Your investments to the Pacific Fund, now in its third year, continue to make a significant impact on the lives of Pacific students. Scholarships enable talented students to experience a Pacific education while grants expand the academic and research opportunities available to students and faculty. In this issue of Pacific Fund Impact, meet the Senior Class Gift Committee, Pacific Fund Founder Ron Leineke, and board member Bob Berryman. Also, read about the significant impact your donations are making through Pacific Fund grants: funding groundbreaking research, facilitating experiential learning and supporting our award-winning new student experience — MOVE.

Thank you for so generously supporting the fund this year.

Pacific Fund Grants

From Black Widows to Bulletproof Vests
By Sharon Mahood

While most of us try to avoid black widow spiders, Biology Professor and Co-Chair Craig Vierra seeks an intimate understanding of these arachnids.

For the past 10 years, Vierra has been studying the molecular mechanics of black widow spider silk. Because of its high tensile strength — five times stronger than steel — extraordinary elasticity and toughness, spider silk has attracted the attention of materials scientists. Scientists are currently seeking methods to produce synthetic spider silk. With support from a Pacific Fund grant, Pacific’s Department of Biological Sciences will lead this effort.

“Our laboratory has cloned a number of different silk genes that produce proteins assembled into silk threads,” Vierra says. “We ‘fish’ for new genes that encode silk proteins and try to understand how these silk proteins are assembled into the fibers.”

To date, only a handful of labs across the world have been able to produce synthetic silk fibers. As a leader in the spider silk community, the Biology lab wants to transition from silk “gene hunting” to the production of synthetic silk materials.

Their Pacific Fund grant was used to purchase a protein concentrator, which will enable Pacific to refine the process for spinning artificial silk fibers. With this new equipment, large amounts of silk proteins can be produced and purified on the Stockton campus. Faculty and student researchers then analyze the structure and properties of the various synthetic fibers created. The research brings students and faculty together from different schools and disciplines within the University.

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“This technology could revolutionize the field of engineering, nanotechnology and medicine,” says Vierra.
**Tigers Prowl’n the Mile**

**By Jessica Safir ’10**

Students from University of the Pacific’s chapter of the American Marketing Association (PAMA) teamed up with the Miracle Mile Improvement District for the second year in a row to host the annual “Prowl’n the Mile” street festival. This year’s festival took place on May 1 on the “Miracle Mile” shopping district of Pacific Avenue. The “Block Party” theme included a car show, live music from local and cover bands, children’s activities and inflatable games, a skateboard competition, and street fair.

Last year PAMA students identified the need for an off-campus event that would draw students and community members onto the Miracle Mile. This year, students have found the event to be even more significant in light of President Eibeck’s “Beyond Our Gates, Into the Community” initiative.

Members of PAMA used the Pacific Fund Grant to gain hands-on event planning, marketing and sponsorship experience. From start to finish, students coordinated every aspect of the street festival from soliciting sponsorships to advertising the event through radio, TV, newspaper and print media. Lessons from the classroom were directly applied to real-world business experiences where PAMA members took on major event planning role and gained valuable networking skills.

Admission into the event was free. All donations received and a portion of proceeds from merchant sales were donated to El Dorado Elementary School to send their students to science camp. This year’s Prowl’n in the Mile event, raised $3,000.

**Investing in Tomorrow Through Today’s Students**

Ron Leineke ’53 and his wife, Suzanne, agree on the importance of supporting education.

Leineke was encouraged to come to University of the Pacific by a Pacific alumnus he knew when he attended Placer College (now Sierra College). Though his family could not afford the tuition, Leineke, a standout track star, received a half-tuition track scholarship that made it possible for him to attend Pacific. To cover the remaining tuition and living expenses he worked part-time at the Port of Stockton and “hashed” at the sorority houses. He says his time at Pacific was life changing and opened doors of opportunity.

“My classes helped me become a knowledgeable and well-rounded person,” says Leineke “But it was the people I met, the experiences I had learning to get along with others, and coming together as a community — these were important, shaping experiences. I had opportunities to develop myself as a leader and was president of Rhizomia fraternity for one year,” he says. “Pacific opened my eyes to believing in myself and to what I could do in the future.”

After graduating from Pacific with a degree in business administration, Leineke followed his father into the real estate business. He supplemented his education with a year of courses at Pacific McGeorge Law School, immersing himself in the world of torts and contracts. Although he was successful in real estate, Leineke was intrigued by the world of oil and natural gas exploration and decided to pursue his goal to acquire, explore and develop oil and natural gas leases and resources. He founded Venada National in 1976.

Leineke believes it’s important to develop the habit of giving back an early age. Reading “Tiger Tracks” news and activities of fellow Pacific alumni and seeing what his classmates were doing, he realized he was not giving back on a regular basis to Pacific. He began investing in athletics and scholarships, areas that had made a difference for him. He also has been a generous supporter of the Janssen-Lagorio Gymnasium and the Vereschagin Alumni House. As a Pacific Fund Founder, he continues to perform a leadership role at Pacific.

“The education of our students is one of the most important things we can invest in.”

— Ron Leineke ’53
More Pacific Students on the MOVE

Thanks to Pacific Fund Grant

As part of Welcome Week, incoming freshmen, along with Pacific staff, student leaders and administration, unite to participate in the Mountains, Ocean, Valley Experience (MOVE). They travel to sites across Stockton, Northern California and the Central Valley to learn about their new home, make friends and participate in various service projects. In 2009, because of a Pacific Fund Grant, all incoming freshmen, more than 800 students, were able to participate.

MOVE began in 2007 as a pilot program during the new students’ Welcome Week. Ninety-five students went to Yosemite National Park to clear invasive, non-native plants from the Valley floor. They also took water samples, helped measure giant sequoia trees and, in the process, learned about the environment, participated in a service project, and began developing relationships. The program expanded to three sites in 2008, adding Stockton and the Marin Headlands, thus covering mountain, ocean and Central Valley locations.

In 2009, the Division of Student Life opened MOVE to all incoming students and added additional sites. To support the expansion, Pacific Fund provided a $50,000 grant. The grant funded a portion of student registration fees, and the Marin Headlands, thus covering mountain, ocean and Central Valley locations.

More Pacific Students on the MOVE

In 2009, the Division of Student Life opened MOVE to all incoming students and added additional sites. To support the expansion, Pacific Fund provided a $50,000 grant. The grant funded a portion of student registration fees, making the program available to all new students regardless of their ability to pay.

A curriculum of common learning objectives was developed with the expansion of the program to ensure that students would have similar experiences at each of the seven sites: community service, sustainability, responsible leadership, social and emotional competence, and developing a connection to Pacific. More than 800 students participated in MOVE 2009, contributing 3,359 hours of community service.

“MOVE was one of my first experiences at Pacific,” says Pacific President Pamela A. Eibeck, who, along with her husband Bill Jeffery, participated in MOVE 2009 in Yosemite National Park. “I was impressed by how the program helped our entering students form close friendships while contributing to our University’s values to give back to our community and steward our environment.”

“I am not aware of any other University that involves their entire incoming class in such a program,” says Wendy Stratton, director of MOVE. “At Pacific, we believe that leadership lives in every student, albeit differently based on their backgrounds, skills, and experiences. That is why we chose to purposefully involve all students in MOVE.”

Senior Class Gift Committee

Who We Are and What We Do

By Josh Chipponeri ’11

The Class Gift Committee is a group of students of diverse class years and majors, who work together to build traditions and create legacies. What we do includes event coordination, fund-raising, outreach and implementation of ideas.

Last year we began a time capsule tradition. A time capsule is not a particularly new idea, but ours is one with a twist. What makes our campus and our college distinct is the people who invest themselves in the betterment of our beloved University. Each person who gave to the class gift last year was offered video time of themselves in the time capsule video. The footage recorded will be preserved for access in the multimedia area of the Alex and Jeri Verezchagin Alumni House.

By recording an episode of Class Gift donors, the Committee created a historical archive of the campus culture.

This year our headline mark of distinction was a “shout-out” in the Commencement program. Those who gave a donation of $20 or more for their class gift had their names listed in the in a Senior Gift Honor Roll at the Commencement ceremonies along with their personal thank you messages. They also received a student-designed T-shirt and participated in a Senior Celebration event sponsored by the Pacific Alumni Association. Their class will be recognized with a stepping stone on the path to the Alex and Jeri Verezchagin Alumni House.

In our appreciation for the opportunities afforded us as Pacific students, the Class Gift Committee finds new ways to invest in our campus community, just as the individuals who preceded us have done. Throughout the Spring 2010 Semester, the Class Gift Committee was present at sporting and campus events, actively generating opportunities for giving.

Performing Arts major Josh Chipponeri ’11 has been a Class Gift Committee Member since 2008. At Pacific, Josh has played for the Lacrosse team and enjoys organizing events that provide artistic opportunities for others. One day he hopes to be an actor, write scripts and own a theater company. Josh says that he loves Pacific because of the many leadership opportunities available to students.
Meet Bob Berryman

Bob Berryman ’83 is the current chair of the Pacific Fund Advisory Board. Berryman took on the role three years ago when the board was first formed.

“I wanted to take a leadership position to help ensure a solid foundation was created that would allow the Pacific Fund to grow and thrive in the future, because the Pacific Fund significantly supplements the Pacific experience,” Berryman explains.

Berryman’s own Pacific experience was filled with a wide range of organizational involvement and activities. He served as a student advisor, as editor-in-chief of the Epoch yearbook and belonged to the Omega Phi Alpha fraternity.

“Traveling to Kenya for a winter term class to study the ecology of East Africa was a highlight of my Pacific experience,” Berryman recalls, “but my most meaningful experiences centered on academic relationships with professors in a liberal arts setting. The freedom to learn and make mistakes is a precious experience that is hard to replicate later in life.”

In his professional life, Berryman represents The Regents of the University of California in real estate matters, negotiating contracts such as leases and licenses on behalf of the University of California at San Francisco. He has been active in San Francisco commercial real estate since 1989, and has been with UCSF since 1992.

Berryman tries to keep a good balance between his busy professional life, his family and his many volunteer activities. He chooses to work with the Pacific Fund because it is a channel for alumni to directly contribute to experiences that enhance learning and create opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

“I make the time to stay connected to Pacific, because quality, higher education is important to me. Today’s students will be tomorrow’s leaders, so I make it a priority to share my skills and experiences to help the University.” Berryman says.