

Feedback

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Interview with President DeRosa, Winter 2009

Thank you President DeRosa

After finishing my undergraduate degree, I moved to Seattle to work on my PhD at the University of Washington. As part of my funding for graduate school, I was a teaching assistant. After two quarters, I was offered the chance to teach my own class. I tried to emulate my favorite professors at Pacific.

Four years later, I still strive to be as passionate as Dr. Peter Meyer, as personable as Dr. Sharmila King and as adaptable as Dr. Bill Herrin. Each quarter I am amazed at the comments on my student evaluations: gratitude for learning the students' names, taking the time to show how the course topics apply to the real world, etc. I never expected to receive credit for what I consider to be the basics! I realize that these are the basics of a student-centered education, which isn't found just anywhere.

Thank you for creating an environment that welcomes first-generation college students and gives them a chance to succeed. I feel so fortunate that the school matched my CalGrant; this gave me a chance to attend college, a dream that I had since I was six years old. Thank you for hiring faculty who love to teach and enjoy interacting with students. I will spend the rest of my career trying to be just like them.

— *Laura Berlinghieri '04*

Pacific Alumni Reunion

Play it again... Piano Reunion 2009

I cannot let the Piano Reunion go by without passing on some of the memories from the long ago past. I lived at Tau Kappa Kappa. My piano instructor was John Gilchrist Elliot (wonderful!) and theory teacher J. Russell Bodley (again wonderful!).

My roommate was engaged to Dave Brubeck's best buddy, so our house was full of fabulous improvisations, since Dave spent many hours there. He and Crawford Gates (another genius) were in my composition class. Can you imagine how the others of us could compete with them? Even dear Russ Bodley — a great jazz talent — had no comments after they played our simple class assignments. Truly a memorable experience! Thanks Pacific for a fine beginning.

— *Melba (Loyd) Rauber '41*

"Pacific Remembers," Summer 2008

Remember Dr. Persels

I was touched by the thoughtful tribute to three memorable faculty in "Pacific Remembers." I took classes from Dr. Sy Kahn, acted in plays he directed and was a member of the 1974 European Tour. I was saddened to learn of his passing.

I was surprised to find no mention of professor Dr. Darrell Persels, who passed away Dec. 18, 2007. Darrell was everyone's absolute favorite drama professor. His specialty was technical theater. I was a part of the 1974 season at Fallon House, Pacific's summer theater experience in Columbia, Calif., where we staged six shows in eight weeks. Darrell worked his magic to keep our troupe focused, supportive and cheerful.

He was warm and showed a sincere interest in his students. His charming sense of humor infused everything he did. He loved theater, his work, his students, and we loved him.

— *Linda Weber '76*

"L.U.V. Story," Winter 2009

All You Need is L.U.V.

I read with interest "L.U.V. Story" on the start of the Let Us Vote campaign. At the time, I was the Pacifican feature editor who wrote the article "All You Need is L.U.V."

The memories caused me to pull out old copies of the Pacifican from that time. They told of campus visits by Angela Davis and Abbie Hoffman, Paul Ehrlich, Edward Teller, Charles Garry, William F. Buckley, Allen Ginsberg, José Feliciano and Buffalo Springfield, to name a few.

It was a time of change and a time of hope. Much has happened in this country and in the lives of Pacific alumni since 1969. I am reminded of Robert Louis Stevenson's words, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant."

I believe that Pacific helped us plant well.

— *Leah R. Reich '70*

Correction: In the winter issue, Jennifer Joines' graduation year was incorrectly listed as '93. It should have been '03.

We'd like to hear from you!

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

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