

APULIFE

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APU Impact: A Local, Regional, and Statewide Look

God First Since 1899

APULIFE

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One of my greatest joys as a university president of more than 10,000 students comes when I see evidence that what we do matters. I often receive cards, calls, and letters from people who interact with our students or faculty letting me know about their experiences. I treasure those moments sitting at my desk and reading a note about a student-athlete whose act of kindness on a crowded plane made all the difference to a hurried traveler, or an email from the supervisor of a clinic where APU graduate students attentively care for a diverse population of clients. Sometimes it's a phone call from parents grateful for a faculty member who arrives early, stays late, and invests in their student beyond the classroom and curriculum. More often than not, they describe acts of loving kindness.

Our highest hope for APU alumni is for them to be the type of neighbor you want to live next to—a difference maker who reflects the image of Christ and the call of His Kingdom to those around them. But what is the primary characteristic that defines this type of neighbor? What is the behavior or core value upon which this image of neighbor hangs? Kindness.

The apostle Paul tells a remarkable story about kindness in Acts, chapter 28. Paul is on his way to Rome, and while en route, the ship he shares with a large number of passengers encounters a storm and sinks. The castaways wash onto the shores of Malta. Paul writes, "Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold" (Acts 28:1-2, NIV). I love that phrase, "showed us unusual kindness."

That is what I think distinguishes the type of neighbors we all want to live in community with—neighbors surrendered to the work of God in them and through them so that acts of unusual kindness are evident in all that they do. Yet, that seems contrary in many ways to the culture that surrounds us today. Often our neighborhoods, cities, and regions focus on acts of aggression, preference, discrimination, and exclusion instead of unusual kindness. I wonder how civil discourse would be impacted if citizens held as tightly to kindness as they do to opinion. As believers, we would do well to remember that the 2,000-year history of the Church stands upon a foundation of unusual kindness, and that our greatest opportunity to show God's love to a hurting world has always been among seekers of refuge, neighbors in need, and those who think, look, and act differently.

As we embrace 2018—a year of yet-written pages for our stories, yet-accomplished tasks for our vocations, and yet-realized goals for our Christian communities—I pray that this year will be one of unusual kindness, attracting people with the sweet aroma of Christ. I look forward to hearing more about the remarkable ways our community creatively weaves this God-given character trait into their scholarship, work, and lives. Each time I see a group of students huddled together at a table, supporting one another in their academic journeys, or hear of a mentoring relationship that brings about intellectual and spiritual growth, I know that Christ is alive on this campus, in these classrooms, offices, and living spaces, changing the people who will change the world with unusual kindness.

Jon R. Wallace
Jon R. Wallace, DBA
Committed to Kindness

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Running, playing, laughing, and learning together—the payoff of a new partnership between the Azusa Unified School District (AUSD) and Azusa Pacific's football team. Throughout the fall semester, APU football players visited AUSD elementary school campuses, including Murray Elementary pictured here, to interact with students at recess and in the classroom, encouraging physical activity and reading skills. In turn, these kids cheered on their new friends as fans in the stands and guests of honor at the APU homecoming football game. Given the positive feedback from all involved, APU plans to extend this community outreach program to include more school visits by athletes from several sports.

Sustainability Efforts Amount to Big Savings

More people who study, work, and live at Azusa Pacific are beginning to see the value of environmentalism as their God-given responsibility. For years, the university has promoted myriad efforts to respect and care for the Earth and consider the long-term impact of all projects and policies. The Segerstrom Science Center, completed in 2010, is APU's first building to receive certification from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the most widely recognized green building program that guides the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of new buildings. The Segerstrom design includes drought-tolerant plants, high-efficiency plumbing that results in a 30-percent reduction in water use, and a reflective roof to mitigate heat, among other features that support human and environmental health.

Similar efforts occur across campus. In 2013, the university replaced the thermostats in the Trinity and Engstrom living areas with 368 occupancy-based thermostats, saving \$30,000 annually. The next year, Facilities Management installed 16 load-shifting "ice bears" on campus that make ice at night when the rates are cheaper, saving \$12,000 annually. Further, the university replaced more than 13,000 florescent light bulbs with 17-watt LEDs (saving \$80,000 per year); installed an electric vehicle charging station; added a dozen water-bottle filling stations on campus to reduce plastic bottle waste, two wood chippers to reduce waste, and recycling bins across campus; and funded the upgrading of APU's irrigation controllers and spray nozzles.

Supporting these activities, the university established the Creation Care Council in 2015, including nine staff members, five faculty, and three students, to promote sustainability. The team

constantly evaluates APU's efforts and works with other departments and areas on campus to offer recommendations for best practices. This year, Jose Brown, a student intern and marketing major, launched a new Facebook page, APU Go Green. Since 2005, the combined total impact of these efforts, including energy and water conservation, rebates, grants, etc., amounts to \$2.8 million in savings for the university. For more information, contact Toney Snyder, assistant director of environmental stewardship, at tsnyder@apu.edu.

Noel Strengths Academy Hosts Pathways to Thriving Conference

Hosted by Azusa Pacific's Noel Academy for Strengths-Based Leadership and Education, Pathways to Thriving invites student affairs professionals, administrators, and faculty to explore leadership methods and practices that maximize student success in higher education. The conference, held October 25-27 at the Sheraton Pasadena Hotel, highlighted strengths development as a vehicle for the academic, interpersonal, and emotional thriving of transfer, incoming, current, and graduating students.

Keynote speaker Laurie Schreiner, Ph.D., chair and professor in APU's Department of Higher Education, presented "Pathways to Thriving: The Road Not Taken." Her address focused on her research that indicates students of color have fewer pathways to thriving, and that those pathways are often quite different from those available to white students. She also provided suggestions for how APU can improve its programs and services to support students of color, and offered actions that institutional leaders can take to build thriving campus environments that benefit all students.

Other keynote speakers included: Michelle Louis, Ph.D., associate professor in APU's Department of

Higher Education, "Toward an Integrated Life: Exploring the Unexpected Sources of Thriving"; Henry Gee, vice president of student services at Rio Hondo College, "Pursuing Passion"; and Gary Pritchard, Ph.D., dean of the School of Media at Ravensbourne, United Kingdom, "The Thriving Curriculum: Developing the Mindset and Skillsets of Gen O." The conference provided a forum for deep discussions among higher education professionals seeking to tap into students' strengths to help them succeed and flourish in college. Through a dynamic exchange of ideas and practical strategies, attendees walked away with strategic plans to facilitate positive student outcomes using the strengths development paradigm.

Graduate Student Awarded for Outstanding Scholarship and Research



In the highly competitive realm of academic scholarship, only the most dedicated and promising rise to the top, vying for limited funds and acceptance

to premier graduate schools and prestigious research grants and fellowships. The fortunate few may achieve one of these goals; Zizhong (David) Xiao, M.S. '19, earned three.

Xiao entered this arduous process as a college senior seeking to build on a B.A. in Psychology. Based on his extraordinary academic ability and proposed research projects, he earned spots at multiple graduate schools. He chose Azusa Pacific University. Simultaneously, he applied for the esteemed Fulbright Scholarship and was selected as a 2017 grant recipient. Further, he applied for and won the coveted National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellow grant, which supports him financially as he

pursues a master's degree from APU and, later, a Ph.D.

This ambitious scholar began the Master of Science in Research Psychology and Data Analysis program at APU in fall 2017 with a focus on researching positive psychology. His thesis will explore what makes people happy and achieve their optimal level of functioning, and will encompass the development of a multidimensional measure of what it means to be a "nice" person (i.e., warm, agreeable, mindful). In the middle of this program, however, Xiao plans a leave of absence to accept his Fulbright opportunity to teach in Malaysia during spring 2018. He will then return to APU to complete his master's degree and decide the next steps of his academic and professional careers. Whatever his future holds, Xiao's academic background, life experiences, and potential to give back to society through his research distinguish him as one of the brightest scholars of his generation equipped and poised to become a Kingdom difference maker.

Honors College Hosts Inaugural Choral Scholars Performance

Tucked away in the nearby hills of Sierra Madre, California, yet worlds away from Los Angeles' modern distractions, lies the Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center, a serene setting ideal for prayer, worship, and reflection—and the venue for the first public performance of Azusa Pacific's Choral Scholars, hosted by the Honors College. Formed in fall 2017, this group of 12 top undergraduate and graduate scholars in the School of Music specializes in Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music, which helps prepare them for professional careers as musicians, scholars, and performers.

Conducted by John Sutton, DMA, director of choral activities and professor in the School of Music, the Choral Scholars performed Gregorian chant, featuring music from the 5th through the early 18th centuries. The event also included a prayerful worship service

involving the Liturgy of the Hours, the spiritual practice based on Psalm 119:164 that divides the day into seven times of prayer, and the *Lectio Divina* (sacred reading), the tradition of attentively and prayerfully reading the Word of God.

Many APU Honors College students and faculty attended the event as part of their enriched curriculum. Several honors courses call for these extracurricular activities, which adds depth to the coursework. For example, the HON 260 core course covers great texts from the Medieval period, including, among others, Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, excerpts from Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*, and Teresa of Ávila's *The Interior Castle*. The class helps students explore the Medieval Church traditions that inspired these writers by requiring them to attend arts experiences and field trips related to the era covered in the course, such as visiting Saint Andrew's Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Valyermo, California; watching theatrical films about the era (*Becket* and *A Man for All Seasons*); or attending this concert. While the choral members' research and performance of the musical genre adds dimension to their skills, knowledge, and experience, it also benefits those students in attendance by exposing them to Medieval Church worship styles and affording a predominantly Protestant group of students the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Catholic worship experience.

Trip through Southern U.S. States Increases Understanding of Racial Injustice

Seeking greater understanding of the black American experience to bolster their efforts to enact significant present-day changes, a group of 19 students, faculty, staff members, and parents traveled through the southern United States exploring the history and reality of racial injustice. Inspired by the life and legacy of the late Kimasi Browne, Ph.D., longtime APU

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APU Holds Southern California Big Data Discovery Summit 2017



Data sciences play an increasingly important role in business, technology, government, health care, and education. As the amount of raw data multiplies, companies need individuals who can interpret and apply data structures. By hosting the Southern California Big Data Discovery Summit on November 4, 2017, Azusa Pacific University facilitated critical conversations between researchers and analysts from a variety of disciplines regarding research findings on big data analytics, including database and data warehousing, data mining, text mining, business intelligence, machine learning, pattern recognition, and data visualization.

Keynote speakers Julian Parris, Ph.D., JMP academic ambassador for the SAS Institute, and James Harroun, senior analytical training consultant for the SAS Global Academic Program, discussed strategic data exploration and innovative data investigation techniques. As a technical advocate for the use of JMP software in academic settings, Parris supports professors and instructors who use JMP for teaching and research. He presented "Finding a Needle in the (Ever-growing) Haystack," offering big data discovery examples with an emphasis on scalable methods

for data explorations and analysis. Harroun, who helps higher education institutions use SAS effectively, spoke on "Data Visualization and Exploration as the Entry Point to Big Data Analytics," which allows analysts to delve into large data sets more easily and quickly. Other featured speakers included John Rome, deputy chief information officer at Arizona State University, and Scott Nestler, Ph.D., an associate teaching professor in the Department of Information Technology, Analytics, and Operations at the University of Notre Dame.

This conference addressed a timely topic, as IBM recently noted in *Forbes* that job openings for data scientists will increase 28 percent to 2.7 million by 2020. The summit drew participants from academics, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies interested in cutting-edge methodologies in big data analytics and various real-world applications. It also supported students and faculty in APU's Master of Science in Research Psychology and Data Analysis program, which prepares graduates with the skills to adapt research across multiple occupations and industries.



Reading Recommendations from Samuel Girguis, Psy.D.

Director, Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.) program

The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma by Bessel van der Kolk, MD (Penguin Books, reprint edition, 2015)

Upside: The New Science of Post-Traumatic Growth by Jim Rendon (Touchstone, 2015).

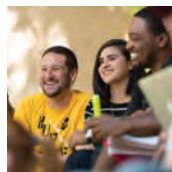
How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character by Paul Tough (Mariner Books, reprint edition, 2013)

Far from the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity by Andrew Solomon (Scribner, reprint edition, 2013)

Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence—From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror by Judith L. Herman (Basic Books, 2015)

Section sponsored by the University Libraries and compiled by Liz Leahy, MLS, M.A.T., professor of theological bibliography and research and chair, James L. Stamps Theological Library. l Leahy@apu.edu

Year in Review: 2016-17



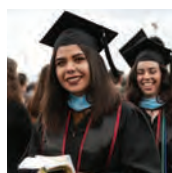
Grants

Azusa Pacific faculty and staff representing from nursing, psychology, theology, business and management, liberal arts and sciences, higher education, and student success services garnered grants totaling \$7,179,469 in 2016-17. These include: \$493,745 from the Kern Foundation for a five-year combined bachelor's and master's pastoral degree program; \$199,108 from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing for a teacher preparation program to increase the number of math, science, and special education teachers; \$42,369 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to examine the effects of social capital on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) students; \$59,136 from the NSF to stimulate student engagement in data-based learning in a research experience; and \$46,000 from the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship for a student to attend the M.S. in Research Psychology and Data Analysis program.



New Master's-level Programs

Azusa Pacific added three strategic programs to its academic lineup to broaden students' choices, align with the changing marketplace, and increase employability of graduates. The Master of Science in Biotechnology prepares competent, competitive, and ethical leaders in the emerging field of bioscience, which includes epidemiology, bioinformatics and genetic counseling, microbiology, biomedical engineering, and biomedical research. The Master of Science in Child Life produces specialists trained to focus on the development and well-being of infants, children, youth, adolescents, and young adults while promoting coping skills and minimizing the adverse effects of hospitalization. The Master of Arts in Music Entrepreneurship readies music, communication, business, and marketing students, as well as entertainment professionals, seeking success in the music industry as independent entrepreneurs.



National Rankings

Azusa Pacific University earned a place in the National Universities category of *U.S. News & World Report's* America's Best Colleges 2018 rankings, positioned alongside premier universities such as Princeton (No. 1), Stanford (No. 5), and UCLA (No. 21). APU tied with five schools at No. 187. Further, the national publication recognized APU in several other categories, including: Highest Freshman Retention Rate, Highest Proportion of Classes with Fewer than 20 Students, Most Campus Ethnic Diversity, and Most Economic Diversity. Once again, *Forbes* magazine has ranked Azusa Pacific University among the best schools in the nation. This year's list of 650 colleges represents the top 20 percent of all undergraduate institutions, with APU coming in at 357 (up from 391 last year). For the ninth time, Azusa Pacific earned a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, which celebrates "institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus-community partnerships."



Establishment of Center for Public Affairs

The Hugh & Hazel Darling Foundation granted Azusa Pacific \$750,000 toward the establishment of the Center for Public Affairs in Sacramento, California. The new center creates a semester-away academic pathway for undergraduate students seeking careers in government, law, and other areas of public service by providing a unique combination of coursework and internships at legislative, executive, judicial, and other government and nonprofit agencies.



School of Nursing Honors

USA Today identified Azusa Pacific's School of Nursing as one of the 10 best in the country. The criteria included early- and mid-career graduate earnings, percentage of students at the institution studying nursing, and the overall quality of the university, among other measures that set these schools' programs apart as the help prepare students for successful and rewarding careers in the medical field. In the company of such prestigious institutions as Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, and the University of California, Los Angeles, APU's School of Nursing consistently ranks among the nation's best, with graduates who earn an average of \$67,000 annually and stand out as transformational leaders in health care.



TRiO Grant for First-generation College Students

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Azusa Pacific \$1,287,310 to fund TRiO Upward Bound program, which provides educational services to 60 low-income, first-generation students from Azusa High School. The five-year grant began with \$257,462 on September 1, 2017, with comparable funding expected to follow each of the following four years. Upward Bound scholars receive many services that help them identify their strengths, explore their purpose, and thrive in academic and social settings. Services include academic instruction, a summer bridge component, campus tours, cultural enrichment, tutoring, academic advising, mentoring, and parent workshops, and engages students in strategies to increase financial literacy.



Partnerships Create New Pathways for Local High School Students

Azusa Pacific significantly expanded access for area high school graduates seeking an APU education. The university partnered with 16 districts and their 37 high schools to offer guaranteed admission and provide renewable \$10,000 scholarships, an application fee waiver, and support with the application process to graduates who meet academic requirements. Many of these students qualify for additional scholarships and grants as well, drastically reducing the cost of their education. To date, the growing list of partner districts includes: Arcadia, Azusa, Bassett, Bonita, Chaffey Joint High School District, Charter Oak, Chino Valley, Claremont, Covina-Valley, Duarte, Glendora, Monrovia, Rowland, Temple City, Upland, and West Covina.

By the Numbers

3: The number of new members, including the Azusa Pacific University School of Business and Management's Roxanne Helm-Stevens, DBA, chair and professor in the Department of Management, invited to join the National Executive Board of Sigma Iota Epsilon. The national honorary and professional management fraternity recognizes scholastic excellence and promotes cooperation between the academic and practical aspects of management.

5: The number of APU nursing faculty inducted into the American Academy of Nursing (AAN), the renowned professional organization that contributes to health policy and practice, which benefits the public and the nursing profession. The most recent inductee, Cheryl Westlake, Ph.D., RN, ACNS-BC, PN, FHFSA, FAHA, joins fellows representing university administrators, federal appointees, hospital executives, researchers, and entrepreneurs, including her APU colleagues Lina Badr, DNSc, PNP, RN, FAAN; Vivien Dee, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, FAAN; Kathleen Ruccione, Ph.D., RN, MPH, CPON, FAAN; and Diana Woods, Ph.D., APRN-BC, FGSA.

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professor of ethnomusicology, former Browne student Danielle Harris '16, M.S. '18, coordinated a 10-day Journey to Sankofa: A Commemoration of the Work of Dr. Kimasi L. Browne, from June 25 through July 4, 2017.

The word *sankofa* comes from the Twi language of Ghana and means "to go back and get; we must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward, and we can understand why and how we came to be who we are today," according to the Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education. This mindset inspired the participants as they visited museums, stood where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and talked to people raised during the Jim Crow era, all part of an effort to examine the current escalation of racial issues through the lens of history and seek ways to promote change, foster reconciliation, and advance diversity.

The undergraduate students involved also enrolled in the concurrent five-week Summer Session II course The African American Experience, which enabled them to further explore the contributions of African Americans to the nation's development and how those contributions helped shape their identity. Throughout the trip,

participants served side by side in oppressed communities, slept in mission houses, dialogued with other college students, spent time with the elderly, and immersed themselves in the culture of the Jim Crow South.

They emerged transformed. Though each processed the experience in a unique way, not one was left unchanged—some felt liberated and empowered, others felt humbled and enlightened. All returned home determined to make a difference regarding the systemic racism they saw on their trip and have witnessed at home, starting with their own campus. With fresh perspectives, faculty can enrich their coursework with firsthand anecdotal information, staff members can better appreciate the needs of students of color, and students can begin conversations with one another about racism and reconciliation, backed by the power of knowledge and experience.

Azusa Community Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Our Neighborhood Homework House

Witnessing the obstacles faced by Azusa's youngest residents two decades ago, three godly servants collaborated to make a difference in their community.

7: The number of nominees for the inaugural Dissertation/Capstone of the Year Award. Faculty from higher education, nursing, physical therapy, educational leadership, ministry, and clinical psychology faculty judged research by doctoral candidates at the Celebration of Scholarship luncheon on September 14, 2017. The winners: Marcia Harris-Luna, Ph.D., nursing, for her dissertation, "Effectiveness of a Promotora Model Intervention on Breastfeeding Outcomes," and Stephen Sim, D.Min., ministry, for his capstone, "A Leadership Paradigm for the Korean American Immigrant Church from the Ethos of the Wesleyan Tradition."

35: APU's rank among the nation's top 100 master's degree producers for Hispanics according to *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. The university also came in at No. 83 for conferring master's degrees to Asian Americans. The publication generates this annual list to support diversity in higher education and recognize those institutions excelling in this area.

In 1997, Janet MacDonald, an Azusa pastor's wife; Kerry Freeman, a former teacher; and Paul Keeler, an Azusa Pacific student working on his Global Learning Term project, joined efforts to establish Our Neighborhood Homework House (ONHH). They gathered in the home of a faithful mother, Rosa Chenet, to offer tutoring, counseling, friendship, and support to children who had no safe place to play or study.

Now, 20 years later, their fledgling project has turned into a flourishing nonprofit organization employing a modest staff and approximately 100 volunteers per year. Of those, nearly 75 percent are APU students, with up to 7 earning Federal Work Study funds. ONHH now serves more than 250 students throughout the Azusa Unified School District and has a waiting list of students eager for the assistance and opportunities offered by the beloved community program. Students from pre-K through 12th grade attend the after-school program Monday through Friday for activities ranging from school-readiness programs for three- and four-year-olds; to tutoring, mentoring, character development, field trips, and academic clubs such as Girls Who Code, Leadership, and Lego

Robotics for elementary and middle schoolers; to college-prep activities and job-readiness workshops for high schoolers. Parents, an integral part of ONHH as volunteers and partners, also benefit through conversational English-as-a-second-language classes, continuing education and computer courses, and parenting seminars.

This thriving community program began humbly and evolved over the years as God called new people with fresh ideas to lead the way. The first executive director, Abigail (Aldrich '00) Gaines, expanded the services from two days a week to five and doubled attendance to more than 80 students of all ages. Jennifer Hicks, the current executive director, runs the program with a full staff of dedicated leaders and volunteers and a vision to expand the program once again. They dream of a larger facility, perhaps a community center, that can accommodate the growing number of families they serve in the community. Relying on the generosity of private foundations and individual donors, they continue to pray for God's providence as they obey His call to care for those in need.



Oxford Recognizes APU Student's Excellence

Students seeking an academically robust study-away program aspire to the Scholars' Semester in Oxford. Those accepted into the prestigious program gain privileged access to the University of Oxford, as well as its libraries and resources; meet with renowned scholars, historians, authors, and ambassadors one on one; and engage in rigorous study of multiple disciplines. At the close of each semester, Scholarship & Christianity in Oxford (SCIO), the United Kingdom subsidiary of the Council for Christian Colleges &

Universities (CCCU), recognizes the top students in the program with the de Jager prize for exceptional academic performance. This year, APU's Hayden Royster '18 earned the honor in the British Culture category for his outstanding academic application and ability.

Funded by generous donations from Geoffrey and Caroline de Jager, who have a long-standing commitment to encouraging excellence in education and scholarship, the award serves as a mark of distinction for all who receive

it. One of 10 students awarded during the spring 2017 semester, Royster received the recognition for his significant contributions to the academic experience and the quality of his essays, which were evaluated for "originality of conception, ease of handling primary and secondary sources, professional handling of scholarly apparatus, lucid and statistically appropriate prose, and effective rebuttal of counterarguments."

Royster, while pursuing a double major in English with a writing concentration and honors humanities,

as well as a theater arts minor, participated in the Oxford Semester with 10 fellow APU students and almost 40 others from CCCU colleges. This award affirms his passion for writing short stories, plays, films, and articles. As Royster completes the final stages of his undergraduate degree, he has applied for a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Malaysia, and has begun making plans to pursue a Master of Fine Arts and a Ph.D. in Creative Writing.



Recent Grants Advance Research and Scholarship

\$5,000

From Luther Seminary through a John Templeton Foundation grant to Cahleen Shrier, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry; Marian Saleh, assistant professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry; and Jennifer Buck, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Practical Theology, with the scope to pioneer a new seminar course dealing entirely with science topics and the implications for youth ministry, and to host a roundtable and panel discussions with guest scientists in several courses across the youth ministry curriculum.

\$6,000

From the Society of Christian Philosophers to two APU faculty members: \$3,000 to Gary Black Jr., Ph.D., associate professor of theology in the Honors College; and \$3,000 to Adam Green, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy, to creatively inject their undergraduate curricula with the work of Alvin Plantinga, the Christian philosopher awarded the \$1.4 million Templeton Prize for reshaping theism and returning God to the study of philosophy.

\$7,500

From Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to Kathleen Ruccione, Ph.D., RN, associate professor and chair, Department of Doctoral Programs in the School of Nursing, to participate and contribute in the Children's Oncology Group (COG) Return of Results Task Force. COG is a National Cancer Institute support clinical trials group, the world's largest organization exclusively devoted to childhood and adolescent cancer research.

\$14,800

From Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (SCIO) to Louise Huang, Ph.D., director of the Center for Research in Science (CRIS), to conduct a multifaceted project that includes a study of factors that have kept Christianity and environmentalism in tension over the past several decades. The grant is funded under the auspices of Oxford Interdisciplinary Seminars in Science and Religion, Bridging Two Cultures of Science, and the Humanities II (2017-19) program.



\$25,000

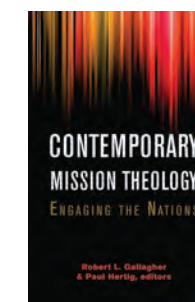
A network exchange grant from the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts to Christopher Noble, Ph.D., professor in the Department of English and the High Sierra Semester program. The project, "Exploring Natures: A Para-University Model for Humanities Education", enables the High Sierra program to host faculty and administrators eager to learn how a "para-university" programmatic model can be implemented to promote the integration of core texts in the humanities with robust co-curricular education.

Scholarship at Work



Diversity Matters: Race, Ethnicity, & the Future of Christian Higher Education (Abilene Christian University Press, 2017) edited by Karen Longman, Ph.D., director, Ph.D. in Higher Education program and professor, Department of Higher Education; includes contributions from Kimberly Battle-Walters Denu, Ph.D., MSW, vice president, chief diversity officer; Rukshan Fernando, Ph.D., associate dean, School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences; and Alexander Jun, Ph.D., professor, Department of Higher Education

The critical issue of racial tension and recent manifestations across the United States, including increased polarization, vitriolic speech, and violence, have placed college and university campuses at the center of the crisis and—ideally—at the heart of the healing process. How these institutions respond to today's concerning events, interpret the underlying causes, and advance the conversation about race and ethnicity will impact society for generations. *Diversity Matters* offers perspectives from more than 20 experts and scholars from across the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities membership on how campuses can become hospitable environments for all students.



Contemporary Mission Theology: Engaging the Nations (Orbis Books, 2017) coedited by Paul Hertig, Ph.D., professor, Department of Global Studies, Sociology, and TESOL; and Robert Gallagher, Wheaton College
Written as a classroom resource, this book addresses 21st-century mission theology from an ecumenical viewpoint. Readers gain context through the rich history and roots of mission work as revealed in Old and New Testament stories, as well as contemporary narratives from Catholic and evangelical sources. The collection honors Charles E. Van Engen, Ph.D., senior professor of biblical theology of mission at Fuller Theological Seminary, and features contributions from several global missiological leaders, including Stephen Bevans, Roger Schroeder, vanThanh Nguyen, Mary Motte, Gerald Anderson, Scott Sunquist, and others. The book offers insights and reflections on the impact of cultural and demographic changes on Christian mission.



Apocalypse TV (eLectio Publishing, 2017) by Thomas Allbaugh, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of English
Allbaugh takes readers into this fast-paced, character-driven account in his first novel. When a reality TV scout "discovers" Walter in a diner near the hospice where his father has been placed, his life has reached a low point, and he allows himself to be drawn in. Maybe the show will be what the producers promise, a serious inquiry into faith. Instead, the show brings Walter all the wrong attention. He is misquoted, misinterpreted, and then threatened by end-times groups after being dragged across the country in an increasingly absurd series of challenges. Will his career and reputation survive the public protests? Will his marriage survive the hints of affairs on the road? Will any kind of "reality" emerge to restore his self-respect?



The Origins of Christian Tolerance

by Edmund Mazza
Illustrations by Jennifer Reid '19

Many people who do not attend church view Christians as “judgmental” (87%), “hypocritical” (85%), and “insensitive to others” (70%), according to the Barna Group. However, the concepts of tolerance, freedom of conscience, and loving one’s enemies originated with Christ and flourished among His followers.

Before Christianity, one third of Romans were slaves, toiling in mines, fighting as gladiators, or laboring in households. Truth be told, except for the faithful who worshipped the one true God, before Christ’s coming most everyone was a slave—a slave to things of this world. But Jesus changed that by offering a new perspective: “Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (Matthew 6:25, ESV) “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28, ESV). Jesus revealed the truth of what it means to be human—body and soul, in time and eternity—and only this truth frees. His followers rejected all other ways of life as false and sinful, not because they were haters, but because they loved others so much they could not bear to see even one lost.

As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI explained in his 2008 address to the Collège des Bernardins in Paris: “[They] did not regard their missionary proclamation as propaganda, designed to enlarge their particular group. . . . [T]he God in whom they believed was the God of all people. . . who had revealed [H]imself. . . in [H]is Son, thereby supplying the answer which was of concern to everyone. . . . The universality of God, and of reason open toward [H]im, is what gave them the motivation—indeed, the obligation—to proclaim the message. They saw their faith as belonging, not to cultural custom that differs from one people to another, but to the domain of truth, which concerns all people equally.”

Yet governments have historically rejected this notion. The first Christian leaders were put to death for refusing to place belief in Caesar on the same level as belief in Christ. Tertullian, an early Christian theologian, protested such government coercion, asserting individual liberty for the first time in history in a letter to Scapula, a proconsul of Africa: “It is a fundamental human right, a privilege of nature, that every man should worship according to his own convictions: one man’s religion neither harms nor helps another man. It is assuredly no part of religion to compel religion—to which free-will and not force should lead us.” This is not to say that people have a right to worship *their* way instead of God’s way, but it does mean that individual consciences should be respected to the fullest extent possible without harming the common good.

During the Middle Ages, roles were reversed, and Christians held sway over society. Regrettably, many offenses, especially against Jews, occurred. According to the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church (1235), however, Church lawmakers still officially promoted tolerance toward non-Christians, stating: “Jews and Muslims should be persuaded by authoritative texts, by reason, and by sweet words rather

than by harshness. . . . They should not, however, be compelled to do so, for forced servitude does not please God.” Since all humans have reason, however, the university scholastics engaged in rational disputations not only with one another, but with Jews, Muslims, Mongols, Buddhists, and others. As St. Thomas Aquinas taught: “Fraternal correction is not opposed to forbearance. . . . For a man bears with a sinner, in so far as he is not disturbed against him, and retains his goodwill towards him: the result being that he strives to make him do better.”

Despite the historical failings of individuals and institutions, Christ’s Church has displayed a consistent theme of tolerance and compassion for those of other faiths and ideologies, while unapologetically standing for the Truth. Ironically, critics of Christianity no longer seek to debate with those who differ. They use labels rather than arguments. Indeed, in the name of equality, they have been trained to embrace diversity of beliefs and never challenge them, by pushing for a conformity leading to uniformity. Martin Luther King Jr. foretold

“They saw their faith as belonging, not to cultural custom that differs from one people to another, but to the domain of truth, which concerns all people equally.”

—Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

this lamentable lack of conviction in a sermon he gave in the tumultuous ’60s:

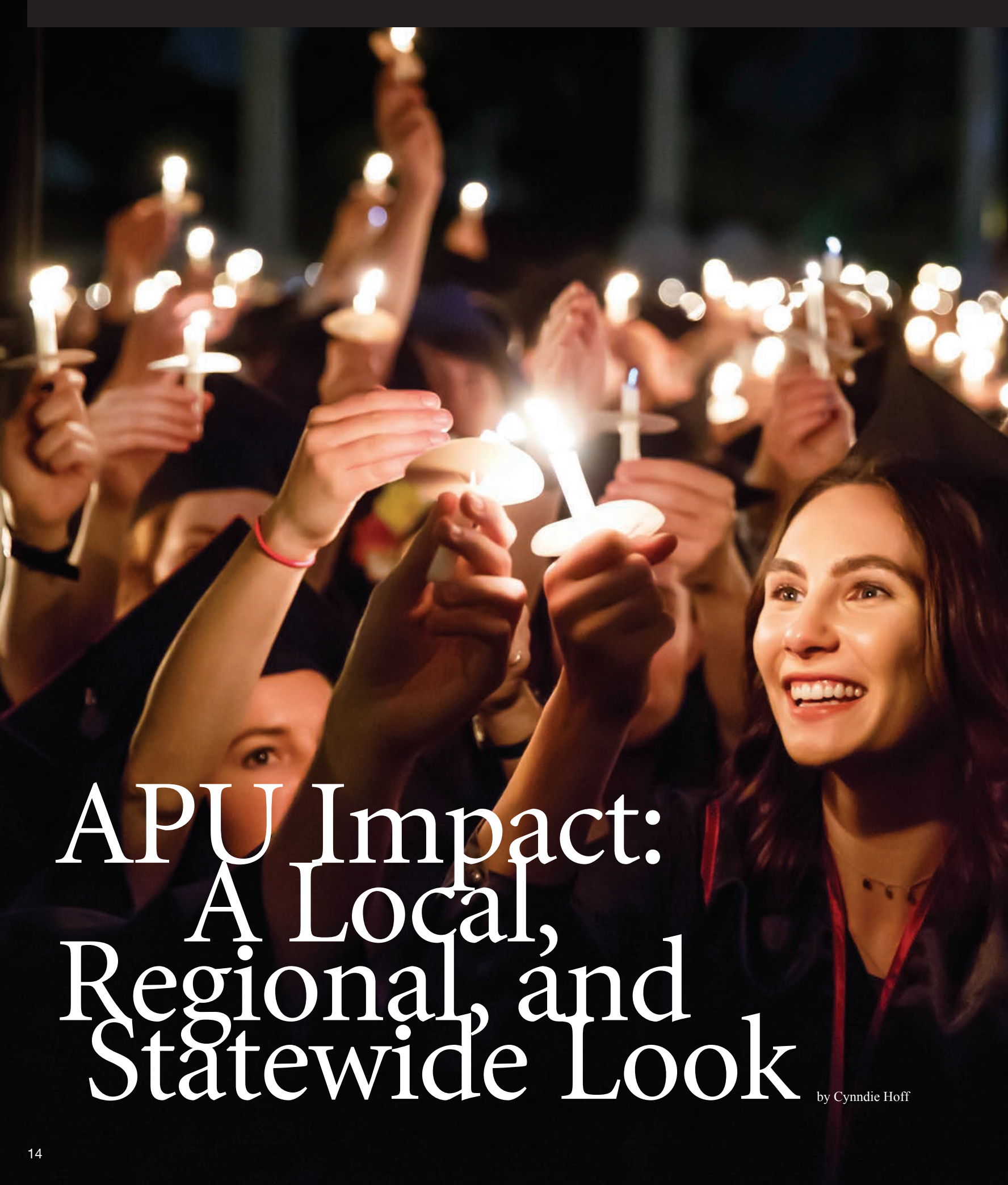
At midnight colours lose their distinctiveness and become a sullen shade of grey. Moral principles have lost their distinctiveness. . . .

[A]bsolute right and absolute wrong are a matter of what the majority is doing. Right and wrong are relative to likes and dislikes and the customs of a particular community. We have unconsciously applied Einstein’s theory of relativity, which properly described the physical universe, to the moral and ethical realm. . . .

This mentality has brought a tragic breakdown of [objective] moral standards.

The objectivity of truth is vital, because without it, our treatment of one another becomes sentimental and, therefore, arbitrary. The traditional definition of love is to will the good for another. Reason, not emotion, predominates: We need to know the truth and what the objective good is, or else we are incapable of genuine love. That love and truth are inseparable should surprise no one. “For God [the Father] so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, ESV). But Jesus is also the *logos* (Greek for “reason” or “truth”) who was “in the beginning with God” (John 1:2, ESV). *Logos*, Truth, is not something, but *Someone*: “For this purpose I was born. . . to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (John 18:37, ESV).

Edmund Mazza, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of History and Political Science. emazza@apu.edu



APU Impact: A Local, Regional, and Statewide Look

by Cynndie Hoff

Today, mission, purpose, and outcomes mark the value and worth of an institution of higher education. At Azusa Pacific University, its people provide this mark of distinction.

Through 119 years of keeping *God First*, APU has earned its reputation for cultivating difference makers by encouraging people to pursue their callings, overcoming challenges, and changing lives. And that signature commitment extends well beyond campus boundaries. In countless ways, measurable and immeasurable, APU impacts its immediate neighbors in the city of Azusa, the surrounding San Gabriel Valley, the Southern California region, and the entire state.

Azusa Pacific's most tangible contributions can be seen in its significant economic impact—\$1.25 billion throughout the state—which directly enhances the quality of life for thousands of people. While it is not unusual for an institution of APU's size and scope to influence the economy, APU goes beyond many of its counterparts by operating in ways that embody selfless service to its neighbors. This impact had not been formally measured—until now.

To quantify the benefits of Christian higher education, America's Christian Credit Union (ACCU) provided the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) with \$100,000 to conduct research on the economic impact of faith-based colleges and universities at the national level, statewide, and the institutional level, beginning with Azusa Pacific University. "At ACCU, we strive to play a constructive role in mission-aligned outreach and expanding the Kingdom," said ACCU President/CEO Mendell Thompson. "We recognize and support the very significant role that God-honoring institutions like Azusa Pacific University play. We are pleased to note that the survey results confirm our recognition of APU's positive effect in building up the community as it prepares future leaders to do good work locally, statewide, and nationwide."

Helping to accomplish that, Philadelphia-based Econsult Solutions, Inc. (ESI) conducted an independent, comprehensive study looking at data from 2014-16 to analyze Azusa Pacific's economic activity. According to ESI's August 2017 Economic Impact Report, Azusa Pacific University, which serves more than 10,000 students each year and employs more than 1,400 faculty and staff members, benefits every region of the state fiscally, academically, and socially in ways that can be empirically measured. "This economic impact report demonstrates that Azusa Pacific University, the largest Christian university in California, plays a key



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\$1.25 billion

throughout the state—which directly enhances the quality of life for thousands of people.

role in the state's Education Master Plan for Higher Education, graduating difference makers who positively impact their communities as good neighbors and employees," said President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. "We draw the majority of our students from local high schools and community colleges within the San Gabriel Valley and surrounding counties, especially Los Angeles, strengthening our area economy in part by producing skilled graduates who join the workforce in key sectors like education, nursing, and mental health services, among others."

Operations

Providing transformational higher education requires a visionary strategy, a sound business plan, and a network of local and regional partners to support the day-to-day operations of the university. APU stands as one of the area's top purchasers of goods and services, operating with an annual budget exceeding \$210 million. Of that, \$145 million (about two-thirds) covers wages, salaries, and benefits for the university's employees. Directly impacting local commerce, this spending creates a ripple effect, increasing economic activity and employment throughout the communities APU touches. ESI revealed that each year, APU operations produce \$157.8 million in total economic impact within the city of Azusa, \$252.9 million within the San Gabriel Valley, \$347.9 million within Los Angeles County, \$417.3 million within Southern California, and \$427.9 million within the state of California.

While direct employment accounts for 52 percent of that, other sectors benefit as well, including health care, real estate, retail, administrative services, the food industry, and more. This economic activity also means that APU, though a nonprofit, actually generates taxes as it contributes to the growth and prosperity of the regions it influences. ESI estimates that APU's operations generate nearly \$14 million in income, sales, and business tax revenues in California.

continued on page 16



Ancillary Spending

As students live, study, and work during their college years, they are avid consumers. Dorm rooms need bedding, job interviews require business attire, and diligent scholars need to take study breaks at local restaurants, attend concerts, and go to movies. College towns come with built-in buyers who boost the economic activity throughout the city and beyond. And when their family and friends visit, the effect expands exponentially.

In Azusa, ESI found that APU “students alone are responsible for about \$43 million in spending, 82 percent of which is captured within the state.” When considering the ripple effect of this ancillary spending, ESI estimates “\$56 million in economic impact within the state of California, supporting approximately 480 jobs and generating \$1.6 million in state taxes.” These figures represent student spending and also the spending of more than 84,000 visitors who come to campus throughout the year. This includes family members, prospective students and their families, alumni, and conference/event attendees. The breakdown of this category of spending shows that \$25.2 million occurs within the city of Azusa, \$27.5 million within the San Gabriel Valley, \$28.7 million within Los Angeles County, and \$31.5 million within California. The bulk of this spending goes to the retail, hotel, and food services industries, and the remainder goes to transportation and warehousing, real estate, and administration services, among other sectors. Clearly, APU is good for business—it triggers a chain reaction of economic prosperity.

Wage Premiums

A college degree means higher earning potential. Known in economics as the wage premium (the higher wages earned by those with higher levels of education), this phenomenon significantly increases the fiscal power of cities and regions with more college graduates. According to ESI, “federal data sources estimate that wage premiums [or *additional* household income] attributable to increased educational attainment for APU alumni are \$8,565 for an associate’s, \$20,103 for a bachelor’s, and \$23,992 for advanced degrees.” This translates to a significant return on investment for alumni and a benefit for the city of Azusa, given the growing number of APU alumni who remain in the area and contribute significantly to the earning potential of the local workforce. And higher earning potential means higher purchasing power for alumni to buy homes, consume goods and services, pay taxes, and pour back into the regional economy.

Of the APU alumni employed in the state, 880 live within the city of Azusa, 6,740 live in the broader San Gabriel Valley, another 5,640 live in Los Angeles County, an additional 17,640 live in Southern California beyond L.A. County, and 3,340 live in the remainder of the state of California outside of the Southern California region. ESI reports, “the wage premium conferred on APU alumni produces \$757 million in economic impact per year within the state of California economy and generates almost \$21 million in tax revenues for the state of California government.” While APU graduates directly impact their communities through earning and spending, they also do so indirectly by creating jobs and attracting human and financial resources.



Social Impact

While the research clearly demonstrates APU’s prominent role in the economic health of its city, region, and state, its greatest asset and value to society remains its people. Wallace describes the quintessential APU graduate as someone others want to call colleague, neighbor, and friend. He contends that a college degree means little without hearts that care and hands that serve. In fact, that aspect undergirds every decision and action at APU and aligns with the university’s Four Cornerstones: Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service. Long before it was popular to do community service in college, Azusa Pacific students devoted massive hours to helping their neighbors through volunteer work and service-learning courses, among other initiatives. In fact, all full-time undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 120 service hours to graduate, but many go way beyond that requirement.

Through the Office of Community Advancement Programs, students help strengthen relations between the university and the community and earn Federal Work Study funding through programs such as Our Neighborhood Homework House, a nonprofit organization that provides learning resources for at-risk children and their families. The Center for Student Action organizes local and global mission trips, including the Mexico Outreach program, which has mobilized more than 200,000 students and local churches to serve their neighbors south of the border. The Center for Academic Service-Learning facilitates a strong connection between classroom learning and real-world service, as the more than 180 service-learning courses at APU help integrate a culture of service into every discipline so students learn the habit of helping others. Math majors team up with nursing students and artists join athletes as they go out into the community to clean up yards, give health screenings, assist with homework, befriend the elderly, and feed the homeless. Azusa Pacific deepens these connections by reaching out to young scholars in the area and making college more than a dream, opening up education opportunities for local ethnic minorities, first-generation college students, and low-income households through groundbreaking partnerships with area school districts. More than 16 area districts (a list that grows continually) have joined with APU in creating new pathways to college, including guaranteed admission for students who meet requirements, application fee waivers and help with the process, and a renewable \$10,000 scholarship. APU also offers merit-based scholarships for high-achieving freshmen and transfers, degree completion programs for working professionals, online degrees for nontraditional students, and GI Bill education benefits for veterans.

Qualitatively and quantitatively, the university consistently demonstrates significant value to stakeholders near and far, as verified by the comprehensive ESI report. “This important research confirms what we’ve known for a long time: institutions of Christian higher education like Azusa Pacific University have tremendous economic, educational, and social impact in their communities,” said Shirley Hoogstra, JD, president of the CCCU. “Not only do Christian colleges and universities provide world-class, faith-rooted educational experiences for their students, they provide vital support to their local communities, their states, and the country.” Students, parents, and professionals seeking a values-driven education find that Azusa Pacific delivers a healthy return on investment in terms of societal impact and wage premiums that translate to higher lifetime income. Further, this tax-exempt institution generates taxes and significantly contributes to the economy through robust operations, capital investments, and spending. This affirmation of

Azusa Pacific’s 119-year promise to keep *God First* and remain devoted to Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service bolsters the university’s resolve to continue innovating, discipling, seeking Truth, and sending out difference makers.

Adapted from “Difference Makers: The Economic and Societal Impacts of Azusa Pacific University” report produced by Econsult Solutions, Inc. For complete report and information about ESI’s methodology, visit apu.edu/economic-impact.

Cyndie Hoff is a freelance writer and editor living in Walnut, California. ceh.hoff@gmail.com



16+ area school districts have joined with APU in creating new pathways to college, including guaranteed admission for students who meet requirements, application fee waivers and help with the process, and a renewable

\$10,000 scholarship

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

\$4.7 million

Azusa

\$5.8 million

San Gabriel Valley

\$7.6 million

Los Angeles County

\$8.7 million

Southern California

\$9 million

California

Capital Investments

Some of Azusa Pacific’s most tangible contributions to economic growth spring from its significant capital investments, such as the state-of-the-art, \$54 million, 72,000-square-foot Segerstrom Science Center on West Campus, which is just one of many APU expansions and improvements over the years. While capital investments enhance the campus and attract more scholars, they also generate jobs, purchases, and tax revenue. According to ESI, each year, APU’s projects, including new building, equipment, technology, renovations, and maintenance, average \$9 million, support 40 jobs, and generate \$231,000 in tax revenue. Like the operating budget, capital investments have a multiplier effect that boosts productivity and income throughout the state, generating \$4.7 million within the city of Azusa, \$5.8 million in the San Gabriel Valley, \$7.6 million in Los Angeles County, \$8.7 million in Southern California, and \$9 million in the state of California.

These expenditures represent more than the sum of their total—they illustrate the lived-out mission to be good neighbors. From job opportunities to the accessibility of educational resources, from the research facilities to the simple beauty of the space and place, APU provides its immediate and surrounding communities with an enriching environment where they can learn and grow.



ANCILLARY SPENDING

\$25.2 million

Azusa

\$27.5 million

San Gabriel Valley

\$28.7 million

Los Angeles County

\$31.5 million

California

WAGE PREMIUMS

\$757 million

Alumni within California

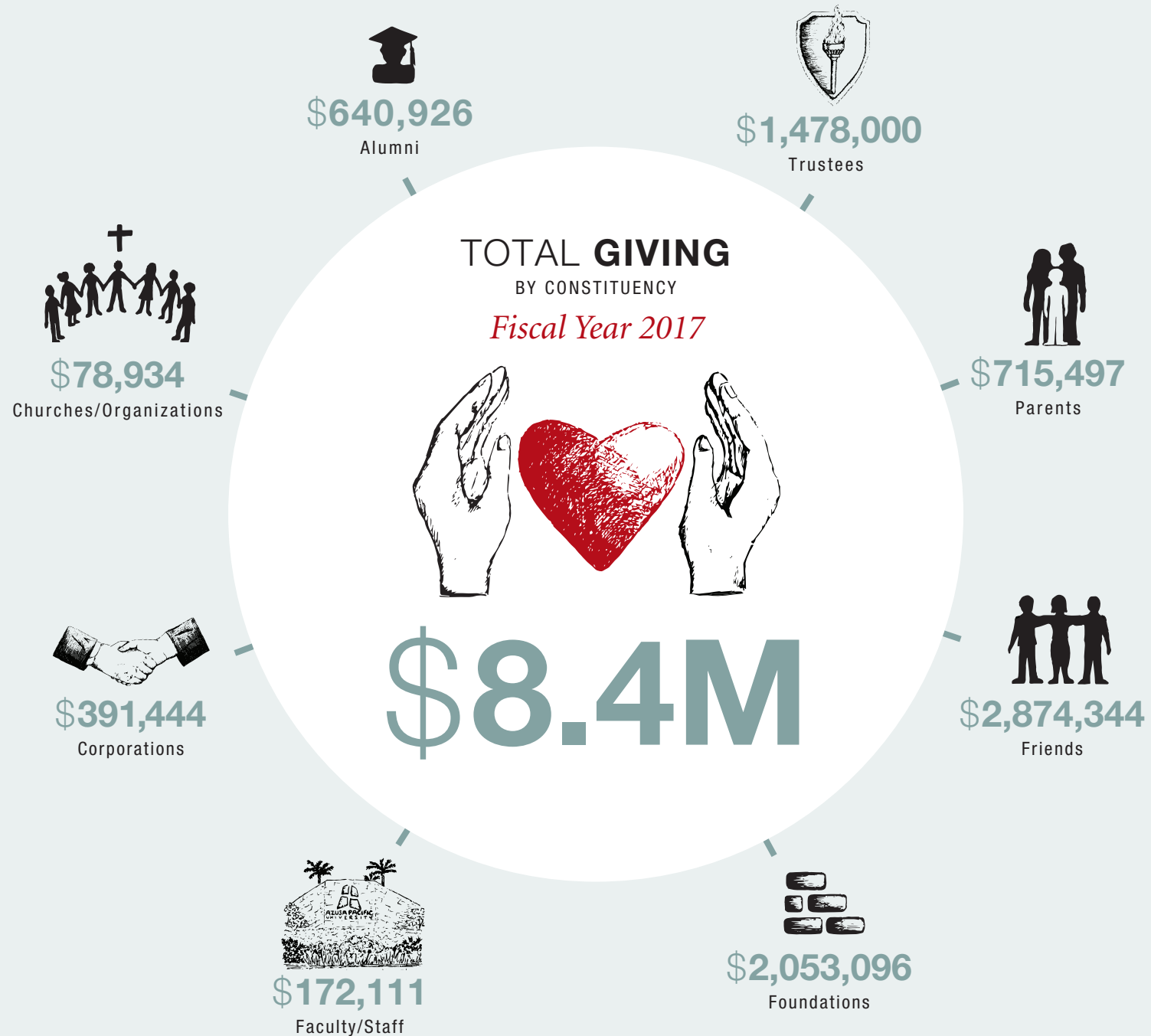
\$21 million

California tax revenues

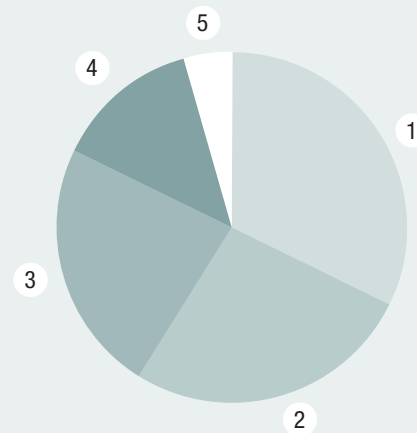
2016-2017
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Investing in Our Mission

Illustrations by Jennifer Reid '19



TOTAL GIVING BY PROJECT

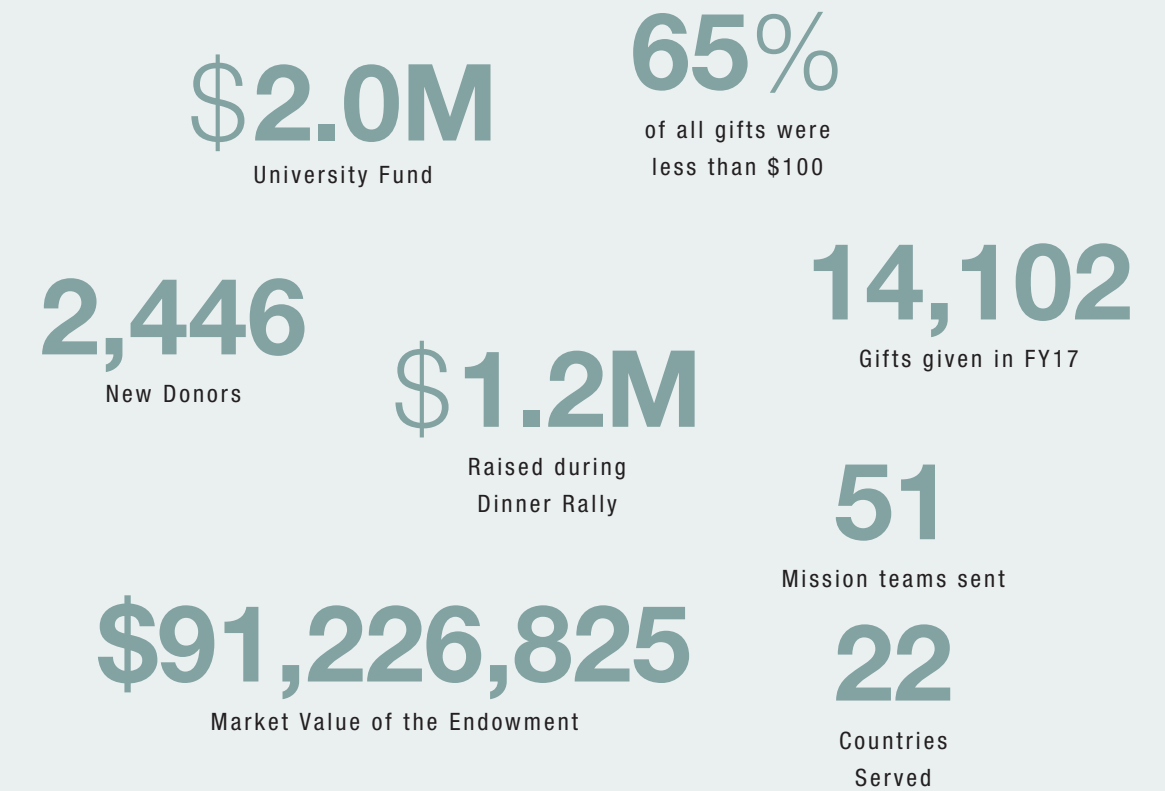


- 1. Restricted \$3,430,713
- 2. University Fund \$1,966,608
- 3. Endowment \$1,756,031
- 4. Capital \$1,025,000
- 5. Unrestricted \$226,000

TOTAL
\$8,404,352

TOTAL DONOR IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Difference Makers



BY THE NUMBERS
2017 FISCAL YEAR

\$74,434,943
Institutional Scholarships and Grants

\$21,819,986
Federal and State Scholarships and Grants

90%
Undergraduate Students Receiving Any Form of Institutional Financial Aid (2016-17)

83% Freshman Retention (Fall 2016-17)

3.70 Average GPA for Incoming Freshmen

1051 Average SAT for Incoming Freshmen

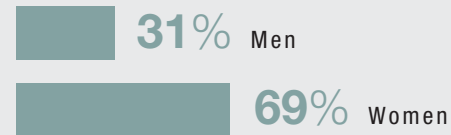
\$35,540 Tuition (Undergraduate)

UNIVERSITY SNAPSHOT

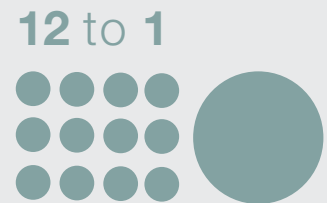
Go Cougars!

Total Students

10,020

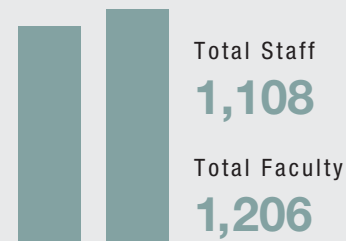


Student-to-Faculty Ratio



52%

Ethnic Minority Students (Undergraduate)



CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS

100 individuals multiplied their personal donations to APU by participating in their employers' matching gift program, resulting in **\$89,729** in corporate matching funds from **53 companies**. Through APU's Office of Research and Grants, faculty began work on projects secured through government grants totaling **\$9,402,816**.

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 over **\$91 million**. In 2016-17, APU received **\$1,793,351** through gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, matured bequests, and other gift-planning vehicles.

Living the Promise: A Commitment to a Christ-centered Employee Culture

by Wendi Waldron Dykes and Andrew Barton

The *God First* motto has guided Azusa Pacific University through 119 years of growth, mergers, and name changes. Yet, students, faculty, and staff consider those words as more than a motto—they make it their vow to keep Christ central in thought and deed in every conversation, classroom, and boardroom. Faithful adherence to this pledge honors God and draws others to the people, place, and promise of Azusa Pacific to make a difference in the world. Paraphrasing Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, a brand promise is what people say about your organization when you aren't in the room. What do people say about APU when its representatives leave the room? How well does APU deliver on its brand promise to Cultivate Difference Makers? The answers to those questions of external perception begin internally with the people, policies, and campus culture.



APU faculty, staff, and students enjoy the annual tree lighting ceremony.

In fall 2015, APU's executive leadership conducted faculty-specific and employee-wide surveys to gauge their sense of being valued and to determine how to better facilitate a culture that is pleasing to God and edifying for employees. Among several insightful themes, the 39-member Valuing People Task Force identified the need for APU to provide greater clarity and consistency regarding what employees should expect from interactions with one another in alignment with institutional values. A significant body of academic literature focuses on this concept of employee engagement, organizational culture, and civility. Common examples of problem areas include taking credit for the efforts of others, not listening, belittling others, passing blame for mistakes, showing little interest in the opinions of others, withholding communication, and being unwilling to work through interpersonal relationship problems. Based on this research, APU's internal surveys, and the task force's investigation, APU began to explore the roles of organizational citizen behaviors—altruism, conscientiousness, sportsmanship, courtesy, and civic virtue—more deeply, along with ways in which renewed employee practices related to these behaviors contribute to positive change in employee engagement and organizational performance.

Further, the task force established the employee practices, which provided a shared framework and language articulating the aspirations of a Christ-centered employee culture at APU. These practices call upon APU employees to cultivate and live out civility by pursuing professional conduct through actions like accepting ownership for one's own behavior, delivering on commitments, and more. Employees demonstrate honor to the community by supporting one another for the good of the

whole and embracing diverse people, thinking, and styles. They express commitment to being lifelong learners when they strive to be the best at what they do while acknowledging and learning from mistakes. Character can be displayed when colleagues see each other as people first and employees second and believe the best about one another.

To inform, inspire, and provide examples of how to live this promise, the Office of Human Resources developed written materials and videos to support continued engagement. For each of the four employee practices, a step-by-step guide helps leaders facilitate a period of reflection, application, and discussion in a department setting. Some departments choose an employee practice to discuss each month, while others use it as a learning topic in a one-on-one supervisory setting to help integrate these practices into the culture of the department.

Collectively, APU employees seek to infuse these practices into the campus culture, incorporating them into the common internal language used between everyone at APU. Only in this way, with a thriving campus community based on mutual respect and trust, can APU deliver on its brand promise to Cultivate Difference Makers. President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, captured the shared goal best when he said, "Living the promise is to live out fully who Christ is to us; the Jesus in me, ministering to the Jesus in you, and living transparently so the Jesus for our neighbor is available."

Wendi Waldron Dykes, ABD, is the M.S. in Organizational Psychology program director and assistant professor in the Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology. wdykes@apu.edu
Andrew Barton, Ed.D., is chief of staff. abarton@apu.edu

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If you would like to see APU's complete audited financial statement, please email businessoffice@apu.edu.

“We’re going to continue the tradition that APU has become known for over the years, but we’re going to build the entire team in the process, both the elite and developing athletes.”

– Jack Hoyt



Carrying the Torch

by Micah McDaniel

Much like the invisible adrenaline rush that propels world-class track and field athletes past their competitors, over the bar, and across the finish line, coaches supply an unseen force that fuels runners, jumpers, and throwers. In addition to personal and professional experience, the most successful coaches possess an X-factor that cannot be taught or learned, an intuitive sense of each athlete’s physical condition, capability, mental readiness, and untapped potential and how to orchestrate those complex factors into a winning combination. Only an elite few with these credentials exist throughout the country, and one of them just accepted the role as Azusa Pacific’s new head track and field coach, Jack Hoyt.

APU’s seventh track and field coach in its highly decorated 46-year history, Hoyt succeeds Hall of Famers Kevin Reid ’88, M.A. ’01, and Mike Barnett ’83, M.A. ’97, who stepped down last summer. And he comes to APU with all the qualifications worthy to carry on their legendary run. He began his career in 1989 as an assistant at his alma mater, Seattle Pacific University. In 2000, he replaced his mentor and another legend in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Ken Foreman, who had been at SPU since the 1950s. Hoyt honored him by leading the Falcons to five Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) women’s titles and earning three GNAC Coach of the Year awards. In 2005, he grabbed the chance to gain Division I experience and spent the next seven years as an assistant at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he trained a pair of Olympians, until UCLA’s head coach called and offered him the prestigious assistant job for the Bruins. “I enjoyed my time at UCLA and Cal Poly, but I missed being the decision maker. When the APU job opened, I was thrilled, and I felt God working through it from day one. All the lights were green, and this is the right place for me to use my gifts to inspire athletes and develop them physically and spiritually.”

No stranger to Azusa Pacific, Hoyt calls it his “home away from home,” the place where he has rubbed shoulders with the track and field program for 30 years, including his time as an All-American decathlete when he competed on the APU campus regularly. During that time, he competed in the 1992 Olympic Trials with APU Hall of Famer and eventual bronze medalist Dave Johnson ’86, M.A. ’03. Hoyt also served with Reid on the USA multi-event development group, and the two have been friends for nearly 25 years. “When I heard Jack was taking the position, I felt really

good about the decision,” said Reid. “I know him well, and I trust him and the direction he will take the program. It will be different, but he’s a smart coach and a great fit there, and I know that the APU track and field legacy will be in good hands with Jack.”

The affinity makes sense given the similarities in philosophies. “For me, coaching is not just about the wins, but rather about developing and improving lives of everyone in our program,” said Hoyt. “We want to teach our athletes to not just be great athletes, but to be better Christian athletes. I’m a believer that we can’t impact them physically until we show them we care about them mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.” Hoyt, who coached Olympic high jumper Sharon Day in Beijing in 2008 and London in 2012, knows how to take athletes to the next level. For example, he finds creative ways to simulate the pressure of high-stakes situations in order to develop what he calls “clutch performers,” or those who can execute at the highest level under intense pressure. He also stresses the importance of maintaining athletes’ health; he walks a fine line every day as he assesses each athlete’s condition and decides just how far he can push them. Finally, he stresses the critical role of recruiting top talent, knowing that motivation and physical fitness mean little without genuine God-given ability.

With those goals in mind, Hoyt hit the ground running at APU on August 16, 2017, ready to lead the Cougar program that claimed 30 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national titles, produced 14 Olympians, and in its first three years of NCAA Division II membership produced 8 individual national champions, 26 All-Americans, and four top-10 team finishes at NCAA national championship meets. Ready to put his stamp on the program and carry the torch that was lit by those before him, Hoyt said, “We’re going to continue the tradition that APU has become known for over the years, but we’re going to build the entire team in the process, both the elite and developing athletes. And we’re going to do that through constant and effective communication and transparency and creating a family atmosphere by focusing on building comradery and team chemistry. And there’s no better place to do that than at APU.”

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

Cougars

SPORTS ROUNDUP



Lincoln Hired to Lead Women's Soccer Program

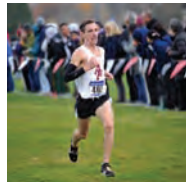
In January, Azusa Pacific Athletics introduced Brooke Lincoln as the new women's soccer head coach. As the head coach at Asbury University in Kentucky for the past five seasons, Lincoln compiled a 51-40-5 overall record, including three River State Conference regular-season championships, along with two conference tournament titles, and two NAIA National Tournament appearances. Lincoln claimed two River State Conference Coach of the Year awards, and she coached three student-athletes to conference Player of the Year honors while producing 17 all-conference players. Lincoln is the fifth head coach in program history.



Volleyball Makes First Division II Playoff Appearance

After posting a 22-6 regular-season record, Azusa Pacific's volleyball team claimed one of the eight spots in the NCAA Division II West Region Championships. The Cougars received the No. 5 seed and dropped a first-round match to Cal State San Bernardino in five sets after rallying from two sets down.

The 22-7 final record gave the program its first 20-win season since 2013, doing so without any seniors on the roster.



Porter Advances to Cross Country National Championships

Men's cross country senior Jeremy Porter '18 finished in 141st place overall at the 2017 NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships. Porter posted a time of 33:33.1 to wrap up the season becoming the first Cougar to represent the program at the Division II national level with his at-large individual selection to the national championship. Through the first five races of the season, Porter finished among the top eight individuals, including back-to-back victories to start the season.



Carr's Unanimous All-American Honors Highlight Football Awards

Sophomore wide receiver Weston Carr '19 earned unanimous NCAA Division II All-American honors, collecting first-team recognition from the Division II Conference Commissioners Association, Associated Press, and American Football Coaches Association while adding second-team recognition from D2football.com. Carr, a 6-foot-2, 200-pound sophomore, was NCAA Division II's second-leading receiver with 1,458 yards and 15 touchdowns on 86 catches. He started all 11 games for the Cougars and recorded at least 9 catches and 160 receiving yards seven times, and caught a touchdown pass in 10 of Azusa Pacific's 11 games.

Winter Sports Update

Basketball: Through 10 games of the 20-game Pacific West Conference schedule, the men's and women's basketball teams led the conference standings. Point guard Darien McClain '19 notched consecutive 30-point games in December to earn Division II Basketball National Player of the Week honors, and he helped lead the Cougars to an 8-2 start through the first half of the conference schedule. The women's team raced to an 18-2 overall record, which was its best record through the first 20 games of a season in program history. Through 20 games, Zoe March '20 had the best assist-to-turnover ratio in all of NCAA Division II.

Women's Swimming and Diving: Five swimmers and three divers posted NCAA qualification marks prior to the Pacific Collegiate Swim and Dive Conference Championships in mid-February. Last season, Azusa Pacific sent seven student-athletes to the NCAA Division II National Championships, and the Cougars are primed to send at least that many again this year. Elodie Poo Cheong '19 set school records in the 100 freestyle and 100 individual medley events.

Cornerstone Cup Trophy Standings Update

Azusa Pacific and Biola University resumed the longtime rivalry between the schools' athletic programs this year by partnering to create an annual rivalry series called the Cornerstone Cup. The Cornerstone Cup trophy, presented by West Coast Sand & Gravel, will be awarded annually to the athletic program with the most success in head-to-head matchups throughout the year. A total of 10 points per sport go to the school that wins the most head-to-head contests in each sport or has the higher finish at conference championships (10 points will be split if the schools tie or win the same number of matchups in a sport). For the latest standings, visit athletics.apu.edu.

ACROBATICS & TUMBLING

March 13 | 7 p.m. | Cougars vs. Quinnipiac | Felix Event Center

BASEBALL

March 15-17 (four-game series) | Cougars vs. Holy Names | Cougar Baseball Complex

April 19-21 (four-game series) | Cougars vs. California Baptist | Cougar Baseball Complex

SOFTBALL

March 2 doubleheader | 2:30 p.m. | Cougars vs. UC San Diego | Cougar Softball Complex

TENNIS

March 23 | 1:30 p.m. | Cougars vs. Biola | Munson and Bavougian Tennis Complex

TRACK & FIELD

April 19-20 | Bryan Clay Invitational | Cougar Athletic Stadium

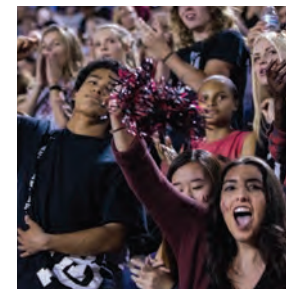
WATER POLO (WOMEN'S)

April 14 | 11 a.m. | Cougars vs. Loyola Marymount | Citrus College Aquatic Center

Grandparents' Day: February 16, 2018

This beloved APU tradition gathers multiple generations to campus as students, grandparents, and extended family members experience college life together. The day included a light breakfast, a variety of classic campus experiences, lunch with the president, and plenty of quality time with students.

Homecoming and Family Weekend 2017 Was a Hit



New events this year included Young Alumni Trivia Night, Pancakes with the President, the Family Reception, a strengths workshop, and more. Thousands attended the Block Party and football game, ending the weekend with a 61-0 win over Simon Fraser. Once again, everyone had a great time celebrating and reuniting with one another. Mark your calendar for next year's event, scheduled for October 25-27, 2018.

HOMEWORD | AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Positive Adaptability

by Jim Burns

People often ask me what a successful relationship looks like, and it surprises many of them to learn that I have no clear answer to that question. All relationships, good and bad, manifest the unique characteristics of the individuals involved, and even the successful ones may look very different to outsiders. When asked about the key elements to a good relationship, my answer comes quickly: positive adaptability. I see this common trait among all thriving couples—to some it comes naturally, others must learn it.

Positivity

Every long-term relationship experiences phases of disenchantment and frustration. Little habits that once seemed endearing become sources of irritation and annoyance. Those negative thoughts inevitably come out as negative words that sabotage even the happiest couples. To counteract this relationship wrecker, couples must consciously interject their thoughts and conversations with positivity. Marriage researcher John Gottman, Ph.D., psychology professor emeritus, University of Washington, and co-founder of the Gottman Institute, claims that couples should shoot for the magic ratio of five positive interactions for every one negative interaction. Once positivity replaces criticism and becomes a habit, relationships tend to thrive.

Adaptability

Neil Clark Warren, Ph.D., relationship expert and founder of eHarmony.com, once told me that adaptability is the most important key to a vibrant relationship. He said, "If I could give one gift to every couple on their wedding day, I'd wrap up a large box filled with adaptability. Because no matter how good your relationship is, you will have to be flexible enough to change yourself and at least tolerate your partner's differences."

When my wife, Cathy, and I hit these obstacles, we ask ourselves, "Does it really matter?" This question has become our measuring stick for evaluating whether we need to stick to our guns and press an issue or simply let it go. Winston Churchill once said: "You will never get to your destination if you stop and throw stones at every

dog that barks." The equivalent for couples is that you will never develop a successful relationship if you make everything a battle.

When your partner does or says something that annoys you, stop and think: Does it really matter? Is there something positive I can focus on instead? How can I change or adapt to accommodate my partner's unique characteristics? Scripture tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:5 that love "does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (NIV). That is what a successful relationship looks like.

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

Congratulations to Our December Graduates

Welcome to the alumni family, December 2017 graduates! We are proud of your accomplishments and the hard work that helped you reach your goal. Now that you are part of the APU alumni family, take advantage of the benefits available to you. Visit apu.edu/alumni for more information, and join APU Connect at apuconnect.com.

Attention 1968 Graduates—Save the Date

APU and the Office of Alumni Engagement invite all 1968 graduates to a 50th anniversary celebration on May 5, 2018. Mark your calendar and watch for more information to follow.

Join the Conversation!

 facebook.com/apualumniassociation

 instagram.com/apualumni

APU Connect: apuconnect.com

1970s

JENNIFER (JORDAN '71, M.A. '74) MILLER recently published, *What's in Your Hand? Ex. 4:2 Career Guidance: Interactive Self-assessment Tools for Career Evaluation and Implementation*, which can be used individually or in small groups to help develop career goals. With over 25 years of experience working as a corporate trainer and adult education coordinator, Jennifer has developed an organized, systematic, and concise approach to career guidance, written from a Christian perspective that can help readers discover how uniquely God has equipped them.

1 JEAN MACKINNON '73 retired in August 2016 from teaching first grade in the Ramona Unified School District after 42 years in education.

2 ELIZABETH (ESPINOSA '78) SCHINDLER and **MARTHA (ESPINOSA '80) BLANK** have worked in nurse anesthesia for 32 and 30 years, respectively—and together for the last 21 years at Riverbend Hospital in Eugene, Oregon, where they love to minister to patients before surgery.

1980s

STEVE WILSON '80 works as the interim director of housekeeping at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Pinnacle Memorial Hospital in York, Pennsylvania.

MELISSA (PERRY) LEWIS '84 is a project manager IV at DXC Technology, working on the County of San Diego account. She recently presented “Schedule Maintenance and the Project

Lifecycle” to the Northern Utah Chapter of the Project Management Institute at its August training workshop. Melissa and her husband, Marvin, live in Salt Lake City.

1990s

ALLISON (LEIBUNDGUTH '91) COMSTOCK was included in *The Best Lawyers in America 2018* (Best Lawyers, LLC) for real estate law. As a partner at Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, Allison represents small businesses and healthcare providers in the acquisition, sale, leasing, and development of commercial properties. She also assists families with estate planning and probate and trust administration. Allison and her husband, Brian, and their two teenage children live in Evansville, Indiana, where

they have been active members of Crossroads Christian Church for more than 20 years.

3 GREG NASSIR '92 is a vice president of commercial real estate advisory and transaction services at CBRE and lives in La Cañada, California, where he coaches basketball, baseball, and soccer for his sons. He also serves at Christian Assembly in Eagle Rock, California, with his wife and proudly sports his APU Cougars gear at all possible times.

MARK VOLLENWEIDER '94 is section chief for pulmonary medicine at Orlando Health (including the level-1 trauma center for Central Florida) and the managing partner to the pulmonary division at Orlando Regional Medical Center. While remaining involved in his clinical practice—which involves primary

interventional pulmonology, focusing on airway diseases—Mark is also a clinical assistant professor at the University of Central Florida, Florida State University, and the University of Florida. Further, he is a major in the Air Force and got his wings as a flight surgeon flying in F-15s with the 159th Fighter Squadron. Mark also practices critical care medicine and is happily married to **ALLISON (OQUIST '96)**; they have two kids, Aidan and Mayah.

4 CARRIE LANKFORD '95, M.ED. '06, was awarded Garden Grove Unified School District Intermediate Teacher of the Year 2018.

SHIRLEY (DOUGLASS, M.A. '95) TYLER earned a Doctor of Ministry at Next Dimension University. She is an adjunct professor and CEO of Douglass and Associates, which services at-risk children.

BRIAN ALBRIGHT '96, MBA '00, and his wife, **KRISTEN (WALKER '98)**, recently moved to Kenya to work with Living Room Ministries. Brian is the director of business development, and Kristen homeschools their kids, Isaiah and Hope.

2000s

DENISE WYNN '00 became the director of publishing at William Carey Library Publishers, a 50-year-old publishing house that focuses on missiology and helps shape and advance global Gospel sharing.

JANA (PARRISH '05) FRENCH received the Virginia Lynch Pioneer in Forensic Nursing award, the highest award given in the field of forensic nursing by the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

5 MARTY SANCHEZ, PH.D. '05, works as an orthopedic physical therapist in Anchorage, Alaska. He and his wife, Emily, have a son, Sullivan.

JAMES ERDMANN '06 is the digital marketing manager at AAP Home Services.

6 CHERI COLE '08, M.M. '10, is a freelance musician and instructor who plays with a number of regional orchestras, chamber groups, and churches. Recently, she played as a substitute in the Los

Angeles Philharmonic. She is also founder and director of the Arcadia Pop-Jazz Band based at Dana Middle School.

7 DARNELL ABRAHAM '09 played the lead role of Martin Luther King Jr. in a concert version of a rhythm and blues opera titled, *I Dream* in January 2017 depicting the final 36 hours of King's life. Daniel Goldstein directed, Douglas Tappin composed the music, and Grammy-nominated Carl Marsh arranged the music. Darnell also earned the 2017 Berkshire Theatre Critics Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical for his performance in *Ragtime* at Barrington Stage Company, was nominated for two Broadway World Regional Awards for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor in a Musical. Darnell is currently a cast member on the First National Tour of the Tony award-winning revival of *The Color Purple*. For more information, visit damellabraham.com.

J. EDWARD STEVENSON '09 is dean of academic affairs at Los Angeles Southwest College, overseeing programs in arts and humanities, behavioral and social sciences, English and foreign languages, library services, and distance education.

MOSES SUN '09, M.M. '12, is a guitar instructor at California Baptist University. He released a Christmas album in December 2017 that can be purchased in stores and online.

2010s

PHIL '10 and **ALEX (WANGBICKLER '11) CONGELLIERE** have a ministry called Love Multiplies, offering education, community, and support for those on the journey through infertility, adoption, and building healthy families. Learn more at lovemultiplies.org.

JESSICA NG '10 founded Body Juice, a company that promotes a healthy lifestyle while also supporting efforts to end human trafficking. After trips to China and Thailand, she recognized the Lord's calling to help end the spread of this form of modern slavery. Body Juice started selling in farmers' markets and now can be found in Azusa.

8 TYLER ENDRES '11 and **PAUL WARD '11** opened Esports Arena in

Santa Ana, California, the country's first venue dedicated to esports competitions, in 2015. By 2019, they will be running three of these arenas, including one in Oakland and the other in Las Vegas.

JONATHAN GARCIA '11, M.A. '12, was named one of Forbes' 2018 “30 Under 30 in Education” and relocated to Portland, Oregon, to lead external affairs for Portland Public Schools.

BEN DOOLEY '12 is a full-time faculty member at the College of Music, Mahidol University, and recently competed on The Voice Thailand.

JENNIFER VASSEL, M.A. '12, was featured in *Forbes* for her book, *I Am Unique!* (BuddingRose Publications, 2015), a story about a young girl with a birthmark on her face who overcomes her insecurities. Vassel's message of hope helps girls come to love who they are. The book is available on Amazon.com.

KAYLAH ALIMAN '13 was recently hired at Santa Maria-Bonita School District as a physical education specialist. She also joined the board for Chesterton Academy, a hybrid school seeking to merge classical texts with modern career and language skills.

JONATHAN SIMS '13 recently wrapped up *Les Blancs* at Rogue Machine Theatre, where he played Ngago. He has also co-starred in HBO's *Insecure*.

SAMUEL COWELL '14 and **JACK HOUSTON '15** were awarded Graduate Research Fellowship awards from the National Science Foundation. Samuel will use his award to attend a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology program at UCLA. His research there will focus on dark-eyed juncos (a type of sparrow) and their adaptations to urbanization. Jack's award will fund his Ph.D. research in biomedical sciences with a focus on genomic instability in cancer at the University of California, San Diego.

ANTHONY LI '14, M.A. '15, is participating in an international rotation program in Germany where he works as a human resources trainee for Adidas.

LAUREN (WALTER '14) NEELY works as a mental health specialist intern at Azusa Unified School District.

CODY YARBROUGH '14 earned a master's degree in environmental engineering and natural resources from the University of Michigan and works as an environmental engineer at the Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, Illinois.

BRITTANY CARLSEN '15 was promoted to program analyst in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Infectious Disease.

TOM SCOTT '15 is an assistant editor at Netflix.

DANIEL HOGUE '16 earned a Master of Science in Physics from the University of California, Riverside.

WILLIAM JOHNSTON '16 accepted a position as the student ministries pastor at Saddleback Church.

JOSEPH SOMERVELL '16 is moving to Ukraine to serve in full-time mission work in the city of Ternopil with the organization Josiah Venture, which equips young leaders to fulfill Christ's commission. Joseph will disciple youths through sports ministry.

REBECCA ROBYN THOMPSON '16 lives in Ireland visiting relatives and serving as work exchange advisor for USIT in the Work in Ireland program, where she welcomes, assists, and advises American students and recent graduates who travel to Ireland on Working Holiday Authorizations.

9 JAMIE HART '17 attended the Gospel Music Association Dove Awards in October 2017 in Nashville and the 18th Latin Grammys in November 2017 in Las Vegas with her company, Adarga Entertainment Group, where she is the publishing manager.

ALLISON ROBERTI '17 has signed with Prodigy Talent, a licensed and franchised talent agency based in Los Angeles.

ELIZABETH SANCHEZ, M.S. '17, became the Title V STEM internships and advising coordinator at Whittier College. She coordinates a comprehensive program of advising and academic support services, including establishing internships and research opportunities for undergraduate students pursuing degrees in STEM and health-related disciplines.

continued on page 33

COUGAR INTERVIEW—NICOLE (STUNDEN '04) UYBOCO



In her blog, *Searching for a Rainbow* (searchingforarainbow.weebly.com), Nicole (Stunden '04) Uybocho chronicles her daily trials and triumphs as the wife of a Navy officer stationed in Hawaii, a busy mother of a seven-year-old daughter and three-year-old son, and as a survivor facing one of life's biggest hurdles—battling and beating breast cancer. Her candid musings, which focus on navigating relationships, promoting health, and reducing the distractions and excesses of family life, provide hope for others and healing for herself.

APU LIFE: What inspired you to start a blog?

UYBOCO: I started blogging as a way to keep my friends and family updated

on my health and treatments. It quickly turned into so much more than that. Writing has helped me search for joy in my cancer journey. I've been able to reach others like never before, and in doing so, I have seen God's people work and move on my behalf.

APU LIFE: Why do you refer to your blessings as rainbows?

UYBOCO: God gave Noah a rainbow as a sign of His promise. I liked the idea of searching for evidence of God's promises. After I started the blog, I asked my readers to send me pictures of rainbows. It has been a way for my readers to connect with me, and I've received countless rainbows from all over the world. They symbolize hope, like He is speaking directly to me. He's got me. Of course, it also doesn't hurt that Hawaii is known for its frequent rainbows.

APU LIFE: How did your cancer diagnosis impact the way you view your life?

UYBOCO: Cancer changed everything, but mostly how I prioritize my time. I see relationships with God and people as my priority now. Part of the change has come in reducing the distractions around me. Every Sunday, I fast from all social media. I removed Facebook from my phone. We don't watch TV every day.

These things are not necessarily bad, but they can distract us from God's Word, prayer, worship, and discipleship, not to mention the people living within our own homes. I'm also learning to love living with less. The world tells us we need to do and buy more to be happy. I've never been closer in my walk with God than this past year. When I reduce life's distractions, I can hear His voice more clearly, as it says in Psalm 46:10: “Be still and know that I am God.”

APU LIFE: With a year on the books with your blog, what is next on the horizon?

UYBOCO: My long-term goal is a respite or retreat facility for cancer patients and their families to come and stay for free when their treatments are finished. I picture a serene bed-and-breakfast-style home where everyone can enjoy mental and physical relaxation. I envision horses, cooking and nutrition classes, and yoga. Of course, there would be many opportunities to share the Gospel and Christ's love in this kind of scenario. For the near future, I am prayerfully considering writing a children's book to help kids cope with cancer in their family. The hardest part of cancer was not being able to be a mom. I felt like I lost my job when I was at my weakest. During my chemo, I cherished the days I could play blocks

and make lunches. Fortunately, children don't understand the gravity of cancer so they laugh, joke, and play as if life hasn't changed much. This is refreshing in a world full of appointments, doctors, and treatments. They adapted to being cared for by family and friends. They got used to my weekly appointments and treatments. They have been such blessings and given me so much joy.

APU LIFE: With categories on your blog like “What I Know,” “What I Don't Know,” and “What Made Today Normal,” what message do you hope resonates most with your readers?

UYBOCO: My core message stems from John 10:10 (ESV): “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” An abundant life is not to be confused with an easy life. There is such excitement and joy in finding God's purpose for your life. It can be painful and scary, but that's how it's going to be this side of heaven. God is a jealous God, and He wants to use you. Your abilities, time, money, and experiences are God-given; use them for His glory.

Creating a Sea Change

by Evelyn Allen



“The Lord stirred in me a vision to create an organization that emphasizes character and spiritual application alongside science education.”

—Annie MacAulay '11

A teenager looks up into the pitch-dark night sky and glimpses the nebulous glow of the Milky Way for the very first time. A middle-schooler faces his fears, leaping from a great height into the surrounding ocean waters. A young girl sees plastic debris encroaching on marine life and, in an instant, discovers her calling as an environmental scientist.

For Annie MacAulay '11, founder of Mountain and Sea Adventures (MSA), there are no greater moments to witness than these, when young minds make lasting connections to the natural world. MacAulay's nonprofit, headquartered on Catalina Island, has been working for 20 years to bring kids and teens out of their comfort zones and into the outdoors, where they can apply their growing knowledge of science, encounter nature up close, and face character-building challenges. More than 100,000 young people have gone through one of MSA's overnight camps or field trip programs, which aim to develop “world-changing adventurers who love and steward the Earth.”

This mission stems from MacAulay's deeply held conviction that caring for creation is central to living out her Christian faith. “In Genesis, God looked at all He had made and called every bit of it ‘very good,’” she said. “My generation is handing over an Earth that's much more fragile than it was even 100 years ago. As believers, we can and should be the head, rather than the tail, of the environmental justice movement, responding directly to God's call to be careful stewards of our earthly home.” With



this monumental task at hand, MacAulay channels her energy into shaping the hearts and minds of the next generation of difference makers, providing them avenues “to be a little closer to God's creation.”

Whether learning about marine biology at MSA Camp on Catalina's Emerald Bay, exploring astronomy and physics at Camp Oakes in the San Bernardino National Forest, or embarking on an aquatic adventure aboard MSA's floating sea camp—the 112-foot-long marine research vessel called *Enhydra*—youth experience the wonders of nature and grapple with issues facing the planet today, from pollution to climate change. “We give kids the opportunity to consider these problems and then to become solution makers,” said MacAulay. “It's powerful, because it gives them ownership, and they come up with all

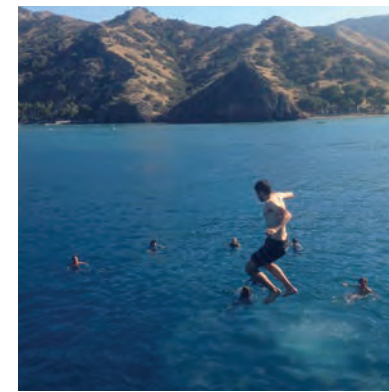


sorts of brilliant and creative ideas. These kids will grow up to answer the most pressing environmental problems of our day.”

When MacAulay set out to launch Mountain and Sea Adventures, which held its first sessions in 1998, she wanted to provide lessons that went beyond scientific discovery and outdoor recreation. MacAulay had previously studied marine biology at California State University, Long Beach, but had not graduated, and had worked for the Long Beach Marine Institute developing curriculum and education programs for the marine research hub. She saw room for improvement—specifically, material that would help youth cultivate the traits needed to succeed in science and as champions for the environment. “The Lord stirred in me a vision to



create an organization that emphasizes character and spiritual application alongside science education,” she said. As she worked to get MSA off the ground, MacAulay completed her bachelor's degree in Christian leadership at Azusa Pacific, where her professional goals became the living foundation for her capstone project. “Annie is a success story like none other—one who models integrity and commitment, as well as a deep and faithful obedience to where the Lord is leading her,” said Richard Durfield, Ph.D., associate professor at APU's University College, who mentored MacAulay on leadership decisions both spiritual and logistic during her time at APU and beyond. “She brought a very big idea from conception to reality, and I often marvel at her impact on so many young lives.”



Thirty percent of MSA participants come from faith-based schools, while the majority are students from public schools throughout Southern California. Every lesson plan they experience—during kayaking, snorkeling, zip-lining, observing the natural world, and more—has a spiritual element embedded, though only private schools hear an explicitly Christian message. “Either way, we are telling the same story of finding courage, trust, love, strength, perseverance, and tenacity within themselves and using these gifts for good,” said MacAulay. “It's very important to approach science through the lens of character, because it takes strength and courage to stand for what's right.”

By the end of their time at camp, all students have experienced at least one



moment that changes the way they see the world and their role in it. At MSA Camp, a ceremonial fire on the final night gives campers the chance to share personal, fear-breaking victories from their time at camp. Their words are often intensely meaningful and heartfelt. That's when MacAulay opens up to the campers about her own breakthrough: “I had a fear that there was little hope for our world to change. But that was before I met you.”

For more information about Mountain and Sea Adventures, visit mountainandsea.org.

Evelyn Allen is senior editor in the Office of University Relations. allen@apu.edu

A New Song

by Caitlin Gipson

Most evangelists use the spoken word to convey the Gospel message. Some use music. Bryan Taylor '03, M.M. '06, embraces both. With renowned worship leader Tommy Walker, he recently wrapped production of *The Book of John in Song*, a project that marries narrative and song to reach more than 280 million people.

Taylor, who served as producer and drummer for the project, first met Walker as a senior at APU. "He came and led worship at one of our chapels," said Taylor. "I admired that he wasn't trying to hype everyone up, rather he was just sharing the Gospel through song. Later, when I needed to do a senior project for my bachelor's degree in music, he agreed to meet with me." That meeting turned into a mentoring relationship and eventually a gig when Taylor joined Walker's church and began to play drums on his worship team.

Since then, Taylor became the executive director of Tommy Walker Ministries, and he manages the details of ministry efforts that span continents. "We have traveled the world together attending music conferences in Russia, Australia, and the Philippines, and I've been repeatedly moved by Tommy's evangelistic and altruistic spirit," Taylor said. In Manila, Philippines, they witnessed children living in the city dump, sorting through garbage, so Walker helped start BreakThrough Academy, an organization that provides these children with books and an education, which has now seen many of them graduate and go on to college.

Their most ambitious project yet, *The Book of John in Song*, began with a

prayer. "Tommy asked God, 'What do you want me to contribute at this point in my career?'" said Taylor. "He asked Him for something huge." The answer to that prayer came in the idea to write a new song for each chapter of the book of John. Over time it grew, morphing into *The Book of John in Song*, designed for use with the YouVersion Bible study app. The devotional combines each chapter of John with a new 200-word introduction written by well-known ministry leaders such as John Ortberg and Joni Eareckson Tada, and a new worship song inspired by the chapter, written and performed by Walker and many other gifted ministry partners.

Given their heart to reach the lost, it comes as no surprise that Taylor and Walker envision *The Book of John in Song* as more than a devotional for Christians. "Our hope is that this will provide a new kind of evangelistic tool," Taylor said. "The book of John is frequently used for evangelistic purposes, so we are hoping that this will provide a new way for Christians to share God's Word with non-Christian friends, and a new opportunity for non-Christians to interact with the Bible."

The partnership with YouVersion provides the opportunity to reach an

unprecedented number of non-Christians. The app boasts more than 280 million subscribers and more than 1,000 translations of the Bible. "When I pitched the project to YouVersion in Oklahoma, they had a map on the wall showing the many nations where the Bible is being read—with Iran as one of the fastest-growing countries in daily Bible reading," Walker said. "With the proliferation of smartphones, *The Book of John in Song* has the potential to reach a massive unreached population with the Gospel."

Taylor played a pivotal role in turning that potential into reality. As producer, he managed a multitude of details like hiring musicians, booking the studio, arranging the music, and working with the sound engineer to make artistic calls after each recording session. "Bryan has done an amazing job," said Walker. "He is one of those rare artistic people who can also organize a project of this scope." Taylor attributes much of that ability to his music education at APU. "My APU music professors taught me that music was about more than just my instrument—they shaped my knowledge of different styles of music, my ability to make charts and hear vocal and string parts, and my understanding of how a song comes together as a whole. These skills proved invaluable during this project." So invaluable, in fact, that Taylor sought out other APU alumni with similar training to participate in the project as musicians, vocalists, and readers. That collaborative effort embodies the spirit of unity, serves as hands and feet to the body of Christ, and gives life to the words of Psalm 40:3: "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him" (NIV).

Caitlin Gipson '01 is a freelance writer, marketing consultant, and search engine optimizer in central California. apucaitlin@gmail.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRYAN TAYLOR '03, M.M. '06

Inspiring Tomorrow's Brightest Minds

by Evan R. Cain



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSHUA MARTINEZ '04

What if the key to learning is not memorizing and repeating concepts, but developing self-awareness and critical thinking? Winner of the 2017 New Teacher Project Fishman Prize, Joshua Martinez '04 puts this model to the test in his East Los Angeles fourth-grade classroom. Among other practices, he encourages students to move freely around the room, develop stress-relieving habits, and ponder concepts beyond the curriculum.

The results of Martinez's efforts prove that incorporating innovative practices can bear exceptional results. Martinez's students outperform their peers in the Smarter Balanced Assessment—about 82 percent of his students received advanced and proficient scores in math, and 92 percent received advanced and proficient scores in English, far exceeding the Los Angeles Unified School District's averages of 31 percent and 36 percent, respectively.

In developing his pedagogy, Martinez stretches beyond "what" and "how" students should learn and instead asks, "Why should they learn?" His answer:

To lead. "The education system in America is designed to effectively prepare our children for the workforce, yet career success alone does not ensure thriving," said Martinez. "Our children must learn to cultivate a love of knowledge and form their own answers—to become scholars as well as learners."

Martinez's knack for exploring life's biggest questions began at Azusa Pacific University. The 2004 Philosophy Student of the Year, Martinez says his time at APU encouraged the exploration of a fundamental question: What is a life well lived? "Curiosity, grit, and social intelligence are instrumental

characteristics that define our ability to lead happy, thoughtful, and meaningful lives," said Martinez. "I want my students to become incredible leaders who love books and ideas."

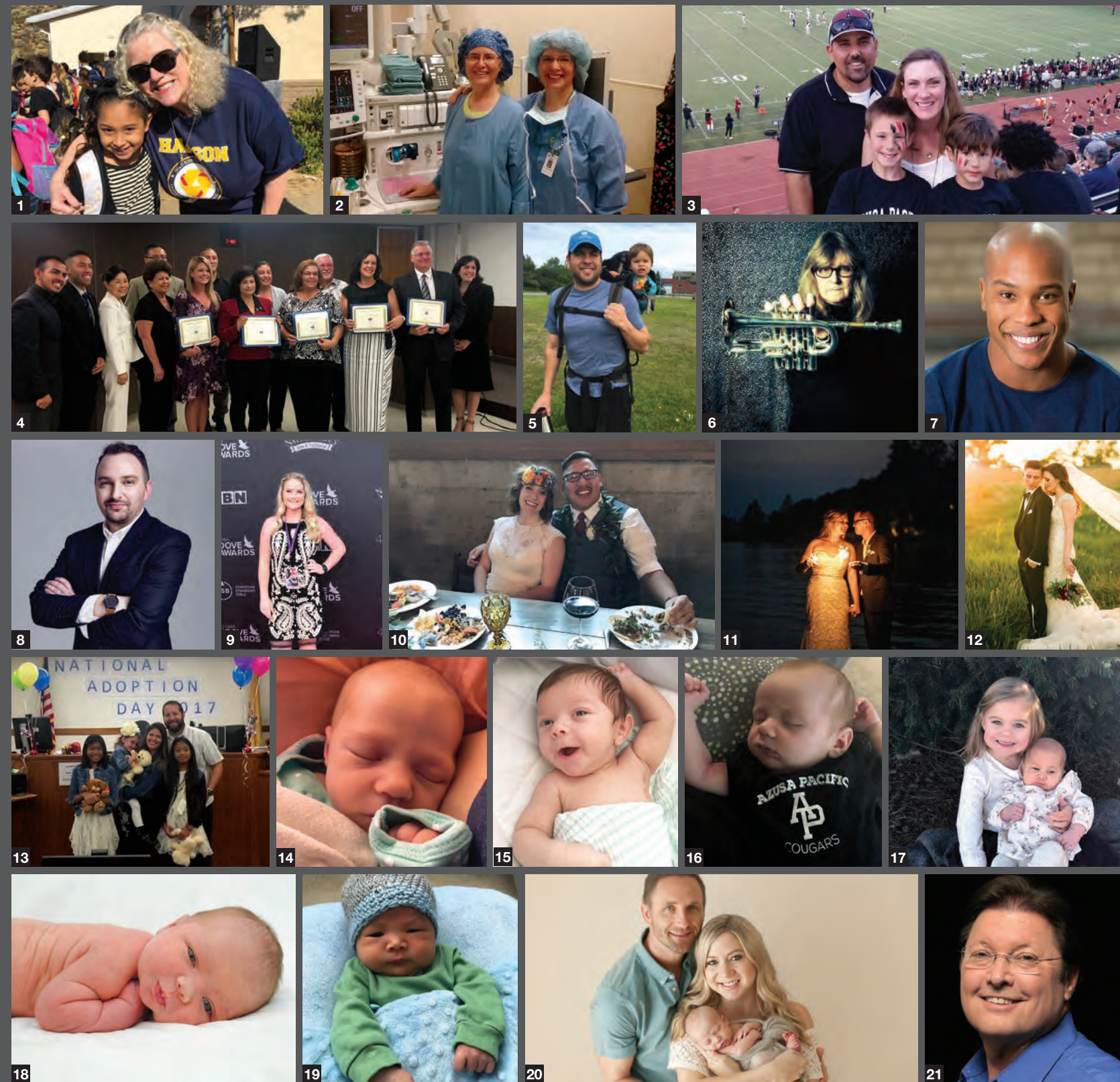
Reading 1 million words per year, Martinez's students more than triple the 300,000-word-per-year average of a typical fourth grader. "I want these children to outsmart the current generation of leaders and thinkers; to pursue challenging discussions without resorting to soundbites; to carefully evaluate news sources, engage in thoughtful reflection, and form educated responses—these are my hopes for them."

The Fishman Prize recognizes Martinez as one of the country's four most-inspiring public school teachers. Fishman Prize winners receive \$25,000 and collaborate with the other recipients in a six-week summer residency program. Martinez visited various locations throughout the U.S., including Washington, DC, to discuss public policy related to education and meet with national education leaders. For the program's capstone, Martinez produced an essay published by The New Teacher Project outlining his strategies on promoting students' self-awareness and independence, including controlled-breathing activities and conversations about how to process emotions.

Through the residency program, Martinez's contact with forward thinkers in education and policy-makers on Capitol Hill clarified the need for bright, young minds in the teaching profession. "We need inventive thinkers to become caring and invested teachers in underserved communities," said Martinez.

For all of Martinez's creative efforts, he insists that his successes are largely due to his students' drive and passion. "My fourth graders are my inspiration. Ultimately, they have taught me far more than I could ever teach them."

Evan R. Cain '18 is a senior public relations intern in the Office of University Relations. ecain13@apu.edu



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

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HEIDI TURNER, M.A. '17, recently published "I Asked for Peace" in *The Adirondack Review*.

JUST MARRIED

10 JOEY BASHIAN '12 to CHRISTY AILMAN '14 on November 4, 2017, in Sebastopol, California, at The Barlow. Shino Simons, Ph.D., APU's dean of students, officiated the wedding. Christy is pursuing an M.A. in Humanities at San Francisco State University while living on campus with Joey, who is a residential life area coordinator at Sonoma State University.

11 STEVEN DANG '12, M.A. '14, to LACEY POLVI, M.A. '14, on September 2, 2017, in Northern California at their "favorite spot by the lake." They met while enrolled in the Young Executive Master of Arts in Management program in the APU School of Business and Management in 2013, and both work for Kaiser Permanente.

12 HOLLY AILMAN '17 to Jacob Thompson on June 23, 2017, at Scribner Bend Vineyards in Sacramento. The

couple met in high school in Sacramento and now live in downtown Sacramento. Holly works as the administrative coordinator at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders in Folsom, and Jacob works as the assistant manager at the Mimosa House in Sacramento.

FUTURE ALUMNI

13 To REBEKAH (KELLER '96) NEGRETE and her husband, Greg, a daughter, Regina "Reggie" Taylor, adopted on November 17, 2017. She joins big sisters, Giannah, 11, and Elliana, 9. The Negretes have been involved with foster care since 2008 and were excited to travel to New Jersey to finalize the adoption during National Adoption Month.

14 To ANN (THOMAS '01) HITCHCOCK and her husband, **JEREMY '01**, a daughter, Emmy Grace, on October 25, 2017. She joins big sister, Libby, 8, and big brother, Gideon, 4.

15 To JULIA (RUSSELL '05) TOOTHACRE and her husband, Daniel, a son, Carter Elijah, on August 3, 2017. Julia recently became the associate director for career development and

student life for the Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University.

16 To JASON MADSEN '07 and his wife, Rebecca, a son, Declan Graham, on July 20, 2017.

17 To FALLON (CALO '08) LESSLER and her husband, Alex, a daughter, Isla June, on October 4, 2017. She joins big sister, Scarlet, 2.

18 To NOEL (LE '08) TRAN, MBA '16, and her husband, **AN, MBA '16**, a son, Ethan Jaxon, on November 9, 2017. He joins big brother, Devin.

To **MEREDITH (WYLDE '08) VOTAW** and her husband, **JARED, M.S. '11**, a daughter, Emry Anna, on October 3, 2017.

19 To JENIFER (BECK, M.ED. '10) SOJKA, and her husband, **JOHN '10**, a daughter, Sofia Elyse, on September 19, 2017.

20 To KATIE (WALTERS '13) HAVENS and her husband, Johnathon, a daughter, Joan Kalie, on October 17, 2017.

To **ELYSE (HAGEN '14) JACOBSMA** and her husband, Dillon, a son, Eli Asher,

on August 23, 2017. Once he turns a year old, they will move to South Africa to serve with Iris Ministries at one of their bases called Footprints, an orphanage with about 30 children. Dillon and Elyse will teach children and participate in outreach ministry to local slums.

IN MEMORY

21 LARRY CRAIN '71 passed away on November 1, 2017. His wife of 46 years, **BEVERLY (HOSTETLER '71)**, survives him. From 1990-2009, Larry owned Charisma Floats and Designs, which built floats for the Pasadena Rose and Fiesta Bowl parades and designed the floral work for the Academy Awards. For the last six years, he worked as front desk supervisor at the Disneyland Resort Hotel in Anaheim.

NOTABLE AND NOTEWORTHY

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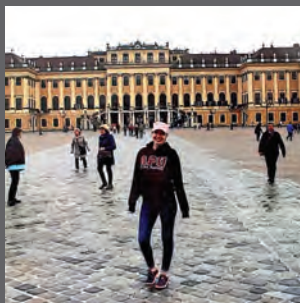
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AMANDA SHOCKEY '17
VIENNA, AUSTRIA



EDWIN HADLEY, M.DIV. '12
CHANIA, CRETE



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
BRAXTON PORTER '17,
HANNAH (DYSLIN) '16
BAILEY '18,
CRISTIN MCINTYRE '18,
JARED STORZ '18,
ALICIA WILLIAMS '18,
TAWNY WILLIAMS '18,
CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL
GREAT WALL, CHINA



BYRON HACK, M.A. '14
CHANNAI, INDIA



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Spirit of Place

With multiple moves—from a home in Whittier to a building in Boyle Heights, from downtown Los Angeles to Huntington Park, and finally to the family-oriented, welcoming community of Azusa—this university has called many places home and has been known by many names. Despite the relocations, mergers, and evolving names, one thing has remained constant—the promise to put *God First*. What began as an earnest prayer from the founders of the Training School for Christian Workers in 1899 has woven together a tapestry of people and places with a common thread

known as the *spirit of place*. Each generation has felt it, honored it, and celebrated it in its own way, as seen in this 1982 photo that proudly proclaims the belief in that promise. Today, that foundational sense of purpose still thrives. For more than a century, it has inspired school leaders to pray for guidance, faculty members to integrate a Christian worldview, and students to seek Truth boldly. No matter the school's location, God has blessed each as a special place.

—Ken Otto, MLIS, professor, Special Collections librarian



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