

# APULIFE

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Winter 2012 | Volume 25 | Number 4

2012 ANNUAL REPORT EDITION



## Empowered to Hope

Don Rogers '81, Alumnus of the Year,  
Serving the People of Africa for More  
than Two Decades

*God First Since 1899*



On August 23, 1939, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin signed an agreement that handed the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania over to the Soviet Union, effectively ending their independence. Fifty years later, on August 23, 1989, these three countries marked that painful anniversary by forming a human chain two million strong and nearly 400 miles in length connecting the three Baltic capitals: Tallinn, Vilnius, and Riga. By all estimates, participants represented a quarter of that Baltic region. Six months later, Lithuania declared its independence, and by the end of 1991, all three Baltic states reclaimed their freedom and became independent countries.

History offers countless stories of men and women challenging the status quo in pursuit of freedom and liberty, but this particular event resonates with our students, especially those at APU's study abroad site in Klaipeda, Lithuania. After their semester-long experience, they often retell this historic occurrence that returned democracy to the Baltics because it mirrors their own goal to become difference makers—a goal that lies at the very core of the APU journey. We believe that men and women who respond to the call of God and build their lives in full devotion to His redemptive purposes will be active and dynamic difference makers.

In some small way, every person makes an impact, for better or for worse. Many who transform our world today are not Christ followers, yet their impact is often quite significant. However, we believe the most lasting changes are made by those who have surrendered their lives to the power of the Holy Spirit and are available to the work of God in redeeming our world that has been broken by sin and failure. Those two million Baltic citizens, yearning for freedom and democracy, positively changed circumstances in this world. We answer to an even higher standard—to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. He calls us to reflect the character of God and reject mediocrity in every form as we commit to a lifelong journey of obedience in the name of Christ and for the glory of God.

I believe that Christ followers who are led by the Holy Spirit into obedience as difference makers resemble those Baltic citizens of 1989. Our solidarity to live like Jesus parallels the unity of those who formed that human highway more than two decades ago declaring their intention to abandon the old ways and embrace a more powerful and wholesome vision. In the same fashion, we declare our unity with the Spirit of God and with millions of Christians today who live committed to God's Kingdom. We have a vision that our students will be empowered and educated as difference makers, passionately committed to accomplishing the work of Jesus in the world.

I know many of you align your lives with this same vision. You sacrificially and lovingly live out the call of God in your family, your workplace, your church, your neighborhood, and in every area and situation God places you. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and deed as we strive to make a transformational impact for the Kingdom.

*Jon R. Wallace*  
Jon R. Wallace, DBA  
Difference Maker

We have a vision that our students will be empowered and educated as difference makers, passionately committed to accomplishing the work of Jesus in the world.

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*APU Life* (ISSN 0895-5433) is published quarterly by Azusa Pacific University, 901 E. Alosta Ave., PO Box 7000, Azusa, CA 91702-7000, www.apu.edu, (626) 969-3434.  
Periodicals class postage paid at Azusa, CA 91702, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *APU Life*, Azusa Pacific University, ATTN: Office of University Advancement, PO Box 7000, Azusa, CA 91702-7000.  
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# APULIFE



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A highlight of New Student Orientation Weekend and an APU rite of passage, Candela, led by President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, brought more than 2,000 new students and families to the West Campus lawn on August 31, 2012, and welcomed them into the APU community and called them to be difference makers.



Contribute your best photos of campus—people and places, events and spaces—that showcase APU. Go to [www.flickr.com/groups/azusapacific](http://www.flickr.com/groups/azusapacific) to submit today.

CHADWICK TRENTHAM

### Management Program Inducted into National Honorary Fraternity

The School of Business and Management's Master of Arts in Management (MAM) program earned prestigious membership in the Sigma Iota Epsilon (SIE) National Honorary and Professional Management Fraternity in fall 2011. SIE encourages and recognizes scholastic excellence while promoting cooperation between the academic and practical aspects of management. Members may participate in programs that benefit the host institution such as peer advising and mentoring. SIE also provides service to outside entities such as professional speakers and community organizations.

APU's fraternity now includes Theta Kappa Chapter, which extends membership to students who demonstrate

high academic standing and leadership in the field of management. In March, a group of 20 MAM students became the first chapter members. "Through this fraternity, I can interact with my peers and connect with individuals who have vastly contributed to the field of management both professionally and academically," said Ronald Bejar, M.A. '12.

The SIE national office and its 73 chapters across the country conduct numerous programs aimed at bridging the gap between management theory and practices. "Induction into the National Society of Sigma Iota Epsilon highlights the Master of Arts in Management program's academic standards and the faculty's qualifications," said Roxanne Helm-Stevens, DBA, MAM program chair. The Theta Kappa Chapter connects SIE's mission with APU's Four Cornerstones, (Christ, Scholarship, Community, Service) striving to develop holistic and dynamic professionals in

the business world. Over the summer, the SIE executive board conducted a donation drive for the nonprofit organization, The Dream Center, and announced the first guest speaker series, a platform for professionals to share their business insights and strategies for leading high-performing organizations.

"All universities need to develop relationships with organizations that support academic excellence," said Ilene Bezjian, DBA, dean of the School of Business and Management. "SIE offers a great opportunity to develop these relationships with professionals who work to improve the management environment at all levels. Students striving to meet the SIE qualifications while working toward a master's degree will be recognized as the best of the best for their perseverance and tenacity to achieve."

### WASC Culminates in a Positive Review

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation review of Azusa Pacific University culminated in October 2012 with the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER), the final site visit. During the three-day event, the WASC team evaluated student learning and achievement of student outcomes, emphasizing the four themes: transformational scholarship, God-honoring diversity, faith integration, and intentional internationalization. The team reviewed graduation and retention rates, programs to ensure student success, and university assessment processes to evaluate educational effectiveness and program review. Finally, focusing on two areas of concern identified during the Capacity and Preparatory Review in March 2011, the team evaluated APU's progress toward comprehensive strategic planning and financial stabilization.

"The accreditation process enabled the university to engage in activities that would build capacity around the four

themes," said Vicky Bowden, DNSc, professor of nursing and WASC accreditation liaison officer. "This experience represents much more than jumping through regulatory hoops; it facilitates essential institutional self-reflection and leads to campus-wide improvements."

The university initiated several programs and processes to address the areas of scholarship, diversity, faith integration, internationalization, curricular support, and strategic planning. The new Office of Curricular Support coordinates tracking and implementation of all new academic initiatives and programs, and oversees the catalog and website revision process. These changes, coupled with a new Strategic Planning Handbook that aligns with the Shared Vision 2022, elevated the WASC team's analysis.

Strengthening transformational scholarship, the new Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CTLA) centralizes support for faculty teaching and assessment processes by making data more accessible, relevant, and efficient. Additionally, an increased emphasis on student and faculty scholarship prompted more robust scholarship funds, an activity insight coordinator to better document scholarly activities, and a biannual undergraduate and graduate scholarship update report. A sharpened focus on partnerships between students and professors deepens the value of the educational experience. With plans for increasing paid summer opportunities for undergraduates, students stand as the primary beneficiaries of APU's renewed focus on scholarship.

A restructured Office of Diversity and a new fellows program communicated to the review team that APU continues to value God-honoring diversity. In addition, the Office of Faith Integration also implemented a fellows program and developed a Faith Integration Handbook to communicate the university's goals and policies to faculty, staff, and students.

These and other efforts culminated in a positive exit interview that commended APU for being "clearly seen as a leader in the world of faith-based higher education, and for the extensive and sustaining effort it has made in the area of faith integration. The university has developed an extensive infrastructure to support learning and faith living activities in curricular and co-curricular programs." APU also received a commendation for "the progress that has been made in strategic planning. It provides vision, structure, and process that carry out the mission and priorities of the institution." The reviewing team issued one recommendation to continue developing programs to measure and assess student-learning outcomes.

The WASC Commission will meet in February 2013 to review the visiting team's findings and determine the length of APU's reaccreditation.

"APU's investment in its thematic priorities is embedded in department

and institution assessment processes, strategic planning, faculty evaluation, and the tangible outcomes of scholarship by faculty and students," said Bowden. "This process and our campus-wide response to make important improvements impact the hearts and minds of our students, and prepare them to become difference makers throughout the world."

### Office of Curricular Support Opens Its Doors

In August, APU launched the Office of Curricular Support (OCS), ready to streamline design and implementation of new academic curricula and programs, facilitating focused communication and collaboration between APU faculty, departments, and offices.

Three APU staff members lead the effort. Vicky Bowden, DNSc, professor in the School of Nursing and a member of the provost staff, oversees the office, while Jeanette Wong, DMA, serves as

director of curricular support. Brian Mercer acts as the office manager. He and Wong regularly attend APU council meetings as OCS representatives to assist and collaborate with other university programs.

Carrying out curriculum changes from start to finish is a complex process and involves many departments and offices on campus. "We saw a need for designated people to help faculty through the process of realizing the dreams they have for changing current curricula or developing entirely new curricula," said Wong. "The OCS functions as a campus-wide team effort. Everyone engages with the process, so we all share ownership of the process."

OCS oversees initiatives as small as a course title change and as big as the addition of a new degree program. The office prepares faculty members proposing curricular changes for the process ahead so their proposals can be submitted to the respective departments

and approved efficiently. "We ask faculty all the questions they will need to answer eventually, so they know what's ahead," said Mercer. "We save them time and energy so they can invest more time in their classroom and students."

"Employing strategic and innovative decision-making processes fulfills a key goal in the Academic Vision," said Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D. "The Office of Curricular Support, supports this goal as it relates to new initiatives, new programs, and revision of curriculum and accreditation processes."

### New College Unites Music and the Arts

Joining strengths, three of APU's most popular and influential disciplines converge to form the new College of Music and the Arts slated to launch in fall 2013. The School of Music teams with the Departments of Art and Design, and Theater, Film, and Television to offer a

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### Reading Recommendations from Roger Conover

***Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World*** by Deirdre N. McCloskey (University of Chicago Press, 2010)

***The Age of Wonder*** by Richard Holmes (Vintage Books, 2008)

***Descartes' Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict Between Faith and Reason*** by Russell Shorto (Doubleday, 2008)

***Drucker's Lost Art of Management: Peter Drucker's Timeless Vision for Building Effective Organizations*** by Joseph A. Maciariello and Karen Linkletter (McGraw-Hill, 2011)

***The King Raven Trilogy*** by Stephen R. Lawhead (Thomas Nelson, 2009)

***Operation World, CD-ROM: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation*** by Jason Mandryk (GMI, 2010)

***Development as Freedom*** by Amartya Sen (Anchor Books, 1999)

*Roger Conover, Ph.D., is a professor of economics in the School of Business and Management. rconover@apu.edu*  
Section compiled by Liz Leahy, MLS, MAT, professor, University Libraries.



### APU Faculty Attend Seminar at Oxford University

Eight APU faculty members participated in a four-day faculty seminar at Oxford University, England, in June. Sponsored by APU's Center for Research on Ethics and Values (CREV) and led by professors Mark Eaton, Ph.D., and Roger White, Ed.D., this international opportunity explored the rich past and hopeful future of Christian scholarship.

Various lectures by world-renowned scholars offered new and insightful resources for faculty members seeking to integrate faith into their scholarship,

disciplines, and classrooms. "The lectures and thoughtful question-and-answer sessions provided wonderful intellectual stimulation, and unpacked what it means to live out faith integration in very real ways for our students," said Kimberly B.W. Denu, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Graduate Social Work, vice provost for undergraduate programs, and special assistant to the president.

Seminar attendees studied the 21st-century changes to Christianity and the important role Christian universities

such as APU play in responding to these changes. "The seminar clarified the credibility of a relationship between faith and intellectualism, discounting the common belief that faith has no place in scholarship," said Denu. "Spending time at a university with such a protracted history of Christian scholars demonstrated that faith is a viable, valuable ingredient in the academy."

Faculty members also spent time touring notable local sites, including

the home of C.S. Lewis; colleges of Lewis, John Wesley, and J.R.R. Tolkien; and various historic churches. "In Oxford, you actually experience history," said Denu. "You see the places these great scholars studied, hear the songs at the cathedrals, and view the original manuscripts of C.S. Lewis. Having the seminar in such a place inspired us and awakened our minds to possibilities, causing us to ask, 'What can we do to contribute to the greater good in scholarship?'"

In addition, the seminar promoted APU's dedication to intentional internationalization by considering how Christian scholarship can reach beyond the university and into the world, also inviting APU faculty to engage with university faculty overseas. "The CREV Oxford seminar was a pilot project—the first international faculty seminar for scholarship purposes," said Denu. "We hope it paves the way for more global events like it."

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comprehensive grouping of creative fields of study.

The restructuring unites areas that engage creative, artistic, and talented scholars from around the world. “Musicians and artists have a unique ability to capture the human condition and the full range of human experience, connecting academic rigor with artistic expression,” said Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D. Marrying these disciplines enables them to collaborate more freely and spurs innovation and effectiveness.

The yearlong process of exploring the proposed merger involved a task force representing all three areas proportionally. The team considered the unique attributes of each discipline

as well as the needs of faculty and students. The School of Music brings a reputation for musical mastery familiar to millions, while the Department of Art and Design fosters spiritual and artistic expression that speaks to society, and the Department of Theater, Film, and Television engages the culture through a Christian worldview. Together, they create a strategic alliance with complementary attributes.

“We are excited about the continued growth of the School of Music as a major part of the university and valued our first collaborative effort with our colleagues in the new College of Music and the Arts held in late October. We look forward to working with them in this new college to train Christian musicians and artists who will have a

positive impact on the entertainment and art cultures of our society,” said Don Neufeld, dean of the School of Music.

“This commitment to the arts is exceptional among Christian universities,” said Monica Ganas, Ph.D., professor and in the Department of Theater, Film, and Television. “APU is unusually responsive to its students, and this new college will create many important opportunities for them. The three areas already benefit one another when the music students and theater majors perform together in musicals on sets created by art and design students. Our closer association will be highly productive.”

The dean of the new college must exhibit sensibilities and credentials

commensurate with the energy, expertise, and scholarship of the students and faculty in each of these areas. The successful candidate will maximize the unique qualities of the individual disciplines while synthesizing them in a way that will impact the culture and the Kingdom. This fall, the search committee launched its rigorous, nationwide search for a dynamic and gifted Christian leader with the competencies to guide the college forward, and intends to recommend a candidate to the president and provost so that the new dean assumes the helm in July 2013.

“As a university community intentionally engaged in culture and committed to all of God’s people around the globe, we aspire to be that ‘city on a hill that reflects the life of Christ and shines the light of Truth,’” said Stanton. “We seek to be difference makers, equipped, enabled, and empowered to affect our world. The new College of Music and the Arts reflects the university’s vision for the future—an alignment of resources, creative synergy, and sheer academic vitality in a new organizational structure to advance our mission and purpose.”

### Azusa Pacific Online University Graduates First Students

Celebrating its first commencement ceremony, Azusa Pacific Online University (APOU) will confer Associate of Arts and Science degrees on 10 students on December 15, 2012. This inaugural graduating class marks an important milestone for the new institution that opened its doors June 27, 2011.

Although a separate institution, APOU stands as a member of the Azusa Pacific system of universities and learning institutions, and shares the same Christian values and mission, while offering its programs through an alternative delivery system. Focused on affordability and student access, the online university meets the needs of a rapidly growing segment of the higher education market, including those

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me with my benefits, and I found a great support system through the on-campus veterans group.”

In addition to aiding recruitment, enrollment, and smooth transitions, APU Veterans Affairs also serves military members and their families by assisting with educational benefits. As a Yellow Ribbon university, APU offers student veterans scholarship funds to help cover the unmet portion of tuition costs. This comprehensive attention to the unique needs of veterans facilitates a strong sense of loyalty and belonging among the students. “The community at APU has been very welcoming toward the veterans here,” said former Navy Petty Officer Dave Montoya, a senior business major. Last year, Montoya and fellow veteran student Michael Burroughs ’12 founded the Veterans Club on campus, with the support of Terry Franson, Ph.D., senior vice president for student life and dean of students; Chuck Strawn, director of the Office of Communiversity; Bezjian; and his wife Ilene Bezjian, DBA, dean of the School of Business and Management. “The creation of the Veterans Club is just one example of how supportive the university as a whole has been to the veteran community,” said Montoya. “I’m so thankful that we have a place like APU.”



### APU Named Top Military Friendly School

*G.I. Jobs* magazine named Azusa Pacific University a Military Friendly School for the 2012–13 school year, positioning the university in the top 15 percent of U.S. educational institutions that provide the best services to help educate America’s veterans. *G.I. Jobs*, setting the standard for ranking America’s most “military-friendly” schools, considered more than 12,000 schools for the title, choosing to recognize APU for its outstanding efforts in providing military students with quality programs, discounts, scholarships, clubs, networking, and staff support.

“Military students and veterans are valuable assets to any academic institution because they bring a different perspective and unique leadership skills to the classroom,” said reservist United States Air Force Lt. Col. Vic Bezjian, DBA,

executive director of military and veterans resources. “APU is committed to serving those who serve our country, and it is an honor to be recognized as a Military Friendly School by *G.I. Jobs*.”

Demonstrating a commitment to growing its veterans program, APU established the Office of Military and Veterans Outreach with the primary goal of recruiting and enrolling new students. Over the last year, the number of veteran students at APU increased by 38 percent. The recent addition of the Office of Military and Veterans Resources rounds out the program by assisting veterans as they transition into life as a college student. “APU’s friendly faculty and staff want students to succeed,” said former Army Staff Sgt. Matt Blain, a junior business administration major. “The veterans office helped

## Year in Review: 2011–12 Highlights



### APU Professor Leads Dig in Israel

Robert Mullin, Ph.D., associate professor of biblical studies, led an initial survey of Abel Beth Maacah, one of the few remaining biblical sites in Israel not yet excavated, May 22–27, 2012. A joint archaeological project between Azusa Pacific and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in partnership with Cornell University, excavation of the area, involving 20–30 APU students, is planned for next summer. The dig could uncover ancient artifacts from the time of King David, providing another piece to the puzzle of Israel’s past as described in the Bible.



### Values and Ethos Reaffirmation Continues

This year, APU continued re-examining its core values and Christian identity as four task forces considered effective ways to more deeply infuse these values into university life; strengthen faith integration; and encourage faculty, staff, administrators, and board members to take ownership of the university’s mission to become a “city on a hill that reflects the life of Christ and shines the light of Truth.”



### Azusa Community Scholars Established

Judy Hutchinson, Ph.D., executive director of the Center for Academic Service-Learning and Research, launched Azusa Community Scholars, a visionary program that brings together agency representatives from eight sectors of the community, including APU, as scholars learning and working together to identify Azusa’s resources and challenges to create new visions and programs for community-wide change.



### Dillon Recreation Complex Completed

APU celebrated the completion of the Dillon Recreation Complex, a new recreational area behind Adams Hall that features a synthetic turf field, two sand volleyball courts, and a basketball court. Rick ’79 and Robyn (Delamararter ’80) Dillon funded the project that provides students with a place to participate in recreational activities and build stronger community.



### WASC Accreditation Culminates

The four-year accreditation process by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) concluded in fall 2012, confirming that APU remains steadfast in its core values and motivates faculty, staff, and students to continue in APU’s mission of understanding its identity as a Christian university.



### Fulbright Scholars Awarded

Prestigious Fulbright scholarships allowed two recent alumni, Mathew Gonzales ’10 and Margarita Ramirez ’12, to conduct research in Spain and the Azores, and two APU professors, Michael Smith, Ed.D., and Mary Wong, Ph.D., to work in Jordan and Hong Kong, respectively. Success in this national competition positions APU faculty and graduates among the world’s elite scholars as they seek global engagement and understanding from a Christian perspective.



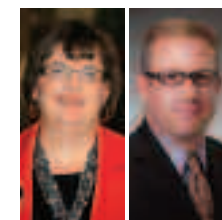
### APU Wins Record-Setting Eighth Directors’ Cup

APU’s final year in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) ended on a victorious note as the university won the 2011–12 Directors’ Cup, distinguishing it as the best intercollegiate athletics program in the NAIA for an unprecedented eighth consecutive year.



### Significant Grants Presented

The university received three significant grants this year, providing faculty and students with invaluable opportunities for research and scholarship. Kaiser Permanente funded a new program at APU’s Neighborhood Wellness Center that fights obesity and diabetes among women. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded a grant to APU’s cinematic arts internship program. In addition, the National Science Foundation committed funds to the research of Bin Tang, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science, and his students as they develop innovations in critical data preservation and storage.



### New Deans Assume Roles

Demonstrating a commitment to academic excellence and visionary leadership, APU appointed Anita Fitzgerald Henck, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education, and Robert Welsh, Ph.D., dean of the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences. Both deans possess impressive scholarship records and bring the enthusiasm and credentials needed to build upon their respective school’s strengths and accomplishments.

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whose lives do not support residential college life due to cost, geography, stage of life, or previous academic record.

“I’ve spent half of my life on the road, since age 18, so sitting in a classroom is not an option for me,” said Stephen Mason, A.A. student and guitarist for popular Christian rock band Jars of Clay. “Earning my degree at APOU means I can study through the eyes of faith in a way that broadens my thinking and engages me in a larger conversation. The band has always been intentional about asking difficult questions and seeking truth—a lifelong pursuit not limited to time or vocation—and that’s what I’m doing at APOU. The experience forces me to be a better listener, qualify my words, and become accountable for my beliefs and actions. And when the whole process begins to feel overwhelming, my life coach reminds me that I’m here for a reason, and that I

have what it takes to succeed. I’ve gained a compelling vision for perseverance.”

The APOU life coaches, in tandem with a comprehensive orientation course, individualize the education experience and set students up for success. These mentors come alongside students, providing guidance and encouragement, learning techniques, academic advising, and spiritual development. “Students at APOU engage in their educational journey paired with a life coach for the duration of their program,” said Deana Porterfield, APOU executive vice president. “This partnership allows students the opportunity to gain the most from the virtual learning environment and their college experience.”

The innovative approach has produced notable growth. Starting with just 40 students and two academic programs a year ago, enrollment has increased to approximately 400 students participating in seven academic

programs. Adding to its original offerings of an Associate of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Management, APOU now offers a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology, Associate of Science in Health Sciences, Associate of Science in Management, and a Pre-Nursing Health Science Certificate. Each bachelor’s degree offers a variety of emphasis areas for specialization in the student’s field of interest. As part of APOU’s path to separate accreditation, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visited in September 2012 and will make the decision for accreditation approval in early 2013.

### APU Receives Major Science Grant

Azusa Pacific again entered the national spotlight when the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded a \$208,428 federal grant funding a research project, “Adaptive Data Preservation

in Intermittently Connected Sensor Networks: A Unified Storage-Energy Optimization Approach,” conducted by Bin Tang, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science.

Tang’s research focuses on preserving large amounts of data under storage and energy constraints in sensors that monitor the environment. These sensors detect natural disasters and climate change, providing experts with extremely accurate readings on occurrences in the environment and supplying critical information to a spectrum of fields, from first-response medical teams following an earthquake to climatologists studying climate change over a long period of time.

“The sensors work as eyes for us to better understand what is taking place in the physical world,” said Tang. “They are constantly processing very precise data, but also have relatively small storage space and short battery life.” Assisted by undergraduate students, Tang hopes to solve these issues through theoretical research of algorithms and simulation experimentation. This also provides the students with valuable, hands-on research experience in computer science.

“Receiving our first NSF grant in computer science is a remarkable opportunity for APU,” said Diane Guido, Ph.D., vice provost for graduate programs and research integrity officer. “It brings APU scholarship to the national level, opening doors for future federal grants.”

The National Institutes of Health awarded only 40 of these competitive grants out of a pool of 250 applicants.

“This is a dream come true for me,” said Tang. “The grant provides another example showing the general public that we at APU are doing something important in society. We apply the knowledge we learn here to solve real-world problems, in this case potentially life-critical scenarios.”

## Scholarship at Work



**Steynberg Gallery Exhibit** (Steynberg Gallery, San Luis Obispo, CA, June 1–July 27, 2012) *by Guy Kinnear, MFA, associate professor, Department of Art and Design.* “The Smithy,” *mixed media*

This exhibit featured oil paintings and mixed-media drawings that search for meaning in difficult circumstances and examine the wonder of being both spirit and body. Developed through conversations with the models, the paintings function as narratives and portraiture, while the drawings utilize layers of transparent velum to explore multiple results based on the same image. Kinnear’s “The Smithy” represents a fusion of four forms: a human body, an altar, cherubim, and perspective geometrics.



### Thriving in Transitions: A Research-Based Approach to College Student Success

(University of South Carolina Press, 2012) *edited by Laurie A. Schreiner, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Doctoral Higher Education; Michelle C. Louis, Ph.D.; and Denise D. Nelson*

The thriving concept represents a paradigm shift in student success literature. Grounded in positive psychology, it reframes the student success conversation by focusing on characteristics amenable to change that promote high levels of academic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal performance in the college environment. The collection presents six research studies describing the characteristics that predict thriving in different groups of college students, including first-year students, transfer students, high-risk students, students of color, sophomores, and seniors, and offers recommendations for helping students thrive in college and life.



### Faith Integration and Schools of Education

(Precedent Press, 2012) *edited by Marsha Fowler, Ph.D., professor, Office of Faith Integration, and Maria A. Pacino, Ed.D., professor, School of Education*

This collection of essays on faith integration focuses on educational equity and justice and includes contributions from colleagues from several Christian institutions. Chapters address theoretical perspectives, theological conceptualizations, and application in the classroom. Additional Azusa Pacific University contributors include Ruth Givens, Ed.D., professor, School of Education; Ruth Anna Abigail, Ph.D., professor emeritus, School of Adult and Professional Studies; Sarah Visser, assistant professor, School of Adult and Professional Studies; Susan Warren, Ph.D., professor, School of Education; and Steve Wilkens, Ph.D., professor, School of Theology.



### The Dome of Heaven

(LH Films, 2011) *written, directed, and produced by Diane Glancy, MFA, visiting professor, Department of English*

A story of a girl named Flutie who goes to college despite low self-esteem and poverty, this film shows that life’s challenges can build up or destroy the human spirit. She eventually survives the circumstances of her dysfunctional family, though her brother, Franklin, does not. Set in the Oklahoma countryside, the story brings to light the significance of the ordinary life and the importance of people’s efforts to achieve goals. It has been featured in nearly two dozen film festivals, named Best Faith-based Film at the Action on Film Festival in Monrovia, and awarded Best Native American Film at the Trail Dance Film Festival in Duncan, Oklahoma.



### Thriving in Leadership: Strategies for Making a Difference in Christian Higher Education

(ACU Press/Leafwood Publishers, 2012) *edited by Karen Longman, Ph.D., program director and professor of doctoral higher education*

This book offers insights into a variety of topics based on the latest leadership literature and the authors’ experiences in senior-level administrative leadership, providing fresh perspectives to current and future leaders. The chapter authors, all of whom have served as resource leaders for Leadership Development Institutes (LDIs) sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, collectively bring hundreds of years of leadership experience to the topics addressed. The book’s content is divided into three sections: The Interior Life of Thriving Leaders, The Social Intelligence of Thriving Leaders, and How Leaders Can Shape a Thriving Organizational Culture.



### Of Times and Days

(American Museum of Ceramic Art [AMOCA], Pomona, CA, July 14–September 29, 2012) *by Bill Catling, MFA, professor and chair, Department of Art and Design.* “Peering Down into the Birth of Spring,” *Media: mason stains on stoneware with cast bronze boat from plum branches*

Catling reflects on a seasonal way of thinking in this collection of five sculptures exhibited as a solo vault show at AMOCA, one of the few museums in the nation devoted exclusively to ceramic art. “Peering Down into the Birth of Spring” represents hope pushing through the dark encrusted earth of winter past, while prayers for tomorrow float like a reed boat from the depths of the soul. The artist depicts Everyman gazing downward, longing for signs of green, signs of hope, and waiting pensively for the harvest.

## By the Numbers

**1,250:** The number of freshmen students who enrolled at APU this fall, marking the largest freshman class in university history.

**38:** The percentage APU’s veteran student population increased over the last year. The growth can be largely attributed to the Office of Military and Veterans Outreach, established in 2011, with its primary goal of recruiting and enrolling new veteran students.


**7,800:** The number of hamburger buns APU’s bakery makes each week. The bakery moved to a larger off-campus location in Glendora last summer, and in November, APU opened a retail space on site called the Glendora Cafe and Bakery, providing baked goods to the community and generating revenue for the city.

**3:** The number of APU undergraduate students who received the Joni Eareckson Tada (JET) Scholarship, an award funded by private donors for students pursuing careers working with people with disabilities. Tada, an internationally known speaker and author, visited campus in October to meet the JET scholars.

**2:** The number of APU nursing professors included in the Top 100 Nursing Professors in 2012 list released by BSNtoMSN.org. Lina Badr, DNSc, CPNP, RN, FAAN, and Connie Brehm, Ph.D., FNP, RN, were selected based on earned awards and recognitions, quality and quantity of their academic publications, recommendations from their peers, student reviews, and the academic reputation of APU’s School of Nursing.

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 Download APU’s iPhone app and check out what’s happening on campus. You can even track the trolley via the Trolley Tracker app or on APU Mobile. [www.apu.edu/mobile](http://www.apu.edu/mobile)

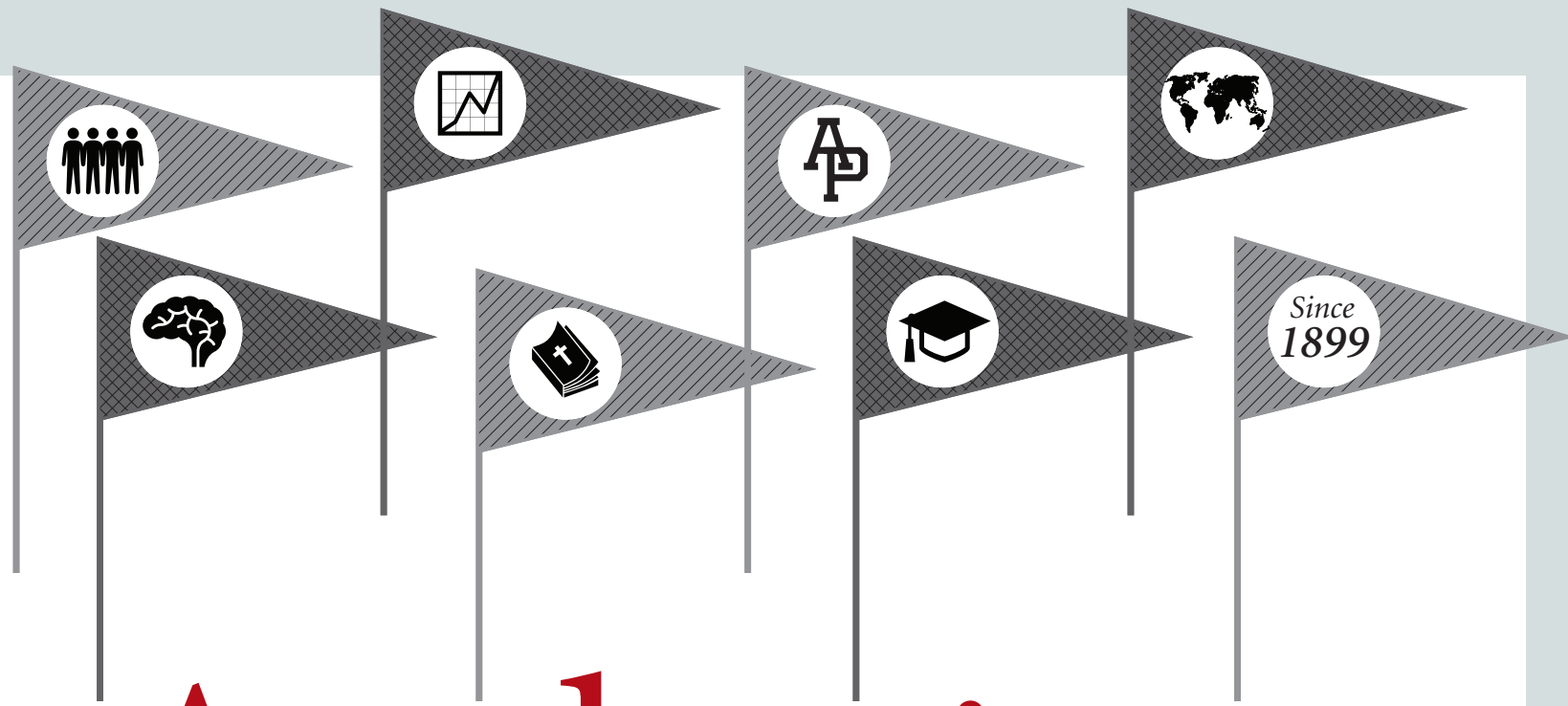
 Become a fan of APU on Facebook and watch videos, learn about upcoming events, and read up on current students’ experiences. [www.facebook.com/azusapacific](http://www.facebook.com/azusapacific)

 View short films on APU alumni working to make a difference. [youtube.com/universityrelations](http://youtube.com/universityrelations)

 Check out photos of university life from the Azusa Pacific Flickr group. [www.flickr.com/groups/azusapacific](http://www.flickr.com/groups/azusapacific)

 Receive updates on the latest APU news and events. [www.twitter.com/azusapacific](http://www.twitter.com/azusapacific)

Staying connected has never been so easy!



# Academic Quality and Academic Reputation:

## A Crucial Connection by Mark Stanton

What comes to mind when you see a driver's alma mater referenced on a license plate holder, hear that a keynote speaker graduated from Harvard University, or see a local university billboard during your morning commute? For many, identification of an academic institution evokes an immediate opinion. That response draws on a variety of emotional and intellectual factors, including media reports, personal experiences, and even the comments of others. Regardless of the method, these conclusions reflect our judgment of that institution's reputation.

### What Is Reputation?

Academic reputation comprises the cumulative social judgment of a university or college. It may be based on location and facilities, the mystique of time and tradition, the success of an athletic team, or the presence of a well-known faculty member. Annual surveys and their resulting rankings in prominent outlets like *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Princeton Review*, or *Kiplinger's* analyze academic reputation using factors salient to the evaluation of higher education. Many people use these rankings to inform their personal opinion of academic institutions. Collectively, these sources combine to form the general reputation of a particular university.

At APU, we strive for a reputation commensurate with our actual state of affairs. For example, many people still perceive us to be a "small school" because their knowledge or experience of us reflects who we were many years ago. When I tell colleagues that APU enrolls more than 10,000 students (undergraduate, adult, and graduate combined), they are shocked. Yet, we are larger than many private universities, with more students than Pepperdine University or the University of San Diego.

Beyond enrollment statistics, we hope that our academic quality informs our reputation. APU now recruits and enrolls top undergraduate students, edging out what some deem to be "elite" Christian schools. For example, a recent analysis found that in fall 2010, APU admitted 1,022 freshmen, and the top 296 of these incoming students held an average SAT score of 1245. These figures surpassed other prestigious Christian institutions and rivaled some other well-known private schools.

Providing yet another perspective on academic reputation, the categorization of a university identifies its range of degrees and relative focus on research. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, a framework that describes institutions of higher education, places APU in the Doctoral/Research Universities category among a group of approximately 90 nationally comparable institutions granting doctoral degrees, including the University of San Francisco, Seton Hall University, DePaul University, and Texas Christian University. Carnegie also lists APU as 1 of only 115 U.S. colleges and universities selected for the 2010 Community Engagement Classification, recognizing significant commitment to community engagement.

Positioning academic reputation as a primary goal of our Shared Vision 2022 reflects our desire to be known for who we are and who we are becoming as we advance our mission and purpose. President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, said, "At APU, we believe that a reputation for academic excellence honors God. We will continue to build our reputation on the significant instruction and scholarship of our faculty so that students receive the best Christian educational experience possible."

### Who We Are

Location

**Azusa, CALIFORNIA**

Enrollment

**10,000<sup>+</sup> STUDENTS**

Top Incoming Freshmen (2010)

**1245 AVERAGE SAT SCORE**

Faculty

**450<sup>+</sup> CORE FACULTY MEMBERS**

Athletics

**NCAA DIVISION II**

## Why Is Academic Reputation Important?

Academic reputation impacts and interacts with a variety of factors in the life of the university, including student recruitment and student success, faculty recruitment and retention, and staff engagement. “When students and families investigate university admission, we know a deciding factor is the strength of the academic program,” said Wallace. In fact, the 2012 annual Undergraduate Perception Study conducted for APU by University Research Partners revealed that students rated “quality of faculty and instruction” as the second-highest factor (next to availability of financial aid). Our academic quality reflects our commitment to the combined interaction of teaching, research, and student success. We want students to develop in many dimensions throughout their university experience.

“This holistic approach to student success—caring about students’ intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual development—is one hallmark of an APU education,” said Laurie Schreiner, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Doctoral Higher Education. “We believe there’s something more to student success than grades and graduation; there’s a vital engagement and connection to others that is characteristic of those students who are really thriving in college. This focus on thriving, based on the research of our doctoral faculty and students in the Ph.D. in Higher Education program, is gaining national attention. Thriving students are engaged in the learning process, investing effort and setting goals, but they are also connected to others in healthy ways, making a difference in the community around them and facing the future with confidence. By keeping our finger on the pulse of our students’ thriving levels, APU is able to provide appropriate support to those who may be struggling to survive, while at the same time identifying the best practices on campus that contribute to thriving in all students.”

Faculty members also flourish at an institution that values academic quality and demonstrates a commitment to academic excellence. In the last three years, we hired more than 150 full-time faculty members, bringing our total core faculty to more than 450, and interest continues to increase as candidates recognize our commitment

### Reputation Matters

#### Quality of Faculty and Instruction

**2<sup>nd</sup> HIGHEST DECISION FACTOR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

#### Preferred Destination

**150 NEW FACULTY HIRED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS**

to our mission and academic quality. We attract top scholars and teachers with degrees from renowned institutions. Though they have many options, they chose to serve at APU because they share our values and our commitment to an education process that emphasizes teaching, research, and student engagement. In the last year, academic departments have been involved in discipline-specific discussion regarding academic quality, identification of national norms, and comparable institutions in order to benchmark teaching and research productivity and create strategies to enhance academic quality and academic reputation.

Finally, APU staff members engage with the Shared Vision 2022 to educate and develop students from a distinctly Christian worldview. They interact regularly with students, providing mentoring through a variety of structured programs as they help students navigate their academic careers.

## Measuring Academic Quality to Inform Academic Reputation

In order to distinguish the most important issues related to academic quality and the specific factors that impact academic reputation, APU plans to identify assessment measures for each factor, establish relevant benchmarks or comparisons that characterize an appropriate level of excellence, set goals to accomplish over the next 1–5 years, and create strategies to achieve those goals. “God’s excellence requires that we pursue improvement and excellence individually and in organizations such as APU,” said Bill Hooper, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the APU Board of Trustees and principal at Trinitas Partners. “To this end, APU has launched a measurable plan to improve the university’s academic quality and reputation. The framework provides a template for a comprehensive view of where APU is today and where we can improve, and for systematic progress reviews of improvements and issues going forward. This is how healthy organizations improve and grow.”

A variety of important factors has already been identified in the areas of faculty scholarship, student scholarship, faculty-student scholarship, student success/satisfaction/thriving, teaching-learning, faith integration, diversity, spiritual formation, faculty satisfaction, service learning, student selectivity, internationalization, and advancement. Other areas are under consideration, but the focus remains on issues that impact the quality of education at APU, not simply to impose a business model on higher education. The need for higher education to re-ignite students’ development of critical thinking and complex reasoning to function in an interconnected society, well documented in such books as *Academically Adrift* by Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa (University of Chicago Press, 2011), requires a commitment to examine academic practices and student learning outcome expectations. Stephanie Juillerat, Ph.D., associate provost, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, notes that, “In order to answer the question, ‘Have students learned what APU expects them to learn?’ APU faculty develop student learning outcomes and then assess the degree to which students achieve those outcomes. This assessment forms the foundation for determining academic quality.” Ultimately, what matters is what actually happens to students as they engage in the education process.

This connection between student outcomes and academic quality also requires a clear understanding of the relationship between faculty scholarship and faculty teaching and student learning. “Tension occurs when any institution desires to maintain its commitment to teaching while simultaneously increasing the role of scholarship in the life of students and faculty,” said Schreiner. “Add to that our mission of developing students not only intellectually but also spiritually, and it becomes difficult to find successful models.”

To maximize the complementary relationship between faculty scholarship and student development, the Faculty Research Council (FRC) considered the issue and made recommendations to the Office of the Provost. “While deliberations over university-wide scholarly goals and objectives were often difficult because each discipline approaches academic inquiry in a slightly different manner, the diversity in methodologies challenged faculty to approach scholarship in a potentially new way,” said Joshua Morris, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry and FRC chair.

The outcomes of the council’s research energized the faculty. “We’re pleased that the FRC set goals for scholarly productivity and recommended increasing the number of student-faculty research partnerships, as there is significant evidence



APU PHOTO ARCHIVES

that these relationships greatly enhance student learning,” said Schreiner. “What sets APU faculty apart is their ability to integrate their faith not only into their teaching, but also into their scholarship. Students who work alongside faculty researchers often mention the impact this integration has on their learning as well as their spiritual development. As students become critical thinkers, their research skills improve while their faith matures and becomes their own.”

This connection, this confluence of effective teaching and culture of scholarship, stands as the hallmark of Azusa Pacific’s reputation for academic excellence. And as we continue to integrate faith across every program, we will be known for actively promoting spiritual formation through research and scholarship. As we continue to pursue interpersonal reconciliation and internationalization, we will be known for advancing God-honoring diversity in the academy. As we achieve select student outcomes, we will be known for the difference these students make in our world. And as we faithfully affirm, reward, and celebrate these efforts, we will earn our position as that “university on a hill,” and stand as the preferred destination for gifted faculty and students.

Mark Stanton, Ph.D., ABPP, is Azusa Pacific’s provost and chief academic officer. [mstanton@apu.edu](mailto:mstanton@apu.edu)



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# Faithful in Little and in Much

by Shannon Linton

Although they attended Azusa Pacific during different decades, come from varied backgrounds, and followed distinct paths, these APU graduates share a striking similarity—they faithfully give back to their alma mater. Knowing that every gift makes a lasting difference, they each give out of their deep commitment to APU according to their ability. These loyal alumni, all deeply changed by their education at a university that puts *God First*, honor that experience by supporting the students who follow them.

As part of a longtime trend known as loyalty giving, Randy '76, M.A. '78 and Barbara (Schreur '77) Rozema; John and Julie (Simoni '81, M.A. '85) Wilson; David Tous '88; and Tage '98 and Jodi (Elson '97, M.A. '12) Peterson build upon their personal connection to their alma mater. These alumni give to the university year after year, demonstrating a commitment to its future and an understanding that every gift, no matter the size, impacts the students who attend APU.

"These gifts provide a foundation from which APU can support its students and their experiences in the classroom, on the field, or on mission trips," said Corbin Hoornbeek, senior director of development in the Office of University Advancement at APU. "For example, this past fiscal year, 3,839 people gave a total of \$600,000 to send APU students on mission trips, with the average gift totaling \$155," he said. "Everyone can help make a difference for our students and for people around the world, and our donors can see that."

"When we were students at APU, we saw people giving whatever amount they could, and Barbara and I benefitted from that through scholarships," said Randy Rozema.

"We were challenged intellectually and spiritually during our years at APU," Barbara said. "We love the people and the vision that make APU what it is." The owners of Party Plus and Party Plus Rentals in Redlands, the Rozemas have found many opportunities to give over the years, including sharing their hospitality with those in need. "We give what we can," Barbara said, "and we trust that APU will use that to create a legacy of faith for future generations."

For Tous, the life lessons he received as a business administration major resonated with him. "APU develops students for the real world, growing their understanding of who Jesus Christ is, while also allowing for failure and success in academics," he explained. Now the senior managing partner at the Law Offices of Tous and Associates in Southern California, Tous sees firsthand the value of weaving his faith into the real world. "Being a part of a community of students challenged to do much more than just graduate made a big impact on me," said Tous. "I give back to APU because God calls us to give—and I can see that Azusa Pacific is a place that encourages students to live out their faith every day."

Julie Wilson remembers a crucial moment during her undergraduate years when she needed encouragement and support. Her tuition bill had arrived and she didn't feel she could ask her mom, a widow, for any additional money. President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, then an associate dean, noticed Julie's tears and helped her find a solution to the situation. "I have never forgotten that moment," Julie said. "If we can take that stress off students and help them develop their passions, then it's totally worth it for me." She went on to explain that her time at Azusa Pacific allowed her to hone her gift of problem solving, which she uses daily as a human resources consultant and owner of Lighthouse Learning. Because of Julie's experience and the unwavering mission of the university, both Julie and her husband, John, stand behind the mission of APU. "We've made a commitment to give in any way we can," she said. "The amount doesn't matter—we're just so grateful for the work APU is doing."

For Tage Peterson and his wife, Jodi, Azusa Pacific represented the kind of school where you didn't have to sacrifice education or spirituality. Tage entered APU on a track scholarship, benefitting from a top-notch decathlete program as he learned what it meant to be a Christian athlete. Jodi received an academic scholarship. "Without those scholarships, APU and all the incredible experiences that came with it would not have been an option for us," Jodi explained. "We knew that someone out there cared enough about making a difference for us as students to write a check."

Tage works as an insurance broker and Jodi as a psychotherapist, but they didn't wait until they had their feet under them to give back. "We started giving right after we graduated," Tage said. "For us, it's God's money and we know He can use it to make a big impact."

Jodi agreed, adding, "We want to see people receive the same opportunities we did. We're pouring back into the mission of the university for the students there now and for those who will join us in carrying on the Azusa Pacific legacy of putting *God First*."

Shannon Linton '07 is a freelance writer and editor living in Covina, California. shannonlinton2286@gmail.com

"Everyone can help make a difference for our students and for people around the world, and our donors can see that." CORBIN HOORNBEEK

**3,839** PEOPLE GAVE

**\$600,000** TO SEND APU STUDENTS ON MISSION TRIPS

**\$155** AVERAGE GIFT



Tage '98 and Jodi (Elson '97, M.A. '12) Peterson



John and Julie (Simoni '81, M.A. '85) Wilson



Randy '76, M.A. '78 and Barbara (Schreur '77) Rozema

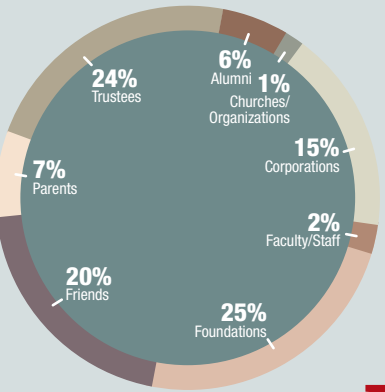


David '88 and Debra Tous

TOTAL GIVING

APU receives gifts from faculty, staff, alumni, parents, trustees, foundations, corporations, churches, and friends. We are deeply grateful for this support of students and investment in our mission.

GIVING BY CONSTITUENCY



2011-12  
FISCAL  
YEAR

ALUMNI	\$569,231
CHURCHES/ ORGANIZATIONS	154,184
CORPORATIONS	1,539,408
FACULTY/STAFF	200,924
FOUNDATIONS	2,400,462
FRIENDS	1,928,933
PARENTS	675,589
TRUSTEES	2,347,814
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,816,545.92</b>

GROWING OUR BASE OF SUPPORT  
17% increase in donors in 2 years  
19% increase in gifts in 2 years

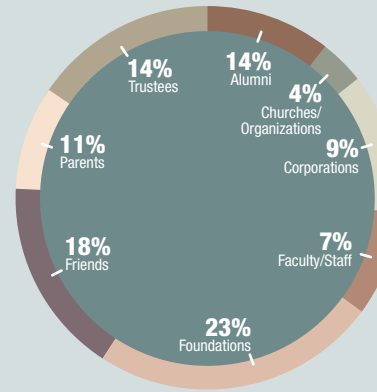
TOTAL GIVING SUMMARY

CAPITAL	\$3,388,528
ENDOWMENT	\$877,138
RESTRICTED	\$3,352,915
UNIVERSITY FUND	\$1,766,964
OTHER	\$431,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,816,545</b>

GIVING TO THE UNIVERSITY FUND

The University Fund helps to fund student scholarships, faculty positions, academic and student life programs, and technology advancements.

GIVING BY CONSTITUENCY



ALUMNI	\$251,126
CHURCHES/ ORGANIZATIONS	64,209
CORPORATIONS	158,745
FACULTY/STAFF	123,094
FOUNDATIONS	410,131
FRIENDS	317,616
PARENTS	190,709
TRUSTEES	251,334
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,766,964</b>

GROWING OUR BASE OF SUPPORT  
8% increase in donors in 2 years  
25% increase in gifts in 2 years

GIFT AND ESTATE PLANNING

APU provides professional services to help individuals make informed decisions regarding their current and future estate plans, while also facilitating investment in our mission. Over time, these generous gifts have helped build today's endowment to nearly \$51 million. In 2011-12, APU received \$681,684 through gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, matured bequests, and other gift-planning vehicles.

ASSISTING OUR STUDENTS

INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS	\$51,126,550
FEDERAL AND STATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS	\$19,435,738
PERCENT OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS RECEIVING ANY FORM OF INSTITUTIONAL OR NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID	92%
FRESHMAN RETENTION	87.5%

STEWARDSHIP OUR RESOURCES

Selected financial numbers/Operating Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 (unaudited)

REVENUE BREAKDOWN

TUITION AND FEES	\$216,593,930
AUXILIARY SERVICES	\$31,993,601
PRIVATE GIFTS AND GRANTS	\$1,592,218
INVESTMENT INCOME AND GAINS	\$444,540
OTHER INCOME	\$8,433,710
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$259,057,999</b>

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

INSTRUCTION AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT	\$97,598,529
SCHOLARSHIPS/ FINANCIAL AID	\$51,297,405
STUDENT SERVICES	\$16,997,610
AUXILIARY SERVICES	\$17,558,345
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	\$72,280,717
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$255,732,606</b>

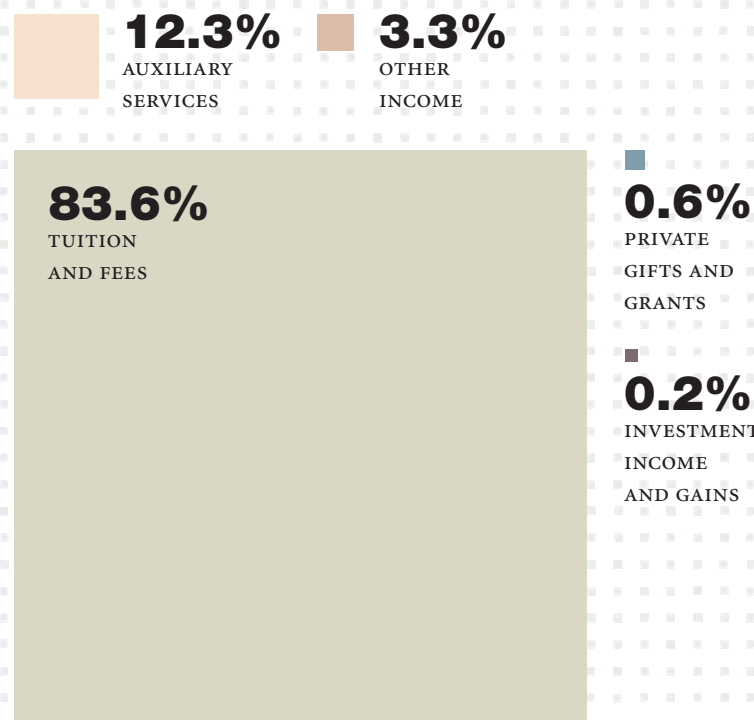
TOTAL DEBT	\$133,487,066
TOTAL ASSETS	\$361,122,580
DEBT-TO-ASSET RATIO	37%
ENDOWMENT BALANCE	\$50,788,068
FIVE-YEAR GROWTH	40.7%

# Investing in Our Mission

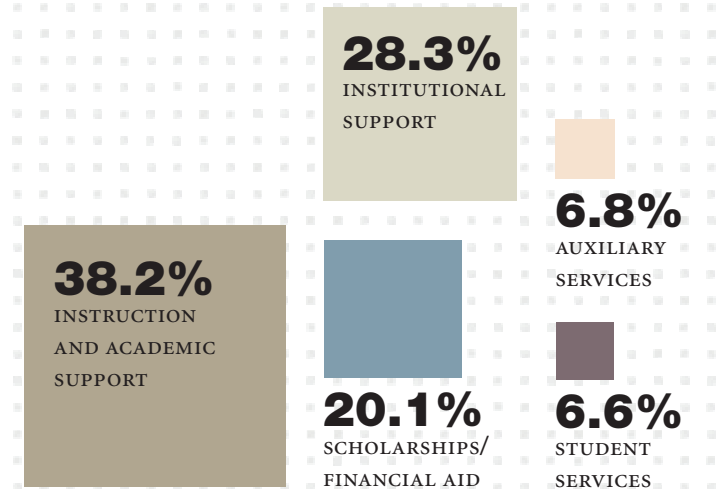
illustration by  
MARISSA QUINN '11, MFA '14



REVENUE BREAKDOWN



EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



UNIVERSITY SNAPSHOT 2012

TOTAL STUDENTS

**9,929**

WOMEN **65%** MEN **35%**

GRADUATE **40%** UNDERGRADUATE **60%**

ETHNIC MINORITY STUDENTS (UNDERGRADUATE) **34%**

UNDERGRADUATE TUITION

**\$28,000**

AVERAGE GPA OF INCOMING FRESHMEN

**3.64**

AVERAGE COMBINED SAT

**1105**

TOTAL FACULTY

**1,102**

TOTAL STAFF

**827**

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

**13:1**

PERCENTAGE OF FACULTY WITH DOCTORATE, FIRST PROFESSIONAL, OR OTHER

TERMINAL DEGREE

**74%**



# The Obedient Builder

by Cynndie Hoff

Covered in chalky white plaster baked on by the relentless Southern California sun, Gene Piester smiled. He loved his job. Fresh out of high school, and eager to join his father and brother in the family's contractor business, he relished the physical labor, camaraderie, and blessing of employment. For most 18-year-olds in 1940, life held few certainties. But Piester had faith—in his father, who modeled how to work and live with integrity, in his country, which inspired pride and loyalty, and in his Lord, who constantly reminded him that He was in control. That faith came into play like never before when Pearl Harbor fell under attack.

Though seven days younger than the draft age, he obeyed his heart and enlisted. Those long hours helping dad on the job and countless more spent under the hood of their dad's Model T Ford truck made Piester a valuable military asset. The Army Air Corps (now Air Force) fast-tracked him as a crew chief working on combat fighter planes. When word of the war's end finally reached him in a remote jungle, he truly understood the kind of bravery and perseverance real obedience takes.

It hit home again when he resumed the business and life he left behind three years prior. With their father retired, he and his brother revived the contracting company that had waned during the war. Known for their honest practices and high-quality work, the Piester brothers built a reputation for excellence. "After 17 years of backbreaking work, we knew we needed to change directions," he said. So Gene and older brother Charles enrolled in night classes to earn their real estate licenses. Once again, the Piesters' entrepreneurial spirit turned a fledgling endeavor into a formidable success by keeping integrity the center of their business. Attraction to that attribute led to a fondness for the graduates Azusa Pacific University produces.

Piester, his wife of 54 years, Maxine, and Charles date their affiliation with APU back to the 1960s, when they helped build a two-story dormitory for Arlington College, one of the schools that merged to create APU. "Gene's obedience to God through his generosity humbles and impresses me," said David Bixby, Ed.D., executive vice president. "Over the years, Gene and Charles have given APU partial interests in some of their properties and a \$2 million property through a charitable annuity trust. Most recently, Gene gave a \$348,000 property through a charitable unitrust and set up a testamentary unitrust to benefit his children and grandchildren—an act of love that will relieve his heirs of management responsibilities while providing a steady income stream. At the end of the term, the remaining balance will be used to fund the Gene and Maxine Piester Endowed Scholarship Fund, providing scholarships to deserving students for many years."

"I am so happy to be able to provide for my children and grandchildren and do the Lord's work with the help of APU. It doesn't feel like giving; it's just the right thing



to do, the obedient thing to do. The future of our country is tied to education, and APU graduates the finest people I've seen. I'm investing in that mission and depending on APU to mold students into honest people who will go out into the world and stand out as trustworthy, intelligent, hard workers," said Piester, who, at age 90, still shows up for work at 8 a.m. every day—ever the obedient Kingdom builder.

Cynndie Hoff is a freelance writer living in Walnut, California. ceh.hoff@verizon.net

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Thomas G. Miller	*Current as of November 2012

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The Ahmanson Foundation	IHS Foundation
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Anonymous	J.W. and Ida M. Jameson Foundation
Bargaehr Family Foundation	Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
Barnabas Foundation	Kern Family Foundation
BNI-Misner Charitable Foundation	Kiwanis Club of Victorville Foundation
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Canyon City Foundation	George H. Mayr Foundation
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Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation	National Christian Foundation of Southern California
The Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties	National Christian Foundation West Michigan
<i>The Victress Bower Fund and the James K. Wilden Fund</i>	National Christian Foundation
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee	New Horizons Foundation
Dream Again Foundation	Peter and Masha Plotkin Memorial Foundation
East Bay Community Foundation	The Rose Hills Foundation
EMELCO Foundation	Sacred Harvest Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	WWR Charitable Foundation
Foor Foundation	Windgate Charitable Foundation
The Fuller Foundation	
Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation	
Helen and Will Webster Foundation	
Lucile Horton and Mitchell B. Howe Foundation	
The Hugh and Hazel Darling Foundation	

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS

A total of 166 individuals multiplied their personal donations to APU by participating in their employers' matching gift program, resulting in \$99,592 (a 33 percent increase in one year) in corporate matching funds from 74 companies (a 51 percent increase in one year). Additionally, Azusa Pacific University and its faculty were awarded \$2,219,370 in government grants.

# Navigating the NCAA Transition

by Gary Pine

I like change. I always have. Fortunately, I work with 15 terrific head coaches, an enthusiastic support staff, and 475 energetic student-athletes who embrace change as well. Our athletic program is waist deep into change this year, learning how to modify operations and adjust our thinking—and it all started with a phone call on July 11, 2011.

The call did not come as a surprise; we had been working toward this moment for nearly two years. Yet, admittedly there was a sense of relief, excitement, and anticipation when the NCAA informed us that Azusa Pacific University had been accepted into its three-year membership process. One does not simply ask the NCAA for membership, pay a fee, and then receive automatic residency in its elite club. No, as we are reminded on a daily basis, a prospective institution must apply to enter into a process and then endure it while hoping that all the sweat and change will eventually lead to active membership. The NCAA takes pride in its grueling three-year membership process, which includes two years of no playoffs.

Well-known for its rules and regulations, the NCAA has a 374-page manual that the coaches and administrators must know inside and out, and yes, like their student-athletes, the coaches must take a test, an annual written examination demonstrating appropriate competency before the coach is allowed to recruit off campus. It also includes 32 articles of governance that cover everything from membership to enforcement of rules. In between are the weighty subjects of academic eligibility, benefits and expenses, financial aid, and admissions. And for everything not covered in the manual, there is a server-load of interpretations on the Internet. While every NCAA-member campus must employ at least one compliance officer, an expert on the rules, coaches and administrators are expected to have more than a passing knowledge of these regulations, and only the naïve believe they can master these rules and regulations in fewer than three years.

In fall 2011, Azusa Pacific received a visit from NCAA-sanctioned assessor, whose subsequent appraisal of the university's initial alignment with NCAA regulations was mostly positive. Faculty and staff were lauded for their devotion to the university, but were cautioned that as a group we relied too much on oral tradition. The university lacked necessary written policies and procedures, and was forewarned that in the coming months and years, the NCAA would audit the university with an expectation to align its practices with written procedures already endorsed by the NCAA.

Thus, during the opening year of our membership process, we put our practices into written word, and when necessary, changed our procedures to meet NCAA standards and expectations. For instance, all athletic-related aid is now accounted for and traced by the university's Office of Undergraduate Student Financial Services,

which ensures the Athletics Department does not exceed NCAA financial aid limits. One Stop, the Undergraduate Student Enrollment Center, now tracks continuing eligibility and progress toward graduation for returning student-athletes. For nearly five decades, the Athletics Department handled such operations. However, the NCAA demands shared responsibility and transparent accountability of its members, and we welcome these changes and the involvement of other APU personnel in the athletics program.

The NCAA also requires that we monitor the length of practices, contact with student-athletes, benefits afforded them, and missed class time. Academic advising, gender equity and diversity, excused absences, and student well being must have written policies.

Now in the midst of year two and halfway through the three-year process toward active NCAA membership, we are testing these newly written procedures, and making adjustments as necessary. We're aiming for a smooth operation by the end of this year, so that during year three of the transition, we'll look and act like a model NCAA institution. Ideally, the result of this effort would be another phone call from the NCAA, sometime in July 2014, with word that Azusa Pacific has been granted active membership and thus become eligible for the university's first-ever NCAA championship.

Indeed, this NCAA change is monumental, but it's worth it. Accountability, equity in admissions, clear boundaries of operation, financial support, adherence to a balance in the life of student-athletes, and of course, added visibility are among the obvious reasons we have taken on this great challenge, confident that the Azusa Pacific banner and our *God First* motto will shine in college sports' most recognized arena.

Gary Pine '84, MBA '03, is athletic director at Azusa Pacific University. [gpine@apu.edu](mailto:gpine@apu.edu)

**MORE THAN 475 APU STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN VARSITY SPORTS.**

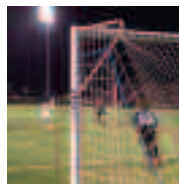


DAVID RUSSELL '13

# Cougars

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations • (626) 812-3026 • alumni@apu.edu • www.apu.edu/alumni



### Let There Be Lights

During the summer, APU completed upgrades to three major athletics facilities, and it didn't take long for the Azusa Pacific community to begin taking advantage of the improvements.

New stadium lights installed at the Cougar Soccer Complex allow Azusa Pacific's soccer programs to play evening games and weeknight doubleheaders for the first time since the facility opened in 2002. The first scheduled event, an evening doubleheader held on Saturday night of the New Student Orientation Weekend, illuminated the field as the Cougars took on Biola in front of a record-setting crowd of 2,600. APU swept the doubleheader 5-0, 2-1.

In addition, the construction of the Dillon Recreation Complex provided APU's football program with an artificial turf practice field. Shortly after completion, the Cougars opened their fall camp on the new field with a program-record, 126-player opening roster.

The third major improvement, a \$100,000 upgrade to the weight room, includes indoor turf for agility drills and state-of-the-art weight lifting equipment. Along with new mats, dumbbells, medicine balls, and racks, numerous upgraded stations and improved pieces of training equipment help Azusa Pacific's student-athletes prepare for their first year of competition within NCAA Division II.



### Track and Field Unifies Leadership Team

The nationally honored Azusa Pacific men's and women's track and field programs united under the umbrella leadership of Mike Barnett '97, who was named director of track and field in August. Barnett, who previously served as the women's head coach, now oversees the operations of both programs establishing a single vision and purpose for both teams. Preston Grey, a former track and field assistant coach and head coach of the Cougar cross country program, became head coach of the women's team, while Kevin Reid '88 continues as the men's head coach.



### Taking the Plunge

After claiming an unprecedented eighth-consecutive Directors' Cup trophy at the NAIA level in 2012, Azusa Pacific earned approval for progression into year two of the three-year NCAA Division II membership process. As part of the transition, the university began its new Division II conference affiliations, with the Great Northwest Athletic Conference for football and the Pacific West (PacWest) Conference for all other sports.

The football team opened its 2012 campaign with a visit to UC Davis, which competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision, before visiting Humboldt State on September 8 in the program's first-ever conference game. Prior to this, Azusa Pacific had never competed within a football conference.

Other fall sports opened play in the PacWest, beginning with the volleyball team hosting California Baptist on September 11. The men's and women's soccer teams followed suit just two days later, visiting Academy of Art for their first-ever PacWest conference games, and the men's and women's cross country teams competed in Azusa Pacific's first-ever PacWest championship event. The women won the conference championship, hosted by Hawaii Pacific University at the Kahuku Golf Course on the island of O'ahu, October 27. This was the first-ever PacWest Championship win for APU. Men placed fourth.



### Cougars in the Pros

Former Azusa Pacific soccer player Steven Lenhart '10 helped lead the San Jose Earthquakes of Major League Soccer (MLS) to a first-place standing in the Western Conference. In late July, San Jose honored Lenhart with a promotion called Steven Lenhart Wig Night, on which 2,500 fans received blonde wigs resembling the fifth-year pro's natural hairstyle. Lenhart came off the bench to score a dramatic game-tying goal in stoppage time on the night he was honored, and scored two more goals in similarly dramatic fashion to rally San Jose from a 2-0 deficit in the final 10 minutes of a friendly match against the English Premier League's Swansea City for a 2-2 draw.

Watch  
Live

Cougar Athletics  
Live Video  
and Stats



### Cougar Athletics Broadcast Live

This fall the Athletics Department began offering a live video streaming service in partnership with Stretch Internet. The service will continue throughout the school year, broadcasting the entire season of home games for basketball, acrobatics and tumbling, track and field, baseball, and softball games.

Each event costs \$7.95, with discounts offered for full-season subscriptions to individual sports. To access the broadcasts, go to [apu.edu/athletics/](http://apu.edu/athletics/).

### Upcoming Athletic Events

#### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

January 12 | Women: 1 p.m. | Men: 3 p.m. | Cougars vs. Dixie State | Felix Event Center

February 28 | Women: 5:30 p.m. | Men: 7:30 p.m. | Cougars vs. California Baptist | Felix Event Center

#### ACROBATICS AND TUMBLING

February 7 | 6:30 p.m. | Cougars vs. Oregon | Felix Event Center

#### BASEBALL

February 15 | 5 p.m. | Cougars vs. Biola | Cougar Baseball Complex

#### SOFTBALL

February 22 | 4 p.m. | Cougars vs. Academy of Art | Cougar Softball Complex

### Upcoming Alumni and Parent Events

**December 2, 2012 | Alumni Music Reception | 4-6 p.m.**

Join APU alumni for refreshments in between the two Celebrate Christmas concerts at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena. Register at [www.apualumni.com/alumnimusicreception2012](http://www.apualumni.com/alumnimusicreception2012)

**December 12, 2012 | Alumni Open House | 1-4 p.m.**

Stop by the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations for fellowship and holiday treats.

**February 22, 2013 | Annual Grandparents' Day | 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**

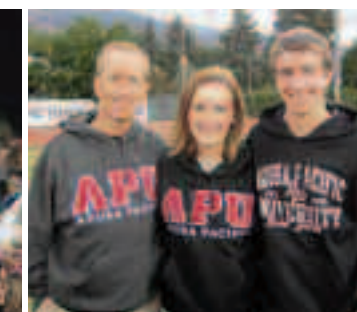
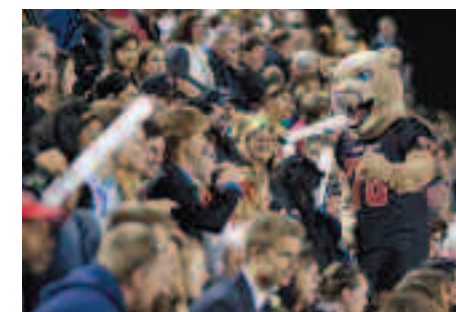
Invite the grandparents to spend a day on campus, take a tour, go to chapel, and attend a class with their grandchild to catch a glimpse of what life is all about at APU. Register at [www.apualumni.com/grandparentsday2012](http://www.apualumni.com/grandparentsday2012).

**April 13, 2013 | Dinner Theater**

Enjoy a lovely dinner with a silent auction to benefit the Student Scholarship Fund, followed by APU Theater's performance of *Hello Dolly!*

### Notable and Noteworthy

The Alumni and Parent Relations staff and your classmates want to know what's new with you. Upload Alumni Class Notes and photos to [www.apu.edu/alumni/connect/classnotes](http://www.apu.edu/alumni/connect/classnotes) or email [alumni@apu.edu](mailto:alumni@apu.edu)



### Homecoming and Family Weekend 2012 Recap

Homecoming and Family Weekend 2012 was a blast! The Ladies' Tea and Dinner Rally both sold out, four class reunions took place, the Block Party buzzed with the excitement of live music and a visit from the In-N-Out truck, and a packed stadium cheered the Cougar football team on to a victory over Central Washington. Mark your calendar for next year's festivities: Homecoming and Family Weekend 2013—October 10, 11, and 12.

## HOME WORD | AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

### The Five Myths of Masculinity

Jim Burns, with Gary Oliver

Research demonstrates that a man's brain differs from his female counterpart's. Men tend to be more focused. Women excel at multitasking. Partially because of these differences, boys grow up learning and adapting a distorted view of masculinity reinforced by their culture and their fathers. Gary Oliver, author of *Raising Sons and Loving It*, identifies five key myths of masculinity.

**Myth #1: A man's man is big, brave, and strong.** Value lies in a man's ability to win—to be braver, bigger, and stronger.

The truth: Real strength has little to do with physique. Physical strength has its place, but real manhood involves the development of strong mental, emotional, spiritual, and relational characteristics.

**Myth #2: A man's man isn't emotional and doesn't express affection.** Many fathers rear their sons within a model that precludes displaying or verbalizing emotions (other than anger). Young boys

experience a wide range of emotions, yet they eventually learn that men suppress emotions and remain calm and cool even in the midst of crisis. They hear, "Suck it up," "No pain, no gain," "Are you a man or a mouse?" and "Act like a man."

The truth: Men are emotional, even if they are not in touch with their emotions. Love, tenderness, gentleness, kindness, sensitivity, empathy, nurturing, and compassion—atypical male emotions in this culture—characterize Jesus in the four Gospels. Jesus, a man, experienced and expressed deep emotion. Parents should help their boys identify and appropriately express their emotions.

**Myth #3: A man's man isn't weak and shouldn't cry.** Men grow up learning that crying demonstrates weakness, so they repress emotions of pain and grief. Men who cry become labeled as "wimps" or "girly."

The truth: Real men have the ability to express pain and grief with appropriate tears. Parents can model for their sons how to appropriately and securely

demonstrate tears in times of pain, grief, and crisis.

**Myth #4: A man's man is an expert on sex.** Society bombards boys with sexual images and messages. Adolescent boys learn to share sexual information and stories as if they were first-person experiences, even though most often they are not. This helps to create the myth that guys are experts on sex, which wreaks havoc on God's design for sex and often results in a distorted view of women, and unhealthy focus on sexual performance, and hinders the ability to build healthy relationships with women.

The truth: Men should enter the marriage union as virgins. To counter the myth, parents should provide their boys with biblically based, values-centered sex education. This shouldn't be a one-time talk, but rather an ongoing discussion that addresses sexuality in age-appropriate ways.

**Myth #5: A man's value is determined by what he does and how much he earns.** What do you do? How much do you make? Men hear these probing questions frequently when interacting with others.

They grow up learning how to compete, and realizing that what a man does for a living and how much he earns are key benchmarks of value in our culture. This puts a lot of pressure on boys and men, placing an unhealthy focus on the material rather than the spiritual.

The truth: This unhealthy focus on career and earnings can hinder men from hearing God's voice. The Scriptures reveal that, "No man can serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24). A man's real value stems from his relationship with God. Boys must be taught to look beyond the cultural yardsticks of vocation and money, and instead place primary value on developing their relationship with Christ. Through that vital relationship they become the men God has created them to be.

*Azusa Pacific University's HomeWord Center for Youth and Family with Jim Burns '75, Ph.D., provides biblically based resources for parents and youth to help build healthy families. [www.apu.edu/youthandfamily](http://www.apu.edu/youthandfamily)*

# Empowered to Hope

by Evelyn Barge

The boy slumbered, concealed by a narrow patch of shade alongside a mud house. An open-air church service had concluded nearby under a grove of mango trees, and the crowd dispersed meandering back to other parts of the village. Don Rogers '81 noticed the sleeping child's distended belly and worried that family members somehow left the young boy behind. "He was alone and obviously malnourished," said Rogers, recounting his first visit to Tanzania in 1989. "I brought over the local pastor, who gently woke the boy, put him on his knee, and introduced him as his son." The realization that the small, starving boy was the pastor's own child jolted Rogers. "This man wanted to reach his whole village and make a difference by sharing God's love with the people," he said, "but he couldn't feed his children."

Back home in Garden Grove, California, at Living Spring Christian Fellowship, where Rogers served as a youth ministries pastor, leaders organized rummage sales to purchase two fishing boats and a net for the Tanzanian pastor. He would soon make use of the equipment on Lake Victoria, discovering a way to not only provide for his family, but also employ other villagers in a burgeoning fishing business. "I was hooked," said Rogers, who cites that trip as one of many significant encounters that led to founding Empowering Lives International (ELI), a vast nonprofit dedicated to equipping the poor through its centers across East and Central Africa. "God put into my heart a vision to establish a training center to strengthen pastors and others suffering from poverty with ideas and encouragement that would help them break the cycle of poverty."

After more than two decades of service in Africa and 17 years as ELI's international director, Rogers was honored as Azusa Pacific's 2012 Alumnus of the Year at Dinner Rally in October. "Don Rogers' life is a testimony to obedience, to leaning fully into the call of God upon your life and committing to being a difference maker wherever God places you," said President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. "He embodies all that we hope to impart here on campus—our motto, *God First*; our mission to develop disciples and scholars with intellectual and moral virtue; and our vision to value all people—and he has brought it to life through his calling. What a privilege it is to witness the work God has done through him and his family."

Rogers' endeavor grew from modest beginnings into the border-bridging organization it is today. A short visit to Africa became a series of annual summer mission trips, during which Rogers and others conducted practical training sessions on topics such as developing a tree-seedling nursery, crafting cement water-storage jars, and fostering poultry production. "Empowerment is seeing someone discover their importance in the eyes of God," said Rogers. "That recognition motivates them to reach their potential, and then we can help provide access to practical information." Empowering Lives gained official nonprofit status in 1995. The next year, Rogers and

his wife, Amy, moved to Africa and oversaw the expansion of ELI from Tanzania into Kenya, and later into the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Nationals comprise a substantial part of ELI's staff and core operations. "God has aligned us with amazing national leadership throughout the years here in Africa," said Amy Rogers. "It is because of His leading and the faithfulness, obedience, and sacrifices of our national leadership that ELI is what it is today."

The partnerships enable greater cultural effectiveness as neighbor teaches neighbor. "When we go into villages, we walk together with the people to solve challenges and develop their vision for the community," said Samuel Teimuge, director of the ELI Ukweli Training Center in Ilula, Kenya.

Empowerment through skills-based knowledge represents the heart of virtually all ELI ministries. The group's children's home in Ilula, Kenya, which cares for nearly 100 orphans, stands adjacent to a training center where innovative strategies for agricultural advancement and income generation are developed and disseminated. There, residents learn to grow vegetables with a vertical garden, bake bread in an improvised oven, and better protect precious grain against insects—and so do the youth. "These vulnerable kids, once had no hope and no future, usually because AIDS had claimed one or both of their birth parents," said Gary Enniss '83, Rogers' longtime friend and ELI board member. "Now, they attend high quality schools and speak about their future careers. In many cases, they receive an education equal to that of even privileged children in Africa."

With Rogers at the helm, ELI is now establishing businesses within Africa with the aim of providing even greater opportunities for the African people while becoming a more self-sustaining organization in the process. "This ministry has the fingerprints of God," said Peter Maru, director of the ELI training and development center in Kipkaren, Kenya. "The people of Africa believe in the good things we are doing through training, because He has empowered our mission."

Evelyn Barge is a writer and editor in the Office of University Relations. [ebarge@apu.edu](mailto:ebarge@apu.edu)

Founded by Don Rogers '81, Empowering Lives International focuses on Christ-centered training and education, community development, and outreach to orphans and vulnerable children. Current projects around Africa include:

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**300**—Families from suffering villages aided by microloan programs offering goats and cows  
**650**—Children provided with education and meals at ELI's Christian school in the Keredi slum of Bukavu

#### KENYA

**2**—ELI training centers located near Eldoret impacting thousands of lives annually  
**205**—Orphans cared for at children's homes in Ilula and Kipkaren River  
**2,000+**—Individuals freed from alcohol addiction through rehabilitation and Christian outreach programs

#### SOUTH SUDAN

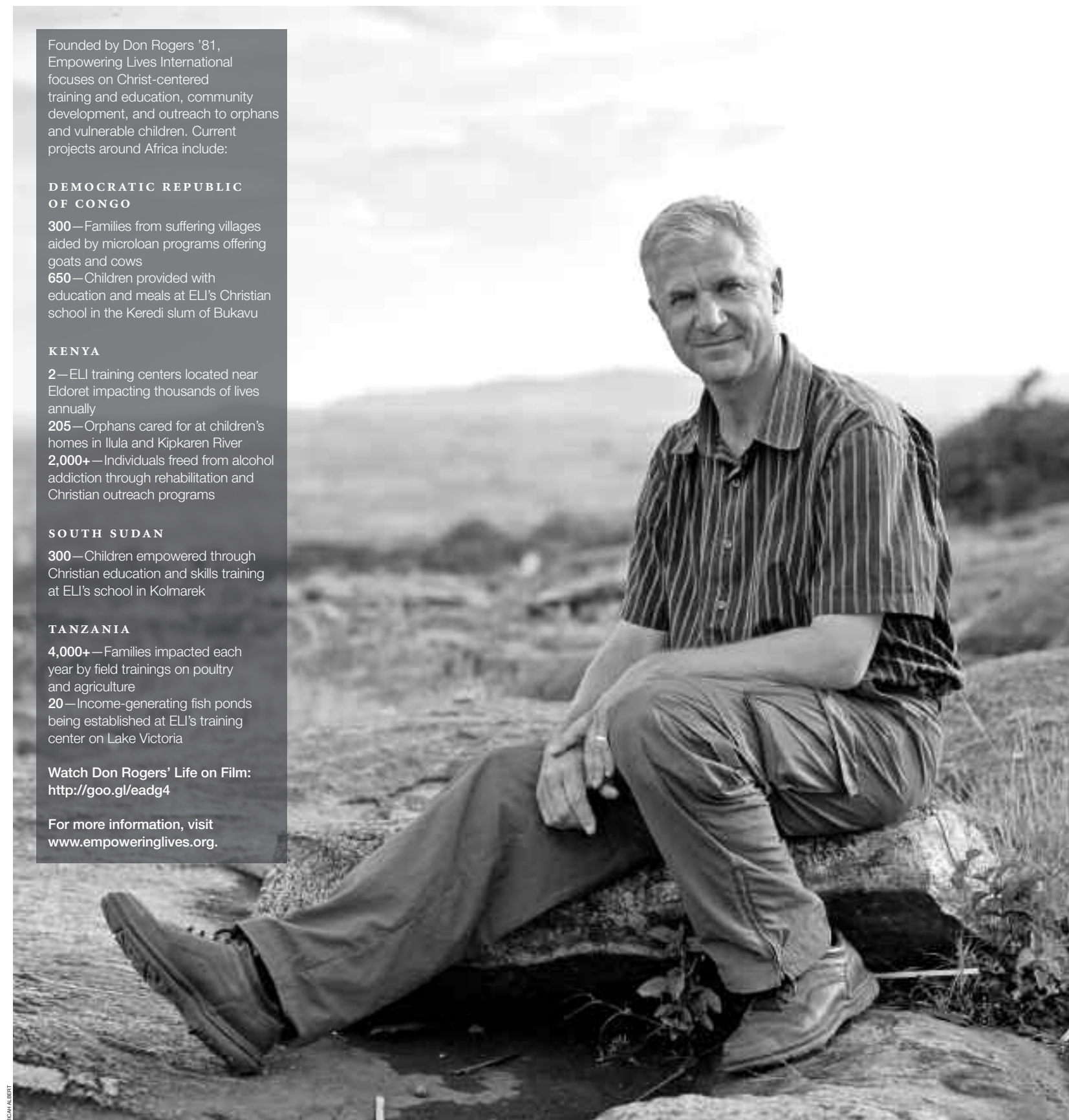
**300**—Children empowered through Christian education and skills training at ELI's school in Kolmarek

#### TANZANIA

**4,000+**—Families impacted each year by field trainings on poultry and agriculture  
**20**—Income-generating fish ponds being established at ELI's training center on Lake Victoria

Watch Don Rogers' Life on Film: <http://goo.gl/eadg4>

For more information, visit [www.empoweringlives.org](http://www.empoweringlives.org).



1980s

**KEVIN HARNEY '84** released two new books in November 2012: *Reckless Faith, Embracing a Life Without Limits* (Baker Publishing) and *Organic Outreach for Families, Turning Your Home into a Lighthouse* (Zondervan). Since graduating from APU, Kevin and his wife, Sherry, have written 8 books and more than 70 small-group studies. Kevin is the lead pastor of Shoreline Community Church in Monterey, California.

**VICTORIA VELASQUEZ '86, M.A. '09**, was named the new principal of Hodge Elementary School in Azusa. Since 1989, she has served as an instructional aide, teacher, and district bilingual literacy coach in the Azusa Unified School District. In 2012–13, she earned the distinction of Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year.

1990s

**MERRY (HILL '94) BROWN** recently wrote a work of fiction titled *The Knowers*, offering young adults a positive view of the world. Merry is a full-time lecturer in the philosophy department at a university in Tennessee.

**OANN KARETOV '94, M.ED. '98**, relocated to Blaine, Minnesota, in 2006, and became head principal at Columbia Heights High School in Columbia Heights, Minnesota, in 2010. [jkaretov@me.com](mailto:jkaretov@me.com)

2000s

**1 BECKY (BEALS '01) HAMMOND** and her husband, **DAVID '01**, live in Yokohama, Japan, on duty with the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. Their daughter, Tamar Martha, loves sushi, salmon eggs, and *APU Life*. The family looks forward to welcoming a new little one in early December. [david@hammondaz.com](mailto:david@hammondaz.com), [becky@hammondaz.com](mailto:becky@hammondaz.com)

**KRISTIANNE (HOUGH '01) RUSSELL, JEFF TIRRELL '02, CHARMARINE (REED '04) DOUGLAS, SCOTT DOUGLAS '09, M.A. '09, STEVE STOKES '05, JODI (LARKIN '05, M.A. '10) PINKOUS, ERICA QUINTERO (ATTENDED 2003–06), MARY LUCAS '08, JENNIFER CARBAJAL '10, CHRIS JOHNSON '10, DANIEL MATAS '10, NATHAN MCALEESE '10, SUSANNA VAUGHAN '10, and LAUREN MAYFIELD '11** performed in the Telemachus Society's touring version of the play *Joe: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man*, written and directed by **BRIAN MERCER '96, M.A. '07**, and assisted by Erica Quintero, last fall. For more information on the Telemachus Society, a performing arts group run by APU alumni, visit [www.thetelemachusociety.org](http://www.thetelemachusociety.org).

**ROSALINDA KEELER '03** was named the new principal of Valleydale Elementary School in Azusa. Prior to joining Azusa Unified, she served as a teacher in the El Monte City School District.

**JONATHAN OLIVIA '03** and his wife, **STEPHANIE (ARMITAGE '05)**, recently moved to New York with their three kids: Evan, 5; Spencer, 3; and Charlotte, 1. Jonathan just finished his residency in OB-GYN and is a practicing obstetrician for the U.S. Army at Fort Drum. Stephanie serves as a pediatrician in her second year of residency at SUNY Upstate.

**2 RUSSELL BUHR '06, MD**, was appointed chief resident for internal medicine at the Washington, DC, Veterans Affairs Medical Center with an academic appointment at Georgetown University for the 2013–14 academic year. He will supervise medical students and residents at the site and serve as an attending physician, educator, and administrator for the Department of Medicine. Russell then plans to pursue advanced training in the fields of pulmonology and critical care medicine, with aspirations for a career in academic practice focusing on both clinical medicine and health care policy research and education. He resides in Washington, DC. [russ.buhr@gmail.com](mailto:russ.buhr@gmail.com)

**MARY HULL '08** worked in the labor and delivery department as a staff nurse for eight years at Queen of the Valley Hospital before becoming a board-certified family nurse practitioner at the Minute Clinic, a medical clinic inside select CVS pharmacies. She recently published a young adult fiction book, *Eyes From Heaven* (iUniverse, 2012), available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites, and soon to be available in ebook format as well. She and her husband, Glen, have three children, Levi, 8; Hailey, 4; and Savannah, 2. [www.eyesfromheaven.com](http://www.eyesfromheaven.com) or [Mary.Hull@minuteclinic.com](mailto:Mary.Hull@minuteclinic.com)

JUST MARRIED

**3 RON WALLACE '74** to Kimberly White on March 17, 2012, at Gateway Church in Brawley, California. Ron recently retired after 38 years of teaching, including five years at APU (1978–83), but will continue to teach mathematics part time via online courses. The couple lives in Brawley.

**LOIS MCGUIRE, M.A. '90**, to Ken McMillan on May 15, 2011, at Rice Christian Fellowship in Rice, Washington. Ken is a retired wheat and cattle farmer from Wilbur, Washington, and Lois served as the superintendent of Evergreen School District in Gifford, Washington, but retired for a second and final time August 1, 2011. They love traveling and enjoying their eight grandchildren.

**7 ASHLEY KARAVEDAS '07** to **L.J. HOLLE '07** on July 29, 2012, in Santa Ana. The wedding party included **PETER KARAVEDAS '06, ERIN (BUNTING '06) KARAVEDAS, ASHLEY COPENHAVER '09, ERIK NELSON '09, CATE FAULKNER (ATTENDED 2003–05), and TYLER HOLLE '12**. Ashley and L.J. both teachers and live in Upland.

**LISSA DUNBAR '94** to Aric Taylor on August 5, 2012. Lissa now lives in Kirkland, Washington, with her new husband and stepsons, Edwin, 8, and William, 6. [Disco71@gmail.com](mailto:Disco71@gmail.com)

**4 MELODY (ROOF '98) LIST** to Arturo Padilla on August 4, 2012. Melody and Arturo, along with children Zachariah, Samantha, and Naomi, live in Encinitas, California. [brave.melody@yahoo.com](mailto:brave.melody@yahoo.com)

**5 LIZ DEWBERRY '02, M.A. '07** to **JEREMIAH VAN SKIKE (ATTENDED 1995–96)** on November 18, 2011. The couple met in Heidelberg, Germany, at a Bible study when Liz worked as the student life coordinator for APU's study abroad semester and Jeremiah was stationed nearby with the Army. Members of the wedding party included **HANNAH**

**PALPANT, M.A. '06**, as matron of honor, and **EMILY JOHNSTON '02** as a bridesmaid. Liz works as the assistant director of graduate admissions at APU, and Jeremiah is working toward a Master of Music at APU. [lvanskike@apu.edu](mailto:lvanskike@apu.edu)

**STEPHANIE BRUSH '03** to Craig Murphy on October 10, 2010, in Santa Cruz, California.

**6 LAUREN TICE '04** to Scott Axline on May 22, 2011, at Harley Botanical Gardens in Moorpark, California. **SANDRA HARDEN '04, M.ED. '06**, and **ALISON (TICE '00) HURST** were members of the wedding party. **JODY HURST '00, LAURA IGRAM '04, M.ED. '07, JONATHAN EDWARDS '04, MATTHEW VINCENT '04, ANGELA (STRIVINGS '04, M.A. '08) VINCENT, ELIZABETH (BONTRAGER '04) RAMIREZ, BROOKE (BUTLER '01) ANAGAGA, and MARISA SOLORZANO, MSW '12** were in attendance. Lauren works as a foster/adoption social worker for Olive Crest Foster Agency, and Scott works as an electrical journeyman lineman for the city of Los Angeles. They reside in Valencia and are expecting their first child in January 2013.

**7 ASHLEY KARAVEDAS '07** to **L.J. HOLLE '07** on July 29, 2012, in Santa Ana. The wedding party included **PETER KARAVEDAS '06, ERIN (BUNTING '06) KARAVEDAS, ASHLEY COPENHAVER '09, ERIK NELSON '09, CATE FAULKNER (ATTENDED 2003–05), and TYLER HOLLE '12**. Ashley and L.J. both teachers and live in Upland.

**DARREN KERSTIEN '07** to **ALLISON RISLEY '10** on May 14, 2011, in Pacific Grove, California. Mark Sanford officiated. Members of the bridal party included **SANDOR FEJERVARY '06, ANDREW GAINES '08, CORY MARQUEZ '07, RYAN WEISS-WRIGHT '07, DANIELLE EARLY '10, ASHLEY MARSHALL '10, and KARLA HILL '10**.

**8 MELISSA SCAFFIDI, M.A. '08** to **JOSH DAVIS '10** on July 18, 2009 in Dana Point, California. Members of the wedding party included **PAUL JEDLICKA '11, MATTHEW DAVIS '12, SARAH DAVIS '15, and AMANDA**

**(NIELSEN '09) DELAMARTER**. Josh and Melissa live Wellington, Florida, with their two dogs, Coco and Oreo. Melissa works as an adolescent therapist, and Josh as a financial advisor.

**9 ROBERT CAMPBELL '09** to **ELIZABETH RUSSO '12** on June 24, 2012, at Hidden Oaks Retreat Center in Alta Loma, California. Members of the wedding party included **KATIE RUSSO '15, KATIE COLEMAN '12, RACHEL SCHILZ '12, ADAM HOFFMAN '10, and DAVID BEAMER '09. FRASER VENTER '05**, pastor of Cucamonga Christian Fellowship, performed the wedding. Rob is a math professor at Chaffey College, and Elizabeth began a master's program in marriage and family therapy last fall.

**10 DANIEL KARIS, M.A. '09**, to **LISA SIMMONS '10** on July 14, 2012, at Diablo Ranch in Walnut Creek, California. Members of the wedding party included **LAURA (SIMMONS '08) GUSTAFSON** as matron of honor and **KRISTA SIMMONS '15** as maid of honor. Lisa works in the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at APU and is pursuing an MBA. Danny serves as a police officer for the city of Covina.

**ROBERT SCHWANDT '09** to **REBEKAH TENNEY '09** on October 10, 2010. Both Robert and Rebekah work at Upland Christian Academy in Rancho Cucamonga where Rebekah serves as director of marketing and development and Robert as a math teacher.

**11 AMY FISHELL '11** to **CHARLES CLEVELAND '12** on July 29, 2012 at Spanish Hills Country Club in Camarillo, California. **SARAH NAFF '12** was a member of the wedding party. Amy and Charles live in Camarillo but will be moving to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where Charles will be stationed with the Army.

FUTURE ALUMNI

**12** To **MAUREEN (RIEGERT '90, M.A. '00) TAYLOR** and her husband, **PATRICK, MBA '99**, a daughter, Nora Elizabeth, on July 25, 2012. She joins big sister Lily, 2. Maureen is executive director of strategic communication at APU, and Patrick is a director at UNUM. They live in Glendora.

**13** To **DAVID BURKE '94** and his wife, Marsha, a daughter Kyla Grace, on June 13, 2012. Kyla has two older brothers, Noah, 4, and Evan, 1. Dave is the senior director of undergraduate admissions at APU and Marcia is a stay-at-home mom. 14 Shady Cove Ct., Azusa, CA 91702. [dburke@apu.edu](mailto:dburke@apu.edu).

To **BRENDA (STORMONT '97) SELISKAR** and her husband, **JASON '04, M.A. '10**, a son, Brennan Mark, on January 5, 2012.

**14** To **ABIGAIL (SANCHEZ '99, M.A. '02, M.A. '10) PINKSTAFF** and her husband, Daniel, a daughter, Kayla, on December 5, 2011.

**15** To **NICOLE (WEST '00) WHITWORTH** and her husband, Bobby, a son, Wyatt, born on June 16, 2011. Wyatt joins big brother J.J., 2.

**16** To **TIMOTHY (ATTENDED 2001–04) LEE** and his wife, **JESSICA (BOGGS '03, M.A. '09)**, a daughter, Lexie Vianne, on June 16, 2012.

**17** To **LORI (LARSSON '02, M.A. '05) DUKOWSKY** and her husband, Rich, a son, James Henry, on April 21, 2012. Lori is a full-time mom, and Rich is a high school science teacher. They live in Upland, California.

**18** To **KIMBERLEY (MICETIC '02) WIEDEFELD** and her husband, **JOHN MARK '03**, a daughter, Kate Allison, born September 13, 2012. Kate has a big brother, Joshua, 2. Kimberley is the director of undergraduate admissions at APU, and John Mark is the associate director of financial aid at APU. [kwiedefeld@apu.edu](mailto:kwiedefeld@apu.edu), [jwiedefeld@apu.edu](mailto:jwiedefeld@apu.edu).

**19** To **KRISTY (REEVES '03) WOOD**, and her husband, John, a son, Micah Charles, on March 7, 2012. John works at Abbott Diagnostics as a sales specialist, and Kristy stays home with Micah. They live in San Antonio, Texas. [Jkwood2003@gmail.com](mailto:Jkwood2003@gmail.com)

**20 JOSHUA GOODMAN '06** and his wife, **MEGAN (SNYDER '07)**, a daughter, Sophie Lynn, on April 11, 2011.

*continued on page 33*

COUGAR INTERVIEW—CAPTAIN (RET.) GABE HIGERD '06



Captain (Ret.) Gabe Higerd '06, a former member of the Cougar football team and top officer in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadet program, returns to his alma mater as APU's ROTC instructor after serving in the United States Army for five years.

**APU LIFE:** What inspired you to join the military?

**HIGERD:** I remember being on the field at football practice when the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center took place and discussing the implications

of that day with my teammates and coaches. Something sparked inside me, and I knew I needed to change the direction of my life. I have always been in awe of the great people in history who put their lives on the line for others in the name of freedom. On that day, I truly understood what that meant, and it became clear to me that our country was in desperate need of people to step up in defense of others. If hard things were going to be asked of my generation, I wanted to be the one who answered, "If not me, then who?"

**APU LIFE:** What did you hope to accomplish during your service?

**HIGERD:** My service enabled me to uphold the military's more than 200-year history of honor and selflessness. I wanted to leave an imprint of conviction and character on the people I served and the lives I influenced. Ultimately, I hope to hear the same sentiment from others that I hope to hear from my Lord and Savior: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

**APU LIFE:** What brought you back to APU?

**HIGERD:** Throughout my service and deployment, I stayed in contact with Coach Santa Cruz, Coach Wilmer, and others on APU's football staff. Coach Cruz always assured me that I had a place here if I ever considered coaching. While on the field as an assistant football coach last year, Major Mark Goeller, founder and bedrock of APU's ROTC program, approached me about replacing him when the Army reassigned him. From there, my life changed overnight, and God has truly blessed me with a dream job.

**APU LIFE:** How has your faith affected your career decisions?

**HIGERD:** My faith shapes my life everywhere I go and in everything I do. I know that life is short and you only get one chance at it. My goal is to use my God-given passions and talents to further His cause. C.T. Studd's poem *Only One Life* sums it up best: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last."

**APU LIFE:** What are you learning in your new role as ROTC instructor?

**HIGERD:** Daily, I discover how to better serve and build up others. I've grown as a leader, seeing my own faults and failures and evolving through them. The amazing young Americans at APU who want to serve as officers in the Army continually blow me away. I'm honored to help guide these young men and women toward their careers in service and leaning into God's call upon their lives.

# The Price of Perfection

by Georgeann Halburian Ikuma

The view from the top of the corporate ladder reveals an impressive panorama—gratification, achievement, respect, praise, and money—but it’s not everything the brochure promises. Irene Ortiz-Glass ’93 discovered this when, at her professional peak, she suddenly found herself hitting rock bottom in her personal life. In the darkest depths of her despair, she accepted God’s unwavering grace and guidance, and learned what it truly means to succeed.

In 2007, just 36 years old and at the top of her career, Ortiz-Glass worked tirelessly to maintain the momentum of her meteoric rise. She flew through the ranks as a sales representative at Pitney Bowes, and in a few short years, became a senior partner for a global consulting firm. Although her role as a high-powered corporate executive demanded extensive time to meet project deadlines and travel internationally, she still strived to be a devoted mom to her preteen son and stepdaughter, as well as a doting wife to her new husband. “I honestly believed I was Superwoman and could handle anything that came my way,” said Ortiz-Glass. She fueled her need for perfection in all areas of her life with a laser-focused work ethic, an indomitable will, and, unbeknownst to even those closest to her, a decade-long addiction to diet pills.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IRENE ORTIZ-GLASS

While en route from Orange County to Los Angeles for a client meeting one morning, her fast-track lifestyle came to an abrupt halt. “My heart started racing, my palms were sweating, and I felt dizzy and nauseous,” she said, fearing she was experiencing a heart attack due to the multiple, high-dosage diet pills she ingested earlier that day. After cancelling her meeting, Ortiz-Glass returned home knowing she needed to come clean with her family about her addiction. “I cried, prayed, and listened to Christian music all the way home, afraid that I was going to die right there on the freeway.”

Ortiz-Glass spent the next 12 weeks in the grueling trenches of a life-threatening withdrawal. Her depression became so severe that one afternoon she believed suicide

was her only option. “I fell on the floor begging God to help me when Philippians 1:6 played over and over in my head, ‘For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus,’” she said. “I knew in my heart that God had a reason and a plan for me. I said, ‘God, I trust in You without being able to see it.’”

With the loving support of her family and a skillful team of doctors, Ortiz-Glass rebuilt her body over the next several months. A reliance on her Christian roots, and her love for theology which blossomed during her time as a communication studies student at APU helped restore her soul. Her mind—the message center that constantly tells her to do more, go faster, be better—stays in check daily by those closest to her, like her son, Luke, whose forgiveness she cherishes most. “He tells me, ‘Mom, you kind of have to get over it, like Jesus. Once you say you’re sorry, He lets it go.’”

For a perfectionist like Ortiz-Glass, acceptance is another rung to climb. “My body will never be able to withstand what my mind can handle,” she said. “It’s a permanent condition, but I’m learning to get out of my own way and rest in the moment.”

In recovery and feeling whole, perhaps for the first time in her life, Ortiz-Glass, national vice president of people transformation for SAP, the world’s leader in enterprise software applications, still has a view from the top, but sees things differently. “I used to function out of fear, but in the corporate world, you need to let your work speak for itself and never lose sight of what you stand for. Only then can you truly succeed,” she said, realizing that by finally letting go, she has been able to hold on to everything she worked so hard to achieve.

Learn more about Irene Ortiz-Glass’ incredible journey as a professional, her life-changing illness, and the struggles she faced as a woman and a Christian in her recently published memoir, *Beautifully Broken*. To order a copy, email her at ireneglass04@gmail.com.

Georgeann Halburian Ikuma is a freelance writer living in the San Francisco Bay Area. ghikuma@yahoo.com

# Called to the Show

by Cynndie Hoff

“Stay by your phone.” When Ruben Niebla ’95, pitching coach for the Cleveland Indians’ Triple-A affiliate in Columbus, Ohio, heard these words, he couldn’t help but feel a sense of pride and excitement about what could be in store for one of his players. To a Triple-A coach, a message like this means someone you’ve coached and developed is being called up to “the Show,” the big leagues. It means you’ve done your job well and prepared players for the next and ultimate level. So when the call came, he answered the phone, anticipating the great news that would change a man’s life.

General Manager Chris Antonetti did call someone to the show that day, but not a player. He promoted Niebla to major league interim pitching coach. A lifetime of playing and coaching prepared Niebla for the job, but not for the moment. Temporarily stunned, a flurry of thoughts and emotions ran through him, but barely surfaced for others to see. Then, with his signature poise and composure, he calmly accepted his dream job.

Even as a player, Niebla showed a penchant for coaching. As an APU junior transfer student in 1994, he earned NAIA District Player of the Year, All-GSAC first team, NAIA All-American honorable mention, and the unofficial title of mentor for his natural ability to help teammates excel. Following his two-year collegiate career with the Cougars, the Montreal Expos signed him just before the 1995 draft, and he quickly rose through the minor-league ranks, playing all three levels in one year. After a successful five-year run, he traded in his cleats for turfs, transitioned into coaching, and hit his stride. During his two seasons in Columbus, the pitching staff posted its lowest team ERA (3.94) since 1992, and this year’s staff had an ERA of 3.91 at the time of his promotion. “Ruben has worked very closely with a lot of these guys already and has been instrumental in some of their development,” said Antonetti in a pregame conference on August 9, just after the announcement. “Guys have gotten better under his tutelage. We’re hopeful that he can transition some of that expertise and knowledge to the group of guys who are up here.”

“I’m focusing on the day-to-day work in the bullpen, not the end result. These men play 160 games in 180 days, which can be very draining on the body and mind. I am here to support them and help them make adjustments,” said Niebla, whose 12-year tenure with the Cleveland organization and rapport with the current pitching staff afforded him a measure of clout and respect from day one. “Each pitcher is unique, and has a different background, a different story. I have to care for the person more than the profession or I won’t be very effective. As a coach, knowledge is a given. The good ones are those who are connected and earn the players’ trust.”

He leaned on that trust during his first game in his new position. On August 15, when the Indians faced the Angels in Anaheim, he walked to the mound to talk to the pitcher. “He had a humble, instructional presence,” said his former APU head baseball coach, Tony Barbone, who attended the game along with Niebla’s former Cougar



teammates Paul Coppes ’96, Pedro Carranza ’93, and Tim Kapadia ’97, MBA ’01. “There are a lot of successful athletes, but only a few who can effectively relate their experiences to others and make a difference. Ruben is one of those few.”

Niebla gives some of the credit for that to Barbone, with whom he served as an assistant coach in 1997, calling him one of the most influential people in his life. “He not only helped me become a better player, but to understand myself and what I wanted out of life. I still pick up the phone to ask his advice,” said Niebla, who hopes to forge the same type of lasting relationships with the athletes in his charge.

Meanwhile, he takes one day at a time, recognizing the magnitude of the opportunity, and thanking God every time he walks on the field. Trying not to think about the word “interim” in his new title, Niebla does what he does best: focuses on the job he was called—and called up—to do.

Cynndie Hoff is a freelance writer living in Walnut, California. ceh.hoff@verizon.net





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

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**21** To **KACHINA (ELLIS '01, M.ED. '07) LOPEZ** and her husband, David, a daughter, Molly Elizabeth, on September 23, 2012. She joins big brother, Charlie, who loves having a baby sister.

**22** To **CARRIE (DOMEN '02) ULLMER** and her husband, Christopher, a daughter, Olivia Kate, on September 18, 2012, in West Covina.

To **WAYNE RANDOLPH '02** and his wife, Denise, a daughter, Lylah Shalom Randolph, on August 30, 2012. Big brother Noah Zion is 4 1/2. Wayne teaches theology and missiology/cultural anthropology at Maranatha High School, and Denise is a second grade teacher at Western Christian. w\_randolph@mhs-hs.org

To **LAURA (DINGFELDER '03) SCOTT** and husband Jason, a son, Gavin, on August 10, 2012. Jason is a lead lighting technical supervisor at Rhythm

and Hues Studios in El Segundo. Laura owns a personal training fitness business where she specializes in working with people who have Parkinson's disease. laura@thescottclan.org

**23** To **RACHEL (HO '05, M.A. '10) HASTINGS** and her husband, Randy, a daughter, Audrey Elizabeth, on April 11, 2012. Rachel is the program coordinator for the Honors and General Studies programs at APU. They live in Glendora. rhastings@apu.edu

To **ANGELIQUE (GOMEZ '07) GORDON** and her husband, Billy, a daughter, Meghan Kei, on May 23, 2012.

To **JOSHUA DENT '08**, and his wife Kristine, a son, James Michael on July 2, 2012. Josh is the head computer tech for David & Goliath productions, which designed the KIA Soul Hamster commercials, and Kristine is a fourth grade teacher in Manhattan Beach. jddent@gmail.com

**24** To **ALICIA WATSON '08, M.A. '11**, and her husband, **JASON-CRAIG, MBA '08**, a daughter, Savannah Ellae, on August 6, 2012. She joins big sister Eden-Jae Sahara, 3. Jason-Craig works as an accountant at Michael Di Pietro, CPA, in Monrovia and Pasadena. Alicia stays home with the kids.

**25** To **DARIN (KLEESPIE '09) KOOYENGA** and her husband, Russell, a daughter, Payton Leigh, on August 8, 2012. Payton joins big sister Reagan, 2. Darin.kooyenga@gmail.com

**26** To **TARA ANDREASSEN, M.A. '10**, and her husband, **THOMAS '12**, a daughter, Lillyan Susan, on August 5, 2012. Tara teaches eighth grade math, and Thomas graduated in fall from APU's School of Adult and Professional Studies program with a degree in human development.

**IN MEMORY**

**GUY SMITH, PBC '55** went to be with the Lord on July 15, 2012. His last days were very peaceful.

**BERT HALL (THEOLOGY PROFESSOR 1973-86)** passed away July 15, 2012. Bert's love of study led him to author commentaries on Job, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, as well as Sunday School curriculum for Wesley Press. His love of teaching took him to missions in Taiwan, Colombia, and Australia, and his love of travel resulted in numerous trips to the Holy Land, three times leading a tour group. His wife, Harriet; daughter and son-in-law Lucy and Dave Novak; daughter and son-in-law Betty Jo Hall and Bob Sander; daughter and son-in-law Cyndi and Peter Rigby; grandsons Matthew Rigby, Nathaniel Rigby, Tim Sander, Jon Sander; great-granddaughters Maddie and Jane Rigby; and sister Elaine Reis, survive him.

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**APU Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony: 2013 Inductees**  
Saturday, March 23, 2013

The Athletic Hall of Fame honors those who have combined individual achievement with Christian values which exemplify the true spirit and character of Azusa Pacific University. The 11-member Hall of Fame committee in conjunction with the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations selects inductees based on their leadership, dedication, sportsmanship, and Christian example. For more information, please contact the Alumni & Parent Relations Office at 626/812-3026.



**Gordon Billingsley '74**  
Men's Basketball  
1972-73



**Jason Wyatt '93**  
Men's Track and Field  
1991-93



**Dawn Castaneda '97**  
Softball  
1994-97



**Josh Henderson '97**  
Football  
1993-96



**Michelle Teodoro '98**  
Cross Country and Track and Field  
1995-98



**Jennifer Babel '00**  
Women's Soccer  
1996-99



**Jack Williams '00**  
Football  
1998-99



**Kendra Payne '01**  
Women's Soccer  
1997-00



**Bryan Clay '03**  
Men's Track and Field  
1999-02



**Caleb Gervin '04**  
Men's Basketball  
2000-03

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**DAVID CHERNEY (BIOLOGY PROFESSOR 1981–2008)** passed away on July 21, 2012. David began teaching at APU when the Department of Biology and Chemistry had only three majors. He helped shape what has become a highly respected science program at APU. His wife of 46 years, Sheila, and their three children **TONYA (ATTENDED 1986–88), JIM '95,** and **CHRISTY (CHERNEY '96) SMITH,** survive him. David's colleagues and friends at APU celebrate the impact he had on the university, and rejoice in his fulfillment of his life with Christ and the legacy

he has left for the many students who attend APU.

**JEFFREY A. HILL, M.ED. '94,** passed away unexpectedly on August 19, 2012. He was 52 years old. Jeff spent his early years in San Jose and was an accomplished student-athlete. After graduating from APU with his M.Ed., Jeff taught and coached at Point Loma High School in San Diego. He was an avid surfer and a devout Christian who found solace in the teachings from the Bible. Jeff was preceded in death by his father, John, and is survived by his mother, Marion, and siblings, Brian and Sheryllyn.

**27 RYAN HAWKINS (ATTENDED 1995–96),** 37, went home to be with the Lord on August 4, 2012, at his home in Fresno, California. He was born in April 1975 in Berkeley, California, to Rick Hawkins and Susan Thornton. Ryan grew up in Santa Margarita and graduated from Atascadero High School in 1993, where he played football and basketball. He went on to play football at Azusa Pacific University in 1995. In later years, he remained involved in athletics, becoming a sports consultant and managing his own websites. Exceeding his athletic accomplishments, Ryan's true success was his family. Ryan's wife;

three children, Reylani, Kella, and Derik; mother; father and stepmother Katie; grandmother Jean; brother Erik; nephews Tucker and Seth; niece Hannah; and many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins survive him.

**28 KENNETH ELSTON '97, RN, BSN,** passed away unexpectedly on May 4, 2012, at age 54. His wife, Dorienne, and their children, Ian and Kathryn, survive him. Prayers for God's love, comfort, and provision for those he left behind in this time of loss are deeply appreciated.

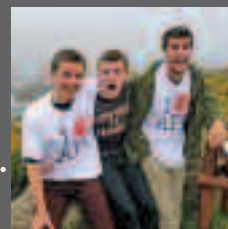
## WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU WEARING YOUR APU CLOTHING?

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

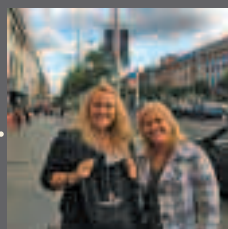


**KRISTEN GUNTHER '08 AND STEPHANIE ORONA '08**  
PON SOUFRANS, HAITI

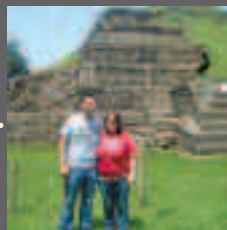
Kristen Gunther '08 works as a WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) program coordinator for Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization, and Stephanie Orona '08 is the assistant director of retention in the Office of Retention and Student Engagement at APU. The two were roommates their freshman year at APU and have maintained a lasting friendship. Orona traveled to Haiti last summer to visit Gunther and see the significant work she is doing to help the Haitian people.



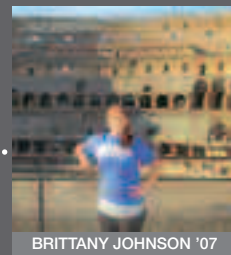
**MAX '14, BLAKE, AND PATRICK '10 GILLETTE-ALMQVIST**  
LAND'S END, ENGLAND



**JENN '00 AND PATRICIA '03 GRAFFIUS**  
DUBLIN, IRELAND



**JOSEPH '05 AND STEPHANIE CRISOSTOMO**  
EL SALVADOR



**BRITTANY JOHNSON '07**  
ROME, ITALY



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## Los Angeles Pacific College

Los Angeles Pacific College (LAPC), a Free Methodist school founded in 1903, existed “to give its students a liberal course of study under influences that shall foster Christian character, with each student coming under the direct tuition of earnest Christian teachers, who are carefully chosen with regard to their personal character, scholarly attainments, and superiority as educators.” To bolster their resources, programs, and effectiveness, in 1965, LAPC and Azusa College merged. The Boards of Trustees agreed that, following the merger, the new school would be known as Azusa Pacific College. The amalgamation generated such excitement that student enrollment in the first semester increased far beyond the combined populations.

Though the two schools were fierce rivals on the athletic fields, upon announcement of the merger, the leaders of both student bodies met, joined forces, and used that competitive energy in assisting with several changes, including the formation of a new yearbook (*Tavaleph*), a new student newspaper (*The Clause*), a new school mascot (Cougar), and new school colors (orange and black). The LAPC merger with Azusa College proved to be an important milestone in the history of APU, and today, graduates of Los Angeles Pacific College continue to serve at home and abroad with God-honoring excellence.

—Ken Otto, MLIS, associate professor, special collections librarian



## Our Mission. Your Vision.

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

**Bequest** The most common form of giving through an estate plan, in which property or funds are left to APU.

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

**Charitable Remainder Trust** Enables you to avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated assets and receive income for life.

**Life Estate** Donate a residence or farm to APU while retaining the right to use the property, and receive significant income and estate tax reductions.

### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

For a personalized proposal from the Office of Gift and Estate Planning, contact Dennette Miramontes at **(626) 815-5070**, email **stewardship@apu.edu**, or go to **www.apugift.org**.