

Men's Volleyball sweeps Harvard

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

No. 9 Pepperdine Men's Volleyball defeated Harvard with a sweep (25-16, 25-22, 25-15) March 15, at Firestone Fieldhouse.

Graduate outside hitter Jaylen Jasper led the way with 19 kills on a .577 hitting percentage. Junior middle blocker Anderson Fuller contributed with seven kills on the night. Junior libero Trey Cole led the defensive effort as the Waves limited Harvard to 23 kills on a .118 hitting percentage throughout the night.

Next for the Waves is a matchup with Daemen University on March 17, at Firestone Fieldhouse.

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PAC placed on pause

Samantha Torre
News Editor

Pepperdine Ambassadors Council did not return for the 2022-23 academic year.

For the past 32 years, PAC had been a student-run organization composed of 20 undergraduates. They served as a bridge between Seaver College students and the wider Pepperdine and Malibu communities, according to the website.

However, since the start of the fall 2022 semester, there have not been students in the traditional navy blue blazers greeting at events — such as Founder's Day — or presenting at President's Cabinet meetings.

PAC — an organization students and alumni said they took part in to help represent students to the administration and wider Pepperdine community — is "pausing," former adviser David Johnson wrote in a March 22, 2022 email to members of PAC.

Advancement and PAC students disagree over the nature of the pause. PAC members said the pause was the result of disagreement over how much control members would have over the selection process.

University Advancement, however, wrote the pause has been a time to reimagine the future of the organization.

"It really is a shame to see a student organization that is made up of students who love the University and want to give back to the University to be completely disregarded and shoved to the side by the University we love so much," said Josh Leow, Seaver alumnus ('22) and former chair of PAC.

PAC began in the 1989-90 academic year under the Office of the President, according to the PAC website and PAC alumni.

In 1992, the University moved PAC under Advancement, according to PAC's website.

In 2021, Johnson started as a new adviser, succeeding Meghan Lervold. Johnson's appointment coincided with the change of Advancement's relationship with PAC, PAC members said.

Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Graduate outside hitter Jaylen Jasper spikes against Harvard on March 15, at Firestone Fieldhouse. Jasper led the Waves with 19 kills.

See **A4**

SPRING CAREER EXPO

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Career Center

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Good News: Finding my love of art again



Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

Abby Wilt | Managing Editor
A simple piece of art I painted during quarantine in April 2020. I used to always paint quotes on colorful backgrounds when I was younger.

When I was younger, I loved to paint. My paintings weren't anywhere close to being masterpieces. But I enjoyed the hobby, and I painted every night.

Soon, I filled the walls of my childhood bedroom with paintings depicting everything from landscapes to calligraphy to attempted portraits of my dog. Some were messy, and some were clean, and while I never considered myself a professional, it was a part of my routine.

And then college started.

At first, I didn't bring any painting supplies and pretty much forgot about my hobby. I was running from one thing to the next, and the time I used to spend painting before bed turned into time for me to scroll through TikTok.



Painting frees me from ruts and helps me realize it is OK to spend time doing hobbies I simply enjoy, even if there isn't an end goal attached.

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

Even the thought of bringing out paper and paints and water and brushes felt like a disaster waiting to happen — I'm not the cleanest when it comes to painting.

As time progressed, I craved a

creative outlet — something separate from writing articles, reading, editing and spending time with friends.

So, I ordered some new painting supplies on Amazon and settled in for a night of relaxation: just me, some slow music and the paintbrush.

I don't even remember what I painted, but I remember running upstairs to tell my roommates how content I was bringing back an old hobby.

I gathered up all my art supplies the next time I was home and started to get back into the habit. While I might not paint every night anymore, I still do when I see a few hours of spare time or when I know it's time to unplug and regroup myself.

I have started to prioritize other creative outlets too. Whether it's designing pages for the Graphic or enrolling in more art classes, I realize I can be productive in ways that are also relaxing and restoring.

While I do not foresee myself becoming a professional artist, I expect art will always be a way for me to relax and reset while learning every day my art doesn't have to be a perfect masterpiece.

Painting frees me from ruts and helps me realize it is OK to spend time doing hobbies I simply enjoy, even if there isn't an end goal attached.

So, I will continue to paint when I feel like it. Maybe one day I'll stray away from acrylic paint and get into oils and pastels and all of the other forms of art. But for now, I'm content to pursue my little hobby here and there and always have it there for me as a form of rest and relaxation.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18

The Table

Come worship God in the Brock House and enjoy a shared meal and prayerful music with a multigenerational community at 6 p.m.

March 21

Flamenco Vivo

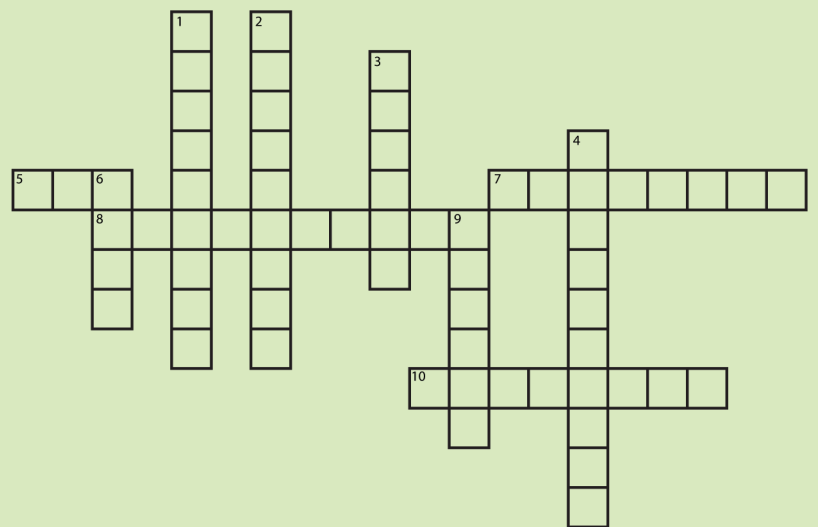
One of America's premier flamenco and Spanish dance companies is performing in Smothers Theatre with emerging artists and accomplished choreographers at 8 p.m.

March 27

Conversation with Matt Skelton

The Video Game Law Society will host Matt Skelton, the assistant general counsel to Microsoft's gaming division, in classroom F in the Caruso School of Law. There will be time for Q&A and snacks and drinks will be provided at 12:40 p.m.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- Willie's new move
- Club profile on B4
- Season for growth and change
- New university policy impacting in-person
- Student organization on pause
- Men's Volleyball libero Trey _____
- Sports teams' student
- Popular Netflix teen drama series
- New VP of Spiritual Life, Tim _____
- Malibu marine mammals

Answers are based on this print edition

You Had One [Parking] Job

Highlighting bad parking on Pepperdine's campus



Seaver Drive

Lisette Isiordia | News Designer



Banowsky Boulevard

Millie Auchard | News Assistant Editor

SGA MEETING recap | 03.15

- SGA passed Resolution 10-S23: the addition of more well-labeled sustainability bins.
- The Senate approved amendments to their constitution.
- SGA discussed a scholarship to help students along their college journey.

Local wildlife center provides care to sea lions

Ali Levens
Senior Climate
Change Reporter

On a balmy 80-degree Christmas Day at Malibu's Westward Beach, three members of the public spotted a distressed animal nestled in the rocks, said Heather Henderson, the marine program manager at the California Wildlife Center for the past three years.

Henderson, who responded to the public's calls about the distressed animal, said the animal was a female California sea lion pup. The pup was malnourished, wounded and alone.

The marine animal rescue team and Henderson responded to the calls for the pup, known as Case No. 22-154, Henderson said.

"If we just respectfully give space and watch some of these animals behave normally and report them when they aren't doing well, we can continue to have the most amazing coastline," Henderson said.

The CWC is a medical facility for native wildlife, nestled about six miles away from Pepperdine on Piuma Road, according to its website.

The Center has treated more than 60,000 land and marine mammals since its 1998 inception, according to its website. It has expanded multiple times, including adding an intensive care unit in 2005, a surgery trailer in 2007, a rehabilitation center in 2013 and 52 outdoor enclosures throughout its expansion. It services 6,000 square miles in southern L.A. County and Ventura County.

"There's always a need for a few more beds in town," Henderson said.

Eight weeks after the rescue, Henderson said 22-154 is recovering well, and the CWC plans to release her back onto the Malibu beaches.

"She is robust, behaviorally appropriate [and] things that ailed her upon her arrival have resolved," Henderson said.

Sea lions face many risks in their habitats — as 22-154 experienced — yet they have a community of humans ready to help them, Henderson said.

Threats to Sea Lions

Henderson said the CWC rescues, rehabilitates and releases sea lions, one of the main marine mammal species cared for at the facility.

Sea lions face many hazards, said Henderson and Karen Martin, distinguished professor emeritus in Biology at Pepperdine.

"The most immediate impact of a sea surface temperature rise — which definitely could follow from continued global warming — will be the movement of fish stocks," Henderson said.

Sea lions feast on small forage fish that live in cooler water, both Henderson and Martin said. As the water temperature increases, the fish may move further offshore to obtain the ideal living temperature.

This causes problems for the sea lion mothers and pups, as the mothers may have to swim further out for food and take longer to consume enough calories to swim back and nurse.

If the pups wait too long for nourishment, they may venture out on their own — which requires skills Henderson said they have not developed yet — leaving them stranded and malnourished.

Runoff from rain can drag pollutants into the ocean and negatively affect water quality, Henderson said.

"We're told not to go swim or surf for 48 hours after one of these big rain storms," Henderson said. "Easily, we can choose to not do that — they live in the ocean and forage in the ocean."

If the sea lion is already in a weakened state, Henderson said the pollutants could "enhance that effect."

Martin said algal blooms, which are becoming more common with climate change and are increased with the overgrowth of certain phytoplankton, can harm sea lions. The fish that sea lions consume could contain and then pass on neurotoxins.

Although sea lions are adaptive to changing conditions, Martin said people should still respect the wildlife.

"We can't be complacent and say, 'Well, therefore, they'll be fine,'" Martin said.

Report, Rescue, Rehabilitate and Release

If someone in Malibu observes a marine animal in distress, Henderson said they should take a picture — from a distance — and call the CWC's hotline number, 310-458-WILD, where the Center will tell them how to proceed. Even if the animal turns out to be healthy, Henderson said she would prefer people report it rather than risk an injured animal going without care.



Ali Levens | Senior Climate Change Reporter

A herd of sea lions sunbathe on a cluster of Point Dume rocks Feb. 15. The California Wildlife Center rescues, rehabilitates and releases marine animals like sea lions.

Henderson said "the worst thing" people can do is approach or touch the animal, including moving it back into the ocean or pouring water on it, as it can increase stress for the injured animal.

There are many reasons sea lions may come ashore in need of medical care, which is known as stranding, Henderson said.

If an animal does need to be rescued, Henderson said the CWC can usually arrive at the site about 30 minutes after the phone call. The team's priority is to "get the animal safely in care."

"Rescue is an important part of the process, and it's nice to be out on the beach and really be able to provide the first step and care for the animals," Henderson said.

Once the animal is safely in the kennel, Henderson said she educates the people who reported the animal about the native animals.

"They obviously care, so the more that we can get out accurate information to the public, the better," Henderson said.

Once the animal gets to the CWC, the marine team conducts a full intake examination, which Henderson said is similar to humans' urgent care.

The animals can remain at the CWC from 6 to 12 weeks, depending on their arrival conditions and response to care, Henderson said.

Joanne Burns, a 13-year volunteer for the marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation team, said the CWC is important because the facility is trained to medically care for wildlife, as opposed to utilizing a pet veterinarian who may not know what to do for stranded marine animals.

"We want to make sure that they thrive and there's a place for them to go," Burns said.

Pepperdine senior Mallory Finley —

a former CWC marine mammal team volunteer — said after rescue and rehabilitation, the CWC releases the sea lions back into their natural habitats.

"Being able to take part in releasing them and seeing them go back to their home and in the healthy conditions that they're supposed to be in, it's just incredibly rewarding to know that you made an impact on their lives," Finley said.

The Impact of the Center, Team and Patients

Preserving the nature of Malibu is vital to its existence as a city, Martin said.

"The access to wildlife and the access to wild nature is really a big part of the appeal of Malibu," Martin said.

Finley said humans have a responsibility to connect with and rehabilitate nature, like what the CWC is doing for its native animal species.

"It's just another piece of the larger puzzle of taking care of our home," Finley said.

Burns said volunteering at the CWC has been an "incredible learning experience."

The CWC marine program volunteers said Henderson creates a "positive" and "caring" learning environment.

"She will take the time and make sure that the volunteers are safe and how we handle animals is safe and [we are] learning the proper way," Burns said. "I really look up to her as a mentor."

The learning continues with sea lions, as Burns said it is fun to understand their personalities.

"It's important that we keep them wild, but we still need to take care of them," Burns said.

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Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

A herd of sea lions swim in the water around Point Dume on March 5. Sea lions face many hazards due to climate change, such as the small freshwater fish they eat going further offshore in search of cooler waters, said Heather Henderson, the marine program manager at the California Wildlife Center for the past three years.

PAC on II PAUSE

Pepperdine Ambassadors Council placed on pause

Photo courtesy of Sahej Bhasin | Graphic Ad and Business Director

Photo illustration by Haley Hoidal | Creative Director

Members of PAC32 stand with the Crest Advisory Board in October 2021. PAC members said the disagreement between students' control over the organization contributed to the pause, while Advancement said the pause was to prepare PAC for a period of growth.

From AI

In the spring 2022 semester, Advancement proposed a decrease in student voice for membership selection PAC members said.

"To accomplish this reimagining and growing of PAC, we will be pausing the recruitment and selection processes in order to plan a new vision for PAC with your input, as well as the input from the 428 PAC alumni from the last 33 years who now live all over the world," Johnson wrote in a March 22, 2022 email to members of PAC.

PAC's pause is projected to last through the 2022-23 academic year, with the organization set to restart in fall 2023, wrote Lauren Cosentino, vice president and chief Advancement officer, in a March 14 email to the Graphic.

Gash declined to comment on the future plans for PAC but said he enjoyed his working with the organization in the past.

"Each year, I look forward to meeting and interacting closely with these talented and motivated representatives of Pepperdine," President Jim Gash wrote in a March 14 email statement to the Graphic.

There will be interviews in spring 2023 for PAC membership for the 2023-24 academic year, Cosentino wrote.

"I am eager for PAC to resume this next fall," Gash wrote

The Graphic reached out to Johnson

regarding the reasons for PAC's pause, but he did not respond to requests for comment.

Founding of PAC

Christine Grimm, Seaver alumna ('90) and founding chairperson of PAC, said she founded PAC with Lisa Kodama, Seaver alumna ('89) and GSEP alumna ('91), in her junior year. At the time, Grimm was Student Government Association president and founded PAC in response to an absence of tradition she felt at Seaver College.

Grimm said she worked with then-Chancellor Charles Runnels for former President Andrew K. Benton's office at the time when Benton was VP.

"Pepperdine wasn't then what it is today," Grimm said.

Creating a Community

Benton said the founding PAC — PAC1 — and its successors were "great representatives" for Pepperdine.

The formation of PAC, Kodama said, was quick, taking only a few months — in part because of the trust the administration had in the students.

PAC, Kodama said, was about student empowerment.

"I remember one student, and I never asked him why, but he said it saved his life at Pepperdine," Kodama said.

Joining PAC

The most important aspect of PAC,

Leow said, was acting as a student voice directly to the President's Office. It was also traditional for PAC members to provide updates at the Board of Regents meetings.

"We would represent the University as student liaisons at events, such as fundraisers out in L.A.," Leow said.

Gash wrote he worked to interact with PAC and its members.

"I very much enjoyed my interactions with PAC during my first three years as president," Gash wrote. "I have hosted PAC in my home on numerous occasions and am eager for PAC to resume its important work on campus.

After joining PAC, Dawson Foster, senior and one of PAC's two recruitment coordinators for the 2021-22 academic year, said he received a PAC Constitution that went over the inner workings and goals of PAC. These inner workings, Foster said, eventually shifted.

With returning from COVID-19 and switching to a new adviser, Maxine Li, Seaver alumna ('22) and former external community liaison for PAC, said members' expectations did not match up to reality.

"The issue with that was we kind of became like free labor," Li said.

A Shift in Structure

In summer of 2022, Cosentino reorganized Advancement to help align the department with Gash's Pepperdine 2030: Ascend Together plan for the future for the University, Johnson wrote

in the March 22, 2022 email to PAC members.

PAC had "a lot of work to do" Johnson wrote in the email, so that PAC could "have an even more important and larger role in the future partnering with University Advancement."

An area of "growth or change" for PAC was expanding the organization to represent all five schools, in the upcoming years Johnson wrote in his email to PAC.

Advancement planned on having a "restructuring of roles and responsibilities of members, which will include shared leadership between the undergraduate and graduate PAC students," Johnson wrote in the email.

"It kind of went from being like an ambassador to Pepperdine to becoming like a worker for Pepperdine but you weren't paid," McCutchen said.

Administration has Stronger Say in Selection

Foster said he was responsible for running the 2022-23 academic year recruitment cycle. In the spring semester, coordinators would reach out to applicants, receive recommendations and set up interviews.

While the students would still have some say on appointments for the next Council, PAC members said they learned in the spring 2022 semester administrators wanted more of a say in PAC membership and leadership decisions.

Brinkman said everything PAC

HISTORY OF PAC

1989-90:

Founding of PAC

2020-21:

PAC operates virtually due to COVID-19

1992:

PAC moves to Advancement

July 3, 2021:

PAC has a new adviser: David Johnson

learned about the changes to selection came from Cosentino and Johnson, who then either told PAC directly at weekly Wednesday morning meetings or communicated it to the chair and vice chair, who then told the rest of the members.

While Li said she understands the difficulty in recruiting 20 members, not consulting with PAC left room for miscommunication.

In March 2022, Leow said everything was going “smoothly,” with several “sharp” candidates applying for chair.

“There were other administrators in play and advisers who also wanted to give their opinions on who should join the Council, on who should lead it,” Brinkman said.

Grimm said if it were up to her, the best idea would be a hybrid model — with both students and administrators having control over selection — but she is still not sure about the best way to go about selection.

In the original application process, applicants were free to apply as long as they met PAC’s basic requirements, and members would choose the next Council, Li said.

The basic requirements for PAC, according to the PAC Constitution, were:

- A 3.0 GPA
- Completion of 60 units before the semester one would begin their position
- Junior or senior standing
- Attendance at Pepperdine for one year prior to starting their position
- Being at the University for two semesters while a member
- Involvement in at least three areas of student life
- Not holding top executive board positions in more than one — or two related — organizations
- Not being a member of organizations that conflict with the Wednesday morning meetings — such as SGA or HRL

Li said she was concerned because Johnson said legacies may have an advantage in the selection process.

“If their parents were on PAC, that would give them an advantage,” Li said.

Being an ambassador for life was something Advancement wanted to focus on, Johnson wrote in the email.

Move Away from a Constitution

Additionally, PAC was set to move away from its Constitution, utilizing “operating guidelines” instead of a binding contract, Brinkman said.

Cosentino wrote PAC will be using the original charter, which calls for membership to be jointly decided.

Cosentino did not respond to request for follow-up comment on whether the charter was the same as the Constitution by the time of publication.

“PAC has had a charter from the original year of inception, and that is the charter that will be honored going forward,” Cosentino wrote.

The Constitution, Li said, protected

PAC members and provided an outline for what recruitment and roles within PAC looked like.

Getting rid of the PAC Constitution, Li said, also would have removed a framework and guideline for PAC’s operation.

However, while the Constitution encourages the adviser to sit in on selection — and gives him one vote — and for faculty to take part in interviewing applicants, the Selection Committee is responsible for all member selection, according to PAC’s Constitution.

“The Selection Committee shall consist of graduating senior Council members only,” according to the Constitution. “There must be at least nine members on the Committee. If fewer than nine graduating seniors are available, the Executive Board may recruit PAC alumni to serve on the Committee.”

Fitting a Mold

As administration moved to have more control over PAC’s selection process, PAC members said they felt the administration would not choose students representative of the University population.

Most people he has met at Pepperdine, Foster said, have been non-religious and very affirming of different sexualities and belief systems.

Approximately 40% of students at Pepperdine are somewhat or very politically liberal, according to a fall 2022 Office of Institutional Effectiveness Diversity Equity and Inclusion report.

“
That just shows to us
that what we’ve told
them and what we’ve
communicated doesn’t
matter. And just what
we built PAC to be
doesn’t matter.”

Maxine Li
Seaver Alumna ('22)

Another 40% of students either have no or “unstated” religious affiliation, according to Pepperdine’s At a Glance Admission statistics.

Foster said he was the only student on PAC who was a member of the Churches of Christ. Pepperdine is affiliated with the Churches of Christ, according to the University’s website.

“[PAC’s diversity] probably could have been better, but we had multiple ethnicities, we had different beliefs, we had different religions and different sexualities,” Foster said.

Foster also said he has been openly gay since his first year at Pepperdine and was out to PAC at the time he was

running — originally unopposed — for chair.

Eventually, another student decided to run for chair, and Foster said he was excited to begin the interview process. From there, Foster said he learned about the changes facing PAC, specifically that Advancement leaders would decide the next year’s chair.

Foster said he believes his sexuality played a role in why Advancement did not select him as chair — something he called “heart-wrenching” and “silencing.”

Cosentino did not respond to request for comment on Foster’s specific concerns on his sexuality.

In response to Advancement selecting the chair, Cosentino wrote “that is not the case.”

The lack of approval regarding a candidate’s sexual orientation, Leow said, prompted long conversations among PAC members and with Johnson regarding next steps for PAC.

From there, Leow said it was hard to move forward.

“That was probably the last straw that we were like, ‘Yeah, this isn’t going to fly,’” Leow said.

Despite Advancement’s concerns, PAC was happy with their candidates, Leow said.

While Li said PAC members understood Pepperdine has a Churches of Christ background, saying that everyone within PAC had to fit a certain mold ran contrary to the initial mission of PAC.

Seaver College’s Sexual Relations Policy states the University’s understanding of Scripture is that marriage is only between a husband and a wife, according to the website. However, the University also states it will not tolerate “harassment of LGBT students,” and students cannot lose their scholarships or face disciplinary action because of their sexuality.

Students have protested this policy, according to Graphic reporting.

Leow said he had multiple conversations with former members and people within PAC32 about the boundaries and duties of PAC.

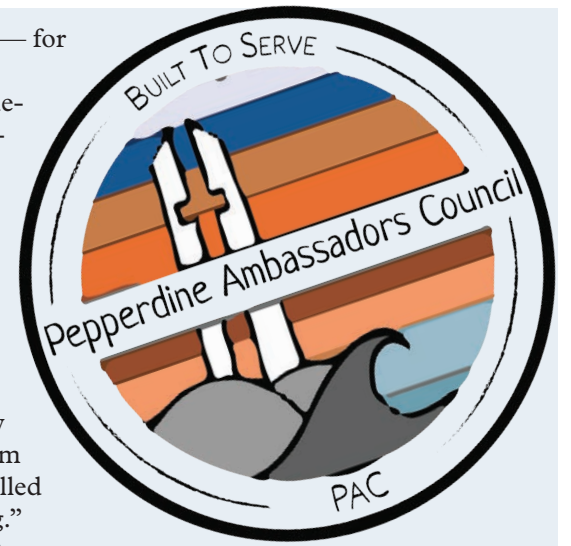
“Regardless of what the University was going to say about the orientation of our students and whether they could have a voice because of their orientation or not, we were just going to stand firm and fight for what we believed in,” Leow said.

Going Over the Changes

Johnson wrote in the March 2022 email Advancement would be reaching out to members to “help plan the new, more robust structure of PAC with University Advancement.”

The University told PAC they would reach out to former members about how to proceed, but Leow said he never learned what the outcome of that was.

“The chair and vice chair have faced the brunt of it for us, and I will forever



thank them for being responsible and brilliant and smart and kind and compassionate people in that situation,” Foster said.

PAC would be working closer with Cosentino as the organization was “moving past these pandemic challenges,” Johnson wrote in the March 22, 2022 email to PAC.

Advancement would seek “the input from the 428 PAC alumni from the last 33 years,” to decide the organization’s future, Johnson wrote in the March 22, 2022 email to PAC members.

No Word on What Comes Next

Cosentino, Johnson wrote in the email, reorganized Advancement over summer 2021. Johnson wrote she also asked him to work on expanding PAC’s role within the Pepperdine community through areas of change.

“We were just upset and frustrated and disappointed that this club that’s meant to be a privilege — and you’re supposed to have a voice in administration — was turning out that they actually didn’t care what our voice was,” McCutchen said.

In fall 2022, Brinkman said Cosentino told him PAC would be restarting in a month or so before ultimately saying the organization was on a hiatus.

“It’s just very disappointing to see that things are the way they are because I’m pretty sure if you asked any professor or administrator over the last 20, 30 years, they would probably know what PAC is and the impact that PAC has on the University,” Leow said.

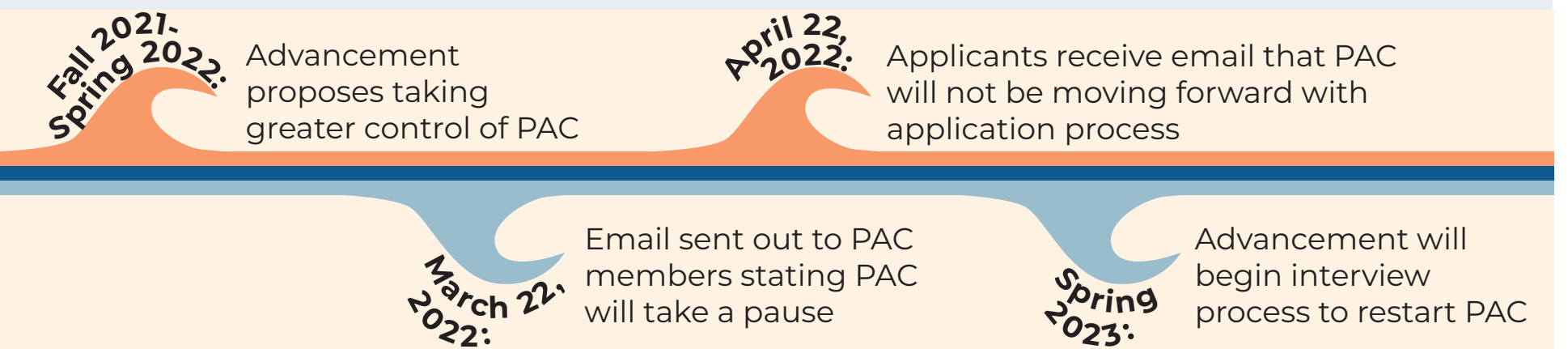
In fall 2022, Li said Johnson sent her an email about the possibility of PAC restarting for the year, but Li explained she would graduate in December, so she could not take part.

“[PAC] just faded off,” Li said.

The email to applicants, Foster said, went out April 22, 2022 — the day after PAC met with their adviser — and was honest about the uncertainty surrounding the future of PAC.

“In summary, the Pepperdine Ambassadors Council will look different than what was advertised moving into next year,” PAC wrote in the April 22 email to applicants.

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Tourists, residents struggle with on-and-off road closures at Point Dume

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

A battle for parking at Westward Beach in ongoing — with Point Dume Access Road opening and closing by the day.

L.A. County closed the Point Dume Access Road to the Point Dume parking lot for most of January and February due to mudslides on one side and high tides on the other, said Chris Frost, chair of the Public Safety Commission, in a March 1 Public Safety Commission meeting. This closure has left residents and drivers with limited parking.

“If we don’t do something safety-wise, we are going to have some type of disaster coming up,” said Steve Graham, owner of a residence on Cliffside Drive.

L.A. County has urged residents and tourists to stay clear of Westward Beach following the mudslides on Point Dume

following the rain, Frost said.

The Volunteers On Patrol team has seen the opposite, with crowds swarming to Westward Beach, especially for sunsets. VOP leader Mark Russo said the team wrote 151 tickets in the Point Dume area just over Presidents’ Day weekend.

“Sunsets are just ridiculous up there [Westward beach],” Russo said.

Drivers crowding Westward Beach Road have started to park in residents’ yards and driveways on Cliffside Drive, sparking concern, Frost said.

“I’m not an advocate of making everyone’s weekend terrible, but they can’t just flaunt the law whenever they want to,” Frost said.

Frost said there needs to be a consequence for drivers blatantly not following parking laws, whether they want to get to the beach or not.

“If you parked in Beverly Hills on a sidewalk, you’d never see your car again,” Frost said.



Abby Wilt | Managing Editor

Road closure signs sit on Point Dume Access Road on March 7. The road has been closed on-and-off due to the rain and mudslides.

Drivers are feeling frustrated, too — they said they spend more time looking for parking than they do at the beach.

“If you’re on a bike, it’s easier, but a car is almost impossible,” Westward Beach visitor Jose Sawale said.

Sawale said he has to stay persistent to park at Westward Beach and enjoy his time in Malibu.

The Public Safety Commission offered a few solutions — one being to add more signage to the area informing drivers of where and where not to park.

Russo said VOP will also start monitoring the area immediately, enforcing towing and writing tickets.

“I can’t count how many times we’ve heard these cars going 60 to 70 miles an hour,” Graham said. “It’s come to the point where we need to do something before somebody is going to [be] killed.”

“
If we don’t do something safety-wise, we are going to have some type of disaster coming up.

Steve Graham
Malibu Resident

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PEPPERDINE | SEAVER COLLEGE



Save the Date

LOQUI brings us together in a spirit of unity through diversity. We pause to acknowledge the University’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. We honor our graduates and the distinct cultures that shape the Pepperdine experience and deepen our collective sense of belonging.

April 28, 2023 @ 1 PM PDT | Smothers Theatre , Malibu

Pepperdine University invites you to honor our graduates’ accomplishments and the rich diversity they bring to the educational experience.” Loqui registration begins Monday, April 3, 2023. Learn more and register at pepperdine.edu/loqui



Millie Auchard | Assistant News Editor

John Doe's belongings wait for him on a bench along Civic Center Way in Malibu on Feb. 1. John said he has been unhoused in the L.A. area for about two years now.

Unhoused individuals in Malibu struggle to find shelter amid rainy weather

Millie Auchard
Assistant News Editor

Editor's Note: To protect the identity of two sources, the Graphic has used the pseudonyms Jack Doe and John Doe.

This season, Malibu residents watched from their living room couches as trees swayed in the wind and raindrops fell from the sky. But individuals without housing in Malibu did not have that luxury.

An anonymous 35-year-old man living with a disability, John Doe, said he has been unhoused in the L.A. area for about two years.

Despite the aid that organizations like The People Concern offer, John said he feels he has not received much help. The People Concern is an organization based in Santa Monica, Calif., offering solutions to homelessness and domestic violence, according to their website.

This January, eight out of 243 unhoused individuals in Malibu received permanent housing, temporary housing or The People Concern relocated them, according to The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team's January 2023 Report. Relocation refers to when an unhoused individual reunites with their family or returns to their city of origin, Public Safety Liaison Luis Flores said.

John said The People Concern comes to Malibu twice a week to collect information from unhoused individuals to

help them find housing. John said he feels frustrated with the amount of time it has taken for him to receive housing.

"Every day, I wake up, I call my case worker," John said. "I call him three times a day, so he knows I'm still out here."

Malibu's Resources for Unhoused Individuals

Lea Johnson, director of the Malibu Community Assistance Resource Team (CART) works with CART President Terry Davis to cook meals for the unhoused in Malibu every Tuesday and Thursday, while Malibu's Homeless Outreach Team works to house people. CART offers meals to those in need behind Malibu Urgent Care. The organization also provides meals to unhoused individuals Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Zuma Beach.

Johnson said CART hosts a Connect Day twice a year, where they offer unhoused individuals haircuts, showers, medical services, job opportunities and more.

There are 4,604 unhoused people in West Los Angeles, which reaches from Malibu south to Playa del Rey and east to Beverly Hills, according to the 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. Malibu's unhoused population in 2022 was 81 people, according to the Malibu Homeless Count.

Zachary Coil, director of Westside Operations for The People Concern, said he oversees the outreach teams who develop relationships with the

unhoused population in West Los Angeles.

"Our big thing is trying to make contact on the streets and provide them care and attention and try to get them resources," Coil said.

Coil said relationships between case managers and unhoused individuals are voluntary — meaning unhoused individuals don't have to engage with the outreach teams if they don't want to.

The People Concern's outreach teams in Malibu are on the streets five days a week, Coil said. They frequent Malibu Surfrider Beach, Zuma Beach and Legacy Park by the Malibu Library to offer their services. Coil said the outreach teams provide medical care, substance abuse resources and case management to unhoused people.

Homeless Shelters in Malibu

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) offers winter shelters annually from Nov. 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, to those ages 18 and over experiencing homelessness, according to their website. The nearest winter shelter to Malibu is 24 miles from Pepperdine's campus.

"There are no shelter or interim shelter opportunities within the City of Malibu," Flores wrote in a Feb. 23 email to the Graphic. "But our Housing Navigator actively pursues interim housing opportunities throughout L.A. County for people experiencing homelessness in Malibu and works collaboratively with our Outreach Team to make those placements when available."

Flores wrote there is no one reason for the lack of homeless shelters in Malibu.

"There's no direct answer because there's a myriad of potential reasons," Flores wrote. "Including having available property for shelter/permanent housing conversion, political will, community support/opposition, extensive length of contracting process, proximity to services, etc."

Malibu doesn't have a homeless shelter of any kind. Coil said the nearest year-



Millie Auchard | Assistant News Editor

A tent stands among plants alongside the Malibu City Library on Jan. 29. The tent was gone the following day.

round shelter to Malibu is 15-20 miles away.

"I wish there was something local for these people to access," Coil said. "It just doesn't exist."

Rainy Days in Malibu for Unhoused Individuals

John said he finds refuge on the concrete in front of the entrance to the Malibu Courthouse, where there are cameras and an overhang.

"This is the safest place to be in [Los Angeles]," John said.

John said the overhang and the trees in front of it keep him safe from rain and wind. He said he sleeps under a blue tarp to stay dry when it rains.

On rainy days, Coil said he'll see most of the unhoused people in Malibu gather in one spot such as Legacy Park, the courthouse or the library.

"They will be all huddled together," Coil said. "It's very survival-oriented at that point."

Coil said sometimes unhoused people will ride the buses all night to stay out of the rain. A one-way ticket on L.A.'s Metro Rail costs \$1.75, according to the Metro website.

Johnson said many unhoused people in Malibu don't want to go to shelters in the winter.

"Some [people] are physically abused," Johnson said. "They steal from each other."

Flores said he is sure interpersonal conflict can happen in homeless shelters.

If the weather gets cold enough, John said he would go to a winter shelter. Although,

he said he prefers to stay close to the library because he's had bad experiences with shelters in the past.

An anonymous Vietnam War veteran Jack Doe also lives by the Malibu Library. He said he has been unhoused throughout the U.S. and Canada for 40 to 50 years and has been unhoused in Malibu for the past decade.

Jack said about six other people live near the library. In inclement weather, he said that number will increase to 13 to 16.

Like John, Jack said he chooses to stay in Malibu in the rain because, although there are winter shelters available to him, the authorities who drove him there will return him to Malibu after a night.

What Jack is referring to, buses taking homeless people to and from shelters every day, no longer exist, Coil said.

An organization that used to offer these resources, the West Los Angeles Armory, stopped service in 2020 to build a new shelter, according to an article by the Santa Monica Mirror. The West L.A. Armory would send buses to Venice Boardwalk every day to transport unhoused individuals back and forth from the shelter, Coil said.

"We have a deep empathy for how hard it is out there, and I wish we had more to offer," Coil said.



Millie Auchard | Assistant News Editor

A white rose glows in the sunlight Feb. 1, outside the Malibu Courthouse. In the past, Jack Doe said between 13 and 16 unhoused people in Malibu have found refuge under the overhang of the courthouse during rainy weather.

Tim Spivey to serve as new associate VP of Spiritual Life

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

Pepperdine named Tim Spivey as the new associate VP of Spiritual Life on March 5, after a comprehensive national search, wrote Tim Perrin, senior vice president for Strategic Implementation, in a March 5 email to the Pepperdine community.

Spivey will help lead the Hub for Spiritual Life, Perrin wrote, and will foster collaborative efforts and connections among all spiritual life leaders at the University.

“I would like to begin with culture creation and then move to ministry strategy that [is] implemented by a unified team committed to execution of ministry with the excellence of, ‘professionals,’ but the joy of amateurs,” Spivey wrote in a March 8 email to the Graphic.

The search for the associate VP of Spiritual Life has lasted since at least September after ongoing changes to leadership in the Hub, according to previous Graphic reporting.

The University had an evaluation committee to review and interview candidates for the position, Perrin wrote, and to inform President Jim Gash’s decision. Although he has already started to “dip his toes in the water,” Spivey

wrote he will officially begin his position April 1.

Spivey holds a bachelor’s degree in Religion (‘97), master’s degree in Ministry (‘00) and Master of Divinity (‘00) from Pepperdine. In addition, he holds a doctor of Ministry degree from Abilene Christian University, Perrin wrote.

“

To be able to return to a place so formative to my own spiritual life in this capacity is extremely rewarding and exciting for me.

Tim Spivey
New Associate VP of Spiritual Life

Spivey started his ministry career at the University Church of Christ as a campus worship minister, Perrin wrote, and then served in senior minister roles at the North County Church of Christ in Escondido, Calif., and the Highland



Photo courtesy of Tim Spivey

New Associate VP of Spiritual Life Tim Spivey (far right) stands with his wife Emily (far left) and his three daughters, Olivia, Norah and Anna (left to right). Spivey will start as the associate VP of Spiritual Life in April.

Oaks Church of Christ in Dallas.

In 2010, he founded New Vintage Church in Escondido, Calif., where he serves as the senior pastor.

Spivey wrote he loves the location and beauty of Pepperdine, but more importantly, he loves the connections and relationships he has formed and the way the University has allowed him to grow in his faith.

“The Christian mission of Pepperdine is what I love most,” Spivey wrote. “To be able to return to a place so formative to my own spiritual life in this capacity is extremely rewarding and exciting for me.”

Through the Hub’s ministry, Spivey wrote he hopes to create an atmosphere

of shared spiritual values, all centered in truth.

“I hope they experience the transforming power of the biblical Christ in ways culminating in vibrant, life-long discipleship,” Spivey wrote. “All ministry through the Hub for Spiritual Life will be aimed at that target: Vibrant, life-long, discipleship.”

abby.wilt@pepperdine.edu


college NIGHT

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FREE art, music, food, and fun!
Head to the Villa after hours and discover ancient guardians whose watchful eyes avert evil.

Wednesday, March 22
5:30–9:00 p.m.

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Hand Mirror Decorated with the Head of Medusa (detail), 500–480 BCE, Greek, Bronze, Getty Museum. Text and design © 2023, I. Paul Getty Trust

PERSPECTIVES



Sarah Rietz | Staff Artist

Staff Editorial: Enjoy the bloom, spring cleaning and a positive reset

Graphic Staff

Editor's Note: PGM staff members decide on the topic of a Staff Ed together. The staff as a whole provides opinions and content included in the Staff Ed to provide thoughts and she light on solutions for happenings at Pepperdine.

Spring — a time of growth and change. These increased daylight hours can contribute to changes in energy levels, mood and physiology, according to WebMD. Spring fever is a real phenomenon.

Yet, for many students, spring can be a season filled with anxiety and stress, according to Psychology Today. As spring leads into summer, students' anxiety can spike due to a loss of structure that is provided during the academic year.

Many are worried about finding jobs, internships or other activities to fill their time. College seniors may feel an urgent need to launch their careers or prepare for graduate school after graduation.

To combat fear, worries and nerves, the PGM staff has a few tips.

For a fresh spring start, find a source of inspiration. Practice gratitude, as it can improve one's mental health and increase happiness, according to Harvard Health.

Don't let fear of failure prevent growth, but embrace the new opportunity to build resilience, learn from mistakes and spring towards the end of the semester.

Spend time with people and activities that are uplifting instead of draining. Take a trip to the beach or go on a hike and enjoy pleasant spring weather, fresh air and nature.

Cleaning can serve as a refreshing new start for the mind and soul and reminds us of the responsibility we have to take care of our shared space.

Whether that be a dorm, apartment or keeping the entire campus clean, these are some things we all love and share.

“Don't let fear or failure prevent growth, but embrace the new opportunity to build resilience and learn from mistakes.”

Spring cleaning can start with organizing and donating clothes, organizing the fridge, cleaning out backpacks and finally discarding those papers from last semester with the large A+ written on the top.

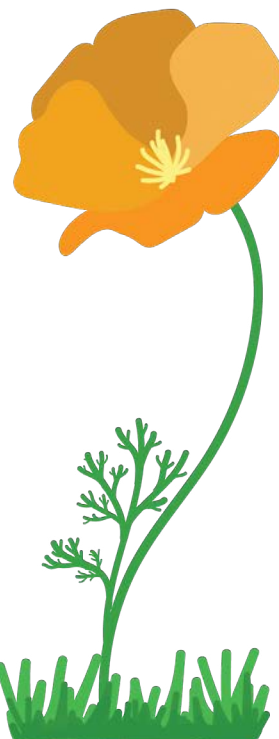
Cleaning out the junk in our minds can also be important this spring. This is a time to rid ourselves of negative thoughts and enjoy the little time we have left of the semester — while keeping in mind to reach out if help is needed.

Forms of spring cleaning can come as prioritizing positive friendships, buckling down and going to those office hours for classes that are soon to be finished and even making a cleaning chart with roommates to provide structure and ease for the reset process.

This season is a time when the natural world wakes up and goes through rebirth after staying dormant through the winter. This can be that time for Pepperdine students, too.

And remember, you don't need spring — or any season — to make positive change. It is always inside of you.

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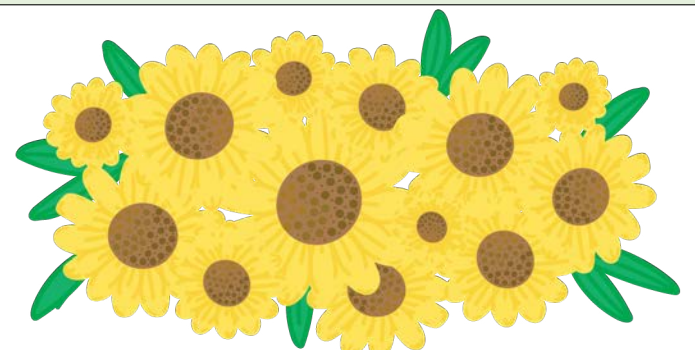
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Letter from the Editor: New University policy hurts the Graphic's reporting

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

Transparency Item: Letters from the editor are based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer, in this case Managing Editor Abby Wilt.

When I want to truly get to know someone's story, I like to talk to them face-to-face. I want to hear their thoughts, see their emotions and connect with them on a deeper level — deeper than something I can observe via email or text, where thoughts can be misconstrued or misinterpreted.

While I know challenges come every year, this year has been unique.

This year, a new University policy requires that when any member of the Graphic requests an interview with senior administration — individuals whose voices are vital to stories about the University — we are directed to the Integrated Marketing Communications department.

We are also directed to IMC for select staff and faculty members, outside of senior administration.

The IMC department promotes the University and handles brand marketing and public relations, according to their website.

At the beginning of the academic year, the Graphic leadership agreed to work with IMC, solely to schedule interviews with members of the senior administration only.

In its original intent, this is typical practice from a PR perspective.

But what often happens under this new policy is that once Graphic reporters email their senior administration sources, with IMC CC'd for scheduling, IMC responds to the Graphic request — rather than the intended source.

In some instances, the Graphic emails staff or faculty members outside of senior administration, without IMC CC'd, and IMC still answers.

While we understand everyone has the right to request an email interview, or even decline an interview all together, IMC and the senior administration should be leading by example when it comes to transparency and openness.

IMC then asks reporters to send all of our specific interview questions via email so sources can send their responses in writing — something that goes against our policy.

Our policy states we will only do email interviews for special circumstances, such as data-only questions. We will also not send written questions prior — just sample questions and general topics.

The problem with an email interview is there is no proof who wrote the email, nor is it a transparent form of communication. Anyone could be writing or editing

interview responses, speaking for the intended source and misrepresenting their thoughts.

If and when we send the questions to IMC, we are often told the source is only willing to do a written interview via email. Again, an ask that goes against our policy.

If the Graphic does settle for an email interview, IMC or the source will send written answers via email, and the reporters move forward with the story, never knowing how the source actually wanted to conduct the interview, because IMC does the bulk of the communicating for these sources.

Is that email interview written by the intended source, or is it written by Pepperdine's IMC department and sent to us, without any real depth or substance?

And, more importantly, how are we to share ethical, unbiased journalism at Pepperdine with just a few simple, scripted sentences about important topics?

The whole process takes up unnecessary time for reporters who strive to share timely news with the community, and we are never speaking to our actual sources — just to IMC.

I acknowledge there are members of senior administration who do talk to us in-person and do not have us include IMC on emails to schedule interviews — and for that, I am thankful. There are individuals in the senior administration who have told me in-person interviews are simply easier and will still speak to us as they have always done.

I am happy to work with IMC to get news out in a timely, accurate, fair and unbiased way to our community. I am happy to respect their policies and work with my staff to come to fair agreements that work for both parties.

But, I am not happy to be given answers for every story that are scripted or just simply not get the information I need to tell balanced and ethical stories at Pepperdine.

I should not have to settle for email responses with individuals I have a good relationship with and have talked to several times in person before. I have had numerous conversations with several administrators about what I can do to help the Graphic establish more trust with the Pepperdine community. In all of those conversations, never once have these administrators told me not to talk to them.

I am studying Journalism at a top University and want to be prepared for my future in the industry. I don't want to graduate only knowing how to conduct an interview with professionals over email.

Top politicians, executives and world-class leaders should all learn how to talk to the media, how to conduct themselves in an interview and how to represent their organization. This an important aspect of public accountability to communities. I trust the senior administrators at my

school know how to do that too.

I understand the Graphic has hurt members of our community in the past, and for that, I am deeply sorry. The Graphic's intention is to avoid hurting individuals and not to publish false information, under any circumstances. We have a thorough editing process that upholds professional standards and ethics.

I will always be the first to welcome community members to send us any inaccuracies. We are happy to issue a correction, if needed. We will gladly send sources their individual quotes before publication, and we strive to be transparent with our reporting.

We, as the Graphic and as journalists, aren't out to get Pepperdine — we just want to report on the community we belong to. We want to hold Pepperdine accountable and make this school the best it can be for our community.

I believe it is our job as journalists to seek the truth and report it while maintaining accountability and transparency. The Graphic has been doing this since 1937 — and we aren't going to stop now.

We are not going to settle for a few email responses by our top administrators — the individuals who are running our school, making our decisions and ultimately, representing Pepperdine on a national level.

In the very first issue of the Graphic, published on Oct. 20, 1937, the Graphic staff shared their original objectives, one of those being, "to represent what we believe to be the best standards in college journalism."

If we aren't holding our administration, and in particular our IMC department, accountable, we are not representing the highest standards of journalism. We, as journalists, should not have to settle for hiding behind a screen in the newsroom, and not actually talking to the members of our community.

The Graphic has been reporting on the University while staying editorially independent for over 80 years, and we will continue to do so.

"PGM participates in Pepperdine's Christian mission and affirmations, especially the pursuit of truth, excellence and freedom in a context of public service," according to our mission statement.

Our goal has always been, and will continue to be, to work independently but cooperatively with our University to deliver news and tell stories in an unbiased, fair and most importantly, truthful way, and that includes conducting in-person interviews.

abby.wilt@pepperdine.edu

PGM Mission Statement

Pepperdine Graphic Media is an editorially independent news organization that focuses on Pepperdine University and the surrounding communities.

PGM consists of the digital and print Graphic, a variety of special publications, GNews, Currents Magazine, social media platforms and an Advertising Department. These platforms serve the community with news, opinion, contemporary information and a public forum for discussion.

PGM strengthens students for purpose, service and leadership by developing their skills in writing, editing and publication production, by providing a vehicle to integrate and implement their liberal arts education and by developing students' critical thinking through independent editorial judgment.

PGM participates in Pepperdine's Christian mission and affirmations, especially the pursuit of truth, excellence and freedom in a context of public service.

Although PGM reports about Pepperdine University and coordinates with curricula in journalism and other disciplines, it is a student (not a University) news organization. Views expressed are diverse and, of course, do not correspond to all views of any University board, administration, faculty, staff, student or other constituency.

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If we aren't holding our administration, and in particular our IMC department, accountable, we are not representing the highest standards of journalism. We, as journalists, should not have to settle for hiding behind a screen in the newsroom, and not actually talking to the members of our community.

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

Time's up on sexual relations statement

Hope Lockwood
Staff Writer

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

My parents are members of the Churches of Christ, and I grew up visiting Pepperdine for the Bible Lectures. There was only one thing that made me question my place as a future Wave: the statement on Sexual Relationships at Pepperdine. “Pepperdine University affirms that sexual relationships are designed by God to be expressed solely within a marriage between husband and wife,” the Student Code of Conduct says. “This view of sexuality and marriage is rooted in the Genesis account of creation and is maintained consistently throughout scripture.”

The website affirms that despite the statement, LGBTQ+ students will not be stripped of scholarships. Pepperdine claims in its Discrimination and Harassment Policy that as an institution it does not discriminate against students.

“Pepperdine University affirms that all members of our community are created in the image of God and therefore should be treated with dignity and respect,” the Discrimination and Harassment Policy says.

Paragraph II of the Student Code of Conduct states, “It is expected that all students will maintain the highest standards of personal honor, morality, and integrity. The University reserves the right to refuse admittance to, or dismiss any person who violates these principles.”

These statements are what make LGBTQ+ students, like myself, feel like we are constantly living in fear, that at any moment some figure will appear informing us that we were caught and will be dismissed.

This statement comes off as a fear tactic used to make LGBTQ+ students feel inferior, unwanted and unwelcome at Pepperdine. I believe this statement is meant to deter LGBTQ+ and ally students from wanting to attend Pepperdine in hopes of attracting more conservative students.

Despite this statement, there are LGBTQ+ students who come here.

Crossroads Gender and Sexuality Co-President Dani Christy, who is a lesbian, said she first came across the statement on sexual relationships the summer before her first year, while reading the Student Code of Conduct.

“I read [the statement on sexual relationships] and I panicked,” Christy said. “I had already paid my deposit, I had already committed to Pepperdine. I suddenly didn’t know if this was going to be a safe space for me or not.”

Christy said since coming to Pepperdine, she realized there are other things that need to be changed on campus to make it safer for LGBTQ+ students, but she is excited for the day the statement is removed.

The University Code of Ethics states Pepperdine does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of any status or condition protected by applicable federal or state law. It also states Pepperdine affirms the inherent worth of each community member and does not engage in any form of harassment.

Psychology professor Steve Rouse

disagrees with the Statement on Sexual Relationships, believing it to violate Title IX. The Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex and gender within federally funded educational programs, activities and environments.

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance,” according to Title IX.

Higher education institutions can claim religious exemption from participating in Title IX. Rouse said because former President Andrew K. Benton withdrew from Title IX exemption in 2016, he does not believe the Statement on Sexual Relationships is legal.

“After the Supreme Court’s decision in the Obergefell v. Hodges case, it’s my understanding that marriage cannot be legally limited by the genders of the people in the relationship,” Rouse said. “Now, perhaps if Pepperdine had a Title IX exemption, it could make a statement that defies the Obergefell ruling. But a formal statement in a Student Handbook stipulating that the University defines marriage as being between a man and a woman seems, to me, to be setting the institution up for a lawsuit.”

Students and faculty cite inconsistencies and the statement’s exclusionary nature as reasons why it should be removed.

“I feel that there is a subtle but serious inconsistency in this statement,” Rouse said. “The statement reads that ‘Pepperdine University affirms’ this definition of marriage and that ‘all members of the University’ are expected to follow the expectation that all unmarried people within the University community are ‘called to a life of chastity.’ However, as far as I can tell, the only places where these statements appear are in documents specific to Seaver College.”

Christy said she believes the statement is discriminatory, and its wording deliberately targets LGBTQ+ students.

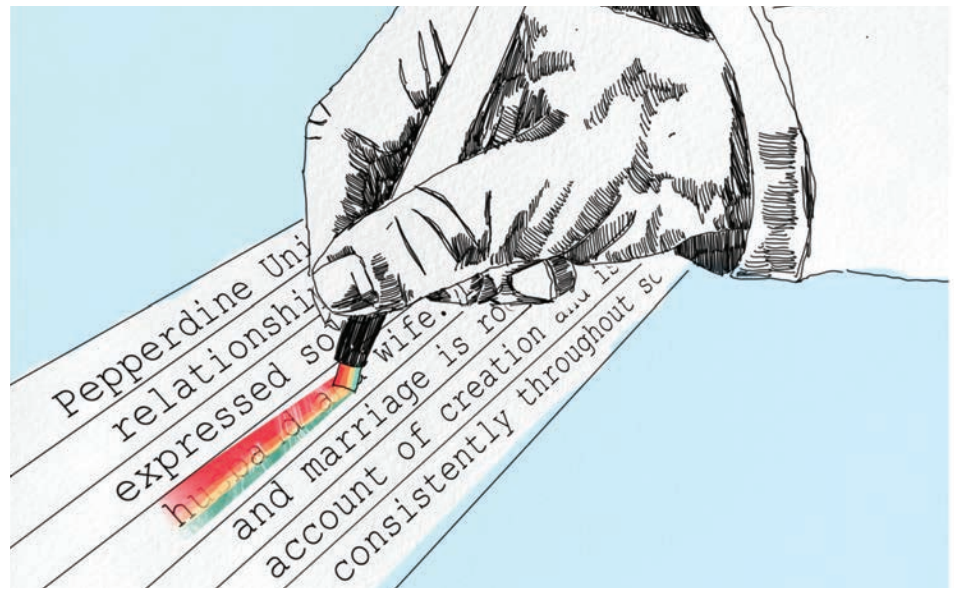
“It goes out of its way to target Queer people,” Christy said. “It could very easily end at ‘sexual relationships are designed by G-D to be expressed solely within marriage.’ Instead, it implies that Queer relationships should never be allowed to engage in sexual activities, even within marriage.”

Christy also believes the fact that Pepperdine’s website includes questions like “Can students lose their scholarships or face disciplinary action just for identifying as LGBT?” and “How will Pepperdine respond to the harassment of LGBT students?” within the question and answer section shows that the University is aware the statement attacks LGBTQ+ students.

“[These questions and the University’s answers] show that the University is aware that the statement is discriminatory, targets members of the LGBTQ+ community and makes Queer students feel unsafe and uncomfortable,” Christy said. “The University just doesn’t care if Queer students feel unwelcome.”

Rouse said he has been told removing the statement on sexual relationships would undermine the mission of the University.

“Yet, apparently it doesn’t undermine the mission of the University for



HeeJoo Roh | Staff Artist

this statement to be absent from the student handbooks for the graduate schools,” Rouse said.

Christy said the statement made her feel like she could never be accepted at Pepperdine. She believes that removing the statement has the potential to make LGBTQ+ students feel listened to and acknowledged by the institution.

Senior Charlie Markham was one of several students who provided written statements for SGA’s Resolution #11-S22. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council of the Student Government Association’s Resolution #11-S22 was an attempt led by students to remove the Statement from both the Code of Conduct and the Pepperdine website.

In his statement, he argued the statement incites devaluation of LGBTQ+ students.

“The straight, cisgender approach to faith is not universal, and Queer Christians must not be forced to abandon who they are to follow God,” Markham wrote.

SGA’s Resolution #11-S22 passed in spring semester of 2022. After it passed, it went from the Seaver Diversity Council, then to the University Diversity Council and finally, the Office of the Provost, SGA Vice President Mallory Bedford said.

“SGA has been told that the resolution is currently being carefully considered by the Provost’s Office,” Bedford said.

The Graphic reached out to the Office of the Provost for clarity on what the consideration process looks like and what the approximate timeline would be. The Office of the Provost did not respond.

Coby Rogers created the petition for his COM 180 class. Since its creation in the spring of 2021, it has garnered 378 signatures as of March 14. Despite student, faculty and staff support for the petition, Pepperdine never issued a statement on it.

Alumna and former Crossroads GSA President Mary Buffaloe said the club has tried multiple times to request the statement’s repeal from the University through the group’s constitution. The club was denied without explanation — once when the club was accepted in 2016 and again during the 2019 school year.

In all of the instances listed above, the University never so much as acknowledged these requests, even when students have gone through the proper channels for implementing change on campus.

The University’s Office for Commu-

nity Belonging was founded in 2020 with the goal of promoting unity, belonging and support for marginalized students across campus.

“The Office for Community Belonging (OCB) facilitates the creation of fertile ground in which all Pepperdine community members know they belong and can reach the levels of spiritual, intellectual, and professional development that God has planned for them,” the website says.

However, I have not nor have many of my LGBTQ+ peers across campus been able to reach higher levels of spiritual, intellectual and professional fruition while living under statements that actively are against us. It is counterintuitive to argue in favor of student development while simultaneously contributing to their decline.

If the University is interested in creating a supportive environment, administration must acknowledge students and remove this statement. If they are not, it is time to stop creating an environment of silence.

Students deserve to be acknowledged and to be told directly by the institution that there is no interest in bettering our experiences. We deserve to be told that they do not care about us.

The University has proven through their silence that there is no interest in promoting equality across all of Pepperdine’s campuses or bettering the experiences of LGBTQ+ students. There is no interest in treating LGBTQ+ students with the respect and dignity they deserve as G-D’s image bearers.

At this point, almost a decade’s worth of students have tried to get this statement removed, and it hasn’t amounted to anything.

There are faculty, staff and administration who are allies and even a few who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. It is up to these allies, colleagues and we as students to defend and fight to get statements like this removed. The community will continue to suffer unless changes are made.

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You don't need romance, you need therapy

Faith Oh
Staff Writer

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer. Spoilers for "Dynasty" and "Fate: The Winx Saga" are mentioned in this article.

We're all familiar with the typical fiery romance that is so often portrayed on the big screen. Intense, longing stares. The impossibly attractive love interest... who also turns out to be a walking red flag. But hey, whatever makes it exciting, right?

True, stories can be far more interesting when reality is dramatized. And while I understand the enticement and plain enjoyment of televised romance, sometimes we bypass the underlying problematic messages.

Unfortunately, much of popular media tends to endorse and romanticize toxic behaviors, especially through tropes.

"The word 'trope' has to do with a repeated theme, pattern, or figure of speech," according to Filmmaking Lifestyle.

An example of this is popular romance tropes in cinema and literature include enemies to lovers, love triangles, opposites attract, etc.

A broad, but particularly harmful, trope is the trauma trope. It may be present within already existing tropes and is oftentimes used to raise emotional stakes between love interests.

"Dynasty" is an American drama that aired in 2017 as a reboot of the 1980s primetime soap. It revolves around the lives of two very wealthy families, the Carringtons and the Colbys.

Female protagonist Fallon Carrington is a young, ambitious businesswoman who seems impenetrable despite numerous traumatic experiences, including being held for ransom, stalked and even nearly dying



Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

from a gunshot wound.

All the while, Fallon wrestles with relationship issues with her significant other, Liam Ridley. In season five, the couple's relationship tips toward a divorce, but it is put to a halt when Fallon is shot, hospitalized and later falls into a coma.

During this time, Liam forgives Fallon and simply wants her to return. When she does, the season finale wraps up and the couple has a happy ending.

Though the resolution to their relationship's difficulties could have been worse, the writers chose to double it as a cliché, sentimental Christmas episode. It felt like a somewhat careless, picture-perfect wrap up.

On top of Fallon's already existing traumas, the consequences of both Fallon and Liam's mistakes toward each other were not fully addressed either; sensitive topics were not given as much attention as they deserved.

Fallon's traumatic experiences primarily served as mere plot points and thus became romanticized for the sake of a wild, passionate love life.

A person's past and current circumstances do

not excuse them from the harm they have inflicted on someone else.

Another famous romantic trope — and belief — is "my other half." On the surface, this may be portrayed as two characters being soulmates, but at the core, it constitutes the idea that a person is made "whole" by their significant other.

This trope is particularly emphasized in "Fate: The Winx Saga," which is a fantasy teen drama set at a magical boarding school for fairies called "Alfea."

Bloom is a fire fairy who was raised by humans and learns to adjust to life in the Otherworld. She quickly falls in love with Sky, another Alfea student.

In a conversation with Sky, Bloom said that he doesn't voice his worries, "the one benefit of [him] never talking about [his] problems."

Sky solemnly responds, "You know the reason why I don't talk about all my problems with you, Bloom? It's 'cause you're the solution."

This interaction is a waving red flag that ultimately rejects the need for proper communication in a relationship. It endorses the idea that through a romantic partner, one's personal problems will be solved and, therefore, discussing important concerns is unnecessary.

Relying solely on someone else benefits no one and only damages one's self-worth. Not only does it bring disappointment, but it also unfairly causes a person to feel responsible for their partner's happiness.

Tropes like these provide unrealistic expectations as well as unhealthy solutions for dealing with relationships and people's personal lives.

People do require comfort and compassion from others, but ultimately they will not be healed by romantic relationships alone.

Make time for yourself. Talk to a friend. Go to therapy.

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It is better to give than to receive

Madison Luc
Perspectives Assistant

Transparency Item: The Perspectives section of the Graphic is comprised of articles based on opinion. This is the opinion and perspective of the writer.

From a young age, my parents taught me giving is important and generosity is praiseworthy. Even a phrase as simple as "share with your brother" implied an element of giving — giving up keeping a toy entirely to myself.

Giving is an action that can come at a cost to oneself. By nature, it's self-sacrificial. Why on earth would parents encourage young children to give things up?

If building wealth and success is a person's goal, it seems counterintuitive to give their hard-earned cash to someone else.

Yet, this is exactly what the Bible exhorts followers of Christ to do.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 the Bible reads, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

Paul analogizes the act of giving to planting seeds. When someone gives, they are sowing seeds of love in another person's heart.

When these seeds mature, the receiver is inspired to give back to others.

In this way, a single act of generosity is multiplied among a community.

Some people argue giving still results in a loss to the giver. However, this is not the case. Generosity can be a two way street, and mutual giving creates a community network that supports one another.

European countries in the 16th to 18th centuries practiced mercantilism and believed wealth is fixed, according to Britannica. This theory argues the gain of one person means the loss of another, leading people to hold their possessions in a tight fist. However, this idea is proven to be flawed.

Economists today argue trade can be mutually beneficial because people can focus on specializing in what they do best, according to the Economist.

Instead of feeling like they have to take on the world and do everything by themselves, people can rely on the generosity of their community.

Scientific studies even show practicing generosity makes one happier, according to Medical News Today.

Even after establishing generosity is a beneficial practice, there is debate about how much and in what way one should give.

Two prominent categories of giving are money and service, both of which are rooted in devotion to others.

In the Old Testament book of Leviticus, Moses told the Israelites to give a tithe, or a tenth, of their posses-



Jackie Lopez | Life & Arts Assistant

sions to the Lord.

After Christ fulfilled the law, Christians are no longer bound to the old law or the tithe, but are still encouraged to practice giving up their possessions. Giving monetary donations also frees the giver from the chains of materialism.

While monetary giving may be seen as more valuable, service-based giving holds just as much merit. Service can range from volunteering at a local food pantry to providing a safe space for a friend to speak.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver," 2 Corinthians 9:7 states.

There are many ways to give, but the heart of generosity remains the same. Neither monetary donations or service is more valuable — the worth of a gift is weighed by a giver's intention and seen by God.

Most importantly, give freely and

voluntarily. This practice of unrestrained giving resonates with Pepperdine's motto: "Freely ye received, freely give," Matthew 10:8. says.

Generosity is a way to show love and dedication to one's community. With each small act of sacrifice, giving allows us to emulate Christ.

People in my life have shown me kindness and abundant generosity, especially in the form of relationships, mentorships and scholarships. For this reason, I am inspired to share my gifts with others.

Contrary to the idea that one must hoard their wealth to be happy, giving to others will set one free. While human nature is innately selfish, people and communities can grow through practicing generosity.

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Willie the Wave's journey to a handstand

Willie the Wave

Transparency Item: This is the opinion of Willie the Wave.

I, Willie the Wave, have been able to do a handstand for as long as I can remember. Despite this, it never crossed my mind that I should do one on the sidelines as I cheer on the Waves.

That was until spring break at the West Coast Conference basketball tournament in Las Vegas. I was going up against Cosmo the Cougar for the entirety of the Women's Basketball game against Brigham Young University and thought now would be a perfect time to do my first handstand in front of an audience.

However, my boss told me the tournament wasn't the place to bust out a handstand, even though I was going up against one of the most talented college mascots. Rather, he said I would need to practice it and wait until I returned to campus.

I didn't think not being able to do a handstand was going to be an issue. Until my worst fears came true, when in the second half of the game, I got into a dance battle with Cosmo.

Cosmo did just about



And there I was doing it — feet in the air, hands on the ground for all of Firestone to witness. I had successfully done a handstand, and many people cheered on as they witnessed this historic event.

However, one handstand is never enough. I didn't want to overuse it, but at various points throughout the match, I held myself up with my hands. Most notably, during the third set, three members of the Pepperdine Women's Swim and Dive team joined me in doing handstands.

Eventually, the match between Pepperdine and USC came to an end, and after Pepperdine completed the sweep, I performed one last handstand for the people to see.

After that, I walked off into the distance, only to return when Pepperdine Athletics needed some cheering.

So the next time someone doubts my capabilities, I recommend they just let Willie be Willie because I have a lot more tricks up my sleeve than they might expect.

everything you would expect him to do. From handstands to backflips, he was putting on a show.

Meanwhile, since a handstand was off limits, the most I could muster up was a cartwheel. Cosmo definitely won the dance battle.

I walked away in utter agony with my head drooping, knowing Cosmo handed me a merciless defeat. I wondered how I could ever show my face around campus again.

Upon returning to campus, I knew the next time I was in

front of an audience, I had to bring out the handstand. I couldn't let that humiliating defeat in Las Vegas be my legacy.

I decided that March 9, when Pepperdine Men's Volleyball was playing University of Southern California in Firestone, would be the day I release my handstand for the world to see.

I got there early, practiced a little bit and eventually got the OK from my boss to do it. The only thing I had to worry about was determining when

would be a good time to unleash my handstand.

As Men's Volleyball won the first set against USC, I was walking away to go take my break when I noticed a photographer for Pepperdine Athletics pointing their camera at me. It was in this moment I decided it was my time to shine.

I took a deep breath and cast aside all my worries of falling and embarrassing myself. With only one shot to succeed, I put my hands in the air and tumbled forward.

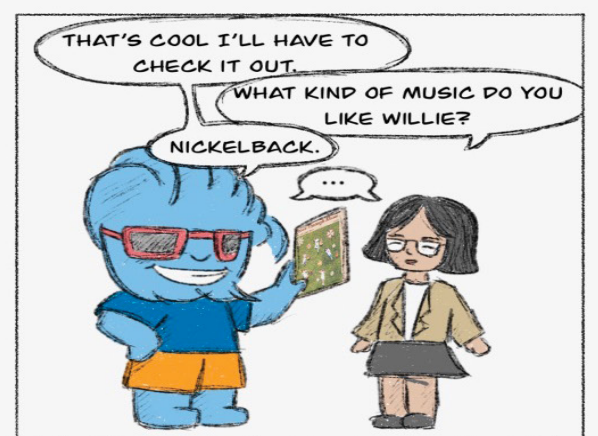
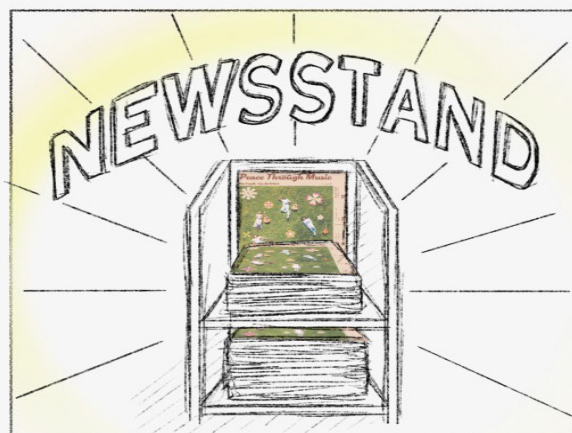
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BIG WAVES COMIC

Art by Vivian Hsia | Art Editor

Written by Luke Franklin | Guest Contributor



LIFE & ARTS

Guide to healthy living: How to incorporate balance and intuition in life

Lauren Goldblum
Life & Arts Assistant

Healthy lifestyles — a controversial phrase for society that can take on multiple meanings for different individuals, according to AFPA Fitness. Students said they've relied on intuition and holistic approaches to wellness to create healthy lifestyles unique to their own needs.

Junior Alina Benik said anyone can create a healthy lifestyle through tangible wellness practices and relying on an intuitive relationship with themselves. Raised on her family's farm in the Central Valley, Benik developed an appreciation for maintaining a natural and organic-based diet from a young age.

"I think there's always a way to achieve a healthy lifestyle," Benik said. "You don't need a \$200 gym membership. You can go on a walk outside, do yoga on Alumni Park or work out in your dorm."

Healing Through Intuition and Organic Based Products

After experiencing some minor health problems in high school, Benik shifted her diet to no longer include gluten or dairy, something she said has been incredibly helpful to her.

After healing from the inside out, Benik is now a strong proponent of looking at health from a holistic perspective. She said personally, healthy living is rooted in the intention of preventing illness and disease by supporting her body's needs and ensuring she is in good health.

"It's important to be intuitive about what you're doing with your body," Benik said. "Some people can eat gluten and dairy so going dairy-free or cutting out foods because it's a trend isn't necessarily good."

Benik said her healthy lifestyle encompasses eating to feel good, exercising a few times a week and mindfulness practices such as journaling. Some of her favorite ways to incorporate movement are yoga, walks with friends outdoors to soak up vitamin D, taking a pure barre class — a full body workout that combines pilates, barre and ballet — or doing workouts in her dorm.

During COVID-19, Benik

was encouraged to start her own wellness blog, Bright by Alina. She said this was a way for her to promote the healthy lifestyle she built for herself and share tips and tricks with others. She also runs her own fitness account on Instagram where she shares insight into her day-to-day life.

Simplifying Healthy Lifestyles

Junior Ellie Torgerson said she is passionate about making health and wellness a priority in her daily routine and strives to maintain a balanced life both physically and mentally.

As an avid sports enthusiast growing up, Torgerson said her journey with physical exercise did not begin in the gym. Instead, she played a variety of sports including soccer, track and field, and surfing. However, it was not until during COVID-19 that she began to take more control of her physical and mental health.

"Having a positive attitude toward yourself is something that's really important in having a healthy lifestyle because it's not just physical, it's also mental too," Torgerson said.

With countless fitness influencers marketing their curated workout programs on social media and other platforms, Torgerson said she develops her own weightlifting routines she feels work best for her own body. In doing so, she said she ignores the pressure to conform to the countless popular workout trends online.



Art by Skyler Hawkins

Life & Arts Designer

"I find myself super excited to go to the gym every morning if I'm doing my routine that makes me happy," Torgerson said. "But any time I try to switch it up based on what the internet, says I'm always so miserable going to the gym."

Her philosophy on health and wellness extends far beyond just physical exercise, she said, and is deeply rooted in the importance of listening to one's body and cultivating an intuitive relationship with oneself.

Instead of awakening to the sound of the alarm clock, Torgerson said her day begins when her body says it does. Her daily routine radiates tangible health tactics such as self-affirmations to ease anxiety, meal prepping, maintaining a clean living space and taking time at night to relax and recharge for

the next day. She also noted the importance of social connections and making time for friends and loved ones.

Torgerson said her biggest inspiration for following a healthy lifestyle is her mom. Observing her mother's passion for weightlifting and her strength encouraged Torgerson to follow in her footsteps. She said she is grateful to have her mother as her role model. "It's just been such a motivation for me growing up and always seeing her super strong," Torgerson said. "I love how my mom instilled the idea in me to be strong and powerful."

While the world of health and fitness can be complicated and confusing, Torgerson recommends keeping it simple. She believes living a healthy lifestyle doesn't need to include expensive supplements or other products. Simple things such as the ginger tea she drinks at night can be just as effective.

"Starting off slow is the best thing and doing things for the longevity of it, not just the immediate results," Torgerson said. "Try to incorporate little small things each week and see what works for you and what doesn't work for you."

A Healthy Lifestyle Starts With Transformation

Junior Drew Nelson said he fell into health and fitness during his first year of college after years of battling unhealthy patterns throughout high school. Going to sleep

at 3 a.m. and not prioritizing nutrient-dense meals or consistent exercise are all things he said eventually led him to change his lifestyle.

"Seeing myself start to hit that rock bottom, that's when I knew that there's so much more that I could be doing and I need to prove to myself that I can do better than where I'm at right now," Nelson said. "That was the motivation I needed to develop discipline."

He said in addition to the physical health benefits, he's also noticed a mental aspect. Nelson said he's able to focus more, achieve better sleep and keep up with classes. He attributes these changes to an overwhelming amount of support from friends and family, but most of all, to himself and his dedication to his health.

However, Nelson's health transformation did not happen overnight and was something he said he had to consistently work at. He said he used a strategy he calls "habit stacking" to craft an ideal routine that supports his current healthy lifestyle.

"I found that by developing the habit and getting it down for a few weeks, then adding more habits in correlation with it was a lot easier for me to adopt all these different things," Nelson said.

Nelson said time management is a key factor in accomplishing his daily tasks — both fitness and non-fitness related. Oftentimes, making sacrifices is necessary for him to achieve his top priorities by taking inventory of what is considered most important in his life, Nelson said.

"You have 24 hours in a day and it's up to you to choose how you want to spend those 24 hours," Nelson said. "For me, I'm big on scheduling and setting aside time for things."

Benik, Torgerson and Nelson's journeys with health and fitness are a testament to the fact that a healthy lifestyle does not begin and end with food and exercise. While these provide essential benefits to one's life, they said a holistic approach to wellness might be the best approach to maintaining optimal physical, mental and spiritual health.



Sammie Wuensche | Assistant Photo Editor

First-year Allison Hilliard (top right and bottom left) tutors a student at the Student Success Center and sophomore Hannah Gang (top left and bottom right) checks in a book at the front desk of Payson Library on Feb. 22. Hilliard said working nights when she could be relaxing was worth it and Gang said she has worked at the library nine hours a week since August 2022.

Dual responsibilities: Students balance work and classes

Faith Oh
Staff Writer

Whether it be for the extra cash or joy of it, about 1,800 Pepperdine students balance on-campus jobs during a typical school year, said Shelby White, director of Student Employment. Students often hold multiple jobs, filling about 2,100 positions.

Students share how they maintain their academics and jobs, as well as why they chose to work. White said because of the magnitude of students working on campus, Pepperdine would not run as efficiently as it does without their student employees.

“One good thing about on-campus jobs is that there’s so many you can apply to,” first-year Allison Hilliard said. “And a lot of people a part of the job are also Pepperdine students, and you can make friends and have good conversations and connections.”

Hilliard said while she dedicates more time to her academics, she manages to fit in two on-campus jobs. Hilliard referees at Firestone Fieldhouse for the open gym at night. In the early evening, she tutors for math courses 103-151, except

140 and 141, at the Student Success Center.

White said data survey shows the main reasons students choose to work on-campus jobs are the flexibility, valuable work experience and living expenses.

“It’s also a great opportunity to connect with the greater University community [and] learn more about how the University runs,” White said. “We have students working in so many different areas on campus that they’re really learning a lot.”

Hilliard said finishing her school work before her work shifts begin is most efficient.

“Those few nights where I do have to stay up until midnight or later, it’s a little tough if you have an 8 a.m., or any type of early classes that are not really good on your sleep,” Hilliard said. “But I understand that it’s the only time that probably works for anyone.”

Having previously been a referee for intramural volleyball, Hilliard said she finds the environment of the open gym relaxing, as she’s able to be around an activity she enjoys. She also said she finds satisfaction through tutoring — an activity she’s been well-acquainted with since high school.

“The best part is just being able to help other people because you know that you’re benefiting their life in some way,” Hilliard said.

Similarly, junior Kimberly Banda said her overall purpose is to help others. Being a first-generation student away from her home in Texas, Banda said she needed to step up to provide for herself at Pepperdine.

Besides double majoring in Hispanic Studies and Political Science and minoring in Sociology, Banda works three jobs. On campus, Banda works at the Financial Aid Office. Outside of Pepperdine, she is a hostess at Malibu Farm and a sales associate at Urban Outfitters. To maintain all these commitments, she said she sets blocks of time to complete academics.

“Even though I’m doing a lot, I don’t feel tired because I’m doing things I love,” Banda said.

Banda said she especially enjoys working at the Financial Aid Office, having experienced the difficulty of figuring out the process herself.

“I did not know how to navigate financial aid or anything with FAFSA,” Banda said. “Being in this job, I feel like I

can supply others like myself [on] how to navigate that because it’s a lot of information, and it can be scary.”

Banda said she had to help herself in order to help others. A firm believer in self-care, Banda said she manages to fit in days for herself at least twice a week.

“I have made many mistakes in overworking myself to [the point of] getting burnt-out and finding your own balance,” Banda said. “I feel like every person has their own way of functioning.”

Sophomore Hannah Gang is a Biology major on the pre-medicine track. Gang said she dedicates about 50 to 60 hours per week to her studies but makes time for her job at Payson Library, where she checks out books and answers questions at the front desk.

“I’m always at the library because I’m always studying, so I thought it was just convenient to be able to do both,” Gang said. “I’m able to do my school work, but at the same time, I’m not slacking off at my job.”

Weekends are still academically packed, but Gang said she still tries to make the most of her time for moments of rest.

“Even though I lose sleep or

I don’t do anything fun during the weekdays, I try to finish everything and get ahead, so during the weekends I have more downtime,” Gang said.

White said the Student Employment Office posts on-campus job openings to Handshake.

The best advice White said she could offer to students seeking on-campus jobs is to reach out to students already employed and ask if their employer is hiring or reach out to faculty members for connections.

White said she reminds supervisors that students are students first. Sometimes she has difficult conversations with students, especially first-years, who tend to pile too much onto their plate.

“The most important aspect is that they do well in their courses, that they’re involved and they’re healthy, physically and mentally,” White said.

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Students find joy in decorating dorms

Jackie Lopez

Life & Arts Assistant Editor

Picking the color of a rug, thrifting art pieces for a dorm room wall or going to Target to choose a bed comforter can all make up the experience of college students decorating their new spaces.

As Pepperdine housing application season comes to an end this month, something that may be on students' minds is how they will decorate their future dorm. Students living on campus said they find joy in decorating their bedrooms and common spaces during their time at college.

"My dorm is a home away from home," first-year Kyla Randle said. "So being able to decorate whenever I can, add this or that piece, is a chance to be able to create that environment where I know I feel safe."

How Students Decorate

For many students, dorms are the first place they live independently from their parents, according to Dorm Decor. Moving into a new and independent space can be as daunting as it is exciting.

"It was a mix. I was scared of like, 'How does it work putting your whole life in a box for nine months away from home?'" Randle said. "And I was also excited too because it's a new place."

Key pieces of Randle's room include her pink comforter, a collage of pictures featuring her family and friends, and pink decor on the walls and her desk.

Randle said one of her priorities was making her room a welcoming space for her friends.

"My idea was to bring joy — I see the color pink as happy and inspirational," Randle said. "So the main thing was being able to bring people over and feel at home."

Although using a different color palette such as blue and grey, first-year Kristin Coady also put up photos of her loved ones on her wall along with other accessories in her room at Lovernich. Between her posters, artist merchandise, hanging tote bags and photos, Coady said her room speaks to her personality.

"It [Coady's photos] would tell people that I'm pretty sociable, I like to hang out with my friends a lot," Coady said. "I also have some Taylor Swift albums so obviously that shows I love Taylor Swift. And I also have a poster for my sorority, so it's a part of me too that people can recognize when they come into my room."

Junior Chloe Norton lives in Lovernich and describes her decor style as "eclectic." Pieces from her room come from a variety of places including flea markets, her time abroad in Buenos Aires and even artwork she made herself.

"My mom's an interior designer, so interior design has been a part of my life my whole life," Norton said. "Valuing your space and all that has always been something that I have taken very much to heart."

Coady said it's important for her to feel safe and happy in her dorm. Creat-



Photo courtesy of Kristin Coady

Sunlight streams into Kristin Coady's Lovernich bedroom with her pictures hanging above her bed Feb. 20. Coady said she likes to add pops of blue to the space.

ing a comfortable space to come home to and the decor someone chooses for their room has an impact on one's mental health, according to Lonny Magazine.

More Than Just Decor

Coady said cleanliness is important to her within both her room and her shared common area. A recent study found 92% of college students reported they feel better mentally and physically in a clean space, according to Cleaning Institute.

"I cannot work in a room that's dirty or messy," Coady said. "I'll procrastinate my homework until it's [her room] clean and it looks nice. And I just love having a space that feels clean and that

I'm able to work in productively."

Looking ahead to the fall and new housing, Randle said she's excited to see what things she can find to add to her next space.

"There's so much more I can add," Randle said. "So many other things with pink."

Picking room decorations is a form of self-expression and creating the right space is important to Norton.

"Designing a space that you are going to live in I think is really important [so] that you feel your best and you feel most comfortable in it because you're going to be the one living in it," Norton said.

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Mock Trial provides community, competition and career

Milena D'Andrea

Staff Writer

Pepperdine Mock Trial allows students to get first-hand courtroom and legal experience while being part of a community, said Alexandra Sagona, Seaver College graduate ('17) and Mock Trial coach.

The Mock Trial team consists of over 40 students who participate in competitions against other universities, such as UC Berkley and Claremont McKenna College. Students on the team are responsible for researching previous cases and presenting their arguments. Practicing attorneys, Sagona and Michael Reid, coach the team. Additionally, the team presents their cases to circuit court judges, Sagona said.

"It's a great avenue for people who want to go into law to build their college resume," Sagona said.

"Students learn how to prep for these trials, which includes learning the rules of evidence, directing cross-examination, learning public speaking strategies and also witness development," Sagona said.

Students argue previous court cases while enhancing their speaking and analytical skills, which are vital for those interested in pursuing law school and legal professions, Sagona said.

The coaches are invested in teaching the legal profession and also assisting students' personal and academic growth, said Delaney Dickey, Mock Trial member and student attorney.

Not all students in the club are pre-law, Sagona said. Students of all majors can join Mock Trial, as no prior experience is required.

For example, junior Zach Jones, Mock Trial member,



Photo courtesy of Katie Donovan

student attorney and technical director of NewsWaves 32, said he joined the club for the camaraderie and competitive aspect.

"My favorite case was one we did last year called 'The Chug,' which was about arson and burning down a bar."

To succeed in Mock Trial, students have to learn to work together to act out the cases seamlessly, Dickey said.

People may have the image that Mock Trial is purely academic, Donovan said. Yet, some roles are much more acting-heavy, like witnesses.

"Witness roles have a lot of creative freedom, and members can be silly and goofy playing these outlandish characters,"

Pepperdine Mock Trial members pose for a picture after a competition at UC Berkley on Nov. 6. The team argued a case about a plane crash and who should be held liable, Alexandra Sagona said.

Donovan said.

Jones said the team also incorporates props into their cases, such as their "Lawyer Support Dog," a stuffed animal that travels with the team to all their competitions.

Donovan said the team had an unprecedented year, gaining almost 40 new members and hope to continue growing.

Anyone who is interested in joining the team can email her at katie.donovan@pepperdine.edu, Donovan said.

"In some extracurriculars, people there may be only in-

vested in you personally when you are there and participating," Dickey said. "But Mock Trial goes beyond that, everyone is there for each other both in the courtroom and outside."

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Back in Barbados: ‘Outer Banks’ returns to screens



Photo courtesy of Collider

Tanya Yarian
Life & Arts Editor

Transparency Item: A review provides an informed and opinionated critique. These informed critiques are published to make a recommendation to readers. This review is the opinion of the writer.

The Pogues are looking for treasure once again in a new season of “Outer Banks.” The series returned to Netflix on Feb. 23, and the adventures and drama are elevated this season.

The series premiered April 2020 just in time for a summer watch. Viewers saw tensions play out between the Pogues — the working class, and the Kooks — the elite. While the first two seasons included the search for the merchant gold, the new season proves to be another opportunity for finding treasure — this time for the gold in El Dorado.

Taking place on Kildare Island, the drama and the story plot draws viewers in.

Witnessing the Pogues’

determination in finding the Royal Merchant gold in season one and then trying to obtain the Cross of Santo Domingo in season two had moments of shock and emotion.

In past seasons, the Pogues faced several obstacles from Ward Cameron, played by Charles Esten, and other characters who tried to stop their success in finding the treasure.

Continuing this trend in season three, it seems like someone is always out to get them. While unexpected plot points are always a plus, it can also be nice to see some happy endings with characters.

In season three, viewers will find a new villain added to the picture and more high-energy police chases and fights. The audience will also be surprised to see the return of a character reunite with another and the repercussions with that return.

With all the ups and downs, the characters can’t catch a break from all the obstacles they face, even in this season. The Pogues lost the merchant gold to Ward, the cross to Rafe Cameron, played by Drew

JJ Maybank, played by Rudy Pankow; Sarah Cameron, played by Madelyn Cline; Cleo, played by Carlacia Grant; John B. Routledge, played by Chase Stokes; and Pope Heyward, played by Jonathan Daviss are hiding in the grassland and look off into the distance in season three of “Outer Banks.” The new season opens with the Pogues stranded on a Caribbean Island.

Starkey, and viewers will have to tune in to see if they make it to the gold in El Dorado.

Throughout the search for the gold, there are still emotional and heart-breaking scenes between characters some viewers crave. Seeing the sentimental scenes between the reunion of the Pogues and their parents when they finally return to Kildare Island from being presumed missing was a pivotal moment in season three.

The heart-racing scenes filled with physical and emotional arguments demonstrates the capabilities of the actors — the acting does not disappoint. Scenes between Kiara Carrera (Kie), played by Madison Bailey, and her parents are heart-

breaking.

The tense scenes between Rafe and Barry — played by Nicholas Cirillo — and Rafe and Ward are jaw-dropping and appalling. All the characters seem to fit their role really well and bring a lot of emotion and love to the screen.

Some people started watching the show for the relationships between the rich and the working class and the “summery” vibes of season one, according to Rolling Stone. Season one was filled with more scenes of the group spending time together on the island — being teenagers — and the development of some relationships, but now the adventure seems too much and at times too stressful.

While the series is renewed for a season four, it’s not clear what the next season will entail. The cast predicted the future of their characters, according to The Today Show, but some viewers are still uncertain what the story plot may look like. Season three ended on a different note than past seasons and is set 18 months into the future. The writers may be taking a different route in the next season.

Viewers can watch the 10 new episodes on Netflix to see the story unfold.

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Students wrestle with working without pay

Jerry Jiang
Sports Editor

Behind the scenes of every athletic event and practice, the student managers of Pepperdine said they are hard at work, serving their team and their communities. Student managers said one of their main responsibilities is setting up practices and events and helping out the athletes whenever they're needed.

Junior Nolan Wang is a student manager of the Pepperdine Swim and Dive team and said Pepperdine does not pay student managers. They do this because of their passion for the sport and for volunteering, Wang said.

"We do this for fun," Wang said. "We have the passion for the sport. We come together to celebrate the sport and make sure other people know how great the sport is."

Amanda Kurtz, associate director of Athletics, wrote in a Feb. 17 email to the Graphic that Athletics explains to all student managers on an annual basis that Athletics does not pay them for their service.

"It was outlined in their manager agreements and educational documents," Kurtz wrote. "Unfortunately, at this time, the Athletics Department is not able to provide any payment to student managers."

How to Become a Student Manager

Kurtz wrote student managers reach out to coaches about the process to become a manager.

Wang said he became the student manager of the Swim and Dive team in his sophomore year. He emailed Head Coach Ellie Monobe to ask if he could be their team manager, Wang said.

"I was a swimmer for a lot of years," Wang said. "I excelled really well in my career as a swimmer. Unfortunately, I never got to pursue my athletic career and just came to Pepperdine solely for academics."

Wang said when he came back to Pepperdine, he found out Pepperdine had a swim team.

"I was very interested because I wanted to see if by any chance I can get



Photo courtesy of Nolan Wang

Junior Nolan Wang (right) cheers on the Pepperdine Swim and Dive Team as they win their second straight PCSC Championship on Feb. 11, in Monterey Park, Calif. Wang said student managers are there as volunteers.

on there to help out," Wang said.

First-year Dilan Srinivasan said he's been a student manager of a basketball team since sixth grade. Because his school was small, Srinivasan said no one wanted to be manager of the basketball team, so he decided to step up.

Srinivasan said he continued to be a student manager throughout high school, which led to his head coach referring Srinivasan to Pepperdine, Srinivasan said.

"The coaching staff has opened me with open arms," Srinivasan said.

Benefits of Being a Student Manager

Srinivasan said one of the benefits of being a student manager is they get to travel with the team and also get team gear.

"For someone who loves basketball, that's awesome," Srinivasan said. "You get to go on a lot of trips."

Graduate student managers can receive a scholarship toward tuition, Kurtz wrote.

Director of Athletics Steve Potts covered Ryan Williams' tuition through a scholarship, Williams wrote in a Feb. 15 email to the Graphic.

Williams serves as the graduate assistant for the Men's Basketball team.

"I also have the ability to fill out mileage reimbursement forms and get paid a certain amount when he drives athletics for operational purposes such as picking up a student-athlete from the airport," Williams wrote. "I also get compensated for laundry, same as when I was manager."

When Williams first started working as a student manager in fall 2018, Williams wrote Athletics communicated to him that he had the ability to receive compensation from the team for one task alone — laundry.

"I was also aware that I could work several events and do certain jobs through the facility and events staff," Williams wrote. "I was able to receive compensation for those hours. The process was normal, as I had to be hired through Pepperdine's Employment office and had to complete forms as any other student would."

Kurtz wrote if students are employed in a different role within Athletics, such as tutoring, facilities, statistics, laundry, etc., those positions are paid.

Disadvantages of Being a Student Manager

Wang said being a student manager is being an athlete without doing the actual sport.

"The only downside is time management. It's one of the biggest things that becomes very critical," Wang said. "I'm always there filming or uploading [footage], making sure everything is going correctly."

Sometimes, when the team travels, Srinivasan said some of the travel costs are coming out of his own pocket.

"Sometimes [the team will only] cover a couple of managers saying, 'Hey, we don't have enough for you,'" Srinivasan said. "That's OK. In that sense,

if I really want to go on the trip, I'll pay for it separately. But, for the most part, they usually cover everything from food, travel and transportation."

Srinivasan said, at times, he had to wake up at 5:30 a.m. to rebound for some of the players. In addition to the travel, Srinivasan said the student managers occasionally have to miss class.

Reflecting on Their Experiences

Wang said he wanted to reiterate the fact that team managers come onto the team as volunteers.

"We're there because we have a passion for the sport," Wang said. "We want to do something with a sport and ensure that all the athletes can be able to do what they need to do."

At the PCSC Championships, Wang said there was a problem with the wedges used for diving. Whenever there are issues with equipment or logistics, Wang said it is the manager's duty to help out.

"I'm just there to ensure that everything goes smoothly so they can focus on what they need to focus on," Wang said.

Srinivasan said if he wanted to get a job for money, there are always other ways.

"I'm totally cool with not getting paid in the sense that I just love basketball," Srinivasan said. "I'm doing this just because I have a love for the game."

Williams wrote being a four-year head manager for the Men's Basketball team was the most beneficial choice for his career to date.

"It allowed me the opportunity to learn college basketball, to serve well, and to build relationships with the people who come through Firestone Fieldhouse," Williams wrote. "I wouldn't be where I am today as a graduate assistant if it weren't for my years as a student manager."



Photo courtesy of Ryan Williams

Men's Basketball graduate assistants Ryan Williams and DJ Polk strategize a play Jan. 19, at Firestone Fieldhouse. Williams wrote Director of Athletics Steve Potts covers his graduate program.

Remembering Nick Rodionoff: Father, husband, mentor, friend and coach

Abby Wilt
Managing Editor

A father, husband, mentor, friend and coach — this was Nick Rodionoff. Nick coached the Pepperdine Women's Swim and Dive team from 2000-2018, leaving a lasting impact on not only the Swim and Dive team but also the Pepperdine community. Nick died Feb. 17, at age 87.

Nick was known for his funny mannerisms by the pool, his warm personality and his famous catchphrase of advice when anything went wrong — “vitamin C and walk the dog.”

“Nick was warm, genuine, creative and kind,” said Shannon Belsky, former swimmer and Seaver alumna ('13). “He knew how to make people feel loved and valued.”

Nick's swim and dive career took off in 1954, when he started diving for Occidental College. He also played football and ran track and field.

He then served as the head Swim and Dive coach at Birmingham High School in Van Nuys, Calif., for 33 years. There, he was recognized as one of the top coaches in the country, according to Pepperdine's website.

From 1964-74, Nick coached diving at UCLA, before coming to Pepperdine to coach the Men's Dive team.

He coached the dive team until 1987, when he then established the Women's Swim and Dive team. He was the head coach until 2018, with his wife Carrie by his side as a volunteer assistant coach.

Nick was a two-time Pacific Collegiate Swim Conference Coach of the Year and led the Women's Swim and Dive team to 13 top-five finishes at the PCSC Championships.

In addition, Nick was inducted into the International Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame in 1974, and in 2004, he was inducted into the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame — one of two swim coaches who have received this honor, according to Pepperdine's website.

On and off the pool deck, Nick welcomed his swimmers with open arms to the team and to the swim family, Belsky said.

“The Malibu and Pepperdine communities are so dear to them, and they wanted each swimmer to experience the same homey feeling while attending the University,” Belsky said.

Katie Giacobbe, former swimmer and Seaver alumna ('15) said Nick inspired her not only to come to Pepperdine but to continue her swim career in college. She said he prioritized his swimmers' well-being rath-

er than just their performance in the pool.

“You could definitely tell he cared about not just swimming for his program, but just who we were going to be as people in life,” Giacobbe said.

Nick was always someone his swimmers could turn to, said Codie Cox, former swimmer and Seaver alumna ('15). She said Nick made Pepperdine feel like a home away from home.

“If we were ever stressed about swimming, school or life in general, he was right there to turn to,” Cox said. “He was there for the tough times but also taught us how to always have fun and laugh.”

Nick always brought silly mannerisms to the pool deck too — keeping his swimmers on their toes.

Cox said one time after a long practice, she looked over at the hot tub next to the pool, and Nick was pouring bubbles into it.

Soon after, Nick encouraged the team to get into the bubble-filled hot tub, where they talked, laughed and shared memories after a long practice.

“It was the best post-practice hot tub session,” Cox said.

“
**Nick was warm,
genuine, creative
and kind.**

Shannon Belsky
Former Swimmer and
Seaver Alumna ('13)

Nick also had a tradition of bringing out what the swimmers called his “bear hat,” signifying it was going to be a hard practice day, Giacobbe said.

“He would walk out on deck with a bear hat on, and we would be like, ‘Oh my god, no,’” Giacobbe said. “It was just such a way to make something so challenging fun, and I think it really brought us together.”

In his time away from the pool, Nick also had a creative outlet — taking photos and painting. His work has been shown in Outdoor Photographer, Surfer and L.A. magazines, according to the Chamber of Commerce's website.

Nick was patient with each of his swimmers and had a big heart for each and every person on the team throughout his time as head coach, Giacobbe said, and he shaped the team into a successful but also family-oriented team.

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Abby Wilt | Managing Editor

A photo of Nick and Carrie Rodionoff sits at the front of Stauffer Chapel on March 4, during a memorial for Nick. The Rodionoff family planned the memorial to honor Nick's life and time at Pepperdine.



Abby Wilt | Managing Editor

A collage of pictures sits outside of Stauffer Chapel on March 4. The Rodionoff family hosted a memorial to honor Nick's life and legacy.



Photo courtesy of Katie Giacobbe

Nick with the Women's Swim and Dive team at Duke's Restaurant in Malibu in 2018. Nick's swimmers said they often had team dinners in Malibu.

Coach Wong aims to build character

Tony Gleason
Sports Assistant

Women's Indoor Volleyball Head Coach Scott Wong has coached the Waves for the past eight seasons. As head coach, Wong said he tries to teach his athletes lessons his former mentors taught him and develop lifelong skills on and off the court.

Before becoming the head coach, Wong was a student athlete at Pepperdine ('01) and spent five seasons as the assistant coach for both Pepperdine and the University of Hawai'i.

"[Wong] makes a meaningful impact on all of his players," freshman middle blocker Vanessa Polk said. "We definitely all appreciate him as a coach immensely."

Wong said despite the success the Waves have had in recent seasons, he still wants to emphasize the importance of the program, continue to grow athletic abilities and be a resource for other areas of life that may not be volleyball related.

Continuing to Grow

During his tenure as head coach, Wong has had a 144-87 record and made it to the NCAA tournament four of the past five years, according to Pepperdine Athletics.

Wong said he is proud of seeing the growth of his players, especially when the team played in Nebraska during the 2022 season.

Wong said one of his goals for the rest of his time here is to have a deep run in the NCAA tournament that hopefully results in a championship.

"We've been a consistent top-25 or 30 team in the country, and we don't want to be content just getting to the NCAA," Wong said. "We want to win a bunch of games in the NCAA Championship."

Polk said Wong taught her how to grow and learn from past mistakes.

"You can't succeed if you don't fail," Polk said. "That's something that he emphasizes in practice throughout games is that failing is OK."

Student Athlete at Pepperdine

Wong played volleyball as a student athlete for Pepperdine from 1998-2001 and was a three-time All-American, according to Pepperdine Athletics. Wong said one of his most memorable moments as a player was getting to see his work pay off during his first collegiate match.

"That was a fun one for me to start on the road against Penn State against a good team and to have some success," Wong said. "All this work and effort put in to see what the end result is. That was really memorable."

Another highlight during his time as a student Wong said was traveling to Hawai'i, where he is originally from, his freshman year and beating the University of Hawai'i.

"To beat Hawai'i was just a blast," Wong said.

Coaching after Playing

After playing at Pepperdine, Wong became the assistant coach of Men's Volleyball in 2005 under Marv Dunphy. Men's Volleyball won their fifth national championship that year.

From that experience, Wong said he



Photo by Colton Rubsamen | Staff Photographer

Women's Indoor Volleyball Head Coach Scott Wong celebrates in the background after his team scored a point against USF on Oct. 29, at Firestone Fieldhouse. Wong said he tries to help his athletes in all areas of life, not just volleyball.

enjoyed watching the fight his players put up during their championship run.

Wong then moved to Hawai'i where he coached for five years at the University of Hawaii from 2010-14.

“We’ve been a consistent top-25 or 30 team in the country, and we don’t want to be content just getting to NCAA Championship.”

Scott Wong
Women's Indoor Volleyball
Head Coach

While at Hawai'i, Wong coached under Dave Shoji. Wong said he gained exposure to women's volleyball and learned how to expect high levels of performance from his athletes.

"There was a sense of accountability if excellence wasn't happening," Wong said. "And not perfection. Just high focus, high effort, which leads to excellence."

Athletes Off the Court

Wong said helping players on and off the court has been something he has worked to emphasize.

"We want to keep on growing our team culture," Wong said. "We want to keep developing these young ladies on and off the court. It's something we take a ton of pride in."

Ammerman said, while she does take volleyball very seriously, Wong has helped her know not all of her time has to be dedicated to volleyball.

"Life is more than just volleyball," Ammerman said. "As someone who really cares about the sport and is super competitive, he's taught me there are other ways to, as he says, 'Fill your bucket and just branch out and try new things.'"

One area in which he emphasizes the character of his athletes is during the recruiting process, Wong said.

"We try hard to not only look at volleyball talent but to look at what kind of people they are," Wong said. "We try to get to know them in the volleyball setting and out of the volleyball setting from various people."

Specifically, Wong said he likes to talk to the parents of recruits. He said he does this because athletes often have similar paths of character as their parents, and it can be a good indicator of how an athlete is off the court.

Wong has seen success with this method as he has coached three consecutive Waves to winning West Coast Conference Freshman of the Year honors. First was middle blocker Meg Brown in 2020, then outside/opposite hitter Grace Chillingworth in 2021 and, most recently, outside hitter Emily Hellmuth in 2022.

Another area where Wong said he emphasizes the importance of what happens off the court is mental health. This past season, advocating for athletes' mental health was a theme for the Women's Volleyball Team, and they wore green hair ties and shoelaces while also wearing shirts that said "Be Kind To Your Mind."

Wong said, while he wants to demand excellence from his players, he also wants his athletes to know he cares about them for who they are.

"I always want them to feel they're getting the most out of their volleyball experience, but they're loved," Wong said. "You want to demand great things, but I always want them to think, 'I have no doubt that coach loves me.'"

Polk said, so far, Wong has done an excellent job helping the team out with

any mental health struggles they have.

"Everyone struggles with mental health at times," Polk said. "[Wong] is a champion at helping people work through things in their life that they go through on and off the court."

“I always want them to feel they’re getting the most out of their volleyball experience, but they’re loved.”

Scott Wong
Women's Indoor Volleyball
Head Coach

Ammerman said she is glad volleyball players that come to Pepperdine will experience the same positive experience she has had.

"It makes me happy for the next generation of Waves," Ammerman said. "They'll get to experience the same thing I did while I was at Pepperdine. The sense of community and family he has created here, and that isn't going anywhere."



SPORTS



Junior libero Trey Cole balances ambition and gratitude



Lucian Himes | Photo Editor

Junior libero Trey Cole stands ready to play versus No. 3 Grand Canyon University at Firestone Fieldhouse on Feb. 24. Cole averaged 1.62 digs during his first two seasons.

Jaan Jafri Sports Assistant

Men's Volleyball libero Trey Cole has started at the back row for the Waves for the past two seasons. Now a junior, Cole said he looks to build on his previous experience while still keeping the importance of his perspective.

After shaking the nerves he initially felt in his first two seasons, Cole said he is fully focused on finishing his junior season as a national champion. Despite his ambition, he said he understands what comes with being a Pepperdine athlete.

"I look at it as something I get to do rather than something I have to do, and that keeps it fun," Cole said. "I try to keep gratitude at the forefront of my mentality, and it makes the sport a lot more fun for me."

Cole became an integral part of the Men's Volleyball team this season, and Cole said his athletic prowess comes from his upbringing.

"My father played, and my parents always coached, so I was basically raised in a volleyball gym," Cole said. "It kind of worked out because I really like the sport."

In addition to volleyball, Cole said he also played soccer and lacrosse growing up — two sports he credits with helping him in volleyball. He was a defender in both sports, carrying over to his position in volleyball, the defensive specialist libero, Cole said.

"My whole athletic career, I've been a defensive-minded athlete," Cole said. "Knowing that I have one responsibility to do well, it's kind of easy, rather than so much going on. I just have to worry about if the ball hits the ground."

Focusing on keeping the ball off the ground proved to be a successful strategy for Cole, as this mentality cou-

pled with his play earned him a spot on Pepperdine's back-row, Cole said.

In his freshman year, Cole was named a freshman All-American by Off the Block, a blog focused on college volleyball, and made the MSPF All-Freshman team. In addition, he won an MSPF Defensive Player of the Week award for his performance against Concordia, where Cole averaged 2.88 digs per set in two wins.

The next season, Cole built on his success, winning two more MSPF Defensive Player of the Week awards, as well as making the MPSF All-Academic team. He averaged 1.62 digs per set during his sophomore season.

Despite winning accolades during his first two years, Cole said he views this period as a time of adversity and adjustment.

"When I was an underclassmen, it was a whole new league," Cole said. "The serves come a lot faster than they do in club volleyball and high school volleyball."

Cole said it was a big step, and just taking on the next level has been enough to feed him out.

"But, at this point, I feel a lot more comfortable now that it's my third season," Cole said.

Now a junior, Cole is having his best season yet, averaging 2.05 digs per set, up from 1.63 and 1.62 his first two years, according to Pepperdine Athletics. He already has an MSPF Defensive Player of the Week this season too, winning the award for his play during the week of Feb. 27.

"Individual accolades come and go, but for me, and for our whole team, it's just about the end of the year, being good in that final stretch," Cole said. "Our main goal is to win the national championship."

Cole said his focus is on ambition, craving a national title. However, he said he still remembers to soak in all



Brandon Rubsamen | Assistant Photo Editor

Junior libero Trey Cole sets the ball against USC at Firestone Fieldhouse on March 9. After playing at Division I volleyball for three years, Cole said this is the most acclimated he's felt.

parts of his experience as a Pepperdine athlete, including the moments outside of athletics and academics.

"We have so much fun," Cole said. "We went to Hawai'i recently, and the games didn't go super well for us; we lost both. But the memories we made on that trip were so awesome. We had a blast there."

By noting the experiences the team has off the court, Cole said he reiterates his sentiment of thankfulness, acknowledging the privileges he gets as a Division I athlete. For Cole, playing volleyball at Pepperdine is an opportunity, not an obligation, he said.

"It just goes back to gratitude for me," Cole said. "You see all the shirts we wear, our warmups and stuff like that, and it's something Coach Marv [Dunphy] and Coach [Jonathan]

Windsor just ingrained in us. Our motivation to come in and work hard every day comes from how much we're given."

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