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WAITING TO EXHALE (AND INHALE) • WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? • THE SCIENCE OF CREATION

APU TACKLES THE STEM CRISIS

UNIVERSITY FACULTY COLLABORATE TO INSPIRE AND EQUIP A NEW GENERATION OF STEM PROFESSIONALS

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God First Since 1899
The Wallace family dinner occurs Sundays at 5:15 p.m. We started our weekly custom almost two years ago when Dave, Andrea, Georgia, and Kate all returned from living abroad. This Sunday family dinner soon became a sacred space on our calendars. Occasionally, we have invited a friend, roommate, or traveler to join us. Some of these guests have included Jimmy Mellado, the president of Compassion International, and his wife, Leanne; alumnus Shadrack Kiprono ‘14; and Peg Campbell, chair of the APU Board of Trustees. Each added to the conversation and helped turn the soil of new learning, while also speaking into the Christ-centered journey of all around the table. Because we collectively value our individual differences and the power of ideas, especially when framed in the context of respect, civility, and passion—these other voices deepened our learning.

As I considered these mealtime conversations, I realized they reflect the core values of Azusa Pacific University—civility, new ideas, and Christian community. As a community of disciples and scholars, we frame every conversation on the foundation of civil discourse. We do this because we believe that we are all created in the image of God and that the great commandment to love God and love your neighbor as yourself often begins with the words we use with one another. We also believe in the power of ideas and the new learning that often accompanies conversations that involve discovery, questions, disagreements, and uncertainty. I agree with the long-held definition of an educated person as one able to wrestle with contrary views and live with certainty in an uncertain world. This foundational mark of maturity and wisdom often forms when new ideas and thinking become a regular part of life’s journey.

The Wallace family gathering and the APU community each represent rich and loamy soil for personal, spiritual, and intellectual growth. Both connect to biblical narratives when friends and strangers gather in the name of the Almighty God and His Son to fellowship, celebrate, and join in a common purpose. As you read this, a new academic year has begun at APU. Students, faculty, and staff embarked on another season of learning, growth, and development. Throughout the university and at regional centers and international sites, the power of civility, new ideas, and Christ-centered community are shaping lives. Please hold us in prayer as we collectively move into another season of preparing difference makers. And the next time you see me, ask for an update on last Sunday’s dinner and what occurred around the table.
The 84-member Men’s Chorale shares the gifts of praise and worship in venues large and small, with a common goal to honor Christ through music.
Biology Students Receive National Honors

Undergraduate biology students presented their current research at the Beta Beta Beta (TriBeta) National Biological Honor Society’s Pacific District Convention held at Chapman University on April 26, 2014. These promising scholars—juniors and seniors Huy Tran ’14, Austin Layton ’14, Rande Tillman ’16, Elizabeth Hughes ’15, David Poulin ’15, and Kyle Fahn ’16—participated along with top students from eight regional universities, with impressive results. Five of the APU students earned coveted TriBeta student research grants totaling more than $3,500 (part of more than $7,000 earned over the last three years) and shared their research findings. Huy placed third overall in poster presentation, Poulin and Fish placed first for Binomial Nomenclature, Tran placed second in the Plant Identification category. Poulin and Fish placed first for Organic Biology category, winning the Frank G. Brooks and John C. Johnson awards, respectively. They also earned first in the awards to attend the biennial National TriBeta Convention at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, June 4-6, 2014, to present their data with biology honors students nationwide. Wesley Priudey ’13 and Greg Hanson ’13, APU’s top-placing alumni from last year’s district convention, joined Poulin and Fish in Pennsylvania, where Hanson presented his research, performing and presenting original scientific research, and collaborating with other undergraduate biology students from across the country,” said Skyla Herold, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry and director of TriBeta West-II Division. “APU’s tri-placing alumni for the national honor society enhances the reputation of the university as well as the Department of Biology and Chemistry in student, learning, and professional development.”

Hons College Student Earns Prestigious Fellowship

Andrew Soria ’14 graduated from APU’s Honors College last May with multiple education options and an irreplaceable opportunity. Accepted into graduate literature programs at several elite California universities, Soria chose the University of Southern California. He also earned a competitive fellowship from the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts. As one of 10 recipients of the three-year award, Soria received $9,800 and will work with senior mentors, attend professional development conferences, and participate in common readings and online discussions on faith and higher learning.

Soria’s rigorous course of study and exceptional scholarship distinguished him among other applicants for the award. He completed majors in Spanish and English (as well as a French minor), served as an Alpha Leadership, an Honors College Student Advisory Board member, a Writing Community Advisor, and an Academic Integrity Peer Counselor, and participated in APU-sponsored mission trips to Thailand and Mexico. Soria also spent a semester in the APU Oxford Summer Programme and has presented research at 14 local, regional, national, and international conferences, including the North American Christian Foreign Language Association Conference and the University of California, Berkeley. Comparative Literature Undergraduate Research Symposium.

“Andrew is the third APU student to receive this prestigious three-year fellowship, which enables graduate students to explore the vocation of ministry within their theological education, affirms his hard work, and validate the quality of his APU education,” said David L. Weeks, Ph.D., dean of the Honors College. “It is great to see APU’s top students honored, and validates the quality of our APU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his APU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his APU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his APU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his APU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his APU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his APU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his APU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his A PU education, affirms his hard work, and validates the quality of his APU education.”

This Vietnam veteran and command pilot earned several decorations, including the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, and Order of the Swiss Cross, for his service to the United States armed forces. APU’s top-placing enlistee can award someone. He received his first general’s star in 1990 and, 15 years later after 43 years of active military service, making him the longest-serving active-duty Air Force officer in history, he assumed the leadership of his career, he provided command and control for air, space, and missile defense for operations covering 51 countries.

Navigating the competitive field of graphic design can prove daunting for recent college graduates, and as in most fields, students need to be prepared to work with senior mentors, invited him to speak as a guest speaker, and became one of the most popular instructors in the major,” said Roe. During their last semester, senior graphic design students participate in a mock agency and are exposed to the challenges and rewards of a real-world work environment. Roe also offered a series of mock interviews to prepare them for professional jobs, augmenting their technical skills and communication skills. “As a biblical studies and youth mentor their fellow Cougars. Cameron DeArmond ’12, M.F.A, creative director at Conscious Minds Productions in Pasadena, stepped up to offer internships and other opportunities for APU design students. As a biblical studies and youth majors, DeArmond served in the church for 15 years before developing his portfolio and shifting careers, garnering him priceless perspective as he advises students about integrating their faith and their art. These emerging designers enter the workplace eager to become difference makers through creative expressions, they expand on their careers in community, equipped through a education and supported by a network of dedicated professionals. Pursuing God’s Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Students

Reading Recommendations from Kathleen Tangenberg

Kathleen Tangenberg, Ph.D., is associate dean of the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences and professor of social work.

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Men’s Chorale Ministers in South Korea

From May 1–19, Men’s Chorale engaged the South Korean Christian community through music, encouraging and inspiring millions at 25 performances throughout the nation during their two-and-a-half-week tour.

With a 25 percent Christian population and some of the largest churches in the world, South Korea strives as a center for Christianity. During the tour, Men’s Chorale sang at seven megachurches with average membership of 200,000. Most notably, they performed at Myung Sung, the largest Presbyterian church in the world, and Soo In Full Gospel, a Pentecostal church recognized by Guinness World Records as the world’s largest congregation, with more than one million members. “The trip allowed APU to draw upon the spiritual resources in Korea and share its own global vision,” said John Park, Ph.D., special advisor to the president and professor of theology, who helped organize the tour.

The 84-member choir reached still more audiences by giving full concerts over radio and television through the Christian Television System (CTS), the Korean Christian Broadcasting Station (CBS), and the Far East Broadcasting Company, all of which reach listeners throughout the world through international stations. Partnering with the South Korean Christian community, the University Chamber Choir, Baekseok University Chamber Choir, and Mokpo City Choir.

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Another highlight occurred May 5, when Men’s Chorale sang with the CBS Children’s Choir at an army camp near the Korean Demilitarized Zone. “Music is the quickest way to reach any heart, regardless of language or geography,” said Park. “As they spread God’s Word and shared their faith with Koreans, they were changed by seeing God working in Korea to further God’s Kingdom,” said John Park, Ph.D., special advisor to the president and professor of theology, who helped organize the tour.

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“Music is the quickest way to reach anyone’s heart, regardless of language or geographical boundaries,” said Harold Cushing, D.D.S., conductor of Men’s Chorale. “The rich spiritual traditions of the hymns we sing, the powerful melodies and harmonies, and our heartful expressions of these songs, created an experience of worship empowering closer relationships with God and one another in the midst of conflict.”

The number of Fulbright Scholarships earned by APU graduates since 2003. The 2013–14 recipients, Craig Goodworth, MBA ’11, Casey Mangan ’14, and Dondre Peza ’14, join an elite group of scholars nationwide selected for their academic merit and leadership potential to study and teach abroad through the U.S.-sponsored program.

Number of APU communication studies and journalism students who interned in Manukau, New Zealand, with Wandering Sheep Productions, an evangelistic ministry of HBCC Global NZ that engages the “digital generation” through entertaining and thought-provoking content.

Men’s Chorale Ministers in South Korea

Number of pages in the complete translation of Zion Quiste by Milagd de Cavarrance Saredo that APU faculty members read and discussed at the Honors College symposium held in June. The event sparked conversations about charity and romance, foolishness and wisdom, perception and reality. Participants represented a wide cross-section of disciples and scholars as they examined moral idealism, madness, virtue, social convention, the nature of parody, and narrative.

Number of student writers for Colorado Springs Gazette, The Oklahoman, and Coloradoan.com, winners of regional contests since 2003. The 2014–15 recipients, Craig Goodworth, MFA ’11, and Deirdre Peara ’14, join an elite group of scholars nationwide selected for their academic merit and leadership potential to study and teach abroad through the U.S.-sponsored program.

Number of years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Jim Willis, Ph.D., professor of journalism in the Department of Communication Studies, will cover the anniversary for the Oklahoma state newspaper The Oklahoman as its online edition, newsok.com, and the Colorado Spur Gazette, exploring the status of German unity/diversity and what that means for stability in Europe.

By the Numbers

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Earns National Accreditation

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) granted accreditation to APU’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in August 2014. The program, which launched in fall 2012, prepares nurses with advanced practice, equipping them for leadership roles in advancing population health, health care systems, health policy formation, and the implementation of clinical research.

"Today’s complex health care environment requires preparation for nurse practice leaders who can provide evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and systems leadership,” said Air Talleners Lobs, Ph.D., RN, dean of the School of Nursing.

The shortage of nurses due to upcoming retirement, an aging population requiring complex care, and a scarcity of nursing faculty that restricts program enrollments highlight the insufficient number of doctoral-level nurses nationwide and contribute to DNP program growth across the country. “APU’s DNP program equips nurses to meet their field’s changing demands and ensure quality patient outcomes through advanced nurse education centered on a Christian worldview,” employers recognize the unique advanced practice contributions these expert nurses make, the demand for DNs will continue to grow,” said Lobs.
In honor of Inez Gutierrez’s leadership, compassion, and integrity, and on behalf of the Azusa Pacific University Board of Trustees, President Jon B. Wallace, DBA, bestowed upon her Honorary Doctorate. Gutierrez exemplifies our beloved city, “Inez inspired Wallace as he leads the university to step up its problem solving, and nurturing support for innovation, promoting ethical leadership, and maximizing the outcome. Workshops also give graduate school applicants a distinct advantage, providing students with in-depth training in key areas such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and graduate school application essay writing. Furthermore, the society offers approximately $375 per student toward expenses related to applying for and entering graduate school. Those funds can be used for application fees, travel expenses incurred while visiting institutions, academic conferences, exam fees, or any other costs associated with the process.”

The new president with an official charge from the community, Gutierrez boldly challenged the university to step up its involvement with the city of Azusa. Her charge inspired Folks to make community engagement a hallmark of APU. Gutierrez’s passion for people continues to drive APU’s signature commitment to the community and inspire Wallace as he leads the university as a light unto the city of Azusa. “Inez Gutierrez exemplifies our beloved city,” said Wallace. “She reveals her deep love for people open to admit and friend those she does, and puts it into action by supporting innovation, promoting problem solving, and nourishing the spirit of our community with a positive spirit and deep faith.”

“Inez Gutierrez was a leader of the community, working tirelessly to improve the lives of those around her. Her dedication to education and her commitment to community service were unwavering. She was a true role model and an inspiration to us all. We are honored to award her this prestigious distinction,” said President Jon B. Wallace, DBA. 

CAMPUS CLOSE UP • CAMPUS CLOSE UP

Scholarship at Work

Cynthia Cooper, news director of the NCRM magazine’s 2002 Person of the Year award, along with two others, unraveled and publicized the WorldCom fraud, one of the largest in corporate history. She brings her insight to APU on Family and Social Work. Her lunch-hour address, “Ethical Leadership for the 21st Century,” will be held Saturday, October 18, at 12 p.m. in Upper Turner Campus Center. Cooper’s interview, “Ethical Leadership for the 21st Century,” offered via the Internet and social media. Cooper said that the tone set by the leaders is dominating public attention, “This book provides Christian educators and churches with a critical understanding of social media and its impact on our society. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the role of social media in our world.”

From Twitter to Tahrir Square: Ethics in Social and New Media Communication (Praeger, 2014) Neo Volumes by Eds. Balk A. Musa, PhD, chair, and professor, Department of Communication Studies, and Jim Wilks, PhD, professor, Department of Communication Studies

The reader follows 12 APU scholars on a journey through 12 books that have defined the methodologies and orthodoxies of their disciplines in the university curriculum. These books have not only been formative for their respective disciplines, but also have enriched the university and continue to refine the understanding of education. Each chapter places a great book in its historical context, summarizes the key ideas, and assesses the influence of the text on its discipline and society as a whole. In addition, each contributor offers an evaluation from a Christian perspective, explaining both the benefits of the book and the challenges it presents to a Christian worldview and philosophy of education.

Twelve Great Books that Changed the University: And Why Christians Should Care (Cascade Books, 2016) by Eds. Steve Wilkins, PhD, professor, Department of Theology and Philosophy, and Dan Thorson, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Theology and Ethics

College Students in Transition: An Annotated Bibliography (National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, 2013) by J. David Kimbro, professor, Department of Teacher Education, and Sara M. Hinkle, Ph.D., Matthew D. Pistilli, Ph.D., and Why Christians Should Care (Cascade Books, 2016) by Eds. Steve Wilkins, PhD, professor, Department of Theology and Philosophy, and Dan Thorson, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Theology and Ethics

The book draws upon relevant resources and research to guide college students in various transitions beyond the first year of college. Chapters focus on topics such as transitioning through the senior year, transferring from one institution to another, and the unique transition experiences faced by adult, veteran, and international college students. Those who support these students on their educational journeys will find this book helpful in better understanding the transition process and discover ways to come alongside college students with strategies for success.
Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his mouth the breath of life, and the man became a living being—Genesis 2:7 (NIV)

My interest in the communicative power of the human voice began with a humbling experience in a college acting program at the Michael Howard Studios in New York City. A core requirement involved memorizing and performing a Shakespearean monologue. Before my arrival, I prepared by watching a Royal Shakespeare Company series, Playing Shakespeare, led by John Barton and featuring such British actors as Patrick Stewart, Siân Phillips, Ian McKellen, and Judi Dench. I loved it all, especially the lessons that Dench and Barton gave on Viola's ring speech from Twelfth Night.

With these two as my video mentors, I felt indomitable as I headed off for Manhattan. On the opening day of our Shakespeare class, I bounded to the front and launched into my "polished" performance as Viola. When I finished, I heard only silence. My instructor paused, took a deep breath, and said, "Hmmm. When you got up, I saw a tall, confident woman. Then you spoke, "I heard a mouse squeak."

With this blunt assessment, she told me my stature and poise spoke of a strength that my tiny, trapped voice belied. The next day, I entered voice acting training to become an actor and teacher.

Another lesson came in graduate school when my instructor, Louis Colonnese, told our voice class that before we made a single sound, we would spend two months learning how to breathe deeply and freely, for breathing lies at the heart of life. It sustains our lives, enables our experiences, and widens particular power over how we communicate, or fail to do so. Genesis tells us that we received life through the breath of God. To live is to breathe, and although we can breathe without giving it a thought or even making a bit of conscious effort, there exists a deep emotional and spiritual significance to what we God-breathed creatures do with our own breath.

"To breathe" also means "to inspire." When we are conscious of our breath and know how to employ it effectively and naturally, it can serve as a source of inspiration. In Freeing the Natural Voice: Imagery and Art in the Practice of Voice and Language (Drama Publishers, 2006), Kristin Linklater says that with each incoming breath, we receive "welcome renewal" to our nerves and allowing the incoming breath to give "welcome renewal" to their nerves and allowing the outgoing breath to expel their fear. They can combat these feelings by using the incoming breath to give "welcome renewal" to their nerves and allowing the outgoing breath to expel their fear.

One might say that when we inhale, we receive inspiration, and when we exhale, we express and give ourselves to others. Powerful communication brings both elements—receiving and giving—into play. These elements point to a secret of effective communication, which involves our ability both to listen and speak, to see and respond—to breathe in the words of others and reply with our own. When we stand before an audience, the rhythms of breath enable us to listen as audience members speak through their eyes and gestures—their body language, and when we lead a meeting, they help us discern whether others are listening or hiding themselves away in their daydreams and text messages. Everyone who has ever spoken to a large audience or taken part in a lively conversation knows that stress can quickly cause shortness of breath and an increased heart rate. As the nerves race, the breath grows labored, and the voice tightens and shrinks. They can combat these feelings by using the incoming breath to give "welcome renewal" to their nerves and allowing the outgoing breath to expel their fear. One way to cultivate your ability to speak powerfully and listen compassionately is to avoid holding your breath. For example, the next time you lose your keys, note whether you hold your breath. Recall that breath is inspiration and, by breathing, you are more likely to remember. Do you hold your breath when you hear about a calamity? or do you receive the news by breathing it in and letting your outgoing breath express your sympathy or sorrow? When you grow restless in a meeting, do you hold your breath in order to hide your frustration? If you do, try to breathe and allow the feeling to be dispersed silently as you exhale.

Finally, the next time you walk onstage to speak, before you begin, plant your feet and take an entire breath—inhale and exhale. Then survey your audience as you inhale again, and express your delight in being there as you exhale. If you do so, you will find that you have begun the work of effective communication—commanding attention through their eyes and gestures—their body language; and when you lead a meeting, they help us discern whether others are listening or hiding themselves away in their daydreams and text messages.

Illustration: N. McVean-Connell '17

by Kirsten Lamilin Humer

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Illustration: N. McVean-Connell '17
“Who is my neighbor?” the young man asked Jesus. In response, He described a man attacked by robbers and left to die on the road to Jericho, ignored in his plight by a priest and a Levite. Only one man, a Samaritan, bandaged his wounds, brought him to shelter, fed him, and paid for his care. Jesus challenged the young man to believe that without homes to find care and help, the mentally ill perpetuate homelessness. Essentially, homeless adults face the “safety net” designed to catch people before they land in the streets. Perhaps most troubling is the increasing numbers of homeless families, which bring a host of additional challenges including disruption of children’s normal growth and development and adverse outcomes in school. The National Center on Family Homelessness reports that children who grow up in homeless families often repeat the cycle with their own children.

Homelessness plagues more than half a million people every night in the United States (610,042 on a single night in January 2013, according to the 2013 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress). Given the magnitude of the problem, it is hard to believe that homelessness rarely occurred in the U.S. during the 1950s, ’60s, and ’70s. During those eras, federal and state programs such as subsidized housing, the lack of jobs that pay a decent wage were more plentiful. However, in the early 1980s, lawmakers initiated deep cuts to poverty programs that triggered a sudden and rapid rise in homelessness. Today, the scarcity of affordable housing, the lack of jobs that pay a living wage, and fragmented care for the mentally ill perpetuates homelessness.

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The problem calls for robust action from federal and state lawmakers, the voting public, the business community, churches, and local governments—specifically, policies that foster affordable housing, education, and job skills, more jobs that pay a living wage, and better access to physical and mental health care. While it may be impossible to house every person in the county, we can certainly envision returning to a time when homelessness was a rare occurrence.

Working toward that goal, the APU School of Nursing’s Homeless Health Care Outreach, a community-based initiative serving the San Gabriel Valley, provides a place for neighbors without homes to find care and compassion. I founded the program in 1997 as an exploration of new clinical sites for graduate nursing students, but it quickly grew. As of 2014, we have treated more than 3,000 clients. Each academic year, approximately 80 undergraduate and graduate nursing students work with nursing faculty and local programs like the Winter Shelter Program of East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless (ESGVCH) that operate within donated church space at several locations. ESGVCH serves approximately 100 adults nightly, and 3,300 patients during the 12-week winter season. APU students and faculty nurses provide care for 25–30 clients at the shelter during each weekly clinic session. More than 40 undergraduate and 50 graduate nursing students participated in the homeless health care outreach effort in 2013–14. The nurses administer medications, treatments, and vaccines, including antibiotics, inhalation therapy, skin treatments, pain medications (nonnarcotics), first-aid supplies, and flu vaccines. A licensed physician, a pharmacist, and county health personnel staff clinics as needed and review our standard procedures. The nurses also make referrals to connect clients to ongoing primary and specialty care through local community health centers, county health services, and private health care providers who agree to serve low-income clients. APU also partners year-round with the ESGVCH Emergency Assistance Center at Hacienda Heights, providing hygiene care, food, gasoline, and clothing, and evaluating, treating, and referring clients seeking daily emergency assistance.

Efforts of this scope take teamwork and collaboration from many sources. Throughout the last 16 years of APU’s involvement, the Iota Sigma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing has underwritten faculty involvement. Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center’s Community Benefit Program has consistently donated $8,000 to $12,000 annually, and private donors have given up to $14,000 per year. These gifts do more than cover the cost of equipment, supplies, and medications for this population; they make it possible for APU students and faculty to become like the Samaritan—willing, able, and prepared to show mercy to all, and eager to show Christ’s love to their neighbors.

For more information about the programs of East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless, visit esgvchhomeless.org.

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The latest astronomical breakthrough relating to the origin of the universe rocked the world of science—and affirmed the traditional Judeo-Christian view of a Genesis 1:1 beginning. Announced March 17, 2014, scientists detected evidence for gravitational waves, ripples in the space-time fabric of the universe. Touted as evidence for inflation (the faster-than-the-speed-of-light, early expansion of the newborn universe), the discovery confirms the gravity waves predicted by Einstein’s theory of general relativity and lends credence to the idea of a grand unified theory.

While providing new evidence for the Big Bang theory, this news also offers strong support for the Christian theory of general relativity and lends credence to the idea of a grand unified theory.

However, a faithful reading of Scripture requires more than just cracking open the Bible and reading from a 21st-century, American perspective. We must study the context, culture, genre, authorship, and original audience to discern its intent. When we look at these aspects together, we see that Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,” suggests a beginning to the universe. If the universe had a beginning, the simple logic of cause and effect necessitates an agent, separate and apart from the effect, that caused it; as recorded in Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

However, a faithful reading of Scripture requires more than just cracking open the Bible and reading from a 21st-century, American perspective. We must study the context, culture, genre, authorship, and original audience to discern its intent. When we look at these aspects together, we see that Genesis’ chapters 1 and 2 offer a theological rather than scientific message. The creation message tells us that God created a special place for humans to live, thrive, and be in communion with Him; that God wanted a relationship with us; and God makes provisions for us to have fellowship with Him, even after we turn away from Him.

God never intended Genesis to serve as a detailed scientific handbook describing how He created. If Genesis had foreordained references to the Big Bang, gravity waves, dark matter, and dark energy, it would have sounded confusing at best, and maybe magical or even frightening at worst. If these concepts that challenge even modern-day scientists were detailed in Genesis, the text would have been completely incomprehensible to the original audience. Even with today’s sophisticated technology and vast knowledge base, we fall short of fully understanding God’s complex Creation. We must stop trying to constrain the infinite God with our limited, finite human understanding. As humans, we tend to be more comfortable keeping God in a box where we can pretend to comprehend Him, but He doesn’t always act the way we expect. As C. S. Lewis wrote about Aslan in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, “Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good.”

For a cosmic Big Bang beginning. We must stop trying to constrain the infinite God with our limited, finite human understanding. As humans, we tend to be more comfortable keeping God in a box where we can pretend to comprehend Him, but He doesn’t always act the way we expect. As C. S. Lewis wrote about Aslan in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, “Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good.”

God reveals Himself both through Scripture and Creation; the key lies in seeing how these two sources of revelation fit together. A better understanding of each informs our understanding of the other. As a scientist and a Christian, I stand in awe under the night sky and am reminded that “the heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1, NIV), and that He established His “covenant for day and night and the laws that govern the heavens and earth” (Jeremiah 33:25, ISV). Science and faith do not represent an either/or competition. If God is truly the Creator, then He will reveal Himself through what He has created, and science becomes a tool to uncover those wonders. Properly practiced, science can be an act of worship in looking at God’s revelation of Himself in nature. This most recent scientific discovery serves as an example of that for me—a glimpse of God’s handiwork and an opportunity to learn more about how He creates. Throughout history, scientific discoveries have challenged us to adjust our understanding of how God interacts with the physical world. Several cases in point include Galileo’s empirical evidence refuting the geocentric view of the cosmos, Darwin’s proposition of random mutations and natural selection for biological evolution, and the work of Hubble, Gamow, Penzias, Wilson, and others revealing evidence for a cosmic Big Bang beginning. We must learn from this pattern and guard ourselves against a crisis of faith each time the science community discovers something. We need to let God be who He is—unsafe but good.

Leslie Wickman, Ph.D., is professor and chair of the Department of Engineering and Computer Science, and director of the Center for Research in Science. lwickman@apu.edu

In order to restore its leadership and global competitiveness, the national workforce must dramatically increase the number of employees skilled in math and science—and for those up to the challenge, opportunities abound. The U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC) projects STEM jobs to grow by 17 percent from 2008 to 2018, compared to 9.8 percent growth in non-STEM occupations, with STEM workers earning 26 percent more and experiencing a much lower rate of joblessness. However, despite these prospects, interest wanes. Why? Business executives, industry leaders, politicians, and economists largely agree that the problem and solution begin with education.

The nation’s “report card” generated by the National Assessment for Education Progress points specifically to fourth through eighth graders’ academic performance. The latest report revealed that from 2007 to 2013, these students not only failed to improve their overall achievement in math, but also consistently fell short of even basic aptitude. Preparing educators to reverse this trend, APU’s School of Education takes an aggressive approach. “In all our multiple-subject and single-subject programs, we equip teachers to help their students develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that will set them up for success in a global economy,” said Gregory Kaiser, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Teacher Education. “The Common Core strategies infuse our syllabi with techniques that teach educators how to encourage students to look at evidence, extrapolate information, collaborate with one another, communicate clearly, and

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (USDC) PROJECTS STEM JOBS TO GROW BY 17 PERCENT FROM 2008 TO 2018, COMPARED TO 9.8 PERCENT GROWTH IN NON-STEM OCCUPATIONS.
APU Neurobiology students participate in educational outreach programs to local middle schools in support of Brain Awareness Week, a global campaign, celebrated by more than 80 countries, that raises public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research.

“OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS CHRISTIANS AND EDUCATORS IS TO MAKE SURE OUR CAMPUS AND OUR PROGRAMS REFLECT THE BREADTH DIVERSITY OF THE KINGDOM AND ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE CAREERS IN STEM FIELDS.” — JOSHUA MORRIS

APU Neurobiology

Private institutions like Azusa Pacific lead that charge, producing more students who pursue science majors and doctorates in technical fields than their larger public counterparts, according to the March 2014 report from the Council of Independent Colleges, Strengthening the STEM Pipeline. Several factors contribute to this, including the low ratio of students to faculty, the higher number of full-time faculty with Ph.D.s, and the opportunity for undergraduates to engage in hands-on research with their professors. This personal attention and focus on scholarship enriches the rich culture of science, mathematics, and research at APU. STEM enrollment has steadily increased in both numbers and as a percentage of the total enrollment since 2008, and the six-year graduation rate for STEM majors keeps pace with the total graduation rate,” said Chris Olson, Ed.D., APU’s director of institutional research.

“While we recognize the challenge of improving retention of minority students, they continue to develop and implement best practices such as supplemental classroom training, these efforts can shift the cultural perspective and lead to a more balanced representation in colleges and universities.”

Yet some ethnic minority groups remain consistently underrepresented in science and engineering degree programs. The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics, and Statistics Administration reported in 2011 that Hispanics and African-Americans account for only 6 percent of STEM workers, but 14 and 11 percent of overall employment, respectively. “We find that students in general, but minority in particular, are underrepresented for rigorous STEM studies,” said Joshua Morris, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry. “Our responsibility as Christians and educators is to make sure our campus and our programs reflect the breadth of the diversity of the kingdom and encourage all students to explore possible careers in STEM fields”—especially those who think they don’t belong or don’t have a chance.”

At APU faculty seek external funding for programs to support ethnic minority students, they continue to develop and implement best practices such as small class sizes, open-door policies, and genuine interest in the lives of their students. Economic forecasts point to a need for producing, over the next decade, approximately one million more college graduates in STEM fields than expected under current assumptions, according to the February 2012 report from the President’s Council of Advisers on Science and Technology.

“Conducting translational research on colon cancer under Dr. Lallom's mentorship was a rewarding experience. Dr. Lallom was a very accessible mentor and walked me through the entire process of my research project. He was always available to help and provide guidance. I learned a lot from him and am very grateful for the opportunity to work with him and learn from his experience. The experience was invaluable and it helped me develop valuable skills and knowledge that I will carry with me in my future career.” — Melissa LaBonte ’04

“Women and men alike can be gifted in STEM fields, but in order to excel in these fields, they need to engage in hands-on research with their professors. This personal attention and focus on scholarship enriches the rich culture of science, mathematics, and research at APU. STEM enrollment has steadily increased in both numbers and as a percentage of the total enrollment since 2008, and the six-year graduation rate for STEM majors keeps pace with the total graduation rate,” said Chris Olson, Ed.D., APU’s director of institutional research.

These states reflect a concerted effort to bolster STEM education at APU. Mathews, Bryon, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics, noted that she earned a coveted invitation to the Project Kaleidoscope (PKAL) Summer Leadership Institutes in summer 2012, explored education challenges, discussed institutional change, and created leadership growth plans. Now she shares these insights with her APU colleagues and incorporates new methods into her curriculum. Mathews also focuses on promoting STEM careers by raising student awareness of career opportunities, involving more students in summer research and internships, and increasing student involvement in STEM professional conferences and career days. student-to-student mentorships, study-skills workshops, and informal gatherings with professors. “At the math program at APU has grown,” she added more rigor and depth,” said Mathews. “At APU, the tools available for teaching and learning have improved significantly, allowing teachers to engage students in the classroom and provide them with more interactive and engaging experiences.”

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In the mid-1990s, former President Richard Felix, Ph.D., unveiled a vision for Azusa Pacific University to become a flagship Christian university on a national scale—a fresh, innovative, and bold idea that some considered unattainable.

“First, we thought it nearly impossible,” said Director of Athletics Gary Pine ’84, MBA ’13, who served as the school’s sports information director at the time. “By the end of his tenure, we not only believed it, we saw it.” During Felix’s 10 years, the university doubled enrollment, constructed seven buildings, initiated its first doctoral program, and quadrupled the number of graduate programs, expanding Azusa Pacific’s academic reach.

While APU emerged as a premier Christian university, the athletics program simultaneously became one of the best in the country, capturing 7 national championships in the 1990s and in the country, capturing 7 national championships in the 1990s and 2000s, and amassing 51 national championships, 18 during Felix’s first decade of the new millennium.

APU’s commitment to its students. As a result, Congress student-athletes perform at a high level in the classroom, and the administration has taken steps to ensure that continues. This year, the department launched an official academic support program, instituting mandatory study halls, tutoring programs, and grade checks—things Pine calls “the first bite of the apple.”

Academics-support’s immediate impact includes 11 of the 15 programs posting team grade-point averages above 3.5, and a combined department GPA (nearly 460 student-athletes) of 3.101, an increase from the 3.067 the previous year. The department also saw a 61 percent increase in student-athlete retention among those on probation for compliance and academic support. Further, the student-athlete graduation rate of 69 percent in 2012–13 was five points higher than the general student population. “We can attract student-athletes that fit the academic rigor of this institution,” said Stava. “You can see how athletics and academics work hand in hand, and student-athletes want to be a part of it. We’re perceived as a great school because of that.”

Head football coach Victor Santa Cruz witnessed the value of NCAA Division II membership play out daily in the lives of APU student-athletes across campus. “For the student looking for a higher education that will prepare him into adulthood, we have something special to offer,” said Santa Cruz. “Because of the excellence on the court, on the field, and in the classroom, the Azusa Pacific brand has the strength and desire to attract and deliver the best of both worlds.”

Mark McDaniell ’99 is a digital and content marketer living in McKinney, Texas. mark.mcdaniell@gmail.com

“Academics and athletic excellence work in concert—not mutually exclusive, but rather inextricably linked to the mission to prepare disciples and scholars to be difference makers.”

—Paul Anderson
The National Collegiate Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) honored Azusa Pacific with the Presidential Award for Excellence. This marks the second consecutive year that the NCCAA has recognized Azusa Pacific as its top overall athletics program. The honor complements an eight-year run of Directors’ Cup trophies (2005-12) while the Cougars completed their affiliation with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. With these awards, Azusa Pacific’s record of earning the top overall honor within its championship affiliation now stands at 10 consecutive years.

The Cougars claimed three NCCAA national championships (men’s cross country, women’s soccer, men’s tennis) and posted four runner-up finishes in 2013-14.

Champions of the Classroom
The Pacific West Conference named three Azusa Pacific student-athletes to its All-Academic team in both men’s and women’s basketball, and the Cougars led the PacWest with 130 selections to the conference’s All-Academic Team. In addition, Azusa Pacific’s football team claimed its second straight Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Academic Team championship, posting the highest overall grade-point average among the conference’s six football programs. The Cougars were one of three teams in the conference that claimed GNAC championships on the field and in the classroom.

Consistent Excellence
The National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCA) has recognized Azusa Pacific as one of just three NCAA Division II programs in the West Region to post a 3.0 or better cumulative team grade-point average among its football programs. The Cougars were one of three teams in the conference that claimed GNAC championships and three Cougar teams defending conference titles leading into the season.

In its nationally televised season opener September 4, No. 22-ranked Cougar football team upset No. 2-ranked Grand Valley State University 26-23 in double overtime, winning the 0-19 in attendance. APU’s defense denied a potent Lakers offense, and senior tailback Terril Watson rushed 42 times for 207 yards and three touchdowns, including both Cougar scores in overtime. The Cougars hosted Simon Fraser on September 20, and will host Humboldt State University (October 9), Dixie State University (October 18), and Western Oregon University (November 1) before closing out the regular season with a nonconference home game November 15 against Mount College.

Women’s cross country team seeks its third consecutive Pacific West Conference championship after winning titles in its first two seasons of PacWest membership. Women’s soccer also defends a conference title, claiming last year’s crown with a 15-1-1 PacWest record before going on to win the National Christian College Athletic Association national championship.

New Era Begins with NCAA Playoff Pursuit
Azusa Pacific began its first season of competition as a full NCAA member, with the opportunity to compete for its first NCAA championships and three Cougar teams defending conference titles leading into the season.

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Upcoming Athletics Events
BASKETBALL
October 31: 7:30 p.m. Men vs. UCLA (Exhibition) / Pauley Pavilion, Los Angeles
November 15: 7 p.m. Women vs. Cal Poly Pomona / Felix Event Center
November 18: 5:30 p.m. Women vs. Cal State L.A. / 7:30 p.m. Men vs. Occidental / Felix Event Center
CROSS COUNTRY
November 22: Men’s and Women’s Cross Country at NCAA West Regional Championships / Billsburg, Montana
FOOTBALL
October 18: 6 p.m. Cougars vs. Humboldt State / Citrus Stadium
October 25: 6 p.m. Cougars vs. Dixie State (Homecoming) / Citrus Stadium
November 1: 6 p.m. Cougars vs. Western Oregon / Citrus Stadium
SOCCER
November 11: 11 a.m. Men / 1:30 p.m. Women / Cougars vs. Dominican University of California / Cougar Soccer Complex
VOLLEYBALL
October 11: 3 p.m. Cougars vs. Dominican University of California / Felix Event Center
November 7: 7 p.m. Cougars vs. BYU-Hawaii / Felix Event Center
November 12: 7 p.m. Cougars vs. California Baptist / Felix Event Center

If you have trouble communicating with your teen, take heart—you count among the vast majority of parents. After interacting with hundreds of parents over the years, I developed five key tips for improving communication with teens:

1. Make mealtime family time. Research reveals that teenagers who dine regularly at home with their families are more satisfied with life. They are better students, less likely to be sexually promiscuous, and tend to be less involved with drug and alcohol abuse. Communication happens around the dinner table, helping families stay more connected. Although hectic schedules make dining together difficult, the rewards outweigh the effort.

2. Make bedtime conversation time. Bedtime proved one of the best times to communicate with my teen. This carried over from their younger years when we tucked them into bed and said a prayer. As bedtime, I found them more willing to talk about their day, their problems, or whatever was on their mind. This relaxed atmosphere seems to work well for good communication.

3. Have parent-child dates or hangout times. By the time kids become teenagers, they focus intently on their friends and peers and establish their identities apart from mom and dad. However, they remain willing to do something fun with their parents—after all, they still like to eat and shop. I scheduled a monthly date with each of my children. Times like these create a relaxed atmosphere, prompting communication more easily.

4. Walk around the block. My good friend John Townsend, author and speaker, took his son for a walk around the block “the first week of school and explored the block ‘the rheostat of communication open.’” Do whatever it takes to keep the communication lines open with your kids.

5. Listen more, talk less. Parents can find it challenging to really listen to their kids. It often seems easier to lecture and tell, but listening produces better results. Sometimes kids just want to talk without the response of a parent’s opinion or another lecture. When you feel you need to weigh in on a topic, it helps if you ask for your teen’s permission to share your opinion. This gives them a feeling that you really care for and respect them. Remember, some of the best communication comes through listening—the language of love.

Azusa Pacific University’s HomeWord Center for Youth and Family with Jim Burns ’75, Ph.D., provides biblical-based resources for parents and youth to help build healthy families. homeword.com
Celebrated the 50th anniversary of his mental illness and hospitalization in his of Pacer Ministries. His brief struggle with care settings, and as an adjunct college and has served as a licensed social M.Div. from Methodist Theological School of the Evangelical Methodist Church in ordained a deacon in 1964 and an elder ordination as a minister. He was also compositions can also be heard on film composer, scored the film adaptation of the novel America: Imagine a World teridixon@earthlink.net

**TERESA “TERI” DIXON ’78**

promotes the Arboles Police Academy Division after 35 years as a civilian employee. She relocated to coastal North Carolina, her home state, teris9010@earthlink.net

BRAD GERARD ’97 and his wife, Staph, serve as missionaries with SIM in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Brad is the high school business teacher at Brigham Academy, an international missionary school, and

Steph works with an ovarian immunization project for ovarian cancer in Asia. She and her husband are active in the congregation of a church in Shanghai. They have three children: Jack, 12; and Annabelle, 11, and 4; and broad-gailed@sim.org

RYAN SHAW ’97 recently had a book published, The Spiritual Gift for Reaching Thriving as God’s Message Bearers (IMB Books, 2014). The international lead facilitator and president of Student Volunteer Movement 2 (SVM), he also authored Waking the Giant: The Researing Student Movement (William Carey Library Publishers, 2006) and their book, Teaching the Book of Proverbs from Fuller Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Kelly, serve as missionaries in China as co-pastors of a Christian retirement community in Avon Park, pam skirmishes.org

KERRI FERNSTOW ’92 FEAZELL and her husband, Jeff, released their second worship series, following the adventures of Kevin, a well-intentioned but insecure youth pastor struggling to establish his position with God and a group of imposing young people. They are currently in India where they are raising funds for their next endeavor.

GABBY RIVAS-DAMPER ’06, MICHAEL DAMPER ’04, and GINO PINEDO ’05. Phil and Michelle were married on May 1, 2010, and have been blessed with three children: Jack, 5; and twins, Ben and Emma, 3.

**BRAD GERARD ’97**

had received a certificate as a chaplain and in clinical pastoral education, and has served as a licensed social worker in Ohio with special training in family therapy systems. He has served as a chaplain in varied health care settings, and as an adjunct college professor of pastoral counseling and social worker, as well as in pastoral ministries at churches. He is also founder and director of Page Minister. His brief struggle with mental illness and hospitalization in his teen years enabled him to reach out to hundreds of patients in psychiatric hospitals and work with them with insight, perspective, and empathy, he says. He has also served in pastoral ministry and relocation in 2005, Cowles continued to minister as a chaplain at the Oaks at Akin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and as a volunteer chaplain at the Avon Park Coninucional Institutions, as well as in shares in music and public supply at local churches and the Avon Park Camp services. Additionally, he serves on the board of the Highlands County Coalition for the Homeless. He and his wife, Bev, have two children, lautrecowbell9@gmail.com

Teresa ‘Teri’ Dixon ’78 recently promoted to the Arboles Police Academy Division after 35 years as a civilian employee. She relocated to coastal North Carolina, her home state, teris9010@earthlink.net

**COUGAR INTERVIEW—CAMILLE ARNOLD, M.A. ’11**

With more than 700,000 employees, when did you decide you wanted to work for such a large corporation?

**ARNOLD:** My father worked in the Coca-Cola Warehouse in Denver when I was a little girl. I remember being taken to school on school days and all day on Saturdays, and I would go play in the Coca-Cola one day. I never lost sight of that goal. While working on the East Coast, I saw an ad for APU’s Executive MBA program, and I thought, ‘I am going to be an executive MBA student at APU and I am going to work for Coca-Cola one day.”

**APU LIFE:** How were you able to stop so many rungs on your way up the corporate ladder and still reach that level of success and integrity, an ambition that distinguishes her as not only a smart, hard-working woman, but also a loving mother?

**APU LIFE:** You have told me that you want to be a resource for managers who have the ambition to achieve the next level of success. What is the key to success, and what advice do you have for those wanting to achieve the same level of success?

**ARNOLD:** I would love to work in Berlin with our international human resources team to learn how the U.S. works in comparison to other countries. As the chair of our African American Cultural Education and Awareness Group, I want to expand my knowledge of business and human resources on a global level. My perspective on leadership and my success story comes from my little sister, Ashley Arnold Howard, M.A., who has overcome major obstacles. She inspires me to set lofty goals and shows me daily that I can, in fact, achieve them.

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**JUDY LEAHN—SCHLECHTZIE ’14**

She sold her book to a publisher, with the help of one of her mentors, and began to receive critical acclaim. Russell Buhl ’03 accepted a three-year clinical research fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and relocated to the Santa Monica area. He was also recently named as the new Associate American Board of Internal Medicine.

**TERESA “TERI” DIXON ’78**

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Michael Clark: RISING TO THE OCCASION

The Neighborhood Missionary

Saul Solis ’98 goes to Disneyland five days a week, but unlike the thousands of lucky park employees, he’s not working the rides or gates for a fun-filled vacation day, Solis enters a door behind the scenes that leads to a very different adventure—the Disney College Program, where Solis teaches college students the art and skill of professional photography.

Participants in the semester-long program gain valuable experience working in Disneyland Resort great services while also taking classes in personal and career development that provide college credit at their home universities. "My husband and I feel that this community is our mission field,” said Stump. "We act as missionaries by living and serving intentionally right here.”

This service begins with an unexpected act of compassion in a stranger’s time of need. As president of the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Auxiliary, Stump helps raise money for families with infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, funding medical bills and transportation costs, but her greatest contribution comes from her personal connection with emergency room patients. "A little support can go a long way. Often just a warm blanket, water, a smile, or a listening ear can bring comfort in the face of examinations or test results," she said.

Stump infuses this same strength and compassion into the larger community by connecting with small-business owners in the Claremont Village shopping area. "As one of several cofounders and chair of the Village Marketing Group, she organizes promotional materials, charity events, and other fundraisers that support these businesses, from restaurants and cafes to clothing boutiques and curiosity shops. "Running and marketing your own business is difficult, exhausting, and sometimes discouraging," said Stump, speaking from experience as the owner of a professional photography studio. "But we can accomplish much more as a team of citizens and business owners committed to building up this area.” Through the efforts of the Village Marketing Group, Claremont Village has grown into a thriving cultural center and scenic recreational space inviting the community to come together for events in the center of town.

Amid that atmosphere of commerce and alliance, Stump remains keenly aware of neighbors who confront challenges far greater than business ledgers and bottom lines. She also serves on the board of directors of Pomona Valley Workshop, an organization that works with disabled adults facing many closed doors in the workforce and helps them find fulfilling, paid jobs. "These people want to feel needed and give back to the community in tangible ways,” she said. "We empower them to reach their full potential.”

Her service also takes her to hospital delivery rooms where, as a volunteer photographer for Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep, she photographs babies who are stillborn or have low chances of surviving, and comforts grieving parents. "When you have a short amount of time with your little one, a photograph helps you remember and can be a form of healing," she said. "Wherever there is such need, and if I am able, I want to serve." 

That intense desire to help others compels Stump to continue seeking out needs, great or small, in her community. During election season, she volunteers as a precinct election observer, overseeing voting booths and protecting citizens’ right to vote. She also helps ensure the safety of his entire community by partnering with the police department on Claremont’s Community Emergency Response Team to promote and facilitate emergency strategies in the case of a major disaster. "Stump's love and faith philosophy stem directly from her gratitude for the blessings she received. 'Because Jesus gave so much to us, we give back by helping people in tangible ways wherever God calls us,' she said. 'Sometimes that takes us overseas, but often we are most needed right in our neighborhood.'"

Career Dreams Can Come True

Similarly, summer notebook creator Paul Solis ’98 discovers his personal calling within the field of photography. "Stump still draws inspiration from the professors who gave individual attention to the needs of each student in APU’s liberal studies program. "My instructions not only invested in me academically, but also personally." Today, he carries this mindset into his own classroom, connecting with students one on one.

Last April, Solis returned to his alma mater, where he presented "Discover the Hidden Mickeys of Interviewing,” an event hosted by APU’s Office of Career Services as part of a continued endeavor preparing students for post-graduate success in the workplace. SOLIS shared valuable wisdom and insider tips with more than 90 students to help them succeed in the workplace, emphasizing the importance of creating their own package. “What are you bringing to the table that no one else has?” asked Solis. “The key to a successful job interview is to create your own personal brand that highlights your talents and expresses you as a genuine, unique person.”

In choosing a career path, the stakes are high. “Over the course of their lifetimes, students spend about 80,000 hours working,” said Solis. “I want my students to spend those precious hours doing what they love. Through the union of career and passion, your entire life’s work can become a channel to effectively share your talents and dreams with others.”

I work with writers who range from the college students I see on a daily basis, to inner-city kids with so many stories to tell, to adults who are only just beginning to think they may actually have something to contribute.”
Jimmy McBirney ’05, JD, knows that joy. A managing associate with the San Francisco firm of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, McBirney served as lead counsel for George Souliotes—a man who spent nearly 17 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. When a woman and her two young children died from smoke inhalation after their rental house went up in flames, prosecutors blamed landlord Souliotes. They claimed he intentionally set the fire to collect the insurance claim after trying to evict the woman and collect unpaid rent. Pointing to smoke residue on Souliotes’ shoes—as proof that Souliotes was the culprit, the prosecution fought to exonerate an innocent person wrongfully imprisoned,” said McBirney. “It’s hard to imagine anything more compelling or worthwhile than fighting to exonerate an innocent person wrongfully imprisoned.”

The case’s success garnered McBirney and his colleagues 2014 California Lawyer Attorneys of the Year awards from California Lawyer magazine. He was 1 of 57 attorneys across the state receiving the honor, his in the area of pro bono law practice: “All my pro bono clients are people who have serious legal problems they are unable to solve themselves, and they cannot afford a lawyer to help them,” said McBirney. “Providing them with free legal help is my way of showing them that they are loved, valued, and not forgotten.”

It’s a worldview McBirney developed at APU when he first considered a career in law. His place on the debate team revealed his love for analyzing complex intellectual issues, while APU’s culture nurtured his call to seek justice. "Providing them with free legal help is my way of showing them that they are loved, valued, and not forgotten.”

McBirney said. “My faith allows me to really enjoy that work and make sure my clients know I care about them and am personally invested in reaching a solution to their legal problems. Ultimately, I hope my efforts will relieve their burden and let them get back to pursuing their work and their dreams.”

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Wayne Marston Bowden, M.D. (1935–2014)

Wayne Marston Bowden, M.D. (University Doctor of Medicine 1960–1977), passed away May 18, 2014. Wayne was born in Macomb, Illinois, on June 9, 1936, to Harold and Marjorie Bowden, the eldest of three boys. Wayne spent his childhood in Macomb, and all three Bowden boys learned to play the piano. In the Bowden household, if the church doors were open, the family was there. By age 11, Wayne played the piano for the church service. He went on to play the piano and organ for church and church-state throughout his life, becoming known for his perceptive, free style of playing. He earned Greeneville College in fall 1954 as a chemistry major with an emphasis in premedicine. While attending Greeneville, he began corresponding with Louise Blythe, eventually marrying on September 4, 1957, at the beginning of Wayne’s senior year. Wayne entered medical school at the University of Chicago, Illinois, in fall 1958. During that time, his first two sons were born: David ’92 (July 1960), and Daniel in June 1962. While graduating from medical school in May 1962, the family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for his residency, and his first son, Douglas ’85, M.A. ’90, was born in July 1965. Wayne had planned to go into missionary service with the Free Methodist Church as a medical missionary, but the draft preempted that, and he joined the Air Force as a first lieutenant. He was promoted to major in 1967, the same year his only daughter, Cynthia, was born. He rose to the rank of colonel in 1977, retiring six years later after two decades of service. He became the campus physician at Azusa Pacific University in 1989, serving until 2007, and taught anatomy and physiology to APU nursing students until his second retirement in 2013. While at APU, he took mission trips to Mexico to treat patients’ physical and spiritual needs. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, two brothers, Paul and Allan; four children, David, Dan, Doug, and Cynthia; three spouses, Max, Helen, Betty, and Terry; 11 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren—all better for having known him, one who taught them to love God, love family, and love music. Marvin Edward Leggett Jr., M.Ed. ’94, passed away June 26, 2014. Marvin (better known as Ed/Eddy/Uncle Eddy) was an intrepid reader and book collector, and placed high value on education. Having earned a bachelor’s degree from Arizona State University, and a master’s degree from Azusa Pacific University, this learned man spent his lifetime gaining and imparting knowledge as a teacher of English, humanities, science fiction, and fantasy at Norte Vista High School, and La Sierra High School, where he served as chair of the English Department for many years. In addition, Ed coached football and baseball during his time at Norte Vista. He retired in 2002 after nearly 40 years as an educator. Ed was drafted into the Army in 1968 and served in the Vietnam War. All who knew him attest to his steadfast heart and description to his friends. Ed compassionately supported a number of them through their own long-term, terminal illnesses. He will be remembered dearly for his loyalty and concern for others. He enjoyed his day, engaging sense of humor and vast knowledge of books and authors. Ed is survived by his sister, Susan Rumans, and his husband, Nat; their son, Eric; nieces, Alexis, Cammy, Ralls, and Alyson; and a host of loving friends. Josephine Turinov Granch, M.A. ’65, went home to the Lord February 27, 2014, after a 10-year battle against lung cancer. Jo, a nurse, finished her work career as a marriage and family therapist at Grace Counseling in Los Alamitos. Lung cancer forced her into retirement. Her husband of 51 years, Stan, and her three sons, Stanley, Michael, and William, survive her. Memorial, which she called her “moving on up” celebration, was held in March at Christ Presbyterian Church in Huntington Beach, California, with a standing-room-only group of friends, family, associates, and closest supporters. Janalee Mallett ’44 passed away in her home at Apple Valley, California, on December 21, 2013. Janalee was born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, on April 6, 1927, but resided most of her young life in Lake County, Ohio. Her strong will and unwavering faith in God, and the love and prayers of family, friends, and numerous supporters, carried her through her two-year battle with cancer. She lived her child’s life for her children, and at age 49, earned a degree in education from Azusa Pacific University, allowing her to follow her dream of becoming a teacher. She taught at George Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School for the Aleksei School District. She is survived by her parents, Larry and Janice Seaton; daughter, Chandra Ballentine and fiancé, James Stavrinou; daughter, Caysta Hyder, and fiancé, Matthew Lively, son, Chase Hyder, and wife, Stephanie; son, Cole Mallett; stepchildren, Lisa, Shawn, Christine, and Bob, sisters, Judith Dawson, Joanne Wood, husband Joel, Laura Pflugst, and Linda Guerrero (husband Tony), 15 grandchildren, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.
Anniversaries mark life’s milestones. For Azusa Pacific University, they also serve as reminders of God’s abundant provisions and offer a glimpse of the remarkable possibilities ahead. Pacific Bible College (predecessor to APU) celebrated its 50th Golden Jubilee anniversary throughout the 1949–50 academic year, outlining a bold plan for the future. At the 1949 Dinner Rally, then-President Cornelius P. Haggard, Th.D., presented the Fifty-Fifty Plan to raise $50,000 by January 1951 by issuing Jubilee Gold Bonds in varying denominations (see above). In 1999, Azusa Pacific University observed its centennial anniversary with special publications, audio and video recordings, and numerous events. Likewise, last year the APU community observed several notable anniversaries, including 30th anniversaries for the Graduate School of Theology (now Azusa Pacific Seminary), the Murrieta Regional Center, and Night of Champions, as well as 40th anniversaries for the Department of Art and Design, Walkabout, and Special Collections. At the beginning of every year, President Haggard would boldly declare, “We have just begun the greatest year in our history!” The 2014 anniversary celebrations affirmed that legacy of faithfulness and expressed the community’s trust that indeed it will be “the greatest year in our history” at Azusa Pacific University.

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and Family Weekend October 16–18, 2014

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