

## Alum Continues PAA Music Legacy

Ivan Danilich, Class of 2018, will tell you he's realized his dream – teaching Guitar right here at his alma mater.

He is the third PAA alumnus to follow in the path blazed by their teacher, the late Tim Ellis, well-known Portland guitarist, musician and music producer who taught guitar and the Performance & Production class at PAA for 20 years.

Attending PAA and taking guitar from Ellis changed the trajectory of Ivan's life.

During his sophomore year after surpassing Guitar II level skills, Ellis began giving Ivan more challenging material. That's when things changed for him.

"I decided to learn a really complex song by myself," he said, "my gypsy jazz song, 'Midnight in Paris.'

"After class I played the whole song for him and he was really impressed. And I remember feeling 'nice,' because it was really my first time performing, and Tim's response of, 'Wow, you did a really good job.'

"And that was the moment it sparked, 'OK, I can really do this, and Tim believed in me.'"

Ivan also learned from Ellis that he could play guitar



While at PAA, Ivan Danilich '18 was inspired by the example of guitar teacher Tim Ellis to pursue a music career. Ivan has followed in Ellis' footsteps now teaching guitar at PAA starting this school year.

professionally and be successful in life.

"He had five kids, his wife was a stay-at-home mom, he put all his kids through college," Ivan recalls. "It gave him a great life, great education – and he was a guitarist."

Ivan would not have been at PAA to experience his time with Tim Ellis if it were not for student scholarships that were available to his family. For that, Ivan often expresses deep gratitude.

PAA also provided Ivan the opportunity to play in chapel worship bands, which helped build his confidence in performing in public on stage.

With Ellis' encouragement, Ivan began teaching

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**2023**

**Alumni Weekend**

**Honoring the classes of: '43, '48, '53,  
'63, '73, '83, '93, '98, '03, '13, '18**

**May 6, 2023 Weekend**

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).

# Loving Students When it's Messy

High school is one of those times in life most of us remember. Usually we remember strong highs and challenging lows. It makes sense, since memories are stamped more deeply when strong emotion is attached - and there is not a much more emotional time in our lives than adolescence.

At PAA, our vision is to be a high school where families long to send their children and where students love to be. Our mission is, "Because we desire to follow Christ's call to transform our community and our world, we guide and educate young leaders to be Christ Centered-Character Driven." What does that look like practically? It looks like love.

Each staff member's daily purpose is, in addition to inspiring deep learning, to help every student know and connect with Jesus' love for them.



Principal Mechelle Peinado

If through our relationships, example, and connections, we can reflect the absolutely adoring love that Jesus has for each student, every day, in every messy or wonderful or difficult moment of their lives, we have succeeded.

We are incredibly grateful and blessed to serve in this way with the students and families God brings to us.

Thank you for being part of our greater PAA community. Thank you for your prayers as we strive to share Jesus' adoring, never-ending, unconditional love with every student.

## PAA Campus Renewal Update

In early November, Principal Mechelle Peinado sent a PAA facility and property update by email to many in the PAA community. In her message, she addressed questions she often receives about the PAA property and building, the lack of landscaping in the main (south) parking lot, the condition of the main hallway ceiling and the feasibility of painting the exterior of the school buildings.

You can read the email on the PAA website here: [bit.ly/facility1103](http://bit.ly/facility1103)

Principal Peinado also provides the background for the delay in moving forward with exploring a remodel of the existing facilities, including an explanation of the nonconforming items remaining from the original master plan that the City of Portland, we expect, will require us to complete before issuing new permits. You may contact Principal Peinado with your questions at [mpeinado@paasda.org](mailto:mpeinado@paasda.org) or 971-351-9037 (direct).

PAA Alumni Facebook Group  
[facebook.com/groups/PAA1910](https://facebook.com/groups/PAA1910)

View the video:  
**Strings & Stories**  
student aid fundraising benefit, featuring guitar performance by **Ivan Danilich**, at the link on the PAA website here:  
[bit.ly/22strings](http://bit.ly/22strings)



2022 Cougar Hall of Fame inductees were the 1996 boys' basketball team and Coach Norm Ballou. (LtoR): Coach Ballou, Shannon Waller, Josh Barnes, Damian McCarthy, Abby Olive, Mark Sauser, Alan Bingham, Josh Wetterlin, Brandon Stepper, Jason Parker, Damian Sempio, Jorge Gurrola, Asst. Coach Ty Johnson. Not present: Ryan Carl

The second PAA Cougar Hall of Fame in October inducted the 1996 Boys Basketball Team, winner of the division State Championship and Athletic Director/Coach Norm Ballou. A major hurdle the team faced was getting the playoff schedule changed so games could be played outside of Sabbath hours. *More photos: [facebook.com/PAAcougars](https://facebook.com/PAAcougars)*

guitar at age 16. Pursuing a career in the music business led him to Walla Walla University (WVU) where he graduated in May with a degree in music and business.

His online teaching exploded during the pandemic while he was at WVU. In September, Ivan established his online music school and has already hired another music teacher.

His dream is to grow his online music school by hiring more teachers of other instruments and eventually opening physical locations with performance auditoriums across the country.

He often plays lead guitar in rock violinist Aaron Meyer's band, a role Ellis held before his death.

Amidst the success in his young life, Ivan remains humble, grateful and focused on the Source of his success, while remaining true to the Adventist Christian values he learned at home and that were reinforced at PAA.

"From a young age," Ivan said, "my dad was telling me, 'You have to be like Joseph. You have to stand up for the truth. God will bless you 10 times greater.'"

Ivan saw this truth clearly during the seven years he trained with a Bulgarian Olympic gymnastics coach who wanted him to compete on Sabbath, but Ivan refused.

"Every time my team would go perform on Sabbath, everyone would lose," he recalled. "Our team would not even come close to third place.

"Every time we did something outside of Sabbath, and I was performing, we'd win first place" as a

## Alumni News Notes

**Violet "Shelly" Larry (Hall) '80** was the first community health nurse

in Oregon and SW Washington to be named the "March of Dimes Heroes in Action - Nurse of the Year for Excellence in Maternal



Larry

Child Health for 2021." Violet is a 30-year employee of the Multnomah County Health Department where she is the clinical nurse supervisor and program manager of the Health Birth Initiatives.

**Robert "Bob" Palmer '90** and his wife Jodie make their home in Van-



Palmer

couver, Wash., where Bob is the Facilities Manager at Meadow Glade Adventist Elementary School. They were married in 2021 after get-

ting reacquainted via Facebook. They had known each other when working at Big Lake Youth Camp in the '90s. Bob is expecting to finish his master's degree in February 2024 with the aim of teaching at the secondary level.

**Jane Bigler (Harvey) '92** writes from Southeast Portland that she has been married for 21 years and has two children. Her son graduated

team, and Ivan took first place as an individual.

"So today in music I've taken the same position," Ivan said. "Every time I stood up for the truths I believe in, God has blessed me 10 times more."

from David Douglas High School in 2021 and her daughter is now a sophomore at PAA. She has worked for the State of Oregon for more than 17 years. (Corrected and updated from the previously published version.)

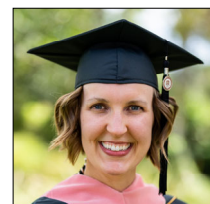
**Deisy Haid (Cholula) '06** (featured in the Spring 2022 Vista Verde) completed her doctorate in social work, with the focus on leadership and teaching, in August, and in September was named the Dean of Social Work and Sociology at Walla Walla University, where she is also an associate professor.

**Anne Boutwell '06** reports she is now working as a project coordinator at an engineering company in Tualatin. She graduated in 2020 with a bachelor's of business management at Portland State University.

**Dustin Serns '06** won \$20,000 for evangelism outreach in an Evangelism Shark Tank program at the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention in Kentucky in June 2022. Dustin pastors the Lifebridge Church in University Place, Wash., where members have started free small-scale health clinics, which have been key to planting Adventist churches in secular areas. The award will go toward Lifebridge's dream of creating a larger health clinic.

**Melissa Davidson (Thurnhofer) '07** graduated in June 2022 from the

Loma Linda University School of Public Health with a master's in public health and a focus on health education and wellness coach-



Davidson

ing. She received the Dean's Award and the Hulda Crooks Award, as well as being inducted into the Delta Omega Honor Society. The Dean's Award is given to a student who

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demonstrates excellent scholarship and actively participates in the community. The Hulda Crooks Award provides funds to students who personify personal and professional commitment to health and fitness. Membership in the Delta Omega Society requires the student to be in the upper 25% of their class academically.

It was announced at the 2022 Oregon Conference Camp Meeting that **Mitchell Kessler '12**, a long-time staffer in the Oregon Conference Communications Department had been promoted to Assistant Director as well as his role as Project Coordinator. For several years Mitchell has been the cornerstone of the conference's video production services.

**Kenalo Cooper '17** is taking architecture at Portland State University



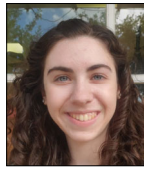
Cooper

with plans to graduate in 2023. His senior project, completed in spring 2022, included a Bird

Rehabilitation Center, which was done so well, the director of the School of Architecture considered presenting it to the Audubon Society

of Oregon. In addition, Kenalo was featured in a PSU ad campaign.

**Zoe Templin (Minden) '18** graduated from Washington State University



Minden

from Washington State University Vancouver in June 2022 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and received the Chancellor's Award for Student Achievement for academic achievement and love of learning, among other considerations – and graduated with a 3.93 GPA. She was married at the end of May and is now pursuing a master's in electrical engineering and PhD in electrical and computer engineering at WSU Vancouver.

**Andy Anaya '20** returned to PAA in early September to give a Chapel talk before returning as a junior to Walla Walla University. He encouraged students to “Fear Less”



Jairo & Andy Anaya

by not denying they have fear, but facing fear head on. He shared he is facing his fear head on as he accepted the role of pastor of a student-led Hispanic church on the WWU campus. His brother **Jairo Anaya '22** joined him for the visit.

**Andrew Vaughan '21** won two Walla Walla University Wolves Ath-

letic Department awards as a freshman in spring 2022 – Men's Basketball Rookie of the Year and the inaugural Men's Alpha Award. The Alpha is



Vaughan

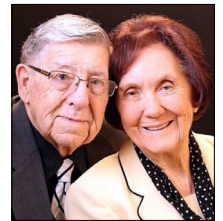
“awarded to the student athlete with the best combined score of overall athleticism and most improved in strength and conditioning over the course of the year.” Andrew is pictured with the women's winner, Isabella Robles.

## At Rest

**Gloria Myers (Bowen) (Sapp) '49**,

of Woodland, Wash., on January 21, 2022.

**Gary Radke, '56**, of Tacoma, Wash., on March 8, 2022.



David & Gloria Myers

**Jim Bebee, '64**, of Richland, Wash., on August 2, 2022.

**Larry Rieker, '65**, of Gresham, Ore., on June 6, 2022.



Cecil Roy

**Cecil Roy, PUA principal** from 1965-68, of Farmington, New Mexico, at age 93 on October 30, 2022.

## Why Monthly Giving?



1. Create a regular income to help students at PAA.
2. It all adds up. Over time, you can give more with smaller gifts than you can in a single large gift.

Visit [paasda.org/monthlygiving](https://paasda.org/monthlygiving)

## 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.”

**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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