

APULIFE

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Tending the Shepherds: Helping Ministers Thrive

God First Since 1899



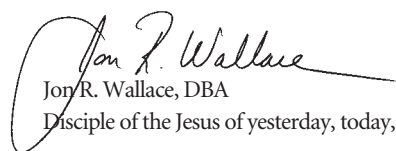
During Christmas break, I had a little time to check up on my social media relationships. My daughter, Kate, and her husband, Leif, were over for coffee one morning, and they helped me understand how to use the authoritative memory of Facebook to look back on 2016. In just a few minutes, I discovered which of the few pictures I had posted my friends favored. I pulled up and examined moments—distant memories that quickly felt as fresh and impactful as the day they occurred. Many of the postings came from others. I revisited beloved APU events, like Homecoming, Dinner Rally, commencements, Walkabout, New Student Move-In Weekend, and chapel. I also relived significant Wallace family events through wedding pictures, the first images of a new grandson, vacation pictures from central Oregon, and the gossamer threads of daily living that ran throughout and wove us together. As I reviewed and remembered 2016, I was convicted to bring the best of what I had learned and experienced into the New Year. Most of all, I saw the clear evidence of God's faithfulness to me, my family, and this university.

As you receive this issue of *APU Life*, we have fully embraced the hope and promise this New Year offers. University life at APU is once again in full swing, and the empty pages of our schedules are filling with milestones, commitments, and opportunities. Many of the events from 2016 will be repeated, but with new faces. In 2017, we will graduate more than 2,500 into the ranks of alumni. Students in undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs will lean into scholarship, discipleship, and service. Faithful faculty and staff will once again form the foundation of Christ-centered community. Students will travel and serve cross-culturally, and neighbors will be cared for and loved. I am also certain that God's love and faithfulness will be strongly evident in many ways over the next 12 months.

One of my favorite stories from Scripture about the power of moments and memory is in Luke 24:13-32. On the same day that Jesus rose from the dead, two of His disciples were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Along the way, Jesus began walking with them, but they did not recognize Him. During that walk, the two spoke of the trial, crucifixion, and rumored resurrection. Jesus helped them look back into the past, recall the historical events, and remember His teachings. His words were so powerful that the disciples asked Jesus to stay and have dinner with them in Emmaus. During the meal, Jesus revealed Himself and then disappeared. At that moment, their past, present, and future came into focus. They realized they had seen the risen Jesus and hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the good news of the resurrection to the other disciples.

Do you see it—the connection of past, present, and future? That's exactly what can occur for us when we allow the powerful effect of memories of God's faithfulness in 2016 to connect with the reality of His presence in 2017 and lead us into His preferred future. I want the lessons of God's enduring legacy of faithfulness to inform, counsel, and impact this year. I want the capacity of my love for God and love for my neighbor to grow from last year to this year. I want the mission of APU to be more faithful and more effective for the cause of Christ, because we remember His faithfulness to this same mission over the last 117 years.

I am convinced that this will be the greatest year in the history of APU as measured by our surrender and His faithfulness. I pray it will also be true for you.


Jon R. Wallace, DBA
Disciple of the Jesus of yesterday, today, and tomorrow

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“Turning Point,” a large bronze sculpture, graces the front entrance of the School of Business and Management. The work of Washington wildlife artist Jocelyn Russell and a gift from George and Bernie Fermanian, the impressive statue stands 6 feet high at the shoulder and approximately 10 feet long, including tail, and weighs about 700 pounds. “A world-class business school should have world-class art,” said George Fermanian.



DUSTIN REYNOLDS, '07, MBA '10

APU Hosts Race Matters in College Seminar

The Department of Higher Education welcomed Shaun R. Harper, Ph.D., professor in the Graduate School of Education, Africana Studies, and Gender Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, as the featured speaker of the Critical Issues in Higher Education seminar in late summer. As founder and executive director of the institution's Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education, Harper spoke with authority on the topics of cross-racial interaction, the racial climate on campuses, and race-based educational inequities. He called for increased accountability and intentionality in order to close the gap between espoused and enacted institutional values regarding inclusiveness.

The *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, CNN, ESPN, and NPR have featured Harper, who was recently elected president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education and recognized in *Education*

Week as one of the 12 most influential professors in the field of education. Harper is a member of former President Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper advisory council. He leads RISE for Boys and Men of Color, a three-year interdisciplinary project that aims to advance research that will improve the lives of Asian Americans, Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans. Harper has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and 12 books, including his latest, *Race Matters in College* (Johns Hopkins University Press, forthcoming). The event drew 200 attendees, including faculty, administrators, and student affairs professionals from local colleges and universities.

The Department of Higher Education hosts the Critical Issues in Higher Education seminar each July to bring thought leaders in higher education to the APU campus and provide an opportunity for doctoral students to interact with these leaders on the pressing issues facing higher education.

APU Higher Education Students and Faculty Host Iraqi Academic Delegation

During the summer 2016 doctoral higher education intensive that brought students to APU for two weeks of on-site coursework, the group hosted six female Iraqi scholars for a day-long visit. The program included a lunch and panel presentation in which the doctoral students heard from and interacted with the guests to learn about the state of higher education in Iraq. The Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education selected the delegation members as a working group to identify strategies to increase the number of women in leadership roles in their country's universities. The participants, who represented such institutions as the University of Babylon, the University of Duhok, and the University of Baghdad, spent the day exploring leadership issues that would strengthen their effectiveness as emerging leaders within Iraqi higher education. Currently, women hold roles within Iraqi universities as deans, but not as chancellors or presidents.

In preparation for the visit, each scholar read *Women & Leadership in Higher Education* (Information Age Publishing, 2014), a book coedited by Karen A. Longman, Ph.D., professor and Ph.D. in Higher Education program director, and Susan R. Madsen, Ed.D.—who both provided training for the delegation. The event coincided with a project funded by a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of State to Vanguard University. The program seeks to identify ways to advance and support more women in leadership and reach across borders to collaborate with Al-Mustansiriya University in Baghdad. Azusa Pacific supported the effort to develop the interfaith, cross-governmental initiative by collaborating with these international colleagues and providing the delegation with resources and networking skills that will help enable Iraqi women to add

their voices to the scholarly discourse related to higher education leadership.



L.A. Teachers Partner with APU to Bring History Alive

Azusa Pacific's University Libraries hosted a free workshop for Los Angeles County teachers on September 17, 2016, to collaborate on innovative ways to make history more relevant to 21st-century students. The workshop focused on potential projects for the upcoming annual History Day L.A., and included a tour of APU's Presidential Signatures Collection, which features signatures from each United States President from George Washington to Barack Obama, as well as a few first ladies, including Lucy Hayes, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Rosalynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, Hillary Clinton, and Laura Bush. Students exposed to primary sources such as the Presidential Signatures Collection gain a personal perspective on history that inspires deeper research and understanding.

History Day L.A., to be held at APU for the 12th consecutive year on March 25, 2017, provides 20 hands-on history activities for students and the general public, from blacksmithing to "meeting" George Washington and joining the cause for independence. Further, many students present their history research projects at this event. History Day L.A. offers opportunities for 4th-12th-grade students to create



Reading Recommendations from Joseph Bentz

Joseph Bentz, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of English.

A Grace Revealed: How God Redeems the Story of Your Life

by Jerry L. Sittser (Zondervan, 2012)

Max Perkins: Editor of Genius by A. Scott Berg (NAL, 2016)

Look Homeward, Angel by Thomas Wolfe (Scribner, 2006)

The Last Bookaneer: A Novel by Matthew Pearl (Penguin, 2015)

The Last Thing He Wanted by Joan Didion (Vintage, 1997)

Section sponsored by the University Libraries and compiled by Liz Leahy, MLS, M.A.T., professor of theological bibliography and research and chair, James L. Stamps Theological Library. lleahy@apu.edu

posters, exhibits, papers, websites, performances, and documentary presentations that represent their scholarship and perspective. This year's theme, "Taking a Stand in History," invites students to explore what it means to stand firm on a position. They will investigate historical accounts of people opposing the status quo or fighting against a powerful movement, and then analyze the techniques, approaches, effectiveness, and impact. Students will present their projects to judges, and winners in each category will represent Los Angeles County in the California state competition in April 2017.

School of Theology Names Dean



After serving as the interim dean of the School of Theology since May 2015, Robert R. Duke, Ph.D., assumed the official title of dean on September

26, 2016, on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees and President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. As dean, Duke oversees Azusa Pacific Seminary, the Undergraduate Division of Religion and Philosophy, and the Center for Vocational Ministry, which provides numerous resources for every stage of ministry leadership development. He leads more than 50 full-time faculty in delivering robust undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. In addition, the school delivers critical coursework in religion and philosophy to all undergraduates as part of the General Education curriculum.

Previously, Duke served as professor and chair of the Department of Biblical and Religious Studies. An expert in the Old Testament, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Second Temple Judaism, he spent significant time studying in the Middle East and has led several APU study tours in the region. In addition, he is the western region director and distinguished scholar of Hebrew texts

for the Museum of the Bible Scholars Initiative.

A champion for foster children, Duke galvanizes interfaith support to develop solutions for the foster care crisis. He serves as a member of the Director's Council of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, and as an advocate to numerous church and community service agencies.

He holds a Ph.D. in Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, with a specialization in Hebrew Bible, and an M.A. in Hebrew Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles; an M.A. in Hebrew Bible from Jerusalem University College; and a B.A. in Theology from Multnomah University. He has taught at UCLA, Fuller Theological Seminary, and the University of Judaism. He is the author of two books, three book chapters, refereed journal articles, and other scholarly publications.

New Association Supports Graduate and Professional Students

As more and more students seek the advantages of an advanced degree, Azusa Pacific continually constructs comprehensive resources for mentorships, networking, and job placement. To that end, APU launched the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) last summer. Sponsored by the Office of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs, the new program fosters a cohesive and motivated community of students and works toward greater visibility of graduate and professional students' institutional needs across campuses.

During its inaugural year, GPSGA representatives will lay groundwork and set goals that will impact the direction of the program for years to come. The process began with faculty nominations for GPSGA officers, including president, vice president, controller, and several other roles. These paid positions enable members to build leadership skills, influence the development of graduate

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Faculty Makes Significant Discovery at Israel Dig Site



Archaeologist Robert Mullins, Ph.D., professor of biblical studies, and his team unearthed a stone seal dating back approximately 3,000 years. Last summer, Mullins continued his ongoing partnership with codirector Nava Panitz-Cohen, Ph.D., from the Institute of Archaeology at Hebrew University, and their team of archaeologists and scholars exploring Abel Beth Maacah, a 35-acre tel at the northernmost border of present-day Israel. They believe this most recent discovery, an oval-shaped stone seal engraved with a motif of three figures holding up their hands, represents a ritual dance scene.



Mullins explained that ritual symbolic behavior and cultural traditions are among the most elusive categories of ancient life for the archaeologist to fathom. While the scene on the Abel Beth Maacah seal can be interpreted in different ways,

it likely represents a dance, related perhaps to fertility, military victory, mourning, or divine protection. The small, yet meaningful, artifact helps construct an understanding of this important biblical site.

Similar scenes are known at other sites in Israel and Syria from the 10th-9th centuries BC. Scribes used these seals to impress the carved image into a soft lump of clay placed on the string tie of a rolled papyrus document. Personal letters, diplomatic correspondence, and even Scripture (Jeremiah 36) were maintained in this fashion. Chronologically, this stone seal dates from the reign of King David (2 Samuel 20:10-22) to the destruction of Abel Beth Maacah by the Aramean King Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20).

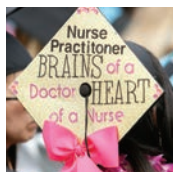
APU's dig at Abel Beth Maacah has uncovered other treasures as well, including a clay jug containing silver earrings and ingots in 2014. Mullins, along with several APU students, will rejoin Panitz-Cohen and teams from other partner schools, including Cornell University, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Indiana Wesleyan University, the University of Arizona, and The Pillar Seminary, next summer to resume the dig.

Year in Review: 2015-16



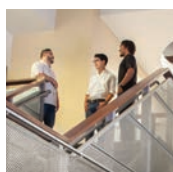
APU: Most Cost-effective, Lowest Debt, and Most Employable

The *Economist* ranked APU graduates among the most employable in the nation, ranking the university in the 92nd percentile of U.S. college graduates. The study, based on national wage reports and citing actual earnings, revealed that APU alumni with bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees earn more than the rest of the nation's population who hold the same degrees. Also, *U.S. News & World Report* included APU on its college-ranking list titled Least Debt Class of 2014, Christian Universities Online recognized APU among 50 Christian Colleges and Universities with the Lowest Student Debt Burden, and StartClass named APU 1 of the 25 least-expensive private colleges in the U.S.



School of Nursing Grants and Honors

As the School of Nursing celebrated its 40th anniversary and graduated its largest class ever—600—*USA Today* named APU among the 10 best U.S. colleges at which to earn a nursing degree in 2015-16. The school also earned significant grants totaling more than \$3,114,192 from multiple sources, including the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare, City of Hope, and the Canyon City Foundation, to support scholarships, research, and community wellness.



Center for Vocational Ministry

Lilly Endowment, Inc. granted \$599,614 to support the Youth Leadership Initiative project, part of APU's Center for Vocational Ministry, which offers a comprehensive resource for those called to a life of ministry as vocation. The program identifies theologically minded young people in local communities and comes alongside them as they deepen their faith and chart a path toward becoming leaders in the Church and society. The center serves prospective leaders at various stages, including high school, college, and seminary students as well as seasoned pastors, missionaries, and parachurch leaders seeking to increase the knowledge and skills that will equip them for a vocation in ministry.



School of Business and Management Accreditation

The International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) granted reaffirmation of accreditation to APU's School of Business and Management programs after a rigorous self-evaluation, a comprehensive independent peer review, and demonstrated compliance with specific accreditation principles, including outcomes assessment, strategic planning, curriculum, and international business education, to name a few. This designation stands until 2020, the maximum possible duration under IACBE standards. In addition, the organization also commended Azusa Pacific for its excellence in the areas of faculty scholarship and facilities.



Museum of the Bible Partnership

A grant from the Scholars Initiative, the research arm of the Museum of the Bible, funded a 10-month postdoctoral fellowship for Josiah Chappell, Ph.D., with APU's University Libraries. In this role, Chappell conducts research projects that benefit APU and the Museum of the Bible, identifying and describing the university's vast biblical Special Collections holdings (including more than 400 original leaves) and studying the Cairo Genizah manuscripts of the Museum Collection, one of the world's largest private collections of rare biblical artifacts.



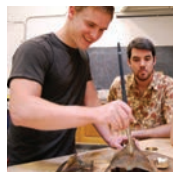
Inaugural Disabilities Awareness Week

Several departments cosponsored Azusa Pacific's first Disability Awareness Week in March. The event highlighted the diversity of disabilities; educated students, faculty, staff, and the broader community about the scope and impact of disabilities in various contexts; and encouraged attendees to explore the *Imago Dei*, the image of God, within themselves. The Learning Enrichment Center offers four comprehensive academic support programs for students, including Disability Services, and has come alongside students with disabilities for 38 years. Disability Awareness Week further supports APU's resolve to appreciate uniqueness and pursue Christ-like unity.



School of Theology Dean

Robert R. Duke, Ph.D., accepted the role as dean of the School of Theology on September 26, 2016, after serving as interim dean since May 2015. The announcement came after a nationwide search that revealed Duke as the best candidate to guide the next generation of Christian leaders, given his commitment to theological research and collaborative leadership style. His passion for foster children and extensive work with foster agencies on their behalf gives Duke rich experience with interfaith partnerships that inform his philosophies as dean. Further, as an Old Testament and Dead Sea Scrolls expert, Duke works with the Museum of the Bible Scholars Initiative as the western region director and distinguished scholar of Hebrew texts. As dean, Duke oversees Azusa Pacific Seminary, the Undergraduate Division of Religion and Philosophy, and the new Center for Vocational Ministry.



Windgate Matching Grant Complete

The Windgate Charitable Foundation awarded Azusa Pacific University's College of Music and the Arts a 1:2 challenge grant of \$3 million to establish scholarships for art majors and support a graduate program that equips student leaders in the field of art education. Azusa Pacific reached the goal in August 2016 by raising \$1.5 million, which increased the total art endowment to \$4.5 million and constituted the university's second-largest endowment to date. The grant provides for student scholarships based on merit and need, and also enables the launch of a new Master of Arts in Art Education in spring 2017.

By the Numbers

500: The number of participants Nathan Hagler '17 tagged to break the Guinness World Record for the largest game of freeze tag ever recorded. On August 30, during Orientation weekend and with the temperature nearly 100 degrees, students joined in a university-wide game in Cougar Stadium to break the previous record of 438. Officials monitored the 27-minute match to ensure all criteria were met.

17: APU's ranking among the Top 100 Degree Producers in the Hispanic Master's category in the August 2016 edition of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* (APU also ranked 71st in the Asian American Master's category).

\$1,437,563: The monetary value of the 52,256 volunteer service-learning hours that 3,422 APU students devoted to the community during the 2015-16 academic year. Through 171 service-learning courses across 24 disciplines, students benefit others and gain valuable employability skills, such as organization, listening, critical and creative thinking, and the development of strong work relationships.

140: The number of students supported by the \$1,100,000 TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant awarded to APU last fall for the Target Success program. The funds provide SSS-eligible students with academic coaching, mentoring, tutoring, career counseling, and more, which in turn increases retention, academic standing, and graduation rates.

18: The number of CPA firms that brought 80 professionals to meet with 100 APU accounting students at the second annual Meet the Firms Night. Hosted by the Leung School of Accounting, the event also drew attendees from other area universities, including Biola University, California Baptist University, The Master's University, Concordia University, and University of La Verne.

57: The total number of exchange students who have benefitted from the partnership between APU's School of Nursing and the Second Affiliated Hospital in Zhejiang University School of Medicine in Hangzhou, China. The collaboration began in 2011 with a five-year agreement to share students and knowledge that enriches both campuses with a deeper understanding of the theory and practices of Eastern and Western medicine.

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and professional student services, and serve as advocates for their colleagues and peers.

GPSGA plans to conduct town hall meetings and offer relevant networking opportunities throughout the academic year to obtain feedback on current issues, facilitate discussions, and expand the professional, social, and spiritual advancement of the student body.

Undergraduate Students Secure Research Awards

Engaging in the growing opportunities for undergraduate research at Azusa Pacific, two students gained national recognition for their scholarly achievements.

Alain Julian León, a senior philosophy and political science major, explored the concept of freedom of conscience in his project, "Minding the 'Unbridgeable Gap': The Future of Conscientious Objectors in a Secular Age." His work garnered the 2016-17 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Award, which facilitates the research of students who exemplify academic excellence in practical and

professional ethics in a variety of fields. This competitive program provides funding to undergraduates and financial compensation to their faculty mentors to complete student-led research projects over the summer. Funded student-faculty dyads have included disciplines from the humanities, fine arts, business, political science, nursing, theology, and STEM, and have resulted in numerous professional conference presentations, several peer-reviewed publications, and at least one national award.

León's research, inspired by a chapter of H. Tristram Engelhardt Jr.'s *After God: Morality and Bioethics in a Secular Age* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2014), focuses on conscientious objectors in the field of medicine—specifically, where health care providers refuse a service because it would violate their conscience. He presented his research at the International Academy for Bioethical Inquiry at St. Louis University in Missouri in August, and the 2016 Midwest Society of Christian Philosophers Conference at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, in September. His research is expected to publish in the *Christian Bioethics* journal.

Tess Scherkenback, a senior political science major and humanities minor, also garnered recognition for her research this year. She received the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Young Scholar Award for Public Policy Research in Values & Capitalism for 2016-17, one of only four submissions from Christian colleges across the country. Scherkenback's research project, "Helping the Homeless: A Model of Public and Private Sector Partnership in Los Angeles County," addresses the gap between public and private social policy relating to homelessness.

Her research, which focuses on the city of Glendora's model for assisting the local homeless population, hypothesizes that local and community-based support toward homelessness is more cost-effective and beneficial on a case-by-case basis than state and federal government initiatives. As part of the award, she will receive a \$5,000 scholarship toward her college tuition, an invitation to the 2017 AEI gala dinner, publication of her project on the Values and Capitalism blog, and opportunities to further contribute

to the blog. In April 2017, Scherkenback will defend her research, which was also nominated as one of APU's 2016-17 SURE projects, before a panel of policy analysts and experts at AEI in Washington, DC.

Music Faculty Performance Benefits Japanese Children's Orchestra

As a teenager who survived the Chernobyl nuclear reactor meltdown in 1986, Marek Szpakiewicz, DMA, APU's director of chamber music, dreamed of leaving Poland for America. In 1991, that dream came true, when Szpakiewicz, recognized as one of the best music students in the nation, gained permission to study in the U.S. at Johns Hopkins University. Today, the award-winning cellist holds multiple degrees from USC and a reputation for excellent musicianship and generous philanthropy.

On October 15, 2016, he held a recital at Azusa Pacific to raise funds for the Soma Children's Orchestra in Fukushima, Japan—a cause close to his heart.

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His early experiences with the disaster fallout and living under Communist rule solidified his belief that music brings hope to all children, especially those living under duress. Upon hearing of the Tohoku earthquake that hit Japan in 2011, Szpakiewicz's mind immediately flooded with memories of his own childhood. The only way he knew to help was through the power of music. He started by lending his support in 2012 to the Soma Children's Orchestra and raised enough to supply a much-needed half-sized cello for the younger children. Last year, Szpakiewicz performed at APU in order to gift another scaled-down cello to the group, and his most recent concert at APU provided for the next step up—a three-quarter-sized cello.

One of the recipients, 10-year-old Risa Yoshida, was invited to Szpakiewicz's Tokyo concert to perform with her benefactor, among other members of the Soma Children's Orchestra.

Szpakiewicz's generosity opens a world of opportunities for aspiring musicians around the world, and inspires his own students at APU to dream big, work hard, and give back.



Former Statesmen Discuss Bipartisan Civility

Modeling uncommon civility in discourse and action, former congressmen Tony Hall (D-OH) and Frank Wolf (R-VA) addressed the APU community on September 14, 2016. Their presentation,

Friendship across the Aisle: United by the Gospel, engaged the audience in a conversation about religious freedom, justice, human rights, and bipartisan cooperation. The first of six in a lecture series sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences leading up to the 2016 presidential election, the event drew more than 100 students, faculty, staff, and community members eager to hear the wisdom and experiences of these two accomplished politicians.

Their 30-year friendship began when they met at a congressional member prayer group. Though they hold very different views on many national and societal issues, they share a deep faith in Christ. They learned early on that their common bond outweighs their differences, and they committed to pray with and for one another. Over time, they developed an abiding trust that has endured three decades and provided a valuable confidante for each.

Hall, a leading advocate for hunger relief and human rights, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times and served under former President George W. Bush as U.S. ambassador to the U.N. agencies for food and agriculture. Wolf, a distinguished senior fellow of the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, authored the International Religious Freedom Act, which helped establish the bipartisan, independent U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Together, they embodied the strength of friendship and the peace that comes from looking beyond disparities in opinion and ideology. Both praised the value of institutions like Azusa Pacific, where difference makers are disciplined spiritually and well prepared for vocational success. They also challenged the attendees to take their faith seriously and put it into action. To those who seek ways to effect change in this era of extreme uncertainty, they encouraged believers to follow the sage advice of Saint Teresa: Do that which is in front of you.

Recent Grants Advance Research and Scholarship

\$1,200,000

From Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to the Department of Social Work, supporting the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students from July 2016 through June 2020. The grant funds scholarships for full-time Master of Social Work (MSW) students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are interested in training and working in integrated behavioral health care settings in medically underserved areas, such as San Bernardino, Riverside, and the High Desert. The department plans to administer eight full scholarships each year for the next three years. To qualify, students must demonstrate financial need and meet one of the following situations: below current poverty threshold, graduated from an underperforming high school, or come from some other disadvantageous circumstance such as first-generation college student, single parent, history of substance dependence, etc. The HRSA grant enables the university to recruit and retain high-quality students who may not otherwise be able to afford or access MSW education. With this degree, many of these graduates plan to return to and serve in their communities as behavioral health providers.

\$5,000

From City of Hope to Diane Newman, School of Nursing grant administrator, supporting the Wellness Opportunities for Healthy Living program.

\$7,500

From the Kaiser Foundation Hospitals to Aja Lesh, Ph.D., RN, dean and professor, School of Nursing, to support the Health Initiatives for Healthy Communities program.

\$7,497

From the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (a subaward of the National Cancer Institute) to Kathleen Ruccione, Ph.D., RN, MPH, CPON, FAAN, chair of doctoral programs, School of Nursing, to support her role as co-chair of the Children's Oncology Group Return of Research Results Committee.

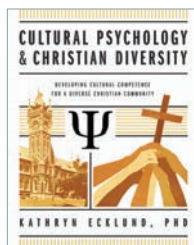
\$4,999

From the University of California, Los Angeles, to Rachel Castaneda, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Psychology, to provide research monitoring services for an International Addiction Training Program associated with UCLA's Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment project.

\$30,000

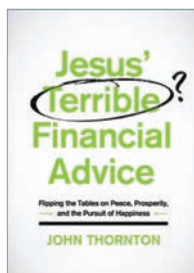
From the Center for Christian Thought at Biola University to Adam Green, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Philosophy, to research the benefits a group accrues when its members practice humility.

Scholarship at Work



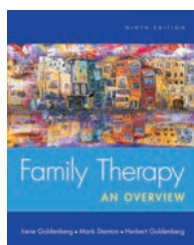
Cultural Psychology & Christian Diversity: Developing Cultural Competence for a Diverse Christian Community (Abilene Christian University Press, 2016) by *Kathryn Ecklund, Ph.D., chair and professor, Department of Psychology*

The only textbook of its kind—integrating the tenets of the Christian faith with cultural competency and multicultural psychology—Ecklund’s book explores the topic beyond the limits of current literature. Ecklund challenges students to discover a biblical model of multiethnic Christian community and relationships, and implement those strategies individually, interpersonally, and organizationally. Readers explore how multicultural psychology, culturally inclusive Christian faith, and the model of intersectionality of identity can be used to thoughtfully facilitate multicultural competence among Christian college students and current and future leaders, which in turn can facilitate the growth of diverse Christian communities.



Jesus’ Terrible Financial Advice: Flipping the Tables on Peace, Prosperity, and the Pursuit of Happiness (Moody Publishers, 2017) by *John Thornton, Ph.D., CPA, professor and chair, LP and Bobbi Leung chair of accounting ethics, LP and Timothy Leung School of Accounting*

To a world that does not recognize Jesus as God’s Son, His teachings on money are terrible, in that they are “strongly repulsive.” But to those who know Him, Jesus’ words are a different kind of terrible—“terrifying” and “awesome.” Thornton shares his 10 biggest “aha” moments gleaned from 15 years of studying Jesus’ teachings on money and addresses questions, including: Does Jesus want me to be rich or poor? Should I give to everybody who asks? What does wealth have to do with wisdom? Thornton invites the reader to listen to Jesus’ financial advice again, or for the first time, and discover the true path to peace, prosperity, and happiness.



Family Therapy: An Overview, 9th ed. (Cengage Learning, 2017) by *Mark Stanton, Ph.D., ABPP, provost and professor, Department of Graduate Psychology; Irene Goldenberg, Ph.D., professor emeritus, University of California, Los Angeles; and the late Herbert Goldenberg, Ph.D., professor emeritus, California State University, Los Angeles*

In this ninth edition, the authors offer an updated, practice-oriented textbook aimed at helping students become more empathetic and effective family therapists. The content provides engaging material that focuses on systemic thinking and developing core competencies, with increased attention on culture, gender, ethnicity, and family life. Additionally, case studies, clinical notes, and therapeutic encounters help illustrate a day in the life of family therapists from various fields, including marriage and family therapy, social work, psychology, and counseling.



Kiwinomics: Conversations with New Zealand’s Economic Soul (Urban Leadership Foundation, 2016) by *Viv Grigg, Ph.D., associate professor, Azusa Pacific Seminary*

Grigg’s book addresses the economic wisdom of the Scriptures in engaging the complex issues of families and New Zealand society in the global world. He develops 10 principles—love, productivity, creativity, cooperation, work and rest, simplicity, redistribution, management, ownership, freedom and celebration—as a basis for economic discipleship and applies this concept to five economic levels critical for Kiwis. Throughout the volume, Grigg explores questions such as: How do we live in a debt-laden economy? What are principles of land rights and ownership? What are the ethics of government asset sales? How do scriptural principles apply to the current Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement issues? APU Master of Arts in Transformational Urban Leadership students helped refine the book’s themes of economic discipleship, as they delivered it to pastors in the slums of eight cities throughout the world.



Exploring Second Corinthians: Death and Life, Hardship and Rivalry (SBL Press, 2016) by *B.J. Oropeza, Ph.D., professor, Department of Biblical and Religious Studies*

In 2 Corinthians, Paul responds to the Corinthian congregation’s questions about his competency as a divinely sent messenger. They have become increasingly estranged from him because of an uncomfortable visit, a harsh letter, and their welcoming of ministers who encouraged them to question Paul’s authority. Through the use of graphic imagery related to triumphal processions, siege warfare, and emissary travels and negotiation, Paul defends his constancy, power, and persona as he extends the offer of clemency and reconciliation to his auditors. His message on life, death, and hardship presents the Corinthians with a challenge in which salvation in the new creation is at stake. In this multifaceted commentary, Oropeza combines rhetorical pictures (rhetography) with interpretive layers (literary features, intertextuality, sociocultural, ideological, and sacred textures) to arrive at the rhetorical impact of Paul’s message for ancient Mediterranean discourse, thus breathing fresh insight into Paul’s letter.

Not-So-Random Acts of Kindness: Discovering Divine Opportunities

by Ryan Montague

When it comes to God, nothing is random—a reason lies behind everything. He is developing a larger story, even when we do not understand or recognize it from our limited point of view. The story below from my father-in-law, David Watson, about a not-so-random act of kindness exemplifies this.

On the night before Valentine's Day, I was looking over my message for our church service in the morning, when God impressed upon me to go out and buy a dozen roses. But I didn't want to go out—I wanted to go to bed—so I argued with God that all the stores were closed. Then I remembered Dillon's grocery carried flowers and was open 24 hours. Although I did not know His reason, His message was clear, so I went.

When I arrived, all the roses were gone. When I asked the clerk, she said, "We have one last vase of a dozen roses in the back." She brought out a beautiful bouquet with a note that someone had reserved them, but had called an hour before and cancelled the order. Since God had clearly saved a bouquet for me, I bought it and immediately went to the church and put the flowers on an organ speaker off to the side.

As I was getting ready to preach my message the next day, I walked up to the pulpit and saw the roses out of the corner of my eye. I realized there



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was something I needed to do before I began preaching. I picked up the roses and explained to the congregation the story from the night before. I told them, "I would like to give these dozen roses to someone today."

As I stepped down from the platform, the Holy Spirit put a thought in my mind: Not on the left side, but on the right side—a visitor. I began walking, not knowing who I was going to give them to, but I noticed a lady I had never seen before. I assumed she was a visitor. As I approached

her, another thought came to me: Tell her that I love her, and I am proud of her.

I said, "Ma'am, I just want you to know that God directed me last night to buy these roses. As I walked toward you, the thought came to me that God wanted me to tell you that He loves you and He's proud of you." Immediately, she began to cry. I still had a message to give, so I had to walk back to the pulpit. Off to the side, the woman waited patiently as

I prayed with people after the service.

When I was available, I asked, "Can I help you?"

She said, "You already have. Would you like to hear the rest of the story?"

"Yes!"

She said, "I am a postal carrier. This week as I was delivering all the Valentines to people on my route, I thought about my life—in particular, how I always wanted to please my dad. He was one of those people who really didn't show love, yet I wanted so badly for him to hug me, and appreciate me, and tell me he loved me. So, as I was delivering the mail, I stopped, looked up to Heaven, and said, 'If there is a God in Heaven, I want You to tell me that You love me and that You're proud of me.' When you came up the aisle with those flowers, and you said those exact words . . . that was the answer to prayer from God Himself."

And here is the wonderful truth: We all have opportunities like this—divine opportunities disguised as random acts of kindness, or perhaps random acts of conversation, that God can turn into transformational experiences. I also believe we miss far more of them than we realize.

Think about it: Many people walk through city streets, hallways at work, and walkways of school campuses protected by all sorts of relational armor that restricts them from engaging in meaningful conversation with others. Even at APU, I see students every day rushing to and from class wearing large sunglasses, carrying a cell phone in one hand and a drink in the other, with a thin white cable running from their cell phone to their ears. The only thing missing is a nose plug to successfully block the majority of their senses. Each layer of relational armor makes it less likely that people will even attempt to penetrate our social shield.

Consider the last time you stood in line at a grocery store or a coffee shop. Did more people interact with their phones or the people around them? We have reached a place in society where it's more acceptable to ignore each other than to engage each other. Some students admit to pretending to text or listen to music, and to taking fake phone calls, so they can dodge casual conversations. The hard truth is that we never know what God might do in the midst of small talk. Perhaps God intends to turn that exchange into a divine appointment.

I challenge you to let God direct you and use you in seemingly small conversations with strangers, family, friends, or colleagues. Listen for cues that allude to possible needs and areas of attention. Follow up with people, listen intently, and ask them how you might be of assistance. Do not forget

about the small things you can do for the Lord by reaching out to strangers in conversation—in doing so you just might be entertaining angels (Hebrews 13:2). Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, “Do small things with great love,” and I believe that is a perfect motto for approaching conversations in everyday life.

Despite how much time I spend researching, writing, and speaking about divine opportunities, I realize I am still quick to forget about daily opportunities to engage. To guard against life's distractions, I created a screensaver for my phone so that anytime I tap, touch, or turn it on, the first things I see are the words “Serve Who How” across the screen. This reminds me that I need to look up, look out, and lean into the opportunities God presents each day.

The “Serve Who How” prompt has become my divine spark, and it can be yours as well. Service is the first simple step toward a divine appointment. Here are a few questions that may allow God to point you in the direction of service: Are there people I can introduce myself to and simply acknowledge their presence? Is there someone who needs a listening ear? Is there someone who needs encouragement? Is there someone who needs a prayer? It's our job to pick out something small to do, and it's God's job to turn it into something big.

This thinking led me to implement an assignment in my Interpersonal Communication class called Not-So-Random Acts of Kindness. Students perform five such acts for family, friends, classmates, or strangers. These must be overt, specific deeds they would not have otherwise performed.

I provide the students with a few examples—handwriting a personal letter to someone; dropping off flowers

I challenge you to let God direct you and use you in seemingly small conversations with strangers, family, friends, or colleagues.

with a note of encouragement; or visiting an old friend. What they choose to do is less important than the manner in which they do it—with intentionality and thoughtfulness. The students' reflections afterwards have provided evidence of God's hand in these efforts, reinforcing God's nearness and His eagerness to use us—if we are willing.

Sara, a junior at the time, wrote, “This is my third year at APU, and I had yet to visit my grandparents who are in their 80s and live in Santa Barbara. It was an out-of-the-blue visit; the only motive for me to drive there was this assignment and the realization that it had been a long time since I had seen my grandparents. As I was driving, my mom called me to tell me that doctors had discovered a tumor in my grandpa's liver. I was hit by emotions and thought to myself how amazing God's timing was. I spent the whole weekend with my grandparents, going out to dinner, shopping, and staying up late to watch TV with my grandpa. My grandpa, who already has Alzheimer's, looked at me after dinner on Saturday and said, ‘Sara, I love when you come visit.’ The trip was *divine*, and it had an impact on the relationship I have with my grandparents. During a stressful time, I was able to distract them with my presence. Just a couple of days ago, I learned the tumor is cancerous. My grandma told my mom how thankful

she was that I got to see my grandpa for what could have been one of the last times.”

Another student in my class, Tiana, wrote, “I chose to send a thank you card to my grandmother. A little background: my mother passed away in 2007 from her battle with breast cancer, so my grandmother, who is a widowed pastor's wife, held a prominent parenting role in my life. Well, my grandmother received it today and called me, in tears, as I was leaving your class. She was truly touched by the card and was vulnerable with me in a way that she has never been before. I wanted to say thank you, as it has motivated me to send more ‘love letters’ to my grandmother, and I want to encourage my siblings to do the same. Honestly, I did not expect anything to come from it, but now I am able to build a deeper relationship with my grandmother that I will cherish for a lifetime.”

In light of these stories, I invite all of us to consider: What role will we play in the daily opportunities God puts along our path? Will we shed our relational armor and discover those opportunities with a servant's heart?

Adapted from Divine Opportunity: Finding God in the Conversations of Everyday Life (Credo House Publishers, 2016) by Ryan Montague, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies. divineopportunity.com rmontague@apu.edu

Tending the Shepherds: Helping Ministers Thrive

by Chris Adams

I love pastors. I always have, even before becoming one myself. My parents have been in the music ministry for more than 50 years, which provided a unique training ground for me, as we visited hundreds of pastors' homes from across many denominations. In doing so, I underwent a kind of seminary training by osmosis—witnessing the deep joys of ministry as well as the sacrifices and difficulties. My paternal grandfather, also a pastor, mainly served small, “clergy-killing” congregations in New England. He set aside the opportunity to inherit the family dairy, and went back to Harvard University for his Master of Divinity. He served faithfully, preaching with depth and excellence and providing remarkable pastoral care. And it cost him dearly.

One particular congregation refused to install heat in the old, drafty parsonage in the middle of a harsh New England winter. My father remembers an old man from one church who would regularly come by the parsonage unannounced just to yell at my grandfather for no good reason. The salary in the early years barely put the family at the poverty level, and my grandfather, at times, would pick up an extra job just to make ends meet.

In those days, no one talked or wrote about clergy health. My grandfather was forced into an early retirement due to a major heart attack in his early 50s—a second one took his life just a decade later. My father recalls my grandfather lying in a hospital bed, grieving as he came to terms with the reality that he would no longer be able to serve full time in pastoral leadership due to his health. He said to my father, “Take care of yourself...you are no good to the Kingdom of God lying flat on your back like this.”

In a recent email exchange, one of my favorite pastors described the joys and challenges of pastoral ministry: “People have no idea how draining pastoral ministry can be. We change hats constantly. Tomorrow, I will grieve with a family as I conduct a funeral, and right after, rejoice with a couple as I perform their wedding. At the hospital, a pastor celebrates with a couple at the arrival of their newborn and then weeps with a family in the ICU, where their loved one is terminal—again, all in the same



JEANETTE SANCHEZ

afternoon—and then returns to the church to do premarital counseling for lovebirds and marriage counseling for a couple who can't stand each other any longer. We deal every day with the poor and needy in the Church who need financial assistance, and then move into a meeting with highly successful, driven leaders who feel we need to be more of a CEO than a shepherd. We pray for people and carry their burdens, only to have them decide to go to another church and never even say good-bye. We deal with families confronting adultery, alcohol abuse, and many other sins. We are expected to preach well, counsel well, lead the building of a new church, represent the church in our community, cast a great vision, disciple new believers, and meet with several committees who all believe their ministry is the most significant. Every time the phone rings, we wonder if it's a crisis, or if they just want to get a cup of coffee. And all of this occurs in the first week of the month. What's coming next week?"

I know this pastor well and can attest to his deep affect for his vocation, like most pastors. Far too many pastors do not take adequate care of themselves. We now know that ministry leaders are at significantly higher risk than those in many other professions for cardiovascular disease, heart attack, stroke, and diabetes. Research verifies that ministry leadership represents a very complex and stressful endeavor, and pastors often do not recognize the sources of stress or its impact on their overall health. Ministry is an adrenaline-demanding profession in which clergy constantly overtax their stress hormones without realizing they are doing so. Consequently, chronically elevated stress hormones, combined with a lack of exercise, unhealthy diet, and sleep deprivation, contribute to health risks such as high blood pressure, high blood sugar, high cholesterol, and obesity. Clergy health research reveals that many, if not most, of the health difficulties pastors experience can be prevented if pastors and congregations pay attention to some basic things. They must live lives of discipline—engage in regular exercise, learn to manage their adrenaline, pay

attention to proper nutrition, and get an average of seven to nine hours of sleep per night. Absent of these measures, pastors will not be able to care for anyone else at some point.

Despite the fact that this historically challenging job grows more stressful every day in the current cultural climate, pastors maintain a sense of fulfillment in their role while simultaneously experiencing emotional, relational, and physical suffering. Moreover, many flourish in the midst of the complexity and stress of ministry leadership. *Flourishing in Ministry*, a recent study out of the University of Notre Dame, explores the practices and conditions that appear to promote flourishing in ministry—studying healthy pastors to learn how they construct and sustain a positive pastoral identity and serve with longevity and joy.

A recent job analysis suggests that the range of core competencies needed in pastoral ministry is broader, creating role overload and role strain. Many

continued on page 16



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continued from page 15

pastors carry around an invisible burden of inadequacy, as they are painfully aware that it is not possible to have well-developed competencies in all areas. Research indicates that flourishing pastors cultivate self-awareness and self-acceptance, know their top strengths, and configure their role and ministry team around them. Developing financial literacy skills also promotes flourishing in pastors.

One of my family's heroes was a pastor who planted a church in an urban area and pastored there for 50 years. He was my grandfather's best friend, and they got together regularly to share about the joys and challenges of ministry. By the time he retired, his congregation was a thriving, multicultural church of more than 1,500 people, many of whom he had personally led to Christ. He was a man of prayer and a civil rights leader who modeled a heart for compassion and social justice in his

community. I asked him once how he managed such an amazing leadership accomplishment. His response to me was unexpected. He simply said, "Date night." From the time the church was very small, he told the congregation that Tuesday night was the night he reserved for time with his wife and family, and he was not to be bothered. There was great wisdom in these words. He put his family first. He spent time with friends. He had boundaries. He said no.

Research shows that pastors uniquely experience chronic interpersonal stress, including frequent, unsolicited criticism and conflict, often resulting in a profound experience of isolation. The cumulative effect of these emotional and relational hazards contributes to concerning rates of depression and burnout. Learning to create healthy boundaries with others, manage conflict, and be assertive appear to be central to pastoral leadership competencies. Limiting a ministry work week to 50-60 hours on average, practicing true Sabbath and other contemplative spiritual practices, and developing a hobby also sustain pastors. Contemplative practices such as solitude, silence, *Lectio Divina*, listening prayer, and others may be most helpful for pastors because they do not involve an element of religious performance; rather, they involve receiving from the Lord in a deeply personal way. Contemplative spiritual disciplines are also important because cultivating a sense of participating with what God is already doing in the process of ministry promotes flourishing in ministry over the long haul (as opposed to seeing the results of ministry as resting on one's own efforts). Ministry leaders must cultivate deep connections with other clergy, make their own marriage and family (or close friendships, if unmarried) a priority, and have at least one close, personal friendship outside their congregation. Pastors need a place to simply be a person.

CONGREGATIONS CAN ALSO HELP. HAVING REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS, CREATING HEALTHY FEEDBACK LOOPS IN A CHURCH, AND IMPLEMENTING A HEALTHY CHURCH DISCIPLINE PROCESS CAN TAKE SOME OF THE UNWARRANTED, UNFAIR CRITICISM OFF THE PASTOR. SUPPORTING (AND EVEN REQUIRING) SELF-CARE HABITS, SABBATICALS, AND VACATIONS CAN BE INCREDIBLY HELPFUL TO A PASTOR. TREAT THE PASTOR AS A PERSON, NOT A ROLE.



COURTESY OF APU ARCHIVES

Congregations can also help. Having realistic expectations, creating healthy feedback loops in a church, and implementing a healthy church discipline process can take some of the unwarranted, unfair criticism off the pastor. Supporting (and even requiring) self-care habits, sabbaticals, and vacations can be incredibly helpful to a pastor. Treat the pastor as a person, not a role.

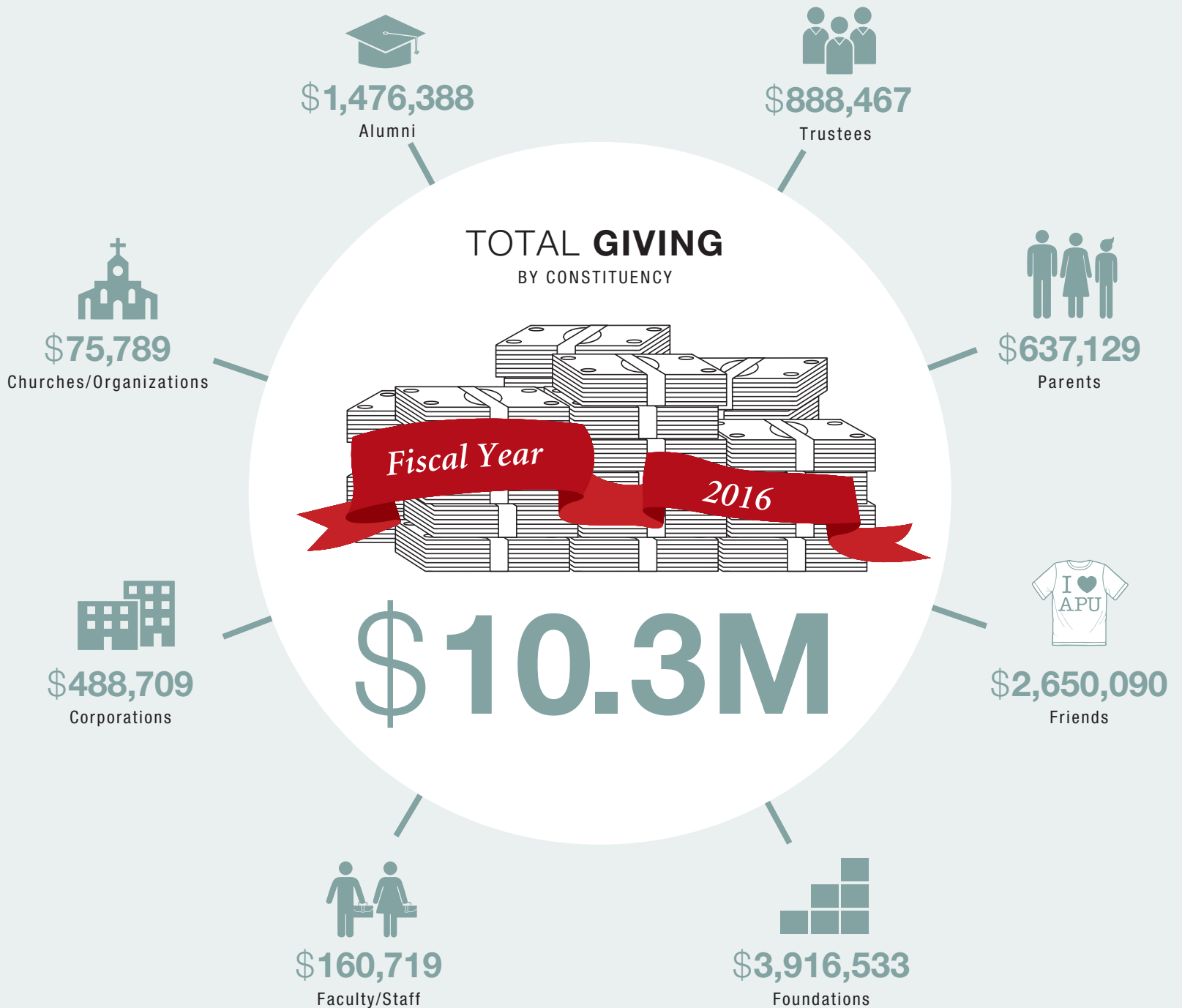
Azusa Pacific addresses these issues head on by investing in the support of ministry leaders. In his recent address to staff and faculty, President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, reminded everyone that “APU exists to serve the Church” and has been a training ground for Christian leaders since its inception in 1899. As part of that ongoing mission, this year APU announced the launch of the Center for Vocational Ministry, which cultivates resilience in ministry students and leaders through formational resources. Recognizing that the ministerial preparation process often neglects the personal aspect of pastoral formation, the center provides a variety of research-informed resources to enable ministry students and leaders to flourish over the lifespan of their ministry. My grandfather would never have dreamed of the opportunities his grandson has to participate with God in the development and support of pastors and ministry leaders. I only hope to serve with as much faithfulness and integrity as he did—taking care of myself along the way.

APU’s Center for Vocational Ministry, a participating Thrivent Choice organization, may receive designated funds from Thrivent Financial customers. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice and designate Azusa Pacific University for Choice Dollars®.

Chris Adams, Ph.D., a third-generation pastor, is an associate professor in Azusa Pacific Seminary and founding executive director of the Center for Vocational Ministry. chrisadams@apu.edu

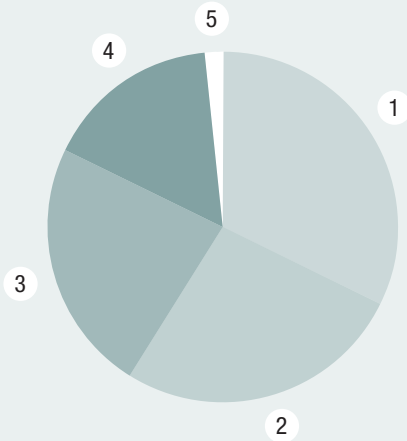
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Investing in Our Mission





TOTAL GIVING
BY PROJECT



- 1. Restricted **\$3,418,739**
- 2. Endowment **\$2,789,663**
- 3. University Fund **\$2,398,367**
- 4. Capital **\$1,677,056**
- 5. Unrestricted **\$10,000**

TOTAL
\$10,293,825

TOTAL DONOR IMPACT
HIGHLIGHTS



\$2.4M
University Fund

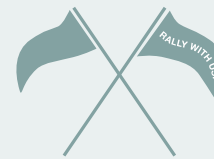
65%
of all gifts were
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12,933
Gifts given in FY16

2,461
New Donors

\$1.2M



Raised during
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\$68,714,161
Endowment Balance

51



Mission teams sent to

19
Countries

BY THE NUMBERS

2016 FISCAL YEAR

\$68,826,762

Institutional Scholarships and Grants

\$24,298,435

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90%

of Undergraduate Students Receiving Any Form
of Institutional or Need-based Financial Aid (2015-16)

86% Freshman Retention (Fall 2015-16)

3.68 Average GPA for Incoming Freshmen

1065 Average SAT for Incoming Freshmen

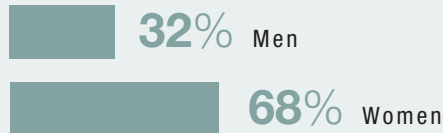
\$34,174 Tuition

UNIVERSITY SNAPSHOT

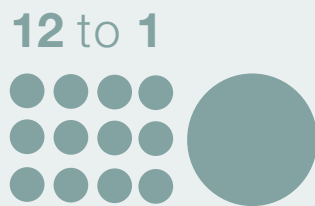


Total Students

9,975

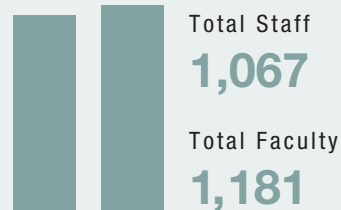


Student-to-Faculty Ratio



52%

Ethnic Minority Students
(Undergraduate)



CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS

109 individuals multiplied their personal donations to APU by participating in their employers' matching gift program, resulting in **\$122,748** in corporate matching funds from **57 companies**. Through APU's Office of Research and Grants, faculty began work on projects secured through government grants totaling **\$5,094,414**.

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APU provides professional services to help individuals make informed decisions regarding their current and future estate plans, while also facilitating investment in our mission. Over time, these generous gifts have helped build today's endowment to nearly **\$69 million**. In 2015-16, APU received **\$1,786,134** through gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, matured bequests, and other gift-planning vehicles.

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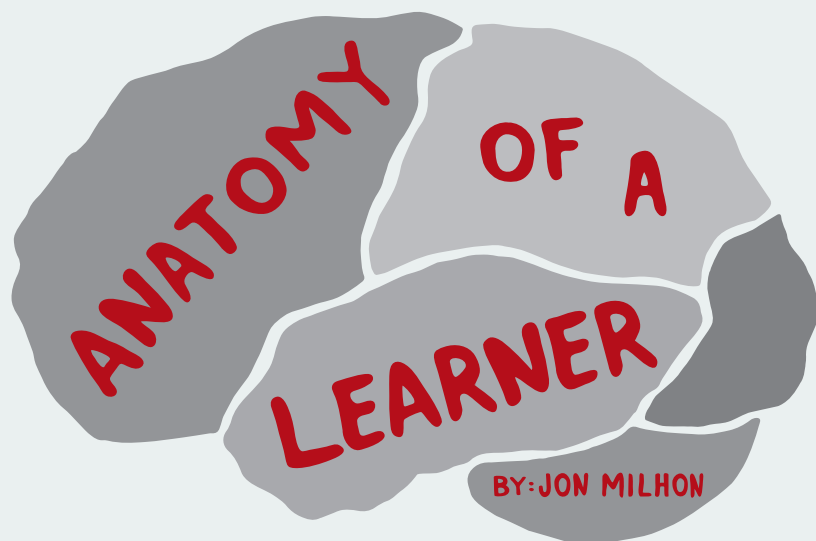
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It was a summer morning, and I was helping my research students when I received a phone call. The caller explained that she had a daughter who had committed to study biology at a local Christian university, but she wanted her daughter to come to APU. I had never met either of them. In fact, she called me by chance and wanted to know if I would talk with her daughter.

I get to talk with a lot of high school students, and I have a policy about never talking negatively about other universities. I know APU is not for everyone, and many other universities are doing great work (especially the one that the woman's daughter had decided to attend). I prefer to underpromise and overdeliver as opposed to a hard sell. I told the woman that I would be happy to meet with her daughter, but I would tell her that she had chosen to attend a fine university and that she would get a great education there. I would stay true to my self-imposed policy—no hard sell, no attempt to talk her out of her choice. I would just answer her questions.

Sarah O'Dell '16 arrived at my office alone, and even though her mother told her what I would say, I started by congratulating Sarah on her choice of university. In answering Sarah's questions, it became apparent that she wanted to become a physician, so we

talked about all the things APU has to offer pre-med students. Sarah mentioned that her most influential high school teacher was a biology teacher who graduated from APU named Mr. Robinson. I just about fell out of my chair. You mean Michael Robinson? The same Michael who fell asleep in my Cell Biology class? Evidently, Mr. Robinson ('03, M.A. '05) has become an outstanding science teacher and Christian mentor.

Our conversation ended with a tour of our fabulous new science building and an offer to answer any other questions she might have. Sarah did not give me any indication during our conversation that she was having second thoughts, but she called her mom on the way back to the elevator and said she had changed her mind—she was coming to APU!

I saw Sarah in the fall semester and I got to hear how our conversation the

previous summer was the deciding factor in choosing APU. Over the semester, Sarah came by the office a dozen times. From our first conversation, I could see that Sarah was confident and intelligent, but the day she came in after one of her General Education courses she took it to a whole new level one day when she was angry. She had just left a class where they had discussed worldviews, and she vehemently disagreed with the students in the discussion. She plopped herself down in my chair and began to pick apart their arguments. I asked her where she learned such sound argumentation, and she attributed much of that to Mr. Robinson. I was so impressed that I invited Sarah to work with my research team.

Sarah brought lab skills, the ability to think critically, and a work ethic that are rarely seen, especially in freshmen. Other professors could see this, too. She mentioned that her General Education professors often wanted her to change to their respective majors. Sarah excelled in these courses, not just because she was a good student, but because she loved the process of becoming broadly educated and believes it is connected to her calling. A Spanish minor followed. Then study away in Oxford fueled her passion for literature and C.S. Lewis. Eventually, her love for and proficiency in research got her thinking about pursuing a Ph.D. The awards began to come in as well: financial scholarships; the Outstanding Biology Graduate Award; a research internship at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Bethesda, Maryland; and an award from the Honors College to start collecting books for a personal library.

Sarah has decided to pursue a joint MD/Ph.D. degree, but she intentionally took a two-year detour to earn a master's degree in English in APU's new program. Many people questioned her decision; they wondered if she doubted the choice to become a physician. There was never a doubt. It gives a good picture

of Sarah—she is an academic, and she loves to learn. The experience has added fuel to the fire of her love for all things liberal arts, and she has discovered firsthand what many people in medical schools are realizing: being passionate about the liberal arts will make her a better physician and researcher. That should be no surprise; proponents of the liberal arts have been saying this for years.

"It gives a good picture of Sarah — she is an academic, she loves to learn."

— Jon Milhon '87, Ph.D.

Sarah has been accepted to MD/Ph.D. programs and still has more interviews. She still comes by my office regularly and always has another lecture, conference, or symposium to tell me about. One of the highlights of last semester was taking Sarah and my daughter, Jenna, to a rare place in today's world: a used-book store. Sarah needed help spending part of the Honors College award and Jenna, being a book fanatic, was thrilled to help.

Jon Milhon '87, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry. jonmilhon@apu.edu

Survival Instincts

by Micah McDaniel

Oliver Petty '12, M.A. '13, knows the exact moment it hit him. He was 10 years old, sitting on a bed at the Red Roof Inn in San Dimas, California—his home for nearly a year—watching a basketball game, and he spotted a tattoo on his favorite player: “Only the Strong Survive.” It was then Petty adopted that survival mentality that guided him toward his future.

Both of Petty's parents were drug addicts, and by the time he was six years old, he had lived in five foster homes. After his mom finished rehabilitation, they settled in an apartment in Pomona. Less than a year later, however, their apartment burned down, and for the next two years Petty and his family were homeless, living at times in a hotel, shelters, a van, and sometimes sleeping in a park. “I fended for myself and fought for survival, but I stayed strong,” said Petty.

In sixth grade, Petty moved in with his father, whom he had seen only a handful of times in the previous 12 years. This began yet another cycle of bouncing from house to house before settling in with a friend's family in Moreno Valley prior to his junior year of high school. “I was frustrated and resentful, because I felt like I was in foster care again. I never got comfortable. But I always had football. That was the only consistent thing in my life, and that's where I could get my anger and aggression out without being reprimanded.”

And it was football that brought him to Azusa Pacific. Petty heard of APU through a friend, and two weeks before the 2008 season began, Petty dropped off his highlight film with the coaches. At first, an assistant coach told him it was too late in the process, but they would keep Petty in mind for the following season. A few hours later, though, after the coaching staff watched the film, Petty was offered a roster spot.

He showed up to preseason camp with only his car and a couple of bucks in his wallet—little did this first-generation college student know, but he finally had a home. “It was overwhelming, because I didn't know how anything worked. I didn't even know I had to stay on campus during camp. And I had nothing. My roommate

had an extra sheet he let me use that first night. That first camp was tough, but I got through it.”

On the field, Petty battled injuries his entire career and did not get much playing time. He became so discouraged that he tried to transfer on three occasions. Yet, each time he chose to stay. “I felt like I had come this far, I should just stick it out and fight through it. That's what I've done my entire life. I couldn't just give up. I was supposed to be at APU.”

“I think the most important thing Oliver discovered at APU is that he was more than a football player,” said head coach Victor Santa Cruz. “He found out that football can be taken away. Oliver was striving to be a strong man, but he didn't know what true strength was, and our promise to him was that we'd stand firm with him and build a champion. The team and the school poured love and care on him like only this community can. The statistics didn't support Oliver, but we were able to help him reframe his world and his view of himself. As a result, he's changing the world.”

Petty entered college with a GPA barely high enough to be eligible and only one goal in mind—the NFL. But with the help of professors Roxanne Helm-Stevens, DBA, chair and professor in the Department of Management and Graduate Programs, and Edgar Barron,

Ed.D., chair and assistant professor in the Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology, along with hard work and long nights in the library learning how to be a good student, Petty graduated with a bachelor's and a master's degree in five years. He now owns his own company—Only Thoughts of Ownership—telling his stories to underprivileged students and encouraging them to persevere and break the negative cycle of their lives.

“I became a man at APU,” said Petty. “What I needed as a person, I found here. The principles Coach Santa Cruz taught are the same principles I live by today: hard work, perseverance, sacrifice, character, integrity, massive action. They helped me understand who I am and what I needed to do in the classroom. I wasn't gifted, and it took me twice as long, but I graduated twice before anyone in my family graduated once. I had so many obstacles and challenges to overcome, but every time I stayed strong and survived. I don't know if I'll ever be able to repay Coach Santa Cruz and Drs. Helm-Stevens and Barron for what they did for me. APU turned me into who I am today—it shaped my story and my message.”

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



“The principles Coach Santa Cruz taught are the same principles I live by today: hard work, perseverance, sacrifice, character, integrity, massive action.”

—Oliver Petty '12, M.A. '13

COURTESY OF APU ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Fall Sports Update

Cross Country: Eileen Stressling '18 became Azusa Pacific's first two-time NCAA All-American in cross country after earning another individual bid to the NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships. Stressling, who also became the PacWest's first-ever two-time cross country All-American, placed 21st overall at the national championship.

Football: Azusa Pacific claimed its third Great Northwest Athletic Conference title in four years, going 8-0 in conference play to advance to the NCAA Division II playoffs for the first time since gaining NCAA postseason eligibility. The Cougars fell in the first round to University of Sioux Falls, 34-21, to finish the season with a 9-3 overall record and No. 25 final national ranking. Victor Santa Cruz was named GNAC Coach of the Year, while quarterback Andrew Elffers '17 claimed GNAC Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Men's Soccer: The Cougars bounced back from a slow start to the season, going 6-3-2 over the final 11 games to finish 6-7-4 overall (6-5-2 PacWest). Dane Johnson '17 was named CoSIDA Academic All-District, starting all 17 games while compiling a 3.80 GPA in applied exercise science.

Women's Soccer: For the second straight season, Azusa Pacific qualified for the NCAA Tournament. After winning the PacWest title for the second time in four seasons, the Cougars posted a 3-1 first-round win over No. 21 Sonoma State before falling to UC San Diego. Hayley Patterson '18 was named PacWest Defender of the Year and earned NCAA All-American recognition. Sarah Klinkenberg '17 earned PacWest Goalkeeper of the Year honors, while head coach Jason Surrell '96 collected his first PacWest Coach of the Year award.

Volleyball: Azusa Pacific closed the season with six consecutive wins, highlighted by a sweep of NCAA Tournament qualifier California Baptist. The Cougars finished 16-13 overall and 12-8 in PacWest play. Julianne Miller '20 was named PacWest Freshman of the Year.

Nasca Selected for Strength and Conditioning Post



Former two-sport athlete and assistant coach Nate Nasca became the first full-time strength and conditioning coach for the Cougars' 19-sport intercollegiate athletics program. Prior to this post, Nasca worked six years with the Azusa Pacific track and field program as the sprints and hurdles coach, and as an assistant coach for football for two seasons (2011-12).

Nasca played football and ran track at Azusa Pacific, where he helped the Cougars to the 2007 NAIA indoor track and field national championship. He ran for the national champion distance medley relay team and was an All-American in the 60-meter hurdles. Nasca's duties include supervision of the university fitness center and oversight of the overall strength and conditioning efforts for the entire athletics program.

Franson Earns Fifth Hall of Fame Induction



Former Azusa Pacific track and field head coach Terry Franson, Ph.D., now senior vice president for student life and dean of students, was inducted into the 2016 class of the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches' Association (USTFCCA) Hall of Fame on December 14 at the organization's annual convention in Orlando.

It is the fifth Hall of Fame honor for Franson, who was inducted to the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1997, followed by 1998 inductions into the Mt. SAC Relays and Chico State Athletics Halls of Fame, along with his induction to the Azusa Pacific Athletics Hall of Fame in 2007. Franson mentored 125 All-Americans and 39 national champions before stepping down as head coach in 1995 to focus on his duties at the time as athletic director.

ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING

March 15 | 6:30 p.m. | Cougars vs. Concordia (Wisconsin) | Felix Event Center

BASEBALL

March 9-11 | Cougars vs. Fresno Pacific | Cougar Baseball Complex

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL

February 11 | 1 and 3 p.m. | Cougars vs. Concordia | Felix Event Center

SOFTBALL

February 28 | 4 p.m. | Cougars vs. California Baptist | Cougar Softball Complex

TENNIS

March 4 | 9:30 a.m. | Cougars vs. BYU-Hawaii and Youngstown State | Munson and Bavougian Tennis Courts

TRACK AND FIELD

March 10-11 | NCAA Division II Indoor Championships | Birmingham, Alabama

WOMEN'S WATER POLO

February 18 | 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. | Cougars vs. Cal State Northridge and Pomona-Pitzer | Citrus College Pool

2016 Alumna of the Year



Juli (McGowan '01) Boit put her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree to work in a creative and meaningful way more than 9,000 miles from home. Inspired by her trip to Kenya with an APU mission team in 2000, she not only witnessed the poverty and suffering that typifies life there, she felt called to help alleviate it.

After graduation and a few more trips to Kenya, she earned a master's degree while working with AIDS patients at the Infectious Disease Unit at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. There, she learned life-saving techniques and procedures she would eventually use to assist the African people whom she had grown to love. She then joined Empowering Lives International in 2004 under the direction of Don Rogers '81, APU's 2012 Alumnus of the Year. The organization equipped her with the skills to serve the people of Kenya, but also stirred within her the desire to do even more.

In 2009, she launched Living Room Ministries International, a ministry dedicated to compassionate hospice care. Her dream to bring comfort and dignity to the dying by treating the whole person became reality in the new Kimbilio Hospice. Because this beloved facility offers physical, emotional, and spiritual care to an ever-growing number of patients, Boit plans to expand to a second site.

Boit also regularly opens the doors of Kimbilio Hospice to serve as a mission base and training site for APU's Doctor of Physical Therapy students seeking to use their gifts and talents for the Kingdom. The ministry Boit began to treat two HIV-positive children now brings palliative care to entire villages and offers hope and love to those facing terminal illnesses. To watch a film about her work, go to apu.edu/stories/juli-boit/.

APU Connect

APU Connect, Azusa Pacific's online community, gives alumni a simple, yet comprehensive, way to find friends, make business connections, advance their careers, and give back in creative ways.

Visit apuconnect.com today!

Coming Home to APU

Thank you to all who attended the 2016 Homecoming and Family Weekend. The Golf Tournament, Homecoming Tea, and Dinner Rally raised student scholarship funds; crowds of alumni attended the academic events for the Schools of Nursing and Education, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and all APU athletic teams brought home wins. Most important, engaged parents, students, staff, and faculty prayed over the campus.

Save the date for this year: October 19-21, 2017.

Notable and Noteworthy

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

HOMEWORD | AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Mentoring Your Kids *by Jim Burns*

Parents are mentors to their kids. Studies tell us that for good or bad, you are their most influential person in the most important stages of their lives. From the day our kids are born, we become mentors involved in the process of leaving a legacy to a new generation.

These four biblical examples of mentoring offer deeper understanding:

1

Jesus and His Disciples: Being Real.

Jesus spent time "doing life" with His disciples. Like your family, they lived out their daily lives together. They observed how Jesus carried out His day. They watched Him, and they knew His habits. Of course, Jesus was perfect and

we are not. The thing is, kids would have a very difficult time relating to parents who were perfect, so just being real is one of the great ways of mentoring.

Your kids need to see your everyday life, your faith, even times when you are vulnerable. I heard a missionary tell an audience once, "You are the only Jesus somebody knows." You are the only Jesus your child knows.

2

Eli and Samuel: Instruction in Hearing the Word of God. While Eli, young Samuel's teacher, slept, God spoke to Samuel. Samuel did not recognize the voice of God, so three times He interrupted Eli's sleep. Finally, Eli

figured out God was speaking to Samuel, and Eli taught Samuel how to respond to the Word of God.

The most effective way to mentor our kids in hearing the Word of God is for our children to see us reading and listening to His Word. Through this we teach them, and another generation is able to hear and respond to God.

3

Moses and Joshua: Passing on Wisdom.

Moses was intentional about passing on his wisdom and preparing Joshua for the Promised Land. You, too, are in a relationship where it is your job to pass on wisdom to your kids at appropriate times in their lives.

When our kids were growing up, Cathy and I discovered that it was best to find a teachable moment in the everyday happenings of life to engage in

meaningful conversations with them. You have wisdom to pass along. Find ways to creatively share it with your kids so it doesn't feel like school or a lecture.

4

Paul and Timothy: Sharing Life. Paul called Timothy his son and treated him as such, even though Timothy had parents. As they lived, worked, and traveled together, Paul mentored Timothy. It is in the daily sharing of life that your habits, character, and lifestyle will bless your kids.

For more information, visit homeword.com. The HomeWord Center for Youth and Family at Azusa Pacific University with Jim Burns '75, Ph.D., and Doug Fields values strong marriages, confident parents, empowered kids, and healthy leaders.

1980s

CRAIG LOUNSBROUGH '83 created a private outpatient counseling practice in the Denver metropolitan area in 2001, and the practice celebrated its 15-year anniversary last June. The facility serves individuals, marriages, and families, providing an array of therapeutic approaches that maximize patient outcomes. Several years ago, Craig added a personal and professional coaching arm to the counseling practice that provides individuals the opportunity to maximize their personal and professional growth on a number of key fundamental levels. In 2004, he began writing books to expand the reach of the counseling practice.

LISA (DRUGMAND '89) JOHNSON recently began working as an English teacher at Ensign Intermediate School in

Newport Beach, California. Previously, Lisa taught English in the Jurupa Unified School District for 25 years. Her two daughters, Jessica and Lindsay Hopkins, attend APU.

1990s

ERICA (HEINTZELMAN '93) WIGGENHORN, M.A. '95, just released her latest Bible study, *An Unexplainable Life: Recovering the Wonder and Devotion of the Early Church* (Moody Publishers, 2016). An expository study covering Acts 1-12, written for small groups and women's Bible studies, it is meant to reignite a movement of the Holy Spirit in individuals and churches.

1 LAURIE COPMANN, M.ED. '94, M.A. '00, received national recognition from the eighth annual International San Francisco Book Festival Awards for her

book, *The Family Tree: The Night of the Storm* (Lulu Publishing Services, 2016). In addition, the book received five awards at the Hollywood Book Festival and the Holiday Book Festival in August 2016.

PARKER NORTON '94 graduated in August 2016 with a Ph.D. in Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences. Parker and his wife, Suzanne, live in Rapid City, South Dakota. They have three children: Sarah, Isabella, and Anna. parker.norton@gmail.com

2 SARA (LAWSON '94) STROBEL, and her husband, **DAIN '94**, as members of Cru Medical, led a medical mission team of 16 to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, with their four sons: Deaj, 7; Levi, 6; Jace, 3; and Kai, 1.

TODD PHEIFER, M.A. '98, published his first book, *Business Ethics: The*

Search for an Elusive Idea (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016). He teaches at the Art Institute of California in Orange County as well as in APU's College Counseling and Student Development program. Todd also hosts a podcast called Parenting Mistakes. In addition, he serves as a development director for Kingdom Causes Bellflower, a faith-based nonprofit organization.

3 JAY (VLASIN, M.A. '98) ADAMS, principal at Masuda Middle School in the Fountain Valley School District, earned the Middle School Principal of the Year Award from the Association of California School Administrators. Jay has four children: Julian, Isaiah, Kaia, and Asia.

JENNIFER NEWCOMBE, BSN '99, M.S. '04, graduated from Loma Linda University's Doctor of Nursing Practice program and received the Dean's

COUGAR INTERVIEW—MARK VISSER '12



Photographer Mark Visser '12 presents a study in contrasts. At an imposing 6 feet 3 inches, he often lives out of the back of his truck traveling the country and photographing vast wilderness scenes with human subjects, the size of pinpoints, nearly lost in the scale. His grand, humbling landscapes, in fact, reflect the man himself.

APU LIFE: How and why did you embark on this endeavor?

VISSER: Originally, my dream had been to make films. After studying screenwriting and working for a short stint at Cartoon Network, I realized that I wanted to have more control over my work. Filmmaking, especially in Hollywood, doesn't allow for that. Photography, however, gives me the opportunity to direct a project all the way through from beginning to end. I fell in love with the fact that I was able to create content so quickly, all without the aid of a production crew.

APU LIFE: What message do you hope to convey by presenting this perspective on life?

VISSER: That success isn't about taking amazing pictures, but about how a great photographer can inspire someone through his or her passion and hard work. I've had some extraordinary opportunities to learn from experienced wilderness and landscape photographers who work hard to teach others how to create beautiful art and persevere through tough times. In the arts, everything comes down to community. It's vital to be able to share what you've created and learned with a good community who is going to care about it.

APU LIFE: What inspires you?

VISSER: I'm inspired by my early memories of exploring the mountains, camping, hiking, and sharing incredible outdoor moments with friends and family. My faith inspires me too. I believe your vocation or calling can truly be a blessing from God if you're willing to accept it. Photography was not necessarily my number one choice, but it's allowed me the flexibility to serve in other ways that I never would have imagined.

APU LIFE: As an entrepreneur, what obstacles have you faced?

VISSER: Right now, in photography, there are so many opportunities. However, it seems for every opportunity there are dozens more qualified people to fill that role. The struggle for me has been finding the right market and where my skills fit in best. As I've struggled during my down seasons, my biggest encouragement has come from other artists who are going through similar struggles. I've found a lot of that in the art studio at Jubilee Roasting Co. When you feel like giving up, it's encouraging to have other people there to help you find that drive again.

APU LIFE: Is there an elusive image you hope to capture one day?

VISSER: I've always wanted to shoot more photos of animals, but I'm a pretty loud hiker. I'm always humming to myself or whistling, so I think I scare everything away before I get a chance to capture it. But, photographing a lynx is my all-time dream.

APU LIFE: What advice do you have for others seeking to turn their passion into their career?

VISSER: Whatever you're pursuing in life, work hard at it. Whether or not you end up doing exactly what you thought you would be, the value of having worked hard for something never changes.

Award for DNP/Ph.D. graduates. Jennifer works as a pediatric cardiothoracic nurse practitioner at Loma Linda Children's Hospital and as an adjunct faculty member in APU's Nurse Practitioner program.

2000s

JASON KAYLOR '03, M.A. '06, is the 2016-17 principal at Alta Loma High School. His wife, **JENNIFER (MAIER) '02, M.A. '04**, stays home with their sons, Jaxon, 10; Jeremiah, 7; and Jonas, 3.

MARK CONTRERAS, M.A. '05, is the principal at Rio Mesa High School in the Oxnard Union High School District. Previously, Mark was principal of the Phoenix Schools and assistant principal of Rio Mesa High School and Channel Island High School, and a health and physical education teacher before that. Mark credits his success as an educational leader to the education he received at APU.

JEREMY AHRENS, M.A. '08, MBA '14, released his book, *Tentmaking in the 21st Century: Healing Financial Brokenness and Fostering a Prospering Economy in the Modern Church* (Tate Publishing, 2016). The book combines theology and practical business advice for entrepreneurs. Jeremy is an adjunct professor of philosophy at Cypress College. He, his wife, Melanie, and their two kids, Aubrey and Connor, live in Glendora. jeremyahrens.com.

LINDSAY (HOUS) '08) THOMAS works as director of communications at Science Museum Oklahoma following several years in higher education communications and marketing. She and her husband, Ryan, live in Oklahoma City and attend St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

4 RYAN FINK '09 recently sold his startup company, ONtheGO Platforms. Prior to the acquisition of his company, Ryan developed a technology product, raised venture capital, and participated in three startup accelerators, and has nine patents to his name. Now, Ryan serves as a mentor to Techstars and Portland Seed Fund and holds the full-time position of vice president of business development at Atheer.

2010s

VICTORIA RAZON '10 recently received a Doctor of Medicine from Ross University

School of Medicine. She serves the mission field in Mexico and hopes to continue her residency in California.

MICHAEL MEZA '12 and his wife, **ERICA (REDMOND) '13**, recently relocated from La Verne to San Antonio, Texas. Michael serves in the Army Reserves while attending school for nursing, and Erica recently began serving in the public relations department at Palo Alto College.

NANCY HARCAR, M.A. '13, was selected by the U.S. Department of State as 1 of 165 citizens for the 2016-17 English Language Fellow program. Her fellowship includes 10 months of teaching English in the West Bank Palestinian Territories at An-Najah National University in Nablus. Previously, Nancy worked as an assistant professor of English at Kwangju Women's University in Gwangju, South Korea, where she was active in volunteer services and community team-building activities.

5 CAMERON SCZEMPKA '13, stage name Cameron Bond, is performing on Broadway in *Finding Neverland* as Captain Hook and the understudy for the lead role of J.M. Barrie. Previously, Cameron toured the country as Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast* and worked regionally in L.A. at La Mirada, McCoy Rigby, and 3D Theatricals. Outside the theater, Cameron has produced multiple commercials with clients including Progressive, Samsung, Nike, JetBlue, A&E, and History Channel. During his time at APU, Cameron, a business major, participated in Men's Chorale, Chamber Singers, and the Saints; participated in theater productions, including *Parade*, *How to Succeed*, and *Merrily We Roll Along*; and served as president of the men's club volleyball team.

REX OLUVIC '14 received a lifesaving medal for resuscitating an 84-year-old man who suffered a heart attack. Rex works as a police officer with the city of Chula Vista, California, and recently became engaged to **CORI ESPARZA '15**.

LAURA ZIESEL, M.A. '14, and her husband, **JOSHUA, PSY.D. '16**, recently moved to Baltimore, Maryland. Joshua is a postdoctoral fellow at Loyola University, Maryland, and Laura serves as the development director for The Veritas Forum.

MATTHEW ALVARADO '15 was recently invited to join the board of directors for the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals. He works as a sales executive at C.H. Robinson, a Fortune 250 supply chain logistics company.

6 PETER IBENANA, M.A. '15, spent last August selling reproductions of his paintings to raise money for Ellicott City, Maryland, flood relief. A portion of all profits went to funding major relief efforts. His art, featured on Fox 45 news, can be found at peteribenana.com.

KISHA MCDONALD, M.A. '15, passed the Professional in Human Resources (PHR®) certification exam. She serves the porter/usher ministry at Burning Bush Church in Victorville, California. Kisha also serves as a member of the board of directors for Pathways to College K-8 Charter School in Hesperia, where she helps prepare students for the challenge of higher education learning and to provide meaningful, stimulating, and educational opportunities to grow academically and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially.

BRIAN ROBEY, M.A. '15, works as director of children's ministry for Shepherd Church in Porter Ranch, California. Brian oversees third-through-fifth grade special-needs ministry and children's ministry storytellers.

ABBY WHEELER '15 teaches English and math to grades 1-5 in the international department at Wuhan Yucai No. 2 Primary Boarding School, one of the best primary schools in Wuhan, China. Abby also runs leadership seminars for high school students on behalf of Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY). Most recently, Abby ran a HOBY program in L.A. that hosted 60 Taiwanese and Chinese students for a week. She was part of a similar program in Chicago with 400 students from around the world. Abby connects with the community through an expat woman's group called Women of Wuhan, running the coffee ministry at the foreign fellowship, and leading teams to a local orphanage each month.

7 CHRIS HERNANDEZ '16 recently began a new post as a restorative justice specialist with the Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative

Justice. Chris works at various high schools throughout Southern Oregon facilitating a reconciliation process among administrators, teachers, and students, as he aims to establish a relationship-centered school culture.

8 JOHANNA KELLER '16 recently began as a project manager for Kingdom Industry, an architect and design studio composed of interdisciplinary creatives and developers working to create transformational experiences that express clients' unique brand or personal aesthetics.

JUST MARRIED

9 LEANNA MURPHY '05 to Jarod Mayne on June 3, 2016, in Redlands, California. leannamurphy@gmail.com

10 THOMAS KLEINSCHMIDT '08 to **AMANDA MAYHEW '08** on March 12, 2016, at First Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, Kansas. The wedding included groomsmen **ZACK HAWKINS '08** and **MICHAEL OMRAN '07**, guestbook attendant **DEANNA (LEACH) '08) MARTINEZ**, and usher **DANIEL BRINGHURST '07**. Tom works in the Jackson County, Missouri, assessment department, and Amanda is a nonprofit consultant. The couple lives in Kansas City. amandamayhewkleinschmidt@gmail.com

11 JENNIFER STRIPE '08 to **JEREMIAH OSHIRO '08** on August 12, 2015. The couple later celebrated their marriage on May 14, 2016, with a church ceremony and reception in Rancho Santa Fe, California. Jeremiah works in hospitality as a Del Services supervisor and concierge manager at the Hotel del Coronado, while Jennifer pursues a law degree at the University of San Diego. The couple lives in Point Loma.

12 ELAINE QUAN '10 to Noah Johnson on June 18, 2016, in Santa Barbara, California. The wedding party included **ALYSSA (SMITH '09) HEATON**, **EVELINE MEJIA '14**, and **KRISTIN (POYNTER '10) CARLTON**. Elaine works as an assistant principal for a K-8 school in Los Angeles, and Noah at Citi National Bank. The couple lives in San Gabriel.

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Cracking the Code to Student Success

While most careers begin after college graduation, Andrew Svehaug '08, MBA '09, began his at age 15. As a high school sophomore, Svehaug won the national chess championship for his age group. The title brought opportunities to tutor younger students, which led to the experience that changed everything: his student won. "When my 5-year-old chess student won the Kindergarten National Chess Championship, that changed my focus," he said. "I realized that I was even more passionate about helping kids win than about winning myself." Today Svehaug and his students win big with Code to the Future, the nationally recognized education company he incubated and launched during his time at Azusa Pacific. Svehaug's story exemplifies how APU students combine passion and entrepreneurship to create organizations that make a difference.

by Caitlin Gipson

As a college freshman, Svehaug brought his student focus to APU and immediately went to work. That year, he started after-school chess programs in multiple local public schools. By his junior year, word had spread, and the list had expanded to 15 schools, more than he could serve alone. "I had schools clamoring for programs, requesting that I train teachers—it was clear that there was a need here, and that I could do this full time." A double major in music and business, Svehaug took his business to his professors. "They poured into me and helped me refine my vision," he said. "Most students learn business principles through internships—my business was my internship." Svehaug found that working full time in his fledgling business brought a new level of meaning to his coursework. "I was working already, which meant that I was able to immediately test and apply what my professors were modeling."

As Svehaug graduated and transitioned into the MBA program, his company transitioned its educational focus from chess to computer programming. "Our work with chess was never about training chess champions, it was about training the brain," he said. "Similarly, coding isn't about creating an army of computer programmers, it's about using



COURTESY OF ANDREW SVEHAUG '08, MBA '09

coding in the classroom as a vehicle to help students succeed in school and in life.”

How they facilitate that success has progressed over time, starting with after-school programs and camps, moving to curriculum planning and development and the creation of the nation’s first immersion-model computer science magnet elementary school. Rios Elementary in El Cajon, California, partners with Code to the Future to incorporate computer programming and game design into the everyday curriculum, simultaneously preparing students for computer-literate careers and using computer science to make traditional academic areas more engaging. The company has been so successful in working computer science into education programs that the White House recognized it. The announcement of former President Obama’s “Computer Science for All” initiative pointed out the Bureau of Labor Statistics projection of 1 million unfilled computer science jobs by 2020 and also highlighted Code to the Future’s efforts as a model for addressing the shortfall.

The magnet school model shows promise, and next year Code to the Future will boast 41 new computer science magnet schools across the country. The company now works with hundreds of schools and more than a hundred school districts nationwide. Svehaug points out, however, that computer science, like chess, simply represents a means to an end. “We use computer science not as an end goal in itself, but as a catalyst to make math, English, and science more fun and engaging and help students thrive in whatever path they take,” he said. “We are hoping to change the

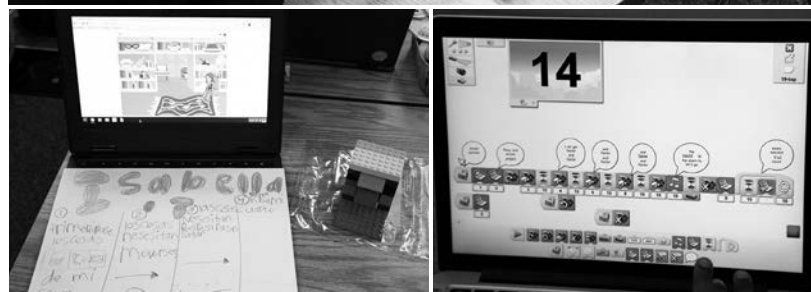
“Our work with chess was never about training chess champions, it was about training the brain.”

—Andrew Svehaug '08, MBA '09

narrative around what kids can do. If kids can code in Java in fourth and fifth grade, how much more should we expect of them? And as adult educators, how does that change how we treat students? We want to help educators approach these kids with higher expectations and a new level of awe.”

Michael, a fourth grader at W.D. Hall Elementary in El Cajon, attended a Minecraft day hosted by a Code to the Future magnet school. Throughout the day, students built in virtual and physical Minecraft worlds, playing Minecraft word games and connecting the game to real-life robotics. While educators talked about STEM job preparedness and lauded the Common Core standards met by the various activities, Michael gave it the kind of praise that Svehaug really cares about: “This is a great thing for kids. I’m learning, and it’s fun!”

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



Leadership by Association

by Bethany Wagner

When Max Walden '16 stepped across the stage to receive his diploma last May, he joined a legacy of leaders serving throughout the nation in multiple fields with one unique common trait—they all developed their leadership skills and discovered their potential to disciple as presidents of Azusa Pacific's Student Government Association (SGA), formerly the Associated Student Body (ASB).

SGA presidents play a vital role at APU, articulating the concerns and needs of nearly 6,000 undergraduate students and leading 25 elected student officials. As president for the 2015-16 academic year, Walden facilitated conversations with students, met with teams across campus to present student needs, and worked with the Board of Trustees to make changes. "Student presidents actively hone their skills as our administrators disciple them toward their true potential as leaders," said President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, SGA president from 1975-76. "Looking back over my career, I can see hints of my calling to leadership in my SGA presidency. The experience forges leaders and guides many students toward a calling in leadership across disciplines beyond APU."

Case in point: Adam Ecklund, Ph.D. As an undergraduate student at APU, he pursued church ministry until Terry Franson, Ph.D., senior vice president for student life/dean of students, encouraged him to run for SGA president.

During his 2000-02 term, Ecklund came to see serving college students as a form of ministry. Today, he maintains relationships with thousands of alumni as associate vice president of constituent engagement at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. "I saw I could disciple the world's future teachers, engineers, doctors, pastors, lawyers—people who will impact the world for Christ," he





DANA ATTEBERY

said. Ecklund encourages Walden to recognize the blessings of his unique opportunity. “I didn’t realize how influential the connections and discipleship from the administration and Board of Trustees would prove. Hold onto the wisdom and experience you gained from working with such godly leaders.”

The APU board also influenced the career of Jill (McIntosh ’98) Robbins, a successful lawyer and mother in Susanville, California, though she admits to being terrified the first time she attended a meeting with the board as SGA president in 1996. “I met with about 25 established professionals who valued my input and believed I could lead on their level—I didn’t want to let them down,” she said. “By the end of my tenure, I felt right at home with the board members, and they taught me to listen and voice my opinions with people from all walks of life.” From that experience, she urges Walden: “Don’t compromise, but continue with the same conviction that you had from day one of your SGA campaign in pursuing God’s calling.”

Robbins practices what she preaches, at work and in her home. “I strive to lead my kids, training them up in the way they should go,” she said. “I want to raise them in Christ through education, relationships, and service, always asking what they can do to help others.”

“What can I do to help?” Tiffany Porter ’06, founder and principal of Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) Scholar Academy in Los Angeles, frequently asked this question of Wallace during her term as SGA president in 2005-06. Wallace’s response gave her confidence in her own abilities and a sense of responsibility: “If it needs to be done, then you should do it.”

A decade later, Porter saw a severe lack of quality education in Los Angeles, and in response, she founded a charter school for underserved children. Today, hundreds of teachers and students look to Porter for leadership. “I learned how to set clear vision and developed confidence in trailblazing,” said Porter, who developed many

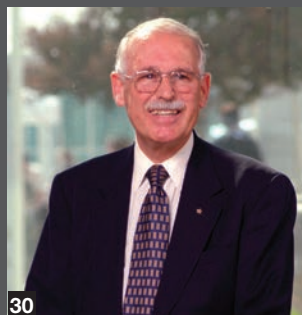
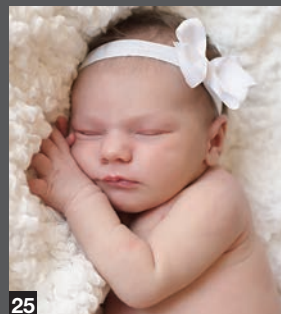
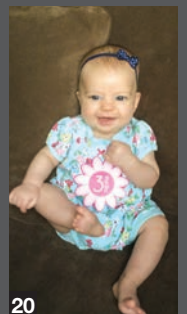
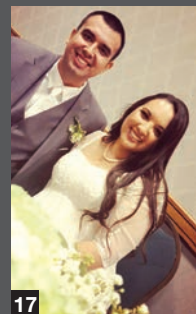
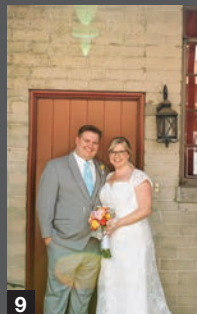
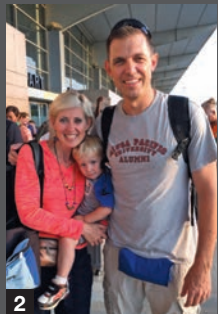
initiatives centered on diversity and reconciliation, among other issues, during her time as SGA president. “The APU administration and staff saw leadership potential in me and took time and effort to nurture it.”

Walden looks back on the legacies of Wallace, Ecklund, Robbins, and Porter as he leans into work within the computer software industry in Kansas City, Missouri, where he collaborates with teams of employees, communicates with clients, and manages multiple projects at once—skills he developed during his SGA presidency. “It’s a joy and privilege to be noted on the long list of such impressive individuals,” he said. “Though my tenure as president is over, the ideals and goals that motivated me then continue to push me now.”

Bethany Wagner ’14 is a freelance writer and editor based in Portland, Oregon. bethanykwagner@gmail.com.

“Looking back over my career, I can see hints of my calling to leadership in my SGA presidency. The experience forges leaders and guides many students toward a calling in leadership across disciplines beyond APU.”

—Jon R. Wallace, DBA



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

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13 **ALEXIS MCINTOSH '12, MBA '13**, to **ERIK BONN '13** on May 21, 2016, at Casa Real Ruby Hill in Pleasanton, California. The couple met as neighbors in the Village at APU. Erik played football, and Alexis was on the cheer team.

14 **JAMES HANSEN '13, M.DIV. '16**, to **AMANDA PARRISH, M.DIV. '16**, on May 14, 2016, at La Verne Heights Presbyterian Church in La Verne, California. The wedding party included **JULIE LAND, M.DIV. '16**, and **A.J. ZIMMERMAN '12, M.DIV. '15**. jamesdanielhansen@gmail.com.

15 **JESSICA ARMAGOST '14** to Chris Hinz on August 23, 2016, at Historic Seven Sycamores Ranch in Ivanhoe, California.

16 **SAMUEL COWELL '14** to **JESSIKA BONDS '14** on January 2, 2016, in Valley Springs, California. The wedding party included **JUSTINE (CHACON '13) HOFF, NOELLE PATTERSON '13, HANNAH STEER '14, TYLER SHATTUCK '14, ANDREW SORIA '14, CALEB WAGNER '14, MARK THOMAS '14**, and **SOPHIE COWELL '16**. While Sammy and Jess attended APU at the same time, they did not meet until after graduation, at an outdoor education job in Santa Cruz. Sammy is a master's degree student at Utah State University, and Jess is an elementary school aide, pursuing her teaching credential. The couple lives in Logan, Utah.

AMBER FIELDS '14 to Jason Kruggel on August 13, 2016, at the Clarke Estate in Santa Fe Springs, California.

17 **ERIN FRUITHOF '14** to Joel Serna on September 4, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The two serve in Las Vegas alongside mission teams.

18 **MARY MERCURIO '15** to Marcio Santos on July 22, 2016, at Surfers' Point in Ventura Beach, California. Mary works as a tutoring coordinator in the Azusa Pacific University Learning Enrichment Center. Marcio is a former professional soccer player and professional surfer who trains and coaches developing youth athletes.

19 **ELLIE GRUBAUGH '16** to **AARON KOLB '16** on June 18, 2016, in Camarillo, California. The wedding party included **TIMOTHY KIM '16, JORDAN RICE '16, WILL JOHNSTON '16, LAUREN BRESLOW '16, REUBEN LINDSEY '16**, and **EMILY BAUER '16**. Ellie and Aaron live in Phoenix, Arizona, where Aaron works at Farmers Insurance, and Ellie is pursuing a career as a birth doula. They attend the community at Northwest Community Church.

FUTURE ALUMNI

20 To **CHARITY (MONTE '00, MBA '04) ABATE** and her husband, Matthew, a daughter, Karalyn Joy, on May 26, 2016, in Pasadena. The family lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where Matthew is finishing a Master of Divinity at Southern Baptist Seminary.

To **LEEANNE (CARSON '02) JONES** and her husband, Paul, a daughter, Paisley Elizabeth, on July 9, 2016. Paisley joins big sister, Denali Marie, 2. LeeAnne is a freelance writer and editor working with lifestyle and travel magazines such as *Diablo, Via*, and *Rhapsody*. The family lives in Dublin, California. writerleeanne@gmail.com

21 To **KELLY (CASE '03) ANDERSON** and her husband, **DAVID '05**, a son, Silas Cove, on June 3, 2016. Silas joins big sister, Sydney, and big brothers, Isaiah and Titus. David serves on the worship team at Christian Life Assembly and works as a nonprofit tech consultant at blackbaud.com, providing software solutions that allow organizations to reach more people for good causes. Kelly homeschools their three children. The family lives in Burlington, North Carolina. refster@hotmail.com

22 To **BETHANY (BALLENGER '03) WOELBER** and her husband, Craig, a son, Gavin Jace, on April 11, 2016. He joins big brother, Jaron Gabriel, 2.

23 To **LISA (GONZALEZ '03) NEWTON** and her husband, Thomas, a daughter, Cora Janeva, on December 10, 2015. Lisa is a school library consultant, a writer at amateurnester.com, and an infertility advocate.

24 To **MATT RYBURN '04, M.S. '06**, and his wife, **SHELBY (OLSEN, ATTENDED '98-'00)**, a daughter, Riley Reese, on May 28, 2016. Matt sells real estate in North and South Carolina, and Shelby is the CEO/team leader of the Keller Williams Realty office in Fort Mill, South Carolina, where the family lives.

25 To **KARI (VIRDING '05) CHRISTENSEN** and her husband, Eric, a daughter, Ellie Grace, on July 17, 2015. They reside in Wilsonville, Oregon.

26 To **SHANNON (KALFELL '06) WHEELER** and her husband, **ANDREW '06**, a daughter, Audrey, on March 21, 2016. Audrey joins big brothers, Logan and Aydan. s.wheeler53@gmail.com

To **JOSHUA DENT '08, M.A. '09**, and his wife, Kristine, a son, Thomas Emmett, on June 29, 2015. He joins big brother, James.

27 To **MONIQUE (ORTIZ, M.A. '08) SINCLARE** and her husband, Curtis, a son, Jackson, on April 28, 2015. The family lives in Eastvale, California.

28 To **SARAH (KURAMATA, M.A. '09, M.A. '13) STEVENSON** and her husband, Joseph, a son, Kesler Robert, on July 24, 2016.

29 To **ALLIE (FISH '10) RUCKER** and her husband, Ryan, a daughter, Raegan Nadyne, on August 5, 2016.

To **LUKE HEDDEN '12** and his wife, **RACHEL '15**, a girl, Molly Antonia, on July 14, 2016. Luke works as the staff recruitment manager in human resources at Azusa Pacific University, and Rachel as a registered nurse.

To **JULIE (GIONET '13) BARNES** and her husband, Aaron, a daughter, Mila Jane, on March 17, 2016.

IN MEMORY

30 **HANK BODE**, beloved pillar of the Azusa Pacific family, passed away on September 16, 2016. Hank joined the APU community in 1965 when then-President Cornelius Haggard, Ed.D., recruited him as the chief financial officer. For four decades, Hank served the campus in various vital roles, including vice president of finance, assistant to the president, vice president for legal and special projects, and finally, as part of the Estate Planning team. In each position, he acted as a conscientious steward of the school's resources and a trusted advisor to the university. Hank's wife, Sherri, who worked as an associate professor in the School of Music for nearly 30 years, survives him, as do their children, **BRIAN '86** and **SUZANNE (BODE '88, M.A. '98) LARSON**.

J. EVERETTE PLEYER '50 passed away on August 11, 2016. While at APU, Everette served as APU class president and worked at the bookstore. He and his family moved to Kansas City, where he became a business manager at the Nazarene Publishing House. He retired after 41 years. He was an active member of the Nazarene Church. His wife preceded him in death. His burial took place in Lillington, North Carolina.

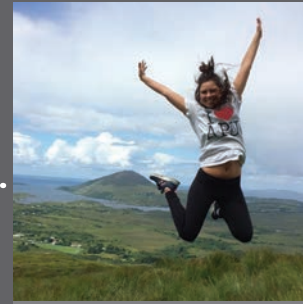
31 **JOHN ODURO '67, TH.D., PH.D.**, passed away on October 1, 2016, in Accra, Ghana. John, 1 of 18 children, felt called to ministry as a teen and used that passion to make his way to the United States and enroll in then-Azusa College—making him the institution's first African student. His meeting with President Cornelius Haggard, Th.D., and their ongoing friendship set him on a course of lifelong learning and ministry. When he returned to Ghana, he established the Faith Community Baptist Church and the Faith Community Baptist Complex of Schools, both of which continue to flourish. To this day, APU sends student teams to Ghana to serve the people there and extend the legacies of Haggard and Oduro in the name of Christ. Preceded in death by their mother, Wendy, John's children, **KERN '97, PH.D.**; **CARR '96, MBA '98, PH.D.**; **AMA '96**; and Carolyn survive them.

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU WEARING YOUR APU CLOTHING?

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



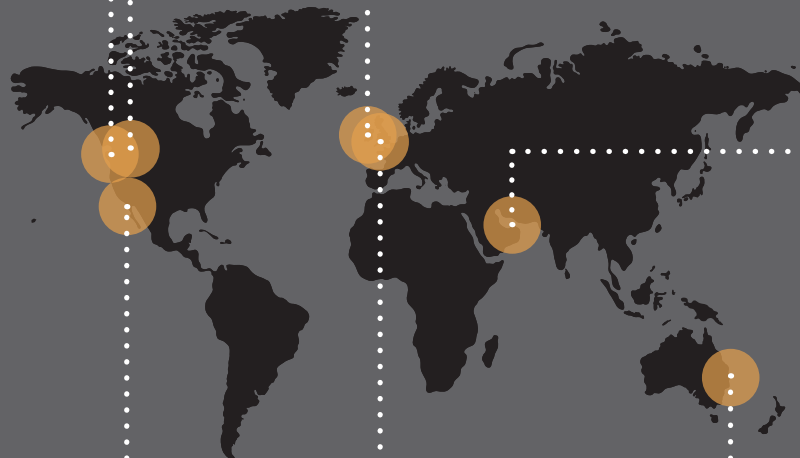
TEAGAN PICCIANO '10
RUTH PRITZLAFF '10
ALBERTA, CANADA



SARAH RODNEY '15
GALWAY, IRELAND



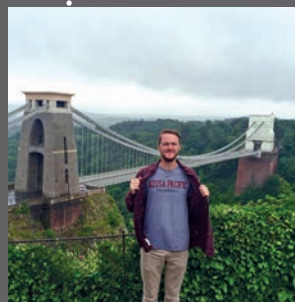
RALPH A. RIVAS '12
VANCOUVER ISLAND,
BRITISH COLUMBIA



GRACE WHISTON '11
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES



DAN HAWKINS '01, KRISTI
(KLAPINSKI '01) HAWKINS,
CHRISSY (WEBER '00) KEE,
JEREMY HITCHCOCK '01,
ANN (THOMAS '01)
HITCHCOCK, DANIELLA
PEREZ '14, MBA '16, AND
CHELSEA WHITE '14
ENSENADA, MEXICO



LUCAS ABEGGLEN '15
BRISTOL, ENGLAND



TIM CLAIBORNE '85
SUNSHINE COAST,
AUSTRALIA

Location



HITTIER is a little city of some 1500 inhabitants, on the western slope of the Puente Hills, overlooking the San Gabriel Valley towards the Pacific Ocean, about fifteen miles south of east from Los Angeles on a branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad, and about three miles distant from Los Nietos on the the Santa Fe Railroad. This proximity to Los Angeles affords some excellent opportunities to meet and hear some of the most distinguished Christian workers of the world; and also, to attend helpful sessions of special conferences, assemblies, and conventions.

Objects Sought

To carefully prepare for effectual Christian work those called of God as home or foreign missionaries, evangelists, pastors, and Christian workers, generally.

To impart a thorough, intimate, and practical knowledge of the Scriptures.

To give instruction in Christian Evidences, Sacred History, and related subjects.

To give training in music, and in methods of teaching and religious work.

To impart information concerning mission fields; to inspire missionary enthusiasm, and to cultivate a passion for winning souls.

— 6 —

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Objects Sought

An interdenominational group of men and women founded the Training School for Christian Workers in 1899, inspired by an account given by Philena Hadley—the story of four young believers unable to give a defense when challenged to prove that Christ was anything more than a good man. This prompted the founders to state several “Objects Sought” in the initial *Catalogue and Prospectus of the Training School for Christian Workers* (shown above). For the past 117 years, Azusa Pacific has remained an interdenominational university seeking these same objectives and continuing to “carefully prepare,” “impart knowledge,” “give instruction,” “inspire,” and “cultivate” in areas such as missions, music, and service. By maintaining these same objectives through the decades, the university, its students, and alumni have

gone into neighboring communities, throughout the country, and to the uttermost parts of Earth with a Christian perspective, making a lasting impact on society.

Today, APU’s mission statement mirrors the founders’ goals:

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

Through the years, techniques, technologies, and constituencies have changed, but the initial “Objects Sought” remain the same.

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



Advancing God's Work in the World

With a planned gift to Azusa Pacific, you help us prepare men and women to impact the world for Christ, while in some cases ensuring guaranteed income and charitable deductions.

Examples include:

Bequest Enables you to give property or funds to APU through a living trust or will.

Charitable Gift Annuity Gives you a secure, fixed income for life, and the remaining proceeds go to APU.

Charitable Remainder Trust Guarantees you income for life, exempt from capital gains taxes on appreciated assets.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For a personalized proposal from the Office of Gift and Estate Planning, call Dennette Miramontes at (626) 815-5070 or Dennis Beckwith at (626) 815-5071, email legacy@apu.edu, or visit apugifts.com.