Pacific Portraits: The People Behind the Scenes at Pacific University (Volume Three)

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Our treasure lies in the beehive of our knowledge. We are perpetually on the way thither, being by nature [...] honey gatherers of the mind.
Friedrich Nietzsche

The “Bee Tree”, an iconic ivy-covered tree that stood on the Pacific University campus for many years, was already old and hollow when pioneer Tabitha Brown arrived in Oregon in 1846. Mrs. Brown started a home for orphans that would grow into Pacific University. According to the Forest Grove News-Times, the tree was “said to have housed a swarm of bees who furnished the little old lady with honey which she sold to buy provisions for her orphan children.”
DANA EYTZEN

narrative by Ellie Whitlock
photographs by Ellie Parker

Of all the offices on campus, Knight Hall seems quietist. Cozy and homey, the old Victorian house is where the Undergraduate Admissions offices are located. Going down the hall towards the back you might not imagine there is an office tucked away in the back corner. Dana Eytzen sits here at her desk looking at the computer screens in her small but pleasant office. A bulletin board of photos shows off her photography skills with pictures of her animals and family.

When asked what she does at school, she would say she is an “Office Associate International Admission Assistant”. She processes the incoming applications for all the undergraduate students which include applications, transcripts, and anything else related to when a student applies to Pacific. She also takes care of all the financial deposits, processes them, and readies the student files for the different departments across campus, like the Registrar and Advising. When asked what she likes to do in her free time, Dana says photography. Photography is her main hobby. She likes to photograph nature, take portraits, and she used to photograph a couple of weddings a year. Other than photography, Dana likes to garden, planting just about anything she can find that will grow in the area. She mostly grows the normal vegetables, such as squash, carrots, tomatoes, corn, peppers, artichoke, and broccoli. She also grows basil and other herbs as well as raspberries, blueberries, and roses. “I think the most interesting thing I grew were brussel sprouts, but they got really buggy so I let my goats eat them.” Her two goats, Cocoa and Ellie, weigh about 50 lbs each. “Ellie is the more friendly of the two. She likes to be pet, but Cocoa is like, “Eehh, you can stand near me but I don’t think I want you to touch me.”
Since she grew up on a farm, she has the goats mostly to eat the blackberry bushes that tend to take over. “Eventually I’d like to either breed my goats or get a few more.” She grew up on the farm in Gaston with her parents, and after her grandfather passed away, Dana, her mom and dad, and her grandmother all lived in the four houses that are on the property. Her grandmother lived in one, her dad in another, her mom in a third, and Dana herself in the fourth. The farm is being leased to a farmer who grows wheat and clover. She now lives with her husband in Verboort.

Dana’s favorite things about Pacific are the people and the community and during the Pacesetters competition (which offers high school
seniors the chance to take an exam for the chance to earn one of two full tuition scholarships), she likes to be able to match the applications to the faces of the students who come to visit campus for the competition.

Outside of school, Dana likes to go camping and hiking during the summer, as well as hanging out with her godsons; Lucas and Jamison. “Ian [her husband] and I like to try new restaurants and breweries…We also like to host small get-togethers or BBQ’s at our house.” Not only does Dana like being outdoors, she is also the Chair of the Forest Grove Public Arts Commission. “Helping the community to have more access to the arts is really important to me! Especially for children, since they are getting less in schools now.”

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