

# APULIFE

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Spring/Summer 2018

SUPERHERO FILMS ■ OPIOID EPIDEMIC ■ WHAT IS HUMAN? ■ THE HONORS OF SERVICE

## HOPING TOGETHER: A VIRTUE FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE





More than five decades ago, I arrived on the campus of then-Azusa Pacific College—a son of a farmer and a committed believer eager to embark on new learning and development. My family heritage also meant I understood the importance of seasons, of nurturing the soil to get good crops, of watching for signs that the harvest had arrived.

Little did I know that the seeds planted by faculty and staff who saw things in me and believed things about me I could only imagine would take root. The soil of my life was tilled by women and men of tremendous faith and enriched by the engagement of students and other members of our university community who added to the vitality of that soil. This place has grown and stretched me.

As a new graduate, I accepted a job as a custodian 43 years ago—a decision that changed the course of my professional trajectory. Eighteen years ago, I was entrusted with the presidency of this *God First* university that trains disciples and scholars to advance His work in the world.

In between those two roles, I have been blessed to hold a number of positions. Each provided profound ways to respond in obedience to God's call upon my life. I had the great privilege of walking alongside students and speaking into their lives, encouraging and challenging them to lean into the nudgings of the Spirit to know and be more like Jesus. This enduring mission lights the fire of our institutional purpose and has inspired me every day of my working life here at APU.

As I look back over the nearly two decades of my presidency, I see clearly God's hand—making Azusa Pacific a destination of choice for exemplary faculty, staff, and students. Through our combined efforts, Azusa Pacific is a recognized leader in higher education not only in California, but also in the nation and around the globe. Our innovative academic programs and multiple delivery systems support affordable and accessible student learning pathways. And our alumni go on to be solutions-minded, people-focused difference makers who improve lives and acknowledge the *imago dei* in all people. I believe this institution has been positioned in exactly the right place at the right time for more than 119 years to cultivate difference makers—people whom everyone would want to call coworker, neighbor, and friend. These accomplishments are the result of our work together, of our collective contribution to our Christ-centered mission, and I am grateful to each of you.

In conversation with Gail and extended family, I announced in April a new phase in my journey as I shift away from the presidency on June 30, 2019. As president emeritus, my first responsibility will be to support the new president and champion their initiatives. Additionally, I hope to mentor rising leaders within the organization, speak in chapel, and be available to represent the university as called upon.

In May, the board enacted a comprehensive plan for a search process to be completed by spring 2019. I am confident that God is already preparing the right person for such a time as this.

It is unusual today for a university president to spend an entire professional calling at one place. But that is my story, and I am grateful for it. I look forward with anticipation to where God will lead this university and where He will take me in continued service to Azusa Pacific.

Shalom,

*Jon R. Wallace*  
Jon R. Wallace, DBA  
Molded by APU

This enduring mission lights the fire of our institutional purpose and has inspired me every day of my working life here at APU.

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# APULIFE

Spring/Summer 2018



**FEATURES**

- 12 Superhero Films: The Never-ending Battle**  
*by Thomas Parham*
- 14 Hoping Together**  
*by Adam Green*
- 18 Opioid Epidemic: Combatting the Crisis**  
*by Irene Valdovinos*
- 20 What Is Human?**  
*by Rick Sturdivant*
- 22 Answering the Call**  
*by Micah McDaniel*
- 28 The Honors of Service**  
*by Evan R. Cain*
- 30 Influencing the Influencers**  
*by Caitlin Gipson*

Cover photo by Dustin Reynolds '07, MBA '10

**DEPARTMENTS**

- 2** President's Letter
- 6** Campus Close Up
- 24** Cougars Sports Roundup
- 25** Alumni News and Notes
- 26** Class Notes
- 26** Cougar Interview  
*Deanna Gumpf, M.S. '97*
- 34** Where in the World . . . ?
- 35** Archived

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS**

- 31** Learning to Finnish Well
- 31** Just Doing Good



PHOTOS BY DUSTIN REYNOLDS '07, MBA '10

More than 850 women—of all ages, stages of life, and levels of professional development—and men, committed to their empowerment, gathered for the 2018 Advancing Women in Leadership Conference in the Felix Event Center on March 5. In partnership with the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, APU presented attendees from across the country with a rich learning environment where they could gain insights from top leaders in the field of higher education and receive encouragement, direction, support, and learning related to advancing careers, personal influence, professionalism, vocational discernment, and leadership gravitas. Vanguard University will host next year's conference on March 19, 2019.

**Psychology Major Earns National Recognition for Research**

Juliana D’Aoust ’20, a psychology major with a minor in honors humanities, gives feet to her passion for underrepresented populations by exploring the effectiveness of social programs that cater to specific communities. The Center for Public Justice (CPJ), a Christian civic education and public policy research organization based in Washington, DC, recognized D’Aoust’s significant contribution to the field by awarding her the Student-Faculty Research Prize.

Competing in a large pool of applicants representing 15 Council for Christian Colleges & Universities schools, D’Aoust submitted a proposal based on her work in the local community. The CPJ staff and a panel of judges comprising public policy professionals and social services organizations analyzed the applications

and selected only three honorees for the prestigious prize. D’Aoust earned the recognition for her proposal to research the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), focusing on the effects of social safety-net programs that are customized specifically for diverse populations in Azusa throughout spring 2018. “Much has been written about the WIC program, but Juliana’s research is unique in that it will examine the impact of culturally tailored programming through a Christian perspective,” said Katie Thompson, program director and editor of online CPJ publication *Shared Justice*.

As part of her research, D’Aoust works with CPJ and the Azusa WIC office to gain information on how nutrition education, supplemental food assistance, and social and health referral services are most effectively implemented. She plans to collaborate

with both organizations and other key stakeholders committed to embracing cultural diversity as a way to observe, evaluate, and develop safety-net programs that are relevant, efficient, and powerful.

Supporting her efforts, CPJ Student-Faculty Research Prize includes a semester-long project that assists students in writing a comprehensive research report. As part of that program, D’Aoust joined her cohort of prize recipients in Washington, DC, in January 2018. Throughout the semester, she and her fellow scholars worked closely with CPJ staff, and their research will culminate in a final report of their findings that will be available in print and online at [SharedJustice.org](http://SharedJustice.org).



**Azusa Pacific University and the City of Glendale Commemorate the Armenian Genocide**

Azusa Pacific University’s 135-member Masterworks Chorale and Orchestra, the APU Armenian Student Association (ASA), and First Baptist Church of Glendale recently collaborated to present a remembrance service marking the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Held on March 24, 2018, at the First Baptist Church of Glendale, the event drew more than 800 attendees and honored the 1.5 million Armenians who lived within the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey and lost their lives during and following World War I. The County of Los Angeles, through the

office of the Kathryn Barger, who serves as the fifth district supervisor, awarded commendations to all three partners for service to the community and contributions to the citizens of Los Angeles County.

The day-long commemoration featured an art exhibition, a symposium, and an evening service of remembrance. Coordinated by Alisa Barsegyan, MFA ’12, the art exhibit featured works created by local Armenian artists and children. The afternoon symposium on suffering and hope comprised of area religious leaders with Shane Kinnison, D.Min., pastor of First Baptist Church of Glendale, serving as moderator. The evening service of remembrance included greetings from the office of Vartan Gharpetian, mayor of Glendale; the office of Anthony Portantino, California State Senator (D-CA25); and Kimberly B.W. Denu, Ph.D., vice president/chief diversity officer at Azusa Pacific University. The Davidian and Mariamian Children’s Choir presented Armenian folksongs, and the APU Masterworks Chorale and Orchestra, conducted by John E. Simons, DMA, associate dean of graduate studies in the College of Music and the Arts, presented Dan Forrest’s “Requiem for the Living.” As well, ASA President Elijah Hakobian ’18 presented the School of Music with a beautiful Armenian Songbook, and ASA Vice President Angela Pachanian ’19 recited the renowned Armenian poem “*Garuna, Dzunna Are!*” (“It Is Spring, Snow Has Fallen”). Each aspect of the evening honored the Armenians’ legacy of Christian faith, which has endured since the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Their courage and strength in overcoming tragedy, their loyal commitment to remembering those who perished, and their ability to build upon their history, culture, and teachings inspire hope for all who pursue truth and justice.

**Electrifying the World**

Without electricity, nearly 17 percent of the world’s population (1.2 billion people, according to the Renewable 2016 Global Status Report) lacks access to clean water, sanitary living conditions, and the ability to advance socially and economically. Although there have been some attempts made to supply these areas—largely in the Asia-Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa regions—with electricity, most of those systems generate insufficient power, breakdown easily, are difficult to repair, and have no maintenance plan—until

now. The faculty and students in Azusa Pacific’s Department of Engineering and Computer Science, along with colleagues from Rural Integrated Development Services in the U.S., Nepal, and Switzerland, are developing a system that addresses such issues, beginning with Moharigaun, a small village in the Nepalese Himalayas.

This innovation, a modular pico-hydro power (PHP) system, promises to solve the problems inherent in old systems and finally provide the necessary technology for the villagers

to ensure safe drinking water, sufficient lighting, and a path toward better education and higher productivity. Led by APU’s Rick Sturdivant, Ph.D., and James Hsi-Jen Yeh, Ph.D., assistant professors in the Department of Engineering and Computer Science, the project also involves the assistance of 12 undergraduate students. Their approach targets four main criteria for creating a viable PHP solution. It had to be: 1) able to generate 20-40 watts per household, 2) reliable, 3) affordable for residents, and 4) simple to maintain. The team’s

new PHP system provides reliability through redundancy, such as multiple turbines, and eliminates some of the more maintenance-prone components. Further, they devised a way to bury the transmission lines, the electricity delivery infrastructure, to protect them from the elements and potential mischief. Finally, a prepayment system with remote disconnect capability ensures that households pay into an operations and maintenance fund. This actively involves the whole village

*continued on page 8*

**APU Seminary Event Honors Martin Luther King Jr.**



Honoring the life of Martin Luther King Jr. on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing, this year’s Malcolm R. Robertson Lectureship on Holy Living, hosted by Azusa Pacific Seminary, focused on social justice and its relationship to holiness. More than 350 attendees (nearly a 600 percent increase over the average attendance of past years’ events) gathered to gain a deeper understanding of the realities of social and racial tension and a clearer strategy for applying the principles of justice from leaders in the field. The lecture series culminated with engaging dialogue over a shared dinner for alumni and friends.

Keynote speaker Rev. Albert Tate, founder and lead pastor of Fellowship Monrovia and member of the Board of Trustees at APU and Fuller Youth Institute, delivered two lectures: “Holiness Redemption” and “Holiness Disruption.” A contributor to *Letters to a Birmingham Jail: A Response to the Words and Dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* (Moody Publishers, 2014), Tate reminded attendees of King’s timeless wisdom and made the case that the concept of holiness is incomplete without justice. Holiness has to do with wholeness, which includes redemption of people spiritually and

physically, individually and collectively, and with justice as well as love.

A panel of alumni speakers rounded out Tate’s address. Moderated by Kay Wilson, D.Min. ’17, the panel discussion included: Doctor of Ministry candidate Tamala Kelly ’09, M.Div. ’14, pastor of The Purpose Church in Monrovia and founder and CEO of Empower 2 Purpose Ministries, which encourages women to pursue their purpose with passion; Doctor of Ministry candidate Fraser Venter, M.Div. ’06, lead pastor of the multisite and multilingual Cucamonga Christian Fellowship, leader in the Free Methodist denomination, and Board of Director member for several justice and compassion organizations; and Derryck Green, D.Min. ’17, a political commentator, writer, West Coast regional director for the Maccabee Task Force Foundation, and a member of Project 21, a national leadership network of black conservatives.

The speakers and the discussions they inspired tackled difficult questions about how to translate the truths heard at conferences such as this one into everyday life, how to allow the dialogue to cause a tangible change in individuals, and how to ignite that change in others. In the context of campus life at APU, that means the comprehensive

recognition from all community members—administrators, staff members, faculty, and students—that every Christian must take responsibility for social justice. Azusa Pacific Seminary hosts events that offer a platform for meaningful conversations, such as Black Lives Matter, Listen Los Angeles, Black Pain and Tears, and the most recent Lectureship on Holy Living: Holiness and Social Justice. These events facilitate an environment in which diverse ideas can be shared and many voices heard. Supporting that effort, the university also addresses social justice issues through chapel speakers; Diversity Ambassador training for administration, faculty, staff, and students; and the establishment of the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence, among others. While the process of social change takes time, work, and ongoing education, Azusa Pacific Seminary seeks to lead the discussion that leads to change and reconciliation, encouraging all members of the community to be intentional about the conversations they have in classrooms, in social settings, and in building relationships with people who are different from themselves.



**Reading Recommendations from Luba Zakharov, MLS, MFA**

Associate Professor, Librarian and Curator, University Libraries

***Garden Time*** by W.S. Merwin (Copper Canyon Press, 2016)

***Binocular Vision: New & Selected Stories*** by Edith Pearlman (Lookout Books, 2011)

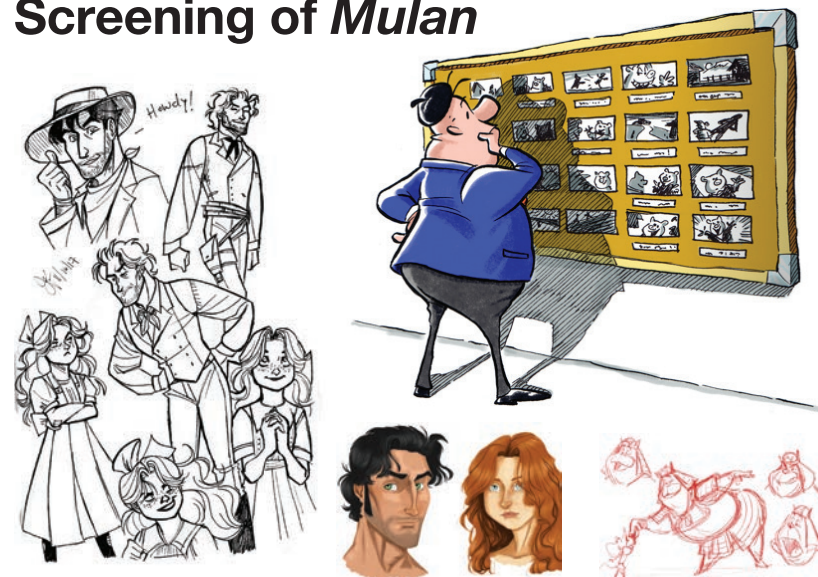
***The Book of Herbal Wisdom: Using Plants as Medicines*** by Matthew Wood (North Atlantic Books, 1997)

***A Wrinkle in Time: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*** by Madeleine L’Engle (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012)

***Graphesis: Visual Forms of Knowledge Production*** by Johanna Drucker (Harvard University Press, 2014)

Section sponsored by the University Libraries and compiled by Liz Leahy, MLS, MAT, professor of theological bibliography and research and chair of the James L. Stamps Theological Library. [l Leahy@apu.edu](mailto:l Leahy@apu.edu)

## APU Launches Animation Degree with 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Screening of *Mulan*



ARTWORK BY TONY BANCROFT, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AND JESSICA FERRANTE '17

Azusa Pacific University celebrated the launch of its new Bachelor of Arts in Animation and Visual Effects with a special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary screening of the Walt Disney-animated feature *Mulan* on March 26, 2018. The evening, hosted by APU’s College of Music and the Arts, included a discussion with the film’s codirector and head of APU’s new program, Tony Bancroft.

The major opens for enrollment in fall 2018 and appeals to students seeking careers as creative and influential illustrators and animators. The comprehensive curriculum includes animation and drawing classes, as well as courses in storytelling and cinematic arts, ensuring that graduates are competitive candidates for positions in industries such as film, television, and video game design. With a curriculum that connects faith, culture, and the arts in a growing industry, this degree program will prepare students to make a difference. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, multimedia animators should expect an eight percent increase in job opportunities between 2016 and 2026, double the average job growth for all art and design careers. The

Department of Cinematic Arts boasts a strong network of alumni working at major studios, television networks, and agencies, including Walt Disney Studios and DreamWorks Animation, and Los Angeles is one of the top cities in the world for animation careers.

In addition to outlining these aspects and benefits of the new major, Bancroft spoke with students about his professional career as an animator for Disney and Sony Pictures, which includes credits for *Stuart Little 2*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, and *The Emperor’s New Groove*. For *Mulan*, Bancroft and his codirector, Barry Cook, won an Annie Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Directing in an Animated Feature Production. “It is fitting that we celebrate the launch of APU’s new animation degree with a screening of *Mulan*,” said Bancroft. “Two decades after its release, her story of bravery, sacrifice, and loyalty continues to honor strong women everywhere and inspire generations of fans. I hope to teach my animation students that we all have a vision and story inside of us to tell that can capture the imagination and impact the world.”

*continued from page 7*

community in each step of the project (planning, implementation, and training), so they develop ownership of their PHP system.

Moharigaun and neighboring communities are growing by about 50 new homes per year and offer an ideal setting for the PHP system, which will help alleviate the need to burn resin-soaked wood for light, a practice that causes indoor air pollution; decrease greenhouse gas emissions; free women from daily wood gathering, which empowers them to pursue education; allow access to clean, hot water; increase food availability; expand local skills and industries; and reduce extreme poverty. The Azusa Pacific team hopes to continue its partnership with stakeholders and implement this vision over time so it can be scaled and replicated in similar communities around the world.

### Experts Debate Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

As the world grapples with the ethical issues surrounding artificial intelligence (AI), Azusa Pacific gave voice to the debate by hosting an academic panel that engaged expert faculty members from three universities in a dynamic dialogue on the topic.

APU’s Center for Research in Science presented “What Is Intelligence? The Science and Christian Philosophy of Human versus Artificial Intelligence” on March 21, 2018, featuring panelists Bill Newsome, Ph.D., a Stanford University neuroscientist whose research focuses on visual and cognitive neuroscience; author and philosopher Nancey Murphy, Ph.D., Th.D., Fuller Theological Seminary, an expert on the influences of modern philosophy on Christian theology and philosophy of the mind and neuroscience; and computer scientist Daniel Grissom, Ph.D, Azusa Pacific University, who researches digital microfluidic biochips, a technology that automates and miniaturizes biochemistry. The free event drew an audience of faculty, students, and community members eager to listen, learn, and

join in the discussion.

The growing controversy and complexity regarding AI and its applications finds today’s greatest scientists, engineers, and innovators on two sides of the topic. Some, like Elon Musk, cofounder and chief executive officer of SpaceX and Tesla, Inc., believe that strict regulations and safeguards must be placed on the use and creation of artificial intelligence, anticipating that things could quickly go wrong. Others, like Mark Zuckerberg, cofounder and chief executive officer of Facebook, encourage the use of artificial intelligence, believing that the perceived benefits outweigh the costs.

The panelists explored the various aspects and applications of AI and the potential good and harm that could result from its widespread use and misuse. One example of the latest developments in AI involves a lifelike Sophia Robot, developed in Hong Kong and activated in 2015. The Saudi Arabian government recently granted full citizenship to the robot, sparking worldwide debate over the ethics of such a declaration and raising questions about whether AI entities can proclaim faith, fight for human rights, and gain their own rights protected by law, to name a few. Academics must remain deeply engaged in these evolving discussions to promote understanding of all angles of a complex issue that stands to challenge and change basic social customs, mores, and human relationships. To view the event, visit [apu.edu/research-science/events/](http://apu.edu/research-science/events/).

### STEM Day Inspires Hundreds of Young Scholars

Engaging young students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), Azusa Pacific’s fifth annual STEM Day drew its highest attendance ever. Hosted by APU’s University Libraries and the Center for Research in Science on February 3, this year’s event, “Inspiring Wonder through STEM,” drew nearly 700 students in grades 1-12 who participated in more than two dozen age-appropriate STEM projects, demonstrations, and

## By the Numbers

**47,234:**

The square footage of APU’s newly remodeled San Diego Regional Campus, featuring a state-of-the-art nursing facility with 20 offices, 4 classrooms, and a study lounge. The improvement provides for hands-on training for more than 250 nursing students, with eight exam rooms, a skills lab, a health assessment lab, debrief rooms, and high-tech, multifunctioning mannequins that help train students in the treatment of traumatic injuries and births.

**37,175:**

The total dollar amount provided by APU for student research presentations at external conferences during the 2016-17 academic year. Undergraduates used \$21,328, through the Undergraduate Research program directed by Verónica A. Gutiérrez, MFA, Ph.D., which supported 57 students from 14 departments and involved 27 faculty mentors; \$15,847 was used by 37 graduate students in 8 departments that involved 15 faculty mentors.

**1,000:**

The dollar amount Bryant Hyun ’21, cinematic arts major, received for winning the I AM 2018 video contest commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s historic speech on behalf of striking African American sanitation workers the day before his death. Hyun’s short film honored the fight for justice that began decades ago and continues today. To view the film, visit [IAM2018.org](http://IAM2018.org).

**75:**

Azusa Pacific University’s ranking among the nation’s top Master of Social Work (MSW) programs according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Among the 23 California schools listed, APU came in No. 7. The MSW program, which currently enrolls 198 students, typically comprises 80 percent first-generation college students and 82 percent ethnic minorities. With a 98 percent completion rate, this year the program will graduate 70 students, nearly 50 percent of whom have secured employment in their field prior to commencement.

classes taught by more than 70 APU faculty, staff, and students.

The program, coordinated by Dave Landers, Ed.D., director of education and community outreach, Special Collections, University Libraries, helps prepare the next generation to engage in some of the fastest-growing STEM occupations, as projected by the U.S. Department of Labor, many of which rely heavily on solid math and science skills. For example, in a class taught by Barnabas Robotics and APU’s Robotics Club, students built and programmed small robots and participated in a bot war. Others joined the San Gabriel Mountain Conservancy course and learned about the local hills and wetlands. In the filmmaking classes, students learned about the equipment, editing, and writing aspects of movie making and created a short movie to take with them. Students in the railroading class worked with the Pomona RailGiants Train Museum to build a small railroad and learn how trains work. In the chemistry classes, students engaged in hands-on activities that demonstrated scientific principles and the scientific method.

Throughout the day, the APU volunteers gained valuable experience as well. Science majors honed their

research and presentation skills, liberal studies students practiced their teaching techniques, and several volunteers learned the ins and outs of event planning, business communication, public relations, and marketing. STEM Day at APU has quickly become one of the university’s most popular community outreach programs by demonstrating to upcoming college students that science, technology, engineering, and math are not only interesting and stable career paths, but subjects worth studying in the context of a Christian university, where the intellectually curious can find myriad research opportunities in cutting-edge fields as they freely seek the Truth.

### New Vice President/Chief Diversity Officer Named



Following a nationwide search, President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, announced the appointment of Keith E. Hall, Ed.D., as vice president/chief diversity officer. Effective July 1, 2018, Hall will serve in this cabinet-level position, leading institutional change and educational effectiveness by cultivating organizational

capacity for diversity, equity, and inclusion. He will cast a strategic vision in this area alongside university leaders, faculty, students, and staff, and will create policies, oversee programming, and foster an inclusive campus atmosphere in which everyone can thrive.

“Dr. Hall possesses extensive experience leading organizational change initiatives that encourage collaboration and give voice to all around the table. He brings relevant scholarship and heart coupled with positivity and enthusiasm to this mission-critical position,” said Wallace. “His commitment to helping students thrive and ability to build broad coalitions of faculty and staff equip him to usher in the next chapter of equity and justice work at Azusa Pacific University.”

Most recently, Hall served as executive director of the Undergraduate Academic Success Center, providing leadership for the academic advising, the Noel Academy for Strengths-Based Leadership and Education, and programs such as TRiO Target Success, TRiO Upward Bound, and Student Success Initiatives. He came to APU in 2012 as director of the Noel Academy, where he promoted best practices in diagnosing

and influencing culture and leading change. He also worked as the director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Lipscomb University in Nashville and as department chair and associate professor at Argosy University, Inland Empire in Ontario, California. He holds a B.S. in Psychology, an M.S. in Guidance and Counseling Psychology, and an Ed.D. in Organizational Psychology, and he possesses extensive experience as an organizational consultant, working with school districts, community colleges, large state systems, and major private higher education institutions.

That rich background informs Hall’s vision for his new role. “I am confident that our campus community is positioned to engage the unique needs of the current landscape by embracing a singular, universal understanding and value of intercultural engagement that involves diverse citizenship, equity, and justice,” said Hall. “I am eager to partner with administrators, faculty, staff, and students to amplify existing diversity efforts and coconstruct new strategic initiatives aimed at further cultivating an inclusive campus climate, culture, and community that foster a strong sense of belonging.”

## Graduate Student Receives Medal of Valor



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALBERT IXCO, M.A. '20

For risking his life to protect his community, Albert Ixco, M.A. '20, stood in the East Room of the White House on February 20, 2018, as President Donald Trump honored him with the Medal of Valor, the highest decoration possible for bravery by public safety officers. The ceremony recognized Ixco and five of his fellow officers involved in stopping the two terrorists who fatally wounded 14 people and seriously injured 21 more at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California, on December 2, 2015.

After serving 20 years as a peace officer with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department (10 of those as a detective), Ixco has seen more than his share of violence and crime, but nothing close to what took place on that day. Along with many other officers, he responded to the alert about an active shooter and assisted fellow law enforcement personnel in holding a perimeter while the SWAT team searched for the suspects in the building. When they were spotted at another location, Ixco sped to the area along with other officers, engaged in a battle, and helped end the incident. The investigation that followed revealed the couple had fired 81

rounds at pursuing officers, including Ixco, and that the shooters had more than 1,800 rounds of .223-caliber ammunition and more than 400 9mm rounds on their person or in their vehicle.

Ixco's bravery that day not only saved lives, but also characterizes his approach to his life and career—in all he does, he strives to put others before himself. Adding yet another dimension to that philosophy, Ixco enrolled in Azusa Pacific's Master of Arts in Leadership with an emphasis in Sport Management program, as a way of gaining valuable leadership skills as well as a potential avenue for making a difference in college athletics. He believes the formal training will give legs to his belief in a team concept through discipline, compassion, and hard work, and give him tools essential for his current career and whatever else God has planned for him personally and professionally. As Ixco pursues divine guidance and technical training, he models the strong, ethical, compassionate leadership needed today in law enforcement, the Church, and college athletics, and he leaves a legacy of obedience, faith, confidence, and courage for his family and all those he serves and serves with.

## APU Sees Increase in Students from Partner Districts



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TIM MCGILLIVRAY, AZUSA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Azusa Unified School District (AUSD) celebrated its graduating seniors who received admittance to Azusa Pacific University in two ceremonies that took place on April 24, 2018, at Azusa and Gladstone high schools. Family and friends of the honorees gathered with representatives from the district and APU to mark this achievement. This year, 42 students from AUSD were admitted to APU, a 15 percent increase from last year. For the first time, AUSD students who met APU's academic requirements were eligible for a \$10,000 renewable scholarship and guaranteed admission to the university.

"Azusa High School values our partnership with APU and the support they provide our students," said Principal Martin Gomez, Ph.D. "APU helps promote college readiness among our Aztec scholars by offering free tutoring, hosting college visits, and connecting our students with academic resources through the Upward Bound program. This support continues with scholarships and mentoring programs for our graduates who decide to attend Azusa Pacific."

Of the admitted students, 10 were also accepted into APU's Azusa Scholars leadership program. Those

selected receive an additional \$5,000 renewable Nancy Moore/Celebrate Azusa Citizen Scholarship.

"Azusa Pacific University is grateful to call the city of Azusa home," said President Jon. R. Wallace, DBA. "We seek to serve our vibrant community and make a positive impact by providing Azusa Unified graduates with a pathway to college. We are excited to welcome these students into the APU family."

Including AUSD, the university recently partnered with 16 districts and their 34 high schools to offer guaranteed admission and renewable \$10,000 scholarships to graduates who meet academic requirements. Many of these students qualify for additional scholarships and grants as well, drastically reducing the cost of their education. APU has seen a 10-percent increase across the board of admitted students from these partner districts this year, which include: Arcadia, Azusa, Bassett, Bonita, Chaffey, Charter Oak, Chino Valley, Claremont, Covina-Valley, Duarte, Glendora, Monrovia, Rowland, Temple City, Upland, and West Covina. Several of these districts, including Chaffey, Covina Valley, and Charter Oak, hosted ceremonies this spring to recognize their students admitted to APU.

## Recent Grants Advance Research and Scholarship

### \$300,000

The Ahmanson Foundation awarded Azusa Pacific University a \$300,000 grant toward the construction of the new Convergent Media Center to equip journalism and public relations students with the skills and experience they need to succeed as professionals in these evolving industries. With the creation of a state-of-the-art integrated newsroom on West Campus, students will learn in a space reflective of a professional journalistic environment, where print, audio, video, and website content combines in strategic ways to ensure the best news content possible.

The newsroom completes the media makeover that began in fall 2017 when APU's Department of Communication Studies' journalism program launched the rebranding of its four media outlets. The *Clause*, *Collide*, *Capture*, and KAPU combined to form ZU Media: Student Voice of Azusa Pacific University. According to the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, "The convergence process, multi-skilling, the need to integrate digital network technologies, and a new producer-consumer relationship have become the largest challenges for journalism today." To help address those challenges, the center will also house a student-run public relations agency, providing much-needed training given the increasing demand for information and the 24-hour digital news cycle. APU students gain the clear advantage of studying and practicing these cross-disciplinary skills in a Christian environment focused on producing ethical and accountable difference makers across all media platforms.

### \$13,146

From University of Michigan, NCAA/Department of Defense, and the U.S. Army to April Reed Hoy, associate athletics director, a grant supplement for the NCAA-DoD Grant Alliance: Concussion Assessment, Research and Education (CARE) Consortium.

### \$10,000

From the Yale Center for Faith and Culture and the John Templeton Foundation to Jennifer Buck, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Practical Theology, for researching and writing the book *Bad and Boujee: Toward a Trap Feminist Theology*.

### \$4,000

From the University of Notre Dame Global Religion Research Initiative to Veronica Gutierrez, MFA, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of History and Political Science, to support the development of a new course that will help advance the social scientific study of global religion. Gutierrez's project, "Ritual and Reenactment in Latin America," will explore the Colonial and pre-Hispanic historical precedents of contemporary religious ritual and reenactments in Latin American countries.

### \$3,000

From CVS Health Foundation to Lynda Reed, DNP, RN, FNP-C, department chair of advanced practice nursing, nurse practitioner program, and assistant professor, for the 2017 Advance Practice Nurse and Physician Assistant Scholarship.

## Scholarship at Work



### Searching, But No One Is Listening

Artwork by Kent Anderson Butler, MFA, professor, Department of Art

Anderson Butler presented a solo art exhibition of new work at Indiana Wesleyan University's Beard Art Center, March 16-April 29, 2018. Known for communicating the essence and emotion of societal issues through his use of diverse media and techniques, Anderson Butler employed video installation and photography in his latest collection, which he created as a direct response to the current social climate. *Searching, But No One Is Listening*, shown here, illustrates a still image from a video of a wooden chair bursting into flames.



### Willy Wonka

Music by Jeff Hoepfner '01, Daniel Semson '01, and Michael Lee '97, director of music technology and professor, School of Music

Three alumni—Hoepfner, Semson, and Lee—collaborated to arrange, orchestrate, and perform the music for *Willy Wonka*, a live-to-film performance before a sold-out audience at the Hollywood Bowl in November 2017. The all-star cast included John Stamos as Willy Wonka, Finn Wolfhard as Charlie, and Weird Al as the Oompa Loompas, along with Giancarlo Esposito, Ingrid Michaelson, and Elle King, among others.

## 2018 Faculty Award Winners

At the Faculty Awards and Recognition, held May 7, 2018, Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D., honored outstanding faculty members for excellence in their areas. This year's winners included:

*Alice V. Watkins Imago Dei Ethos Award*

**Jennifer Young, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology and Chemistry

*Community Engagement Award*

**Catherine Heinlein, Ed.D., RN**

Associate Director, Neighborhood Wellness Center; Associate Professor, School of Nursing

*Undergraduate Scholarly Achievement Award*

**Eugene Alcalay, DMA**

Professor, School of Music

*University Leadership Award*

**Bryant Mathews, Ph.D.**

Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Physics

*Rose Liegler Graduate Scholarly Achievement Award*

**Claire Fedoruk, DMA**

Associate Chair, Graduate Programs, and Professor, Department of Musical Studies

*Teaching Excellence Award*

**Stanley Deal, CPA**

Associate Professor Emeritus, School of Business and Management

*Chase Sawtell Inspirational Faculty Award*

**Paul Flores, Ph.D.**

Director, Liberal Studies/Undergraduate Education K-8 Program, and Professor, Department of Liberal Studies



# SUPERHERO FILMS: THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE

by Thomas Parham  
illustration by Erika Kaler '19

**A** heavenly father sends a beloved son to save a chosen people: Moses, Jesus, or Superman? The correct answer: All of the above.

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster tapped into archetypal savior imagery when creating Superman, who debuted in 1938's *Action Comics* #1. This appropriation makes sense for two young Jewish men working in the decade following the Great Depression. Alex Wainer, author of *Soul of the Dark Knight*, said, "It shouldn't surprise that comics creators consciously or unconsciously draw upon figures from myth and religion when creating superheroes, since they naturally draw from the Western canon."

While comic books were wildly popular during World War II, their influence in American culture waned during the 1950s. The campy *Batman* television series in 1966 led to animated versions of DC and Marvel heroes and a few live-action 1970s series like *Wonder Woman* and *The Incredible Hulk*. In 1978, *Superman: The Movie* made audiences worldwide "believe a man can fly." Yet aside from three sequels, that film did not inspire a plethora of superhero films; 11 years elapsed before Tim Burton's *Batman* set box-office records.

Fast forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where superheroes have become vital to the motion picture industry. "The summer [2017] box office is the worst the movie industry has seen in more than

a decade," according to *Variety* reporter Seth Kelley. Yet a trio of superhero films—*Wonder Woman*, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, and *Spider-Man: Homecoming*—prevented a complete disaster by grossing nearly 30 percent of the \$3.8 billion in ticket sales.

How did superheroes move from the fringes of popular culture to the mainstream? One reason is their malleability in adaptation. Since the 1978 *Superman* film, numerous incarnations of the character have adopted different genre conventions. The 1990s television series *Lois and Clark* reframed the characters using romantic comedy tropes; the long-running CW drama *Smallville* focused on young Clark Kent as a coming-of-age story; and most recently, *Man of Steel* (2013) introduced Superman to the DC Extended Universe films using "first contact," science-fiction conventions.

Marvel Studios' Cinematic Universe—19 films with a 20<sup>th</sup> release in July 2018—has similarly appropriated different genre conventions to keep storytelling fresh. *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* placed Steve Rogers in a conspiracy thriller. Though *Guardians of the Galaxy* was a little-known property, Marvel gambled that a well-executed, science-fiction adventure comedy would appeal to mass audiences. Similarly, *Ant-Man*, one of Marvel's smallest heroes (literally), functioned as a heist film.

Audiences have embraced superhero movies given that modern technology allows onscreen exploits to be as spectacular as those in comics. In the 1970s *Incredible Hulk* television series, when Dr. David Banner (played by Bill Bixby) got angry, he would transform into bodybuilder Lou Ferrigno. But the series bore little resemblance to the comic: Banner traveled from town to town helping people in need and only "Hulked out" twice per episode because of budget constraints. No supervillains, no epic battles, not very "comic book-y."

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**Spider-Man's mantra, "With great power comes great responsibility," parallels Jesus' teaching that "to whom much has been given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48, NRSV).**

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Contrast this with *Thor: Ragnarok*, in which Thor Odinson and Hulk battle each other in an alien arena. Technology allows Chris Hemsworth and a computer-generated version of Mark Ruffalo to engage in a no-holds-barred, gladiatorial battle. Though some comic-book purists bristled that Marvel Studios placed these characters in a buddy comedy, the film has grossed nearly \$854 million worldwide thanks to director Taika Waititi's balance of humor, action, and pathos.

Finally, superheroes serve as aspirational role models. Spider-Man's mantra, "With great power comes great responsibility," parallels Jesus' teaching that "to whom much has been given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48, NSRV). Sam Raimi's film trilogy reinforced this theme as Peter Parker constantly struggled to set aside selfish desires to be a hero. In *Spider-Man 2*, Aunt May advises, "I believe there's a hero in all of us, that keeps us honest, gives us strength, makes us noble...even

though sometimes we have to be steady and give up the thing we want the most."

Similar messages echo throughout superhero cinema. In *Ragnarok*, Thor declares, "I choose to run towards my problems and not away from them. Because that's what heroes do." Lois Lane notes in *Justice League*, "There are heroes among us. Not to make us feel smaller, but to remind us what makes us great." And in *Man of Steel*, Jor-El counsels his son, "You will give the people an ideal to strive toward. They will race behind you. They will stumble. They will fall. But in time, they will join you in the sun, Kal. In time, you will help them accomplish wonders."

The Judeo-Christian creators of classic DC and Marvel superheroes imbued them with a heroic ideal. Filmmakers have infused screen versions of those characters with aspects of their originators' worldviews. In Christopher Nolan's *Batman Begins*, Bruce Wayne declares, "It's not who I am underneath, but what I do, that defines me." This statement reflects biblical spirituality and demonstrates a "never-ending battle" that exists within the hearts and souls of humanity.

*Thomas Parham, Ph.D., is a professor and executive director of screenwriting in the Department of Cinematic Arts.*



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“IF WE WALK IN  
THE LIGHT, AS HE IS  
IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE  
FELLOWSHIP WITH  
ONE ANOTHER.”

1 JOHN 1:7 (NIV)

BY ADAM GREEN

# HOPING TOGETHER



**FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE**—these three virtues form the bedrock of Christian theology. Unlike courage, patience, moderation, and many other qualities that society lauds, these theological virtues concern our relationship with God. Most people think about these qualities in the limited context of a one-on-one relationship; it’s between us and God. Either we have the right faithful, hopeful, loving attitude toward God or we don’t. Other people do not factor in. Although others might benefit from the overflow (for example, our love for God helps us love others better), others do not participate in our living out the theological virtues.

## OR DO THEY?

I contend that our relationship with God is not insular, occurring only within the soul, but rather in community with fellow believers. A parallel example helps illustrate my point: We typically think of memory as insular—there is me and there is my memory. Having a good memory is like having a well-organized filing cabinet that one can search as needed. For those with less-honed powers of recall, there are external helpers, such as calendars, computers, phones, etc. What may be not as obvious is that other people can help us remember as well.



### STAINED GLASS SKYLIGHT IN DARLING LIBRARY

The four quadrants of the brilliant stained glass mosaic depict the university’s Cornerstones: Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service.

**MEMORY:** Dorothy and Irving, married for 40 years, have developed their own ways of telling stories from their common life together. When either recounts one of these stories apart from the other, the story gets told in a somewhat selective, distorted way reflective of the interests, biases, and habits of the storyteller. When they tell their stories together, however, their patterns of interaction suppress some of those biases and interests while at the same time cuing, refining, and highlighting aspects of their stories. As a result, the stories told together are different from, and often more accurate than, those told alone.



THE STORIES  
TOLD TOGETHER  
ARE DIFFERENT  
FROM, AND OFTEN  
MORE ACCURATE  
THAN, THOSE  
TOLD ALONE.





■ ■ ■

THE CORPORATE SPIRITUAL LIFE OFFERS US THE HARD-WON INSIGHTS OF OTHERS, THE RHYTHMS OF FAITHFULNESS THAT HAVE SUSTAINED OTHERS, AND COMPANIONSHIP ALONG THE ROAD.

Remembering in common does not merely involve two simple parallel processes (individual performances of the same insular task). Rather, it involves a kind of interactive, responsive, dynamic agency. Remembering takes a different form when it is enacted socially. This difference can be clearly seen in the example of dancing.

**DANCE:** A gifted dancer, Sofia is competent in many styles, but her talents find their best expression in ballroom dancing. She moves fluidly, attuned to her dance partner, but as she specializes in the role traditionally belonging to the woman in a ballroom pair, what she does on the dance floor depends on the skill of her partner. The better the partner, the better she can manifest her own excellence. While Sofia's performance is far from passive, the exercise of her gifts of attunement, poise, and dexterity depends on a certain kind of dynamic social environment.

What if we viewed the theological virtue of hope in the same way—as something meant to be enacted socially? How could hope involve certain ways of being attuned to and responsive to others? As a first step, we can think of liturgy, Scripture, and the life of the Church as providing cultural scaffolding that supports the faithful in hope. In the Scriptures and the lives of the saints, we encounter stories that portray what it means to live with hope through challenging, seemingly hopeless, circumstances. We witness people striving to live lives of hope, including those who are older, wiser, and further along on their pilgrimages of faith.

In liturgy, we learn to work corporately through the darkness and doubt of a human life within a context that inevitably points to Easter. The corporate spiritual life offers us the hard-won insights of others, the rhythms of faithfulness that have sustained others, and companionship along the road. In all these ways, the Church provides a cultural framework for hoping in God. The message does not preclude the notion that individuals can hope on their own; rather, it emphasizes that the Church provides an enhanced context for enacting hope in God that allows our hoping to express itself most naturally and fully.

One of the things the Church provides scaffolding for, though, is a shared spiritual life. The hope of each believer may begin as focused entirely on the individual, but progress in faith should lead to a broadening of what one hopes for that leads to the enfolding of other persons in one's hopes. It should lead to caring about what God cares about, which includes other people, and partnering with God in what God wants to do through His people, a.k.a. the Church. In other words, growing in the faith should come with an evolution of our narrative identity. Pursuing union with God cannot be tacked onto any arbitrary understanding of our life.

When someone conveys something related to his or her hope for the Kingdom of God, this automatically bears on what I also hope for; and when that person hopes effectively, I share in the experience. As my practice of faith becomes integrated with my community's and the relationships I develop within it, it can become socially enacted. There is a dovetailing between the way in which my fellow believers and I manifest our hopes. The act of community becomes a way of manifesting the dispositions of hope, of enacting hope. Thinking this way about religious community and the life of faith involves reconceiving the life of faith as one that is symbiotic in character. Rather than thinking of the theological virtues as byproducts of a community, we can begin to think of community as serving the function of practicing faith, hope, and love together.

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ONE RECEIVES THE SEED OF HOPE AS A GIFT, AND OUR IMMERSION WITHIN COMMUNITY PROVIDES US WITH THE RESOURCES TO GROW THAT SEED.

Shifting our thinking in this way has several implications; here are two. First, we realize the folly of believing that hope is a solo act. If we think about hope as an insular activity, as one's private confidence in the great truths of the Gospel, then what follows when your hope falters? I could nag you. I could cheer or threaten from the stands, but ultimately I am on the outside. From this perspective, everyone floats around in their own dinghy of faith, and the storms of life will test the seaworthiness of each vessel on its own merits. But what if that's not the way this is supposed to work? What if the Church is meant to be more of a shared journey than a convoy of independent wayfarers? If hope is to be done together, if it is meant to be worked out at least in part through our common life, then I might be able to hope for you when you find that you cannot hope for yourself, and vice versa. We are caretakers of a common story, a common story that is meant to enfold each of our individual stories. Just as a couple may remember different parts of a shared past and in tandem be able to stitch together a coherent story, so our imperfect, oft-failing individual attempts to hold onto the promises of God can add up to something that can sustain a sure hope in a common future.

There is, however, a second and more somber application. The import of a moral scandal in the Church takes on a different tenor when one takes seriously the idea that the life of faith should express itself in shared agency. When persons of the cloth abuse their positions of power, for instance, they do not simply shame the Church in the eyes of outsiders. They do not simply give us one more instance of a trauma with which our fallen world is fraught. They do not even merely disrupt the ability of faithful, hopeful people to organize their efforts by calling the integrity of our institutions into question. Something deeper is at play. The perpetrator scars the bonds of trust that allow a community to enact their faith and do hope together.

The Christian tradition has always affirmed that hope is social. It is a relational attitude directed at God. But there is another layer to the social character of hope that we often miss. In my view, one receives the seed of hope as a gift, and our immersion within community provides us with the resources to grow that seed. In the same way that the child's hopeful agency is nurtured by a caring parent, hope in God and His redemptive work is something into which one grows through the help of others. Through relationships mediated by creed and cup, one taps into the hope of those who have come before and those who are journeying now. This support provides a tangible form of grace as we work out our hope in dynamic interaction with a community that shares our hope—a hope for union with God, and through God, for union with each other.

*Adam Green, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, and author of The Social Contexts of Intellectual Virtue: Knowledge as a Team Achievement. agreen@apu.edu*

*Adapted from Aaron D. Cobb and Adam Green, "The Theological Virtue of Hope as a Social Virtue," Journal of Analytic Theology, Vol. 5 (2017).*



THE MOSAIC—alone, each element is a simple shape or color. Together, the unified whole is far greater than its individual parts. The lives of the faithful are similarly joined: "In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5, NIV). Symbolism encoded in the Darling Library stained glass illuminates what it means to do life within a Christ-centered community.

#### THE CROSS

The center of the cross, brighter than its surroundings, depicts the growth and maturity of Christian spirituality.

#### DOVES

Surrounding the central cross, seven doves represent the seven gifts of the Spirit.

#### LIVING WATER

Rivers of water run through the background of each quadrant, each a link to the four Gospels.

#### TORCHES

Four torches symbolize the light and hope of Christ that radiate in the darkness.



When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:26 (NRSV)



# Opioid Epidemic: Combatting the Crisis

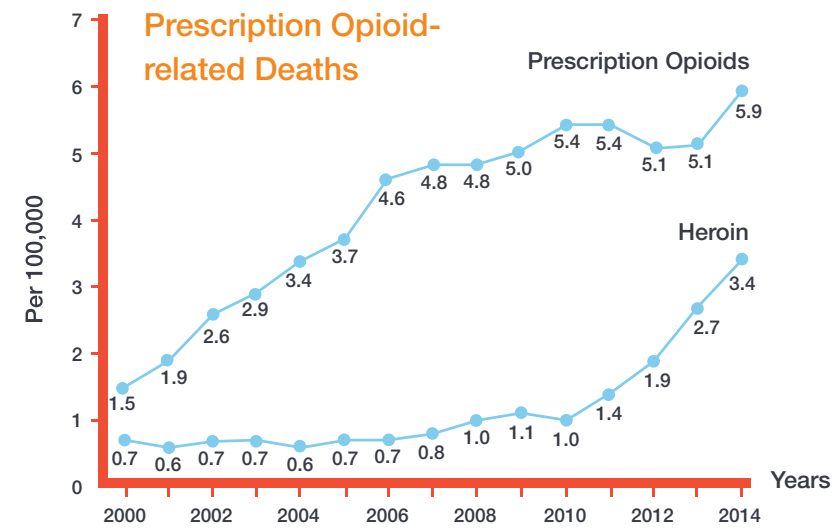
by Irene Valdovinos  
Illustrations by Jennifer Reid '19

Angela, a young mother of three, suffered from chronic back pain. The drug her doctor prescribed relieved the pain (at least her brain's pain messages) and allowed her to play with her kids, care for the household, and enjoy life again—until that drug took away more than her discomfort and led to years of addiction. With slight variations, Angela's tragic story plays out time and again in the country's big cities and small towns, affecting countless souls without regard to economic status, race, religion, age, or gender.

Problematic use of opioids (opioid analgesics/heroin) ranks among the most pressing public health issues in the United States: 2.1 million Americans suffer from an opioid substance-use disorder, especially youth populations (under the age of 24), according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The rate of fatal opioid-related overdoses from prescription drugs and heroin more than tripled from 2000 to 2013 (see figure, right); 2014 alone saw close to 30,000 opioid-related overdose deaths. In addition to the cost in human lives, a recent article published in the *Journal of Medical Care* estimated the economic burden of prescription opioid overdose, abuse, and dependence in the U.S. at \$78.5 billion.

Combatting this heartrending human crisis calls for compassionate and immediate action from stakeholders in multiple fields—including health departments, community health clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, substance-use disorder treatment programs, school systems, and law enforcement—that focuses on three main areas: prevention, intervention, and treatment.

An innovative prevention approach employed throughout the country includes monitoring opioid prescribing practices within state health departments' Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). Specifically, in 2017, California's policy bill (SB 482) required licensed prescribers to check California's PDMP



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) prior to making a prescription, in order to prevent abuse of opioids and patient “doctor shopping” (i.e., obtaining overlapping opioid prescriptions from different providers), as well as recheck the database every four months. In addition to monitoring, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began employing other prevention strategies to address opioid abuse in local communities, including insurance regulations such as prior authorization, quantity limits, drug-use review, and patient education on the safe storage and disposal of prescription opioids.

In addition to prevention strategies, efforts must focus on educating and training the workforce on how to identify and address opioid risk issues among patient populations. Under the leadership of Rachel Castañeda, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Psychology, and other faculty from a variety of disciplines (including nursing, social work, psychology, athletic training, and pastoral care), APU received federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to engage in a large, multisite education initiative to train students on the practices of screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) to better equip and prepare future healthcare providers with skills to address substance-use problems among patient populations they may encounter in their practice settings. “Given the growing issues with opioid use, there is a critical need to ensure that communities are prepared with evidence-based practices, like SBIRT, to address the significant public health issues associated with use, including overdose, injury, accidents, and addiction,” said Castañeda. Faith integration, unique to APU’s SBIRT training, encourages students to leverage faith and spirituality within the SBIRT practice encounter to prompt behavioral change. Students learn that from a Christian theological framework, substance use intersects with human thriving, a movement toward wholeness, and becoming what God intended us to be.

In addition to prevention and intervention efforts, new approaches to treatment have become a national focus. Federal, state, and local governments now aggressively extend access to Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) programs to treat opioid substance-use disorders. Current evidence-based MAT medications available for use include methadone, buprenorphine, naloxone, and naltrexone. For example, methadone, an opioid agonist, works to lessen the effects of opioids and prevent withdrawal. Naloxone, in comparison, quickly responds to an opioid overdose and reverses its effects. Medications for addiction treatment should be dispensed by qualified practitioners and monitored in office-based healthcare and treatment settings. In Los Angeles County, the Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) contracts with community-based

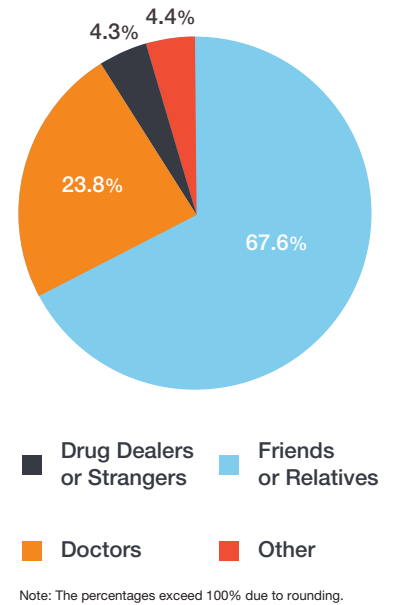
partners to offer a continuum of services for individuals impacted by substance-use disorders. According to SAPC’s medical director, Gary Tsai, MD, “Expanding access to MAT within the substance-use disorder system of care is very important given that for most chronic conditions, such as addiction, we need to address both the psychosocial and biomedical aspects of the condition in order to get the best outcomes. Despite significant evidence supporting its effectiveness, medications for addiction treatment are, unfortunately, severely underutilized, and for that reason the greatest untapped resource in addiction treatment.”

As the country grapples with this crisis, the Church stands at the forefront of the fight, shoulder to shoulder with the agents and agencies trained to battle the problem from a medical and social perspective. Christ followers in research, education, healthcare, and social work know that this problem requires more than federal funds and state-run programs—it requires the Gospel message of hope that heals the heart and soul alongside the body and brain. In tandem with prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts, believers must care for the spiritual lives of those who have been ravaged by opioid addiction and help them find the true Source that satisfies every hunger, thirst, and need.

Irene Valdovinos, LCSW, MPH, is an evaluation coordinator in the Department of Psychology. [ivaldovinos@apu.edu](mailto:ivaldovinos@apu.edu)

For more information on substance-use treatment in Los Angeles County, call the Substance Abuse Service Hotline at (844) 804-7500, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Translation services are available.

Most people who abuse prescription opioids obtain them from a friend or relative.



Note: The percentages exceed 100% due to rounding.

About 1 in 5 individuals who started using illicit drugs in the past year reported that their first drug was prescription opioids.

Individuals who overdose on drugs die an average of 31 years prematurely.

Among new heroin users in the U.S., about 4 in 5 reported using prescription opioids before using heroin.

One accidental overdose death can be prevented for every 164 naloxone kits distributed.

Source: safemedla.org

# What Is

# HUMAN?

by Rick Sturdivant

Illustration by Sara Montgomery '17



Saudi Arabia recently granted citizenship to a robot named Sophia. According to Fortune.com, the announcement came during a technology and investment conference, raising questions about whether the sensational news signals a significant societal shift or was merely meant to boost publicity. In either case, it demonstrates that the relationships and rights historically reserved for humans are being challenged. If robots can become legal citizens with the same privileges and entitlements as their human counterparts, what next? Marriage? To properly evaluate and process such an eventuality, the Christian community must consider at least three fundamental questions.

First, what does this mean for the definition of marriage and does marriage have an essence? If something has an essence, then its definition is immutable and cannot be redefined. For some Christians, marriage has a stable essence—it is restricted to unions between human beings, and more specifically, between a man and woman. Others see human-robot marriage as another example of the ongoing elimination of meaning for marriage and removal of the foundations of Western society. I believe that essences do exist, are necessary for marriage to remain meaningful, and provide the foundation for multiple entities critical to society, such as human rights.

Here's why: The foundation for accepting the concept of human rights depends on the belief that human beings have innate value. If human beings, however, do not have a stable essence, then they can be redefined by those in power, as seen in Nazi Germany during World War II. The Nazis denied the basic premise that all humans have a stable essence. As a result, they redefined Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, the mentally ill, and physically handicapped as no longer being fully human, and based on those definitions, they murdered more than 10 million people. If stable essences do not exist, then anything in society, even human

life, can be arbitrarily redefined and rendered meaningless. I believe this process has already begun to erode marriage. Society has rejected that marriage has an essence and has, therefore, redefined it again and again beyond recognition except to those who know its stable essence.

Christians still recognize the true meaning of marriage, because the best source for deriving stable essences is the immutable God who created them. His revelation to us through nature and Scripture provides knowledge about the essence of things that are foundational to society and human flourishing, such as marriage, family, love, good character, and friendship. For these reasons, a robust society must retain stable essences for entities such as human marriage. One thing is clear—given the possibility of marriage with robots, the debate over what constitutes a marriage may be far from over.

The second question Christians must address is whether the advent of robot-human marriage impacts all human relationships. If humans can be replaced by machines in our most fundamental relationships, does this diminish the meaning for human relationships in general? It logically follows that the person or society that prefers the companionship of robots may not value humans in the same way.

Consider the story about Zheng Jiajia's new wife. Tired of familial pressure to marry, the 31-year-old engineer married Yingying—the artificial-intelligence robot he built. Though he must carry his 60-pound “bride” for now, he plans to upgrade her once technology is developed to allow her to walk and do household chores. While some may laugh at this true story, others deem relationships between humans and robots a subject of serious research. Case in point: Springer publishes the proceedings of the International Congress on Love and Sex with Robots, now in its third year. The papers, subjected to double-blind peer review, explore robot-human relationships and how they replace relationships previously reserved for humans.

Finally, Christians must consider whether robots will ever behave in authentically human-like ways. An important part of meaningful relationships between people is the dynamic and unexpected interactions that occur. Is it possible for robots to have dynamic interactions with

humans? In other words, can unique personalities emerge from their electronic circuits and programming? To determine the possibility, scientists have engaged in groundbreaking research on symbol emergence in robots, in a quest to establish meaningful relationships with humans.

While this discussion of robot-human relationships may have raised more questions than answers, Christians must remain engaged in the dialogue and research regarding the growing field of artificial intelligence. We must think carefully about what it means to be human in light of the teachings of Jesus, the response we have as Christians to human-robot relationships, and how we wrestle with important concepts such as stable essences, without which it may not be possible to maintain the foundations of our social fabric, such as human rights and marriage.

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**If humans can be replaced by machines in our most fundamental relationships, does this diminish the meaning for human relationships in general?**

# Answering the Call



PHOTOS BY DUSTIN REYNOLDS '07, MBA '10

by Micah McDaniel

The voice on the other end of the line promised the fulfillment of a dream and the well-deserved reward for a lifetime of hard work. It was early in day three of the 2017 Major League Baseball First-year Player Draft when **Pablo O'Connor '17** received a call from a Major League scout practically guaranteeing the All-American slugger a hefty five-figure signing bonus. All O'Connor had to do was agree to it, and the organization would select him as its next pick, realizing his childhood dream of playing professional baseball.

But O'Connor had a plan—and the resolve to stick to it. So, when the offer came in below his target number, he made what seemed to outsiders like a split-second, irrational decision. He took a deep breath, thanked the scout, and politely turned down what could have been his only chance to play in the Show. “When I got the call, my stomach dropped,” said O'Connor, who a month earlier graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. “This was the moment. But then I realized that the signing bonus was nearly the same amount as my scholarship. All things being equal, I could get drafted, sign, and take the bonus and spend it, or I could come back, play my redshirt senior year, and graduate with an MBA. To me, the benefits of the latter far outweighed a few years of pro ball.

“Turning it down was not easy, and in the moment, there was immense pressure as the scout tried to change my mind for nearly 20 minutes. Despite the emotion involved, the solution came down to this for me: an MBA would bring me more value during my lifetime than a five-figure signing bonus would right now. Going through that process was a valuable learning experience and would make a great business case study

about how to not get caught up in the money or emotion of a deal.” That O'Connor had the wherewithal and foresight to delay instant gratification and view a decision of this magnitude as a business case study attests to his passion for academics and athletics and his ability to balance both as a student-athlete. His love for learning became part of his character at a young age and blossomed during his time at APU. “Growing up, my dad always told me As and Bs or I don't play. He pushed the importance of academics and used baseball as a motivator. My dad laid the foundation, my professors at APU taught me how to think logically and base decisions on facts, and my coaches helped shape me into a man who can make those decisions on my own.”

And he had to make the toughest decision of his life without the aid of his closest ally, his dad, Thomas, who was home near San Diego. O'Connor, the youngest of four, has always been close to his dad, a Navy veteran. In January 2017, before the start of Pablo's junior season and six months before the MLB draft, the O'Connors received news that Thomas had prostate and bladder cancer. The news rocked Pablo's world. “I didn't know what to do; I was

mentally messed up,” said O'Connor. “I sat in Coach (Paul) Svagdis' office in tears. I spent every day of the season waiting for a phone call that my dad had died. Would he ever get to hear my name called on draft day? I felt alone and didn't know how to deal with it.”

But O'Connor was not alone. He had the full support of the university, the coaches, and his teammates giving him strength when he needed it. And it made a difference. O'Connor put together a remarkable season, earning two All-American honors, regional and conference Player of the Year recognition, and the honor of leading the Cougars to the Pacific West Conference championship and an appearance in the NCAA Division II West Regional. “Last season was the toughest of my life, but ultimately it brought me back to my faith,” he said. “I leaned on my teammates and started going to church and working on my relationship with God, because I knew I couldn't deal with everything on my own. Looking back, I know God was with me through the entire process.”

As his time at APU concludes, O'Connor leaves with a richer perspective. Grateful and relieved to know his dad is cancer free, he will graduate with an MBA and as one of the most decorated players in program history. There may be another chance at pro ball; there may not be. But that is no longer the priority, because O'Connor has discovered his purpose. “I used to put my identity in baseball, my degrees, and my future career, but now I find my identity in Christ, and that's all that matters,” he said. “I believe everything happens for a reason, and there was a reason I came to APU. This place has changed the trajectory of my life.”

O'Connor was drafted on June 6, 2018, by the Washington Nationals in the 27<sup>th</sup> round.

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



Life on Film | Paul

View the Life on Film | Coach Paul Svagdis at: [apu.edu/stories/paul-svagdis](http://apu.edu/stories/paul-svagdis)

# Cougars SPORTS ROUNDUP



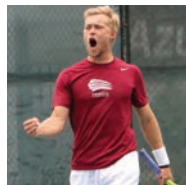
### Azusa Pacific Takes Lead in Cornerstone Cup Trophy Standings

Azusa Pacific claimed the inaugural Cornerstone Cup Trophy over rival Biola, presented by West Coast Sand & Gravel. This competition honors the athletics program with the most success in head-to-head matchups throughout the year. The Cougars received the coveted honor by a 95-45 margin after winning the season series against Biola in baseball and softball and sweeping the men's and women's PacWest Track & Field Championships to complete the schools' head-to-head competition.



### Collegiate Records Fall at Bryan Clay Invitational Track Meet

April's Bryan Clay Invitational track meet at APU swelled to a record number of more than 3,000 participants in 2018, representing more than 300 colleges, universities, and club programs. The three-day event concluded with the fastest 1,500-meter race in the books, as the University of New Mexico's Josh Kerr broke the men's collegiate record in the meet's signature event.



### Tennis Teams Claim Program Firsts

The Azusa Pacific men's tennis team claimed its first Pacific West Conference championship with a 5-2 win over Hawai'i Hilo in the PacWest Tennis Championship in Surprise, Arizona. The women's team also notched its best PacWest finish, winning the third-place match over Point Loma, 5-3.



Both teams hosted their NCAA Division II West Regional playoff matches, with the men's team advancing to the national semifinals in its fourth consecutive postseason appearance and earning the best national finish in NCAA Division II for any Azusa Pacific team.



### Basketball Teams Finish with NCAA Tournament Appearances

Azusa Pacific women's basketball claimed its second consecutive PacWest regular-season title after finishing the regular season with a nine-game win streak. The Cougars hosted the NCAA Division II West Regional Championship for the second time in the past three years, suffering a first-round defeat to Humboldt State to finish with a 27-5 overall record.

The men's basketball team finished 21-11 overall and made its third NCAA Division II Tournament appearance in the past four years. The Cougars defeated PacWest champion Dixie State in the first round of the regional tournament and advanced to the regional semifinals.

### Spring Sports Updates

**Acrobatics and Tumbling:** Azusa Pacific posted its best regular-season record in program history, winning five of six regular-season meets to enter the National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association National Championships as the No. 2 seed.

**Baseball:** Azusa Pacific repeated as PacWest champion and hosted the NCAA Division II West Regional Tournament for the second consecutive season. The Cougars held the No. 1 national ranking in Division II for nine consecutive weeks during the season and finished as West Region runner-up. Head Coach Paul Svagdis was named PacWest Coach of the Year, and four Cougars collected All-PacWest first-team honors.

**Softball:** Azusa Pacific bounced back from a slow start to post a winning record over its final 30 games of the season. The Cougars posted an improbable, record-setting upset on the road against No. 5-ranked Dixie State, rallying from a 12-0 deficit to post a 21-19 win. The combined 40-run scoring total tied for the highest-scoring Division II game this season, and the Cougars' 21-run total tied the PacWest and school records for scoring.

**Track and Field:** Nine athletes advanced to the outdoor national championships, where four athletes earned All-American honors with individual top-five finishes. Jacky Chasteler '18 placed fourth in the women's hammer, while James Jones '18 (men's shot put), Eileen Stressling '19 (10,000 meters), and Nicole Warwick '21 (long jump) all registered fifth-place performances.

**Women's Water Polo:** Head Coach Julie Snodgrass was honored as Division II women's Coach of the Year after leading Azusa Pacific to a 16-16 campaign. The Cougars posted the program's first-ever winning regular-season record, gained its first top-25 national ranking, and attained its first wins over top 25-ranked opponents.

#### FOOTBALL

September 1 | 6 p.m. | Cougars vs. West Texas A&M | Citrus Stadium

#### SOCCER

September 6 | 5 p.m. (women) vs. Sonoma State and 7 p.m. (men) vs. Seattle Pacific | Cougar Soccer Complex

#### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

August 30-31 and September 1 | West Region Crossover Tournament | Felix Event Center

### Alumni Team Barnabas—Mexico Outreach

Come to Mexico with us! We need alumni to serve as the prayer and encouragement team during the Summer I Mexico Outreach trip in late June. If you are interested in joining Alumni Team Barnabas, visit [apualumni.com/alumniteambarnabas](http://apualumni.com/alumniteambarnabas) for more information.

### Successful Student Recruitment



Thanks to all alumni who helped in the new student recruitment process this spring. If you would like to recruit a student to APU, visit [apu.edu/alumni/get-involved](http://apu.edu/alumni/get-involved) today.

### Alumni Award Nominations

Do you know an APU alumna/alumnus doing amazing things? We are accepting nominations for Alumni of the Year until August 1. Let us know who we should honor and why at [apu.edu/alumni/nomination18/](http://apu.edu/alumni/nomination18/).

### Student and Alumni Networking Trips



During Mid-semester Break, several qualified students took trips to job shadow APU alumni. The experience was a huge success for all involved and demonstrated the importance of networking and the value of APU connections. Thank you to all who participated through APU Connect, our exclusive online alumni networking platform. If you haven't already done so, join APU Connect today. Visit [apuconnect.com](http://apuconnect.com).

## HOMEWORD | AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

### Drugproof Your Kids *by Jim Burns*

"We never dreamed this would happen to our family." That simple sentence reveals the confusion and pain of countless parents surprised by the news that their child uses drugs. Caught off guard like so many others, Carol and Robert told me about their son, a leader in his church youth group and until recently a very good student. Their son, Bobby, had been caught not only smoking pot, but also selling it at school and exploring other drugs as well.

Sometimes, good parents have kids who make poor choices. These parents realized they had missed the warning signs. Worse, they did not have a plan for making their family drug proof. Carol and Robert are not alone. Far too many families have not been proactive with their kids in developing a prevention and intervention plan.

#### The Plan

Although there are no surefire plans, parents can establish defenses against the ever-present possibility of a son or daughter getting caught up in the world of drug and alcohol abuse.

Here are eight elements of prevention and intervention:

**1 Education:** Teach your kids, and yourself, the facts about alcohol and drug abuse. Today, parents have easy access to great information from organizations like the National Clearinghouse for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Information, where you can learn from experts and find age-appropriate tools that will work with your kids.

**2 Prevention:** Use positive and negative reinforcements to motivate your child to make the decision to abstain.

**3 Identification:** Learn to identify the signs of drug and alcohol use and abuse. If your child uses, be the first to know. Every parent must become familiar with the signs of use and abuse.

**4 Notice the subtle signs:** These include secrecy, change of friends, increased isolation within the family, drop in grades, staying out late, dropping out of sports or other

extracurricular activities, and bloodshot eyes. Less-subtle signs include depression, unexplained behavior such as absenteeism or mysterious phone calls, starting to smoke (nicotine is a major gateway drug), and acting disconnected or "spacey." These are but a few of the signs, but when several occur together, it often means there is a problem.

**5 Intervention:** If you discover that your child has a problem, act immediately to intervene—connect with a doctor, therapist, law enforcement, and school counselors. Early intervention can keep a crisis from happening.

**6 Treatment:** Find the resources that best fit your situation and uphold the values of your faith and family. The best way to find these resources is to look at websites you trust for referrals and talk to people at your church who have been through a treatment program, as well as counselors and pastors you trust.

**7 Supportive Follow-up:** Prevent relapse by becoming an active participant in your child's recovery.

**8 Self-evaluation:** Parents with a history of drug or alcohol abuse should address their own problem(s) before trying to help their child.

Carol and Robert immediately sought assistance, and Bobby entered a treatment program. With God's help, great resource people, and a willingness on Bobby's part to become clean and sober, the family is in a much better place. But the process was not easy, and no two families go through the journey the same way. Just as Easter reminds us of God's grace and perfect timing, it also assures us throughout the year that miracles happen and that some of them take time—even years—before we see them come to fruition. Do not wait: develop a drugproofing plan with your family today. If you or someone you love needs help now, immediately call one of the resources mentioned above and begin the process toward cessation, rehabilitation, and healing.

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

1990s

**JOSEPH COLOSIMO '90** is a financial advisor at Oakstone Wealth Management. He has written two books: *The War Within Our Public Schools* (iUniverse, 2009) and *5 Essential Success Strategies for You ... and the Millennials* (iUniverse, 2017). He and his wife, Lisa, serve in the @Home Ministry at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills and are involved in the Chino Tea Party.

**1 MICHAEL MORLAND '94, M.A. '99**, recently retired from the Los Angeles Police Department as a detective III after 25 years of service, and from the California Air National Guard after 20 years of service as a captain in security forces. His wife, **RACHELLE (ROBERTS '94)**, retired from the Mission View Public Charter in Santa Clarita. They have relocated to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and accepted jobs with Spokane

Community College in Spokane, Washington—Michael as a tenure-track professor with the criminal justice program and Rachele as an adjunct professor with the technical education department.

**2 WES ROBINSON '95** has been named managing director of Olmstead Williams Communications (OWC), a growing reputation management and public relations agency working with technology companies that span health care, finance, telecommunications, and identity and security. Robinson is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the company, including employee development and client relations.

**STEVEN BROOKS '98, M.A. '04**, spent two weeks in Pakistan teaching on spiritual formation and worship at two conferences and multiple seminars and Bible colleges, as well as preaching in churches. His book, *Worship Quest:*

*An Exploration of Worship Leadership* (Wipf & Stock, 2015), has been translated into Pakistan's national language of Urdu. Steven also works as an adjunct professor at APU and worship pastor in Huntington Beach. He and his wife, **BROOKE (TENNIS '98)**, have two sons, 14 and 11.

2000s

**MICHAEL-DAVID MORALES '00** earned a Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership from the University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies.

**DANIEL HAWKINS '01**, choir director for California High School in Whittier, California, and his Chamber Choir earned a superior rating at the California Music Educators Association State Choral Festival, where they were one of only seven choirs selected to participate.

**3 JORDAN BUZZELL '02, DDS**, recently opened his own dental practice in east San Diego County called Santee Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics. "Dr. Buzz," as he is known to his patients, has been in private practice since 2014 after serving six years in the U.S. Navy. His active duty stations included: Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan; Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar; and Naval Medical Center, San Diego. He continues to serve in the U.S. Navy Selected Reserve attached to Operational Health Support Unit San Diego and was recently promoted to the rank of Commander (O5) in September 2017. He has been an adjunct faculty at Point Loma Nazarene University since 2015. He is also developing a free dental clinic in the City Heights area of San Diego through PLNU and a nonprofit Cura Smiles for which he serves on the Board of Directors. He and his wife, Mandy, have a daughter, Holly, 4, and a son, Bryce, 9 months.

**EMILY HIBARD '02** is CEO of Hibard Group Los Angeles, a boutique solutions agency dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs. In 2012, she founded Idle Tuesdays Recording Studio, a nonprofit established to influence culture through positive music. Each semester, Idle Tuesdays welcomes a number of APU students as interns. To help others launch their own nonprofits, Emily authored the *Starting Your Nonprofit* (Hibard Group) book series. Emily is also involved in a unique ministry managing Crissy Outlaw, an ex-adult-film star who gave her life to the Lord and now travels the world sharing her faith.

**4 LEEANNE JONES '02** is the managing editor of Via magazine, which is produced by American Automobile Association (AAA) and sent to 3.8 million readers throughout nine Western states. For more information, visit [writerleeanne.com](http://writerleeanne.com).

**ANDRIA LINDSEY, M.A. '02**, earned the Milken Educator Award and \$25,000 to spend however she wishes. A math teacher at Bend Senior High School in Oregon, she is known for helping students find the joy in math. Only 44 people received the award this year, with Andria the only 1 from Oregon.

**MELISSA (KADERA '02) STURGEON** is the business enterprise systems manager at APU.

**5 KIMBERLEY (MICETIC '02) WIEDEFELD** was recognized by the local Rochester news for helping students with disabilities get into college. When her second child was born with Down syndrome, Kimberley knew she wanted to make college a possibility for not only her daughter, but kids with disabilities, too. She is now the vice president for enrollment management at Roberts Wesleyan College, where she gets to support the BELL program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is also an active member of the Pledge Team for Ruby's Rainbow, which helps make it possible for students with Down syndrome to attend college through scholarships.

**6 BRANDON KERTSON '04** completed a Ph.D. in Theological Studies at Regent University.

**7 JACQUELINE (GIVENS '04) MONTEMAYOR** was promoted to assistant general counsel at Primerica. She and her husband have a 1-year-old son, Adrian, and will welcome a daughter in July. The family lives in Atlanta.

**8 TRINA MERRY '05**, who has emerged as the one of the art world's foremost body painters, exhibits and performs in museums, art fairs, and global events. Last fall, she was a featured artist in Tokyo to help celebrate Alice + Olivia's five years in Japan. She also created a live painting and exhibited four others from her "Lust of Currency" series during the Miami Art Basel at the 2017 Red Dot Miami Contemporary Art Show. The series presented a collection of the world's most expensive paintings reinterpreted through the lens of a commoditized art world. Trina was also recently profiled in *New York* magazine's *The Cut*, profiled in the *New York Post*, and showcased in news broadcast.

**AARON FISHER '06** recently became licensed as a psychologist after nearly a decade of clinical work, a doctorate in clinical psychology, and a master's in theology from Wheaton College. He currently works as a therapist at La Vie Counseling Center and serves at his church, Fellowship Monrovia.

**RAYMOND THOMPSON '06** is active in Malachi Dads, which is part of a prison ministry called Awana Lifeline. He also partners with the Urban Ministry Institute. He visits Los Angeles County men's prisons, including Men's Central Jail, Twin Towers Correctional Facility, and Pitchess Detention Center, three to four times each week; visits the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, where the ministry originated; and coordinates Lake Avenue Church's ministry to the incarcerated.

**JOSEPH BARONE '08** is associate producer of *Face 2 Face*, a heartwarming and impactful film available on Netflix.

**MATTHEW GILMORE '08** and **JONATHAN STRELLMAN '14** also worked on the film. Matt created visual effects and Jonny worked as a crew member.

**DANIEL '09** and **LYNSEY (RUANGCHAN '11) BAKER** recently celebrated two years of marriage. Lynsey is the music clearance administrator for CBS Television Studios, and Daniel is the director of the Oliver Honors Institute and Learning Assistance program at Maranatha High School. Additionally, they serve in multiple ministries at All Saints Episcopal Church.

**JIMMY BARGER '09** recently completed his residency in general surgery at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, where he was named Resident of the Year, and he accepted a general surgery position in Longview, Washington.

**KAREN HALL '09** started *PE for Musicians*, a blog and podcast that provides information for musicians regarding physical education, rest and recovery, and practical cross-training and strength-building exercises.

2010s

**9 MELISSA BARRE '10** volunteered for the third time with Mercy Ships in Cameroon, using her skills as a nurse to care for patients who received free surgeries. The patients suffered conditions not commonly encountered in the U.S. and difficult to treat due to a lack of access to surgery in Africa. Previously, Melissa volunteered in Benin and Madagascar with the charity. She lived and worked each time on the world's largest private hospital ship, the *Africa Mercy*, with 400 other volunteers from 40 nations. The floating hospital boasts five state-of-the-art operating rooms, a four-bed recovery room, intensive care for up to five individuals, and 80 ward beds.

**ALICIA (WILSON '11) BAKER** recently joined one of Indianapolis' most influential community centers, the John Boner Neighborhood Centers. Alicia works as the Near Eastside community builder, collaborating with local agencies and neighbors to empower residents and advocating for the continued sustainable development of the area.

**10 BRIAN HAWKINS '11**, a proud Army veteran who served in South Korea and Afghanistan and a recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, is a public policy analyst at Koch Companies Public

Sector, LLC in Washington, DC. There, he studies legislation and regulations and analyzes how they affect the company's interests. He also manages coalitions of organizations to effect changes in public policy. Hawkins has been published in *The Federalist*, *Rare*, and *The Huffington Post*, where he writes on faith, race, and an array of political viewpoints.

**SHANNON LYNCH '11** is an assistant editor for the Freeform channel's family drama series *The Fosters*.

**MARIO CORNEJO '12** and his wife, Angelica, opened a swimming school in Pasadena called British Swim School in March 2018, with the mission of ensuring that everyone, regardless of age or ability, learns the lifesaving skill of swimming and water survival. They plan to expand the project into nearby areas.

**ALY EASTON '12, M.A. '17**, received a scholarship to DePaul University in Chicago, where she will pursue an MFA in acting. She was 1 of only 5 women accepted into the program, and 1 of 10 people in total.

**CYNTHIA JOHNSTON '12** is a career counselor at Seattle Pacific University.

**LEIZL HINAJON '13** recently graduated from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law and has accepted a position as a real estate attorney at SSL Law Firm in San Francisco.

**THOMAS MIFFLIN '13** is a software engineer at the Boeing Company and has just completed his master's degree in computer science from Syracuse University.

**STEVEN HOWARD '14** is the national outreach director at In Defense of Christians, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization advocating the human rights of Christians and other persecuted minorities in the Middle East.

**AMBER (FIELDS '14) KRUGGEL** started a new position as deputy district attorney at the Fresno District Attorney's Office.

**EMILY LEYVA '14** was promoted to senior client coordinator at Voit Real Estate Services.

*continued on page 33*

COUGAR INTERVIEW—DEANNA GUMPF, M.S. '97



Leading her team to 16 consecutive trips to the NCAA Regionals and claiming 4 conference tournament titles, Deanna Gumpf, M.S. '97, head softball coach at the University of Notre Dame for 17 years, is the winningest coach in Irish softball history. Despite the impressive record, however, Gumpf credits preparation, purpose, and following her team's guiding principles as the true markers of success.

**APU LIFE:** How did your college classes prepare you for the administrative, psychological, and technical aspects of coaching at the Division I level?

**GUMPF:** The most demanding part of my job has nothing to do with the Xs and Os of the game, but instead helping the athletes deal with the psychological aspects of gameplay. It's about the mental and physical preparation, as well as building a strong foundation for the culture of our program. The majority of my job involves the process of helping our team come together and stay together throughout the ups and downs of a long season. This is specifically where my education at APU really guided and prepared me, especially through my early years of being a head coach.

**APU LIFE:** You acknowledge the importance of knowing your purpose and recognizing that it may change. What is your purpose, and how do you believe others identify theirs?

**GUMPF:** Ongoing self-reflection. I figured out my purpose by writing down all the words that describe why I coach. I wrote down the reasons why I do what I do, and I check my purpose every few years to make sure my "why" hasn't changed. Early in my career, my "why" was different than it is now, which is very common throughout a career, due to life experiences.

Today, my purpose is to be a role model, leader, and teacher who inspires, believes in, and positively affects my team. This is written in my locker, on my computer, and in my office; it reminds me to keep things in perspective.

**APU LIFE:** You are in a field that presents an ideal opportunity for influencing people. How have you become a difference maker, and how do you coach others to become difference makers?

**GUMPF:** My entire objective is to make a difference in the lives of our student-athletes and those in our community. I use our guiding principles, which are the core for everything we do, as a common language and a gauge for our team; they keep us accountable and help us stay on track to becoming the best people and competitors we can be.

**APU LIFE:** Are these principles specific to softball?

**GUMPF:** They are Notre Dame's Softball Guiding Principles, but I believe they represent the values and attitudes that any young athlete could benefit from regardless of the sport or school.

- They are:
- Be unshakable.
  - Play with toughness, tenacity, and enthusiasm.
  - Never back down from the challenge.
  - We will love and trust each other off the field, so we can love and trust on the field.
  - We will represent our families, ourselves, and the university in the utmost manner.
  - Be selfless.

**APU LIFE:** How does your Christian faith influence the way you coach or prepare for a season?

**GUMPF:** I work for a Catholic university, and faith is central to who we are. Faith is something we talk about every day. We not only live out our faith in God, but we also talk about faith in each other and in the hard work we have put in as a team. Our faith is reflected in our commitment to integrity, sportsmanship, and each other.



# THE HONORS OF SERVICE

by Evan R. Cain

In Riverside, California, hundreds of people without homes find shelter under bridges and beneath awnings on city sidewalks. Acute physical and behavioral health issues go undiagnosed and untreated, making difficult living conditions dire. In 2009, Mark Ashley '96, MD, a lead urgent care physician at Riverside Kaiser Permanente, decided to help address the crisis. He became a founding medical director of Health to Hope, and along with Kaiser staff and a team of volunteers serves the city's vulnerable homeless population by deploying four-wheeled beacons of hope—mobile health centers bearing the motto **"PEOPLE MATTER."**

Ashley's work with Health to Hope began against the backdrop of the healthcare crisis. In 2009, a declining economy caused millions of Americans to be unable to afford healthcare. "The whole nation, including staff at Kaiser, was debating the Affordable Care Act," said Ashley. "It pained me knowing that some people could not get help at my own workplace." Ashley crossed paths with a coworker who informed him of the then-developing Health to Hope operation. "When I learned that this project needed a doctor, I knew God placed this matter on my heart for a reason." By June 2012, following three years of designing clinics, writing grants, and seeking funding and federal qualification, Health to Hope mobilized its operation, which today offers 17 primary and mental health services to an underserved, majority-immigrant constituency.

"People matter" underpins Ashley's philosophy as a Christian and a physician. "Many health facilities fail to serve their patients well, because the work is aligned with profit margins more than patients. My aim is simple—love God and love my neighbor." Since joining Health to Hope, Ashley has expanded his mission to love others. In 2013, he received the David Lawrence Community Service Award, offered by Kaiser to staff members who exemplify long-term, voluntary dedication to the health needs of a community, for founding and directing the Urban Community Action Projects (UCAP). UCAP provides comprehensive health services to homeless individuals, serving roughly 300 patients a month.

Ashley traces this desire to serve back to his alma mater. A graduate of Azusa Pacific's first Honors Program cohort, Ashley accepted the university's invitation in 2016 to mentor students enrolled in the new Honors College. "As I reflected on my time at APU, I realized that I am who I am because of the mentorship and care that professors gave to me years ago. I needed so much help and grace in my journey. Once again, God was calling me to serve by extending those blessings to others."

His mentee, Silas Griffin '18, part of the first graduating class of the Honors College, credits Ashley with helping him bridge key lessons between his Honors College education and future career as a physician. "In the Honors College, we read great works from Plato to Wollstonecraft to Achebe. I was confronted with many non-Christian philosophies as well as the foundational ideas of Christianity's greatest thinkers," said Griffin. "As readers, we are often tempted to judge authors before we are exposed to their arguments—to focus on differences instead of learning opportunities." Griffin found that the open-mindedness he developed as a student plays an important role in patient care. "Dr. Ashley stresses the importance of treating every patient as an individual of equal worth despite perceived differences.

## HONORS COLLEGE FACTOIDS

- In 2013, David Weeks, Ph.D., was named dean of the new Honors College, and in 2014, the first class of Honors College freshmen arrived on campus.
- Students complete a minor or second major in honors humanities rather than General Education requirements.
- Classes emphasize in-depth learning in small, discussion-based classes.
- Students enjoy free concerts, films, plays, lectures, and visits to historical museums.
- Benefits include early class registration, a \$1,000-per-year scholarship, and a personal library of classic literature.
- Honors graduates go on to attend medical school, law school, and doctoral programs, seeking advanced degrees in business administration, ministry, the helping professions, and more. Others enter careers in business, education, law, medicine, ministry, politics, and scientific research.
- Sixty-four students graduated in May as Honors Scholars.

As I gained experience through my field internship, I realized that open-mindedness in scholarship can translate to compassionate care as a physician. One day, I hope to emulate Dr. Ashley's genuine passion and concern for the well-being of every patient he serves."

As APU celebrates 25 years of honors education, Ashley's and Griffin's stories capture the heart of the academic area's curriculum and leadership development model. "Students seeking to explore life's big questions today become the next generation of influencers—authors, artists, ministers, professors, doctors, and corporate leaders," said David Weeks, Ph.D., dean of the Honors College. "The Honors College actualizes that potential, forming students into critically thinking, compassionate, high-level leaders."

**"Many health facilities fail to serve their patients well, because the work is aligned with profit margins more than patients. My aim is simple—love God and love my neighbor."**

—Dr. Mark Ashley '96

Griffin hopes to honor Ashley and his professors by furthering their legacy of loving God and loving others. "Dr. Ashley and the Honors College have shown me that regardless of what we do as a career, when we strive to see people as God does, and rely on His strength to care for them, we do more than make a living," said Griffin. "We become life and light for the world."

*Evan R. Cain '18 served as a public relations intern in the Office of University Relations. He majored in biblical studies and honors humanities and mentored first-year Honors students through the Honors College Auxilium Mentoring program.*

PHOTO BY JEANETTE SANCHEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

# INFLUENCING THE INFLUENCERS

by Caitlin Gipson

**James Truslow Adams defined the American Dream as a “life [that is] better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. . . regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of the position.”**

Jonathan Garcia '11, M.A.'12, exemplifies that dream while making it more attainable for those around him, and his efforts repeatedly pay off. So well, in fact, that *Forbes* magazine recently named him on its 2018 list of “30 Under 30 in Education.” The 29-year-old APU alumnus has led several nationally recognized efforts to build networks of business and philanthropic leaders to invest in public education systems, resulting in more than \$20 million in private investments to the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). Now in a similar role at the Portland Public Schools, Oregon’s largest school system, he inspires the state’s influencers like Nike, Columbia Sportswear, and Intel to help transform public education.

Garcia has reached heights he never imagined before he attended APU. “Outside of a few educators who helped create a sense of self and hope, it was difficult to see beyond the trauma of extreme poverty, community violence, and poor opportunities,” he said. The son of undocumented immigrants, he initially experienced discomfort when faced with privilege, affluence, and influence. That changed at APU. “I was a hyperinvolved student, and it brought opportunities to befriend APU’s leaders. I discovered that I could speak and be heard, and even effect change.”

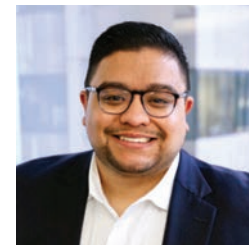
Recruited by APU’s Student Center for Reconciliation and Diversity

as a Multi-Ethnic Leadership and TELACU Scholar, Garcia served as president of the Latin American Student Association and spearheaded multiple initiatives to improve the experience of Latino students at APU. He initiated an effort to offer part of the university’s website in Spanish and provide translation for monolingual guests at APU graduations, and later partnered with APU trustee Michael Lizárraga, LHD, to bring a proposal to university leaders to join the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). These steps aligned with the university’s intentional efforts to embrace diversity, reduce barriers, and increase access to education, resulting in significant improvements for the university’s Latino students and their families, which now make up 30 percent of APU students.

Garcia’s HACU proposal initiated the five-year membership process, teaching him that strategic connections with decision makers can bring about social good. “I became more comfortable being around people of influence,” Garcia said. “President Jon Wallace mentored me, and I interacted with every member of the Board of Trustees and cabinet. My professors and coursework also helped me articulate a social justice equity lens that helped me understand my role and power to create change, and my interactions with classmates taught me

to communicate with people who were sometimes very different from me.”

These skills readily transferred to Garcia’s career after graduation. SFUSD brought him on to lead one of the nation’s premier in-house strategic fund development departments, replacing a traditional independent fundraising model in K-12 public education. “I helped realize Vision 2025, San Francisco’s articulated vision toward a reimagined public education system,” Garcia said. “We asked, ‘What are the skills and dispositions that every child should have when



**“I’m committed to systemic change in education, and that involves getting the right people, and many diverse people, around the table, helping them become part of the solution.” – Jonathan Garcia**

they graduate from our schools?” Then, we determined the shifts and pivots needed to get there and used philanthropic dollars to achieve it.”

Garcia’s team identified areas for major investments: innovation toward literacy in elementary; bold science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in the middle grades; and holistic college and career readiness in high school. “Once we identified the needs, we approached

philanthropic and business leaders based on their particular area of charitable interest and encouraged them to use their funds to transform the way we do public education.”

However, Garcia had some convincing to do. Some pointed out that their taxes already pay for schools. Others argued that they did not want their money to disappear into the black hole of government. “I had to clarify that I wasn’t asking them to pay for the basics that all public school systems should provide, but instead fund innovations to transform the system and support student achievement.”

Garcia’s partnership with Google, for example, centered around supporting African American students. “The SFUSD graduates about 250 Black students each year,” he said. “Google was excited to invest in these students’ success in college and beyond. They pledged \$1 million to make sure every African American 12<sup>th</sup> grader had dedicated college affordability advising.”

In all of these conversations, Garcia draws on the learning provided by those early social justice wins at APU. “Just yesterday, I had dinner with 20 people of influence in Portland, and I was the only person of color in the room,” Garcia said. “I’m committed to systemic change in education, and that involves getting the right people, and many diverse people, around the table, helping them become part of the solution.”

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## Learning to Finnish Well



“Lord, show me the needs of each of my students, and help me to meet those needs.” This prayer continually rests on the heart of Mayra Molina, M.A. ’15, a kindergarten dual-language immersion teacher in Los Angeles. God answered her petition with an eye-opening experience in Finland, a global leader in innovative education. Because Finnish teachers view their roles as developers of unique human beings, they approach school accordingly. Their students learn complex concepts such as strategic planning, problem solving, math, motor skills, independence, patience, perseverance, and confidence through playtime, a less-structured environment, a more-relaxed schedule, and creative projects such as sewing, woodworking, and cooking. More than craft classes and recesses, Finnish schools embody a microcosm of real-world life skills presented in a way that respects individual talents, gifts, and needs and promotes a deep connection with learning. That environment grabbed Molina’s attention and she longed to know more.

That drive led Molina to the Niilo Maki Institute in Finland from January to June 2017 to research best educational practices for low-performing students, with an emphasis on second-language learners. After earning an M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from APU, Molina’s program advisors encouraged her to apply for the Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching grant. When she received the award, it was a clear opportunity to expand upon her lifelong mission of investing in others. “I didn’t know that I was going to be a teacher, but

## Just Doing Good

Spotty phone reception, a nine-hour time difference, 10,000 miles, and two distinct cultures can thwart conversations between even the most seasoned international business professionals. Yet, when Lindsay (Frey ’10) Martinez, a Nike global portfolio manager coordinating the company’s charitable contributions around the world, speaks to international partners from her office in Beaverton, Oregon, she often makes instant, meaningful connections thanks to a slew of undergraduate study-away experiences through APU. “I was able to say to a South African colleague, ‘I’ve been to the Drakensberg mountains. I’ve walked among the lush, rolling hills, hiked to the remote waterfalls, and seen the ancient drawings on the cave walls. But more important, I’ve spent time with the people there,’” said Martinez. “This surprised and pleased him. These firsthand experiences added to my credibility in the discussion and allowed me to understand some of the issues he faced more deeply.”

Martinez’s role requires an international outlook. The Nike Global Community Impact Team focuses on helping kids around the world realize their full potential through the power of sport, beginning with Made to Play, Nike’s commitment to getting kids active through play and sport. “Today’s kids are moving less than past generations,” Martinez explained. “Our Community Impact Team partners with others to help change that by addressing barriers to participation, like underserved communities or locations where there isn’t a lot of sports programming.” While the local Nike representatives run the day-to-day management of community programs in their countries, Martinez’s team at Nike’s global headquarters in Oregon seeks to

I recognized early on that God created me as an encourager,” said Molina. “As a first-generation Ecuadorian American, I came to realize that God wanted me to use my experience to help grow young people with similar backgrounds, and focused my education on the English language learners (ELL) community—students not fluent in the English language in need of special instruction.” The grant enabled her to continue on that path by exploring the world’s most effective approaches to education while furthering her personal quest to serve her students well.

At the Niilo Maki Institute, Molina discovered a fresh perspective on her own area of expertise. “Finland is known for its highly successful, early-intervention approaches to assisting low-performing students,” she said. “Teachers perceive each student as an individual, encouraging them to explore and grow in diverse subjects through multiple learning methods. As students try many subjects and modalities, they begin to realize and take pride in their talents and educational interests.” Molina noted that teachers placed more responsibility on their students, partnering with them rather than demanding performance from them. “Students who participate more in their own education become increasingly motivated. High expectations, maintained through a trusting relationship, lead to remarkable rates of academic thriving and retention.”

Back home in California, Molina’s research inspired her to shift her teaching practices. “I now promote engagement through hands-on approaches to lessons covering a wide variety of subjects, treating the arts and sciences with equal importance,” said Molina, who aims to cultivate a deeper relationship with each student. “My expectations are generated through a cooperative, ongoing process of conversation and investment. No children are the same, and every child deserves personal respect and care.”

Molina believes that relationship-based teaching that promotes responsibility and diverse learning methods is essential to improving U.S. education. “People are inherently driven by connections. When our students feel understood and supported, we find that they become more imaginative, engaged, and invested, both in the classroom and in all other areas of their lives. By making changes to how we teach today, we ensure a brighter future for both our children and our country.”

bring a global perspective to share best practices and assist local partners in designing effective programs. “We bring the best of both worlds—the global perspective and local experience—to create more positive and fun experiences for kids,” she said. “I help oversee Nike’s portfolio of grants, while working with my counterparts on the ground in Europe, South Africa, Japan, and China to ensure that our efforts add up to greater impact, and that we’re sharing best practices and learnings with each other.”

Martinez has found that each of her APU study-away experiences has contributed to her role at Nike. “My experiences visiting an English class at 10 on a Sunday night with [APU business professors] Barbara and Stuart Strother have helped me understand how much time is dedicated to education in China and how to think about the experiences of kids in the Active Schools program,” she said. “My visit to Nelson Mandela’s house in Soweto with the South Africa Semester gave context to a conversation with a South African colleague when describing the density that exists in the area. And my experience commuting and exploring during a summer internship in Tokyo helps me understand the realities that my coworkers sitting in our Tokyo office face.

“I’m grateful that such enriching immersion experiences uniquely equipped me for this role,” Martinez said. “Everywhere I went during my travels, I saw a handful of internationally loved brands, including Nike.” As a result, Martinez is aware of the power of a global brand to have a positive impact. “A global organization can bring a unique perspective to big challenges and can work together with partners, local organizations, and communities to make a difference,” she said. “It’s great to have an opportunity to use our experience and resources to be a force for good in the world, and I feel privileged to be a part of doing this good work.”





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continued from page 27

**ANNIE YU '14** moved to Washington, DC, to become the director of engagement at Politico. She will overhaul their social media strategy and work on ways to create valuable engagement projects and facilitate innovative storytelling from nontraditional platforms. She previously spent three years at the *Los Angeles Times* as an audience engagement editor.

**ANNA DE GRAAF '15** is the executive assistant to the senior vice president of the American Medical Association.

**MELISSA LARSON '15** illustrated the children's picture book *Iver & Ellsworth* (Ripple Grove Press, 2018), which will be distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada. This has been an answer to prayer and a testimony to God's faithfulness. She is working on another book for the same publisher.

**MARTHA HOANG '16** is the storyteller for Lululemon Los Angeles, where she attends local experiences and events and partners with the regional store teams and the community manager to foster and develop deep relationships with online and offline influencers. Martha has also started her own photography

business and shoots graduation portraits, engagement shoots, and weddings.

**JORDAN RICE '16** was selected as his district's teacher ambassador for the TEACH Kansas City program. Jordan earned a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

**CHRIS SEQUEIRA '16** works as a graphic designer for the Walt Disney Company.

**HEIDI TURNER '16, M.A. '17**, recently published "Thorn," a short story in the winter 2018 edition of *Cirque: A Literary Journal for the North Pacific Rim*. She also published a book review of Jessica Straley's *Evolution and Imagination in Victorian Children's Literature in The Victorian*.

**CLAIRE HOLSTEAD '17** became a compliance specialist at Aya Healthcare in San Diego. She works to ensure that travel nurses around the nation are compliant with hospital and state regulations.

**LAUREN MEYERING '17** directed the Orange County Film Festival, a showcase for student work in Orange County. This is the largest film festival in Orange County, with more than 1,000 attendees

and 60 films screened. Since graduating, Lauren has directed three commercials, shot two music videos, and is shooting a documentary in Costa Rica.

**ALLISON PEPPER '17** recently became the customer champions associate in the marketing department at PowerSchool. She engages with user groups throughout the country to identify customers with success stories regarding student achievement and success in the classroom using the company's products.

**EMMA REYNOLDS '17** is the business development representative at Looker—a data analytics startup, in Santa Cruz, California, where she works to increase Looker's customer base.

**JUST MARRIED**

**11 KOHEI SHIMIZU '12** to Karin O'Brien on February 18, 2018, in Honolulu. The couple met working together for Delta Air Lines.

**12 JONATHAN HUGHES '13** to Jana McAdams on December 16, 2017, in Fullerton, California.

**SARA RYAN '13** to Ryan Bilton in July 2017. Members of the wedding party included **KATE BRANSON '14**, **DAVID BURKE '14**, **ELIZABETH (AARON '14) BURKE**, and mother of the groom, **RONDA (BOECKLER '86) BILTON**. Sara teaches mathematics at Walnut High School.

**13 QIAOBING HAN, M.A. '16**, to **JUDD HU, M.DIV. '17**, in October 2016 in Las Vegas.

**14 RYAN SUMNER '16** to **EVAN MEHIEL '17**, on June 10, 2017. Ryan attends Boston University Theological Seminary, completing a master's in theology, while Evan works toward her master's degree in school counseling.

**FUTURE ALUMNI**

**15 ALISON (GHAZARIAN '03, M.A. '04) FLEMING** and her husband, **ERIC, M.A. '04**, reside in Claremont, California, with their sons, Owen, Austin, and newest addition, Hudson Luke, born July 4, 2016. Alison is a stay-at-home mom who enjoys photography, and Eric works for his family's company, Paveco Construction.

continued on page 34



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continued from page 33

**16** To **LESA (CLOSE '05) BRACKBILL** and her husband, Brennan, identical twin boys, Isaiah and Caleb, on April 24, 2018, a blessing to the family after the loss of their 20-month-old daughter, Tori, in 2016. In January, Lesa published a book, *Even So, Joy: Our Journey through Heartbreak, Hope, and Triumph*, that chronicles their journey through Tori's terminal illness. The Brackbills now educate others and advocate newborn screening for Krabbe—the genetic disease that claimed their daughter's life.

**17** To **LINDSAY (JONES '09) STRAZICICH** and her husband, **AARON '11**, a son, Jackson, in

September 2017. Lindsay was recently promoted to account specialist/hospital systems manager at Allergan, Inc.

**18** To **KYLE CLEVELAND '10, MBA '11**, and his wife, Kylee, a son, Callahan James, on January 5, 2018.

**19** To **RACHEL (GRESHAM '12) YOUNG** and her husband, **JACOB '13, MBA '16**, a daughter, Phoebe Rose Annlee, on February 11, 2018.

**20** To **ANGELICA (FLYNN '13) ANDERSON**, and her husband, Jeshua, twin girls, Jada and Ariana, in January 2018. Angelica works with stroke patients as a physical therapist at Good Samaritan Hospital in Tacoma, Washington.

**21** To **HANNAH (GREGERSON '13) MINER** and her husband, **GARRETT '13**, a daughter, Olive Eden, January 12, 2018.

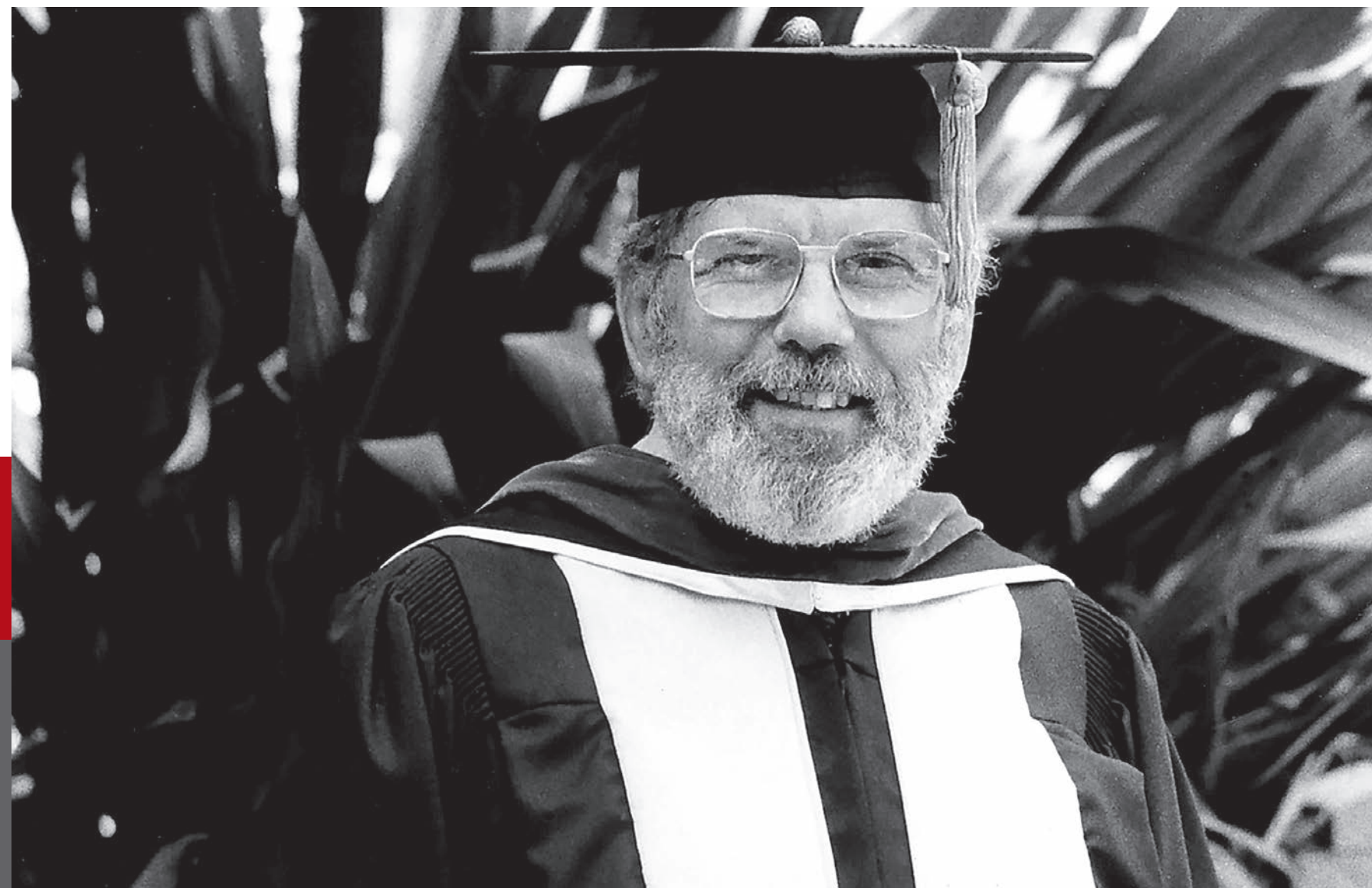
**IN MEMORY**

**22** **KENNETH A. GOODSON '16** passed away on February 12, 2018. His lifelong career as a computer scientist spanned from active duty military service in the United States Air Force during Desert Storm to civil service with the Department of Defense, SCAN Healthcare, and most recently, as chief business official for the Walnut Valley Unified School District. A memorial scholarship fund has been established

in Kenneth's memory with the Walnut Valley Educational Foundation at PO Box 485, Walnut, CA 91788.

**NOTABLE AND NOTEWORTHY**

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TEGUICIGALPA, HONDURAS



JAYME CHESLER '17  
KENYA



JIA LIN "JUDD" HU,  
M.DIV. '17  
SHENYANG, CHINA

**New Status, New Structure, New Name**

Throughout its 119-year history, Azusa Pacific University has changed names several times to reflect mergers and moves. Its final name change, however, signified a very different milestone and represented a forward-thinking trajectory to position the institution for impact and its graduates for influence. In February 1981, the Azusa Pacific College Board of Directors voted to advance the school's status from college to university. University status would more accurately describe the institution, which had all the necessary educational divisions for a small university, such as undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. It would also be attractive to an international constituency and give greater flexibility for expanded services to local churches and communities. The board included several safeguards in the resolution to ensure the continued character of the institution as an evangelical Christian university, including retaining its mission and purpose and continuing the academic religion and chapel requirements for all undergraduate students. On May 1, 1981, the board adopted the

name Azusa Pacific University. The resulting structure comprised one college and four schools—the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Music, the School of Nursing, the School of Professional and Behavioral Studies, and the Graduate School of Theology—each with a dean. William E. Boyer, Ph.D., (shown above) became the first dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which housed most of the General Education courses and left a significant imprint on the students served. The older brother of Ernest Boyer, Ph.D., noted educator and president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, William believed in the central importance of spiritual insight and held that it takes more than knowledge to lead a successful life. Known as a "friend of all," Boyer cherished his years at Azusa Pacific, which, through all its various names and structures, has always maintained the same motto—*God First*.

—Ken Otto, MLIS, professor, Special Collections librarian

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