2009 Commencement Signifies Transition for DeRosa

In his Commencement address, President Don DeRosa identified himself with the Class of 2009, referring to his retirement in June 2009. At the ceremony, the University awarded DeRosa the Order of Pacific, which recognizes members of the Pacific community for distinguished service and outstanding contributions to the University over a number of years. The Presidency of Don DeRosa and his wife Karen has been described as transformational, marked by the creation of distinctive, nationally ranked programs; elevated national visibility; increased student selectivity; higher enrollment; a dramatic improvement in university financial strength — including the completion of a $330 million comprehensive campaign and more than tripling the University’s endowment — and the expansion of student leadership programs, community partnerships and sustainability initiatives. [1]

In October, the new university center was formally named the Don and Karen DeRosa University Center in their honor. [2]

At the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in November, the Pacific Alumni Association made the DeRosas Honorary Alumni. [3]

Regents, alumni, friends, family, faculty, staff and students paid tribute to President Don and Karen DeRosa at a special celebration in April 2009. As of July 1, 2009, Don DeRosa became President Emeritus and will continue to work with the University on strategic initiatives such as the Brubeck Institute and the Powell Fund.
As I move into the position of President of this wonderful university, I feel fortunate to be able to build on the foundation put in place through the outstanding and transformational leadership of my predecessor, Don DeRosa.

This past year, as the Pacific community celebrated the accomplishments of President DeRosa’s 14-year tenure, the University continued to advance in enrollment, the development of strategic initiatives and distinctive academic programs, and the growth and enhancement of its facilities.

Pacific hit record undergraduate admissions and enrollment levels this fall with the most freshmen applicants, enrolled freshmen and overall enrollment. Freshman selectivity improved to 42%, from 69% the previous year, and the average SAT score jumped 28 points to 1189. Latino freshman enrollment increased from 11% to 14%.

We continued to implement Pacific Rising, our strategic plan emphasizing distinctiveness, innovation and collaboration. Pacific launched the Powell Scholars program, established the Center for Social and Emotional Competence and developed a new master’s program in Engineering Science. We expanded international partnerships, began an innovation grant program and increased sustainability initiatives.

Pacific’s financial foundation remained sound despite the financial crisis. Though the University’s endowment decreased $39 million, or 18% of its value, we ended the fiscal year with a budget surplus for the 13th straight year. The DeRosa University Center and the Biological Sciences Center opened; construction began on the John T. Chambers Technology Center and the Janssen-Lagorio Gymnasium; and infrastructure improvements were completed at the San Francisco campus.

Pacific is a great university with exceptional promise due to the tremendous leadership of President DeRosa and the strength of its board, faculty, staff and donors. Thank you for being a part of what makes Pacific so strong.
Pacific Preview Day, on November 15, 2008, at which prospective students explore University of the Pacific, broke all attendance records with more than 2,000 prospective students and their families, more than doubling previous attendance for this event. [1]

University of the Pacific received the inaugural Excellence in Institutional Innovation and Integration Award from the Society for College and University Planning. Pacific was chosen because of its strategic plan “Pacific Rising.”

Pacific’s Society of Women Engineers took first place at the Boeing Team Tech competition, earning a prize of $5,000, for their touch screen communication device for the speech impaired. The project was a collaboration with United Cerebral Palsy. They donated the device to a UCP client, who is now able to communicate clearly with the touch of a button. [2]

Vice President for Student Life Elizabeth Griego was elected President of NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education — at the organization’s annual conference in March. NASPA has 11,000 members representing 1,400 campuses in 29 countries. At the conference, President DeRosa received the President’s Award, NASPA’s highest recognition for college and university presidents.

Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry entered into an exchange program with the Faculty of Dentistry at Pharos University in Alexandria, Egypt to foster academic and professional exchange and help Pharos achieve an international standard of excellence in undergraduate dental education. Two groups of faculty and students visited the dental school in summer 2009 to visit classes, participate in seminars and review procedures and practices in the school’s clinics. [3]

The Benerd School of Education partnered with the San Joaquin County Office of Education to save an intensive math summer program designed for children of migrant workers. The Jose Valdes Math Institute, which serves more than 80 local seventh and eighth graders, was cut by Stockton Unified School District due to state budget cuts after more than 20 years of existence. The early intervention program aims to reduce the risk of students dropping out of school and prepare them for the high-school math curriculum.

Jared Diamond

Team members: (standing, left to right) Gwendolyn Upson ’09, Jennifer Russell ’09, Olga Sirovskaya ’09; (seated) Tiffany Mateo ’09, Joyce Opiniano ’09 and Megan Kalend ’09.
Pacific Professor and Associate Dean of Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Don Floriddia ’71 was inducted into the California Pharmacists Association Hall of Fame.

Pacific McGeorge hosted the first-ever sitting of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in Sacramento in October. Chief Judge Alex Kozinski and Judges Sidney Thomas and Consuelo Callahan ’75 (a Pacific Regent) heard the appeals of two decisions from U.S. District Courts. More than 300 students and faculty members observed the hearing and participated in a session following the session.

Pacific was awarded a competitive grant from USAID and HED in partnership with universities in Rwanda and Uganda to develop a feasibility study for the development of entrepreneurship programs in those countries. Pacific was one of only 20 U.S. universities chosen for the $50,000 grant out of some 300 applicants. As part of the study, the School of International Studies developed two online certificate programs in social entrepreneurship. Stockton banker and adjunct faculty member Joe Johnson taught a class in entrepreneurship in which students engaged in a business plan competition. Three of the 30 students in the class successfully launched small businesses while still in college and now earn money to support their families and their education.

Pacific launched its sustainability initiative with a comprehensive study of its policies and practices. Student Life launched a website to highlight Pacific’s position and role in advancing sustainability. The site showcases university administrative policies and operational procedures geared toward increasing sustainability as well as environmental academic programs and research. Find out more at go.Pacific.edu/Sustainability.

Prominent speakers during the 2008-09 school year included Nobel Peace Prize-winner Rigoberta Menchú [5], former president of Columbia César Gaviria [6], Pulitzer Prize-winning author and scientist Jared Diamond [7], “Supersize Me” documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock [8] and actor and activist Danny Glover. [9]
Lifelong Giving Honors a Life-Changing Experience

Dick McClure ‘78 values the mentoring he received from his professors, his coach and his advisor at Pacific. “The faculty encouraged students to take classes outside of their major to allow for a well-rounded education,” he explained. McClure, who majored in communication, attributes much of his academic success to his advisor, Jan Timmons, who encouraged him to explore a wide variety of options.

“Without the encouragement to explore art, music and literature, I never would have ventured outside of my comfort zone,” he says. “Pacific was a life-changing experience for me.”

McClure has given back to Pacific beginning the year he graduated. His 67 gifts have supported a broad spectrum of projects and programs, including student scholarships, the Janssen-Lagorio Gymnasium, the Brubeck Institute and the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House.

“I have been giving back because of what the Pacific family did for me then, and continues to do for me now,” he says. Through his generosity, Dick McClure continues to support life-changing experiences for Pacific students. [1]

Honoring a Professor and a Father

Dr. Herbert Reinelt’s 40-year teaching career at Pacific went beyond the classroom to mentoring both students and new faculty members. The former professor and chair of the Philosophy Department was honored in 1995 with the Alex Spanos Award, recognizing his outstanding teaching career. Reinelt says his true reward was the respect and admiration of his students.

Reinelt’s commitment to education was passed along to his family, which includes Douglas Reinelt ’78, Jeanne Reinelt ’77, Lorin Reinelt ’82, Janelle Reinelt ’69 ’72, Elizabeth Day ’55, Steve West and Jim Payne. On the occasion of his 80th birthday, Reinelt’s family honored him by establishing The Reinelt Family Gift. The gift will be used to establish the Dr. Herbert Reinelt Endowed Humanities Scholarship to support undergraduate students in the humanities. The Reinelt Family Gift extends their father’s legacy for future generations. [2]

Leaving a Legacy in Support of Community

Eleanor Merz worked for the Bank of Stockton in the Trust Department for many years and developed a deep loyalty and affection for the Eberhardt family. Her estate had grown over the years through an increase in the value of stock in Union Safe
Deposit Bank, a gift from her uncle. In her later years, Merz decided to donate much of her estate to Stockton-area charities. Through the Eberhardt family, Merz learned about the Eberhardt School of Business and all that the school was doing for the community. She decided to commit $1 million, a significant portion of her estate, to the School. Merz’ gift provides a continuing benefit to the community. [3]

A Perfect Match
“Pacific prepared me to succeed,” says Jeff Peterson ’84, managing director of Northwestern Mutual Insurance in San Francisco. “During the early years of my career in particular, I realized that I received more than an education. I was mentored by individuals I admired and scholars who truly cared for their students.”

He also values the lifelong friendships he forged with his Omega Phi Alpha fraternity brothers. He decided to answer the Omega Phi Alpha Challenge to name the library in the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House. The library will provide a place for the traditions and legacies of the fraternity to be displayed and treasured.

Peterson also maximized his gift through Northwestern Mutual Foundation’s matching gift program. “This gift allowed me to double my contribution to the Omega Phi Alpha Library, and to help close the funding gap for the alumni house,” he said. “Most important, it allowed me to do something meaningful for the University that provided a superior education and prepared me for a successful career.” [4]

A Gift that Keeps on Giving
Alexandra and Peter Ottesen’s dedication to the profession of teaching and to education is evidenced by their nearly 60 combined years of service in the field of education.

Alexandra “Lexie” (Greene) Ottesen ’81, who taught at Stagg High School in Stockton, says, “It was my dream to create an educational legacy. I met so many promising students in my teaching career that would never have the funding to attend such a fine school as Pacific; I knew I could do something to change that!”

They established the Alexandra Greene and Peter Ottesen Endowed Scholarship at the Benerd School of Education, and over the past 11 years have added 38 gifts. The endowment value has increased more than 17 times, and the scholarships have already provided support for 12 students pursuing careers in education. [5]
The Pacific Fund was refocused in 2007–08, targeting undergraduate scholarships and the new Pacific Fund Grants Program. That year was a record year for annual giving with more than $1 million raised. In fall 2008, a portion of Pacific Fund dollars were distributed directly to faculty and students through Pacific Fund Grants ranging from $40 to $5,000. For 2008-09, fundraising for the Pacific Fund was nearly $940,000, with a record participation of 2,869 donors, even in the midst of a global financial crisis. [1]

Pacific Fund Founders
Pacific Fund Founders commit to investing in the Pacific Fund with a minimum commitment of $25,000 over a five-year period. Pacific Fund Founders will be recognized in the Alex and Jeri Vereschagin Alumni House.

The Emeriti Faculty Challenge
The Pacific Emeriti Society is made up of retired faculty from University of the Pacific. The organization was formed in 1988 to provide retired faculty members with a continuing relationship with the University, to help them maintain a collegial relationship with one another, to assist in providing recognition and benefits for future faculty retirees and to be of service to the University. Retired faculty members continue to serve the University in many ways, with special projects such as the oral history project, part-time teaching, advising or research.

Pacific’s Emeriti Society also sought to find a way to give back to the University that would resonate with them as faculty members, would directly impact faculty and students and would bring greater awareness of the Emeriti Society to the broader Pacific community. The Pacific Fund Founders Program was a perfect match. With the help of an anonymous matching gift, the Pacific Emeriti Society joined together to become Pacific Fund Founders.

Making a Connection to the Student Experience
Bob Bejan ’82, who majored in Theatre Arts at Pacific, says he took a wide variety of courses and also competed in swimming and water polo. “A liberal arts education gave me the underlying foundation to do what I’ve done,” Bejan says.

Bejan’s career path has been marked by creativity and entrepreneurship. From his beginning on the stage, he moved to advertising and then production, including writing and producing the rock-and-roll albums for the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. He also wrote their live touring show and was the voice of Michelangelo on the albums.

The $925,000 represents the amount of funds raised for fiscal year 2008 that were available at the time of distribution. Pledge payments received after the 2008–09 disbursements have been rolled into disbursements for the next fiscal year.
In 1992 he invented Interfilm, interactive motion pictures for movie theaters. Since then he has led creative programming and web development for Warner Brothers and MSN and is the founder and CEO of PBJS marketing agency in Seattle.

Bejan recently became a Pacific Fund Founder. “The farther you get away,” he says, “the more you appreciate the impact Pacific has had on your life.” He likes the way the Founders Program allows him to make a significant commitment over a period of time, and the focus of the Pacific Fund grants on things that students and faculty are passionate about. “Those are the experiences where the fires of your life get ignited,” he says. “When giving is focused on these tangible experiences, I can really see the connection between my giving and the students’ experience.”

The Pacific Fund Impact

A total of $275,000 was distributed in Pacific Fund grants to support faculty and student research, experiential learning and academic innovation. Here are just a few examples demonstrating the impact of your Pacific Fund gifts.

With his Pacific Fund grant, Harnoor Singh ’07, a master’s candidate in sport science, was able to test a scoring system he developed that could provide a more effective method of diagnosing Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. His grant also made it possible for him to present his “Singh Score” at the Annual Meeting for the International Association for Chronic Fatigue/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, where he was named Student Researcher of the Year.

Rachel Freeman ’09 was concerned about voter error and its impact on election results. After reviewing more than 5,000 spoiled ballots, Freeman interviewed the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters, talked to poll workers and reviewed current research on voter education, ballot quality and poll worker training. Based on her research, Freeman made recommendations to the County for improving ballot quality, voter education and training poll workers. Many of her suggestions have already been implemented.

Marketing Professor Sacha Joseph Mathews challenged her students to develop an event that would put their marketing skills into action, engage the local community and benefit a charity. The students developed “Prowl’n the Mile,” an outdoor festival held on the Miracle Mile business district of Pacific Avenue. With funds raised, they donated $1,600 for El Dorado Elementary School students to attend Science Camp. The event was so successful that the City of Stockton has asked Mathews and her students to hold a festival at the city’s downtown waterfront.
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

The 2008-09 fiscal year presented severe financial challenges in the wake of national and worldwide economic turmoil. However, enrollment was strong and, with careful financial management, by the fiscal year-end the University achieved the following:

- Net tuition revenue up nearly $11 million
- An operating surplus of $7 million
- Record freshman enrollment in fall 2008 at 882, up 116 students from the previous year, and an increase in overall University enrollment at 6,251.
- A gain of nearly $5 million from completion of the sale of KUOP broadcast license to Capital Public Radio.

Endowment

Like those of most institutions, Pacific's endowment investments suffered losses. The endowment decreased from $209 million at the end of fiscal year 2008 to $165 million at the end of fiscal year 2009. Despite this loss in investment value, the endowment contributed nearly $8.8 million in support of university operations.

Undergraduates : 3,501
Graduates : 655
First Professional : 650
Sacramento : 1,081
San Francisco : 514
Total : 6,401

Average High School GPA : 3.49
Average SAT : 1189
Top 10% of High School Class : 42%

Male/Female : 45/55
Caucasian : 35%
Asian/Pacific Islander : 35%
Hispanic : 12%
Black : 4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native : 1%

Enrollment by Academic Area

- College of the Pacific : 26%
- Pharmacy and Health Sciences : 20%
- Law : 17%
- Dentistry : 9%
- Business : 8%
- Engineering and Computer Science : 8%
- Education : 7%
- Conservatory : 3%
- International Studies : 2%
- Undecided/other : 2%

Geographic Origin

- Northern California : 66%
- Southern California : 17%
- Out of state : 11%
- International : 5%

Percentages may not add up to 100% where students do not provide data.

Student Profile 2009–2010
UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

College of the Pacific
Conservatory of Music
Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry
Gladys L. Benerd School of Education
Pacific McGeorge School of Law
Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
School of Engineering and Computer Science
Eberhardt School of Business
School of International Studies

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