



4-2021

The Rock 2021

School of Engineering and Computer Science

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THE ROCK

2021

University of the Pacific

The School of Engineering and Computer Science
Alumni Magazine



New Journey Ahead

Celebrating the legacy of
Dean Steven Howell



FROM THE DEAN

WELCOME TO THE 2021 EDITION OF THE ROCK

Wow, what a year we've been through! It seems like just yesterday—but also a lifetime ago—that our university and lives were turned upside down by the pandemic. I am so proud of all that our incredible faculty, staff and students have done during this challenging year.

Within a week's time, everything shifted from in-person classes and labs to online/remote classes, labs, advising and Co-op. The university did not collapse and students continued to learn and practice engineering. Our Co-op employers switched from in-person interviews and career fairs to remote/online in a few short weeks. It was not easy, but we survived and thrived.

The university opened a public COVID-19 vaccination site in January and at the time of this writing over 1,100 Pacific staff and members of the public are fully vaccinated thanks to the effort of volunteer pharmacy and health sciences students, staff and faculty. As the COVID-19 numbers continue to fall and vaccination rates increase, we anticipate a return to fully on campus life by August! We all look forward to resuming our community events and face-to-face interactions with our students.

It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that I announce my retirement. When I began my career at Pacific nearly 40 years ago, I never imagined finishing a complete circle having served as the dean for the past 8 years. My academic career began at Pacific in 1983 as the 3rd founding member of the fledgling Mechanical Engineering Department. I joined Pacific to be part of a community focused on student success. After a stint in industry, government, public universities and serving overseas, the highlight was returning to Pacific in 2013. I will greatly miss our committed faculty and staff and hearing the success stories of our students and alumni.

It has been a challenging but successful year at Pacific, and we are excited about what the future holds. I am grateful that you are taking this journey with us. For all of your support and all you do for our students, thank you.

STEVEN HOWELL, PhD
DEAN, SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE





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DR. ELIZABETH ORWIN

Elizabeth Orwin, leader of the renowned engineering program at Harvey Mudd College, will be the next dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science. Orwin, a biomedical engineer, has served in her current post as chair of the Department of Engineering since 2014 and previously served as the college's associate dean of research and experiential learning. She is also the James Howard Kindelberger Professor at Harvey Mudd,

"Elizabeth Orwin is an accomplished educator committed to excellence in undergraduate education and interdisciplinary problem-solving," said Pacific Provost Maria Pallavicini.

"Through her leadership and by working with our faculty, Orwin will ensure that our engineering graduates are prepared to address the problems of the future."

Orwin joined the faculty at Harvey Mudd 20 years ago. Harvey Mudd is No. 2 in the nation among all engineering programs that do not grant doctoral degrees, according to U.S. News and World Report. The college also ranks No. 25 in the nation—and third in California—among liberal arts colleges.

Harvey Mudd Leader Named Next Dean

"I'm really delighted that Liz is joining the University of the Pacific, even though we hate to lose her," said Harvey Mudd College President Maria Klawe. "Liz is the ideal person for this role given her tremendous energy and strategic perspective, her experience with industry and innovation in interdisciplinary education and research, and her love for building."

Orwin earned a BS in engineering in 1995 from Harvey Mudd, where she also served as student government president, before earning her MS and PhD in biomedical engineering from the University of Minnesota.

After graduation, she worked for Gel-Del Technologies in St. Paul, Minnesota, working on the research and development of a novel protein matrix for wound-healing applications. Orwin continues to be an active researcher, focusing on tissue engineering.

Last year, she was an American Council on Education fellow, a program that prepares participants for senior-level leadership positions in U.S. higher education. Her ACE fellowship was at the California Institute of Technology, where she worked closely with Cal Tech President Thomas F. Rosenbaum.

"Liz is a deeply devoted advocate for her students and a generous colleague who has a bold vision for the role of engineering in the academy and in society," Rosenbaum said. "With her lively intelligence, leadership skills and

compassion, Liz is a wonderful fit to the dynamic environment of the University of the Pacific."

Orwin is excited by the opportunity to "join the Pacific family and work with dedicated colleagues in the School of Engineering and Computer Science to envision a future that prepares our students to tackle the really complex problems they will face."

"I know I will learn from everyone in this wonderful community and I can't wait to get started," she said.

Across American universities, women remain significantly underrepresented among engineering school leaders. Only 17 percent of engineering deans and directors were women in 2020, according to the Society of Women Engineers.

At Pacific, Orwin will be the first woman to serve as engineering dean.

Orwin will replace Steven Howell, who is retiring after eight years as dean.

"Liz Orwin's energy, passion, creativity, entrepreneurial thinking and laser focus on students and their success make her the perfect match for University of the Pacific," said Pacific President Christopher Callahan. "I am confident that, working with our great faculty, staff, alumni, industry leaders and supporters, she will take our School of Engineering and Computer Science to new heights."

CLASS OF 2020

Valedictorians and Outstanding Graduates



BEAU FOREST
VALEDICTORIAN
BS in Computer Science
Minor in Data Science
MS in Engineering Science



MARK FRASER
VALEDICTORIAN
BS in Computer Science
Minor in Applied Mathematics
MS in Engineering Science



EMILY REYNOSO
VALEDICTORIAN
BS in Civil Engineering



ANDREA DE NARDI
VALEDICTORIAN AND
OUTSTANDING GRADUATE
BS in Engineering
Management



LEAH CLASSEN
OUTSTANDING GRADUATE
BS in Civil Engineering



KYLE POE
OUTSTANDING GRADUATE
BS in Bioengineering
BS in Applied Mathematics

For the first time in the history of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, four students were awarded the title of valedictorian for the 2020 graduating class. These four students earned 4.0 GPAs: the highest in the school. This historic moment is testimony of the resilience and dedication of Pacific

students and the excellence of faculty and staff who have supported and mentored them on their journey.

Outstanding graduates are selected by the faculty of the School of Engineering and Computer Science. The criteria used for selecting these students are not only

GPA and coursework but the contributions students make in extracurricular and cocurricular activities and service. Usually, faculty pick one student each year, however, for the class of 2020 they were unable to narrow their selection to one outstanding graduate, so three students were selected.



STEVE ESSOYAN '85
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
PACIFIC REGION PRESIDENT FOR
KNIFE RIVER

Distinguished Alumni and Faculty Awards

Each year, the School of Engineering and Computer Science recognizes the hard work and contributions of its alumni and community members by presenting two awards. The Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Alumnus Award recognizes an engineering or computer science alumnus for their outstanding contributions to their field, society and SOECS. The Distinguished Service Award is given to a person, who may or may not be an alumnus of the school, to recognize their support and service to SOECS.

Additionally, the SOECS graduating class names an Outstanding Faculty Award winner. This is given to a faculty member that went the extra mile for their students.

Alongside the SOECS awards, the university presented an SOECS faculty member with the 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award—the highest faculty honor at Pacific. In previous years, the provost would surprise the award recipient during a meeting; however, this year the recipient was surprised during a Zoom meeting.

Steve Essoyan '85, Pacific Region President for Knife River, has more than 35 years of experience in the construction industry. He began his career with DSS Company in 1984 while still attending University of the Pacific. Steve graduated from Pacific in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Since then, he has held various positions at DSS and Knife River including estimator, project manager, chief estimator, executive vice president, president and regional president.

Steve grew up overseas. He was born in Hong Kong, attended elementary school in Beirut, Lebanon and middle and high school in Tokyo, Japan. Since 1980, Steve has made Stockton his home. Steve is a long-time member of the SOECS Dean's Council and has generously shared his time and expertise to advance the school's mission. He has also been a tremendous advocate for the school's close working partnership with Knife River.



ROBERT JUNG
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Robert Jung has lived in Milpitas for over 24 years and has over 18 years of experience in the high-tech industry, with companies such as IBM, Data General, Amdahl and Cisco Systems. The founder and president of the Milpitas Community Educational Endowment, Robert is a strong supporter of public education in Milpitas. He has served as a trustee for the Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD) and a chairperson/member of various MUSD committees and has been president of

several PTAs throughout his 16-plus years as an active member.

Robert has also been active in Santa Clara County nonprofits for several years, including service in United Way and Second Harvest Food Bank as well as a member of the Milpitas Rotary and the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce. Rob is a member of the SOECS Dean's Council and, along with his wife Lisa Chan, made a generous lead gift to help establish the 50th Anniversary of Co-op Endowment in 2019. Rob and Lisa are parents of Jason Jung, a 2017 graduate of the school.



DR. CAMILLA SAVIZ
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR | CIVIL ENGINEERING

Dr. Camilla Saviz, professor and chair of the civil engineering department, was named University of the Pacific's 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award winner. The University Distinguished Faculty Award is Pacific's highest faculty honor and is given for outstanding accomplishments by a tenured faculty member in any or all of the following areas: teaching, research, creative endeavors and service to the university. Recipients are nominated by colleagues and selected by the University Awards Committee.



DR. ABEL FERNANDEZ
OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD
PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR | ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

Dr. Abel Fernandez, professor and director of the engineering management program, received the 2020 Outstanding Faculty Member Award. This honor is given annually to a single faculty member chosen by the graduating School of Engineering and Computer Science class. This year, the graduating class opened nominations up to the entire engineering and computer science student body.

SOECS in Photos

NEW DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Civil engineering professor Luke Lee became the new Director of Graduate Programs for the School of Engineering and Computer Science.



ENGINEERING JOB FAIR

Engineering students meet with recruiters at the 2020 Engineering job fair on Feb. 20, 2020 in the DeRosa University Center.



PLEDGE OF PROFESSIONALISM

Savannah Wilson '21 recites "The Obligation of the Engineer" during the Pledge of Professionalism ceremony on February 18, 2020.



ENGINEERING PLEDGE

Bill Quiroz '77 delivers the keynote speech at the 2020 Pledge of Professionalism ceremony on Feb. 18, 2020.



PROFESSOR CAMILLA SAVIZ'S ZOOM CLASS

Civil engineering students attend Professor Camilla Saviz's Tuesday afternoon lab over Zoom during the fall 2020 semester.



DOG DAY AFTERNOON

Members of Theta Tau, Pacific's professional engineering fraternity, participated in the Stockton Animal Shelter's Doggies Day Program. They were able to safely and responsibly go outdoors to give Reyes a walk and some fresh air!

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Stay connected year-round and never miss out on student spotlights, alumni highlights and school announcements.

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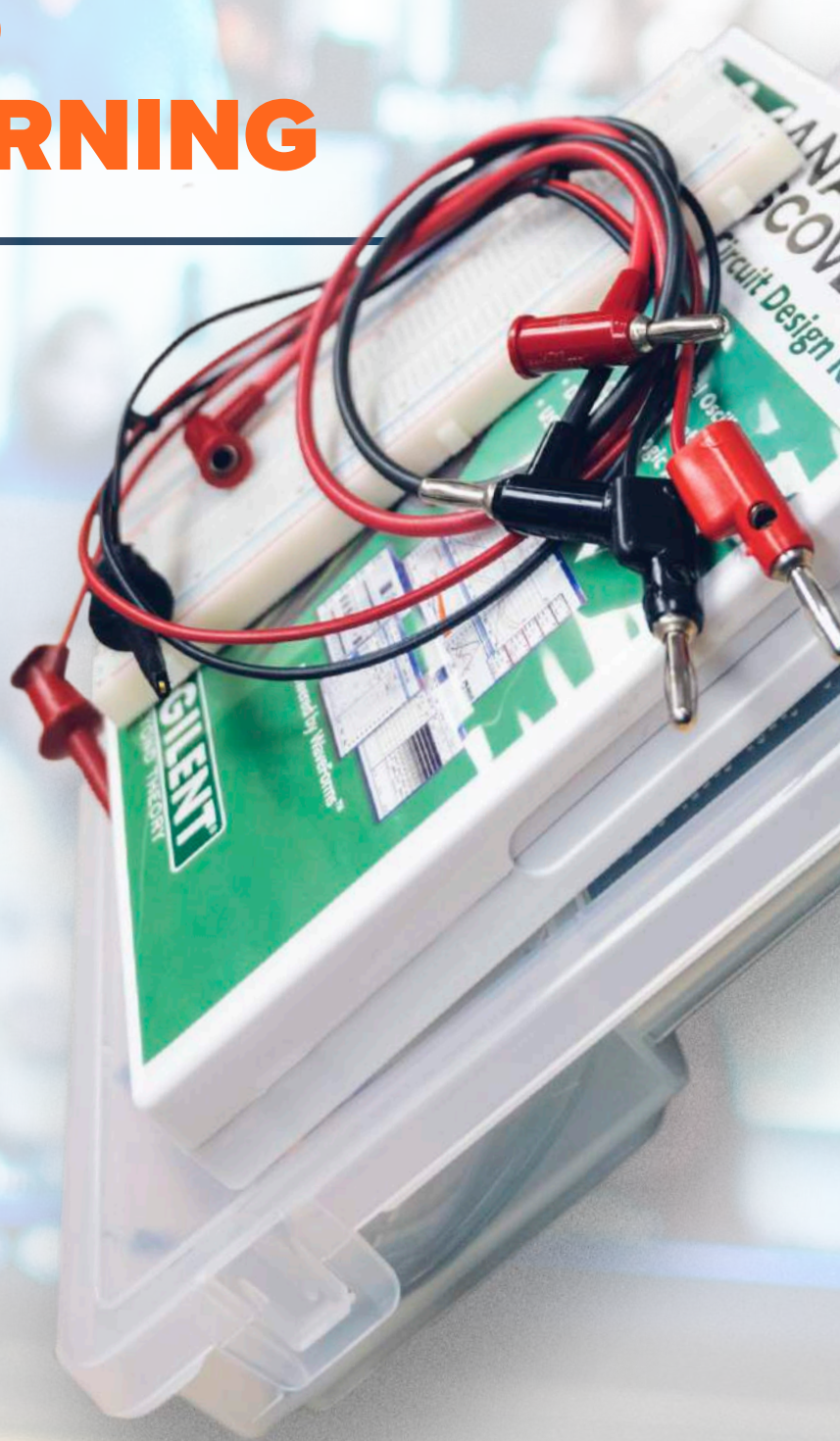
PIVOTING TO REMOTE LEARNING

The fall 2020 semester was unlike anything anyone could have imagined, prompting School of Engineering and Computer Science students and faculty to innovate and adapt to a constantly changing environment. "Our professors really learned from last semester and were prepared to start online in the fall," said engineering student Davis Young '22.

For Young, he saw a clear improvement in the way SOECS faculty handled this new online format. "Last spring, I know that it was really hard to transition all of a sudden when Pacific went fully remote." While he felt a difference in classes back then, he acknowledged how strong the quality of learning has been since school started in fall.

To help students, faculty and staff stay connected, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECPE) set up a Slack workspace in the spring of 2020. Slack is a messaging platform that allows groups of people to work together effectively and has proven to be essential for many businesses in this new remote environment. "It's helpful for us even outside of class," says ECPE Department Chair and Associate Professor Elizabeth Basha. "A lot of us use it for office hours and beyond. People can just type a question in and we can answer it whenever people are free."

Cameron Costa, the Graduate Teaching Assistant for Advanced Digital Design and current Master of Engineering Science student, said with Slack it's even easier to contact people than ever before. "Everyone's looking at it. Right now, everyone is always on their phone or at their computers so you can reach them pretty easily."





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Our professors really learned from last semester and were prepared to start online in the fall.

DAVIS YOUNG '22

COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND
APPLIED MATHEMATICS STUDENT

▲
One of the many ECPE assembled lab kits that students received for the fall 2020 semester.

To assist students with lab work, the school shipped lab kits to bring Pacific's hands-on-learning environment to students' homes. The kits were sent out to six different classes of freshman through senior students. Weekly, juniors and seniors in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECPE) gathered for their Advanced Digital Design lab over Zoom. Using breakout rooms, a Zoom feature that has assisted many faculty members in recreating in-class

group work, Basha divided her class into their lab and worksheet groups.

Students also booted-up ModelSim, a multi-language HDL simulation environment, on their computers and used Zoom's screen sharing capabilities to work through their assignments together.

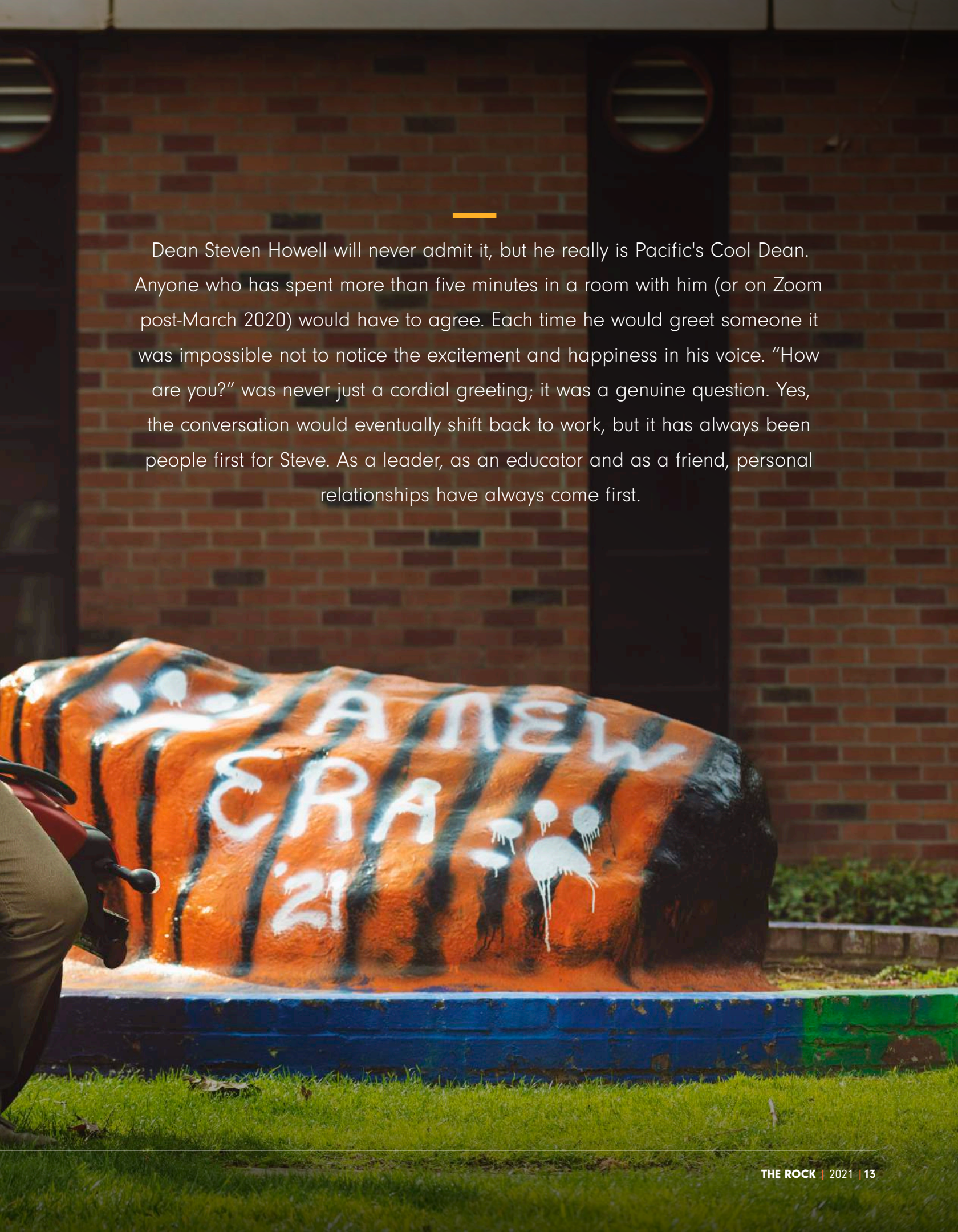
"I think we're lucky because computer engineering labs, specifically the advanced digital design lab, is one

you can do 100% at home. The school shipped us our circuit boards and because of that it's just so easy to do these labs," said Aaron LeDawson '21. When asked about the differences between this semester's online labs and previous in-person labs, LeDawson commented, "There are no major differences in my opinion."

New Journey Ahead

Celebrating the legacy of
Dean Steven Howell



A person is painting a large rock with orange and black stripes, resembling a tiger. The rock is placed on a blue base. The text 'A NEW CRAZY' is painted in white on the rock. The background is a brick wall with two circular vents. The scene is outdoors on a grassy area.

Dean Steven Howell will never admit it, but he really is Pacific's Cool Dean. Anyone who has spent more than five minutes in a room with him (or on Zoom post-March 2020) would have to agree. Each time he would greet someone it was impossible not to notice the excitement and happiness in his voice. "How are you?" was never just a cordial greeting; it was a genuine question. Yes, the conversation would eventually shift back to work, but it has always been people first for Steve. As a leader, as an educator and as a friend, personal relationships have always come first.



“

It's been an honor to have served the faculty, staff and students of Pacific. I know that even when I'm gone, they'll continue to move Pacific toward excellence.

As people get to know Steve, they inevitably learn about his motorcycle (and if they didn't hear it from him, they would hear it from someone on his staff). 'Cool Dean' can directly translate into 'Motorcycle Dean' for Steve. Nothing on campus caused as many double-takes as the Dean of Engineering and Computer Science roaring down Dave Brubeck Way on a burnt orange Kawasaki.

"I sold my Harley," explained Steve on the morning of his retirement photoshoot. He had been instructed to bring his motorcycle on campus to see if he could get it into the Chambers Technology Center's lobby. While guiding his Kawasaki through the building's back loading entrance, he described visiting his son in Humboldt and seeing this motorcycle for the first time. "It was lighter... only about 500 pounds and I loved the color." When the photographer

pointed out the color matched Pacific branding, Steve laughed and smiled. "You're right. I didn't even realize."

If someone donated a dollar every time Steve made people around him laugh or smile, the School of Engineering and Computer Science could buy every graduating senior a burnt orange Kawasaki. It's no surprise, then, that Steve helped raise nearly \$6 million for the school during his tenure as part of Pacific's "Leading with Purpose" campaign. Thus far, \$275 million has been raised in the \$300 million campaign that was launched publicly in October 2017. Even as his role as dean ends, Steve is continuing to advocate for contributions to this campaign. Within SOECS, Steve oversaw the creation of an endowment celebrating 50 years of Cooperative Education. This new endowment will provide critical financial

support for students participating in experiential learning opportunities.

While he may be the resident Cool Dean, he has always remained humble. "People don't want to hear me talk," he would say while being interviewed, "they want to hear from the students." Even when he was told that this issue of The Rock would have an article about him, he shook his head. "At least focus on our legacy of experiential learning and commitment to DEI," he asked, knowing that there was no way he wasn't going to be featured.

For over 50 years, Cooperative Education has been a cornerstone of the school. Students are given hands-on work experience with companies that prepare them to be competitive candidates for jobs after graduation. Steve actively supported the program throughout his tenure and



sought to deepen connections with local and international companies, ensuring that Pacific became a school known for its experiential learning opportunities.

Under his leadership, SOECS created a diversity coordinator position to handle diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at the school level. This was the first position of its kind on Pacific's Stockton campus and helped pave the way for President Christopher Callahan's initiative to designate diversity officers within all the schools and colleges.

Steve joined Pacific as a dean in June 2013, but he actually started his academic career at Pacific in 1983, as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Though he left the department in 1991, his eventual return as the dean brought his academic life full circle. As he prepares to leave the school for his second and final time, SOECS's national rankings continue to increase, and the employment rate for new graduates is a breathtaking 98%.

"It's been an honor to have served the faculty, staff and students of Pacific," he penned in his retirement announcement. "I know that even when I'm gone, they'll continue to move Pacific toward excellence."

So, what does Steve plan to do in his retirement? Well, honestly, it's the coolest thing a Cool Dean could possibly do: he's moving to the Pacific Northwest with his wife to enjoy the winding mountain roads, outdoor activities, and spend time with their only grandchild.

The Pacific community will miss Steve greatly, but everyone can find comfort in knowing he's somewhere north, on his favorite burnt orange motorcycle, smiling.

PACIFIC'S MESA PROGRAM THRIVES

Rose Cureton, 2010 engineering management alumna and current MESA program coordinator, sat in her Baun Hall office preparing for the upcoming MESA engineering design challenge. Behind her, popsicle stick bridges and STEM project materials decorated a bookshelf.

"We wanted to make sure that we were still providing students a hands-on experience," said Cureton, who explained that they individually packed bags for kids to do interactive projects at home. "For the kids that participate, even if they just do a simple competition, it gets them feeling like they are actually doing something."

One such competition is the Engineering Design Challenge that took place during the first week of December. Students built windmills that could lift a certain weight, and then they crafted an egg catcher. The competition takes place over three days at three different parking lots and had been set up to be compliant with San Joaquin County health guidelines. Previously, MESA had done a similar competition where students built catapults, and it was a big hit. MESA staff noticed that students were just as, if not more, competitive than when they had done these events entirely in person.

Since 1970, California's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program has been connecting with educationally and economically disadvantaged students to provide engagement opportunities within the STEM field. MESA inspires and supports its students in education and careers by increasing exposure to the STEM fields. MESA currently serves almost 25,000 students throughout California in 13 universities, 40 community colleges and nearly 400 middle schools and high schools.

Typically, Pacific's MESA program works with specific schools in the Stockton community, but 2020 wasn't an average year for anyone. In response to San Joaquin County schools operating under a distance learning-only model, MESA opened enrollment to all interested schools. By opening up registration, the program could reach and enrich the lives of more students.

Cureton knows firsthand the impact and importance of MESA in students' lives. A

Stockton native, Cureton attended Stagg High School and had the intention of going to WyoTech to become a mechanic. Then she discovered MESA.

"My MESA master teacher introduced me to engineering and he was pretty much the whole reason I even went to college," explained Cureton. The program not only introduced her to engineering as a career path but also showed her that University of the Pacific was a place she could attend. "I applied to Pacific and only Pacific, which was kinda crazy on my part." Not only was Cureton accepted into Pacific's School of Engineering and Computer Science, she was also able to secure a work-study job with Pacific's on-site MESA program.

"Especially in areas like this, programs like MESA are so needed because these kids don't believe in themselves. They don't think they can do anything more than what their parents do or what they see in their neighborhoods," added Cureton when asked about the importance of MESA. "It's a program that shows kids that they're capable of more than they think that they are."

To learn more about MESA or to get involved, visit their website at [pacific-mesa.com](https://www.pacific-mesa.com).





Professor Luke Lee is interviewed about the new Computer Science graduate program.

PACIFIC LAUNCHES NEW MS DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

To serve the growing demand for highly skilled computer science professionals in California, University of the Pacific is introducing a new Master of Science degree in Computer Science.

The Master of Science degree in Computer Science will be offered in two modalities: hybrid (in-person and online) on the Stockton campus beginning in fall 2021 and fully online starting in fall 2022.

The in-person Master of Science degree in Computer Science (MSCS) will offer options for students with and without an undergraduate computer science degree. Students must complete 30 units of graduate coursework to obtain the MSCS degree. Students without an undergraduate computer science degree from an ABET-accredited institution may

need to complete 16 or more additional units of core coursework to obtain the MSCS degree.

"Pacific continues to focus on new and innovative ways to offer programs that meet market demand and provide options for our students to learn," said Provost Maria Pallavicini. "We are confident an advanced degree in computer science created to respond to the explosive growth in related careers will provide our graduates with a professional advantage and set them up for accelerated success in their careers."

According to data from Payscale, computer science professionals with a master's degree see an average salary of \$101,000, compared to \$86,000 for those with a bachelor's degree.

In California, there is high demand for computer science professionals. Burning Glass Labor and Insight market analysis showed a 46% increase in computer science-related job postings within the state from 2017 to 2018. The Bureau of Labor statistics indicated there were 556,731 job postings in California for master's level computer science professionals in 2019, overshadowing demand in all other states.

"With the soaring demand for computer scientists in the state last year, it is clear there is a need for additional computer science professionals," said SOECS Dean Steven Howell. "Our talented faculty will prepare students for professional success and use Pacific's vast network to connect them with top employers in this burgeoning job market."

SOECS

Alumni Bolster Support For Veterans

Pacific has made significant investments in student-veteran programs and services in recent years. The university was just ranked No. 93 in the nation for “Best Colleges for Veterans” by U.S. News and World Report for 2021, and alumni from the School of Engineering and Computer Science are leading the charge. Three significant gifts from SOECS alumni will create scholarships to help student-veterans and active-duty service members attain their college degrees at Pacific and find success after graduation.

“I can’t thank our alumni enough. The generosity and support they have shown to our veterans is inspiring,” said SOECS Dean Steven Howell. “They understand that student-veterans bring leadership, maturity and valuable life experience to the classroom and as a result, the entire Pacific community benefits.”

WWII Veteran Gives Back

When Leonard Detrick ‘50 arrived at Pacific in 1946 after serving in the United States

Marine Corps during World War II, the campus looked very different. The university was bursting at the seams with young GIs returning home—and he was one of them. A native of Stockton, Detrick enlisted in the Marines just 10 days after graduating from Stockton High School and served tours in the Pacific theater, including the Marshall Islands, Guam and China. After being discharged, he enrolled at Pacific to study civil engineering. He also played football and basketball for the Pacific Tigers and met his beloved wife Sally Howen ‘49, who was studying to be a teacher.

“When I came back to school in 1946, 99% of all the men in school were veterans,” said Detrick. “We were 21–24 years old, so it was a great experience. I really enjoyed my years at Pacific. I met some great guys and made some good friends.”

This year, he created the Leonard Detrick Veterans’ Endowed Scholarship to support active-duty or veteran junior and senior students studying civil engineering with

preference given to those who have attained special achievements and distinctions or served in a combat zone. The first scholarship will be awarded to a student in the next academic year.

“I had in my mind that I would create a scholarship in the engineering department. I’m convinced an engineering education is the best and I was happy to make it a veteran scholarship,” said Detrick. “My military experience was very beneficial to me and I think it would be for anybody. If I can help some of these students out, I’m happy to do that.”

Brigadier General Continues Spirit of Service

Giving back comes naturally to Brigadier General Glenn Goddard ‘83. After graduating from Pacific with a degree in civil engineering, he enlisted in the Army, and later attended Officer Candidate School where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. He served as a platoon leader



Left:
Leonard Detrick '50 (right) in uniform during his service in the United States Marine Corps.

Right:
General Glenn Goddard '83 on the Saint-Mere-Eglise drop zone.

in South Korea and later as a Heavy Equipment Platoon Leader at Fort Ord in Monterey. In 1988, he left active duty and transferred to the Army Reserve where he served for over 32 years, rising to Brigadier General. During that time, he has devoted his career to service, deploying twice to Iraq to help civilians stabilize the country and to the farthest corners of the globe, like Antarctica. "Our military is different from others because we'll go to a place just to help out for the greater good and provide stability within countries. Not for any personal gain," said Goddard. "These opportunities should be sought by everybody...to say you devoted part of your life to service for others. We'd be a better world if everyone did that."

In another act of selfless service, he established the BG Glenn Goddard Veterans' Endowed scholarship at Pacific in 2018. The scholarship provides support for students in SOECS who are either currently serving in a military reserve component unit, participating in an ROTC program or honorably discharged veterans.

"Being a veteran-student is hard," said Goddard. "You are much older than your fellow students and approach life in a much more mature manner. You also tend not to have as much financial support. I wanted to create a scholarship for those who have devoted a piece of their lives to service so they could continue that 'service attitude' whether in the military or

not. I think that a large part of being a good American citizen is giving back to a larger purpose than yourself."

University Regent Dedicated to Veteran Student Success

A native of Kuwait, Ali Dashti '90 has always been a strong supporter of the U.S. military and its mission around the world. He graduated from Pacific with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering and earned his Master of Science and doctorate degrees from the University of Southern California. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

(Continued on page 20)



MARCO GONZALES '21
ENGLISH AND SOCIOLOGY
RECIPIENT OF THE KGL VETERANS
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

“

Luckily, the scholarship came in when I needed it most. I was just very fortunate to receive it and at the right time.

MARCO GONZALES '21
ENGLISH AND SOCIOLOGY

Dashti is Chairman and CEO of KGL Holding, a leading international transportation and logistics firm that partners with the U.S. military to deliver food and other essential supplies to U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria. He is also one of the newest members of Pacific's Board of Regents. In 2017, Dashti's company established the KGL Veterans Endowed Scholarship to benefit students who are veterans of the United States Armed Forces with preference for students with demonstrated financial need. In addition to establishing the KGL Veterans Endowed Scholarship, Dashti also created the Maryam Dashti Endowed Scholarship in 2017 to support international students enrolled in SOECS.

"Pacific helped to lay the foundation of my career and set me on a path to success. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide those same opportunities to America's brave men and women," said Dashti. "My company is proud to work with the Department of Defense

as the U.S. military's logistics provider in the Middle East. The KGL Veterans Endowed Scholarship is an extension of our commitment to support U.S. troops by providing veterans in pursuit of a high-quality education the resources needed to be successful."

Since its creation, the scholarship has supported five veteran students at Pacific from multiple branches of the military, including students like 43-year-old English and sociology major Marco Gonzales '21. Gonzales served eight years in the Army and transferred to Pacific in 2018 where he found a strong community through Pacific's Military and Veteran Student Center.

"Deciding to go back to college after serving abroad was a scary decision," he said. "Luckily, the scholarship came in when I needed it most. I was just very fortunate to receive it and at the right time." Gonzales said the scholarship will allow him to continue his studies and

graduate this spring, bringing him closer to his goal of working with veterans with disabilities to help them find employment.

Once fully funded in 2022, the KGL Veterans Endowed Scholarship will become the largest scholarship for veterans at Pacific.

Though separated by generations, continents and life experience, these three alumni all live by the same guiding principles of service to others and a commitment to build better futures for America's most deserving men and women. They represent the very best of SOECS and the best of Pacific.

To learn more about how to establish an endowed scholarship, or to contribute to an existing fund, contact Assistant Dean for Development Dan Mackeben at dmackeben@pacific.edu or 209.946.2643.



Building from the Ground Up

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT



Mechanical engineering club works together to build Formula SAE car

Despite being remote and spread out across the country this fall due to COVID-19, University of the Pacific's American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) club has not allowed the pandemic to prevent them from coming together and learning from one another.

Led by student officers President Scotty Lucas '22; Treasurer and Project Manager Jan Schlegel '22; Vice President Puneet Singh '22; and Secretary Tejpal Tut '22, around 30 members of the ASME club have been working together to design a new Formula One car from the ground up. Assisted by two mechanical engineering senior design teams, they have broken themselves up into six task groups focusing on different areas of the car including the cockpit, engine, brakes and steering, drivetrain, suspension and chassis.

The team has relied heavily on Discord, an online communication platform often used in the gaming community.

"We have actually been communicating more frequently this semester while we are remote than we have in the past," said Schlegel. "Last year we would meet to work on projects and text some, but now we talk every day about our project."

Each of the groups meets regularly to determine the parts needed for their areas and also discuss design options. They utilize 3D modeling software to build the different sections of the car and create a visual of how each section will fit together.

"Scotty and Jan have done an unbelievable job in growing the club from less than five active members in 2018 to over 40 at this point, in addition to building a

fully functional car from scratch," said Joshua Steimel, mechanical engineering professor and ASME club advisor. "ASME and SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) is a wonderful opportunity for students to establish new professional relationships and build connections with mechanical engineers and gain hands-on experience. This practical experience supplements Pacific students' strong fundamental background that is developed by the dedicated faculty in mechanical engineering."

The club's goal for this year is to compete in the Formula SAE Competition, which is a student design competition organized by SAE International. In the competition, each team's prototype car is evaluated for its potential as a production item and the prototype race car is judged in a number of different events, including its design, cost and manufacturing, presentation, acceleration, skid pad, autocross, fuel economy and endurance.

"We hope to complete the entire competition and have a running car the whole time," explained Lucas. "We are treating this year as a starting point that we can build off of moving forward for the club."

The ASME club is looking for sponsors for their Formula SAE Project to help purchase parts and assist with fees to enter the Formula SAE Competition. There are several different tiers for sponsorship opportunities including company logos on their car, website and additional acknowledgments.

Visit asmeclub.com to learn more about their work or check out their crowdfunding page at pacific.scalefunder.com to support the team as a sponsor.

A Vision for Stockton

University of the Pacific civil engineering alumna Jodi Almassy '04 started her appointment as director of public works for the City of Stockton on June 22, 2020. This appointment is a milestone in Almassy's career with the city, which began in 1998 when she started as an engineering intern.

"Stockton is my home," shared Almassy. "I was born and raised here, went to elementary school, high school and university and continue to live and raise my own family in this city. It is such an honor to lead a department of hard working, capable people, who are focused, every day, on improving the quality of life for our community."

At Pacific, civil engineering students gain real-world experience through the Cooperative Education program (Co-op) which connects juniors and seniors with experiential internships to provide hands-on experience with organizations like the City of Stockton. For many students, these internships jumpstart their careers and give them a competitive advantage in the job market post-graduation.

Almassy was hired as a junior engineer in 2005 and promoted to assistant engineer in 2006. After receiving her professional engineer license in civil engineering from the State of California, she ascended through all levels and engineering titles in just a few years to the position of deputy public works director.

City Manager Harry Black shared his vision for Stockton and how Almassy is an important addition to the leadership team. "To become the best city in America to live, raise a family and grow a business, we need to provide an exceptional level of customer service to the community, which requires accountability, innovation and efficient and effective management of city resources. Jodi has demonstrated incredible leadership and ability to respond to community concerns and priorities, even during this most difficult period of our state and local emergency. We have seen her vision, compassion and ability to professionally manage and lead a department faced with a broad range of responsibilities and demands, and we look forward to her continued leadership as the director of public works."

“

It is such an honor to lead a department of hard working, capable people, who are focused, every day, on improving the quality of life for our community.

JODI ALMASSY '04
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
WORKS FOR THE
CITY OF STOCKTON





From Left to right: Delia Davila '18, Clement Garcia '18, Andrea Orozco and Gustavo Bartolo '19

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR LOCAL NONPROFIT LED BY SOECS ALUMNI

The hard work of three engineering and computer science alumni paid off last October during the 2020 Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) National Convention. Clement Garcia '18, Gustavo Bartolo '19 and Delia Davila '18 had been working tirelessly since 2019 to reactivate the former Sacramento professional chapter under a new title: Delta Valley (DV SHPE). Their efforts were fully recognized when DV SHPE was given the National Award for Medium Professional Chapter of the Year as well as a Regional Blue Chip award for Fall and Spring 2020.

The trio pursued the development of this new chapter with the goals of continuing the mission of SHPE in the Stockton community, and providing mentorship for the student leadership at the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SOECS).

Since July 2019, the chapter has developed partnerships with Pacific's MESA Center; the student SHPE chapters of University of the Pacific, CSU Sacramento, CSU Fresno and UC Merced; and, the professional SHPE chapters of Fresno and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Of the five professional chapters in Region 1

and the 44 national chapters, DV SHPE was selected for hosting successful, diverse events. During the 2019–2020 fiscal year, the chapter has contributed to events such as the SHPEtinias conference (which supports Latinas' technical and professional development in STEM) at UC Merced on February 22, 2020, as well as an event to pair local college students with professionals to assist them with their resumes and professional development.

SHPE was formed in 1974 with the goal of empowering the Hispanic community to realize its fullest potential and impact the world through STEM awareness, access, support and professional development. Currently the national organization has seven regions across the United States, over 10,000 members and 230 chapters.

The DV SHPE chapter continues to find ways to promote STEM in the Hispanic communities it serves and support the professional development of students and professionals as it navigates the challenges of the pandemic. The executive board is currently made up of alumni from University of the Pacific, CSU Sacramento and UC Merced.

Alumni Notes and News



Christine Amistad and Austin Jarvis tied the knot in June 20, 2020

CHRISTINE AMISTAD '16 DENTAL HYGIENE, married **AUSTIN JARVIS '16 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**, '19 DATA SCIENCE, on June 20, 2020. The couple met their freshman year in the Southwest Hall where they played foosball in the recreation lounge and hung out in the same friend group, which ultimately led to them dating. After they graduated together in 2016, they moved to Redwood City, adopted a corgi puppy (Benny), and worked full-time for their respective companies—Christine as a dental hygienist and Austin as a manufacturing engineer at a medical device company.

They got engaged in October 2018 and set their wedding date for June 20, 2020. When the COVID-19 lockdowns happened in March, the couple was devastated that they weren't able to go through with the wedding they had planned and saved for during their 20 months of engagement. The couple thought about postponing their wedding for 2021, but they ultimately realized they didn't want to postpone their marriage just because they couldn't have the perfect wedding day.

On June 20, they got married in an open field at a park in Livermore with just their bridal party and parents present. Their officiant was Clay Smith '16 Business Administration—Finance, who was one of the couple's closest friends. After the ceremony, they celebrated



Manual "Manny" Pelaez with his wife Sophia photographed in their backyard gathering

in Austin's family's backyard. The couple intends to have a big celebration in 2021 so that the rest of their family and friends can attend.

MANUEL "MANNY" PELAEZ '08 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING married his wife Sophia on October 3, 2020 in Loomis, CA. Due to the COVID-19 lockdowns, the couple had a small, backyard gathering where they were married by Manny's classmate, Jose Hernandez '08 Civil Engineering. One of his groomsmen and his best man were also classmates, Miguel Macias '08 Civil Engineering and Allen King.



Ryan Liu pictured with his one-year-old daughter

RYAN LIU '07 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT recently became a first-time father with a now one-year-old daughter and started a new job with Google, working at YouTube.

ERIC YOCAM '90 COMPUTER ENGINEERING received a Master of Science in Computer Engineering from Syracuse University in June 2020.

ALEC TONG '16 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING is currently working at Lumentum in San Jose as a Senior Engineer. He designs circuit boards for research and product development on various types of lasers and their power supplies. He credits Pacific for having an excellent program that led him to a great and lucrative career.

CHEYANNE HARRIS '17 CIVIL ENGINEERING was featured in Clean Water, the official publication of the California Water Environment Association, where she spoke about how early outreach inspired her to see engineering as a career where she could make a positive impact.

JODI ALMASSY '04 started her appointment as director of public works for the City of Stockton on June 22, 2020. This appointment is a milestone in Almassy's career with the city, which began in 1998 when she started as an engineering intern.

Please join us today by making a philanthropic gift:

Mail:

(Check Made Payable to
University of the Pacific/Howell Fund):
Advancement Services
University of the Pacific
3601 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA 95211

Online:

Pacific.edu/HowellFund

By Phone:

If you prefer to give via telephone, please call
209.946.2643, Monday-Friday,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PDT

Questions or ideas related to the Howell Fund can be directed to: Dan Mackeben, Assistant Dean of Development, School of Engineering and Computer Science, dmackeben@pacific.edu or 202.664.6178.

The Howell Fund

Steven Howell Fund for Initiatives in Diversity and Experiential Learning

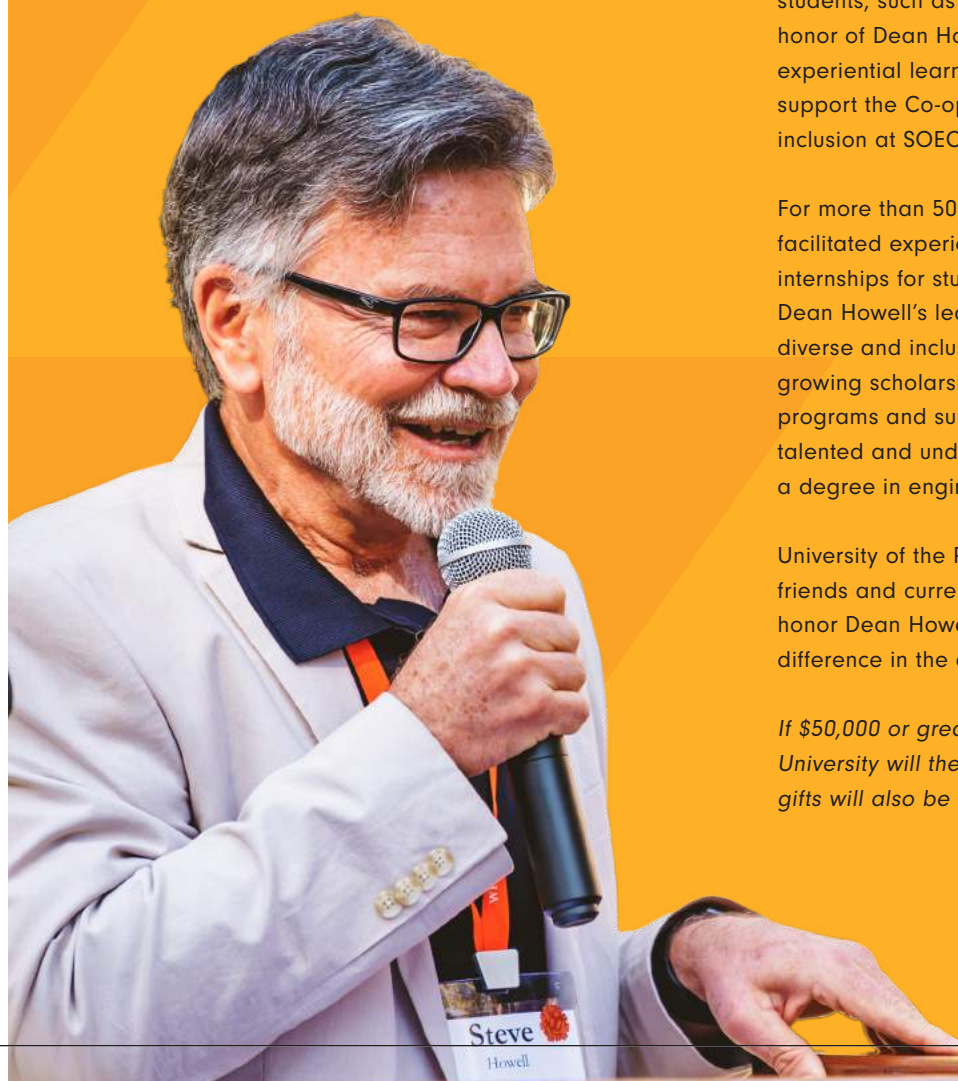
University of the Pacific has embarked on an exciting initiative to honor the legacy of Steven Howell, PhD, dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SOECS). After a distinguished eight-year tenure as SOECS dean, he will retire in June 2021. Dean Howell also served Pacific as a founding faculty member in the Department of Mechanical Engineering from 1983 to 1991.

With the encouragement and philanthropic support of Dean Howell's former colleagues and former students, Pacific is establishing the "Steven Howell Fund for Initiatives in Diversity and Experiential Learning" ("The Howell Fund"). Dean Howell has long championed advancing educational and career opportunities for historically underrepresented students in engineering and technology related fields. He has equally been a leader in advancing experiential learning opportunities for students, such as the school's long-standing Co-op Program. In honor of Dean Howell's vision and advocacy for diversity and experiential learning at SOECS, The Howell Fund will directly support the Co-op Program and initiatives in diversity, equity and inclusion at SOECS.

For more than 50 years, the Co-op Program at SOECS has facilitated experiential learning opportunities through paid internships for students throughout the region and nation. Under Dean Howell's leadership, the school prioritized creating a diverse and inclusive admissions pipeline, establishing and growing scholarships to support current students, and establishing programs and support to increase the number of academically talented and underrepresented minority students graduating with a degree in engineering or computer science.

University of the Pacific welcomes the participation of alumni, friends and current and former colleagues as we together honor Dean Howell's many contributions to SOECS and make a difference in the academic and career dreams of our students.

If \$50,000 or greater is raised toward the Howell Fund, the University will then establish the fund as an endowment and all gifts will also be matched 1:1 by Pacific's Powell Match Program.





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