

PAA Family Comes Through with Urgent Support

“Thank you” just doesn’t seem to be enough to express our gratitude for the faithfulness and generosity PAA has received over the last year.

Thanks to alumni, parents and other PAA family donors, the goals of each campaign launched since June 2020 have been exceeded.

COVID-19 Relief Fund – Launched June 2020. Goal: \$62,500 to match two generous gifts for a total of \$125,000 in relief scholarships. **Total raised: \$63,800 for a grand total of \$126,300.** Generous giving helped students and families, who faced unexpected financial difficulty because of the pandemic, to pay off school debt and/or enroll in the new school year.

Be True to Your School PAASS Auction – November and December 2020. Goal: \$50,000 for budgeted student scholarships. **Total Raised: \$58,167**

Gym Roof Replacement – Launched December 2020 – Goal: \$95,000 to replace the roof over the gym and chapel to prevent further leaks. The new roof was completed earlier this year. **Total Raised: \$99,594**

H2O Project Matching Gift Campaign – Goal: \$20,000 for a dollar-for-dollar match for a total of \$40,000. **Total Raised: \$25,672 for a grand total of \$45,672.** This campaign funded new valves on the

Continued on page 2



A worker installs new gutters and downspouts on the gym roof this spring, one of the projects funded by the H2O Project Matching Gift Campaign, one of several campaigns donors have supported since June 2020.

SAVE THE DATE

May 7, 2022

Alumni Reunion

Honoring the classes of:

'42, '52, '62, '72, '82, '92, '97, '02, '12, '17

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 year-book name, “Revista,” which is Spanish for “review.”

PAA Campus Renewal Update

When Mechelle Peinado was appointed interim principal in the fall of 2018, one of her highest priorities was to get an update on where things stood with the construction of a new school facility.

With the quick succession of principals and turn over in the Development Office, efforts to fundraise and continue the planning, fundraising and building had stalled.

Through her discovery process and the loss of the general contractor in early 2019, Principal Peinado learned and shared with constituent churches that the costs to build a completely new facility had skyrocketed and now were estimated to be between \$28 and \$32 million in pre-COVID 2019. As that amount was deemed too great, alternatives are being looked into.



Principal Mechelle Peinado

While there may be little visible work taking place on campus, work has been taking place behind the scenes since early 2020.

Q: Where do we stand now in June 2021?

PAA's attorney, architect and engineering firms are preparing for a mandatory Type III public hearing with the City of Portland. Anticipated to be held in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a delay of more than a year. No date has yet been set by the City. The Type III hearing will address several "non-conforming" items related to permits that remain open from the original master plan.

Due to the dramatic rise in costs of construction and materials over several years, constituency delegates voted at the Fall 2019 meeting to abandon the master plan of building a brand new school plant and explore a remodel of the existing school facilities.

Before any remodel exploration and plans can be presented, we need to find out through the Type III hearing which non-conforming items will remain to be addressed and which will be waived.

Q: What are the next steps?

First we'll need to address the non-conforming items remaining after the Type III hearing. That may include some construction on campus and/or the perimeter. It's been projected these costs could reach \$2 million.

Once we know the results of the Type III hearing, the architects and contractor will present suggested remodel options.

The constituency will then have an opportunity to review and approve a remodel option.

Since we don't have a date for the Type III hearing, we don't have a timeline for any of these next steps.

Q. How can alumni and friends of PAA help?

As you might imagine, all of this work comes at a cost. Your gifts now to the Building Project would be greatly appreciated.

Your gift now will help to fund:

- Costs of the Type III hearing, including fees to the City, architect, engineer, attorney and contractor to prepare for and participate in the hearing
- Costs for completing the non-conforming items that remain after the Type III hearing
- Costs for concept development and design of exploring a remodel, the step approved by the constituency in the Fall 2019 meeting
- Any further work that will move us toward capital campus renewal

If you have any questions about this project, its history, or making a gift, you may contact Principal Mechelle Peinado or Development Director Sam Vigil Jr. at 503-255-8372 or mpeinado@paasda.org or svigil@paasda.org.

PAA / PUA Alumni!

Connect with classmates on the PAA Alumni Facebook Group
facebook.com/groups/PAA1910

Support—Continued from page 1 incoming water main, work that is completed and providing control over water leaks. In addition, gutters to preserve the life of the new gym roof have been installed.

Your generosity is the key to the success of each of these campaigns, which have been fully funded – and more!

Because of your generosity, these campus improvements will help save money to be put into other needed campus projects. Thank you!

Alumni News Notes



Greg “Deuce” Nakashima II ‘03 and his wife, Whitney

“Deuce” Traces Successes to PAA Roots, Experiences

If you asked **Greg “Deuce” Nakashima II ‘03** how he got to where he is today, he’d say there are threads in his life that developed while he was a student at PAA.

One thread that connects to his current main gig as a life and leadership coach is about asking the tough questions. It all started when he was a sophomore at PAA. He and three other friends – they called themselves “The Four” – decided they’d invite a different teacher each month to join them for lunch and ask the teacher the hard questions. “We talked about what was real, what was really important, and what was really at the heart,” he said. “The thread for me was being able to connect with people at a deeper level.”

This desire to get at the heart of things was spurred by their freshman Bible class teacher, Kevin Brusett.

Another thread Deuce recognized was the “entertainment factor. I loved to entertain,” whether it was performing music in the concert band or a worship praise team, playing varsity sports or being up front.

That was reinforced when he became a motivational speaker and trainer after college.

Today he teaches biology at an

1960s

Virginia “Jini” O’Flynn (Butler) ’65 writes from Portland, Ore.: “I’m retired from both Port of Portland, Contracts and Procurement; and from Port of Seattle, Commission Records. Currently I’m the church harpist for Christ Church Episcopal Parish, in Lake Oswego; and I play harp for nine assisted living facilities in Portland and Vancouver. “

1970s

Steve Howell ’70 reports he has been retired since 2016 and is now living in Kingman, Ariz., after 37 years as a surgical technologist. He was drafted in 1972, discharged in 1974, worked for his father’s business for a couple of years, then went back to school and earned his Surgical Technology degree in 1980. He worked at Portland Adventist Medical Center for 16 years, then in Kalispell, Mont., for six years, and finished his career at Whidbey General Hospital.

Janine Hudkins (Baker) ’71 writes from Portland, Ore., where she is retired and is a Creative Memories scrapbooking advisor and teacher. She shared that her husband, Glenn, passed away suddenly in 2020 after 31-1/2 years of marriage. They had

known each other since childhood when their fathers taught in the same Adventist school in Canada. After graduating from Walla Walla University with a BS in nursing, she worked for many years at Adventist Health Port-



land as charge nurse in the Family Birth Place, retiring in 2017 after 47 years – starting when she was a student at PUA. She is active in the Sunnyside SDA Church family, and enjoys time with family, travel, reading, the beach, walks and teaching scrapbooking.

Karen Davies (Lindsay) ’73 reports she and husband Gregory “retired in 2020 and moved back to Portland after working at Gem State Adventist Academy [Idaho] for the past 32 years. It’s good to be home.”

Terry Gift att. ’72-’75 writes from Stevenson, Wash., where he is the “happy father of two wonderful sons and a beautiful daughter. Worked in construction for the majority of years, and now in public service as a building codes official.”

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all-girls’ school while focusing most of his time on life and leadership coaching. He’s been married since 2017 to Whitney, a biologist and ornithologist.

When asked about the teachers who were key influences during his four years at PAA, he lists off several. It seems he lists nearly the entire staff.

“That was the thing that was really cool about the PAA experience,” Deuce said. “It was a small community, so you really got to know the teachers,” he said. “If the teachers saw something in you, they would encourage you.”

To see an expanded version of this story, visit www.paasda.org > Alumni.

Alumni News Notes

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Jim Brown '79 writes from Chandler, Ariz., where he has been the president of the Western Adventist Foundation since 2000, which manages more than \$350 million in assets under management for 5,000 Adventist entities. Jim graduated from Walla Walla College in 1984, after marrying Cindy (Wysong) in 1983. They have no children. Jim says, "I still race motorcycles."

1980s

Nadine Sefronio (Courser) '80 reports: "I have been living in Hawaii for 39 years. Have four children and nine grandchildren. I'm retired and enjoying my family." She also enjoys visiting Washington and Oregon every year.

Charles Reel '84 writes from Ooltewah, Tenn., that he and wife Karla have a son in college and daughter who is a nurse. Since 2014 Charles has been the treasurer for the It Is Written television broadcast based in Collegedale. Previously he and his family had lived on Guam where he was treasurer of the Guam Micronesian Mission. In 2012 he earned his MBA from Loma Linda University. During his career he has worked in leadership and finance roles for Dakota Conference, Lake Union, Pacific Press, and the Adventist Book Center in Portland.

1990s

Eileen States (Davis) '90 reports she and her husband of 25 years, Eric, are living in North Carolina. "We have 4 children. Tyler 19, Micah 17, and 15 year old twins Jaycie and Jaymie. Our oldest is a Sophomore at Southern Adventist University and the 3 younger ones are attending Fletcher Academy where I work

as the Chaplain and one of the Bible teachers."

Erika Lehnhoff '95 writes that she is working as a dental assistant at a private dental practice in Albany, OR.

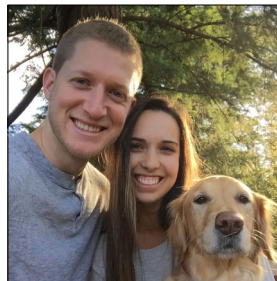
2000s

Angel Martin (Woods) '00 writes she moved to Dallas, Ore., in July 2020 with husband Stephen and their two-year-old daughter. She became a mom while they were still living in Texas. She was a school bus driver until January 2019 when she became mother to her "adorable baby girl."



2000s

Melissa Penington (Cesar) '10 gives an update from Happy Valley, Ore., saying she went to Walla Walla University where she met her husband, Kevin. She then graduated from Loma Linda University with a master's degree in Occupational Therapy, and now works as an occupational therapist at a local woman-owned pediatric outpatient clinic.



Keith Zimmerman '14 writes from Arlington, Va., that he and Brenna were married on June 15, 2019. He's currently working for Alliance Defending Freedom and plans to enter the University of Chicago School of Law in the fall.



Other Notes

David Hall '88 and **Laurel Rogers (Smith) '91** have both served since 2019 on the Walla Walla University Alumni Association board of directors. David is serving a three-year term. In 2020 Laurel was appointed board secretary and is projected to serve until 2023. As secretary, Laurel keeps minutes for board and executive committee meetings, and posts to the WWU Alumni Association Facebook page. Previously, **Ken Aso '92** served as the Alumni Association board chair in 2016-17.

You're invited...

... to share your update.

Send your information, including a high-resolution photo suitable for print, to the PAA Alumni Office by email or USPS to alumni@paasda.org or 1500 SE 96th Ave., Portland, OR 97216.

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.

Correspondence: Office of Development and Alumni, Portland Adventist Academy, 1500 SE 96th Ave., Portland, OR 97216
Ph: 503-255-8372. Email: alumni@paasda.org. Web: paasda.org/alumni

“Deuce” Traces Successes to PAA Roots, Experiences

This story is an expanded version of the article published in the Summer 2021 print issue of Vista Verde.

If you asked **Greg “Deuce” Nakashima II ’03** how he got to where he is today, he’d say there are threads in his life that developed while he was a student at PAA.

In his short career, he’s been a motivational speaker, a high school administrator, girls’ basketball coach and science teacher.

One thread that connects to his current gig as a life and leadership coach is about asking the tough questions. It all started when he was a sophomore at PAA. He and three other friends – they called themselves “The Four” – decided they’d invite a different teacher each month to join them for lunch and ask the teacher the hard questions. “We talked about what was real, what was really important, and what was really at the heart,” he said. “The thread for me was being able to connect with people at a deeper level.”

This desire to get at the heart of things was spurred by their freshman Bible class teacher, Kevin Brusett, who taught them character development based on PAA’s Core Values – Courage, Leadership, Integrity, Curiosity, Concern – referred to as CLICC.

In his business today, Deuce coaches teachers, school principals and administrators, entrepreneurs, therapists, CFOs, parents and athletes as well as others.

“What I get to do is ask the tough questions ... to find out what are people’s heartfelt dreams and what are they going for,” Deuce said. “I get to find out what’s stopping them and help them break through their challenges.”

Another thread Deuce recognized was the “entertainment factor. I loved to entertain,” whether it was performing music in the concert band or a worship praise team, playing varsity sports or being up front on stage. “I loved seeing the crowd going ‘ooh’ and ‘ahh,’ or be connected in some elevated way.”

That was reinforced when he became a motivational speaker and trainer after earning his bachelor’s degree at Pacific Union College – deferring physical therapy school – speaking about life skills on middle school, high school and college campuses, and traveling across the U.S. and the world for several years.

Alumnus Profile



Greg “Deuce” Nakashima II ’03 and his wife, Whitney

Next he wanted to see whether the principles he was teaching on the speaking circuit would apply in the classroom, so he earned a master’s degree at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and began working as the basketball coach and athletic director at an inner city all-girls’ Catholic high school.

“Coaching basketball – I definitely loved the game – but it was another opportunity to teach about character and life,” he said. (“My brother [Tony ’05] is the basketball brains. He’s been coaching at Division 1 and Division 2” universities. In early June, Tony was named the head women’s basketball coach at Walla Walla University.)

It was at the all-girls’ high school that, in addition to being the basketball coach for 10 years, he became the athletic director for seven years,

Continued on next page

even webmaster, and administrator and the fundraiser for athletics. But the long days and weekend work didn't fit well with his desire to eventually get married and have a family.

After being among the finalists but not landing a director position at Loyola Marymount, his life took a different turn.

"That was probably one of the best things that happened to me," he said, "because that opened up the door for another profession called life coaching."

Today he teaches biology at the all-girls' school while focusing most of his time on life and leadership coaching. He's been married since 2017 to Whitney, a biologist and ornithologist, who is working on her PhD at UCLA. (They met when he went along with friends to crash her housewarming party.)

One of the most valuable lessons he learned at PAA, he said, was to "make the most of what life has given you. Go after all the opportunities. Step out of your comfort zone."

A spiritual lesson he learned was "there's more to God than just the rules." Participating in the worship band played a huge role in his development, he said. "PAA really was a frontrunner at that time to connect with God" in a way "that really fit the students ... the type of music that we played."

Lifelong friendships are another result of his time at PAA. He gets together regularly with several classmates who now live in Southern California.

When asked about the teachers who were key influences during his four years at PAA, he lists off several. Bible teacher **Kevin Brusett** leads the list. Kevin also performed his and Whitney's wedding ceremony.

"I got the Ballou experience," he said of head basketball coach **Norm Ballou**. "I was able to play on the varsity team my freshman year, which was so critical in my growth as a detailed person. He really taught detail in how we coach basketball, which is why I think he was so successful." Deuce also had the opportunity after college to be an assistant to Coach Ballou, where he learned more about coaching from the other side of the ball.

His last three years of varsity basketball were under coach **Lance Judd**. "He was a phenomenal coach as well," molding teams that made it into the playoffs, even the Final Four.

Others he names include: **Bob Johnson** – For creating the recording studio where Deuce and a friend created and wrote music for an eight-song EP ... **Lynda Logan** – "Her care and concern was really evident, I really got that, and she really pushed us to seek out academic opportunities after high school." ... **Mark Kooy** – "He really helped with our class video (for gradua-

tion) that he helped my classmates create." ... **Linda Neel** – "I played in band, first chair clarinet for at least two years, and then being in choir and competing at State, those are experiences I'll never forget;" **Kathryn Damazo** and **David Huckaby** – "They were influential in helping me lead and knowing how to lead my class" as senior class president ... **Mark Smith** – "Definitely a great teacher and staff member, and vice principal" ... **Wayne Culmore** – "He was the Bible teacher our senior year. He was really influential in developing the spiritual aspect of our lives." ... **Kevin Petersen** ... **Terry Verlo** ... **Stan Maxted** ... **Jim Robertson** ... **Debby Melnychenko** ... **Les Zollbrecht**. It seems he lists nearly the entire staff.

"That was the thing that was really cool about the PAA experience," Deuce said. "It was a small community, so you really got to know the teachers," he said. "If the teachers saw something in you, they would encourage you."

As the class president, he asserts that the Class of 2003 is one of the most successful classes PAA has graduated. "Ever. Period." "Put it down," he said, "and he's not talking about himself," as he names a number of classmates who are accomplished in business, medicine, high tech, music and other fields.

Because of PAA's resources and programs – music, sports, recording studio, auto mechanics shop, student worship programs and others – he said he had experiences and opportunities he would not have had at a much larger school.

"I was hugely fortunate."

Visit www.paasda.org/alumni to download the Vista Verde newsletter.

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