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University of the Pacific

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Mar 1 Written By Pauline Le

Cold, Colder, Freezing



Pauline
Le

Staff
Writer

First Year
2+3 Pre-
Pharmacy
Major

A part of
The
Pacifcan
since
2021

With winter slowly coming to an end (February 28th to be exact!), giving way to spring, the flowers are blooming and the smell of Gingko trees wafting across the university campus. However, despite the sun's blinding rays and clear blue skies, temperatures are still low... too low. With the oncoming weeks of severe cold weather that are still yet to come, Stockton has currently issued a freeze warning.

With low temperatures ranging from 28 to 32 degrees Fahrenheit, weather conditions are not looking up. With the lowest temperatures being during early morning and late afternoon to evening, students walking to morning classes and from night classes are caught in the onslaught of winds.

Students are advised to stay bundled up in the dorms, and especially as they walk through campus. That means jackets and sweaters galore ! With Covid still very prevalent, it's important to protect oneself and maintain good health conditions.

Mar 1 Written By Isabel Acevedo

Pacific Professors Experiencing Burnout



Isabel
Acevedo

Editor

Third
Year
English
Major
with
Writing
and Film
Studies
Minors

A part of
The
Pacifcan
since
2020

Previously, I have written an article on [student burnout](#) for the Pacifcan. Now, we're highlighting another case of burnout: one that affects our very own professors at the university.

Recognizing the irony of my request, I emailed professors from the various schools here at the university and asked them to take a moment out of their busy schedules to answer my questions. I wanted to gather a better understanding about what caused prolonged fatigue among professors and what changes the university can implement.

On Wednesday February 23rd, I met with Professor Abel Fernandez, who is a professor at the School of Engineering and Computer Science here at the Stockton campus. It was prior to his eleven AM class, which I was able to note when he showed me his filled calendar.

We began a discussion about the pandemic and how to define the sensation of burnout. Professor Fernandez discussed with me the connotation of the word. He showed me an article he had read at 3:30am earlier that morning. The article centered around a psychology professor at Yale who talked about why she was taking time off from teaching. "I'm showing you this because it happens to everyone," he said. We agreed that the definition of burnout was different for everyone. Even the word

was misleading. He pointed at the light bulb of a lamp. “Light bulbs burnout. Candles burnout.” When these objects burn out, they are drained, diminished, and need to be reignited.

But this is not the case for the professors at the university. Professor Fernandez, who is taking a sabbatical in the fall, agreed that it was more of the case that professors just needed a break. That they were overwhelmed but they were not falling out of love with teaching.

With this new perspective on burnout, I wanted to know how course loads and the lack of administrative staff has affected departments. A professor who wishes to remain anonymous informed me that “the reduction in staff has meant that things take longer and sometimes fall through the cracks – this means more work for me to ensure things get done and double-checking work to make sure it is correct.” There is also a general sentiment from the professors that I interviewed around course loads and the amount of work and accommodations that is expected for professors.

Professor Susan Sample, a political science professor for the School of International Studies as well as a Department of Political Science, describes the increased expectations of professors by saying that “we’re rather like frogs being boiled slowly. I think the administration is assuming we won’t notice.” Professors are often asked to do more than just teach classes. They make accommodations for students, such as turning courses with too few students into independent studies. They also serve on committees and have to cut time out of their work day to grade and update canvas. Professor Fernandez also reminded me that they have to reply to dozens of emails a day with an appropriate response. He talked about his regret over wanting to participate in events but feeling that he doesn’t have the time or energy to commit to them. It only makes sense. Even though most events involve some form of leisure activity, they still require time and energy; most of which professors run out of after the end of their work day.

I also asked each professor what the university could do to help decrease feelings of stress and burnout. A cohesive statement was made about pay raises given the increased expectations for faculty. Professor Sample described how she is far less emotionally invested in the job than she used to be and it has become more about taking home a paycheck while she is aware that it’s value declines annually. She believes the university needs to enact cost-of-living adjustments and be mindful of the amount of extra work that professors are taking on beyond teaching a full course load.

When I asked Professor Fernandez, he responded that he would like more stability. Given that the last two turbulent years have been hard on both professors and students, I think a sense of calm sounded like an ideal environment. He talked about the amount of changes that are constantly being introduced. He clarified that they were necessary and most of them were also important for the university to focus on. But it was a lot for professors to adjust to after returning from virtual learning. While we are attempting to regain our footing, it seems as though the university has forgotten the toll that the pandemic has taken on all of us.

It is comforting to know that our professors can empathize with student burnout. We are all attempting to balance work, school, and personal life precariously as the turbulent waves of the pandemic threaten to drown us.

If you ever feel the symptoms of burnout, remember that you are not a candle. You might just need a break from whatever is causing your fatigue.

Mar 1 Written By Emma Garber

Restaurant Hopping



Emma
Garber

Staff
Writer

First Year
Psychology
Major

A part of
The
Pacifcan
since 2021

Stockton California is not only the home to the University of the Pacific, it’s also home to some amazing restaurants. Over the past few months I have traveled around the city looking for the best places to eat. Here’s a list of some of my favorites.

Cast Iron Trading Co.

I tried: A special skillet macaroni and cheese of the day.

This American eatery and brewery was hopping! Cast Iron Trading Co. had a wide selection of foods from salads to tacos to sandwiches. I greatly enjoyed the mac and cheese special. It was very creamy and it had a wonderful crispy topping. Some members of my dining party were disappointed in their fish tacos. They found them dry and thought they had an unappetizing fishy smell. My dining companions who were older than twenty one enjoyed the wide selection of beers on tap. There was also a wide selection of specialty bottled soda, juice, and sparkling water for sale. I had a classic coke. Finding seating was difficult but doable. The ordering system was very easy, you order and pay first at the counter and then the food is brought to your table.

Overall rating: 3.5/5

Go Falafel Greek Food

I tried: Falafel plate with falafel balls, rice, salad, hummus, tzatziki, and pita bread, baklava

Greek food is always good but Go Falafel takes it to the next level! I really enjoyed the plate I ordered. The food was out very quickly. Every part of the falafel plate went together so well. The falafel was flavorful and moist and the rice was well done. The hummus and tzatziki were really the stars of the show; they went so well with the classic falafels and I couldn’t get enough of them. For dessert, I had one of my favorites, baklava. This baklava was especially amazing. The amount of honey was perfect and I loved the pistachio crumbles on top. I definitely want to try more dishes from this restaurant!

Overall rating: 5/5

Swagat Indian Cuisine

I tried: Vegetable samosa, gobi manchuri, chili paneer, dosa, butter chicken, naan, and much more

Swagat has the best Indian food in Stockton! All of the food is so flavorful and unique. The portion sizes are pretty large so this is a perfect place to just order a few dishes for your group and then share! That is

what I did with my party and we got to try a variety of great food. The service is great and all of the staff members are very nice.

Overall rating: 5/5

Dynasty Seafood Restaurant

I tried: Orange chicken, chow mein, and various bits picked of my friends plate

This restaurant has so much more than just seafood! Food is served family style at this classic Chinese restaurant. The menu is huge so there really is something for everyone. My group of four ordered two large and one small entree and some noodles. We had food left over to take home. The atmosphere of this restaurant could be improved but it was very clean, it might be one of the cleanest restaurants I have seen.

Overall rating: 4.5/5

De Vinci's

I tried: I always get the combo #8 with ravioli and focaccia

De Vinci's is the perfect eatery for college students. The food is cheap, filling, and delicious. I want to try more of their pastas but the ravioli is so good that I get it every time. The focaccia bread is made fresh and it has the perfect amount of saltiness to it. The service is very quick and the food holds up well during transportation if you order to go. I cannot get enough of De Vinci's and I got all of my friends hooked on it too. This little place is a must visit!

Overall rating: 5/5

Siamese Street

I tried: Fresh spring rolls and Thai style fried rice with chicken

I have never tried Thai food before going to Siamese Street and I was very impressed! The food was vibrant and there were so many options to choose from. I went with a large group and the service was very fast. The portions were very large and I had leftovers. I would definitely eat at this restaurant again.

Overall rating: 4/5

Buffalo Wild Wings

I tried: Parmesan garlic boneless wings, macaroni and cheese, and a side salad

Buffalo Wild Wings (or b-dubs) is a favorite of my friends and I. The first time we went was right after we found money on the ground so dinner was almost free! I do think that b-dubs is a little bit overpriced but the food is very good. The second time I ordered from this restaurant I used delivery. The accuracy of the order I received left some room for improvement. My friend got double the amount of wings she ordered (awesome) but they left out the chocolate milk from my kids meal (not awesome). Overall, the boneless wings are great and the sauces are very flavorful, the mac and cheese is classic, and the side salad was huge! I was very impressed with how it felt more like part of the meal than just something thrown together at the last minute.

Overall rating: 4/5

Raising Canes

I tried: Chicken strips, Texas toast, fries, and lemonade

I'm sorry, but Raising Canes is just not as good as everyone says it is. It is not bad but it is just not super special. The chicken strips were very good and I think they had the perfect amount of crunch. My friends really loved the Texas toast but I just thought it was ok. I wish it had some garlic or some more flavor. I did not like the fries. That is not a very fair assessment because I do not like fries very much in general but these ones did not change my mind. The lemonade, however, was really good! It was very sweet, tangy, and refreshing. I would definitely order the lemonade again. Overall, a meal of fried chicken, toast, and fries was too heavy for me. It felt like a lot of carbs! I wish they had an alternate side option like a side salad that could be substituted for either the fries or toast. I ordered inside the restaurant and the service was very fast but I did see that the drive through line was very long.

Overall rating: 2.5/5

Market Tavern

I tried: Wood oven roasted olives, margarita pizza, four cheese mac-n-cheese, lemon rosemary house made soda

The first thing I noticed when walking into Market Tavern was how dark it was! I don't know if they were trying to be edgy or if they were hiding something but I wish they would just turn the lights on. The food was very good. I love the roasted olives and the pizza was great. The mac-n-cheese was very good with a nice crispy topping. The house made soda was so good! It was not too sweet and I love the hint of earthy rosemary. I really like this restaurant and I haven't tried anything that I haven't liked. It is a bit expensive and upscale so be sure to take that into consideration. However, the dining room is so dark you could probably wear flip flops and no one would notice.

Overall rating: 4/5

Misaki Sushi

I tried: Tempura appetizer and dinner box 5 consisting of sesame chicken, fried gyoza, rice, a little salad, and a lot more tempura.

This restaurant was very good! I loved all the food and my friends who ordered sushi really enjoyed what they got. Some did say that they wanted more fresh and non-fried sushi options on the menu. The service was a little slow but I expected that because I was in a large party of over ten people. The portions were very large and I did not finish my dinner box. I was a little disappointed that my box did not come with any pickled ginger. I love to eat it plain (I don't know why, I just think it is great) so I had to steal it off of my friend's plate.

Overall rating: 4/5

Olive Garden

I tried: Fried mozzarella, spinach-artichoke dip, breadsticks, cheese ravioli in meat sauce, house salad, and chicken gnocchi soup

First of all, the dishes here are huge! My group of four ordered everything listed above, plus one more bowl of soup, and still had leftovers. We did not even try the ravioli in the restaurant because there were so many appetizers. Luckily, pasta reheats well. Everything was pretty good and the service was very good. I think most Olive Gardens are similar so it is probably not anything new for most folks. I had somehow never been to Olive Garden in my life before last week so I decided that it should be included in this review. If you want Italian food, I would say go to De Vinci's first and Olive Garden can be your back up.

Overall rating: 3.5/5

BJs

I tried: many, many things from burgers to salads to pizookie.

BJs is a favorite dinner spot for my Speech and Debate team to go to after a long day of competition. It is a fairly regular chain restaurant and has something there for everyone. It's not great and it's not bad; it just is. I don't think that I will ever elect to go there on my own but I will probably go have dinner there many more times while I attend Pacific.

Overall rating: 3/5

My favorite place out of all these options is De Vinci's! If you could only go to one restaurant, De Vinci's is the place to go. It's not very fancy or upscale but it has the best bang for your buck! I have never been disappointed with the food and service is great. Obviously, there are many more amazing restaurants to try in Stockton so keep an eye out for Restaurant Hopping part 2!

Mar 7 Written By Lizbet Garcia

Shah & Gomez: Meet the Candidates



Lizbet Garcia

Staff Writer

First Year English Major

A part of The Pacifican since 2021

ASuop elections are here and it’s time to vote! It is imperative that students participate in electing the representatives for the student organization that does so much for the student body. As presidential candidate Sahila Shah puts it, “ASuop is a coalition of staff and students that are working towards change and student engagement. Whether it’s hosting fun activities or proposing resolutions to introduce new developments, ASuop does it all.”

ASuop is what makes Pacific, Pacific, so make sure to get out there and vote! What is an election, of course, without a campaign? Firstly, let’s get to know running mates Sahila Shah and Ismael Gomez. See staff writer Maddie Tawa’s [article](#) for information regarding the Zhong/Tran campaign.

Running for president, Sahila Shah, marketing, ‘23, shares a bit about herself and her campaign:

“I grew up in an impoverished, male-dominated village in Pakistan, in which I actively fought for women and education rights. My passion for advocacy, community organizing, and social justice sparked through in each environment I participated in. Once I moved to Stockton, my passion also shined through, pushing me to be involved in advocacy work for local non-profits and even the city hall, hence why I am here, running for ASuop. Knowing that there is a lot of change we need is why I am running. I want to represent all students. I want students to feel safe, to feel heard, and to be seen. As ASuop President, I acknowledge that I have privilege and a big platform to make change, but chance will only happen if me and my cabinet and my peers work collaboratively. Throughout my life, speaking up about issues has been my main weapon to enact change, hence why I am applying for this position, because I know that I am sitting at the table with faculty, staff, the President, and so many more folks that make decisions for us. But I am not just sitting to fill a title, I am sitting at the table with concerns, with solutions, and DEI-focused strategies at the forefront of my mind. This position is a great opportunity for me to represent my peers and also ensure that I am actively participating in conversations that allow me to deeply understand what concerns need to be addressed.”

As for her goals:

"If chosen as President, my first action item would be to collaborate between the different departments in ASuop. By unifying the teams, I am strengthening relationships and emphasizing the importance of teamwork. An initiative I have in mind is strategically establishing an itinerary for

ASuop retreat that will allow the departments to work on solution-thinking and collaborative working ethic. I highlight unity because this is how ASuop will expand its marketing and receive the exposure they need. Another initiative I have in mind is to host focus groups. By collecting testimonials, I want to make sure that marginalized voices are heard and that they are also provided with adequate support they need.

Our plans and goals are tied to our three initiatives: school spirit, community engagement, and

DEI. We want students to enjoy the time that they have on campus. For two years, I have been working with ASuop Arts and Entertainment, in which I actively organize engaging events that ALL students will enjoy. Taking this experience in mind, we want students to make memories, to enjoy what Pacific offers, and to find outlets that distract them from overwhelming stress. We want to work with the athletic department and the Conservatory of Music to collaborate on marketing efforts that will encourage folks to participate. We also want to create a sub-committee in the Senate that serves as a coalition between several departments, so that the senators are collaborating and finding opportunities to engage students from their colleges to attend. As for DEI, we want to listen, and one way we can do that is to host focus groups with students. What change do you want to see and how can we, as student leaders, help you? This

is what we'll ask and we'll provide a safe space for them to just talk and strategize on how we can assist them. For DEI, we want to work with faculty and Pacific staff to alter the class syllabus. We want to add cultural and religious accommodations on the syllabus, so students are encouraged to receive adequate accommodations, and are not feeling anxious or burdened to ask for such accommodations. Lastly, as two Stocktonians, we see the stigma that Stockton has within the Pacific community. We want to enhance relationships with local businesses within the city and also to showcase the rich history of Stockton and not just the violent ratings given to the city. We want to work with Student Orientation to possibly draft a small presentation in the itinerary that gives incoming students a look into what Stockton is, its diversity, its talent, and its unique offerings. Although we can't accomplish everything in our presidential run, we know that once we are elected, students will always come first and we will work tirelessly to ensure that those concerns are addressed promptly.

Ismael:

Running for Vice President is Ismael Gomez (Izzi), Business and Accounting, '23, shares with us a bit of background:

"I am first-generation, low-income, Latino, Stockton native and attend University of the Pacific as a Community Involvement Program Scholar. What ultimately inspired me was knowing the ability I would have as Vice-President when it comes to making change here at Pacific. I have always been passionate about my work when it revolves both my Pacific and Stockton community. I have made a small impact with the current work I do which includes CIPSA; a club that focuses on community service and student engagement, Delta Sigma Pi; the nation's largest and first co-ed professional business fraternity, and ESBDEI; a diversity, equity, and inclusion council in which we focus on celebrating cultures and implemented a platform for students to speak about their time here at Pacific. Listening to students and offering any piece of advice or connecting them to resources has always been a huge passion of mine. ASuop Vice-President comes with a large responsibility as I am one of the few individuals who will be representing you as the students. I want to change the narrative of Stockton while also bringing value to Pacific. After three years here, I have listened and learned and want to implement what students want to see changed here at Pacific."

His plans if elected:

"The one thing I plan to do if elected as Vice-President is to ensure the senate feels supported and united. The senate consists of students who are actively working to make good change for Pacific. However at the end of the day, they are still students who deal with the pressure of academics, the possibility of challenges surrounding mental health and family support while still managing to have a college experience. In order to implement Sahila and I's initiatives we need to be certain that our senate is on board with us. That being said, we want our senators to be united and be honest with each other to effectively and efficiently implement these changes. We want these changes to affect our current students and future prospective students in the best way possible. With our three initiatives we know we will be able to reach students from all over the Pacific community and we will always be open to hearing what the students want to see changed here at Pacific."

"Our plans and goals are tied to our three initiatives: school spirit, community engagement, and

DEI. We want students to enjoy the time that they have on campus. After working in both my Pacific and Stockton communities I want to take what I've learned and help both communities but more specifically our Pacific community. We want students to enjoy their time here at Pacific. We want students to feel that the university is of value to them not only with education but also their overall college experience. We want to focus on School Spirit, a huge area that Pacific has struggled with especially after trying to rebuild what Pacific was prior to the pandemic. We understand that this is still

very much apparent in our society today. We want to market and create a new platform for the Conservatory and Athletics to entice people to come to our concerts and games. It not only supports your fellow Pacificans but also allows students to create new memories. We also want to grow the accessibility when it comes to Pacific gear. We want our students to wear their gear loud and proud. A huge part of what it is to be a Pacific

Tiger. When it comes to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion we recognize Pacific's diverse community that also ties with the community of Stockton as well. However the question is more-so about Equity and Inclusivity here at Pacific. While not only listening to our students in focus groups we want to uplift our international, commuter and students from marginalized backgrounds. We have and will continue to listen to the students when it comes to our efforts regarding change at Pacific. This ties to altering the syllabus for cultural and religious accommodations, a huge push Sahila Shah is wanting to see made. Lastly Sahila and I have lived in Stockton either our whole life or a huge portion of it. We've listened and understand the negative connotation surrounding Stockton. And as two individuals who have tremendous love for our city, it saddens us. We want to enhance relationships with local businesses within the city and also to showcase the rich history of Stockton and not just the violent ratings given to the city. We want to work with Student Orientation to possibly draft a small presentation in the itinerary that gives incoming students a look into what Stockton is, its diversity, its talent, and its unique offerings. Although we can't accomplish everything in our presidential run, we know that once we are elected, students will always come first and we will work tirelessly to ensure that those concerns are addressed promptly."

Mar 7 Written By Maddie Tawa

Zhong and Tran Push Equity and Accessibility in ASuop Presidential Platform



Maddie
Tawa

Staff
Writer

Fourth
Year
Japanese
&
English
Major

A part of
The
Pacifcan
since
2021

ASuop election season has taken the Stockton campus by storm. With signature campaigns, debates, and social mixers monopolizing Pacific campus life, keeping track of each candidate and their platforms has become a challenge. So, let’s break down what each platform wants to do and why they’re qualified to do it.

This article focuses on Angel Zhong and Brooke Tran’s platform. For info on the Shah/Gomez campaign, follow the [link](#) to our other article breaking down their goals and qualifications.

Angel Zhong is a third-year Psychology and English double-major with minors in Writing and Ethnic Studies and is running for the President’s ticket. She previously served as a ASuop Associate Supreme Court Justice, an ASuop Senator-at-Large, and is currently serving as the ASuop Director of DEI.

Her running mate, Brooke Tran, is a third-year English major with minors in Film Studies, Sociology, and Data Science. She previously served as the ASuop Director of Strategic Marketing, an ASuop Associate Supreme Court Justice, and an AmeriCorps Fellow. She currently works as a Resident Assistant and an Admissions Campus Event and Training Manager.

Zhong and Tran have four main focuses for their campaign, each with a set of initiatives. Let’s break down what they plan on accomplishing if they’re chosen for office.

Accessibility– Zhong and Tran have laid out an ambitious plan for improving equitable resources on campus. Here are three key takeaways from their accessibility campaign:

- Hybrid & Virtual Learning: Nearly two years of online instruction have taught us just how dangerous current conditions can be. They’ve also taught us how badly students can be affected when the school doesn’t offer adequate resources to connect virtually. While COVID restrictions are slowly lifted, people with pre-existing health conditions are still vulnerable. Zhong and Tran plan on working with faculty to make more options available to students, so they aren’t required to choose between their education and their wellbeing.
- ASuop Website: Despite being a voice for the student body, ASuop can sometimes feel like its own island. Most students aren’t aware of how internal ASuop processes work or where their ASuop fee is going. A major point of contact between ASuop, student clubs, and the student body is TigerLink, and anyone who has ever used TigerLink knows that it’s unusable (unfortunate, considering it’s the only way we can vote for elections). Zhong and Tran plan to create an ASuop website that hosts meeting minutes, legislation, and spending reports. This website will include text-to-speech and language translation software.
- Better Student Spaces: While a majority of students live on-campus, there are also many who don’t. Without a room to retire to between classes, it’s easy to feel isolated. One of their planned

initiatives to address this is to build better spaces for students to relax, study, and socialize in.

Sustainability— Zhong and Tran have centered their sustainability initiatives around its accessibility to college students. Here's three points you should know:

Eco-Clam Giveaways: In order to cut back on landfill contribution, Pacific offers eco-clam reusable to-go boxes for around \$5. Zhong and Tran plan to work with Sustaining Pacific to make these to-go boxes more accessible to students and encourage them to cut back on waste.

Plant-Based Incentive Program: Zhong and Tran plan to work with Bon Appetit to encourage students to eat more sustainably by implementing an incentive program for eating plant-based options.

Fossil Fuel Divestment: Have you heard that your school invests in fossil fuels through a student government election campaign? I did. Apparently, Pacific's endowment fund involves fossil fuel investment. Zhong and Tran plan to work alongside ASuop's Sustainability Committee to encourage the university to stop investing in environmentally harmful resources.

DEI— Here are four things you should know about Zhong and Tran's DEI initiatives:

DEI Department Expansion: In order to best represent the diverse experiences of Pacific's students, Zhong and Tran plan to establish a compensated Student Advisory Board made up of cultural club leaders, commuters, international students, and non-traditional students.

Culturally-Inclusive Dining Options: Dining in the DUC can be frustrating on a good day and challenging on a bad one. Zhong and Tran plan to work with Bon Appetit to provide more inclusive options, such as Halal and Kosher, and make the labeling immediately visible to browsing students.

Communication Between BIPOC Organizations: In order to improve communication between cultural clubs on campus, Zhong and Tran plan to work with DEI programs to make the campus more supportive for BIPOC students.

Stockton Collaboration: Stockton is one of the most diverse cities in California and has a wide array of community events. Zhong and Tran plan to collaborate with the Mayor's Office to make it easier for Pacific students to engage with their city-wide community.

Mental Health— Here are two takeaways you should know about Zhong and Tran's Mental Health initiatives:

Mental Health Workshops: College students almost universally struggle with burnout and stress. Zhong and Tran plan to collaborate with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Active Minds to organize workshops for students to learn healthy stress relief habits.

Incentive Calendar: While healthy living is its own reward, getting started can be a challenge. Zhong and Tran plan to establish a calendar that puts student wellbeing first and rewards their efforts in maintaining their mental health.

Mar 7 Written By Pauline Le

Uncharted



Pauline
Le

Staff
Writer

First Year
2+3 Pre-
Pharmacy
Major

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After months of teasers and trailers, *Uncharted* is finally airing in theaters. A video game film adaptation featuring Tom Holland and Mark Wahlberg, *Uncharted* has fans on the edge of their seats with anticipation and very high expectations.

Seeing Holland and Wahlberg's chemistry on screen as their respective characters of Nathan Drake and Victor Sullivan shows exactly why both are established actors with numerous box office hits under their belts. Holland shows his versatility when it comes to playing characters, showing a different side of himself as he steps into the role of Nathan Drake, while Wahlberg executes the role of Sullivan seamlessly.

While the movie is a good introduction to fans who are not already familiar with the video game, those who have already played the game may feel somewhat disappointed. While the worldbuilding, costume, and design of the movie were consistent with the games, many were underwhelmed as Tom Holland did not look like Drake in the video game play.

Nevertheless, the film has received an overall good rating with the spectacular acting, surprising plot twists and character developments. Despite the film's inaccuracies, fans are still excited as the movie's post credit scene teased a second movie that is to come.

Mar 7 Written By Lizbet Garcia

So many books, Such little time...



Lizbet Garcia

Staff Writer

First Year English Major

A part of The Pacifcan since 2021

When is the last time you read a book outside of a class requirement? For many students, the answer is: not recently. Books have garnered quite the reputation among the general population and it’s not exactly positive. No matter who you are, you may have heard the phrase, “reading is so boring”. From a young age, there is a major emphasis on reading as a way of improving comprehension skills, writing skills, and overall intelligence. Even the most passionate readers have been heard deploring the extensive and complicated literature introduced to them in the classroom. When your only interaction with literature is presented to you in terms of homework and deadlines, it is easy to cast it aside as another unlikable factor of life.

But, one confusing book or two shouldn't steer you off of the imaginative and vast world of literature. Find your niche within a cozy romance, wild adventure, daunting horror, epic thriller, informational text, and so much more. It is important to take whatever you want out of reading. If that means reading a guilty pleasure dollar store romance from your grandmother’s shelf, or expanding your knowledge and understanding of the world with historical and cautionary tales from your school library, that is your decision to make. There are too many genres and authors to choose from rather than subject yourself to what you don’t enjoy, solely because it feels like it’s what one should be interested in as a rising career-person.

Understandably, it is an intimidating move to make. Word of advice: dabble in everything! Everyone starts from somewhere and you might just end up discovering new things about yourself and the world. If you’re looking to explore your local library, here are a few titles recommended by University of the Pacific’s very own English department professors (and some by us!). Happy reading!

ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT'S

Book Recommendations

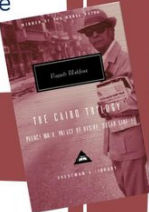
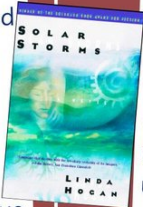
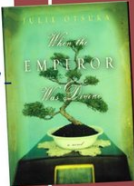
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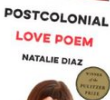
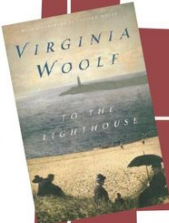
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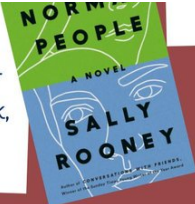
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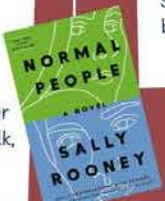


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Mar 7 Written By Matthew Ford

Video Game Industry Turning into Oligopoly



Matthew Ford

Staff Writer

A part of The Pacifican since 2021

The Tech Industry has seen radical shifts in the past few years, including this one. Facebook’s huge Meta announcement has caused rifts throughout the industry and competing companies have been quick and aggressive to respond. Microsoft has thrown its deep wallets into the ring with the surprising news of buying the video game developer Activision Blizzard.

This all-cash acquisition totaling \$70 billion was a response to Meta, hoping Activision can help with its mobile and virtual-reality technology. This deal will make Microsoft one of the largest video game companies if it survives reviews from the U.S. and European corporate regulators. If it does pass, which it’s most likely to, it will also be the largest tech acquisition in history. But Microsoft has been buying video game companies for a while now.

The most recent news from Microsoft, before buying Activision Blizzard, was their acquisition of ZeniMax Media, the parent company of Bethesda Softworks, id Software, and Arkane Studios, massive and famous video game developers throughout the industry. This happened in 2020 and the deal cost Microsoft 7.5 billion dollars, to put the amount and size of the buyout of Activision to scale.

But Microsoft is not the only video game company with deep pockets. This year Sony Interactive Entertainment announced it will buy Bungie for 3.6 billion dollars. Bungie, like the companies Microsoft bought, are also famous developers. They have also released huge titles like Destiny and Halo and fully showing this new age of grabbing developers left and right.

There is little reason to think this will decrease in the coming years as well; according to the Entertainment Software Association, 67% of video game executives believe that the number of mergers and acquisitions will increase over the years. With such high buyouts happening so quickly, it might not be a crazy idea to imagine the video game industry being controlled only by a handful of companies.

This will contrast with the ever-increasing need for unionization in the industry. According to the Game Developers Conference, almost 50% of developers believe that the entire industry should unionize. With the cost of video games rising and the competition shrinking, the likelihood of a better work environment, for an industry projected to be worth \$256 billion by 2025, seems to become less and less likely.

Mar 8 Written By Emma Garber

Sustainable and Accessible!



Emma
Garber

Staff
Writer

First Year
Psychology
Major

A part of
The
Pacifcan
since 2021

The University of the Pacific has been working hard over the last ten years to bring a sustainable lifestyle to its students. We can acknowledge the improvements that we still need to make while celebrating our current accomplishments.

Last year, our campus was ranked among the top 10 universities world wide in food and dining sustainability efforts. A large percentage of the produce served to students comes from farms within 150 miles of the Stockton campus. Also, leftover food is donated to a Stockton non-profit called St. Mary’s Dining Room.

But what is available to students on campus? The Ted and Chris Robb garden was completed in the 2010s and it provides fresh produce to students throughout the school year. Students are involved in every step of the creation and consumption of these fruits and vegetables. Student gardeners are employed in the garden to take care of and harvest the plants.

They also help run the Robb Garden Farmer’s Market that is held every Tuesday from 9:30am to 11:30am. Any Pacific student can show their ID card at the Farmer’s Market to get free produce to enjoy! Community members can also enjoy the affordable fruits and vegetables. If you miss out on the Farmer’s Market, you can also often find produce from the Robb garden at the food pantry in the Wendell Phillips Center room 98 at the south entrance of the building. It is open Monday and Wednesday from 9:00am to 4:30 pm.

University has other sustainability based events coming up in the near future! The annual Green Fashion and Art Show will occur on April 15th in the De Rosa University Center Ballroom from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The fashion show will feature thrifted and upcycled outfits designed and modeled by students from Pacific! Sustainable art pieces will also be featured. Don’t forget to check out the Instagram page @sustainingpacific16 for more information and updates!

If you have unique ideas for sustainable features on campus, consider applying for the Sustainability Project Investment Fund in the future. The fund has paid for the solar charging tables near the DUC and the zero electricity exercise machines in the Baun Fitness Center in the past. Who knows what awesome ideas they will support in the future.

Consider supporting sustainability at Pacific by getting involved! Try the produce from the Robb garden, attend the Green Fashion and Art Show in April and submit your ideas for sustainability projects to the Sustainability Project Investment Fund in the future. The first step to living a “greener” life is to engage in the systems that are already provided. Then you take your first steps into making the world around you a better place.

Mar 9 Written By Liliana Lopez

Film Review: Death on the Nile



Liliana Lopez

Editor in Chief

Third Year History and English Majors with a Religious Studies Minor

A part of The Pacifican since 2019

If you’ve ever been to the movies by yourself, you know it’s an...interesting ordeal. There’s no one to loud-whisper with throughout the *entire* show, and there’s no one to update you on what happened when you come back from the bathroom or from buying the biggest bucket of popcorn available.

I recently experienced this for the first time, when I went to watch “Death on the Nile.” As a history major and vintage fashion aficionada, I’m a huge fan of films set in the past. Kenneth Branagh’s

interpretation provided a new and more nuanced take on Agatha Christie's 1937 novel of the same name. The storyline follows the murder of the beautiful and extremely wealthy Linnett Ridgeway, who was murdered on a cruise ship where the only other passengers are the invited members of her wedding party.

The score was grand, sweeping, and elaborate. Paired with the wistful, swinging jazz tunes, this made the movie grandiose, an image both of the American jazz age, and of colonial splendor. Likewise, the movie's aesthetics show the confident grandeur of the late 20s and early 30s. In the film, we can see how the elite of the era valued spectacle, something Branagh did not skimp on the production.

In some respects, the film's cast and their various relation to each other deviated from Christie's original novel. For instance, the character Salome Otterbourne (who in the novel is an author modeled after the real-life novelist Elinor Glyn) is a Black jazz singer in the film. She exemplifies the affluence and status held by major entertainers and artists of color during the Harlem Renaissance. Another character, Bouc, is in a relationship with Otterbourne's niece. Additionally, the characters of Marie Van Schuyler and Mrs. Bowers, employer and employee, respectively, are also lovers (in the novel their relationship is only professional).

In spite of this diversity, however, the wealthy, primarily European characters' Orientalizing fetishization of Egyptian ruins and ancient civilization was also prominent. Egyptian people were practically non-existent in the film, serving only as rural backdrop and local attraction for the passengers of the S.S. Karnak (the luxury barge on which most of the plot, and all of the murders, took place).

But yet, I am led to believe that this erasure of Egyptian people is intentional, and makes a historical statement in this film. For people like the wealthy passengers of the S.S. Karnak, the "natives" really didn't *exist*. Egypt was an archeological and historical artifact, a marvel of the ancient world, not a real, contemporary nation with real, contemporary citizens. We are placed among the main characters; we too are among Linnett Ridgeway's exclusive entourage cruising down the Nile River in the summer.

Branagh's film does an excellent job of portraying a normative, colonial Western society, while also pulling back the curtain on the repressed, peripheral identities that existed during this time.

Mar 11 Written By Maddie Tawa

ASuop Hosts Presidential Debate



Maddie
Tawa

Staff
Writer

Fourth
Year
Japanese
&
English
Major

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since
2021

On Wednesday, March 2nd, the ASuop Election Committee hosted a debate for the 2022-2023 presidential candidates. Elections Coordinator, Dustin Brakebill, moderated a discussion between president and vice presidential tickets, Sahila Shah and Ismael Gomez of the Shah/Gomez platform and Angel Zhong and Brooke Tran of the Zhong/Tran platform. Each of the candidates were given two minutes to respond to the prompted questions. Unlike traditional debates, candidates were not given opportunities to respond to their opponents’ answers. Additionally, attending audience members were explicitly barred from asking their own questions during the debate. The debate was broken into four parts: a joint question period, presidential questions, vice presidential questions, and then a return to joint questions.

For the initial joint question period, candidates began with their opening statements, introducing themselves, their qualifications, and their overall visions for the presidency (for more information about each platform, check out our articles on the [Zhong/Tran](#) ticket and the [Shah/Gomez](#) ticket).

Brakebill proceeded to ask about their individual motivations for joining ASuop, their greatest collegiate achievements, and their priority action items. All of the candidates opened up about their experiences as marginalized students and their passion for widespread institutional change.

Zhong discussed her accomplishments as the ASuop Director of DEI and the positive responses she’s received from faculty after DEI workshops. Her main goal is to set up a Student Advisory Board made up of students representing marginalized, nontraditional, and underrepresented student communities with all members being compensated for their time. Tran brought up her transformational experience with “lollipop leadership,” a hands-on type of leadership that refers to Drew Dudley’s “Leading with Lollipops” Ted Talk, and how it inspired her to work towards wide-scale change. In consideration to the lasting impact of the COVID-19 quarantine, Tran aims to work with faculty to create more hybrid-style and virtual options, so students aren’t punished for health-based restrictions.

On the opposite side of the stage, Shah talked about her desire to utilize privileged positions of power to improve institutional representation by creating focus groups for international and nontraditional students. Her main goal is to improve community outreach in Stockton by performing educational workshops that cover the city’s rich history. After talking about his and Shah’s involvement in Eberhardt’s DEI council and his role as an Involvement Consultant for the Student Activities Center, Gomez stated that they “both understand what it’s like to be a leader” and that they’re “not ones to really

throw titles out,” and are dedicated to hands-on leadership. His main goal is to improve school spirit and increase attendance at on-campus events.

For president-specific questions, Brakebill asked about the president’s contribution to the success of student government and what they would do if they could only accomplish one thing while in office along with their plans to use the cabinet to accomplish it. Zhong pushed the need to connect with students one-on-one to accurately amplify their voices to the highest levels of UOP leadership. Her main goal for office is to establish an ASuop website outside of Pacific Pulse that makes student government as transparent as possible by making “regular meeting minutes, passed legislation, monthly spending reports, [and] resource lists” accessible to students. Conversely, Shaw aims to improve cross-departmental relationships by hosting retreats and team-building events and establishing. Her main initiative is to alter a universal syllabus to explicitly accommodate cultural and religious practices and erase the associated guilt felt by marginalized students.

The vice president candidates were asked for their perspectives on the vice president’s role in ASuop’s overall success and their plans for Senate organization. Tran emphasized connection with Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and ensuring student voices are heard in school-specific council meetings. After citing her personal practices in organization and time management, she stated that she will plan out terms beforehand with the Senate, advocate for ad hoc committees, and promote a manageable work culture. “I’m big on intentionality and that carries over to the plans the Senate and I will create for the school year,” Tran stated. Gomez believes the vice president’s role lies in hands-on support. He plans to organize the Senate by getting to know them each individually and serve as their supporter.

The final round of joint questions entailed a one-sentence platform summary, reasoning for why voters should support either side, and closing statements. Zhong and Tran emphasized how their platform is interconnected as “you can’t address mental health equity without addressing DEI, you can’t address sustainability without making it accessible.” They plan on maximizing student money and transform the ASuop admission fee into an investment, in addition to reimagining what it means to be a Pacifcan after one-and-a-half years in quarantine. Shah and Gomez pushed that they would focus on students having fun, feeling represented, and feeling heard. As he sat adjacent to the Asian American, first-generation, marginalized women running against him, Gomez told the audience to “just look at us. We’re definitely a very diverse ticket... We understand what it’s like to be marginalized, we understand what it’s like to not have opportunities, we understand what it’s like to fight for these opportunities, we understand that it’s a big fight in order to get these opportunities, we understand the power of these opportunities.”

In closing, Zhong cited Maslow’s hierarchy of needs and her dedication to creating a space where students can self-actualize. Tran opened up about her identity as a Vietnamese American, first-generation student and talked about the correlation between her work experience and her vision for ASuop. Shah commended student potential and reiterated her dedication towards representing student voices. Gomez thanked everyone for attending and implored them to vote in the coming elections.

Voting ends on March 11th, on TigerLink.

Mar 15 Written By Lizbet Garcia

Staying in Town? Make Spring Break Fun



Lizbet
Garcia

Staff
Writer

First
Year
English
Major

A part of
The
Pacifcan
since
2021

It's the moment we've all been waiting for: a break. If you're like me, the first thing you did as soon as you walked out of class was pass out under the covers for some much needed sleep. While spring break is a good time to catch up on fixing your sleep schedule, it's also a good opportunity to have some much needed fun. It's an amazing privilege to be able to get a higher education, but we've gotta admit, sometimes it can be expensive and as a result, vacations are not even an option. Be it work, projects, or money, if you're staying in town this week, you can still have some relaxing and inexpensive activities that don't break the bank.

Movies. Starting with the obvious, catch a movie. *The Batman* has finally been released and according to many people who've seen it, it definitely exceeded expectations. Visit the Regal Stockton City Center theater to see it, or other movies like *Uncharted*, *Death on the Nile*, or *Dog*.

Visit a Museum! The Haggin Museum is right here in Stockton. Haggin features art by artists such as Jean Béraud, Rosa Bonheur, William Bouguereau, Jean-Léon Gérôme, George Inness, and Pierre-

Auguste Renoir. Learn more about the history of Stockton and California! If you have kids, or even if you don't, the Children's Museum is also a great place to check out.

Zoos. Did you know we had a zoo so close by? Micke Grove Zoo is a five acre zoo featuring over 170 individual animals and includes a Japanese garden, San Joaquin County Historical Museum, Fun Town at Micke Grove Amusement Park and picnic shelters. If you want more of a day trip with a bigger zoo, check out the San Francisco or Sacramento Zoo, both of which are less than a 2 hour drive from Stockton.

Take a Day Trip. Stockton is a treasure trove of fun things to do, but if you're looking for a change of scenery, be glad we live in California. Head to the Bay Area to find a myriad of fun in San Francisco where you can visit the zoo, check out the aquarium, buy some delicious food, walk Fisherman's Wharf, catch a boat to Alcatraz, or see some whales; the possibilities are endless. San Jose is similar in the fun you can find. It's a great chance to go to Great America in Santa Clara or finally see the Winchester Mystery House for true crime fans. If you want something a bit warmer, head north towards Sonora. I have to rep my old hometown. Walking around the town itself is a great experience but if you're into hiking and nature, check out the trails, Table Mountain, or the Red Hills. Columbia Historic Park is also a great place to learn more about the history of California and a great place to get your steps in. If you're really, really into nature, go further up north and check out Yosemite. It's a must see for anyone living in California.

These are just a few of the things you can do to make your spring break a bit more interesting. Stockton and its surrounding cities have so much to offer if you really look for it. Don't let any obstacles keep you from having a good spring break. When you live in a city and state so beautiful and rich in history, how can you not go out there and experience it?

Mar 24 Written By Emma Garber

Q and A with Elisabeth Garner



Emma
Garber

Staff
Writer

First Year
Psychology
Major

A part of
The
Pacifcan
since 2021

The University of the Pacific is home to 16 sports, 10 of which are women's sports. The athletes that participate are more than just incredible competitors. They are students with scholarships, jobs, and interesting hobbies. Read on to see a glimpse into the life of freshman cross country and track athlete Elisabeth Garner, '25.

Q: What do you do to prepare for your track and cross country competitions?

A: Preparation for competitions start days beforehand in practice, with emphasis on long run days (6 or more miles) and workout days with repeats of some sort (400s, 800s, miles, etc.) to work on our endurance, speed, and pacing, with lower mileage days in-between. Doing this process helps us to get ourselves used to running long distances at a quick, consistent pace, and prepares us both mentally and physically to do our best.

Q: What events do you do at competitions?

A: During cross country, we all race the 6k, which is a little under 4 miles. During track, we all run different races depending on what we want to focus on for that season. For me, I usually compete in the 3k (a bit less than 2 miles) or the 5k (a little more than 3 miles).

Q: How do you balance school, your personal life, and sports?

A: To balance all three took some trial and error to learn to do, and for me, I learned it requires quite a lot of organization to plan everything out and have good time management. Using calendars, scheduling apps, etc. to organize and put down all I have to do for the semester, a certain week, or a certain day for both school and sports has been a lifesaver, and has helped me to stay on track. Doing so really helps to take the stress off, as well as help me create free time in the week to do other things that I enjoy. I'm

definitely not perfect at it, but having this planning routine has helped me to take more control of my schedule.

Q: Walk me through your day, what is your schedule generally like?

A: My schedule generally changes day to day depending on what we are doing for practice (long runs, workouts, easy days, etc.) or what classes I have. Generally, a typical practice day goes a bit like this:

5:50 am: Wake up

6:45 am - 8:30 am: Practice

8:45 am - 9:45 am: Strength training (only twice a week)

9:45 am- 6pm-ish: Class (depending on day)

Q: What is your favorite physical activity that anyone can do?

A: Although tough to pick, besides running, one of my favorite physical activities that anyone can do is to go on rides on a bike or a skateboard/longboard... especially whenever I visit my home town, I love to go longboarding with my siblings; it's relaxing, and it gives you a good workout!

Q: Lastly, how long have you been doing cross country and track?

A: I have been doing track for about 9 years, and cross country for about 7 years. I started doing track in elementary school, and started doing cross country in junior high, first on my own, and then joining the team in 8th grade.

Mar 31 Written By Emma Garber

Books by Women Authors that are NOT J.K. Rowling



Emma
Garber

Staff
Writer

First Year
Psychology
Major

A part of
The
Pacifcan
since 2021

Our world is home to so many creative women authors who have written millions of books to be enjoyed, pondered, and questioned. Yet, when asked to think about their favorite female author many people pick J.K. Rowling. Her *Harry Potter* series is incredibly popular; it is the highest selling book series ever. But, people also need to remember that she is a transphobic person who has also included little to no representation of the LGBTQ+ community in her books. During women's history month this year, dig into some of the books and works of the female authors listed here that have been recommended by the Pacific community and enjoyed by many. Take a look at some books by women authors that aren't J.K. Rowling.

***Uncomfortable Labels* by Laura Kate Dale**

Uncomfortable Labels: My Life as a Gay Autistic Trans Woman written by Laura Kate Dale is a wonderful memoir for the modern day. I think Dale explains her own life and story best through this quote from her book: "So while the assumption when I was born was that I was or would grow up to be a neurotypical heterosexual boy, that whole idea didn't really pan out long term." You can access this book through Pacific's library and read it anywhere as an ebook!

***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**

The Hate U Give was recently adapted into an award winning movie in 2018. The book, published in 2017, was inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and the murder of Oscar Grant by police in 2009. The novel follows the main character Starr as she navigates her poor neighborhood and her fancy school. The book has won multiple awards including the Goodread Best of the Best award in 2018.

***Emma* by Jane Austen**

The book *Emma* follows the life of Emma Woodhouse and how she learns to become more introspective and to stop forcing her way into her friend's affairs. Emma is the rare female protagonist that is actually flawed in a real way that women can relate to. She is handsome, clever, and rich, but she is also precocious, meddlesome, and spoiled. You can check this book out at the Stockton campus library in print or read it as an ebook.

Recommended by: Emma Garber (author of this article and staff writer for the Pacifican)

***New York School Painters & Poets: Neon in Daylight* by Jenni Quilter**

Jenni Quilter teaches writing at New York University and she has written four books. Her most recent book, *New York School Painters & Poets: Neon in Daylight*, explores the lives and works of important New York artists from the 1940s to 1950s through their art, writing, and memories. It also led Quilter to be a finalist for the 2014 AICA Award for Best Criticism.

Recommended by: Dr. Camille Norton, professor in the Department of English

***The Underground Girls of Kabul* by Jenny Nordberg**

This book follows the hidden stories of the “bacha posh” or girls who are temporarily raised and presented to the world as boys. Jenny Nordberg is a Swedish journalist and award-winning investigative reporter who spent five years working on *The Underground Girls of Kabul*. The story of survival presented in this book shows the often hidden strength and energy of Afghan women. There are some interesting reviews and articles about the book and about Jenny Nordberg available on the library website.

Recommended by: Emma Garber (author of this article and staff writer for the Pacifican)

***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

The novel *Beloved* won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1988. It follows the story of former slave Sethe and her memories. Sethe is not free from the ghosts of her past as she mourns her child who died. The child's gravestone is labeled only with the word “Beloved.” Toni Morrison was a prolific writer who authored eleven novels and three essay collections. She was also the first black female editor in fiction at Random House. *Beloved* is available in print at the Stockton campus library along with the movie released in 1998.

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelly**

The book tells the gruesome and ultimately tragic story of how young scientist Victor Frankenstein created a creature out of dead people's body parts. The creature learns to have a will of its own and causes death and suffering. The reader is left with many questions about life, mortality, and who the real victim was after reading this book. Mary Shelly is considered to be one of the earliest writers of science fiction and she was only 18 when she started writing the story.

***Normal People* by Sally Rooney**

Normal People is Irish author Rooney's second book published in 2018. It has also recently been made into a television series on Hulu. The book follows the untraditional but relatable love story between

teenagers Marianne and Connell. Both the book and TV show have high ratings!

Author recommended by: Lizbet Garcia (Pacifcan Staff writer and avid reader)

***Borderlands/ La Frontera* by Gloria Anzaldúa**

Anzaldúa grew up on the Mexico-Texas border. She has written many books and she is best known for her work *Borderlands/ La Frontera*. She was a political activist and a scholar of Chicana cultural theory, feminist theory, and queer theory. There was some criticism of her work because of potential indigenous erasure and ignoring of black history, though her impact on history, writing, and feminism are still seen today.

Author recommended by: Lilliana Lopez (Editor in Chief of The Pacifican)

All works by Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou was not only a stunning author and poet, she was also a strong civil rights activist. She expanded the genre of autobiography through her work. Angelou is best known for writing mainly autobiographical work, like the novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Many pieces of Angelou's work and different biographies about her are available in the library on the Stockton campus both in physical print and online formats.

***The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros**

The House on Mango Street is author Sandra Cisneros' first book. It is a coming of age novel that tells the story of 12-year old Esperanza Cordero and how she grows up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago. It is told through a series of vignettes and touches on many sensitive subjects like domestic violence and racism. *The House on Mango Street* often faces threats of censorship but it still remains required reading in many schools and universities.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood**

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood tells the story of June and how she survives in the theocracy of Gilead. The book explores many difficult dystopian topics and it shows how the freedom of women is removed by taking away their jobs and money. Women are eventually forced into certain roles in the cryptic society of Gilead. Atwood has written multiple books and remains a popular author today. Many of her works are available at the library on the Stockton campus.

Mar 31 Written By Lizbet Garcia

Spoiler-Free Batman Review from a DC Novice



Lizbet Garcia

Staff Writer

First Year English Major

A part of The Pacifican since 2021

The Batman, starring Robert Pattinson, has been all the rage. I don’t remember this much excitement for a movie since the iconic *Spider-Man: No Way Home*. I’m not much of a DC follower but Robert Pattinson, Zoe Kravitz, and Paul Dano? I was immediately sold. Although I am more of a Marvel movie watcher, I was definitely interested in this new experience and I was not disappointed.

After seeing it, two things were clear to me. Firstly, Robert Pattinson’s performance went above and beyond expectations. Those worried about his portrayal of Bruce Wayne because of *Twilight*, you need not be worried. He perfectly encapsulated what I’ve been told is “the real Batman.” That is, not his playboy persona reserved for appearances as Bruce Wayne. The early years of his vigilantism are purposely flawed, allowing director Matt Reeves and actor Robert Pattinson to grow and shape the character of Batman we know and love. Although, in my biased opinion, I’m still a bit of an Edward Cullen fan.

Secondly, this is a big break from Marvel hero movies; so if you’re a DC novice like me, be prepared for a darker, grittier, yet interesting movie. It is rated PG-13, so there’s nothing too excessive for a family to watch. But, because the plot centers around real issues (not so much made up fantasy aliens from made up universes who make funny quips when faced with the end of the world, ahem, looking at you Marvel) it is a much different experience. There is a lot of violence (as expected), murder, sexual tension, and hair raising action sequences.

Because this is a spoiler-free review, I will chop it up to this: definitely go and see this movie. If you had any doubts because of casting, DC, or otherwise, I think you will be pleasantly surprised. The soundtrack literally gave me goosebumps, the action sequences had me at the edge of my seat, and the overall cinematography and performances were spectacular. The movie is about 3 hours long, not including all the trailers they play beforehand, so make sure to use the restroom and have all your snacks ready to go so you don’t miss out on any excitement. This is one of those movies you’ll want to see in theaters more than once.