

# Vista Verde

Spring  
2022

*Portland Adventist Academy Alumni Newsletter*

## Alumni Reunion Weekend on May 6-8, 2022

The Portland Union Academy and Portland Adventist Academy annual Alumni Reunion Weekend is May 6-8, 2022, with events on campus and at Sunnyside SDA Church. All alumni are welcome to attend.

### Friday, May 6

- ◆ 5:00 pm at Sunnyside Ch. – Class of '72 Reception. Contact Dick Sanders '72 at 310-721-1101
- ◆ 6:00 pm at PAA — Golden Agers Dinner — typically classes from the '50s and '60s, but others are welcomed. Contact Bob Winter '53 at 503-784-2614

### Sabbath, May 7, at Sunnyside SDA Church Alumni Reunion Sabbath Worship

- ◆ 10:30 am – Registration Opens
- ◆ 11:15 am – Worship Service, featuring PAA music and guest speaker Karl Haffner, gifted speaker, author, pastor, VP at Loma Linda University

Come **represent your class** for Roll Call during the service and your class group pictures after the worship service.

### Sabbath, May 7, at PAA

- ◆ 2:30 pm – Honor Class Reunions in designated PAA classrooms (& Zoom). Some classes may be meeting off campus. Check with your class organizers
- ◆ 2:30 pm – Bob Johnson Retirement Reception, PAA Library



**Honoring the classes of: '42, '47, '52, '62, '72, '82, '92, '97, '02, '12, '17**

### Karl Haffner, Guest Speaker

Our Alumni Reunion worship service guest speaker will be pastor, author and gifted story teller, Karl Haffner.



**For more reunion details**, visit the Alumni webpage at [www.paasda.org](http://www.paasda.org) > Alumni, the Alumni Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/PAA1910](https://www.facebook.com/groups/PAA1910) or contact the Alumni office at 503-255-8372 or [alumni@paasda.org](mailto:alumni@paasda.org).

### Math Teacher's 32 Years Celebrated

Long-time math teacher Bob Johnson, who retired at the end of the 2021 school year, will be honored on May 7 during Alumni Weekend.

Bob dedicated 32 years of his 39-year teaching career to PAA, where he attended for three years of academy before graduating from Mt. Ellis Academy in Montana.

In addition to the math classroom, he's had a major

impact on one of PAA's specialty classes – Performance and Production. Over the years, collaborating with the late Tim Ellis, one of Portland's premier musicians, Bob built and maintained PAA's recording studio.

Read more on the PAA website here: <https://bit.ly/BobJRetires>



# PAA Campus Renewal Update

In previous messages we have talked about the Type III hearing the City of Portland requires as one of the steps we must take in order to move forward toward a projected remodel. These hearings are to address certain “non-conforming” issues with permits attached to the original master plan that the constituency voted to abandon in the fall of 2019, in favor of a possible phased remodel.

Late last year we received word from the City that because of changes to city regulations earlier in the year, the single Type III hearing was changed to two Type II hearings – which could be addressed simultaneously – and a Land Division hearing, to be held after the Type II hearings.

Because of that change, additional surveys and studies were required that had not yet been undertaken.

**Q: Does the change to Type II and Land Division hearings nullify the previously submitted application for a Type III hearing and delay the hearings?**

The previously submitted application serves for the new hearings. Our attorney, architect, engineering and contractor firms all have been working diligently behind the scenes to address any additional needs and the typical back-and-forth of questions and answers from the City in preparing for the hearings. As of late March we have not received any hearing dates. The current projection is perhaps late in the summer of 2022, but we won't know for certain until the dates are assigned.

**Q: We're concerned about the safety of students because of the homeless camps and neighborhood.**

While the homeless camps may appear to pose a threat to student safety, we have had no incidents from homeless individuals that endangered students. One morning a homeless individual was found sleeping in the tech building after breaking a window to get in. The individual was immediately removed



Principal Mechelle Peinado

without incident.

The good news we have been told is that the City recently passed a measure to prohibit all camping near schools. We continue to work closely with the police and safety organizations to ensure all possible safety plans and precautions are implemented. Each officer or agent we meet with affirms PAA's safety measures.

You may have heard about an attempted carjacking last fall by an individual who drove into our south parking lot after school hours. Fortunately no students were harmed, staff and students followed emergency protocols, police responded to the school, and shortly thereafter apprehended the suspect.

One of the ways we're seeking to further increase safety is to better regulate entry and exit from the south parking lot by installing automatic security gates.

We are currently in the planning stages of a campaign, to be launched in a few weeks, to raise \$150,000 for state-of-the-art security gates for all three south parking lot vehicle gates that can be operated remotely and regulated by PIN or key card access.

The previous two issues of Vista Verde included articles related to Campus Renewal. You may find those issues on the PAA Alumni web page at [www.paasda.org](http://www.paasda.org) > Alumni, or request mailed copies from the Alumni Office.

If you have any questions about this project, its history, the issues addressed here or making a gift, you may contact Principal Mechelle Peinado or Development Director Sam Vigil Jr. at 503-255-8372 or [mpeinado@paasda.org](mailto:mpeinado@paasda.org) or [svigil@paasda.org](mailto:svigil@paasda.org).

## The Power of Monthly Giving

If you've wanted to make a personally meaningful gift to support PAA's students, and it seems impossible to make a gift that large, consider the power of monthly giving. For example, setting up an automatic monthly gift of \$25 will add up to \$300 after 12 months.

You can do just that by becoming a Champion for PAA when you make a monthly gift commitment to PAA's mission of guiding and educating students to become Christ-Centered, Character-Driven young men and women.

Your unrestricted monthly gift will support areas of greatest need, school operations and other essential resources every school needs. In addition, your monthly commitment helps provide PAA with a regular income we can count on. That's the power of monthly giving.

It's easy and convenient, with credit card or electronic check. Set it up once, and it's automatic. Visit [www.paasda.org/monthlygiving/](http://www.paasda.org/monthlygiving/) for details.



Deisy (Cholula) Haid '06

## Finding Ways to Help Others

It doesn't take long when talking to Deisy (Cholula) Haid '06 for her to use the word "purpose."

Today Deisy is field education director and assistant professor of social work and sociology at Walla Walla University (WWU), where she focuses on practicum placements for social work students.

She was recently named the 2022 Social Work Educator of the Year by the Washington chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for her role in meeting the challenges of placing students where they could meet practicum requirements during the pandemic while studying remotely.

At age 15 when Deisy entered the foster care system, it was the first encounter with her social worker that ignited her desire to work with children in foster care.

"I knew I wanted to help people – that's my passion, my calling. It's like there's a reason why I went through those experiences as a child," she says.

Deisy's life changed when she was taken in by an Adventist foster care family, who sent her to Tualatin Valley Academy for two years, then to PAA for her final two years.

She describes a PAA chapel that had a profound impact on her when a faculty member spoke to students.

# Alumni News Notes



Lloyd '47 & Lorrie '48 Wescott

## 1940s

Lloyd '47 and Lorrie '48 Wescott are enjoying time with their grandkids in their Northeast Portland home and shared this photo from 2019. Lloyd is looking forward to celebrating this year his 75th year as a Portland Union Academy alumnus.



Gary Geer '64

## 1960s

Gary Geer '64 writes from Roseville, Calif., that he is doing very well and has two new grandsons. "Can't wait to go Jeeping and teach them to waterski." He praises God for protection as over his lifetime he has survived the Vietnam War, a broken neck and recovering from being paralyzed, a massive heart attack and other serious health incidents.



Jane Bigler '92 & her family

## 1990s

Jane Bigler (Harvey) '92 writes from Southeast Portland that she has been married for nearly 21 years and has two children. Her son graduated from David Douglas High School last year and her daughter is a freshman there this year. She has worked as an executive secretary for a small State agency for more than 16 years.

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"I remember him saying he didn't really have a huge story to share. He came from a really strong Adventist faith and his parents were really great with him. There was no real struggle – which was completely opposite of mine – because my background comes from a lot of dysfunction and abuse." She remembers thinking, "This is what a normal life looks like, but he also has had the same spiritual struggles. So it doesn't matter what background we come from, Jesus still loves us."

While at PAA she also played basketball and soccer. Her senior year she was one of the class senators in student government. "The level of support that PAA had for me, the smaller classes, you get to know your teachers a lot more, you get the help you really need," she remembers.

An extended version of this story is on pages 5 & 6.  
Visit [www.paasda.org](http://www.paasda.org) > Alumni to see past issues of Vista Verde.

# Alumni News Notes

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**Todd Hanchett '92** in February was named the office managing partner of Stoel Rives LLP's Portland headquarters office. Todd joined Oregon's largest law firm in 2012. After earning his BS in Business Administration/Accounting from Walla Walla University (cum laude) in 1996, he earned his law degree from Willamette University in 1999. Among his many activities, Todd serves as the board chair of the Maurice Lucas Foundation.



Todd Hanchett '92

## 2000s

**Jennifer Royal (Gill) '02** is living in the small town of Ronda, N.C., population 600.



She and her husband, Joshua, married in August 2020 and have a combined family of 5 children. Jennifer enjoys being a

stay-at-home mom and taking care of their kids, dog, four chickens and a house bunny. They enjoy camping, kayaking and serving in their church.

**Daisy Haid (Cholula) '06**, field education director and assistant professor of social work and sociology at Walla Walla University, was named the 2022 Social Work Educator

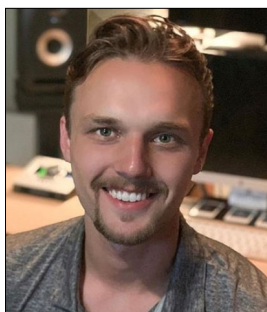


Daisy Haid '06

of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers Washington Chapter for her extraordinary work in placing students in field internships during the pandemic. She also played a major role in establishing a no-cost, walk-in mental health clinic.

## 2010s

**Jeremy Long '11** is carrying on the legacy of the late, long-time PAA teacher and Portland music scene legend Tim Ellis by teaching PAA's Guitar and Performance & Production classes. Jeremy studied under Ellis for four years. After PAA, Jeremy attended Musicians Institute in Los Angeles where he learned about songwriting, audio engineering and the music business – and met his wife, Alisa. Since 2017 Jeremy has been making a full-time living with his own boutique recording studio in Northeast Portland, Library Sound Recording – “because I love books and music” – recording and producing his and other artists' music, performing and teaching.



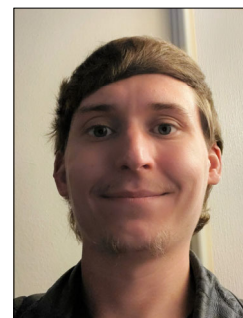
Jeremy Long '11

“PAA has been a positive influence on my life because it helped fuel my love for music,” Jeremy says.

“I'm SO glad I took advantage of the amazing resources that PAA had. Now I get to pass the knowledge I gained from that experience down to future generations.” He's also “extremely thankful for **Bob Johnson**, who has poured so much into” PAA's studio.

**Mindy Boggs (Kivett) '13** writes from Washougal, Wash., that she graduated from Walla Walla University in 2018 and subsequently spent time working as a substitute teacher in the Walla Walla Valley. More recently she married in 2020 and is now working at Adventist Health Portland.

**Jared Evans '17** is currently attending Walla University pursuing his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He hopes to become a hydropower generation engineer with the Bonneville Power Administration or the US Army Corps of Engineers. His final senior project “involves generating power from the back wheel of a bike and then using that power to power a motor to be used as a light-load hoist.”



Jared Evans '17

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## Vista Verde: What's in a Name?

“Vista Verde” in Spanish means “green view,” which is the view we see in evergreens on the hills around PAA. We chose a Spanish name as a companion to the yearbook name, “Revista,” which is Spanish for “review.”

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**Vista Verde** is produced by Portland Adventist Academy Office of Development and Alumni for the alumni and friends of the academy. PAA is owned and operated by the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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## Deisy Haid '06 Finds Ways to Live Out Her Purpose

*This story is an expanded version of the article published in the Spring 2022 print issue of Vista Verde.*

It doesn't take long when talking to Deisy (Cholula) Haid '06 for her to mention her "purpose," something that developed in her teen years and fueled by her less-than-ideal childhood.

Today Deisy is field education director and assistant professor of social work and sociology at Walla Walla University (WWU), where she focuses on practicum placements for social work students.

She was recently named the 2022 Social Work Educator of the Year by the Washington chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for her role in meeting the challenges of placing students where they could meet practicum requirements during the pandemic while studying remotely. And she played a major role in establishing a no-cost, same-day mental health services clinic in Walla Walla.

Because of the pandemic, she had to scale back placements at community partners, which resulted in two programs being developed to help students from falling behind.

The first was to find on-campus placements in different areas, such as student life, dormitories and student success center.

The second program came from a partnership with two community entities, Providence St. Mary's Population Health Department and Anchor Point Counseling Services, in developing a walk-in, same-day mental health clinic, similar to an urgent care medical clinic. The program is modeled after WWU's Billings, Mont., student-run outpatient clinic and a walk-in clinic Deisy knew of in the Portland area.

Now called Blue Mountain Health Cooperative, Providence St. Mary's provides the clinic building and Anchor Point provides administrative support and insurance billing, while master's program students provide mental health counseling and bachelor's program students provide navigation services, all at no cost to clients.

With these two programs in place, students now have a path to attain licensure as licensed clinical social workers (LCSW).

After earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work at WWU, Deisy landed work in the Portland-Vancouver area as a family intervention

### Alumna Profile



Deisy (Cholula) Haid '06

specialist, a clinical supervisor and a placement manager, and earned her LCSW license.

Then in 2017 WWU came knocking, inviting her to fill the field placement director position. She's the first Latina faculty member in the department, which has influenced the growth in the number of Hispanic social work students.

At age 15 when Deisy entered the foster care system, it was the first encounter with her social worker that had a deep impact and set the trajectory of her passion and profession, as he was "talking to me about God in this new environment, because I didn't grow up with any religion until I went into an Adventist foster home. Then he's talking to me about God in my current experience, and validating me."

That's when she knew. "I want to be like that guy, across the table from

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me. I want to work with children in foster care.” She had found her purpose.

“I knew I wanted to help people – that’s my passion, my calling – and just being able to give someone else that reassurance in using my purpose,” she continues. “It’s like there’s a reason why I went through those experiences as a child.

“So I knew that Jesus was going to use that experience to help others. My biggest thing has been, how can I maximize the number of people that I can help?”

Deisy’s life changed when she was taken in by an Adventist foster care family, who sent her to Tualatin Valley Academy for two years, then to PAA for her junior and senior years.

She describes a PAA chapel that had a profound impact on her when one of the faculty members spoke to students.

“I remember him saying he didn’t really have a huge story to share. He came from a really strong Adventist faith and his parents were really great with him. There was no real struggle – which was completely opposite of mine – because my background comes from a lot of dysfunction and abuse.” She remembers thinking, “This is what a normal life looks like, but he also has had the same spiritual struggles. So it doesn’t matter what background we come from, Jesus still loves us.”

While at PAA she also played basketball and soccer. Her senior year she was one of the class senators in student government.

“The level of support that PAA had for me, the smaller classes, you get to know your teachers a lot more, you get the help you really need,” she remembers.

Deisy and her husband, John, have two girls, 5 and 8 years of age. John, too, helps students find their way, working for Walla Walla Community College at the state penitentiary with inmates in the GED and vocational training programs.



Deisy and husband John enjoy the small town life of Walla Walla with their two young girls. A licensed clinical social worker, she is currently working on her doctor of social work degree at Walla Walla University.

## Alumni News Notes

The pandemic has been a blessing in disguise, Deisy says, because she’s been able to spend time with her kids, which has led to regular “family dinners.”

“So we talk with our kids about, what are your talents, what are your skills, what are you enjoying? We want them to know that God has called them for something amazing. And how do we figure that out?” she says. “That’s something that’s been important to me in figuring out who I am and what my strengths and weaknesses are, and trying to use my purpose for God.

“We get to share stories about how we’re helping people, and how our entire family is helping people in different ways,” she says. “So though I’m not a practicing social worker working directly with clients, it still feels like my job isn’t a job. I feel like I’m living out my purpose.”



Deisy’s PAA senior project was to create a mosaic depicting Jesus on the cross that still hangs in the chapel. “I wanted to do something completely outside of my normal skills.”

Visit [www.paasda.org/alumni](http://www.paasda.org/alumni) to download the Vista Verde newsletter.

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