Patrick McDowell ’81 COP entered Pacific as an English major, bent on becoming the next Hemingway. While honing his writing skills with English professors Charles Clerc, Arlen Hansen and Robert Knighton, however, McDowell soon realized novel writing was not his passion after all. It was the opportunity to write for and then become the editor of The Pacifican that opened the door to what eventually became a life-on-the-edge career in international journalism.

Today McDowell is the Southeast Asia Bureau Chief for the Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones Newswires, where he handles leading news coverage for 10 countries from his home base in Jakarta, Indonesia. Over the course of his 34-year career, he has been at the frontlines of some of the most pivotal events of our time.

McDowell was working for a local paper in Fairfield, California, when he received a Rotary fellowship to go abroad to London. That experience helped him secure his first position with the Associated Press in Paris, where he covered the post-Cold War restructuring of Europe, the rise of Islamic parties in North Africa and the U.S intervention in Haiti.

Another turning point came when he was sent in to cover the genocide in Rwanda with nothing but a backpack and $1,000 cash. After that, he knew he would never be satisfied at the average daily news desk. He snapped up an opportunity to go to the South Africa bureau, where he witnessed the changes there under newly elected President Nelson Mandela after the fall of apartheid.

Since 1996, except for a two-year stint in Chicago, he has spent most of his time working in Southeast Asia, covering news from Iraq to the Philippines. He was shaken awake December 26, 2004, by the magnitude 9.1 earthquake centered in the Indian Ocean that triggered a massive tsunami. He coordinated award-winning coverage from his base as AP’s chief Asia editor in Bangkok, Thailand, of one of the most devastating natural disasters in modern history, responsible for an estimated 230,000 deaths in 14 countries. Most recently, he’s covered the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 and the string of recent plane accidents across Southeast Asia.

It’s been a roller coaster ride through history from one of the best seats in the car.

— By Sheri Grimes
Greetings
Fellow Tigers,

In February I had the honor of presiding over the 2015 Pacific Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Awards. The Association inducted a stellar crop of alumni, which included a decorated military officer, an Emmy award winning documentarian, a real estate titan and University supporter, and an outstanding young alumnus world changer. We also awarded two esteemed Pacificans the title of “Honorary Alumnus.” This event continues to showcase the best and brightest of Pacific and is a grand celebration we look forward to every year. (See Page 30 for more details about the Distinguished Alumni Awards).

For me, the highlight of the Awards weekend was an intimate opening dinner where the award recipients were invited to select someone to recognize with the “Pacifican Who Changed My Life” honor. Hearing the stories of these great Pacificans and how they mentored or influenced the lives of our award winners was inspirational and moving. The bonds that were established, in most cases many years ago, remain intact and flourish. People truly are what make Pacific such a special place.

As we move into spring there is a palpable excitement on campus as the seniors prepare for graduation. The Pacific Alumni Association will host a series of events for graduates this spring, including an introduction to wine tasting, a panel discussion about post-college fashion, and the annual Grad Party. We look forward to celebrating these new alumni at the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House and inducting them into the Pacific Alumni Association.

It’s a great day to be a Tiger!

Ciao,

Franz Vaiarello ’74 COP
President, Pacific Alumni Association

Changes in the Office of Alumni Relations:

Congratulations to Kelli (Williams) Page ’87 who has been at the helm of the Office of Alumni Relations for the past year. With the retirement of Bill Coen in December 2014, Kelli officially assumed responsibility for all facets of Pacific’s alumni relations efforts.

In other alumni staffing news, Janice Wagner has been selected as the new Alumni Relations Director. She comes to Pacific with more than a decade of experience in alumni relations for her alma mater, Westmont College in Santa Barbara.

Becky (Curry) Perry ’01, ’09, COP, alumni communications coordinator, has left the Alumni Relations team after seven years to pursue a new entrepreneurial venture in the wine industry. The Office of Alumni Relations looks forward to expanding our team in the coming months.

Board of Directors
Ned Collins ’97 COP
Diane (Nieto) Dwyer ’85 PHS
Margaret (Peers) Frederickson ’66 PHS
Scott Gerbert ’90 COP
Stacey Hagen ’00 COP
Shanti Halter ’01 LAW
Matthew Hoffman ’03 ENG
Venilde Jeronimo ’90 SIS
Elizabeth MacNab ’01, ’02 EDU

Dick McClure ’78 COP
Erin (Westfall) Mettler ’01 COP
Danna (Baldwin) Moreno ’74 ECC
Mary Pietanza ’66 BUS
Grant Reeder ’86 BUS
Mohammed Waqar Rizvi ’02 BUS
La Nor (Miller) Smith ’86 BUS
Anne (Cover) Teutsch ’85 BUS
Robert Webster ’59 BUS
South Bay Alumni Pacific Club
Alumni Association Board Member Venilde Jeronimo ’90 SIS hosted 25 alumni and friends in her Mountain View home for a holiday reception featuring wine donated by alumni vintner Brad Loos ’86 COP of Loos Family Winery.

Regional Event Sacramento
More than 80 alumni and family members relived the magical journey of the Polar Express at this popular alumni holiday activity at the Sacramento Railroad Museum.

Khmer Student Coalition Conference
Several alumni, including Varaxy Yi Borromeo ’08 COP, ’08 BUS, Callyan Y ’07 COP and Sammie Bou ’07 BUS, presented workshops at the Khmer Student Coalition Conference in November organized by Pacific’s Cambodian Student Association and attended by more than 100 students from throughout the West Coast.

San Diego Alumni Pacific Club
Dozens of alumni gathered at the Jenny Craig Pavilion to cheer on the men’s basketball team against the University of San Diego on Feb. 12.

Alumni Review

Monterey Bay Alumni Pacific Club
Alumni celebrated the holiday season in the tasting room at Dawn’s Dream Winery in Carmel with delicious appetizers paired with wines from Galante Vineyards, owned by Jack Galante ’82 BUS. Club members also donated batteries to Toys for Tots to power up donated toys.

San Joaquin Alumni Pacific Club
Alumni enjoyed a quick “chalk talk” from Women’s Basketball Assistant Coach Amy VanHollebeke at a pre-game reception for alumni on Jan. 24 at the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House followed by an exciting game against the top-ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs.

Black Alumni Pacific Club
Alumni were very busy planning and promoting Pacific’s Black History Month celebration in February, themed “A Century of Black Life, History and Culture.” The annual GospelFest concert featuring gospel music legends the Clark Sisters and Anthony Brown and Group Therapy culminated the month-long celebration.

Latino Alumni Pacific Club
Nearly 100 alumni and friends gathered for a delicious dinner at the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House on Jan. 10 before cheering on the Tigers men’s basketball team at the Alex G. Spanos Center against the St. Mary’s Gaels. The event was co-sponsored by the Latino Alumni Pacific Club and Pacific’s Latino Outreach program.

Half Century Club
Staff member Tyrone Wise II ’14 COP gave an overview of the services available through the Pacific Veteran Services Office for Pacific student military veterans during the Half Century Club’s December luncheon.
Alumni Return to the Classroom

Every semester Pacific alumni return to campus, enriching the lives and educational experience of current Pacific students. They bring inspiration as guest speakers, contribute real-world savvy and expertise to classrooms, help students practice their interview skills, and much more.

MacGregor Read ’93, co-CEO of Grocery Outlet, with his co-CEO Eric Lindberg, were the featured speakers for the Eberhardt School of Business Pacific Business Forum in November. As a business leader of the discount grocery chain with more than 210 independently owned stores, Read gave students an inside look at this growing business sector. Matt de la Peña ’96 also returned to Pacific as a guest speaker in November, sharing his journey from Pacific student-athlete to bestselling author. Earlier that day, he spoke to students in a creative writing class.

Distinguished Alumni Award winners Jim Mair ’68, Chris Schueler ’78, Paula Brown ’82, Outstanding Young Alumnus Grant Ennis ’07 and Pacifican who changed my life Dean Butler ’79 were among the alumni who added to students’ classroom experience in recent months by sharing their expertise and life experiences.

Several alumni, including Brad Le Du ’77, ’79 of Chevron, Phu Nguyen ’06 of New York Life, Dioscelda Doria ’04 of Randstad, Troy McKinley ’03, ’04 of Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Company, Marquis White ’14 of Aerotek, and Lindsay Lovett ’04 of Ross Stores Inc. were on campus in February to participate in the Career Resource Center’s “Meet Your Future” mock interview event. They conducted mock interviews with students and provided feedback to help them improve their skills and confidence for future success.

To get involved: pacificalumni@pacific.edu | 866.575.7229

Book Your Holiday Events Now

It’s not too early to book your holiday events at the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House.

Contact Mary Ann Plana Chapman at 209.946.2391
Honoring Our
DISTINGUISHED
Alumni and Faculty MENTORS

These honorees of the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards exemplify Pacific’s proud history of innovation and diversity. Through their professional endeavors, public service and dedication to the University, they personify the spirit of excellence that is Pacific.

Faculty members who have played an extraordinary role as lifelong mentors of Pacific students and alumni, who encourage alumni to mentor current students, are also honored each year by the Pacific Alumni Association. The 2014 Faculty Mentor Award winners are truly professors who know your name.

Distinguished Alumni

Paula C. Brown ’82 ENG
Distinguished Alumni Award Professional Service

Paula Brown grew up dreaming of being a captain in the U.S. Navy. After rising to command the U.S. Navy Seabees 30th Construction Regiment in Iraq during 2005–06, Commander Brown exceeded her dreams while blazing new trails for career Navy women when she was promoted to the rank of 2-star rear admiral.

Grant W. A. Ennis ’07 SIS
Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Grant Ennis graduated from Pacific as a fully engaged citizen of the world. Seven years later, Grant spearheads economic and humanitarian relief services for people struggling to survive in the world’s most dangerous places, including Syria, Iraq, Honduras and East Africa.

James D. Mair ’68 BUS
Distinguished Alumni Award University Service

For half a century Jim Mair, his children and grandchildren have shared the Pacific experience. In his role as Regent, Jim has devoted his energy, time and treasure to the goal of enhancing Pacific’s position as one of the leading private universities in the West, most recently through the transformational evolution of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry and the new San Francisco campus.

Jon Christopher Schueler ’78 COP
Distinguished Alumni Award Public Service

Building on his multi-faceted academic and performing career at Pacific, Chris Schueler produces award winning documentaries on today’s most challenging health and lifestyle issues with the goal of empowering today’s youth to live healthy, productive lives.
Gary Martin ’86
Since coming to Pacific in 1983, Gary Martin has been providing guidance to Pacific students in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, first as director of the Co-op Program for more than 25 years, and now as assistant dean and professor. He says his primary goal is to help each student recognize and reach their capacity as both a student and a person. He enjoys listening to students’ stories and challenges and finds joy and satisfaction in helping them reach solutions. In Martin, students have a mentor who continues to provide personal attention and support whenever needed.
“His motivation, constant communication, and long hours of checking on my progress helped me complete my degree,” said Luis Torres ’97. “He knows me as student, person, parent and professional. He becomes part of your family and you always know that he is just a phone call away.”
“Gary Martin has the ability to spend a little time with a student, see their potential, believe in what they can accomplish, and transmit that belief to the student. I saw this happen over and over and I experienced it myself,” said Keith Walker ’05, Pacific Alumni Association 2014 Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient.

Keith Hatschek
Keith Hastchek came to Pacific in 2001 from a very successful career in the music industry. As director of the Music Management Program in the Conservatory of Music, he daily imparts his substantial industry knowledge and experience and leverages his wide network of music professionals, including Pacific alumni, to benefit his students.
“I enjoy helping students prepare for lives that they want to live, doing what they want to do,” said Hatschek.
“Professor Hatschek always goes above and beyond for his students,” said Shannon Moore ’11 in her nomination letter.
“Between my junior and senior years, we pitched starting a music business on campus and learning how to run live sound. With Professor Hatschek’s assistance and guidance, Pac Ave Records is releasing music annually, and a live sound workshop has become a regular class. He guided me through my time at Pacific and still guides me now that I have graduated. The respect I hold for him is unparalleled,” said Moore.

William E. Coen
Over the past 14 years, he has been a key leader in the expansion and ongoing success of the Pacific Alumni Association and the Alumni Relations Office at University of the Pacific. Bill Coen oversaw the reorganization of the Pacific Alumni Association Board of Directors, provided leadership in the development of new programming, and championed the construction of the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House.

Peter Ottesen
Honorary Alumni Award
His devotion to the University is both extraordinary and inspiring. It is built upon his lifelong connection to Stockton as well as his love for his wife, Alexandra Ottesen ’81 COP. Pete’s unwavering commitment to the Tigers is all the more exceptional because he himself never attended Pacific as a student.

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Alan Ray
Alan Ray, assistant professor of Communication, came to Pacific in 1987. He says his commitment to his students grew out of the compassion he had for them personally. Every student has a different story and he loves to listen to them and learn about the challenges each faces, not just in the classroom, but in their daily lives.
Arabella di Bagno Guidi ’05 nominated Ray because of his commitment and never-ending mentoring of his students and alumni.
“He listens to his students and adjusts his curriculum to meet our interests and needs,” said di Bagno Guidi.
He also helps his current students learn to network with Pacific alumni, whom he continues to mentor long after graduation. Ray’s former students—who are now in various entertainment, news and public relations positions—are providing some of the most powerful mentoring experiences to current students, and he does not hesitate to put his students in touch with them.