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University of the Pacific Looks Ahead With 2020

Jeremy Gottschalk
Editor-In-Chief

Class of 2020, we’ve been expecting you. Through the years, Pacific students have greeted newcomers like you and showed them the world from own eyes. Now it is our turn. As you walk the halls of this, our prized institute, remember to keep an open mind and commit to memory all you can. Someday soon, you will find yourself leading those who come after you.

We know it can be easy to be overwhelmed by the transition to college life. Moving to campus, living alone or with strangers, parental expectations, finances, and, of course, the pressure of maintaining good grades. Some students won’t know how to cope with not having someone to wake them up after the alarm has gone off for the eleventh time, or when you can’t find your car keys (or you forget you don’t actually own a car). The fear and anxiety of uncertainty can weigh you down and ruin a beautiful thing. You can’t let it. There are so many choices you can make to see a better future and love your time here as a Tiger.

Being a new college student is one of the best experiences. You’ll be a part of Pacific for life. You’ll meet friends, hang out, take risks, and learn more about yourself than you ever thought possible. Don’t fret. Embrace the idea that you are changing and look to the future for decisions on how you would like to see yourself in five, ten, or twenty years.

Try something new. Maybe you weren’t able to do an interest or hobby that you enjoy. University of the Pacific has so many clubs and organizations to play to your whims. Want to learn how to cook international foods? There is a club for that. Want to learn about fraternities or sororities? Head over to Greek Life. Want to find an adventure for the weekend? How about seeing what Tiger Escapes the Baum Fitness is offering. Whatever you do, don’t be afraid to try something new.
What did students and guests get out of their Stockton Con experience? Well, there was definitely enough to last an entire weekend. For one, there were several panels and shows that guests could attend, including a geek fashion show, a Q&A with Michael Dorn from Star Trek: The Next Generation, a panel on body image and diversity in comics with Chunky Girl Comics, a panel on comic book artist Jae Lee, and so much more.

There were plenty of vendors selling vintage and new comic books, posters from classic and upcoming movies, action figures and plushies from dozens upon dozens of fan bases, and other collectables and memorabilia. It was definitely a day to remember to bring cash since it is not uncommon to spend too dollars or more on an exclusive statue of the Joker or large stacks of classic X-Men comic books.

Stockton Con was also an opportunity to meet talented artists and writers who are either veterans of the comic book industry or just breaking into the industry with their own independent works. Interested in collecting original art? It was easy to find prints and original drawings to purchase from the artists themselves. Many of these artists were also open to talking to guests about their personal work and offered their own advice on how to get into the industry.

After all is said and down, guests could spend their day walking through the arena enjoying time with their fellow fans and geeks. It was not too difficult to find someone who would be happy to talk about the newest episode of Steven Universe, the upcoming Fall anime, or the reviews for Suicide Squad. All in all, Stockton Con was a good way to end the break before gathering textbooks and reviewing class schedules, and for those who missed out, no need to worry,
Another suggestion, trust your teachers. One of the biggest setbacks to your education is assuming that your educators don’t want the best for you. They truly care. It only takes a moment to see. No, I am not saying push for that third homework extension, but don’t be afraid to ask questions and avoid the anxiety of waiting for an issue to fix itself.

Also, make sure to take time for yourself. I can’t stress this enough. School can be overwhelming. Plan a schedule to ensure you make your classes, have time to yourself, can visit with friends and enjoy what Pacific has to offer. Keep healthy habits. Call home, make sure you address your hygiene needs, write for the paper. Use your time wisely and you will see so much more out of your life.

Living off four hours of sleep a night from your favorite video game being released won’t help you at all. Don’t think starving yourself will get your homework done any faster. Fatigue can make you do crazy things. It’s not worth a trip to a medical center. Balance is key, and what a better time to start setting lifestyle habits than right now.

Above all, use your resources. If you struggle, find a tutor. If you are questioning your identity or feel you being different makes it hard to go to school, try the Multicultural Center. If you need to talk to someone, try CAPS.

University of the Pacific has tried to be proactive in thinking of the very best in services, organizations, and lifestyle needs to make this transition year a year of fun. Don’t waste it worrying. You will find that everything will be great, and the experiences you choose to begin your time here will shape you for the rest of your Tiger life. I am happy to join you as you set off on this incredible journey! Tiger Pride!

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**Keynote Speaker Dr. Susan B. Neuman Tops List of Distinguished Guests for Sixth Year of Beyond Our Gates Dialogue**

Andrew Rocha  
Copy Editor

On September 1st, the University of the Pacific will be holding their sixth annual Beyond Our Gates Dialogue at 9:00am at the Vereschagin Alumni House.

For those not familiar with the Beyond Our Gates initiative, it is the University of the Pacific’s response to issues surrounding education and literacy in the city of Stockton and the San Joaquin County. The Beyond Our Gates Dialogue invites many community leaders and representatives from various programs focused on education to share their ideas and plans to improve literacy and learning in the community.

Attending this year’s Beyond Our Gates Dialogue as keynote speaker will be Professor Susan B. Neuman. Professor Neuman is the professor and chair of the Teaching and Learning Department at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University. Professor Neuman is an alumna, having received her first doctorate in 1977 from the University of the Pacific. Before arriving at New York University, Professor Neuman served as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, established the Early Reading First program, the Early Childhood Professional Development Education Program, and improved accountability efforts in children’s achievement.

Professor Susan B. Neuman had served as the assistant education secretary under the Bush Administration and co-authored a study where she found that children in a middle-class community in Philadelphia each had access to about 13 books, while in a poverty concentrated community in Philadelphia, there was one age-appropriate book for about 300 children. All of those books also turned out to be coloring books. Professor Neuman has co-authored a new study and found large differences in children’s access to reading resources not only between middle-class and poverty stricken communities, but between economically poor and slightly less poor communities in several major cities, like Detroit, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C.

The new dean of Pacific’s Gladys L. Benard School of Education, Professor Vanessa Sheared, will also be attending the Beyond Our Gates Dialogue. As the dean of the School of Education, Professor Sheared understands the importance of education and the impact the university has on the community. “I am very committed to issues of equity and social justice, and I think that diversity is a key mission and hallmark of this university. That is one of the reasons why I came here, because I think that is something that a lot of universities talk about but when you think about the mission of the Beyond Our Gates initiative that is moving more from just talking about something to doing something about it.” Professor Sheared went onto say “I am excited that this is a faculty, this is a university that is out there in the community, being a part of the community, making a difference in the community.”

Beyond Our Gates is dedicated to helping the community and the dialogue is an opportunity to show the public what it is that Beyond Our Gates plans to do. One important aspect of these dialogues is the announcement of the recipients of the Early Literacy Mini-Grants. These Mini-Grants from the Beyond Our Gates initiative are to help support programs in organizations in the community that are focused on improving literacy.

There is no admission cost to the Beyond Our Gates Dialogue and the event is open to the public. For more information about the event or to RSVP, contact Jennifer Torres Siders at jtorressiders@pacific.edu.
Our on-campus Pacific Dental Care Clinic offers free and convenient dental hygiene care to students, faculty, staff and members of the public.

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Pacific Unites For Fifth Annual Stockton Pride Festival

Jeremy Gottschalk
Editor

Officially known as the Stockton Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Celebration, the Stockton Pride festival is produced by the nonprofit organization San Joaquin Pride Center (SJPC). The event is being held on Saturday, August 27, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will include exhibition booths, local vendors and businesses which support LGBTQA+.

This is also the fifth year University of the Pacific has supported the community through tabling and sponsoring the event. Colleen Smith, the Program Support Specialist for the Multicultural Center, gave an insight into the importance of this and all Pride events.

"Part of the reason for the University's continued commitment is to address and support diversity and inclusion. We are also supporting a local community event. Pacific is a staple in the Stockton community, any chance to get involved is important."

Smith observes that there is a culmination of emotions grown from the events of the June 12th Orlando shooting at Pulse, a gay nightclub. The terrorist act and hate crime resulted in the loss of 49 lives and wounded 53 from members of the LGBTQ+ community known as Latinx.

"There is a sense of family, and I think the Orlando tragedy impacted a lot of people across the country," says Smith.

"In terms of why it is so important for our community, Pacific's Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A) cosponsored and helped plan the vigil held on campus on Monday, June 20th, a week after Orlando."

Program Assistant for the Pride Resource Center Alexis Arenz will be attending Stockton Pride for the first time. For four years, Arenz has helped coordinate events and activities through the Pride Center. When asked about what they hope to provide through tabling at Stockton Pride, Arenz says, "we hope our table will show the Stockton community that the University of the Pacific community supports LGBTQ+. Stop by, say hi, spin the wheel and have a chance to win prizes."

Sandra Mendez, '17, Bachelor's in Mathematical Economics at College of the Pacific, works with the Multicultural Center as Desk Coordinator. Mendez tabled for the Pride Resource Center in 2015. Mendez noted, "I really liked the family involvement. There were families wearing Pride colors, fun at the prize wheels, and the kids were really excited about getting buttons, goodies and cool swag from our booth."

Other attractions include Singer Crystal Waters, Drag shows and a carnival-style Kids Zone.

Mendez says that when you stop by, don't stay at just Pacific's booth, "Go around to every table. Visit and talk to the tables to understand why they are attending and supporting the community. It will help you connect. Bring cash, sunglasses and a hat.

The event is located at Weber Point Events Center, 221 N Center St, Stockton, CA 95202. Admission is five dollars.
American Heart Association

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Welcoming Pacific’s New and Returning Students!

We’re a local group that focuses on community involvement, social events, education, and activism. You’re invited to join us for brunches (at Panera Bread) and dinners (at Valley Brew), at our game nights and book clubs, interesting lectures, cleaning up trash, and more.

Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers

We Believe in Good.
Stoudamire Turning Heads

Zach Withrow

As Athletic Marketing and Sales Manager Jeremy Neisser noted, the program has seen a spike in new season ticket holders this offseason, despite the fact that the bulk of the program’s marketing campaigns has yet to begin.

More than 200 new season tickets are expected to be sold by the time the season begins; double the amount typically sold during an offseason. Neisser credited the increase in ticket sales with excitement over Stoudamire’s arrival, as well as a number of promotional events that will take place at the Spanos Center over the course of the season.

One of the biggest promotions of this upcoming season is a bobblehead giveaway that will occur on November 14th, the first regular season home game of the year. And whose figure will be gracing the coveted bobblehead, you ask? None other than Coach Stoudamire. The thirteen-year NBA veteran’s depiction on the collectible desktop toy is spot-on, and will be sure to attract a large crowd for Pacific’s game against the University of Wisconsin—Green Bay. This will be a true test of grit by the Tigers as they take on a team that participated in the NCAA Tournament last season. Stoudamire’s new and improved squad is sure to make every home game special, and be eligible to play next season.
Longtime Tiger Ben Laskey Ready to Make Tracks

Zach Withrow
Sports Editor

After nearly two decades at Pacific, Assistant Director of Athletic Media Relations Ben Laskey is leaving University of the Pacific. A true Tiger for life, Laskey attended Pacific as an undergrad and a graduate student and proceeded to work for the school for years afterward. Laskey started his career at Pacific as an undergrad in 1999, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 2003. He continued to attend Pacific through 2005 as he earned his Masters of Arts in Sports Management and worked as a graduate assistant.

In July of 2005, Laskey was promoted to Athletic Media Relations Assistant. He was later promoted to his most recent position, Assistant Director of Media Relations, in 2010.

"We’re gonna miss him a lot," said Dan Chapman, Associate Director of Athletics for Marketing and Media. Chapman worked with Laskey for the last three years and expressed his appreciation for Laskey’s hard work. “He was a huge asset to the media relations department.”

As Assistant Director of Media Relations, Laskey admirably represented the school whenever the media called with questions about one of Pacific’s athletic squads. Laskey was known as the “go-to guy” for information about Pacific Athletics.

“[Laskey] has shown extreme dedication for nearly two decades,” noted Mike Dalgety, who serves as Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Internal Affairs. "[He’s] been instrumental in modernizing the Athletics Media Department.”

Laskey plans to move to Southern California with his girlfriend, where he plans to continue a career in college athletics. No matter where life takes him, though, it is clear that he sees himself as a Tiger for life.

“I went to school here; I have an understanding more than most people. I genuinely care for our teams, our players, and their success,” said Laskey. He will continue to follow the teams at Pacific that he worked closely with for so many years, and he is particularly interested in seeing the men’s basketball team’s new offense under Coach Damon Stoudamire.

Pacific Athletics intends to fill the vacant position in a timely manner. In the interim, Athletic Media Relations Manager Kevin Wilkinson will take over the bulk of Laskey's duties. Wilkinson has been with Pacific since 2010 and has the experience and dedication needed to bear the new workload.

"[Wilkinson] has done a stellar job," said Chapman. "He is a very seasoned professional who will do a good job for us.”

As for Laskey, if the words of his colleagues are any indication, he will surely find continued success in his new position down south. And though he may no longer be working at the University, his years of service to Pacific will always be appreciated, and they surely have earned him the title of Tiger For Life.

Pictured: Ben Laskey, left, with mentor Mike Dalgety.