

# Cornerstone

Transformational Scholarship at Azusa Pacific University

Office of Research and Grants | Spring 2016



## Faculty Spotlight

### Scott Wood

Associate Professor, Psychology, School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences

With eight active research grants, research funding... *(continued on page 3)*

3



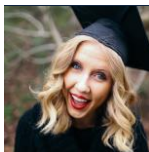
## Student Spotlight

### Matthew Tyrrell

Theater Arts, College of Music and the Arts  
Art is essential to creativity and critical thought. It is a means by which...

*(continued on page 2)*

2



## Alum Spotlight

### Michaela Summers

Theater Arts '15, College of Music and the Arts  
I fell in love with the theater in fourth grade and wanted nothing more than...

*(continued on page 2)*

2



## Calendar and Events

### Upcoming ORG Events & Deadlines

3

## Office of Research & Grants

680 Alosta Ave., Suite #115  
Azusa, California 91702  
626.815.2082

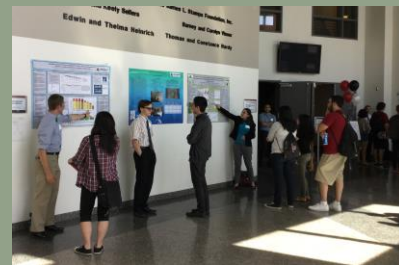
<http://www.apu.edu/researchandgrants/>

## Undergraduate Research Thriving at APU

Undergraduate research at APU is thriving as exemplified by the stimulating UG research session at the recent Common Day of Learning (CDL) and results from the 2015-16 Scholarly Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program.

The CDL 2016 theme was "Living Letters," based on 2 Corinthians 3:2-3: "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (NRSV).

APU students who hope to become 'letter(s) of Christ' should be equipped with excellent academic tools as they engage professionals at the highest levels of their disciplines. What better way to equip students academically than involve them in the research enterprise? To that end, CDL 2016 included a robust UG research session during which 24 posters were displayed in the Duke Lobby highlighting methods, results, and conclusions of a variety of research projects. This session included research from biology, chemistry, applied science, psychology, aerospace, social work, theology, and business. The poster session was by no means passive. Indeed, the casual visitor to Duke during the CDL 2016 lunch hour was immediately confronted with dynamic energy as student presenters were engaged by others on the research being displayed in the lobby. Without question, these posters, and conversations around them, were of quality seen at regional and national professional meetings. CDL Director Dr. Maximo Rossi remarked that the UG research poster session was the clear highlight of this year's....



*(Article continued on Page 4)*

# Student Spotlight

Matthew Tyrrell, CMA



*"Matt has stepped up into so many leadership positions in our department, both as a scholar and artist. He has already contributed to our field in significant ways, and I expect him to be a powerful influence on culture at large. It's been a privilege to know him."*

*Dr. Monica Ganas  
CMA Theater Arts*

... we explore ourselves, our world, our faith, and our God. My art is in the theater. In my time as an undergraduate student at APU, I have had the opportunity to work in almost all aspects of theater. I have acted, designed, directed, and managed. I have seen all the hard work and passion that goes into making a performance. It is through creative exploration that true knowledge is found.

My peers and instructors alike work tirelessly to explore what it truly means to be a Christian artist today. Many people who do not know the theater think it is a waste of time or an easy way to get a degree, but I disagree. What I have learned is that it is hard to be an artist. You have to want it. You have to be confident in the fact that what you are doing is, in fact, important. We have the capability of bringing a powerful and God-oriented message to an audience in a new and unique way. And through that process we are also learning.

APU Theater has allowed me to grow. It has guided me in a process of learning that I am confident can only be found here, from this faculty and staff. The people here have a passion for art, a passion for theater, and a passion for God. The best experiences I have had are because of the people at APU, and I am thankful for the opportunities that I have had with them. My peers are some of the most talented people I know, and a lot of the faculty are far too good to not be working in professional theater. I am thankful for their service and know that they would not be here if they didn't believe in the power of art. Theater is different. Theater is important. Theater can be used for His glory. I am thankful for what I've learned here and look forward to what the future holds.

# Alum Spotlight

Michaela Summers, CMA '15



*"Michaela has probably done a better job than any student I know of arguing the vital importance of arts education in children's lives, and is now working to bring theater to students in L.A. and vice versa. She makes excellent use of her considerable intellect, work ethic, and talent in service to those most in need of them."*

*Dr. Monica Ganas  
CMA Theater Arts*

...to become an actress. Little did I know that my time as a theater major at APU would open up a completely different door to a rewarding and fulfilling career path that I could never have imagined. Let me start by saying this: "Yes, I am a Theater Arts graduate. No, I am not an actress. There is so much more to theater than just acting."

During my education at APU, I discovered the absolute joy it brought me to share my passion for the theater with children in my community. Part of the reason I was able to attend APU was through a scholarship I received as an intern with Azusa Renaissance Theater, a non-profit that hosts children's afterschool theater classes on West Campus. Through this internship, I rose to the position of the After-School Programs Coordinator, where I was given the chance to teach, design curriculum, and manage three different classrooms.

From here, I continued to pursue my passion for arts education and was hired last summer by the LA County Arts Commission as the Community Outreach & Development intern for Theatre 360 in Pasadena. I spent my last semester at APU researching and writing my senior thesis on the growing importance of arts education in an increasingly standardized and inequitable educational system. Upon graduating in December 2015, I wasted no time putting my thesis into action and I am now working as a teaching artist for Theater West, where I have the privilege and honor of teaching theater classes to students in Title I public schools across LA County who may have never had the chance to receive any arts education.

Regardless of your major and despite what everyone else might believe; your degree is extremely valuable. Put it to good use and do not waste the time you have spent as an undergraduate. Pursue a career that excites you and compels you to strive harder so that others might benefit from your work. At the end of the day, we are not doing our own work, but His work.



## Faculty Spotlight

... of over \$850,000, and numerous publications and presentations, Dr. Scott Wood is a prolific researcher. Dr. Wood is also a wonderful mentor of undergraduate students interested in research even if he humbly refers to himself as “marginally adequate” in that endeavor. His area of expertise is in the field of neuroscience, with emphasis on sensory systems physiology and sensorimotor control. Dr. Wood’s research is primarily funded by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). In addition, he is a co-investigator on a grant from the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) and senior mentor on a K grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



Dr. Wood’s principal research goal is to understand the mechanisms of multisensory integration and neural plasticity and apply this knowledge to improve rehabilitation strategies and optimize human performance. In other words, Dr. Wood studies the causes, effects, and possible remediation of astronauts’ sense of imbalance while in space flight. Prior to coming to APU, Dr. Wood conducted research in clinical, military, and space laboratories such as the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Lab in Pensacola, Florida, and the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. While his main appointment is as Associate Professor in the APU Department of Psychology (BAS), Dr. Wood remains very involved in space projects and continues his role as adjunct faculty at the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston.

ORG staff recently visited Dr. Wood’s research lab. They were introduced to a fascinating display of simplicity and sophistication. The ORG visitors were privileged to meet student researchers on his team, some of whom assisted the visitors in having



sensory experiences that mimic perceptions of astronauts while in space. Microgravity, sensorimotor adaptability, and vestibular dysfunction were just some of the phrases routinely thrown around by Dr. Wood’s team. Indeed, Dr. Wood is gifted in talking about his complicated research projects, all the while maintaining an affable connection with his listeners. His self-effacing humor and wit became apparent early in the visit.

Two recent graduates from the Department of Psychology, Samantha Douglas and Hailey Trier, coordinate the laboratory activities with the support of an enthusiastic team of undergraduate student researchers. This type of peer-mentoring lab structure is a key distinctive of the department’s upcoming MS program starting next fall. Finally, Dr. Wood also proudly points to his wife’s role as part of the research team. She is renowned for her neuro-themed baked goods that regularly surface around exam review days. You can learn more about Dr. Scott Wood’s exciting research at [www.soari.org](http://www.soari.org).



*“Sharing research findings with others is a form of community service. Faculty have specialized knowledge that can help others better understand the world around them.”*

*Jennifer E. Walsh, Ph.D.,  
Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

## Calendar & Events

### Events

#### Writers’ Retreat

May 24-27, 2016: Top Performers  
 May 31 – June 3, 2016: Traditional  
 June 14-17, 2016: Early Career  
 July 19-22, 2016: Traditional

### Research Ethics Deadlines

#### IRB (human subjects research)

May 4, 2016: Full Board Review  
 Application deadline for May 18 meeting  
 June 1, 2016: Full Board Review  
 Application deadline for June 15 meeting

#### IACUC (animal research)

May 11, 2016: Protocol or amendment  
 deadline for May 18 meeting  
 June 8, 2016: Protocol or amendment  
 deadline for June 15 meeting

### Workshops

#### Grant Training:

May 20, 2016: Funding Opportunities

### Other events

#### CTLA Faculty Development Day 2016 – ORG Panel:

May 17, 2016 (at 9am): Connections to  
 Scholarship: Not Just Qualitative and  
 Quantitative, but the Creative Other

#### Co-Presenters:

- Donald Isaak
- Matthew Smith

#### Panelists (alph):

- Chinaka DomNwachukwu
- Emily Griesinger
- Thomas Parham
- Calvin Roso
- Don Thorsen



## Latest on PIVOT

- ✓ Pivot and ORCID Citations are now synced
- ✓ Add publications to your profile
- ✓ Keywords just got more powerful
- ✓ New dashboard for admin accounts
- ✓ Pivot Training Webinars Link:  
[www.proquest.com/go/webinars-pivotusers](http://www.proquest.com/go/webinars-pivotusers)

(Undergraduate Research Thriving at APU article, continued)

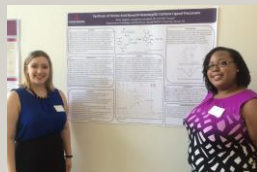
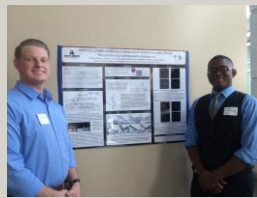
... Common Day of Learning. Kudos to our UG researchers and faculty mentors for excellent research work and fine displays of posters at CDL 2016. Thanks to Dr. Kevin Huang, Director of UG Research, who organized this lively session for CDL 2016.



SURE was first piloted at APU in summer 2014 under the direction of Kevin Huang. Four pairs of student-faculty partners each received \$1,500 to support their research. During 2015-16, SURE was expanded to eight pairs of faculty-student research mentoring teams. This year's exciting and eclectic array of SURE projects is evident from a listing of titles seen below,

along with student researchers and faculty mentors.

1. Co-precipitation of *SmMAK16* and Alpha Importin from *Schistosoma Mansoni* | Amanda Iavasile, Jon Milhon (CLAS Biology and Chemistry)
2. Labor Supply of Cancer Survivors: Evidence from Structural Break Estimation | Austin Fleming, Elwin Tobing (School of Business and Management)
3. Using Spiritual Assessment Questionnaires in Clinical Practice | Katrina Donato, Constance Brehm, Professor (School of Nursing)
4. Appropriating Shakespeare: Coleridge's Reception of Shakespeare as Positive Scholarship, Elizabeth McIntosh, Matthew Smith (CLAS English)
5. At the Heart of Morality Lies Neuro-Visceral Integration: Lower Cardiac Vagal Tone Predicts Utilitarian Moral Judgment | Matthew Kriege, Gewnhi Park and colleagues from Oxford, CGU, and NYU (BAS Psychology)
6. Minimum Rank of Zero-Diagonal Graphs in  $Z_3$  | Josiah Lehman-Schletewitz, Sharon McCathern, Johannes Harmse (CLAS Mathematics and Physics)
7. The Divine Energies and the End of Human Life | Marissa Espinoza, Rico Vitz (School of Theology)
8. What is the vocational calling of a Downs Syndrome child? | Eric Alirez, Warren Koch (CMA Cinema Arts)



To date, research completed through SURE 2015-16 has resulted in presentations at a national honors society meeting and national and international conferences. There was also a submission to a competitive student video festival, a submission pending to an extremely prestigious conference in summer 2016, and two journal articles in preparation. Congratulations to all the SURE 2015-16 students and faculty for excellent work and for setting high standards as we roll out SURE 2016-17 this summer.

## Research Events @APU

### Nursing Research Symposium

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Nursing Research Symposium, *A Passion for Research: 40 Years of Nursing Excellence*, Dean Aja Lesh noted "the APU School of Nursing is committed to creating a dynamic learning environment that supports evidence-based practice. The Research Symposium was established twelve years ago as an ongoing commitment to integrating research into practice. It serves to prepare students and clinicians for the challenges they will face in their careers as nurses. It also creates a wonderful opportunity to encourage both students and clinicians to develop new ways to improve their practice and to work together to share evidence to improve patient care." This year, over 850 students and nurses attended our symposium.



Submitted by Dr. Marilyn Klakovich



### Social Work Student Showcase

The Department of Social Work hosted a campus-wide event to present the year-long efforts of graduating MSW student community-based *Leadership Capstone Projects* and graduating BSW student *Senior Research Projects*, all conducted at internship sites across Southern California and designed to leave a positive impact on service delivery. Sixty-eight MSW students and forty-five BSW students presented posters of their work. Thank you to research mentors Anupama Jacob, PhD (BSW Research), and Olivia Sevilla, EdD, (Capstone Lead Faculty, MSW), Shaynah Neshama, PhD (MSW), Margaret Lee, MSW (MSW), and Mary Rawlings, PhD (MSW).



Submitted by Dr. Mary Rawlings



2016 AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING

**BRAIN | MIND | FAITH**

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | JULY 22-25