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A letter from the Vice President for Student Life:

Pacific Students:

Each day at Pacific, I watch students demonstrate an extraordinary amount of leadership on and off campus. Commitments to student groups, community agencies, student support organizations and families are deep and diverse. Whether it’s Student Advisors, leaders of culturally-based student organizations, presidents of social/service fraternities or sororities or students leading tutoring and service opportunities in Stockton, leadership is everywhere. Pacific students lead and as such, Pacific students serve! The fundamental service relationship that is core to the true leadership equation plays out through ASuop, our Veterans Student Association, Student Ambassadors and our numerous professional fraternities. It manifests in our academic honorary groups, our Resident Assistants and peer educators. And sometimes, we witness it most powerfully in students attending school while working full-time or those who are managing significant family responsibilities.

Student involvement and student leadership are a core element of student success. In fact, we know that students who involve themselves in these kinds of impactful opportunities are generally more successful in college and after graduation. So much of the Pacific experience is driven by the daily decisions of students to simply “step up!” Students create and recreate our dynamic campus culture, while also maintaining the integrity of our core values as a university.

Thus, I hope that this edition of The Pacifican will not only acknowledge the great work of our current student leaders, but also encourage more students to take a stand and serve. To those students beginning their leadership journey, know that the campus and the world are waiting for your unique and specific contribution. Look around at so many students at Pacific and join in!

Patrick Day
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE

ASuop President: Yesenia Gutierrez

Jodi Tai
NEWS EDITOR

In the hustle and bustle of university politics, have you ever wondered who represents the students? There seems to be no one better to represent Pacific students than actual students.

Yesenia Gutierrez ’15, president of the Associated Students of the University of the Pacific, serves as one such liaison.

Gutierrez is a business administration major with a concentration in marketing and a political science minor. Her aspiration after graduation is to become the director of a nonprofit or profit organization.

ASuop is separated into three branches: Gutierrez serves on the executive branch, which also consists of the cabinet, commissioners and vice president.

As president of ASuop, Gutierrez dedicates 50 hours every week to improving the Pacific experience. Her responsibilities not only include engaging with students about their experiences and what can be improved, but also involve sitting in on University-wide committees. For example, Gutierrez observes the process of the University’s budgetary committee’s proposals, all the way to stakeholders making their cases.

As president, Gutierrez’ goal is to be a responsible leader, “someone who recognizes power, but that power comes from individuals and mutual trust. My goal is that my stakeholders are heard and their opinions are communicated effectively, [for me] actually following through, to hear everyone’s concerns, to filter which ones are actionable and which ones are not, unfortunately, or to change policy.”

Though the hours are long, Gutierrez shared that some of her favorite moments as president are the late night food runs with her cabinet after meetings. She describes ASuop as an organization that follows its own constitution: students serving students. “We strive for that every day. It’s important because it provides student advocacy and programming for students, possibilities to serve on committees to be heard and not silent.”

To students, Gutierrez stressed the importance of participation in their university’s government. “Get involved. Don’t be afraid to ask questions, to fail. I’ve learned from them,” shared Gutierrez. Gutierrez invites all students to get involved and know they are welcome to attend senate meetings, which are held from 4-6 p.m. on Mondays in the University DeRosa Center in room 211, right across from HGLO in the McCaffrey Center.

As a final note, Gutierrez noted, “Thank you to the administration and other campus partners such as the Alumni Association who give us the opportunity to participate in shared governance. Thank you to my team: the senators, commissioners, thank you to my VP [Serena Welch] most of all, she’s there whenever need her; thank you to my advisors [Jennifer Low] and Jason Velo. And thank you to the students for entrusting me with their voice, and I will continue to do my best to serve out the rest of my term. If anyone has any questions, don’t be afraid to come by and tell us what you think. We are as invested in you as you are in us.”
Gladys L. Benerd School of Education: Matthew Brewer

Nanxi Tang
GENERAL MANAGER

Matthew Brewer '16 was nominated by the Gladys L. Benerd School of Education as a distinguished student who has shown both leadership and integrity during his time here. Brewer is originally from Lafayette, Calif., a small town in the East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area.

He is double majoring at Pacific in liberal studies, diversified with a concentration in special education, and Spanish language and literature.

On campus, Brewer is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service organization, and holds two jobs on campus as a disability services provider at the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities and a classroom-based writing mentor for Professor Camille Norton.

Brewer draws his inspiration to succeed and work hard from his mother. "I know this answer is probably cliche, but she is a single mom putting both me and my twin brother through college at the same time," explained Brewer.

After graduation, Brewer hopes to move back to the Bay Area to teach students with moderate to severe disabilities near his hometown. "Ideally, I'll have a job lined up before I graduate, though!" Brewer laughed.

"I love [the entire] faculty from the School of Education. I can honestly say that all of the professors genuinely care about our education and are excited to help develop future educators! I am very thankful for my faculty adviser, [Elaine] Mo, who has helped me tremendously in planning out my 4-year plan for my double majors in special education and Spanish language and literature. Every staff and faculty member at [School of Education] is awesome, simply put," Brewer commented. Brewer was attracted to Pacific's small class sizes and the 14:1 student faculty ratio.

Brewer's passion for working with students with disabilities and his numerous accomplishments at Pacific are remarkable and commendable.

Center for Community Involvement: External Relations Coordinator Valerie Sanabia

Nicole Felkins
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valerie Sanabia '15 currently serves as the external relations coordinator, but she first joined the leadership team as a sophomore, taking on the role of Voluntary Action Groups' program manager.

"I wanted to make a difference," explained Sanabia. Her duties as external relations coordinator include managing funding, building relationships and exploring relationships with organizations within and outside the University.

The CCI also allowed Sanabia the opportunity to develop herself as a student and employee. "The CCI provided professional skills from timeliness to preparedness to management supervision, so I think that it allowed me to practice a wide range and learn a lot of new things," proclaimed Sanabia.

Besides her work with the CCI, Sanabia is involved with the Center for Social Entrepreneurship. She is pursuing a degree in business international affairs and commerce at Pacific, which is conveniently situated in her hometown of Stockton, Calif.

"Valerie defines a leader as someone who is constantly seeking the opportunity to challenge themselves and other people to further their development.

"I think that it's important for me to be able to affect something, make something better, improve something that has not been historically the most equitable or the most efficient in systems, so that we can maximize the efficiency and the impact that we make in our jobs and in our academics and in just our lives as people."

Sanabia maintained, "Excellent leaders are both ambitious and understanding." It is important to find "those things that you're genuinely passionate about and that will help you exercise some of the skills you are already good at and will help you improve the skills that you are not so good at or don't have yet," suggested Sanabia.

She encouraged students to apply for that internship or position they have their eye on.

Valerie found her niche opportunity at the CCI, so go find yours!

Black Student Union: Osagie Omoruyi

Sarah Kellner
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Here at Pacific, Black Student Union is an ever growing social organization of which black students advocate the promotion of culture and support in the black community. BSU also gives students the platform to address any social, political or environmental issues seen as unjust and celebrates the advancement of people of color. Appointed as an astounding leader in the community is Osagie Omoruyi '16, the president of BSU.

Omoruyi has been involved with the organization since he was a freshman at Pacific. He gravitated to the club because "it allowed me to get a feel of home and culture." He finds that there is a deep connection with the people in the organization and that "I feel this way with my club because I can count on someone to give me the truth, be there for me when I am in need and overall, as a friend."

Omoruyi admits he didn't fully realize his capabilities until 10th grade. That year, he was picked to be his high school basketball team's captain, where his dormant leadership abilities took flight. From then on, Omoruyi understood that he wanted to be a part of something larger.

While he might be the president of the BSU organization, at home there are many leaders under one roof. Omoruyi explained, "Sometimes it can be difficult since we are all leaders within our own way. However, my parents do a wonderful job on advising me in different situations."

"I make sure I tell everyone the importance of communication. I like to organize the club by making sure each person is aware of their position responsibilities. In addition, I like for the members to have more of a say. Therefore, each member has the opportunity to join a committee within the organization." Omoruyi also pointed out he has learned so many of his abilities and tactics from mentors, like Jennifer Jones, who he met during an internship with Kaiser Permanente.

He explained that Jones understood how to handle situations and gave some of the best advice he has ever heard.

"I am hoping to get BSU recognized within and without UOP, and as far as a mark, I want to be able to leave a good blueprint for the future leaders of BSU." As a biological sciences major graduating in 2016, Omoruyi will be heading over the hill to a Pharm.D. program, where he hopes to become an international leader in pharmacy.
Delta Nu Tau President: Eric Cheng

Alex Rooney
OPINION EDITOR

Eric Cheng, president of Delta Nu Tau Professional Fraternity for those interested in a career in the dental field, is in his senior year studying biology. Cheng hopes to go on to study Dentistry here at the University of the Pacific’s own Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry.

When asked what qualities he possessed that make him a leader, Cheng concluded that it was his drive for improvement, stating, “Leaders are those who recognize areas of improvement, and decide to take initiative to make it better.” Cheng also added that leaders needed to excel in teamwork, as they must have a great support system in order to succeed. He finds this support from his executive board, and the rest of the members of the fraternity: “Only by working together were we able to achieve great success and recognition in our philanthropy and service events.”

Of course, leaders are not created overnight, but must aspire to be great by learning from leaders of their own. For Cheng, this person is his father, who is a dentist, just as Cheng hopes to be. However, his goal is not merely to find success as a dentist, but to help others, and to be a supportive and loving father to his future children just as his father was to him.

Cheng expressed that Delta Nu Tau was extremely important to him because it has shaped him and given him countless opportunities in both the professional and social realm – fostering new friendships and fond memories. In fact, as family is clearly important to him, Cheng believes he has found his second family within the fraternity and considers it a definite highlight of his college career.

This home-away-from-home is one of the reasons Cheng is so proud to be a Pacific Tiger, as he feels that the diverse and accepting environment found on this campus provides a place for anyone to belong to something important to them.

Cheng’s favorite superhero is Iron Man, “because not only does he know how to fight crime and save the world, he knows how to do it in style!”

Dumbledore’s Army: President Tiana Freiri

Jodi Tai
NEWS EDITOR

Dumbledore’s Army is the whimsical, magical club on campus where Harry Potter fans can gather in the wonder of the wizarding world. Heading this club is President Tiana Freiri ’16.

“DA was formed to get people in the UOP community to come together to take a break from school and focus on something that we all love and cherish, either as a childhood friend or something that’s kind of with us today: ‘Harry Potter,’” shared Freiri.

Freiri is majoring in education and aspires to be a special education teacher. Her favorite comic book character is The New 52 Harley Quinn, and all her pets are named after Disney characters: “I have a cat named Olaf, a dog named Hercules and another dog named Jazz (for Jasmine) and another cat named Salem.”

Freiri describes her responsibilities as delegating and making sure things are running as smoothly as possible. She runs every meeting and supports her team to the best of her ability.

“My goal is to keep Harry Potter Club alive. Our goal is to get anyone who loves Harry Potter in that door, to play our games and come to our events. We never want to turn anyone away, even if you haven’t read the books or even seen the movies.”

Besides Freiri’s passionate leadership for “Harry Potter” and inclusivity, she holds great ambition for improvement of the club.

“My belief is you always leave a place better than when you found it. My hope is that I leave this club stronger. I want this club to truly be the people’s club and have more member participation in saying what they want. The ultimate goal of the club is to make the members happy. And if the members are happy, I believe I succeeded.”

In addition to Freiri’s concern for the club’s growth, she also advocates club philanthropy. “My first year we wrote letters asking the Warner Brother companies to make all their candies fair trade. We’re pushing for that.”

As president of Dumbledore’s Army, Freiri is dedicated to keeping the magic alive, and is fully committed to passing on the legacy of passion for “Harry Potter.”

Greek life: Jordan Briggs

Eilleen Le
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Leadership. Ideals. Brotherhood: That is Theta Chi. Receiving multiple acknowledgments from last year’s Greek Awards, including Pacific Pride, Most Improved Chapter and Excellence and Leadership Development, Theta Chi is unsurprisingly true to their name.

For Jordan Briggs ’14, being president of the Iota Eta chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at University of the Pacific isn’t a job but “an opportunity [he is] honored to have.” Briggs is the main representation of the fraternity chapter and embodies all of its values.

As president, Briggs is responsible for managing meetings with the school, his brothers and their alumni. He also keeps in contact with Theta Chi’s national headquarters to ensure the chapter is following the guidelines that have been set down for them.

As if this wasn’t enough, Jordan also keeps busy with three to five meetings each week, leads chapter meetings and constantly monitors the actions of the chapter.

While being president of the fraternity takes a lot of time, Briggs has worked at the Graduate School of Physical Therapy on North Campus and has done research with a professor as well. He is a mechanical engineering major who hopes to one day run his own business. A quote that has continued to motivate him to pursue his dreams is, “If you don’t build your own dream, someone else will hire you to build theirs.”

Briggs is currently working as a teaching assistant for an engineering class. He plans to go on co-op next semester to work for a touch screen company in Silicon Valley.

Even though Briggs has had a multitude of experiences in both school and work, he believes that being president has been “one of the most rewarding experiences.” He has not only been able to see the chapter grow, but also has witnessed his own personal growth. Through this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, he has learned what makes a good leader.

Briggs believes a good leader should be “someone who understands those that they are leading.” He knows that everyone communicates differently, so it is important to figure out how to get a message across to each person.

When asked who inspires him, Briggs stated, “As the president of a fraternity, I am inspired by my brothers. They have proven to me many times that they are more than capable of rising to any occasion. Personally, I am inspired by my parents. Their selfless sacrifices and dedication have shown me what it means to work hard.”

Jordan Briggs puts his heart and soul into what he does and exemplifies the qualities of a true leader.
**Student-Athlete: Alex Hamilton**

Hailing from Waikato, New Zealand, senior Alex Hamilton '15 has made his mark at Pacific. Being a Division I athlete and majoring in science are more than intimidating tasks, but Hamilton is far from being phased. This coming May, he will graduate from Pacific with a degree in health, exercise and sport science with a pre-medical concentration.

Hamilton takes much pride in having the opportunity to represent the Pacific community. "I believe having the honor to represent Pacific and playing the sport I love is something I would never change, and having the pride of being a Pacific Tiger is something that will forever be engrained within me," he affirmed.

The 6'1" tennis veteran asserts that his leadership abilities on the court help to lift the team. Leading by example and holding others accountable has encouraged his team's success. He also presents the same attitude in all facets of his life. "I try to lead by example and set a standard that everyone can achieve, whether it be with my sport, study or social responsibilities," disclosed Hamilton. When asked what the most important qualities are in a leader, Hamilton stated, "I think the most important quality of a leader is having the respect and admiration of your team... Being verbal and keeping in touch and knowing the ins and outs of your team or group allows you to sympathize with them."

Having respect from others in a leadership role is very important to Hamilton, hence his admiration for the All Blacks' rugby team captain. Having an undeniable presence and being a catalyst in difficult matches is the type of leader he strives to be.

When asked to compare himself to a superhero, Hamilton mentioned, "I always loved Batman... because of how vicious, yet empathetic he always is. I think that just resonates with my personality."

After graduation, Hamilton hopes to take a gap year before applying to medical school. He looks forward to becoming an orthopedic surgeon and to continue his devotion to helping people.

You can find your everyday Batman in the Biological Sciences Building, examining what it takes to become a doctor, or on the Hal Nelson Tennis Courts, training and guiding his team to success.

**American Market Association President: Madelyn Vander Poel**

Nicole Felkins
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Although Madelyn Vander Poel '14 is graduating this year, she will be leaving behind an impressive track record of accomplishments.

This business administration major with a concentration in marketing and entrepreneurship is the president of Pacific's American Marketing Association. Vander Poel also works as the assistant event coordinator for conference services at the DeRosa University Center. In addition, she exercises her leadership capabilities as the strategic director of Integrated Development Group.

In an interview with The Pacifican, Vander Poel defined a leader as, "An individual who influences a group of people to work toward common goals." Excellent leaders are intuitive, extroverted, approachable and have the ability to motivate others, remarked Vander Poel.

"Excellent leaders are intuitive, extroverted, approachable and have the ability to motivate others, remarked Vander Poel.

For the All Blacks' rugby team captain. Having an undeniable presence and being a catalyst in difficult matches is the type of leader he strives to be. Having respect from others in a leadership role is very important to Hamilton, hence his admiration for the All Blacks' rugby team captain. Hamilton looks to settle down with his beautiful wife Suzanne and daughter Layalina and open his own practice. "Being a native of Stockton, I wanted to return to open my own practice here in Stockton, close to my beloved university," commented Suliman.

**Alumni Spotlight: Sam Suliman**

Nanxi Tang
GENERAL MANAGER

Dr. Sam Suliman '03, '07, a Stockton native, is the first in his family to go to college, let alone professional school.

His story is truly inspirational, showing the value of hard work and dedication. Suliman started his education at San Joaquin Delta College, earning an Associate's Degree. From there, he was awarded the prestigious Community Involvement Program full scholarship to the University of the Pacific, where he graduated with a chemistry-biology degree in 2003. His journey continued on at University of the Pacific's Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, where he graduated with a Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 2007. Suliman never forgot his time at Pacific.

"I truly enjoyed my time at Pacific, both in Stockton and San Francisco," explained Suliman. Upon graduation, Dr. Suliman took his devotion to service and giving back to the next level, practicing dentistry as a Navy dentist; he served with a Marine unit in Japan.

After returning home, Suliman went back to school, this time earning a Masters of Dental Science degree and certificate in the specialty of orthodontics from the University of Tennessee in 2014.

Finally, Suliman looked to settle down with his beautiful wife Suzanne and daughter Layalina and open his own practice. "Being a native of Stockton, I wanted to return to open my own practice here in Stockton, close to my beloved university," commented Suliman.

Suliman attributes his success to his parents who taught him the value of hard work, honesty and never giving up. He is particularly grateful to his father, who is Suliman's biggest inspiration. "[My father] sacrificed his entire life to bring [my family] to the United States in pursuit of higher education," Suliman elaborated.

Suliman advises current students is that no dream is too big to reach: As long as you work hard, you can achieve the unachievable. Dr. Suliman welcomes current students to reach out to him for career guidance. Further information about him and his practice can be found at his website, http://sulimanortho.com/.
Calliope Literary Magazine: Adnan Hashtam

Sarah Yung
COPY EDITOR

You may have seen Adnan Hashtam '15 in the GHES Center, avidly participating in an upper-division English seminar or presenting the merits of submitting to our lit mag to your class.

But that’s not all Adnan does as editor-in-chief of Calliope, Pacific’s award-winning literary and arts magazine. Hashtam also judges literary submissions, edits content, oversees the editorial team and prepares the literary aspect of Calliope for publication.

As president of the Ethnic Studies Club, vice president of Sigma Tau Delta and Calliope’s editor-in-chief, Hashtam is plenty involved on campus. Yet he’s also no academic slouch.

Last year, Hashtam presented two papers at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Hashtam plans to pursue his Ph.D. in cultural studies or literature, "specifically working through the perspective of settler colonialism." He wishes to pass on his wisdom to students through the world of academia.

When asked what qualities define a good leader, Hashtam had a response at the ready: "A good leader is someone who is passionate about what they stand for and what they’re against. It’s someone who knows how to work with people with a range of abilities; they bring out the best qualities of each person to work toward a collective goal.

Moreover, a good leader is curious, and they go after possibilities that may seem out of reach. They are ambitious and spontaneous; however, they have their eye on the end goal."

It’s easy to wonder who inspires Hashtam. He commented, "My inspiration comes from the millions of deliberately unheard victims of colonialism and occupation both around the world and here in the U.S. Their struggles against systemic violence remind me to resist, highlight and fight back in both my academic and activist work."

Palestinian writer, professor and activist Edward W. Said also inspires Hashtam. "His work served as my introduction to radical politics, specifically his work on Palestine and Zionism... [It] continues to remind me how critical both academia and activism are," Hashtam explained.

When asked about his role models, Hashtam immediately named his parents: "My dad reminds me that with hard work and true dedication anything is possible. My mom keeps me grounded and reminds me the importance of working toward making a change lives off those who need it."

He added, "Their lives, with all their struggles and setbacks, serve as a reminder for me to continue working toward helping those who are disadvantaged."

So what’s in Hashtam’s surely bright future? Besides pursuing his Ph.D., Hashtam wishes "to work closely with activists to work toward bringing justice to those who are systemically affected by settler colonies such as U.S. and Israel." With passion, drive and empathy in spades, Hashtam is surely a leader to watch.

Student-Athlete: Shayda Ansari

Drew Jones
SPORTS EDITOR

Juggling school, community service and even a Division I sport sounds nearly impossible; as for Shayda Ansari ’16, her schedule doesn’t appear nearly as daunting. Ansari is a junior women’s soccer player at Pacific, majoring in business administration with a concentration in marketing and human resources and minoring in psychology.

The veteran midfielder also holds the presidency within the Pacific Student Athlete Council, which strives to provide student-athletes with the opportunity to be involved in the Pacific and Stockton communities through leadership, academic involvement and community outreach.

This semester, Ansari has set an example for her peers by becoming a weekly volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club of Stockton. Also for the fall soccer season, she earned recognition on the West Coast Conference All-Academic Honorable Mention Team for her exceptional academic efforts.

When it comes to being a leader, Ansari abides by the four D’s: “dedication, determination, desire and discipline.” She believes that implementing these four qualities can greatly increase success in all pursuits.

Ansari has exemplified what it means to be a good leader in the classroom and within the Pacific community; in addition, she also shows great leadership skills on the field.

"On the field I feel like I’m a leader, because I always try and set a good example by working hard and putting my best effort forward. I put my teammates’ needs first, so that as a group we can strive towards a goal and be successful," revealed Ansari.

Ansari always admired her dad as a leader as she grew up. She shared, "He’s always looking to push his followers to be the best of their ability and grow whether it be at his work, a team he’s coached, or members of our family."

Being a Pacific Tiger and being a leader on campus is very important to Ansari. She strives to help others be successful and feel self-sufficient. She looks to continue her education after graduating from Pacific, hoping to study either human resources or organizational behavior.

From the soccer field to various areas within the Stockton community, Shayda Ansari shows Pacific what it truly means to lead by example.

Department of Physical Therapy: Chris Wolfinger

Nicole Felkins
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Chris Wolfinger ’15, a graduate student working on his doctorate degree in physical therapy at Pacific’s Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, declares, “I just want to help people.”

Wolfinger is involved with two community service programs, Focus on Five and Healthy Children.

Wolfinger believes connecting with people is integral to leadership: “If you can connect to people and have fun doing it, I think that you’ll be a great leader.”

Over the summer, Wolfinger interned with the San Jose Sharks. As a certified athletic trainer and physical therapy major, Wolfinger was able to provide both perspectives at an undergraduate physical therapy athletic training colloquium. Wolfinger also spoke as a student representative at a physical therapy council leadership meeting in the presence of the department chair, local physical therapists and community members.

When asked of his definition of a leader, Wolfinger replied, “A leader is someone who can bring together a diverse group of people for a common purpose. And bring out the best in people, even if some people have different personality traits, different characteristics.”

The greatest challenge Wolfinger faced as a leader of his hockey team was connecting with a diverse group of people and bringing them together to accomplish a common goal.

“Once you get to grad school, it’s really important that you’re not one-dimensional. You can go out and reach out to the community or do those internships. Considering all of his accomplishments, Wolfinger has certainly achieved multidimensionality.
Caitlin Ha  
LAYOUT EDITOR  

Molly Butera '15 is involved with many organizations on campus. She is most well known as the ASuop Arts and Entertainment booking manager in charge of hiring bands for the Brickyard @ The Lair live entertainment series. 

Her favorite superhero is Batman because he is a regular guy but is also “a badass,” as she described in an interview with The Pacifican. Like Batman, Butera is a seemingly ordinary person with some badass talents. She is a sister of Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity. 

Some of the concerts she coordinated include Cheers Elephant and Grizfolk, with the latter especially turning out to be a huge hit — many students came out to enjoy the indie alternative band. 

On top of this, Butera works with a committee to organize Block Party, Oasis, Homecoming, Spring Concert and many other events. Molly and the rest of ASuop A&E work tirelessly to put on events for the student body. 

In the end, Butera reflects that her efforts are all worth it: “My biggest accomplishment would be either the Macklemore or Diplo concert, where I got hands on experience at planning a concert from the bottom up and then getting to experience the epicness me and my team created. There is no better feeling than having Macklemore himself tell you that your school has their stuff together.” 

She added that Macklemore said University of the Pacific was the only college to ever get his dressing room and tech requirements 100 percent correct.

Butera says part of being a good leader is being able to think on your feet, which comes to play in a scene that is constantly changing and presenting unforeseen challenges. 

One of these challenges is putting on concerts, where something inevitably goes wrong and many fans are depending on you to make it right. When things go wrong, Butera says, “It is a matter of relaxing and thinking on your feet, while simultaneously going with the flow.” 

This past summer, Butera interned to coordinate a major music festival in Austin, Texas, which took place four weeks ago. The FunFunFun Fest had artists such as Wiz Khalifa, 2 Chainz, Alt-J and hundreds of others. Butera was able to meet and make connections with many influential people in the entertainment industry.

Molly has a promising future ahead of her. Her plans are to take her degree in business arts and entertainment and minor in music management and “go wherever the world takes her.” 

Specifically, though, Butera wants to be a tour manager that travels with a big artist or band, or work at a concert venue to host a variety of different artists. Her main goal is to see as much of the world as possible while doing what she loves.
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