


APULIFE

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TRANSFORMING LEARNING ■ FIRST AMONG THEM ■ PERSONALIZING CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY



ONE BOOK

—MATTHEW 6:9-13

Scholars FROM DIVERSE FIELDS FOCUS
THEIR CREATIVE ENERGY ON THE BIBLE.

God First Since 1899



Several months ago, our daughter moved home. Shortly after Kate graduated from APU in May 2010, she worked briefly with World Vision International, helping to staff their Haiti relief effort, then lived for several months in South Africa, working with Walk in the Light Ministries. Now, with a master's degree from London School of Economics in hand, she moved home to begin a full-time job with a media and public relations company. I tell you all this because I am thrilled that she is back home. Like many Millennials, Kate leaned into the provision of her parents for room and board while beginning her professional career. One of the perks of her return includes a daily morning walk with me. Every morning at 5:15, we hit the streets of Glendora. These early father/daughter jaunts include rich conversations about life's perplexing questions and the complexity of change and challenge for a young professional. I know this season won't last forever, so for now, I cherish every moment.

Recently, our conversations have focused on some of the core values Kate adopted as a student at APU: a commitment to excellence, the belief that everyone matters in God's eyes and should therefore matter to us, the commitment to ongoing and lifelong learning as disciples and scholars, and the call of world changers and difference makers to engage culture and embrace change. Listening to her connect her academic and spiritual journey to the challenges and opportunities in her job reminds me of the importance of APU's mission on culture and society. I see repeatedly in Kate's journey the hope I have for our students and alumni called to be difference makers—the core value at the center of the Gospel message. Jesus came preaching and teaching the Truth of a "New Kingdom," the rule and reign of God different in every way from the old models of power and privilege. The empowered difference maker accomplishes the daily assignments and responsibilities of vocation, family, friends, ministry, money, and power in light of the core values of God's New Kingdom.

Mark 2 recounts several stories about living out our obedience to God built on this New Kingdom. In the first one, Jesus heals a paralytic and forgives his sins. The religious leaders criticized Him for doing what only God can do (forgive sins). The second involves Jesus calling Matthew away from his vocation as a tax collector and into a calling as a difference maker and disciple. After leaving everything and following Jesus, Matthew throws a party and invites all his friends to meet Jesus and hear His story of deliverance. Again, the religious leaders criticized Jesus, this time for eating with tax collectors and sinners. The third describes how Jesus responded to questions about why He approaches fasting differently than the established religious order. This time, Jesus explains that the New Kingdom will require new understanding, devotion, and obedience, and that the ideas associated with established religious practices would need to be refreshed and changed. I love the practical and applied truth this passage gives to us about God's New Kingdom, established under the rule and reign of Jesus Christ.

Every morning with Kate, I witness this truth. The mission of APU centers on our passion to empower alumni as disciples and scholars, world changers and difference makers, to live out the Truth of God's New Kingdom. So for now, I'm walking most mornings side by side with a difference maker, soon-to-be world changer.

Jon

Jon R. Wallace
 Kate's Dad
 Eyewitness to the New Kingdom

Every morning with Kate, I witness this truth. The mission of APU centers on our passion to empower alumni as disciples and scholars, world changers and difference makers, to live out the Truth of God's New Kingdom.

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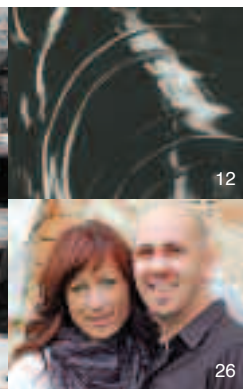
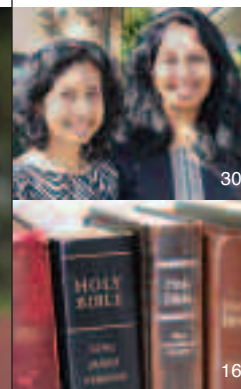
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Knowledge over Time

Duke Academic Complex



PHOTOS BY SKYLAR RUSSELL '13 AND JACKIE NG '15

Azusa Pacific University recently unveiled a 15-foot-long ceramic wall mural titled “Knowledge over Time,” on display adjacent to the Hugh and Hazel Darling Library in the Duke Academic Complex. Created by 50 APU students to celebrate the liberal arts, the work chronicles major moments and themes in history, from God’s creation of humanity to the Renaissance, encircled by the names of all faculty in APU’s new College of Music and the Arts. Phase two of the architectural mural, Renaissance to Modern Times, debuts next year. apu.edu/articles/20374

 Contribute your best photos of campus—people and places, events and spaces—that showcase APU. Go to flickr.com/groups/azusapacific to submit today.

Symphony Orchestra Performs Rare Swedish Symphony

This year, the APU Symphony Orchestra's spring concert featured a rare performance of Swedish composer Allan Pettersson's Symphony No. 7, marking only the second U.S. performance of this piece and the West Coast debut of any Pettersson symphony. The orchestra of 70 student musicians, conducted by Christopher Russell, took an audience of more than 100 students, faculty, staff, and guests on a journey through a dramatic musical landscape. "This work contains moments of intensity, mystery, and overwhelming sadness," said Russell. "However, toward the end comes one of the most gorgeous sections for string orchestra ever written, in which all of the previous pain and anguish fades into a place of serene beauty."

Born in Sweden in 1911, Pettersson began studying music at age 19 and composed his first symphony in 1951. Although plagued with health problems, he finished 16 full symphonies, including Symphony No. 7, written in 1967 and eventually recognized as his greatest masterpiece.

"The technicality and emotion of the piece required hours of practice and focus. It was easy to get lost in the changing tempos, keys, time signatures, and dramatic changes in mood," said violin performance major Charatmanat Lertsukon '14, first violinist. "All of the musicians learned to pay closer attention to the conductor, listen to one another's individual parts, and appreciate this form of contemporary music much more."

"Performing a composition that involves high musical value by a little-known composer allowed for an experience of discovery," said Donald Neufeld, dean of the School of Music. "The performers and audience joined together in hearing and exploring musical ideas presented in new ways." The rare performance garnered worldwide attention and was featured on Slipped Disc, a London-based international music review blog.

Symphony No. 7 comprises 45 minutes of continuous music, requiring much energy and effort to perform. "The performance called for enormous concentration and stamina from the

orchestra players," said Russell. "Second, it was completely unfamiliar to the orchestra, and so the musical language was something they had to learn, unlike performing Beethoven and Brahms."

The orchestra also performed Johannes Brahms' *Tragic Overture* and accompanied the Men's Chorale and soloist Patricia Edwards, DMA, School of Music faculty, on Brahms' *Alto Rhapsody*. The Symphony Orchestra gives concerts throughout the year encompassing music from the early Baroque period to the 21st century and collaborates regularly with APU choral groups.

New Honors College Established and Dean Named



Every year, APU attracts increasing numbers of the country's best and brightest students seeking a rigorous academic curriculum grounded in a Christian worldview. Many of these top students demand programs and courses of study that stretch them beyond the standard requirements. Although APU's Honors Program satisfied that need for many years, President Jon R. Wallace, DBA; Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D.; and the Board of Trustees agreed that the growing population of gifted students called for a more vigorous and comprehensive approach, leading to the establishment of an Honors College.

The new Honors College offers an academically enriched plan of study developed for exceptionally talented and motivated students. The curriculum fulfills a significant portion of the General Education requirements while challenging students with greater depth, intensity, and intellectual rigor. The coursework suits students with a demonstrated commitment to robust intellectual dialogue and scholarly engagement. The program also offers

extracurricular cultural and social activities, conference presentations, research, mentoring alongside noted experts, service-learning, and international study that deepen the educational experience. Upon graduation, honors scholars receive a certificate of completion, distinction as an honors scholar on their diploma, and an honors medallion. Students who choose to complete an honors thesis also receive this distinction on their diploma.

Leading these efforts as the Honors College's first dean, David L. Weeks, Ph.D., former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, draws upon his depth and breadth of experience to usher in this new dimension of academic excellence. An APU professor for 30 years and an administrator for more than 20, Weeks remains a student and a teacher at heart. "I can think of no one more inherently qualified and committed to the vision for APU's Honors College than Dr. Weeks," said Wallace. "In this important position, he will advance APU's academic reputation by attracting top-caliber students, inspiring them to achieve their highest potential, and graduating emerging scholars who will make an impact in their respective fields."

As dean, Weeks will develop an enriched humanities-based curriculum that encourages gifted students to explore life's most profound questions. "Establishing the Honors College is a natural next step for APU. We aim to become the preferred destination for outstanding students," said Weeks. "I'm honored to serve as dean of a college that offers unique opportunities for naturally curious and highly motivated students who love learning, crave challenge, and see education as an adventure."

Knowing Weeks' reputation as an advocate for the "arts of freedom," Stanton endorsed the appointment. "As Honors dean, Dr. Weeks will champion opportunities that stretch these students who seek greater academic intensity

while benefitting from the APU hallmarks of faith integration, service, and community," said Stanton. "I look forward to the evidence of Dr. Weeks' imprint on the Honors College and know that under his leadership, the college will expand our academic reputation, showcase the scholarship of our academy, and become a signature part of the APU experience."

APU Celebrates Brain Awareness Week

Azusa Pacific held its second annual celebration of Brain Awareness Week (BAW) March 11–17, joining in the international initiative to raise awareness about brain health and advances in neurobiological research. APU partnered with the National Institute of Mental Health and the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, alongside universities and organizations from more than 82 countries participating in BAW, first established in 1996.

This year, Skyla Herod, Ph.D., assistant professor in APU's Department of Biology and Chemistry and BAW

organizer, chose the theme of mental health, which encompasses pervasive issues like mental illnesses, depression, and anxiety. "We need a better understanding of the neuroscience behind these illnesses—particularly anxiety and depression that are most common in young people—and an open dialogue about how we as a community of believers can do a better job of meeting the needs of those with mental illnesses," said Herod.

To educate local students about the importance of brain health, Herod also organized the first Brain Awareness Fair at Azusa Unified's Center Middle School, involving 31 senior neurobiology students and 250 area seventh graders. Local kids replaced life science textbooks and classrooms for a morning of hands-on learning and natural discovery complete with exhibits, take-home games, puzzles, and trivia.

"By presenting science in a fun, interactive way, we hope to inspire some of these middle school students to pursue science majors in college," Herod said. "We go beyond the D.A.R.E. no-use

message to teach kids what drugs and alcohol do to the brain. The program also emphasizes how a balanced diet and regular exercise improve mental function and encourage new brain cell growth, as well as the importance of wearing a helmet and sports safety."

Back on campus, Herod and her student team staffed a booth all week with informational fliers, brochures, and buttons intended to spark conversation and promote education. The university also hosted three lectures featuring leaders in mental health research who shared their research and encouraged audience members to fight for mental illness prevention and recovery. Ian Cook, MD, director of the Depression Research and Clinic program at UCLA, discussed the physical effects of depression and anxiety, as well as society's need to address and treat these common disorders. Kenneth Wells, MD, M.P.H., discussed the socioeconomic barriers to equality of depression treatment and ways in which community efforts may help. Finally, a panel discussion brought together a clinician, a neuroscientist, an

APU theology professor, and a pastor who have studied the questions and controversies surrounding mental health in the Church. Panelists examined what Scripture says about caring for those with mental illnesses and offered an ethical Christian response to mental health research. All these efforts sought to expand APU students' awareness by communicating the importance of brain health, the widespread effects of mental illnesses, and possible prevention and treatment methods.

"One of the most theologically and spiritually challenging experiences—for both the sufferer and for those who love and care for that person—is chronic mental illness, especially in its most difficult-to-treat forms," said Heather Clements, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Theology and Philosophy and discussion panelist. "As a Christian community, we must listen to and be in relationship with those affected by mental illness, creating a welcoming space for them to experience love instead of fear, blame, shame, and marginalization."



Graduating Difference Makers

Celebrating the academic and spiritual accomplishments of more than 1,400 students, the May 4, 2013, Azusa Pacific University Commencement ceremonies conferred degrees upon 855 undergraduate, 481 graduate, and 141 adult and professional studies students. After years of academic development, faith integration, intercultural experiences,

and research opportunities, graduates began the next phase of their lives equipped for success in the workplace and prepared to serve.

Rev. Greg Waybright, Ph.D., senior pastor of Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena, encouraged graduate students through his address, "Of Name Cards and Identity," based on 2 Corinthians 5:14–17, calling

students to live not for themselves, but for Christ. At the undergraduate ceremony, Rev. Ken Fong, D.Min., senior pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church in Los Angeles, shared his address, "A Story Worth Telling," emphasizing Psalm 107:1–2: "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary" (NAS). Fong called students to praise God for their successful educational journeys and encouraged them to pursue excellence, compassion, and faith, even in the face of hardships as they become difference makers for Christ.

Karoline Menezes, an international student from Brazil, graduated with a degree in viola performance and exemplifies this aspiration. Menezes decided to attend APU sight-unseen when an American music teacher overheard her playing and advised her to look into the university. Four years later, Menezes' mother boarded a plane

for the first time to attend her daughter's senior recital and proudly watch her receive her diploma. "APU helped me develop my music skills in countless ways, and my teachers constantly supported me with care while also pushing me to a higher level of achievement," said Menezes. "The APU community also encouraged me in my relationship with God and others. I leave APU with a stronger faith and many friends that I view as family."

Next year, Menezes begins work toward a Master of Arts in Viola Performance on a full scholarship to the University of Southern California, where Donald McInnes, widely recognized as the premiere viola teacher in the United States, accepted Menezes as one of his four students. "My training at APU has prepared me to study at USC. APU empowered me to believe that when God has a plan for us, even the seemingly impossible becomes possible."



Reading Recommendations from Don Thorsen

Don Thorsen, Ph.D., is a professor of theology and chair of the Department of Theology and Ethics, Graduate School of Theology. dtorsen@apu.edu

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis (HarperOne, 1943, 2012)

Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth by Richard Foster (HarperSanFrancisco, 1988)

Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger: Moving from Affluence to Generosity by Ronald J. Sider (Thomas Nelson, 1978, 2005)

Strength to Love by Martin Luther King Jr. (Fortress Press, 1963, 2010)

The Politics of Jesus by John Howard Yoder (Eerdmans, 1994)

Section sponsored by the University Libraries and compiled by Liz Leahy, MLS, MAT, professor of theological bibliography and research.



Common Day of Learning Promotes Scholarship

Faculty, staff, and students gathered to share their academic discoveries at the 21st Annual William E. and Ernest L. Boyer Common Day of Learning (CDL), a multidisciplinary conference promoting scholarship and learning. The university suspended all regular activities and classes for the day, allowing the entire community to participate in this time-honored tradition. Held on March 6, CDL featured 111 individual, group, discussion, and poster sessions by 266 presenters from nearly every university department, centered around the theme “Give Me an Understanding Heart” and 1 Kings 3:12. “This year’s theme defined education as instilling understanding among students,” said HeeKap Lee, Ph.D., director of CDL and associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education. “We gain understanding by reviewing general principles, questioning assumptions, and thinking deeply. At CDL, students and faculty did just that in a campus-wide pursuit of understanding.”

Keynote speaker Albert Wolters, Ph.D., offered insights from the book of Job in his lecture, “Where Can Wisdom Be Found?” (Job 28:28). Wolters, professor of religion, theology, and classical studies at Redeemer University College in

Ancaster, Ontario, Canada, has published extensively in the area of biblical studies. A recognized authority on the Christian worldview, he also penned the influential book *Creation Regained*. In his keynote address, he analyzed the heated conversations between the suffering Job and his friends, revealing that people often find divine wisdom not in explanations, but in truly understanding one another.

After more than two decades of celebration at APU, CDL continues to grow. “This year, CDL featured a greater number of presenters and a wider range of disciplines, fostering further collaboration between different fields,” said Lee. “Most of this year’s sessions featured faculty and students from different departments working together on collaborative research. Also, for the first time, APU’s Inland Empire Regional Center hosted its own CDL on March 7.”

Audiences chose from captivating sessions throughout the day that encouraged awareness and understanding of important academic and societal issues. Jessica Cannaday, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, shared her findings from five years of research on the social and

emotional needs of gifted students, those with naturally heightened intellectual or creative capacities. “Gifted students develop cognitively at a faster pace, but asynchronous social and emotional development may lead to awkward social interaction, which can cause bullying, mistreatment, and peer isolation,” said Cannaday. “CDL brought us together in learning about this important issue and seeking to understand an often-misconstrued student population.”

Students also took advantage of this valuable opportunity to share important academic findings with faculty and peers. In “Celebrating Excellence in Undergraduate Research: Winning Entries from the Fifth Annual Honors Paper Competition,” Christy Ailman ’14, a math and philosophy double major and Honors student, presented her winning paper, “Philosophy of Math: The Beginnings of Mathematical Deduction by Induction.”

“Common Day of Learning offered a rare opportunity to speak on a subject that fascinates me with professors and other students, extending learning past the classroom and across different disciplines,” said Ailman.

Lecture Explores Chicano/Latino Experience

Last spring, the Department of Modern Languages partnered with APU’s Sigma Delta Pi chapter and the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) Southern California chapter to present the first annual Juan Bruce-Novoa lecture series highlighting the experiences of Chicanos (Americans of Mexican heritage) and Latinos (those of Latin American descent in the United States). Presented by APU faculty members from three disciplines, the three lectures explored the Chicano/Latino cultures in America through the lenses of literature, art, and history. More than 600 faculty, staff, students, and guests attended the lectures, gaining a greater appreciation for the rich diversity that exists on APU’s campus, in the Los Angeles area, in California, and around the world.

In her lecture, Katie Manning, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of English, examined the life and literary work of Sandra Cisneros, a world-renowned Chicana author who uses creative writing to explore Chicano identity in the United States. G. James Daichendt, Ed.D., professor in the Department of Art and Design, lectured on the newfound appreciation for Chicano graffiti and street art in Los Angeles, an art movement that expresses the Chicano culture through a vibrant urban form. Verónica A. Gutiérrez, MFA, Ph.D., assistant professor of Latin American history, described how she overcame childhood shame of her culture and eventually embraced her heritage as a Latin American historian.

A trained creative writer, Gutiérrez also shared short stories about her past. “I wanted to reach students who struggle to find the value in their cultures,” said Gutiérrez. “The Chicano culture in the United States is diverse, and it is important to recognize its richness. Studying these minority groups through three different facets—literature, art, and history—immerses us into the Chicano/Latino experience and facilitates cross-cultural understanding.”

By the Numbers

700: The number of L.A. County 4th–12th graders from 45 schools who explored history and delivered presentations at the 33rd Annual History Day L.A., hosted at Azusa Pacific University on March 2. History Day L.A. is part of a national program that invites students to prepare posters, exhibits, papers, websites, performances, and documentary presentations.

22: The number of undergraduate art students who displayed sculptures, paintings, and photography at *Depends on Content*, an exhibit on March 9 at Gallery p Three (Gp3), a professional gallery in Pomona. Students gained valuable, real-world experience participating in the art culture at large and exhibiting their work at Gp3 within the renovated Pomona Packing Plant, one of the largest complexes in the Pomona Arts Colony dedicated to collaborative, multidisciplinary work. apu.edu/clas/artdesign/art

270: The number of students who spent Easter break (March 23–29) in Mexicali, Mexico, serving at nearly 200 sites, including orphanages, hospitals, churches, prisons, and street ministries. APU’s Mexico Outreach program partnered with 55 church groups from across the nation in this mission opportunity. apu.edu/studentaction

As organizer of the lecture series, Marcela Rojas, MFA, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and president of the AATSP Southern California chapter, saw a real need for campus events celebrating diversity. “At APU, 18 percent of students come from Chicano or Latino backgrounds, representing the largest minority group on campus,” said Rojas. “This lecture series provided the opportunity to hear the voices of these rich cultures, opening conversations between all cultures as we recognize that while we live in a diverse community, we are all united as people made in the image of God.”

Christianity and Literature Conference Hosted

More than 80 faculty members and students from a broad range of disciplines gathered at Azusa Pacific to present research, explore the role of faith and community in writing, and pursue literary excellence at the 2013 Western Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature (CCL) held May 16–18. Attendees hailed from APU and universities around the nation and the

world (Scotland, Japan, Dubai), offering innovative ideas and recent research on Christianity and literature, obtaining valuable critiques, and broadening their understanding of topics related to the conference theme, “The Company of Others: Literary Collaboration and the Common Good.”

In panels of three, more than 80 presenters gave scholarly papers, followed by question-and-answer sessions that sparked dialogue, collaboration, and new ideas. “This conference offered the perfect example of iron sharpening iron. As faculty members, we never stop learning, and the enriching educational atmosphere of a CCL conference allows us to share our work, learn from our peers, and grow as literary scholars and writers,” said Patricia Andujo, Ph.D., conference organizer and associate professor of English.

Panel presentations encouraged the audience to consider how—as creative scholars, teachers, and writers—they can inspire themselves and their readers to pursue excellence, compassion, and God. Presenters also addressed the importance of community collaboration in faith, language, literature, and

42: The number of students representing 10 Los Angeles County high schools who participated in the state’s first Spanish spelling bee for high schoolers at the Azusa Civic Auditorium on April 13. The landmark event, coordinated by Marcela Rojas, MFA, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages, and hosted by APU, provided students studying Spanish and native speakers alike with the chance to demonstrate their language skills and compete for prizes.

56: The number of organizations participating in APU’s first Military and Veterans Resource Fair. Local service members and their families who attended the April 6 campus event received employment, education, and health care assistance. APU’s Office of Military and Veterans Resources hosted the fair. apu.edu/militaryeducation

1,000: The number of students who participated in APU’s annual High School Choral Festival in March. The young vocalists benefitted from the experience of guest clinician Jameson Marvin, DMA, a seven-time presenter at the American Choral Directors’ Association convention and recently retired director of choral activities and senior lecturer on music at Harvard University. apu.edu/music

the writing process, examining the relationships between students and teachers, writers and mentors, literary scholars and scholars of other disciplines, and most important, between scholars, creative writers, and God. Luba Zakharov, MFA, librarian and curator at APU, spoke on influential Christian writer Madeleine L’Engle, whose books convey Christian truths creatively through literature and illustrate the value of working with others in writing. “L’Engle exemplified the creative process as a collaborative effort in her writing,” said Zakharov. “She believed that creativity doesn’t happen in a vacuum. Instead, by sharing work with friends and editors for critique, writers ensure they produce the best work possible.”

During featured keynotes, three faculty members from the Department of English discussed the intersection of spirituality, community, and writing: Diane Glancy, MFA, Diana Glycer, Ph.D., and Joseph Bentz, Ph.D. In his address, “A New Day for Literature: How Worried Should You Be?,” Bentz discussed the current rise of electronic entertainment and how it might threaten the need for literature, the impact this has on the

literary world, and the enduring value of the novel. “As literature scholars, we remain relevant to our culture as long as literature itself is relevant,” said Bentz.

Founded in 1956, CCL serves as an interdisciplinary society dedicated to exploring the relationships between Christianity and literature, pursuing scholarly excellence, and facilitating collaboration between hundreds of colleges and universities around the world. Through participation at the annual Modern Language Association (MLA) conference, CCL also allows Christian scholars to engage the worldwide academic community.

“Faith plays an integral role in Christian scholars’ approaches to literary studies, and CCL provides the opportunity for them to exchange ideas with fellow believers,” said Emily Griesinger, Ph.D., professor in the Department of English and CCL’s western region representative. “Through its seven conferences each year, CCL brings teachers and scholars together to challenge one another, exchange ideas, share literary work for critique, pursue academic excellence, and ‘spur one another on toward love and good deeds.’”

University Recognized on President's Community Service Honor Roll

For the fifth year, Azusa Pacific University earned inclusion on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, making APU one of only four schools in California to have received this national award five times. The highest federal recognition of university service

efforts, this honor distinguishes APU as a leader in civic engagement and service-learning, demonstrating the university's commitment to building community partnerships, strengthening neighborhoods, and fulfilling a mission of service as a Christian university.

"For more than 100 years, APU's *God First* motto has inspired our students and faculty to advance God's purposes in the world, to serve His Kingdom with all

our talents and gifts," said Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D. "This achievement confirms we're doing just that—modeling service in a relevant way that speaks directly to the needs of our neighbors, near and far." APU undergraduate students perform more than 165,000 hours of service each year in local areas, communities across the nation, and service sites around the world. Azusa Reads, Azusa Writes, Azusa Counts,

and Azusa Calculates, which offer free one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing, and mathematics to nearly 300 elementary students annually, are just a few of the many successful local programs APU sponsors. The C.H.A.M.P. (College Headed and Mighty Proud) program introduces the idea of college to more than 600 at-risk fourth graders from six local elementary schools each year. The Neighborhood Wellness Center, staffed by APU nursing students and faculty, provides free health care and education to more than 2,000 local community residents yearly. Furthermore, APU's Center for Academic Service-Learning and Research facilitates community programs and courses that build relationships between APU and the local communities. Students integrate classroom learning with real-world service through more than 145 available service-learning classes across 18 academic departments.

Students also serve the global community through mission teams commissioned by the Center for Student Action, a community engagement course in the South Africa study abroad program, and the Mexico Outreach program that sponsors short-term mission trips to Mexico throughout the year.

"The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve," said President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. "This honor affirms our vision to be difference makers in a hurting world. Whether in the nearby neighborhoods of Azusa or in remote areas of the world, God calls us as disciples and scholars to turn the privilege of our knowledge and resources into action and application for others. I am proud of our students and faculty for responding to that call upon their lives with joyful obedience."



University Earns WASC Reaccreditation

After countless hours devoted by hundreds of people over the span of four years, APU received official notification of a nine-year reaccreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) on March 11, 2013. Responsible for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of colleges and universities, the WASC committee carefully examined policies, programs, and procedures through the lens of APU's emphasis on four themes—transformational scholarship, faith integration, God-honoring diversity, and intentional internationalization—and deemed the significant accomplishments of each theme part of the institution's fabric and mission.

The commission praised the clear effort made between the Capacity and Preparatory Review of March 2011 and the Educational Effectiveness Review of October 2012. In the final analysis, WASC commended APU's commitment to its core values and identity as a Christian university, and acknowledged strides made in strategic planning as

best practices, serving as a model for other faith-based institutions. The commission also pointed to APU's growing status as a national doctoral university, citing the transformational scholarship occurring in, around, and through this university and between student and scholar as impressive. Finally, the WASC committee described faith integration as an APU distinctive that sets the standard among religiously affiliated institutions.

"We celebrate this milestone and extend deep thanks to every member of our campus community who invested time, effort, and energy in reaching this goal," said President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. "We are grateful, once again, for a compelling mission and purpose, for a university community committed to preparing the disciples and scholars this world needs."

In addition to the affirmation of APU's trajectory, this intense review process also revealed opportunities for further development. WASC advised continued attention on strengthening APU's financial

position and establishing a consistent means to assess student-learning outcomes university wide. "Under President Wallace's leadership, the APU community will work together to achieve the goal of sustained financial stabilization," said Vicky Bowden, DNSc, RN, vice provost for undergraduate programs and accreditation liaison officer. "These efforts, combined with an ongoing emphasis on using assessment findings to improve the academic reputation of the university, will ensure that we meet the goals President Wallace set forth in APU's Shared Vision 2022." The next comprehensive examination begins with an off-site review in fall 2020, with an accreditation visit slated for fall 2021. APU will present an interim report in fall 2015.

"This reaccreditation marks an important step toward achieving our shared vision to be 'a premier Christian university and a recognized leader in higher education, a city on a hill that reflects the life of Christ and shines the light of Truth,'" said Wallace.

Scholarship at Work



The Bird House (Native Voices at the Autry, Autry National Center's Wells Fargo Theater, Los Angeles, March 1–17, 2013) *written by Diane Glancy, MFA, visiting professor, Department of English*

This play tells the powerful story of Reverend Jonathan Hawk, an evangelical preacher fighting to save his family, church, and small Texas town in the face of a looming economic crisis. Based loosely on the book of Job, the story asks what one's response should be when God stays silent and life seems the size of a birdhouse. The culmination of two years' work, *The Bird House* premiered as part of Native Voices at the Autry, a theater company dedicated to producing works by Native American playwrights.



Resiliency and Distinction: Beliefs, Endurance, and Creativity in the Musical Arts of Continental and Diasporic Africa (MRI Press, 2013) *edited by Kimasi L. Browne, Ph.D., professor, School of Music; and Jean N. Kidula, Ph.D.*

This collection of 17 essays written by ethnomusicologists includes a diverse look at musical traditions with African roots, from indigenous African lithophone music to 20th century African-American gospel to 21st century African hip-hop. Through academic research and personal narratives, the authors explore the ability of African-rooted music to transform musicians and listeners from all backgrounds and serve as a powerful form of worship, creativity, and endurance. The book affirms the value and presence of Africa's role in today's musical world and honors the scholarship of Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje, Ph.D., a leading researcher of music in Africa and the African diaspora.



Heart & Life: Rediscovering Holy Living (Aldersgate Press, 2013) *edited by Don Thorsen, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Theology and Ethics; and Barry L. Callen, Ph.D.*

This book addresses one of the central concerns of the Christian faith: holiness. It examines the role of holy living in Christianity by presenting foundational teachings from Scripture, individual experiences with holiness, the social applications of holy living, and the relevance of holiness for church ministry today. Through inspiring stories and practical thought, this unique study guides readers who desire to become more holy like Christ, and applies to group Bible study settings as well as individual devotions.



Teaching Speaking (TESOL International Association, 2013) *by Tasha Bleistein, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Global Studies, Sociology, and TESOL; Melissa K. Smith, Ph.D.; and Marilyn Lewis*

In an increasingly interconnected world, English has become the common language for international communication, resulting in a growing need for skilled TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) teachers. This volume draws current language teaching theories and applications together into an approachable guide for TESOL teachers, making valuable information and practice applications accessible to teachers around the world in a variety of language teaching settings.



Bones Remade (Gallery p Three, Pomona, California, February 9–28) *by Stephen Childs, MFA, assistant professor, Department of Art and Design. "LoFi #9," Media: archival pigment print on panel*

In this solo exhibition, Childs challenged common conceptions of what a photograph is by stripping his of all recognizable reference points, resulting in a unique experience of simply color and design. The intentional absence of any elements hinting at the photographs' subjects allowed viewers to experience the pieces less as photographs and more as paintings. Images such as Childs' "LoFi #9" cannot be defined by any real-world object, but require viewers to interpret and create their own ideas of the photographs' meanings.

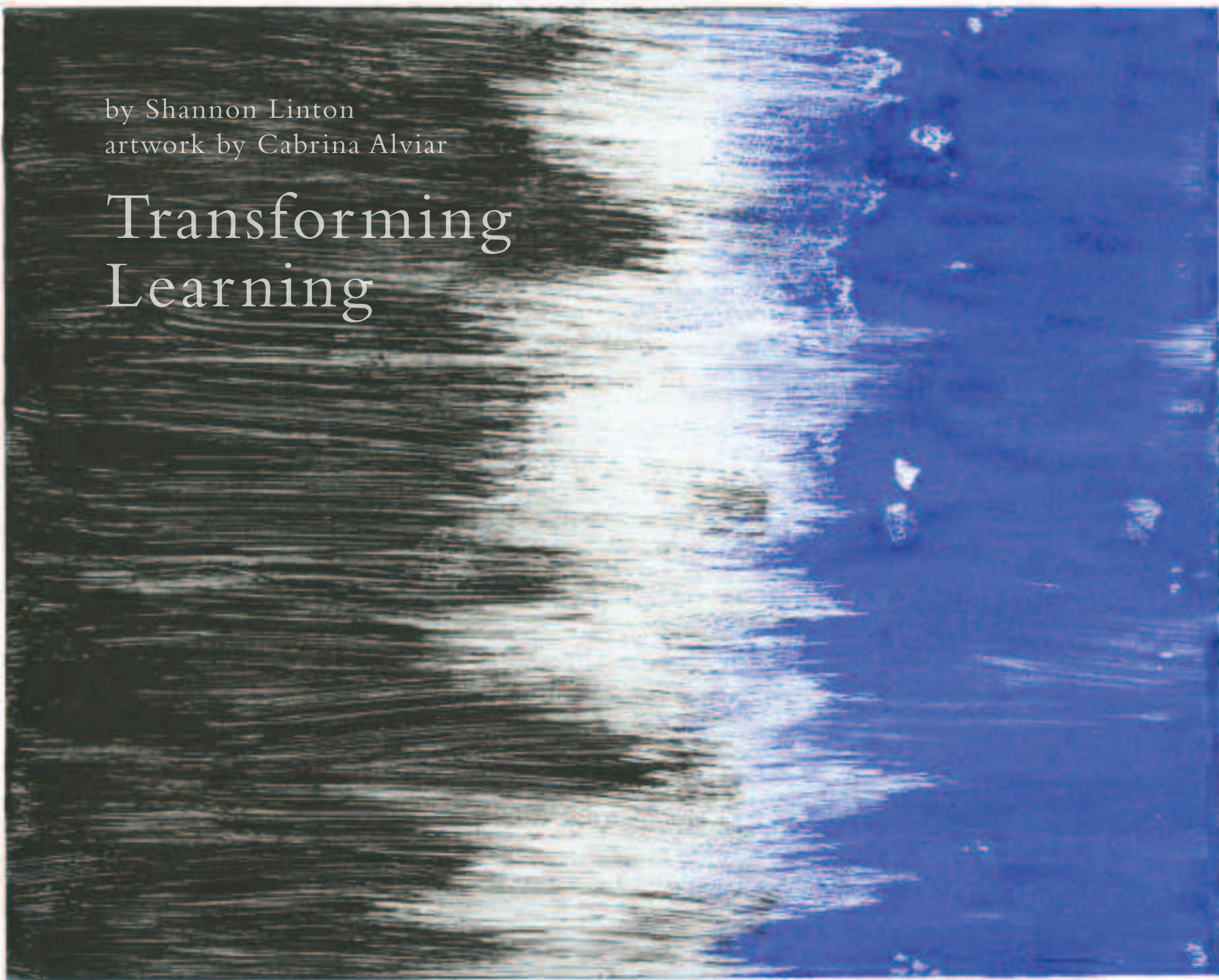


Turning East: Contemporary Philosophers and the Ancient Christian Faith (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2012) *edited by Rico Vitz, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Theology and Philosophy*

In this compilation of autobiographical essays, 16 Orthodox Christian philosophers dispel misconceptions about the Orthodox Church and reveal it as a worldwide community of Christians living faithfully according to ancient apostolic doctrine. These philosophers, some of whom are world-renowned scholars, describe their personal journeys to the Orthodox Church, encouraging Christians to study the rich philosophies and theology of the ancient Christian faith, and fostering greater dialogue among Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Protestants.

by Shannon Linton
artwork by Cabrina Alviar

Transforming Learning



PHOTOS BY EVOKEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM AND SKYLER RUSSELL '13

Allison Moffitt '12 tore open the envelope excitedly. As the first in her family to attend college, she could not believe she had the chance to continue her studies in public health at the graduate level. *Congratulations! It is our great pleasure to offer you admission to UCLA.* “When I read that acceptance letter, which included a full scholarship, it blew me away,” she said. “I knew I would not be where I am today if it were not for the countless hours Annie Tsai poured into me in and outside of class.”

Annie Tsai, Ph.D., chair and associate professor in APU’s Department of Psychology, began meeting with Moffitt her sophomore year. “We would talk through projects every week and dive into research together,” Tsai said. “We identified her passions in the field of social science, and dug deeper to not only prepare her for research at the graduate level, but also to understand how she can make a difference for Christ in her studies and her future workplaces.”

“Annie raised the bar at every turn, pushing me to be a better scholar and a better person,” said Moffitt, whose work culminated in a student research award at an Association for Psychological Science conference.

“One of the key dimensions of academic quality at APU is the idea of teaching and learning,” said Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D. “Our faculty members create an environment where there is active engagement on both sides—it’s a huge step away from the idea that it’s enough for a person to go into a classroom and unload their knowledge. Creating meaning and purpose for students in their studies must involve dialogue and sharing.”

Michael Bruner, assistant professor of practical theology, echoed Stanton’s vision of faculty mentorship. “My role as professor extends from the classroom into opportunities for collaborative research and conversations about how to ‘do life.’ Anything less would be a huge disconnect,” he said. “I’m not only charged with informing students, but also with forming them as well.”

Bruner has met with a number of students throughout his 10 years at APU, including five Honors Program students who recently enrolled at his *alma mater*, Princeton Theological Seminary, for graduate study. “I encouraged them to apply to Princeton,” he said. To Bruner’s delight, all five were accepted and decided to attend. “I still keep in touch with them. Only now we talk about the academic and spiritual challenges of graduate school,” he explained. “It’s hugely rewarding to see these young people grow—from students to scholars to, someday, colleagues. It’s a privilege to pour into their lives as fellow Christians on this journey.”

For Andrew Soria '14, that freedom APU faculty share motivated him to choose Azusa Pacific over other colleges. After beginning his studies as a Spanish major, Soria added English as a second major and signed up for a literary criticism class with Carole Lambert, Ph.D., professor in the Department of English, expecting to do well. “When I got a B on my first assignment, I told Dr. Lambert, ‘I don’t get Bs—how do I improve?’” he said. “That led to the first of many conversations, which included a lot of discussions about my future.”



Soria and a few of his friends went on to take an independent study course with Lambert. “It ended up being the most transformative experience,” he said. “There was something about working so closely together—it came to a point where it wasn’t a class anymore, it was an extension of our lives. We used the class to filter what was happening in each of our lives. We talked about our challenges and struggles. And, in turn, the class shaped us.”

“There’s something about teaching students critical theory that changes their ability to think and respond in all areas of their life,” Lambert said. “We learn together how to ask questions related to the text we’re studying, and then we get to continue that discussion outside of class as they ask questions about their own lives.” Lambert also shared that she’s always impressed by her students’ growth. “With Andrew and so many of my other students, I just give what I’ve gotten from my life experiences and education, and the students run with it. I’m amazed what they do with the investment.”

Soria plans to continue working with Lambert as her research assistant this fall and credits her with his new career plans. “I know I want to go on to teach and educate others in some way,” he said. “Now I know how to do more than just work with ideas; I can share those ideas in a way that glorifies Christ.”

Shannon Linton '07 is a freelance writer and editor living in Covina, California. shannonlinton2286@gmail.com

Cabrina Alviar, MFA '12, is associate art director in the Office of University Relations. calviar@apu.edu



Nearly 1 in 3 entering freshmen in the U.S. is a first-generation college student.

First-generation students come from varied ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Approximately 16% of APU undergraduates are first-generation college students.

From 2006-10, the retention rate for first-generation students at APU rose by 15% to nearly 85%.

by Rachel White

FIRST AMONG THEM

“I dreamed of going to college, but I didn’t see how it was possible,” said Collin Barrett ’14, a biblical studies and Christian ministry major at Azusa Pacific University. The son of a hard-working tile contractor father and devoted stay-at-home mother, Barrett watched his parents struggle to provide for him and his seven siblings while growing up in the small Northern California town of Cool. Though his parents and teachers stressed the importance of education, there simply was no money for college, and his parents, having never attended college themselves, knew little of the available financial resources that could help him reach his goal.

First-generation college students like Barrett chart new territory preparing and applying for college, which often puts them at a disadvantage in gaining access to postsecondary education. Perhaps surprisingly, nearly one in three entering freshmen in the U.S. today is a first-generation college student, according to the

National Center for Educational Statistics. At APU, approximately 16 percent of undergraduates identify themselves as such. Nationwide, these students find transitioning from high school to college tough, and they graduate at half the rate of non-first-generation students, according to the National Commission on Higher Education Attainment.

“First-generation students are educational trailblazers, and universities must work with them to remove barriers to their success,” said Sandy Hough, director of academic advising

and retention. Her research indicates that targeted intervention efforts can help universities recruit and retain this population. At APU, Hough’s office leads the charge, along with support from the Center for Student Action and the Offices of Multi-Ethnic Programs and Orientation and Transitions, to assist these students by providing greater financial and academic resources. Their efforts produce positive results. “The retention gap for first-generation APU students is closing,” said Hough. From 2006–10, the retention rate for this group soared by 15 percent to nearly 85 percent. Today, the retention rate among first-generation students nearly mirrors the rest of APU’s undergraduate population.

Barrett, who once thought college an unattainable dream, credits the

assistance he received from key people with making college possible, including his high school counselor and APU admissions counselor. “My APU counselor helped me fill out the FAFSA form, informed me about government grants, and researched specific scholarships,” said Barrett. “This has been a journey of faith, and God is providing for me in incredible ways.”

Finances represent just one of many obstacles first-generation college students may encounter. In fact, defining common characteristics and challenges of this population proves difficult. Hough says that first-generation students come from varied ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, yet despite their differences, many share the feeling that they are imposters. “On the outside, they act like college students, but on the inside they don’t feel they fit in,” Hough explained. “There are expectations and norms in the classroom that may be difficult for a first-generation student to navigate.”

The first in her family to attend and graduate from college, Christine (Castillo ’93) Guzman, assistant professor in the Department of Social Work, identifies with the struggle to belong that many of these students face. “First-generation students often feel invisible. In my classes, I’ll call upon the quiet Latina in the back of the room because I was that student,” she said. The interest of now-retired APU social work professor Sally Alonzo Bell, Ph.D., ultimately changed the course of Guzman’s career and life. “Dr. Bell encouraged me to go to graduate school. I hadn’t even thought it was an option,” Guzman said. “She helped me apply and even paired me with a

faculty mentor she knew at the University of Denver.”

Now, Guzman pays it forward by working alongside the Office of Academic Advising and Retention, coordinating a mentoring program where faculty from all disciplines pair with first-generation students. Faculty participants—many who were once first-generation college students themselves—connect with students to share experiences and offer support. The program, which launched last spring, involves nearly 40 students. “We want to help these students integrate socially, academically, and spiritually into the university culture and find their voice. I want to encourage them because somebody took a chance on me. These are our future leaders,” said Guzman.

First-generation college student Miriam Zepeda ’14, a global studies and Spanish major, already gives back to her peers. “I can relate to their struggles,” she said. “My first year at APU was a culture shock. Even the vocabulary was new to me. I had to learn college terminology and basic things like how to study.” Zepeda now shares her wisdom with other first-generation students. As a student ambassador in the Office of Academic Advising and Retention, Zepeda provides peer support for students who may have difficulty with the financial and academic aspects of college. Studies show that peer support is a major factor in first-generation college

success. Zepeda communicates directly with them, tackling the issues that can trip up their pursuit of a degree. She gives study tips, provides reminders about financial aid deadlines, and offers advice for uncovering external scholarship dollars.

“This level of comprehensive care represents more than institutional policy, it reveals the nature and character of the people in this community,” said Hough. “I see students sacrificing their free time to help one another navigate college life. I see faculty members going out of their way to nurture relationships and inspire leaders. When first-generation college students search for the right place to start a new family tradition of higher education, this is what draws them. This is what speaks to them and says, ‘You are welcome, you matter, you’re not alone, and you will succeed.’”

Rachel (Nordby ’97) White is assistant director of public relations in the Office of University Relations. rewhite@apu.edu

After all, the question could refer to the art book, the scholarly commentary, the work of fiction, or the choral piece. Across campus, the Bible serves as the keystone for scholars and writers, artists and musicians, playwrights and filmmakers. Few books, if any, cross so many disciplines and lend themselves to such varied treatment. What about this one Book allows for such a broad range of scholarly activity? Why do scholars from diverse fields focus their creative energy on the Bible?

For APU English professor and author Joseph Bentz, Ph.D., the motivation lies in filling in the blanks. “The Bible gives a massive amount of information, and yet leaves a lot to the imagination,” he said. “We know from Genesis 19:26 that Lot’s wife turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back, but we can’t help wondering *why* she looked back—what was she thinking? The Bible keeps us guessing, which allows room for inspiration and interpretation.” Bentz’s current book project, *Named*, takes familiar characters from the Bible such as Moses and Joseph and transports the reader into the characters’ shoes. “Christians hear and read these stories so often, and yet it is easy for us to forget that these larger-than-life characters were real people, with real day-to-day struggles. I enjoy the challenge of bringing the events and people of the Scriptures to life for a modern audience.”

Professor of music technology Michael Lee, M.M., who wrote a Lord’s Prayer-inspired *cappella* piece for the Men’s Chorale called *Our Father, Vindicate*, sought to recapture some of its fervor and revolutionary zeal. “The Lord’s Prayer is very familiar to today’s believers, and that familiarity has drained away some of its meaning,” said Lee, who holds master’s degrees in both music and theology.

“Creating from Scripture changes the process. There is a much greater sense of obligation. With other sources, we have more freedom to play with the text in a way that can be more useful musically. Scripture brings with it a deeper burden to pursue the meaning and intent of the text.”

—MICHAEL LEE, M.M., PROFESSOR OF MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

“However, to the devout Jewish listeners in Jesus’ day, it was a revolutionary prayer that was intentionally controversial. Every statement in Matthew 6:9–13 started out familiar and then completely subverted what they expected. My goal with the piece was to recast the Lord’s Prayer to recover some of the urgency and militancy that it originally held.”

“The process of creating from the Bible spurs my personal spiritual growth,” said Diane Glancy, MFA, visiting professor of English, who recently published a short story in *Books & Culture* magazine about Anna, the prophetess described in Luke 2:36. “As I wrote from Anna’s perspective and found her voice as an old woman in the temple, it gave me hope for my own spiritual life as I age. My Anna wasn’t lonely and languishing in the temple—she was vibrant and full of life. She couldn’t wait to pray.”

However, Glancy pointed out that creating from biblical stories and characters brings its own unique challenges. “When the Bible is your source, historical and theological accuracy become paramount,” she said. “We have to tread lightly, balancing the use of our imagination with the warning in Revelation 22:18 that we must not add to or remove anything from God’s Word.”

Lee agrees. “Creating from Scripture changes the process. There is a much greater sense of obligation. With other sources, we have more freedom to play with the text in a way that can be more useful musically. Scripture brings with it a deeper burden to pursue the meaning and intent of the text.”

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ONE BOOK

—MATTHEW 6:9–13

BY CAITLIN GIPSON

Ask ABOUT THE LORD’S PRAYER PROJECT
AT AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, AND THE RESPONSE
WILL LIKELY BE, “*Which one?*”



continued from page 17

While affirming the need to maintain the integrity of Scripture, actor and director Monica Ganas, Ph.D., professor in APU's Department of Theater, Film, and Television, suggests that Christians should not allow this consideration to impede the creative process. "We're very shy about producing work that the Church might not understand. As a result, we tend to be faint-hearted in what we attempt," she explained. "Theater and visual storytelling should be able to demonstrate the redemptive dimensions, the healing dimensions, and the comic dimensions of the Scriptures." She recently acted in *Pulling Teeth*, a film project that looks at the humorous side of the tale of Jacob and Esau as told in Genesis 25:29, transporting it into a modern dentist's office. "Christians

seem especially scared to explore the comic elements in Scripture, but God is the Source of humor—believers should be able to do comedy better than anyone else."

How, then, do Christian artists and scholars determine where to draw the line? According to Bentz, such discernment requires exhaustive research and prayer. "We need to cultivate a sensitivity to taking imagination too far. This starts with researching everything from a historical and theological standpoint, and then asking God to communicate what He wants to say," he said.

"It's a highly meditative process," said John Hartley, Ph.D., of his recent project, a commentary on the book of Genesis. The distinguished professor of Old Testament in the School of Theology has also written commentaries on Job and Leviticus, with a pending volume on Proverbs marking his fourth. "Commentators must seek diligently to grasp the core meaning of a particular verse, paragraph, chapter, or section within its historical and cultural context. Then we investigate the trajectory of that core concept as it occurs in other biblical texts, with the goal of capturing its dynamic power as a God-given guide to faithful service in the Kingdom."

Professor of art Jim Thompson, Ed.D., who based a piece, titled *The Bread Box*, on the Lord's Prayer, asserts that unifying concepts that move throughout Scripture explain part of the fascination the Bible holds over artists and scholars. "This one Book was written over a 1,600-year period, by at least 40 authors in 3 languages, and yet, the consistent theme throughout is God's redemption of humankind. How exciting to be able to take a text like that and let it inform what we create."

"This one Book was written over a 1,600-year period, by at least 40 authors in 3 languages, and yet, the consistent theme throughout is God's redemption of humankind. How exciting to be able to take a text like that and let it inform what we create."

—JIM THOMPSON, ED.D., PROFESSOR OF ART



ARTWORK BY JIM THOMPSON

BIBLICALLY INSPIRED FACULTY WORK

Joseph Bentz, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of English
Writing *Named*, a small-group Bible study that puts readers into the shoes of biblical characters like Moses and Joseph.

Monica Ganas, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Theater, Film, and Television
Acted in *Pulling Teeth*, a film that examines the humorous side of the tale of Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25:29.

Diane Glancy, MFA

Visiting Professor, Department of English
Published a short story in *Books & Culture* magazine about the prophetess, Anna, described in Luke 2:36.

John Hartley, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, School of Theology
Wrote a commentary on Genesis, along with commentaries on Job and Leviticus and a pending Proverbs volume.

"The Holy Spirit works through the Bible in a way that He doesn't work through any other book."

—DIANE GLANCY, MFA, VISITING PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH



Furthermore, Bentz pointed out that this diverse authorship provides a literary foundation for scholarship. "The Bible holds so many different types of literature—poetry, history, genealogy, prophecy, letters. There is something for everyone."

According to Ganas, Jesus' parables provide an example of this dynamic at work. "Jesus' parables lend themselves to treatment in theater and film because they are enduring and timeless. Jesus used timely metaphors to make His point, and as a result, it is easy to update their symbolism for a modern audience," she said. "It's easy to translate the Good Samaritan into the Good Biker."

David Weeks, Ph.D., new dean of the Honors College, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and professor of political science, believes that the Bible's cross-disciplinary nature also says something about the disciplines themselves. "Ultimately, every academic and creative pursuit deals with fundamental questions. Each academic area seeks answers to life's most important questions, and the Bible addresses many of them. As a result, Scripture becomes fertile ground for researchers and artists in almost every field."

Weeks explores this idea in his current writing project, an article insert for the *Christian Worldview Bible*, where he describes how the Bible has influenced his view of politics. "While Scripture says nothing about campaigns, legislation,

elections, or tax rates, the text says a lot about the more fundamental political questions. The Bible teaches us about God's sovereignty and the derivative nature of human authority, about human nature and the inherent worth and dignity of human beings, and about humans living in community and why civil society is indispensable. All of these make up the core of political philosophy and influence how we deal with one another and make political decisions."

Across the board, Azusa Pacific's scholars cite one overriding reason for the Bible's preeminence as impetus for academic and creative production—its position as the primary Source for insight into God's Truth. "Scripture is the inspired Word of God," said Glancy. "The Holy Spirit works through the Bible in a way that He doesn't work through any other book."

Thompson's sketchpad, which he takes to church with him each Sunday to capture ideas inspired by his pastor's sermons, illustrates a similar sentiment. A recent Sunday's sketch shows a plain white field, with a wadded-up piece of paper in the foreground. On the corner of the paper, the words "In the beginning . . ." are barely visible, with the implication that it goes on to tell the story of the Bible. The tentative title? "Nothing Else Is Needed."

Caitlin Gipson '01 is a freelance writer, search engine optimizer, and marketing consultant living in Reedley, California. apucaitlin@gmail.com

BIBLICALLY INSPIRED FACULTY WORK

Michael Lee, M.M.

Director of Music Technology,
School of Music
Wrote *Our Father, Vindicate*, a Lord's Prayer-inspired *cappella* piece for Men's Chorale.

Jim Thompson, Ed.D.

Professor, Department of Art and Design
Created *The Bread Box*, a wood-and-mixed media piece based on the Lord's Prayer.

David Weeks, Ph.D.

Dean, Honors College;
Former Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Wrote an article insert for the *Christian Worldview Bible* on how the Bible has influenced his view of politics.



Personalizing Cancer Chemotherapy: One Size Does *Not* Fit All

Cancer—few other words incite such fear and confusion as this pervasive disease. Yet, nearly 1.7 million Americans hear this devastating diagnosis every year. Those with advanced-stage disease face an arduous future and a bleak prognosis. Some of the deadliest cancer types, including colorectal, lung, and pancreatic, remain undetected until they reach these advanced stages, leaving aggressive chemotherapy as the only option to slow the disease's growth, abate symptoms, and improve quality of life. Add to that, very few cancers respond consistently to chemotherapy, and oftentimes a positive response lasts only weeks or months. Until very recently, advanced cancer treatment followed a “one-size-fits-all” approach that based standard treatments on cancer type alone. As a research scientist and assistant professor in APU’s Department of Biology and Chemistry, I have seen the results of hundreds of clinical trials and their chemotherapy success rates and side effects, and can only conclude that one size clearly does not fit all, and any positive impact on tumors proves only marginally effective. But this may all be about to change.

Medical Facts

Cancer differs from many other treatable human diseases in that it originates from cells that were originally normal, but acquired genetic mutations that grew and spiraled out of control over time. Unfortunately, because these cancer cells retain features and functions similar to normal cells in the body, chemotherapy takes on

the nearly impossible task of targeting and isolating these cancer cells while sparing healthy cells. Further confounding the situation, as cancer develops, it continually acquires more mutations and abnormalities that drive more aggressive growth, promote spreading, and dramatically increase resistance to chemotherapy, rendering cancer a constantly evolving, moving, and elusive target. The complexity of the issue does not stop there. Although all people possess the same basic genetic makeup, natural variations occur within those genes that make each person unique. This leads to major differences in how each patient tolerates and metabolizes chemotherapy, as they would other types of medications such as antibiotics. We now realize that these subtle differences can have a profound impact on the success of their chemotherapy. This new era of cancer treatment abandons the “one-size-fits-all” approach, opting instead for rigorous genetic analyses of patients and their tumors to tailor an effective and safe treatment with the highest possible likelihood of success.

by Melissa LaBonte Wilson

A Fresh Approach

Until recently, personalized medicine existed more as a concept than a reality because of the difficulty in pinpointing the reasons for the success or failure of chemotherapy. Identifying those few key genetic mutations or proteins that can make the difference between chemotherapy success and failure represents a monumental task, quite literally like searching for a needle in a haystack. The University of Southern California Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center (USC/Norris) stands at the forefront of personalized cancer medicine with a translational research program that begins at the research bench and continues to the patient’s bedside. I have been fortunate to participate in an ongoing research program that maintains strong ties with USC/Norris, where I earned my doctorate in 2010 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in 2010 and 2011 with Heinz-Josef Lenz, MD, one of the world’s foremost experts in gastrointestinal cancers.

During that time, I focused on a new class of chemotherapeutic drugs called histone deacetylase inhibitors (HDACi), which disrupt cancer growth in several ways, including restructuring the tumor cells’ DNA and altering the genes that are switched on and off. HDACi also cause the premature breakdown of some key proteins that tumor cells rely on to fuel their growth and withstand chemotherapy. One of these proteins, thymidylate synthase (TS), accounts for the failure of an important type of chemotherapy in colorectal cancer. My husband, Peter Wilson, Ph.D., an adjunct professor in APU’s Department of Biology and Chemistry and researcher at USC/Norris, and I researched this phenomenon and showed that it may be possible to integrate HDACis into chemotherapy treatments for colorectal cancer to improve the overall effectiveness and prevent treatment failure—specifically in patients whose tumors contain high levels of TS protein and whose chance of responding positively to chemotherapy is extremely low.

Colorectal cancer remains one of the toughest cancers to treat and is the third-most-deadly cancer in the U.S., after lung and breast cancers. The American Cancer Society projects that 143,000 Americans will be diagnosed in 2013, and approximately 51,000 patients will die of this disease. Despite advances in technology and promising new drugs, improvements to colorectal cancer patient survival rates over the last 10 years have only been incremental, and the chances of responding positively to chemotherapy remain at about 40 percent. The aggressive and resistant nature of advanced colorectal cancer means that less than 10 percent of patients diagnosed survive five years. We urgently need new ideas and treatment options to remedy this sobering statistic.

A Hopeful Prognosis

USC/Norris performed a phase one clinical trial with the most promising HDACi drug, vorinostat, to determine the safety of combining these agents with standard chemotherapy. Although

the trial proved the combination safe, only a few patients showed improvement in their disease. This disappointment prompted a return to the research bench. At this juncture, in an APU-USC collaboration, Peter and I used information gleaned from the clinical trial to better inform our laboratory experiments. In our manuscript published in *Investigational New Drugs* in January 2013, assisted by APU research students Shelby Martin ’13 and Stephanie Kuwahara ’13, our team used simulated experiments to show that the body broke down vorinostat at a rate faster than it could exert its anticancer effects in most patients. We then used a new HDACi called panobinostat, which the body breaks down approximately four times slower than vorinostat. Panobinostat proved to be much more effective at inducing numerous anticancer effects, including the faster breakdown of TS at lower doses than vorinostat, and USC/Norris is now evaluating this research in another phase one clinical trial with seven patients recruited thus far.

This multidisciplinary collaborative effort between USC/Norris’ Departments of Gastrointestinal Oncology and Pathology and APU’s Department of Biology and Chemistry highlights the pivotal need for understanding the underlying reasons that so many cancer drugs fail, and the importance of the research bench in informing and ensuring the future development and success of cancer drugs. This move toward personalized cancer treatment will take much of the guesswork out of chemotherapy and gives the patient the best chance at receiving a successful therapy from the onset of treatment. While this may not change the overall prognosis for patients whose cancer has progressed too far, we are confident it will provide them with precious time while improving their quality of life. Most important, a significant number of cancer patients who receive effective personalized therapy delivered the first time around will undoubtedly become cured and lead cancer-free lives.

Melissa LaBonte ’04 Wilson, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in APU’s Department of Biology and Chemistry. For more information or to support this effort, email her at mlabonte@apu.edu.



Colorectal cancer remains one of the toughest cancers to treat and is the third-most-deadly cancer in the U.S., after lung and breast cancers. The American Cancer Society projects that 143,000 Americans will be diagnosed in 2013, and approximately 51,000 patients will die of this disease.



EQUAL FOOTING by Evelyn Barge

TRENTEN MERRILL '14 stares down the narrow track runway with palpable intensity. In the moments that follow, he surges forward in a burst of speed, intent on the takeoff that propels his body more than 18 feet. The impact of his descent sends up a spray of sand in the landing pit.

Walking away, Merrill resumes his signature stride. The subtly distinctive gait has little to do with attitude—although Merrill exudes confidence—and more to do with the carbon-fiber running blade that enables the single-leg amputee to compete on Azusa Pacific's track and field team.

"I'm not getting my leg back, so I've got to rock it," said Merrill with a grin.

A first-year transfer to APU and already a U.S. national-class athlete in the paralympic classification, he has his eye on the Paralympic Games. Merrill said APU provides the ideal training ground to test his mettle as a collegiate athlete while also preparing for postcollegiate aspirations. He has qualified twice previously, in 2010 and 2012, for the U.S. Paralympic Trials. "Trenten is one of those extremely self-motivated athletes," said Kevin Reid '88, men's track and field head coach. "At APU, he gains strength and speed while competing against athletes who race at his level. He has a great outlook that drives him forward in our athletic program, particularly as we push to get more athletes to that elite level."

Just weeks after arriving at APU, Merrill received a vote of confidence from fellow athletes when they named him a team captain. "He has a never-ending thirst for improving as a competitor," said teammate Tomek Czerwinski '14, who calls Merrill an energetic leader bolstered by a strong faith and an unshakeable good nature. While all athletes face the possibility of injury, Merrill must contend with the physical stresses that sprinting and jumping place on his prosthetic limb, too. Waiting on weeklong repairs or replacements for the high-tech leg—three of Merrill's running prosthetics broke already this year—causes a serious disruption to a rigorous training schedule, but Czerwinski said Merrill refuses to skip a beat. "He finds a way to work through it and keep training," said Czerwinski.

Merrill credits APU's track program with helping him close in on his goals. "From my teammates to the coaches, everyone on the team inspires me. We push each other, because we're all out

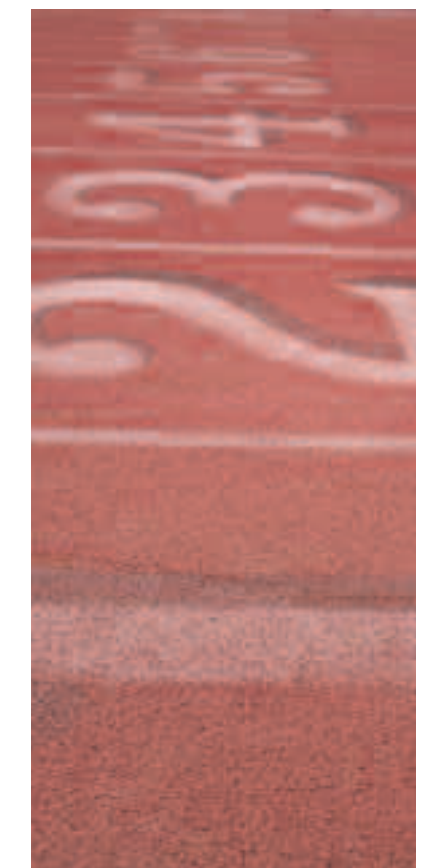
there, putting in the work, struggling, and trying to reach our dreams. We see in each other our true potential."

Eight years ago in his hometown of San Juan Capistrano, it seemed that emerging potential might have been lost when a car collided with the dirt bike Merrill and a friend were riding. Then just 14, Merrill's right foot was mangled in the accident and eventually amputated. A staggering loss for any vibrant young person, the ramifications were especially tough for Merrill, a promising soccer and volleyball player, as the doctors cautioned him that such physical activities would prove difficult.

But Merrill refused to sit on the sidelines. After two months in the hospital and another three of healing—and newly equipped with a prosthetic—he dove back into a variety of sports. The Paralympic hopeful zeroed in on track while he was a student at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo. Encouraged by his prosthetic specialist, Merrill attended a running clinic and met Joaquim Cruz, coach of the U.S. Paralympics Track and Field National Team. Soon after, Cruz invited Merrill to visit the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista. "I was in awe," said Merrill, recalling the experience. "My whole life, I've wanted to become a professional athlete, and I didn't think I would have the opportunity anymore. Sitting in the training center, I watched all these athletes whose lives revolve around training. I thought, "This is the life. This is what I want to do."

That realization eventually led him to APU, after a detour to the University of Colorado, Boulder, where NCAA Division I eligibility restrictions tied to length of enrollment kept him from competing. "It was mentally tough to find out I was not going to train or run there," said Merrill. "But it turned out to be a blessing in disguise, because APU was the answer I was praying to find."

MERRILL REFUSED TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES. AFTER TWO MONTHS IN THE HOSPITAL AND ANOTHER THREE OF HEALING—AND NEWLY EQUIPPED WITH A PROSTHETIC—HE DOVE BACK INTO A VARIETY OF SPORTS.



The solution came in the form of an APU commercial that caught Merrill's attention on an Internet radio service. A few days later, he discovered an Azusa Pacific T-shirt stashed among his own clothes from a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp.

"I started watching videos of Bryan Clay training at APU, and it was evident that God was speaking to me," he said. Merrill connected with Reid, and everything fell into place. "To go from not knowing if I was able to compete in any sport to being part of a collegiate track and field team—what He's given me blows my mind," said Merrill. Driven by his pursuit of excellence, Merrill has grown accustomed to and even welcomes curious inquiries and glances. Those who look close enough may notice the Cougar claw emblem decorating his running blade. Below it: the words *God First*.

Evelyn Barge is a writer and editor in the Office of University Relations. ebarge@apu.edu

Cougars

SPORTS ROUNDUP

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Cougars Honored as Top Christian College Athletics Program

The National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) presented Azusa Pacific with the 2012–13 Presidential Award for Excellence, honoring Cougar Athletics as the organization's top overall athletics program based on performance in NCCAA national championship competition. The Cougars won five NCCAA national championships this year, claiming three titles during the spring (men's tennis, women's outdoor track and field, and men's outdoor track and field) to go with the women's cross country and men's indoor track and field championships won earlier in the year. After claiming eight consecutive NAIA Directors' Cups (2005–12), Azusa Pacific's streak of winning the top overall honor within its championship affiliation extends to nine consecutive years.



Track and Field National Title Sweep Highlights Spring Sports Season

In early May, the Cougar track and field teams claimed the men's and women's NCCAA national championships in Joliet, Illinois, picking up the program's first men's and women's sweep of the national titles at an outdoor championship meet. Top meet honors went to Breanna Leslie '13 as Track Athlete of the Meet, and Cheri Smith '13 as Field Athlete of the Meet. On the men's side, Remontay McClain '15 earned Track Athlete of the Meet after winning individual titles in the 100 and 200 meters. The coaching staff, led by director of track and field Mike Barnett '97, along with men's head coach Kevin Reid '88 and women's head coach Preston Grey, were named the 2013 NCCAA Outdoor Track and Field Coaching Staff of the Year for the men's and women's programs.



Cougars Capture NCCAA Tennis Title

The Cougar men's tennis team brought home the program's second national championship, defeating Fresno Pacific in a thrilling 5-3 win at the Mobile Bay Convention Center in Mobile, Alabama. The championship marked Azusa Pacific's fifth NCCAA title of the 2012–13 season, and was the men's first since the 2005 season.



Acrobatics and Tumbling Selected as 2014 National Championships Host

Azusa Pacific, one of six founding members of the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association, will host the 2014 NCATA National Championships next April. It will be the fourth annual championship meet, previously hosted by the University of Oregon in 2011, Baylor University in 2012, and Quinnipiac University in 2013. The NCATA membership will double to 10 schools in 2014 with the addition of new programs at five schools, including Pacific West Conference member Hawai'i Pacific.



New Class Joins Athletics Hall of Fame

An Olympic gold medalist and a trio of athletes who led their respective programs to their first national titles highlighted a 10-member Azusa Pacific Athletics Hall of Fame induction class in the March ceremony. Bryan Clay '03, 2008 Olympic decathlon gold medalist and the first Azusa Pacific athlete to win Olympic gold, led the 12th induction class. Joining him were Jack Williams '00, M.A. '08, the 1998 NAIA Football Player of the Year who led the Cougars to their first national title in football, as well as Jennifer (Babel '00) Watkins and Kendra (Payne '01) Jerome, who led Azusa Pacific to the 1998 NAIA women's soccer championship. Other inductees included men's basketball's Gordon Billingsley '74 and Caleb Gervin '04, softball's Dawn Castaneda '97, football's Josh Henderson '97, women's track and field's Michelle (Teodoro '98) Van Someren, and Jason Wyatt '93, a two-sport athlete in football and track and field. The late Scott Raftery '79 became the eighth recipient of the Cliff Hamlow Service Award, recognizing his contributions to Cougar Athletics as the football public address announcer for the past 20 years before he passed away in February following a battle with cancer.



Marquardt Signs NFL Free-Agent Contract

Immediately following the conclusion of the NFL Draft in April, Azusa Pacific offensive lineman Luke Marquardt '13 signed a free-agent contract with the San Francisco 49ers, defending NFC champions, to begin his career in professional football. Marquardt, a 6-9, 317-pound left tackle, played in 30 games in three seasons (2009–11), helping lead the Cougars to consecutive playoff appearances in the program's final two seasons in the NAIA before transitioning into NCAA Division II competition in 2012. He earned a place on the 2013 Senior Bowl Watch List prior to the start of his senior year, although he missed the entire campaign due to a foot injury.

Upcoming Athletic Events

September 5 | 7:30 p.m. | **Women's Soccer vs. Lee University**

September 7 | 5 p.m. | **Women's and Men's Soccer (doubleheader) vs. Cal State Dominguez Hills**

September 7 | 7 p.m. (EDT) | **Football season opener at Grand Valley State University** | Allendale, Michigan

September 21 | 6:30 p.m. | **Football vs. Humboldt State** | Citrus Stadium

All home contests except where noted.

Upcoming Alumni and Parent Events

August 24, 2013 | Hollywood Bowl Concert | Kristin Chenoweth With APU

Bring family, friends, and a picnic dinner, and get ready for an entertaining evening of music with Kristin Chenoweth and great fireworks. Picnic begins at 6 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m. Visit apualumni.com/hollywoodbowl2013 for more information and to purchase tickets (\$26 per person).

August 30, 2013 | Legacy Family Reception | 4 p.m.

All alumni with a new student enrolling in fall 2013 are invited to join us for a reception at the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations on the Friday of New Student Orientation Weekend.

October 10–12, 2013 | Homecoming and Family Weekend

Save the date for this year's Homecoming and Family Weekend. Registration begins September 1, 2013.

March 22, 2014 | Italian Vistas

Imagine gazing at Michelangelo's majestic sculptures in the heart of Florence, cruising the Isle of Capri on a scenic boat ride, and soaking in 2,000 years of history while traversing the ruins of Pompeii. Now make it a reality—join family, friends, and fellow alumni on the excursion of a lifetime that begins in Rome, journeys through Venice, Murano, Verona, Pompeii, Capri, and Florence, and culminates in breathtaking Stresa, Switzerland. The 13-day adventure includes professional tour guides, special dining

opportunities, and a stress-free travel experience that embraces the rich Italian traditions and treasures such as the *Statue of David*, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Colosseum, awe-inspiring duomos, quaint villages, and world-class cuisine.

Rates per person—single, \$5,349; double, \$4,749; triple, \$4,699—include 13 days of travel, first-class hotels, round-trip airfare from Los Angeles, and 18 meals. Book by September 15 and save \$250 per person. For more information, call (626) 812-3097 or visit apu.edu/alumni/events/travel/.

For the most up-to-date details on events:



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HOMEWORD | AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

How to Become a More Confident Parent *by Jim Burns*

When my wife, Cathy, and I found out we were going to be parents, I brimmed with confidence. After all, I had college degrees in psychology and ministry and had been working with parents and teens for nearly a decade. Cathy had studied early childhood education and had a wonderful way with kids. We thought, "How hard can it be?" Then, we had kids. Talk about receiving an education!

Fortunately, God gives grace and mercy to parents and children alike. While raising our three daughters, we discovered five strategies that helped us keep a level head while parenting. These principles may boost your confidence as well.

- 1. Bless your children.** Kids love praise from their parents. I'm convinced they crave it. For children, there is no substitute for receiving a blessing from Mom and Dad. It will propel them to new heights spiritually, emotionally, and relationally as you build their self-image.
- 2. Overcome negative family patterns.** This isn't always easy to do, especially if you grew up in an extremely dysfunctional family. Still, you can be part of the transitional generation that stops blaming bad behavior from the past for bad parenting today. Get the help you need to heal the hurts of your

childhood and start setting healthy patterns and examples for your kids.

- 3. Create a grace-filled home.** If your home atmosphere is negative or threatening, your kids will find somewhere else to hang out where they feel welcome. You don't have to be "Parent of the Year" to create an environment that allows your kids to feel welcome in their home. You just have to increase the flow of acceptance and grace.

- 4. Communicate with A.W.E.** A healthy dose of A.W.E. (Affection, Warmth, and Encouragement) works wonders with kids. You don't have to be a pushover parent; in fact, leniency does not equal love. But if you are fair, firm, and consistent with your family's house rules, and enforce them with A.W.E.,

you'll build a stronger bond with your kids.

- 5. Raise kids who love God and themselves.** The key is respect. When kids are taught the value of obeying their parents, honoring and respecting God is easy. Obedience makes it easier to establish a loving relationship with Him. Give your kids the gift of learning self-respect as well. This could be one of the most precious commodities an adolescent will ever receive.

Trust God to give you the confidence you need to train up His children in the way they should go, and when they are older, you will all rejoice.

Azusa Pacific University's HomeWord Center for Youth and Family with Jim Burns '75, Ph.D., provides biblically based resources for parents and youth to help build healthy families. apu.edu/youthandfamily



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN DICKSON

Spiritual Victory

by Cyndie Hoff

Spiritual warfare pits good against evil on a battlefield beyond the physical world. Ephesians 6:12 warns, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (NIV). In the Central European country of the Czech Republic, Kevin Dickson ’04 and his wife, Daniela, struggle against these enemies daily as they serve with Josiah Venture. Their vision: to see a movement of God among the youth of Central and Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society.

“In this atheistic culture, we fight intense spiritual battles against the lies and deceptions of the enemy,” said Dickson, who serves as co-director of the EXIT 316 Tour. Together, they lead teams traveling into Eastern European cities, working with local youth groups to share the Gospel in public high schools, constantly combating cynicism, apathy, and wariness that comes from years of persecution. “Churches were allowed to exist under Communism, but forbidden to share outside the walls. Spies infiltrated services to make sure members weren’t evangelizing and inciting a revolution, which bred suspicion of new people and cultivated the mindset that faith is private and not to be shared. As a result, it’s a spiritually dark environment. During one event, we experienced a plague of sickness, migraines, and technical problems. We lost all power, even though our meter showed it was on. It was like Satan stuck his hand in the cables.”

Yet, despite the opposition, Christians in the community faithfully fight the forces of evil and work to restore the country’s rich spiritual roots. “Although congregations feel healthy, they have a definite lack of courage to spread the Gospel,” said Dickson. “We come alongside pastors and share methods that excite teens about the Gospel and evangelism. We encourage them to make friends with nonbelievers. Soon, they realize that the Gospel is cool, and start inviting friends and strangers to afternoon clubs where they tell them the Good News.

“The transformation has been extraordinary. One day, we noticed some of our youth group members looking depressed and asked what was wrong. They said, ‘We were only able to share Christ with one person today.’ That’s how important sharing their faith has become,” said Dickson.

Years of prayer over the youth in this region led Josiah Venture to launch EXIT 316 in 2006. The program began with a weekly, Bible-based TV series that ignited a revival in local towns. “It was a miracle we were allowed to air the program at all,” said Dickson. “We produced 70 episodes of interviews with people on the streets and celebrity testimonies, and trained hundreds of leaders about how to use the show as an outreach, including two years of curricula on topics like divorce, suicide, sex, racism, and drugs.

“Eight out of 10 Czechs are atheists. God has opened the door to high schools for the Gospel. Every year, in at least 11 cities, we have the opportunity to employ the 8-hour program in an average of 30 public high schools. The schools gladly shut down for the entire day knowing we are bringing a proven prevention program,” said Dickson.

Convincing administrators, however, proves much easier than winning over their students. Czech teens rebel against restrictions. “We don’t present them with a bunch of rules,” said Dickson. “We bring them an American Christian rock band, hip-hop artists, dancing, and media. Because music is universal, it

breaks barriers and engages the students. Then, we split into small groups for two 90-minute lecture series by certified, accredited staff, and present testimonies about salvation.”

One man from Slovakia, now a drug preventionist, shares about his broken home, drug use, mugging, and former life as a male prostitute. One of Germany’s adult film stars recalled, “Nothing mattered until Jesus.” Now, she talks about purity with girls; and to guys interested in porn, she tells them the other side. A Holocaust survivor, who was rescued out of Czechoslovakia before Hitler closed the border, now talks about racism and calls himself the “twice-saved child”—first from the Holocaust, then by Christ.

The weeklong programs culminate with a Friday night outreach concert. Last fall, 15,000 high schoolers showed up. “We saw 269 professions of faith—200 during school hours,” said Dickson. “There were 95 in one school alone.

We’ve seen entire classes stand to accept Christ. A headmaster said, ‘I don’t believe in what you’re saying, but I believe in the students, and I see the change in them. Thank you for coming.’”

The change he sees—improved attendance, heightened respect, and happier students—reveals something deeper and more meaningful than the outward signs he observes. It illustrates the power of transformed hearts and battles won. Though the spiritual warfare continues, more and more Eastern European teens are hearing and responding to God’s Word thanks to a growing number of Czech pastors and teens equipped with the full armor of God ready to engage in the conflict, and faithful workers like the Dicksons willing to suit up and face the enemy alongside them.

For more information, visit josiahventure.com.

Cyndie Hoff is a freelance writer and editor living in Walnut, California. ceh.hoff@verizon.net



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BLOMBERG

Raising Dads: Inspiring and Equipping Fathers

In the United States, 40 percent of children—approximately 25 million—live, play, and go to school without the love, care, guidance, and protection of their fathers—and that number continues to grow. Brian Blomberg ’84 battles this startling reality as chief development officer for the National Center for Fathering (NCF), a nonprofit organization that inspires and equips men to become engaged, involved father figures.

“NCF trains dads in both Christian and secular settings to reach their full, God-ordained potential,” said Blomberg. Through seminars, small groups, programs, and technological resources, NCF reaches more than 1 million fathers each year and has equipped and certified more than 1,000 trainers to expand the fathering movement in their own communities.

According to Blomberg, fathers have three important objectives in the life of their children. First, they should unconditionally love their children and the mothers of



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH SMITH

Telling Stories, Transforming Minds

In 1832, a Quaker schoolteacher risked everything by admitting African-American women into her school, unleashing a nationwide fight for educational freedom and withstanding an onslaught of threats and attacks. More than 180 years later, Prudence Crandall and her students, the brave women who initiated the first integrated classroom in the United States, captured the attention of Elizabeth (Schuler ’05) Smith, who brought this story to life through the powerful and creative medium of screenwriting.

Smith came across Crandall’s story while working for Broad Reach Productions in Boston, and she urged her producer to slate it as their next feature film project. “Something struck me about this young woman who had everything—a stable career, house, school—yet knowingly sacrificed it all for others,” said Smith. She dove into two and a half years of intense research and writing, piecing together the story from historical documents and interviews with descendants of both Crandall and her students. “Writing a historical fiction screenplay as my first professional project proved extremely difficult at times, but this significant story had to be told. In the end, it bolstered my writing skills and confirmed for me that God has called me to the screenwriting profession.”

their children. Second, fathers should act as life coaches for their children, teaching them lessons to succeed in situations big and small. Finally, fathers must set strong examples for their families. “This generation of young people recognizes hypocrisy very quickly,” said Blomberg. “Fathers must model what they want their kids to do and be. Children decide what is important to them by observing what their parents deem important.”

Blomberg reinforced the importance of faith in his life for his children when he answered God’s call to leave a prestigious position as chief financial officer of Pedus Services, a billion-dollar enterprise based in Berlin, to work for Promise Keepers, a nonprofit Christian men’s ministry. “My attorney told me the switch would destroy my career and all the work I had done in the corporate world so far. But after much prayer, I knew this step of faith to actively serve God and others was the right decision.”

Almost a decade later, Blomberg transitioned to NCF. As chief development officer, he oversees funding to run the ministry and helps develop new programs to proactively reach dads. He also serves on the board of the newly formed Fathering CoMission, a nonprofit group of both Christian and mainstream organizations that joined together to champion the fathering movement through downloadable programs for use in churches’ family ministries across the nation.

Despite his past business successes, Blomberg finds witnessing the healing results of these fathering ministries most rewarding. “We work with fathers who face seemingly insurmountable obstacles: substance abuse, unemployment, financial problems, marginalization. I get to watch these dads work through training, realize the enormity of their impact on their children, and reunite with their kids in a powerful moment of reconciliation.”

To find out more about NCF, visit fathers.com.

Smith discovered this calling as an English major at Azusa Pacific. During her last semester, she registered for Barbara Nicolosi Harrington’s screenwriting class to fulfill a credit. When Smith turned in her first screenplay, Harrington, executive director of the Galileo Film Studio at APU, recognized extraordinary talent: “I saw a depth in Elizabeth’s writing that undergraduate students rarely achieve. I knew she could have a profound impact if she pursued screenwriting.”

Harrington hired Smith as her assistant at Act One, an organization she founded in Hollywood that prepares Christians to work in the entertainment industry. From there, Smith earned her master’s degree in writing at the prestigious Carlow University in Ireland and launched a successful career as a screenwriter in Boston.

In an age where television, movies, and other digital media dominate daily life, creative storytelling through these mediums has grown increasingly influential. Smith sees the potential for transformation in her audiences. “Films make people view the world differently. As an artist, my challenge is to cause audiences to leave the movie theater better people with a stronger sense of responsibility than when they entered,” said Smith.

Smith’s ability to tap into these deep emotions comes from her own struggles and triumphs. As an undergraduate, she battled cancer, undergoing intense treatments while carrying a full class load and discovering how to lean on her faith and the help of others in a Christ-centered community like APU. Now cancer-free, she draws upon the fear, pain, and triumph of that experience as she writes.

“A writer has to embody the pain of her characters,” said Smith. “I may not know what it means to be Prudence Crandall in the 1830s—a woman who sacrificed much in a fierce battle against racism. But I know what it means to battle. I know a loving community can sustain us through impossible hardships. I can write about that subject with believability and understanding.”

1960s

1 PAUL YEUN '68 has led annual medical mission trips throughout the world for the past six years. In February 2013, he traveled to Ibarra, Ecuador, with a team of 22 to treat 1,086 patients and offer daily disease prevention classes to all patients and their families. They also provided pastoral counseling referred by health care providers and presented four seminars on pastoral care and counseling for local pastors and leaders. In April, Paul was elected president of the Grace Foundation, an organization that awards scholarships to Asian students pursuing graduate degrees in ministry and theology at an accredited graduate school or seminary. pyen@summithealth.org

JAMES CRAWFORD '69 became ordained in May 2013 after 10 years as pastor of Iowa Hill Community Church in Iowa Hill, California. He is also the chaplain of the Iowa Hill Fire Department, a Cal-Fire chaplain, and chaplain of the

Free Methodist Church. Jim started the Mountain County CERT program in Placer County working with the area fire departments, the Sheriff's Department, and Highway Patrol. In his spare time, he is the aircraft manager for a CH-3e Sikorsky helicopter used for rescue from 1963–93, based at McClelland Field in Sacramento. kimokianac@sbcglobal.net

1990s

2 ROBERT CLINTON GERTENRICH '91 worked in Chicago, Illinois, with the Center for Student Missions after graduation, then returned to Salem, Oregon, where he met his wife and best friend, Julie, and pursued a career in education. They have two daughters, Hannah and Madeline, and a son, Drew. Julie works as the Salem Metro Area director of Young Life. After completing his master's degree, Robert pursued his doctorate in education. He has taught mathematics, English, public speaking, and physical

education, and coached high school and college athletics for 20 years. He began his school administration career in 2000 as an assistant principal of Oregon's North Salem High School, where he worked for four years. Robert led Candalaria Elementary as principal for eight years and now serves Schirle Elementary. Robert remains committed to providing a school community that helps students make connections between their personal lives and their educational experiences.

VERONICA (FREEMAN '97) ALDERMAN and her husband, Greg, live near Sacramento. He pastors at Christ Community Church in Carmichael. Veronica works as a substitute teacher and as an administrative assistant for a nonprofit, Synseis Alliance International. In their free time, they follow their four kids, Erin, 15; Gabe, 13; Emily, 11; and Ross, 10, to their various activities including soccer, baseball, gymnastics, and more.

2000s

CHARITY (HUGHES '04) JOHNSON works at Relativity Media and was promoted to manager of marketing and distribution finance, using skills she gained as a communication studies student at APU.

TOMMY MATTHEWS '06 is a graphic designer for Ralph Appelbaum Associates in New York. His current project is the building for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

3 TAMI MILLER, M.A. '06, a licensed marriage and family therapist who practices at Restoration Counseling Service (RCS) in Redlands, California, and has seven counselors on her team, most of whom are APU graduates. Together, they help hundreds of people each year find wholeness and bring healing to their lives. RCS also offers free relationship articles via its blog and

daily marital encouragement via its Facebook and Twitter feeds. RestorationCS.com

THOMAS MONSON '06 uses his art degree as the gallery director at PoetHouse in Bend, Oregon. PoetHouse serves as a cooperative gallery, a studio space where artists and other creative people interested in fostering a vibrant and nurturing community can gather, teach, and learn from one another.

4 STEPHANIE (TAYLOR '07) KOMASHIN, a member of APU's Japanese Christian Fellowship "Friday," co-president of the English Conversation Class, and intern for the American Language and Culture Institute (ALCI), realized her dream of moving to Japan as a tentmaker with her husband, Andrew, in October 2012. In April 2013, she entered the Ph.D. program in the Department of Religion and Indian Philosophy at Hokkaido University to research three famous Japanese Christians of the 19th century. She teaches English part time.

KARINA QUEZADA '08, M.A. '09, '11, works as an educational psychologist for the Victor Elementary School District in Victorville, California. Karina completed her Doctor of Psychology in spring 2013.

2010s

5 PAUL ANGONE, M.A. '11, published his debut book, *101 Secrets for Your Twenties* (Moody Publishers, July 2013). The book expands upon his blog article "21 Secrets for your 20s," already viewed by nearly 1 million readers. Paul is a marketing specialist for APU's Office of University Relations and runs his own website, AllGroanUp.com, where he guides and encourages twenty-somethings struggling with life after college.

MARY ANTHONY '11 recently moved to New York City after accepting a position with Wasserman Media Group, a prestigious sports agency. WMG is a sports marketing and management powerhouse, working with 1,200

professional athletes, brands, and corporate leaders worldwide.

6 STEPHEN THOMPSON, M.A. '12, plants churches with TEAM in Bologna, Italy, and utilizes what he learned from the Organizational Leadership program in his ministry. Besides being the Bologna team leader, he was recently elected to be the TEAM ministry area leader for Italy. He credits his success to APU and the master's program for the practical training he received.

JUST MARRIED

7 HILARY WHITMAN '03 to Justin Brasser on September 22, 2012, in Hood Canal, Washington. Hilary is a marketing campaign manager at Nordstrom, Inc., and Justin is a client services manager for a local tech company. They live in Seattle.

8 CREIGHTON DENT '06, M.S. '10, to Julia Shearer on September 1, 2012, at Contra Costa Country Club in Pleasant Hill, California. Members of the wedding party included **SCOTT HERRMANN '06**,

JACKSON STAVA '05, M.A. '09, and **SAM ADDRESS '04**. The couple lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Creighton has started the Bay Area Alumni Chapter for APU.

9 RACHAEL "MORGAN" WOODMAN '09 to Thomas Lazo on August 11, 2012, in Santa Clarita, California. Members of the wedding party included **GRACE PADEN '10** and **ASHLEY (TRIPLETT '10) SIMS**. The couple lives in Santa Clarita.

10 STEPHANIE FRITZ '10 to Ben Copeland on January 5, 2013, in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. Members of the wedding party included **EMILY BEATTY '14** and **LEIGH BENVENUTI (ATTENDED 2006-07)**. Ben is a server at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant as well as a student at Trinity Christian College, studying church and leadership ministry. Stephanie works for a local hospital in the medical records department.

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COUGAR INTERVIEW—ASSEMBLYWOMAN SUSAN BONILLA



Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla '82 (D-Concord) represents California's 14th Assembly District. As chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, she fought to minimize budget cuts to the Cal Grant program, a funding initiative that makes attending private universities a reality for many California students, including 18 percent of APU students. Bonilla's efforts resulted in the passage of bills that increased funding for veterans, saved transitional kindergarten from elimination, and provided adequate training for teachers.

Recently, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) named her Policy Maker of the Year for her work strengthening higher education in California.

APU LIFE: Why is it important to invest in educational initiatives like Cal Grants?

BONILLA: California must invest in higher education if we want to see economic growth. Companies need well-educated workforces, and a strong educational system helps California maintain a place of leadership in the nation and the world. This makes initiatives like the Cal Grant some of the most important investments California can make in terms of maintaining a successful economy.

APU LIFE: How does the Cal Grant program transform the lives of students?

BONILLA: A Cal Grant will not cover full tuition but offers encouragement to students dependent on financial aid and inspires hope that attending college is possible. Recognizing and rewarding the academic and leadership efforts of students, the Cal Grant gives them a

chance to fulfill their dreams and pursue the career of their choice. Cal Grant represents the unified voice of Californians saying, "We want to invest in your future success."

APU LIFE: Describe the process of saving the Cal Grant program from extreme budget cuts.

BONILLA: After the governor proposed a 44 percent cut to Cal Grants, I worked through months of negotiations with senators to reduce the cut. The process required persistence, determination, and strategy, but I refused to back down. Advocacy and support from many sources made this possible. Cal Grant students and university faculty members, including many from APU, came to the capital on the day of the final hearing to lobby for the Cal Grant. The involvement of AICCU and encouragement from individuals like President Jon Wallace also paved the way to reducing the original Cal Grant cut by 50 percent.

APU LIFE: As a former high school English teacher, what inspired you to transition to a political career?

BONILLA: When the opportunity to run for an elected position first arrived, my initial reaction was to dismiss it. I'm so glad I didn't because politics allows me to take the influence I had in the classroom to the next level. While I loved my role as a teacher, I can now impact entire families and statewide education policy from the unique perspective of someone trained in and passionate about education. Looking back, I see that you can't plan your life completely. You must keep an open mind and be willing to take some risks.

APU LIFE: How does your Christian faith complement your role as a public servant?

BONILLA: I rely heavily upon my faith, especially under the great responsibility I have as a legislator. During my time in elected office, I seek to follow Micah 6:8 (NAS): "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" I constantly ask God to hold me accountable, making sure I am acting justly, treating others with mercy, and walking in humility while in this role of service.



You give. They learn. Together, we change the world.

Recent graduate David Brumfield '13 looks forward to entering the business world and ministering to those he meets in his day-to-day work. APU helped him realize that you don't have to go into ministry to minister to the people around you—you can be a difference maker no matter the field to which you're called.

To hear more about David's story, go to apu.edu/video/davidbrumfield/.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Sisters, Science, and Salvation

by Georgeann Halburian Ikuma

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.” Sisters Mercy Prabhu Das ’82, Ph.D., a program officer for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, and Irene Prabhu Das ’86, Ph.D., M.P.H., an NIH health scientist, exemplify the power of a balanced approach that unites the efforts of science and theology and increases the impact of both.

Their mother, a high school biology teacher, and father, a Methodist minister, fostered their daughters’ love for the sciences and commitment to Christ. “Our dad would say, ‘We may not have houses or land or money to leave you, but we give you Jesus, and He is all you need,’” said Irene.

The family’s unwavering faith led them from their native India when Mercy was 4 and Irene just 1 to Malaysia, where their father pastored an Indian church. Raised in both Malaysia and Singapore, and surrounded by the more culturally dominant religions of Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism, the young girls remained steadfast in their faith in Christ. “Our parents emphasized the importance of trusting and serving Jesus above all else,” said Irene.

In Singapore, the girls received a highly advanced education that prepared them for the rigors of college life. Although the sisters had never been to the United States, when Mercy investigated colleges, one option stood out among the rest—Azusa Pacific University, where Irene joined her four years later.

“The accessibility of professors motivated me as a student new in the United States,” said Mercy. “Generally, teachers in the Asian cultures did not encourage students to ask questions.” Both girls praise late APU biology professor David Cherney, Ph.D., for his openness and support that inspired a way of learning that contributed to success in their graduate studies. Cherney took a personal interest in his students, which created a stimulating atmosphere and a desire to learn.

After graduation, the sisters’ paths diverged as each set out to earn doctoral degrees, garner prestigious awards, and author numerous papers in their respective fields. Their familial bond, faith in God, and chosen careers in science and public health, reunited them six years ago at the NIH, one of the world’s foremost medical research centers and the primary U.S. government agency responsible for biomedical and health-related research.

Managing a portfolio of grants linked to the study of basic immunology for the NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Mercy deals with increasing funding constraints for critical scientific research due to the current budget crisis. “Three to four million children die from vaccine-preventable infections each year, and it’s important to know how their immune systems develop and respond to infections and vaccines so that appropriate therapies can

be administered,” said Mercy, who cautions that people do not really understand the development of the infant immune system or the importance of vaccinations.

Another area of focus includes the influence of the aging process on immune function in the elderly and why infectious diseases in this age group increasingly lead to morbidity, disability, and mortality. “The number of people in the world age 60 and older is expected to increase to nearly 1 billion by 2020,” said Mercy, explaining that the ability of the immune system to correct cell defects declines with age, resulting in different types of cancers and other chronic diseases. “Obtaining an understanding of the immune response in the elderly may lead to new treatments, allowing people to maintain their immune function as they age.”

As a health scientist at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), within the NIH’s Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, Irene seeks to understand the organization of health care delivery to improve the quality of care to cancer patients. Specifically, she leads the evaluation of the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program, an initiative engaging community oncologists and hospitals to bring state-of-the-art and evidence-based cancer care into community settings where patients reside. “Prior to this program, cancer patients had limited options for quality cancer care and potentially ones far away from where they lived,” said Irene. “Making evidence-based cancer care more accessible and available within these targeted communities provides options for better, equitable care.”

The sisters call upon their education, experience, and faith to break down barriers and bring healing with the



Mercy

Irene

PHOTO COURTESY OF MERCY AND IRENE PRABHU DAS

intent of fulfilling God’s calling on their lives. “I am a very small piece in the larger puzzle of improving human health,” said Mercy. “My responsibility is to do everything that is placed into my hands to the best of my ability as an offering to God, no matter how small or insignificant.”

Irene mirrors her sister’s sentiments. “The Lord is my Boss, and He sets the standard of excellence for my work. My purpose where He’s placed me is to be His witness,” she said. “We aspire to live by Colossians 3:23: ‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters’ [NIV].”

Georgeann Halburian Ikuma is a freelance writer living in the San Francisco Bay Area. ghikuma@yahoo.com

“I am a very small piece in the larger puzzle of improving human health.”

Mercy Prabhu Das ’82



Every effort is made to publish all photos submitted to APU Life. We apologize if your photo was not published.

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11 **LAUREN BELANGER '11** to **ANDRE BORDEAUX '12** on May 6, 2012, in Camarillo, California. Members of the wedding party included **JENNA LINDSAY '10** as the maid of honor and **PAUL VANDERWULP '12** as a groomsman. The couple recently moved to the Washington, DC area after Andre received an appointment to the Foreign Service in the State Department.

12 **BEKAH WEISSER '11** to **ASHKON BANIHASHEMI '11** on June 23, 2012, at a beautiful chateau in Alamo, California. Members of the wedding party included **BETHANY (WEISSER '08, M.A. '10) WILKES**, **CARISSA PIPER (ATTENDED 2008-12)**, **NATALIE BARNABY '12**, **MARISSA "ALLY" WILLIAMS '11**, **MEGAN (GOEMAN '11) JESSUP**, **JENNIFER WHITTEN '10**, **ASHLEIGH TAYLOR '11**, **DANA YOSHIZU '12**, **ROBERT JAMES '11**, **TROY BAUGH (ATTENDED 2007-08)**, and **BOBBY ROGNLIEN '11**. Bekah and Ashkon live in Grenada, West Indies, where he attends St. George's University School of Medicine.

13 **DANIEL MATTSON '12** to **ALLYSE SHAPPELL '12** on February 17, 2013, in Chino Hills, California. Daniel serves at Inland Hills Church as the fifth and sixth grade ministry director. Allyse works at Leroy Hanes Center as a one-on-one aid for a 9-year-old autistic girl in La Verne. The couple lives in Ontario.

FUTURE ALUMNI

14 To **ALLEN DUNAHOO '92** and his wife, Jennifer, a daughter, Ruth Grace, on September 7, 2012. Ruth, the couple's eighth child, joins her seven siblings, which include four adopted children and one foster child. Allen serves as a financial advisor in Litchfield, Connecticut, but as a former pastor, views his position as a "marketplace missionary."

15 To **GERARDO "JERRY" GONZALES '99** and his wife, Amanda, a son, Marco Felipe, on January 4, 2013.

16 To **JANELLE (PATER '02) STEVER, M.A. '05**, and her husband, **NICK '02, M.A. '04**, a son, Kyler William, on January 17, 2013. Kyler joins big brother, Kelan, 5. Nick serves as principal at Ustach Middle School in Modesto, and

Janelle works part time as a school psychologist in Ceres. The family lives in Oakdale.

17 To **JEREMIAH SCULLY '03** and his wife, **COURTNEY (BIXBY '05)**, twin daughters, Ava Louise and Mia Jean, on April 9, 2013. The girls join big brother Sawyer, 2. The family lives in Glendora.

18 To **KATIE (LAYTON '04) GRIFFITH** and her husband, **JOEL '04**, a son, Luke David, on December 25, 2011. Luke joins big brother, Cayden, 2. Joel is a solutions manager at Vitech Systems Group, and Katie works part time in human resources at Ingram Micro. They live in Huntington Beach. katiengriffith@hotmail.com

19 To **STEPHANIE (MCCALL '05) THOMPSON** and her husband, **JUDD '05**, a son, Asher James, on October 18, 2012. Judd is a senior counsel at Great-West Financial, and Stephanie is a freelance writer and editor. The family lives in Denver.

20 To **JACOB "COBA" CANALES '06** and his wife, Andrea, a son, Joseph Daniel, on November 8, 2012. Coba serves as one of the campus pastors at APU.

21 To **CATHERINE "LIZ" (WADE '06) HEINRICHS** and her husband, **NICHOLAS "NIC" '06**, a son, Graham Owen, on September 6, 2012. Nic works in commercial banking at Wells Fargo, and Liz works part time as a hairstylist. Both are very involved in their church worship team and loving life as parents. Lizheinrichs1@yahoo.com

IN MEMORY

22 **ROBERT REYNOLDS (PACIFIC BIBLE COLLEGE PROFESSOR 1948-49)** went home to be with the Lord May 18, 2013. Bob taught alongside his father, **WILDER R. REYNOLDS (PBC PROFESSOR 1949-63)**, and mother, **BUELAH CANDY REYNOLDS (PBC PROFESSOR 1952-63)**. He met his wife, **LOIS (SCOTT '49)**, at PBC, and they married in 1949. Bob and Lois went on to be missionaries with Far East Broadcasting and served in many countries, including the USA, Philippines, China, and Japan. Bob also served in the U.S. Navy and with Focus on the Family. He studied and loved history, engineering, and computers. His wife; son, **SCOTT '78**,

and his wife, **LYNNE (O'BRIEN '79)**; daughter, **ROBYN (REYNOLDS '78) BLAKE**, and her husband, Stephen; and three grandchildren, **STEPHYANIE (REYNOLDS '07) HATFIELD** and her husband, Craig Jon Blake, and Rebecca Blake, survive him.

23 **DON GRANT '54** passed away May 20, 2013. After graduating from Pacific Bible College, Don taught in the School of Music. Throughout his extensive career at APU, Don held numerous roles in administration, including dean of the School of Music, interim dean of the School of Business and Management, assistant to the provost, and vice president of academic affairs. President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, summarized Don's remarkable contribution this way, "He served the university with vision, commitment, and excellence. His legacy encompasses the many faculty, staff, alumni, and students who today stand on his shoulders. Others have built on his commitment to APU, few have matched it." His wife, **PAULINE (DILLER '53)**, and children, **GLEN '80**, **DONNA (GRANT '82) SEDERSTROM**, and **CONNIE (GRANT '99) FONTES**, survive him. Cards may be sent to Pauline Grant at 1740 S. San Dimas Ave., Apt. 249, San Dimas, CA 91773.

DONALD CARY '56, M.A. '58, went to be with the Lord April 18, 2013. He was born in Lindsay, California, on November 5, 1932, to Leonard and Janie Cary. At age 16, he accepted Christ as his Savior at a Christian youth camp and the next day felt a call to ministry. In 1954, Don married **RAMONA FOREEN (ATTENDED 1953-56)** of Roseburg, Oregon. They had two children, Steven and Deanna. Ramona passed away in October 2002. Don was a pastor with the Christian and Missionary Alliance for more than 33 years. In 2005, Don married Sharon Pignatello of Las Vegas, and shortly after, they moved to Canon City, Colorado. His children preceded him in death. Sharon; granddaughter, Amy Sellers; and five great-grandchildren survive him.

ELIVINIA "POLLY REYES" DE GARMO CALDERON (LOS ANGELES PACIFIC COLLEGE—ATTENDED '56), born in 1936 in Wilmington, California, passed away March 6, 2013. In 1960, she began

teaching and married Tom De Garmo. In 1963, they moved to Berkeley, California. They had two daughters, Jeanette and Evelis. Elivinia taught in Berkeley Unified. During these years, she earned her Ph.D. in Education from University of California, Berkeley. She became a principal in Daly City. In 1980, she moved to San Diego, where she was a principal until retiring in 1995. Elivinia then taught inmates at the California Youth Authority in Whittier for more than 10 years. In 1993, Elivinia married Mike Calderon. The two were married for 20 years. She loved dancing, Latin music, concerts, and travel. Elivinia lived for her daughters and she adored her grandchildren, Madeline, Alexandra, David, and Natalie, and extended family.

VAN GERALD BYE, M.ED. '79, passed away February 28, 2013. He was born March 4, 1949, to Gerald and Mildred Bye in Yankton, South Dakota. During his high school years, he and his parents moved to Anaheim. He played in the NBA during the early 1970s as well as professional leagues in Europe and Mexico. He served as head basketball coach at Borrego Springs High School and Esperanza High School in the late 1970s. Throughout the years, he worked for Converse, L.A. Gear, Power Plus, and Apollo Insurance, while also coaching and refereeing youth and high school basketball. He married Carolyn Prough August 11, 2012. His parents; wife; son, Brett; daughter-in-law, Janelle; grandson, Jet; and son, Cory, survive him.

24 **HEIDI (CHASE '88) WALSH**, born May 16, 1965, to Dorothy and Robert Chase, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 47. Heidi was married to Bob for 14 years and was a devoted mother to Brennan, Emma, Griffin, and Cailley. Heidi leaves behind her husband, children, mother, sister, and brother-in-law, as well as other in-laws and 24 nieces and nephews. Services were held April 13, 2013, at Christ Church of Oak Brook in Illinois. Heidi will be dearly missed.

Reverend **SAMUEL L. GERACE, M.A. '93**, passed away March 3, 2013. Samuel was born in Baltimore in 1963 and spent his early years in Maryland and New York. Sam served as a music minister at Grace Bible Church in California and Smithtown Baptist in

continued on page 34

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New York. He then moved to Johnson City, Tennessee, where he became an ordained minister at Grace Covenant Church in 1994. He began his lifelong ministry with prisoners more than 20 years ago, which led to his creation of True to Life Ministries, a conservative, evangelical, Bible-based ministry focused on jails and prisons throughout the United States. This ministry provides discipling through inductive and intense study of the Word of God; "The Meaning of Life" conferences in prisons; prayer and devotional programming; a re-entry and resettlement program; one-on-one

counseling for inmates, ex-offenders, and free-world individuals; and meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of inmates. He leaves behind his parents, Mary and Samuel; sisters, Pam and Kari Watson (her husband, Bob); brother, John; and many nieces and nephews with whom he will reunite in glory one day.

25 MARK CHRISTOPHER

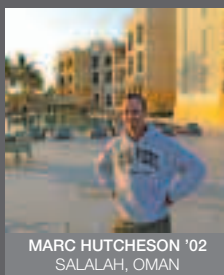
ARAGON '98 passed away March 5, 2013. Born August 29, 1976, the first child of Gene and Tricia Aragon, Mark was an accomplished musician who began playing drums as a toddler on Tupperware before upgrading to a

Muppet drum set at 5 and eventually graduating to a full drum set at 10. At Rowland High School, he served as a drum line captain and won the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, given annually to the top jazz musician at the school. While at APU, Mark was an integral part of the School of Music as a member of numerous choirs, bands, orchestras, and small groups. After graduating, he went on to teach private drum lessons. He also served as music director and technical director at various churches throughout Southern California before finally becoming event coordinator at Christ's Church of the Valley. On August 9, 2008, Mark married **ANN MEINERS '01** in

Sierra Madre. Some of their favorite pastimes included dancing the Lindy Hop and cheering for the Angels. In his spare time, he loved leading the Average Jazz Band. It was his passion to serve people through music and mentoring, and his heart for worship was evident to everyone who crossed his path. His wife and parents; sister, **THERESA (ARAGON '99)**, and brother-in-law, **MICAH MCDANIEL '99**; sister, **JESSICA (ARAGON '03)**, and brother-in-law Cameron Cleland; grandfather, Frank Aragon; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Dave and Vicki Meiners; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Heather and Eric Petersen, survive him.

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU WEARING YOUR APU CLOTHING?

Attention alumni: Send us your photographs of the places you have been with your Cougar wear. If we print your submission, you will receive an APU T-shirt to wear while visiting your next exotic or interesting destination. Send your photos,* along with a description of the location where the photograph was taken, and your T-shirt size, to the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, PO Box 7000, Azusa, CA 91702-7000, or alumni@apu.edu. Or you can add your photo to the Azusa Pacific Everywhere Flickr account at www.flickr.com/groups/apueverywhere/. *Please send high-resolution images or prints only.



MARC HUTCHESON '02
SALALAH, OMAN



RUTH PRITZLAFF '10
TEAGAN PICCIANO '10
KYOTO, JAPAN



VAL JAMES '10
KIJABE, KENYA

Val James '10 works with Africa Inland Mission, teaching at Rift Valley Academy (RAV), a boarding school for children of missionaries in Kijabe, Kenya. RVA educates and cares for students from 22 countries whose parents serve 70 missions agencies. Val serves at the accredited American school with a full staff committed to developing well-prepared disciple/scholars equipped to follow to God's call wherever that may be. valjames.aimsitesite.org



MICHAEL HANAKAHI '09,
RACHEL SIMAO '11,
KIM UYEHARA '09,
JESS HIRANO '11,
JOELLE PACARRO '12,
CHASTITY SALDEBAR '12,
AND NICOLE SEPULVEDA '13
HONOLULU, HAWAII



MELINDA MORRISON '12
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



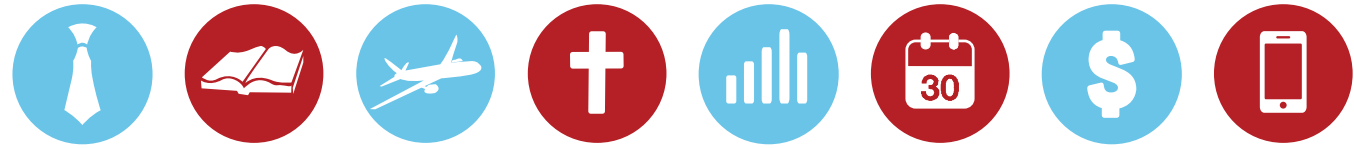
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Academic Excellence

“Academic Excellence in a Christian Atmosphere” remains a clear goal from Azusa Pacific University’s inception to this day. Evidence throughout APU’s history points to this long-standing commitment, including published books, scholarly research, participation in professional conferences, and enthusiastic involvement in the academy at large. Faculty member George Asbury McLaughlin modeled what has become an APU hallmark of faculty engagement, authoring numerous books from the 1900s through the 1920s. Over the years, many others followed, including two dozen faculty members who signed their recently published books at the APU Faculty Book Signing on March 8, 2013, coordinated by the Office of Research and the University Bookstore. To facilitate this level of scholarship, numerous faculty members have procured external research grants, including Felicitas dela Cruz, DNSc, FAANP, RN, who has secured grants

totaling more than \$5 million over the course of almost 30 years, enabling rigorous research in nursing fields such as home health. Campus wide, APU has received more than \$3 million in external grant funding in the past year alone. These resources and the support of the administration advance academic excellence and provide students and faculty with a competitive edge in their fields, bolstering their ability to earn coveted academic scholarships and fellowships. As a result, APU proudly claims 9 faculty and 27 student Fulbright scholars among its ranks. Echoing that commitment, this year’s Faculty Development Day Symposium—Pursuing a Culture of Academic Excellence—focused on advancing the long heritage of God-honoring academic excellence.

Ken Otto, MLIS, associate professor, Special Collections librarian



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