A Man after God’s Heart
Matthews Chacko ’93, MD
2013 Alumnus of the Year
I collect—old bits here and valuable pieces there. Each holds a story. A curious visitor to my office could be engaged for hours with the narrative on each unique item. One of my favorites comes from a close friend who knew of my deep appreciation for the hymn “Be Thou My Vision.” The framed words to the hymn, set against a watercolor backdrop, showcase the beautiful calligraphy of Timothy R. Bots. I am confident my friend gave me this wonderful piece of art as a reminder of God’s call on my life as a servant leader—a reminder that my vision stems from Him, and my citizenship belongs first to His Kingdom.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. This my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping. Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord, Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, My Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won; May I reach Heaven’s joys, O bright Heaven’s Sun!

I love this story and the old poem, refurbished as a dynamic hymn. St. Patrick’s history meshed with the Spring Equinox. When St. Patrick placed a candle in his window to commemorate the resurrection of Christ, His light pierced the darkness of the night.

This hymn originated as an ancient Irish poem penned in the sixth century by Dallace Fugall to honor the missionary work of St. Patrick more than 100 years earlier. While visiting County Meath in 433 AD, St. Patrick defined an order given by High King Laoghaire to refrain from lighting a bonfire until the Spring Equinox. When St. Patrick placed a candle in his window to commemorate the resurrection of Christ, He put himself in grave danger. The king, impressed with St. Patrick’s courage and devotion to his faith, spared his life, allowing Patrick to continue his missionary work throughout Ireland. That last line of the hymn perfectly captures Patrick’s decision to place the authority of High King Laoghaire under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. History records that this first missionary effort to Ireland resulted in the establishment of more than 300 churches and 100,000 baptisms.

This hymn is a reminder of God’s light shining through a window, as we continue to shine the light of Christ to all through our work throughout Ireland.

“My vision is His vision. My heart is His heart. His light is my light. I become a servant leader—a reminder of my call on my life as a servant leader—a reminder that my vision stems from Him, and my citizenship belongs first to His Kingdom.”

Our President’s Letter

This is a Kingdom where all are treated with grace, love, acceptance, and equality, regardless of gender, ethnicity, social status, wealth, or power.
The Saint John’s Bible, the first hand-illuminated Bible in more than 500 years, comprises seven volumes designed by Donald Jackson, scribe to the Queen of England, commissioned by the Benedictine monks at Saint John’s Abbey. Gospels & Acts and the Pentateuch, two volumes from The Heritage Edition, a facsimile of the original, can be viewed in the Hugh and Hazel Darling Library through May 31, 2014. These resources, available for classroom use, study, tours, spiritual renewal, and special events, allow visitors and scholars to investigate how the volumes reflect APU’s institutional mission, support academic scholarship, and ignite the spiritual imagination. Learn more at apusaintjohns.wordpress.com.
Azusa Pacific University ranks among National’s Top Colleges

Azusa Pacific earned a place in the National Universities category in U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 rankings, as well as in the “Best Western Colleges” section sponsored by the University Libraries and compiled by Liz Leahy, MLS, MAT, professor of theological bibliography and research. Bob@apu.edu

Opening

Reading Recommendations from Kimberly B.W. Denu

Kimberly B.W. Denu, Ph.D., is a professor of social work and social work advisor at the Azusa Pacific University School of Social Work. She is an accomplished scholar and author with multiple publications and presentations to her credit. In this role, she has a passion for engaging students in critical thinking and furthering their understanding of the social justice framework.

Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead by Sheryl Sandberg (Knopf, 2013)

No Future Without Forgiveness by Robert June (University of Notre Dame Press, 2007)

Race Matters by Cornel West (1994)


Suggested books for students earned a place in the National Universities category in U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 rankings, as well as in the “Best Western Colleges” section sponsored by the University Libraries and compiled by Liz Leahy, MLS, MAT, professor of theological bibliography and research. Bob@apu.edu

candidate feedback from surveys administered to first-year students during the school year. The surveys contain more than 80 questions, from “How many years of college do you spend studying each day?” to “How do you rate your campus food?” Some open-ended questions offer the opportunity to provide narrative responses.

“These rankings speak to the caliber of our professors and the outstanding outcomes for traditional students, transfer students, graduate students, and online students,” said Mark Stuken, provost and chief academic officer. “The recognition attests to the fact that our education provides students of all ages and backgrounds a solid foundation and the tools needed to be competitive in the global marketplace. As important, our graduates place value in community, becoming the type of person you want to call neighbor, colleague, and friend.”

Sicma Delta Pi Chapter Earns Top Honors

The National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society awarded APU’s Pi Ocius Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi the Ignaica and Sofia Galbal Award, presented annually to the most outstanding chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. As the National Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi’s mission is to promote excellence in the study of Spanish, including a third-year course in Hispanic literature, Hispanic culture and civilization, possess an average grade of 8 or better in all Spanish coursework, and rank in the upper 15 percent of the university of the country,” said Juan, whose three years of research focused on privatization, development, and policies of Cambodia’s higher education system. Author of multiple scholarly works, including Finalizing their two-week study tour of Israel and can extend their stay to participate in the dig, joining Mullins; his co-director, Nava Panitz-Cohen, Ph.D., from the Institute of Archaeological Sciences at Hebrew University; and their prestigious team specifically a siege ramp (the Assyrian army has never found in the site) in 732 BC, as recounted in 2 Kings 19:29, and a city gate complete with a “mamillatus”—a fortress wall designed to protect by itself. In 82 minutes or less. In addition to the TEDx talks, the theme of the event is “Big Ideas in 18 minutes or less.”

Excavation Unearths Ancient Treasure

A woman carefully wraps her precious silver jewelry in plant leaves to protect it, and then hides her treasure in a clay jug for safekeeping before facing the city, never to return. More than 3,000 years later, a team of archaeologists led by Robert Mullins, Ph.D., associate professor of biblical studies, discovers the city and the jug and silver hoard were found, and “Area A,” which led to an invitation from the National Geographic Society.

Excavating the 35-act is labor intensive and costly, so Mullins carefully considers each season. In the winter, a surveying crew maps the city site, and in the summer, a full-scale dig will test areas of interest, focusing on the northwest corner of the mound and the presumed gate area of the city. Mullins hopes that sound waves will reveal the existence of large structures, of archaeologists and scholars from partner schools, including Cornell University, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and Indiana Wesleyan University.

The Abel Beth Maacah excavation project will create job opportunities for students to work alongside renowned international experts as they uncover pieces of ancient history that the Bible comes to life. It was an honor to speak in the community of the successful community of researchers, educators, and audiences. TEED talks spark deep discussion and connection in smaller groups at more intimate venues, said Juan.

Continuing his research of higher education in Asia, Jun found that the ethnographic effects of the 1975–79 Khmer Rouge rule on higher education—the solution to this problem is to present their thoughts, theories, and findings in 18 minutes or less. In order to avoid the temptation of passing on the burden of critical thinking, we must have a self-reflective and critical approach to knowledge. The goal is to develop a “critical thinking” curriculum that combines traditional and modern teaching methods. The result is a “design thinking” approach that integrates critical thinking and creativity. Students are encouraged to think outside the box and develop innovative solutions to complex problems.

In Area A, for example, we immediately hit houses from the time of Judges. In “Area A,” a jar of that silver and gold have been excavated, and it is the most unexpected find in the site. Mullins found that the silver and gold were treasured in Pathum Wan, Bangkok, the event gathers 25 other speakers representing eight other countries and regions, and 150 people interested in the field. The event will be held online from June 26 to 29, and the event will be held online from June 26 to 29, and the event is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the American Schools of Oriental Research.

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Ron Howard Film Contest Brings Students and Alumni Success

A short film created by APU students and alumni from the Department of Cinematic Arts garnered national recognition as a top-20 finalist for the Canon USA “Project Imaginat3d” contest. This content, developed and judged by industry professionals and other APU students, was one of the few student films selected.

Students and Alumni Success Contestants submitted their films June 4-23, 2013, to a panel of judges that selected the 20 films with the best overall technical quality, originality, and use of imagination and inspiration. The Howard then selected the final five on September 6, 2013, and presented them, along with five celebrity-directed short films, as part of Canon’s “A Ron Howard Presentation” last fall.

Director Stephani Radulski ’14, a director of photography; John Stollman ’13, a director; Brian Sibert ’13, a sound designer; Corey Bowers ’14, a producer; Michael S. Yang ’14, a director; and Shana Watson ’14, a prop designer, constituted the student crew.

The storyline centers on the main character’s fear of Y2K triggering the end of the world and the choice he must make to either welcome the new millennium from the security of his basement or risk his life to attend a New Year’s Eve party with the girls he loves.

“The cinematic arts program prepared us to make this film,” said Radulski. “We used all of the tools we learned from class. Filmmaking serves as a collaborative art form, and the amazing APU crew is responsible for this project’s success.”

“ Howard gave high praise to those who came close. “We were blown away and humbled by the quality of films,” he said. His daughter concurred, adding, “This entry continues to prove that creativity and collaboration generate endless possibilities that mark the state of our times.”

In determining their film to produce, the6 project’s producer, Jeff Holmes ’14, a writer, director, and his sister, Sage Blain, who served as director, traveled with a crew of nine APU students and alumni to Northern California for three intense days of filming. Holmes’ childhood hometown, just outside of Oakland, served as the film’s backdrop.

The film’s storyline revolves around a character named Y2K, who is driven by his fear of the millennium’s impact on his life, his relationships, and the world in general. As he struggles with the decision of whether to welcome the new millennium or risk his life to attend a New Year’s Eve party, he must confront his fears and make a choice.

APU State Board of Education President Michael C. Smith, MFA, Ed.D., Director of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Cinematic Arts Production program, “APU students consistently prove their abilities in professional venues, while working alongside each other to tell great stories. We’re proud of their efforts.”

The professional recognition our education students and faculty, and this honor distinguishes APU as a leader in civic engagement and service-learning, demonstrating the university’s commitment to building community partnerships, strengthening neighborhoods, and fulfilling a mission of service as a Christian university.

Dean Selected for New College of Music and the Arts APU established the College of Music and the Arts (CMa) in 2010, a comprehensive music major to encompass the full range of musical performance, creation, and education.”

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, takes on the role of APU President and Dean appointed director, Kent Bechler, Ph.D., and K-12 administrators, and SOE faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Held September 29, 2013, in partnership with the Azusa Unified School District, the lecture and subsequent discussion provided an overview of the educational reforms under way in elementary public education, focusing on topics such as implementation of the Common Core State Standards, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, and the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), State Board of Education issues, and faculty needs.

A professor emeritus of education and business administration at Stanford University, and two-time president of the California State Board of Education, Kirsch stands uniquely qualified to assist in sharing the stories of overall education and educational achievement as a testament that all things are possible in God.”

To view Jun’s TEDx talk, visit tyuwl.com/09713/.

Year in Review: 2012–13

WASC Grants APU Reaccreditation APU received official notification of a nine-year WASC reaccreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) on March 11, 2013. The WASC committee, responsible for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of colleges and universities, carefully examined policies, programs, and procedures, and confirmed that APU remains committed to its core values: Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service.

APU 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 for APU one of only four schools in California to receive this national award five times. The highest federal recognition of university service efforts, this honor distinguishes three of the four categories: community engagement and service-learning, demonstrating the university’s commitment to building community partnerships, strengthening neighborhoods, and fulfilling a mission of service as a Christian university.

Honor College Established and Dean Appointed The Honors College offers an academically enriched degree plan for exceptionally talented and motivated students who seek a rigorous curriculum grounded in a Christian worldview, and programs and courses that stretch beyond the standard requirements. David L. Wicks, Ph.D., former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, takes on the role of director of the new Honors College, drawing upon his depth and breadth of experience to usher in a new dimension of academic excellence.

APU Named an Overperforming College by U.S. News & World Report This year, U.S. News & World Report published an analysis of colleges in the National Universities category, classifying them as overperforming or underperforming compared to their undergraduate academic reputation. The first analysis of its kind, APU University ranked in the top 15 of overperforming colleges in the nation. Schools were based on academic reputation, admissions selectivity, financial and faculty resources, alumni giving, and retention rates.

Chamber Singers Win Worldwide Choral Competition The APU Chamber Singers, 1 of 10 groups selected to participate, became only the third U.S. choir to win in competition history, the only choir from the Western Hemisphere included this year, and the first ever from a Council for Christian Colleges & Universities school to compete.

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By the Numbers

APU's ranking among the healthiest colleges in the United States, according to The Daily Beast, a leading news site that attracts more than 15 million new visitors a month. This designation, based on publicly available data pertaining to drug and alcohol use, as well as nutritious on-campus dining options, distinguishes APU as a safe and healthy environment that facilitates scholarship and promotes holistic well-being.

The number of APU students who earned awards from the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program (GMSF), covering tuition and other college expenses from freshman year through graduation. Recipients include Marcela Aguilera, Karen Beckers, Nicole Johnny, Kerry O'Neill, Swan Ortiz, and Esteban Salcido. GMSF is the largest minority scholarship program in the U.S., helps students pursue an undergraduate degree at their school of choice, and provides unprecedented educational and professional development opportunities, offering professional development opportunities, and working collaboratively to significantly improve the educational and professional development opportunities.

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Student Center for Reconciliation and Diversity Celebrated

As APU’s Student body evolves and matures, this momentum by hosting and sponsoring partnership activities throughout the year, discussing creative solutions, offering professional development opportunities, and working collaboratively to significantly improve the educational and professional development opportunities.

This expanded vision and focused approach signal an important shift toward addressing the deep issues inherent in culturally diverse communities and facilitating the informed, compassionate dialogue that fosters true reconciliation. "As SCRIST strives to shape a campus environment in which all of our students can thrive, staff and faculty will identify obstacles that prohibit the success of underrepresented students, and develop solutions such as interventions and remediation based on empirical data," said Barron. "With the help of the Offices of Institutional Research and Assessment, and Diversity, SCRIST plans to create a comprehensive set of measures that, over time, will aid in new efforts and monitor our success."

"This will change and impact our campus on a large scale, but in a simple way," said Norris Spangler ’14, undergraduate intern for SCRIST. "The center will bring students from different backgrounds together, collaborating with one another in a Kingdom-minded work." The new center draws together interdisciplinary personnel and departments working toward the common goals of biblical reconciliation and God-honoring diversity—structural, interpersonal, and curricular. Through these efforts, SCRIST aims to educate the educational experience by embedding a transformative theological knowledge of worldviews and cultures that leads to healing reconciliation, genuine relationships, and improved learning outcomes. "As students become culturally competent while they are studying new components that increase the overall college experience of our undergraduate students," said SCRIST’s co-director Ed Barron, executive director of SCRIST. "The center will work in an interconnected fashion with various offices and academic departments to increase cultural awareness and competency, regulation and graduation rates, early immersion and interventions initiatives, as well as various campus clubs and organizations."

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Years in a row APU has been named a Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs magazine. This places the university in the nation's top 20 percent of schools honored for providing military students with quality educational opportunities, discounts, scholarships, clubs, networking, and staff support. APU serves selected students will engage in a six-week symposium, three one-on-one discussions, and undertaking new free-enterprise-promotion initiatives. For APU, the funds facilitate a six-week faculty-student reading seminar on free enterprise. Free professors and selected students will engage in a six-week seminar on business, economics, and three group discussions. Selected readings include The Poverty of Nations: A Sustainable Solution by Barry Bosin and Wayne Grudem; From Prophecy to Charity: How to Help Peace by Lawrence M. Mood, and Home Economics. The Consequences of Changing Family Structure by Nick Schulte.

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Community—A Call to Live a Worthy Life

The tradition of selecting a university passage, begun in 2007, now serves as a powerful reminder of our Shared Vision 2022—a vision that emphasizes the centrality of Christ and the authority of Scripture in our mission and purpose. The process knits together members of our community from different parts of the university, all committed to seeking God and hearing, studying, and responding to His Word. The passage serves to guide and inform large events and small-group conversations throughout the year and shapes the environment of our work together. While not required, hundreds of faculty and staff members integrate the passage into their daily routines. Professors discuss it in their classrooms, supervisors lead devotions with their groups, and participants are encouraged to engage with the assignment during their personal study. The selected Scripture enriches our gatherings and becomes a point of reflection and dialogue that brings a thread of harmony, focus, and calling to the APU community. This year, Ephesians 4 permeates our thinking and life together, especially when framed in the university’s Cornerstone of Community. Paul emphasizes our calling in Christ and gives particular prominence to the relationship between calling and community: “Lead a life worthy of the calling... making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit.”

But what is calling?

Calling is confirmed by character (verses 1–3). Paul calls upon individual members of the Church to cultivate a certain kind of character. His points out the inextricable link between outward behavior and heart transformation in forming character: while upholding heart transformation as primary, calling is critical for community (verses 1–4). Unity of the Christian community depends on the fulfillment of our calling. They are inseparable. While fulfillment of calling carries personal significance, its impact extends far beyond the individual.

Calling is given by grace (verse 5). People frequently contrast commands with summons. But we are not the same, especially when it comes to calling. God has given to each of us a different measure of grace. Not that God has given some people more grace than others. Paul means that grace unfolds itself differently in each of us.

Calling is expressed in conduct (verses 17–19). Paul cares about behavior, and he does not distinguish between public and private actions. He does not compromise on the role of behavior in calling. He allows for no legitimate calling apart from a godly lifestyle.

Calling is anchored in Christ (verses 21–24). Paul says that in Christ, we are called to put away our old selves and become clothed with the new self. Jesus Christ is the example of “true righteousness and holiness.” Fulfillment of our calling requires us to keep our eyes on Christ as the model.

Given these truths, how then do we “live a life worthy of the calling we have received?” Some say they are “called” to be a missionary or “called” to be a teacher. In reality, calling encompasses inner character and an outer lifestyle that transcend the mere tasks and duties of any particular job.

Ephesians 4 should move us beyond measuring our competence compared to others. Becoming increasingly like Christ is the only goal. For students and alumni, it means that mastering skills in the classroom and earning a degree just to spend a life in pursuit of greater competence to earn a bigger paycheck falls flat and fails to satisfy. Those activities, apart from a deep character formed in the likeness of Christ, are empty.

Our hope for all APU graduates is that they will go beyond what they know—go beyond competence—and discover what it means to live in a way that is worthy of God’s call, worthy of the deep work of grace. Leading a life worthy of God’s calling means caring less about what we do and more about how and why we do it. Paul longs for us to be godly, competent leaders who foster unity and wholeness as we extend His work in the world.

Often, we place value on our vocation based upon the outcome—how well we perform, how much we give, how impactful we are. But when Paul anchors it in Christ, the value of what we do is no longer based upon the outcome but rather the Caller.

What you do is valuable because of the One who called you to do it.

As we anticipate the New Year, we open ourselves to the influence of this passage with the prayer that God will form in us as a community a clearer reflection of Himself as well as a deeper understanding of His call upon each one of us as Kingdom people. Would you join us in this hope? As we embark on this openhearted search, would you embrace the call to be worthy in your own vocation through godly character and competent activities? May God’s grace weave our hearts together as we answer His call!

by Jon R. Wallace, Kevin W. Manneois, and Kenneth Waters Sr.

Jon R. Wallace, DBA, is president of Azusa Pacific University. Kevin W. Manneois, Ph.D., is faculty, staff, and graduate student chaplain. Kenneth Waters Sr., Ph.D., is associate dean of the School of Theology. jwallace@apu.edu, kmanneois@apu.edu, kwaters@apu.edu.
Against All Odds

For some, the experience of higher education ignites a passion for learning, exchanging ideas, and engaging in meaningful research that reaches beyond graduation and beyond borders. Recognizing the best and the brightest among them, the Fulbright Scholarship program identifies those with the most to offer and the most to gain in an international exchange that promotes mutual understanding among the people of the United States and other countries. But intense competition and a daunting application procedure deter many candidates from even considering the possibility, knowing the rate of rejected proposals sets the odds against them.

by Diane J. Guido

In the course of more than a decade serving as the Fulbright Program advisor at APU, I have worked with 182 outstanding students and alumni—producing their best possible application as we pore over syllabus and brainstorm scenarios. Our 2013–14 Fulbright recipients’ plans represent just a small sampling of the possibilities: studying deaf theater in Italy, conducting theological research in Brazil, teaching English in Japan, or Turkey. We also explore the deeper motives for the time abroad and how that experience might shape their future educational and employment choices. Sophisticated applications equally address not only the applicant’s skill to carry out the project, but also why the project itself matters, how they will contribute to their newfound community abroad, and how they will share knowledge and insights upon return to the U.S.

One of the most intriguing facets of this competition is its unpredictability. The published odds and APU’s track record tell only part of the story. Sometimes funding goes to long shots, and there is no such thing as a “shoe-in.” For example, an international relations major who had never been out of the country inspired the evaluators with her stirring essay. She was selected and has now completed a master’s degree abroad. Another example is the senior who related recollections of her grandfather’s wartime experiences to memories of a childhood friend to articulate her long-standing interest in the people and nation of South Korea. Her successful application allowed her to teach English there and witness firsthand what she had only viewed through others’ eyes. Applicants who can set themselves apart through their passion for the project, their aptitude for writing, and their dedication to the project’s success have the best chance of gaining approval.

In my role, I help applicants—undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni—produce their best possible application as we pore over syllabus and brainstorm scenarios. Our 2013–14 Fulbright recipients’ plans represent just a small sampling of the possibilities: studying deaf theater in Italy, conducting theological research in Brazil, teaching English in Japan, or Turkey. We also explore the deeper motives for the time abroad and how that experience might shape their future educational and employment choices. Sophisticated applications equally address not only the applicant’s skill to carry out the project, but also why the project itself matters, how they will contribute to their newfound community abroad, and how they will share knowledge and insights upon return to the U.S.

I assist the candidates by reading multiple versions of the two required essays. This is the stage where students become powerful and persuasive writers fueled by a certain vision. Those eager for additional feedback and refinement can attend application workshops where faculty members suggest edits and prompt revisions. I also help students prepare for their on-campus interviews, where an internal faculty committee evaluates the application prior to the national deadline in October.

One of the most intriguing facets of this competition is its unpredictability. The published odds and APU’s track record tell only part of the story. Sometimes funding goes to long shots, and there is no such thing as a “shoe-in.” For example, an international relations major who had never been out of the country inspired the evaluators with her stirring essay. She was selected and has now completed a master’s degree abroad. Another example is the senior who related recollections of her grandfather’s wartime experiences to memories of a childhood friend to articulate her long-standing interest in the people and nation of South Korea. Her successful application allowed her to teach English there and witness firsthand what she had only viewed through others’ eyes. Applicants who can set themselves apart through their passion for the project, their aptitude for writing, and their dedication to the project’s success have the best chance of gaining approval.

My enthusiasm for assisting these capable students stems from my personal experience as a Fulbright recipient. An award to Germany in 1989–90 not only allowed me to undertake my dissertation research and engage in academic life overseas, but it also afforded me a front-row seat to the remarkable political and social events of that time, including the fall of the Berlin Wall and the beginning of German reunification. It left an indelible mark on me and gave me a passion to facilitate similar experiences for others. Evidence shows that Azusa Pacific University provides students and alumni with the kind of top-notch educational foundation that enables them to excel in the renowned Fulbright Scholarship competition and become global citizens prepared to serve the Kingdom in ways that maximize their gifts.

Diane J. Guido, Ph.D., is vice provost for academic affairs, integrity officer, and professor of history. dguido@apu.edu
Joy-filled

In less than a minute, Richard Pineda ’10 noticed the difference.

On the first day of his senior seminar class, team-taught by APU President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, the other professor stopped by his desk. “She asked how I was. When I said, ‘Pretty good,’ she responded, ‘Just pretty good? Let’s see how we can fix that!’ I had answered that way hundreds of times—she was the first to think ‘pretty good wasn’t good enough.’”

Pineda quickly discovered that this was not a fluke. Every interaction with the vivacious Peggy Campbell, then member and current chair of APU’s Board of Trustees, reflects a Colossians 1:10 approach to life and commitment to APU students. Over that semester, she pulled him aside, met with him over meals, and helped him explore his life goals. “That first conversation displayed Peggy’s heart. She cares deeply and wants everyone to experience joy,” said Pineda. Four years later, the two still meet.

Campbell, who made APU history in 2012 with her appointment as the school’s first female board chair, exemplifies how the investment of time, financial resources, and emotional energy into APU can reap bountiful rewards. Her relationship with APU began eight years ago when she and her husband, Jon, who together operated Irvine-based Ambassador Advertising Agency, hired two APU graduates. “They were professionally proficient and spiritually deep,” Campbell explained. “We decided we should learn more about Azusa Pacific University.”

After their initial financial gift to APU in 2003, the Campbells developed a strong relationship with the APU community and immersed themselves in its culture. “We found spiritual sparkle and an effervescent spirit that captured our hearts,” she said. Their involvement broadened, when Jon served on the APU board for a short time before losing his battle with esophageal cancer in 2005. “I didn’t expect to find spiritual sparkle and an effervescent spirit that captured our hearts,” she said. “She reacts to pain with open arms, refusing to let it stop her from loving people and serving the Lord. Her incredible testimony is applicable to my own life.”

APU staff member Philip Brazell ’88, who met Peggy in 2007 while serving as APU’s student body president, observed that Campbell’s compassion guides her everyday actions. “She’s an incredible leader,” he said. “She remembers everyone’s name, and takes time to ask about each person’s story. She urges students not to take their lives or their time for granted, but rather to discover their calling.”

When giving financially, Campbell follows her own calling. Students are my heart. I support scholarships, missions trips, and projects like building a student union for commuters because of the direct impact on students’ lives. I believe we are commanded to give from the wealth we’ve been given. For some, that means time. For others, it means money. For others, it means focused prayer. For me, it’s all three. We all want to know that our life has somehow made a difference, and that’s what I see at APU. I see that the next generation is passionate about Christ, and the world is going to hear about Him and be transformed because of that message. That is such a powerful reality—it’s impossible not to be enthusiastic about the privilege of giving.”

Connecting with students energizes Campbell.

“So that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”

COLLOSANS 1:10 (NIV)

Jacova Snyder ’16 met Campbell as a prospective student when they sat together at a banquet. “She was warm and interested, and followed up to learn if I had chosen to attend APU. Ever since, she’s been a dear friend who speaks into my life.”

“Peggy has the biggest heart and a bubbling personality,” said Elisa Morales ’12, who also took part in Campbell’s senior seminar course. “She read our weekly journals and responded with sincerity—in notes, in person, and even now, two years later. Once you cross paths with Peggy, she will always care for and invest in you.”

Campbell emphasizes, though, that these interactions enrich her life, too. “Getting to know APU students and watch their lives flourish feeds my soul,” said Campbell. “This is a place where we equip young adults to lead a life worthy of their calling. It’s a treasure for any donor to know that any gift will have a lasting impact. The scholarship in Jon’s name assists students who exhibit his core values—servant leadership. The fund gives me the chance to pass the baton in his honor to men and women who will make a difference in the Kingdom.”

This attitude provides a striking example for her students. “Peggy has said, ‘I don’t understand why Jon is gone now, but I don’t want to miss what God has for me in this season,’” said Snyder. “She reacts to pain with open arms, refusing to let it stop her from loving people and serving the Lord. Her incredible testimony is applicable to my own life.”

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Jacova Snyder ’16 is a freelance writer, search engine optimizer, and marketing consultant in Reedley, California. jacovasnyder@gmail.com

Joy-filled

by Caitlin Gipson
FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013

Investing in Our Mission

Total Giving

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

University Fund Giving

The University Fund supports student scholarships, faculty positions, academic and student life programs, and technology advancements.

Total Giving by Constituency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Total Giving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$713,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches/Organizations</td>
<td>$547,103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$1,522,388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff</td>
<td>$143,919</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$3,119,203</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>$989,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>$818,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>$816,273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Giving: $8,670,283

Growing our base of support
20% increase in donors in 3 years
25% increase in gifts in 3 years

University Fund Giving by Constituency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Total Giving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$326,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>Churches/Organizations</td>
<td>$175,362</td>
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<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$110,515</td>
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<td>Faculty/Staff</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Friends</td>
<td>$282,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>$223,452</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>$324,529</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Giving: $2,060,786

Growing our base of support
13% increase in donors in 3 years
35% increase in gifts in 3 years

Stewarding Our Resources

Selected financial numbers/Operating Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 (unaudited)

Revenue Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$239,490,247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Services</td>
<td>$34,399,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$3,389,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income and Gains</td>
<td>$2,691,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Gifts and Grants</td>
<td>$2,637,107</td>
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Total Revenue: $279,452,243

84.6%

Expenditure Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction and Academic Support</td>
<td>$105,600,311</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Support</td>
<td>$64,500,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships/Financial Aid</td>
<td>$57,700,206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>$29,358,413</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Services</td>
<td>$18,991,252</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Expenditure: $276,116,956

Assisting Our Students

Institutional Scholarships and Grants
$57,485,176

Federal and State Scholarships and Grants
$20,544,209

Percent of Undergraduate Students Receiving Any Form of Institutional or Need-based Financial Aid
92%

Freshman Retention
83%

Summary

Total Assets
$352,712,643

Total Debt
$131,441,000

Debt-to-Asset Ratio
37%

Endowment Balance
$52,726,688

Five-year Growth
42%
University Snapshot

Total Students 10,221
Men 56%
Women 44%

Student-to-Faculty Ratio 12 to 1

Total Faculty 1,220

Total Endowment $827

Student Enrollment
Men 34%
Women 66%
Undergraduate 60%
Graduate 40%

Tuition $30,236
Average GPA for Incoming Freshmen 3.61
Average SAT for Incoming Freshmen 1,093

Corporate Matching Gifts and Government Grants

Two hundred individuals multiplied their personal donations by participating in their employers’ matching gift program, resulting in $121,781, a 22% increase in one year in corporate matching funds from 98 companies (a 19% increase in one year). Additionally, Azusa Pacific University and its foundation were awarded $1,956,731 in government grants.

Gift and Estate Planning

APU provides professional services to help individuals make informed decisions regarding their current and future estate plans, while also facilitating investment in our mission. Over time, these generous gifts have helped build today’s endowment to nearly $53 million. In 2012–13, APU received $365,944 through gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, matured bequests, and other gift-planning vehicles.

Business/Corporate Support

$2,500 and more

Ambassador Advertising Agency $1,000
America’s Christian Credit Union $2,500
Amore Motors, Inc. $1,000
Compass Films, Inc. $1,000
Computational Health, Inc. $1,000
Doug Oliver, Inc. $1,000
Evangelical Christian Credit Union $1,000
Felix Event Center $1,000
God First $1,000
Greater Los Angeles Community Foundation $1,000
Grundy Insurance Services, Inc. $1,000
Husqvarna Construction Products, Inc. $1,000
In-N-Out Burger $1,000
Larry L. Smith Ranch $1,000
Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital $1,000
Robert A. Parris $1,000
South Bay BMW $1,000
Target Corporation $1,000
Visiting Angels $1,000
West Coast Sand and Gravel $1,000

Of the 88 companies whose employees took part in their company’s matching gift program, 88 companies donated a total of $121,781, a 22% increase in one year in corporate matching funds from 98 companies (a 19% increase in one year). Additionally, Azusa Pacific University and its foundation were awarded $1,956,731 in government grants.

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Raleigh Washington, D.D.
Nick Yarborough, MD, MPH

Current as of November 2013

“And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” Galatians 6:9–10 (NAS)

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, urging them to join in doing good, he used the Greek word agape, an adjective that translates to upright or honorable. Throughout the centuries, many theologians, church leaders, and lay Christians have used Paul’s words to encourage believers to aid those in need, give resources to those who teach and communicate the Word, support the Church, and reflect Christ in thought and action. Henry and Betty Jo Botzbach embrace them all. Since they married 60 years ago, doing good simply became a way of life for the couple. Physically caring for others came as a natural outgrowth of their occupations. Henry, a retired surgeon, and Betty Jo, a former registered nurse, spent their careers helping patients. However, their propensity to do the right thing reaches far beyond vocation. From raising their children in a Christ-centered home to serving in their church, supporting Azusa Pacific University, and immersing themselves in the purpose and practices of Christian education, the Botzbachs exemplify Paul’s call.

They first connected with APU in 1971 when Bob Wright, Ph.D., a professor of anatomy and Henry’s colleague, invited them to Dinner Rally, the university’s annual scholarship fundraiser, to listen to a presentation by then-President Cornelius J. Haggard, Th.D. Inspired by his message and the university’s philosophy, the couple visited the campus again the following year with their college-bound daughter. Betty Jo surprised her family by enrolling in classes herself. “I was so impressed with everyone I met at APU that I ended up a student and earned my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology,” said Betty Jo, a then-40-year-old nurse and mother of three.

“The worship during chapel, the school’s atmosphere, and the God First motto enriched my spiritual life. I also recognized the professors’ sincere interest in their students, and my husband and I were both impressed by the vibrant intellectual community and academic excellence,” said Betty Jo. “Soon, we began looking for ways to give back.” One of the most significant ways we way to serving on the Board of Trustees. “It was evident as we discussed college business that God was the Overser and Guide, determining what was best for our students,” she said. “We focused on our potential knowledge, attitudes, values, and skills, praying that each student would practice their profession by helping to spread the Gospel and Christian principles.”

It became clear to the Botzbachs that APU also embodied the essence of Paul’s message to the Galatians. “At APU, the mind, body, and spirit are given compassionate consideration, allowing students to grow in their character and deepen their faith as well as excel academically,” said Betty Jo. Beyond the gift of service and the family legacy (in addition to Betty Jo, two Botzbach grandchildren graduated from APU), the Botzbachs support the university through their generous and faithful giving. They believe the university can produce young men and women with a mindset of faith, standing strong for Christ and ministering wherever they are with Christ’s love, wisdom, and grace,” said Betty Jo, who hopes someday to see APU include a medical school that would equip Christian medical professionals. Meanwhile, the Botzbachs continue obediently joining Paul in agape—doing good.

Georgianna Hulshrier Alumni is a freelance writer living in the San Francisco Bay Area. ghikuma@yahoo.com
Following retirement from the NFL, Slater tried various new roles, looking for meaningful work as a broadcaster, offensive line coach for the Oakland Raiders, offensive line coach for his son's team at Saddleback College, and even local high school coach. But none fully satisfied Slater's drive to find a place where his vast knowledge and experience could make its greatest impact.

Then Victor Santos Cruz called. The Azusa Pacific head football coach needed a new offensive line coach and reached out to Slater, a family friend of former Cougar running back and current assistant coach Ben Buys. Finally, this felt like the right fit. “Once I made the decision to work with college athletes, it anarchized me,” said Slater. “I know what it takes for an offensive lineman to be a problem solver. I teach these guys a skill set to help them realize their dreams.”

The return to coaching came with an added bonus—APU’s Master of Arts in Leadership program. At a time when brain injuries and concussions in football garnered intense media scrutiny, Slater sought to sharpen his mental focus. “This program was a perfect fit for me because it challenged me intellectually and kept my brain engaged, making me a more productive coach,” said Slater.

The program also reshaped Slater’s view of Christian leadership and his approach to coaching. “We talk about building warrior men, and Jackie’s the perfect example. The way he applies himself raises everybody around him to a new level,” said Santa Cruz. “He’s developed a deep friendship with our coaching staff. I can’t imagine him not being here. Working with him, I’m a better man, and it encourages me to see what a mature man of God looks like.”

Slater made an immediate impact on APU’s football program. In his first year, the offensive line led the way for APU’s most productive single season of rushing offense, leading to a 9-3 campaign and its first playoff victory since 2004. Slater’s protege, 6’6”, 322-pound offensive tackle Luke Marquardt ’13, who garnered the attention of NFL scouts in spring 2013 after rebounding from injury, wasn’t alone in reaping the benefits of his tutelage. NFL legend relishes the opportunity to impact young players like Palacios and Marquardt, who signed a free-agent contract with the San Francisco 49ers last spring.

Slater’s passion not only develops exceptional players, but it also contributes to his academic success. Professors and colleagues point to his humility and eagerness to learn from others. “Jackie is one of a kind,” said Anita Flinch, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education, who taught one of Slater’s first courses in the program, Foundations of Christian Leadership. “He became an important presence in the classroom. The depth of his thinking was evident as he reframed some of his prior professional experiences with a new understanding. He made an imprint on other students and faculty.”

Slater sees it the other way around. “I will remain forever grateful for the opportunities APU provided me. Through the master’s program in organizational leadership, one of my most rewarding and wonderful experiences, I learned firsthand about how the foundational principles of leadership truly center on Christ.”

Jackie Slater

“Through the master’s program in organizational leadership, one of my most rewarding and wonderful experiences, I learned firsthand about how the foundational principles of leadership truly center on Christ.”

Widely regarded in football circles as one of the greatest offensive linemen in history, Jackie Slater, M.A. ’14, saw his 20-year professional career culminate in his election to the National Football League (NFL) Hall of Fame.

“Game Changer”

by Joe Ratusch

NFL legend relishes the opportunity to impact young players like Palacios and Marquardt, who signed a free-agent contract with the San Francisco 49ers last spring. Slater’s passion not only develops exceptional players, but it also contributes to his academic success. Professors and colleagues point to his humility and eagerness to learn from others. “Jackie is one of a kind,” said Anita Flinch, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education, who taught one of Slater’s first courses in the program, Foundations of Christian Leadership. “He became an important presence in the classroom. The depth of his thinking was evident as he reframed some of his prior professional experiences with a new understanding. He made an imprint on other students and faculty.”

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Jackie Slater
Watson Breaks Records in Homecoming Win 1 With Christian Okeke ‘15 watching, Terrill Watson broke Okeke’s single-game rushing record in a 44-36 Homecoming win over Simon Fraser.

Junior running back Terrill Watson broke four Azusa Pacific records during his explosive day against Simon Fraser during the Cougars’ win on Saturday afternoon. Watson rushed for 302 yards, added five touchdowns (four rushing, one passing) in a 44-36 victory over Simon Fraser, and rushed for 272 yards in one half. On top of his 302 rushing yards, Watson added 40 receiving yards for a total of 342 yards of total offense.

Watson broke school and conference records for single-season rushing yards (1,812) and rushing touchdowns (23). In the Cougars’ 67-0 win over Greenville in September, he scored three rushing touchdowns to tie a school and GNAC game record. The five-TD outburst also pushed him to the top of Azusa Pacific’s career scoring charts for points, total TDs, and rushing TDs.

Senior quarterback John Watson is on top of NCAA Division II football record book when he rushed for 302 yards against Simon Fraser on October 12. The Cougars trailed at halftime, 23-3, but Watson picked up 48 yards in the third quarter before exploding for 232 of his 302 yards in the fourth quarter alone—surpassing NCAA Division II records for rushing yards in one half (272) and one quarter (232). In addition, he scored five second-half TDs (four in the fourth quarter) surpassing NCAA records for rushing yards in one half (272) and one quarter (232). In addition, he scored five second-half TDs (four in the fourth quarter)

Watson broke the school record for rushing yards in one half (272) and one quarter (232) in a single game, finishing with 302 yards in a 44-36 win over Simon Fraser. He also became the first player in NCAA Division II football history to rush for 300 yards in a game.

Winter Sports under Way I Basketball teams bring high hopes to 2013-14 seasons, while women’s swimming and diving builds on early success.

The men’s basketball team entered the 2013–14 campaign with high hopes, hosting Boise State in an early-season nonconference matchup November 13. Returning All-PacWest first team guard Day Lee ‘15, who led the team in scoring last year, helped lead Azusa Pacific to challenge the 2013–14 PACW title. A pair of former all-conference performers, point guard Robert Sanabria ‘13 and forward All-Mascot ‘14, return to the team after their redshirt seasons.

Cougar women’s basketball picks up after winning 9 of its final 11 conference games last year, including closing the 2012–13 regular season with a stunning win over nationally ranked Grand Canyon University. All-PacWest forward Kelly Hardeman ‘15 and league assist leader SIbionn Zigler ‘15 returned, and head coach T. J. Hardeman added talented transfer Allison Greene ‘15 (Portland State University) and Sandy Valles ‘15 (Long Beach State University) to the mix.

The swimming and diving team kicked off the 2013–14 season with an impressive performance at the Pacific Collegiate Swimming and Diving Conference (PCSC) Preliminary. Senior Victoria Gibb won the sprint pentathlon, breaking a field that included swimmers from NCAA Division I schools. The Cougars hope to build on one of their program’s best conference finishes after taking sixth at the PCSC championships last year.

Spring Sports Update I All six Cougar fall sports advanced to NCAA post-season.

Azusa Pacific claimed four conference championships during the 2013 fall sports season, led by a Cougar football team that went 10-2 overall and won 9 of 10 conference games to claim the Great Northwest Athletic Conference title. The women’s soccer team placed third in GNAC play, earning a bid to the GNAC championship tournament.

All six teams advanced to NCAA post-season competition. Football defeated Georjevs 67-0 in the Victory Bowl, men’s cross country won the NCAA national championship, women’s cross country finished second at the national championship race, and volleyball and women’s soccer also advanced to their respective NCAA national tournaments.

Tennis to Host PacWest Championships I Tournament host Azusa Pacific secured Surprise, Arizona, as the championship site of the 2014 Pacific West Conference men’s and women’s tennis championships.

Azusa Pacific will host the second annual Pacific West Conference men’s and women’s tennis tournaments at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Club in Surprise, Arizona, April 17–19. The 12 teams’ and 6 men’s teams’ tournaments will decide the regular-season conference champions.

Upcoming Athletics Events

January 24 | 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. | Women’s and Men’s Basketball vs. California Baptist | Felix Event Center
January 25 | 9 a.m. | Track and Field hosts APU Indoor Events Qualifier | Cougar Athletic Stadium
February 1-15 | 11 a.m. | Baseball vs. Cal State San Bernardino | Cougar Baseball Complex (season opener, doubleheader)
February 12-15 | Women’s Swimming and Diving | PCSC Championships | La Mirada, California
February 15 | 12:30 p.m. | Softball vs. Biola | Cougar Softball Complex
February 21-22 | NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships | Kansas City, Illinois
February 22 | 1 and 3 p.m. | Women’s and Men’s Basketball vs. Point Loma | Felix Event Center
February 24 | 2:45 p.m. | Baseball vs. Biola | Cougar Baseball Complex
February 27 | 4 p.m. | Softball vs. California Baptist | Cougar Softball Complex
March 18 | 6:30 p.m. | Acrobatics and Tumbling vs. Hawaii Pacific | Felix Event Center

Upcoming Alumni and Parent Events

February 26, 2014 | 6-7:30 p.m. | Discover the Hidden Job Market | Save the date! Learn important networking skills to land the right job. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at (626) 812-3305.
March 7, 2014 | 8 a.m.-2 p.m. | Annual Grandparents’ Day Invite grandparents to spend a day on campus, take a tour, go to chapel, and attend a class with their grandchildren to catch a glimpse of campus life. For more information and registration, visit apualumni.com/grandparentday2014.
March 14-15, 2014 | Refreshing Your Marriage Conference Be our guest at this annual marriage conference that focuses on issues like enhanced intimacy, effective communication, and more, featuring Jim Burns and Doug Fields. For more information, visit refreshingourmarriage.com.

For the most up-to-date details on events: Like APU Alumni Association and APU Parent Association on Facebook.
Follow APUAlumni on Twitter.
Follow apualumniassociation on Instagram.

Free Lunch

Do you work in Southern California alongside 10 or more APU alumni and/or parents at your office or school? The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations would love to visit you where you work, treat you and your staff to a free lunch, and celebrate the blessing of serving together. If you work locally and are interested, please email alumni@apu.edu with your school or business information.

If you have children, then regardless of your career or ministry aspirations, good parenting stands as one of the highest callings on your life. God calls parents to not only nurture their children to become independent and functioning adults, but also to impart a spiritual legacy. Yet, few parents fail to meet the time and energy it takes to have a faith-based heritage for their children. The average parent simply does not take a proactive role in building up the spiritual lives of their children. We may dedicate countless hours to our children’s education and extracurricular activities, but when it comes to development of the soul, too often allow circumstances to dictate our rhythm and chance to affect how we manage our family life and our calling as parents. The Bible states in Deuteronomy 6:7–9 that the primary role of a parent is to train children who will not only be faithful to their relationship with God, but who will also develop their own vital, vibrant faith. I am truly thankful for the powerful influence that churches and Christian educational institutions have on impacting and motivating the spiritual lives of our kids. Unfortunately, far too many parents expect others to instill these values. Most parents have a difficult time proactively helping their children grow as believers, because they did not have adequate role models growing up.

The example you set at home directly influences the spiritual development of your children. Kids have a highly tuned “hypocrisy detector.” So if you are tempted to project the illusion that you are a “perfect” Christian, please understand that your kids already know better.

Instead, live out a genuine faith in front of your children every day, one that models what it means to follow Christ despite your struggles and failures. This teaches them what faith looks like in the real world—when you are at your best and your worst. One day, when your daughter, Haili, was about 3 years old, she was sitting in a chair with a Star magazine. I asked her what she was doing, and she answered, “Votions.” I realized that she was mimicking her mother, whom she saw every day doing her devotions in that same chair. I’m not sure a magazine could ever instill that you need to help her with much of her faith, but the point is she was doing what she saw her mom do. Living a faith-filled life includes the little things and traditions—prayer at meals and bedtime or the simple discipline of attending worship together. As children get older, include them in the decisions about where you give and how you pray for. If you work locally and are interested, please email alumni@apu.edu with your school or business information.

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A Man after God’s Heart

Though roughly the size of a fist, the human heart outperforms all other muscles in the body. It begins pumping just 21 days after conception and rarely skips a beat until death. For an average 70-year-old, that amounts to 2.5 billion beats over a lifetime. Yet, despite its distinction as the body’s strongest muscle, too often this biological workhorse falters. Cardiovascular disease kills more than 600,000 Americans each year, according to the American Heart Association, making it the leading cause of death. Working tirelessly to decrease that statistic, Matthews Chacko ’93, MD, Azusa Pacific’s 2013 Alumnus of the Year, performs some of the most advanced treatments in cardiovascular medicine.

As an interventional cardiologist at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr. Chacko performs invasive procedures to treat several cardiovascular conditions such as coronary artery disease, which involves fatty plaque that builds up and narrows the arteries and can lead to heart attacks. One of the many benefits of his association with the prestigious Johns Hopkins Hospital includes his involvement in cutting-edge trials, procedures, and techniques that use a revolutionary procedure on patients with severely narrowed aortic valves. “Traditionally requiring open-heart surgery, aortic valve replacement can now be accomplished via a catheter through the groin,” he said. “This is especially good news for the elderly and frail who may not be good surgical candidates and whose aortic valves have degenerated and calcified, dramatically impairing the heart’s ability to pump blood through it. This minimally invasive procedure can mean new life for a significant number of patients.”

“A doctor has to be a master of every detail, because, at times, we hold life in our hands,” said Dr. Chacko. By his own admission, however, he was not always Johns Hopkins material. “When I took my first exams in medical school, I bombed them,” he said. “I remembered how a former APU professor, Dr. David Cherney, had taught me the level of detail to know for his exams, and that this was what they were looking for in medical school. When I studied like he taught me to, I really flourished.”

That work ethic carried him through medical school at the University of Kansas, residency in medicine at Johns Hopkins, and fellowship training in cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic. After four years of undergraduate studies, four years of medical school, three years of residency, and five years of fellowship training, Dr. Chacko stands as one of the nation’s most prominent cardiologists. He respectfully remembers his roots, appreciates his journey, pays forward his gifts, and considers his role as husband and father his life’s greatest accomplishment.

“My time at APU was pivotal in my personal growth,” said Dr. Chacko, whose father, uncle, brother, and sister attended APU. As a short-shipped soccer player who started all four years and earned honorable mention as an All-American, he relished his time on the field. But what he learned as he built relationships with his teammates, classmates, coaches, and professors made an impact beyond his love for the game.

“What struck me most profoundly about APU was that people from very different backgrounds and cultures could come together with a Christ-like mindset and serve as effective difference makers on campus and throughout the world. I am humbled by the honor of the Alumnus of the Year award from the place that helped lay the groundwork for my life’s work.”

That solid foundation anchors him in a job marked by a grueling routine of treating critically ill patients, performing invasive procedures, maintaining a full teaching schedule, and lecturing and traveling around the world to work with and train other doctors, while carefully guarding his family time. He also remains committed to training future doctors by guiding medical students, residents, and fellows through their journey in medicine. The road to a career in medicine is tough, and Dr. Chacko gladly passes along sage words of advice to those with such aspirations. “First, get a mentor,” he said. “That invaluable connection provides support and insight you can’t get from any book. Second, immerse yourself in a research project in which you can become an expert in something. Third, know the big picture as well as the details. Fourth, don’t give up. And fifth, reach for the stars, as you never know how things will turn out—I am living proof of that.”

However, no advice can replace the value of knowing why you want to become a doctor and keeping that reason at the forefront of your work. “This is truly my calling,” he said, knowing that the Master Physician guides his hands. His pastor and friend of many years repeated the words of The Healer by Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier upon his graduation from medical school—“The Good Physician liveth yet, Thy friend and guide to be; The Healer by Gennesaret, Shall walk the rounds with thee.” “That final stanza speaks to me every day. There is no greater gift than healing, and by following Jesus’ teaching to do so, I can have a positive impact on people. I can look into their hearts, literally and spiritually, and make a difference.”

Cynndie Hoff is a freelance writer and editor living in Walnut, California. cynthhoff@verizon.net
Ralph Taylor, M.A. ’97, Ed.D. ‘06

COURTNEY QUIGLEY ‘12, a senior in APU’s Department of Education and Human Development, says she is thankful to be part of the classroom.

Taylor possesses a belief that is evident in every facet of the classroom. To be able to educate and influence the next generation is a rewarding job, she says. "It's an awesome opportunity to serve our students." She is grateful for the support of her fellow educators. "We are stronger when we work together," she says. "The best practices and creative teaching techniques make all the difference." Taylor’s dedication to education is evident in her work with the classroom. She plans to continue working toward the goal of making our budget with district standards and accountability, while maintaining a positive attitude.

APU LIFE: What is your educational philosophy?
TAYLOR: My educational philosophy is that education is a partnership between the teacher, the student, and the parents. It is a collaboration of ideas and learning experiences that are tailored to meet the individual needs of each student.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite class to teach?
TAYLOR: I enjoy teaching literature and history classes, as they allow me to share stories and ideas with my students in a way that is both engaging and meaningful.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite activity to do outside of school?
TAYLOR: In my free time, I enjoy reading, hiking, and spending time with my family. I also enjoy playing sports, such as soccer and basketball.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite book to read?
TAYLOR: My favorite book to read is "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. I love the way the author captures the essence of the American Dream and the contrasts between reality and illusion.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite movie to watch?
TAYLOR: My favorite movie to watch is "The Shawshank Redemption" directed by Frank Darabont. I find the film to be inspiring and thought-provoking, with a powerful message about hope and redemption.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite hobby to pursue?
TAYLOR: My favorite hobby is playing soccer. I enjoy the physical challenge and the teamwork involved in the sport.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite holiday to celebrate?
TAYLOR: My favorite holiday to celebrate is Christmas. I enjoy the spirit of giving and the opportunities it provides for spending time with loved ones and spreading joy.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite meal to cook?
TAYLOR: My favorite meal to cook is spaghetti with meatballs. I have perfected my recipe over the years, and it is a family favorite.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite place to travel?
TAYLOR: My favorite place to travel is Paris, France. I have always been fascinated by the culture, history, and art of the city, and I love visiting the famous landmarks and trying the local cuisine.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite sport to watch?
TAYLOR: My favorite sport to watch is football. I enjoy the excitement and competition, and I love following my favorite teams throughout the season.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite season?
TAYLOR: My favorite season is fall. I love the cooler weather, the changing leaves, and the opportunity to engage in outdoor activities.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite activity to do inside during the winter?
TAYLOR: My favorite activity to do inside during the winter is reading. I love curling up with a good book on a cold day and losing myself in a compelling story.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite season to celebrate?
TAYLOR: My favorite season to celebrate is Thanksgiving. It is a time to gather with family and friends, give thanks for our blessings, and enjoy delicious food.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite place to visit?
TAYLOR: My favorite place to visit is Yellowstone National Park. I love the natural beauty and the opportunity to see a wide range of wildlife and geological wonders.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite activity to do during the summer?
TAYLOR: My favorite activity to do during the summer is camping. I enjoy the outdoors and the chance to disconnect from the daily routine.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite activity to do during the spring?
TAYLOR: My favorite activity to do during the spring is gardening. I love the sense of accomplishment that comes from nurturing and caring for plants.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite activity to do during the fall?
TAYLOR: My favorite activity to do during the fall is hiking. I enjoy the cooler weather and the opportunity to explore the changing colors of the leaves.

APU LIFE: What is your favorite activity to do during the winter?
TAYLOR: My favorite activity to do during the winter is skiing. I love the thrill of speeding down a snowy hill and the beauty of the winter landscape.
Jessica in the Middle: Forging Understanding and Promoting Identity

The eldest daughter and middle child of an interracial couple, Jessica Barron ’05, Ph.D., felt called to racial reconciliation at a Christian youth camp at age 16. She drew upon her personal experience as a multiracial minority to fuel her understanding of the struggles of others and her commitment to breaking down barriers.

Relocation from the diverse multicultural community she enjoyed as a resident of Los Angeles to the seemingly homogeneous demographic of Denver as a teen presented significant challenges and some harsh lessons. As a high school student within that context, she discovered that her biracial nucleus and extended families were anomalous. She described the city as segregated, where racial identity was an all-or-nothing concept, forcing people to identify with a single ethnic identity. When it came time to select a college, she looked for a place that would reflect the diversity of the surrounding community and the Kingdom. She chose Arena Pacific. As a recruit for the Multi-Ethnic Leadership (MEL) Scholarship, Barron’s expectations were high. However, she soon came to realize that the APU campus of that time was much like her Denver school, only in a California setting. “What could have been a racial oasis was starkly segregated, but for a different reason,” said Barron. She recognized that APU had the heart for and tools to embody a God-honoring, racially reconciled community, but that the Christ followers within the organization were unfamiliar with available resources and how to employ them effectively. True to her calling, she set her mind to the way.

In spring 2003, Barron—nominated and selected from among 23 campus leaders—participated in the National Multicultural Institute’s diversity training preparation. As one of only two student members and the only undergraduate of the 15-person team that included the provost and a cross-section of faculty and staff, Barron successfully transformed the training, which is still implemented, more than 400 APU employees completed the training, which is still

Adapted at just five days old, Wyatt grew up in South Central Los Angeles with two loving parents. “Starting parents,” said Wyatt, “we would consider my neighborhood rough, but I just saw it as a part of life.” said Wyatt. “Most of my weekends and days were spent in church and playing sports.” Although living in a big city had it’s own set of potential distractions, Wyatt’s affinity for sports, combined with his parents’ encouragement and moral compass, kept him future-focused.

By his senior year in high school, Wyatt had won the L.A. City Championship twice in the shot put, advanced to the state finals in the shot put, and joined Arena Pacific University, where he met Terry Francon, Ph.D., current senior vice president for student life of students and a former Olympic track coach. Despite his athletic successes and strong academic performance, Wyatt opted to attend junior college.

Two years later, through God’s provision, Wyatt transferred to APU for his junior year and competed on the track team. He dominated the National Intercollegiate Athletics shot put event for two consecutive years, a year and a half of his career-best 58’8” at the 1992 championship meet, a mark that ranked fourth best at the time and remains fifth best in school history. In frosh, he led his team both years in takedowns and recorded 171 career tackles, including 14 tackles for loss and 8 sacks.

That intensity continues to characterize his approach to work and life. In addition to working full time as a physical therapist and serving as an assistant pastor for the Revolution Mark 16:20, a new ministry in San Diego, he coaches young athletes at Fly-Je International; a San Diego-based nonprofit youth track and field program. “Youth sports should be fun, but also teach the principle that hard work pays off, and, if coached properly, will build that young athlete’s self-esteem,” said Wyatt, who introduces kids ages 5–18 to the principles of all throwing events. “I’m honored that I have a vehicle to help me impact my track and field knowledge, but it’s also been a place where I actively shape my faith. I do my best to live a life of victory and remind the youth and families I serve that through Christ all things are possible. God has blessed me tremendously and I want others to know that He will do the same for and through them.

“Whether it’s on the track or the field, at home, or on the job, I believe we’re all called to serve and share the love of Christ,” said Wyatt, a double major in kinesiology and education. “I want to be the window one day, saw an ambulance drive by, and felt called to explore that arena, ” said Grimes. “I looked out the window for a nanosecond and knew I was called to explore that arena, “ said Grimes. “I spent a lot of time praying and applying to a variety of schools, and all signs pointed to APU’s academic nursing program,” said Grimes.

Armed with a bachelor’s degree in religion from Vanguard University, Grimes was serving as a church youth leader when God shed new light on his career. “I looked out the window one day, saw an ambulance drive by, and felt called to explore that arena, “ said Grimes. “I spent a lot of time praying and applying to a variety of schools, and all signs pointed to APU’s academic nursing program,” said Grimes.

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Although Grimes partners with a multidisciplinary team, including physicians, pharmacists, respiratory specialists, physical and occupational therapists, and registered dieticians, he serves as the primary contact person responsible for assessment of the patient’s condition. Such specialized nursing requires a solid education, hands-on training, and a driving sense of purpose and calling. Grimes’ unconventional road to nursing produced all this and more.

For the Right Heart

A workday for Glenn Grimes ’11 can be, by equal measures, both heartwarming and heartrending. A registered nurse at the University of Southern California’s Keck Medical Center in the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Grimes specializes in heart and lung transplantation, assisting in the care of those patients and their families in the critical days before and after surgery. He uses his education as a skilled practitioner and Christian to serve others in these delicate moments.

“The patients require constant care to keep them stable,” said Grimes, who works 12-hour shifts forging bonds with patients and their loved ones. “Strong relationships help both day-to-day patient treatment and end-of-life care.” Although Grimes has served as a multidisciplinary team, including physicians, pharmacists, respiratory specialists, physical and occupational therapists, and registered dieticians, he serves as the primary contact person responsible for assessment of the patient’s condition. Such specialized nursing requires a solid education, hands-on training, and a driving sense of purpose and calling. Grimes’ unconventional road to nursing produced all this and more.

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To LISA (HOFFMAN ’06) RUEB and her husband, Jeremy, triplets: Charlotte Ann, Jacob William, and Zachary Phillip, on June 20, 2013. The triplets join twin big sisters, Katelyn and Noelle.

To NICOLE (MEDINA ’08) SHEWEY and her husband, JAMES ’08, a daughter, Mercy Victoria, on April 25, 2013. Mercy joins big sister, Joslyn, 3. The family lives in New Hampshire, where James works in IT while Nicole pursues a Psy.D.

To ZAMARKANDA DE LEON ’09 and her husband, Julio, a daughter, Jaycee Ariana, on August 7, 2013. Jaycee joins big sisters, Alicia, 13, and Mia, 9. The family lives in Riverside, California. mrs_deleon31@hotmail.com

CHERYL (HERLACHER ’87) GRAVES passed away on December 15, 2012, from pancreatic cancer. It was her dream in 2006 to own a studio where clients would find a safe place for health and healing. Starting with a single reformer in the front room, she expanded the studio to several hundred clients, an elite staff of instructors, and a reputation for being the “Best in the Inland Empire.” Once featured in Shape magazine for her expertise as a “cutting-edge trainer,” Cheryl possessed more than 25 years of experience in fitness and rehabilitation.

Since 1985, she served as a personal trainer in Pasadena, Beverly Hills, Malibu, and Westlake Village. She received her degree in physical education/athletic training from Azusa Pacific University and carried national certifications in personal training and Pilates. In addition to her training, Cheryl pioneered a successful sports medicine curriculum and injury prevention program for coaches, athletes, and students, while leading cheerleaders to three state and two national titles. As a physical therapy clinic in Westlake Village in 2003, Cheryl also established a successful Pilates program for injury rehabilitation. Her husband, Bob, survives her.

Notable and Noteworthy

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a conference for couples

March 14-15 2014 | Felix Event Center | APU

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Register now: RefreshingYourMarriage.com

Sought out by a physical therapy clinic in Westlake Village in 2003, Cheryl also established a successful Pilates program for injury rehabilitation. Her husband, Bob, survives her.

LAWRENCE LENGYEL ’98 passed away September 17, 2013, at age 60. Larry’s faith enriched his life, as did his family and friends who blessed him significantly. Each ministered to him in big and small ways, some noticed and some not—just a word, a touch, a visit, a Scripture, a prayer—each one made his life immeasurably richer.
WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU WEARING YOUR APU CLOTHING?

Attention alumni: Send us your photographs of the places you have been with your Cougar wear. If we print your submission, you will receive an APU T-shirt to wear while visiting your next exotic or interesting destination. Send your photos,* along with a description of the location where the photograph was taken, and your T-shirt size, to the

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*Please send high-resolution images or prints only.
On the eve of her departure to the mission field in China, Mary Hill, the first president of the Training School for Christian Workers (predecessor to Azusa Pacific University), wrote in 1901, “The call to China came 10 years ago. Now, His voice calls distinctly and the door opens.” In 1902, Thomas J. Kelly and Clark J. Buckley wrote in a letter from Chiquimula, Guatemala, “The Lord made the call so plain and opened the way so beautifully that we could do nothing but follow Him.” Kelly and Buckley, therefore, returned to the Training School to gather more workers for the Chiquimula Mission. The photo above shows the Guatemala Band on the eve of their departure, surrounded by the Training School community in full support of their call. In 1904, when Matilda Atkinson traveled from Maine to California to become the fourth president of the Training School, the Witness and Training School News reported: “Her thoughts have been called this way for nearly three years past.” Today, God continues to call disciples and scholars to His mission and purpose. This year’s University Passage, Ephesians 4, reminds the APU community to stay true to its calling to advance the work of God’s Kingdom, sending out difference makers to impact the world for Christ. “I therefore… urge you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” (Ephesians 4:1, NRSV)

Ken Otto, MLIS, associate professor, Special Collections librarian
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