The creation of a College means change is in the air. It is important we hear your voice as we plan for the future. Please take advantage of opportunities to serve on the Student Advisory Board, have lunch or coffee with me and with honors faculty, and attend Honors College town hall gatherings.

Although several changes will unfold in the years ahead, one thing will remain constant—the importance of scholarship.

When I think of scholarship, I am reminded the root word, scholar, is derived from the Greek word, "schole," which means leisure; not leisure as in recreation or idleness, but leisure as in cessation of physical activity for a purpose—to discipline the mind for the sake of learning. Thus leisure entails heeding the biblical imperative to pursue truth, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

Your God-given talents equip you to live the life of a scholar. You should exercise this precious gift to love both God and neighbor. Loving God involves worship. To worship means to honor, respect, revere, and adore (OED). How better to worship God than to seek to know Him better and to understand the world He created. Scholarship is also an avenue for loving your neighbor. By disciplining your mind, you acquire knowledge, gain wisdom, get understanding (Proverbs), which empowers you to be both a witness to truth and an agent of change and reconciliation in a broken world.

Scholarship lends itself to self-aggrandizement if you strive for achievement solely for the sake of adornment and adulation, prestige and power. One way to insure learning is not simply selfish is to share the benefits of scholarly work. I have many hopes and dreams for each Honors College student—one is that you begin a lifelong habit of sharing scholarly work with others.

Opportunities abound. You can share your research at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, National Collegiate Honors Council conference, Alpha Chi Honors Society convention, Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society meeting, and the West Coast Biological Sciences conference.

Many faculty conferences also encourage joint faculty-student presentations. In recent years, APU students have presented to the American Association for Cancer Research, Popular Culture Association, Association of Psychological Science, and Broadcast Education Association, among others. APU even offers to assist students with some of the expenses associated with attending these events.

There are also opportunities on campus such as the Common Day of Learning, the Biology and Chemistry Research Day, and the Communication Ethics conference. Or you could publish your research in Gratia Eruditionis (an annual journal published by the Honors College).

I pray 2013-2014 will be a productive year for you in every way, but especially as a scholar.

§

Congratulations to all of our accomplished students!

**Congratulations to:**
Annika Mizel  
English, Class of 2014  
on the publication of three poems in the literary  
journal *Kindred Magazine*

**Congratulations to:**  
Christy Ailman  
Christopher Cronkite  
Jonathan Monson  
Sarah O'Dell  
Haley Oram  
Mark Thomas  
for representing the Honors College  
at the 2013 Western Regional Honors Council  
Conference

**Congratulations to:**
Jack Houston  
Biology, Class of 2015  
for representing APU on *Jeopardy!* as part of the  
College Tournament and placing second  
in the semi-finals--  
(pictured above, top row, third from right)

**Congratulations to:**
Maddie Woodward  
Psychology, Class of 2013  
for qualifying in five speech events in  
the pre-national season as part of  
APU’s Speech and Debate team

**Congratulations to:**
Annika Mizel  
English, Class of 2014  
for representing APU on *Jeopardy!* as part of the  
College Tournament and placing second  
in the semi-finals--  
(pictured above, top row, third from right)
Each year, students have the chance to attend the Western Regional Honors Council Conference to present original research and engage with members of the Honors community from all over the western United States. This year’s conference was held April 11th-13th in Flagstaff, Arizona. Undergraduate honors students Christy Ailman (Mathematics and Philosophy, 2014), Christopher Cronkite (Biology, 2015), Jonathan Monson (Philosophy, 2013), Sarah O’Dell (Biology, 2015), Haley Oram (English, 2014), and Mark Thomas (English, 2014) presented research from their respective discipline. APU faculty member and honors professor Dr. Mike Robbins also attended the conference.

The variety of the students’ presentations illustrated the diversity of academic research that is conducted at APU. Cronkite’s presentation was entitled, “Examining the Binding Specificity of the Transcription Factor REST to the PAH1 Domain of mSin3”, whereas Ailman presented an interdisciplinary exploration of understanding mathematical deductive proofs through the lens of Aristotle’s philosophy and Archimede’s diagrams. Thomas represented the humanities with his presentation on an archetypal analysis of J.R.R. Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings books.

Students affirmed that they felt like their undergraduate coursework and experience not only helped them conduct meaningful research, but also prepared them to present it clearly and compellingly.

**Monson could see the value of an APU education through seeing other students’ lack of preparation.**

“The academic interests and research coming from these various institutions was quite impressive”, said Monson. “With that being said, I was also disappointed at the quality of some of these presentations. Several lacked substantive content or failed to cogently present any arguments supporting their thesis. Comparing the presentations from APU with these, I had reason to be proud of my education.”

The students attended presentations in a wide range of subjects. Presentation topics ranged from the marketing of Harry Potter to the effects of killing on soldiers.

Oram recognized WRHC as good practice for being able to participate in academic circles.

“It was a great entry-way experience of presenting at conference,” said Oram. “Our group represented the school well, and I enjoyed getting to know some new students that share the same passion for academics as myself.”

Monson was also glad to be able to connect with others over academics.

“What was probably the most valuable aspect of the weekend was the community with other APU students and Dr. Robbins,” said Monson. “They were all supportive and engaging, providing interesting conversation and the beginning of some valuable relationships.”

Students of all disciplines are invited to submit proposals to Honors College for consideration for the 2014 Western Regional Honors Conference.
a term at **OXFORD**

By Tyler Shattuck

Tyler is a senior History major who studied at Oxford University during his Spring 2013 semester.

Sometimes when I would go to Sainsbury’s in the Westgate Centre to buy their one kilo bag of tropical granola, I would sneak out the back way so that the lady at the cosmetics booth didn’t see my dry hands and ask to give me a ten minute free moisturising demonstration. One day as I snuck out the back way, I realized that about seven hundred years ago John Duns Scotus, the great Franciscan philosopher, had taught and lived right where I was walking, in the space behind where the Sainsbury’s was now. That may not sound too impressive, but once you’ve read his argument for the existence of God from production, it’s a lightning bolt to meet him in such a dull way as walking the same ground.

Every semester about twenty APU students converge to study at the oldest university in the English-speaking world (and if you believe University College, which no one does, the oldest in the world). They also end up eating pastries filled with meat, forgetting what the sun is in the underground bits of the library, and sneaking out the backs of grocery stores if they have dry hands. There are no classes—instead we spend an hour (or two, or three) alone with a tutor once a week going over an essay that we spent the week researching and writing at the tutor’s bidding (“a noble system,” as one young tutor put it, “where you get to look your foe in the eye”). Simply put, it was all rather strange and exciting.

My tutor for Christian Philosophy of History always wore tweed and his white hair stood on end; I went to a cocktail party with Patrick Stewart (and at one point I’m pretty darn sure I made eye contact); I went to the same college as Einstein and a church that had once been a prison for Protestant martyrs; I played in the annual chess cup with half my team too hung over to think straight. I have far too many stories. It was one of the great privileges of my life and still I think of it with achy longing.

I learned so much I’ve forgotten it all; I read Eusebius, Augustine, Bede, Gregory of Tours, Basil the Great, Benedict, Pseudo-Dionysius, John Foxe, John Henry Newman, Umberto Eco, and a host of others with less exciting names; the word count for all my writing in the term comes up just shy of *The Sound and the Fury*. It was an Honors student feast, but that was not all that happened in the towery city.

For our Oxford is a very lonely time. For the most part I was by myself—reading in the library or writing in my flat—and it was silent in all that space. And, at once predictably and surprisingly, the mysterious triune God crept into the silence. That One (and Three, whatever that means) whose laughter is too loud to hear and whose silence splits ears taught me how full of Him emptiness is. I still long for the perfect silence of Christ Church cathedral cloister at night, when the cracks and shouts of the day are gone and God no longer graciously steps back but fills the silence and hangs in the air. It is the same silence that God held before the Sanhedrin, and Pilate, and the centurions beating Him; all-filling, all-merciful, suffering, loving, laughing silence. Oxford was an *askesis*, a training, and at the end of my stay there, at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, I knew a bit better how the silent dark held breath of the first half of the Vigil was as full of God as the shining rackety midnight shout of the second half. Oxford taught me how to pray, for praying is listening far more than speaking. As T.S. Eliot, a fellow American who also faked being British, said,

> “Teach us to sit still  
> Even among these rocks,  
> Our peace in His will  
> And even among these rocks  
> Sister, mother  
> And spirit of the river, spirit of the sea,  
> Suffer me not to be separated  
> And let my cry come unto Thee.”

§
Where in the world are APU Honors students?

Honors Students Abroad:

- Sabrina Dermody   High Sierra
- Ashlee Ginn   High Sierra
- Stephanie Thomas   High Sierra
- Amber Buchanan   LA Term
- Hannah Gaddini   LA Term
- David Francois   Lithuania
- Madeline Sheets   New Zealand
- Christopher Cronkite   Oxford
- Michael Drummond   Oxford
- Rebecca Frederickson   Oxford
- Christina Ligh   Oxford
- Kimberely Ligh   Oxford
- Sarah O’Dell   Oxford
- Haley Oram   Oxford
- Mark Thomas   Oxford
- Bethany Wagner   Oxford
- Nicole Endacott   South Africa
- Lydia Gorrell   South Africa
- Paige Ludwig   South Africa
- Kelsey Selness   South Africa
- Sarah Terwilliger   South Africa

Are YOU interested in studying abroad?

Did you know that Honors Students can receive up to 9 Honors units while studying in Oxford, and up to 8 Honors units while studying in High Sierra?

Contact the Center for Global Learning and Engagement for more information about APU’s study abroad opportunities.

(626) 857-2440
studyabroad@apu.edu

DATES TO REMEMBER....

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<tr>
<th>Honors College Orientation</th>
<th>Auxilium Ice Cream Social</th>
<th>NCHC Conference New Orleans, LA November 6th-November 10th</th>
<th>Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research November 23rd Whittier College Whittier, CA</th>
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<tr>
<td>LAPC Monday, Sept. 2nd 12:00-1:30pm</td>
<td>Community Lawn Friday, Sept. 5th 4:00-5:30pm</td>
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THE HONORS REPORT FALL 2013
I have completed two semesters at APU now, and have spent countless hours in various places and in various people's company. Upon finishing my freshman year, I decided that I should attempt to summarize what I have learned here (sort of a way to confirm that my time and money were well spent). I decided I could not simply summarize facts and figures that I have memorized in my classes; being able to state Machiavelli's five necessary virtues would not suffice. Instead, I decided I must summarize how my first year has shifted and changed my general goals, views, and beliefs. However, I drew a blank. It is an odd phenomenon: we know that we have learned something profound, and yet find it impossible to vocalize exactly what it is. However, after some consideration, I found my "profound something". I have learned that the quality of my life, and even my success, is not so much determined by my environment as by how I react to my environment. Similarly, there is simple wisdom in trusting God's ability to give me strength for any situation, as opposed to trusting that my situation will always remain simple enough to handle on my own. I cherish all that I have learned this last year, but I value that piece of truth most of all.

I was thrown into the middle of the honors community from the beginning, as I was placed in an all honors Alpha group. As I developed alongside other honors students, I became aware of their many beautiful and fantastic qualities. Yet among all of the wonderful attributes, there is a significant struggle that students in the honors community deal with on a profound level.

I have realized that the major flaw (the great tragedy, if you will) of most honors students is the inability to move beyond simple knowledge to real understanding. For instance, I may "know" that the United States is a privileged country in comparison to the rest of the world, but it requires going on a trip to an impoverished country for me to "understand" it. Many of us feel the need to "know" everything, and as a result we "understand" nothing. I have enjoyed having professors that push me to truly understand what I learn, and have found many of my dearest friends within this community. Being surrounded by so many brilliant students has helped me realize my own proclivity towards the intellectual community. However, it has also helped me understand that even the most gifted person is flawed. That is both a comforting and intimidating thought.

My final advice for incoming students, or anyone for that matter, is this: do not expect everything to be manageable. Perhaps everything in your life will end up being manageable after all (trust me, it will not be) but do not expect it. Instead, simply trust God to give you enough fortitude to survive tough ordeals as they come. This does not mean you should not attempt great and fantastic things; something can be accomplished even if it cannot be managed. History's greatest accomplishments were by no means "manageable". Instead of managing, simply trust God and go after what brings life to you and those around you. §
Sarah Wentworth
Class of 2013 (December)
Psychology Major
Spanish Minor
Escondido, CA
Activities: Personnel Manager at IMT, Youth Leader at Grace Church La Verne, Research with Psychology Faculty
Presentations: NCHC (2011), NCHC (2012), International Association for Cross Cultural Psychology Conference
Favorite Honors Class: Exodus/Deuteronomy Honors
Advice: Take advantage of everything that APU has to offer. Whether it is advice from Career Services or going on one of the Mexico trips, it’s so worth it!
APU in 3 Words: Worthwhile sleepless nights!

Heather Garza
Class of 2015
Applied Health Major
Psychology Minor
Visalia, CA
Activities: Women’s Resource Center Intern, Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity, Spiritual Formation SALT Team, LASA, Mexico Outreach
Favorite Honors Class: Luke/Acts with Dr. Robbins. He always reminded us to look at the Bible with curious eyes and an open heart, and that the most important things in life cannot necessarily be written in a syllabus.
Advice: Join a club or team that forces you to step put of your comfort zone. So much of life can be learned by surrounding ourselves around others with whom you might have not necessarily decided to talk with by your own choosing.

Jeremiah Hill
Class of 2014
English Major
Biblical Studies Minor
Roseville, CA
Activities: Men’s Chorale, Blueprint: Men’s Spiritual Mentoring, Worship, Conversing with passionate people who care about important things.
Favorite Honors Class: Exodus/Deuteronomy with Yarchin. Yarchin knows more about the Bible than anyone I know and doesn’t have an inflated ego. You pay APU tuition to have classes like this.
Advice: It will be easy to think that you have a relationship with God and straight priorities because you go to chapel and take Bible classes. Baloney. Go to church on Sunday. Call your parents and younger siblings weekly. Don’t wait to get involved in a cool ministry. Pray everyday.
APU in 3 words: Gut-wrenching, Challenging, Emboldening.

Sammy Cowell
Class of 2014
Biology Major
Shadow Hills, CA
Activities: Bird watching, man salads, Honors Society of Awesome.
Research/Work: Physics Research with Dr. Bassey.
Achievements: Attended AU Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, research published, presented at Fall Research Day, roofing, crashed Trustee’s Banquet
Favorite Honors Class: Intro to Philosophy with Dr. Woodruff and CLFM with Bruner
Advice: Don’t take yourself too seriously. Also dance parties in my apartment every night from 7-9.
APU in 3 Words: Low Key Communism (in the best sense).
ALUMNI CORNER

**Christopher Nafis**
**Class:** 2006  
**Majors:** Biblical Studies, Philosophy  
**Minors:** Theology, Biblical Languages

- Currently working as the Associate Pastor at Southeast Church of the Nazarene, a small, inner-city church in San Diego
- Runs a small, organic farm called Psalter Farm with his wife, Rachel Pitney-Nafis, who is an RN at Scripps Mercy Hospital in Chula Vista, CA
- Graduated from California State University Dominguez Hills with a Master of Arts in Humanities: Literature
- Is currently teaching music like a mad woman at Orange County Music Center
- Just recently opened up her own honors high school academy
- Waiting for her husband to finish his tour in the military

**Elena Brohmer-Bowman**
**Class:** 2010  
**Major:** Music Arrangement

- Graduated from California State University Dominguez Hills with a Master of Arts in Humanities: Literature
- Is currently teaching music like a mad woman at Orange County Music Center
- Just recently opened up her own honors high school academy
- Waiting for her husband to finish his tour in the military

**Molly Estes**
**Class:** 2009  
**Major:** Biology

- Graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine on May 26, 2013
- Medical Resident in Emergency Medicine at Stanford University Medical Center
- Has performed research in limb development (molecular embryopathy)
An interview with Honors Professor
STEVE WILKENS, Ph.D

By Camille Endacott and Joshua Roquemore

Steve Wilkens is a prolific writer and has a gift for fostering a love for great thinkers among even the most philosophy-phobic students. Though he can wrestle with the likes of Immanuel Kant, Aristotle, and Thomas Aquinas, Wilkens (who earned his Ph.D. in systematic theology from Fuller Theological Seminary) insists his students refer to him simply as “Steve” and retain his native Kansas humility. He is committed to his students, and invites his honors class over to his house every semester for an exam study session and lots of pizza. We had the privilege of learning more about Steve’s scholarly career and his passion for cultivating curiosity.

What do you want students to take away from your honors class? I would like people to come out with a sense of wonder at how big and complex and multi-dimensional God’s creation is. I would also like them to move away from the pressure of seeing education as the accumulation of knowledge and move more in the direction of education as a process of developing wisdom. Education is often geared toward creating evil geniuses because it gives people a lot of information and skills but forgets the moral and spiritual rudder that’s necessary to use those skills in beneficial ways. So wisdom is part of creating whole people, not just brains being transported around on legs.

What is your role as an academic? A lot of times someone will ask what my specialty is because academia has become so specialized. My standard answer is that my specialization is in being a generalist. One of the things I like about philosophy is it gives you an excuse to go and poke your nose into everybody’s business. In my books, I’ve written about philosophy, ethics, theology, and cultural critique. I like the stuff that is synthetic, that puts things together and tries to swallow the world in one gulp instead of taking a tiny fragment of a problem and beating it to death.

What are your current projects? I am at the tail end of editing two books; one is on three views of how Christian faith relates to philosophy. I’m also at the end of co-editing a book with various contributors from twelve different departments at APU. We’ve assigned each of them a book that is generative for their discipline; a book you can’t teach around if you’re going to teach in that discipline. What’s exciting is the realization that I teach with faculty peers who are really smart, reflective, careful thinkers. A friend and I have also been asked by Baylor University press to write an intro to philosophy text geared toward the Christian university setting. I also have a book that’s about 60% done on the integration of faith and learning.

What advice would you offer your Honors students? Don’t let the pursuit of grades get in the way of getting an education. We tend to look at success in terms of things we can measure. I love Walker Percy’s quote, “You can get all A’s in school and still flunk life.” So think of the education in terms of wisdom, not just about getting a job and bringing home a better paycheck. Think of it as learning to become a better friend, eventually a better spouse, parent, and church-person. Think of education holistically and as person formation.

What do you do when you’re not teaching? An awful lot of my life has been spent transporting kids to gym practice, soccer practice, basketball practice. I would say most of my time is spent doing kid stuff, which is really pretty cool.

As a parent of an incoming APU freshman and as a professor on campus, what does a Christian university education offer? I think higher education in general is in a huge crisis, it really can’t explain what it does anymore other than prepare people for jobs. It has no coherent foundation for the liberal arts, it really has a fragmented anthropology, it doesn’t think of who is being educated. The “who” question is really dropped. Christian education really offers, I think, the last hope in our society for an education that avoids depersonalizing students. Anything that simply prepares you for a role doesn’t think of you as a robust, full-blooded, made-in-the-image-of-God human. And so the Christian university, if it remains true to its roots, will keep returning to the “who” question. It’s not what do we want a graduate to know, it’s who do we want them to be. §
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
A literary prize was awarded to Joseph Bentz, Ph.D., Department of English, for an article that he wrote.

Recognition of William Cattling, MFA, Chair, Department of Art and Design, was given through his inclusion in a journal's list of outstanding artists in the State.

PUBLICATIONS
Four book reviews, written by Joseph Bentz, Ph.D., Department of English, were published in a book industry magazine.

Five chapters written by Dr. Joseph Bentz, Department of English, were published in a book and small group Biblical curriculum series.

A previously published book, written by Vicky Bowden, Ph.D., Vice Provost of Undergraduate Programs, and a colleague, has been published in another language.

A computer application created by Joel Clifft, DMA, School of Music, was published, a piano competition was adjudicated, and a guest piano performance was given by him.

An encyclopedia entry written by Paul Kaak, Ph.D., Department of Leadership and College Student Development, was published in an encyclopedia.

PRESENTATIONS
The expertise of Dr. Marcia Berry, Ph.D., Department of Communication Studies, was selected to review proposals for papers and presentations for a national conference.

Presentations prepared by Juanita Cole, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, APU Undergraduate Students Tiffany Tran and Meghan Murray, and a colleague were given at a national conference.
Our Honors College Faculty are not only amazing teachers, but they are exemplary scholars in their respective fields. Take a look at all the academic work they have been doing outside of APU!


A paper written by Mark Eaton, Ph.D., Department of English, was presented at a regional conference.

A paper written by Brian E. Eck, Ph.D., Stephen S. Lambert, Ph.D., and David R. Dunaetz, all of the Department of Psychology, was presented at an international conference.

A keynote speech was given by Diana Glyer, Ph.D., Department of English, at a regional conference.
Glyer, D. (2013, May). Who is the author of *Till we have faces*? Keynote speech given at the annual Conference on Christianity and Literature, Western Region. Azusa, CA.

A paper written by Emily Griesinger, Ph.D., Department of English, was presented at a regional conference.

A paper written by Paul Kaak, Ph.D., Office of Faith Integration, was presented at a regional conference.

A presentation by Paul Kaak, Ph.D., and Gary Lemaster, Ph.D., both of the Department of Leadership & Organizational Psychology, and Rob Muthiah, Ph.D., Division of Graduate Theology, was delivered at a national conference.

A paper co-written by Thomas Parham, Ph.D., Department of Theater, Film, and Television, and undergraduate student Tyler Welch was presented at a national conference.

A paper written by Steve Wilkens, Ph.D. Department of Philosophy and Theology, was presented at a national conference.
Wilkens, S. (2013, March). The exile of holiness from the classroom. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society, Theological Education Section Seattle, WA.

**EXPERTISE SHARED**

The expertise of Patricia Andujo, Ph.D., Department of English, was shared in her role as conference chair for a regional conference hosted at Azusa Pacific University.

The expertise of Professor William Catling, MFA, Chair, Department of Art and Design, was utilized in his talk given at a regional gallery.

The expertise of Thomas Dunn, Department of Art and Design, was shared in a presentation to a local organization.
BEHIND THE SCENES

The Honors College Office

The Honors College Office

Opportunities

Honors Student Advisory Board
Are you interested in serving the Honors Community by representing your class on the Honors Student Advisory Board?
The Honors College is currently accepting applications! Email APUHonors@apu.edu for an application and more information.

Are you interested in representing the Honors College at APU 411 events? Email us for more information at APUHonors@apu.edu

Do you have an idea for our next newsletter? We always love student feedback! Contact APUHonors@apu.edu with story ideas, photos, upcoming events, etc.

THE HONORS COLLEGE OFFICE
Our office is now located on East Campus, in Ronald Suite 164 on the first floor of the Ronald Center.
Office hours: 8:00 to 4:30pm, Mon-Fri
Email: APUHonors@apu.edu

Special thanks to Camille Endacott and Joshua Roquemore for the creation of this newsletter.