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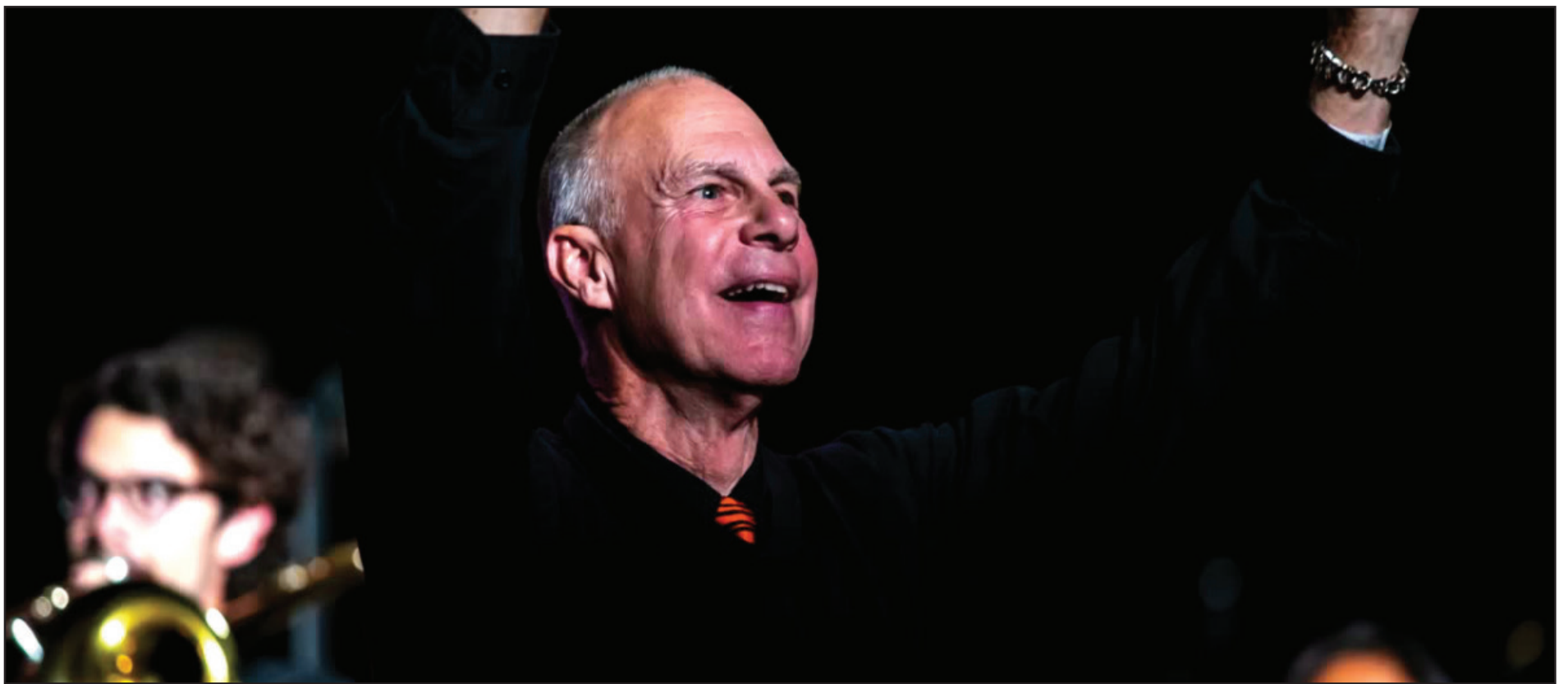


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PACIFIC REMEMBERS DR. ERIC HAMMER



Pacific will host a memorial service for inspirational music professor, Dr. Eric Hammer.

Carlos Flores Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, January 28th, the Pacific community suffered a loss that came seemingly out of nowhere. Dr. Eric Hammer, Director of Bands at Pacific's Conservatory of Music, passed away after complications following a recent back surgery. Dr. Ham-

mer's career began with his undergraduate education here at University of the Pacific, where he graduated in 1973 before earning his master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Oregon.

"Dr. Hammer was one of the most inspirational humans I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Every single person he knew was welcomed into his family,"

says Lauren Gibson '17, who served as his Graduate Assistant as she earned her master's degree from Pacific. "He taught me not just about the intricacies of music, education, and conducting, but also how to be the best person one could be. He always wanted everyone to be the absolute best they could be and often pushed them beyond what

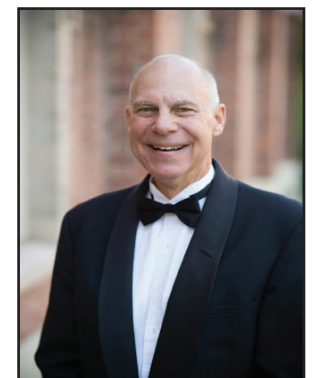
they personally believed they were capable of."

The community that he loved, was quick to celebrate his life, with a candlelight vigil being held the night that the news broke of his passing. Pacific students, faculty, and alumni all gathered outside of Faye Spanos Concert Hall at 11pm, as the community that mourned Dr. Hammer sang

PC: University of the Pacific

"Pacific Hail" in his honor as Burns Tower began to play the school's alma mater. After a brief silence, the students and faculty in attendance began to tell their stories of their experiences with Dr. Hammer, eulogizing the man who had

DR. HAMMER
Continued on Page 2



Hammer was 68.

PC: University of the Pacific

DR. HAMMER

Continued from Page 1

undoubtedly changed hundreds of lives in his 26 years at Pacific.

The tributes included sentimental stories, funny stories, and fraternity songs from Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the music fraternity into which he was initiated in 1970. The front entrance to the Faye Spanos Concert Hall was lit for the occasion, and will remain lit until his memorial service.

“Eric knew exactly how to make me feel appreciated and like I was making a difference.”

Dr. Hammer has been a positive force among the Conservatory’s faculty during his decades at Pacific.

“Eric would stop into my office often to tell me I was doing an amazing job and he thought we were similar in how we cared about students,” says Conservatory Student

Services Coordinator Jennifer Goodwin. “Eric knew exactly how to make me feel appreciated and like I was making a difference.”

After the event, a difficult week followed as the Pacific community grieved, tried to heal, and most important of all, made music in memory of Dr. Eric Hammer.

The Pacific Pep Band took a temporary absence from the women’s basketball game on the 31st, but was filled in by the local band programs from Lincoln and Tracy High School.

Both present and past members of the pep band then sang “Pacific Hail” at half time in honor of their long time advisor. The game also initiated an honorary moment of silence before tip off, concluded by Dr. Hammer’s signature phrase, which has always appeared at the end of all of his correspondence: “Onward.”

“Even after I left Pacific he continued make an impact on my life. I think he is

one of the main reasons the Conservatory is so special. I don’t think there is a person who embodies Pacific more than Dr. Hammer.”

Memories recounted by students and alumni reveal the tremendous influence Dr. Hammer has had on hundreds of Pacific students.

“I honestly can’t count how many lessons I learned from him,” says Brandt Nishida ‘13. “Even after I left Pacific he continued make an impact on my life. I think he is one of the main reasons the Conservatory is so special. I don’t think there is a person who embodies Pacific more than Dr. Hammer.”

It was a sentiment shared by others.

“Dr. Hammer was always very hard on me because he believed in me and knew I could do better, even when I did not believe in myself. He pushed me to become a better educator and I would not be



Dr. Hammer was preparing for his final semester before retirement.

PC: University of the Pacific

who I am without his influence,” says current student Allie VanderMolen, ‘19. “He

changed my life.”

Dr. Hammer’s memorial service will be Sunday, Febru-

ary 10th, at 10am in the Alex Spanos Center. The memorial is open to the public.

The Pacifican

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Holocaust Survivor Shares His Story With Students



Sami Steigmann speaks to the crowd at University of the Pacific. He is a Holocaust survivor who spoke about love.

PC: Ramesh Borad

Scarlett Green Opinion Editor

On Thursday January 24th, Pacific students had the once in a lifetime opportunity to listen to a lecture given by Sami Steigmann, a survivor of the Holocaust, in the DUC Ballroom. The Ballroom was packed with students and staff as Steigmann spoke in detail about his experience as a Jewish person dealing with anti-Semitism. However, he took the time to make it clear that he fights not just anti-Semitism, but hatred in general.

The theme of the lecture surrounded the idea of having

love for one another in spite of our differences.

Steigmann opened up to the audience about how he had at one time let hatred destroy relationships in his life that were very dear to him. With reference to this experience, he urged students to show love, especially to those who seem the most undeserving of it.

He even says that he has spoken with and befriended former members of the Nazi party in order to show them the perspective of the people they had been oppressing.

“You hate people because you don’t know them. You don’t know them because you

hate them,” says Steigmann, “So that’s why you should treat each person as an individual, not as a group, and be willing to talk. And if you talk you’ll find out you have a lot more in common than differences.” In this way, he encouraged students to avoid stereotypes and instead find common ground upon which you may have the chance to gain a new perspective or share your own with someone else.

“Because he was so young when he was taken to the camps, he couldn’t remember everything that he had been through but he still feels the pain from the experience each

day,” says Lauren Hudson, International Relations ‘21. “I thought it was really interesting that he was able to find a message through the pain that he had and even go further to discuss more moral issues that had to do with human interaction.”

Hudson went on to say that she admired Steigmann’s bravery for speaking to so many people about his personal experiences. She says that she believes that many people can benefit from using patience and kind words in order to encourage others to listen to your point of view.

For the opportunity to listen

to such a powerful speech we have to thank President of Pacific Hillel, Shiri Warshawsky, Pre-Medical ‘21. “UOP has a very small Jewish population but I really wanted to make this a big event, especially because Sami came all the way from New York,” she says. “To be honest I did encounter a lot of people who seemed indifferent [to the idea of hearing Steigmann speak], but I’m really happy with how it turned out.” Warshawsky says that she was able to reach out to Steigmann through a mutual connection she had made during a trip abroad with a Jewish student organization.

Upon hearing that he would be traveling to California, she immediately reached out to him to ask if he would come to visit Pacific. She explains that Steigmann treated her like family and that his kindness made putting on the event an even greater experience.

Steigmann’s lecture taught students to listen, learn, and above all, be kind.

If you didn’t get to see Steigmann’s lecture in person or missed our livestream, stay tuned to the Pacifican newspaper’s Facebook page where we will be posting a video depicting the highlights of the event!

Pacific Film Club Award Nominations and Winners

UoP Film Club Contributor

In our first official article, the UOP Film Club would like to announce our personal nominations for the 2018 film year! In what has been an astounding year for film, it takes a lot to make the impact these movies had on us members. Between all of us, we've seen around 120 different movies, so the diversity of options made it hard to narrow down, but hopefully you like our choices.

Below are the nominees in our 6 categories and their winners.

The winner for Best Supporting Actress is...**Rachel McAdams in Game Night!**

“... While being arguably the biggest snub of this year’s Oscars, demolished the competition.”

While the film itself is fairly unassuming - a generically named comedy coming out in February from directors with a very poor past (2015’s Vacation reboot) - it created one of the funniest comedies of the year with a stunning performance from McAdams. She lights up every scene she’s in with a unique comic timing that seems incredibly difficult to pull off.

The scene above is probably the highlight of the film showing off what a talented comedian can do with the right material.

And the winner of Best Supporting Actor is...**Timothee Chalamet in Beautiful Boy!**

Stan Twitter’s boyfriend, while being arguably the big-



Alfonso Cuarón wins Best Director for his film Roma.

PC: Time Magazine

gest snub of this year’s Oscars, demolished the competition for us. Such a sobering and haunting portrayal of a real man that not only reminds us of the horror of addiction but also how many of us at the cusp of adulthood are still a child inside and how terrifying the world can be when we’re thrust into it.

And the winner for Best Lead Actress is...**Toni Collette in Hereditary!**

And here’s yet another massive snub the Academy made. This decade so far has been demonstrably strong with horror, especially the last 5 years. Studios like A24 have helped produce this new wave of horror filmmaking, sponsoring directors with unique visions and strong direction. Collette works wonders under that, being largely forgotten about to the mainstream since 1999’s The Sixth Sense and has now suddenly broken the mold and become a household name again. Her performance is a revelation, going on a

journey of extreme sadness and torture to a finale of utter insanity that has to be seen to be believed.

And the winner for Best Lead Actor is...**Rami Malek in Bohemian Rhapsody!**

“In a mixed film, he became a shining star which I’m sure Mercury would be proud of”

I mean, what else is there? In the bonafide four-quadrant smash of 2018, Malek absolutely destroyed the competition.

In November when Bohemian Rhapsody destroyed the box office, and has continued to do so to the tune of over \$800 million, he transformed into rock legend Freddie Mercury, astounding not only the rabid fanbase but also the current members of Queen.

He became an instant star replicating the unique and

pulling his audience in past the terrible prosthetic teeth and dubbed over singing. In a mixed film, he became a shining star which I’m sure Mercury would be proud of.

And the winner for Best Director is...**Alfonso Cuarón for Roma!**

A truly masterful work of art in a continuing dominance from Mexican-born directors, Cuarón’s direction is one of utter confidence.

With most shots going on for minutes at a time and working with largely first-time actors, the film maintains to be a riveting journey that captures the life many women had to face in 1970’s Mexico and expanding upon it by contrasting these visages of a collapsing family with images of monumental natural disasters.

Cuarón dominates this labor of love in a once-in-a-lifetime fashion that has to be seen to be believed.

And now, the winner of Best Picture. ...**Hereditary!**



Hereditary wins the award for Best Picture.

PC: Collider

“...Ari Aster’s journey into grief and worship gave fans of horror another glimmer of hope as to what passionate filmmakers can do with their genre.”

Every year seems to have its own horror masterpiece this decade. Ex Machina, The VVitch, It Follows; all elevating the genre and giving hope to fans who drag themselves to the deluge of studio cash grabs just to support their movie love.

This year, Ari Aster’s

journey into grief and worship gave fans of horror another glimmer of hope as to what passionate filmmakers can do with their genre.

With pitch-performances from the entire cast, a tight script that makes time for quiet moments of self-reflection in the characters, and an iconic tic that left many fans shaking in their boots at the sound of a little click, Hereditary establishes itself as 2018’s horror masterpiece that will influence generations to come as to what kind of nightmare-fueled magic can be created with passion and a sick sense of filmmaking prowess.

Pacific Film Club nominates contenders in 5 categories

Best Supporting Actress	Best Supporting Actor	Best Actress	Best Actor	Best Director	Best Picture	Best Picture (Cont.)
Rachel McAdams, <i>Game Night</i>	Mahershala Ali, <i>Green Book</i>	Lady Gaga, <i>A Star is Born</i>	Josh Brolin, <i>Avengers: Infinity War</i>	Christopher McQuarrie, <i>Mission Impossible: Fallout</i>	<i>American Animals</i>	<i>Blindspotting</i>
Emma Stone, <i>The Favorite</i>	Timothee Chalamet, <i>Beautiful Boy</i>	Elsie Fisher, <i>Eighth Grade</i>	Nicolas Cage, <i>Mandy</i>	Berry Jenkins, <i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i>	<i>Annihilation</i>	<i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i>
Regina King, <i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i>	Adam Driver, <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	Natalie Portman, <i>Annihilation</i>	Rami Malek, <i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i>	Alfonso Cuaron, <i>Roma</i>	<i>Avengers: Infinity War</i>	<i>Hereditary</i>
Emily Blunt, <i>A Quiet Place</i>	Alex Wolff, <i>Hereditary</i>	Toni Collette, <i>Hereditary</i>	Bradley Cooper, <i>A Star is Born</i>	Spike Lee, <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	<i>Bandersnatch</i>	<i>A Quiet Place</i>
Blake Lively, <i>A Simple Favor</i>	Michael B. Jordan, <i>Black Panther</i>	Joanna Kulig, <i>Cold War</i>	John David Washington, <i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	Alex Garland <i>Annihilation</i>	<i>BlacKkKlansman</i>	<i>Roma</i>

Pacific Smasher Sparks National Interest

Carlos Flores
Editor-in-Chief

On the weekend of Super Bowl LIII, as much of the American population geared themselves up for a clash of the titans between the Los Angeles Rams and the New England Patriots in Atlanta, Georgia, an entirely different population of people prepared themselves for battle at the Oakland Convention Center.

Over 3000 people gathered in Oakland, California for one of the biggest Super Smash Bros. tournaments in the world, a yearly major tournament known as Genesis. In Genesis' sixth iteration, top players from countries including but not limited to the United States, Japan, Sweden, and Mexico vied to compete for prize money and glory both at the Convention Center and on the grand finals stage at Oakland's Paramount Theater.

The Super Smash Bros. community is unique to its other eSports counterparts. It comprises of multiple games: the original Super Smash Bros. game, released for the Nintendo 64 in 1999; its sequel, Super Smash Bros. Melee, released for the Nintendo Gamecube in 2001; and the most recently released Super Smash Bros. Ultimate for the Nintendo Switch. The competitive Smash Bros. community is wide and far reaching, and even has its own club at Pacific that meets weekly in the Spruce Room every Wednesday night at 7pm. However, Pacific has what many other schools with competitive Smash communities do not: one of the best Smash players in the world.

Out of the thousands and



Pacific Student Zaid Ali is currently ranked #53 in the world for Super Smash Bros. Melee.

PC: Amaris Woo

thousands of people trying to reach the top of the competitive Smash world, only 100 players from the Melee and Ultimate scenes are considered to be within the top echelon of players. Among those 100 is Pacific computer science student Zaid Ali '21, better known in the Smash world by his alias, "Spark." This is Ali's fifth year playing competitive Smash, and in those five years he has quickly risen through the ranks in Northern California, winning his first local tournament in August of 2015. The community's most recent rankings

placed Ali as the 4th best Melee player in Northern California, a state that boasts some of the game's top talent, and as the 53rd best Super Smash Bros. Melee player in the world.

"Being acknowledged by your community for all the effort you've put in truly is a wonderful feeling," says Ali, "To have risen in rank is rewarding as well, since it shows not only to everyone, but also to myself that I haven't grown complacent with the fact that I've made it on the rankings."

2018 had Ali show some of the best placings in his competitive career, always consistently

placing within the top 50 out of thousands of competitors at every major tournament he attended, while still earning top placements at local tournaments. His highest placing throughout 2018's major tournaments included placing 17th out of over 1000 competitors at the eighth Michigan-based major tournament known as The Big House.

While this is his second year ranked in the top 100, having been ranked 61st the prior year, Ali went into Genesis with something he had never had before: a professional sponsor. Many of gaming's top

competitors tout sponsors from professional gaming organizations, and the end of 2018 saw Ali sponsored by professional gaming organization True AmBition, as he went on to place 33rd out of over 1000 competitors at Genesis 6. He chalked up wins against players such as 33rd ranked Griffin "Captain Faceroll" Williams. Ali's placing of 33rd was par for the course as far as his previous placings throughout the year, though he also spent the weekend competing in three other events simultaneously, as he also competed

in the Melee doubles tournament with Binyan "Darkatma" Lin, and also placing 33rd out of over 200 teams.

"The goals I have set for myself aren't exactly set in stone," Ali explained, "but I want to be very close to the world's players in terms of performance and decision-making by the end of the year."

The man known as Spark continues to make waves, with many notable wins already under his belt. He will be sure to collect more as his career continues, and as his star continues to rise, more eyes will surely be on Zaid "Spark" Ali.

Members of Swim and Dive Create Sci-Fi Movie

Malavika Raj
Lifestyles Editor

If you're really, really bored and a Friday night with absolutely nothing to do and nowhere to go, head over to YouTube and type in Alien Demon- you will witness the most entertaining 46 minutes of your life.

Students on the Pacific men's swim team, directed by Erik Clemensen '20, created a sci-fi thriller movie centered around three long lost brothers who come together to defeat the the most obscure viridescent creature unknown to man - the Alien Demon, played by Jan Schlegel '21, who was coated thoroughly head to toe in green paint.

Partially shirtless, wearing sunglasses, and in style, the three brothers played by Clemenson himself, Brandon Reno '20, and Eric Thias '21 search for the Alien Demon to destroy after it wreaks

havoc on Earth. Complemented by characters played by their teammates and the song "Sexy and I Know It" accompanying their ultimate gory battle scene, the brothers, who are not even vaguely similar to one another, put their differences aside and device a plan to take down the Alien Demon. Swim and Dive head coach, Peter Richardson, even made a cameo as a news reporter.

The movie was shot around the university, primarily Mendocino Street and Pacific campus facilities. Clemenson and Reno are credited as the producers of the movie.

Unscripted, packed with goofy jokes, and a lighthearted plot line, the movie premiered at the Janet Leigh theater on December 7th. Pacific's swim and dive team was excited to see their teammates' creation.

"It took them six months to make. We were surprised on how well put together it was. It was very well coordinated," says fellow teammate Kendall



The stars of Alien Demon line up for a picture including Brandon Reno, Jan Schlegel, Eric Thias, Erik Clemensen, Peter Richardson at the premier of the movie. PC: UOP Swimming and Diving

Bromley '21. Students dressed up in semi formal attire took pictures on the "red carpet" for the premier. "It was awe-

some; there was a small red carpet. More people than I thought showed up," she says. Three trailers were released

to tease Alien Demon.

In fact, the ending of the movie sparks a possibility for a sequel.

When asked if she would want to see their sophomore production, Bromley simply answered, "yes."



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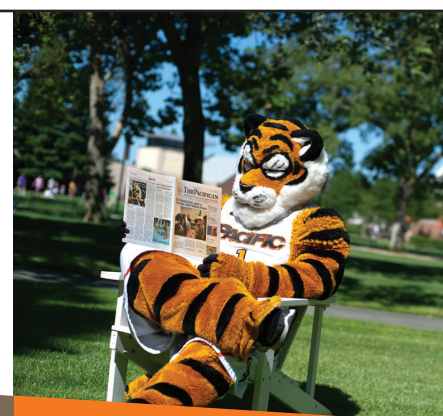
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Dell Demps Jersey Retired in Halftime Ceremony



Dell Demps' #5 jersey now hangs proudly at the Alex G. Spanos Center.

PC: Pacific Athletics

Carlos Flores
Editor-in-Chief

On January 17th, 2019, the Pacific men's basketball program, during a home game against University of San Francisco, held a jersey retirement ceremony for men's basketball alumni Dell Demps.

Demps earned both his bachelor's and his master's degrees in business administration at University of the Pacific and was a guard at Pacific from 1988 to 1992, before beginning his career in the NBA with the

Golden State Warriors in 1993. He then went on to play for the San Antonio Spurs and the Orlando Magic before his retirement as a player in 2000. Demps most recently became the vice president and general manager of the New Orleans Pelicans.

Athletics director Janet Lucas stated that, "Honoring Dell Demps this season for his contributions to the game and to Pacific by retiring his #5 jersey was the perfect opportunity to acknowledge this remarkable alumnus."

Demps said he was happy to be honored by Pacific and thanked his coaches and his

family. He posed for pictures with the No. 5 jersey.

"As a true ambassador for Pacific, Dell now represents the University on the local, regional, and national stage with pride and distinction," explained Lucas, "As a student-athlete who graduated from UOP with bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration, Dell shaped his purpose and goals through his academic, athletic, and life experiences at Pacific."

Lucas continued to say that, "Dell's accomplishments and character truly help to tell the story of Pacific Athletics."

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