

## Word for the Day: Community

By Pamela A. Eibeck, President

When I became president of University of the Pacific, I was asked to think of a word to represent my “ideal self.” Pick a word, they said, that captures me and my presidency.

Trying to describe myself in only one word isn't easy. I chose “Community.” I have dedicated myself and my presidency to joining this magnificent Pacific community, to learn from it, and harness its power to improve our University and our surrounding communities of Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco.

“Community” turns out to be a good way to think about the year we have had at Pacific so far. As I came onboard in the summer, our regent and astronaut José Hernandez '85 was preparing to blast into space aboard the space shuttle Discovery. José is an inspirational community

story: a local boy — the son of migrant farm workers who settled in Stockton to allow José and his siblings to get an education. He attended Pacific through the support of our Community Involvement Program and went on to a career at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory before joining NASA. You can read more of José's story in this issue of Pacific Review.

Soon after becoming president, I heard a strong call from our Stockton community for more involvement from the University. So this fall, I announced a major community engagement initiative called “Beyond Our Gates... Into the Community.” This is a series of five community forums on issues critical to the Stockton region's success: healthcare; the economy; the environment; education; and arts and

culture. So far, we have had an enthusiastic response from regional government, business and nonprofit organizations. We are gathering the community's collective wisdom and listening to all the ideas we can. In the fall, we will report back to the community on what we heard and how the University can partner more effectively with the community. Stay tuned for more information from Beyond Our Gates.

As I write this, I am preparing for my formal installation as Pacific's 24<sup>th</sup> president on March 19, 2010. I also chose “Community” as the theme for my inaugural address, because I believe this is a great time to celebrate the strength and history of this vibrant University community. In writing my speech, I am



reminded of the pioneering spirit and sense of community that has always characterized Pacific. Our community has much to celebrate, and we have much to look forward to at this great University.



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