

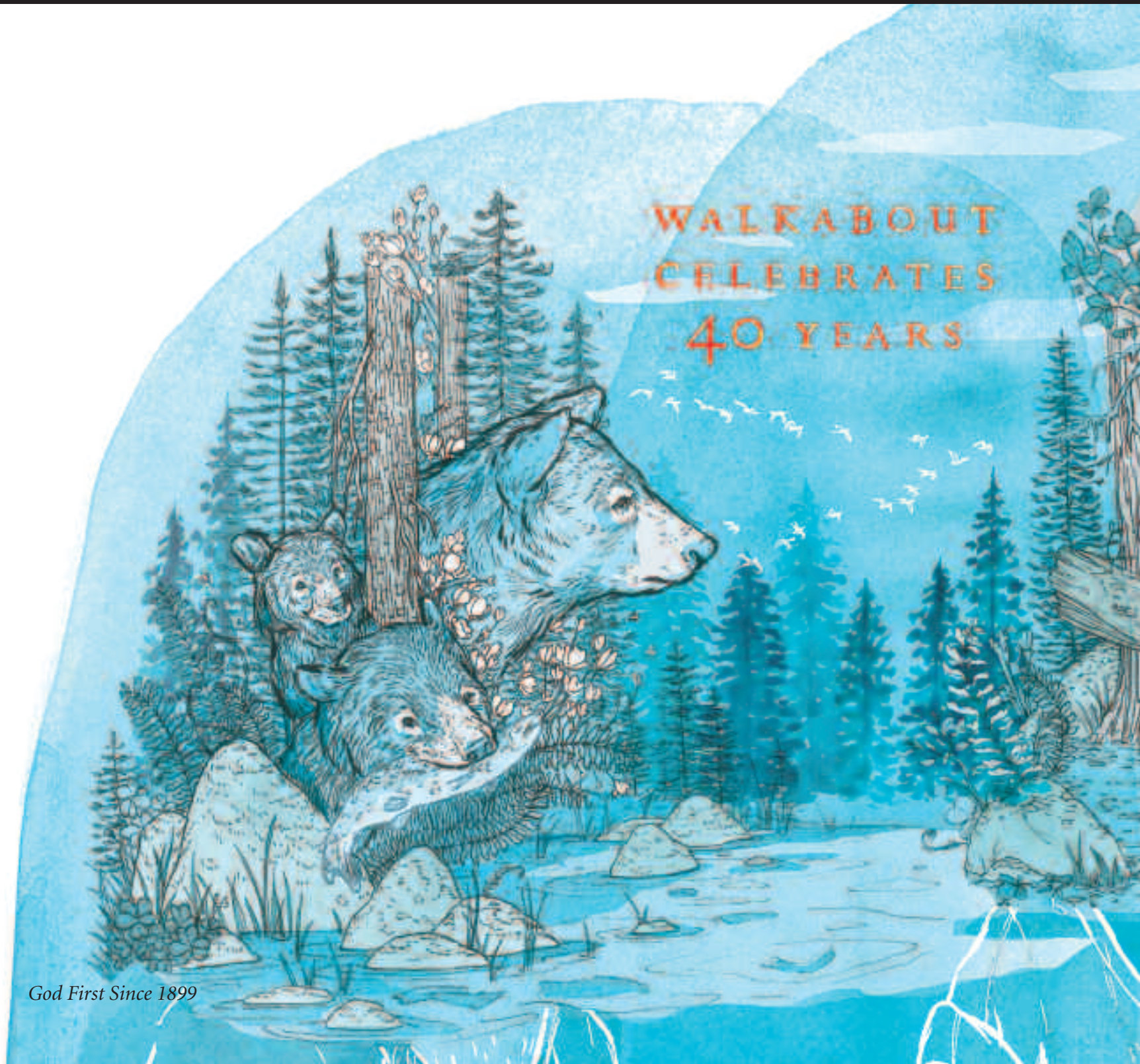
APULIFE

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Summer 2014 | Volume 27 | Number 2

FISHING FOR TRUTH ■ STEWARDS OF HOPE ■ THEATER COMMUNITY

WALKABOUT
CELEBRATES
40 YEARS



APULIFE

Summer 2014 | Volume 27 | Number 2



Last year, I received an invitation to visit Azusa's Valleydale Elementary School to help celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by participating in the Read Across America initiative. The principal asked me to bring a book and read to the kindergarten and first grade classes. I must admit, this assignment caused me some angst. I love reading. I love books. And I love the idea of reading to young children. I just have not done it much. So, I called Babs Conklin, a first grade teacher at Cullen Elementary School in Glendora and adjunct faculty member in APU's School of Education.

Two days later, I sat in her home rehearsing *Edward and the Pirates*, a brilliantly illustrated and captivatingly written book. She suggested that I listen to her read the book to me. And so I did. She used hand motions and voice intonations, stopping now and then in the middle of a page to explain a difficult word as she drew me into the story.

Armed with her techniques, I read *Edward and the Pirates* to the students at Valleydale. I tried to do what Babs does so well—bring the story to life—because reading plays an integral part in our lives. Like many others, I connected in a deep and powerful way to reading at a young age. In the fourth grade, while my family negotiated a move from the farm into town, I lived with my grandparents on the Wallace side and fell in love with reading. They lived two blocks from Beaumont Library, and we would go weekly to trade out books read for books to be read. Every evening, the three of us read Scripture together during our daily devotion, and their love for reading provided deep and wide journeys through significant books. It remains an important part of my life.

The written word, of course, forms the foundation of every student's journey at APU. Required reading and assigned textbooks chart the students' path toward completion of a degree, certificate, or credential. We want students to leave the university skilled at navigating these sources because we want them to continue to learn throughout their lifetime. We want their personal libraries, their Kindles, and their iPads to serve as constant sources of ideas that feed their imaginations and equip them for life and ministry.

Valleydale invited me back to read *Edward and the Pirates* this year. I am honored to do this again because I want to speak into the passion for reading that I am hopeful will grow in the hearts and minds of these kindergarteners and first graders. I want to ask: What are you reading? What are you learning?

The four books currently on my desk, gifts from friends who know of my love of reading, reflect my wide range of interests: *CLASH!: 8 Cultural Conflicts That Make Us Who We Are* (Hudson Street Press, 2013); *Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption* (Howard Books, 2012); *College: What It Was, Is, and Should Be* (Princeton University Press, 2013); and *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel* (Spiegel & Grau, 2013).

I am also rereading *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels* (HarperOne, 2012). I return to N. T. Wright's book to reflect on the core message of God's purpose, His plan, and my place in it. In Psalm 119:105, the psalmist says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path" (NIV). Ultimately, the reading that most profoundly affects the compass bearing of my life occurs when I read God's Word. The authority of Scripture constrains me, empowers me, directs me, convicts me, changes me, and shapes me into the person I am becoming.

I pray for you the gift of a good book. And I pray for you the influence of Scripture in your life. If you have time, drop me a note and tell me what you're reading.

Jon R. Wallace
Jon R. Wallace, DBA
Bookworm

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FEATURES

- 12** Fishing for Truth in an Ocean of News
by Jim Willis
- 14** Stewards of Hope
by Ann Croissant
- 16** The Purposeful Climb:
Celebrating 40 Years of Walkabout
by Tally Flint
- 20** Theater Community
by Cynndie Hoff
- 22** Flipping Defeat into Victory
by Joe Reinsch
- 26** A Voice for the Arts
by Evelyn Allen
- 30** Fellowship at the Capitol
by Caitlin Gipson

Cover illustration by Caitlin Anne

DEPARTMENTS

- 2** President's Letter
- 6** Campus Close Up
- 24** Cougars Sports Roundup
- 25** Alumni and Parent News and Notes
- 28** Class Notes
- 28** Cougar Interview
Capt. Bill Ostan '01
- 34** Where in the World . . . ?
- 35** Archived

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

- 29** Waves of Transformation
- 29** Double Life



JORDAN RUFFIN '14

The bustling path running through APU's East Campus, intersecting Cougar Walk near Marshburn Memorial Library and the Cornerstone Coffeehouse, now bears the name of President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. The Board of Trustees officially dubbed the corridor Wallace Way in celebration of the president's 60th birthday and 14 years of God-honoring leadership.



Contribute your best photos of campus—people and places, events and spaces—that showcase APU. Go to [flickr.com/groups/azusapacific/](https://www.flickr.com/groups/azusapacific/) to submit today.

Honors College Implements Comprehensive Curriculum

For two decades, APU's Honors Program served students seeking a rigorous academic curriculum grounded in the Christian faith. In 2013, the Honors College marked the expansion of that effort, with the launch of a new curriculum slated for the 2014–15 school year. The cohesive curriculum seeks to recover the wisdom of the Christian tradition, instill moral and intellectual virtue among future Christian leaders, and reclaim the classical quest for truth, beauty, and goodness.

Although more than 900 colleges and universities offer an honors curriculum for high-achieving students, only 150 have formed honors colleges. APU's Honors College aims to equip top-performing students, the eventual leaders of tomorrow, with character-based leadership skills, cultivating students' individual gifts. From four available pathways, Honors College students

choose the one that best suits their gifts and goals. The first results in an honors humanities minor. The second leads to an honors humanities major plus another major within any college or school on campus. The third provides an honors humanities major with a thesis. One of the pathways, available by invitation only to National Merit Scholars and Trustees' Scholarship finalists, includes completion of an honors thesis project and an individualized second major. "The Honors College represents an application of the university mission to cultivate the God-given talents of each student—in this case, the unique needs of academically gifted students," said David L. Weeks, Ph.D., dean of the Honors College. "This new endeavor will entice more top-caliber students, spark a richer academic climate on campus, and foster strong postgraduation success."

Honors students will read and interpret primary works from Augustine

and Aristotle to C. S. Lewis and Sir Isaac Newton, from Confucius and Sun Tzu to Booker T. Washington and Emily Dickinson, covering the quintessential foundational classics of philosophy, theology, literature, science, history, and politics while foregoing secondary textbooks and traditional examinations. "By reading poets and philosophers, theologians and scientists, believers and skeptics, we join thinkers who have shaped our spiritual and intellectual heritage," said Weeks. "In the process, as Christians, we deepen our understanding of the Creator and His creation."

These students will study classic works in a multidisciplinary, communal setting with professors and other students through small, discussion-based classes, writing groups, oral presentation workshops, and extensive peer-critique sessions. In addition, the curriculum takes full advantage of available technology by implementing online lectures and prompts to allow for class sessions primarily consisting of dialogue and debate. The program culminates in an Oxford University-style tutorial, allowing students to work one on one with professors as they develop a capstone project ready for peer review and publication.

Beyond the classroom, each participating student receives a scholarship, personal collection of classic works, research and study abroad experiences, sponsorship in academic conferences, and the opportunity to reside in Honors living-learning communities. Throughout the course of study, students focus on leadership and citizenship, as well as faith, wisdom, and virtue, all of which give participants a competitive edge with graduate schools and future employers.

All aspects of the Honors College inspire students to engage with life's most important questions: Who are we? Why are we here? Who is God and what is our relationship with Him? What are

our responsibilities to others? What is good and true? "The formation of a leader's character starts with answers to those big questions of meaning, value, and purpose," said Weeks. "When students grapple with such questions, they participate in a formative exercise shaping their hearts, souls, minds, and characters as difference makers." Students will graduate from the Honors College as disciples dedicated to Christ and service, lifelong scholars prepared for graduate school and the professional workforce, citizens devoted to civic engagement, and leaders of character and integrity.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Selected



Ushering in the next season of leadership for Azusa Pacific's largest academic area, President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, announced

the selection of Jennifer E. Walsh, Ph.D., as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). A six-month, nationwide search began when former dean David L. Weeks, Ph.D., accepted the role of founding dean of APU's new Honors College, and culminated when Walsh's outstanding qualifications distinguished her as the clear selection for the school's next leader.

She began her role on June 1, 2014, leading more than 130 full-time faculty members and overseeing the college's nine departments and seven special programs, centers, and institutes. These areas support a wide array of undergraduate and graduate degree programs and provide the majority of courses supporting APU's General Education program. "After serving in various capacities at APU for nearly a decade, I am honored to be the next dean of CLAS," said Walsh. "David Weeks has left an incredible legacy of teaching,

learning, faith integration, and intellectual integrity in a faith-filled context, and has created a strong foundation from which our talented faculty, staff, and students can reach even greater heights in the years to come."

That platform, coupled with Walsh's exceptional blend of experience, positions her and CLAS to succeed. In addition to teaching, she spent five years as director of Common Day of Learning and three years as associate dean of CLAS, with significant responsibility over academic and fiscal affairs. As a public policy authority, she was one of the original investigators of the California Three Strikes sentencing law, and her current research agenda includes the influence of affirmative action policies on presidential Supreme Court appointments and the impact of land-use policies on freedom of religion in the U.S. and China.

"Dr. Walsh is uniquely prepared and equipped to author the next chapter of CLAS' rich contribution to our academy," said Wallace. "Spend just a few minutes with her and you will catch her enthusiasm for the liberal arts and sciences and their power to mold students into well-rounded, well-informed global citizens with a wide skill set. With a focus on building character and aptitude, Dr. Walsh embraces the responsibility to support emerging and seasoned Christian scholars to influence and shape culture and inform public debate."

As an articulate advocate for the liberal arts and sciences, Walsh stands poised to do just that. "A strategic thinker, Dr. Walsh's clear vision for innovation will advance our mission and meet the challenges of Christian higher education ahead," said Mark Stanton, Ph.D., provost. "She possesses an impressive record of creative leadership, relevant scholarship, and demonstrated commitment to faith integration."

Walsh draws upon those qualities and her breadth of experience to facilitate an academic environment characterized by innovation, collaboration, and

excellence that enables faculty members to educate a new generation of disciples and scholars who can read, write, think, and reason well; who demonstrate integrity in problem solving and decision making; and who live and work as virtuous citizens capable of contributing to the common good. "As the landscape of higher education changes," said Walsh, "I am excited to help our college demonstrate

the current relevancy and timeless value of a Christian education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences."

Spring Conferences Reinforce a Culture of Scholarship

APU hosted numerous conferences and lecture series this spring, showcasing APU faculty's scholarship along with the work of other national and international

thought leaders. "Scholarly discourse stands as a hallmark of academic quality, demonstrating faculty leadership and strong faculty-student relationships," said Mark Stanton, Ph.D., provost. "Many of these conferences allow our students to experience the challenge of giving a professional conference presentation alongside outstanding academics."

continued on page 8



This March, APU partnered with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes to host the 30th Night of Champions—a beloved tradition complete with dynamic speakers, top Christian music artists, engaging activities, and a presentation of the Gospel for local junior high and high school students. In celebration of this anniversary, the event centered on the theme *God First*—APU's motto, drawn from the greatest Christian commandment given by Jesus in Matthew 22:37. More than 3,000 attended.

Night of Champions began in 1985 when then-undergraduate Steve Connor '86 held a barbecue, drawing more than 100 local youth to hear testimonies from dynamic figures exemplifying strong Christian faith. The next year, 600 young students attended, and the number continued to grow, eventually filling the Felix Event Center with almost 4,000 students eager to hear the Gospel message. "The root word of succession is success," said Connor, now founder and director of Sports Outreach International. "As Christians, we aim to serve in ways that will continue to impact the Kingdom

long after we are gone." Connor's daughter, Hayleigh '15, now carries on her family legacy by volunteering at the event.

"Since 1985, Night of Champions has explored what it means to be a champion," said Mike Barnett '97, director of track and field and Night of Champions. "Society tells us we must succeed in the world, but our speakers reveal the Truth: to live as a champion means to follow Christ."

Sharing powerful testimonies and stories of overcoming obstacles, this year's speakers included 2014 Winter Olympian Johnny Quinn, four-time member of the U.S. bobsled team and former professional football wide receiver for the Buffalo Bills and Green Bay Packers; and Terrell Watson '15, a star running back on the APU football team, Great Northwest Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year, and NFL prospect. "It was incredible to watch thousands of kids getting fired up about following Jesus," said Watson.

Powerful Christian entertainment complemented these inspirational messages as international hip-hop/rap

artist Transparent and band Urban Rescue encouraged audiences through music. Although Night of Champions consistently delivers a high entertainment factor, the strongest impact comes from the final presentation of the Gospel that changes the lives of hundreds of young students every year. "The enduring and overarching goal for the last 30 years remains evangelism," said Barnett. "We want kids to initiate or rekindle a relationship with Christ that their churches and youth groups will then nurture." This year, more than 500 youth committed or rededicated their lives to Christ.

The night before, APU brought together 80 individuals involved in Night of Champions over the years for a celebratory dinner. "As we look back on the past three decades, we stand humbled and amazed at the many ways God has moved through this event," said Terry Franson, Ph.D., senior vice president for student life/dean of students, who has helped facilitate Night of Champions since its genesis. "The lives of the people who have attended and served have forever changed."



Reading Recommendations from Daniel C. Palm

Daniel C. Palm, Ph.D., is a professor of political science and chair of the Department of History and Political Science. dpalm@apu.edu

A Constitutional Conversation: The Complete Letters from an Ohio Farmer edited by Peter W. Schramm and Christopher Flannery (Ashbrook Press, 2012)

A Citizen's Guide to Terrorism and Counterterrorism by Christopher C. Harmon (Routledge, 2013)

The End of Modern History in the Middle East by Bernard Lewis (Hoover Institution Press, 2011)

The Poverty of Nations: A Sustainable Solution by Wayne Grudem and Barry Asmus (Crossway, 2013)

Never Enough: America's Limitless Welfare State by William Voegeli (Encounter Books, 2012)

Section sponsored by University Libraries and compiled by Liz Leahy, MLS, M.A.T., professor of theological bibliography and research. lleahy@apu.edu

continued from page 7

This spring marked the Department of Biology and Chemistry's 10th year hosting a semester-long series of 14 weekly lectures that drew renowned scientists from a variety of fields to campus to present their research. This year's lineup included Clifford Gee '12, Ph.D. in Chemistry candidate at the University of Minnesota, as well as researchers from the University of Southern California, Claremont

Graduate School, and Keck Graduate Institute School of Pharmacy, covering topics from public health to neuroscience.

Alongside the growing interest in science and its impact, the value of communication in a complex world has never been more apparent. Nationally recognized communication authorities collaborated with APU faculty and students in presenting research related to the theme "Blending Identities, Technologies, and Cultures" at the 27th



Brain Awareness Week Hosted

Azusa Pacific held its third annual celebration of Brain Awareness Week (BAW) April 7–11, joining in the international initiative established in 1996 to raise awareness about brain health and advances in neurobiological research. APU partnered with the National Institute of Mental Health and Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, coming alongside universities and organizations from more than 80 countries participating in BAW.

This year, Skyla Herod, Ph.D., associate professor in APU's Department of Biology and Chemistry and BAW organizer, chose the theme "Traumatic Brain Injury," a relevant issue today, especially considering the plethora of sports-related head injuries. "The campus-wide sponsoring of this event represents the university's commitment to excellence in academics and athletics, and the safety and well-being of our students, especially student-athletes," said Herod. BAW 2014 brought a spirit of encouragement and cooperation to the national discussion of advocating for smarter and safer sports."

On campus, Herod and her student team staffed an information booth intended to spark conversation and promote education. The university also welcomed Christopher Nowinski, a Harvard University graduate, collegiate football athlete, former World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) wrestler, and cofounder of Sports Legacy Institute (SLI). As featured in his autobiography *Head Games* and the recent documentary of the same name, Nowinski played a pivotal role in bringing the issue of lasting effects of concussion injury to the forefront by collaborating with SLI to study athletes' damaged brains and publish the findings.

The topic of concussions stands as one of the most pressing issues in sports today. New research on the long-term consequences of brain trauma is forcing rapid changes in the way athletes compete and the medical care they receive. In his lecture, Nowinski provided an engaging overview of the concussion crisis. Beginning with his personal journey from Harvard football to WWE, where he developed

annual David C. Bicker Communication Ethics Conference hosted by the Department of Communication Studies on February 20. Presenters agreed that combining diverse views and different forms of media promotes crosscultural understanding when communicating today's issues and implementing new forms of storytelling.

Effective communication begins with a strong respect for the written word. Honoring that philosophy, APU

postconcussion syndrome, the lecture explored the culture wars preventing appropriate change, the latest medical research, and paths toward creating greater safety awareness in sports.

APU also hosted a panel discussion featuring members of the APU athletic training team, APU campus physicians, and local neurologists specializing in traumatic brain injuries. The panel worked together to train students, faculty, and staff in better identifying the symptoms of concussions and implementing treatment plans that promote safe activity in college sports and serve the neurological safety of the community.

Reaching beyond campus, APU hosted the third annual Brain Awareness Fair at three local Azusa Unified School District middle schools, educating more than 750 seventh grade students about the importance of brain health. Herod's neurobiology students led kids in hands-on learning and natural discovery with puzzles, trivia, take-home games, and exhibits featuring a 10-foot inflatable brain, human and sheep brains, and interactive experiments.

"With cuts in K–12 funding, this is often the only hands-on lab these kids experience all year," said Herod. "As a result of serving, my neurobiology students come away with a sense of responsibility and renewed excitement to participate in service through educational outreach."

held the sixth annual James L. Hedges Distinguished Reading Lecture on March 4. Established in 2009, the series celebrates the written word by showcasing writers who explore the world through their creative use of language and literary forms, whether in poetry or prose. This year, renowned author Diane Glancy, Ph.D., visiting professor of creative writing at APU, shared pieces on her experiences visiting Syria. "Dr. Glancy joins a list of accomplished writers who have presented at this lecture," said Mark Eaton, Ph.D., professor of English and director of the Center for Research on Ethics and Values, "and drew more than 100 people eager to engage with her."

Another important event gathered critical thinkers March 26–27 as the Office of Diversity hosted the fifth national Christians on Diversity in the Academy (CDA) conference. "This interdisciplinary forum attracts scholars and practitioners from across the U.S. and allows us to engage in critical analysis around key issues of diversity for Christian higher education, stimulating reflection and change in the academy," said Stanton. Keynote speakers included Damon A. Williams, Ph.D., prolific author and global leader; Mary Poplin, Ph.D., professor at Claremont Graduate University and authority on justice and philosophy in the university educational system; and Alvin Sanders, Ph.D., author and professor with a passion for developing Christian organizational leaders to serve a multiethnic America.

After the culmination of the spring semester, the Department of History and Political Science hosted the Christians in Political Science conference May 29–31, centered on the theme "Freedom and Responsibility in the Modern World." More than 50 scholars from APU and around the nation presented papers on a variety of topics related to American government, campaigns and elections, international relations, political theory, public policy, and religion and politics. Featured speakers included Andrew Busch, Ph.D., Crown Professor of

By the Numbers

33: Number of U.S. patents held by David Sumida, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, who also serves as CEO/chief scientist at Innovium Technologies, LLC, and previously as senior research engineer at HRL Laboratories, LLC. Sumida's research focuses on solid-state lasers, nonlinear optics, photonic-crystal fibers, optical-phased arrays, and laser-based remote sensing. He teaches courses in APU's physics and pre-engineering programs and mentors undergraduate research students.

100: The number of nursing students who attended the first American Red Cross "Disaster Health and Sheltering for Student Nurses" disaster simulation program held in the San Gabriel Valley on February 22. The event, hosted by Patricia Hanes, Ph.D., MSN, M.A.Ed., RN, CNE, nursing professor and president of the California League for Nursing, resulted in a partnership between APU and the Red Cross, and reinforced the importance of readiness training taught in Hanes' new Disaster Nursing and Emergency Preparedness course.

6: Number of alumni who, as undergraduate students, participated in a project recently published in the journal *Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*. Elisa Hoellerich '11, Christie Dunagan '11, Daniel Maring '11, Daniel Shouldice '12, Jennifer Stripe '08, Tayah Kline '13, and their professor Jon Milhon, Ph.D., researched behaviors of the parasite responsible for schistosomiasis, a disease that affects more than 200 million people worldwide. They discovered three distinct signals that regulate the function of the SmMAK16 protein in the parasite and laid the groundwork for future research.

Government at Claremont McKenna College; Lawrence Mead, Ph.D., professor of political science at New York University; Jean Schroedel, Ph.D., professor of political science at Claremont Graduate University; Victor Boutros, JD, federal prosecutor with the United States Department of Justice; and David L. Weeks, Ph.D., professor of political science and dean of the APU Honors College. "The intersection of faith and politics has always been rich scholarly territory, and this conference welcomed all those interested in these subjects to join us," said Daniel C. Palm, Ph.D., professor of political science and chair of the Department of History and Political Science.

Biblical Studies Professor Designs Interfaith Foster Care Summit

Leaders from Los Angeles' diverse faith communities gathered at University Synagogue in Brentwood on May 14 for the Interfaith Foster Care Summit, a three-

hour program advocating support for the L.A. County foster system. The idea came from APU biblical studies associate professor Robert Duke, Ph.D., who submitted the conference proposal to the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles' ChangeMaker Challenge, which awards grants for innovative projects that address social issues in Los Angeles and draw the community together to make a meaningful impact.

Focused on the theme "Fostering Tikkun," the conference educated religious leaders about the foster care system, identifying specific programs for their congregations to support and ultimately advocating unity under a common cause. "Fostering Tikkun," derived from the Hebrew phrase *tikkun olam*, means "repairing the world" and represents the Jewish concept of social justice as the responsibility to bring healing to the world. "We have the tendency to separate this world and the next, placing emphasis on eternity in heaven," said Duke. "However, *tikkun*

4: Number of APU student films awarded honors at the Broadcast Education Association (BEA) 2014 Festival of Media Arts. In the Narrative Video category, Zack Evans '14, Kaleb Tuttle '14, Zach Cieszynski '14, and Brian Hartley '14 won first place for *Where Are They Now?* Conner McCabe '13, Becky Train '13, and Quinten Reiff '12 earned the Award of Excellence in Comedic Editing for *The 25th Hour*. Kyle Hobkirk '13, Ryan Lagerstrom '13, and Yunji Johanning '12 received the Award of Excellence in Directing Actors for *Rhotocromium*. In the Video/Broadcast Production category for small colleges, Tanner Morrison '15, Corban Aspegren '15, and Tom Scott '15 took first place for *Wildblume*. Students produced the films in their Production Capstone and Cinema-TV Production II courses under the supervision of faculty advisors Adam Hall and Michael Smith, Ed.D.

100: The number of honorees, including APU's Liz Leahy, MLS, M.A.T., included in the theologydegreesonline.com article "100 Remarkable Professors and Scholars Theology Students Should Know About." The February 2014 article recognized professors who contributed to the body of theological knowledge with their research, as well as the preparation of a new generation of theologians.

22: The number of years APU has hosted the annual William E. and Ernest L. Boyer Common Day of Learning. This daylong, campus-wide multidisciplinary event celebrates the advancement of scholarship and learning, and features more than 75 scholarly seminars with faculty, student, and guest presenters.

olam reminds us of our God-given responsibility to preserve and protect the world, mending the places that are broken. The ultimate goal of foster parenting is reunification—facilitating a redemptive process for children that repairs and reunites families."

The conference emphasized the importance and needs of the foster system and featured Rabbi Morley Feinstein of University Synagogue, KTTV Fox 11 News anchor and foster care advocate Christine Devine, and representatives from the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services. Current and former foster children, as well as foster and adoptive families, also shared their personal experiences of the healing power and difficulties of foster care.

Duke and his wife, foster parents who subsequently adopted, know firsthand the challenges facing these families. "Fostering is a full-time commitment that changes your family situation," he said. "Involving another person in your

family shifts your entire world. It was difficult saying goodbye to a little girl we cared for, but seeing the smile on her older sister's face during their long-awaited reunion made the experience worthwhile. This is not just about providing care, but also about healing families."

The speakers challenged attendees to act as catalysts for healing within their communities as the summit culminated in a call to action, asking all clergy members to speak in their churches on Father's Day weekend. "This dynamic program deployed religious leaders throughout the city and county with a new drive to support foster care," said Julie Munjack, executive director of University Synagogue. "Living in Los Angeles, we often have competing interests. However, the coalition hosting the Interfaith Foster Care Summit, its funders, volunteers, and attendees, understand the need to find safe and healthy foster families. Children are a shared responsibility, and we all have a part to play."

World Music Scholar Visits APU



Marc Battier, Ph.D., professor of musicology at the Paris-Sorbonne University, joined APU's College of Music and the Arts (CMA) in February for a two-week residency as the university's fourth world music

scholar-in-residence. Internationally recognized as a composer and musician, Battier pioneered the global emergence of electroacoustic music, a genre that combines acoustic instruments, electronic music, and computer-generated imagery to create a unique musical experience of both the natural and technological. He cofounded the Electroacoustic Music Studies Network, an organization hosting annual research conferences throughout the world and

symposiums on electroacoustic music in Beijing for musicians across East Asia. Since 2008, his compositions have focused on blending electronic textures with Asian acoustic instruments. China's De Tao Master Academy named him Master of Electroacoustic Music in 2013.

While on campus, Battier shared his expertise with students through lectures and performances on ethnomusicology and music technology during Performance

Forum, an integrative class attended by all music students. He also visited music technology and composition classes to share and demonstrate electroacoustic music and other innovative techniques. "I wanted to show how this music, as well as contemporary music in general, results from imagination, the mastering of technology, and the presence of our various local cultures and traditions," said Battier. "I have witnessed electroacoustic music in East Asia and how the traditional forms of music in this region found their way into the most advanced forms of composition. This exemplified one important aspect of world music—the connection between traditional music, which has been practiced for centuries, and contemporary music."

"Dr. Battier's visit ignited music students' and faculty's imagination, exposing them to a wide diversity of other techniques in the world of music beyond classical and commercial music," said Kimasi Browne, Ph.D., director of ethnomusicology and music research in CMA's School of Music. "In addition, electroacoustic music's combination of music and visual arts allowed all of CMA to learn and grow."

"Dr. Battier has a unique voice that incorporates the unusual combination of traditional Western compositional development from acoustic to electronic mediums with the sound palates of other cultures. His visit was inspirational to aspiring ethnomusicologists, composers, and performers within the School of Music at APU," said Stephen P. Johnson, DMA, dean of CMA.

The residency culminated in a collaborative concert where the APU Symphony Orchestra and conductor Christopher Russell partnered with Battier. The performance included the world premier of Battier's *Rain Water for Symphony Orchestra*, as well as Jean Sibelius' *Symphony No. 5* and concertos featuring the student soloist winners from the School of Music's annual concerto competition. "The experience of sharing makes visiting APU so exciting," said Battier. "Each residency involves a learning experience: meeting

new colleagues, getting to know old colleagues in a new light, interacting with students, and joining in their education and current research."

"These scholars consider their visits to APU as milestones in their careers, regarding the university as a high-caliber place of learning with a welcome Christian focus," said Browne. "The scholar-in-residence program brings musicians from outside the western music paradigm to campus, exposing students to ideas and a musical understanding that extends beyond the United States and into the global world of music."

The Healing Power of Humor



There's nothing funny about cancer. It wasn't funny when a doctor told Jerry Duprez '75, Ph.D., that a routine CT scan revealed a 17-centimeter tumor in his

abdomen. It wasn't funny when he heard he had stage III testicular cancer and less than a 15 percent chance of survival. Yet, somehow this clinical psychologist, who bravely underwent chemotherapy and two operations in six months, miraculously beat the odds and remains cancer-free five years later. The key to his fight and recovery: humor.

Throughout his treatment, humor kept popping up in unexpected ways, and Duprez found himself laughing in the midst of bleak circumstances. He recorded the lighter moments of his heavy season, envisioning a comedy sketch, but penned a book instead. Accustomed to hard work and unable to return to his private practice at the time, he produced the rough draft in one week. The end product, *A Sack Half Full* (Tate Publishing, 2012), offers a humorous memoir chronicling Duprez's struggle with testicular cancer. He frankly describes the humbling nature of the disease, balancing extreme honesty and pain with comic relief. It took first place in the autobiography/biography category of the 2014 Christian Writers'

Awards presented by Xulon Press—an honor that affirms Duprez's talent and sincerity in addressing a difficult topic.

"Parts are raw—it's testicular cancer," said Duprez of his book. "To be able to laugh in the midst of that, you hold on to those moments." He acknowledges it is not for everyone. Those offended by edgy jokes or squeamish about personal details may want to leave it on the shelf. But for those interested, Duprez hopes his humor breaks the ice and normalizes testicular cancer as a topic of conversation, increases awareness, and ultimately, removes the stigma of shame attached to the diagnosis.

Jokes aside, Duprez pulls from his own experience of getting his affairs in order to prompt readers to prepare their legacy. While he felt peace about his probable impending death, he worried about the well-being of his wife and five children. This inspired a workbook that walks readers through end-of-life issues. He urges readers to pursue their legacy and approach it with intention, supporting his call to action with Proverbs 13:22: "A good person leaves an inheritance for his children's children" (NAS).

Duprez's advice comes not only from his faith, but also from his years of education and experience. In addition to his 30-year psychology practice, he holds bachelor's degrees in physical education and psychology from APU; master's degrees in psychology and special education from California State University, Los Angeles; and a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Southern California. Duprez approaches his work with new compassion and perspective on life, transformed by his battle with cancer. "Every person who comes into my office has something to overcome. My near-death experience has given me a deeper appreciation of my clients' struggles, the priority of God, and the value of community and hope."

Scholarship at Work



Plein Air and Beyond: A Recent Body of Artwork by Jim Thompson (The Drawing Board Gallery, Yorba Linda, California, January 2–March 21) by Jim Thompson, Ed.D., professor, Department of Art and Design and University College, "All Sixty-Six," mixed media
This solo exhibition featured 24 paintings based on Thompson's visits to several United States regions, including Yosemite, California; Glacier National Park, Montana; the Hudson River Valley, New York; and Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico. Thompson painted *en plein air*, the art style of painting outdoors. The exhibit also showcased seven pieces inspired by the author's faith. "All Sixty-Six" reminds viewers of God's constant presence in times of trial. Thompson painted a scene of the Grand Canyon on the surface of 66 yo-yos, some of which cracked during the process. This represented God's faithfulness during the artist's 66 years of life, including times of both joy and brokenness.



Strength To Be Holy (Emeth Press, 2014) edited by Don Thorsen, Ph.D., chair and professor, Department of Theology and Ethics, Azusa Pacific Seminary
In honor of the 30th anniversary celebration of the Graduate School of Theology (now renamed Azusa Pacific Seminary), Thorsen compiled this anthology of 19 sermons written by faculty members and administrators who have served the school throughout the years. Insightfully illustrating Azusa Pacific's Wesleyan heritage, each addresses aspects of Christian living, with particular attention to modeling Christ-like lives that are loving, just, and holy.



The Misinterpreted Gospel of Singleness: A Cultural Critique of Myths Surrounding Singleness in the Christian Community (CreateSpace, 2013) by Khristi Adams, associate campus pastor
In today's Christian culture, the Church often discounts single people and sends them negative messages, causing unhealthy views of self and relationships. This book offers a cultural critique of myths surrounding singleness in the Christian community. Each chapter analyzes a different myth, includes authentic and emotional personal stories, and offers positive alternatives. While avoiding anti-marriage sentiments, the book celebrates the values of singleness, providing a thought-provoking message for the entire Church by challenging Christians to consider what it means to live as the true family of God.



Graduating Difference Makers: Spring 2014 Commencement Weekend

In celebration of the academic journeys of nearly 1,600 students, Azusa Pacific University conferred degrees upon 840 undergraduate, 520 graduate, 12 doctoral, and 192 adult and professional studies students at the spring 2014 commencement ceremonies held May 3. After years of academic development, faith integration, intercultural experiences, and research opportunities, graduates began the next chapter of their lives equipped to succeed and serve in the workplace and beyond.

For the first time in APU history, undergraduate seniors participated in a baccalaureate and alumni initiation ceremony the night before commencement, kicking off a full weekend experience. The baccalaureate included messages from student-chosen APU faculty and a worship service recognizing the work of God in students' lives. The evening culminated in a

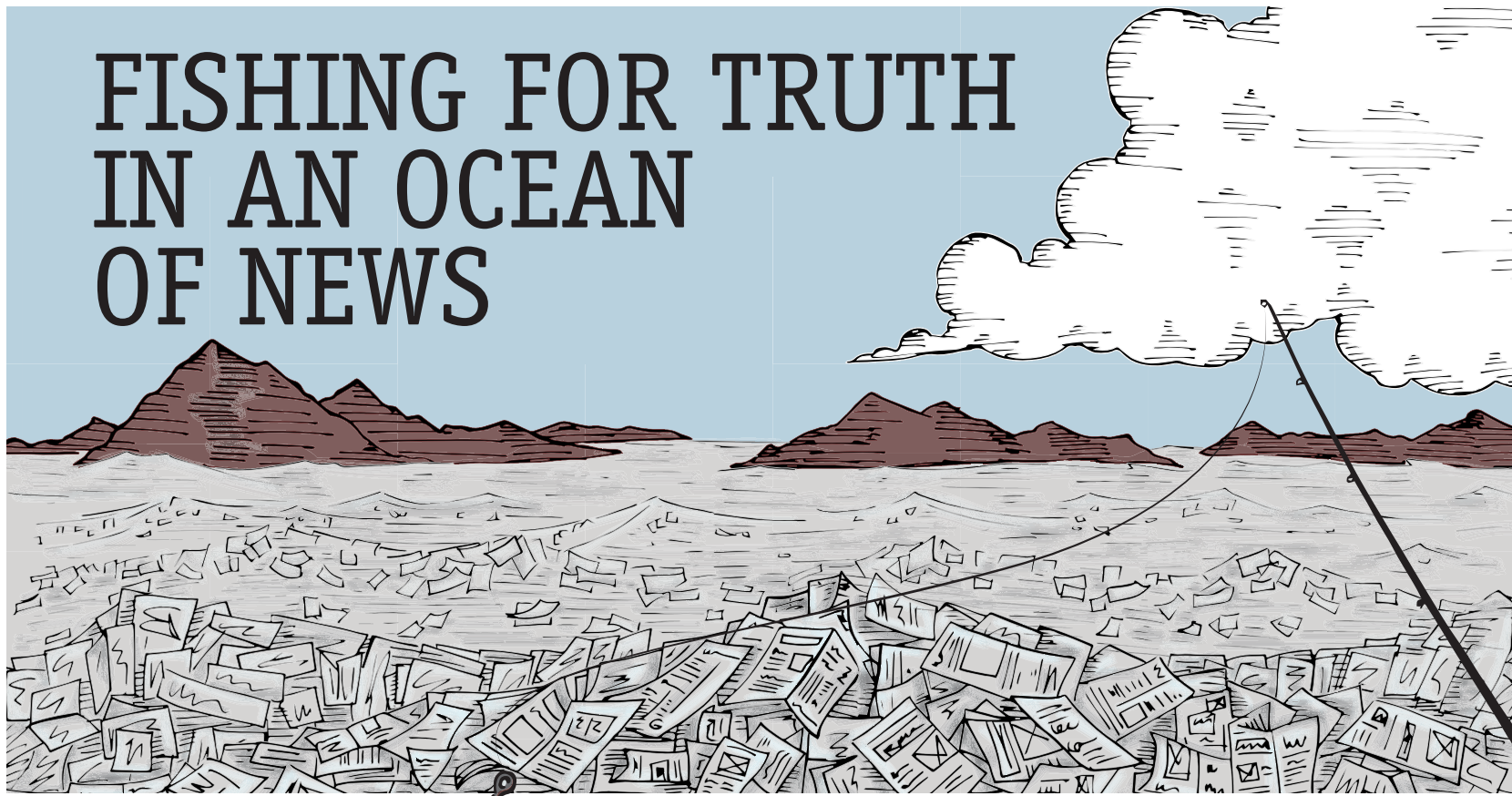
candela ceremony led by President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, mirroring the moment undergraduate students' journeys began during New Student Orientation. At commencement the following day, Ray Johnston, senior pastor at Bayside Church in Roseville, California, encouraged all graduates in their faith and future career and service endeavors.

All graduating students entered the stadium through an ornate iron gate. Introduced at the fall 2013 orientation, the Gate of Possibility now marks a rite of passage for every student. Designed in house and forged off site, the steel gate weighs nearly 1,000 pounds and features a bronze university seal. President Wallace and his artisan son, Matthew '06, MBA '10, fabricated and painted the base of the 10-foot-high, 8-foot-wide structure on campus. This sacred new tradition serves as a tangible

reminder to begin with the end in mind and finish with recognition of the growth experienced during the academic journey. The gate also encourages students to consider the next chapter in their unfolding journey and walk with confidence into the preferred future to which God calls them as difference makers.

In recognition of one such difference maker, APU presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in Organizational Leadership to Michael Lizárraga, Outgoing Board of Trustees member and CEO of The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU). Through both of these positions, Lizárraga helps low-income community members reach self-sufficiency and empowers minority students to thrive in school and graduate positioned for success.

FISHING FOR TRUTH IN AN OCEAN OF NEWS



We live in an age of multimedia and turbonews, where stories often appear on our tablets and smart phones in real time or mere moments after the event. How can reporters know so much, so fast? How can we, as consumers of news through all these media, discern between fact and opinion? As “citizen journalists” compete with professional journalists for the public’s attention and trust, and young people increasingly choose YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter over CNN or the *Los Angeles Times* as their primary news sources, how can we decide which mainstream news media to trust, and why?

That navigation process first involves assessment of the actual value of a story presented as news by asking the following questions: Does it inform me of something I need to know or want to know? Are the sources reputable? Does the story have significance to my life? Can I learn a lesson from it? Does it help protect me or alert me to a danger?

Written by
Jim Willis
Illustrations by
Patrick Hagan '14

If the stories you read or watch elicit a “yes” to most of these questions, stick with that news outlet—these show signs of real journalism.

The following suggestions may also help you sleuth for the truth.

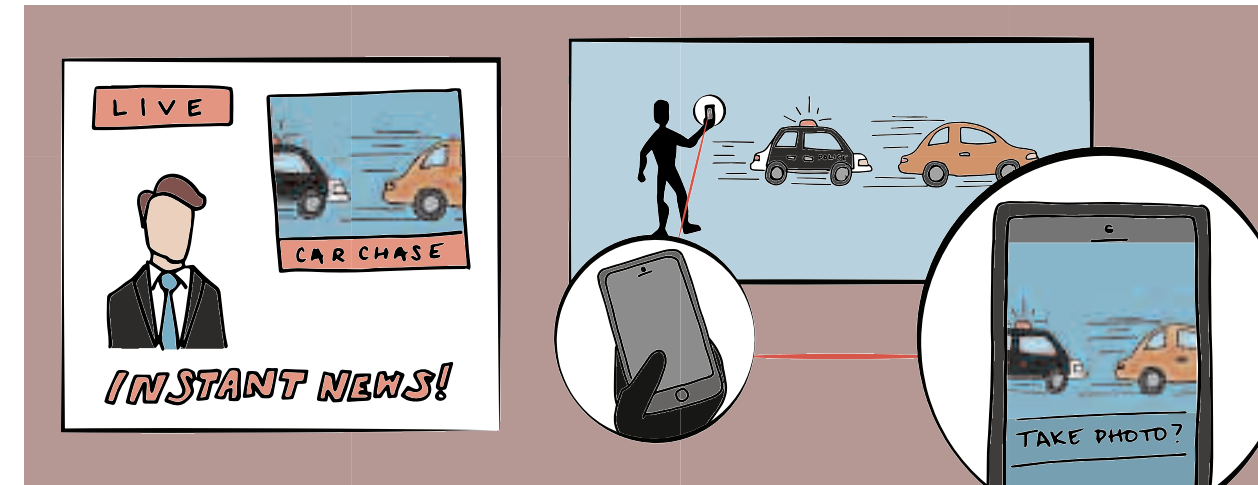
Most journalists do not try to bend the facts. Most reporters seek to find and report the best obtainable version of the truth, not to spin stories. However, news *commentators* live for the spin. Make no mistake, whether you agree with them or not, Bill O’Reilly, Rachel Maddow, Bill Maher, Glenn Beck, and Piers Morgan are commentators. True reporters such as Jill Dougherty (CNN), Mike Boettcher (NBC), Rita Braver and Steve Kroft (CBS), and Jim Miklaszewski (NBC) attempt to present the facts without opinion.

Commentators are celebrities; reporters are journalists. If you recognized the names of the commentators mentioned previously but not the reporters, you’re not alone. Commentators often take the spotlight away from their reporter counterparts. In order to distinguish a commentator from a reporter, ask these questions: 1. Does he talk more than the guest being interviewed? 2. Does she continue to present the same narrow range of stories? 3. Does she take sides by injecting value judgments? 4. Do you see him pop up as a guest host on an entertainment program like *LIVE! with Kelly & Michael*? If you can answer “yes” to most of these, chances are you’re dealing with a commentator—treat most of what is said as opinion.

TV ratings and news credibility mean different things. Ratings measure popularity, not facts or comprehensive news agendas. One could argue that few TV news programs can match shows like the *PBS NewsHour* and the now-eviscerated *Nightline*, at least not for depth of coverage. But PBS finishes last in the ratings, and *Nightline* was carved up and shoved into a half-hour slot past midnight. Cable networks FOX News and MSNBC net large audiences, even though they often present the most ideologically influenced programming. CNN, which has tried to maintain a middle ground between right and left, lost ground in the ratings competition because many audiences look for reinforcing opinion rather than straight news.

Citizen journalism scores high on the wow factor, but low on fact and context. The pictures taken by everyday citizens, and the reports they upload to YouTube or Facebook, have greatly widened our window to the world. But without training and experience, a citizen journalist’s work lacks the ability to tell the story completely and without bias. What makes a journalist a professional is not just the ability to shoot pictures or write stories, but to also shoot representative (and unaltered) pictures, take the stance of a neutral observer, select meaningful events and people to cover, find the most credible sources, and encourage them to speak candidly and honestly.

Hold journalists accountable for their stories, and follow the work of those who get it right. Many choices exist when it comes to where we get our news, and we each carry a responsibility to keep track of which news outlets’ reporting proves to be most accurate over time.

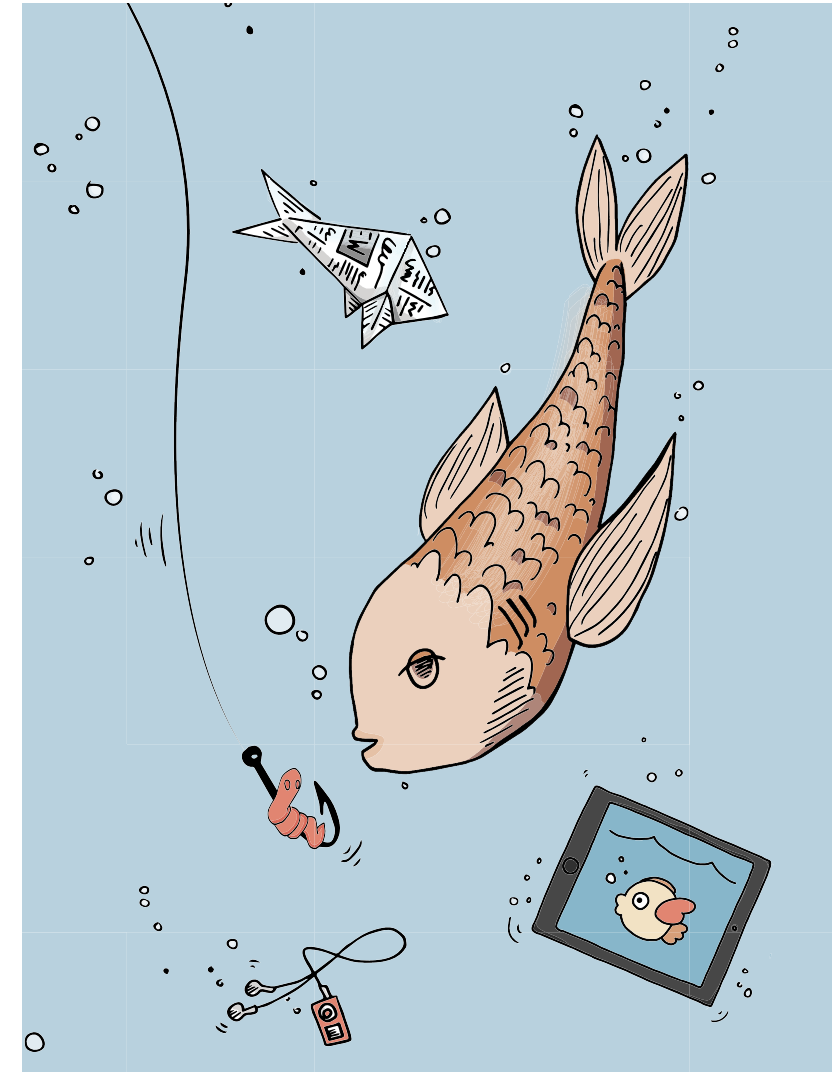


Remember that real-time reporting and quick uploads don’t always equal accuracy. Consider the details of a live report as suspect and wait for later updates before you attach too much credibility to them.

Accuracy and truth are not necessarily synonymous. A journalist can accurately report what a source said, but the source may be wrong in content and/or context.

Finally, do not ignore or discount the news. As tempting as it is to avoid unpleasant news and sidestep the ocean of information surrounding us, it’s more important to dive in, test the waters, and stay alert to the undertows of rumor, misinformation, and opinion.

Jim Willis, Ph.D., a veteran news reporter and editor, is a professor of communication studies. He continues to work as a special correspondent and covered the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and the 10th and 20th anniversaries of the fall of the Berlin Wall. jwillis@apu.edu



by Ann Croissant

STEWARDS OF HOPE

APU CONSERVANCY
PARTNERS

Stan Deal, CPA

Associate professor, School of Business and Management: Serves as founding and continuing treasurer of the Glendora Community Conservancy.

Scott Kinnes, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Biology and Chemistry: Conducts water quality research and fire ecology related to the Colby Fire.

Dave Landers, M.Ed.

Assistant professor, University Libraries; and director of education and community outreach, Special Collections: Shares opportunities for conservancy assistance with his Boy Scout troops.

Leslie Wickman, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Biology and Chemistry; and director, Center for Research in Science: Researches comparative nutrition and subsistence living, and writes grants on climate concerns and disaster recovery strategies.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JORDAN RUFFIN '14
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SOPHIE COWELL '17

children and families, improves water resources and watershed, restores natural habitat, and serves as a lab for building community skills in stewardship.

This comprehensive approach earned the conservancies regional, county, state, and national recognition over the last decade for work including the first watershed plan of the new millennium for the San Gabriel Watershed, Reconnecting the San Gabriel Valley (2000); the first San Gabriel River Watershed Management Plan (2002); and the National SSI/Sustainable Sites Initiative Case Study (2007). Numerous other research and writing projects have been developed for watershed workshops, invasive plants conferences, conservation education, the Land Trust Alliance, and the Southern California Academy of Sciences. Topics include stewardship care, best management practices, and endangered species management.

In addition, a variety of restoration projects on conservancy properties, as well as county and city parks, occurred.

It has been said, "If it is to be, it is up to me." Stewardship, as a principle of Scripture, calls for an individual and corporate response. As we face the challenges and tasks of Earth care, neighborhood care, home and family care, and self care, I pray that we will exercise faithfulness through stewardship of time, self, community, and circumstances—in times of disaster and rebirth.

Ann Croissant, Ph.D., education professor emerita, co-authored Wildflowers of the San Gabriel Mountains (Stephens Press LLC, 2007) with her husband, Gerald, and photographer Shirley DeBaal. glcroissant@csupomona.edu

At 6 a.m. on January 16, 2014, the city of Glendora awoke to blaring sirens and the acrid smell of hot smoke as first responders waged war against a wildfire that threatened thousands of lives and homes in the foothills. The Colby Fire blazed through the dry brush, parched from Southern California's severe drought, and decimated close to 2,000 acres before firefighters finally quenched it.

The scorched land stands as a reminder of the devastating effects of rampant wildfires, but also presents fertile ground for important fire ecology research. In the days that followed, up through the ashes of the charred trees and foliage, new shoots of an endangered plant species emerged in the blackened soil, offering not only hope for recovery, but also an intriguing puzzle for those dedicated to the preservation of wild lands, stewardship care, and determining the good that can spring forth from the bad.

Since my retirement from teaching at APU, such concerns have been my passion. My work with the Glendora Community Conservancy, which emphasizes water and watershed protection, land management, and community outreach activities, and the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy, which provides restoration, consultation, maps/resources, research, and publications, has allowed me to remain active in managing and maintaining urban and wild land properties in Los Angeles County. My husband, Gerald Croissant, Ph.D., professor emeritus of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and I helped found these two conservancies in 1991 and 1997, respectively, and serve as board presidents. Through them, we share our training, experience, and skills with the communities for the public good and help prepare the next generation to care for the land and keep learning from these events. These conservancies serve as community-based land trusts, set aside through grants, land gifts, and fundraising for purchase, care, and management of green space and natural resources. They promote healthier communities with a greater variety of choices for mental, physical, recreational, educational, and even economic wellness.

During the Colby Fire, conservancy board members and volunteers responded immediately by working with local agencies, transporting first responders and journalists to locations on the trails, sharing expertise and training in clearing rocks and debris, and trimming hazard trees to increase safety and access when needed. The discovery of the resilience of the endangered *Brodiaea filifolia* now leads to new fire management research and projects. The conservancies had previously saved the species from extinction in L.A. County, knowing that the rare plant lived in only four other counties. The news quickly spread that the endangered plant was the first to

emerge after the fire, surfacing within three days in such large numbers that the plant appeared to thrive and actually depend on fire for its rebirth. And with rebirth, there is hope today and for the next generation. The finding also begs the question: Could this plant be fire dependent?

That query now sparks even bigger questions about the similarities with human conditions and how that translates to our lives, risks, and challenges. Investigating plants living in high-risk areas reveals strategies about surviving and thriving under adversity. By observing how these plant communities work within natural systems and overcome the circumstances of habitat and conditions, we can apply many of the same strategies when facing similarly stressful challenges.

The conservancies differ from other environmental groups by serving the public as a third sector, reducing the constraints of bureaucracy by working directly with the people of cities and regions. They seek to promote the preservation of land and buildings for historical, educational, ecological,

recreational, scenic, or open-space opportunities. The nonprofit, all-volunteer conservancies focus on projects, education, and wellness that sustain, conserve, steward, and connect with communities in "preserving what's best" and "restoring what's possible" for human well-being, natural resources, economic value, environmental health, and watershed benefits. Through grant writing and fundraising, conservancies also promote land acquisitions to protect water, watershed, and other natural resources, and provide educational and outreach opportunities. Involving individuals as volunteers or sponsors in the important work of stewardship proves vital to preparing the next generation, which receives no substantial training opportunities in schools. The conservancies collaborate with communities, neighborhoods, schools, churches, businesses, and service clubs to find solutions. Examples include how-to workshops, watershed tours, field trips, and assistance in selecting, providing, and planting native shrubs and trees at no cost for greening and other benefits of community forests. One of the newest conservancy projects, which miraculously escaped the Colby Fire, involves a 300-tree oak woodland restoration in soils that once grew hundreds of citrus trees. This Children's Forest Project, dedicated to and primarily planted by



« THE PURPOSEFUL CLIMB
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
OF WALKABOUT »



by Tally Flint

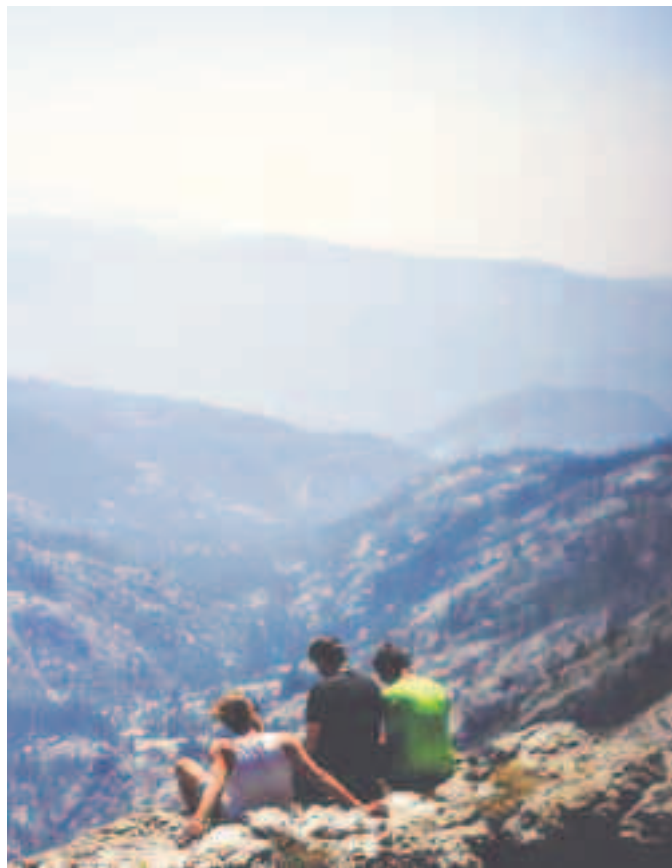


ILLUSTRATIONS by Caitlin Anne

In summer 1997, as a 19-year-old student, I stood with a 40-pound pack on my back, gazing up at the steep mountainside I was expected to climb in zigzag fashion through a series of seemingly endless switchbacks. I watched as my teammates snaked their way along the trail with such skill and thought, "I don't know if I can do this." I quickly dropped to the back of the line. The gap between the group and me lengthened. My body burned with fatigue, and I thought, "I can't do this!" I'd never felt so weak, so vulnerable. Then I felt a hand on my shoulder and heard an encouraging word in my ear. Teammates began turning around, cheering me on, their voices speaking what mine could not: "You can do this!" Slowly, painfully, I pushed forward until I reached the rest of my team, utterly spent. Despite my failings, they believed in me, and deliberately moved me to the front of the group. Buoyed by their encouragement, I led them with confidence to the summit.



“We wanted to provide the program but, until now, that would have been impossible on the part of the university. We wanted to do something that would reach them that was meaningful. We learned that there was something about sharing their experiences with a group of others that would allow them to... (Photo: © J. Wallace '88)



CARLY CORNINE LYNGH '15

For the past 40 years, Azusa Pacific University’s Walkabout program has trained and equipped student leaders for service. The physical and mental challenge of spending 10 days in the wilderness, armed with only what they can carry on their back, changes lives—not only the lives of the 3,000 students who claim a Walkabout experience, but also the lives of those they later serve on campus, and still others in their homes, neighborhoods, and throughout the world decades later.

That ongoing impact began in 1974, when Sandy Ward, M.A. ’75, M.A. ’83, then a graduate student in APU’s College Student Affairs program, wrote his capstone project on an aboriginal coming-of-age ritual called Walkabout. In that tradition, boys ages 12–13 survive alone in the wilderness for up to six months. They focus much of their excursion on deep, spiritual reflection. As a residence director, Ward thought the practice would transition well into a leadership training program for Azusa Pacific’s resident advisors (RAs), student leaders placed throughout the university’s residence life communities. RAs live alongside their residents and help them face struggles and conflicts day and night with no separation between personal life and public service. Such leadership creates tight-knit community and shared experiences, but also the potential for burnout and overextension. Ward believed engaging in physical challenges like rock climbing, repelling, and hiking long distances, as well as learning to depend on Christ as a community throughout the experience, would condition students physically, emotionally, and spiritually for the intensity they would face as servant leaders during the following academic year. Moved by this belief, Ward teamed up with then-faculty member Tim Hansel, and the two of them drafted APU’s version of a wilderness-based “classroom without walls.”

In the beginning, APU contracted with Hansel’s outdoor adventure company, Summit Expeditions. By 1980, APU transitioned the Walkabout program under its own care. “Insourcing Walkabout became my responsibility when I was hired as coordinator of

student services in 1976,” said President Jon R. Wallace ’76, MBA ’78, DBA, who oversaw the acquisition of equipment and the development of its guiding system. “We wanted to develop the program into something that would have maximum impact on the participants and immerse them in activities that would teach them true servanthood. We believed there was something about making everyone equal—with a pack, blisters, hunger, cold—that would achieve that.” As the adage suggests, misery loves company.

Likewise, victories become sweeter when shared within a group that fights in unison toward the goal. Shared challenges bond people. If student leaders could learn how to create community within their Walkabout team under such circumstances, they would be better equipped to facilitate a similar sense of unity with their residents on campus. With that intent in mind, Walkabout creators designed key elements of the program that remain today: an extended trip into the wilderness in teams of 12–15, opportunities for rock climbing and repelling, a solo time of fasting and prayer, a dedication run at the end of the trip, and an Agape commissioning ceremony.

Throughout those grueling days, students come face to face with their limitations. They learn to push farther, relying on God’s strength to bring them to a place they never imagined they could reach. At the heart of that experience lies Solo: a 48-hour period of solitude, modified fasting, and spiritual focus—an intentional pause allowing students to seek the face of God and respond to Him. “Students listen for God’s voice and commit their lives to the year ahead,” said Wallace. “We ask them to build a circle of stones, sit in it, and dedicate themselves to God’s purposes.”

For many, Solo marks one of the most frightening and powerful parts of the trip. “A lot of students are afraid of the darkness, animals, or just being alone,” said Shino (Kuroda ’96, M.Ed. ’00) Simons, associate dean of students, who attended Walkabout for the first time as an RA 16 years ago. “When the sun goes down on Solo, when you are



alone and cold, you have to remind yourself that God is in control. You have to trust in His sense of order, and that the sun will come back up. That’s when you feel His presence.” Through journaling, quiet meditation, and prayerful listening, students engage with God over what their role will be in the work He is doing in the lives of their future residents. They pray for each resident, sometimes envisioning each room or apartment in their living area. They present their service as an offering to God. “The turning point is really when they come back from Solo—how it impacts their depth of conversation and their understanding of what God is trying to do,” added Simons. “They return energized and ready to bond with their residents.”

“Stretching these students to their perceived limits, and then challenging them to go further, teaches them so much about what it means to be called to a leadership position—how to be the mentor who guides a resident through a difficult time, the friend who encourages when a resident doubts, or the person with enough courage to speak the truth in love when community is suffering,” said David Bixby ’78, M.A. ’82, Ed.D., executive vice president and longtime Walkabout participant. “Walkabout provides real-life challenges about relationships, faith, and life that call for encouragement and wisdom from trusted people. Our student leaders learn to become those trusted friends. Because they have tested the depth and breadth of their own capacity to overcome, survive, and thrive, they know they have enough in their tank to make it happen.”

These students leave the mountain keenly aware that community matters—that survival depends on it. “Being part of a group—learning how to be vulnerable and trusting each other—bears applications on campus and in life,” Simons said. “When students complete the rock-climbing and repelling portion of the trip, they learn to walk up a rock wall or pick their way down a cliff while connected to another person with a rope. The very act of taking one step must be managed by proper communication and the reliance on another human being. Without community, both activities would be impossible.”

By practicing how to ask for and offer help, how to exercise humility and extend grace, the student leaders learn to become vulnerable and trust others, a lesson that

deepens through life-sharing, a key Walkabout element. Traditionally, each member tells his or her story to the rest of the team. Encircled in a supportive environment, students open up in ways they never would under normal circumstances. “On day three, they dive headfirst into community—fully acknowledged and recognized. They experience firsthand what it feels like to be seen, so they understand the importance of doing that for those in their care back on campus,” said Simons.

When Todd Williams ’13 approached his trip, he wondered how his community would receive him. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Williams walks with a pronounced limp and often pushes himself to go the extra mile to demonstrate his abilities. “The biggest challenge for me was dealing with my need to prove myself to people,” he said. “I soon found that my team treated me like everyone else, which was huge for me.” But Williams quickly realized that his own performance and feelings were only part of the bigger lesson God wanted to teach him. “Living together in the wilderness requires team members to not only care for themselves, but also serve others to make sure we could all go the distance,” he said. RAs must balance the individual needs of residents with the broader health and success of the whole living area. When one resident struggles, it can impact the rest of the community, and it falls on the RA to cultivate a culture of mutual support and encouragement.

Part of knowing how to extend that encouragement to others comes from realizing just how much you are capable of yourself. One of Williams’ highlights was the 3-, 6-, or 9-mile run students complete at the end of Walkabout. “Jon Wallace explained that even though our trip was over, it was time for us to go the extra mile for someone else,” he said. Students dedicate the run to someone in their life and write down the name to represent an act of service when they are physically spent. “[In leadership], we might be done with class, the staff meeting may be over, but then a student needs our help. It’s that knock on the door at 2 a.m., when we have done all that is required of us, but we get up to

go the extra mile to be a servant leader.”

These lessons stick with attendees long after their 10 days end and the muscle aches vanish. For Cheri (Hacker ’98) Harris, Walkabout sparked a lifelong love for the wilderness experience and its unique predisposition as a training ground for servant leadership. As a member of Bixby’s 1998 team, Harris rallied her teammates to go for a swim in the icy waters of a mountain lake. Today, she channels that zest for adventure into a ministry to the international backpacking community in the wilderness of the Andes, along with her husband, Dylan, a former Walkabout guide. “Truly, the Lord used Walkabout to not only bring me to my husband, but to also equip me with the necessary skills to build a foundation for outdoor ministry,” said Harris. “It was the beginning of a beautiful adventure—of a life lived out in reckless abandon for His Kingdom.”

When the students of Walkabout 2014 close with their Agape commissioning service this August, they will have contributed to 40 years of tradition. All over the world, their forbearers apply the lessons of community, sacrifice, and a deep reliance on God in their day-to-day lives. Some, like Harris, do it through a commitment to ministry. Others translate their lessons into service in their careers, families, and local communities. Most have traded in their 40-pound packs for more urban tools, but they still live out the call to encourage, to dig deeper into life-giving relationships, and to seek out God’s vision for each new endeavor. Daily, they go out into their circles of influence, armed with a call, guided by a purpose they first encountered on the mountain.

For information on the Walkabout alumni reunion, see page 25. To view a Life on Film featuring Todd Williams, visit apu.edu/stories/todd-williams/.

Tally (French ’00) Flint, M.A. ’04, Mt. Charmin survivor, serves as a consulting editor and columnist for Hello, Darling! magazine and lives in Denver, Colorado. tallyflint@gmail.com



THEATER COMMUNITY

BY CYNNDIE HOFF • ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL MUSA '15



Theater brings people together in the same room to encounter a live story where they don't just watch, they engage, where they don't just view, they see. The synergy created in that room, at that time, provides a way for people to explore the human condition together, to experience that conversation and understand it in a visceral, palpable way that transcends any modern facsimile.

“Such intimate encounters create honest, human-to-human interactions,” said Monica Ganas, Ph.D., theater professor. “You lose yourself in the scene as you breathe the same air and feel the reverberations of a pounding fist or running feet. It solicits a communal response. The audience walks through the space and the experience with the actors and cannot escape the issues presented on stage. The theater leaves you other than it found you . . . which might be why some people avoid it.” Theater asks audience members to evaluate their lives, imagine alternatives, and discuss life’s hard questions with one another in the lobby at intermission, in the café, in their homes, and in their workplaces. And it dares to demand a response.

The Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles produced *Love on San Pedro* in November 2013, a gritty performance on Skid Row with only a few professional actors joined by untrained community members. The real-life setting on the grimy street with sirens blaring, homeless people huddled nearby in cold shadows, and the acrid stench of garbage wafting from a dumpster forced the audience to face reality head on and deal with the humanity before them. Together, they felt pain, sorrow, shame, guilt, compassion, and empathy. In community, they shared knowing looks and kindred vows to be different, see differently, and make a difference.

By impacting individuals, theater can even alter the trajectory of national policy by modeling public discourse, how to approach differences democratically, and how to form a community and empathize with the struggles of others. Augusto Boal, a Brazilian theater director, founded the Theatre of the Oppressed in 1986 to study, discuss, and express citizenship, culture, and human rights. He used theater as a vehicle to effect reform in his country and successfully influenced the enactment of new legislation for his people. In South Africa, theater played a role in the struggle against apartheid, and in the Czech Republic, playwright Václav Havel became the country’s first democratically elected president and leader of a new democracy. The power of the theater to draw attention to societal issues and embolden communities to stand up for justice and freedom peppers history. Whether on small, intimate stages or in large, commercial theater houses, the potential to ignite passionate responses not only among the audience, but the actors, directors, and crew as well, affirms the role of theater and ensures its endurance.



PHOTOS OF FAUSTUS COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATER ARTS

This April, APU’s Department of Theater Arts presented *Faustus*, Tracie’s adaptation of Christopher Marlowe’s *Doctor Faustus*. The production begins with a clear foundation of its purpose and relevance to the APU community by adhering to a central motif. This year, the department chose “Who Am I?” as its guiding theme, recognizing that Christians must know their heritage, their position, their identity, their worth, and their future before they can serve others effectively. “*Faustus* challenges everyone involved in the play to face difficult questions regarding sin and death,” said Tracie. “What does sin look like in your life? What does it look like at APU? How does it manifest in relationships? Our students have thrown themselves into researching their roles and engaging in incredible discussions about community, morality, and theology.”

Creating theater requires serious academic preparation. Writers, actors, and directors must weave together their understanding of literature, history, psychology, world cultures, government, leadership, and philosophy in order to present an authentic story. “People think actors lose themselves in their characters,” said Ganas, “but they actually find themselves. From the prop manager to the lighting crew, everyone learns generosity of spirit, humility, grace, courage, integrity, problem-solving skills, nimble thinking, and mental, physical, and emotional stamina.”

Unlike actors in television and film, stage actors know when they are reaching an audience. They can see bodies shift and writhe in discomfort, they can hear the empathetic sobs and feel their need to console and connect, and they know they have done their job when they have caused that audience to react. Whether expressed in cheers or jeers, that response builds understanding and community. “Acting lessons actually reflect the Christian walk,” said Ganas. “Even secular instructors teach their students to have faith in the story and consider your neighbor more important than yourself. After all, we’re here to serve our audience. We don’t just entertain—we mirror society, shed light on dark places, and offer hope to an ailing world.”

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

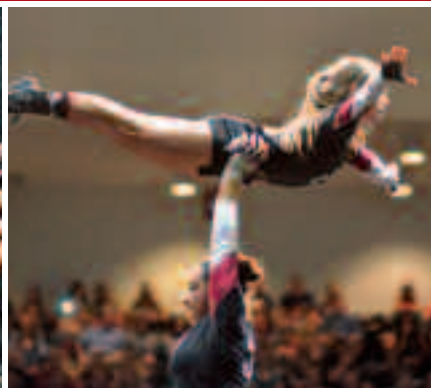
THROUGH THROGGED STREETS OF THE NOISY MARKETPLACE, Elizabethan theatergoers laughed, ate, and drank as they pushed their way into the Globe. Once inside, attendees’ sensory experience intensified—smells, pleasant and putrid, mixed with pungent food and tobacco. As sellers pawned their wares and pickpockets worked the crowd, the audience jockeyed for a vantage point and awaited the story to unfold. Dirt billowed from the stage when Mercutio and Tybalt dueled in the street. Spectators pummeled Iago with wine and fruit when he told them he would deceive Othello and cause him to murder his own wife. Like the Greeks, the Elizabethans considered theater an interactive, participatory endeavor where actors and audiences drew energy from one another, transforming the play into a collaborative, evolving experience, inspiring both groups and elevating the meaning and relevance of the production. Minus the flying food and rank smells, theater still delivers something that cinema and television cannot—community—

interpersonal contact in an age where many isolate themselves on digital islands and communication often occurs in front of a screen. Theater brings people together in the same room to encounter a live story where they don’t just watch, they engage, where they don’t just view, they see. The synergy created in that room, at that time, provides a way for people to explore the human condition together, to experience that conversation and understand it in a visceral, palpable way that transcends any modern facsimile. “I am particularly interested in this space, where a combination of live actors and a present audience create meaning together,” said Rachel Tracie, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Theater Arts. “Some find this space fearful. After all, anything can happen. An actor could die at any moment. There is a power in that.” Gathering people together to create and experience a story invites them to sense humanity rather than merely observe it. And therein lies the heart of theater—shared life.



Flipping Defeat into Victory

by Joe Reinsch



PHOTOS COURTESY OF APU

It takes strength to find victory in defeat—an important life lesson thrust upon Emily Sanchez '16 at an early age.

When the real estate market collapsed in 2011, insurmountable financial hardship caused the Sanchez family to lose their house, but not their hope. Her mother modeled responsibility, perseverance, and optimism by facing the challenging job market with determination. Watching their mother struggle and sacrifice for the family, Sanchez and her sister, Brenda, learned the value of hard work and enduring hope.

While sharing a room at their grandmother's house, the girls talked about their future. "My sister helped me understand our situation didn't have to be permanent, that we could embrace it and make the best of it," said Sanchez. "That was a big eye opener for me." She soon realized that the best way to impact her own life and her family's was to become a first-generation college student. "I wanted to be a role model for my younger cousins who look up to me."

An all-league track and field star at Covina High School, Sanchez believed she had a shot at some kind of athletic scholarship and set her sights on Azusa Pacific. After years of gymnastics, track and field, and cheerleading, she hoped to earn a spot on an APU roster, but never dreamed it would be in a sport she had not heard of. During her campus visit, she discovered acrobatics and tumbling, a relatively new endeavor at APU and a complete mystery to Sanchez. Intrigued by the mix of athleticism, strength, and agility required, she participated in an open tryout and landed a place on the team.

Head Coach Colleen Kausrud remembers Sanchez as a standout that day. "In tumbling, most new athletes will attempt to throw a full—a layout with a full twist; more advanced athletes progress to the next step, a one-and-a-half twist," said Kausrud. "Emily wanted to be here so badly she had the guts to try out with the most challenging move. She was fearless."

Having never competed in acrobatics and tumbling, let alone seen a competition, Sanchez entered the new sport blind but hopeful. "I didn't expect it to be such a great fit for my personality," said Sanchez. "It's individual in the sense that each person is highlighted, but every point matters from a team perspective, and I really enjoy that aspect of it."

Most athletes need time to adjust to competition at the collegiate level, and spectators also learn as they attend the events. "The attendance numbers for our meets prove that this is a fan-friendly sport people want to watch," said Kausrud. "It's like Cirque du Soleil, but with a competitive approach."

That enthusiasm fuels the sport's growth every year. Sanchez joined the team just as Azusa Pacific and five other universities formed the inaugural membership of the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association (NCATA) in 2011. As popularity and awareness increased, so did NCATA membership, which experienced its first round of expansion in 2014 when five new programs joined Azusa Pacific and the other NCATA founding members. New member colleges hail from Hawaii through the northeastern U.S., bolstered by USA Gymnastics adding team acrobatics and tumbling to its national youth programs. Each addition marks another step toward the NCAA's coveted "emerging sport" tag, which would likely spur further expansion and an increased fan base.

While most spectators come to watch the impressive aerial twists and flips performed by the top-position athletes, Sanchez's role on the team draws less attention, as she provides the strength and balance that allow her teammates to perform difficult stunts with ease. That support helped Azusa Pacific highlight its 2014 campaign with a regular-season upset of the University of Oregon, snapping the Ducks' NCATA-record 31-meet winning streak.

More than 2,000 people attended the 2014 NCATA Championship finals, capping off three days of competition showcasing the year's best individual and team performances. After attaining a perfect 10 in a group discipline for one of Azusa Pacific's five titles at the individual-event finals, Sanchez provided the same solid support in the Cougars' national runner-up finish as a team. "Emily doesn't need to be in the spotlight, but she's the strength on the technical side of everything we do," said Kausrud. "She helps her teammates see that dimension, and her personality allows her leadership to shine."

Sanchez's impact partly stems from her athletic skills that helped her team become the first NCAA Division II program to compete in the NCATA championship final, and she earned NCATA All-American recognition for the excellence and consistency of her performance. Her leadership distinctive, however, draws from a deeper source and the wisdom she gained from overcoming challenging circumstances. In turn, that tenacious athlete inspired her teammates to redefine their championship loss and focus on the positives: community, friendship, love, and above all, hope.

Joe Reinsch '01 is the sports information director at Azusa Pacific University. jreinsch@apu.edu



Emily Sanchez '16

Number
39

Position
Base/Back

Height
5'6"

Year
Sophomore

Major
Psychology

Hometown
West Covina,
California

Cougars

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations • (626) 812-3026 • alumni@apu.edu • apu.edu/alumniparents



APU Football on National TV

Azusa Pacific's 2014 football season opener against Grand Valley State slated for Thursday, September 4, will be nationally televised on CBS Sports Network.

The game, originally scheduled for Saturday, September 6, features one of the most anticipated matchups on the NCAA Division II schedule this year. Azusa Pacific, the defending Great Northwest Athletic Conference champion, takes on four-time Division II national champion Grand Valley State, which advanced to the semifinals of the 2013 Division II playoffs.

The teams met in Michigan last year to open the season, with Grand Valley State kicking off its 12-3 campaign with a 38-17 victory over the Cougars. Azusa Pacific bounced back from the opening-game setback to win 10 of its final 11 games, including an 8-game winning streak to close out the year with a 10-2 record, the third 10-win season in program history.



Spring Sports Update

Azusa Pacific captured its second straight National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) national championship in men's tennis, and its third NCCAA national title of the 2013-14 school year, with a 5-2 win over Texas' McMurry University. The Cougars went 5-0 at the tournament, posting a combined team score of 25-3. The women's tennis team finished second, falling 5-0 to Shorter University in the national title match.

In April, APU hosted the fourth annual National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association (NCATA) national championships, and the Cougars advanced to the championship finals for the first time in program history. The Cougars fell to the University of Oregon in the final, giving the Ducks their fourth consecutive national title. APU picked up a program-record five championships at the individual-event finals, and Jessica Laughton '14 and Emily Sanchez '16 received NCATA All-American recognition.

Baseball finished in a tie for second in the PacWest with California Baptist University, and five Cougars were named to the All-PacWest team, with Joseph Daris '15 claiming first-team honors. Softball posted a third-place PacWest finish and concluded its season in May at the NCCAA Softball National Championships in Botetourt County, Virginia. Third baseman Nicki Sprague '17 earned PacWest co-Player of the Year as well as PacWest Freshman of the Year, becoming the sixth player in Cougar softball history, and first since 2003 to receive conference player of the year honors.

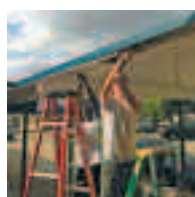
The women's track and field team finished as national runner-up and the men took third place at the NCCAA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in Rome, Georgia. Allison Updike '16 shattered the school's javelin record in her first year with the women's program, recording a season-best throw of 163 feet, 7 inches, at the Cal-Nevada Collegiate Championships in San Diego, beating the previous program record by 10 feet. She went on to win the individual national championship in javelin at the NCCAA national championship meet.



Cougars Finish Second in PacWest Commissioner's Cup

Azusa Pacific finished behind California Baptist University in the closest finish ever for the PacWest Commissioner's Cup, an award based on the average finish of each school in all PacWest sports.

Azusa Pacific ended with 137 points, just a half-point behind California Baptist. The Cougars claimed two PacWest titles in their second year of membership, finishing in second place four times and in the top five of every PacWest sport the Cougars sponsor.



Men's Basketball Team Visits Costa Rica for Mission Trip

Azusa Pacific men's basketball will play and serve August 19-27 on a mission trip to Costa Rica. Before returning for the fall semester, the team will take a nine-day basketball tour of Costa Rica. While there, head coach Justin Leslie will guide

his team through mission projects in local communities as well as exhibition games against local teams. The Cougars will also conduct basketball clinics for local youth and coaches.

Upcoming Athletics Events

FOOTBALL

September 4 | 6 p.m. | Cougars vs. Grand Valley State University | Citrus Stadium (Nationally televised: CBS Sports Network)

September 20 | 6 p.m. | Cougars vs. Simon Fraser University | Citrus Stadium

SOCCER

September 6 | 2 p.m. | Women's Soccer vs. California State University, Stanislaus | Cougar Soccer Complex

September 13 | 7 p.m. | Men's Soccer vs. Simon Fraser University | Cougar Soccer Complex

September 27 | 5 p.m. (men's) and 7:30 p.m. (women's); Cougars vs. Point Loma Nazarene University | Cougar Soccer Complex

VOLLEYBALL

September 19 | 7 p.m. | Cougars vs. Holy Names University | Felix Event Center

September 20 | 3 p.m. | Cougars vs. Fresno Pacific University | Felix Event Center

Upcoming Alumni and Parent Events

August 11-14 | Walkabout 40th Reunion | Coursegold, California

President Wallace invites all past Walkabout participants to join the 40th anniversary celebration of this life-changing event. The unique camping trip includes a day hike with the president and the Agape service with current students. apualumni.com/walkabout40reunion

January 30-February 2, 2015 | Alumni and Parent Cruise | New Dates Selected

Imagine three days reconnecting with alumni and friends while you take in the beautiful sights, sounds, tastes, and culture of one of Mexico's most popular seaports on the Baja. On your daylong excursion in port, explore local marvels such as La Bufadora, the powerful sea geyser that amazes and entertains with its dramatic show. Or stroll along the pristine beaches and waterfront promenade as you shop for souvenirs in the duty-free boutiques along Avenida Primera. Save the date and register soon. The Princess Cruise prices start at just \$414 per person. apualumni.com/cruise2015

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



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Follow [apualumnihouse](https://www.instagram.com/apualumnihouse) on Instagram.

HOMEWORD | AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Creating a Media-Safe Home *by Jim Burns*

Every moment of every day, messages reach your kids' eyes, ears, minds, and hearts. For better or worse, media powerfully influences their lives, delivering its voice through television, movies, Internet, music, magazines, books, computers, smartphones, tablets, and more. Frankly, parents cannot possibly control this barrage of information. But it's time to stop complaining and do something. Don't give up. Don't bail out. Create a media-safe home.

Watch, listen, and read.

Creating a media-safe home requires that you become a student of culture.

The easiest way to get a handle on what media your kids consume is to watch what they watch, listen to what they listen to, and read what they read. Look for every opportunity to ask and learn from your kids.

Evaluate.

Evaluate everything you see and hear with your kids. This takes a lot of work, but it's worth it. When you evaluate, don't just play the bad-guy role. At times, this will likely be necessary, but also tell your kids what you like and why, and definitely help them learn to discern what they are putting into their minds.

Homecoming and Family Weekend 2014

October 16-18

When it comes to school spirit, beloved traditions, and a good time, nothing compares to Homecoming and Family Weekend. Hit the links on Thursday at the 30th Annual Alumni, Parents, and Friends Golf Tournament, where participants sharpen their short game and support the Student Scholarship Fund while spending a beautiful day on the course. Follow it up with a weekend of reminiscing at class reunions, worship at chapel, fun and fellowship at the tailgate and block party, support and inspiration at Dinner Rally, and of course, the pure joy of the big football game. Join the celebration along with thousands of alumni, current students, and their families. For a complete schedule of events and more information, visit apualumni.com/homecoming/.

October 16 | Alumni, Parents, and Friends Golf Tournament | Sierra Lakes Golf Club | Fontana, California

October 17 | Homecoming Chapel, Class Visitations, Ladies' Tea, Food Truck Festival, Dinner Rally

October 18 | Homecoming 5K, Brunch with the President, Class Reunions, Block Party, In-N-Out Tailgate, Football Game

Examine your own behavior.

Too many parents want their kids to make good media choices but aren't willing to discipline themselves.

Remember the old adage: Children see, children do. Set the example you want your kids to follow.

Discuss and listen; don't lecture.

Anytime we can truly dialogue with our kids about media use and influence, it is better than any lecture or sermon we could ever deliver to them. Ultimately, you may choose to disagree with your kids' opinions, but they will at least feel you were willing to listen.

Develop clear expectations.

Work together with your teens to come up with clearly expressed expectations about media consumption and use

of the devices that deliver media. As technology changes rapidly, you'll need to revisit the expectations from time to time to keep them relevant and current.

Be the parent.

You have the right (and responsibility) to filter and choose what media enters your home. It's likely that your kids will push back when you evaluate and set expectations. But in the end, it's up to you as the parent to set and enforce the boundaries.

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. homeword.com

A Voice for the Arts

BY EVELYN ALLEN

A rising figure on the contemporary landscape of classical opera and the broader musical arts, Darnell Abraham '09 has performed on international stages before large crowds and well-known dignitaries, but points to an impromptu 2006 performance in a Rwandan orphanage as the most profound statement of music's transcendence. With nothing but his own voice to fill the congested nursery, a scant sanctuary for abandoned young and elderly, he sang in the rich, dulcet tones that have become his vocal signature. "It was an incredible experience to connect with those people. I knew they couldn't understand my words," said Abraham, "but where words fail, there is the universal language of music to bridge the gap between worlds."

Abraham believes strongly in the power of the arts to transform people and communities. While growing up in an underprivileged segment of Bakersfield, California, Abraham benefited from a stable home life and parents who embraced his musical gifts. They encouraged hard work as much as they cultivated those talents, sending him to a performing arts academy outside their neighborhood. Later, the chance to transfer to APU from California Baptist University intrigued Abraham, who needed advanced training to compete in the upper echelons of the music world. "The crown jewel was the APU Opera program," said Abraham, who began studying under the mentorship of Melanie Galloway, DMA, artistic director of APU Opera and associate professor of vocal studies. "She was, and still is, a life coach for me, preparing me for the rigors of performing along with the realities of living out my faith in a secular industry."

Gordon Ostrowski, assistant dean and opera producer for the Manhattan School of Music, where Abraham earned his Master of Music last year, describes him as a powerful vocalist with the versatility to captivate not only his peers, but also one of the toughest audiences in existence—school kids. "We go into many New York City schools to perform and teach. Some are affluent, while others have no music programs at all," said Ostrowski, who worked closely with Abraham on educational outreach programs during his time as a graduate student. "It's so important for young people to see someone of Darnell's level of accomplishment who is not only a skilled artist, but also committed to the overarching idea of arts education."

Galloway describes the performing arts as a mission field. "Whether you're singing in an opera house or at Carnegie Hall, the need for believers is immense. We are intent on graduating performers like Darnell who are grounded in their faith and trained at the highest levels of excellence," she said. Abraham, who recently joined the Manhattan School of Music admissions team with a special assignment to focus on diversity in recruiting for the top-tier conservatory, exemplifies that goal. This full-time engagement still allows Abraham to continue performing and touring—a key part of his artist's residency with New York's Dicapo Opera Theatre, which recently staged Giuseppe Verdi's Italian masterpiece *Rigoletto*. Wielding

a robust voice and commanding presence, Abraham often moves seamlessly between musical worlds, stepping into operatic roles as easily as he slips into character for musical theater or into the expressive strains of gospel, soul, and R&B.

Through it all, Abraham advocates investment in the arts, a passion he plans to channel into a dual career in arts administration. "We often think about politics and the financial sector or big business as the most powerful forces in society, but we fail to realize that the arts play a significant role in shaping and changing culture," he said. "Whether there are 10 people or 10,000 listening to you, the artist holds a great deal of responsibility," he said. "It's exhilarating and, at times, a little scary, because you hold a position of influence over your audience." With his own spheres of influence steadily expanding, Abraham holds fast to his conviction that opera—indeed, all music and the arts—play a role in creating a better future for current generations and those to come. He intends to use his voice to carry the conversation.

Abraham lives in New York with his wife, Wanda (Perkins '09).

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DARNELL ABRAHAM '09

1990s

SYBIL ACEVEDO '93, M.A. '98, M.A. '99, won the San Bernardino County School Board Association Distinguished Service Award in Education and received the 2014 Education Medal of Honor, the highest honor an educator can receive from the county, at a banquet held April 28, 2014, in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

2000s

1 DARRYL ADAMS, ED.D. '02, serves as the superintendent of schools for the Coachella Valley Unified School District. He began his career as a professional musician, songwriter, and music publisher. After 10 years in the music business, he followed his love for music and went on to serve as a music

teacher and band director. He has since served as a middle school assistant principal, high school assistant principal, high school principal, director of human resources, and assistant superintendent of human resources, and was previously recognized as a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year. He lives in Alta Loma, California.

2 JENNA SAMPSON '02 works as a sportswriter and recently edited her first book, *When Shmack Happens: The Making of a Spiritual Champion* (Neben Px4, 2014). She also serves as publicist for two-time Paralympian gold medalist Rudy Garcia-Tolson.

VALERIE MUNOZ (ATTENDED 2004-05) was elected to the La Puente City Council. Munoz comes from a long line of La Puente residents—five generations of her family live within

the city's borders. She also works as a business manager at Sen. Ed Hernandez's optometry office in La Puente.

GREG PEREIRA '06, M.A. '09, executive director of SPOT 127 Youth Media Center, earned the top prize of \$10,000 (a total of \$100,000 over the next five years) in three minutes at Social Venture Partners' Fast Pitch 2014. The annual event, hosted by Social Venture Partners Arizona, includes training and mentoring for innovative nonprofit administrators and culminates in a high-energy, rapid-fire presentation event in which participants compete for more than \$25,000 in grants and prizes.

HEATHER ROSS, M.A. '09, is the new kindergarten teacher for the 2014-15 school year at Knolls Elementary School in Simi Valley, California.

JUST MARRIED

JEWELL (DAUGHENBAUGH '66) HELM to Paul Dyer on February 14, 2014, at his home in Anderson, Indiana. Jewell, an RN, works in home health nursing. Paul is retired from General Motors.

MEGAN BURCH '09 to Sean-Paul Bowlus on November 16, 2013, in Corona, California. Megan is a pediatric hematology/oncology registered nurse at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, and Sean-Paul is an operations and acquisitions analyst at PS Business Parks in Glendale. The couple lives in Pasadena.

3 CASEY VROMAN '10 to Aaron Tesauro on July 20, 2013. Bridesmaids included **LAURAN (MARKS '10)**

continued on page 33



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACH '07 AND CHARIS BAUER '08

Waves of Transformation

Helping to change the tide of social welfare in Hawaii, Zach '07 and Charis (Bauer '08) Island live and work in some of the islands' less-than-idyllic neighborhoods that more closely resemble the plight of the inner city than a tropical paradise. They serve with Surfing The Nations (STN), a nonprofit organization that feeds the hungry and provides after-school programs for at-risk kids, surf

school for the community, and international relief and surf programs. "Our motto, 'Surfers Giving Back,' describes the passion behind all we do, including providing people with sustenance as the largest private food distributor in Hawaii," said Zach, STN's director of operations. STN started in 1997 and launched its food distribution arm, Feeding The Hungry, the following year in response to Hawaii's significant poverty rate, which stands at 17 percent of residents (seventh largest in the nation according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Today, the organization feeds approximately 2,500 Hawaiians each week. STN, headquartered on Oahu, operates out of Wahiawa, a city known for unregulated prostitution, drugs, and violence. But STN came to change that

COUGAR INTERVIEW—CAPT. BILL OSTAN '01



COURTESY OF BILL OSTAN '01

As the command judge advocate at the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia, Capt. Bill Ostan '01 embodies the honorable qualities of a dedicated soldier in the United States Army. A recent recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the fourth-highest military award, for exceptionally meritorious service, Ostan reflects on his ongoing commitment to the military, his decision to serve others, and what it truly means to be a leader.

APU LIFE: You earned the Bronze Star Medal for dedication to duty during combat operations in Afghanistan. What role did you play?

OSTAN: From 2012-13, I served as the command judge advocate for a Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan. I was the legal advisor for Army Green Beret and Navy Seal commanders as they carried out combat operations. Every day was different, but each 24-hour period entailed situations that required advice on Rules of Engagement or the Law of Armed Conflict. The specifics of those situations remain classified, but I can say that it was a demanding job that regularly required on-the-spot decision making, which might make the difference between life and death.

APU LIFE: What does this honor mean to you?

OSTAN: It is humbling and unexpected. I started my deployment with the intent to perform my military duty with excellence and integrity, but I am grateful that my commanders felt I acted in such a manner that deserved their commendation.

APU LIFE: What guided your decision to join the military?

OSTAN: There were many factors, but the tipping point was in 2004 when U.S. Army Ranger Pat Tillman was killed in action in Afghanistan. Tillman gave up a

lucrative multimillion dollar NFL contract to join the Rangers in order to serve his country and go to war. His sacrifice moved me. I realized I had lived a very blessed life in America without ever sacrificing anything for my country, and I knew I needed to change that. At the time, I was in the middle of simultaneously earning my Juris Doctor and Master of Public Policy in International Relations degrees from Pepperdine University, so I decided to become an Army officer and attorney upon graduation.

APU LIFE: You served as Associated Student Body (ASB, now Student Government Association) president at APU. How did that and other college experiences impact the way you conduct yourself in the Army?

OSTAN: ASB president was the first leadership position I ever held where I truly realized that leading people is more about them and less about myself. As an officer, I give orders, but I know that positions of power and influence exist in order to serve others. The most lasting and significant lesson I learned at APU, however, has more to do with the importance of mentorship. Dr. Terry Franson [current senior vice president

for student life/dean of students] helped mold my character during my time at APU, and we stay in close contact today. He was a strong, godly support through my successes and failures, and I would be a lesser man if not for him. Because of his immense impact, I have sought mentors throughout my Army career.

APU LIFE: You've served in the military for nearly seven years. Is this a lifetime career?

OSTAN: God has given me a lot of favor in the military, so I might make it a career if the Army deems me worthy of continued promotions. I have an amazing Army wife, Jennifer (Wilson '01), who gracefully handles the rigors of being married to a soldier. We have twin three-year-old daughters, Abby and Kate, who are the little loves of my life. I enjoy being a soldier, but I absolutely love being a daddy. At some point in the future, I do believe that God has called me to be a statesman. I don't know where, when, or how, but I sense the call and am willing to obey.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID HEDGES (IN PICTURE, LEFT)

Double Life

On a typical Wednesday evening, Officer David Hedges '88 of the Santa Barbara Police Department returns home after a long day of work as a detective and burglary investigator. He pulls into his driveway, enjoys dinner with his family, then sits down at his desk . . . to work on his screenplay.

In his 23 years on the police force, Hedges has worked as a field training officer, SWAT team leader, and K-9 unit handler, but his role as a writer has remained a constant since he discovered screenwriting as an APU student. Hedges' screenwriting professor, David Esselstrom, Ph.D., now chair of the Department of English, recognized exceptional talent and collaborated with Hedges on a number of screenwriting projects. "I count David among the most gifted student writers I have encountered during my time at APU," he said.

"I credit my APU professors with my passion for writing and the ability to pursue it with integrity," said Hedges, who carries on the academic legacy of his father, James, Ph.D., professor emeritus, former chair of the Department of English, and an influential force in expanding the department during his 31 years at APU.

Hedges' talent and dedication to the art of screenwriting paid off last November when he and his cowriter, Frank DeJohn, were named 2013 Nicholl Fellows by the

reputation. The transformation began with the purchase of a building on the city's seedy main street in 2008, an apartment complex connected to Oahu's oldest bar. Over the next three years, STN acquired three adjacent buildings, transforming a liquor store, strip club, and pornography shop into a community coffee shop, vintage clothing store, and family-friendly housing.

"When God opened the doors to establish these businesses, I realized it was the perfect fit for me," said Charis, business manager of the coffee shop and clothing store. Charis, the youngest daughter of STN founders Tom and Cindy Bauer, knew from age 12 that she wanted to be involved long term.

Though not overtly a Christian organization, STN staffs 45 full-time volunteers, all passionate Christians. A shared love for surfing and an understanding of island life allows STN members to connect with Waianae kids and their families in ways that other groups cannot. That trust facilitates unifying activities such as surf clubs and after-school programs like Ulu Pono Kids, which offers homework help and fine arts instruction to elementary and middle school students.

STN also sends teams of surfer volunteers to Central America, Asia, and the Middle East to build relationships, host surf competitions, teach English, organize beach cleanups, and assist with property development. This summer, STN will host two one-week surf camps in North Korea by government invitation.

At heart, STN exists to empower those at the margins, harnessing the innovation and creativity of its staff to make waves of transformation throughout the world. To learn more, visit surfingthenations.com.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for their screenplay *Legion*. Hedges and DeJohn received national recognition and one of only five \$35,000 prizes to fund production and other screenwriting expenses. The two writers based their screenplay on the remarkable true story of a 53-year-old Roman soldier who died in battle after holding a fort secure against 100,000 enemy troops for three days. "In our screenplay, we capture the life of a man who had the choice to leave but decides to stay, because if he leaves his post during the greatest hour of crisis, his whole life will have been in vain," said Hedges.

According to Hedges, human nature at its core has not changed over the years. "I love drawing connections between people today and those who lived centuries ago," he said. "Stories center around people. *Legion* draws from an age-old tale that is still relevant today—loyalty and courage among a community encountering a crisis." Hedges' experiences in law enforcement inspire his writing. "My role as a police officer allows me to interact with people on a very honest level—I witness all sides of them. My day job makes me a more honest writer."

In addition to *Legion*, Hedges has taken on another task: telling one of the world's most important stories through a new project by A&E Television—a TV film called *The One* about the early life of Jesus Christ. A&E producers searched for a screenwriter who would capture Jesus' divinity as the Son of God and the everyday reality of childhood and youth where He dealt with the same struggles all people encounter. "If Jesus was truly a human being, He felt the same emotions, impulses, and temptations that we all feel," said Hedges. "The difference is how He acted on them. *The One* will show His holiness and humanness, highlighting the choices He would have made that we should emulate."

As both *Legion* and *The One* embark on the long process of becoming finished films, Hedges looks forward to collaborating with talented producers, directors, and other major figures in the film industry, as well as continuing his own writing projects.



PHOTOS BY ISTOCK.COM, JORDAN RUFFIN '14, AND COURTESY OF HANNAH MARRS '11

FELLOWSHIP AT THE CAPITOL

BY CAITLIN GIPSON

Few political science majors directly influence California lawmakers immediately upon graduation, but two APU alumni do just that. As part of the Capital Fellows Program, a highly competitive fellowship at the State Capitol, Jonathan Hughes '13 and Hannah Marris '11 are spending almost a full year researching legislation, writing speeches, and briefing legislators on the issues that face California.

Chosen from a pool of more than 1,400 applicants, Hughes and Marris are the first APU students to secure places in the prestigious program, which has graduated U.S. senators and congressmembers, California senators and assembly members, and California Supreme and Superior Court judges since its inception in 1957. "Every

legislative office employs at least one former fellow," said Marris. "Elected officials call the program their farming for future staffers."

Administered through California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), the program accepts 64 fellows for executive, judicial, and legislative posts. Rated by *vault.com* and *Forbes* as 1 of the country's top 10 internships, the Capital Fellows Program offers a monthly stipend, full benefits, and paid graduate enrollment in CSUS's government program.

"The program provides an opportunity for individuals to directly participate in the legislative process and is an important training ground for future legislative staff and public servants," said Assembly Member Jeff

thing to see issues on the news," said Marris, who serves in the office of Sen. Mimi Walters (R-Irvine) of the 37th District, "but visiting the locations and meeting the people that these laws affect has really changed how I look at policy. When I see the faces behind the numbers, the impact of the legislation becomes more real."

Hughes and Marris shoulder impressive levels of responsibility. "Hannah is heavily involved in many pieces of legislation, gives opinions, and takes meetings by herself," said Senator Walters. "She has taken on extensive responsibilities much earlier than many other fellows could." Likewise, Hughes writes speeches, takes meetings with lobbyists, and has "staffed a committee" (the industry term for preparing a legislative member to address a specific bill).

Both seek to make a difference in their roles. "I've staffed two bills to curb human trafficking in California that I hope will have an impact," said Marris. While one died in committee, the second (SB 1085) recently passed through the Senate Committee on Public Safety and on to the Appropriations Committee—an important first step to seeing it become law. "I'm relying on God's guidance—I know that I can't push a bill through on my own strength."

Hughes also stressed the importance of civic engagement among believers at all levels of government. "We need to look at governance from a God-honoring, Kingdom-minded perspective. Law and policy influence California's people so heavily that it's critical for Christians to take part in the discourse."

Hughes' commitment to his faith has not gone unnoticed. "I am proud to have Jonathan as an integral member of my staff," said Assemblyman Gorell. "I have been very impressed by his integrity, work ethic, communication skills, and demonstrated maturity through his stable devotion to his faith and sense of purpose."

The alumni plan to work in politics after the fellowship ends and

credit the Capital Fellows Program with honing their interests. "I hope to be a communicator within policy," Marris said. "I'm passionate about connecting constituents with policymakers, and making legislative language understandable for average citizens."

For Hughes, the program has increased his interest in local government. "Policy meets the nuts and bolts of people's lives in local city government. I'd like to stay in Sacramento for a few years, then settle down in a smaller community and run for local elected office."

To that end, this time at the Capitol provides one of the best political currencies: connections. "The fellowship opens incredible doors," said Marris. "In addition to connecting with the senator on a daily basis, I can talk to anyone in the building. Republican or Democrat, they are universally willing to go out of their way to have lunch or coffee with me. I end up learning from both the politicians and their staffers."

"The fellowship program gives public servants the opportunity to help young people get engaged in their government," said Sen. Walters. "And at the same time, our fellows are such an asset. They bring a different perspective than other staffers and connect us to what young people are thinking."

According to Hughes, that personal connectedness represents the key, both with legislators and constituents. "At APU, I learned that politics is all about relationships, and this experience exemplifies that," said Hughes. "In the end, we're all working toward the same goal—making California a better place to live and work. It's about how you can connect with others, meet their needs, and ultimately shine the light of Christ."

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



Hannah Marris '11
Fellow with Sen. Mimi Walters
(R-Irvine), 37th District



Jonathan Hughes '13
Fellow with Assembly Member
Jeff Gorell (R-Camarillo), 44th District



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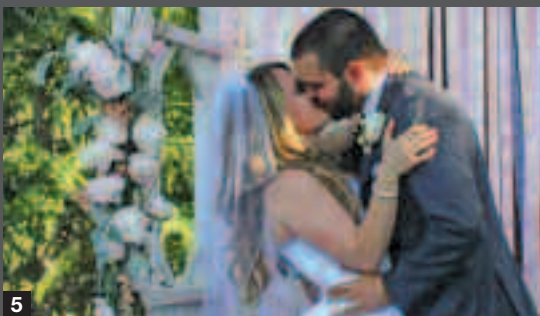
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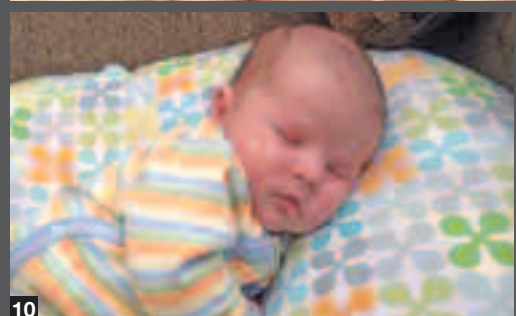
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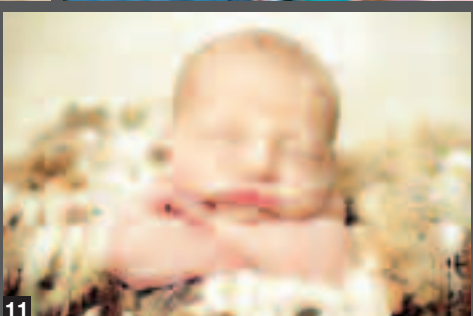
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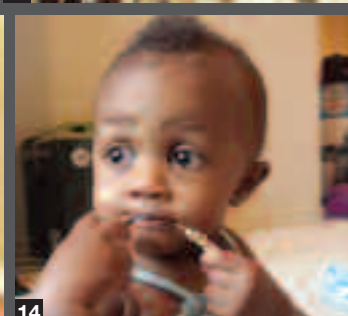
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Every effort is made to publish all photos submitted to APU Life. We apologize if your photo was not published.

continued from page 28

THOMPSON and MARGIE LA TONDRE '11. Casey works for the pro-life organization Students for Life of America in Washington DC, and Aaron works for Bethel Church. The couple lives in Redding, California.

4 ANDREW "AJ" ZIMMERMANN '12 to Kristen Bothel, Saturday, May 31, 2014, in Stanwood, Washington. Members of the wedding party included **RYAN WOOL '12, JAMES HANSEN '13, JAMES SWANEY '12, TODD WILLIAMS '13, LANCE BAKER '12, MICHAH HULTGREN '12,** and **JOSHUA TAIT '11.**

5 HALIE FERRANTE '13 to **DAVID LEWIS '14** on May 25, 2014, in Loomis, California. Members of the wedding party included **DAVID BERNAL '15, MICHAEL MCCLELLAN '14, JOSH BERNAL '16, SARAH WENTWORTH '13,** and **ALYSSA STRICKLING '14.**

FUTURE ALUMNI

6 To **JOANNA (MCDERMOTT '97) KENNEY** and her husband, David, a son, Dermott, on October 1, 2013. Dermott joins big brother, Declan, 6. The family lives in Montgomery, Texas. sincerefaith@gmail.com

7 To **SHELBY (OLSON '02) RYBURN** and her husband, **MATTHEW '03,** a son, Bennick, born February 27, 2014.

8 To **RYAN RACICOT '03** and his wife, **SHILOH (SLACK '05),** a son, Micah, on March 2, 2013.

9 To **GEORGE YOUNAN '04** and his wife, **JESSICA (HARDING '07),** a daughter, Sadie, on March 11, 2013.

10 To **JESSICA (GIVENS '06) BREMER** and her husband, Steve, a son, Samuel David, on May 6, 2014. He joins big brother, John, and sister, Sarah.

11 To **LIZ (WADE '06) HEINRICHS** and her husband, **NIC '06,** a son, Nixon, on December 16, 2013. Nixon joins big brother, Graham, 1. The family lives in Visalia, California.

12 To **CARLEY (MARTIN '08) KASSAB** and her husband, Jamil, twin daughters, Elena and Kate, on March 30, 2014.

13 To **JOSHUA ZIESEL '12** and his wife, Laura, a daughter, Codelia Azar, on May 8, 2014. Codelia joins big brother, August, 2.

14 To **MELISSA COVINGTON '13** and her husband, Rodney, a daughter, London Love, on May 30, 2013. London joins big sister, Shanynn, 9, and big brother, Kingston, 5. The family lives in Houston, where Melissa teaches world religion at Lone Star College.

IN MEMORY

MARJORIE (COCHRANE '37) COOK went home to the Lord May 21, 2014, at age 94. Born in Ontario, California, April 21, 1920, the daughter of a Free Methodist minister and a teacher, she graduated from Los Angeles Pacific College. She served as an elementary school teacher for 14 years and a public school librarian for 8, mostly in the Milton/Fife School District. She set up and administered two public school libraries and two church libraries. She also helped renovate and update two libraries in Manila, Philippines. Cook's passion for writing started in childhood and continued throughout her life, with numerous publications, articles, and books to her credit. She loved knitting and reading. She attended Harbor Covenant Church in Gig Harbor, where she led a women's Bible study for 30 years. Her husband of 68 years, Harlow; their three daughters, Marilee Shanor, Kris Nelson and her husband, David, and Karen Laatz; brother, Gordon, and his

wife, JoAnn; 7 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren survive her. Remembrances may be shared at havenrest.com.

15 ROSILYN (BOYD '55) CARL passed away May 20, 2014. Born in Fresno September 19, 1932, Rosilyn graduated from Fresno High School in 1949 and Pacific Bible College in 1955. She and her husband of 58 years, **ARTHUR '57,** served with the Greater Europe Mission as missionaries in Germany for eight years (1961–69), and then in California as pastors of Free Methodist churches for 32 years (1969–2001). In addition, Rosilyn taught in public schools for five years in California and Oregon. She worked as an executive assistant in two banks in San Jose and for the Blood Source in Sacramento. The couple spent their retirement years in Folsom and Modesto. Arthur; her children, **ROBERT '81** and his wife, Kathy, **RANDALL '84** and his wife, Leila, and Karin Carl Rodriguez; eight grandchildren (including **JASON '08**); and one great-grandchild survive her. A memorial service was held at Lakewood Funeral Home in Hughson, California, May 30, 2014.

16 DAVID GELL '66 passed away peacefully in his sleep of natural causes March 2, 2014, in Santa Barbara, California. David served faithfully for 30 years at Trinity Episcopal Church, Santa Barbara, as minister of music and organist, and in community outreach. He was the Azusa Pacific Concert Choir accompanist from 1963–66 under Earl Anderson, choir director. David's wife of 45 years, **CAROLYN (KALIVODA '67),** survives him. Several years ago, David planned in detail, his memorial service held Saturday, March 15, 2014, at Trinity Episcopal Church.

JAN HOLSCLAW '66, born in Twin Falls, Idaho, in 1944, passed away on March 4, 2014, after a seven-year battle with advanced ovarian cancer. She spent her youth in Southern Idaho, then followed her sister to Azusa Pacific University, where she studied music. She met her husband, **JAMES '65,** in college, and they spent several years performing in musical groups together. In 1965, they began what would be their 48-year adventure as a married couple. They served as APU faculty and later followed God's leading to work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. However, the roles she most enjoyed were mom and grandma to her three children and their spouses—Jill and Rich, Jon and Amy, and Jana and Josh—and her eight grandchildren—Taylor, Alyssa, Jeremiah, Alenna, Sydney, Maddie, Abby, and Anna.

SUSAN SMITH (NURSING FACULTY 1977–2007) passed away peacefully on January 23, 2014, with her family by her side. Born in New York, Smith enjoyed being a California resident for more than 50 years. She earned her nursing degree, a B.S. in Education, and an M.S. in Nursing from the University of California, Los Angeles. Susan served as an inaugural faculty member of the School of Nursing and helped establish the Azusa Neighborhood Wellness Center. She also participated in a World Vision-APU nursing delegation that contributed to the modernization of the Russian nursing system and penned the first revised Russian nursing textbook in more than 70 years. Her son, Brian, and his wife, Jill, survive her. Friends and family remember her for being as kind as she was accomplished, a person who let neither hardship nor obstacle deter her appreciation and celebration of life.

Notable and Noteworthy

The Alumni and Parent Relations staff and your classmates want to know what's new with you. Upload Alumni Class Notes and photos to apu.edu/alumniparents/alumni/connect/classnotes or email alumni@apu.edu.

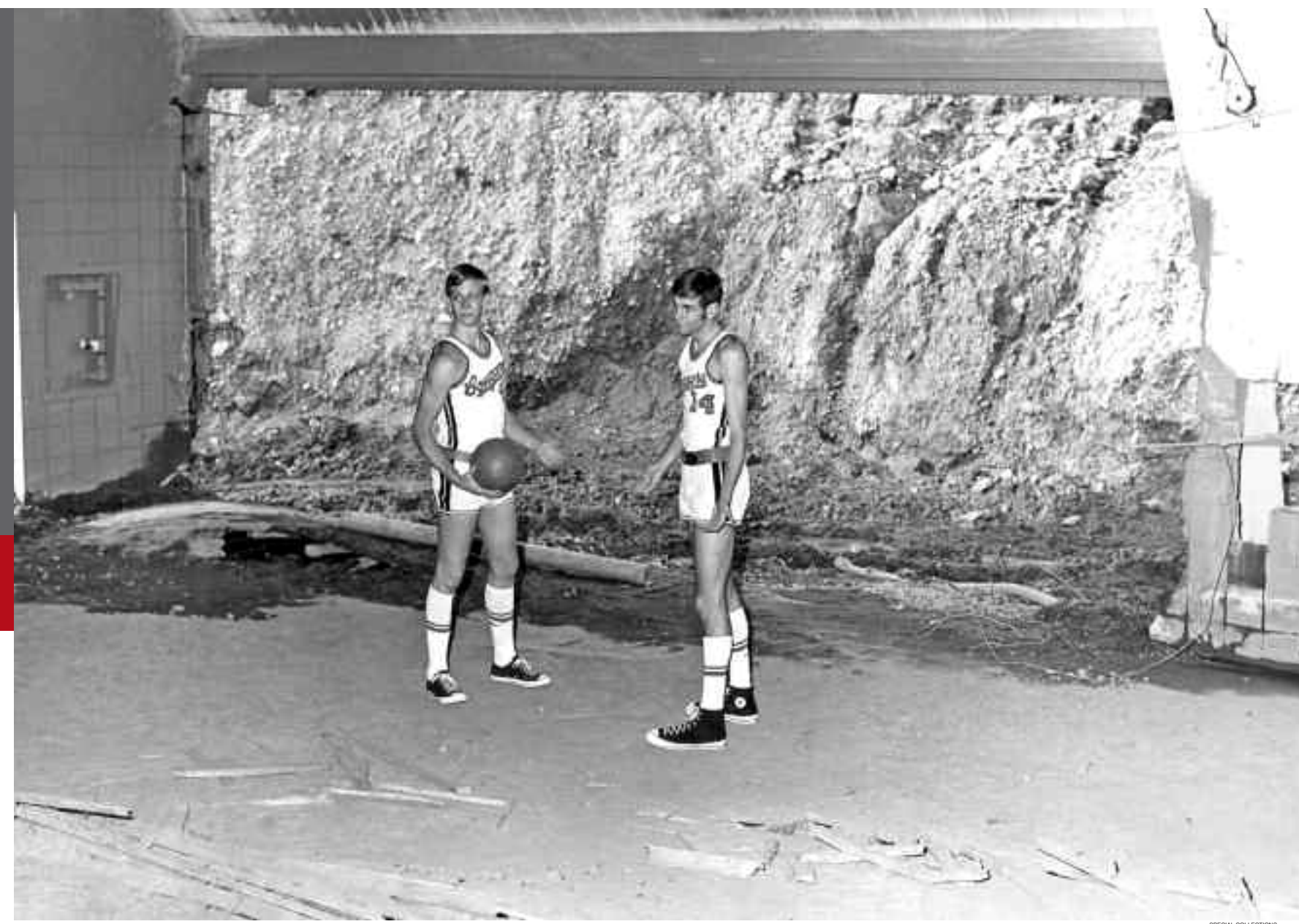
GREG '01 AND JENNY (BURKS '00) DRISCOLL; VICTOR '00 AND CHERI (LUND '00) NORRIS; ALISON (TICE '00) AND JODY HURST '00
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

EDWARD "CHRIS" PETITI '09
HUATICOCHA, ECUADOR

CHRISTY OWEN '03
LVIV, UKRAINE

VICTOR LEE '04
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

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. 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. *Please send high-resolution images or prints only.



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Fire and Flood

In July 1966, Azusa Pacific College (forerunner to Azusa Pacific University) purchased the 40-acre Brown Military Academy, nestled against the beautiful, brush-covered San Gabriel foothills above Glendora. It became APC's Hillside Campus, providing much-needed facilities such as dormitories, classrooms, a football field, and a gymnasium. Two years later, a brush fire in Easley Canyon burned 650 acres of watershed overlooking Glendora, miraculously sparing the Hillside Campus. On August 23, 1968, fire started anew in the San Gabriel Canyon near the Canyon Inn, and eight firefighters lost their lives protecting the campus. The following year, from January 18 to February 28, 1969, 31 inches of rainfall drove water, mud, rocks, and

debris down the barren, fire-ravaged slopes, spilling it into the dormitories and gymnasium and covering the football field. Despite the devastation, Azusa Pacific declared in its publication, *Messenger*, "But we are not discouraged or defeated! God has never failed! He will not fail now!" With that same Christ-centered confidence, the APU community rejoices in God's faithful protection and provision over the years, and seeks to honor that blessing by obediently following His call to become a city on a hill that reflects the life of Christ and shines the light of Truth.

—Ken Otto, MLIS, associate professor, Special Collections librarian

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David Vannasdall, Ed.D. '15
Superintendent of Schools
Arcadia Unified School District

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