

Cornerstone

Transformational Scholarship at Azusa Pacific University

Office of Research and Grants | Winter 2017



Program Admin Spotlight

LaTasha Hagler, Ed.D
Director of TRiO Target Success,
Undergraduate Academic Success Center
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Brannon Muya
'16 Alumna, History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Remembering Dr. Kimasi Browne (1952-2017)

Featured on the Faculty Spotlight of our very
first Cornerstone (Winter 2014)
[http://www.apu.edu/researchandgrants/
cornerstone/](http://www.apu.edu/researchandgrants/cornerstone/)



In Search of Story Thoughts on Qualitative Research

What is more meaningful to you--words or numbers? Which methodological approach might paint the most meaningful word picture of findings for a consumer of research? For some, the presentation of one narrative could be more powerful and informative than pages of tables, charts, and graphs. Sometimes we need to hear data in different ways to hit home. Christopher Collins, Assistant Professor, APU Department of Higher Education, offers the following example to his doctoral students. One's spouse can say "I Love You" a hundred times and say "I'm leaving you" once. Indeed, the qualitative research methodology uses words, story if you will, to learn what might be overlooked in other methods. Accordingly, qualitative methods provide powerful means to get at the *why* and *how*, in addition to the *what*, *when*, *where*, and *who*.

Words Matter - One ought to keep in mind that in qualitative research repetition and frequency do not always lead to significant finding. If that were true, then researchers for every interview would find words like "the", "and", and "um" to have deep significance. Delving into meaning behind particular words and reflecting upon, analyzing, and member checking for textual veracity can be laborious and painstaking. Nevertheless, these are necessary components in qualitative research. In Herman Melville's novel, *Moby Dick*, Ishmael states, "...how can I hope to explain myself here, and yet, in some dim, random way, explain myself I must, else all these chapters might be for naught." What an appropriate summary to capture the struggle of articulating key elements of a story.

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Congratulations!!



Recent grants

(November 2016 – January 2017)

Robert Duke (SOT). *Scholars Initiative.* Funded by Museum of the Bible (\$25,000)

Lynda Reed (SON). *2016 Advanced Practice Nursing and Physician Assistant Scholarship.* Funded by CVS Health Foundation (\$5,000)

Tedd Szeto (CLAS). *California Space Grant: 2017 Aerospace Workforce Development.* Funded by the California Space Grant Consortium at University of California, San Diego (\$6,000)

Tedd Szeto (CLAS), Rebekah Harris (SOE). *Integrated Teacher Preparation Program Grant.* Funded by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (\$199,108)

Katherine Tong (SON). *American Samoa Indigenous Samoan Partnership to Initiate Research Excellence (INSPIRE) in Colorectal Cancer Health Literacy.* Funded by the American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition (NIMHD subaward) (\$62,421)

Accomplishments



Congratulations **Dr. Jennifer Shepard Payne**, BAS Social Work on participating in the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Research Scholar Institute.

2016 APU BFA Senior Webseries “The Death of Rasputin” won **BEST COMEDY** at the Lancaster International Short Film Festival. Congratulations BFA Senior Class '16!!



CRIS Re-Launched



Dr. Louise Huang relaunched the Center for Research in Science (CRIS) by hosting “Celebrate STEM” on January 26 in the Segerstrom Science Center. It was an evening showcasing and celebrating the 3 STEM departments: Biology & Chemistry,



Engineering & Computer Science, and Mathematics & Physics. In addition to the renewed CRIS vision and mission statements, several new opportunities and events that aim at

fostering scientific collaborations, connections, and creativity were also announced. CRIS looks forward to serving and supporting STEM faculty and students as well as reaching out to the neighboring community. Visit www.apu.edu/cris for more information.



Alum Spotlight

Brannon Muya ('2016)



... Azusa Pacific University has helped to lay down the foundation for my future career path and made me realize that I truly enjoy learning. My senior seminar paper was the first original research paper I had ever written and is by far the one that I treasure the most. I was encouraged by Dr. Veronica Gutierrez in the Department of History and Political Science to find something personal to write about, something that I could “eat, sleep, and breathe”. Until that point I had never thought of research as being something that anyone enjoyed doing. Through her advice though, I settled on a project that combined both my cultural heritage and my dual interests in history and theology. My paper explored the relationship between British missionary enterprises and the tribal people of Lake Victoria in western Kenya.

The project provided a unique opportunity for me to get in touch with my Kenyan heritage, as my father is from Lake Victoria. I particularly enjoyed this project because many of my sources were written in the Luo language, which I never seen in written form even though I can speak it. Being able to learn how to read in my father's tribal language was an experience that brought us closer together and helped me connect with my father on a different level.

It was also Dr. Gutierrez who insisted that I present my work at the Conference of Faith and History in Virginia this past year, which I was very hesitant to do. However, the experience was truly worth the work put in to transform my project into something worth presenting at a major academic conference. My favorite part of the conference, however, was not presenting but having the opportunity to listen to other scholars, ask questions, and brainstorm with a group of incredibly intelligent people.



To anyone even remotely interested in trying to do original research, I highly encourage them to give it a go. I am so thankful for the opportunities that APU has provided for me and for my research and the directions that my research has taken me. I owe a big shout-out again to Dr. Veronica Gutierrez and Dr. Jacquelyn Winston, chair and professor of the APU Department of Theology, for always being available to answer questions and direct me to resources.

“It has been an honor and joy to mentor Brannon and to take him to his first academic conference. I have no doubt he will continue to produce transformational scholarship as he advances his career.”

*Dr. Veronica Gutierrez
CLAS History and
Political Sciences
Director of Undergraduate
Research*



Calendar & Events

Program Admin Spotlight

... APU Undergraduate Academic Success Center as the director of TRiO Target Success (APU's designation of its TRIO SSS program). Dr. Hagler earned her bachelor's degree in health science and master's degree in education administration from California State University, Northridge. She went on to complete her Ed.D in higher education leadership from California Lutheran University. Prior to taking on the TRiO Target Success director position at APU, Dr. Hagler was the student outreach and HSI educational support coordinator at Cal State Northridge.



Dr. Hagler came to APU in 2016 and has taken on the complex task of leading the TRiO Target Success program. With \$1.1 million grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education, this valuable program provides first-generation college students and others who demonstrate academic need with support as they navigate through the college journey. As a first-generation college student herself, Dr. Hagler immediately connected with the program goal. She is, indeed, passionate about fostering the academic development of underrepresented undergraduate students and seeing them thrive in their academic pursuits.



In the Summer 2016, the TRiO Target Success students under Dr. Hagler's leadership, were offered a unique opportunity to travel to Israel. This resulted from a partnership APU established with the Philos

Project and included 29 first-generation undergraduates and 15 seminary students. The trip was designed to strengthen the biblical faith of Christian college students and introduce them to modern Israel. This was a tremendous accomplishment for the program.

In addition to the TRiO Target Success, Dr. Hagler has been active in preparing and submitting a grant to start a new TRIO program at APU, the TRIO Upward Bound. If funded, this program would support disadvantaged high school students as they prepare to enter college. Well done on this tremendous effort, especially bringing together so many players at the same table!

Dr. Hagler was born and raised in the Bay Area along with her two brothers. She enjoys cooking and putting her warm personality to good use in hosting others. Dr. Hagler rarely passes an opportunity to travel and looks forward to family summer vacations. Currently training for her first half marathon, Dr. Hagler is full of energy and brings a lot of enthusiasm to APU. Thank you for your dedication!



"As we teach our students about developing their own research agendas, we are helping cultivate curiosity about new ideas, and ways of looking at the world. In turn, we are the beneficiaries of their new findings..."

"This is one of the many joys of teaching!"

Anita Fitzgerald Henck, PhD, Dean of School of Education

Events

Upcoming Sabbatical Leave Luncheon Talks

- February 8, 2017 – Paul Shrier
- February 22, 2017 – Thomas Parham
- March 2, 2017 – Joel Clifft
- March 22, 2017 – Diana Glycer
- March 30, 2017 – Alice Yafeh-Deigh
- April 11, 2017 – Chinaka DomNawachukwu
- April 20, 2017 – Grace Bahng

Beverly H. Stanford Fellowship Luncheon

- March 13, 2017 – Bill Yarchin

Research Ethics Deadlines

IRB (human subjects research)

- March 1, 2017: Full Board Review Application deadline for March 15 meeting

IACUC (animal research)

- February 8, 2017: Protocol or amendment deadline for February 15 meeting
- March 8, 2017: Protocol or amendment deadline for March 15 meeting

Consultations

Dr. John Trent Writing Consultation

- March 20-21, 2017

Research and Grants Training

Grant Training:

- February 16, 2017: Grants Management: Expense Monitoring and Documentation
- February 17, 2017: Interdisciplinary Research Focus Group
- March 15, 2017: What's the Secret to Developing a Solid Grant Budget? Webinar
- March 16, 2017: Grants Management: Hiring and Personnel Expenses
- March 17, 2017: Funding Opportunities
- April 20, 2017: Grants Management: Inventory, Internal Control and Auditing
- April 21, 2017: NSF Grants Discussion and Team Building

Responsible Conduct of Research Training:

- February 10, 2017: RCR sessions: Research Misconduct; Conflict of Interest; Human Subjects Research
- March 27, 2017: RCR sessions: Peer Review; Mentoring; Animal Subjects Research

Writers' Retreats

- May 23-26, 2017: Top Performers
- June 13-16, 2017: Traditional
- June 20-23, 2017: Early Career
- July 11-14, 2017: Traditional

(In Search of Story article, continued from Page 1)

You are the Instrument - Scholars have argued for many analytical techniques to help ensure both rigor and trustworthiness of findings from a study, but perhaps most important among all methodological techniques is the reiteration that the researcher is the primary research instrument in any study. It is, therefore, imperative for every qualitative researcher to know oneself and to articulate carefully for the reader how one's epistemological view of knowledge can and cannot affect the researcher's interpretations of a respondent's statements. Also important is the ability to transcend one's own identity and situate oneself into the world of *The Other*. Researcher and scholar, Elisabeth Burgos-Debray, conducted a life history interview with Guatemalan activist Rigoberta Menchu, who eventually won a Nobel Peace Prize. She reflected, "...at the end of the week I had twenty four-hours of conversation on tape. For the whole of that week, I lived in Rigoberta's world...we established an excellent rapport immediately and, as the days passed and as she told me about her life, her family, and her community, our relationship gradually became more intense." Indeed, as the instrument, the researcher must acknowledge all strengths, weaknesses, and biases that will impact interpretation. Hermeneutics matter, not just for the researched but also the researcher.

Remember the Reader - Ultimately good qualitative research cannot be fully realized without good writing. While I acknowledge this should be true for all academic work, it is especially true and necessary in qualitative reports. I submit that much of qualitative research reporting is a delicate hermeneutic dance of multiple interpretive partners - the researched, the researcher, and the reader. First is the researched since there are hermeneutic interpretations of all words, actions, and events of a given interview participant. Then comes the interpretation of the researcher, who has her own epistemological worldview and experiences that will impact how she hears data. Finally, a negotiation with the reader must take place. The reader ultimately decides what seems valid and reliable, based on many of his own assumptions that are tied to how narratives findings are read and digested.

In the end, a lot goes into a good qualitative report. The ongoing challenge for qualitative researchers continues to be making the implicit processes explicit for others. We continue the search to find power of story that will not just lead to new and important insights, but affect hearts and minds and document loved experiences resulting in real change.

(Alexander Jun, Ph.D., Professor in the APU Department of Higher Education, School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences. Dr. Jun also serves as the ORG Qualitative Consultant to support faculty in their research endeavors.)



ResearchGate A Social Networking Site for Science Researchers

ResearchGate provides science researchers ways to connect with colleagues throughout the world. According to their website, ResearchGate could help you to:

- **Share your publications**, access millions more, and publish your data
- **Connect and collaborate with colleagues**, peers, co-authors, and specialists in your field
- **Get stats** and find out who's been reading and citing your work
- **Ask questions, get answers**, and find solutions to research problems

Today, ResearchGate has more than 11 million members. Sign up and check out this free resource if you have not done so already (<https://www.researchgate.net/>).



Common Day of Learning March 1, 2017

CDL Keynote Address: YOU!

Be sure to mark March 1, 2017 on your calendar as Ash Wednesday and the **Common Day of Learning** (CDL). The CDL 2017 theme is *Mutual Edification* based on Romans 14:19. This will be a time for each person in the APU community to edify others as they too are being edified.

Novel Features

CDL Director, Dr. Ben Marsh, has initiated several novel features for 2017 including special topics, an In-N-Out food truck, and live band during the lunch hour. A lively UG research presence is expected with more than 25 poster presentations on display in the Duke hallways from noon to 3:00 pm.

Special Topics

CDL 2017 will feature some special topics (<http://www.apu.edu/cdl/featuredtopics/>) so that attendees can drill down on certain themes throughout the day if they wish.

Special topics include:

- **The Purpose and Practice of Church Traditions**
- **Scenes From the Life, Work, and Legacy of C.S. Lewis**
- **Water Cooler Discussions of 2016**
- **MEL Scholars Present**

More than 85 presentations and research talks available to choose from!

These special topics are in addition to the many excellent contributed presentations by APU staff, faculty, and students. Indeed, there will be ample opportunities for *Mutual Edification*.

Schedule At-a-Glance

9-9:45 a.m.	Session One
10-10:45 a.m.	Session Two
11 a.m.-12 p.m.	Chapel
1:15-2 p.m.	Session Three
1:15-3 p.m.	UG Research Posters (2)
2:15-3 p.m.	Session Four
3:15-4 p.m.	Session Five

Events will take place in Duke Academic Complex

CDL webpage: <http://www.apu.edu/cdl/>

CDL Director: Benjamin Uel Marsh