled. “And I’ll go, ‘Ha! Jokes on you, I don’t program! I only know PowerShell, and not very well ...’”

The primary sub-departments of ITSS

are client support, system administration, network administration, wiring and programming. Vance is also responsible for sub-departments which have no employees, a result of the lower enrollment numbers PUC has seen over the past decade. For instance, along with coordinating all of ITSS’s sub-departments, he also manages PUC’s system administration. This means “large, high-level processes,” as he describes them — processes on the order of computer labs and campus-wide servers.

Though he does not program, his work here is still indispensable to the programmers.

“The system administrator builds and maintains the infrastructure that other people use to modify and house data,” he explained. “Then, people go to the programmers, who provide different functionalities for that data.” To use an analogy, system administrators build the house, while programmers make the furniture.

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**“I find it’s useful for people just to know how these things work, even if you don’t work in an IT field.”**

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Client support, meanwhile, is the most visible of the sub-departments, and the one that outsiders engage with the most. It was client support that changed the most during the COVID lockdown, as ITSS moved its in-person service to the screen-sharing calls of Microsoft Teams. Should students get a job with ITSS, client support is also where they will work. These jobs, Vance explained, are truly entry-level. They require no prior IT experience, and the ITSS team trains students in the basics of the field.

“I find it’s useful for people just to know how these things work, even if you don’t work in an IT field ever again,” he added. “You can peek around the curtain just a little bit, and intuit where gremlins might lurk.”

As may be guessed, with so many

responsibilities, the ITSS Department is constantly at work. During the cyberattack, the work weighed down particularly hard.

“I have always had more than a full-time job’s worth of work per week,” Vance said. “Everyone down here worked tremendous amounts of overtime. I had a three-month period where I was working 70 hours a week.” Thankfully, he pushed for a no-overtime policy this past July, and he and his workers are now faring better than they previously had.

Vance highlighted the importance of students reaching out to the ITSS Department.

“We probably don’t know that there’s a problem unless someone has told us there’s a problem,” he said. “Don’t forget to submit a support ticket. But if you’re having trouble getting in contact with anyone here, sometimes your best option is just to come down here. We prefer having people reach out than not.” ■

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THE ARTS

## ‘Killers of the Flower Moon’ Review: A Necessary Reminder



Lily Gladstone and Leonardo DiCaprio play Mollie Kyle and Ernest Burkhart in “Killers of the Flower Moon.”

*Courtesy of Variety*

By Keegan Malan

Martin Scorsese’s “Killers of the Flower Moon” tells the true tale of the murders of Osage people in 1920s Oklahoma for their oil rights after their land was discovered to be flowing with “black gold” — an “American Holocaust” akin to the Tulsa Race Massacre of that same era. Based on the book of the same name by David Grann, “Killers of the Flower Moon” is epic in almost every sense of the word — in story, history, character, craft and implications. It is a mesmerizing tale of greed, love, betrayal and racism.

From a technical standpoint, the film is beautiful. The cinematography by Rodrigo Prieto is stunning, the score by Robbie Robertson haunting, and the set and costume design organic. Also, Thelma Schoonmaker’s editing is as brilliant as in every Scorsese film she has previously worked on.

True to Scorsese’s standard, the actors give it their all and then some. Frequent Scorsese collaborators Robert De Niro and

Leonardo DiCaprio give performances that are arguably career-bests. De Niro plays the character of William H. Hale perfectly, at once appearing both righteous and bloodthirsty. DiCaprio portrays Ernest Burkhart, Hale’s nephew and co-conspirator, a man who is just as greedy as Hale but also one horrified by what he is doing, who you cannot help pitying because of how pathetic he is. Both command great screen presence, but neither holds the film as well as the third lead: Lily Gladstone as Molly Kyle, the wife of DiCaprio’s Burkhart.

Though the story is told from the perspective of Hale and Burkhart, it is Gladstone’s Kyle who serves as the beating heart of the film. There is some criticism that the film did not show the Osage perspective as much as it should have, but I have to disagree for two reasons. One, that film would have been typical, one we have seen again and again, the story playing as a mystery rather than an examination of

crime. And two, Gladstone is the Osage. Her character represents all the victims of the terrible murders and all the survivors who had family members torn out of their lives for the sake of money. If the film had been shown from a broader Osage perspective, much of the tragedy would have been distanced solely because it would not have been as personalized. By showing the film from the perspective of the perpetrators of these crimes, it allows us to immerse ourselves in the senseless nature of them, making us feel guilty and complicit in them, especially when we know what is happening and see the grief and horror physically weigh on Kyle so that she is almost destroyed by it.

Now to address the elephant in the room, and one point of the film that seemingly everyone cannot help but talk about: the runtime. Is the film long? Yes, it is, clocking in at just about three and a half hours. But is it excessive? Absolutely not. The runtime allows the film to breathe, to

**continues on page 7**



## THE ARTS

continued from page 6

create its atmosphere and walk us through this tragedy with the due gravity necessary, and to immerse us in the world of the film so that we forget that we are even watching a film in the first place.

“Killers of the Flower Moon” is a darkly poetic film about greed, love, betrayal, racism and forgetting tragedy; it is this last part that sticks with you the most when the film comes to an end. We have walked through so much bloodshed and misery that it is incredible that this tragedy could ever have been forgotten. And yet how

many of us had heard about this before the book or before the movie? But that is the point: our propensity to push tragedy to the side.

Hale makes this point in the film. “It won’t make a difference,” he says. “You want to know why? Because people forget.” We can forget massacres and horrors and the perpetrators of those horrors. Think of the Rwandan genocide, or the Cambodian genocide, or of Idi Amin. Have you even heard of them? And, if so, how disposable is that knowledge? In our current age with

the fascination of true crime content, do you ever find yourself consuming rapidly, finishing, thinking to yourself, “That was great!” and then setting it aside and only vaguely remembering it as you move on to your next consumption of tragedy? And what does this say about us? We consume and forget over and over again. Can this be sustained, and what are the implications? If we blind ourselves in this way, can we, as Burkhart says, “spot the wolves” in our own lives? ■



**CALLING  
ALL     
ARTISTS!**

Showcase your art in the Campus Chronicle. Now accepting submissions in graphic design, visual art, photography, poetry and flash fiction (~500 words). Hybrid pieces are also welcome! Send us your best work for a chance to share your creativity.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### JOB OPENINGS

The **Custodial Department** is hiring students to help set up chairs for graduation in June. Pay is **\$17.00/hour**, and hours are flexible. If interested, please contact Jonathan Aguilar — [joaguilar@puc.edu](mailto:joaguilar@puc.edu).

### QUICKSILVER

**Quicksilver**, PUC's annual literary magazine, is now accepting submissions in the genres of fiction, poetry, painting, photography, graphic design and mixed media. Hybrid works are also welcome. Please send your best work and a short bio to [chderr@puc.edu](mailto:chderr@puc.edu) to be considered for publication.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Women's & Men's Basketball vs. Embry-Riddle**  
Thursday, Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Gym

**Midwinter Break**  
Friday, Feb. 9

**Women's & Men's Basketball vs. La Sierra — Senior Night**  
Saturday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in the Gym

**Super Bowl Watch Party**  
Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3:30 p.m. in the Grind

**College Assembly**  
Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 4 p.m. in Davidian 206

**Valentine's Self-Care Night**  
Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Grind

### PITCH IT!



Are you taking a class that more students should know about? Have an idea for a campus story that must be discussed? Make your voice heard in the PUC community — send your pitch to the *Campus Chronicle*! Contributing writers are always compensated for their work and receive a publication credit in the issue.

### FIND THE ANSWER, WIN SOME GEAR!



Find the answer hidden somewhere in the paper. The first person to DM us on Instagram [@pucchronicle](https://www.instagram.com/pucchronicle) will win a free rental from the Shed!

This week's question is:  
**Besides PUC, how many other Adventist "colleges" are there?**