PACIFIC RECEIVES A+ for Advancing Literacy and Education

University of the Pacific’s Beyond Our Gates community outreach was recognized by two community organizations for efforts to improve the lives of children and advance literacy in San Joaquin County.

Literacy organization San Joaquin A+ recognized the Beyond Our Gates initiative for rallying the community’s attention, energy and resources around the common goal of improved early literacy. The University-led initiative has developed an annual literacy report card, launched a free grant-assistance program and hosted a series of public dialogues, among other accomplishments.

The organization also honored three other members of the Pacific family: Emeritus Professor Robert Morrow was recognized as a Champion of Literacy; Janet Yarbrough ’87, ’88, administrator of the STEP Up after school program in Stockton Unified School District, received the School District Literacy Leadership Award; and Lilian Guerra ’96, ELA instructional coach at King Elementary School, received the School Administrator in Literacy Award.

The Beyond Our Gates Community Council, which meets several times each year and currently is working to develop new initiatives in the area of education, also received the Action on Behalf of Children (ABC) Award for its efforts in San Joaquin County this past year. The ABC Awards are presented annually by the Family Resource and Referral Center of San Joaquin to honor individuals and organizations whose efforts improve the lives of children and families in San Joaquin County. Emeritus Professor Morrow also received an ABC Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Expanding International Influence

A new legal immersion program in Uganda and educational exchange programs that brought visitors to Pacific from Turkey and China add to Pacific’s widening international scope.

Pacific McGeorge School of Law launched a new legal immersion program in Uganda last summer that included classroom instruction and internships with judges in the Ugandan High Court. Professor Linda Carter conceived and directed the three-week program developed in partnership with the International Law Institute–African Centre for Legal Excellence based in Kampala. Eleven Pacific McGeorge students participated, and 12 Ugandan law students took part in the seminar portion of the program.

Also last summer, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry hosted a group of dental students from Hacettepe University Faculty of Dentistry in Ankara, Turkey, who came to learn about U.S. dental programs, observe clinics and meet with students and faculty. On the Stockton campus, nearly two dozen graduate students from Communications University of China in Beijing attended the Pacific International Journalism Institute, which included sessions on modern Western and American journalism and tours of a newspaper newsroom, a television news studio, a radio news studio and the state capitol.

Turkish dental students visited the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry during the last two weeks of July to observe and learn about U.S. dental programs and clinics.
University of the Pacific is ranked No. 8 among California colleges and universities for providing a learning atmosphere dedicated to personal attention and individual success for students, according to The College Database. At Pacific, the average class has 13 students.

“It’s important for students to find schools where they can easily converse with professors and peers, and where even introductory lecture classes make individual attention a priority,” said Wes Ricketts, vice president and general manager of The College Database.

The average Pacific graduate earns $1,029,000 during his or her career for a net investment of $27,766, as calculated by AffordableCollegesOnline.org. That puts Pacific in the No. 40 spot, just ahead of Amherst, among private colleges nationwide that offer a million-dollar return on investment (ROI).

Pacific is among the “post-secondary juggernauts that continually graduate young professionals who earn top dollar over the course of their careers,” according to the organization.

In its 2013 rankings, Best Colleges listed University of the Pacific as the 31st most “amazing” campus in the country, citing the beauty of the Stockton campus. The rankings note that Pacific “not only operates as a top institution in California, but also a make-shift movie set.” Films that have used the Stockton campus as a backdrop include Raiders of the Lost Ark and The Sure Thing.

In its August rankings, the Sierra Club placed Pacific 65th among 164 colleges for commitment to sustainability. The University scored especially high in the “innovation” category—earning 40 out of a possible 40 points. The University’s sustainable innovations include programs that emphasize sustainability for incoming and first-year students and its Tomorrow Project, which offers students opportunities to work with children and families in Stockton through joint projects with private, public and nonprofit community partners.
The Conservatory of Music has achieved a 100 percent placement rate of its Music Education Program graduates for more than 16 years, and 2013 was no different. All graduates of the program have secured employment in teaching or full-time performance positions, or have been accepted into graduate school after graduation. Program director Ruth Brittin cites the broad preparation students receive as a key factor in their success. The faculty also take an active role in guiding students toward the next step in their careers, whether to a prestigious graduate program or into a teaching position.

Graduates are teaching everything from elementary school general music to high school band or vocal music programs throughout California and the United States. “The experience I received from Pacific allowed me to start this job prepared and confident to teach all areas of music, and allowed me to get a job that I love,” Heather Walkover ’12 said.

A $25,000 grant from Verizon is helping the Pacific Women’s Resource Center (WRC) create a broad-based, community-wide program to educate students about dating and domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The Student-to-Student Healthy Relationships Peer Education Program will use workshops, events, trainings and mentoring to promote healthy and safe relationships.

The program was developed based on research that demonstrates the effectiveness of peer-to-peer models. The Verizon grant will support the program operation and provide iPads for the peer educators to use in presenting workshops.

The WRC will collaborate with the San Joaquin County District Attorney’s Office and the Women’s Center Youth and Family Services in Stockton to develop curriculum and present workshops and trainings. The WRC will train 10 full-time students as peer educators, who will present workshops and mentor students seeking support.
Eight University of the Pacific students were selected to receive a James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship for the 2013–14 academic year. The author established the scholarships as renewable $6,000 awards for college students who wish to become teachers and who will instill in their students an enduring love of reading.

Award recipients Denise Amaya, Ellen Dettman, Taylor Dorsey, Rebekah Goldman, McCale Guilfoile, Xiao Di Li, Jennifer Montemayor, and Timothy Shumate are full-time freshman who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career as an elementary or secondary school teacher.

For the past decade, Patterson has been championing books and reading through efforts such as the James Patterson Page-Turner Awards, the website ReadKiddoRead.com, and regular donations of books to schools in the U.S. and to troops overseas. In 2013 alone, the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarships program awarded more than $1 million to students at colleges and universities around the country. University of the Pacific is the first West Coast institution of higher education to be included in the program.
These examples of ongoing grant-funded research show how Pacific faculty are advancing scientific understanding. They represent just a few of the many opportunities available for Pacific students to gain valuable research experience.

Exploring Diversity

Biology professor Ryan Hill is a co-researcher on a five-year, $2 million collaborative grant from the National Science Foundation through the Dimensions in Biodiversity Program that aims to shed light on the causes of biodiversity. Hill and researchers from four other institutions will investigate the biological mechanisms that drive biodiversity in American Limenitidini butterflies, through comprehensive field and genetic studies. In the face of mass extinctions due to human activity, new insights into how species evolve could be more valuable than ever. Understanding how new species are generated and what factors are critical to maintaining species diversity can better inform conservation efforts.

Understanding the Role of Energy in Chemical Processes

Chemistry Professor Balint Sztaray received a three-year, $403,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to research the thermochemistry of molecules and radicals that have combustion or atmospheric relevance. Characterizing the energy content of molecules and fragments involved in combustion provides the foundation for building predictive models for chemical processes. Experiments will be conducted at Pacific and on highly specialized spectroscopic equipment at the Swiss Light Source (SLS) synchrotron in Villigen, Switzerland. This research will provide some of the most accurate numbers on a variety of systems involved in combustion or atmospheric processes.

Two Pacific students accompanied Dr. Sztaray to help conduct research at SLS in 2009.

Understanding the Properties of Proteins

Chemistry Professor Jianhua Ren is the principal investigator on a three-year, $351,500 National Science Foundation grant to investigate the conformational effects on the gas-phase acidities of important biopolymers. The ultimate goal is to develop better models for understanding the acid-base properties of proteins. Both undergraduate and graduate students will be involved in the project and will receive training in biological mass spectrometry.
New Program Enhances Clinical Experience—Gives Graduates a Competitive Edge

Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences recently launched a new two-year combined Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Fellowship in Pharmacy Practice. The program includes clinical experience similar to a residency, experience working in an academic pharmacy and with geriatrics, and a thesis research project with a clinical or pharmacoeconomic emphasis. The program was developed to attract high-achieving students looking for a strong postgraduate experience that will enhance their competitive position in the job market.

Two PharmD students, Craig Barker ’14 and Yvonne Mai ’14, were selected as inaugural candidates and started the program last fall.

Student STAND-OUTS

Madelaine Matej ’16
Glenn Miller Vocal Scholarship

Conservatory of Music performance major Madelaine Matej ’16 won the 2013 Glenn Miller Birthplace Society (GMBS) Ray Eberle Vocal Scholarship at the 38th Annual Glenn Miller Festival in Clarinda, Iowa, in June. The festival draws music lovers, entertainers and bands from around the world. Matej placed first in a pool of 53 participants in the vocal competition and performed with other finalists in the festival's stage show. She studies voice with Professor Dan Ebbers.

Lauren Epperson ’14
RESPy Award

Pharmacy student Lauren Epperson ’14 was recognized as the September 2013 Respect, Excellence, and Service in Pharmacy (RESPy) Award winner by Pharmacy Times. Eight RESPy award winners are chosen each year and featured in Pharmacy Times along with their respective college of pharmacy. RESPy winners receive a cash award and are also offered a summer internship with Walmart. Candidates are selected based on such things as public service activities, professional or public health-related activities outside the classroom, and efforts to advance the profession of pharmacy. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Epperson has been active in the Drug Awareness Committee, Medicare Part D outreach and the Phi Lambda Sigma pharmacy leadership society.

Jason Jung ’16
EPA Fellowship

Engineering student Jason Jung ’16 was awarded a 2013 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Greater Research Opportunities Fellowship. The fellowship provides financial support up to $20,700 per academic year for the junior and senior years of undergraduate study and up to $8,600 of support for a three-month internship at an EPA facility during the summer of the junior year. Jung credits the tremendous support of professors Mary Kay Camarillo and William Stringfellow and his involvement with Pacific’s Ecological Engineering Research Program (EERP) for helping him cultivate his passion for environmental research and for his successful candidacy for the EPA fellowship. Jung has worked in the EERP lab since his freshman year and has participated in projects related to agriculture, biomass energy and water quality in the San Joaquin River. Last summer Jung conducted research on carbon storage in wetland soil at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge located near Los Banos, Calif.
Sacramento News

McGeorge Summer Salzburg Program Sizzled with Two Supreme Court Justices

Since 1974, Salzburg, Austria, has been the site of Pacific McGeorge's annual Summer Program on International Legal Studies. The program offers international and comparative law courses in public and commercial law fields.

This summer, students were lucky to learn from not just one but two justices from the nation's highest court. Justice Anthony Kennedy, a long-time member of McGeorge's faculty, has taught in the summer program for all but one of the past 23 years. His Supreme Court colleague Elena Kagan joined him in Salzburg in her first time teaching for the program.

Kennedy taught Constitutional Law as a McGeorge professor from 1965 until his appointment to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. Kagan, appointed to her post in 2009 by President Barack Obama, is only the fourth female justice to serve on the Supreme Court. Previously, she was Dean of Harvard Law School and Solicitor General of the United States.

“Who can forget the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to personally converse with Supreme Court Justice Kennedy and Supreme Court Justice Kagan!” — Erika Lewis ’16.

McGeorge Summer Salzburg Program Sizzled with Two Supreme Court Justices

McGeorge Receives Education Award from Ninth Circuit

Pacific McGeorge School of Law was awarded the 2013 Ninth Circuit ADR Education Award in recognition of its long history of promoting education in Alternative Dispute Resolution and its impact in the community. The award was created in 2004 to recognize ABA-accredited law schools in the Ninth Circuit that have demonstrated a commitment to advancing education in the field of ADR.

McGeorge was recognized for its wide spectrum of coursework and services to promote alternative solutions for dispute resolution, such as its Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution, which operates the Prisoner Civil Rights Mediation Clinic and the Housing Mediation Clinic. In addition to educational opportunities, these programs have made significant contributions in the community in providing effective mediation services.

McGeorge Professor Cited Among Best Law Teachers in New Book

The recent Harvard University Press book What the Best Law Teachers Do names Pacific McGeorge Professor Cary Bricker among the best law teachers in the United States. The book is the culmination of a four-year study that sought to identify extraordinary law teachers. It details the attributes and practices of 26 professors who have a significant, positive and long-term effect on their students.

“They get to know their students as people and manifest caring and respect for their students.” — author Gerry Hess

The study selected professors who are inspiring role models and who carefully prepare their students to practice law and mentor them, helping them find jobs and make career choices even long after the students have graduated.

“All of the teachers we studied are regarded as being among the most rigorous professors at their law schools who have high expectations of every student, yet they also are known for their kindness to their students,” said Gonzaga law professor Gerry Hess, one of the book’s three coauthors. “They foster self-confidence in their students and inspire in them a belief that they are capable of great things. They get to know their students as people and manifest caring and respect for their students. These teachers model hard work, creativity and humility.”
Dental Helix Curriculum Showcased as a Model

A new case study published in the Journal of Dental Education, the premier publication for academic dentistry, showcases Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry's Pacific Dental Helix Curriculum as an innovative model of curriculum reform. American dental educators, spurred by the American Dental Education Association, have advocated for major curriculum reform that will prepare students with higher-order thinking skills required for contemporary dentistry.

University of the Pacific’s curriculum, which uses case-based, integrated, multidisciplinary courses to improve teaching and learning, is on the forefront of innovation in this important area.

Museum of Dentistry Going Virtual

A virtual museum project will soon provide greater access to artifacts in the A.W. Ward Museum of Dentistry. Founded in 1974 in honor of the class of 1902 alumnus who was a pioneer of surgical periodontics, the museum contains historic dental furniture, equipment, products, books, photographs, films and documents. Mostly donated by alumni, they primarily date from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s.

Each object is being photographed specifically for interactive digital presentation in kiosks that will be positioned at various locations in the dental school’s new campus.

The creation of a digital museum was conceived by Dean Patrick J. Ferrillo, Jr., who suggested it as an efficient way of making the museum’s artifacts—most of which have been in storage for many years—more accessible to a larger audience.

Launch of New Postgraduate Program in Endodontontology

Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry will launch a new Advanced Education Program in Endodontontology this summer.

The rigorous 27-month program is designed to provide in-depth clinical training built on a solid foundation of biomedical science and will lead to a master of science degree and a certificate in endodontics.

Program director Dr. Ove Peters and his team have created a balanced curriculum to prepare residents for the American Board of Endodontics certification process. The start of the program will coincide with the school’s move to the new San Francisco campus in July 2014.

Pipeline Grant Will Advance Diversity in Dentistry

A grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of nearly $800,000 will support the second phase of the Dental Pipeline National Learning Institute (NLI) founded by the Pacific Center for Special Care at Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry.

For more than a decade, the dental education community’s Dental Pipeline effort has sought to address limited access to oral care in underserved populations by recruiting and admitting dental students from underrepresented communities.

The NLI was established to continue to increase recruitment and retention within those underserved communities. The new funding will support the pairing of 10 schools with community partners to collaborate on a community-based education or recruitment project.