Doing Our Part

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Doing Our Part

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I recently celebrated my first Commencement as Pacific’s 24th President. What a splendid event. Dr. Don Shalvey of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (and co-founder of Aspire Public Schools) delivered the commencement address, and I have never heard one as meaningful or inspiring! The Commencement weekend gave me a powerful sense of just how extraordinary our students are. I was stirred by the enthusiasm of their families and friends as they proudly cheered their loved ones’ accomplishments.

Since then, I have been reflecting on the power of ceremony to bring us together to honor and affirm important events and relationships. The Commencement ceremony paid tribute to our students’ hard work and achievement. It also marked the end of their time at Pacific and the beginning of their lives out in the world.

This year has been full of meaningful ceremony at Pacific. The Inauguration ceremony in March, with its powerful symbolism, united all of us in a commitment to work together, through thick and thin, to assure that Pacific remains an excellent, strong and principled university with a bright future.

This year, the University honored me with an Inaugural Series, events that celebrate the rich strengths and history of the University. The “John Muir: Naturalist and Scientist” symposium and the 2010 Brubeck Jazz Festival spoke to Pacific’s remarkable heritage and our priorities. Our multicultural performing arts show, “Colors of Rhythm and Rhyme,” celebrated the talent and rich diversity within our student body and our community. Finally, “Pioneering Diversity and Strengthening Community” connected us to the Stockton community and allowed us to consider how we can better serve our local population in the future.

I am enormously thankful to everyone who planned and participated in these events. This year of rituals has helped us define what it means to be a Pacifican. I look forward to next year, as we draw on that identity to forge new and exciting paths for our University.

Visit my website at www.Pacific.edu/President or find me on Facebook.

I welcome your ideas at president@pacific.edu
From Our Readers …

FROM FALL 2009

A Very Personal Connection

I was pleased to see the article about Calliope in the fall 2009 Pacific Review. My daughter, Katherine C. Quyle, was a first-year student in 1970. By that time she was already an accomplished printer. She and her two sisters had the Pigtail Press. Katherine printed an earlier Calliope in her senior year of high school, a collection of poems and short stories from her classmates. She hand-set all of the type and printed it on her press. It was the first printed book done at Calaveras High School.

Copies of this book were shown to her English professor at Pacific, and they decided to do an expanded version. The resulting book involved more students, not only in creative writing and artwork, but also in printing and binding. It was a labor of love on Katherine’s part. She did the actual printing. Calliope had just reached the bookstore when Katherine lost her life.

— Paul Quyle ’48

While researching Calliope for Back in Time, I found that the 1971 issue had been dedicated to Katherine. I spoke with one of the editorial staff of that issue, who remembered her as a wonderful young lady with a bright and vibrant spirit. Her untimely death was a tragic loss. (Calliope celebrated 40 years in 2010. Mr. Quyle’s letter, which is excerpted here, is printed in its entirety in that issue. Copies are available through the Pacific Humanities Center.) — Ed.

FROM WINTER 2010

The Part of Ourselves We’re Afraid Of

I was reading Pacific Review magazine and came upon the very nice article “The Part of Ourselves We’re Afraid Of” by Victor Inzunza ’12. It reminded me of Karina S. Lau who had attended Pacific some years ago. I keep a newspaper article about her in my notebook so as to remember her now and then… that she paid the supreme sacrifice in Iraq.

— Rodney Inefuku, Pacific Parent

Karina S. Lau ’05, age 20, was one of 16 Army soldiers killed when their helicopter was attacked on November 2, 2003. — Ed.

On Visiting Venezuela

I was surprised to read about Pacific’s involvement with Venezuela. I was not shocked that our Conservatory is working with the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra: one of the most amazing and inspired groups of young people on the planet, led by the greatest young conductor in the world. What was disturbing was that there was no mention of the more important reasons to bring this talent to Pacific: to remove them from a country where the arts have been pillaged and the voice of the people muted and punished. There are thousands of instances where President Hugo Chavez and his party have destroyed valuable national resources and treasures, moving that nation back decades in progress and industry. Keep in mind that all politicians and appointees (including justices) pledge allegiance to the Party and Chavez. This should be the reason that Pacific is opening up a relationship with the youth of Venezuela. It should not be assumed that our great alma mater embraces Venezuela’s policies.

— Brady Norvall ’03, ’04

Remembering Elizabeth Spelts

I missed seeing a notice in the current Pacific Review of the passing of Elizabeth Spelts, an esteemed member of the music faculty for many years. She was the best teacher of singing I ever had! I hope the next issue will have an article about her.

— Leila Kelly ’62

Two longtime Conservatory faculty members, Elizabeth Spelts and Stanworth Beckler, are remembered in this issue on page 43. — Ed.

We’d like to hear from you!

Pacific Review welcomes signed letters of 200 words or less from readers. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Please send correspondence to:

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