ONE BOOK

Scholars FROM DIVERSE FIELDS FOCUS THEIR CREATIVE ENERGY ON THE BIBLE.
Every morning with Kate, I witness this truth. The mission of APU centers on our passion to empower alumni as disciples and scholars, world changers and difference makers, to live out the Truth of God’s New Kingdom.

Several months ago, our daughter moved home. Shortly after Kate graduated from APU in May 2010, she worked briefly with World Vision International, helping to staff their Haitian relief effort, then lived for several months in South Africa, working with Walk in the Light Ministries. Now, with a master’s degree from London School of Economics in hand, she moved home to begin a full-time job with a media and public relations company. I tell you all this because I am thrilled that she is back home. Like many Millennials, Kate leaned into the provision of her parents for room and board while beginning her professional career. One of the perks of her return includes a daily morning walk with me. Every morning at 5:15, we hit the streets of Glendora. These early father/daughter jaunts include rich conversations about life’s perplexing questions and the complexity of change and challenge for a young professional. I know this season won’t last forever, so for now, I cherish every moment.

Recently, our conversations have focused on some of the core values Kate adopted as a student at APU: a commitment to excellence, the belief that everyone matters in God’s eyes and should therefore matter to us, the commitment to ongoing and lifelong learning as disciples and scholars, and the call of world changers and difference makers to engage culture and embrace change. Listening to her connect her academic and spiritual journey to the challenges and opportunities in her job reminds me of the importance of APU’s mission on culture and society. I see repeatedly in Kate’s journey the hope I have for our students and alumni called to be difference makers—the core value at the center of the Gospel message. Jesus came preaching and teaching the Truth of a “New Kingdom,” the rule and reign of God different in every way from the old models of power and privilege. The empowered difference maker accomplishes the daily assignments and responsibilities of vocation, family, friends, ministry, money, and power in light of the core values of God’s New Kingdom.

Mark 2 recounts several stories about living out our obedience to God built on this New Kingdom. In the first one, Jesus heals a paralytic and forgives his sins. The religious leaders criticized Him for doing what only God can do (forgive sins). The second involves Jesus calling Matthew away from his vocation as a tax collector and into a calling as a difference maker and disciple. After leaving everything and following Jesus, Matthew threw a party and invites all his friends to meet Jesus and hear His story of deliverance. Again, the religious leaders criticized Jesus, this time for eating with tax collectors and sinners. The third describes how Jesus responded to questions about why He approaches fasting differently than the established religious leaders. The third involves Jesus coming to Galilee, where He had been with limited success and had been preaching and teaching about the New Kingdom. The religious leaders went to John the Baptist and demanded, “John was a man sent from God; for this reason I came to baptize with water. But the one who is stronger than I is coming, I am not worthy to untie the thongs of His sandals.” John 1:20-23. I could go on and on with the stories and themes in Mark and other New Testament passages that repeatedly in Kate’s journey the hope I have for our students and alumni called to be difference makers.

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Azusa Pacific University recently unveiled a 15-foot-long ceramic wall mural titled “Knowledge over Time,” on display adjacent to the Hugh and Hazel Darling Library in the Duke Academic Complex. Created by 50 APU students to celebrate the liberal arts, the work chronicles major moments and themes in history, from God’s creation of humanity to the Renaissance, encircled by the names of all faculty in APU’s new College of Music and the Arts. Phase two of the architectural mural, Renaissance to Modern Times, debuts next year.

apu.edu/articles/20374

Contribute your best photos of campus—people and places, events and spaces—that showcase APU. Go to flickr.com/groups/azusapacific to submit today.
A Pacific University spring concert featured a rare performance of a Pettersson symphony. The orchestra of 70 students, conducted by Christopher Russell, captured the audience of more than 100 students, faculty, staff, and guests on a journey through a dramatic landscape. “This work contains moments of instantly memorable music and overwhelming sadness,” said Russell. “However, toward the end comes one of the most gorgeous sections for violin performance.”

“Performing a composition that requires high musical values by a little-known composer allowed for an experience of discovery,” said Donald Verdiel, dean of the School of Music. “The performances and audience joined together in hearing and exploring musical ideas presented in new ways.”

The technicality and emotion of the piece required hours of practice and focus. It was easy to get lost in the piece, but the musicians learned to pay closer attention to the details, to the sound of the orchestra and the soloist music they were somehow to be found in the orchestra players,” said Russell. “Second, the music is written for the orchestra, and so the music was something they had to learn.”

The orchestra also performed Johannes Brahms’ “Tragic Overture” and accompanied the Men’s Choir and soprano Patricia Edwards, DMA, School of Music faculty, on Brahms’ Alto Credo. The orchestra gave concerts throughout the early spring featuring music from the early Baroque, the late 20th century, and collaborates regularly with APU choral groups.

New Honors College Established and Named

Every year, APU attracts increasing numbers of the country’s best and brightest students seeking a rigorous academic curriculum grounded in a Christian worldview. Many of these top students demand programs and courses of study that stretch them beyond the standard requirements. APU’s Honors College Program satisfies that need for many of APU’s Honors College students.

The new Honors College will expand our academic imprint on the Honors College and the university. APU’s academic reputation by attracting top-caliber students, inspiring them to achieve their highest potential, and collaborates regularly with APU choral groups.

Grading Out Differences and Makers

Celebrating the academic and spiritual accomplishments of more than 1,400 students, the May 4, 2013, Azusa Pacific University Commencement ceremonies conferred degrees upon 855 undergraduate, 441 graduate, and 141 adult degree completion students.

For the first time to attend her daughter’s senior recital and proudly watch her receive her diploma. APU helped me to my musical education and brought me to a higher level of achievement,” said Menezes. “I also have APP’s Theology professor, and a pastor who love learning, care for that person— is chronic mental illness, especially in its most difficult-to-treat form(s),” said Heather Herod, director of the Department of Theology and Philosophy. “This is an important position, he will advance APU’s reputation by attracting top-caliber students, inspiring them to achieve their highest potential, and collaborates regularly with APU choral groups.

Establishing the Honors College is a national next step for APU. We are to become the preferred school for outstanding students,” said Weeks. “I am honored to serve as dean of a college that offers exceptional opportunities for normally curious and highly motivated students who love learning, crave challenge, and see education as an adventure.”

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The new Honors College offers an academic enriched humanities-based curriculum that encourages gifted students to explore life’s most profound questions. “Establishing the Honors College is a national next step for APU. We are to become the preferred school for outstanding students,” said Weeks. “I am honored to serve as dean of a college that offers exceptional opportunities for normally curious and highly motivated students who love learning, crave challenge, and see education as an adventure.”

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Lecture Explore Chinese Literature Experience
Last spring, the Department of Modern Languages partnered with APU’s Sigma Delta Pi chapter to host faculty member, Dr. Sarah Wu, an assistant professor in the Department of Teacher Education, to discuss Chinese literature and culture. Wu shared her findings with students from a broad range of disciplines, explaining the rich and diverse nature of Chinese literature, its influence on contemporary society, and its role in shaping modern Chinese culture.

Common Day of Learning Promotes Scholarship

The number of LA County 4-12th graders from 45 schools who explored humanities and sciences through APU’s annual Common Day of Learning event increased to 1,000 this year. The event featured more than 80 faculty members and students from a broad range of disciplines, promoting intellectual curiosity and creativity among students.

By the Numbers

270: The number of students who participated in the Fifth Annual Honors Conference at APU, presenting papers, posters, and performances, and participating in workshops and roundtable discussions.

21: The number of undergraduates who participated in the Fifth Annual Honors Conference, receiving awards for their research and presentations.

700: The number of LA County 4-12th graders who participated in APU’s annual Common Day of Learning event, exploring humanities and sciences through interactive workshops and demonstrations.

42: The number of students participating in APU’s summer High School Choral Festival, competing in various categories, and gaining valuable experience in choral music and performance.

56: The number of organizations participating in APU’s annual Military Education Fair, hosting booths and workshops to promote education and career opportunities for military veterans and active-duty service members.

1,000: The number of students and faculty who participated in APU’s annual Common Day of Learning event, exploring humanities and sciences through interactive workshops and demonstrations.

1: The number of students who participated in APU’s annual Military Education Fair, hosting booths and workshops to promote education and career opportunities for military veterans and active-duty service members.
University Recognized on President’s Community Service Honor Roll

For the fifth year, Azusa Pacific University earned inclusion on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, making APU one of only four schools in California to have received this national award five times. The highest federal recognition of university service efforts, this honor distinguishes APU as a national model for community service-learning, demonstrating the university’s commitment to building connected communities in our region and strengthening neighborhoods, and fulfilling a mission of service as a Christian university.

For the fourth year, APU’s God First motto has inspired our students and faculty to advance God’s purposes in the world, to serve His Kingdom with all our talents and gifts,” said Provost Mark Stamatopoulos. “This achievement confirms we are doing just that—modeling service in a relevant way that speaks directly to the needs of our neighbors near and far.” APU undergraduate students perform more than 165,000 hours of service each year in local areas, communities across the nation, and service sites around the world. Azusa Read, Azusa Writes, Azusa Counts, and Azusa Calculates, which offer more than 6,000 students an opportunity to learn, write, and mathematics to nearly 300 elementary school students annually, are just a few of the many successful local programs APU sponsors. The C.H.A.M.P. (College Headed and Mighty Proud) program introduces the idea of college to more than 600 at-risk fourth graders from six local elementary schools each year. The Neighborhood Wellness Center, staffed by APU nursing students and faculty, provides free health care and education to more than 1,400 local community residents yearly. Furthermore, APU’s Center for Academic Service-Learning and Research faculty creates community programs and courses that build relationships between APU and the local communities. Students integrate classroom learning with real-world service through more than 145 available service-learning classes across 18 academic departments.

Students also serve the global community through mission and leadership team experiences in the Center for Student Action, a community engagement course in the South Africa study abroad program, and the four-week virtual program that sponsors short-term mission trips to Mexico throughout the year. “The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community problems by recognizing institutions that achieve meaningful outcomes in the communities they serve,” said President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. “This recognition reaffirms our vision to be difference makers in a hurting world. Whether in the nearby neighborhoods of Azusa or in remote areas of the world, God calls us as disciples and scholars to turn the privilege of our knowledge and resources into action and application for others. I am proud of our students and faculty for responding to that call upon their lives, with joyful obedience.”

Scholarship at Work

The Bird House [Native Vocals at the Audy, Audy National] (San Diego, CA) was commissioned by the Center for Student Action. This play tells the powerful story of Reverend Jonathan Hawk, an evangelical preacher fighting to save his family, church, and small Arizona town in the face of a looming economic crisis. Based loosely on the book of Job, the story asks what one’s response should be when God slays life and life seems the size of a birdhouse. The culmination of two years’ work, The Bird House promises the heart of Native Vocals at the Audy, a theater company dedicated to producing works by Native American playwrights.

Resiliency and Distinction: Beliefs, Endurance, and Creativity in the Musical Arts of Continental and Diasporic Africa [Ph.D. thesis; 2013] by Kinalisa L. Brown, DBA, professor, School of Music, and Joan N. Kidula, Ph.D.

This collection of 17 essays written by ethnomusicologists includes a diverse look at musical traditions with African roots, from indigenous African laphophone music to 20th-century African gospel music. Through academic research and personal narratives, the authors explore the ability of African-rooted music to transform musicians and listeners from all backgrounds and serve as a powerful form of worship, creativity, and endurance. The book affirms the value and presence of Africa’s role in today’s musical world and honors the scholarship of Insoquyn Cogdell-Ford, Ph.D., a leading researcher of music in Africa and the African diaspora.

Teaching Speaking [TESOL International Association, 2013] by Tuula Bealster, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Global Studies, Sociology, and TESOL, Melissa K. Smith, Ph.D.; and Marylin Lewis in an increasingly interconnected world, English has become the common language for international communication, resulting in a growing need for skilled TESOL teachers, teaching in diverse and culturally different environments. This volume draws current teaching theories and applications together into an approachable guide for TESOL teachers, making it a valuable reference tool for TESOL graduates.


In this solo exhibition, Glancy challenged common conceptions of what a photograph is by stripping away all traditional reference points, resulting in a unique experience of simple color and design. The intentional absence of any elements hinting at the photographer’s subjects allowed viewers to experience the pieces less as photographs and more as paintings. Images such as “Child’s Loft #9” cannot be defined by any real-world object, but require viewers to interpret and create their own ideas of the photographs. The book, Bones Remade [San Diego: Three Pomegranates, California, February 9–28], by Stephen Glancy, MFA, assistant professor, Department of Art and Design, “Loft #9,” written by Michael Platt, pigment print on paper.

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Turning East: Contemporary Philosophers and the Ancient Christian Faith [St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2012] edited by Ricco Vitz, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Theology and Philosophy, and Barry C. Collett, Ph.D.

In this compilation of autobiographical essays, 16 Orthodox Christian philosophers dispel misconceptions about the Orthodox Church and reveal it as a worldwide community of Christians living faithfully according to ancient apostolic doctrine. These philosophers, some of whom are world-renowned scholars, describe their personal journeys to the Orthodox Church, encouraging others to study the rich philosophies and theology of the ancient Christian faith, and fostering greater dialogue among Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Protestants.

Heart & Life: Rediscovering Holy Living

Wildgame Press, 2013] edited by Don Thorson, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Theology and Ethics; and Barry C. Collett, Ph.D.

This book addresses one of the central concerns of the Christian faith: holiness. It examines the role of holy living in Christianity by presenting foundational teachings from scripture, individual experiences with holiness, the social applications of holy living, and the relevance of holiness for church ministry today. Through inspiring stories and practical thought, this unique study guides readers who desire to become more holy like Christ, and applies to group Bible study settings as well as individual devotions.

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Allison Moffitt ’12 tore open the envelope excitedly. As the first in her family to attend college, she could not believe she had the chance to continue her studies in public health at the graduate level. "When I read that acceptance letter, which included a full scholarship, it blew me away," she said. "I knew I would not be where I am today if it were not for the countless hours Annie T sai poured into me in and outside of class."

Annie T sai, Ph.D., chair and associate professor in APU’s Department of Psychology, began meeting with Moffitt her sophomore year. "We would talk through projects every week and dive into research together," T sai said. "We identified her passions in the field of social science, and dug deeper to not only prepare her for research at the graduate level, but also to understand how she can make a difference for Christ in her studies and her future workplaces."

"Annie raised the bar at every turn, pushing me to be a better scholar and a better person," said Moffitt, whose work culminated in a student research award at an Association for Psychological Science conference. "One of the key dimensions of academic quality at APU is the idea of teaching and learning," said Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D. "Our faculty members create an environment where there is active engagement on both sides—it’s a huge step away from the idea that it’s enough for a person to go into a classroom and unload their knowledge. Creating meaning and purpose for students in their studies must involve dialogue and sharing."

Michael Bruner, assistant professor of practical theology, echoed Stanton’s vision of faculty mentorship. “My role as professor extends from the classroom into opportunities for collaborative research and conversations about how to ‘do life.’ Anything less would be a huge disconnect,” he said. “I’m not only charged with informing students, but also with forming them as well.”

Bruner has met with a number of students throughout his 10 years at APU, including five Honors Program students who recently enrolled at his alma mater, Princeton Theological Seminary, for graduate study. “I encouraged them to apply to Princeton,” he said. “To Bruner’s delight, all five were accepted and decided to attend. “I still keep in touch with them. Only now we talk about the academic and spiritual challenges of graduate school,” he explained. “It’s hugely rewarding to see these young people grow—from students to scholars to, someday, colleagues. It’s a privilege to pour into their lives as fellow Christians on this journey.”

For Andrew Soria ’14, that freedom APU faculty shared motivated him to choose Azusa Pacific over other colleges. After beginning his studies as a Spanish major, Soria added English as a second major and signed up for a literary criticism class with Carol Lambert, Ph.D., professor in the Department of English, expecting to do well. "When I got a B on my first assignment, I told Dr. Lambert, ‘I don’t get Bs— how do I improve?’" he said. "That led to the first of many conversations, which included a lot of discussions about my future."

Soria plans to continue working with Lambert as her research assistant this fall and credits her with his new career plans. "I know I want to go on to teach and educate others in some way," he said. "Now I know how to do more than just work with ideas; I can share those ideas in a way that glorifies Christ.”

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Cabrina Alviar, MFA ’12, is associate art director in the Office of University Relations. calviar@apu.edu

Sorai and a few of his friends went on to take an independent study course with Lambert. “It ended up being the most transformative experience,” he said. “There was something about working so closely together—it came to a point where it wasn’t a class anymore, it was an extension of our lives. We used the class to filter what was happening in each of our lives. We talked about our challenges and struggles. And, in turn, she shaped us.”

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First Among Them

“I dreamed of going to college, but I didn’t see how it was possible,” said Collin Barrett ’14, a biblical studies and Christian ministry major at Azusa Pacific University. The son of a hard-working tile contractor and devoted stay-at-home mother, Barrett watched his parents struggle to provide for him and his seven siblings while growing up in the small Northern California town of Cool. Though his parents and teachers stressed the importance of education, there simply was no money for college, and his parents, having never attended college themselves, knew little of the available financial resources that could help him reach his goal.

First-generation college students like Barrett chart new territory preparing and applying for college, which often puts them at a disadvantage in gaining access to postsecondary education. Perhaps surprisingly, nearly one in three entering freshmen in the U.S. today is a first-generation college student, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics. At APU, approximately 16 percent of undergraduates identify themselves as such. Noteworthily, these students find transitioning from high school to college tough, and they graduate at half the rate of non-first-generation students, according to the National Commission on Higher Education Attainment.

“First-generation students are educational trailblazers, and universities must work with them to remove barriers to their success,” said Sandy Hough, director of academic advising and retention. Her research indicates that targeted intervention efforts can help universities recruit and retain this population. At APU, Hough’s office leads the charge, along with support from the Center for Student Action and the Offices of Multi-Ethnic Programs and Orientation and Transitions, to assist these students by providing greater financial and academic resources. Their efforts produce positive results. “The retention gap for first-generation APU students is closing,” said Hough.

From 2006-10, the retention rate for first-generation students at APU rose by 15% to nearly 85%. Nearly 1 in 3 entering freshmen in the U.S. is a first-generation college student.

Approximately 16% of APU undergraduates are first-generation college students.

“T he retention gap for first-generation APU students is closing,” said Hough. “This level of comprehensive care represents more than institutional policy, it reveals the nature and character of the people in this community,” said Hough. “I see students sacrificing their free time to help one another navigate college life. I see faculty members going out of their way to nurture relationships and inspire leaders. When first-generation college students search for the right place to start a new family tradition of higher education, this is what draws them. This is what speaks to them and says, ‘You are welcome, you matter, you’re not alone, and you will succeed.’”

Rachel (Nordby ’97) White is assistant director of public relations in the Office of University Relations. Rewhite@apu.edu
After all, the question could refer to the art book, the scholarly commentary, the work of fiction, or the choral piece. Across campus, the Bible serves as the keystone for scholars and writers, artists and musicians, playwrights and filmmakers. Few books, if any, cross so many disciplines and lend themselves to such varied treatment. What about this one Book allows for such a broad range of scholarly activity? Why do scholars from diverse fields focus their creative energy on the Bible?

“For APU English professor and author Joseph Bentz, Ph.D., the motivation lies in filling in the blanks. “The Bible gives a massive amount of information, and yet leaves a lot to the imagination,” he said. “We know from Genesis 19:26 that Lot’s wife turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back, but we can’t help wondering why she looked back—what was she thinking? The Bible keeps us guessing, which allows room for inspiration and interpretation.” Bentz’s current book project, Names, takes familiar characters from the Bible such as Moses and Joseph and transports the reader into the characters’ shoes. “Christians hear and read these stories so often, and yet it is easy for us to forget that these larger-than-life characters were real people, with real day-to-day struggles. I enjoy the challenge of bringing the events and people of the Scriptures to life for a modern audience.” Bentz’s current book project, Names, takes familiar characters from the Bible such as Moses and Joseph and transports the reader into the characters’ shoes. “Christians hear and read these stories so often, and yet it is easy for us to forget that these larger-than-life characters were real people, with real day-to-day struggles. I enjoy the challenge of bringing the events and people of the Scriptures to life for a modern audience.”

“Creating from Scripture changes the process. There is a much greater sense of obligation. With other sources, we have more freedom to play with the text in a way that can be more useful musically. Scripture brings with it a deeper burden to pursue the meaning and intent of the text.”

—MICHAEL LEE, M.M., PROFESSOR OF MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
BIBLICALLY INSPIRED FACULTY WORKS

Joseph Bentz, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of English
Published a short story in a small-group Bible study that puts readers into the shoes of biblical characters like Moses and Joseph.

Monica Ganas, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Theatre, Film, and Television
Acted in Pulling Torah, a film that examines the humorous side of the tale of Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25:29.

Diane Glancy, MFA
Visiting Professor, Department of English
Published a short story in a college magazine about the prophet, Anna, described in Luke 2:36.

John Hartley, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, School of Theology
Wrote a commentary on Genesis, along with commentaries on Job and Leviticus and a pending Proverbs volume.

Jim Thompson, Ed.D.
Professor of Art
Wrote an article insert for the Christian Worldview Bible, where he describes how the Bible has influenced his view of politics.

Furthermore, Bentz pointed out that this diverse authorship provides a literary foundation for scholarship. "The Bible holds so many different types of literature—prose, history, genealogy, prophecy, letters. There is something for everyone."

According to Ganas, Jonns’ parables provide an example of this dynamic at work. "Jesus’ parables lend themselves to treatment in theater and film because they are enduring and timeless. Jesus used familiar metaphors to make His point, and as a result, it is easy to update their symbolism for a modern audience," she said. "It’s easy to translate the Good Samaritan into the Good Biker."

David Weeks, Ph.D.
New dean of the Honors College, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and professor of political science, believes that the Bible’s cross-disciplinary nature also says something about the disciplines themselves. "Ultimately, every academic and creative pursuit deals with fundamental questions. Each academic area seeks answers to life’s most important questions, and the Bible addresses many of them. As a result, Scripture becomes fertile ground for researchers and artists in almost every field."

Weeks explores this idea in his current writing project, an article insert for the Christian Worldview Bible, where he describes how the Bible has influenced his view of politics. "While Scripture says nothing about campaigns, legislation, elections, or tax rates, the text says a lot about the more fundamental political questions. The Bible teaches us about God’s sovereignty and the derivative nature of human authority, about human nature and the inherent worth and dignity of human beings, and about humans living in community and why civil society is indispensable. All of these make up the core of political philosophy and informs how we deal with one another and make political decisions."

Across the board, Azusa Pacific’s scholars cite one overriding reason for the Bible’s prominence as impetus for academic and creative production—it occupies the primary source for insight into God’s Truth. "Scripture is the inspired Word of God," said Glancy. "The Holy Spirit works through the Bible in a way that He doesn’t work through any other book."

Thompson’s sketch pad, which he takes to church with him each Sunday to capture ideas inspired by his pastor’s sermons, illustrates a similar sentiment. A recent Sunday’s sketch shows a plain white field, with a wadded-up piece of paper in the foreground. On the corner of the paper, the words “In the beginning. . . .” are barely visible, with the implication that it goes on to tell the story of the Bible. The tentative title? Nothing Else Is Needed.”

Cathie Gipson ’10 is a freelance writer, search engine optimizer, and marketing consultant living in Buellton, California. apacen@gmail.com

THE BIBLE

“One Book was written over a 1,600-year period, by at least 40 authors in 3 languages, and yet, the consistent theme throughout is God’s redemption of humankind. How exciting to be able to take a text like that and let it inform what we create.”

—JIM THOMPSON, ED.D., PROFESSOR OF ART

“Bible holds so many different types of literature—prose, history, genealogy, prophecy, letters. There is something for everyone."

—DIANE GLANCY, MFA, VISITING PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

“Nothing Else Is Needed.”

Michael Lee, M.M.
Director of Music Technology
School of Music
Wrote an article insert for the Christian Worldview Bible on how the Bible has influenced his view of politics.

David Weeks, Ph.D.
Dean, Honors College
Former Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Wrote an article insert for the Christian Worldview Bible on how the Bible has influenced his view of politics.

Jim Thompson, Ed.D.
Professor, Department of Art and Design
Created The Bread Box, a wood-and-metal media piece based on the Lord’s Prayer.

BIBLICALLY INSPIRED FACULTY WORKS

Joseph Bentz, Ph.D.
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Personalizing Cancer Chemotherapy: One Size Does Not Fit All

Cancer—few other words incite such fear and confusion as this pervasive disease. Yet, nearly 1.7 million Americans hear this devastating diagnosis every year. Those with advanced-stage disease face an uncertain future and a bleak prognosis. Some of the deadliest cancer types, including colorectal, lung, and pancreatic, remain undetected until they reach these advanced stages, leaving aggressive chemotherapy as the only option to slow the disease’s growth, providing a devastating diagnosis every year. Those with advanced-stage disease face an arduous battle to fight disease, with few other words incite such fear and confusion as cancer.

One Size Does Not Fit All

Cancer chemotherapeutic drugs, called histone deacetylase inhibitors (HDACs), which disrupt cancer growth in several ways, including repressing the tumor cells’ DNA and altering the genes that are switched on and off. HDACs also cause the premature breakdown of some key proteins that tumor cells rely on to fuel their growth and withstand chemotherapy. One of these proteins, thymidine synthase (TS), accounts for the failure of an important type of chemotherapy in colorectal cancer. My husband, Peter Wilson, Ph.D., an adjunct professor in APUs Department of Biology and Chemistry and researcher at USC/Norris, and I researched this phenomenon and showed that it may be possible to integrate HDACs into chemotherapy treatments for colorectal cancer to improve the overall effectiveness and present treatment failure—specifically in patients whose tumors contain high levels of TS protein and whose chance of responding positively to chemotherapy is extremely low.

Colorectal cancer remains one of the toughest cancers to treat and is the third-most deadly cancer in the U.S., after lung and breast cancers. The American Cancer Society projects that 143,000 Americans will be diagnosed in 2013, and approximately 51,000 patients will die of this disease. Despite advances in technology and promising new drugs, improvements to colorectal cancer patient survival rates over the last 10 years have only been incremental, and the chance of responding positively to chemotherapy remain at about 40 percent. The aggressive and resistant nature of advanced colorectal cancer means that less than 10 percent of patients survive five years. We urgently need new ideas and treatment options to remedy this sobering statistic.

A Fresh Approach

Until recently, personalized medicine existed more as a concept than a reality because of the difficulty in pinpointing the reasons for the success or failure of chemotherapy. Identifying those few key genetic mutations or proteins that can make the difference between chemotherapy success and failure represents a monumental task, quite literally like searching for a needle in a haystack. The University of Southern California Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center (USC/Norris) stands at the forefront of personalized cancer medicine with a translational research program that begins at the research bench and continues to the patient’s bedside. I have been fortunate to participate in an ongoing research program that began during my postdoctoral fellowship at USC/Norris, and I earned my doctorate in 2010 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in 2010 and 2011 with Heinz Josef Lenz, MD, one of the world’s foremost experts in gastrointestinal cancers.

During that time, I focused on a new class of chemotherapeutic drugs called histone deacetylase inhibitors (HDACs), which disrupt cancer growth in several ways, including repressing the tumor cells’ DNA and altering the genes that are switched on and off. HDACs also cause the premature breakdown of some key proteins that tumor cells rely on to fuel their growth and withstand chemotherapy. One of these proteins, thymidine synthase (TS), accounts for the failure of an important type of chemotherapy in colorectal cancer. My husband, Peter Wilson, Ph.D., an adjunct professor in APUs Department of Biology and Chemistry and researcher at USC/Norris, and I researched this phenomenon and showed that it may be possible to integrate HDACs into chemotherapy treatments for colorectal cancer to improve the overall effectiveness and present treatment failure—specifically in patients whose tumors contain high levels of TS protein and whose chance of responding positively to chemotherapy is extremely low.

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A Hopeful Prognosis

USC/Norris performed a phase one clinical trial with the most promising HDACs drug, vorinostat, to determine the safety of combining these agents with standard chemotherapy. Although the trial proved the combination safe, only a few patients showed improvement in their disease. This disappointment prompted a return to the research bench. At this juncture, in an APU-USC collaboration, Peter and I used information gleaned from the clinical trial to better inform our laboratory experiments. In our manuscript published in Investigational New Drugs in January 2013, assisted by APUs research students Shafay Marian ‘13 and Stephanie Kishwara ‘13, our team used simulated experiments to show that the body broke down vorinostat at a rate faster than it could exert its anticancer effects in most patients. We then used a new HDACs called panobinostat, which the body breaks down approximately four times slower than vorinostat. Panobinostat proved to be much more effective at inducing numerous anticancer effects, including the faster breakdown of TS at lower doses than vorinostat, and USC/Norris is now evaluating this research in another phase one clinical trial with seven patients recruited thus far.

This multidisciplinary collaborative effort between USC/Norris’ Departments of Gastrointestinal Oncology and Pathology and APUs Department of Biology and Chemistry highlights the pivotal need for understanding the underlying reasons that so many cancer drugs fail, and the importance of the research bench in informing and ensuring the future development and success of cancer drugs. This move toward personalized cancer treatment will take much of the guesswork out of chemotherapy and give the patient the best chance at receiving a successful therapy from the onset of treatment. While this may not change the overall prognosis for patients whose cancer has progressed too far, we are confident it will provide them with precious time while improving their quality of life. Most important, a significant number of cancer patients who receive effective personalized therapy delivered the first time around will undoubtedly become cured and lead cancer-free lives.

Melissa LaBonte Wilson, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in APUs Department of Biology and Chemistry. For more information or to support this effort, email her at relationships@apsu.edu.

by Melissa LaBonte Wilson

Cancer—few other words incite such fear and confusion as this pervasive disease. Yet, nearly 1.7 million Americans hear this devastating diagnosis every year. Those with advanced-stage disease face an uncertain future and a bleak prognosis. Some of the deadliest cancer types, including colorectal, lung, and pancreatic, remain undetected until they reach these advanced stages, leaving aggressive chemotherapy as the only option to slow the disease’s growth, providing a devastating diagnosis every year. Those with advanced-stage disease face an arduous battle to fight disease, with few other words incite such fear and confusion as cancer.

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APU’s track and field team single-leg amputee to compete on the Paralympic stage.

Walking away, Merrill resumes his signature stride. The subtly distinctive gait has little to do with attitude—although Merrill exudes confidence—and more to do with the carbon-fiber running blade that enables the single-leg amputee to compete on Azusa Pacific’s track and field team.

Trenten Merrill ’14 stares down the narrow track runway with palpable intensity. In the moments that follow, he surges forward in a burst of speed, intent on the takeoff that propels his body more than 18 feet. The impact of his descent sends up a spray of sand in the landing pit.

“Trenten is one of those extremely self-motivated athletes,” said Kevin Reid ’88, men’s track and field head coach. “At APU, he gains strength and speed while competing against athletes who race at his level. He has a great outlook that drives him forward in our athletic program, particularly as we push to get more athletes to that elite level.”

Just weeks after arriving at APU, Merrill received a vote of confidence from fellow athletes when they named him a team captain. “He has a never-ending thirst for improving as a competitor,” said teammate Timok Czerwinski ’14, who calls Merrill an energetic leader bolstered by a strong faith and an unbreakable good nature.

While all athletes face the possibility of injury, Merrill must contend with the physical stresses that sprinting and jumping place on his prosthetic limb, too. Waiting on weeklong repairs or replacements for the high-tech leg—three of Merrill’s running prosthetics broke already this year—causes a serious disruption to a rigorous training schedule, but Czerwinski said Merrill refuses to skip a beat. “He finds a way to work through it and keep training,” said Czerwinski.

Merrill credits APU’s track program with helping him close in on his goals. “From my teammates to the coaches, everyone on the team inspires me. We push each other, because we’re all out there, putting in the work, struggling, and trying to reach our dreams. We see in each other our true potential.”

Eight years ago in his hometown of San Juan Capistrano, it seemed that emerging potential might have been lost when a car collided with the dirt bike Merrill and a friend were riding. Then just 14, Merrill’s right foot was mangled in the accident and eventually amputated. A staggering loss for any vibrant young person, the ramifications were especially tough for Merrill, a promising soccer and volleyball player, as the doctors cautioned him that such physical activities would prove difficult.

But Merrill refused to sit on the sidelines. After two months in the hospital and another three of healing—and newly equipped with a prosthetic—he dove back into a variety of sports. The Paralympic hopeful zeroed in on track while he was a student at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo. Encouraged by his prosthetic specialist, Merrill attended a running clinic and met Joaquim Cruz, his prosthetic specialist, Merrill attended a running clinic and met Joaquim Cruz, his prosthetic specialist, Merrill attended a running clinic and met Joaquim Cruz, his prosthetic specialist,

...continues

The solution came in the form of an APU commercial that caught Merrill’s attention on an Internet radio service. A few days later, he discovered an Azusa Pacific T-shirt stashed among his own clothes from a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp.

“I started watching videos of Bryan Clay training at APU, and it was evident that God was speaking to me,” he said.

Merrill connected with Reid, and everything fell into place. “To go from not knowing if I was able to compete in any sport to being part of a collegiate track and field team—what He’s given me blows my mind,” said Merrill. Driven by his pursuit of excellence, Merrill has grown accustomed to and even welcomes curious inquiries and glances. Those who look close enough may notice the Cougar claw emblem decorating his running blade. Below it: the words God First.

Evelyn Barge is a writer and editor in the Office of University Relations. ebarge@apu.edu
**Cougars Honored as Top Christian College Athletics Program**

The National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) presented Azusa Pacific with the 2012-13 Presidential Award for Excellence, honoring Cougar Athletics as the organization’s top overall athletics program based on performance in NCCAA national championship competition. The Cougars won five NCCAA national championships this year, claiming titles during the spring (men’s tennis, national championship competition. The Cougar men’s tennis team brought home the program’s first national title in 2012, capturing the NCAA Division II title.

**New Class Joins Athletics Hall of Fame**

A new name has been added to the hall of fame for Cougar Athletics. Emily Gehrke, a member of the 2005 women’s volleyball team, was selected to join the hall of fame for her contributions to the program.

**Upcoming Alumni and Parent Events**

- **August 24, 2013 | Hollywood Bowl Concert | Kristen Chenoweth**
  - Bellingham, WA, and a Friends of APU dinner, and ready for an entertaining evening of music with Kristen Chenoweth and great fireworks. Picnic begins at 6 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m. Visit apu.edu/hollywoodbowl2013 for more information and to purchase tickets ($26 per person).

- **August 30, 2013 | Legacy Family Reception | 4 p.m.**
  - All alumni with a new child born in fall 2013 are invited to join us for a reception at the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations on the Friday of New Student Orientation Weekend.

- **October 12, 2013 | Homecoming and Family Weekend**
  - Save the date for this year’s Homecoming and Family Weekend. Registration begins September 1, 2013.

- **March 22, 2014 | Italian Vistas**
  - Imagine gazing at Michelangelo’s majestic sculptures in the heart of Florence, cruising the Isle of Capri on a scenic boat ride, and soaking in 2,000 years of history while traversing the ruins of Pompeii. Make it a reality—join family, friends, and fellow alumni on the excursion of a lifetime that begins in Rome, journeying through Venice, Monza, Verona, Pompeii, Capri, and Florence, and culminates in breathtaking Stresa, Switzerland. The 13-day itinerary includes professional tour guides, special dining, and more.

**Acrobatics and Tumbling Selected as 2014 National Championships Host**

Azusa Pacific University, one of the newest members of the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association, will host the 2014 NCAA Division III championships in April. The Cougars will host the 2014 NCAA Division III championships in April.

**Newcomers Honored in Hall of Fame**

- **1. Bless your children.**
  - When your home atmosphere is negative or threatening, your children will find somewhere else to hang out where they feel welcome. You don't have to be "Parent of the Year" to create an environment that allows your kids to feel welcome in your home. You just have to increase the flow of acceptance and grace.

- **2. Communicate with A.W.E.**
  - A.W.E. is an abbreviation for Awareness, Warmth, and Encouragement. If you're wondering with kids. You don't have to be a pushover parent; in fact, firmness does not equal love. If you are firm, and consistent with your children’s house rules, and enforce them with A.W.E., you'll build a stronger bond with your kids.

- **3. Create a grace-filled home.**
  - Even if you are fair, firm, and consistent with your children’s house rules, and enforce them with A.W.E., you'll build a stronger bond with your kids.

- **4. Communicate with A.W.E.**
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- **5. Raise kids who love God and themselves.**
  - The key is respect. When kids are taught the value of obeying their parents, honoring and respecting God is easy. Obedience makes it easy to establish a loving relationship with Him. Give your kids the gift of self-respect and self-esteem. This could be one of the most precious commodities an adolescent will ever receive.

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Spiritual Victory

by Cyndelle Hoff

Spiritual warfare pits good against evil on a battlefield beyond the physical world. Ephesians 6:12 warns, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (NIV). In the physical world.

Daniela, struggle against these enemies daily as they serve with Josiah Venture. Their vision: to see a movement of God among the youth of Central and Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transform society.

Together, they lead teams traveling into Eastern European cities, working with local youth groups to share the Gospel in public high schools, constantly combating cynicism, apathy, and worldly wisdom.

“Yet, despite the opposition, Christians in the community faithfully fight the forces of evil. ‘It is a miracle that we were allowed to air the program at all,’ said Dickson. ‘We produced 70 episodes of interviews with people on the streets and celebrity testimonies, and trained hundreds of leaders about how to use the show as an outreach, including two years of curricula on topics like divorce, suicide, sex, racism, and drugs.’

Eight out of 10 Czech teens are atheists. God has opened the door to high schools for the Gospel. Every year, in at least 11 cities, we have the opportunity to employ the 8-hour program in an average of 30 public high schools. The schools gladly shut down for the entire day to give us the full morning as knowing we are bringing a proven prevention program,” said Dickson.

Convincing administrators, however, proves much easier than winning over their students. Czech teens rebel against restrictions. ‘We don’t present them with a bunch of rules,’ said Dickson.

“We bring them an American rock band, hip-hop artists, dancing, and media. Because music is universal, it breaks barriers and engages the students. Then, we split into small groups for two 90-minute lesson series by certified, accredited staff, and present testimonies about salvation.”

One man from Slovakia, now a drug preventionist, shares about his broken home, drug use, snorting, and former life as a male prostitute. One of Germany’s adult film stars recalled, “Nothing mattered until Jesus.” Now, she talks about purity with girls, and to guys interested in pets, she tells them the value of love. A Holy Spirit-led woman who was rescued out of Czechoslovakia before Hitler closed the border, now tells a tale of merchandising and calls herself the “twice-saved child”—first from the Holocaust, then by Christ.

A week-long program culminates with a Friday night outreach concert. Last fall, 15,000 high schools showed up. “We saw 209 preventionists—faith—200 hours during school hours,” said Dickson.

“There were 95 in one school alone. We’ve seen entire classes stand to accept Christ. A headmaster said, ‘I don’t believe in what you’re saying, but I believe in the students, and I see the change in their lives.’”

The change he sees—improved attendance, heightened respect, and better behavior—reveals something deeper and more meaningful than the outward signs he observes. It illustrates the power of transformed hearts and battles won. Through the spiritual warfare continues, more and more Eastern European teens are hearing and responding to God’s Word thanks to a growing number of Czech pastors and teachers who, “with the full armor of God ready to engage in the conflict, and faithful workers like the Dicksons with the sacrifice and face the enemy alongside them.”

For more information, visit josiahventure.com.

Raising Dads: Inspiring and Equipping Fathers

In the United States, 40 percent of children—approximately 23 million—live, play, and go to school without the love, care, guidance, and protection of their fathers—and that number continues to grow. Brian Blomberg ’94 helps these battles this startling reality as chief development officer for the National Center for Fathering (NCF), a nonprofit organization that inspires and equips faith to become engaged, involved father figures.

“We train dads in both Christian and secular settings to reach their full, God-ordained potential,” said Blomberg. Through seminars, small groups, programs, and technological resources, NCF reaches more than 1 million fathers each year and has equipped and certified more than 1,000 trainers to expand the fathering movement in their own communities.

According to Blomberg, fathers have three important objectives in the life of their children. First, they should unconditionally love their children and the mothers of their children. Second, fathers should act as role models for their children, teaching them lesser school situations. Third, fathers should model what are good examples for their families. “This generation of young people recognizes hypocrisy very quickly,” said Blomberg. “Fathers must model what they want their kids to do and be. Kids notice what is important to them by observing what their parents deem important.”

Blomberg reinforced the importance of faith in his life for his children when he answered God’s call to leave a prestigious position as chief financial officer of Pacific Services, a billion-dollar enterprise based in Berlin, to work for Promise Keepers, a nonprofit Christian men’s ministry. “My attorney told me the switch would destroy my career and all the work I had done in the corporate world so far. But after much prayer, I knew this step of faith to actively serve God and others was the right decision.”

Almost a decade later, Blomberg transitioned to NCF as chief development officer. “When I became the CEO it was my mission and helps develop new programs to proactively reach dads. He also serves on the board of the newly formed Fathering CoMission, a nonprofit group of both Christian and mainstream organizations that work together to champion the fathering movement through downloadable programs for use in churches’ family ministries across the nation.

Despite his past business successes, Blomberg finds witnessing the healing results of these fathering ministry most rewarding. “We work with fathers who face seemingly insurmountable obstacles: substance abuse, unemployment, financial problems, marginalization. I get to watch these dads work through training, realize the enormity of their impact on their children, and reunite with their kids in a powerful moment of reconciliation. I find out more about NCF, visit fathers.com.

Finding His Calling in Screenwriting

In 1832, a Quaker schoolteacher risked everything by admitting African-American women into her school, unleashing a nationwide fight for educational freedom and without an overnight solution to the problem.

In 2013, a screenwriter risked everything by submitting her screenplay to a prestigious university and being accepted. “I was accepted to a film program at the University of Southern California, but I had never studied writing before. I didn’t have any formal training,” said Smith.

According to Blomberg, fathers have three important objectives in the life of their children. First, they should unconditionally love their children and the mothers of their children. Second, fathers should act as role models for their children, teaching them lesser school situations. Third, fathers should model what are good examples for their families. “This generation of young people recognizes hypocrisy very quickly,” said Blomberg. “Fathers must model what they want their kids to do and be. Kids notice what is important to them by observing what their parents deem important.”

Smith discovered this calling as an English major at Azusa Pacific. During her last semester, she registered for Barbara Nicodess Hannah’s screenwriting class to fulfill a course requirement. “When Smith turned in her first screenplay, Harrington, executive director of the Galileo Film Studio at AP, recognized extraordinary talent. "I saw a depth in Elizabeth’s writing that undergraduates usually don’t achieve. I knew she could have a profound impact if she pursued screenwriting.”

Harrington hired Smith as her assistant at Act One, an organization she founded in Hollywood that prepares Christians to work in the entertainment industry. From there, Smith earned her master’s degree in writing at the prestigious Carlow University in Ireland and launched a successful career as a screenwriter in Boston.

In an age where television, movies, and other digital media dominate daily life, creative storytelling through these mediums has grown increasingly influential. Smith sees the potential for transformation in her audience. “If movies make people view the world differently. As an artist, my challenge is to cause audiences to leave the theater better people with a stronger sense of responsibility than when they entered,” said Smith.

Smith’s ability to tap into these deep emotions comes from her own struggles and triumphs. As an undergrad, she battled cancer, undergoing intense treatments while carrying out a full class load and discovering how to lean on her faith and the help of others. “A friend of mine told me that I was ‘super-powered’ in the face of death,” she said. Smith also gave up smoking and grew increasingly influential. Smith sees the potential for transformation in her audience. “If movies make people view the world differently. As an artist, my challenge is to cause audiences to leave the theater better people with a stronger sense of responsibility than when they entered,” said Smith.

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Paul Yeulin ’68 has led annual medical mission trips throughout the world for the past six years. In February 2013, he traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with a team of 22 to treat 1,060 patients and offer daily disease prevention classes to a team of 22 to treat 1,086 patients and provided pastoral counseling referred by their family doctors.

Coomber was elected president of the Grace Foundation, an organization that awards scholarships to Asian students pursuing graduate degrees in ministry and theology at an accredited graduate school or seminary, yumin@chumhealth.org.

JameS Crawford ’19 became ordained in May 2010 after 10 years as pastor of Iowa Hill Community Church in Iowa Hill, California. He is also the chaplin of Iowa Hill Fire Department, a Cal-Fire chaplin, and chaplin of the Free Methodist Church. Jim started the Sun Valley Creek (CFC) program in Placer County working with the area fire departments, US Census Bureau, and Highway Patrol. In his spare time, he is the aircraft manager for a CH-3 spotting helicopter used for rescue from 1963–93, based in McCall Field in Sacramento. kmccall@rccglobal.com.

Robert Clinton ’21 worked at Catholic Charities in Chicago, Illinois, with the Center for Student Missions after graduation, where he met his wife and best friend, Julie, and pursued a career in ministry. They have two daughters, Madeline and Mackenzie, and a son, Drew. Julie works at the St. Louis Arc as director of Young Life. After completing his master’s degree, Robert pursued his doctorate in education. He has taught mathematics, English, public speaking, and physical education, and coached high school and college sports. Robert has been a scholar at the North Salem High School, where he worked for four years. Robert led Candidates Elementary as principal for eight years and now serves Schleier Elementary. Robert, committed to providing a school community that helps students make connections between their personal lives and their educational experiences.

VERONICA (FREEMAN) 97 ALDERMAN and her husband, Greg, live near Sacramento, California. He pastors at Christ Community Church in Carmichael, California, and is a lead pastor and as an administrative assistant for a nonprofit, Synesis Alliance International. In their free time, they follow their four sons, Enn, 15; Gabe, 13; Emily, 11; and Ross, 10, to their various activities, including soccer, baseball, gymnastics, and more.

CHARITY HUGHES ’40 johnson works at Relativity Media and was promoted to manager of marketing and distribution finance, using skills she gained as a communication studies student at APU.

THOMAS MONSON ’60 uses his art degree as the gallery director at Postlethwaite in Bend, Oregon. Postleth House serves as a cooperative gallery, a studio space where artists and other creative professionals interested in fostering a vibrant and nurturing community can gather, teach, and learn from one another.

STEPHANIE (TAYLOR) 17 KOMASIN, a member of APU’s Japanese Christian Fellowship “Fridays,” co-president of the English Conversation Class, and intern for the American Language and Culture Institute (ALCI), realized her dream of moving to Japan as a homestay partner with her husband, Andres, in October 2012. In April 2013, she entered the Ph.D. program in the Department of Religion and Indian Philosophy at Hokkaido University to research three famous Japanese Christians of the 19th century. She teaches English part-time, daily marital encouragement via Facebook and Twitter feeds. RestorationCs.com.

July 2013). The book expands upon his other books, including his own website, AllGroanUp.com, and his own weekly column, 101 Secrets for Your Twenties.


Mary Anthony ’11 recently moved to New York City after accepting a position with Waterman Media Group, a prestigious sports agency. WMG is a sports marketing and management powerhouse, working with 1,200 professional athletes, brands, and corporate leaders worldwide.

S E P H E N T H O M P S O N, M.A. ’12, plants churches with TEAM in Bologna, Italy, and utilizes what he learned from the Organizational Leadership program in his ministry. Besides being the Bologna team leader, he was recently elected to be the TEAM ministry area leader for Italy. He credits his success to APU and the master’s program for the practical training he received.

Rachael ‘Morgan’ Woodman ’09 to Thomas Lazo on August 11, 2012, in Santa Clarita, California. Members of the wedding party included GRACE PADER ’10 and Ashley TRIPLETT ’10 SMS. The couple lives in Santa Clarita.

Stephanie Fritz ’10 to Ben Copeland on January 5, 2013, in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. Members of the wedding party included Emily BEATTY ’14 and LIGHT BROUHEVATTEN ’14 (attended 2006–07). Ben is a senator at Metropolis’s Little Italy Restaurant as well as a student at Trinity Christian College, studying church and leadership ministry. Stephanie works for a local hospital in the medical records department.

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Sisters, Science, and Salvation

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.” Sisters Mercy Prabhu Das ’82, Ph.D., a program officer for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, and Irene Prabhu Das ’86, Ph.D., M.P.H., an NIH health scientist, exemplify the power of a balanced approach that unites the efforts of science and theology and increases the impact of both. Their mother, a high school biology teacher, and father, a Methodist minister, fostered their daughters’ love for the sciences and commitment to Christ. “Our dad would say, ‘We may not have houses or land or money to leave you, but we give you Jesus, and He is all you need,’” said Irene.

The family’s answering faith led them from their native India when Mercy was 4 and Irene just 1 to Malaysia, where their father pastored an Indian church. Raised in both Malaysia and Singapore, and surrounded by the more culturally dominant religions of Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism, the young girls remained steadfast in their faith in Christ. “Our parents emphasized the importance of trusting and serving Jesus above all else,” said Irene.

In Singapore, the girls received a highly advanced education that prepared them for the rigors of college life. Although the sisters had never been to the United States, when Mercy investigated colleges, one option stood out among the rest—Azusa Pacific University, where Irene joined her four years later.

“The accessibility of professors mattered as a student new to the United States,” said Mercy. “Generally, teachers in the Asian cultures did not encourage student to teacher connections.” Both girls praise APU biology professor David Cherry, Ph.D., for his openness and support that instilled a way of learning that contributed to success in their graduate studies.

Cherry took a personal interest in his students, which created a stimulating atmosphere and a desire to learn.

After graduation, the sisters’ paths diverged as each set out to earn doctoral degrees, garner prestigious awards, and author numerous papers in their respective fields. Their familial bond, faith in God, and chosen careers in science and public health, reunited them six years ago at the NIH, one of the world’s foremost medical research centers and the primary U.S. government agency responsible for biomedical and health-related research.

Managing a portfolio of grants linked to the National Institutes of Health’s Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, Irene seeks to understand the organization of health care delivery to improve the quality of care to cancer patients. Specifically, she leads the evaluations of the NCI Community Cancer Centers Program, an initiative engaging community oncologists and hospitals to bring state-of-the-art and evidence-based cancer care into community settings where patients reside. “Prior to this program, cancer patients had limited options for quality cancer care and potentially ones far away from where they lived,” said Irene. “Making evidence-based cancer care more accessible and available within these targeted communities provides options for better, equitable care.”

The sisters call upon their education, experience, and faith to break down barriers and bring healing with the intent of fulfilling God’s calling on their lives. “I am a very small piece in the larger puzzle of improving human health,” said Mercy. “My responsibility is to do everything that is placed into my hands to the best of my ability as an offering to God, no matter how small or insignificant.” Irene mirrors her sister’s sentiments. “The Lord is my Boss, and He sets the standard of excellence for my work. My purpose where He’s placed me is to be His witness,” she said. “We aspire to live by Colossians 3:23: ‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters’ (NIV).”

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Georgeann Halburian Ikuma is a freelance writer living in the San Francisco Bay Area.

“I am a very small piece in the larger puzzle of improving human health.” Mercy Prabhu Das ’82
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10 LAUREN BELANGER ’11 to APU Life (ATTENDED 2008–12), and M.B.A. ’13 in Human Resources Management, both from Vanguard University. Lauren serves as the Women’s Ministry Director at Wadia Church in Alhambra, California. Members of the wedding party included BETHANY WEISS ’08, R.A. ’10 and JENNA COBB ’11 (ATTENDED 2008–12), NATALIE BARNABY ’12, MARISSA “ALLY” WILLIAMS ’11, MEGAN GOEAMAN ’11, JESSUP, JENNIFER WHITTEN ’10, ASHLEY TAYLOR ’11, DANA YOSHII ’12, ROBERT JAMES ’13, TROY BAUGH (ATTENDED 2007–09), and BOBBY RIDDLEJUNI ’11. (Baik and Atikson live in Greenville, West Indies, where he attends St. George’s University School of Medicine.)

11 DANIEL MATTSON ’12 to AYLISS SHAFFELL ’12 (February 17, 2013, in Christ Church, Alhambra. Daniel serves at Inland Hills Church as the fifth and sixth grade minister, while Atikson works at Lerner Hanes Center as a one-on-one aid. “He is very involved in their church worship team and loving life as parents.”)

12 ALLEN DUNAUD’92 and his wife, Janelle, a daughter, Ruth Grace, on September 7, 2012. Ruth, the couple’s eighth child, is her seventh adoptee, which include four adopted children and one foster child. Allen serves as a financial advisor in Loveland, Connecticut, but as a former pastor, views his position as a “marketplace missionary.”

13 GERARD “JERRY” GONZALEZ ’99 and his wife, Amanda, a son, Marco Felipe, on January 4, 2013.

14 JANELLE (FERGUSON ’06, M.A. ’09) and BLAINE (COBB ’06, M.A. ’09) are parents to their seven children, who all spend time in church, school, and community service. Although Ger is a former pastor, he now serves at First Baptist Church of Atlanta as a minister of multiplication and church planting. Janelle is an elementary school teacher at a charter school in Atlanta.

15 JEREMIAH SCULLY ’03 and his wife, COURTNEY (SIXY) BLAIR ’04, twin daughters, Ava Louise and Mia Jean, on April 9, 2013. The girls join brother Sawyer, 2. The family lives in Dallas.

16 KATIE LAYTON ’04 GRIFFITH and her husband, JOEL ’04, a son, Luke David, on December 25, 2011. Luke joins big brother, Cayden, 2. Joel is a solutions manager at Vitech Systems Group, and Katie works part time in human resources at Ingram Micro. They live in Huntington Beach. katiengriffith@hotmail.com

17 STEPHANIE (MCCOLL ’05) THOMPSON and her husband, JUDD ’05, a son, Asher James, on October 16, 2012. Judd is a senior counsel at Great-West Financial, and Stephanie is a freelance writer and editor. The family lives in Denver.

18 JACOB “COBA” CANALES ’06 and his wife, Andrea, a son, Joseph Daniel, on November 8, 2012. Cobas serves as one of the campus pastors at APU.

19 CATHERINE “LIZ” (WADE ’06) HENRICHS and her husband, NICHOLAS “NIC” ’06, a son, Graham David, on September 6, 2012. Nic works in commercial banking at Wells Fargo, and Liz works part time as a hair stylist. Both are very involved in their church, on the church staff and loving life as parents. Lizziehenrichs.com

20 CATHARINE “LIZ” (W ADE ’06) HENRICHS and her husband, NICHOLAS “NIC” ’06, a son, Graham David, on September 6, 2012. Nic works in commercial banking at Wells Fargo, and Liz works part time as a hair stylist. Both are very involved in their church, on the church staff and loving life as parents. Lizziehenrichs.com

21 ROBERT REYNOLDS (PACIFIC BIBLE COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT) ’1949–49) went home to be with the Lord May 19, 2013. Bob taught alongside his wife, WILDER R. REYNOLDS (PBC PROFESSOR 1949–83), mentor, BUEHL-CANDYS REYNOLDS (PBC PROFESSOR 1983–95), the mad hi, his wife, LOIS (SCOTT ’49), at PBC, and they married in 1949. Bob and Lois went on to be missionaries with Far East Broadcasting and served in many countries, including the USA, Philippines, China, and Japan. Bob also served in the U.S. Navy and was on Focus on the Family. He studied and loved history, engineering, and computers. His wife, son, SCOTT ’70, and his wife, LYNN (DEBEN ’78) ROBIN REYNOLDS ’73 BLAKE, and his husband, Stephen, and three grandchildren, STEPHANIE (REYNOLDS ’79) HATFIELD and her husband, Craig Jon Blake, and Rebecca Blake, surrives him.

22 DON GARTON ’54 passed away May 20, 2013. After graduating from Pacific Bible College, Don taught in the School of Music. Throughout his extensive career at APU, Don held numerous roles in administration, including dean of the School of Music, interim clerk of the School of Business and Management, assistant to the provost, and vice president of academic affairs. President Jon R. Wallace, DBA,summarized Don’s remarkable contribution this way: “He served the university with vision, commitment, and excellence. His legacy encompasses the many faculty, staff, alumni, and students who today stand on his shoulders. Others have built on his commitment to APU, we’ve matched it.” His wife, PAULINE (DILLER ’53) GARTON, and children, GLEN ’60, DONNA (GRANT ’62) SEDERSTROM, and CONNIE (GRANT ’63) FONTES, survives him. Cardi’s message may be sent to Pauline Grant at 1145 S. San Dimas Ave., Apt. 249, San Dimas, CA 91773.

23 DONALD CARY ’56, M.A. ’58, went to be with the Lord April 16, 2013. He was born in Lindsay, California, on November 5, 1932, to Leonard and Janie Cary, at age 10, he accepted Christ as his Savior at a Christian youth camp and the next day left for school to find his faith. In 1954, Don married RAMONA FOREEN (ATTENDED 1953–56) of Roseburg, Oregon. They had two children, Steven and Deanna. Ramona passed away in October 2002. Don was a pastor with the Christian and Missionary Alliance for more than 33 years. In 2005, Don married Sharon Pignotti of Las Vegas, and shortly after, they moved to Carson City, California. Children passed him in death: Sharon, granddaughter, Amy, and four great-grandchildren survive him.

24 ELVINDA “POOLIE REYES” DE GARMO (CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES PACIFIC COLLEGE—ATTENDED ’56) was born in 1936 in Whittier, California, passed away March 6, 2013. In 1960, she began teaching and married Tom De Garmo. In 1963, they moved to Berkeley, California. They had two daughters, Jeanette and Etolia. Etolia taught at Baptistie Unfied. During this time, she earned her Ph.D. in Education from University of California, Berkeley. She became a principal in Daly City. In 1980, she moved to San Diego, where she was a principal until retiring in 1995. Elvinda then taught inmates at the California Youth Authority in Whittier for more than 10 years. In 1985, Etolia married Mike Calden. The two were married for 20 years. She loved dancing, Latin music, cooking, and travel. Elvinda lived for her daughters and she adored her grandchildren, Malinda, Alexandria, David, and Natalie, and extended family.

25 VAN GERALD BYE, M.ED., ’78, passed away February 28, 2013. He was born March 4, 1949 to Gerald and Mildred Bye in Yorke, South Dakota. During his high school years, he and his parents moved to Anchorage. He played in the NBA during the early 1970s as well as professional leagues in Europe and in Mexico. He served as a head basketball coach at Bremers Springs High School and Eisenhower High School in the late 1970s. Throughout his years, he worked for Coca-Cola, L.A. Gear, Power Plus, and Apollo-Incos, while also coaching and refereeing youth and high school basketball. He married Carmyn Pough April 10, 2001, and the couple lives in Orlando.

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26 HEIDI (CHASE) WALKER, born May 16, 1965, to Dorothy and Robert Chase, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 47. Heidi was married to Bob for 14 years and was a devoted mother to Brennan, Emma, Griffin, and Cadie. Heidi leaves behind her husband, children, her mother, sister, and brother-in-law, as well as her husband, children, her mother, sister, and brother-in-law, as well as other in-law s and 24 nieces and nephews. Services were held April 15, 2013, at Christ Church of Oak Brook in Illinois. Heidi will be dearly missed.

Reverend SAMUEL L. GERACE, M.A. ’93, passed away March 5, 2013. Samuel was born in Baltimore in 1963 and spent his early years in Maryland and New York. Sam served as a music minister at Grace Bible Church in California and Smithsonian Baptist in
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CLASS NOTES
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New York. He then moved to Johnson City, Tennessee, where he became an ordained minister at Grace Covenant Church in 1994. He began his lifelong ministry with prisoners more than 20 years ago, which led to his creation of True to Life Ministries, a conservative, evangelical, Bible-based ministry focused on prisons and prisons throughout the United States. This ministry provides discipling through inductive and intense study of the Word of God, “The Meaning of Life” conferences in prisons, prayer and devotional programming, a re-entry and resettlement program, one-on-one counseling for inmates, ex-offenders, and free-world individuals, and meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of inmates. He leaves behind his parents, Mary and Samuel; sisters, Pam and Kat Walton (her husband, Bob); brother, John; and many nieces and nephews with whom he will reunite in glory one day.

Mark Christopher Aragon ’98 passed away March 5, 2013. Born August 29, 1976, the first child of Gene and Tricia Aragon, Mark was an accomplished musician who began playing drums as a toddler on Tupperware before upgrading to a Muppet drum set at 5 and eventually graduating to a full drum set at 10. At Rowland High School, he served as a drum line captain and won the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, given annually to the top jazz musician at the school. While at APU, Mark was an integral part of the School of Music as a member of numerous choirs, bands, orchestras, and small groups. After graduating, he went on to teach private drum lessons. He also served as music director and technical director at various churches throughout Southern California before finally becoming event coordinator at Christ’s Church of the Valley. On August 9, 2008, Mark married Ann Meiners ’04 in Sierra Madre. Some of their favorite pastimes included dancing the Lindy Hop and cheering for the Angels. In his spare time, he loved leading the Average Jazz Band. It was his passion to serve people through music and mentoring, and his heart for worship was evident to everyone who crossed his path. His wife and parents; sister, Theresa (Aragon ’99), and brother-in-law, Micaiah McDaniel ’99; sister Jessica (Aragon ’03), and brother-in-law Cameron Cisneros; grandfather, Frank Aragon; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Dave and Vicki Meiners; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Heather and Eric Petersen, survive him.

Mark Christopher Aragon ’98

March 5, 2013

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

“Academic Excellence in a Christian Atmosphere” remains a clear goal from Azusa Pacific University’s inception to this day. Evidence throughout APU’s history points to this long-standing commitment, including published books, scholarly research, participation in professional conferences, and enthusiastic involvement in the academy at large. Faculty member George Asbury McLaughlin modeled what has become an APU hallmark of faculty engagement, authoring numerous books from the 1900s through the 1920s. Over the years, many others followed, including two dozen faculty members who signed their recently published books at the APU Faculty Book Signing on March 8, 2013, coordinated by the Office of Research and the University Bookstore. To facilitate this level of scholarship, numerous faculty members have procured external research grants, including Felicitas dela Cruz, DNSc, FAANP, RN, who has secured grants totaling more than $5 million over the course of almost 30 years, enabling rigorous research in nursing fields such as home health. Campuswide, APU has received more than $3 million in external grant funding in the past year alone. These resources and the support of the administration advance academic excellence and provide students and faculty with a competitive edge in their fields, bolstering their ability to earn coveted academic scholarships and fellowships. As a result, APU proudly claims 9 faculty and 27 student Fulbright scholars among its ranks. Echoing that commitment, this year’s Faculty Development Day Symposium—Pursuing a Culture of Academic Excellence—focused on advancing the long heritage of God-honoring academic excellence.

Ken Otto, MLIS, associate professor, Special Collections librarian
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