

APULIFE

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL/WINTER 2019

SEGERSTROM SCIENCE CENTER ■ BIBLE MATTERS ■ PHYSICAL THERAPY EXPANSION ■ LIFE COACH

A New Era at APU

Dr. Paul W. Ferguson

Azusa Pacific University's 17th President



God First Since 1899



Dear Friends:

It is my sincere pleasure to share with you this newest issue of *APU Life*! It is our hope that in the relaunch of this valued magazine you will gain fresh perspectives about APU activities on campus and around the world. Even more, we encourage you to sense the renewed hope that is pervasive at APU as we refocus on Christ-centered academic excellence and a commitment to our organizational effectiveness and operations with best practices of the highest quality. As Grace and I complete our first fall semester at APU we have been blessed to become acquainted with this wonderful academic community of resilient, kind, and generous people working for this common goal.


Coming out of a challenging season last year, APU faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends have accomplished together a remarkable turnaround in financial health with new strategic planning for a sustainable future. APU demonstrated very positive results for our 2019 fiscal year ending with a surplus. Fiscal year 2020 budget planning and monitoring indicates APU will continue making progress on promoting our financial health. As we progress through this new fiscal year, our clear message is that we are beyond last year's fiscal crisis, but we remain disciplined. I am confident we will navigate any challenges that arise and continue to enhance our financial stewardship.

I am also glad to report that this fall we welcomed new and returning students to a vibrant campus environment. APU now serves nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students. We are grateful for the strong collaborative relationship with the schools and colleges that continue to keep APU at the forefront of Christian higher education.

In order to chart the course for APU's growth and development over the next decade, we have formed a 28-member Strategic Planning Leadership Team, representing all sectors of the university community, that will prepare a new comprehensive University Strategic Plan to be unveiled in spring 2020. This plan will be the result of extensive research and robust discussion, with key recommendations and strategies that will be characterized as a consensus-based institutional view of APU's future. I encourage you to follow and engage with the strategic planning process at apu.edu/president/strategic-planning/.

I am so grateful and honored to serve as the 17th President of this outstanding university. We remain committed to our *God First* mission, providing a learning environment of Christ-centered academic excellence, and equipping our faculty, staff, and students to engage the world for Jesus Christ without compromise. That challenge in our current culture and times demands our full focus, and we seek your continued prayers and support.

With best personal regards,


Paul W. Ferguson, Ph.D., DABT
President

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APULIFE

FALL/WINTER 2019



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Through Art



PHOTO BY DANA ATTEBERY, M.A. '17

The Azusa Pacific University community enthusiastically welcomed Dr. Paul Ferguson as its 17th President during a special celebration held April 10, 2019. Crowds gathered on West Campus' Kresge Plaza to meet Dr. Ferguson and hear him deliver his first address. An educator at heart, the newly announced President took this opportunity to connect with students, encouraging them and listening as they shared their hopes for the future of APU. The university looks forward to Dr. Ferguson's inauguration April 2-4, 2020.

\$1 Million Renewed Hope Grant Underwrites Major Strategic Initiatives



Following a positive and visionary May Board of Trustees meeting, Azusa Pacific University's Leadership Team felt inspired and encouraged about the future of APU. In response, Trustee Steve Perry '75 wrote to express his joy in APU's new direction, sharing that he and his wife, Susie '75, wanted to foster that renewed hope with a \$1 million donation to fund several initiatives during the 2019-20 academic year. Members of the President's Cabinet developed strategies and timelines to address three major aspects of the university's strategic direction this year consistent with the Perrys' intent.

Initiative 1. Investment in a Catalytic Strategic Planning Process and Communication Plan for Promoting a Renewed APU Vision

This initiative will support a broad-based launch of the university's new vision development with funding directed in two primary areas:

- 1) The strategic planning engagement process in 2019-20, and
- 2) A new comprehensive communications strategy and resources

Faculty Receives Prestigious Award for Excellence in C.S. Lewis Scholarship



The Southern California C.S. Lewis Society honored Azusa Pacific University professor and award-winning author Diana Glycer, Ph.D., with the Paul F. Ford Award for Excellence in C.S. Lewis Scholarship. The organization named the award after its founder and bestowed it upon Glycer, the very first recipient, at their annual conference.

Glycer has penned two books about Lewis and his colleague and friend, fellow author J.R.R. Tolkien: *Bandersnatch: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the Creative Collaboration of the Inklings* (Black Squirrel Books, 2015), and *The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community* (Kent State University Press, 2008). With a third book in the works, she continues to teach the lessons learned from the masters to her own students.

(print, web, video, email, and social) to serve as a multiyear ground-force plan of action to reach all constituents (alumni, donors, parents, prospective students, friends, churches, etc.) with the new vision, impact, and strong message of Christ-centered academic excellence.

Initiative 2. Investment in Increasing Capacity for Recruitment of New Undergraduate Students

This initiative will improve and expand the capacity to effectively recruit traditional undergraduate students and families in three areas: 1) Additional scholarships focused on improving access, affordability, and alignment with the strategic direction of the institution, 2) Implementation of contemporary technology and training resources to significantly strengthen the recruitment process and improve student inquiry and application yield, and 3) Facility improvements for the University Welcome Center and other admissions spaces to enhance the "front door" on East Campus.

Initiative 3. Revenue-Generating and Vision-Casting Activities in Advancement

In view of the essential role of University Advancement in moving toward a positive fiscal future, this initiative will allow new investment in key revenue-generating positions, events, and strategies in University Advancement and fund advancement to raise new money, build relationships, and enhance positive perceptions, especially connected to this inaugural year. University Advancement and the president will seek to leverage the Renewed Hope grant as a vehicle to solicit matching funds from other trustees and donors, extending the impact and return of these initiatives to endow a strong and hope-filled future for APU.

Not only does Glycer draw from Lewis' insight and imagination as revealed in his published writings, but she also finds valuable strategies for the collaboration she clearly sees evident in the way Tolkien and Lewis influenced one another and honed each other's work. She applies those strategies in her classroom and encourages her students to work in small groups and creative clusters to help them see that working in a supportive community can inspire them to do great things and wrestle with deep issues together, like exploring the reason for their faith and why they believe what they believe.

Alumnus Named Bezos Scholar

The Bezos Family Foundation named Azusa Pacific University alumnus Jorge Alvarez '03, M.A.Ed. '08, M.A. '12, a Bezos Scholar. Alvarez, an assistant principal at Colton High School (CHS) in Colton, California, accepted the honor alongside CHS junior Ernest Cisneros for their work with the school's TED Ed Club, including arranging the school's first TEDx Conference on the topic of mental health earlier this year, featuring nine speakers.

The pair traveled last summer to Colorado to attend the Aspen Ideas Festival, where they learned more about how they can create change in their community. Alvarez, 1 of 12 educators chosen from a nationwide pool of applicants, and Cisneros, 1 of only 12 students, heard from some of the world's top creative minds, a diverse group of educators, innovators, and leaders. Alvarez and Cisneros also plan to create a Local Ideas Festival in the form of a wellness fair to be held next March as part of the Bezos Scholars Program.



JORGE ALVAREZ '03,
M.A.Ed. '08, M.A. '12

1 of 12 educators chosen

1 of 33 TED Ed Innovative Educators chosen

A strong advocate for mental health, Alvarez was selected as 1 of 33 TED Ed Innovative Educators from around the world in 2017. Knowing that students are affected by mental health issues at a growing rate, he wants students to have the space to decompress and the resources to

support their mental well-being. To meet this need, CHS plans to open a wellness center that will give students a place to deal with anxiety, depression, or other challenges they may face.

The Bezos Scholars Program was founded in 2005 by Jackie and Mike Bezos, parents of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, as part of the Bezos Family Foundation. Scholars are selected based on demonstrated leadership abilities, willingness to embrace challenges, and the desire to create positive change in their communities.

APU Professor Named AAUW Fellow

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) awarded its 2019-20 American Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to Verónica A. Gutiérrez, Ph.D., director of undergraduate research and associate professor of Latin American history. This year, AAUW awarded a total of \$4 million through seven fellowships and grants to 259 scholars, research projects, and programs promoting education and equity for women and girls. Gutiérrez, the first APU faculty member to receive the AAUW award, plans to complete the draft of her first monograph, *Converting Quetzalcoatl's City: Appropriating the Sacred in Cholula, 1519-1648*, during her fellowship year and publish it upon completion

Continued on page 8



PHOTOS BY RICKY DORN AND COURTESY OF DARNELL ABRAHAM

Alumnus Performs in National Tour of *Hamilton*

Darnell Abraham '09 took the stage as George Washington in a national production of *Hamilton* this year. Starting with a stint in Puerto Rico, where he performed opposite the show's creator, renowned Broadway actor Lin-Manuel Miranda (who most recently starred in the film *Mary Poppins Returns*), Abraham took a huge step closer to achieving his lifelong dream of performing on Broadway.

The journey began with an open casting call in summer 2016, followed by a couple of callbacks and a long wait with no news. More than two years later, Abraham got tapped to serve as a standby for three characters in the production: Aaron Burr, King George, and George Washington. Abraham's first performance as George Washington not only put him onstage with Miranda, but it also solidified his permanent place in the production, as he will continue the role of Washington at San Francisco's Orpheum Theatre through the end of the run in January 2020.

"MLK allowed himself to be used by God. As an artist, I want to do the same."

DARNELL
ABRAHAM '09

This opportunity adds an impressive line to Abraham's list of credits. Leading up to *Hamilton*, he performed in *Next to Normal* in Texas, the Tony Award-winning *The Color Purple*, two productions of *Ragtime* in the Northeast, *I Dream* as Martin Luther King Jr., and *Festival of The Lion King* at Disney World.

From the time he left his job in APU's Office of University Advancement in 2011 to attend Manhattan School of Music in New York and pursue his goal of becoming a Broadway actor, Abraham has put his faith first. Inspired by the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and the opportunity to portray him on stage, Abraham said, "MLK allowed himself to be used by God. As an artist, I want to do the same."



Building Leaders through LEGO Serious Play

Wendi Dykes, Ph.D., plays with LEGO bricks every day. Dykes, an assistant professor in Azusa Pacific University's Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology, along with her colleagues Edgar Barron, Ed.D., Shawna Lafreniere, Ph.D., and Susan Barton, are certified LEGO Serious Play (LSP) facilitators who teach graduate students how to use LEGOs for something more than just making fun creations. Their innovative work recently garnered national attention from *Fast Company's* 2019 World Changing Ideas (WCI) Awards with an honorable mention in the Education category. More than 2,000 companies and organizations representing dozens of fields entered the WCI competition.

Dykes uses LSP, a tested methodology that helps organizations thrive, to teach APU students about organizational systems, organizational change structures, leadership development, team learning, and team identity. Prior to teaching at APU, Dykes worked at LEGOLAND California for 11 years as director of organization development and training, where she received international honors for her programs and strategies.

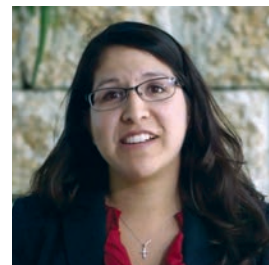
She applies that knowledge in her Organizational Systems: Theories of Change class by engaging students in the building of an organizational system. First, they build a model out of LEGO bricks that represents them as individuals; then, they collaborate on a new model that represents the group as well as the individuals. Finally, they map out the bridges and barriers. The goal is to understand the vastness of systems and subsystems within a larger organization.

Dykes brought the founder of LSP, Robert Rasmussen, to APU so students could learn from him firsthand. As certified LSP facilitators, when students graduate from APU's organizational psychology program, they have the competence and confidence to begin consulting for organizations, whether internally in a human resources department, externally for their own company, or as part of a larger consulting firm.

Continued from page 7

with the University of Oklahoma Press/Academy of American Franciscan History.

Gutiérrez's project reflects her passion for challenging the myths pervading Native peoples of the Americas. Her work examines the development of indigenous Christianity in 16th-century Mexico, particularly the Franciscan establishment at Cholula, a former Mesoamerican sacred site where even today the rain unearths ancient pottery and obsidian shards.



VERÓNICA A. GUTIÉRREZ, PH.D.

First APU faculty member to receive the American Association of University Women (AAUW) award.

AAUW American Fellowships began in 1888, making them one of the world's oldest and most prestigious fellowship funding programs exclusively for women. These fellowships support women scholars who are completing doctoral dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research, or finishing research for publication. For Gutiérrez, mother of three children under the age of 5, the award, which also covers childcare expenses, makes it possible for her to extend her sabbatical to a full year and realize her academic aspirations. As an AAUW fellow, Gutiérrez joins a prestigious list of trailblazing women who make major contributions to their fields and redefine leadership.

APU Hosts West Coast Premiere of Aaron Sorkin's *To Kill a Mockingbird*



After receiving a cease-and-desist letter from lawyers representing Scott Rudin, producer of Aaron Sorkin's adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, small theaters across the country, including APU, were forced to shut down their productions of the play or risk being sued. The letter cited a contract between Harper Lee, the book's author, and Dramatic Publishing Company, the organization that sells the performance rights to theaters. The contract stipulated that no productions of the play would be permitted within 25 miles of a large city (population of 150,000 or more) while a first-class production was active.

With the opening of Sorkin's Broadway production of the play last December, Rudin is within his rights to call for the cessation of all other performances in or close to major cities, but the negative press yielded a compromise. Companies that had already committed to run the play—like APU—would be allowed to license the script for free, but only Sorkin's version, and it must be staged within the coming year.

APU, 1 of 25 theaters in the nation that had scheduled the play for their 2020 season, will premiere the West Coast's first glimpse at Sorkin's adaptation in February. The twist of events lets Azusa Pacific present the new production ahead of all the major theaters in Los Angeles. With a poignant look at the ongoing interconnectedness between race and justice, APU's Department of Theater Arts sets the stage for a fresh adaptation of a timeless classic.

Music Faculty Curates Community Symposium



John Burdett, Ed.D., APU School of Music's director of instrumental studies and director of bands, curated and directed the Arcadia Music and Arts Symposium (AMAS) last summer, gathering the region's top musicians, artists, faculty, and students together to facilitate instruction and discussions that transcend cultures and generations and explore the civic impact of music and the arts.

The event provided a unique platform where professionals in the fields of music, performance, composing, art, technology, and education collaborated freely and learned from one another about best practices and the state of their art. The experience offered innovative techniques and approaches that students could use to elevate their skills and instructors could take back to their classrooms to energize and enrich their learning environment.

Representing Azusa Pacific University, Burdett added his vast experience to the forum. His research has focused on the performance practice of symphonic compositions with Spanish and Latin American stylistic influences, the psychosocial components of conducting, the democratization of decision making in large concert ensembles, and increasing accessibility to music education for marginalized student populations. Burdett's involvement with AMAS punctuates APU's commitment to partnering with the community and the most influential professionals in the field.

By the Numbers

1: Signifying the inaugural class of "Hidden Gems" identified by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, including APU's Honors College. One of only five affordable universities recognized nationwide, APU's program stands out for its exceptional faculty and preparing its graduates for meaningful careers, lives, and citizenship.

14: The number of APU alumni selected this year to join Teach for America, a diverse network of more than 60,000 leaders nationwide who are shaping the political, economic, and social future of the country from inside and outside the education system. APU is recognized as a Top Teach for America Contributor.



Giving Voice to the People

Just months after graduating from Azusa Pacific University with a commercial music degree, Moxy Anne '19 released her first song as a solo artist. A visit to Hong Kong last summer with APU's Chamber Singers opened her eyes to the plight of its people and served as her inspiration for "The Egg," which debuted on August 30.

"Essentially, the egg is a metaphor for our souls and represents the ability of right to emerge victorious over wrong, over oppression," said Moxy Anne. "Saying, 'I stand with the egg,' means I'm with the people of Hong Kong. The phrase comes from a Japanese author who delivered a speech on human freedom."

The lyrics feature the refrain, "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord," which has become an official anthem at the Hong Kong rallies. "Pray for us" is also emphasized throughout the song. Days after releasing the single, she sang it live at a solidarity rally in Los Angeles in front of crowds of people, many of whom were from Hong Kong and still had family there. "Performing at the rally was an incredible experience," Moxy Anne said. "The people were so gracious. Some did not understand English but they clapped for me anyway."

The Christian Post featured Moxy Anne and her song as part of their coverage of events in Hong Kong. As she launches her career as a singer/songwriter, Moxy Anne points to her time at APU in the School of Music, particularly the voice instruction she received from

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1: Azusa Pacific University's ranking according to the Best in San Gabriel Valley reader's poll conducted by the Southern California News Group. After residents throughout the region cast their votes, APU topped other institutions of higher learning for the third year in a row.

555: The number of APU students who participated in 49 study away programs last year. Covering 35 countries on 6 continents, APU students expand their worldview and enrich their education by immersing themselves in other cultures and contexts.

Continued from page 9

Bill Cantos, as pivotal. “I studied with him for two years. He helped me learn more about jazz, pop, and all these dimensions of music. He changed the course of my career.”

Along with a solid musical foundation, Moxy Anne said APU provided her with something far greater. “The best part of APU is its *God First* mission. I went to a college where people actually care about something bigger than themselves. This is the message I want to share.”

Carnegie Classifies APU as an R2 Research Institution



Azusa Pacific University achieved the prestigious R2 designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the most influential rating organization among colleges and universities. This recognition heralds good news for current and prospective APU students seeking academic programs at the forefront of their fields. Students’ ability to engage in a high level of research with faculty members who are industry leaders translates to richer learning opportunities and better marketability upon graduation.

To earn this classification, APU met stringent standards. Carnegie evaluates universities that offer doctoral programs and analyzes their commitment to research based on data provided by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Carnegie then gives each a designation as R1 or R2. To qualify for these two top levels, they must have awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees and had at least \$5 million in total research expenditures.

The R2 classification means that the university engages in “high research activity.” At R2 institutions like APU, faculty members are deeply engaged in original research, teach their own courses, and often involve students in their research projects.

The Carnegie R2 classification ensures APU students that they are attending an institution that values and invests in research and are learning from faculty who have current, relevant, and cutting-edge experience in the field. The best professionals who choose to teach often seek out research universities, knowing that their innovative approaches, methodologies, and insights will be met with institutional support. Finally, by pursuing and supporting high-level research, APU and its students can add a respected voice to conversations surrounding pressing societal issues, exerting influence in the fields of technology, ethics, and politics.

As APU celebrates its 25th anniversary of offering doctoral programs, this Carnegie R2 classification affirms its goal to engage faculty and students in high-level scholarship in every discipline.

Grants Advance Significant Research and Scholarship

\$2,737,103



From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to Lynda Reed, DNP, RN, FNP-C, principal investigator, and other key School of Nursing partners, for a four-year grant to continue the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce program. This grant funds \$678,484 this year, with anticipated additional funding for a total of \$2,737,103 over four years.

The grant expands the residency program for advanced practice registered nurse students, especially family nurse practitioner students intending to practice as primary care providers in medically underserved areas of San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties. Traineeship support will increase residency placements to 20 full-time applicants annually, for a total of 80 nurse practitioner students; broader community health clinic partnerships, including primary care clinics with integrated behavioral health services and substance abuse treatment; and prevention and health education programs.

\$936,264



From the Kern Family Foundation to Azusa Pacific University to extend the efforts of the Center for Vocational Ministry (CVM). Funding will help CVM recruit, train, and empower a new generation of ministry students to flourish as pastors; introduce high school students to a theology of business for the common good and equip vocational ministry students with entrepreneurial skills; expand Vocare, APU’s five-year B.A./M.A. in Pastoral Studies program; and facilitate an understanding of faith, work, and economics. Since its 2015 launch, CVM has raised \$3.625 million.

\$449,000



From the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to Rachel Gonzales-Castaneda, Ph.D., School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences, for a three-year project titled “Provider Clinical Support System-PCSS Training Focused on MAT Preparedness for Nurse Practitioner Students and Field Preceptor Community Health Sites to Address Opioid-Use Issues: Enhancing a Faith-Based SBIRT Practice Model.” The project will enhance the curriculum and training protocols to ensure Medication Assisted Treatment preparedness by teaching the necessary skills to address opioid-use issues. School of Nursing faculty Lynda Reed, DNP, RN, FNP-C, will serve as the project’s co-director.

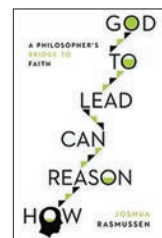
Scholarship at Work



Daily Life in the 1960s Counterculture

(ABC-CLIO, 2019) by Jim Willis, Ph.D., professor, Department of Communication Studies

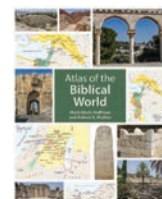
With five decades of perspective, Willis examines the turbulent 1960s and their pivotal role in the country’s trajectory. From tragic assassinations to the tumultuous birth of the civil rights movement, from the controversial Vietnam War to the emerging influence of the sexual revolution and popular culture on the American family, Willis explores the sea change that occurred during that iconic decade in the nation’s history. Through firsthand experience and primary resources, he offers poignant insight into the political issues that divided families and factions and challenged the cultural norms of the day.



How Reason Can Lead to God: A Philosopher’s Bridge to Faith

(IVP Academic, 2019) by Joshua Rasmussen, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Philosophy

For all those genuinely seeking truth, Rasmussen’s book provides a logical, step-by-step approach to God. Respecting intellect, reason, and testable experiences, the author explains in lay terms some of the most complex issues in human history. Without relying on the authority of Scripture or a prerequisite foundation of faith, he leads sceptics and seekers toward the undeniable existence of God. He draws upon his own journey of lost faith and found purpose and uses universal principles of reason to show how common human experience leads to God.



Atlas of the Biblical World

(Fortress Press, 2019) by Robert A. Mullins, Ph.D., professor, School of Theology, and Mark Vitalis Hoffman

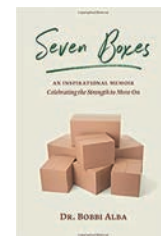
Filled with striking full-color maps and corresponding commentary, this insightful book brings biblical times to life. The authors address the complex issues and questions that surround the biblical narrative by integrating innovative map design and analysis. The connection between the commentary and the visual make it ideal for biblical studies students and all those seeking a deeper understanding of the ancient world. Through color photographs of key historical artifacts, timelines, charts, as well as more than 60 maps with a complete index, this atlas features factual data, addresses questions of interpretation, and locates the biblical narrative in its wider historical and cultural context.



The Instrumental University: Education in Service of the National Agenda after World War II

(Cornell University Press, 2019) by Ethan Schrum, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of History and Political Science

Schrum offers a pervasive look at the history of the American university system and the radical mission change it underwent after World War II. He demonstrates how higher education shifted its focus from the pursuit of knowledge and academic freedom to solving social problems and promoting economic development, thereby diminishing the very aspect that once made American universities unique. Lauded as a carefully researched and well-documented account of the Postwar evolution of American institutions of higher learning, Schrum’s book adds a timely voice to the debate surrounding the purpose of modern education.



Seven Boxes: An Inspirational Memoir Celebrating the Strength to Move On

(Credo House Publishers, 2019) by Bobbi Alba, Ed.D., assistant professor, Department of School Counseling and School Psychology

This spiritual memoir recounts Alba’s journey through several losses in her life. She uses found items and artifacts once kept in storage boxes to prompt her storytelling. Each box contains something physical that helps her connect with her grief and her faith. Through the process that leads her from surviving to thriving, she shows readers what is possible for them as well and helps them discover their own depth of resiliency and capacity for personal healing and growth. For individual readers, this book serves as a therapeutic experience; for groups, it can be a helpful tool for discussion and reflection; and for those in the helping professions, an insightful resource to support those who are grieving.

The university welcomed President Ferguson with a celebratory event on April 10, 2019. President Ferguson officially stepped into the role on June 3.



A New Era at APU

Dr. Paul W. Ferguson

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S 17TH PRESIDENT

An experienced and acclaimed administrator and educator, Paul W. Ferguson, Ph.D., DABT, became the 17th president of Azusa Pacific University on June 3. A Southern California native, raised in Hacienda Heights and now residing in Azusa, President Ferguson is known for spurring academic innovation and improvement, fostering effectiveness in administrative practices, and building a strong bond with students, faculty, and alumni. Most recently the founding dean of the School of Science, Technology, and Health at Biola University, President Ferguson served with distinction in leadership roles at five universities, including as president of Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, and president of the University of Maine. Reflecting on his first semester, the President sat down with *APU Life* to share his thoughts, insights, and enthusiasm about the future of Azusa Pacific University.

WELCOME TO THE APU FAMILY

Meet the President and hear his strategic vision for comprehensive, Christ-centered academic excellence at apu.edu/president/.



PHOTO BY DUSTIN REYNOLDS '07, MBA '10

Q & A

WHERE DID YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY BEGIN?

I came to know Jesus Christ at seven years old. My mom was a believer. In fact, she led my dad to the Lord. I was blessed to grow up in a home where Christ was honored and where I had the wonderful freedom to explore, learn, be curious, and develop a strong biblical foundation. I was able to mature in my faith through fellowship with believers at a number of Christ-centered churches during my life. I even met my wife, Grace, in our college group at church just a mere 45 years ago.

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WHAT INFLUENCES HELPED YOU INTEGRATE YOUR FAITH WITH YOUR PROFESSIONAL PATH?

I was very fortunate to have a number of wise mentors in my life. Early in my career development, a Christian biology professor at Whittier College beautifully integrated the concept of academics and faith. From his example, it was evident you could have both. You can love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. During my undergraduate years, I really began a commitment to learning. I pursued a career in higher education, so I could fully share my love of learning with my students. There is no greater joy for a professor than to see a passion for learning in your students, to see “the light to turn on” in them.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO EXPAND FAITH INTEGRATION AT APU?

One of the things I am very excited about coming into the APU community is having the opportunity to deepen and extend the integration of faith and academics. How do we accomplish Christ-centered academic excellence? How do we show our light to the world with very strong academic performance? We want our students to graduate with a wonderful integration of their faith and their discipline, with each having learned how to love the Lord with their heart, their soul, and their mind. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Seeking truth should not be fearful for any student or faculty member at APU. So our goal is to ensure that we are providing that kind of university environment for our faculty, staff, and students.



PAUL W. FERGUSON, PH.D., DABT

Accomplished public health expert

30+ year career in public higher education

Two past presidential appointments at Ball State University and the University of Maine



PHOTOS BY DANA ATTEBERY, M.A. '17

WHAT IS YOUR GUIDING PHILOSOPHY OF LEADERSHIP?

My passion for and commitment to leadership started as a university professor mentoring graduate students in a research group. I learned the concept of servant leadership early on, and I remain fully committed to it. The servant leader leads by serving others first. How do you help those you lead to do their jobs well? How do you structure the organization for the success of each team member? This requires an investment in the individual. The most successful leaders are really attuned to listening, understanding, and then implementing. Vision is merely a dream if it doesn't get implemented for the betterment of the organization. An organization only thrives if its people are thriving. In my experience, the servant leader model has a proven record for transformative leadership and thriving organizations.

HOW DO YOU VIEW THE TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT OF HIGHER EDUCATION?

My greatest time of personal transformation was in college and graduate school. I became focused on my career path of becoming a public health scientist as a biology major and later as a doctoral student in pharmacology and toxicology. I grounded my spiritual development as a student of God's Word. I met my wife in college. Most of the foundation for my life's journey was solidified through higher education. There is no question that my personal academic experience shaped my love of and commitment to university life and the power of higher education to impact society.



AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION, WHAT CURRENT TRENDS DO YOU SEE AND HOW MIGHT THEY AFFECT CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION?

We have reached a point in our national conversation where the role, scope, and impact of higher education, in general, and Christian higher education, in particular, is clearly under scrutiny. Our society is asking for more evidence that the investment of time and expense committed to a degree path has measurable outcomes of improving the quality of life for all of our citizens. This justified scrutiny will require all of us in higher education to ensure we are operating our institutions by best practices of the highest quality and that we are insightfully preparing our students in such a way that they graduate equipped to succeed in their disciplines of choice.

HOW IS APU EQUIPPED TO THRIVE IN THE CHANGING CLIMATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION?

As we work to enhance the operational and academic excellence of APU, we will be positioned to provide the most contemporary and relevant courses of study addressing our society's myriad expectations. With diverse degree offerings from the baccalaureate to the doctorate, study opportunities on campus and online, and professional development opportunities locally and globally, APU is prepared not only to continue to meet a variety of student needs through a number of learning platforms, but also to grow in innovation and impact. This is evidenced by APU recently receiving national recognition as a Carnegie Classification R2 Doctoral University with high research activity consistent with excellent faculty scholarship.

APU has also been nationally classified as a Community-Engaged University. This is the direct result of providing an excellent education with a Christ-centered focus. When our students go to Skid Row in Los Angeles to provide care to its residents or minister to the victims of last year's Paradise Fire, society sees a real passion and capability to change the world through God's strength. APU Difference Makers are not simply philosophical caregivers who merely study and hope that everything will work out. Difference Makers are on site, engaging the world.

I have been blessed and motivated to know that APU will continue to lead the higher education community by creating an environment of Christ-centered excellence that provides not only outstanding scholarship from our faculty and students, but also the fulfillment of the greatest commandments: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourself (Matthew 22:35-40). With this as our spiritual framework, I believe APU will continue to grow in stature and impact.



“We want our students to graduate with a wonderful integration of their faith and their discipline, with each having learned how to love the Lord with their heart, their soul, and their mind.”



PHOTOS BY DUSTIN REYNOLDS '07, MBA '10, AND DANA ATTEBERY, M.A. '17

Segerstrom Science Center

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ADVANCING STEM

BY ABIGAIL REED

From local fifth graders programming robots to Azusa Pacific University science majors conducting hands-on research in laboratories, Segerstrom Science Center has greatly impacted countless students, scholars, and visitors since its opening on September 3, 2009. Home to student learning, community events, and scientific discoveries, the 72,000-square-foot, three-story facility has advanced Christian higher education and promoted Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in the local community and beyond.

Recognized for high-caliber research, science faculty have secured grants totaling nearly \$2 million from federal, foundation, and industry partners, including the John Stauffer Charitable Trust, W.M. Keck Foundation, and NASA.

“In this spirit, we celebrate the many accomplishments of the past decade as we engage with the community to envision the next.”

—Louise Huang, Ph.D., assistant dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

“As we observe Segerstrom’s 10-year milestone, we first and foremost thank God for His provisions and blessings throughout the years, as well as extend gratitude to our donors and supporters,” said Louise Huang, Ph.D., assistant dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and director of the Center for Research in Science. “In this spirit, we celebrate the many accomplishments of the past decade as we engage with the community to envision the next.”

When Segerstrom opened, 360 biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics majors utilized the student study and community areas, lecture hall, and more than 60 classrooms and laboratories, including nuclear magnetic resonance and electron microscope rooms. Just two years later, nearly 700 students filled the facilities. With the influx of students and availability of resources, 13 new undergraduate and graduate programs emerged over the years, including bachelor’s degrees in allied health with integrated credentials, applied math, and engineering, and master’s degrees in biotechnology and applied statistics.

“The Segerstrom Science Center brought new opportunities and hopes for faculty: dedicated lab facilities with research-grade equipment and an increasing number of eager students willing to take on the rigors of STEM coursework,” said Donald Isaak, Ph.D., executive director of the Office of Research and Grants, former associate dean

in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and former chair of the Department of Mathematics and Physics.

Whether studying regenerative limbs, developing drone-detecting software, or investigating immunotherapeutic approaches to combat cancer, STEM students and faculty rise to the occasion, conducting pertinent research made accessible through Segerstrom’s facilities. Discoveries and progress made on APU’s campus contribute to the world-wide scientific conversation, while also bringing innovation to the local community.

Azusa Pacific University opens doors for students to enter the evolving, innovative world of STEM

Continued on page 18



In honor of the science center’s impact throughout the last decade, APU will host a year of STEM celebration with a wide variety of events.

CRIS SCIENCE AND FAITH EVENT: MATHEMATICS AND HUMAN FLOURISHING WITH FRANCIS SU

Thursday, January 23
4-6 p.m.

Segerstrom Science Center

Francis Su, Ph.D., a professor at Harvey Mudd College and former president of the Mathematical Association of America, will address the topic of mathematics and human flourishing, which is also the subject of his forthcoming book (Yale University Press, December 2019).

STEM DAY AT APU

Saturday, February 8
7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Segerstrom Science Center and West Campus

Students from across Southern California in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in a day of hands-on learning under the direction of APU faculty and students.

AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION (ASA) SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WINTER DAY CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 22
Segerstrom Science Center

This yearly regional conference gathers Christians who are in the sciences to explore and discuss the intersection of science and faith. April Maskiewicz Cordero, Ph.D., professor of biology at Point Loma Nazarene University, will deliver the keynote address.

2020 ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL (ACSI) SCIENCE FAIR

Thursday, May 7
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Segerstrom Science Center and Felix Event Center

This annual science fair for Southern California ACSI schools is a combination of STEM classes and a science poster competition. More than 200 students showcase their winning projects and represent their schools as they compete for awards in various categories.

Continued from page 17

careers. Research shows more than two million STEM jobs were projected to remain unfilled in 2018, and open positions would continue to grow 13 percent by 2024. Azusa Pacific creates opportunity for students to pursue this expanding field, ushering in the next generation of scientists, engineers, mathematicians, software developers, and researchers.

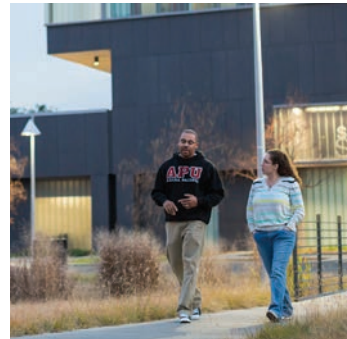
In addition to enriching the education of students, Segerstrom extends its impact into the San Gabriel Valley. Local youth excitedly flood the hallways and classrooms several times a year, engaging in hands-on STEM activities with APU faculty and students. Residents of the surrounding area attend Center for Research in Science events, listening to expert speakers discuss relevant topics—from gene editing to artificial intelligence—and facilitate dialogue between ethical, theological, and scientific perspectives. College students from their respective Southern California Christian schools gather in Segerstrom to compete at the annual Association of Christian Schools International Science Fair. Every year since its opening, Segerstrom has continued to reach the community, both near and far, in a celebration of science.

“Our STEM departments intentionally service and engage with the community at large, while integrating our faith and promoting science,” said Huang. “Outreach events provide an opportunity to share our programs, facilities, and expertise with our neighbors.”

Abigail Reed '20 is a liberal studies major with an honors humanities minor, and a public relations intern in the Office of University Relations.



MORE THAN TWO MILLION STEM JOBS WERE PROJECTED TO REMAIN UNFILLED IN 2018, WHILE OPEN POSITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO GROW 13 PERCENT BY 2024.



Discoveries and progress made on APU's campus contribute to the worldwide scientific conversation, while bringing innovation to the local community.

Bible Matters

BY JOSEPH BENTZ

Kenneth Briggs, author of *The Invisible Bestseller: Searching for the Bible in America* (Eerdmans, 2016), told *The Colorado Spring Gazette* in 2016 that “people aren’t reading [the Bible] very much, and it just doesn’t show up in . . . public discourse.” In fact, the public education system devalues biblical literacy.

And yet, as a literature professor and Honors College faculty fellow at APU, I see the influence of the Bible every day in the texts I teach, from Dante to Hemingway and everything in between. It may not be surprising to see the Bible in the great works of literature and philosophy, but it also continues to have a grip on popular culture, including film, music, art, law, and social media. It profoundly influences even those who have never read it.

Take Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan. This story, which takes up only six verses of the Bible (and never uses the term “Good Samaritan”) is so popular that people have named countless hospitals, ministries, clinics, churches, and educational institutions “Good Samaritan” to connect their mission to that selfless person. Governments have enacted Good Samaritan laws to protect those who act courageously to help others. Throughout the centuries, artists have depicted him and songwriters have celebrated him.

And how about Jesus’ prodigal son parable? Like the Good Samaritan, the “prodigal son” (another term that doesn’t appear in the Bible) is one of the most famous fictional characters in history. People can relate to the prodigal son concept, the rebel who comes home needing love and forgiveness. Rembrandt, among many other famous artists, painted his version, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, which inspired a book of the same name by renowned Christian writer Henri Nouwen. This concept also shows up in sports stories, films and

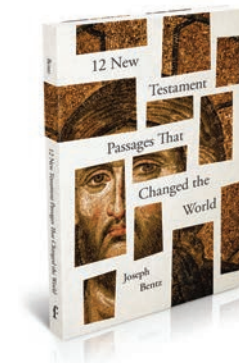
novels (*A River Runs Through It*, *Legends of the Fall*, *Iron Man*), songs, and a ballet (*Le Fils prodigue*).

Other passages are equally famous. John 3:16 has influenced everything from football games to WWE wrestling. The Last Supper has been celebrated across the world and even on the moon. The Lord’s Prayer has been prayed perhaps more than any other in history. “Judge not” is a New Testament phrase that has been endlessly debated, and Romans 8 and Acts 2 have inspired billions.

For every trend that shows the Bible’s influence declining, another shows its reach increasing. The YouVersion Bible app has been downloaded by more than a quarter of a billion people worldwide, according to the Association for Christian Retail. One study showed that in 2016, users read and listened to more than 13 billion chapters; created more than a billion highlights, bookmarks, and notes; and shared verses a record 230 million times. Wycliffe Bible Translators USA reports that 5.8 billion people now have access to all or some of the Bible translated in their first language.

I hope my new book, *12 New Testament Passages That Changed the World* (The Foundry Publishing, 2019), will bring renewed appreciation for the power of the Word of God. I am grateful to teach at a university that not only reveres the Bible, but also leads students into careful study of it.

Joseph Bentz, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of English and a faculty fellow in the Honors College. jbentz@apu.edu



THE BIBLE'S ENDURING INFLUENCE

250 million YouVersion Bible app downloads

13 billion chapters listened to or read

230 million shared verses

5.8 billion people with access to the Bible in their first language

Sources: Association for Christian Retail, Wycliffe Bible Translators USA (edited)

The 26,000-square-foot DPT facility is more than four times the size of the program's former space.

“Most graduates have book smarts, but APU’s hands-on curriculum and training put them in a better position to translate their knowledge to the treatment of patients.”

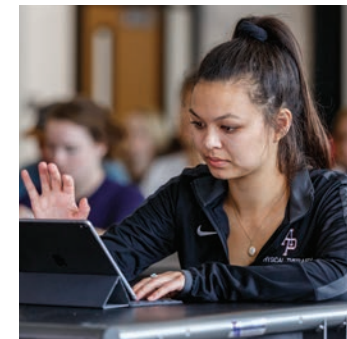
—Brandan King, DPT '12, OCS
Senior physical therapist at Kaiser Permanente

PHOTOS BY DANA WITTEBERG, M.A. '17

Physical Therapy Expansion

MEETS INCREASED DEMAND

BY CYNTHIA HOFF



A \$3 MILLION DONATION FUNDED THE EXPANSION

Board of Trustees member Steve Perry '75 and his wife, Susie '75, made the generous gift through their Sacred Harvest Foundation.



Projected as one of California’s highest-growth markets, the field of physical therapy (PT) presents a solid career choice. With 2016 annual salaries between \$81,565 and \$113,288, the field attracts more students each year. APU is one of only two Council for Christian Colleges & Universities schools on the West Coast with a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program—and the recent expansion makes it a top choice. The new DPT facility allows room for the most advanced technology and significantly increased capacity for enrollment. Located in the back of the Duke Academic Complex, the 26,000-square-foot space more than quadruples the size of the program’s former location.

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Several factors contribute to the flourishing PT field, including population growth (especially the elderly), heightened interest in health and fitness, and the popularity of sports and physical activities that result in injuries. The California Employment Development Department expects PT jobs “to increase by 26.9 percent, or 5,200 jobs, between 2014 and 2024.” That is an “average of 530 new job openings per year anticipated for physical therapists, plus an additional 520 job openings due to net replacement needs, resulting in a total of 1,050 job openings.”

A \$3 million donation from Board of Trustees member Steve Perry '75 and his wife, Susie '75, through their Sacred Harvest Foundation made the expansion possible and allows the DPT program to grow its annual cohort size by more than 50 percent, increasing enrollment from 48 to 74 students. “We can now have three cohorts at a time,” said Susan Shore, Ph.D., chair and professor in the Department of Physical Therapy. “Our program is extremely competitive. We average more than 900 applicants each year. People come from all over the country to study with us.”

“We’ve planned for growth,” said Annette Karim, DPT, Ph.D., postprofessional studies program director. “We could have easily filled more spaces from the beginning, but we didn’t have the space for the quality of education we wanted to provide. Now we do. Maintaining the 1:15 faculty-to-student ratio is also very important to us.”

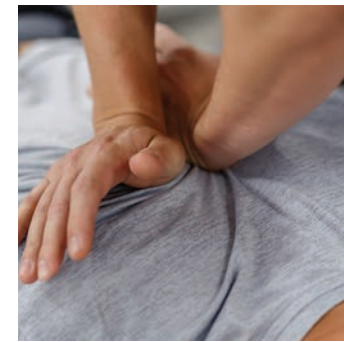
The buildout features spacious lecture rooms and labs, providing a host of technological upgrades that enhance classroom instruction.

“ONE OF THE PRIMARY COMPONENTS IN THE FACILITY DESIGN WAS TO PROVIDE SPACES FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH FACULTY, TO GO BEYOND JUST EDUCATION, TO BE A PART OF EACH OTHER’S LIVES.”

—Derrick Sueki, DPT, Ph.D., DPT program director

“The new classrooms are equipped with cameras in the ceiling that connect with our desktops, allowing us to take pictures and videos of people moving and project them onto smart boards and draw on them,” said Derrick Sueki, DPT, Ph.D., DPT program director. The latest technology increases the program’s academic rigor and prepares competent, competitive graduates.

Challenging curriculum paired with Azusa Pacific’s Christian worldview sets graduates apart from their peers. “People often choose APU for the quality of the faculty,” said Karim. “You choose your mentors. I think God uses us in that way.” This combination of academic rigor and holistic training also produces successful private practitioners and highly desirable additions to medical groups, clinics, and consortia. “I hire APU alumni



APU’S DPT STUDENTS:

97% graduation rate

100% overall National Physical Therapy Exam pass rate

100% employment in their field

because they approach their career as a mission, not a job,” said Mark Baker, DPT '04, PT, OCS, owner of Covina Hills Sports Medicine. “APU graduates have an underlying moral fortitude. It is clear that their professional lives align with their personal lives.”

Baker joins a long list of other California employers who seek physical therapists with a degree from Azusa Pacific. APU’s DPT students have a 97 percent graduation rate, a 100 percent overall pass rate on the National Physical Therapy Exam, and 100 percent employment in their field.

“APU students succeed because they are trained to treat the patient in front of them,” said Brandan King, DPT '12, OCS, senior physical therapist at Kaiser Permanente. “Most graduates have book smarts, but APU’s hands-on curriculum and training put them in a better position to translate their knowledge to the treatment of patients.” King points to the forward-thinking, innovative faculty who constantly evaluate the curriculum and adjust it to fit the evolving needs in the field. “APU’s DPT faculty emphasize more than the accumulation of skills; they teach and model clinical reasoning, which is one of the most important factors when treating patients.”

Solid clinical training coupled with compassionate people skills sets APU’s program apart. “One of the primary components in the facility design was to provide spaces for students to interact with each other and with faculty, to go beyond just education, to be a part of each other’s lives,” Sueki said. “This facility allows us to expand our mission, our visions for our field, and the students we serve.”

Cynthia Hoff is a freelance writer and editor living in Wenatchee, Washington. ceh.hoff@gmail.com



The expansion allows the DPT program to grow its annual cohort size by more than 50 percent.



Solid clinical training coupled with compassionate people skills sets APU’s program apart.

PHOTO: APAC PHOTOGRAPHY

Serving Our Hispanic Students

BY KEITH E. HALL

Equipped with drive and ambition, yet some doubt, Jennie stepped onto APU's campus as a first-generation college student committed to pursuing her academic goals. Reflecting on her APU experience, Jennie said, "I'm extremely grateful for my time at APU. My academic journey set me up for success outside of the four walls of a classroom. I learned how to critically think for myself, acquired noncognitive development skills, and gained mentors that will forever pour into me professionally and personally." Jennie earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in college counseling and student development and now provides focused leadership and support for first-generation and low-income students at APU.

NUNCA
DETES QUE
TUS MIEDOS
OCUPEN EL LUGAR
DE TUS SUEÑOS



PHOTOS BY DAN METERBY, M.A., '17

As a commuter student at APU, Ulises is excelling academically, experiencing community, and engaging his faith deeply while working part time and taking care of his younger brothers. Ulises said, "My biggest challenge with navigating college has been finding the balance between school, work, and family responsibilities in order to do well in all areas and not feel burnt out." Leaning into community for support, Ulises has developed a rhythm and the agency to manage his personal and academic demands to thrive, and he now mentors underclassmen needing support. He will graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in biblical studies.

Jennie's and Ulises' reflections reveal some of the lived experiences of APU Hispanic students. At APU, more than 56 percent of traditional undergraduate students and 57 percent of graduate and professional students are people of color. Of that, approximately 33 percent of the traditional undergraduate and 32 percent of the graduate and professional student populations identify as Hispanic. Each student has a unique story, journey, and cultural capacity that reflects God's image, boundless love, and creativity. As the university demography grows increasingly diverse, reflecting layers of intersectionality, it presents opportunity to consider strategic pathways that can be leveraged to optimize the learning, engagement, and success of all students.

33 million Hispanic students are enrolled in undergraduate programs in the United States

37 percent of Hispanic high school graduates go to college, up from 22 percent in 2000

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (2015)



PHOTO BY EVOKEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

When students choose to engage a diverse learning community, it heightens their self-awareness, broadens their perspective, enriches their learning experience, and cultivates the cultural capacity and sensitivity needed to serve in an increasingly diverse workforce and global society.



Graduation cap translation:
"Never let your fears take the place of your dreams"

WHAT IS A HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION?

The Higher Education Act defines a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) as an eligible institution of higher education that has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time-equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students. In 2018, the Hispanic Association of Schools and Colleges reported that there were approximately 500 HSIs in the U.S., with the highest concentration in California.

APU applied for HSI status in 2014 and was awarded the designation in 2015. The HSI designation falls under a larger overarching designation known as Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), which include U.S. colleges and universities that enroll a high percentage of minority students. MSIs include Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and HSIs, as well as institutions of higher education with high enrollments of Native Americans, Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders, and Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR APU?

Now APU may compete for grants under Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act. In collaboration with the Office of Research and Grants, the Diversity and Inclusion division recently submitted a grant proposal to the Department of Education to support the establishment of an HSI administrative infrastructure and comprehensive programming and resources for the growing population of Hispanic students at APU.

In addition, under the leadership of President Ferguson, the APU community is engaging in a strategic planning process that addresses a number of themes, including *Creating a University Environment Where Students Thrive*. This catalytic process will guide the community in amplifying services and resources that meet the unique needs of all students, including minoritized populations, while eliminating barriers that inhibit successful navigation of their academic journeys and contribute to their holistic student success. These efforts align with APU's distinction as a Christ-centered university committed to academic excellence while further establishing the community as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

Keith E. Hall, Ed.D., is vice president/chief diversity officer at Azusa Pacific University. khall@apu.edu



PHOTOS BY RICKY DORN

Life Coach

BY ALLISON OSTER

VICTORY ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Carrie Webber is the second head coach in Azusa Pacific softball history to reach 200 career wins.

Cleats shuffle through dirt. Bright yellow softballs thump cleanly into gloves. In the background, the ting of a bat hitting a ball repeats. “Go, go, go. Good play.” The familiar sounds of softball practice are punctuated by words of encouragement. It’s seamless, rhythmic.

“Some teams just connect,” said Carrie Webber, Azusa Pacific’s head softball coach. “This team bonded quickly, and sometimes that’s more important than the competition and the games,” she continued, sharing that having a tribe of support in college is essential. And the athletes point back to their humble coach and mentor as the catalyst for their close bond.

“Coach is constantly teaching and mentoring us about life beyond softball,” said catcher Megan Tucker ’20, a kinesiology major. “She’s taught us to edify one another in faith, belief, and knowledge by loving, encouraging, and praying for one another. This environment allows the team to become family by truly seeing each other as sisters in Christ and lifting each other up.”

A native of Sonora, California, Webber grew up in a close-knit family with a passion for sports. A two-sport standout at Sonora High School—softball and basketball—she went on to play shortstop at Chico State University, where she started all 201 games she played. She still ranks among Chico State’s all-time top 10 in hits (168), doubles (28), RBIs (67), walks (51), and stolen bases (20). After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in physical education, Webber earned a master’s degree in physical education, also from Chico State.

Softball was in her blood, and “the way to stay in the game was to become a coach,” she said. After serving as a faculty member at Santa Rosa Junior College, coaching softball with Competitive Edge International, and spending summers as a counselor for Kids Across America, an inner-city youth Christian sports camp, she joined Azusa Pacific as head softball coach in 2008.

In her first season with the Cougars, she rebuilt a squad that had graduated its entire outfield and middle infield the prior season and led the team to third in the GSAC, missing the conference tournament by one game. Since then, Webber has produced three of APU’s eight 40-win seasons, including 2016, when the team captured its first PacWest championship and hosted an NCAA Division II West Regional tournament. She is the second head coach in Azusa Pacific softball history to reach 200 career wins (2014), and she led the squad to national tournament appearances in three different classifications.



“Coach is here for us through any trial we may face. I know I can go to her at any time with my problems, and she is there to pray over me even when I can’t get the words out myself.”

—Emily Moran ’20

Yet for Webber, coaching is about more than the game or wins. She is here to support the team and guide each student-athlete to victory beyond the field. “I try to encourage and advise them in life,” she said. “I want to see them be good athletes, students, employees, and neighbors.” Each week, she gathers the women for “team time,” where she gives a devotional to support their faith journey and teaches a practical life skill, such as changing a tire, writing a check, or learning to navigate challenging life circumstances.

“College is a tough time for students, especially student-athletes with full schedules,” said utility player Emily Moran ’20, a public relations major. “Coach is here for us through any trial we may face. I know I can go to her at any time with my problems, and she is there to pray over me even when I can’t get the words out myself.”

“I don’t think it’s by mistake that God has put me in a position to be single without children, because I am truly available to my girls, and they truly are my family,” said Webber. She frequently reminds her players that they will be remembered for how they make people feel. Webber’s impression is clear and lasting.

WATCH LIFE ON FILM: *CARRIE* to see more of her story at apu.edu/stories/carrie-webber/.

Allison Oster ’01, M.A. ’05, is senior editorial director/senior social media strategist in the Office of University Relations. aoster@apu.edu



Cougars

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Athletics Claims Commissioner's Cup

Azusa Pacific Athletics won the PacWest Commissioner's Cup for the 2018-19 season, recognizing the Cougars as the best all-around athletics program in the conference. Six Cougar teams claimed PacWest championships, which is the most since Azusa Pacific joined the PacWest in 2012-13. Prior to joining NCAA Division II and the PacWest, Azusa Pacific won 18 consecutive All Sports Awards, which was the NAIA Golden State Athletic Conference's equivalent award.

Cougar Soccer Ranked #1 in NCAA Division II



The Azusa Pacific men's soccer team started the 2019 season 12-0, and the Cougars received the #1 ranking in NCAA Division II. It is the second time that an Azusa Pacific program has been ranked first in the NCAA, as the Cougar baseball team was ranked #1 in the country for six consecutive weeks

in 2018. Learn more at athletics.apu.edu/sports/mens-soccer/.

Cougar Schedule

All games at home

ACROBATICS & TUMBLING

February 18 vs. Hawai'i Pacific, 7 p.m.
February 27 vs. Oregon, 7 p.m.
April 7 vs. Arizona Christian, 7 p.m.

BASEBALL

January 31 vs. Chico State, 3 and 6 p.m.
February 1 vs. Chico State, 12 p.m.
February 11 vs. Concordia, 5 p.m.
March 10 vs. Concordia, 6 p.m.
March 12 vs. Fresno Pacific, 5 p.m.
March 13 vs. Fresno Pacific, 2 and 5 p.m.
March 14 vs. Fresno Pacific, 12 p.m.
March 21 vs. Point Loma, 12 and 3 p.m.
March 26 vs. Academy of Art, 5 p.m.
March 27 vs. Academy of Art, 3 and 6 p.m.
March 28 vs. Academy of Art, 12 p.m.
April 16 vs. Point Loma, 3 and 6 p.m.
April 24 vs. Holy Names, 3 and 6 p.m.
April 25 vs. Holy Names, 12 and 3 p.m.
May 7 vs. Concordia, 3 and 6 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

December 19 vs. Holy Names, 4:30 p.m.
December 21 vs. Point Loma, 4 p.m.
January 9 vs. Concordia, 7:30 p.m.
January 16 vs. Hawai'i Hilo, 7:30 p.m.
January 18 vs. Biola, 7:30 p.m.
January 25 vs. Notre Dame de Namur, 4:30 p.m.
February 8 vs. Chaminade, 4:30 p.m.
February 10 vs. Hawai'i Pacific, 7:30 p.m.
February 13 vs. Fresno Pacific, 7:30 p.m.
February 15 vs. Dominican, 4:30 p.m.
February 20 vs. Academy of Art, 7:30 p.m.
March 5-7 PacWest Conference Championships

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

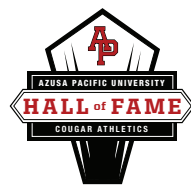
December 19 vs. Holy Names, 2:15 p.m.
December 21 vs. Point Loma, 2 p.m.
January 9 vs. Concordia, 5:15 p.m.
January 16 vs. Hawai'i Hilo, 5:15 p.m.
January 18 vs. Biola, 5:15 p.m.
January 25 vs. Notre Dame de Namur, 2:15 p.m.
February 8 vs. Chaminade, 2:15 p.m.
February 10 vs. Hawai'i Pacific, 5:15 p.m.

Guzmán Ortiz Represents Country and Cougars



Sophomore Milena Guzmán Ortiz, a member of the Azusa Pacific water polo team, represented her home country of Puerto Rico in the 2019 Pan American Games in Brazil this past summer, as part of Puerto Rico's national water polo team. At the games, Guzmán Ortiz scored six goals, and Puerto Rico finished fifth.

Ten Enshrined in Hall of Fame



Ten former Azusa Pacific student-athletes were recently inducted into the Azusa Pacific Athletics Hall of Fame: Brianna Carstensen (2001-05), Jennifer Dao (2004-07), Dexter Davis (1995-98), Sam Fletcher (2002-05), Peder Moore (2001-04), Aron Rono (2006-09), Jenna Sagehorn (2000-03), Stephen Vogt (2004-07), Eric Wattree (1994-96), and Lindsey West (2002-06). The honorees were celebrated at a ceremony on October 26.

February 13 vs. Fresno Pacific, 5:15 p.m.

February 15 vs. Dominican, 2:15 p.m.
February 20 vs. Academy of Art, 5:15 p.m.
March 5-7 PacWest Conference Championships

SOFTBALL

February 14 vs. Saint Martin's University, 4 and 6 p.m.
February 17 vs. UC San Diego, 2 and 4 p.m.
February 22 vs. Concordia, 12 and 3 p.m.
March 10 vs. Dominican, 4 and 7 p.m.
March 11 vs. Dominican, 4 and 7 p.m.
March 13 vs. Notre Dame de Namur, 4 and 7 p.m.
March 14 vs. Notre Dame de Namur, 12 and 3 p.m.
March 20 vs. Academy of Art, 4 and 7 p.m.
March 21 vs. Academy of Art, 12 and 3 p.m.
April 20 vs. Holy Names, 4 and 7 p.m.
April 21 vs. Holy Names, 4 and 7 p.m.
April 25 vs. Biola, 12 and 3 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING

January 11 vs. Alumni, 10 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD

April 17-19 Bryan Clay Invitational
April 26-27 PacWest Conference Championships
May 9-10 Azusa Pacific Twilight

WATER POLO (WOMEN'S)

February 15 vs. Alumni
February 18 vs. Hawai'i Pacific
March 14 vs. Loyola Marymount
March 27 vs. Santa Clara
April 4 vs. Concordia
April 9 vs. San Diego State

Visit athletics.apu.edu to confirm each sport's home venue and check times.



As university alumni, you are valued members of the Azusa Pacific community. The Office of Alumni Engagement hosts events, offers resources, and provides benefits to help you stay connected to APU and foster a spirit of interest and commitment.

ALUMNI WEBSITE: apu.edu/alumni

Alumni benefits:

- Receive discounts on various products.
 - Connect with alumni business owners on the Cougar Network.
 - Learn about upcoming events and enjoy photos and information about past events.
 - Receive the monthly enewsletters.
 - Submit class notes for *APU Life* to inform friends about exciting life events.
- Also, please be sure to update your personal information to receive our newsletters and event notifications. The form to do so may be found on our website, under Stay Connected using the Update Us tab.

We appreciate your affinity for APU and want to stay connected to you!
Office of Alumni Engagement | (626) 812-3026 | alumni@apu.edu



INCREASE YOUR FINANCIAL LITERACY

There are many ways to get help paying for college, from university merit or need-based scholarships to programs like FAFSA and third-party scholarships. Understanding what the financial opportunities are and how choices affect the college budget is super important. "It can be intimidating to focus on how to pay for college, but it is very important that you become familiar with talking about affordability with your support network," Montgomery said. "The sooner you can have the affordability conversation with those who are going to be supporting you, the better."

When the family understands its financial situation and college budget, parents and their seniors can better plan for everything—from applying for outside scholarships and exploring on-campus jobs to submitting the FAFSA early and giving preferred schools time to put together a financial aid offer.

LEAN ON YOUR RESOURCES

Once the acceptance letters arrive in early spring, seniors will be confronted with the (sometimes overwhelming) prospect of selecting a college. Soliciting input from trusted friends and family members can be one of the most helpful factors in the decision-making process. Montgomery recommended creating a support network. "My biggest piece of advice for seniors who are going through the process is to lean into your resources," she said. "You do not have to go through this process alone! There is a team of people who want to make sure that you have all that you need to make the best decision for your future."

To learn more about campus visits, financial aid, and other aspects of the application process at APU, email admissions@apu.edu or call (626) 812-3016.

John Montesi is a freelance writer based in Colorado.

College Planning Advice for High School Seniors

BY JOHN MONTESI

Senior year of high school is an exciting time in life, with one chapter drawing to a conclusion and another just beginning. In addition to all of the nostalgic events to keep track of, college admissions deadlines and acceptance letters can come up quickly! For this reason, it's a good idea for seniors to create a timeline that they can follow while working toward graduation and their freshman year at college.

Here is some advice for high school seniors (and their parents) as they prepare to apply to—and choose from—several college options.

FIGURE OUT WHAT FEELS LIKE HOME

Some of the best advice for high school seniors who are torn about what college environment they may prefer is to schedule a few campus visits at their top-choice schools. "Most schools offer a planned program where you can stay overnight and really see what it would be like for you to be a student on that campus," said Kayla Montgomery, former assistant director of undergraduate admissions at Azusa Pacific University. "There are many factors that go into selecting the right school for you, but it is important to remember that wherever you choose to go, it will become your home."

Game Changer

BY NATHAN FOSTER



The original Esports Arena in Santa Ana has a broadcast center where thousands of people stream the gaming action.

A crowd anxiously awaits entrance to a plain brick building in Santa Ana, California, hoping to secure a front-row seat to all the action. Inside, the electrifying atmosphere fuels the spirit of competition. Amid the cheers of hundreds of fans gathered around large computer screens, gamers of all levels battle it out. This is the burgeoning world of esports, and in just four years, Tyler Endres '10 has capitalized on this international phenomenon by building a successful brand with his business, Esports Arena, expanding its reach and influence across the nation.

The early imaginings for Esports Arena began with Endres and his roommate Paul Ward '10 while they were Azusa Pacific University students. "During my freshman year, we loved playing *Halo II*; everybody at APU played it back then. We would leave our dorm room in Trinity Hall open so people could come and play with us," Endres said. "Soon, our RD asked us if we could host a *Halo II* tournament. We borrowed Xboxes and TVs and had 16 four-person teams." Endres envisioned a place where he could compete with other players at a similar skill level so they could keep improving.

Endres saved up for three years after graduating before launching Esports Arena in Santa Ana. "We were really lucky to find this building," he said. "The owner loved the concept so much that he paid for all the renovations, which were extensive. We couldn't have afforded them

"Our community was gaming. I started this company because we had so many good friendships that came about through gaming."

—Tyler Endres '10

without him, so that was a godsend." Renovations took more than two years to complete. By the time the arena opened in September 2015, Endres was down to his last penny.

In the following months, a number of large gaming corporations rented out Esports Arena. Business boomed, but it was not what Endres had envisioned when he started the company. "We had to ask ourselves what we stood for, what message we wanted to communicate," Endres said. "Our core product now is gaming for everybody. We want to develop a grassroots gaming community where people can compete at any level.

"When I look back to my time at APU, that's what helped me the most: APU enables students to find community and feel like they belong," he said. "Our community was gaming. I started this company because we had so many good friendships that came about through gaming." The rapid success of Esports Arena spurred opportunities for business growth, including opening facilities inside the Luxor® Casino in Las Vegas and in Oakland, California.

Part of the new business model is a partnership with the largest retailer in the world, Walmart. The company came to Endres in early 2018 with the idea of putting mini Esports Arenas inside their stores. "Walmart owns a 30 percent market share in video game consoles, but the market is declining because you can just download most games at home. They were losing a huge chunk of the market and saw us as a potential solution," he said. Esports Arena is in five Walmarts across the country and plans to expand into many more stores in the coming months.

"This allows Esports Arena to create its own ecosystem of esports with competitive players from around the country," Endres said.

In addition, Esports Arena launched a series of gaming computers called OverPowered, available at Walmart. "They're phenomenal machines. The equipment inside is really high quality, and they're available for a great price," he said. "Knowing my brand is in the households of gamers across America is a really cool feeling."

Yet most days, Endres can still be found at the place where his success began, the original facility in Santa Ana. The facility has a live broadcast center where thousands of people stream the esports action.



Tyler Endres' business is shaping the culture of esports.

After just four years, Endres' company has expanded across the country and he now employs 72 people. "I work for everybody who works for me. I'm only able to do what I do because of all these people God has brought into my life. It's definitely not all me. I thank God for that."

Nathan Foster is a public relations intern in the Office of University Relations. He is a dual major in journalism and public relations.

**ESPORTS ARENA IS
IN 5 WALMARTS ACROSS
THE COUNTRY AND
PLANS TO EXPAND INTO
MANY MORE STORES IN
THE COMING MONTHS.**

Conquering Mountains

BY NATHAN FOSTER



Sonya Wilson sits with her hearing dog, Stacy, on top of Mt. Baldy.

Gazing out from high atop Mount Kilimanjaro,

Sonya Wilson '97 knew she had achieved something remarkable. Yet, even a 19,341-foot mountain paled in comparison to the obstacles Wilson has overcome in her life.

Wilson was born deaf and three and a half months premature. Her twin sister died three days later, and Wilson remained in an incubator for the first five months of her life. She faced many challenges during her childhood, the biggest being communication. "My mother didn't learn sign language," she said. "So I learned to identify body language, to recognize emotion in her eyes to determine if she was angry or in a good mood."

While life at home was difficult, Wilson encountered even bigger hurdles at school. "I was behind in school, and there wasn't enough support for Deaf children back then," she said. She turned to rock

climbing as a refuge. "I started when I was only five years old. I loved climbing trees and rocks," she said.

When Wilson was 11, her mother passed away, and she moved in with her aunt's family. "My aunt helped me catch up on so many things," she said. "I went to a science fair at APU. It was the first time I had set foot on a college campus." Wilson knew this was the place for her, and she worked hard to gain admission. Once at APU, Wilson struggled at first. "But I didn't give up, because APU is a wonderful university. It was one-on-one. I didn't feel lost in the crowd."

With the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 (Wilson's freshman year), APU began providing interpreters for most of her classes, and academics became easier. In 1997, Wilson became the first Deaf student to graduate from APU.

She has since had a successful career as an American Sign Language (ASL) instructor for more than 20 years, teaching at high schools, colleges, and adult education centers. She has also worked as an ASL consultant and coach for prominent companies in the entertainment industry, designing workshops for Dreamworks and the Mark Taper Theater. Most recently, Wilson built ASL programs for local school districts, including Pasadena Unified.

More than two decades after graduating, Wilson has returned to APU to pursue her master's degree in education and her third teaching credential. "The Academic Success Center (ASC) has employees who know sign language, and they make sure I have the access I need to thrive," she said.

When Wilson isn't at school, she is usually outdoors. "For me, I feel God most when I'm hiking," she said. Wilson shares her adventures on Facebook and Instagram under the name Deaf Climber. She also leads two Facebook groups: California ASL Hiking Network and ASL Climbing Network, for deaf and hearing people. Each group has hundreds of members. "Being Deaf enhances and enriches my life," Wilson said. "This is how I was made, and this is what God gave me. Being Deaf is beautiful."

Note: An interpreter was provided for this interview by the ASC.

Nathan Foster is a public relations intern in the Office of University Relations. He is a dual major in journalism and public relations.

Connecting Community Through Art

BY NATHAN FOSTER

E. Trent Thompson '17 glides his brush down the canvas slowly, deliberately. He is painting with love and a goal. Each stroke tells a story and each painting connects his community in new and profound ways. Thompson, who graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a B.A. in Cinematic Arts and a minor in fine art, runs a creative agency and sells art at a collaborative workspace in Livermore, California. He discovered the inspiration for his art on his way to the office, where he often passed by a homeless woman named Sydney who sat outside the building. "I would say, 'hi,' and move on about my day," he said. "Occasionally, I brought her lunch." Over time, Thompson built a friendship with Sydney, which sparked an idea. He asked Sydney if he could take a picture of her to use for a painting. "I wanted to make her feel seen, to know that people cared for her and wished they could help." She said, "Yes," and, in that moment, Pictures 4 People was born.

"This is a grassroots movement that aims to call attention to the needs of individuals in our community we walk by every day," Thompson said. His Instagram account captures the stories behind his artwork. "Each painting is attributed to a specific cause, highlighted through the person and the art, to raise money for a community organization doing the groundwork to make the world a better place." These nonprofits include a food kitchen, a homeless shelter, a special needs organization, and a ministry dedicated to helping victims of abuse.

"Painting ties into my faith directly," he said. "I'm trying to love with actions instead of words, to focus on listening to their stories and planting seeds of hope as opposed to judging."

Over the course of the last five months, he has met and painted portraits of six people, including four homeless individuals. Thompson uses acrylic and spray paint on canvas, a form he calls "urban contemporary" that lends a unique style to each piece.

He garners positive feedback from his portrait subjects and from the surrounding tri-valley community. Many people who view the paintings on Instagram ask if they can donate money or goods.



E. Trent Thompson (left) poses with some of his portrait subjects. Proceeds from his art benefit nonprofits.

Recently, Thompson collaborated with several local nonprofits to host an auction. More than 100 people attended. "We packed the house and sold all the paintings," he said. "We raised nearly \$8,000, all of which went to local nonprofits to assist those they serve."

Three of those he painted attended the auction and connected with the people who bought their portraits. This successful outcome was more than he hoped for when he began the project, let alone when he graduated from APU just two years earlier. "APU helped me build confidence," he said. "As an artist, I decided to try something unlike anything I had ever seen."

Thompson's desire is to infuse compassion into the community through his paintings. "By purchasing a painting, we hope to fund community organizations and projects that will better the lives of our brothers and sisters in need," he said.

To view Thompson's art, visit etrentart.com.

Nathan Foster is a public relations intern in the Office of University Relations. He is a dual major in journalism and public relations.

1990s

MONIQUE DONNELLY '97 recently performed as a background singer during Weird Al Yankovic's Strings Attached national tour.

CHRISTY (MANN '99) SEMSEN and **DANIEL '01** have been nominated again for a Dove Award for their musical *Straight Outta Bethlehem*.

AARON STEWART '99 plays the role of Dan in *Next to Normal* at the Art Center in Escondido.

2000s

DAVID GARDEN '01 is the instrumental music director at Rosemead High School, and he directed the middle school band camp at the Arcadia Music and Arts Symposium this year.

CYNTHIA EDEN '01 is the English language program lead instructor at the University of Guelph in Canada. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Toronto, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. She previously taught English and developed curricula in the U.S., China, and Vietnam through the English Language Institute/China (ELIC).

JENNIFER WILCOVE '01 recently directed music for Pedego Bikes, and filmed alongside William Shatner to promote the company.

LUKE WINSLOW '02 received the Public Schools Facilities Authority (PSFA) Grant Award for his work at Las Colinas Women's Detention Center in Santee, California.

RICKY STAUB '06 was highlighted in *Variety* Magazine for his feature film directing debut. Ricky is directing *Concrete Cowboy*, starring Idris Elba (*Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, presents *Star Trek Beyond*).

LESLIE CHENG '08 is the worship pastor at First Baptist Church in Pasadena.

AARON STAFFORD '08 was honored by the San Bernardino County Office of Education as Teacher of the Year.

DEREK BARGAEHR '09 is the founder of Vanguard Audio Labs, a California-based manufacturer of studio microphones. His company received a favorable review in *Recording* Magazine.

2010s

EYANA FOMBY, M.M. '10, is the music teacher at Fremont Academy of Engineering and Design in Pomona, California.

TIANHUI ZHANG '10 is the founder and director of the Gloria Master Chorale of Southern California.

AMANDA (UPPIANO '11) STIMAC is an analyst for Enterprise Music Data Management at Warner Bros. Entertainment.

JESSE MERRICK '12 is a sports anchor and reporter for the NBC affiliate in Las Vegas.

LAUREN BUGG '13 is the senior communications specialist at Oath.

NATALIE BUICKIANS '13, the first student to graduate from APU with a performance degree in piano and vocal, recently completed her DMA in Vocal Performance at the Eastman School of Music.

MARIA (CONRAD '13) SORIA earned a Ph.D. from USC last spring and accepted a full-time position at Fresno Pacific University as an assistant professor of biology.

ISABELLA SILVA '14 was promoted to recruitment and employee experience manager at EF Educational Tours.

DREW BROWN '15 won the Most Promising New Writer Award at the Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference.

SARAH O'DELL '15, M.A. '17, earned the 2019 Alexei Kondratiev Award at Mythcon after her paper was voted the best presented by an undergraduate or graduate student. In addition, her paper, "The (Revised) Clinical Imagination: An Unpublished 'Appendix' to the Problem of Pain," was accepted for publication in *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*.

LILA CROSSWHITE '16 was featured in *Rolling Stone* Magazine for her string arrangement in the new song "Come Home" by artist Janvi Anand.

CAMILLE FRIGILLANA '16 is programs and communications associate for The LAGRANT Foundation, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit giving opportunities to minorities entering the advertising, marketing, and public relations fields.

SEAN GANNON '16 is a U.S. Navy veteran who works at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center as a cardiac step-down/TCU nurse. He was recently recalled to active duty with the Navy, but will return to the job at UCSF next year after his tour concludes.

GABI LAWRENCE '16 was nominated by *Moonchild Magazine* for her poetry piece "Untitled." Gabi works as a lecturer at the University of Central Arkansas, where she teaches courses in writing and composition.

DANIEL PAES DE BARROS '16 is the conductor at the Federal University of Lavras in Brazil.

SEAN HALLORAN '17 teaches physics at St. Joseph High School in Santa Maria, California.

AMY LUI '17 is the band director at Francis Polytechnic Senior High in Sun Valley, California.

MELANIE TIERCE-SLAY '17 is a full-time missionary and artist with People & Songs, an interdenominational community of worship leaders and songwriters devoted to releasing the voice of the Church through songwriting, evangelism, hospitality, and community service. Melanie, a signed artist with the organization's label, recorded her first solo record, to be released later this year.

HEIDI TURNER, M.A. '17, won the Heritage Prize: The Great Story Project, an international competition of fiction and nonfiction. As the winner, Heidi's book, *The Sacred Art of Trespassing Barefoot*, will be published soon.

DIEGO BARBOSA-VASQUEZ '18 participated in the Giancarlo Facchinetti Conducting Competition in Brescia, Italy, last October.

SAMUEL BUTLER '18 presented his senior thesis at the biennial meeting of the Conference on Faith and History at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

SOLOMAN ENCINA, M.M. '18, has been appointed the instrumental music director at Los Osos High School in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

ELENA ENDER '18 published her poem "The Mug My Mom Probably Just Got from Marshall's Back in the Early '90s" in *Fearsome Critters* magazine.

KANE (SAMUEL '18) FILBECK plays the role of Garrett in the feature film *Saturday School*.

KATHRYN ROSS, M.A. '18, wrote her debut book, *Black Was Not a Label* (Pronto, 2019), a collection of creative nonfiction essays.

VICTOR BAEZA '19 received the \$5,000 Joe Brainard Fellowship for Fiction from the San Francisco State University MFA program.

CHARLOTTE GOODE '19 received a full fellowship to study at Festival Napa Valley last summer, where she performed viola alongside members of the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera, including a performance accompanying vocal artist Seal.

TYLER GRIFFIN '19 is the music teacher at Calvary Christian Academy in Chula Vista, California.

BRYCE QUILICI '19 works as a military-civilian space engineer at Northrop Grumman.

HUNTER ROBERTS '19 won the APU 2018-19 Servant Leadership Award.

BRIAN SONG '19 collaborated on a research paper coauthored by Charles Chen, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry; the paper was published in the journal *Plant Production Science*.

MELODY SPARKS '19 was selected to participate in the annual SongFest, held at the Colburn School in Los Angeles.

DARRELL "ALEX" THEIL '19 received an English teaching assistantship award to Malaysia for 2019-20.

CHARLES VETTER '19 earned a bachelor's degree in engineering. He is an Army veteran and works as a systems engineer in the tactical radar group at Raytheon, analyzing calibration procedures for the radars that fly on F-15 fighter jets. Raytheon hired Charles after a veteran hiring session on campus sponsored by the Office of Military and Veteran Services and the Department of Engineering and Computer Science.

OSVALDO ZARATE '19 is band director and head of the music department at Stauffer Middle School in Downey, California.

JUST MARRIED

BETHANY WAGNER '14 to Jesse Cummins on May 19, 2019, in Vancouver, Washington. Alumni in the wedding party included **CALEB WAGNER '14**, **AUSTIN REHBEIN '15**, and **ABIGAIL REED '20**. The two met on a breakfast date at a cafe in Vancouver after Abigail (Bethany's sister) had a lucky conversation with a stranger (Jesse) while traveling and became convinced he was right for her sister. Jesse and Bethany now live in Seattle, where Jesse works as a carpenter and Bethany is a writer and editor at Seattle Pacific University.

NICOLE JOHNSON '19 to Austin Dudley on June 22, 2019, at Reptacular Ranch in Los Angeles.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A New Day

On March 3, 1899, a group of committed Christians held the initial meeting to form a Training School for Christian Workers (TSCW) at the home of Philena Hadley in Whittier, California. Feeling the need for such a school on the West Coast, they began a season of deep and earnest prayer to discern the will of God and His direction in the matter. They agreed on the need, plans, scope, and nature of the work to be done and established objectives, by-laws, and articles of incorporation. In 1899, Mary Hill (shown above, center), with her strong educational background and administrative qualifications, became the founding president of the TSCW. When she arrived in


Whittier on February 24, 1900, hope and inspiration ensued. After more than a century of transformation, the Training School for Christian Workers continues as Azusa Pacific University. On June 3, 2019, Paul Ferguson, Ph.D., DABT, an experienced and acclaimed educator and administrator, became the 17th president of Azusa Pacific University. Upon his appointment, a new day of hope and inspiration began for APU as its disciple-scholars commit to Christ-centered academic excellence and engage in the world without compromise as difference makers.

Ken Otto, MLIS, professor, head of Special Collections



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