

# APULIFE

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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## Coaching for Impact



*God First Since 1899*



My mother's imprint can be found throughout my childhood. She created a sense of community for our family. She mentored us, she corrected us. She disciplined us. She provided space for our family where each of us felt listened to and heard.

My first experience of community outside my family occurred within the Mar Vista Gardens housing project in Los Angeles, especially during summertime.

Every morning, we would race out of bed and head for the big field to play baseball, football, and basketball. There, amidst the dirt and sweat of competition, we experienced community—a diverse group of kids coached and mentored by men and women who volunteered their time.

A few years later, we moved to a new place, and the neighborhood kids gathered at Blanco Park in Culver City. Athletics offered us an important outlet. More than that, it built community. I will never forget Coach Bob. He not only coached us, but he also mentored us, disciplined us, and brought us together as a team. We enjoyed great success because of his belief in us. I wish I could thank him for investing in my life as that 12-year-old boy.

When I came to Azusa Pacific in 1976, I had the same experience, but in a different setting. I enrolled in Dr. John Hartley's Hebrew Prophets class. Although I don't recall all the content, I remember how this renowned scholar came alongside us and formed community. How did he do that? He cared about us. He looked us in the eye when he spoke to us. He personalized the class. He asked us about our lives and cared about what we cared about. He expected the best of us, and when we fell short, he lovingly corrected us. He forged a community of 30 students doing life together in an upper-division theology class. I remember when he and his wife generously hosted us in their home for pizza. Nothing like someone a little older and a little further along in life creating a space where you feel heard, cared for, and loved.

More than 38 years later, that genuine love for people still permeates relationships throughout campus and sets Azusa Pacific apart. Discipling and mentoring, our university's hallmark approach to a God-honoring education, set the stage for a rigorous academic experience where faculty and staff come alongside students and travel life's journey together.

As believers, especially during this very holy season when we celebrate the life of the One who gives us hope, we remember, with gratitude, those who have poured into us over the years. I am especially grateful for the men and women who have come into my life and guided, shaped, challenged, mentored, and disciplined me. I am also grateful for the more than 50,000 alumni making a difference in the world and more than 1,500 community members at APU—faculty and staff influencing the lives of our graduate and undergraduate students.

I pray that God reaches you in a special way during this advent season. Thank you for all you do in support of this Christ-centered university.

In celebration of discipleship,

David E. Bixby, Ed.D.  
Acting President

More than 38 years later, that genuine love for people still permeates relationships throughout campus and sets Azusa Pacific apart.

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# APULIFE



**FEATURES**

- 12** Called to Disciple  
*by Cynndie Hoff*
- 16** Great Books and Preserving Civilization  
*by Christopher Flannery*
- 18** Investing in Our Mission
- 21** Coaching for Impact  
*by Micah McDaniel*
- 22** Positive Assist  
*by Micah McDaniel*
- 28** The Global Servant  
*by Rachel White*
- 30** Serving Those Who Serve  
*by Rachel White*

Cover photo by Dustin Reynolds '07, MBA '10

**DEPARTMENTS**

- 2** President's Letter
- 6** Campus Close Up
- 24** Cougars Sports Roundup
- 25** Alumni News and Notes
- 26** Class Notes
- 26** Cougar Interview  
*Darryl Qualls '96*
- 34** Where in the World . . . ?
- 35** Archived

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS**

- 29** The Gospel for All
- 29** Bringing Change to the Table





PHOTOS BY RACHEL LEWIS '16

Established in 2001, City Links engages first-year APU students in community service projects in collaboration with churches, schools, parks, and nonprofit organizations. Over the course of three Saturdays last fall, more than 1,100 freshmen participated in projects at 31 sites throughout Azusa, Duarte, Glendora, Monrovia, and Pomona, contributing nearly 5,000 volunteer hours.



**Vice President/Chief Diversity Officer Named**



Taking the helm of a robust and growing area at APU, Kimberly Battle-Walters Denu, Ph.D., accepted the role of vice president/

chief diversity officer in summer 2015. This historic position aims to centralize campus-wide diversity initiatives, provide strategic leadership, and support the university's ongoing commitment to diversity.

In addition to managing new and current diversity initiatives, Denu will oversee two main areas. The Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence (formerly the Office of Diversity), under the leadership of Richard Martinez, Ed.D., executive director, and Susan Warren, Ph.D.,

director of diversity programs, provides diversity support and resources to faculty and staff. The Student Center for Reconciliation and Diversity, under the leadership of Aaron Hinojosa, acting executive director, and Kristine Cody, associate director, provides support and resources to students. Denu's background and experience lend a distinct element of sensitivity and compassion to her leadership style that will serve these offices well.

With a master's degree in social work from Temple University and a doctorate in sociology with an emphasis in race and family from the University of Florida, Denu brings solid academic training to her new position. Throughout her 18-year tenure at APU, she has also taught as a full-time faculty member in social work and sociology, and served as faculty moderator, associate provost, vice provost, and special advisor to the president and provost. Her rich

experience and expertise contributed to her earning a Fulbright award to South Africa in 2002 and inclusion as a Fulbright senior specialist. An alumna of the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Institute of Educational Management, she has presented at the World Summit and Oxford University, and as an ordained minister, Denu has served as a missionary on six continents. Her published work includes articles on African American issues, family and women's matters, social welfare, and international topics. Her first book, *Sheila's Shop: Working-Class African American Women Talk about Life, Love, Race, and Hair* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004), earned a place on a *Los Angeles Times* list as one of the top 10 African American books that year. In 2014, she and her mother coedited *Mothers Are Leaders* (ACU Press), an influential book that connects motherhood with leadership.

**Professor Leads Scholarly Discussion at the Huntington**



Mark Eaton, Ph.D., professor in the Department of English and director of the Center for Research on Ethics and Values,

taught a course at the Huntington from October 7-November 11, 2015. Titled *Frontiers of American Fiction: Rediscovering 19<sup>th</sup>-century American Novels*, Eaton led participants in discussions of selected readings that represent a global perspective on the American frontier, touching on important historical events such as the revolution in Santo Domingo (now Haiti), the California Gold Rush, the Civil War, and the slave trade.

The course served as part of the Huntington U continuing education series held at the historic venue, which includes the Huntington Library, art

collections, and botanical gardens. Each fall, the Huntington invites university faculty to present college-level seminars once a week for six weeks to adult learners. For the 2015 session, the Huntington's public programs manager, Jennifer Phillips, recruited Eaton based on his reputation as an expert in literature and engaging teaching style. The Huntington touts the courses, limited to 15 participants, as lively discussions with no papers to write and no final exam. Last fall, Eaton joined Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and spatial sciences at the University of Southern California, who taught about the American Maritime World; and Heidi Brayman Hackel, Ph.D., associate professor of English at the University of California, Riverside, who presented Terminal Shakespeare.

**Conference Explores Advances in Doctoral Education**

More than 50 doctoral program directors and faculty representing 19 Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) schools gathered at Azusa Pacific to explore successful models and methods of doctoral program delivery. The Doctoral Programs in the CCCU: Conversation and Collaboration conference, held September 17-19, 2015, marked the first CCCU event of its scope and kind and a pivotal point in the advancement and innovation of Christian higher education.

Day one began with a preconference on alternate models of delivery of doctoral programs, led by Kevin Lawson of Biola University. The conference opened with introductory remarks by Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D., followed by a plenary session led by Heather Petridis, Ph.D., vice president for graduate and professional enrollment and student services, and Laurie Schreiner, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Higher Education, focusing on experiences that enable doctoral candidates to

thrive throughout their program tenure. Breakout sessions addressed such student issues as advising, developing students into writers, and strategies for successful research teams. Attendees also engaged in dialogue regarding faculty development, dissertation supervision and quality, equipping adjuncts and second readers, and supporting doctoral faculty scholarship. Further, the group explored marketing and promoting programs, alternate dissertation models, and online doctoral courses.

In addition to the presenters above, APU presenters included Anita Henck, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education; Rebecca Cantor, Ph.D., executive director of writing programs; Karen Longman, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Higher Education; Christopher Collins, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Higher Education; David Peck, Ph.D., vice president for university relations; Rafi Maljian, executive director of marketing; and Brett Barry, associate director of marketing. The conference promises to be the first of many opportunities to support doctoral programs in the CCCU.

**New Academic Advising Tools Prepare Students for Success**

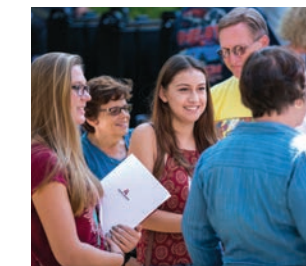
Mentoring and discipleship, core to the APU experience, give depth and purpose to every aspect of education—classroom dialogues, athletic contests, student life, spiritual encounters, and even academic advising. Tracie Burt, Ed.D., director of undergraduate student success, and her team in the Office of Academic Advising and Retention believe that these critical advising sessions can encompass more than mere course selection and present an ideal opportunity for connecting with students on a much deeper level. To facilitate that, the office recently created a set of checklists to guide conversations beyond course requirements, equipping every student and advisor with a comprehensive view of the resources, goals, and opportunities available to help students thrive in college.

“As suggested by the National Academic Advising Association, we aim to approach academic advising as a relationship, not a transaction,” said Burt. “Our faculty advisors are undeniably invested in their students’ well-being; we want to give them the tools and knowledge that will enhance the holistic impact of those important relationships.” The new checklists cover a wide range of topics pertinent to each stage of academic development, one for each of four years, including categories such as spiritual and physical well-being, educational success, career and calling, active citizenship, advising and registration, finances, graduation, alumni relations, and postgraduation planning. Within each category, specific items prompt advisors and students to explore each area more deeply in a way that personalizes the education path and experience.

While these checklists streamline the process for students and help them navigate their academic journey, they also represent a framework for Azusa Pacific. The Office of Academic Advising and Retention's strategic plan to develop a network of ongoing holistic support involves collaboration between multiple departments and offices. This cross-campus approach will continue to engage faculty advisors to support student success while also offering opportunities for enhanced equipping and development of their advising practice. While the team works toward developing the specific details of that plan, an important first step occurred in fall 2015. Academic success coaches visited GE 100 First-year Seminar classes, an academic seminar required of all incoming first-year students with fewer than 30 units of completed coursework, to teach the benefits and responsibilities of student participation in the academic advising relationship. As a result, nearly 1,200 students received the checklist “Are You Ready to Be a Sophomore? A Recipe for Success.” All undergraduate students received the checklists during preregistration

*Academic Advising continued on page 9*

**First-generation College Students Find Open Pathway**

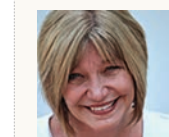


APU's new Pathway Scholars program provides a four-week residential and academic experience for incoming first-generation students from the Los Angeles region. Beginning with the inaugural session held July 6-31, 2015, the innovative program positions high-potential students to transition effectively between high school and college by introducing them to development opportunities, campus resources, and an extensive support system. Participants follow individualized academic curricula in English and mathematics and engage in leadership development, diversity and multicultural awareness training, mentoring relationships, and spiritual practices. The program targets motivated students from diverse backgrounds looking to advance their knowledge of campus culture and invest in personal growth.

Aimed primarily at addressing the specific needs of first-generation college students admitted to APU, the program involves a selective application process. Interested students apply in spring and must demonstrate significant motivation through essays and letters of recommendation. This year, 12 women of color enrolled in and completed the

program's first cohort. During their stay, they lived in the residence halls—a preview of student life and building community. They also participated in customized English and math classes designed to increase their course placement or strengthen skills through exposure to collegiate-level academics. Other activities included workshops focused on exploring their identity and strengths and how best to navigate college life at APU, including spiritual development and financial literacy. Those who successfully complete the program receive a \$500 scholarship.

The Pathway Scholars program seeks to proactively close the opportunity gap that affects underrepresented students and their likelihood of developing a sense of belonging at APU. The initial 12 participants praised the program's effectiveness. Several stated that Pathway significantly decreased their anxiety about college by empowering them with greater self-confidence and equipping them with a thorough knowledge of campus resources. This success reflects a positive attempt to foster greater multicultural competence and inclusivity within the APU campus community and provide a living-learning environment where all students thrive.



**Reading Recommendations from Monica Ganas**

Monica Ganas, Ph.D., is a professor of theater arts.

**Popcultured: Thinking Christianly about Style, Media, and Entertainment** by Steve Turner (IVP Books, 2013)

**Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art** by Madeleine L'Engle (Northpoint, 1995)

**God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life** by Gene Edward Veith Jr. (Crossway, 2011)

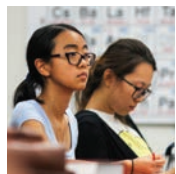
**And Then You Act: Making Art in an Unpredictable World** by Anne Bogart (Routledge, 2007)

**Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire** by Brian J. Walsh and Sylvia C. Keesmaat (IVP Academic, 2004)

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



## Year in Review: 2014-15



### Stauffer Challenge Grant Advances Science Education

Azusa Pacific secured a 1:1 challenge grant of \$500,000 from the John Stauffer Charitable Trust to support the Department of Biology and Chemistry summer research program for chemistry and biochemistry undergraduate students. The 10-week program connects students with faculty mentors active in their field and engages them in the scientific process through original laboratory research. This experience promotes critical thinking, technical writing, and analysis of scientific data. Matching funds, to be raised by January 1, 2020, will establish a \$1 million endowment and enable APU to double the program and enhance career preparation for participants.

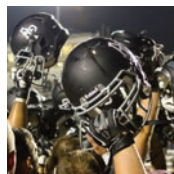
### School of Nursing Celebrates 40 Years

In the midst of growing health care concerns and a national nurse shortage, APU's School of Nursing continually expands its capacity to prepare innovators who will transform nursing scholarship, patient care, and the system at large. Last year, APU produced 600 graduates—its largest class ever and a significant increase from its inaugural class of 24. The school offers 3 bachelor's degrees, 2 minors, 4 master's degrees, 2 doctoral degrees, 1 credential, 8 post-master's certificates, and 2 secondary specialties, along with multiple community service programs, strategic partnerships with hospitals and clinics, accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and approval from the California Board of Registered Nursing. The school's Institute of Health Research enables students and faculty to conduct groundbreaking nursing research, resulting in the discovery, development, and transmission of knowledge that drives education, practice, and research.



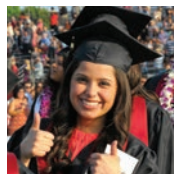
### APU Ranked as One of the Nation's Best

Not only did *U.S. News & World Report's* America's Best Colleges 2016 edition name Azusa Pacific to its national universities list in a three-way tie for No. 175, but also to several other significant lists, including: Ethnic Diversity (37 out of 137; up from 53), Least Class Debt (28 out of more than 100; up from 72), A+ School for B Students (1 of fewer than 100 listed nationwide), Best Veterans College (tied at 139 out of 157; first time listed), and Economic Diversity (40 out of more than 150; up from 49). *Forbes'* annual ranking, which distinguishes the top 20 percent of all U.S. undergraduate institutions, placed Azusa Pacific University at 398 out of 650 this year, up from 454 in 2014. In addition, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching selected Azusa Pacific as 1 of 240 U.S. colleges and universities to receive its prestigious 2015 Community Engagement Classification. These rankings affirm APU's growing scholarly reputation and commitment to increasing access and affordability.



### APU Participates in Major Concussion Research

Azusa Pacific joined a \$30 million initiative with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to enhance the safety of student-athletes and service members—the most comprehensive study of concussion and head-impact exposure ever conducted. After an intense review process, the committee selected 6 of 100 schools, including APU, to take part in year two of the Concussion Assessment Research and Education Consortium study. Starting August 1, 2015, 99 percent of APU's more than 450 student-athletes began participating in the two-year study funded by a \$286,609 NCAA-DoD grant, the highest participation rate of the 21 participating universities. The study allows scientists to better understand the true natural history of concussions in athletes, and APU's participation will ultimately serve to more accurately diagnose, treat, and prevent concussions.



### Federal Grant Supports Underrepresented Students

The U.S. Department of Education awarded APU \$1.1 million over five years for Target Success, a TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant project with targeted outcomes such as increased retention, academic standing, and graduation rates for participants. The grant assists students who demonstrate academic need, including undergraduate first-generation college students, those from low-income families, and those with disabilities requiring learning accommodations. Target Success enhances APU's ability to support SSS-eligible students, who comprised 38 percent of incoming APU students from 2011-13.



### Inaugural TEDx Talks Advance Scholarship

APU hosted the first TEDxAzusaPacificUniversity on April 7, 2015. Some of the university's best thinkers addressed topics around the theme of Inspiring Ideas and Meaning. Each 18-minute presentation encouraged the audience and others viewing the live video stream to deepen community engagement with values, character, ethics, and new ideas. View the presentations at [ted.com/watch/tedx-talks/](http://ted.com/watch/tedx-talks/).



### New Business and Management Dean Named

Robert H. Roller, Ph.D., with 30 years of experience in teaching and administration, accepted the post as dean of the School of Business and Management in June 2015. He leads 25 full-time faculty, 7 undergraduate majors, and 6 graduate programs serving more than 1,000 students. Roller shares APU's entrepreneurial spirit of innovation and vision to become the nation's model Christian business school known for producing leaders of faith, character, and competence.

## By the Numbers

**3:** The number of home runs hit by Kirk Nieuwenhuis '09 on July 12, 2015, to set a Mets record—the first in that franchise to homer three times in a home game. In October, Nieuwenhuis represented the Cougars at the 2015 World Series against the Kansas City Royals as a designated hitter, pinch hitter, and center fielder.

**750:** The number of Azusa Unified School District (AUSD) students who participated in three Brain Fairs last fall (bringing the total to 1,250 this year). Jointly sponsored by APU and AUSD, the event brings an interactive neuroscience lab to each AUSD middle school, teaches seventh graders about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the adolescent brain, and stresses the importance of helmet safety. Students also get to hold real human and sheep brains, record electrical nerve signals from cockroaches, observe MRI scans of the human brain, participate in interactive sensory experiments, and learn neuroanatomy using a 12-foot-tall inflatable brain under the guidance of 26 APU neurobiology students.

**3:** The number of categories in which OnlineCollege.org ranked Azusa Pacific's art history program as No. 1. The organization recognized APU in the areas of flexibility, financial support, and new student orientation using the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, a resource maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics to compile its research on colleges throughout the country.

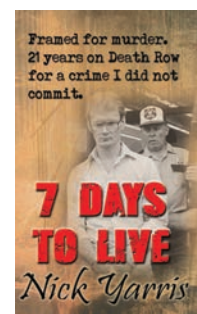
Academic Advising *continued from page 7*

advising for spring. While advisors help students comply with curricular and other requirements, these new tools will build students' confidence in their preparation for the future, help them to optimize their time at APU, and ready them to engage the world as fully prepared disciples and scholars.

### Man Exonerated from Murder Conviction Speaks at APU

Wrongly convicted of murder, Nick Yarris spent 21 years on prison's death row before his exoneration. On October 29, he spoke to students in the new Department of Criminal Justice, describing his journey through endless legal battles, years of incarceration, and his reentrance into society.

DNA evidence revealed in 2003 finally excluded him from all biological material connected with the crime.



Though he admits to making poor choices at that point in his life, the recovering drug addict now shows an amazing level of compassion and mercy for all officers he encountered while in prison and all those involved in his case.

His book, *7 Days to Live* (CreateSpace, 2013), eloquently recounts his triumph over adversity, providing insight into the human condition and how to take responsibility for one's life. He shares his own mistakes and faults, describing how he made conscious choices to change from within. The compelling story also caught the attention of filmmakers and resulted in the recently released *The Fear of 13*, a documentary featured at the London Film Festival October 10 and 17, 2015, that follows Yarris' life on death row and his struggle for freedom.

Yarris discussed some of the complex issues tackled daily by APU's criminal justice students. The program launched in fall 2015 with nearly 30 students seeking a variety of career paths, such as law enforcement officer, correctional officer, police chief, case

**7:** The number of consecutive years Azusa Pacific has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary leadership in civic engagement, service-learning, and building community partnerships. APU undergraduates perform more than 165,000 hours of service each year locally and globally.

**17:** The number of APU graduates who joined the diverse network of nationwide leaders serving in the Teach For America program, committing to teaching and becoming lifelong leaders in schools with a high need for educational equity. This 2015 group of Azusa Pacific alumni placed the university on the list of schools with the greatest number of contributors for the first time. Teach For America works with communities to expand educational opportunities for children facing the challenges of poverty.

**7:** The number of pages in *The Saint John's Bible* turned simultaneously, one per day, by people in churches, schools, libraries, universities, hospitals, and homes across the country to honor Pope Francis' historic visit to the U.S. The event, Illuminating the Mission, began September 21, 2015, as a symbol of Christian unity. Each day that week in the Darling Library Rotunda, APU displayed *The Saint John's Bible* from Special Collections and turned the pages highlighting the Creation, Abraham and Sarah, the Ten Commandments, Peter's confession, the loaves and fishes, the two cures, and Pentecost.

manager, attorney, forensic psychologist, private investigator, cyber security and prevention specialist, homeland security officer, and more. Under the leadership of Deshonna Collier-Goubil, Ph.D., chair and associate professor of the Department of Criminal Justice, these aspiring professionals look critically at the criminal justice system, examining the theories of crime and justice, and learning to identify disparities and inequalities. "As serious Christian scholars, our students must be able to evaluate every aspect of this discipline, including what happens to convicted felons upon their release at the end of their sentence," said Collier-Goubil. "Our hope is to expose these students to multiple views of the system from every angle. We were honored to have Nick Yarris give us his unique perspective."

### Koch Lecture Series Features Renowned Classicist

Bruce Thornton, Ph.D., addressed the Middle East crisis and its effect on Europe's population in his lecture "The Failing European Union and the

Democratic Freedom Deficit," given October 26, 2015. The event kicked off the 2015-16 Koch Lecture Series, now in its sixth year, made possible by a grant from the Charles Koch Foundation, which supports university programs in the study of free societies and their core ideas and institutions.

The author of 10 books and numerous essays and reviews on Greek culture and civilization and their influence on Western civilization, Thornton also writes on contemporary political and educational issues and lectures at venues such as the Smithsonian Institution. He serves as a research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and as a professor of classics and humanities at California State University, Fresno.

APU hosts three Koch lectures annually. Open to students and the public at no charge, the series serves as part of the Koch Fellows Program, designed for students with a keen interest in understanding and promoting political and economic

*Koch continued on page 10*



Koch continued from page 9

freedom. APU students from all majors may apply for the competitive fellowship. Selected fellows enroll in the Foundations of Liberty Seminar, participate in scholarly lectures and colloquia, and qualify to apply for paid summer public-policy internships with market-oriented institutes and nonprofit organizations.

The lecture series affords the APU community an opportunity to learn from and collaborate with leading political scientists, economists, and historians about topics such as: “Reading Plato’s Dialogues,” “The Abortion War and the Limits of Philosophy,” “Frederick Douglass on Race, Liberty, and the American Creed,”

“Our Declaration,” “Progressivism and Religion,” and “What Is Liberty Without Wisdom and Without Virtue?” Each lecture compels attendees to deeply consider various types of government and their effect on individuals, societies, and cultures.

**Chamber Singers Headline International Choral Festival**

Azusa Pacific’s 37-member Chamber Singers, led by Michelle Jensen, became the first American choir to headline the prestigious Voci nella Città choral festival in Sassari, Sardinia, Italy, last September. The occasion also marked the first time in 70 years that the international festival showcased a collegiate choir alongside renowned

professional choirs representing several European countries. Set in the regional capital of choral singing, the event honored Gabriele Verdinelli, retiring director of the Polifonica Santa Cecilia choir.

The Chamber Singers’ nine-day Italian excursion included three days in Rome, where they performed at the Vatican in Saint Peter’s Basilica, toured the Vatican museums and the Sistine Chapel, and sang L. Fleming’s “Give Me Jesus” in the cell where the Apostle Paul suffered imprisonment. Lyrica Taylor, Ph.D., assistant professor of art history and the director of the Master of Arts in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism program, provided the group with historical context for the

museums, galleries, and historical sites they visited in Rome.

This prestigious honor builds on past Chamber Singers’ achievements, which include 11 awards from the Llangollen competition in Wales last summer and placing first overall in the Competition for Choirs in Austria in 2013. “For more than a decade, Michelle Jensen has encouraged the Chamber Singers to reach higher levels of excellence, musicality, and international notoriety,” said Stephen P. Johnson, DMA, dean of the College of Music and the Arts. “This important milestone attests to their skills and growing reputation.”

**Cinema Alumni Produce Award-winning Short**

The Department of Cinematic Arts hosted an open house for alumni last October, screening five films produced by current and former students. The featured productions included, “June Born in May,” “Love146,” “Before We Meet,” “Where Are They Now?,” and “Luiseño,” named Best Student Film last August at the eighth annual Trinity International Film Festival in Detroit, where it competed with more than 1,000 submissions. The film has been selected for competition in the Filmstock Film Festival, Monarch Film Festival, and Tampa Bay Underground Film Festival.

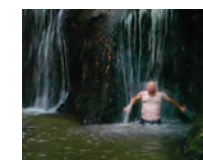
A narrative short, “Luiseño” focuses on the people and events surrounding the Temecula Valley Massacre of 1847 during the Mexican-American War. Written by Corban Aspegren ’15 and directed by Tanner Morrison ’15, the film explores the journey of the Luiseño, the Native Americans caught between two powers as California transitioned from Mexican rule to American statehood. The story centers on the relationship between two American brothers and two Luiseño survivors who must set aside their

differences to protect their lives and land from the Mexican Army.

The historical film, which involved 60 cast and crew members, garnered a \$15,000 budget—one of the largest for an APU senior capstone project—and also fueled the careers of several alumni. Aspegren works as a Walt Disney World entertainment stage technician in Orlando, Florida. Morrison, sound designer Trevor Satterwhite ’15, and editor Tom Scott ’15 founded a production company in San Dimas called ARTIFACT Film Co. Producer Allie Lapp ’15 plans to move to London in September 2016 to start a postgraduate program for film and television production. Producer Yasha Sojwal ’15 serves as an audio visual events specialist at Pitzer College. First assistant director Connor Eaton ’15 works for video services at SCEA PlayStation headquarters in San Mateo, and producer Ryan Bowman ’15 recently landed a job with NBC Universal in Los Angeles. In each case, these alumni daily discover how art and culture impact one another and how, as creative Christian artists, they can influence the film industry.



**Scholarship at Work**



**Sacred Encounters** video art by Kent Anderson Butler, MFA, professor, Department of Art and Design; Coagula Curatorial, Los Angeles, solo art gallery exhibition, September-October 2015

*Sacred Encounters* presents a series of four video art pieces—“Play,” “Bathe,” “Cleanse,” and “Rest”—based on the relationship between sacred space, landscape/environment, and the body. The series invites the viewer to consider the soul as a seedbed for ideas, concepts, and revelations. In this piece, the artist evokes religious philosopher Teilhard de Chardin, who suggested instead of regarding ourselves as human beings struggling to have some kind of spiritual experience, perhaps we would consider the possibility that we are spiritual beings having a human experience.



**Recolor Recover**, artwork by Terry Dobson, MFA, director of design and assistant professor, Department of Art and Design

Terry Dobson, MFA, director of design and former Disney Imagineer, displayed immersive new work merging art, technology, and his faith-integrated research at a regional gallery exhibition in Los Angeles’ Arts District last summer. Together with former Disney creative partner Ed Haro, Dobson designed a Google Cardboard 3D Virtual Reality experience combining interactive art and historical supposition for the 2015 Los Angeles Design Festival. *Recolor Recover* recreates a virtual walkthrough of digitally reconstructed 19<sup>th</sup>-century symbolic blueprints from an unfinished millennial temple in his hometown in England. Proceeds from the exhibition helped support the Special Olympics Los Angeles World Games.



**Economic Performance Dynamics of OPEC Member Countries** (Scholars’ Press, 2015), by Emmanuel Ogunji, Ph.D., associate professor, School of Business and Management

This book examines the economic performance of OPEC member countries, which have largely been ignored in contemporary empirical studies and published literature on economic growth and performance. The impact of their vast natural capital in the form of significant petroleum resource endowment and the related production and pricing implications dominates and drives global economic systems and conditions. The research covers 1970 to 2005 and includes: the new independent variable factors of natural capital as a measure of natural resource endowment from crude oil production and pricing, financial capital as a measure of country-level financial development, and institutional management framework as a measure of the quality of the social environment and economic infrastructures that characterize the economic systems.



**A Foundation in the Principles of Management** (Cognella Academic Publishing, 2015) by Roxanne Helm-Stevens, DBA, associate professor and chair of management programs, School of Business and Management; Dan Kiple, DBA, professor and director of research and faculty development, School of Business and Management; and Ronald Jewe, Ph.D., professor and associate dean, School of Business and Management

This textbook gives readers a firm understanding of important principles of business management, which serve as building blocks for future business courses in the major. The initial chapters introduce the history of management and familiarize readers with different management roles and functions. Students then learn about ethics, an increasingly important focus in today’s business education. Further, the book addresses planning and decision making and how to effectively handle change, innovation, and conflict. The University of Illinois recently adopted this textbook for the coming fall and summer terms.



**Against Indifference: Four Christian Responses to Jewish Suffering during the Holocaust** (C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, André and Magda Trocmé) (Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 2015) by Carole Lambert, Ph.D., professor of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

*Against Indifference* analyzes various responses to Jewish suffering during the Holocaust, moving on a spectrum from indifference to courageous action. C.S. Lewis did little to speak up for victimized Jews; Thomas Merton chose to enclose himself in a monastery to pray for and expiate the sins of a world gone awry; Dietrich Bonhoeffer acted to help his twin sister, her Jewish husband, and other Jews escape from Germany; and the Trocmés established protective housing and an ongoing underground railroad that saved several thousand Jewish lives. Why such variation in the responses of those who had committed their lives to Jesus Christ and recognized that His commandment is to love God and others? This book provides answers that help shed light on current Christians and their commitment to victims who suffer and need their help.



# Called to. Disciple

by CYNNDIE HOFF

illustrations by CAITLIN ANNE

Down the street at the local coffee shop, a young student cradles her latte and watches her math professor intently through the warm vanilla steam. Class ended about an hour ago, but this lesson has just begun. She leans in closer to hear her teacher describe her spiritual journey.

Back on campus in a dusty dugout, an assistant coach learns about God's grace as he watches his mentor respond calmly and counterculturally in the heat of a critical athletic contest. Across the street, a seminary student kneels on his apartment floor, praying for God to cause an encounter with a new believer eager to know Jesus better.

Such scenes unfold every day at APU and demonstrate the university's hallmark fusion of academic rigor and personal care—a powerful combination that many secular schools lack. In an October 2014 *Business Journal* article, "The Biggest Blown Opportunity in Higher Ed History," writer Brandon Busteed summed up the findings of the Gallup-Purdue Index. When asked if they are engaged in their work and leading fulfilling lives, the majority of 30,000 graduates surveyed reported negatively and traced their discontent to their college days. "Where you went to college matters less to your work life and well-being after graduation than *how* you went to college. Feeling supported and having deep learning experiences during college means everything when it comes to long-term outcomes after college." In short, they wanted and needed mentors—and most didn't have them. Fewer than 3 in 10 graduates (27 percent) feel their professors cared about them as a person, and only about 2 in 10 (22 percent) had a mentor who encouraged their goals and dreams. The news sent college administrators scrambling to set up task forces, conduct internal surveys, and search for a successful model they could emulate—one like Azusa Pacific's.

Those who look to APU, however, may find it difficult to replicate its deeply ingrained culture of caring for students, because at Azusa Pacific, the approach transcends a program, it is a lifestyle. In fact, this focus goes beyond mentoring; it is discipleship—the purposeful enrichment of one's spiritual life with Jesus through the guidance and support of a more experienced helper. And this personalized care manifests itself in countless formal and informal ways.

Sometimes it happens one on one, other times in small groups. It can occur situationally, occasionally, or intentionally, but whatever form it takes, one thing

Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY  
MISSION STATEMENT



## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

"Without my mentor to guide me and be my spiritual advisor and support, I wouldn't have been able to get through a lot of challenges."

"Because of my mentor, I have begun praying and reading my Bible more often—focusing on the more important aspects of life."

"Meeting with my mentor is one of the best parts of my week."

remains clear—at APU, discipleship permeates all we do. "We emphasize discipleship because it is the call of Christ," said Coba Canales '06, associate campus pastor for discipleship ministries. "Whether it takes place on campus, in a residence hall, or at Starbucks, it is nonnegotiable. The Great Commission calls us to make disciples of all nations. The APU mission defines us as a Christian community of disciples. As we continue to grow as an academic institution, it becomes even more critical that we keep these core values at the forefront of all we do."

Fulfilling that call to invest in one another's spiritual well-being at a comprehensive university takes intentional planning at every level. The Azusa Pacific community comprises thousands of students at various points in their academic and

spiritual journeys: undergraduates, graduates, doctoral students, adult and professional learners, distance learners, commuters, regional students, international students, people from different faith backgrounds, and people with no faith background. Roughly half of all APU students have an adult mentor in their lives: 1,515 students are voluntarily connected in Discipleship Groups (D-Groups) or one-to-one discipleship mentoring programs, and many more participate in informal discipleship pairs outside of a structured program. More than 150 students lead D-Groups and other discipleship efforts on campus, and more than 300 faculty, staff, and administrators representing more than 40 offices and departments, along with several nonemployee volunteers, serve as mentors. "Discipleship is part of our institutional DNA, but we can do even more," said Terry Franson, Ph.D., senior vice president for student life/dean of students. "Students are crying out for mentors. The Ivy League schools are aware of their lack in this area, and thankfully, Azusa Pacific has been leading the way. Increasing opportunities for discipleship for every person who seeks it is my number one priority. I am convinced this constitutes the rebar in our infrastructure and will help us stand fast as we engage culture."

President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, and the Board of Trustees endorse this expansion of discipleship and approved efforts to support it with human and monetary resources. "A generous donor and alumna who believes deeply in helping anchor and expand APU's



Ambassador Advertising Agency, chair of the APU Board of Trustees, and long-time mentor, understands the reticence of would-be disciplers. “The thought of discipling intimidates some because it requires advocacy. At some point, you have to provide input and give advice that will help direct the course of someone else’s life. That’s a big responsibility. What I have learned at APU—what has thunderstruck me—is that younger people covet relationships with adults who listen to them and speak into their lives. Discipleship enables them to become a conduit for the Lord to change the world.”

Priscila Diaz, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and the Honors College, agrees. “Taking on a spiritual mentoring role can be intimidating,” she said. Having led three D-Groups and disciplined four students during her four years at APU, she draws on personal experience as she encourages fellow faculty and staff members hesitant about entering into a mentoring relationship. “Yes, it’s time consuming and sometimes draining, but God refills you. He won’t leave you empty. This is His call on our lives, and He is faithful to equip us, so don’t fear the process as you follow Christ’s lead. We have the responsibility to walk alongside our students beyond the academic material we teach and beyond basic Bible study.” In the Department of Psychology, Diaz and her colleagues serve more than 700 majors and minors. “The entire department read *Desiring the Kingdom* by James K.A. Smith to prepare our hearts and create avenues to disciple students. That inspired the launch of a special annual worship service by and for psychology students, though all are welcome. It’s very intimate and personal. Faculty members recount their spiritual journeys, we share communion, and we serve one another. The ultimate goal is to prepare people who can turn around and prepare others.”

This vital relationship, however, is not limited to faculty and students.



Alumni, APU employee spouses, local church members, seminary students, and staff members who have undergone an extensive application and equipping process also mentor students and one another. “Our purpose at APU is to send students into the world equipped with a relationship with Jesus Christ and developed skills to be in a job or situation where they can serve well,” said Pershing Lum, senior project manager in Information and Media Technology, who has mentored students and colleagues at APU. “Getting to know Jesus is *caught* more than *taught*. When I was disciplined, I watched how my mentor responded to situations and learned from his example. Discipleship involves a relationship with someone who knows you.”

So how does one measure success in discipleship? “The goal is to help the person discover and become the person God wants him or her to be,” said Lum. “I ask them, ‘Is God as real as the circumstances you face every day?’ When they can answer ‘yes’ and have a clearer understanding of who they are meant to be, then we’ve done good work together.”

Given the logistical challenges, why would colleges and universities bother to facilitate these one-on-one connections? According to the *Journal of College Student Development*, students who receive out-of-class mentoring demonstrate increased academic achievement and retention. *Research in Higher Education* reports that students with mentors have higher GPAs. And the *Journal of Counseling Psychology* notes that undergraduate and graduate students alike report mentoring helped them develop skills and behaviors necessary to succeed professionally. Given these results, universities can no longer afford to ignore the correlation. At APU, this strategic integration of personal connections within the context of higher education goes even further and reinforces the symbiotic relationship between the academic and spiritual aspects of life. It also demonstrates APU’s deep commitment to faith integration, the discovery of and informed reflection on Christian faith within every academic discipline.

## ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

Watch stories about difference makers—guided, mentored, and coached to lean into God’s call upon their lives—at [apu.edu/stories/](http://apu.edu/stories/).

- Margarita Ramirez '12  
Fulbright Scholar
- Lindsey Rehfeld '86  
Business Owner
- Stephen Vogt '07  
Major League Baseball Player

## MENTOR PERSPECTIVE

“My student appreciates being able to talk about things that others won’t. He says he feels safe. This has blessed me tremendously.”

“I found that my student feels much more confident about life, her walk with the Lord, and about hearing from God.”

“We learned a lot about what we believe and why we believe it. Our discussions involved difficult questions and possible responses to these questions. We also created a great friendship.”



This emphasis distinguishes APU from its secular counterparts. “Discipleship and mentoring must first be grounded in our institutional identity based on our spiritual heritage,” said Kevin Mannoia, Ph.D., university chaplain, who believes that, like individuals, the collective community must be disciplined. He works closely with faculty, adjuncts, board members, staff, and administrators to help them understand this heritage so they can more effectively communicate it. “If we deepen and strengthen our knowledge of who we are, discipleship will be the natural outcome.” Mannoia joins annual retreats with faculty members to facilitate a clearer understanding of their spiritual heritage, and meets with adjunct professors to explain the university’s core values.

He also oversees SoulQuest, a spiritual care ministry for graduate students. “We want everyone to have a personal encounter with Christ,” said Mannoia. “Graduate students are very different from undergraduates. They are adults, many are married, roughly 35 percent of them are not believers, and all are commuters. I email each one of them weekly to let them know we are here and available to all who seek guidance. We help them locate a church, pray with them, meet with them one on one. No graduate student attends APU without clearly knowing that we care for him or her as a whole person. They leave here knowing that APU is genuinely interested in their soul.”

And they leave here equipped to serve and increase the Kingdom regardless of circumstances, geography, or status. “Today, we need a Church that is mobile and impactful,” said Canales. “If disciple-scholars emerge from APU with marketable skills and employability coupled with a deeper faith, a solid understanding of who God wants them to be, and a Christian mentor who knows them well and holds them accountable, the Church would be infinitely more effective in living out the biblical call to be salt and light in the world.” Azusa Pacific envisions a population of alumni—doctors, scientists, mathematicians, social workers, teachers, coaches,

nurses, pastors, missionaries, artists, musicians, business professionals, entrepreneurs, and parents—ready and able to model the Great Commandment and fulfill the Great Commission. This happens when they engage in discipleship just as Jesus modeled it—an apprenticeship for successful Christian living that transcends the world’s understanding of mentors, interns, and life coaches. As an institution committed to standing as a city on a hill, APU carries the solemn responsibility to integrate this training throughout every office, department, classroom, dorm room, and chapel, keeping *God First* at all times, and discipleship and degrees inextricably linked.

Apply to be a spiritual mentor at [apu.edu/campuspastors/programs/mentoring/mentors/](http://apu.edu/campuspastors/programs/mentoring/mentors/).

*Cyndie Hoff is a freelance writer living in Walnut, California. [ceh.hoff@verizon.net](mailto:ceh.hoff@verizon.net)*



# Great Books and Preserving Civilization

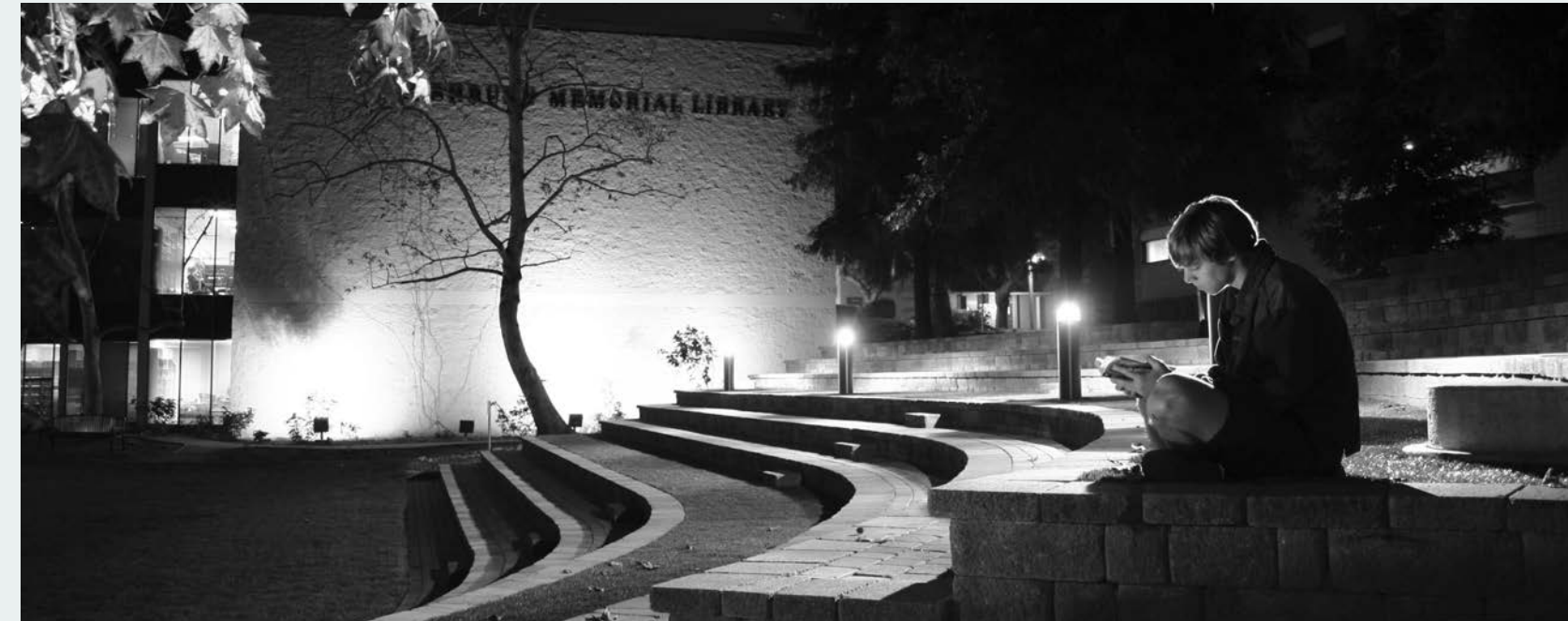
by Christopher Flannery

The great books curriculum forms the foundation of APU's Honors College. It might be more accurate to call it a great texts curriculum, because not all the *texts* we read are books—some are plays, some are poems, some are letters, and some are state papers, like the Constitution of the United States. Even more precisely, we might call this a great works curriculum, since we study great *works* of music and visual art, too, with field trips every semester to some of the great concert halls and museums in and around Los Angeles. We also explore nature, in a sense the greatest work of all, a product of the divine art of Creation. Books, however, lie at the heart of our scholarly inquiry—the histories, dialogues, memoirs, treatises, novels, and meditations of some of the world's greatest minds.

We seek to understand great books from all times and places as their authors understood them. And this implies two things. First, that it is possible to distinguish between what is great and what is ordinary. Second, that it is possible for the human mind to liberate itself from the confines of the time and place in which it finds itself and understand human thought from another time. And if we can liberate ourselves in this way from our time and place, it is also possible to liberate ourselves from our race, gender, socioeconomic class, and other such contingencies, and understand something about things as they are.

As surprising as it may sound, the highest academic authorities, whose opinions dominate teaching in American undergraduate and graduate schools, largely deny both of these possibilities. This poses the greatest challenge facing higher learning in America. In the Honors College, we begin by questioning this prevailing dogma of our time, to open our minds to all times and to greatness. We invite our students to join us in the liberating—and reasonable and questionable—affirmation of the freedom of the human mind. That our minds are free is the most decisive condition of learning; it means that our conclusions are not determined by our race, gender, or class, but are free to be determined by the truth—truth about the greatest things.

But what is a great book?



PHOTOS BY SKYLER RUSSELL '13 AND CABRINA ALVIAR, MFA '12



Consider this: Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius (Boethius to us), a Roman who lived from about 480 to 524 AD, was among the most educated men of his time, and held some of the highest honors in the Roman state. Boethius saw Roman civilization vanishing. For him, Roman civilization meant largely an inherited Greek civilization, and Greek civilization was best summed up by the two greatest minds he knew—Plato and Aristotle, who had written their books in Greek 800 or 900 years before his time. He aspired to translate all of Plato's and Aristotle's works from Greek into Latin in an effort to preserve what he considered the essence of civilization for future generations.

He never fulfilled his life's ambition—Boethius was unjustly imprisoned for treason at the age of 45. While in prison awaiting execution, however, he wrote his own great book, *The Consolation of Philosophy*—the first reading of the sophomore year in the Honors College curriculum. This book, in its own way, offered a distillation of the civilization Boethius hoped to preserve. It became one of the most widely read and influential books for the next 700 years in Europe. It was translated from Latin into German, French, Italian, and English as these languages came into existence. C.S. Lewis, in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, wrote that up until the mid-1700s, it would have been “hard to find an educated man in any European country who did not love” Boethius' book.

So what is it that makes a great book great? Boethius might define a great book as one that wise and educated people would most want to translate and preserve if they saw civilization vanishing. Lewis might say a great book is one that deserves the love—the fullest attention—of the best of minds. In the Honors College, we invite the best of young minds to give loving attention to great books, so that they may help preserve civilization for coming generations.

*Christopher Flannery, Ph.D., is a professor in the Honors College. He is a native Angeleno and cofounder of [eveninla.com](http://eveninla.com), a site that celebrates American stories and music. [cflannery@apu.edu](mailto:cflannery@apu.edu)*



# Investing in Our Mission

2014-2015  
FISCAL YEAR

## Total Giving

APU receives gifts from faculty, staff, alumni, parents, trustees, foundations, corporations, churches, and friends. We are grateful for this support of our mission and investment in students.

### TOTAL GIVING BY CONSTITUENCY

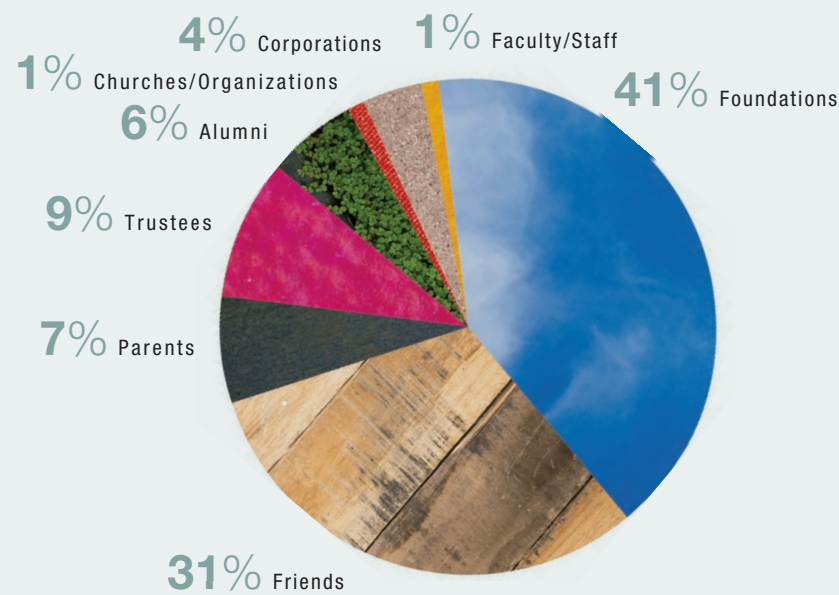
Alumni	\$593,762
Churches/Organizations	\$148,400
Corporations	\$443,695
Faculty/Staff	\$144,390
Foundations	\$4,153,320
Friends	\$3,147,793
Parents	\$683,378
Trustees	\$896,315

### TOTAL GIVING SUMMARY

Capital	\$1,251,581
Endowment	\$2,531,204
Restricted	\$2,892,150
University Fund	\$2,100,718
Annuity/Trust	\$1,435,400

**TOTAL**  
**\$10,211,053**

**TOTAL**  
**\$10,211,053**

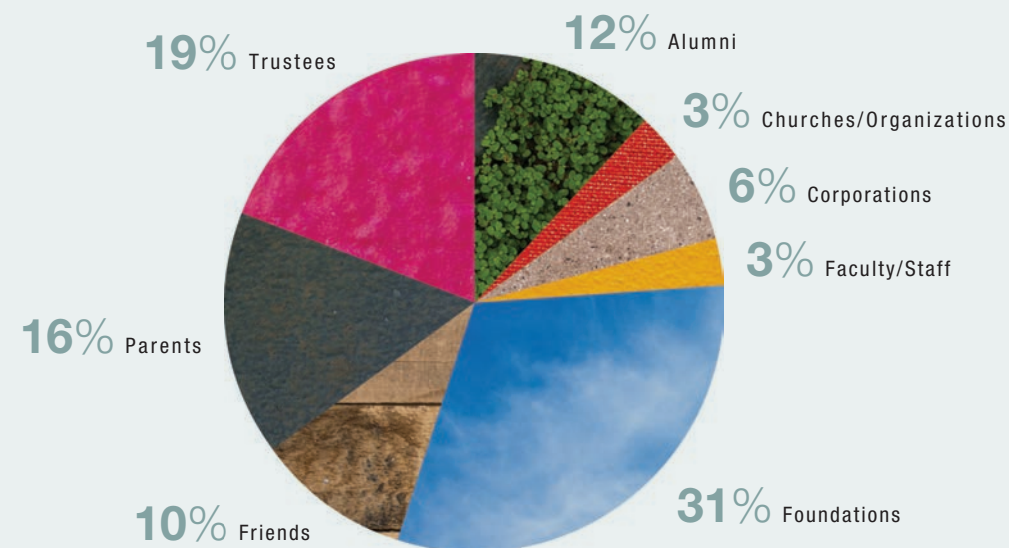


## University Fund Giving

The University Fund supports student scholarships, faculty positions, academic and student life programs, and technology advancements.

### UNIVERSITY FUND GIVING BY CONSTITUENCY

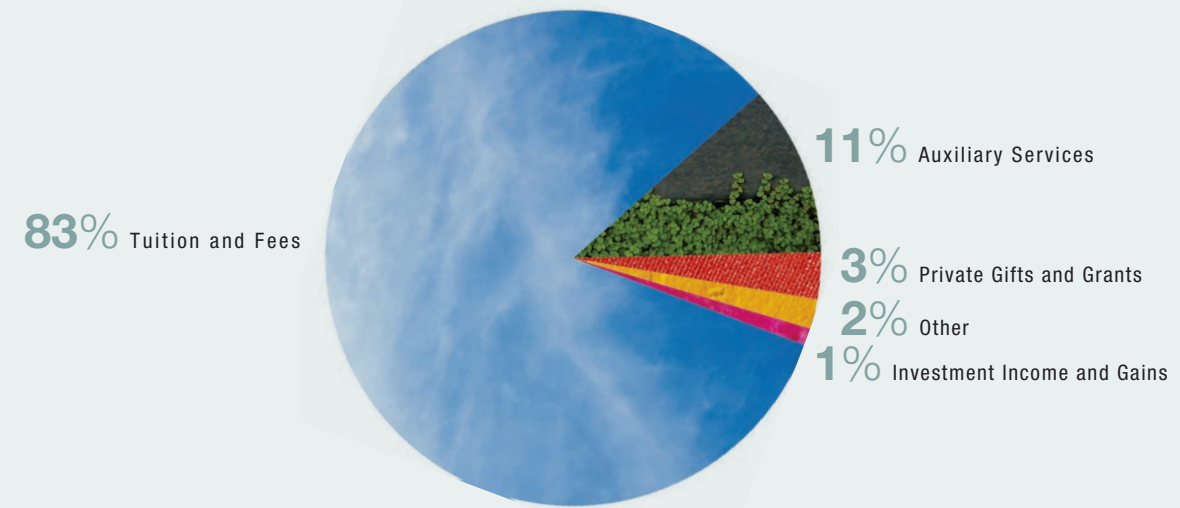
Alumni	\$256,640
Churches/Organizations	\$61,338
Corporations	\$125,218
Faculty/Staff	\$73,907
Foundations	\$642,030
Friends	\$200,319
Parents	\$335,977
Trustees	\$405,289



**TOTAL**  
**\$2,100,718**

## Stewarding Our Resources

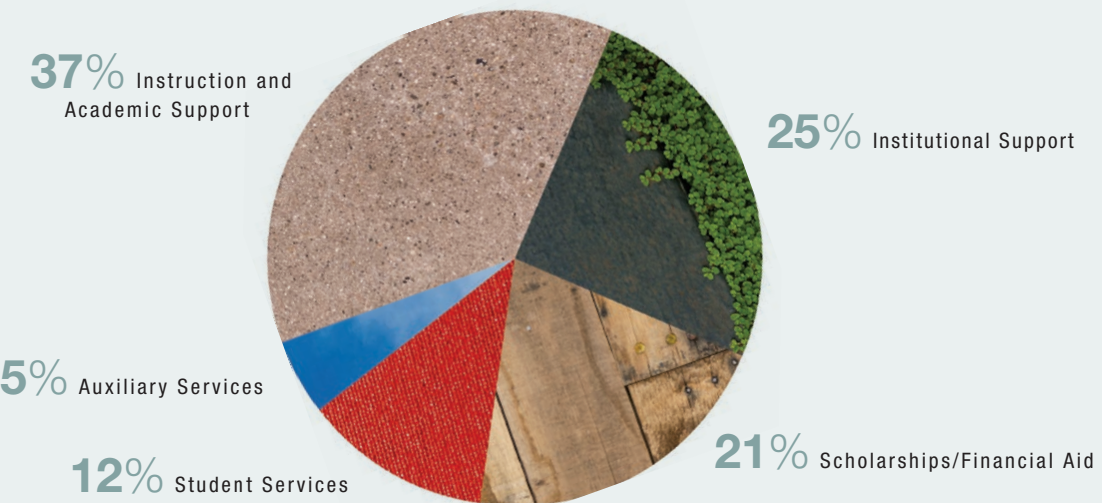
Selected financial numbers/Operating Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 (unaudited).



### Revenue Breakdown

Tuition and Fees	\$262,798,761
Auxiliary Services	\$33,133,667
Private Gifts and Grants	\$9,406,415
Other	\$6,144,635
Investment Income and Gains	\$4,440,065

**TOTAL**  
**\$315,923,543**



### Expenditure Breakdown

Instruction and Academic Support	\$117,358,037
Institutional Support	\$76,764,269
Scholarships/Financial Aid	\$65,250,180
Student Services	\$38,348,428
Auxiliary Services	\$16,515,419

**TOTAL**  
**\$314,236,333**

## Assisting Our Students

Institutional Scholarships and Grants

**\$64,777,313**

Federal and State Scholarships and Grants

**\$23,122,693**

Percent of Undergraduate Students Receiving Any Form of Institutional or Need-based Financial Aid (2014-15)

**93%**

Freshman Retention (Fall 2014-15)

**88%**

## Summary

Total Assets  
**\$360,282,343**

Total Debt  
**\$137,174,067**

Debt-to-Asset Ratio

**38%**

Endowment Balance  
**\$60,728,807**

Five-year Growth

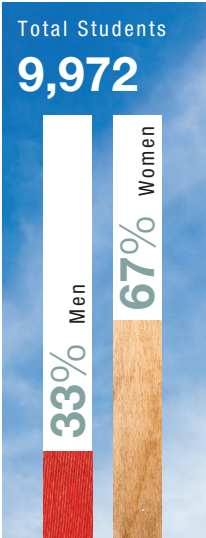
**55%**



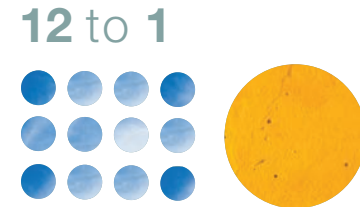
## Foundations and Grantors

The Ahmanson Foundation  
 Arizona Community Foundation  
 Azusa Rotary Foundation  
 Barnabas Foundation  
 BNY Mellon Charitable Gift Fund  
 California Community Foundation  
 The Capital Group Company Charitable Foundation  
 Capstone Legacy Foundation  
 Carl E. Wynn Foundation  
 Charles Koch Foundation  
 The Community Foundation  
*The Victress Bower Fund and  
 The James K. Wilden Fund*  
 Community Partners  
 Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
 DAST Foundation, Inc.  
 Dorothy and Henry Hwang Foundation  
 EMELCO Foundation  
 Family Unity Foundation  
 Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
 The Freeman Foundation  
 The Fuller Foundation  
 Hansen Family Foundation  
 Helen and Will Webster Foundation  
 Hugh and Hazel Darling Foundation  
 IHS Foundation  
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 The John Randolph Haynes Foundation  
 The John Templeton Foundation  
 Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare  
 J.W. and Ida M. Jameson Foundation  
 The Kern Family Foundation, Inc.  
 McGrew-Philipp Family Foundation  
 The Minneapolis Foundation  
 The Museum of the Bible—Green Scholars Initiative  
 National Christian Foundation, California  
 National Christian Foundation, Greater Chicago  
 National Christian Foundation, Hawaii  
 National Christian Foundation, Seattle  
 National Christian Foundation, West Michigan  
 New York Community Trust  
 Orange County Community Foundation  
 Pasadena Methodist Foundation  
 Peter and Masha Plotkin Memorial Foundation  
 Pikes Peak Community Foundation  
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 Reebok Foundation Inc.  
 Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
 The Rose Hills Foundation  
 SCIO Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford  
 Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
 WWR Charitable Foundation  
 W.M. Keck Foundation

## University Snapshot



Student-to-Faculty Ratio



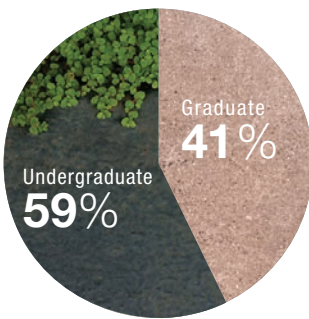
Total Staff

**883**

Total Faculty

**1,219**

Student Enrollment



Ethnic Minority Students (Undergraduate)

**48%**

Average GPA for Incoming Freshmen

**3.64**

Average SAT for Incoming Freshmen

**1,092**



## Corporate Matching Gifts and Government Grants

**129 individuals** multiplied their personal donations to APU by participating in their employers' matching gift program, resulting in **\$75,564** in corporate matching funds from **73 companies**. Through APU's Office of Research and Grants, faculty began work on projects secured through government grants totaling **\$2,552,678**.

## Gift and Estate Planning

APU provides professional services to help individuals make informed decisions regarding their current and future estate plans, while also facilitating investment in our mission. Over time, these generous gifts have helped build today's endowment to more than **\$60 million**. In 2014-15, APU received **\$1,552,925** through gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, matured bequests, and other gift-planning vehicles.

## Business/Corporate Support

**\$2,500 and more**

Ambassador Advertising Agency  
 American Redevelopment Solutions, LLC  
 America's Christian Credit Union  
 Arrow Motors, Inc.  
 Capital Research Advisors, LLC  
 Compudigital Industries®, Inc.  
 Dean Enterprises  
 Don Widmer, Inc.  
 Edison International  
 Fidelity Brokerage Services  
 Furniture Row  
 Gateway to L.A.  
 Global Law Group Corporation  
 Husqvarna Construction Products  
 In-N-Out Burger  
 Kaiser Permanente Foundation Hospital  
 KPMG Foundation Giving Campaign  
 Larry W. Smith Ranch  
 Network for Good  
 New Life Foundation International, Inc.  
 Orange Aluminum Corp.  
 Providence Hospitality Partners, LLC  
 The Donut Man  
 University Club of Pasadena  
 Visiting Angels, Glendora  
 Visiting Angels, Upland

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Milhon (left) with Okoye and Franson

PHOTO BY DUSTIN REYNOLDS '07, MBA '10

# Coaching for Impact

by Micah McDaniel

In 2007, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rolled out a series of popular public service announcements. The commercials simply stated, "There are over 380,000 student-athletes, and most of us go pro in something other than sports."

Christian Okoye '87 did both. The Nigerian native picked up American football at age 23 at Azusa Pacific University and later found success in the National Football League (NFL), earning a pair of trips to the Pro Bowl and an AFC Offensive Player of the Year honor in 1989. After wrapping up a successful six-year career on the gridiron, he's gone pro in a new field, making a big impact in his local community.

Far removed from his playing days, Okoye now runs the Christian Okoye Foundation he established in Rancho Cucamonga in 1990, which offers free summer football and soccer clinics to kids unable to afford them. But his vision goes beyond sports. Okoye works to instill leadership qualities, build

relationships, and improve the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the kids he works with—all qualities he developed during his time at Azusa Pacific. "My passion for giving back to the community and encouraging kids is because of my experience as a student-athlete at Azusa Pacific. I learned how to be a football player, but I also learned to be a better person. Sports have a way of developing and preparing kids for life."

That's something Azusa Pacific Athletics has strived to do since Cliff Hamlow '56 started the program in the 1950s. It continued when Terry Franson, Ph.D., took over as athletic director in the mid-1990s and through Bill Odell's 16-year tenure, and now thrives under Gary Pine '84, MBA '05. The development of the student-athlete as a whole person remains the constant thread, and Okoye, like thousands of others who competed for Azusa Pacific, felt the tangible benefits of that philosophy.

"I believe the only reason I had a successful career in the NFL is because of my APU family," said Okoye. "Through their love and patience, I moved beyond track and field and was molded into the football player and person that I became.

And when you get treated the way I did by the people at APU, you want to give back. When I work with kids in my foundation, and they thank me for caring about them, I know it's because of APU's influence."

More than three decades later, the relationships still flourish. "The connection I have is strong because of the love and understanding I was shown from the first time I stepped on campus. It's people like Franson, Jim Milhon, Hamlow, Pine, Elaine Baugus, and others. They realized I left everything at home in Nigeria, and they embraced me as one of their own. They made Azusa Pacific feel like home."

Then the head track and field coach, Franson recruited Okoye for his team. Okoye later picked up football, and the rest is history. "Coach Franson was such a positive influence on me. He showed me love. When I went to the Senior Bowl, he was the one I called for encouragement. When I went to play for the Kansas City Chiefs, we kept in contact. His prayers and encouragement pushed me through injuries and tough times."

Okoye makes it a point to return to Azusa Pacific often to see Franson and others. He attends many home football games and tries to make every home opener and Homecoming game, often reconnecting with former classmates, professors, and coaches. "I often say I am blessed because God brought me to APU. The people here genuinely love the students, and when they interact with them, it's like they are interacting with their own kids. That's how it was when I was there, and that's how it is now. The campus has changed through the years, but the culture and the values haven't. This place impacted me, and almost 30 years later, I want to help others the way this place helped me."

For more information, watch *Christian Okoye: A Football Life*, an NFL Network documentary that premiered September 18, 2015.

Micah McDaniel '99 is a digital and content marketer living in McKinney, Texas. micah.mcdaniel@gmail.com



# Positive Assist



PHOTOS BY HOLLY MAGNUSON '95, M.A.W.L.'11

by Micah McDaniel

LyDell Cardwell '15 grew up on the rough streets of East Palo Alto, California. His parents divorced when he was young, leaving his mom to raise him and his two younger sisters alone. Cardwell had every opportunity to get mixed up with violence, gangs, and negativity, but he didn't.

"I could tell the first time I met him that he was a positive kid," said Azusa Pacific men's basketball head coach Justin Leslie '00, MBA '01. "He's always smiling and has a youthful enthusiasm. College athletics can sometimes become routine, but he keeps it fresh and is constantly giving us perspective that it's just a game."

In high school, Cardwell was a star—one of the top scorers in the state, he led Mid-Peninsula High to the CIF Central Coast Finals for the first time. Hailing from a small, private school, however, meant little attention from recruiters, and he received just two offers: one from Concordia University, the other, Azusa Pacific.

"Fortunately, I was a good student, and I surrounded myself with friends who stayed positive and pushed me," said Cardwell. "It was a tough neighborhood, but if you avoided the negativity and were doing positive things, people supported you. My mom and the older guys on the block kept me from going down the wrong path. And I always had basketball."

The transition from the high school game to college did not come easily. Cardwell redshirted his freshman year and played in only 13 games and for 37 minutes in 2013. Playing time increased a little the next season when he played in 27 games, but for a baller accustomed to scoring nearly 30 points per game in high school, averaging fewer than 6 hurt his pride.

Frustrated and discouraged, Cardwell considered leaving, but he chose to stay. "That was one of the toughest times in my life. There were times I cried myself to sleep. I had to take a step back and realize I was young, and still learning, and I'm not that guy anymore. It was humbling, but once I accepted that, I started to learn. Coach always says, 'Control what you can control, and the only thing you can control is your attitude and effort.' So, I stopped being angry at everything, accepted a role, and played that to the best of my ability. I'm so glad I stayed. It was the best decision I've ever made."

That trying time also brought Cardwell closer to God. "I did a lot of praying, and He gave me a sense of peace. I also joined a D-group. I grew up in church, but went away from it when I was a teenager. Being at APU changed my life. I've learned so much about Christ. I've started praying more, reading Scripture, and surrounding myself with godly people. I got baptized again last December and have been on two mission trips that have made me realize how blessed I am."

Cardwell's role expanded even more last season as he became a key reserve on the Cougars' Elite Eight team. Then, in May, Cardwell became the first member of his family to graduate from college, earning a B.A. in Physical Education. He's now pursuing a graduate degree while finishing his athletic eligibility—a familiar path for Leslie.



"What I remember about playing as a graduate student is how differently my teammates viewed me," said Leslie. "It creates a separation, but also a greater respect level and an admiration. It brings an extra layer of credibility for the younger players in the program, and it drives home the message we're trying to instill in them about balancing their lives that much more when we have kids like LyDell modeling it."

And while he dreams of returning to his old neighborhood and starting an after-school program to teach kids life skills, Cardwell knows he has work left to do in his current community.

"I feel a strong sense of responsibility to show our new teammates this is a positive environment," said Cardwell. "We're different . . . that's APU. I don't want to just act like I'm a good guy, I want to be a good guy, and I'm

working hard every day to be a role model. Everyone wants to make a million dollars, but I want to touch a million lives."

"LyDell is the inspirational leader of this team," said Leslie. "He's worked hard, and through the process, the man we have now has been completely transformed. When the chips are down, he finds something encouraging to say or do. He loves helping people. That's his passion."

Micah McDaniel '99 is a digital and content marketer living in McKinney, Texas. micah.mcdaniel@gmail.com



# Cougars

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

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

### Fall Sports Highlights

**Women's Soccer:** Azusa Pacific earned the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Division II West Region, hosting the first and second round of the regional playoffs in mid-November. The Cougars tied for the Pacific West Conference championship, going 15-2 overall and 11-2 in conference play in the regular season to advance to the program's first NCAA tournament. Mayra Almazan '16 was named PacWest Player of the Year, one of five Cougars earning all-conference, first-team honors.

**Cross Country:** Eileen Stressling '18 earned an individual bid to the NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships, finishing fifth overall at the West Regional championship meet in Monmouth, Oregon. The women's team finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the region, while the men posted a seventh-place finish to lead all PacWest programs at the regional championships. Stressling gave Azusa Pacific an individual national qualifier for the second consecutive season, and Lauren Harrell '19 and Jeremy Porter '18 also earned all-region honors for their top-25 individual finishes.

**Football:** Azusa Pacific registered its third consecutive winning season, finishing 6-4 overall while going 3-3 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference games. The Cougars rank among the top-15 winningest Division II football programs over the past three years and have won 22 of their past 26 conference games dating back to 2012.

**Men's Soccer:** After finishing the season on a three-game winning streak to go 6-9-2 overall (6-6-1 PacWest), Azusa Pacific produced three all-conference selections. The Cougars, who claimed consecutive PacWest titles in 2013 and 2014, finished in a tie for seventh place in the 2015 conference standings.

**Volleyball:** Azusa Pacific bounced back from a 0-4 start with seven consecutive wins and swept defending conference champion BYU-Hawaii home and away in a midseason five-match winning streak to contend for a top-half finish in the PacWest. Three-time All-PacWest Mattie Shelford '16 ranked in the top 10 in career kills and Ashley Swatek '16 finished in the top 5 in career digs.

### Alumnus Claims Silver Medal at Paralympic World Championships



Former Azusa Pacific track and field athlete Trenten Merrill '14 earned a silver medal with the United States' 4x100-meter relay team at the 2015 International Paralympics Committee (IPC) World Championships. They posted a season-best time of 42.91 seconds, just over a second behind Germany's gold-medal performance. Merrill also competed individually in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, advancing to the finals in both events. He finished seventh in the 200 and eighth in the 100.

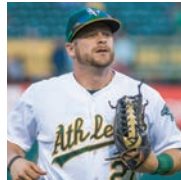
Lexi Youngberg '17, who competed for the Cougars last spring and will return to the team in 2016, represented Team USA in her first IPC World Championships appearance in the preliminary heats of the 100- and 200-meter dash.

### Baseball Alumni Update



#### Kirk Nieuwenhuis '09

Kirk Nieuwenhuis '09 became the first Azusa Pacific baseball player to play in the World Series, appearing in four games for the National League champion New York Mets. Nieuwenhuis appeared in 74 regular-season games in 2015, his fourth big league season, and he wrapped up the first half of the season by becoming the first player in Mets history to hit three home runs in a home game.



#### Stephen Vogt '07

Stephen Vogt '07, who became Azusa Pacific's first MLB All-Star last summer, added several organizational awards to his All-Star season for the Oakland Athletics. Vogt received the 2015 Catfish Hunter Award, selected by the club's players, coaches, and staff members for the player whose performance on the field and conduct in the clubhouse best exemplifies the courageous, competitive, and inspirational spirit demonstrated by late Hall of Fame pitcher Catfish Hunter. Vogt, the first to win the award in consecutive years, was also the A's nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award and the recipient of the Dave Stewart Community Service Award.

### Upcoming Athletics Events

#### ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING

February 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Cougars vs. Hawai'i Pacific | Felix Event Center

#### BASEBALL

February 4-6 | Cougars vs. Western Oregon | Cougar Baseball Complex

#### SOFTBALL

February 1 | 4 p.m. | Cougars vs. UC San Diego | Cougar Softball Complex

#### TRACK AND FIELD

February 6 | 9 a.m. | Azusa Pacific Indoor Qualifier | Cougar Athletic Stadium

#### WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL

January 30 | 1 and 3 p.m. | Cougars vs. Fresno Pacific | Felix Event Center  
February 19 | 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. | Cougars vs. Concordia | Felix Event Center

#### WOMEN'S AND MEN'S TENNIS

February 13 | 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. | Cougars vs. Point Loma | Munson and Bavougian Tennis Courts

### Make Career Connections

Azusa Pacific alumni serve as some of the most effective teachers, scientists, health care professionals, entrepreneurs, ministers, missionaries, musicians, actors, and leaders in every field. Together, they represent a rich resource of potential mentors, employers, and advisors ready and willing to assist APU students and alumni seeking internships and job opportunities.

To facilitate these connections, the Center for Career and Calling sponsors the APU Career Network, an online tool where employers, alumni, and friends of the university can post jobs and internships.

If you know of open positions, contact the Office of Alumni Relations, post the job directly on the board at [apu.edu/career/employers/](http://apu.edu/career/employers/), or email the staff at [career@apu.edu](mailto:career@apu.edu) for assistance.

### Alumni Attitude Survey

No one knows the advantages of an APU degree like you do. That is why we want to hear about your experience since graduation, to ensure that you and your fellow Cougars know about and have access to the university's full support and its vast alumni network. To do that, we need your honest feedback—to streamline processes, strengthen connections, and add value to APU's services.

This New Year, expect a brief email survey. It should take only 7-10 minutes, but will add immeasurable insight to our efforts to support and engage alumni in the

## HOMEWORD | AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

### Tips for Refreshing Spiritual Intimacy in Your Marriage *by Jim Burns*

Most couples have neither considered nor discussed a plan to grow together spiritually. When we polled married couples about aspects of their marital satisfaction, we found that most expressed the least satisfaction with their level of spiritual intimacy, a topic too often relegated to the back burner.

However, couples who prioritize faith issues have a much greater chance of a thriving, successful marriage. In a study of more than 50,000 couples, David Olson, Ph.D., Amy Olson-Sigg, M.A., and Peter Larson, Ph.D., coauthors of *The Couple Checkup: Find Your Relationship Strengths* (Thomas Nelson, 2012), found that couples with a similar faith background who integrate their faith

into their relationship experience less conflict, clearer communication, more closeness, better financial management, a happier sexual relationship, and greater overall satisfaction.

While no easy formula exists to ensure spiritual intimacy and compatibility in marriage, every couple can incorporate a few healthy habits to refresh spiritual intimacy.

1

#### Worship together regularly.

As a couple, seize the opportunity to experience God's presence through regular worship. It draws you closer to God, and it also brings you closer to each other.

2

#### Seek spiritually replenishing relationships with other couples.

If you want to grow in your faith, seek mentors who can help you and be role models for you. Peers can also be an excellent source of positive spiritual influence in your life and marriage. Involvement in a couples' small group is a great way to develop replenishing relationships.

3

#### Pray together often.

Praying together offers a major source of spiritual intimacy and deepens your personal relationship with God. If your spouse is open to it, pray together daily. If your spouse is not very spiritually motivated, keep prayers short, and do it at a meal or another time that seems less intimidating.

4

**Develop a regular spiritual growth time as a couple.** Spiritual intimacy doesn't come naturally to most of us. Find something that works for both of you. Cathy and I wrote a book called *Closer: 52 Devotions to Draw Couples Together*, and it came from a commitment we made to spend 20 weeks working on spiritual intimacy. It may take some experimentation before you find what suits you, but don't get frustrated. Keep trying. To get started, I'd like to suggest a small but powerful step: Try spending just 20 minutes a week together on developing spiritual intimacy.

*For more information or to register for the 2016 Refreshing Your Marriage Conference, March 11-12, visit [homeworld.com](http://homeworld.com). The HomeWord Center for Youth and Family at Azusa Pacific University with Jim Burns '75, Ph.D., and Doug Fields values strong marriages, confident parents, empowered kids, and healthy leaders.*



1960s

**1 JOE KUNKLE '66** and his wife, **ELLEN (HAYES, ATTENDED 1964-66)**, traveled to Kenya and Paraguay on missions. Married for 49 years, the couple began ministry in 1966 in Portland, Oregon, while Joe attended Western Evangelical Seminary. Their lifetime of ministry, locations, and education includes: Grand Forks, North Dakota; the Summer Institute of Linguistics (Wycliffe): University Park, Iowa; Vennard College, Bolivia; World Gospel Mission (near the place he lived while serving with his missionary parents, John and Mabel, who attended the Training School for Christian Workers); language school in Guadalajara, Mexico; and Asuncion, Paraguay, to pioneer a

new church planting ministry. Joe and Ellen have two sons, John and Jeremy, and two adopted Guarayu girls, Amy and Angela. In 2003, they returned to the United States and settled in Casa Grande, Arizona, where they ministered to Native American churches on reservations, and in 2012, they retired. On their most recent trips to Kenya and Paraguay, Joe ministered in nine prisons, with more than 200 people coming to Christ, and Ellen ministered at two women's retreats with a total attendance of 1,500. joe.kunkle@wgm.org

1980s

**2 PHIL '83 and BECKY (ARMSTRONG '84) DAVIS**, missionaries for the Wesleyan Church, began a four-year teaching assignment at Asia

Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in the Philippines. Phil teaches contextual theology, Becky teaches music and worship, and together they lead a volunteer choir of students, staff, and spouses. Phil and Becky began their journey in pastoral ministry and served in four Wesleyan churches before they became missionaries in 1999, when they went to Suriname, a small country in South America. There, Phil built a Bible school and led pastors and church leaders, while Becky taught music to kids in the missionary school and helped musicians in local churches. In 2007, they moved to Belgium, where they both studied at the Catholic University of Leuven. They have four sons: Jonathan, Ryan, Jeremy, and Matthew. beckwith39@yahoo.com

1990s

**3 LORI (SCHLAICK, ATTENDED 1989-92) LAWSON** graduated from Wayland Baptist University in October with an M.A. in Christian Ministry. She is the director of the Petrescue Bible Institute in Cairo, Egypt. Her husband, **JOE '92**, retired from the U.S. Army in August 2013 and is now a federal civilian in the U.S. Air Force.

**VICKY MOORE '93, M.A. '99**, works with a community of educators, Teachers Pay Teachers, recently featured on CNBC. This open-marketplace business allows teachers to share, sell, and buy educational resources. Vicky has taught first-third grades for 21 years. She has two children and a husband who is an

athletic director. The family lives in Temecula, California. vickymoore40@gmail.com

**4 DAVE BURKE '94** accepted a position as associate vice president for enrollment solutions at Credo, a comprehensive higher education consulting firm. He works from home and travels throughout the U.S. to provide enrollment consulting for private colleges and universities. Previously, he served as the senior admissions director at APU. Dave and his wife, Marsha, live with their two sons, Noah and Evan, and their daughter, Kyla, in Erie, Colorado. davemarsha8986@gmail.com

**SERGIO BROWN, M.ED. '98**, became an assistant baseball coach for the University of Arizona in July and also serves as the recruiting coordinator and first base coach. Sergio led two teams to the College World Series: California State University, Fullerton, and the University of California, Irvine. Sergio also coached at California State University, Northridge; the University of California, San Diego; and Cypress Community College. Sergio and his wife, Olivia, have been married for 17 years. They live with their sons, Vincent, 15, and Cruz, 7, in Arizona. sergiobrown@arizona.edu

**5 FRANK FABELA '98** published an article, "Theory-Y Ethics for CEOs," in the September/October issue of *Ethikos: The Journal of Practical Business Ethics*. His article discusses influences in CEOs' decision making, explains weaknesses of Douglas McGregor's Theory-X framework method, and proposes an alternative framework, Theory-Y. The article also discusses peer advisory boards in relation to CEOs and organizations. It is available at [complianceandethics.org/theory-y-ethics-for-ceos/](http://complianceandethics.org/theory-y-ethics-for-ceos/). Frank and his wife, Kathy, live in Upland, California. frank.fabela@vistagechair.com

**6 CHRISTY (MANN) SEMSEN '98, M.A. '10**, won the Dove Award for best youth/children's musical, "Back to the Cross." Christy and her husband, **DANIEL '01**, have been nominated for Dove Awards in the past.

2000s

**RANDY TOTORP, M.ED. '01**, was selected as the new athletic director for

Long Beach City College after serving as interim athletic director from 2011-13. While in that position, he served as head coach for the men's volleyball team, which he led to three state championships and seven Western State Conference titles. Most recently, before coming back to LBCC, he was the director of athletics and kinesiology at El Camino College in Torrance. Randy, his wife, Sheila, and their two children, Taylor and Gunnar, live in Rossmoor, California. lbccvikings.com, rtotorp@lbcc.edu

**LEAH SLEMMONS '02** recently published her first picture book, *Hello Dark*, to encourage children to overcome that fear. Her book is available on Amazon. Leah, her husband, James, and their daughter, Evangeline, 3, live in Altadena, California. leah.slemmons@gmail.com

**HELEINA (LAW '03) HASKINS** recently published a book, *A Family Advent, Daily Readings*, a 24-day family devotional for the advent season. Unlike other advent devotionals, this one concentrates on the biblical narrative. Each includes a short reading and discussion questions. It is perfect for bedtime routines, talks around the dinner table, or starting a new family tradition. The book can be purchased at [facebook.com/learninghabitats](http://facebook.com/learninghabitats) or on Amazon.com. Heleina is an English teacher, and lives with her husband, **WILL '03**, and their two boys, Oscar, 5, and Sebastian, 1, in Hong Kong. heleina@learninghabitats.net

**7 SHELLEY LONG '04** obtained a position at North Central College in Illinois as visiting assistant professor of religious studies. Previously, Shelley was a lecturer at the Claremont School of Theology, and then an assistant professor of biblical studies at APU. Most recently, she served as a professor for APU's High Sierra Semester for a year, 13 years after she participated in the first cohort as a student in 2001. She met her husband, **JOSH '03**, when they were resident assistants in the Shire Mods. Shelley and Josh live in Wheaton, Illinois.

**8 HENRY ALONZO '05** manages a band, Miel San Marcos, which won the Dove Award for Spanish-language Album of the Year. This was Henry's sixth nominated album, and his second win as a manager, publicist, and marketing

director. **JAMIE DEE HART '17** served as assistant publicist for Henry during the Dove Awards, while completing a Best Semester program in music business in Nashville.

**9 KAREN GOSS, M.A. '07**, was named Coadministrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) for her service as assistant principal at Butterfield Ranch Elementary in Chino Hills. Currently principal of Glen Oak Elementary in the Charter Oak Unified School District, her prior posts include teaching elementary school technology resources and computer lab in Pasadena for 10 years, creating K-6 curriculum integrating technology, and serving an appointment by the State Board of Education to review instructional materials, primarily new English language arts and development materials. Karen, her husband, Michael, and their two children, Courtney, 7, and Grant, 3, live in Upland. karen.goss@gmail.com

**10 PAUL MARIETTI, M.A. '08, and NATASHA NEUMANN, M.A. '08**, recently began administrative roles in the Temple City Unified School District. Paul, now the director of student services and special education, previously served as student services director and juvenile court school principal at the Ventura County Office of Education. He taught history and special education for 15 years in the Greater Los Angeles area and was a principal at several schools. He and his wife, Sonie, and daughters, Antonia, 14, and Francesca, 11, live in Camarillo, California. pmarietti@tcsud.net

Natasha serves on the educational services team as a curriculum coordinator, having taught in the district for 10 years. Previously, she taught English in Spain for six years and began her career as a bilingual Spanish/English teacher in San Diego. Natasha and her husband, Javier Chagoyen Lazaro, live with their sons, Alejandro, 13, and David, 11, in Monrovia, California. nneumann@tcsud.net

**11 WESLEY WILLISON '09 and YESENIA GUZMAN '11, M.ED.**, became engaged on August 16, 2015, at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Family and friends in attendance included **KATHERINE PEEK '79, DBA,**

and future APU alumni Iliia Willison and Fidel Guzman. Yesenia serves as a part-time professor and teaches a full-time, first-grade Spanish immersion class. Wesley has published numerous articles and earned a multiple subject teaching credential last year at APU. In addition to his roles as a college professor and fifth-grade teacher, he is completing his M.Ed. at APU. The couple plans to tie the knot in 2016.

2010s

**12 JAMIE HUNTER '12** recently joined boutique tech marketing agency Elixiter as an associate marketing consultant in Bozeman, Montana. Previously, Jamie spent three years working for a subsidiary of mass media corporation News Corp. in sales, account management, and consumer promotion marketing.

**MCKENNA BENNETT '14** serves as a residence director at California Baptist University. McKenna previously served as a community advisor and resident advisor at APU. mbennett09@apu.edu

**BROOKE GERLACH '14** received a multiple subject teaching credential this year and started teaching third grade at Two Bunch Palms in Desert Hot Springs, California. She lives in Palm Springs. brookegerlach@gmail.com

**13 SARAH RITTER '14** began her position as a mild/moderate special education teacher at Valhalla High School in east San Diego. She serves as an intern teacher, a full-time, salaried faculty member position, while completing her student teaching. Sarah is pursuing a mild/moderate disabilities specialist preliminary credential and an M.A. in Education: Special Education at APU's San Diego Regional Center. She lives in El Cajon, California. sritter10@apu.edu

**14 HANNAH BARRENTINE '15** joined the Peace Corps and will begin in March 2016 as a primary literacy educator and promoter in the Dominican Republic. Hannah will work to improve literacy and achievement in students, involve the community in education, and be a resource for the school directors, teachers, parents, and youth. She lives in Visalia, California. hannahbarrentine@gmail.com

continued on page 33

COUGAR INTERVIEW—DARRYL QUALLS '96



With more than 35 years in law enforcement, Darryl Qualls '96, chief deputy for the Pasadena Police Department, understands the importance of trust between the public and its local police officers. While books and training prepared him for a wide range of roles—from drug prevention and disaster preparedness to hostage negotiations and terrorism research—his upbringing in the town he serves today prepared his heart and soul to promote racial reconciliation between the police and his community.

**APU LIFE:** How has your experience informed the way you approach your work?

**QUALLS:** My involvement began in early childhood during the tumultuous 1960s. My family stuck together, and we spent a lot of time at each other's homes for social functions. I watched how my parents' generation supported and believed in one another. The way my friends and family treated each other impressed me and encouraged the development of a worldview that was inclusive, helpful, and nurturing. I believe I brought that spirit with me to police work.

**APU LIFE:** Why is community relations important to you, and what is your vision for the future in Pasadena?

**QUALLS:** It does take a village to raise a child. I grew up in northwest Pasadena, born in a hospital that is now the Pasadena Public Health building. I guess you could say I was community-oriented from birth. The people make a city or a town special. When the residents believe in the area in which they live, it thrives. When neighbors believe in themselves, education takes root. Businesses want to be in a vibrant, growing place. This also forms the foundation of a positive relationship with the police department and city government. These are the ingredients for great cities.

**APU LIFE:** Your roles over the years have been vast and varied. What have you found to be the toughest responsibility?

**QUALLS:** Day to day my job is to implement the vision and chart the path for the department of more than 380 employees as set by our chief and our city's leaders. Although this is a tremendous responsibility, I am most proud of helping men and women get back on their feet after the devastating impact of drugs. It's rewarding to hear that some of the young people whose lives I've touched have gone on to become teachers, business owners, and attorneys.

**APU LIFE:** What do you hope to accomplish?

**QUALLS:** I helped found the Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council, which helps men and women who are released home after incarceration get back on their feet. This population is generally discarded, shunned, or ostracized. Yet, many of the people who have been arrested are no different from you or me. I always say, "There, but for the grace of God, go I." Any one of us can find ourselves in this situation simply by one lapse in judgment. In fact, many of the people who were formerly incarcerated were friends of mine from high school. Some have been incarcerated for many

years, and it is my hope to simply help them in any way I can. What do I want to accomplish? Instill hope.

**APU LIFE:** What keeps you motivated to continue this challenging work for more than three decades?

**QUALLS:** I believe in what I do, and I'm here to serve. Even though the road gets tough and my profession gets criticized, I know many great police officers dedicated to service—to find a lost child, to catch the guy that has raped a woman, to help bring stability to a tumultuous family relationship, or to hold the hand of a family who loses a loved one. These are the great acts of service that have kept me motivated throughout these years.

**APU LIFE:** What message would you most like to share with the public about the value of a strong connection between law enforcement and residents?

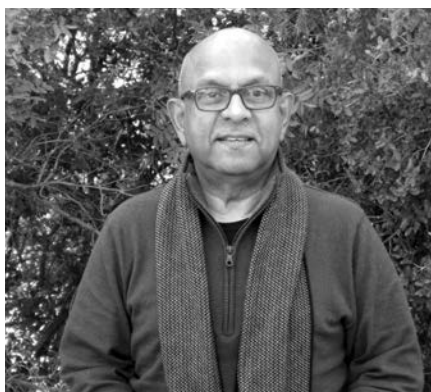
**QUALLS:** Sir Robert Peele, founder of modern law enforcement, captured it best: "The public are the police and the police are the public." When the police and the public believe in each other and share goals, communities flourish. I love being a small part of that dynamic.



# The Global Servant

by Rachel White

Daniel Chetti '76, Ph.D., grew up in a small dusty village in South India, with no running water or electricity, living amid stark poverty. He later moved with his family to Calcutta, where his father became pastor of a historic Baptist church. Here he first saw the Church at work in the world. His father sought to bring hope and beauty to his family and their community by growing a bountiful garden on the church grounds for all to share and enjoy. Chetti remembers seeing local nuns visit the garden to cut fresh flowers for their Friday Mass. Those nuns belonged to the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation founded by Mother Teresa dedicated to helping the poor.



COURTESY OF DANIEL CHETTI '76

"As a boy, I would see Mother Teresa riding crowded tram cars, walking the streets of Calcutta, helping those in need," said Chetti. "At the time, I had no idea who she was, but I knew she was doing God's work." This ability to recognize God's work has served Chetti well, fueling his lifelong calling as a global servant for Christ.

As a young man, Chetti left India to attend London Bible College. His finances proved insufficient, so in 1972, he applied to Azusa Pacific College, the university's forerunner. "The president at the time,

Dr. Cornelius Haggard, graciously gave me a full scholarship, enabling me to come to the United States and complete my bachelor's degree, and for that I am deeply grateful," he said. His time at APU strengthened his faith and his focus, affirming his passions for ministry and teaching.

Attentive to God's call, Chetti returned to India to teach at an Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Madras and serve as assistant pastor at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for 13 years.

This interdenominational work prepared him for what came next—answering the charge to serve in a complex area of the world where God reveals Himself in unexpected ways.

"God is in control," said Chetti. "We need to realize God is sovereign, and we shouldn't be paralyzed by fear or discouraged by what we read or see on television, because God is moving in ways like never before."

From Chetti's vantage point as a professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon, he views history in

the making. The upheaval and aftermath of the Arab Spring and the escalating Syrian refugee crisis provide heartache and opportunity as never before. Chetti equips leaders for the Church in the Arab world from nine countries across the Middle East and North Africa, including Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. "These difficult times allow God to reveal Himself among His people," he said. "There is an interdenominational revival taking place in the Middle East. Baptists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, Coptic Evangelical, Armenian Evangelical, Church of God, and Pentecostal members are serving together and recognizing that God's Kingdom transcends all boundaries and individual identities. The Church is a much bigger tent housing all nations and all tribes."

The church Chetti attends in Hadath, Lebanon, reflects this awakening. The congregation, which includes members from several countries, recently grew from 150 to more than 500, drawing Lebanese, Iraqi, Kurdish, and Syrian Christians to worship together. "The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the age of the migrating Church," he said. "Populations are crossing borders. In Lebanon, every third person is now a Syrian refugee. Amidst the turmoil, there is a hunger for the Gospel in the Middle East like never before."

In addition to training church leaders, the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary houses the Institute of Middle East Studies, which works to advance positive relations in the Middle East and beyond by encouraging Christian-Muslim dialogue through curriculum, programs, and educational events. The institute aims to dispel inaccurate religious and cultural perceptions and find common ground. "We are at the forefront of an Arab Renaissance, a political and philosophical transformation that casts aside the rigid structures of the past in search of peace. God is at work here. He is opening the door."

Rachel White is associate director of public relations in the Office of University Relations. [rewhite@apu.edu](mailto:rewhite@apu.edu)

## The Gospel for All

"God weaves together our diverse experiences to prepare us for whatever He calls us to do," said Roy Peterson, M.A. '99, Litt.D., and the life of this servant leader reflects these words. As president and CEO of the American Bible Society, a world leader in Bible engagement, distribution, and translation, Peterson works to ensure that every person has access to God's Word.



COURTESY OF ROY PETERSON, M.A. '99

Peterson did not initially plan a career in Christian nonprofits. With an undergraduate degree in business administration, he worked for more than a decade in sales management. Then he traded the business office for a very different work environment: the mission field of Ecuador and Guatemala, where he worked for eight years as a liaison between Wycliffe Bible Translators and local government, ministry, and business leaders, while also studying leadership

at Azusa Pacific. "God's calling was clear," he said. "I knew He was leading me to use my business experience in a new way—contributing to the Bible movement." Eventually, the threads of his experience in leadership, business, and Bible translation came together when he served as president and CEO of Wycliffe Bible Translators USA and The Seed Company, international nonprofits focusing on Bible translation. Today, Peterson guides American Bible Society in initiating worldwide goals, collaborating with donors and key stakeholders, and empowering international partners and churches in Scripture engagement to provide global access to God's Word. The organization also served as a founding partner in Every Tribe Every Nation, an alliance of translation organizations gathering and digitizing every known translation of the Bible in the world. "I've seen workers carry Bibles into villages on canoes, buses, trucks, donkeys, and on foot, and now, on the digital highway," said Peterson. "We do whatever is necessary to make God's Word available and alive everywhere. The Gospel of Jesus Christ changes lives, and everyone on Earth should have the opportunity to know the greatest story ever told."

But Peterson's ultimate goal goes beyond placing a Bible in someone's hands. "Access to the Bible is important, but we pray that people might truly know Jesus, and engage Scripture with all their hearts and lives." Recently, American Bible Society ministered to women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who suffered abuse and lost family members to war. "They found new life and freedom in the healing words of Scripture, and went on to help other women in their country through emotional and spiritual restoration," said Peterson.

Even with great strides in recent years, much work remains for Bible translators. More than 1,800 languages have no translations, and more than 1 billion people are without access to the complete Bible. Peterson sees the next generation of businesspeople as key to spreading the Gospel. "The world needs people who can create more efficient and effective systems using technology along with best business and people practices," said Peterson. "The insights I gained at APU carry into my work today, and I look forward to seeing today's students become servant leaders. No matter where God places you—whether in business or ministry—that's your calling."

## Bringing Change to the Table

An environmental and human health advocate for more than 35 years, Wolfram Alderson '04 has witnessed countless shifts in the scales of social justice. He worked on projects to end homelessness on Los Angeles' Skid Row, established an urban forestry program in the Bay Area, and developed treatment programs to build up California's most underserved populations.



COURTESY OF WOLFRAM ALDERSON '04

Now, as founding executive director for the Institute for Responsible Nutrition (IRN), Alderson's latest endeavor brings him full circle to his passion for creating change that uplifts others. In 1979, Alderson, then just 19, worked with an interfaith agency to feed the hungry and establish the premier certified farmers' markets in low-income communities of Los Angeles County. The first market opened in a Gardena church parking lot with four vendors and still operates today. The

effort also ignited Alderson's career dedicated to social change and knocking down barriers to sustainable, nutritious food.

That conviction and drive recently attracted Alderson to the vision of Robert Lustig, MD, a San Francisco pediatric endocrinologist and a sugar-additive foe who penned *New York Times* bestseller *Fat Chance* (Plume, 2013). Lustig's idea for a nonprofit fit well with Alderson's decades of nonprofit start-up experience. "Wolfram is helping steer IRN toward becoming an influential voice in the debate over processed food versus real food," said Lustig.

Completing his bachelor's degree at APU gave Alderson new perspective that energized his calling. "The faculty asked me about my family and the impact my education could have on everyone in my life," he said. "It was a powerful experience to have my personal and professional lives integrated into this model of leadership learning, and I carried that forward in my career."

With Alderson's guidance, IRN earned nonprofit status in 2014 and set out to upend many of the practices that have gained a foothold in the food industry. The institute seeks to introduce a food-packaging label that would help consumers easily identify clean, additive-free products and push the Food and Drug Administration to remove sugar from its Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) database of food substances. "Doing so will force food manufacturers to stop adding bogus ingredients, which will mean the end of processed food and pave the way to producing real food that sustains health and nourishes families," said Lustig.

Another major IRN initiative draws attention to the negative impact of sugar while empowering people to make better food choices by providing science-based information about nutrition and health. "From documentaries to short-form Web content, we are developing impactful media that grab people's attention and motivate them to take action in their own households and communities. Educating the public is an essential part of our focus," said Alderson. "I feel a sense of injustice at the pollutants and toxic ingredients people are often subjected to in our environment and food supply that hurt our health. And the disadvantaged suffer most. I realized early on in my career that this is how I wanted to spend my time here on Earth—finding ways to be part of the solution."



# Serving Those Who Serve

by Rachel White



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW MONTES '15

*"I benefited from small class sizes, supportive faculty and staff, and a strong social work program that helps students prepare for this challenging field."*

—Andrew Montes '15

Andrew Montes '15 remembers the cold, dreary winter afternoon at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, in 2010 when the care packages arrived. Boxes containing handwritten notes and drawings from school children, Christmas cards from neighbors and strangers alike, warm socks, and an assortment of candy and snacks brightened the day and made Montes even more grateful for his hometown of Azusa. He shared the contents with his fellow servicemen and women and posted the cards and notes of support in a common area so all could benefit from the encouraging words. "Just knowing I had everyone back home thinking of me made all the difference in the world," said Montes. "It demonstrated what I love most about Azusa—the people."

The Montes family's roots run deep in the city, with three generations calling Azusa home. "My grandparents, parents, and extended family all live here," said Montes. "In fact, Azusa Mayor Joseph Rocha was my mother's sixth grade teacher." Montes' dad coached him in baseball and served as the league vice president, constantly modeling the value of hard work and sacrifice—traits learned from his father, Andrew's grandfather, Bacilio, a veteran who served during the Korean War. While Bacilio made it home from the war, six others from Azusa did not. The Veterans' Memorial Monument in front of City Hall honors their sacrifice, and each July, residents gather there for the Korean War Armistice Day Ceremony to thank veterans and share yellow roses in remembrance of those who gave their lives. This enduring commitment to veterans and servicemembers defines the heart of the city, according to Mayor Rocha. "Freedom is not free," said Rocha. "Life as we know it is only possible because of our servicemen and women."

The city's strong support of its military men and women and the courage of his own ancestors affirmed Montes' decision to enlist in the U.S. Air Force upon graduating from Azusa High School in 2006. He deployed to Iraq in 2007 during

Operation Iraqi Freedom, facing the harsh realities of combat when the U.S. moved to secure and protect critical areas of Baghdad and Al Abner Province. After Montes completed his tour in Iraq, the Air Force sent him on a peacekeeping mission in South Korea, more than 50 years after the Korean War, which proved a poignant end to his military career. Montes returned to Azusa a hometown hero who downplayed his service and focused on his new mission—to use his experiences to help others.

The support Montes received from his family, friends, and community helped ease his transition to civilian life. "Not everyone is that fortunate," Montes said. "I personally know veterans who struggled when they returned home with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), homelessness, substance abuse, and marriage and family conflicts." The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports that 10 to 18 percent of veterans who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars face PTSD, and returning troops experience depression and engage in excessive drinking and substance abuse at higher levels than the general population.

Given these dismal statistics, Montes aspired to pursue a career where he could assist veterans in need and sought the advice of his older brother Jesse, MSW '10, to help him define a path forward. "I see my brother as a role model," he said. "Through his work as a licensed clinical social worker at a California state hospital, Jesse makes a positive impact on the lives

of his clients who battle mental illness. He attributes his success to hard work and the education he received at APU." Montes decided to follow in his brother's footsteps and enroll at APU as a social work major. "My experience was just as Jesse said it would be," Montes said. "I benefited from small class sizes, supportive faculty and staff, and a strong social work program that helps students prepare for this challenging field."

After graduating with his Bachelor of Social Work in May 2015, Montes chose to continue his education in APU's Master of Social Work program, securing a competitive 500-hour internship beginning fall 2015 with the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, which provides services to more than 67,000 veterans in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. As a social work intern, Montes will assist veterans seeking mental health services.

"I believe Andrew will connect and empathize with his veteran clients in ways that other social workers cannot," said Rukshan Fernando, Ph.D., associate dean, School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences. "The knowledge and competencies he learned from his BSW and MSW programs, coupled with his military experience, equip him to validate and help navigate the personal, educational, and professional challenges veterans face when they return to civilian life."

Active duty may be behind him, but for Montes, this new chapter of service is just beginning.

*Rachel White is associate director of public relations in the Office of University Relations. rewhite@apu.edu*



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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 27

**15 GARY CONACHAN III '15** began his two-year internship with Servant Partners in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 6. This global nonprofit assists the urban poor through church planting, community organizing, and leadership development. Gary lives and works in a slum community, Suwan Prasit. gconachan@gmail.com

**16 HALEY HOOK '15** accepted a position as an account executive at Ambassador Advertising Agency in Irvine, California, a Christian broadcasting company connecting ministries to media. She is a part of the social media and marketing teams, and works on graphic design and content creation. Haley lives in Trabuco Canyon. haleyhook@gmail.com

**JUST MARRIED**

**17 THOMAS JELLSMA '06, M.A. '14,** to **BREANNE KIRK '09** on February 21, 2015, in Fallbrook, California. Members of the wedding party included **ADAM '06** and **LISA (NESTOFF '10) BOTT, SPENCER FOSTER '07, KATY JELLSMA '10, MONICA MOLLOY '09,** and **KIM ULRICH '10, M.A. '14.** Breanne is the alumni and college relations coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Music and the Arts at APU. The couple lives in La Habra, California. breanne.jellsma@gmail.com

**18 CHRISTY BRUEGGER '07** to Matthew Bowers on September 26, 2015, in Ben Lomond, California. **KRISTY (ROBERTSON '06) JOHNSON** was matron of honor. The couple lives in Redwood City, where Christy is a recruiter and Matt is a civil engineer. crbruegger@gmail.com

**19 RENEE ECKLEY '07** to **OWEN REINHARDT '08** on July 4, 2015, in Sacramento. Alumni in attendance included **MCKENNA (PRATT '09) ROBERTS, JENNY UHLRICH '07, ANDREW GAINES '08, M.S. '10,** and **GRAHAM REINHARDT '09.** Owen works as a hospice chaplain and Renee as a pediatric nurse. They live in Roseville, California. oreinhardt@apu.edu

**20 BETHANIE FROST '07, M.ED. '11,** to **TRAVIS LAFOND '16** on December 20, 2014, at the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena. The reception was held at APU. Bethanie is the daughter of **PATTI (MEYER) FROST '80, M.ED. '82.** Members of the wedding party included **SHERI (MENDENHALL '07) VER BURG, KENDRA LAFOND '18, BENJAMIN VER BURG '14,** and **CHRISTOPHER JONSON '10.** Travis is a corporal with APU's Department of Campus Safety. They met at Western Christian High School, where Bethanie teaches and Travis coaches football. Travis is also pursuing his B.S. in Organizational Leadership through APU's University College. They live in Upland, California.

**21 DAVID BROWER '12** to **KAYLYN SOFRANKO '12** on November 14, 2015, in San Luis Obispo, California. Members of the wedding party included **JOSH WALDON '10, JESSE JIMENEZ '12, KELSEY COLLIER '12, JULI BARNES '13, ELISA MORALES '12, JESSICA ENGLAND '07, MELANIE MURILLO '13,** and **LINDSAY NUNN '13.** Kay works at APU as the assistant director of campus recruitment, and David manages 24 Hour Fitness in Arcadia. The couple lives in Glendora. ksofranko@apu.edu

**22 MATT CHALK '12** to **HILARY GREEN '12** on September 13, 2015, in San Marcos, California. **EMILY BODEN '15** to Jonathan Redden on October 11, 2015, in Bradford, Ontario, Canada. **LESLIE GAMELIN '15** was a member of the wedding party. emilyboden@rogers.com

**FUTURE ALUMNI**

**23** To **MEGAN (MATSELBOBA '98) MASLOWSKI** and her husband, Michael, a son, Gus Michael, on June 24, 2015. Gus joins big brother, Jonathan, 2.

**24** To **BEN LATTIMER '01** and his wife, Cindy, twin boys, Ezra and Cyrus, on September 14. The twins join big brother, Everett. The family lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. ben.lattimer@gmail.com

**25** To **HOLLIE (ELLIS '01) TIRRELL** and her husband, **JEFF '02,** a son, Oliver, on October 11. Hollie works as assistant athletic trainer at APU with women's soccer and softball, while Jeff is a Ph.D candidate at the Claremont School of Theology and an adjunct professor in APU's Department of Theater Arts. The family lives in Glendora. jefftirrell@gmail.com

**26** To **LIZ (DEWBERRY '02) VAN SKIKE, M.A. '07** and her husband, **JEREMIAH, M.M.U. '14,** a son, Callan Christopher, on May 28. He joins big brother, Alden Alexander. Liz is the associate director of graduate and professional recruitment at APU, and Jeremiah is working on his doctorate in composition at Claremont Graduate University.

**27** To **BRIANA (BARRY '03) CORY, M.A. '07,** and her husband, **MIKE '03,** a son, Jonah Michael, on August 10, 2015. Jonah joins big sister, Ava Brookelyn, 2. Mike is a technical lead at The First Movement in Pasadena and Briana is a part-time teacher in the Covina Unified School District. The couple lives in La Verne, California. mike.briana@gmail.com

To **BRANDON SISK (ATTENDED 2003-06)** and his wife, **MELISSA (MILLER '08),** a daughter, Siena Renee, on August 7, 2015.

**28** To **KATIE (LAYTON '04) GRIFFITH** and her husband, **JOEL '04,** a son, Brekon Cole, on January 24, 2015. He joins big brothers, Cayden, 5, and Luke, 3. Joel works as a senior solutions manager at Vitech Systems Group, and Katie stays at home with the boys. The family lives in Dana Point, California.

**29** To **RACHEL HASTINGS '05, M.A. '10,** and her husband, Randy, a daughter, Samantha Grace, on May 19,

2015. She joins big sister, Audrey, 3. Rachel recently left her position as APU's Honors College program manager when Randy received a job promotion and relocation. The family now lives in Las Vegas. rehastings83@gmail.com

**30** To **KIMBERLEY CHAMBERS '08** and her husband, Chris, a son, Elijah, on August 25, 2015. The family lives in Palmdale, California.

To **MARISSA (HILMES '13) SHELFORD** and her husband, **SCOTT "CONNOR" '13,** a daughter, Brooklyn Grace, on April 17, 2015. Marissa is a registered nurse in the emergency department at Highline Medical Center, and Connor is a real estate agent in the Greater Seattle area. The family lives in Bothell, Washington. marissashelford@gmail.com

**31** To **NATALIA RUPP '14** and her husband, Lee, a son, Levi, on August 30, 2015. Levi joins big brothers, Dominic, 16, and Marco, 10, and big sister, Lola, 5. Natalia will return to work in a few months as a substitute teacher for the Lake Elsinore Unified School District. The family lives in Wildomar, California.

**IN MEMORY**

**SAM TURNBOUGH '60** passed away on September 11, 2014. Sam and his wife, **BOBBIE '60,** taught in the Hacienda La Puente School District for many years. Sam taught elementary and continuation high school, and also worked as a truant officer, while Bobbie taught kindergarten. They moved to Fallbrook, California, when they retired and served their church in the nursery, as choir members, and as Sunday school teachers. Sam and Bobbie also went to Mexico and taught the linguists' kids as Wycliffe Bible Translators. Sam had Alzheimer's for some years before passing away. His wife, four children, **MISTIE (TURNBOUGH) SHAW '77, JIM '78,** Don, and Terrie; two sisters; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren survive him.

**Notable and Noteworthy**

The Alumni 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](http://apu.edu/alumniparents/alumni/connect/classnotes) or email [alumni@apu.edu](mailto:alumni@apu.edu).



# WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU WEARING YOUR APU CLOTHING?

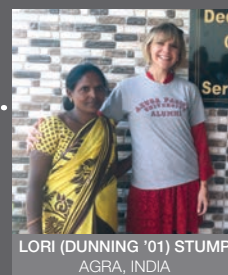
**Attention alumni:** Send us your photographs of the places you have been with your Cougar wear. If we print your submission, you will receive an APU T-shirt to wear while visiting your next exotic or interesting destination. Send your photos,\* along with a description of the location where the photograph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



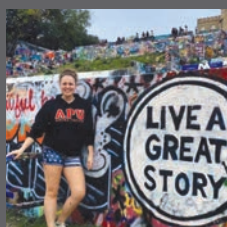
TEAGAN PICCIANO '10 AND KAYLA "RUTH" PRITZLAFF '10  
BURNEY FALLS, CALIFORNIA



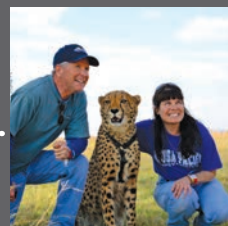
NICOLE (JOHNSON '12) METZ, STEPHANIE KING '12, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPY TEAM  
KIPKAREN, KENYA



LORI (DUNNING '01) STUMP  
AGRA, INDIA



BIANCA BARNETT '15  
AUSTIN, TEXAS



SUZANNE (BODE '88, M.A. '98) LARSON AND HER HUSBAND, KELLY  
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



## Christian Okoye

Christian Okoye grew up in war-torn Nigeria, where, in spite of his father's disapproval, he loved to play sports. He came to Azusa Pacific to participate in the track and field program, becoming a world-class discus thrower and later a powerhouse running back despite having never played football before age 23. In just three years on the APU gridiron, he ran more than 3,500 yards, averaged nearly 7 yards a carry, and scored 34 touchdowns. In April 1987, the Kansas City Chiefs drafted him, and after six seasons, he became the Chiefs' all-time leading rusher while establishing himself as a two-time Pro Bowler. Some of his greatest accomplishments, however, occurred off the field, such as founding the California Sports Hall of Fame, supporting the Impact a Hero veterans program, and, through

his foundation, hosting kids' camps, teaching them to "keep looking, keep learning, keep laughing." Okoye's life represents one of myriad examples of APU students who draw upon lessons learned on the field and in the classroom, and go out fulfilling their God-given calling, not only as athletes, but also as financial advisors, filmmakers, teachers, nurses, pastors, or other vocations to which God calls them, impacting their communities, churches, and professions with a Christian perspective. As they model the mind of a champion, striving for God-honoring excellence and remembering to keep *God First* in all they do, they accomplish the work of the Kingdom of God.

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





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Marissa Quinn '11, MFA '14

## Advancing God's Work in Culture and the Arts

The Windgate Charitable Foundation generously pledged a \$3 million challenge grant to establish an art endowment at APU. Join the ranks of those who have risen to the challenge and help build an endowment that supports arts education through scholarships and innovative artist-teacher education.

The foundation will donate two dollars for every dollar you give between now and April 2016. Together, we can build a \$4.5 million endowment to sustain a flourishing *God First* environment that prepares and equips difference makers in culture and the arts. To date, we have raised \$928,000. Triple your impact: Help us raise the remaining \$572,000 needed to secure the full \$3 million grant for the arts at APU.

### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

For more information, contact Corbin Hoornbeek at (626) 815-5329 or [choornbeek@apu.edu](mailto:choornbeek@apu.edu). To give online, visit [apu.edu/give](http://apu.edu/give) and designate your gift to "Windgate."