

THE INAUGURAL YEAR
OF PRESIDENT

Pamela A. Eibeck

BY LINDA BEYMER

Pamela A. Eibeck hit the ground running as Pacific's 24th president on July 1, 2009 and shows no sign of slowing down. She has launched a "Listening Campaign" that has taken her to all three Pacific campuses, into the community and across the nation to meet and hear from students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Her boundless energy, warmth, openness and ready smile have energized the Pacific Community.



Her colleagues and friends describe her as personable and animated. She holds office hours and fireside chats for students, has her own Facebook page and led a campaign to reach “Beyond Our Gates” into the Valley community. An avid hiker, skier and backpacker, she runs every morning at 5:30, was a guest coach for the baseball team and was a guest conductor for the Stockton Symphony. She loves Harry Potter, “Star Trek” and Dr. Who. The dynamic 53-year-old is also the first woman president in Pacific’s 159-year history. Though Eibeck has a packed schedule, she manages to find time to balance it all and maintain a high degree of accessibility.

So how does she do it?

“I am blessed with high energy, good health and a wonderful life partner,” said Eibeck. Her husband, Bill Jeffery, whom she married 22 years ago, is an adjunct professor of law at Pacific McGeorge School of Law. They have four children. The two met at the Embarcadero YMCA in San Francisco, where they were both members, and reconnected several years later through a running group at Stanford called the Angell Field Ancients.

“Our personal relationship is very strong,” Jeffery says. “We were best friends before our marriage 22 years ago, and we have remained best friends ever since. We work hard to support each other in whatever we are doing.”

It’s obvious upon meeting Eibeck that she is simply delighted to be at Pacific. She says the students are “a blast,” describes the leadership opportunities as “exceptional,” sees the Stockton community’s appreciation of the university as “powerful” and says there is a “deep dedication” among the faculty ensuring that all students get a high-quality education. She also takes pleasure in her surroundings, saying that she has enjoyed the spring crop of ducklings that have begun swimming in the pool at the



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Longtime friend, colleague and mentor, Dr. Karl Pister, said of Dr. Eibeck in his remarks, “She was smart enough to see what she needed to do and do it.”



Dr. Eibeck’s family celebrate with her at her Inauguration. Pictured left to right: Son, Kevin Jeffery; daughter, Katherine Jeffery; Andrew’s fiancé, Maura Pincay; son, Andrew Jeffery; Dr. Eibeck’s father, Richard Eibeck, President Eibeck and Bill Jeffery; Dr. Eibeck’s mother, Barbara Eibeck; sister, Sue Eibeck; and son Will Jeffery.

President’s Residence and was excited to tour the sites where Harrison Ford filmed “Raiders of the Lost Ark.”

Living on campus has its perks, says Eibeck, especially “the commute.” Jeffery says the couple enjoys hosting events, including ceremonies for two sororities who asked permission to throw their respective presidents into the pool at the President’s Residence. “We love being Pacific’s biggest boosters, and we particularly enjoy living on the campus where we can have regular, informal contact with students, faculty, alumni and community members visiting the campus,” Jeffery says.

Pacific is a long way — literally and figuratively — from her high school days in Buffalo, New York, when counselors who noticed that she was good at math suggested that she shoot for a career in accounting.

“I was a rebel,” Eibeck says with an impish grin, adding that she wasn’t even allowed to take auto shop, a class that was reserved for boys at that time. Not particularly interested in accounting, she instead became a pre-med engineering major in college (she dropped the pre-med idea after nearly fainting while observing surgery).

“I saw engineering as an exciting area that would offer extraordinary opportunities,” she recalled.

When Eibeck was accepted at Stanford University, she left snowy Buffalo behind for sunny California. There she earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering between 1979 and 1986. She had no inkling at the time that she would someday be a university president. Teaching had not even been in her original plan, but she discovered she loved it after working as a teaching assistant and completing a doctoral fellowship.

She secured a professorship at the University of California, Berkeley,



working under Karl Pister, then dean of engineering. He eventually became her mentor and friend. Pister, who routinely spent an hour chatting with each new faculty member, was delighted to learn that Eibeck and his daughter Jacinta had been classmates at Stanford. “That was the beginning of our acquaintance,” says Pister, who now counts Eibeck among his extended family.

Eibeck says Pister was warm and supportive, especially after she became a mother, struggling to balance career and family life. In 1995, after 10 years at Berkeley, during which she had earned tenure, she took a position at Northern Arizona University as professor and chair of mechanical engineering. She later served as director of the honors program and vice provost for undergraduate studies. Eibeck credits John Haeger, current president of NAU, for teaching her a tremendous amount about university leadership.

“Whenever deans talked at faculty meetings, I always found their vision fascinating,” Eibeck says of her own evolution from educator to administrator. “They would consider, ‘What is society expecting out of a college of engineering graduate?’”

Pister says that he and his wife visited Eibeck and her family in Flagstaff and found her happy and fulfilled. Not long after, though, Eibeck indicated to her

mentor that she had an interest in moving. He subsequently received an e-mail telling him that she was a candidate for dean of engineering at Texas Tech. “That struck me with such force,” he recalled. “I said, ‘You mean you would go to Lubbock, Texas?’ That was indicative of her rebel character. She’d go to Texas!”

Though Pister had imagined that a move to Texas would be quite a culture shock, he was pleasantly surprised to find that Eibeck was thriving when she visited him during a fundraising trip to California. “I saw quite a change in this rebellious young woman,” Pister says. “She was becoming an administrator.” As dean of the Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering at Texas Tech in 2004, Eibeck was responsible for eight academic departments, 33 degree programs and a \$55 million budget.

That job groomed her for her next stop — University of the Pacific. She originally became acquainted with the University when serving on an accreditation team for the School of Engineering and Computer Science. She learned much more about it when her son, Will Jeffery, was shopping for a college. It was then she found out about the search for a new president.

“We both applied,” she joked. As it turned out, both were “accepted” at Pacific, but, after Eibeck was appointed president, Will chose to attend Santa Clara University. “I was disappointed at first because I’ve

seen the exceptional opportunities he could have had here at Pacific,” Eibeck says. “On the other hand, I understand that he wanted and needs to develop his independence. He is exploring his own life and is doing well there.”

Eibeck is grateful for the support of her family. When asked how her children would describe her, she was thoughtful for a moment, then said, “They’re very proud of me. I think they would say I am a loving mom who’s fun, but sometimes bossy, who has high expectations and encourages them, but mostly just loves them.”

She became Pacific’s 24th president on July 1, 2009, and was formally inaugurated in the Alex G. Spanos Center on March 19, 2010. Pister, who spoke at the inauguration, stopped during his prepared remarks, looked at her and said, “One of her attributes is that she knows when to accept counsel and when to reject it,” praising Eibeck for going to Texas Tech even though he advised against it. “She was smart enough to see what she needed to do and do it.”

Eibeck remarked that she was surprised at the commonalities between the jobs of dean and university president. “As dean of engineering, I was also very involved in fundraising. I learned about the enthusiasm people had and the pleasure of telling the university’s story,” she says.

In May, she got a chance to tell some of Pacific’s story during a videotaped interview



in Los Angeles with Pacific Alumni Association President Denny Stilwell, where she also had an opportunity to visit her daughter Katherine, who is a student at the University of Southern California. Among other things, she spoke about her vision for the university and the incredible network of alumni throughout the world.

“We are very proud of our alumni,” she says. “Our students get energized by them, thinking, ‘I can be there someday.’ As soon as a student arrives at Pacific, he or she begins a lifetime association. They become a Pacific Tiger for life.”

Eibeck says her challenges as president include increasing the size of the University’s endowment, which she noted is half the size that it should be, and expanding the diversity of the student population to reflect the diversity of the nation’s current and future population.

“The other vision I have is making sure we are ready for the students of 2020,” said Eibeck, noting the need to give Pacific students more opportunities to study abroad. “Our students recognize they are part of a global

world, and we want to provide opportunities for them to be part of that.”

In spite of whatever changes the future holds, Eibeck said Pacific will continue to be “student-centered and student-focused.”

“I have been struck by the intense joy and enthusiasm for me as a female president,” she says. “I feel like I have come to a place where I am welcomed with open arms.”

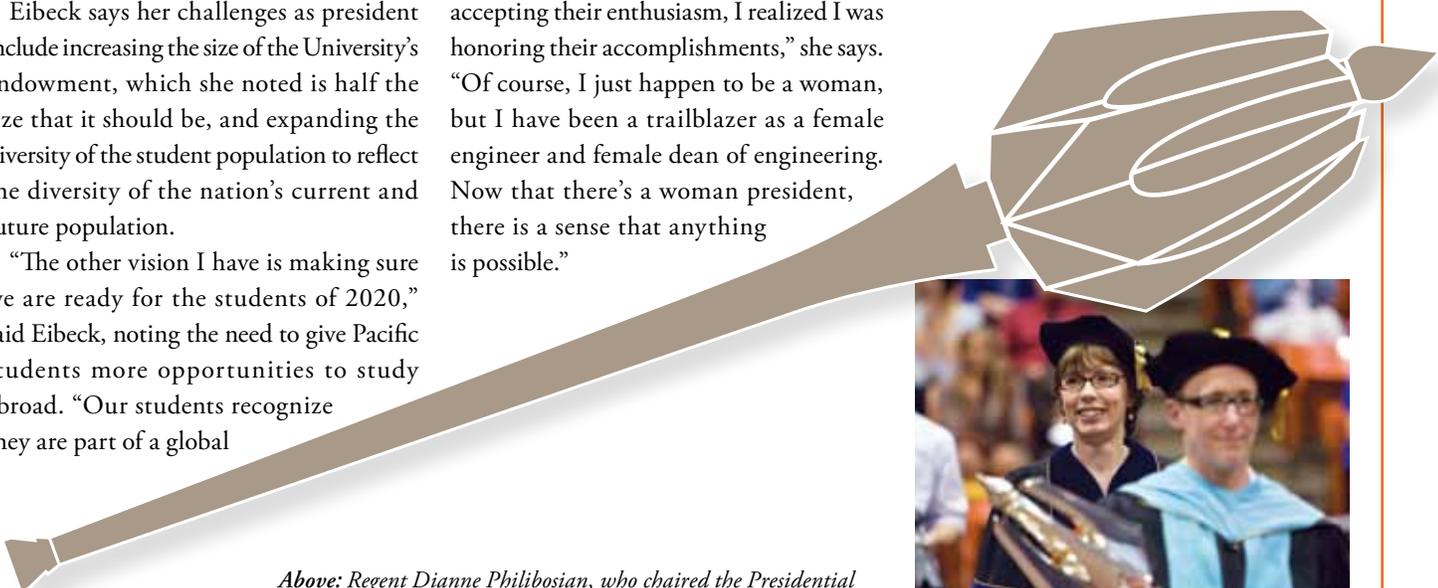
Pister agreed: “The reception she got during the inauguration was amazing. The students just seemed to go wild.”

“The reaction of alumni, especially women, has been equally gratifying. By accepting their enthusiasm, I realized I was honoring their accomplishments,” she says. “Of course, I just happen to be a woman, but I have been a trailblazer as a female engineer and female dean of engineering. Now that there’s a woman president, there is a sense that anything is possible.”

As the taping came to a close, the camera was turned off and the spotlights extinguished, Eibeck jokingly asked Stilwell, “Did I ramble?”

He looked at her and said, “You are a rock star.”

To hear Dr. Eibeck’s inaugural address and more, visit www.Pacific.edu/Inauguration.



Above: Regent Dianne Philibosian, who chaired the Presidential Search Committee, and Board Chair Tom Zuckerman perform the Investiture of the President at the Inaugural Ceremonies on March 19.

Right: The University Mace is carried by the chair of the Academic Council, Professor Cathy Peterson, at the Inaugural Ceremony.



Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet and jazz bassist Christian McBride.

INAUGURAL SERIES EVENTS PACIFIC'S 24TH PRESIDENT

Pamela A. Eibeck

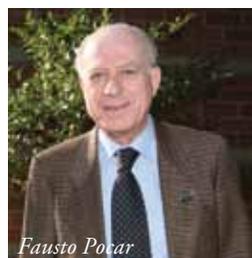
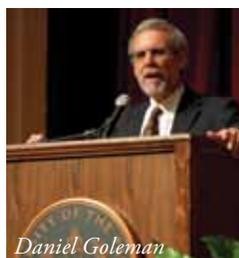
University of the Pacific commemorated the beginning of Pamela A. Eibeck's presidency with a Presidential Inaugural Event Series during the 2009–2010 academic year. Events embodied core Pacific values such as responsible leadership, a commitment to the local and global community, a superior academic experience and a practice-ready education. The series started in October with the Italian Festival Week, followed shortly by the Pat Kennedy Parliamentary Debate Tournament on November 6. Below are highlights of the spring events.

SUSTAINABILITY

John Muir impersonator Dr. Richard Shore transformed from a Scottish gentleman to the bearded adventurer during his presentation at the "John Muir: Naturalist and Scientist Symposium" April 21–24, featuring lectures by experts on Muir's contributions to science and natural history and his impact on outdoor recreation and environmental education.

Environmentalist Michael Pollan, author of "The Omnivore's Dilemma," offered a lively and entertaining lecture on "The Sun Food Agenda" culminating Sustainability Month events. It was hosted at Pacific McGeorge School of Law and simulcast to the Stockton campus.

The Powell Scholars program commissioned a work of art inspired by the spirit of John Muir. "Muir Woods National Monument" was unveiled by photographer Stephen Joseph at an April reception in William Knox Holt Memorial Library, which holds a repository of John Muir papers in its Holt-Atherton Special Collections.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE

Daniel Goleman, author of “Emotional Intelligence,” keynoted the Symposium on Social and Emotional Competence in March, which showcased Pacific programs designed to increase students’ social and emotional competence and prepare them for responsible leadership. The symposium also featured Richard Boyatzis, author of “Resonant Leadership,” presentations and panel discussions.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Professor and judge Fausto Pocar of Milan and professors from the University of Parma, Italy, a sister city of Stockton, highlighted a seminar in April at Pacific McGeorge on Italy’s legal traditions and cultures. The seminar was part of the Celebration of Italian Music and Culture held last fall on the Stockton campus.

DIVERSITY

Performances by local schoolchildren and Pacific students showcased the diversity of the community at “The Colors of Rhythm and Rhyme” in the DeRosa University Center on April 30.

Astronaut and regent José Hernandez '85 keynoted the Pioneering Diversity, Strengthening Community Symposium on April 30, which brought together community members, alumni, and Pacific staff and faculty in a half-day symposium to explore Pacific’s historic contribution to diverse groups, and examine current community needs that will inform the University’s future efforts.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

The Brubeck Festival celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Brubeck Institute and featured performances by former Brubeck Fellows and the Institute’s first musical director, jazz bassist Christian McBride.

THE LISTENING CAMPAIGN

For her first year in office, President Eibeck conducted a listening campaign to meet and hear from the members of the University community — students, faculty, staff and alumni of all three campuses — and the local communities the University serves.

STUDENTS: Several times during each semester Eibeck held office hours and fireside chats at the DeRosa University Center, visited classrooms and hosted call-in radio shows on the student radio station KPAC to have the opportunity to speak with and hear from students.

THE PACIFIC FAMILY: President Eibeck held Town Hall Meetings in Stockton, San Francisco and Sacramento once each semester to talk about the state of the University and take questions and comments from staff, faculty and students.

ALUMNI: At alumni receptions throughout California and across the country, President Eibeck had the opportunity to meet and speak with Pacific alumni about their continuing Pacific Experience.

COMMUNITY: With her “Beyond Our Gates, Into the Community” forums, President Eibeck, Pacific faculty and staff, and community leaders addressed challenges in San Joaquin County regarding healthcare, education, the economy, the environment, diversity, and arts and culture. Information gained from these forums will be used to plan how Pacific can partner with the community toward solutions.

