Issue 8 Volume XCIX **April 19, 2024** 

## Campus Chronicle

A free press doesn't mean a tame press.

The Student Newspaper of Pacific Union College

#### **CAMPUS**

Students, faculty and alumni traveled to Mana Island, Fiji over spring break. Learn what their mission was and what they accomplished there.

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#### **COMMUNITY**

An unusual class was listed in the catalog this quarter — "Laboratory Glassblowing." Find out how the class came to be and why you should take it.

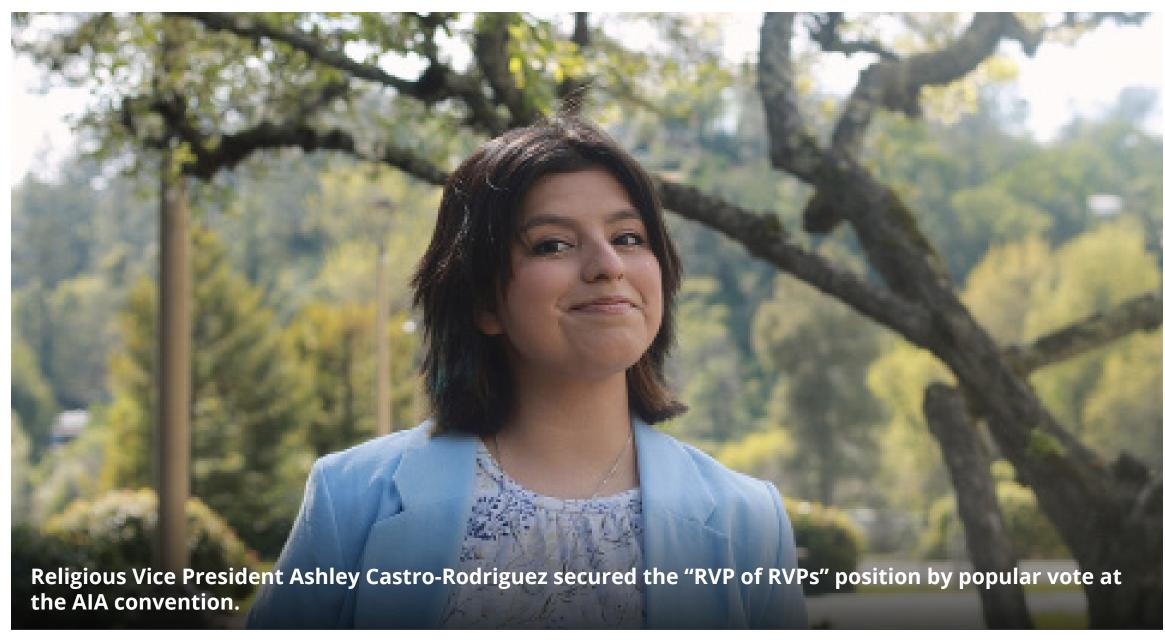
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#### THE ARTS

With the film season on hold, our film critic Keegan Malan reviews two classic films, "Charade" and "To Catch a Thief." Read why these films are still worth a watch.

**P7** 

# RVP Ashley Castro-Rodriguez Elected to Adventist Intercollegiate Association



### **By Charlie Kefalos**

Ashley Castro-Rodriguez, PUC's Religious Vice President, was elected RVP of the entire Adventist Intercollegiate Association at the first AIA convention since 2019. From April 4 through April 7, Rodriguez visited Andrews University for the conference, alongside Marketing Vice President Tessa Hutzkal and Social Vice President Bethanee Tabura.

The AIA is a consortium of student

leaders from 11 of the SDA campuses across North America, connecting those leaders in problem-solving and spiritual matters. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was hosted by a different school in the AIA each year. SA officers participate in leadership and professional development seminars, as well as electing the next year's AIA council.

"We didn't know that was a thing, because

it's been so long since they've had one," Hutzkal shared. "None of us were even in college back then!"

The council is like the "SA team of SA teams" — the RVP, for example, oversees all RVPs at each college in the AIA. Upon learning about the position, Rodriguez knew instantly that she wanted to put herself into consideration. She put together a speech on the fly, touching on her background as a as

## FROM THE EDITOR

Hey PUC,

I have a question for you: Where does your passion come from?

This isn't an attempt to crack your security questions (although I do think I'd feel safer about my information if the questions were more ... abstract). No, I'm genuinely curious. We all probably have a different answer to that question — my parents, God, the thrill of a challenge, caffeine — but somehow, the outcome is the same. We trust in parts of ourselves that we may not fully understand, and we commit to something beyond ourselves, for better or for worse.

Passion is what makes us human, though it links us to the sublime. Without passion, none of us could grow or change. We'd be root-bound, barren, moving without purpose through unexamined lives.

In this issue, we present some of the passions that drive us here at PUC, from professional success to personal growth to care and concern for others. As we hurtle toward the end of the school year, I want

you, reader, to ask yourself — does what I'm doing excite my passion? Am I reaching for something outside of myself? It might be cliché, but life is short, and every day we take one step further from these free and golden years at PUC. Don't waste too much time on trees that don't bear fruit.

Unless those trees are your GE classes. In that case, I'm sorry, but you have to.

Cheers, Charlie Kefalos Editor-in-Chief



## COMMUNITY

### continued from page 1

a child of two pastors, a theology major and a two-time RVP.

She shared one experience that inspired her to want to become a pastor. One day, while helping her mom tell a Bible story to second graders, a young girl asked Rodriguez to pray for her muffin.

"So we prayed about the muffin," she laughed. "It seems stupid, but she was like, 'I didn't know God cared about my muffin. I didn't know that God cared about me!"

"To see that kids don't have that kind of idea that God is there for them ..." she trailed off. "It means a lot to me that I was able to do that for a kid. I don't think I can forget that. That's why I want to do this."

Nearly all of the elections had clear, uncontested winners, but the RVP election was a dead heat between Rodriguez and the RVP from Southern Adventist University.

"It seems like everyone expected the and constituents. bigger schools to show up and be flashy and win, but that wasn't exactly the case," Rodriguez said. "I was flabbergasted, like, no way people actually considered me!"

The initial vote resulted in a tie, the only one in the entire election. It was decided that a tiebreaker vote would be held after lunch.

Rather than having the candidates speak for themselves again, the AIA president entreated Hutzkal and Tabura to speak on Rodriguez' behalf.

Rodriguez was confident that the two knew her well enough to represent her — Hutzkal and Rodriguez went to academy together, and Tabura and Rodriguez share an office.

"I just told them, 'I trust you guys with my life," she said.

"Speaking for Ashley, for us, was just like talking about our friend," Hutzkal said. She shared her experience as a non-Adventist student at the academy, who was taken in by the "very God-focused" Rodriguez.

During her speech, it was "very quiet," she remembers. "People were really listening."

Tabura talked about witnessing Rodriguez' passion for serving her friends

"Those who she's representing, she takes their problems personally," she said. "She wants it fixed and she won't stop until it's resolved.

"I think because we allowed ourselves to just be honest, to just be real people instead of like a campaigning situation, that was something that really appealed to the student leaders," she added.

When the final vote was tallied, it wasn't close — Rodriguez won by a landslide. She will take on her new role over the summer, planning next year's AIA conference, advising the North American Division and providing support to the incoming SAs and RVPs at each campus.

As someone who is admittedly "extremely hands-on," Rodriguez laments that she will now be taking on a more administrative role. But she is excited by the opportunity to provide real mentorship to young Adventist leaders, and to take this next step in her personal mission and ministry.

"It definitely feels like God stepped in," she said. "He told me, 'You can do this."

All three officers expressed a belief that PUC's reputation among the other schools is not strong, particularly when it comes to spiritual matters, but that Rodriguez' election is a step toward remedying that. The election reminds students at PUC that they are a part of something bigger than themselves, but also of what they can accomplish by just being themselves.

"Don't try to be bigger than you are now, continues on page 6

## COMMUNITY

## NURS-431/432: An Outdoor Experience in Fiji

By Joli Weber

This past spring break, students in NURS-431/432: Community Health Nursing flew to Mana Island, Fiji, to give back to the community while practicing their nursing skills. Accompanying the students were Professor Sandra Ringer and Dr. Kimberly Dunker.

PUC students, faculty and alumni treated over 400 people in the week they spent on the island. The trip provided clinical hours for BSN and ASN students, but also fulfilled PUC's mission to serve and learn with purpose.

The students who participated were at varying levels of completion in the nursing program. However, all had basic training to help with most medical needs that the villagers had.

"Being a new graduate registered nurse helped a lot, because all of the nursing skills — blood sugar checks, blood pressure, assessment, evaluation — were still fresh in my mind," said Russell Barikdar.

"My background in EMS and [the] basics of nursing helped with the triage system we set up for the clinical," added BSN student George Purba.

> "I've met so many new people, and I enjoyed learning about their culture and language."

To aid the BSN and ASN students who participated, two dentists volunteered to provide oral care. One of the dentists was alumni Christopher Walters, who dedicated his time and resources to helping over 100 people on the island.

"We know as healthcare providers how important oral health is to the whole body," said Ringer. "One of the needs of these people is dental care as part of the whole person, which, in nursing, is one of our goals. We treat the whole person — that includes dental."

Setting up in the SDA village on Mana Island provided a central location where the villagers could travel to receive care. This location was originally established ten



years ago by former Service and Missions coordinator Fabio Maia.

PUC students and faculty enjoyed time outside of their clinical work with the villagers as well. Time spent with them included meals, recreational play and Sabbath school. The nursing students continually pitched in, always looking for something to do or to help with, as observed by the PUC faculty members.





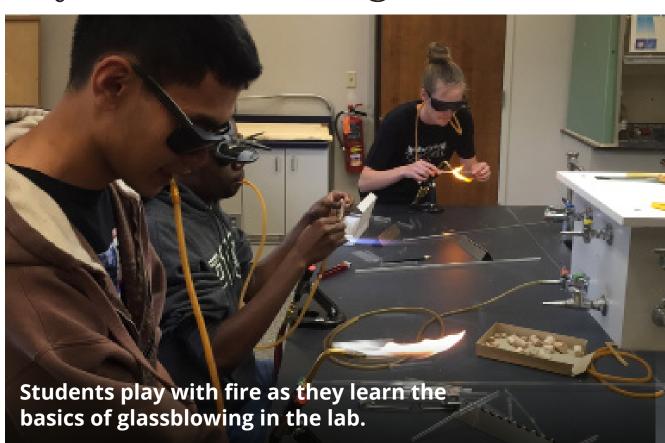
Nursing student Daisy Martinez praised the opportunity to spend time with the villagers.

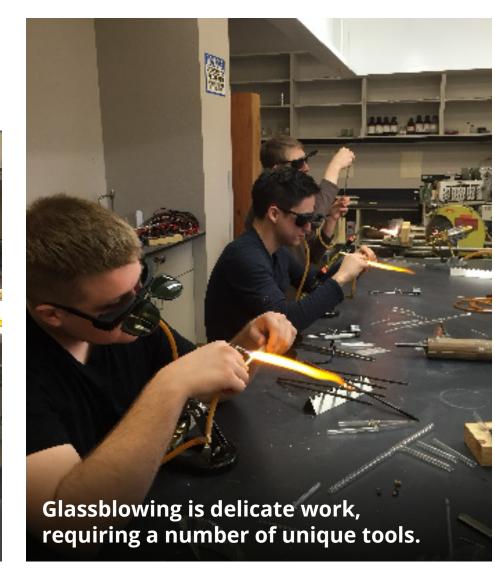
"I've met so many new people, and I enjoyed learning about their culture and language. During most of our free time we were playing volleyball in the rain, playing games with the kids and playing UNO with the new friends we made at the local restaurant."

This is the second straight year students in NURS-431/432 made the trip to Fiji. The nursing department hopes to continue to provide them with this unique opportunity, as well as healthcare to the small island of Mana for years to come.

## CONVERSATION

## Move Over, Basket-Weaving! Try Glassblowing Instead





## By Colin Russ

In the jigsaw puzzle of planning your final quarter classes and gearing up for the summer, a niche class may not fit into your schedule or your plans. But unique offerings can round out a tough academic slate, and you might pick up a few new skills along the way.

Robert Wilson, one of PUC's chemistry professors, teaches a rather unusual class called Laboratory Glassblowing. The class provides students with the opportunity to learn a craft that can also be used in everyday life. To Wilson, the class is different from the "TV representations" of glassblowing. The objective is to start with tubing or an apparatus and create or repair tools to be used in the laboratory or outside of it.

Glassblowing is a discipline that incorporates tradition and function. Some days you create beakers, other days maybe marbles.

function," Wilson emphasized.

While doing so, it is of great importance the love continued to grow. to understand and build a relationship with the materials and see their characteristics. Wilson highlights the importance of understanding the properties of hard glass, especially Pyrex, noting how these materials that many do not know about." are essential to scientists in the lab.

thermally resistant, environmentally safe

and very recyclable," he explained.

These attributes make Pyrex an ideal material for various scientific instruments or projects in the class.

"Glass has so many wonderful properties that scientists, in particular, can take boasted advantage of," he added.

"There are very few places that still offer a glassblowing class, and it is a good career that many do not know about."

Wilson was first introduced to glassblowing while conducting undergraduate research at his alma mater, Andrews University. As a lifelong chemistry student, the opportunity to make his own equipment piqued his "You're there to make something that has interest. Eventually, he was convinced to take it as an official course, and from there

> "The class looked interesting, and it was interesting and practical, too," he said. "There are very few places that still offer a glassblowing class, and it is a good career

Students learn the art of glassblowing, "Glass is chemically inert, transparent, but also begin to understand the tactile and practical applications it holds, especially

in scientific settings. For science majors and beyond, the learning opportunities are undeniable.

"It has even been added to the practical and applied arts section of the GE," he

In an educational and job market where trade skills and the arts often take a backseat to STEM instruction, Laboratory Glassblowing stands out as a reminder of the practicality and relevance of a liberal arts education and the benefit of learning specialized crafts. The versatility, practicality and artistic nature of glassblowing can open doors one might never have imagined and encourage one to seek out unexpected personal and professional paths.

Ultimately, the class pushes students outside of their comfort zone, an integral part of anyone's college experience.

"And you get to make something pretty cool!" he added.



## COMMUNITY

## PUC Students, Faculty Honored at Sonscreen Film Festival



## **By Charlie Kefalos**

From Thursday, April 4 through Saturday, April 6, students, faculty and alumni of the film department represented PUC at the 2024 Sonscreen Film Festival in Loma Linda. They sent nine original short films into competition across several categories and won three awards.

"Inner Space," a drama by junior Josue Hilario, won the Audience Choice award. For her psychological horror film, "Evelyn," senior Megan Lira won the Jury Award for Achievement in Visual Style. Dylan Sails and Melaney Klinedinst won the Jury Award for Achievement in Writing for their satirical short film, "Minority Report."

The festival also honored professor Rajeev Sigamoney with the prestigious Vision Award for his longtime support of the festival and numerous contributions both on- and off-screen. Sigamoney, who is leaving PUC at the end of this year, has participated in the festival for over 20 years in various roles, including film student, professional filmmaker and faculty advisor. Current and former students rushed the stage to hug and congratulate him as he received the award.

"I'm almost crying just talking about it now," he said. "It was the perfect exclamation point on my history with PUC and Sonscreen."

"It's bittersweet knowing I'll probably go to future Sonscreen fests, but it won't be with my PUC crew," he added.

Screenings of the films in competition comprised most of the itinerary at Sonscreen, but attendees also participated in panels, workshops, a pitch competition and Q&A sessions. Several industry professionals made appearances, including Ben Proudfoot, director and producer of the Oscar-winning short documentary, "The Last Repair Shop."

## "It's important to always be improving your art, because the art world is always changing."

Katya Popravkina, a double major in film and graphic design, appreciated that festival organizers offered more practical activities this year, such as a camera shooting exercise on Saturday morning. She also liked participating in the Q&A sessions after the screenings, which gave her the opportunity to share her experiences as a female director, and as a Ukrainian director.

Her short film "31:1," an experimental rendering of war experiences in Ukraine, "got a really good response from people."

"A lot of people cried, they came up to me and wanted to talk to me about the film,"

she said. "I really appreciated it, because that's what I wanted. I just wanted to share what is going on with Ukrainians. I felt really confident."

This year marked the third trip to Sonscreen for senior film major Malachi Dyson. It was his favorite yet, he said as an actor, he was involved in many of the films PUC submitted, and he was proud of the response they received.

"We lost a lot of people this year," he said, to graduation and to study abroad programs. "This shows that we're all still working hard and passionate about making films."

Both Dyson and Sigamoney cited diversity as a strength of the slate of films developed by this year's cohort. Films like "Parasite" and "Everything Everywhere All at Once" have shown students that they can take risks and push boundaries while still achieving critical success, something emphasized by the film department.

"With only two professors, you can sometimes get pigeonholed by the professor's tastes," Sigamoney explained. "I'm proud of the breadth of our program — we've created a culture where students can really be themselves."

Off-campus activities like Sonscreen also give students the opportunity to seek models and mentors beyond the PUC campus while remaining within a denominational setting.

"It's really important, because film is about a team of people you need to trust and be comfortable with," said Popravkina.

"Talk to people," she advised future attendees. "Make friends at different colleges!'

These networking opportunities are a key benefit of traveling to the Sonscreen festival each year. Students and faculty broaden their perspectives by meeting new people



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## COMMUNITY

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and sharing ideas, and just taking it all in is often enough to spark creativity or solve a problem.

"It's too easy to study film in a vacuum," Sigamoney said. "You might think you have an original idea, or a strong script, but putting that to the test allows us to see where improvements can still be made."

"We get to watch a lot of other people's films, so we get to learn from them and their mistakes," added Dyson. "Going to these types of events gives this film department more inspiration.'

"Sometimes I feel like I'm not sure about [film], but after being there and listening to the professionals, directors, producers from really fancy stuff, it inspires me more," Popravkina agreed. "It's important to always be improving your art, because the art world is always changing."

And, of course, the chance to spend quality time with fellow film lovers is an added perk.

"You have to sleep in the same bed with people who you might never really talk to,"

Popravkina joked. "It connects you more. You get closer and more confident."

"Just walking around San Bernardino with a bunch of film majors ... that could be a whole movie in and of itself!" quipped

After 12 years of taking students to Sonscreen, it's still a special experience each time for Sigamoney.

"I love teaching, and I love the classroom," he said. "But it's those out-of-class moments that I'll remember most."



## COMMUNITY

### continued from page 2

because you don't need to be big to be successful," Hutzkal offered as advice to Rodriguez. "If she did everything exactly how she does now, she would be perfect."



## **LIVE MUSIC**



Orchestra presents two free concerts featuring renowned pianist Janet Guggenheim playing Mozart's delightful "Piano Concerto #12."

Works by Shostakovich, Beliczay and Florence Price complete the program. The first concert will be held in Paulin Hall, on Sunday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m.

The Napa Valley Chamber The concert will repeat at Napa Adventist Community Church on Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m.

> A festive reception after the concert will celebrate the conclusion of the Chamber Orchestra's third season. Both concerts are free to the public, and donations are welcome. Visit napavalleychamberorchestra.com for more information.

## THE ARTS

## Two Film Reviews

By Keegan Malan

Editor's Note: The box office is pretty dry this time of year, so our film critic Keegan Malan is throwing it back to the Golden Age of Hollywood. From Keegan: "Watching these films as a double feature would be a blast, and a great introduction to classic cinema. They are both incredibly entertaining films that have a similar quality and style."

## "To Catch a Thief" Review: A $Flawed\,but\,Timeless\,Thriller$

Alfred Hitchcock's "To Catch a Thief" is a thoroughly entertaining film starring Cary Grant and Grace Kelly. Grant plays the notorious John Robie, a reformed jewel thief living in France who spends his days enjoying the pleasantries of life. But when a new string of robberies emerges, bearing his old moniker, he is forced to flee the police and clear his name. In doing so, he crosses paths with Kelly's Frances Stevens, a rich American socialite who aids him in

The two leads make every scene they share a delight. Grant is debonair and witty, while Kelly is mesmerizing and endearing, and both are set against the backdrop of the French Riviera in all its beauty. Combined, they make up the most compelling aspect of a film that doesn't try to be anything other than what it is — charming and terribly entertaining. And while it doesn't rank as high in Hitchcock's filmography as, say, "Rear Window," it is a memorable piece of

The film is flawed, though. It is essentially a romantic suspense/mystery, but the mystery itself is nothing of interest. Yes, you pay attention to it and want to know its conclusion, but it isn't why you remember the film. Moreover, the film is lacking in suspense, not in terms of failing where suspense is included, but simply in not having many scenes where suspense is supposed to occur. Fortunately, neither of these flaws completely sinks the film. Sure,

on a first viewing you may be disappointed with the lack of mystery and suspense, but you will still be enthralled by Grant and Kelly's performances. On a rewatch you will still be captured by them, if not more so; together, they more than make up for these flaws.

Led by two timeless stars, "To Catch a Thief" is a film loaded with witty dialogue, good comedy and fiery romance. Despite its flaws, it remains thoroughly entertaining and rewatchable. •



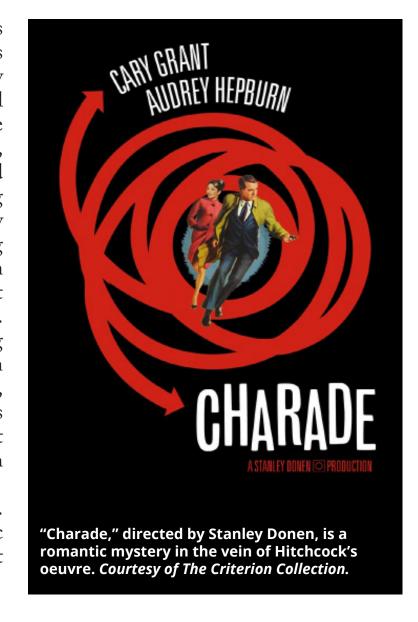
## "Charade" Review: Suspense, Lies and Videotape

"Charade," starring Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn, is an underrated masterpiece of Classic Hollywood. The film follows Hepburn's Regina Lampert on a madcap chase through Paris, as three individuals hound her for a fortune stolen from them by her late husband. Lampert is

Grant and Hepburn sizzle on screen, and together form a formidable duo in a film that keeps you on your toes in a constant state of wondering what is coming next. It feels like the best Hitchcock movie that Hitchcock never made, as it bears many of his trademarks. Even though it does not always reach the level of suspense found in some of his best films, it is quite effective, and will leave you with sweaty palms and a thudding heart. Add to all this the witty dialogue and jokes, seamless transitions, and the fact that director Stanley Donen knows exactly when to employ each element, and you have a wonderful moviegoing experience.

"Charade" is very deceptive in what lies beneath its surface. The film primarily deals with the issue of truth. There are so many lies told that you as a viewer cannot unravel them. When you think you know the truth, you get hit with a lie. This, of course, serves as a smokescreen for the mystery and aided by Grant's Peter Joshua, a man whom characters, but also leaves you wondering she met on vacation and eventually falls for. how you are lied to. Lying is such an easy thing to do, and if you are not paying attention, you will accept the lie. But even if you are paying attention, the lie might still be accepted if told with a straight face. So how can you tell when someone is lying to you? You get a couple of chronic liars in a room, which many of the characters are, and none of them will know if the others are telling the truth. If this is the case, what hope do you have, and what dangerous path will that lead you down?

"Charade" is a film for all occasions. Suspenseful, mysterious, funny, romantic — it has it all, and I cannot recommend it highly enough.



## THE ARTS

## PUC Asks: An Advice Column By Mx. Asks

Hi Asker!

departments at PUC, you may feel a little lost. As it stands, the nursing, business and social work departments are the forerunners in degree programs on campus, outside of those programs? If you're not feeling the NCLEX, don't see yourself as #BossandCEO and can't really handle the you! tragedy of the broken American home, you might feel ... well, out of place. Fortunately for you (and me, don't worry), there are tons of programs in tiny, obscure departments around campus, where you can get a great getting a degree!

There is a rich World Languages department on campus, where you can major or minor in one of six languages. In this program you are encouraged to travel abroad in the ACA programs, where you can study Arabic, French, German, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish. After you graduate, you can travel around the world, sharing your knowledge about the language you now specialize in.

If you want to avoid your student debt for just a little longer, a pre-professional program would set you up perfectly for post-graduate work. Our programs prepare you excellently for a medical education at Loma Linda University. In each program, you study from a number of domains, finishing your program at LLU. After graduation, you can find several opportunities in the medical field, from the lab to administration.

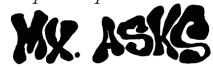
If you're looking for a smaller department that needs a little love and attention, you might look toward the little buildings with two or three classrooms in them. Consider the English or education department. The education building is getting a remodel, so it's squeaky clean for new adventurers! America has a high need for teachers, and credentialed candidates are eligible for a higher salary than we initially assumed. If you don't like kids (or think they should be ruled with an iron fist), please disregard this paragraph.

It is still possible to just be generally disinterested in the specialized programs offered on campus. Luckily, PUC also

If you're not in one of the bigger offers several general studies programs. You receive a well-rounded education in the big three (sciences, arts and administration, obviously). These degrees are in high demand in the expansive corporate world. respectively. But what about the students If you like the idea of a 9-5 that pays for the real things you like (that might not be monetizable), this might be the avenue for

When all is said and done, college is a great experience, and education is only the half of it. Whatever degree program you choose, I highly suggest you spend your time here connecting with as many people as possible, education in an intimate setting, all while making memories you can fondly look back on 20 years from now.

Hope it helps!



Mx. Asks

## **EDITORIAL TEAM**

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## PUC Prep's Own "Fiddler On the Roof"

## **By Kara Wibberding**

Have you been looking for a little more thrill in your life? You don't have to send that risky text for the plot anymore — "Fiddler on the Roof" has enough plot to throw out the whole roster.

This May, PUC Prep is producing "Fiddler on the Roof" in a way that exploits the benefits of a small theater. With our already strong performing arts community, and actors who have been stressing for months, this production is worth ignoring your deadlines for.

I was on a roof once. I can't say where, because I wasn't supposed to be there. Somewhere between not being allowed and not being used to it, it was exciting. It is often the things we're not used to — the things we're not supposed to do — that give our lives light.

This is the story "Fiddler" tells, with three sisters in Imperial Russia breaking tradition by picking their own husbands, while their father, Tevye, learns to adjust. In the opening scene Tevye muses: "Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as ... as a fiddler on the roof!" So what happens when, one by one, his daughters decide they'd rather live their lives on the roof than on the ground?

"Fiddler" is directed by Heather Denton, John Gilley, Katie Sculatti, and me, Kara Wibberding. As Tevye, it stars Will Collins, who previously starred as Boy in "Peter and the Starcatcher." As Golde, it stars Lawren Slack, who previously appeared as the Wicked Witch of the West in "The Wizard of Oz."

To get tickets, simply scan the barcode. Show time will be 7:30 p.m. on May 8 and 9, and 8:30 p.m. on May 11. When you're scheduling out your next month, choose "Fiddler on the Roof." Choose an experience of the arts. Invite your friends, invite your enemies. Everything is better with a little bit of theater. See "Fiddler on the Roof," May 8, 9 and 11. ■

> SCAN HERE SCAN HERE OR TICKETS FOR TICKETS

## The Campus Chronicle is looking to fill several paid positions, including Editorin-Chief, Assistant Editor, Journalists, Photographers and Copy Editors. Inquire with chderr@puc.edu or DM @puccronicle for exact pay rates or to request an application.

## **UPDATES**

## OVER 100 YEARS OF CAMPUS JOURNALISM.



Campus Chronicle

## **UPDATES**

## **JOB POSTING**

The Campus Center will begin hiring staff for the 2024-25 school year in the next several weeks. Pay rate is \$16/hr. Students interested in working at the front desk are encouraged to contact Niq Ruud via e-mail (nruud@puc.edu) to set up an interview.

## **JOB POSTING**

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### Homecoming Weekend

Friday, April 19 through Saturday, April 20

### **Biology Club Albion Trip**

Friday, April 19 through Sunday, April 21

First Day to Register For Fall Quarter Monday, April 22

#### Mario Kart Tournament

Wednesday, April 24 at 6 p.m. in the Campus Center

#### **Pretzel Day**

Friday, April 26 at 9 a.m. in the Campus Center

#### **Board Debrief**

Tuesday, April 30 at 4 p.m. in Davidian 206

## LEARN THE ANSWER, **WIN FREE COFFEE**



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

> How often do any two specific cicada broods with different life cycles coemerge in the same year?

**A.** Every 5–6 years **C.** Every 13–17 years

**B.** Every 25 years **D.** Every 221 years



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.