

# APULIFE

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

EMBRACING RENEWAL ■ JOURNEY OF FAITH ■ REMEMBERING JON WALLACE

A young woman with dark hair, wearing a white lab coat, clear safety goggles, and blue nitrile gloves, is focused on her work in a laboratory. She is holding a small vial and a pipette. The background shows laboratory equipment, including a blue rack of test tubes.

## *For Such a Time as This*

Responding to Challenge  
with Resilience and  
Innovation

*God First Since 1899*



Dear Friends,

Motivational author Gary Ryan Blair asks the question, “*What kind of competitor sees the finish line and slows down?...Always finish strong.*”

At this point in our collective journey through the COVID-19 pandemic, a season punctuated by times of national unrest, racial injustice, and economic and life challenges, the APU Community, although justifiably weary and fainthearted, finished this leg of our race strong with courage and hope. As you enjoy this issue of *APU Life*, know that our faculty, staff, and students have conducted themselves with exemplary fortitude and resilience, as well as commitment to each other and the mission of APU.

**Emerging Strong from the COVID-19 Pandemic.** With increasing numbers of vaccinations and decreasing trends in infections, hospitalizations, and deaths, we are experiencing hope for the days ahead. As L.A. County continues to trend in the right direction, we count our blessings, while exercising appropriate care and wisdom in defining our measured return to campus operations. We anticipate an exciting Fall 2021 Return to Campus.


**Standing Strong Together Through Diversity and Inclusion.** In my March 18 Instagram post, I suggested that “Over the last year, people have worked diligently together to combat a deadly virus. May we use that same collective spirit of love, support, and care to stand up and speak out about racism and address the increasing violence against our Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander community.” As many members of the AAPI Community and many of our brothers and sisters of color continue to experience fear and concern at home and across this nation, we continue to stand strong with them in prayer, encouragement, and support.

**Finishing Strong Financially.** Due to the tremendous budget discipline by all members of the APU Community, strategic fiscal strategies to reduce costs and control expenditures, the generous support of our donors and friends, coupled to federal relief from the recently passed American Recovery Act, APU is projected to finish this fiscal year strong, balanced, and compliant with debt covenants.

**Building Strong for the Future.** Despite the pandemic and the limitations for optimum interaction, the APU Community embraced and committed to implementation of *Renewal*, the APU Strategic Plan. Hundreds of APU faculty, staff, and students are regularly gathering virtually to review and set a course for achieving the Five Grand Initiatives of *Renewal*. The energy and enthusiasm for APU’s future is a wonderful reflection of the steady commitment of the APU Community to a positive *God First* future.

As Paul reflected on his running of the race (2 Timothy 4:7), “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*” I am so grateful for each of you fighting the good fight that none of us expected or deserved, staying the course in the midst of turmoil, keeping the faith and honoring Christ: all to finish strong. We have truly done this together—a relay team completing a marathon. To God be the Glory.

With gratitude for ending the 2020-21 academic year strong,

  
Paul W. Ferguson, PhD, DABT  
President

**PRESIDENT'S CABINET**

- Paul W. Ferguson, PhD, DABT  
President
- Rukshan Fernando, PhD  
Provost
- Andrew Barton, EdD  
Vice President for Strategic Planning and Mission Integration
- Alanna Cajtham  
Vice President for Finance and Business Strategy, Chief Financial Officer
- Donald H. Davis '89, MBA '94, EdD  
Vice President for Administration, Chief Information Officer
- Keith E. Hall, EdD  
Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer
- Corbin Hoornbeek  
Vice President for University Advancement
- Chris Jennings '96, JD  
Vice President for University Integrity, General Counsel
- Paola Martinez  
Vice President for Human Resources
- Heather Petridis '95, PhD '15  
Vice President for Enrollment Management, Chief Enrollment Officer
- Gary Pine '84, MBA '05  
Director of Athletics
- Megan Prosser, PhD  
Senior Advisor to the President, Chief of Staff
- Shino (Kuroda) '96 Simons, MEd '00, PhD  
Vice President for Student Affairs
- Maureen (Plegert) '90, MA '00 Taylor  
Vice President for Strategic Communication and Engagement

**MAGAZINE STAFF**

- Rachel (Nordby) '97 White, MA '17  
Executive Director of Strategic Communication
- Sophie (Cowell) '16 Cook  
Graphic Designer
- Jason Cunningham  
Communications Editor
- Jason Flicker  
Art Director
- Tim Myers  
Associate Director of Operations
- Allison Oster '01, MA '05  
Brand Manager

APU Life (ISSN 0895-5433) is published biannually by Azusa Pacific University, 901 E. Alosta Ave., PO Box 7000, Azusa, CA 91702-7000, apu.edu, (626) 969-3434.

Periodicals class postage paid at Azusa, CA 91702, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to: APU Life, Azusa Pacific University, ATTN: Office of University Advancement, PO Box 7000, Azusa, CA 91702-7000.

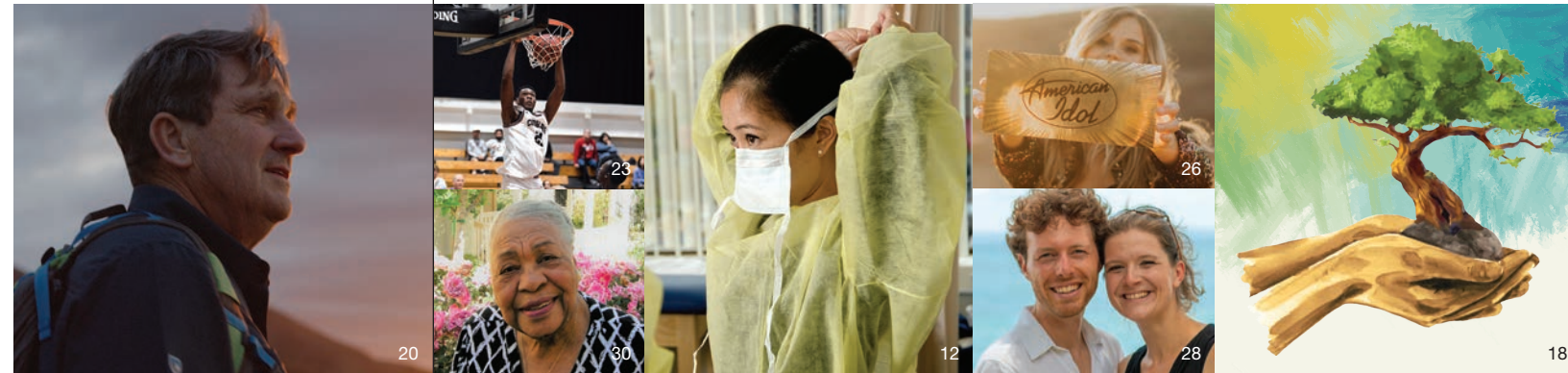
Azusa Pacific University, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and university policies, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, medical status, or status as a veteran. The university also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscriminatory policy covers admissions, access, operation of university programs and activities, and employment. apulife@apu.edu.

apulife@apu.edu



# APULIFE

SPRING/SUMMER 2021



**FEATURES**

- 12 For Such a Time as This**  
*by Madison Folkers and Rachel White*
- 18 Embracing Renewal**  
*by Andrew Barton*
- 20 Remembering Jon R. Wallace**  
*by Nathan Foster*
- 22 Selom Mawugbe: Present Destination**  
*by Nathan Foster*
- 26 Journey of Faith**  
*by Megan Wilhelm*
- 28 Dignity Coconuts: Creating a Thriving Community**  
*by Abigail Reed*
- 30 A Legacy of Inspiring Generations**  
*by Abigail Reed*

Cover photo by Dana Attebery, MA '17

**DEPARTMENTS**

- 2** President's Letter
- 6** Campus Close Up
- 24** Cougars Sports Roundup
- 25** Alumni News and Notes
- 31** Archived





With joyful smiles, APU graduates and their proud loved ones celebrated together at a special drive-through event on West Campus, where participants visited photo stations to commemorate this milestone achievement while being cheered on by APU faculty and staff. The following day, the university hosted virtual graduation ceremonies honoring the Class of 2021 for its resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to making a difference in the world as Christ-centered scholars and leaders. Watch the virtual ceremonies at [apu.edu/commencement/schedule/watch/](http://apu.edu/commencement/schedule/watch/).

PHOTOS BY DANA ATTEBERY, MA '17 AND NATHAN INGALLS, MA '19



## APU Secures \$650,000 NSF Grant to Advance Underserved Students in STEM



California's growing technological workforce is driving demand for qualified professionals with STEM degrees. Yet low-income, first-generation college students interested in these career fields often encounter barriers. Azusa Pacific University is taking steps to change that with the assistance of a \$650,000 National Science Foundation S-STEM grant to recruit, retain, and graduate high-achieving, low-income, first-generation students called to make a difference as computer scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicists.

"This NSF S-STEM grant enables APU, a designated R2 research institution, to deepen its commitment to engaging underserved students in a high level of research with faculty members who are leaders in their industries, which translates to richer learning opportunities and better marketability upon graduation," said President Paul Ferguson. "Recruiting, supporting, and graduating the next generation of STEM professionals supports the university's Strategic Plan to become a university destination of choice for a diverse body of students, reflecting inclusive academic excellence."

The NSF S-STEM scholarship grant funds APU's five-year STEM scholar initiative and research study to improve college accessibility and support for promising students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing bachelor's degrees in computer science, engineering, mathematics, and physics.

"Within California, up to 42 percent of the STEM workforce is from outside the U.S.," said Louise Huang, PhD, assistant dean of undergraduate studies in APU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "There is a need to raise up and equip a local STEM workforce to meet the demand. The grant will help support future graduates by equipping them through academic and professional training so that they can have direct participation in STEM professions or through STEM-related teaching positions to address these workforce concerns."

"The grant will help support future graduates by equipping them through academic and professional training so that they can have direct participation in STEM professions or through STEM-related teaching positions to address these workforce concerns."

**LOUISE HUANG, PHD**

### Students accepted into the STEM scholar program benefit from:

**Scholarships:** APU plans to award 56 renewable scholarships ranging from \$6,000 to \$9,000 through the initiative over the next five years.

**Academic Support:** Scholars will participate in faculty and peer mentoring, supplemental instruction, and tutoring to support academic success.

**Family Inclusion:** Family support plays a key role in contributing to degree completion for first-generation and underrepresented students. With that in mind, APU aims to provide scholars' families with tools, expectations, and encouragement to shape a supportive learning community for student success.

**Graduation Preparation:** Scholars will have access to career guidance from a STEM-focused success coach, as well as summer research with faculty mentors and internship opportunities to prepare for graduate-level study and careers.

### Key APU faculty instrumental in securing this grant include:

**James Hsi-Jen Yeh, PhD**, Principal Investigator and Associate Professor, Department of Engineering and Computer Science

**Bradley "Peanut" McCoy, PhD**, Co-Investigator and Chair and Professor, Department of Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics

**Louise Huang, PhD**, STEM Liaison and Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Director, Center for Research in Science

**Christopher B. Newman, PhD**, Educational Researcher and Associate Professor, Department of Higher Education

**Tedd Szeto, PhD**, STEM Administrator and former Executive Director, Academic Success Center and Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics

## APU Hosts Virtual Brilliant STEM Day 2021

To spark the imaginations of a future generation of scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and medical professionals, Azusa Pacific University hosted Brilliant STEM Day 2021. Whether in person or virtual, the popular annual event draws students from school districts across the San Gabriel Valley and sells out each year.

APU students and faculty led 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>-grade participants in engaging online sessions to inspire curiosity and interest in science. General sessions included Chemistry Is Fun!, Going Green, Let's Get Moving, and Building Bridges. Grade-specific sessions included Pump It Up!, The Amazing Density Tower (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grades), Plaque Attack!, What's Under Your Skin? (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades), and Code the World, and Why Do We Have Bones? (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades).



APU's commitment to advancing STEM opportunities among young students through community outreach events like Brilliant STEM Day aligns with the U.S. Department of Education's focus on STEM education as a top priority. STEM careers are growing at a greater rate than the average for all occupations, and economic projections point to a need for approximately 1 million more STEM professionals than the U.S. will produce at the current rate over the next decade. Brilliant STEM Day was sponsored by APU student clubs, including Boundless Brilliance, Alpha Epsilon Delta, Kappa Iota Nu, Phi Delta Epsilon, Pre-Dental Society, Society of Women Engineers, Student Nurses of Azusa Pacific University, and the Sustainability Club.

## Campus Safety Enhancements Benefit APU Community

As part of *Renewal*, the university's Strategic Plan, APU has announced significant campus safety enhancements to benefit the community. These upgrades include increases in preparation and training of campus safety personnel, safety training and monitoring for APU campuses, and technology upgrades.

The groundwork for the new enhancements began by seeking input and collaboration across campus. "The Department of Campus Safety is committed to working as a team to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our community by partnering with faculty, staff, and students, and also with local law enforcement," said Paul Dennis, executive director of the Department of Campus Safety.

These efforts resulted in the introduction of new technologies, including the safety app, SafeAPU, that gives students access to important safety features and information on their mobile devices; improved dispatch and records management systems; and the introduction of body-worn cameras. The enhancements also include improved and continuous training to all campus safety personnel, including online policy and procedure training, and cultural diversity and implicit bias training. A significant addition to the department is the creation of the Special Services Officer position, which carries a higher level of training, increased hiring standards, and an armed response in the event of a life-threatening emergency.

As the Department of Campus Safety continues to develop new resources and approaches to benefit the university, community members will take an active role through the Community Advisory Committee, underscoring that a safe campus environment is a shared responsibility and a value held by all.

## Theology Faculty and Pastors Collaborate on Lamenting Racism Project

Several local pastors and theology professors from Azusa Pacific Seminary recently launched the Lamenting Racism project, a series of six thought-provoking videos for church groups. A grant from the Louisville Institute supported the project, which was created by Azusa Pacific Seminary and Herald Press.

"It's something that most people were unfamiliar with, even though the practice of lament is seen throughout Scripture," Rob Muthiah, PhD, professor of practical theology, explained. "The book of Lamentations is a collection of laments. About one-third of the Psalms are songs of lament. The book of Job is essentially one long lament. Lament is heard within the New Testament as well."

*Continued on page 8*





Continued from page 7

Azusa Pacific alumnus Anthony Powell, the lead pastor of Redeemed Life Church and host of the Lamenting Racism video series, said he finds comfort in practicing lament. “When I lament in the presence of God and in the presence of others, I find it actually connects us in ways that God uses to keep moving us forward to confront racism and seek shalom for all people of every skin color,” he said.

Tamala Kelly, an Azusa Pacific alumna and co-lead pastor of The Purpose Church, noted that being able to voice the pain that racism creates through the spiritual practice of lament has been a healing experience. “I have learned that crying out to God, demanding action, even questioning God, and protesting against God, all this is actually an act of faith.”

Along with the video series, the project includes a leader’s guide and a participant journal that includes Bible passages keyed to the video teachings. Through these materials, the Lamenting Racism team hopes to encourage others to take steps toward confronting and combating racism.



#### The project team includes:

**Abigail Gaines '00, MA '17**, lead pastor, Vineyard Church Glendora

**Dave Johnson, MA '08**, senior pastor, Neighborhood Christian Fellowship, Covina

**Tamala Kelly '09, MDiv '14, DMin '19**, co-lead pastor, The Purpose Church, Monrovia

**Brian Lugioyo, PhD, professor**, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies

**Rob Muthiah, PhD, professor**, Department of Ministry

**Anthony Powell, MA '13, DMin (candidate)**, lead pastor, Redeemed Life Church, Azusa

**John Ragsdale, PhD**, associate dean, School of Theology

**Jessica Wai-Fong Wong, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Theology

## APU Professor Delivers Keynote Address at the Trinity Forum

The Trinity Forum, along with co-hosts The Rabbit Room and the C.S. Lewis Foundation, welcomed award-winning author Diana Pavlac Glycer, PhD, professor in the Honors College, to share about the creative process, particularly the way that creativity thrives within small groups and clusters. The event, titled “The Inklings, Creativity, and Community: An Online Conversation with Diana Glycer,” drew a large virtual audience from around the world to discuss the importance of collaboration and the necessity of friendship to the creative process. This conversation, especially timely during the ongoing season of social distancing, challenged participants to think imaginatively about how to cultivate generative and culture-shaping friendships and community. Postevent discussion groups continued the dialog, enabling participants to more deeply engage with the ideas presented in the online conversation with other viewers. The Trinity Forum endeavors to cultivate, curate, and disseminate the best of Christian thought, to equip leaders to think, work, and lead wisely and well.

Glycer has spent more than 40 years combing through archives and studying old manuscripts. She is a leading expert on C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, and her works *The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community* and *Bandersnatch: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the Creative Collaboration of the Inklings* explore the way in which the friendship and fellowship of the Inklings shaped their work, life, and thought. She has received numerous awards, including the Paul F. Ford Award for Excellence in Lewis Studies; The Mythopoeic Society Scholarship Award; The Chase Sawtell Inspirational Teaching Award; and a nomination for a Hugo Award.

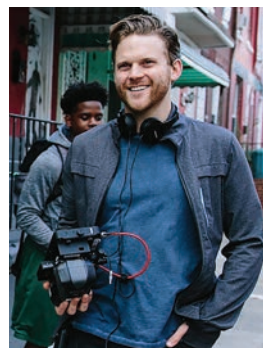


DIANA PAVLAC GLYER, PHD

## APU Alumnus Releases Feature Directorial Debut

Ricky Staub '06, founder of Neighborhood Film Company, released his feature directorial debut, *Concrete Cowboy*, on Netflix in April. Staub also co-wrote the screenplay, a fictionalized story inspired by the real-life horse riders of North Philadelphia. Starring Idris Elba, *Concrete Cowboy* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2020. Upon the film’s release, Hollywood’s interest in Staub soared and he was soon named to *Vanity Fair*’s 10 Directors to Watch list for 2021 and featured in the *Hollywood Reporter* and *New York Times*.

For 10 years, Staub, who majored in theater arts at APU, has run his production company with a purpose, hiring and training adults



RICKY STAUB '06

coming out of incarceration or homelessness. In his *Vanity Fair* interview, he revealed that the idea for Neighborhood Film Company came about during a period of deep soul searching in his mid-20s when he was asking questions about his faith and seeking greater purpose in his life. Staub’s lightbulb moment came after meeting a homeless man who’d been formerly incarcerated. “Literally, like in a movie, I was lying in bed at night and this whole vision for Neighborhood Film Company came to me,” he said in the interview. Candidates for Neighborhood Film Company are identified through two Philadelphia-based federal judges with their own reentry program, and those selected are offered an apprenticeship.

Staub and members of the film team have also teamed up with several Philadelphia riders to create the Philadelphia Urban Riding Academy, a nonprofit that aims to maintain and preserve the history of Black Cowboys in Philadelphia.

The same month *Concrete Cowboy* released on Netflix, College of the Arts hosted a virtual event with Staub and students interested in his story and career path, creating a space for rich discussion and learning from an industry professional who is at the top of his craft.

## University Fundraising Gets Creative and Sees Significant Gains

The pandemic fast-tracked APU’s work to reimagine its fundraising efforts, focusing on key initiatives and finding new ways to thrive. The Office of University Advancement sought creative approaches to connect with university friends, including hosting new engagement opportunities virtually. Mission Spotlights introduced monthly donor conference calls and featured various APU programs and deans, faculty, students, and alumni, inviting time for questions and answers, providing space for robust conversations, and deepening relationships. Additionally, President Paul W. Ferguson stayed in close contact with APU’s major donors, communicating how APU continued to advance

its mission and specific ways donors could make a difference. From these efforts, APU received more than \$1.2 million to fund its Return to Campus Initiative, over \$1 million for a new endowed chair in Citizenship and Civic Virtue in the Honors College, and completion of funding for a new \$6.5 million West Campus Student Commons.



DINNER RALLY 2020

Rally with Us attracted an estimated 4,000 viewers and raised approximately \$1.3 million—far more than any previous Dinner Rally.

APU’s beloved Dinner Rally fundraising event celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> year and transitioned to a virtual Christmas program titled *Rally with Us: Celebrate the Gift*. A collaborative effort featured the vocal talent of Darnell Abraham '09, who performs as George Washington in *Hamilton*, the combined ensembles of APU’s School of Music, and faculty musicians. *Rally with Us* attracted an estimated 4,000 viewers and raised approximately \$1.3 million—far more than any previous Dinner Rally. And, APU’s annual Giving Day also pivoted to a virtual platform, more than doubling the number of donors and support from the previous year, generating more than \$300,000 in 24 hours from more than 1,100 donors.

Through Advancement’s collaboration with APU’s administrators, faculty, and staff, and utilizing the talents of students and alumni to share APU’s Christ-centered mission and vision with a broader audience than ever before, the 2020-21 fiscal year saw more than \$15 million committed for student scholarships, faculty and scholarship endowments, capital projects, and program support. The work continues.

## By the Numbers

**2:** The number of books APU Honors College students produced this year that were selected for commercial trade publication. Diana Pavlac Glycer, PhD, Honors College professor, served as project director for both standout Oxbridge volumes, *A Compass for Deep Heaven: Navigating the C.S. Lewis Ransom Trilogy* and *Journey Back Again: Reasons to Revisit Middle-earth*.

**5:** The national ranking of APU’s School of Nursing in College Factual’s 2021 Best Colleges for Nursing. They also identified APU in the top 1 percent of the country for nursing students pursuing a bachelor’s degree. This year’s ranking analyzed 723 colleges and universities that offer a bachelor’s degree in nursing, measuring more than 20 factors, including student diversity and salary of graduates.

**17:** The national ranking of APU’s Master of Arts in Music Industry (formerly Entrepreneurship) according to Best Value Schools in its Top Master’s in Music Programs in 2021. The programs were evaluated based on cost, faculty-to-student ratio, and graduation rates. APU’s Master of Arts in Music Industry is an interdisciplinary program that provides skills in music publishing, social media management, finance, entertainment law, and management.

**100:** *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* named APU as a Top 100 Degree Producer among the nation’s institutions that confer the most degrees to minority students. APU is ranked at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels.





### Advancing a Shared Mission to Help Foster Youth

In recognition of Foster Care Month, Azusa Pacific Seminary—in partnership with the Nehemiah Project LA and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services—hosted a virtual event in May titled Faith Leaders in Motion that convened leaders in the faith community to discuss investing in the lives of children and families impacted by the foster care system. It is through a shared mission to love and care for these children and youth, modeled by community and faith leaders, that real change will take place.

The conversation was moderated by Robert Duke, PhD, interim associate provost and former dean of the School of Theology and Azusa Pacific Seminary, and featured Albert Tate, pastor of Fellowship Church Monrovia and member of the APU Board of Trustees; Bishop Ed Smith, founder of the Nehemiah Project; and Ginger Pryor, chief deputy director of the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services (L.A. DCFS).

Los Angeles County alone has more than 33,000 foster youth in its care, many of whom have experienced abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The Nehemiah Project LA is a faith-based initiative that works to build greater awareness of the challenges faced by the nation's foster youth, building local networks of support while advocating for more effective and supportive policies to help this 'invisible' community develop self-sufficiency and a resilient future. L.A. DCFS works closely with other county departments and community partners to help care for young people and strengthen families in need, including those in the foster care system. L.A. DCFS partners with advocacy groups, faith-based community groups, immigrant rights advocates, and many others who share the goal of protecting children.

The Faith Leaders in Motion event encouraged participants and those in their spheres of influence to consider how they could make a difference in the lives of foster children and youth.

"Anyone with a passion for helping children should consider becoming a foster parent," said Duke, who is a foster and adoptive parent. "That call from the social worker one Friday changed our reality and blessed our lives forever—this is what life is truly about."

## Grants Advance Significant Research and Scholarship

### \$120,000

As part of *Renewal* Grand Initiative 1, Becoming a Model Christian University, the President's Scholarship Enhancement Grants Program is a faculty and student development opportunity, funded by donor-related property income, designed to enhance faculty scholarship that contributes to the growth and development of the home academic department. During each of the next three years, grants of up to \$30,000 each will be awarded during the fall semester to four faculty members and their departments who develop proposals that best demonstrate the following potential outcomes from receipt of this additional funding: increased ability to conduct publishable research or complete creative activity with students, innovative department approaches to faculty development as colleagues and collaborators, and/or innovative strategies to enhance APU's recognition as a premier Christian University.

### \$104,000

From Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford (SCIO), to Denise Edwards-Neff, PhD, principal investigator, interim dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor in the Department of Communication Studies, a grant that enables two APU early career faculty the unique opportunity to be Faculty Fellows and develop their research profiles with colleagues and mentors of leading research institutions. Sándor Volkán-Kacsó, PhD, Department of Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics, will collaborate with faculty at the University of Southern California, and Aisha Chen, PhD, Department of Engineering and Computer Science, will work with leading researchers at the Swartz Center for Computational Neuroscience, University of California, San Diego. The grant enhances on-campus and public engagement with science, religion, and societal concerns.

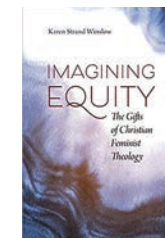
### \$49,471

From Lilly Endowment Inc, to Robert Duke, PhD, principal investigator, interim associate provost and former dean of the School of Theology and Azusa Pacific Seminary, the Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative will help facilitate faculty discussions about the changing role/distribution of theological education nationwide and how to engage these shifting realities. Azusa Pacific Seminary will engage thought leaders in the areas of mission statement development, organizational structure, and race/racism to help faculty coalesce around an abiding existential identity.

## Scholarship at Work



**Leading Small Groups That Thrive** (Zondervan, 2020) by Courtney W. Davis, PhD, associate professor, Department of Communication Studies and Ryan T. Hartwig and Jason A. Sniff  
*Leading Small Groups That Thrive* shows small group leaders, in a step-by-step process, how to plan for, launch, build, sustain, and multiply highly effective, transformational, healthy small groups where people grow spiritually together. The book focuses on five shifts that will take a group to the next level. Based on a large research study of small-group pastors, leaders, and members, *Leading Small Groups That Thrive* gives church leaders practical, straight-forward, and compelling guidance on how to build transformational groups complemented by real-life examples and data of successful small groups—and what they need—substantial, challenging insights and a data-driven model grounded in the latest research on church small groups. For more information, visit thrivinggroups.com.



**Imagining Equity: The Gifts of Christian Feminist Theology** (Wesley's Foundry Books, 2021) by Karen S. Winslow, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies, and director, Master of Arts in Theological Studies program

In this book, Winslow explains to Christians why feminist theology is needed for today's faith communities. She documents sexism in antiquity and the traditions and conventions that continue to influence perspectives on gender. Turning to the Scriptures, she demonstrates that feminist theology is scriptural, Wesleyan, and essential for women, children, and men throughout the world. The book focuses on gender equality in the church, providing an entry into discussions about the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and economic disparities among people groups.



**Subtle Man Loses His Day Job and Other Stories** (Resource Publications, 2020) by Thomas Allbaugh, PhD, professor, Department of English  
This collection of short stories features unexpected conclusions. A man returns from a failed trip to California convinced that he must act on the knowledge that subtlety is his superpower. An

English teacher discovers he now lacks language to communicate with his wife and family. A high school senior seeks escape from his parents' separation by joining a rock band, and he is not prepared for the unintended consequences that result. A young woman, with only so much time left in the getaway car to persuade her boyfriend that she belongs in his origin story, discovers the deeper story hidden therein. These are stories, some set in the Side Step Tavern or somewhere nearby, that readers might expect if they were to listen more closely to their neighbors and, perhaps, to their own hearts.



**Templates for Authorship: American Women's Literary Autobiography of the 1930s** (University of Massachusetts Press, 2021) by Windy Counsell Petrie, PhD, professor and chair, Department of English and Modern Languages

*Templates for Authorship* analyzes the market and cultural forces that created an unprecedented boom in American women's literary autobiography. Petrie considers 12 autobiographies from a diverse group of writers, ranging from modernists such as Gertrude Stein and Harriet Monroe to popular fiction writers like Edith Wharton and Edna Ferber, and lesser-known figures such as Grace King and Carolyn Wells. This accessible study contends that writing an autobiography offered each of these writers an opportunity to define and defend her own literary legacy.



**Disordered: The Holy Icon and Racial Myths** (Baylor University Press, 2021) by Jessica Wai-Fong Wong, PhD, associate professor, Department of Theology

Using the framework of icon theology, *Disordered* explores the iconic reading of race not only creating an opportunity for analysis, but also opening up a space for constructive christological intervention that confronts the troubled practices at the heart of racialized sight. Wong asserts that Jesus invites all people into a different way of seeing, one that shatters the distorting and destructive assumptions embedded within the dominant racial logic. By learning to see Jesus, the true icon of God, we learn to see rightly. And, when we see rightly, the order defining our identity and relationality is redeemed.



# For Such a Time as This

BY MADISON FOLKERS AND RACHEL WHITE

When the world shifts in a dramatic way, causing disruption in nearly every facet of life, it is the resilient, resourceful, and faithful who persevere and, ultimately, come through stronger and better prepared for the future. During the COVID-19 pandemic, APU students demonstrated fortitude and adaptability through their creativity, innovation, and service, all hallmarks of a rich liberal arts education. Through intentional experiences and learning, championed by caring faculty, students were equipped with problem-solving and critical-thinking skills and bolstered by a solid foundation of faith. These valuable competencies, practiced and reiterated throughout the entire university, enabled APU students, uniquely equipped for such a time as this, to courageously live out their calling.



PHOTO COURTESY OF APU SCHOOL OF NURSING

During the pandemic, nursing students served as contact tracers, conducted COVID-19 screenings and testing, and volunteered at vaccine clinics.

“Our faculty and students rose to meet the challenges the pandemic brought to higher education in inspiring and imaginative ways,” said Provost Rukshan Fernando, PhD. “The lessons we learned will benefit our university and our graduates for years to come.”

## SACRED SERVICE

As the cases increased, the focus quickly turned to the vital role of “frontline workers,” who selflessly cared for others besieged by the virus. APU nursing students embraced their vocation with compassion and dedication. “Throughout the pandemic, nursing students served as contact tracers, conducted COVID-19 screenings and testing, and volunteered at vaccine clinics throughout Southern California,” said Renee Pozza, PhD, RN, CNS, FNP-BC, senior associate dean of academic initiatives and innovation and professor. “When the surge took place last winter, our nursing students stepped up, working on the front lines in acute-care externships. They willingly gave up their Christmas break to serve.”

*Continued on page 14*



“When the surge took place last winter, our nursing students stepped up, working on the front lines in acute-care externships. They willingly gave up their Christmas break to serve.”

—Renee Pozza, PhD, RN, CNS, FNP-BC,  
Senior Associate Dean of Academic  
Initiatives and Innovation, Professor,  
School of Nursing



Graduate biotech students gained firsthand experience working with pharmaceutical companies developing the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics.



DANA ATTEBERY, MA '17

Continued from page 13

APU nursing students on the cusp of graduation knew that their first experiences as medical professionals would not be business as usual, but they remained committed to their patients and their field, despite the challenges that rocked the healthcare system. These experiences infused their on-campus education with invaluable depth and insight that will serve them—and their future patients—well. “Our primary goal was to help our senior nursing students graduate on time so they could join the workforce during this nursing shortage and help healthcare workers and patients in the midst of the pandemic,” said Beverly Kelley, MS, RN, CNS, CCRN, director of the Entry-Level Master’s in Nursing program at the Inland Empire Regional Campus and assistant professor.

This led the School of Nursing to partner with five local hospitals, turning their clinical placements into COVID-19 outreach programs for underserved populations. Nurses, known for their ability to heal physical pain, more often than not also provide emotional and spiritual comfort for those in their care. When the crisis made it impossible for patients’ loved ones to enter hospital rooms, even for those who were terminally ill and approaching the end of life, APU nursing students “stepped in and held the hands of people who were dying so they wouldn’t be alone,” Kelley said.

SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL  
AND APPLIED SCIENCES  
STUDENTS DELIVERED  
APPROXIMATELY  
100,000 CLINICAL  
SERVICE HOURS  
DURING THE PANDEMIC.



DANA ATTEBERY, MA '17

While nursing students were tending to physical needs, students studying social work and other behavioral sciences cared for those struggling under the weight of mental, emotional, and spiritual health issues. The prolonged global crisis presented a unique opportunity to connect students and community members while adapting to a changing mental health landscape. Embracing new technology, social work students developed “a whole new skill set in assessing and meeting needs,” said social work professor and department chair Mary Rawlings, PhD.

To reach the elderly who were in isolation given their particular vulnerability and COVID-19 restrictions, undergraduate students created videos for convalescent home residents, with topics ranging from exercise tips to art to wellness advice. Other students explored the potential of technology to help them care for local children and teens, ensuring that APU’s most effective community outreach programs continued to thrive, including Cougar Pals, which connects APU students to middle-school-aged youth in area schools. Unable to meet in person, students adapted quickly by holding their weekly meetings with their mentees virtually.

“Even with all of the restrictions in place,” said Robert Welsh, PhD, ABPP, dean of the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences, “our students delivered approximately 100,000 clinical service

“Biotechnology is one of the fastest-growing industries in the nation, and I am pleased that we offer this program with a Christian perspective to help meet society’s needs.”

—Louise Ko Huang, PhD  
Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
and Director, Center for Research in Science



DANA ATTEBERY, MA '17

hours during the pandemic and helped our local population cope with this once-in-a-lifetime crisis.”

Students received the support of local and federal government agencies, which deemed social workers essential, allowing approximately one-third of APU students studying social work to continue in-person service with the homeless, at substance abuse treatment centers, and with other agencies, including the Department of Children and Family Services.

The early months of the pandemic saw sharp spikes in mental health issues in children and adolescents. Emergency rooms reported a 24% increase in mental-health-related visits in children ages 5-11. Responding to this crisis within a crisis, one graduate student developed resources for children to engage in virtual therapy, ensuring access to mental health professionals in the midst of the pandemic. Another Master of Social Work student, Dominique Salido, MSW '21, supported the elderly by creating informational brochures on telehealth, ensuring continuity of medical care and attention. “I had to adapt my capstone project to best meet the needs of older adults during the pandemic,” Salido said. The challenges she faced as a social work student resulted in personal growth, “my self-awareness, self-confidence, and compassion for serving others increased this year.”

#### ETHICAL RESEARCH

The pandemic also shined a light on the contributions of scientists and researchers who worked around the clock to find solutions and treatments. It was this dedication that pushed science students and faculty to the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Graduate biotech students gained firsthand experience developing the COVID-19 vaccine alongside biotechnology giants, as well as assisting in the creation of new COVID-19 therapeutics with Gilead Sciences (Remdesivir). They used a process that David Dyer, PhD, executive director and professor of biotechnology, said will “represent a way to deal with cancer in the near future.” Much more than medicine and experiments, Dyer believes that APU’s MS in Biotechnology program “models how an ethical, Christian worldview fits into the science world. God created science and medicine for the benefit of people. Science blesses people and saves lives.”

“Biotechnology is one of the fastest-growing industries in the nation, and I am pleased that we

offer this program with a Christian perspective to help meet society’s needs,” said Louise Ko Huang, PhD, assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and director of the Center for Research in Science. She pointed to the same forward thinking that drives the field of biotechnology fueling other departments on campus. “COVID-19 is a science problem,” Huang said. “We can use this pandemic as a case study in our science classes. It represents the ultimate culmination of how modern science works.”

#### INSPIRED CREATION

As the sciences were challenged to innovate, the arts were compelled to reinvent their craft. Theater came to a screeching halt when COVID-19 arrived. The last time the theater’s actors were forced off stage was after the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York, and without Broadway as a North Star, theater students at APU went off script. In true the-show-must-go-on fashion, the Department of Theater Arts adapted to the circumstances, enlisting the help of industry professionals, including professional virtual designer Matt Hill from HBO and technical director Gavin Wyrick, to continue producing shows, as well as Frank Minano, production manager who also serves as the artistic director for Inland Valley Repertory Theatre.

Faculty became students once again, learning new technology and then teaching it to students. The department sent students light and sound equipment in the mail and instructed them via Zoom on how

Continued on page 16



Theater students produced and performed in a virtual production of *Pack of Lies*, a psychological spy thriller set during the Cold War.



PHOTO COURTESY OF APU THEATER ARTS

Continued from page 15

to properly set it up and use it for recording. Despite the obstacles, the department still managed to produce four feature-film-style shows, including *Big Fish: The Musical*, *Winters' Tale*, *Pack of Lies*, and *New Works Play Festival*.

Senior Industry Showcases, a cornerstone of an artist's college experience, also stayed on track—albeit a bit unconventionally. The *Hollywood Reporter* highlighted APU's web-based Bachelor of Fine Arts showcase, holding them up as a model for other universities. But the department did not stop there. They rented out the Cinelounge in Los Angeles, which allowed casting agents to watch senior showcase drive-in-movie style. These innovations opened the doors for APU students to perform for a much wider audience and trained them for the future of virtual theater.

From street artists caked with chalk dust to the masters whose gold-plated names shimmer in the Louvre's gallery lights, from Lin-Manuel Miranda to Ang Lee, artists are the world's litmus tests for cultural honesty, courage, and resilience. "When times are difficult, the artist leans in," said Jill Brennan-Lincoln, MA, chair and associate professor of the Department of Theater Arts. "We

"WHEN TIMES ARE DIFFICULT, THE ARTIST LEANS IN. WE STEP INTO THE UNCOMFORTABLE AND REFLECT WHAT IS HAPPENING. ART REFLECTS LIFE."

—Jill Brennan-Lincoln, MA Chair, Associate Professor, Department of Theater Arts

step into the uncomfortable and reflect what is happening. Art reflects life." Modeling that truism, theater students wrote a web series titled *Remotely Yours*, which took a look at the awkward turn that life and dating have taken since the arrival of the virus. Students also produced original material for the virtual New Works Festival.

APU's choral programs seized opportunities to reach new audiences, lift the voices of others, and speak on meaningful matters. "We had to dig in and reinvent our program to reflect the times. Moving forward, I know that we will never take in-person rehearsals for granted again," said Michelle Jensen, MM, an associate professor and conductor of the Chamber Singers. Based on the theme "Hear Every Voice," the APU Chamber Singers explored the tragedy of oppression and used their skills and talent to broadcast relevant stories through music and song. They connected virtually with a choral group in the Philippines through an international choir competition called INTERKULTUR. The two conductors and two choirs collaborated to sing a song in the Basque language, capturing second-place honors.

The Chamber Singers also worked with industry professionals and rising-star vocalist Jarret Johnson, performing a virtual rendition of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, also known as the Black Anthem, even earning a Grammy nomination for their version. Contributing to the theme, composer Brian Sidders '21 wrote a song for APU's choir titled "Hear My Voice," featuring 20 languages.

"For them, it was powerful to sing the music of their community....For other singers, it was powerful to hear the stories and sing the music of their peers' communities. There was a definite purpose for our music this year, beyond artistic beauty. That purpose kept us going during a season when the inability to sing together in real-time could have so swiftly extinguished our passion."

—Brian Sidders '21, composer for APU

"Our focus on the music of oppressed peoples was very impactful for the members of our ensemble," said Sidders. "We have a diverse group of singers with different backgrounds; several of them and their communities have endured oppression. For them, it was powerful to sing the music of their community



(or a community with similar struggles). For other singers, it was powerful to hear the stories and sing the music of their peers' communities. There was a definite purpose for our music this year, beyond artistic beauty. That purpose kept us going during a season when the inability to sing together in real-time could have so swiftly extinguished our passion."

Though the landscape of the arts will likely look different moving forward, one thing remains constant. "Our technology and tools are

evolving," said Stephen Johnson, DMA, dean of the College of the Arts, "yet our making a difference in the lives of students to make a difference in our culture for Christ is unchanged."

On the stage, in the classroom, and on the streets; at bedsides, in laboratories, and in hospitals—APU students faced the COVID-19 pandemic with a God-given spirit of power, love, and wisdom. At every turn, they embraced the challenges and leaned into the hard work of learning and serving well. Throughout it all, these students have gleaned an invaluable truth—they have the strength, ability, and faith to answer the call and become the scholars and leaders this world so desperately needs.

Madison Folkers is a freelance writer living in Sioux City, Iowa. madisonfolkers08@gmail.com

Rachel White '97, MA '17, is the Executive Director of Strategic Communication in the Division of Strategic Communication and Engagement at Azusa Pacific University. rewhite@apu.edu

The APU Chamber Singers partnered with artist Jarret Johnson on a Grammy-nominated version of "Lift Every Voice."



PHOTO COURTESY OF APU CHAMBER SINGERS





# Embracing *Renewal*

BY ANDREW BARTON

Since its launch in September 2020, APU's seven-year Strategic Plan—*Renewal: Strengthening Our Capacity for Cultivating Christ-Centered Scholars and Leaders*—has shaped the focus of the university with its three-phase approach to Refocus (2020-21), Rebuild (2021-22), and Renew (2022-27). Despite myriad challenges during the 2020-21 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first nine months of implementation brought remarkable gains in delivering on APU's educational mission with excellence, addressing issues of equity and justice, and creating a sustainable financial enterprise. Considerable university-wide collaboration, new external funding sources, financial targets met, and student success in a year of imposed remote learning highlight meaningful progress toward the aspiration for APU to be the premier Christian university of choice for our culture and times.

## Strong Collaboration and Engagement

Resulting from broad community engagement in Fall 2020 to better understand the five Grand Initiatives of *Renewal*, 275 faculty, staff, and students now serve on 18 working groups. These groups assess and make recommendations for improvement in key areas of focus for 2020-22. Important institution-wide issues include communicating our institutional identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; student and employee enrollment and hiring, retention, and success; academic program growth and alignment; diversity, equity, and inclusion; financial sustainability in a postpandemic environment; and much more. Active involvement across the institution reflects APU's commitment to become a more transformational and collaborative organization in harnessing the expertise, interest, and leadership of our faculty, staff, and students. This university-wide collaboration reflects an overall commitment to seeing the plan move forward to positively impact the delivery of our Christ-centered academic mission.

## Early Fundraising and Financial Success

A byproduct of this clear and compelling plan has been early success in raising external funding for *Renewal* priorities. One such priority includes growing the university's endowment to enhance student scholarships, faculty research, and campus facilities. Already this year, \$5.18 million in gifts and commitments have been secured for *Renewal* endowment projects, including \$1 million from the Fletcher Jones Foundation to provide seed funding for a new Endowed Chair in Citizenship and Civic Virtue. APU's prestigious national R2 Carnegie research designation was enhanced by a \$650,000 National Science Foundation grant award to enhance engagement of first-generation students in the STEM fields, while \$120,000 founded the President's Scholarship Enhancement Grants Program for new faculty research. Committed to meeting the need of APU's increasing commuter student population, the university announced \$6.5 million in private donations dedicated to a comprehensive renovation of space on West Campus.

In addition to these remarkable strides, APU made significant progress in meeting all operating financial and budget targets for 2020 amid the COVID pandemic and closed campuses. All nonacademic divisions engaged in a university rightsizing initiative by June 30, leading to a reallocation of \$14 million to the university's operational priorities. The academy's rightsizing and realignment efforts are slated for completion by Fall 2022. This challenging work will ensure APU effectively allocates its resources for current needs while attending to financial sustainability in the future.

## Remote Learning and Community Well-Being

APU faculty, staff, and students adapted admirably to the unexpected impact of a global pandemic on the face-to-face learning environment. Delivering on APU's core academic mission in a safe, responsible manner was foundational to the first year of *Renewal* implementation. In a year marked by agility and adaptability, APU invested \$1.3 million in expanded hyflex technology in classrooms and enhancements to the remote learning management system and mobile platforms. In addition, \$1.2 million was raised to establish a COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine Center on the Azusa campus in support of a year of remote learning and in anticipation of a hopeful return to in-person learning in Fall 2021. To help attract and retain the best employees, APU launched a new flexible-time-off policy for eligible employees, as a commitment to employee well-being and leadership in provision of contemporary benefits in the higher education sector.

## Commitment to Our Mission

*Renewal* seeks to advance APU as a university of impactful Christian scholars and leaders characterized by best practice of the highest quality. In light of unprecedented challenges in 2020-21, many would understand if it got off to a slow start. To the contrary, just nine months into a seven-year plan, the level of commitment to Christ-centered academic excellence is strong, the sense of anticipation for a bright future is high, and the recognition of God's provision is clear. A spirit of hope and *Renewal* pervades APU.

To learn more about *Renewal* and its highlights and distinctives, as well as news and updates, visit [apu.edu/renewal/](https://apu.edu/renewal/).

Andrew Barton, EdD, is vice president for strategic planning and mission integration at Azusa Pacific University. [abarton@apu.edu](mailto:abarton@apu.edu)

In a year marked by agility and adaptability,

## APU invested \$1.3M

in expanded hyflex technology in classrooms and enhancements to the remote learning management system and mobile platforms.





PHOTOS BY NATHAN INGALLS, MA '18, AND LON HARDING

# Remembering Jon R. Wallace

BY NATHAN FOSTER

To honor the legacy that Jon Wallace left behind at Azusa Pacific University is to remember the ways in which he impacted the lives of students.

As a reporter for *ZU News*, APU's student newspaper, I had the privilege to interview Jon twice. In just two conversations, he made an indelible impact on my life.

When I heard of his passing, I thought back to those interviews. During both, it felt as though he was interviewing me instead of the other way around.

As a freshman, I had summoned up all the courage I could muster to ask my former editor-in-chief if I could take the "J. Dubs" story. I was a sports reporter, but I knew I wanted to be more.

I remember waking up that morning and chugging two cups of coffee because I didn't want to look tired in front of the president. Then I got super jittery and began to worry that I wouldn't be able to sit still for the 30-minute interview.

When I first walked into Jon's office, he shared that he had read some of my work. I was surprised, honored, and relieved all at once, and I forgot my other concerns. Jon had that effect on people. He knew that as a leader, it helps to live like a servant and not be bigger than anyone else in the room.

He broke the tension by making fun of me, a rookie reporter interviewing the most important man on campus.

"So I've read some of your articles," he said. "It looks like you cover mostly sports. They sent the sports guy to interview me, huh?"

"Yes, sir. I do write mostly sports stories. But I also cover hard news and politics and I—"

"Can't take a joke?" he laughed.

I laughed, too, realizing I had just been roasted by the president of my university. The interview quickly improved as Jon responded enthusiastically to my questions, using the opportunity to encourage students to engage politically.

Jon wasn't afraid to speak his mind. He joined a number of Christian college presidents who sent a letter to the White House, concerning an executive order on immigration:

"Many in our diverse communities come to our campuses on the shoulders of immigrants. Indeed, we all share pages in that American heritage of welcoming the vulnerable, extending hospitality, and inviting participation in the great experiment of these United States. ... Scripture calls us to care for the poor, the orphan, the widow, and the refugee. It also urges us that we work with respect for the authorities of our nation with fidelity to our Christian identity. We contend that every person bears the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect."

"Students need to express their voice and encourage conversation with their friends around issues that matter," he said.

During his final years as president, Jon endured multiple bouts of cancer. At the end of the 2017-18 school year, he announced his decision to retire in a morning chapel.

Thousands of students and alumni felt the shock of that announcement. Jon had led APU for nearly 20 years as president, and was as enthusiastic as ever when you bumped into him on campus. He still loved talking with students and meeting new friends around Cougar Walk, but after much discussion and contemplation with his wife of 45 years, Gail, and his family, he knew the time was right.

When I heard he was retiring, I wanted the chance to speak with him again. This time I was accompanied by my friend Brandon Rodriguez, the newspaper's sports editor.

Jon welcomed us into his office and proceeded to roast me for the second time in two interviews. As they both laughed at me, I began contemplating angles to take for the story, the biggest of my career.

How do you capture someone's legacy?

Is it the impact they had on an institution? Is it in the memory of the family they are blessed to call their own? Or is it in the advice dispensed from one generation to the next?

That day, Jon told me something that had taken his whole life for him to truly learn. He had worked at the university for more than four decades, in a variety of areas, including the cafeteria, campus security, the bookstore, and the print shop. Many career changes led Jon to the position of dean of students and eventually the presidency.

"I stayed at Azusa because I was continuously chosen," he said. "When you're chosen, it means that someone believes in you enough to let you fail."

This stayed with me as I experienced the truth of his words firsthand. Just months later, I was chosen to lead the news staff of *ZU News*— something that I would fail at time and time again. Each failure was daunting. Each failure was bearable.

I knew my faculty advisor still believed in me. I knew my staff wasn't going to give up on me. I knew this because of what Jon told me.

I bet Jon failed, too. But that didn't stop him from making an ineffable impression on thousands of students. That didn't stop him from leading each Candela in the fall and speaking at Chapel each year. That didn't stop a custodian from becoming president.

Talking to Jon was like talking to an old friend. He embodied true servant leadership, a feat most are unable to achieve. You didn't work beneath him; you worked alongside him.

In the interview, Jon talked a lot about his faith, including his life verse, Galatians 2:20 (NRSV): "And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

It is easy to be lost in sorrow in the wake of his passing, but I find solace in the thought of Jon being up there, making bread and greeting others with his trademark salutation.

*Shalom*, Jon; go with God.

Nathan Foster is a freelance writer and teacher living in Nashville, Tennessee. nate.k.foster@gmail.com



To honor Jon's remarkable life, leadership, and contribution to APU, the Wallace family established the **JON R. WALLACE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** with a significant initial gift. Consistent with Jon's deep commitment to students and their ability to attend APU, this endowment will assist students with financial need who are committed to making a difference in the world through their APU education. The Wallace family requests that financial gifts in Jon's memory be designated to this scholarship.

[apu.edu/wallace-scholarship/](http://apu.edu/wallace-scholarship/)

"And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

—Galatians 2:20 (NRSV)



# Selom Mawugbe: Present Destination

BY NATHAN FOSTER

**Selom Mawugbe '20 learned the value of hard work at an early age from his father, Semanu.** An immigrant from Ghana, his father taught him how to do things for himself, inculcating an industrious spirit in his son. On the other hand, his mother, Eugenia, taught him how to care for others and be patient. The young Mawugbe applied these lessons to basketball, and combined with his natural physical talent, began to thrive.

Mawugbe grew up in Lancaster, California. Although a talented player at Canyon High School, Mawugbe was not heavily recruited. Justin Leslie '00, Azusa Pacific University's men's basketball coach from 2007-19, saw Mawugbe's potential.

"There are few that I have seen in this game who have truly earned every step of their development. Selom has worked for every skill and accomplishment while always putting his teammates first," Leslie said. "When I was recruiting Selom, I told him that it was specifically to break my old blocking records, and he did just that."

Mawugbe felt drawn to APU because of the basketball program's reputation for excellent coaches

and overall player development. He also was drawn to the university for its academics, deciding to major in biochemistry.

"Selom is the perfect blend of a scholar and an athlete," said Peter Bond '08, men's head basketball coach. Mawugbe's commitment to his studies and his sport made him a well-rounded player who grew quickly. During his freshman year, he appeared in 29 games and led the team in blocks with 40. The next year, he took over a starting role and more than doubled his blocking output with 89, ranking fifth in the nation in blocks. In his junior campaign, Mawugbe broke his own single-season blocks record with 107, second in the nation. His overall play also

improved as he averaged a career-high 11.8 points and 8 rebounds per game, earning PacWest Defender of the Year and First-Team All-PacWest Honors.

"I don't think I'd be anywhere near the basketball player I am today if I wouldn't have gone to APU. The coaches saw something in me and were able to bring it out," he said.

During his senior season, Mawugbe took his play to new heights. The 6'10" forward paced the team in scoring, field goal percentage, blocks, and rebounding, and he was named an All-American. He helped lead the Cougars to a 25-4 regular-season record and a year-end No. 6 ranking in NCAA Division II. As Mawugbe prepared to take the Cougars on a deep postseason run, the world began shutting down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Professional sports leagues canceled or postponed their seasons, including the NCAA calling off the entire March Madness tournament.

"That was really tough; we had been working toward it all year," Mawugbe said. "But it was also a strengthening experience to go through that with such a close team. It really emphasized what we had felt all year in terms of how close we were, not only on the court but off the court as well. What we were able to achieve together wasn't the most important thing; it was the relationships we made through all of that."

Legendary CBS2 sports reporter Jim Hill, who had been following Mawugbe's college career, came to campus to interview him about his season being cut short. Hill began the segment asking Mawugbe how it felt to be the best basketball player in Division II. Always humble, he deflected the praise and instead focused on those who had helped him along the way. "Without my team, without this school, without my family's support, and most importantly, without God, none of this would have been possible," he shared.

After the cameras turned off and the gym lights went out, Mawugbe returned home and the wait began.

For months, Mawugbe lived in uncertainty. He held tight to his faith. During that time, he worked part time at a Lowe's home improvement store, praying that he could resume his basketball journey one day. Those prayers were answered on January 11, 2021, when the Santa Cruz Warriors selected Mawugbe with the 23<sup>rd</sup> pick of the NBA G-League Draft.

"It was a huge moment of shock, surprise, and gratefulness. When they first contacted me, it was only two days prior to the draft. I really didn't know



**"Without my team, without this school, without my family's support, and most importantly, without God, none of this would have been possible."**

**-Selom Mawugbe '20**

how serious they were about picking me," Mawugbe said. "Santa Cruz's GM called me to let me know it was official. It was surreal. I was just happy to be in that position after waiting for so long after the cancellation of my senior season. A lot of waiting, a lot of praying and preparing. I was grateful to see the outcome."

Within weeks, he was playing for the team in the G-League's shortened bubble season. Mawugbe played in 12 games, averaging 5.3 points, 4.4 rebounds, and 2.5 blocks per game. Though the season was short, Mawugbe said he learned so much playing alongside well-known NBA players like Jordan Poole and Jeremy Lin.

Although he doesn't know if he'll be on the Warriors' roster again next season, Mawugbe isn't worried about that. After getting through last year, he knows he can overcome anything with the support of his friends, family, and faith.

Mawugbe has been working on rehabbing an injury he sustained late in the season. He's spent a lot of time thinking about the advice he received and how he can apply it to his life.

"The biggest lesson I learned was from Lin, just to enjoy the process and the journey, not just focusing on the destination. Sometimes, especially as athletes, we can get hyperfocused on getting to that next level—you lose out on the greatness of the present," Mawugbe said. "For my time in the G-League, I'm just focused on making good relationships with the staff and my teammates, and just making the most of my time there, having fun with what I do every day."

**Nathan Foster** is a freelance writer and teacher living in Nashville, Tennessee. [nate.k.foster@gmail.com](mailto:nate.k.foster@gmail.com)



## G-LEAGUE STATS

**23<sup>rd</sup>** pick of the G League draft by the Santa Cruz Warriors

**5.3** points per game

**4.4** rebounds per game

**2.5** blocks per game

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS AND APU ATHLETICS



# Cougars

## SPORTS ROUNDUP



### Coach Kausrud's Memory Honored at NCATA National Championship

The National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association (NCATA) dedicated the 2021 National Championship tournament to the memory of APU's beloved Coach Colleen Kausrud. The honor included a presentation of the 2021 NCATA Coach of the Year Award to Colleen's family during semifinal action at the Ferrell Center in Waco, Texas. Kausrud passed away in August 2020.

One of the four original coaches in collegiate acrobatics & tumbling, Kausrud pioneered a new sport for women. She led the Azusa Pacific University acrobatics & tumbling program

since its inception in 2010, in addition to other coaching stints in cheerleading and fitness throughout her career.

"While this year has been a special one for our acrobatics & tumbling team, Colleen's presence is greatly missed," said Azusa Pacific Director of Athletics Gary Pine. "We are incredibly thankful that the NCATA is dedicated to honoring and celebrating Colleen's legacy, not just this year, but for years to come. Few are able to make an impact in the ways in which Colleen did throughout her life, and it has been encouraging to hear and see the ways in which she truly influenced so many people across many different areas."

During the development of acrobatics & tumbling, Kausrud supported policy and sport administration that would result in fair, safe competition for all participants. At Azusa Pacific, she created a team culture centered on servant leadership that empowered her student-athletes to find success on the mat, in the classroom, and in their lives after college.

In honor of Colleen, the NCATA has added The Colleen Kausrud Leadership Award to the regular-season annual awards presented at the NCATA National Championships. The Colleen Kausrud Leadership Award will be awarded to a senior student-athlete who exemplifies servant leadership throughout her career.

### Women's Basketball Advances to the Elite Eight



Azusa Pacific women's basketball made a deep run to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Division II Tournament for the second consecutive season.

The Cougars finished 2021 with a 12-5 record, earning the PacWest Southern California Pod Championship and the West Region Championship. Azusa Pacific is expected to return nearly its entire roster in 2021-22.

### Baseball Team Again Reaches West Regional



Azusa Pacific baseball won the PacWest Southern California Pod and clinched a postseason berth as a result of dominating the PacWest AQ Pod Series. It was the fourth consecutive and fifth out of the last six seasons the Cougars have been in the NCAA Division II West Regional. The Cougars were the

West Region's top seed for the second straight postseason, but their 2021 campaign came to an end in the regional. They finished the season with a 33-10 record.

### Women's Track and Field Makes History



The 2021 Azusa Pacific women's track and field team became the first Cougar Athletics program to win an NCAA national championship, as head coach Jack Hoyt and his team finished

with 81 points in three days of competition at the NCAA Division II Track & Field Championships in Michigan. On the final day of the championships, three Cougars were individual national champions: Mechaela Hyacinth (100 meters), Jaylah Walker (400 hurdles), and Chin Agina (high jump). Three other athletes finished in the top eight in their respective events, helping the Cougars hold off host Grand Valley State, which had taken a lead of 63-41 early on the final day of competition. In total, the Cougars had 13 All-American performances at the championships, including five athletes who achieved All-American status in two events: Jenny Sandoval, Hyacinth, Walker, Nicole Warwick, and Elle Alexander. This NCAA national title follows four NAIA national titles (2003, 2004, 2007, 2010) that came prior to the transition to NCAA Division II in 2013.



### Welcome to the APU Alumni Community

As university alumni, you are valued members of the Azusa Pacific community. The APU Office of Alumni Engagement offers resources to assist your personal and professional growth, including virtual and in-person events, connecting through our seasonal newsletters and active social media channels, engaging on the APU Connect alumni networking platform, receiving vibrant benefits, discounts, and privileges, and discovering new classroom experiences through the Alumni Academy YouTube channel. Please visit [apu.edu/alumni](http://apu.edu/alumni) for more information.

## The Benefits of Transferring: 3 Reasons You Shouldn't Wait

Recognizing that the needs of transfer students are complex, Azusa Pacific University offers multiple transfer pathways, including options for students seeking a traditional undergraduate experience on the university's main campus. For students needing more flexibility to juggle their existing life commitments, studying online or at a regional campus are other popular pathways at APU. Each path includes individualized support the entire way.



Here are three reasons why you shouldn't wait to start the transfer process.

### 1. You Can Prepare for an Evolving Job Market

Economic recovery is under way and the number of available jobs is growing. Transferring puts you in the best position to finish your degree and be ready to enter or advance in your field. APU ensures that you can graduate on-time by guaranteeing availability for the classes you need to graduate.

Transferring sooner also means you spend more time learning from the faculty at APU who are experts in their fields and eager to share with you the knowledge and connections they've acquired. You may even have the opportunity to conduct research under the mentorship of a professor.

"Faculty are engaged with prospective students right from the start," said Bonnie Nakashimada, senior director of recruitment for APU's Graduate and Professional Admissions and Regional Campuses. "They are happy to meet with you and listen and help figure out where

you're headed on your journey. That sort of advising from a professor in your field of interest can be so valuable and you can access it before you even apply."

### 2. You Can Secure Financial Aid Early

The sooner you declare your intention to transfer to a new school, the sooner you can begin connecting with the right contacts at your new university who will help you get the best financial aid for which you qualify. Peter Lujan, assistant director of transfer recruitment, noted that APU connects transfer students with financial aid specialists as soon as possible to help them understand their aid options.

"Our goal is to give transfer students confidence in knowing they have all the information they need to make a decision about joining the APU community," Lujan said. "When you apply early, you receive the admission decision and then have plenty of time to get connected to the community and resources, including help reviewing your financial aid offers, guidance to understand exactly how your prior coursework will transfer over, getting academic or career counseling, and more."

### 3. You Can Find a Sense of Belonging

Taking steps to transfer now presents a unique opportunity to bond with fellow students who all have a shared experience of finding their way into the college classroom following a period of upheaval. Chances are good that you'll be enrolled with many others who are in similar academic (and personal) situations, or who offer unique perspectives from which you can learn and grow.

"As colleges return to in-person learning, you will start back up with students who are in your same situation, and that can actually foster a sense of community and camaraderie," Nakashimada noted. "At APU's main campus or at a regional campus, you're going to find a diverse group of people who are all excited to take another step forward on their educational journey, and being around like-minded students will help you get to your end goal of getting your degree."

APU offers a range of pathways to support transfer students. Would you like to learn more about transferring to APU? Visit [apu.edu/transfer](http://apu.edu/transfer) to learn about all of the benefits of transferring to APU, and view transfer plans designed to ease your transition from your current school and know exactly which courses carry over.



# Journey of Faith

BY MEGAN WILHELM



**Beneath the glare of the bright lights standing on the world's most famous stage with television cameras capturing every moment and celebrity judges looking on,** APU senior Ashlyn (Ash) Ruder '21 managed to transform her *American Idol* audition into an intimate moment between a daughter and her father with an original song that brought everyone in the room to tears, captured viewers' hearts, and garnered a Golden Ticket to Hollywood.

"My dad is the source of the inspiration for my music," she shared on the show. Ruder, who studies business management and worship music, has been passionate about singing and playing guitar and piano since she was a child growing up in Turlock, California. Yet, it was her

husband, Dylan '19, who submitted her audition for the *American Idol* casting call.

"I didn't really think anything of it until it started getting serious: casting directors, producers, and agents were trying to reach me to hear more. This eventually led to the opportunity to be on the show to audition for Katy Perry, Luke Bryan, and Lionel Richie," said Ruder.

The long road to the *American Idol* stage is different from what viewers might expect, with contestants facing multiple preliminary rounds of auditions. "There were three nontelevised prior auditions, along with several meetings contestants attended before getting the chance to showcase their voices for the celebrity judges. So much work goes into the process behind the scenes. For my audition to have even been shown on national television is a huge blessing!"

**"That week in Ojai was not only amazing because I walked away with a Golden Ticket to Hollywood, but because I also walked away with a proud father smiling ear to ear."** –Ash Ruder '21

Besides the usual nerves brought about by an audition, Ruder also experienced a tremendous flood of emotions that came with singing an original song to her father, who struggled with various forms of addiction throughout her childhood. Her heartfelt performance inspired an outpouring of support on social media by instant fans who were touched by the moment. Her audition received more than 2.2 million views on YouTube and 6.8 million views on Facebook.

"The auditions were held the week of my 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday and my dad's 50<sup>th</sup>," Ruder said. "It hit me that not only sharing this song, but also about my Dad's emotional and beautiful road to recovery, would be the greatest honor, and best birthday gift, that I could bestow upon him as his daughter. That week in Ojai was not only amazing because I walked away with a Golden Ticket to Hollywood, but because I also walked away with a proud father smiling ear to ear."

Ruder's story has touched others with similar struggles who reached out to share their stories with her. "It's very cool to see how our story is encouraging people and helping people heal," Ruder said in an interview with the *Modesto Bee*.

As an APU student, Ruder pointed to the valuable experiences and lessons the university has provided that helped her through this process. "So much about Azusa Pacific University, both practically and spiritually, has equipped me to be the storytelling, confident, yet humbled musician I am today," she said. "APU has blessed me with wonderful mentors such as Dr. Stephen Martin, a man who has always given me spiritual and practical wisdom; Professor Laura Pitts, whose grace and office hours have made it possible for me to obtain a degree while in pursuit of an exciting career; and Professor Traci Birge, whose love for exploring female leadership in Scripture has emboldened my confidence in who I am as a woman who walks with Christ. Lastly, the late Lavone Barnett-Seetal's passion for gospel music enriched my love for music's healing qualities."

APU is also the place Ruder met her husband. "Had I not attended this school, I wouldn't have met Dylan. I am really grateful to APU for allowing our paths to cross."

Throughout this process, Ruder spoke about the importance of her faith in Christ, saying her faith brought her to this point. Ruder is confident in the Lord's ultimate plan for her.



"It is so easy to navigate through the journey of *American Idol* in fear, but as a Christian, I turned that fear into faith. Faith that if it's within God's divine will, He will carry me through the show. And in the case that He doesn't, I know He will give me something even better!"

While reflecting on her *American Idol* experience, Ruder said that she enjoyed making new friends and being surrounded by other talented musicians. "The journey really pushed me outside of my comfort zone and has shown me that this music business is about embracing who you are."

Ruder's *American Idol* journey ended after Hollywood Week, but the song that won the hearts of so many will soon be available on all streaming platforms. For updates, follow @ashruder on Instagram.

**Megan Wilhelm '23** is a journalism and honors humanities double-major and serves as the assistant news and lifestyle editor of *ZU News*.

**HER AUDITION RECEIVED MORE THAN 2.2 MILLION VIEWS ON YOUTUBE AND 6.8 MILLION VIEWS ON FACEBOOK.**



# Dignity Coconuts: Creating a Thriving Community

BY ABIGAIL REED



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIK '03 AND BET '04 OLSON

**Motorbikes rev their engines, neighbors greet one another, and roosters crow against the gentle lull of the ocean**—a new day dawns in a remote Filipino village. Connie, a local single mother, begins her job as a sanitation employee, proudly earning an income so her sons can attend high school. Nearby, Jorge hugs his wife and three children close before heading to work—his days of traveling to faraway cities to earn money are behind him. In the surrounding countryside, a family starts their day on the coconut farm, finally receiving fair pay for their quality produce. These individuals, plus hundreds more, have had their lives impacted by Dignity Coconuts, a locally operated coconut oil business created and led by Erik Olson '03, President, Bet Olson '04, Lead Ideator, and her father, Stephen Freed, CEO.

“Those in poverty often describe their situation as more than just a lack of physical resources; to them, poverty is feeling trapped, hopeless and ashamed,” said Erik. “Dignity Coconuts aims to break this cycle, restoring hope and dignity.”

Erik and Bet’s work with Dignity Coconuts can be traced back to their time at Azusa Pacific University, where they met. As they attended classes, worshipped in chapel, and engaged with the community, God grew their hearts for those in need.

“My time at APU deepened my desire to not only spread the Good News, but to also bring transformative change in physical lives and communities around the world,” said Bet, a Christian ministries major.

Following graduation, the Olsons returned to APU as an engaged couple to lead an undergraduate Action Team, traveling to Athens to work with victims of human trafficking. On those streets at midnight, handing out hot coffee and befriending endangered women, God stretched their hearts in a new way.

“Many of these women came from abject poverty, received false promises, and were utterly trapped,” said Erik. “The root issue could often be traced back to lack of jobs and opportunities.”

When Bet’s father, also burdened by the worldwide problem of human trafficking, set out to create a business that would provide safe and fair jobs to women in poverty, Erik and Bet jumped at the chance

**“My time at APU deepened my desire to not only spread the Good News, but to also bring transformative change in physical lives and communities around the world.”**

—Bet Olson '04

to get involved. At the time, Bicol was accessible by motorbikes only, the nearest hospital was three hours away, and rain made travel often impossible. What kind of large business could possibly thrive in such conditions? Coconuts.

More than 86,000 coconut trees span the surrounding area, most owned by small farmers living in poverty and burdened by mounting debt. Dignity Coconuts stepped in, providing fair partnership and beginning a life-changing coconut oil business.

Today, their plant employs 121 individuals and partners with 156 farming families. All operations are locally led by Filipinos, empowering community members to run a thriving business. Connie, Jorge, and so many others work together to create thousands of jars of certified organic coconut oil, available on Amazon and in 1,200 stores across the United States. Each jar proudly bears the signature of a local employee—and each name holds a story of hope that can be found on Dignity Coconuts’ website: [dignitycoconuts.com](http://dignitycoconuts.com)

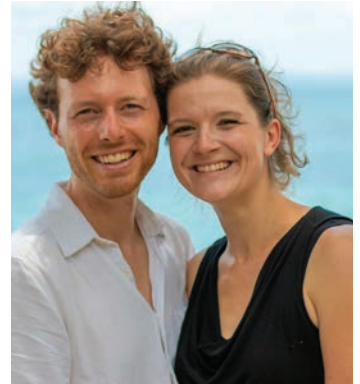
“My physical and spiritual life is so bright. I have new hope for my family. My child can go to high school,” said Angeline, a local mother previously addicted to gambling. “Thank you for giving us dignity.”

Apart from the life-changing impact behind this enterprise, Dignity Coconuts uses an extraction method that preserves nutrients, resulting in a truly raw, one-of-a-kind product. Instead of leaving waste behind, all parts of the coconut are used for various purposes, including shell powder used to create renewable plastics.

As Dignity Coconuts has grown, the Olsons and Freeds now work with the local team to run additional community development efforts: life-skills classes, financial mentoring, health clinics, and clean-water kits. When a series of typhoons brought destruction and starvation, Dignity Coconuts employees distributed 250,000 pounds of rice and repaired 336 homes.

When not in the Philippines, Erik and Bet live in Minnesota with their two children, Tess, 10, and Zain, 11, inspiring others to create and support businesses that spread God’s goodness throughout the nations. “Wherever Jesus walked, He brought hope, especially to those who needed it most,” said Bet. “With His help, we have been amazed at the impact this business has made on the entire community.”

**Abigail Reed '20** is a freelance writer living in La Pine, Oregon. [abbiejreed@gmail.com](mailto:abbiejreed@gmail.com)



Erik '03 and Bet '04 Olson

**THEIR PLANT EMPLOYS  
121 INDIVIDUALS AND  
PARTNERS WITH  
156 FARMING FAMILIES.**





# A Legacy of Inspiring Generations

BY ABIGAIL REED

**“It’s not how much you have, but how much you do with the little you have.”** This is the life mantra of Juanita DeVaughn, MA ’77, retired educator. Born on a humble farm in the small town of Boligee, Alabama, in 1925, she is a living testament to this philosophy. Today, her life has impacted countless students and community members, and she was recently recognized by Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41) and the California Legislative Black Caucus as the 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District’s 2021 Unsung Hero.

DeVaughn’s story rests on a strong foundation of faith—every Sunday while growing up, her family sang praises in the same building where her ancestors worshipped during the time of slavery. On weekdays, she walked more than five miles to a one-room schoolhouse, where God put it upon her heart to one day become an educator. DeVaughn studied hard, graduated from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, and began her career as a home economics teacher.

As DeVaughn taught, the Civil Rights Movement grew—news traveled of violence toward African Americans, arrests, and secret meetings. When she moved to Birmingham as a nutritionist for the Head Start program, DeVaughn jumped at the chance to get involved. Working in schools by day, she attended Civil Rights meetings with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by night, singing hymns, praying, and planning peaceful demonstrations to integrate the district’s school lunchrooms.

On one of these days, DeVaughn heard an earth-shattering explosion from her home: the bombing of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church.

“It was a terrible sound,” said DeVaughn. “I knew many of these families personally and each one of the girls who lost their lives. Our community was devastated.”

When funeral plans began, DeVaughn stepped in to help. As a nutritionist, DeVaughn supervised all the food in the 47 Birmingham city schools. Instead of throwing away surplus food, she secretly drew from these resources to provide a funeral repast meal. When



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUANITA DEVAUGHN, MA '77

the time came, DeVaughn’s contributions allowed thousands of mourners to sit down to eat together in solidarity.

DeVaughn’s commitment to civil rights and advocacy for her students continued when she moved to Altadena, California, in 1967 with her husband, Paul, teaching at Charles Eliot Junior High School and Pasadena’s John Muir High School. She became an Altadena board member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), chairing the ACT-SO program, which encourages achievement among high school African American students. To further her career as an educator, DeVaughn enrolled in Azusa Pacific University’s Master of Arts in Education program, graduating in 1977.

Today, after 47 years of teaching, DeVaughn’s legacy lives on in her students—many of whom have gone on to pursue their dream careers and attend college, some at Azusa Pacific. In 2018, she was inducted into John Muir High School’s Hall of Fame. DeVaughn remains an involved member at Altadena Baptist Church, as well as a devoted mother and grandmother. At the recent ceremony honoring her as an Unsung Hero, Assemblymember Holden shared, “Juanita DeVaughn’s contributions to our community will have a powerful impact for years to come. Through her dedication and hard work, she carries on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy and is an inspiration for future generations.”

For DeVaughn, she said it is the small things that make a difference in the end. “You just have to be patient and believe in what you’re doing. I think of my life on our little farm in Alabama, and I know this to be true.”

**Abigail Reed ’20** is a freelance writer living in La Pine, Oregon. [abbiejreed@gmail.com](mailto:abbiejreed@gmail.com)



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## Keeping the Faith

**Despite the fear that the results of the war and the pandemic would impede their work to share the Gospel, students continued their work, on the homefront and on the foreign mission field.**

Even in hard times, Azusa Pacific University has kept the faith. In 1918, during World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic, the Training School for Christian Workers (predecessor to Azusa Pacific University) was tested. The number of students who occupied the dormitory was comparatively small, resulting in a great reduction of income. Observing this situation, the Board took time for a special season of prayer, and by the year’s end gave thanks, realizing, in ways unforeseen, the Lord had met the need, and in some respects exceeded it. Despite the fear that the results of the war and the pandemic would impede their work to share the Gospel, students continued their work, on the homefront

and on the foreign mission field. They demonstrated resilience and faith during a crisis, and continued to seek ministry opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, though few students occupied university housing, stewardship of limited resources flourished and innovative learning practices abounded. The APU Community kept the faith and sought opportunities to serve, with nursing students participating in hospital clinics, social work students providing virtual workshops, and arts students creating virtual recordings, impacting the world as aspiring scholars and leaders committed to making a difference.

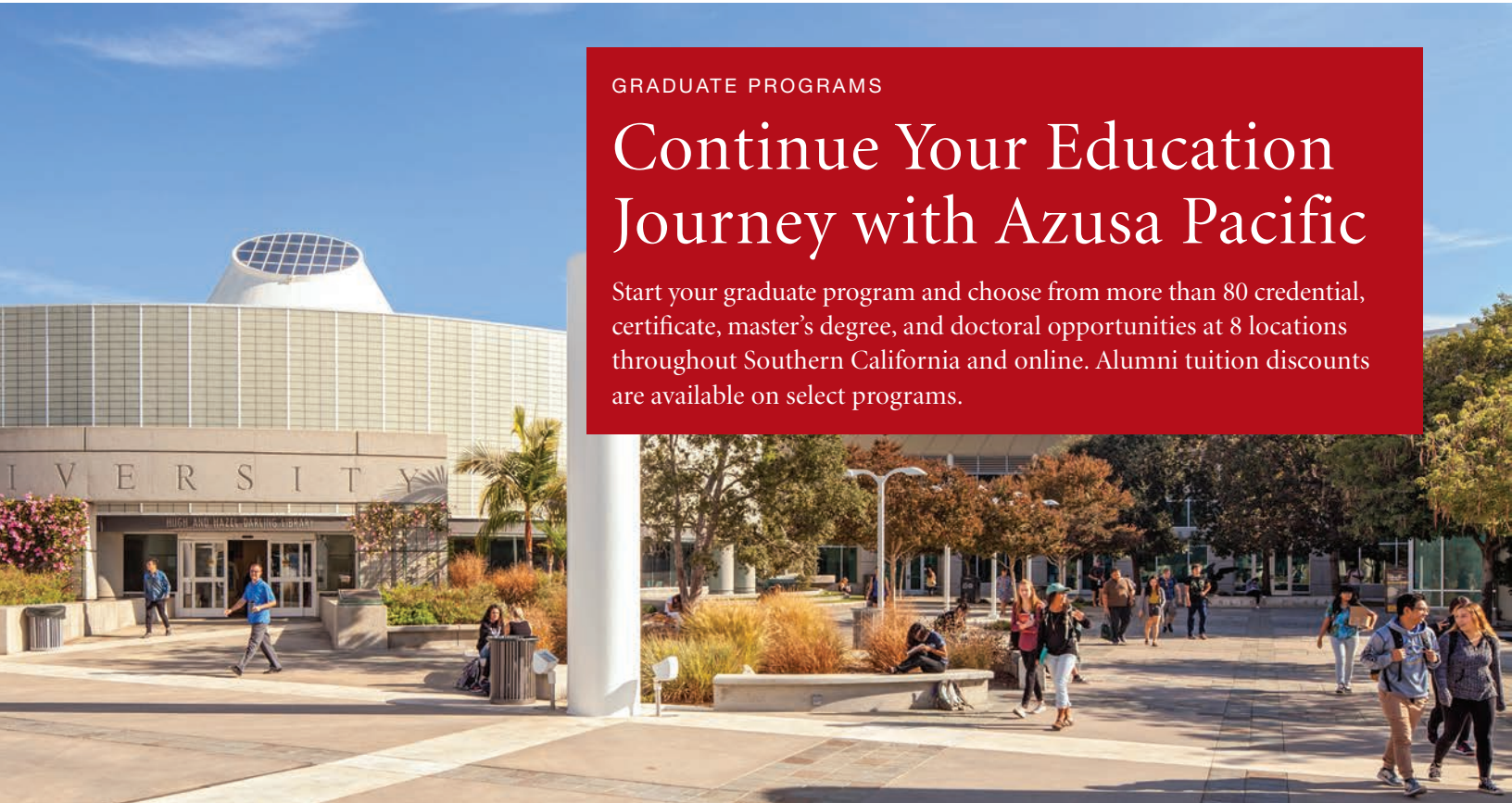
**Ken Otto, MLIS**, professor, Head of Special Collections





Division of Strategic Communication and Engagement-78510  
 PO Box 7000  
 Azusa, CA 91702-7000

Non-Profit Org  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Santa Ana, CA  
 Permit 4849



GRADUATE PROGRAMS

# Continue Your Education Journey with Azusa Pacific

Start your graduate program and choose from more than 80 credential, certificate, master's degree, and doctoral opportunities at 8 locations throughout Southern California and online. Alumni tuition discounts are available on select programs.

## Featured Master's Degree Programs

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Other Master's Degrees**

- ACCOUNTING
- APPLIED STATISTICS
- ART
- ATHLETIC TRAINING
- BIOTECHNOLOGY
- BUSINESS
- COMMUNICATION
- EDUCATION
- ENGLISH
- LEADERSHIP

**MUSIC**

- NURSING
- PSYCHOLOGY
- SCREENWRITING
- SOCIAL WORK
- TESOL
- THEOLOGY
- USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN

**Credential Areas**

- EDUCATION
- NURSING

**Doctoral Degrees**

- CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
- EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
- HIGHER EDUCATION
- MINISTRY
- NURSING
- PHYSICAL THERAPY

## Locations

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| AZUSA         | MURRIETA      |
| HIGH DESERT   | ORANGE COUNTY |
| INLAND EMPIRE | SAN DIEGO     |
| LOS ANGELES   | ONLINE        |
| MONROVIA      |               |

Classes start throughout the year. Contact us today!

(626) 815-4570 • APU.EDU/CP/JOURNEY

