

# Vista Verde

Fall  
2021

Portland Adventist Academy Alumni Newsletter

## Fall Celebration Virtual Event for Scholarships



Please join us on October 31 for an hour of inspiring student music performances and compelling conversation with students Sammy (above), Jose and Ximena, as well as faculty and alumni about the impact of the PAA mission.



Thanks to generous donors, Bell Canto now owns three octaves of new hand bells, replacing a rented set.

**Student Scholarship Benefit**  
Sunday, October 31, 2021, 6-7 pm live stream  
More info: [www.bit.ly/PAASSbenefit](http://www.bit.ly/PAASSbenefit)

*Join the Fall Celebration benefit live stream to hear more from Sammy, Jose and Ximena.*

When Sammy Ramos returned to PAA as a junior this fall, it was a surreal moment. He was at PAA his freshmen year, but his family felt PAA was too expensive “the COVID year” for an “online” school. So it was online public school instead.

“Then, first day, I was in the car driving to PAA. We took the same route as I did before and I was like, wow, we’re going to PAA,” he said. “When I got here ... this feels like home.”

Ximena Valencia, a senior, agrees. “I think that’s what family is,” she said, “trying to encourage you and make you feel loved.” For senior Jose Mejia, that family includes teachers who “care and will push me to be the best Jose I can be.”

Each of these students are grateful for student scholarships.

“I admire [that people] are able to give without even knowing me,” Sammy said; being at PAA “has changed my life for the better... it’s part of who I am, and I’m really grateful.”

## Donors Help Bell Canto Acquire New Hand Bells

PAA has a new set of hand bells this year thanks to generous donors who gave more than \$10,000 in late 2019 and early 2020. That means fewer hand bells need to be rented or borrowed.

With everyone returning to school this year, Dr. John Carter purchased a three-octave package that includes 37 hand bells; 37 chimes; mallets; singing sticks (rubbed on the edge of the bell to create sound); carrying cases; portable, foldable tables; table skirts; music binders and stands; and gloves.

Dr. Carter said this year’s Bell Canto is blessed with 18 experienced members, up from eight last year and 13 two years ago. The next step Dr. Carter would like to take is purchasing a fourth octave that he is currently renting.

# PAA Campus Renewal Update

In the Vista Verde Summer 2021 issue, Principal Mechelle Peinado addressed a number of questions about the PAA building project. To see that article, visit the PAA Alumni web page at [paasda.org/alumni](http://paasda.org/alumni), or request a hard copy from the Alumni office.

In brief, the PAA constituency in the fall of 2019 voted to abandon the master plan and explore remodeling the current physical plant because it was felt the costs of a totally new school at \$28 to \$32 million was more than could be supported.

Principal Peinado says that although physical work on the campus is held up, there is constant work by PAA's attorney, and architect and engineering firms behind the scenes to facilitate the Type III hearing with the City of Portland.



Principal Mechelle Peinado

## Q: What's our situation now since June?

In August, PAA's attorney, and architect and engineering firms finalized and submitted the application for the Type III hearing to the City of Portland. After receiving the city's initial response and replying to questions the city asked, we are expecting another round of questions from the city early in the new year. After we respond to that second round, the city will schedule our Type III hearing, likely during the summer of 2022.

During the Type III hearing we will address issues with the lot lines as well as several outstanding non-conforming items related to the remaining open permits from the original master plan.

The timeline we'd originally been planning on in late 2019 really took a

hit from the COVID pandemic, putting us at least 18 months behind where we'd projected at one time.

## Q: Is there a way PAA alumni and friends can help now?

Most definitely! As you can imagine, things such as traffic studies, surveys, preparation and requirements for the Type III hearing come at a cost. Any gift now will be of great help to keep things moving forward. Your gifts now will help to cover the costs of the Type III hearing, as well as fund work on the non-confirming items the City will require after the Type III hearing.

Your gift now will also help to fund concept development and design as we explore a remodel.

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](mailto:mpeinado@paasda.org) or [svigil@paasda.org](mailto:svigil@paasda.org).



## Cougar Hall of Fame Introduces First Inductees

The PAA Cougar Hall of Fame was inaugurated with its first inductees on Sept. 25 with about 130 Cougars alumni, family and friends in attendance. The inaugural varsity era class includes the 1971 Cougars men's basketball team, the first PUA/PAA varsity athletics team. The first individual inductee is Coach Bill Judd, viewed as a pioneer among Adventist academies, paving the way for participation in varsity athletics for SDA academies across the country.

The original Cougars varsity men's basketball team included: Greg Bridge '71, David Carothers '73, Don Clayville '72, Doug Clayville '73, Craig Coila

'72, Greg Dempsey '72, Randy Givens '71, Don Kurtz '73, Joe Merrill '72, Van Nelson '72, Bob Wart '73, Doug White '72. Team Managers: Dave Janke '73, Tom Thorpe '73. Coach: Bill Judd. Scorekeeper: Susan (Sanders) Gardner, rookie English teacher.



Photo: Spectrum Magazine and James Hayward

Richard M. Ritland '42 in the field

## 1942 Alum was Leading Scientist, Professor

After graduating from Portland Union Academy in 1942, Dick Ritland's (1925-2019) interest in nature and the Bible as ways to understand God led him to become a leading Adventist biologist, paleontologist and director of the Geoscience Research Institute.

Richard graduated from Walla Walla College with majors in theology and biology and then took coursework at the SDA Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. He was then invited to teach biology at Atlantic Union College.

He also earned a master's degree in zoology from Oregon State University and PhD in biology from Harvard University.

Richard joined the faculty at Loma Linda University and was invited in 1960 to join the group that eventually became the Geoscience Research Institute, where he served as director from 1964 to 1975.

In 1971 he took a position at Andrews University as professor of paleontology and geology, where he retired in 1983.

His 1970 book, *A Search for Meaning in Nature*, expressed his views on the geologic evidence of creation.

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

# Alumni News Notes

## At Rest

The following alumni are those we have learned have passed away since January 2019:

### 1940s

**Doris Naomi Force (Cartwright) '40**, of Portland, Oregon, on April 4, 2019.

**Richard M. Ritland '42**, Adventist Scientist and Professor, of Olympia, Washington, on December 13, 2019.

**Zurla Troeppel (Abegg) '45**, of Calistoga, California, on January 3, 2019.

**Ray Allen Wesson '46**, of Vancouver, Washington, on July 31, 2020.

**Jim White '48**, of Beaumont, California, on March 12, 2021.

**Charles "Chuck" Dempsey '49**, of Gresham, Oregon, on September 23, 2020.



Chuck Dempsey '49

### 1950s

**Sylvia Goss (Skreslet) '53**, on September 21, 2020.

**Rodney A. Green '58**, of Portland, Oregon, on July 18, 2019.

**Nancy Fay Davy (Merrill) '59**, of Joseph, Oregon, on October 28, 2020.

### 1960s

**Nelson Mathiesen '61**, of Portland, Oregon, on July 22, 2019.

**Marilyn L. Nicholson (Hegstad) '62**, of Portland, Oregon, on February 22, 2021.

### 1970s

**Randall W Huey '72**, of Gresham, Oregon, on October 11, 2020.

**Daryl Wilson '75**, of Longview, Washington, on June 25, 2020.

**Alonzo Watts '77**, on March 3, 2021.

**Daniel Stromme '79**, of Milton, Wisconsin, on September 16, 2019.

### 1980s

**John Douglas Loveridge '89**, of Lake Oswego, Oregon, on June 9, 2021.



Doug Loveridge '89

### 2000s

**Amber Erickson '05**, of Boring, Oregon, on June 27, 2021.

## Alumni News Notes

### 1960s

**Steve Huey '69** recently shared with us, "I am married to Elaine Angel Huey and have three children, Elisa, John, and Tosha. We live in Zillah, Washington, a little town near Toppenish. I retired from pastoring in Upper Columbia Conference. Since then, I have directed the Native Ministries Department for the North Pacific Union."

### 1970s

**Doraine Lehde (Todorovich) '72** writes from Simi Valley, California, "I'm retired after 30 years of nursing. I've lived in Ventura County for 36 years and have two daughters who live nearby."

Continued on page 4

## Alumni News Notes

Continued from page 3



Melissa '02 & Scott Rae

### 2000s

**Melissa Rae (MacPhee) '02** writes from College Place, Washington, where, after 15 years working in Recruitment at Walla Walla University and “absolutely loved my team, my work and the University,” she is now running her five-and-a-half-year-old social media marketing business full time serving more than a dozen clients. She says she feels God has blessed her business. “It’s an honor to be able to work with people from around the world and be a bright spot in peoples’ lives that I would otherwise likely never meet.” In an “unplanned turn of events,” her husband Scott stepped in to her recruiting position, so she had the rare opportunity to train him. Scott was recently on the PAA campus for a college fair, representing WWU, one of 10 Adventist colleges and universities represented. “We never know what God will have in store for us, but he keeps blessing us beyond our hopes and dreams, and I’m perpetually grateful for that.”

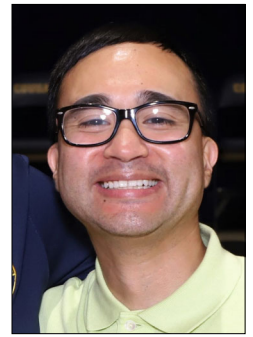
**Tony Nakashima '05** was appointed the Walla Walla University Lady Wolves head basketball coach and athletics advancement officer in August, his first head coaching appointment after spending several years in assistant coach roles at Division 1 and Division 2 colleges and universi-

ties. He was also an assistant at PAA to Coach Lance Judd (2011) and Coach Norm Ballou (2014). Prior to WWU, Tony was at Northern State University (Aberdeen, SD), University of Montana Western (Dillon, MT), Bethany College (Kansas), and Warner Pacific University (Portland). After graduating from PAA, Tony earned a marketing degree at Pacific Union College.

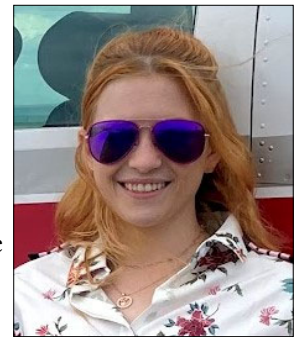
**Jesica Ramos (Hernandez) '06** in December 2020 was appointed the president and CEO of the Northwest Adventist Federal Credit Union, where she has worked since 2007, just a block away from PAA. She writes from her home in Gresham, “God has blessed me with a wonderful little family, and a great community which I can serve.”

### 2010s

**Lydia Krueger '16** is attending Walla Walla University and is spending this school year attending Villa Aurora Adventist College in Firenze, Italy. An aviation major, Lydia holds several licenses: Private Pilot’s License, Instrument Add-on Rating, Commercial Pilot’s License, Flight Instructor License, Instrument Instructor License, and Multiengine License. Last summer she was part of WWU’s aviation partnership with the US Air Force ROTC flight program lecturing as part of her senior project, in addition to being a fulltime flight instructor. Keeping an eye on future opportunities, she has already signed with Alaska/Horizon Airlines with an eye on becoming a commercial pilot. She’s also interested in airline training curriculum development at an airline or university, and research of human factors in aviation, specifically human factors in the cockpit.



Tony Nakashima '05



Lydia Krueger '16

## 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](mailto:alumni@paasda.org) or 1500 SE 96<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97216.

## SAVE THE DATE

May 7, 2022

## Alumni Reunion

Honoring the classes of:

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

**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 96<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97216  
Ph: 503-255-8372. Email: [alumni@paasda.org](mailto:alumni@paasda.org). Web: [paasda.org/alumni](http://paasda.org/alumni)

# Fall Celebration

## STUDENT *Scholarship* BENEFIT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

LIVE STREAMING FROM 6-7 PM

Featuring PAA Students, Staff, Alumni in conversations & musical performances

Celebrating PAA's *Mission* Celebrating God's *Blessings*

### JOIN US FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT

Did you know that about 40% of students this year receive some level of financial aid? Our fall fundraiser is how we receive the majority of the annual scholarship funds awarded in the current school year.

**THANK YOU** for your faithfulness in the past to help provide scholarships.

We'd love to gather in person, but felt it wise to go virtual again this year.

Would you like to host a small group watch party? Ask for the **WATCH**

**PARTY TOOLKIT** to help you plan, prepare and invite!

Find info at [www.bit.ly/PAASSbenefit](http://www.bit.ly/PAASSbenefit)

Live stream via the "PAA Video" YouTube Channel

**Contact: SAM VIGIL JR., DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

503-255-8372 x218 | [svigil@paasda.org](mailto:svigil@paasda.org) | [www.paasda.org](http://www.paasda.org)



PORTLAND ADVENTIST ACADEMY

*Christ-Centered Character-Driven*