Coaching for Impact
my mother’s imprint can be found throughout my childhood. She created a sense of community for our family. She mentored us, she corrected us. She disciplined us. She provided space for our family where each of us felt listened to and heard.

My first experience of community outside my family occurred within the Mar Vista Gardens housing project in Los Angeles, especially during summertime. Every morning, we would race out of bed and head for the big field to play baseball, football, and basketball. There, amidst the dirt and sweat of competition, we experienced community—a diverse group of kids coached and mentored by men and women who volunteered their time.

A few years later, we moved to a new place, and the neighborhood kids gathered at Blanco Park in Culver City. Athletics offered us an important outlet. More than that, it built community. I will never forget Coach Bob. He not only coached us, but he also mentored us, disciplined us, and brought us together as a team. We enjoyed great success because of his belief in us. I wish I could thank him for investing in my life as that 12-year-old boy.

When I came to Azusa Pacific in 1976, I had the same experience, but in a different setting. I enrolled in Dr. John Hartley’s Hebrew Prophets class. Although I don’t recall all the content, I remember how this renowned scholar came alongside us and formed community. How did he do that? He cared about us. He looked us in the eye when he spoke to us. He personalized the class. He asked us about our lives and cared about what we cared about. He expected the best of us, and when we fell short, he lovingly corrected us. He forged a community of 30 students doing life together in an upper-division theology class. I remember when he and his wife generously hosted us in their home for pizza. Nothing like someone a little older and a little further along in life creating a space where you feel heard, cared for, and loved.

More than 38 years later, that genuine love for people still permeates relationships throughout campus and sets Azusa Pacific apart.
Established in 2001, City Links engages first-year APU students in community service projects in collaboration with churches, schools, parks, and nonprofit organizations. Over the course of three Saturdays last fall, more than 1,100 freshmen participated in projects at 31 sites throughout Azusa, Duarte, Glendora, Monrovia, and Pomona, contributing nearly 5,000 volunteer hours.
This historic position aims to centralize diversity initiatives, Denu will accept the role of vice president/chief diversity officer in summer 2015. Denu, Ph.D., vice president/Chief Diversity Officer, takes a practical and collaborative approach to diversity, working across campus and within diverse departments to foster an inclusive environment.

In addition to managing new and current diversity initiatives, Denu will continue to support and resources to students, and provide a living-learning environment within the APU campus community and promote multicultural competence and inclusivity. This success reflects a positive attempt to foster greater self-confidence and equipping students with a thorough knowledge of campus resources. The Pathway Scholars program seeks to proactively close the opportunity gap that affects underrepresented students and their likelihood of developing a sense of purpose and belonging. Of the 12 participants praised the program’s effectiveness. Several stated that Pathway significantly decreased their anxiety about college and emphasized the importance of personal growth. The program provides a valuable opportunity for students to develop critical thinking skills and gain a deeper understanding of the academic environment. The program’s goals are to enhance student success, provide a comprehensive view of the resources, goals, and opportunities available to help students thrive in college.
APU Participates in Major Concussion Research Project

The number of home runs hit by Kirk Nieuwenhuis on May 12, 2015, to 1,700,000+ owners of the New York Mets in a timelapse video of a baseball game. In October, Nieuwenhuis represented the Mets at the 2015 World Series against the Kansas City Royals as a designated hitter, pinch hitter, and center fielder.

The number of APU undergraduate students who participated in three Brain Fairs last fall (bringing the total to 1,200 this year). Jointly sponsored by APU and ASD, the event brought an interactive neuroscience lab to each AUSD middle school, teaches seventh graders about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the adolescent brain, and stresses the importance of helmet safety. Students also get to hold real human and sheep brains, record electrical nerve signals from cockroaches, observe MRI scans of the human brain, participate in interactive sensory experiments, and learn neuroanatomy using 12-foot-tall inflatable brains under the guidance of 26 APU neurobiology students.

The number of students who participated in three Brain Fairs last fall (bringing the total to 1,200 this year). Jointly sponsored by APU and ASD, the event brought an interactive neuroscience lab to each AUSD middle school, teaches seventh graders about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the adolescent brain, and stresses the importance of helmet safety. Students also get to hold real human and sheep brains, record electrical nerve signals from cockroaches, observe MRI scans of the human brain, participate in interactive sensory experiments, and learn neuroanatomy using 12-foot-tall inflatable brains under the guidance of 26 APU neurobiology students.

The number of students at the University of California, Riverside, who participated in three Brain Fairs last fall (bringing the total to 1,200 this year). Jointly sponsored by APU and ASD, the event brought an interactive neuroscience lab to each AUSD middle school, teaches seventh graders about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the adolescent brain, and stresses the importance of helmet safety. Students also get to hold real human and sheep brains, record electrical nerve signals from cockroaches, observe MRI scans of the human brain, participate in interactive sensory experiments, and learn neuroanatomy using 12-foot-tall inflatable brains under the guidance of 26 APU neurobiology students.

The number of students at the University of California, Riverside, who participated in three Brain Fairs last fall (bringing the total to 1,200 this year). Jointly sponsored by APU and ASD, the event brought an interactive neuroscience lab to each AUSD middle school, teaches seventh graders about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the adolescent brain, and stresses the importance of helmet safety. Students also get to hold real human and sheep brains, record electrical nerve signals from cockroaches, observe MRI scans of the human brain, participate in interactive sensory experiments, and learn neuroanatomy using 12-foot-tall inflatable brains under the guidance of 26 APU neurobiology students.

By the Numbers

The number of consecutive years APU has been named to the U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges list for exemplary leadership in civic engagement, service-learning, and building community partnerships. APU undergraduates perform more than 165,000 hours of service each year locally and globally.

The number of Apusian and non-Apusian students who have participated in a service learning trip to classes in the areas of flexibility, financial support, and academic need, including undergraduate first-generation college students, those from low-income families, and those with disabilities requiring learning accommodations. Target Success enhances APU’s ability to support SSS-eligible students, who account for 18 percent of incoming APU students from 2011-13.

Inaugural TEDx Talks Advance Scholarship

APU’s annual TEDx event, APU’s first TEDx event, brought together some of the university’s best thinkers and engaged students in conversations on topics around the theme of Inventing Ideas and Meaning. Each 18-minute presentation encouraged the audience and others viewing the live video streams to deepen community engagement with values, character, ethics, and new ideas. View the presentations at ted.com/talks/advising.html.

New Business and Management Dean Named

Robert H. Rollie, Ph.D., with 30 years of experience in teaching and administration, accepted the post as dean of the School of Business and Management in June 2015. He leads 25 full-time faculty, 7 undergraduate majors, and 5 graduate programs serving more than 1,000 students. Rollie shares APU’s entrepreneurial spirit of innovation and vision to become the nation’s model Christian business school known for producing leaders of faith, character, and competence.

The number of consecutive years APU has been named to the U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges list for exemplary leadership in civic engagement, service-learning, and building community partnerships. APU undergraduates perform more than 165,000 hours of service each year locally and globally.

The number of Apusian and non-Apusian students who have participated in a service learning trip to classes in the areas of flexibility, financial support, and academic need, including undergraduate first-generation college students, those from low-income families, and those with disabilities requiring learning accommodations. Target Success enhances APU’s ability to support SSS-eligible students, who account for 18 percent of incoming APU students from 2011-13.

Inaugural TEDx Talks Advance Scholarship

APU’s annual TEDx event, APU’s first TEDx event, brought together some of the university’s best thinkers and engaged students in conversations on topics around the theme of Inventing Ideas and Meaning. Each 18-minute presentation encouraged the audience and others viewing the live video streams to deepen community engagement with values, character, ethics, and new ideas. View the presentations at ted.com/talks/advising.html.

New Business and Management Dean Named

Robert H. Rollie, Ph.D., with 30 years of experience in teaching and administration, accepted the post as dean of the School of Business and Management in June 2015. He leads 25 full-time faculty, 7 undergraduate majors, and 5 graduate programs serving more than 1,000 students. Rollie shares APU’s entrepreneurial spirit of innovation and vision to become the nation’s model Christian business school known for producing leaders of faith, character, and competence.
**CAMPUS CLOSE UP**

**“Our Declaration,” “Progressivism to Modernism,” “Racism Without Wisdom and Without Virtue?” Each lecture compels attendees to consider various types of government and their effect on individuals, societies, and cultures.**

**Chamber Singers Headline International Choral Festival**

Azusa Pacific’s 37-member Chamber Singers, led by Michelle Jensen, became the first American choir to headline the international choral festival in Sassari, Sardinia, Italy, last September. The occasion also marked the first time in 70 years that the international festival showcased a collegiate choir alongside renowned professional choirs representing several European countries and the regional capital of choral singing, the event honored Gabriele Vendrelli, retiring director of the Polifonica Santa Cecilia choir.

The Chamber Singers’ nine-day Italian excursion included three days in Rome, where they performed at the Vatican in Saint Peter’s Basilica, toured the Vatican museums and the Sistine Chapel, and sang L. Fleming’s “Cove Me Jesus” in the cell where the Apostle Paul suffered imprisonment. Lyrica Taylor, Ph.D., assistant professor of art history and the director of the Master of Arts in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism program, provided the group with historical context for the museums, galleries, and historical sites they visited in Rome.

This prestigious honor builds on past Chamber Singers’ achievements, which include 11 awards from the Llangollen competition in Wales last summer and placing first overall in the Competition for Choirs in Austria in 2013. For more than a decade, Michelle Jensen has encouraged the Chamber Singers to reach higher levels of excellence, musicality, and international notoriety,” said Stephen P. Johnson, DMA, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “This important milestone attests to their skills and growing reputation.”

**Scholarship at Work**

**Sacred Encounters**

video art by Kant Anderson

Cinema Alumni Produce Award-winning Short

The Department of Cinematic Arts hosted an open house for alumni last October, screening five films produced by current and former students. The featured productions included, “Jute Births in July,” “Love Me,” “Where We Met,” “Where Are They Now?,” and “Luiseño,” named Best Student Film at the Tampa Bay Underground Film Festival.

The film has been selected for competition in the Filmstock Film Festival, Monarch Film Festival, and the Monarch Film Festival. The film was chosen for the 2015 Los Angeles Design Festival.

**Recolor Recover**, artwork by Terry Dobson, MFA, director of design and assistant professor, Department of Art and Design

Terry Dobson, MFA, director of design and former Disney Imagineer, deployed innovative new work merging art, technology, and his faith-integrated research at a regional gallery exhibition in Los Angeles’ Arts District last summer. Together with former Disney creative partner Ed Haro, Dobson designed a Google Cardboard 3D Virtual Reality experience combining interactive art and historical supposition for the 2015 Los Angeles Design Festival. Recolor Recover recreates a virtual walkthrough of digitally reconstructed 19th-century symbolic blueprints from an unfinished millennial temple in his hometown in England. Proceeds from the exhibition helped support the Special Olympics Los Angeles World Games.

**Against Indifference**

**Four Christian Responses to Jewish Suffering during the Holocaust**

(C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, André and Magda Tsochmi) by Carole Lambert, Ph.D., professor of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Against Indifference provides a variety of responses to Jewish suffering during the Holocaust, moving on a spectrum from indifference to courageous action. C.S. Lewis didn’t speak up for the Jews, but his sister, her Jewish husband, and other Jews escaped from Germany; and the Tsochmis established protective housing and an ongoing underground railroad that saved several thousand Jewish lives. Why was there a variation in the responses of those who had committed their lives to Jesus Christ and recognized His commandment is to love God and others? This book provides answers that help shed light on current Christians and their commitment to victims who suffer and need their help.

**Economic Performance Dynamics of OPEC Member Countries (Scholars’ Press, 2015)**

by Emmanuel Uguru, Ph.D., associate professor, School of Business and Management

This book examines the economic performance of OPEC member countries, which have largely been ignored in contemporary empirical studies and published literature on economic growth and performance. The impact of their vast natural capital in the form of significant petroleum resources endowment and the related production and pricing implications dominate and drive global economic systems and conditions. The research covers 1970 to 2015 and includes: the new independent variable factors of natural capital as a measure of natural resource endowment from crude oil production and pricing, financial capital as a measure of country-level financial development, and institutional management framework as a measure of the quality of the social environment and economic infrastructures that characterize the economic systems.
Called to Disciple

Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

MISSION STATEMENT

Azusa Pacific University is a Christian university in the urban context of Los Angeles dedicated to higher education that advances students to develop a life of truth and life. As Christ’s university, Azusa Pacific University seeks to gear every aspect of university life toward fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations and to prepare leaders who will advance the cause of Christ and the Christian community in society.

SOMETIME IT HAPPENS ONE ON ONE, OTHER TIMES IN SMALL GROUPS. IT CAN OCCUR SYMMETRIALLY, OCCASIONALLY, OR INTENTIONALLY, BUT WHATEVER FORM IT TAKES, ONE THING REMAINS CLEAR—AT APU, DISCIPLESHIP PERMEATES ALL WE DO. "WE EMPHASIZE DISCIPLESHIP BECAUSE IT IS THE CALL OF CHRIST," SAID COBA CANALES '06, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS. "DISCIPLESHIP IS PART OF OUR INSTITUTIONAL DNA, BUT WE CAN DO EVEN MORE," SAID TERRY FRANSON, PH.D., SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE/DEAN OF STUDENTS. "STUDENTS ARE CRYING OUT FOR MENTORS. THE IVY LEAGUE SCHOOLS ARE AWARE OF THEIR LACK IN THIS AREA, AND THANKFULLY, AZUSA PACIFIC HAS BEEN LEADING THE WAY. INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP FOR EVERY PERSON WHO SEeks IT IS MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. I AM COMMITTED TO CONSTRUCTING THE RUBRIC IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND WILL HELP US STAND FAST AS WE ENGAGE CULTURE."" PRresident JOn R. WALLACE, DBA, AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ENDORSE THIS EXPANSION OF DISCIPLESHIP AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT IT WITH HUMAN AND MONETARY RESOURCES. "A GENEROUS DONOR AND ALUMNI WHO BELIEVES DEEPLY IN HELPING ANCHOR AND EXPAND APU’S

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

"Without my mentor to guide me and be my spiritual advisor and support, I wouldn’t have been able to get through a lot of challenges."

"Because of my mentor, I have begun praying and reading my Bible more often—focusing on the more important aspects of life."

"Meeting with my mentor is one of the best parts of my week."

discipleship and spiritual emphasis committed to gift $600,000 to fund the first three years of an initiative to do just that,” said David E. Bisey, Ed.D., acting president. With a portion of the gift being overseen by the Office of the Campus Pastors, the initiative seeks to find new avenues that stir interest in discipleship among the student body at every level and provide qualified mentors to meet rising needs. Concurrent plans include more extensive D-Group leader training involving an annual weekend retreat and general training opportunities throughout the year, and to provide for more focused development of mentors based on the principles outlined in the university’s Spiritual Mentoring Handbook. The emphasis calls for a solid infrastructure of personnel comprising undergraduate interns, Azusa Pacific Seminary graduate interns, a men’s mentoring coordinator, and an operating budget. The board further demonstrated its commitment by commissioning a pilot program to test the viability of remote discipleship relationships led by trustee Nick Typhantides ’86, MD, who lives in San Marino. Even with the administration’s participation and backing, students far outnumber available mentors. According to Canals, the most effective recruiting method remains word of mouth from current mentors. One such seasoned mentor, Peggy Campbell, president of Ambassador Advertising Agency, chair of the APU Board of Trustees, and long-time mentor, understands the relevance of what she does. “The thought of discipleship intimidates some because it requires advocacy. At some point, you have to provide input and give advice that will help direct the course of someone else’s life. That’s a big responsibility. What I have learned at APU—what has thunderstruck me—is that younger people covet relationships with adults who listen to them and speak into their lives. Discipleship enables them to become a conduit for the Lord to change the world.”

Priscila Diaz, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and the Honors College, agrees. “Taking on a spiritual mentoring role can be intimidating,” she said. Having led three D-Groups and mentored four students during her four years at APU, she draws on personal experience as she encourages fellow faculty and staff members hesitant about entering into a mentoring relationship. “Yes, it’s time consuming and sometimes draining, but God really rewards those who don’t give up. They are His call on our lives, and He is faithful to equip us, so don’t fear the process as you walk alongside Christ’s Lead. Your responsibility is to walk alongside our students beyond the academic material we teach and beyond basic Bible study.” In the Department of Psychology, Diaz and her colleagues serve more than 700 majors and minors. “The entire department read Destining the Kingdom by James K.A. Smith to prepare our hearts and create avenues to disciple students. That inspired the launch of a special annual worship service by and for psychology students, though all are welcome. It’s very intimate and personal. Faculty members recruit their psychology students, we share community, and we serve one another.” The ultimate goal is to prepare people who can turn around and prepare others.

This vital relationship, however, is not limited to faculty and students. Alumni, APU employee spouses, local church members, seminary students, and staff members who have undergone an extensive application and screening process also mentor students and one another. “Our purpose at APU is to send students into the world equipped with a relationship with Jesus Christ and developed skills to be in a job or situation where they can serve well,” said Pershing Lum, senior project manager in Information and Media Technology, who has mentored students and colleagues at APU. “Getting to know Jesus is caught more than taught. When I was discipled, I noticed how my mentor responded to situations and learned from his example. Discipleship involves a relationship with someone who knows you.” So how does one measure success in discipleship? “The goal is to help the person discover and become the person God wants him or her to be,” said Lum. “I ask them, ‘Is God as real as the circumstances you face every day?’ When they can answer ‘yes’ and have a clearer understanding of who they are meant to be, then we’ve done good work together.”

Given the logistical challenges, why would colleges and universities bother to facilitate these one-on-one connections? According to the Journal of College Student Development, students who receive out-of-class mentoring demonstrate increased academic achievement and retention. Research in Higher Education reports that students with mentors have higher GPAs. And the Journal of Counseling Psychology notes that undergraduate and graduate students alike report mentoring helped them develop skills and behaviors necessary to succeed professionally. Given these results, universities can no longer afford to ignore the correlation. At APU, this strategic integration of personal connections within the context of higher education goes even further and reinforces the symbiotic relationship between the academic and spiritual aspects of life. It also demonstrates APU’s deep commitment to faith integration, the discovery of and informed reflection on Christian faith within every academic discipline.

ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE
Watch stories about different makers—guided, mentored, and coached to lean into God’s call upon their lives—at apu.edu/stories/

• Margarita Ramirez ’12 Fulbright Scholar
• Lindsey Reifield ’86 Business Owner
• Stephen Vogt ’07 Major League Baseball Player

MENTOR PERSPECTIVE
“My student appreciates being able to talk about things that others won’t. He says he feels safe. This has blessed me tremendously.”

“I found that my student feels much more confident about life, her walk with the Lord, and about hearing from God.”

“We learned a lot about what we believe and why we believe it. Our discussions involved difficult questions and possible responses to these questions. We also created a great friendship.”

This emphasis distinguishes APU from its secular counterparts. “Discipleship and mentoring must first be grounded in our institutional identity based on our spiritual heritage,” said Kevin Mannino, Ph.D., university chaplain, who believes that, like individuals, the collective community must be discipled. He works closely with faculty, adjuncts, board members, staff, and administrators to help them understand this heritage so they can more effectively communicate it. “If we deepen and strengthen our knowledge of who we are, discipleship will be the natural outcome.” Mannino joins annual retreats with faculty members to facilitate a clearer understanding of their spiritual heritage, and meets with adjunct professors to explain the university’s core values.

He also oversees SoulQuest, a spiritual care ministry for graduate students. “We want everyone to have a personal encounter with Christ,” said Mannino. “Graduate students are very different from undergraduates. They are adults, are married or planning to marry, roughly 35 percent of them are not believers, and all are commuters. I email each of them weekly to let them know we are here and available to all who seek guidance. We help them locate a church, pray with them, meet with them one on one. No graduate student attends APU without clearly knowing that we care for him or her as a whole person. They leave here knowing that APU is genuinely interested in their soul.”

And they leave here equipped to serve and increase the Kingdom regardless of circumstances, geography, or status. “Today we need a Church that is mobile and impactful,” said Canals. “If disciple-scholars emerge from APU with marketable skills and employability coupled with a deeper faith, a solid understanding of who God wants them to be, and a Christian mentor who knows them well and holds them accountable, the Church would be infinitely more effective in facing out the biblical call to be salt and light in the world.” Azusa Pacific envisions a population of alumni—doctors, scientists, mathematicians, social workers, teachers, coaches, nurses, pastors, missionaries, artists, musicians, business professionals, entrepreneurs, and parents—ready and able to model the Great Commission and fulfill the Great Commission. This happens when they engage in discipleship just as Jesus modeled it—an apprenticeship for successful Christian living that transcends the world’s understanding of mentors, interns, and life coaches. As an institution committed to standing as a city on a hill, APU carries the solemn responsibility to integrate this training throughout every office, department, classroom, dorm room, and chapel, keeping God first at all times, and discipleship and degrees inextricably linked.

Apply to be a spiritual mentor at apu.edu/campuspastors/programs/ mentoring/mentors/
The great books curriculum forms the foundation of APU’s Honors College. It might be more accurate to call it a great texts curriculum, because not all the texts we read are books—some are plays, some are poems, some are letters, and some are state papers, like the Constitution of the United States. Even more precisely, we might call this a great works curriculum, since we study great works of music and visual art, too, with field trips every semester to some of the great concert halls and museums in and around Los Angeles. We also explore nature, in a sense the greatest work of all, a product of the divine art of Creation. Books, however, lie at the heart of our scholarly inquiry—the histories, dialogues, memoirs, treatises, novels, and meditations of some of the world’s greatest minds.

We seek to understand great books from all times and places as their authors understood them. And this implies two things. First, that it is possible to distinguish between what is great and what is ordinary. Second, that it is possible for the human mind to liberate itself from the confines of the time and place in which it finds itself and understand human thought from another time. And if we can liberate ourselves in this way from our time and place, it is also possible to liberate ourselves from our race, gender, socioeconomic class, and other such contingencies, and understand something about things as they are.

At first glance it may sound, the highest academic authorities, whose opinions dominate teaching in American undergraduate and graduate schools, largely deny both of these possibilities. This poses the greatest challenge facing higher learning in America. In the Honors College, we begin by questioning this prevailing dogma of our time, to open our minds to all times and to greatness. We invite our students to join us in the liberating—and reasonable and questionable—affirmation of the freedom of the human mind. That our minds are free is the most decisive condition of learning; it means that our conclusions are not determined by our race, gender, or class, but are free to be determined by the truth—truth about the greatest things.

Consider this: Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius (Boethius to us), a Roman who lived from about 480 to 524 AD, was among the most educated men of his time, and held some of the highest honors in the Roman state. Boethius saw Roman civilization vanishing. For him, Roman civilization meant largely an inherited Greek civilization, and Greek civilization was best summed up by the two greatest minds he knew—Plato and Aristotle, who had written their books in Greek 800 or 900 years before his time. He aspired to translate all of Plato’s and Aristotle’s works from Greek into Latin in an effort to preserve what he considered the essence of civilization for future generations.

He never fulfilled his life’s ambition—Boethius was unjustly imprisoned for treason at the age of 45. While in prison awaiting execution, however, he wrote his own great book, *The Consolation of Philosophy*—the first reading of the sophomore year in the Honors College curriculum. This book, in its own way, offered a distillation of the civilization Boethius hoped to preserve. It became one of the most widely read and influential books for the next 700 years in Europe. It was translated from Latin into German, French, Italian, and English as these languages came into existence. C.S. Lewis, in the mid-20th century, wrote that up until the mid-1700s, it would have been “hard to find an educated man in any European country who did not love” Boethius’ book.

So what is it that makes a great book great? Boethius might define a great book as one that wise and educated people would most want to translate and preserve if they saw civilization vanishing. Lewis might say a great book is one that deserves the love—the fullest attention—of the best of minds. In the Honors College, we invite the best of young minds to give loving attention to great books, so that they may help preserve civilization for coming generations.

Christopher Flannery, Ph.D., is a professor in the Honors College. He is a native Angeleno and cofounder of eveninla.com, a site that celebrates American stories and music.

cflannery@apu.edu

By Christopher Flannery

PHOTOS BY SKYLER RUSSELL ’13 AND CABRINA ALVIAR, MFA ’12

Annual Report 2015
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.

Total Giving Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Giving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>$1,251,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$2,531,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>$2,880,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Fund</td>
<td>$2,100,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity/Trust</td>
<td>$1,435,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,211,053</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

University Fund Giving

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

University Fund Giving by Constituency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Giving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$256,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches/Organizations</td>
<td>$61,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$125,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff</td>
<td>$727,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$642,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>$200,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>$335,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>$405,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,100,718</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stewarding Our Resources

Selected financial numbers/Operating Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 (unaudited).

Revenue Breakdown

- **Tuition and Fees**: $262,798,761
- **Auxiliary Services**: $33,133,667
- **Private Gifts and Grants**: $6,406,415
- **Other**: $6,144,833
- **Investment Income and Gains**: $4,440,065

**TOTAL**: $315,923,543

Expenditure Breakdown

- **Instruction and Academic Support**: $117,358,037
- **Institutional Support**: $76,764,269
- **Scholarships/Financial Aid**: $65,250,180
- **Student Services**: $38,348,428
- **Auxiliary Services**: $16,515,419

**TOTAL**: $314,236,333

Assisting Our Students

- Institutional Scholarships and Grants: $64,777,313
- Federal and State Scholarships and Grants: $23,122,693
- Percent of Undergraduate Students Receiving Any Form of Institutional or Need-based Financial Aid (2014-15): 93%
- Freshman Retention (Fall 2014-15): 88%

Summary

- **Total Assets**: $360,282,343
- **Total Debt**: $137,174,067
- **Debt-to-Asset Ratio**: 38%
- **Endowment Balance**: $60,728,807
- **Five-year Growth**: 55%
In 2007, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rolled out a series of popular public service announcements. The commercials simply stated, "There are over 380,000 student-athletes, and most of us go pro in something other than sports." Christian Okoye ’87 did both. The Nigerian native picked up American football at age 23 at Azusa Pacific University and later found success in the National Football League (NFL), earning a pair of trips to the Pro Bowl and an AFC Offensive Player of the Year honor in 1989. After wrapping up a successful six-year career on the gridiron, he’s gone pro in a new field, making a big impact in his local community.

Far removed from his playing days, Okoye now runs the Christian Okoye Foundation he established in Rancho Cucamonga in 1990, which offers free summer football and soccer camps to kids unable to afford them. But his vision goes beyond sports. Okoye works to instill leadership qualities, build relationships, and improve the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the kids he works with—all qualities he developed during his time at Azusa Pacific. "My passion for giving back to the community and encouraging kids is because of my experience as a student-athlete at Azusa Pacific. "I learned how to be a football player, but I also learned to be a better person. Sports have a way of developing and preparing kids for life."

That’s something Azusa Pacific Athletics has strived to do since Cliff Harlow ’56 started the program in the 1950s. It continued when Terry Franson, Ph.D., took over as athletic director in the mid-1990s and through Bill Odell’s 16-year tenure, and now thrives under Don Marshburn, LHD. It’s people like Franson, Jim Milhon, Jeanie Pascale, and Terry Odell who have helped reconnect with former classmates, professors, and coaches. "I often say I am blessed because God brought me to APU. The people here genuinely love the students, and when they interact with them, it’s like they are interacting with their own kids. That’s how it was when I was there, and that’s how it is now. The campus has changed through the years, but the culture and the values haven’t. This place impacted me, and almost 40 years later, I want to help others the way this place helped me."

For more information, watch Christian Okoye: A Football Life premiered September 18, 2015. NFL Network documentary that tells the story of Okoye’s career.

And when you get treated the way I did by the people at APU, you want to give back. When I work with kids in my foundation, and they thank me for caring about them, I know it’s because of APU’s influence." More than three decades later, the relationships still flourish. "The connection I have is strong because of the love and understanding I was shown from the first time I stepped on campus. It’s people like Franson, Jim Milhon, Harlow, Pete, Elaine Bousag, and others. They realized I left everything at home in Nigeria, and they embraced me as one of their own. They made Azusa Pacific feel like home."

Then the head track and field coach, Franzen recruited Okoye for his team. Okoye says he picked up football and track in Nigeria, but his interest in sports is history. "Coach Franzen was such a positive influence on me. He showed me love. When I went to the Senior Bowl, he was one of the first to encourage me. When I went to play for the Kansas City Chiefs, we kept in contact. His prayers and encouragement pushed me through injuries and tough times.”

Okoye makes it a point to return to Azusa Pacific often to see Franson and others. He attends many home football games and tries to make every home opener and Homecoming game a special event reconnecting with former classmates, professors, and coaches. "I often say I am blessed because God brought me to APU. The people here genuinely love the students, and when they interact with them, it’s like they are interacting with their own kids. That’s how it was when I was there, and that’s how it is now. The campus has changed through the years, but the culture and the values haven’t. This place impacted me, and almost 40 years later, I want to help others the way this place helped me."

For more information, watch Christian Okoye: A Football Life premiered September 18, 2015. NFL Network documentary that tells the story of Okoye’s career.
“I could tell the first time I met him that he was a positive kid,” said Azusa Pacific men’s basketball head coach Justin Leslie ’00, MBA ’01. “He’s always smiling and has a youthful enthusiasm. College athletics can sometimes become routine, but he keeps it fresh and is constantly giving us perspective that it’s just a game.”

In high school, Cardwell was a star—one of the top scorers in the state, he led Mid-Peninsula High to the CIF Central Coast Finals for the first time. Hailing from a small, private school, however, meant little attention from recruiters, and he received just two offers: one from Concordia University, the other, Azusa Pacific.

“Fortunately, I was a good student, and I surrounded myself with friends who stayed positive and pushed me,” said Cardwell. “It was a tough neighborhood, but if you avoided the negativity and were doing positive things, people supported you. My mom and the older guys on the block kept me from going down the wrong path. And I always had basketball.”

The transition from the high school game to college did not come easily. Cardwell redshirted his freshman year and played in only 13 games and for 37 minutes in 2013. Playing time increased a little the next season when he played in 27 games, but for a baller accustomed to scoring nearly 30 points per game in high school, averaging fewer than 6 hurt his pride.

Frustrated and discouraged, Cardwell considered leaving, but he chose to stay. “That was one of the toughest times in my life. There were times I cried myself to sleep. I had to take a step back and realize I was young, and still learning, and I’m not that guy anymore. It was humbling, but once I accepted that, I started to learn. Coach always says, ‘Control what you can control, and the only thing you can control is your attitude and effort.’ So, I stopped being angry at everything, accepted a role, and played that to the best of my ability. I’m so glad I stayed. It was the best decision I’ve ever made.”

That trying time also brought Cardwell closer to God. “I did a lot of praying, and He gave me a sense of peace. I also joined a D-group. I grew up in church, but went away from it when I was a teenager. Being at APU changed my life. I’ve learned so much about Christ. I’ve started praying more, reading Scripture, and surrounding myself with godly people. I got baptized again last December and have been on two mission trips that have made me realize how blessed I am.”

LyDell Cardwell ’15 grew up on the rough streets of East Palo Alto, California. His parents divorced when he was young, leaving his mom to raise him and his two younger sisters alone. Cardwell had every opportunity to get mixed up with violence, gangs, and negativity, but he didn’t.

“I feel a strong sense of responsibility to show our new teammates this is a positive environment,” said Cardwell. “We’re different . . . that’s APU. I don’t want to just act like I’m a good guy, I want to be a good guy, and I’m working hard every day to be a role model. Everyone wants to make a million dollars, but I want to touch a million lives.”

“LyDell is the inspirational leader of this team,” said Leslie. “He’s worked hard, and through the process, the man we have now has been completely transformed. When the chips are down, he finds something encouraging to say or do. He loves helping people. That’s his passion.”

Micah McDaniel ’99 is a digital and content marketer living in McKinney, Texas. micah.mcdanl@gmail.com
Women’s Soccer: Azusa Pacific earned the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Division II West Region, hosting the first and second round of the regional playoffs in mid-November. The Cougars led for the Pacific West Conference championship, going 15-2 overall and 11-2 in conference play in the regular season to advance to the program’s first NCAA tournament. Mayer Almazan ‘16 was named Pac-West Player of the Year, one of five Cougars earning all-conference, first-team honors.

Cross Country: Edson Streod ‘18 earned an individual bid to the NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships, finishing fifth overall at the West Regional championship meet in Monmouth, Oregon. The women’s team finished 13th in the region, while the men posted a seventh-place finish to lead all PacWest programs at the regional championships. Streod gave Azusa Pacific an individual national qualifier for the second consecutive season, and Lauren Harrell ’19 and Jeremy Porter ’18 also earned all-region honors for their top-25 individual finishes.

Football: Azusa Pacific registered its third consecutive winning season, finishing 6-4 overall while going 5-3 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. The Cougars ranked among the top 15 winningest Division II football programs over the past three years and have won 22 of their past 26 conference games dating back to 2012.

Men’s Soccer: After finishing the season on a three-game winning streak to go 6-2-1 overall (6-1-1 PacWest), Azusa Pacific produced three all-conference selections. The Cougars, who claimed consecutive PacWest titles in 2013 and 2014, finished in a tie for seventh place in the 2015 conference standings.

Volleyball: Azusa Pacific bounced back from a 0-4 start with seven consecutive wins and swept defending conference champion BYU-Hawaii home and away in a midseason five-match winning streak to claim a top-three finish in the PacWest. Three-time All-PacWest Mattie Shelford ‘16 ranked in the top 10 in career kills and assists and was one of two Dowell team members for the RoboClemente Award and the recipient of the Dave Stewart Community Service Award.

Baseball Alumni Update

Kirk Nieuwenhuis ’09
Kirk Nieuwenhuis ’09 became the first Azusa Pacific baseball player to play in the World Series, appearing in four games for the National League champion New York Mets. Nieuwenhuis appeared in 74 regular-season games in 2015, his fourth big league season, and he wrapped up the first half of the season by becoming the first player in Mets history to hit three home runs in a single game.

Stephen Vogt ’07
Stephen Vogt ’07, who became Azusa Pacific’s first MLB All-Star last summer, added several organizational awards to his AA-Star season for the Oakland Athletics. Vogt received the 2015 Captain’s Award, elected by the club’s players, coaches, and staff members for the player whose performance on the field and conduct in the clubhouse best exemplifies the courageous, competitive, and inspirational spirit demonstrated by late Hall of Fame pitcher Catfish Hunter. Vogt, the first to win the award in consecutive years, was also the A’s nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award and the recipient of the Dave Stewart Community Service Award.

Fall Sports Highlights

Make Career Connections

Azusa Pacific alumni serve as some of the most effective teachers, scientists, health care professionals, entrepreneurs, ministers, missionaries, missionaries, actors, and leaders in every field. Together, they represent a rich resource of potential mentors, employers, and advisors ready and willing to assist APU students and alumni seeking internships and job opportunities.

To facilitate these connections, the Center for Career and Calling sponsors the APU Career Network, an online tool where employers, alumni, and friends of the university can post jobs and internships.

If you know of open positions, contact the Office of Alumni Relations, post the job directly on the apu.edu/career employers/, or email the staff at career@apu.edu for assistance.

Alumni Alumni

Tips for Refreshing Spiritual Intimacy in Your Marriage by Jim Burke

Most couples have neither considered nor discussed a plan to grow together spiritually. When we polled married couples about aspects of their marital satisfaction, we found that most expressed the least satisfaction with their level of spiritual intimacy, a topic too often relegated to the back burner.

However, couples who prioritize faith issues have a much greater chance of a thriving, successful marriage. In a study of more than 50,000 couples, David Olson, Ph.D., Amy Olson-Sigg, M.A., and Peter Larson, Ph.D., counsellors of The Couples Cheek, found that couples with a similar faith background who integrate their other relationship experience lose conflict, clearer communication, more closeness, better financial management, a happier sexual relationship, and greater overall satisfaction.

While no easy formula exists to ensure spiritual intimacy and compatibility in marriage, every couple can incorporate a few healthy habits to refresh spiritual intimacy.

Develop a regular spiritual growth time as a couple. Spiritual intimacy doesn’t come naturally to most of us. Find something that works for both of you. Cathy and I wrote a book called Clear: Discovering God’s Design for Devotions Together, and it came from a commitment we made to spend 20 weeks working on spiritual intimacy. It may take some experimentation before you find what suits you, but don’t get discouraged. Keep trying. To get started, I’d like to suggest a small but powerful step: Try spending just 20 minutes a week together on developing spiritual intimacy.

Worship together regularly. As a couple, seize the opportunity to experience God’s presence through worship. It draws you closer to God, and it also brings you closer to each other.

1. Seek spiritually replenishing relationships with other couples. If you want to grow in your faith, seek mentors who can help you and be role models for you. Piers can also be an excellent source of positive spiritual influence in your life and marriage. Involvement in a couples’ small group is a great way to develop replenishing relationships.

2. Pray together often. Praying together offers a major source of spiritual intimacy and deepens your personal relationship with God. If your spouse is open to it, pray together daily. If your spouse is not very spiritually motivated, keep prayers short, and do it at a meal or another time that seems less intimidating.

As a couple, rate the opportunity to experience God’s presence through worship. It draws you closer to God, and it also brings you closer to each other.

3. Make your plans. As a couple, rate the opportunity to experience God’s presence through worship. It draws you closer to God, and it also brings you closer to each other.

4. Follow through with a plan. As a couple, rate the opportunity to experience God’s presence through worship. It draws you closer to God, and it also brings you closer to each other.

For more information or to register for the 2016 Refreshing Your Marriage Conference, March 21-22, visit homeword.com. The HomeWord Center for Youth and Family at Azusa Pacific University with Jim Burns ’77, Ph.D., and Doug Fields values strong marriages, committed parents, entrepreneurial kids, and healthy leaders.
COUGAR INTERVIEW—DARYLL QUALLS ’93

APU LIFE: How has your experience informed the way you approach your work?

QUALLS: My involvement began in early childhood during the 1980s. My family stuck together, and we spent evenings reading with each other’s homes for social functions. I watched my parents’ generation supported and believed in one another. The people who treated each other and encouraged the development of a worldview that was influential, powerful, and nurturing. I believe that I took that with me.

APU LIFE: Why is community relations important to you, and what is your vision for the future in Pasadena?

QUALLS: It does take a village to raise a child. I grew up in northwest Pasadena. A hospital in that neighborhood is the Pasadena Presbyterian Hospital. I guess I could say I raised my childhood from birth. The people make it a city or town special. People are able to trust other people in which they live, it fills them. When neighbors talk to each other, education takes root. Businesses want to be in a vibrant, growing place. This also forms the foundation of a positive relationship between the police department and city government. These are the ingredients for great cities.

APU LIFE: Your roles over the years have been vast and varied. What have you found to be the toughest responsibility?

QUALLS: Day to day is to implement the vision and chart the path for the department of more than 800. I am the chief deputy for the Pasadena Police Department, and I’m the city’s leaders. Although this is a tremendous responsibility, I am most proud when I see the people who helped get back on their feet after the devastating impact of COVID-19. We’re looking forward to the day that some of the young people who live I’ve touched have gone on to lead the police department, business owners, and attorneys. We all do this work together.

APU LIFE: Why do you do what you do?

QUALLS: Helped found the Pasadena/Adams Park Captive Council, which helps men and women who are released home after incarceration get back on their feet. This group is generally discouraged, shunned, or rejected. Yet, many of these individuals are not different from you or me. They are good people who are there for their families, but for the price of God, I do. Any one of us can find ourselves in this situation simply by one lapse in judgment. In fact, many of the people who were formerly incarcerated were friends of mine from high school. Some have been incarcerated for many years, and it is my hope to simply help them in any way I can, so what I do to accomplish? Involves a lot of work.

APU LIFE: What keeps you motivated to continue this challenging work for more than three decades?

QUALLS: I believe in what I do, and I’m here. I’ve been here for 37 years. I’ve seen people tough and my police partner gets criticized. I love many great police officers dedicated to serve to find a bad child. We’re all here because we love the guy that has a human side, those who help bring stability to instable relationships, or to hold the hand of a family that loses a loved one. Those are the people that have kept me motivated throughout these years.

APU LIFE: What message would you most like to share with the public about the value of a strong connection between law enforcement and residents?

QUALLS: I believe it helps found the Pasadena/Adams Park Captive Council, which helps men and women who are released home after incarceration get back on their feet. This group is generally discouraged, shunned, or rejected. Yet, many of these individuals are not different from you or me. They are good people who are there for their families, but for the price of God, I do. Any one of us can find ourselves in this situation simply by one lapse in judgment. In fact, many of the people who were formerly incarcerated were friends of mine from high school. Some have been incarcerated for many years, and it is my hope to simply help them in any way I can, so what I do to accomplish? Involves a lot of work.

APU LIFE: Your roles over the years have been vast and varied. What have you found to be the toughest responsibility?

QUALLS: Day to day is to implement the vision and chart the path for the department of more than 800. I am the chief deputy for the Pasadena Police Department, and I’m the city’s leaders. Although this is a tremendous responsibility, I am most proud when I see the people who helped get back on their feet after the devastating impact of COVID-19. We’re looking forward to the day that some of the young people who live I’ve touched have gone on to lead the police department, business owners, and attorneys. We all do this work together.

APU LIFE: Why do you do what you do?

QUALLS: Helped found the Pasadena/Adams Park Captive Council, which helps men and women who are released home after incarceration get back on their feet. This group is generally discouraged, shunned, or rejected. Yet, many of these individuals are not different from you or me. They are good people who are there for their families, but for the price of God, I do. Any one of us can find ourselves in this situation simply by one lapse in judgment. In fact, many of the people who were formerly incarcerated were friends of mine from high school. Some have been incarcerated for many years, and it is my hope to simply help them in any way I can, so what I do to accomplish? Involves a lot of work.

APU LIFE: What keeps you motivated to continue this challenging work for more than three decades?

QUALLS: I believe in what I do, and I’m here. I’ve been here for 37 years. I’ve seen people tough and my police partner gets criticized. I love many great police officers dedicated to serve to find a bad child. We’re all here because we love the guy that has a human side, those who help bring stability to instable relationships, or to hold the hand of a family that loses a loved one. Those are the people that have kept me motivated throughout these years.

APU LIFE: What message would you most like to share with the public about the value of a strong connection between law enforcement and residents?

QUALLS: I believe it helps found the Pasadena/Adams Park Captive Council, which helps men and women who are released home after incarceration get back on their feet. This group is generally discouraged, shunned, or rejected. Yet, many of these individuals are not different from you or me. They are good people who are there for their families, but for the price of God, I do. Any one of us can find ourselves in this situation simply by one lapse in judgment. In fact, many of the people who were formerly incarcerated were friends of mine from high school. Some have been incarcerated for many years, and it is my hope to simply help them in any way I can, so what I do to accomplish? Involves a lot of work.

APU LIFE: What keeps you motivated to continue this challenging work for more than three decades?

QUALLS: I believe in what I do, and I’m here. I’ve been here for 37 years. I’ve seen people tough and my police partner gets criticized. I love many great police officers dedicated to serve to find a bad child. We’re all here because we love the guy that has a human side, those who help bring stability to instable relationships, or to hold the hand of a family that loses a loved one. Those are the people that have kept me motivated throughout these years.

APU LIFE: What message would you most like to share with the public about the value of a strong connection between law enforcement and residents?

QUALLS: I believe it helps found the Pasadena/Adams Park Captive Council, which helps men and women who are released home after incarceration get back on their feet. This group is generally discouraged, shunned, or rejected. Yet, many of these individuals are not different from you or me. They are good people who are there for their families, but for the price of God, I do. Any one of us can find ourselves in this situation simply by one lapse in judgment. In fact, many of the people who were formerly incarcerated were friends of mine from high school. Some have been incarcerated for many years, and it is my hope to simply help them in any way I can, so what I do to accomplish? Involves a lot of work.

APU LIFE: What keeps you motivated to continue this challenging work for more than three decades?

QUALLS: I believe in what I do, and I’m here. I’ve been here for 37 years. I’ve seen people tough and my police partner gets criticized. I love many great police officers dedicated to serve to find a bad child. We’re all here because we love the guy that has a human side, those who help bring stability to instable relationships, or to hold the hand of a family that loses a loved one. Those are the people that have kept me motivated throughout these years.

APU LIFE: What message would you most like to share with the public about the value of a strong connection between law enforcement and residents?

QUALLS: I believe it helps found the Pasadena/Adams Park Captive Council, which helps men and women who are released home after incarceration get back on their feet. This group is generally discouraged, shunned, or rejected. Yet, many of these individuals are not different from you or me. They are good people who are there for their families, but for the price of God, I do. Any one of us can find ourselves in this situation simply by one lapse in judgment. In fact, many of the people who were formerly incarcerated were friends of mine from high school. Some have been incarcerated for many years, and it is my hope to simply help them in any way I can, so what I do to accomplish? Involves a lot of work.

APU LIFE: What keeps you motivated to continue this challenging work for more than three decades?

QUALLS: I believe in what I do, and I’m here. I’ve been here for 37 years. I’ve seen people tough and my police partner gets criticized. I love many great police officers dedicated to serve to find a bad child. We’re all here because we love the guy that has a human side, those who help bring stability to instable relationships, or to hold the hand of a family that loses a loved one. Those are the people that have kept me motivated throughout these years.

APU LIFE: What message would you most like to share with the public about the value of a strong connection between law enforcement and residents?

QUALLS: I believe it helps found the Pasadena/Adams Park Captive Council, which helps men and women who are released home after incarceration get back on their feet. This group is generally discouraged, shunned, or rejected. Yet, many of these individuals are not different from you or me. They are good people who are there for their families, but for the price of God, I do. Any one of us can find ourselves in this situation simply by one lapse in judgment. In fact, many of the people who were formerly incarcerated were friends of mine from high school. Some have been incarcerated for many years, and it is my hope to simply help them in any way I can, so what I do to accomplish? Involves a lot of work.
Daniel Chetti ’76, Ph.D., grew up in a small dusty village in South India, with no running water or electricity, living amid stark poverty. He later moved with his family to Calcutta, where his father became pastor of a historic Baptist church. Here he first saw the Church at work in the world. His father sought to bring hope and beauty to his family and their community by growing a bountiful garden on the church grounds for all to share and enjoy. Chetti remembers seeing local nuns visit the garden to cut fresh flowers for their Friday Mass. Those nuns belonged to the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation founded by Mother Teresa dedicated to helping the poor.

“As a boy, I would see Mother Teresa riding crowded trolleys, carrying the streets of Calcutta, helping those in need,” said Chetti. “At the time, I had no idea who she was, but I knew she was doing God’s work.” This ability to recognize God’s work has served Chetti well, fueling his lifelong calling as a global servant for Christ.

As a young man, Chetti left India to attend London Bible College. His finances proved insufficient, so in 1972, he applied to Azusa Pacific College, the university’s forerunner. “The president at the time, Dr. Cornelius Haggard, graciously gave me a full scholarship, enabling me to come to the United States and complete my bachelor’s degree, and for that I am deeply grateful,” he said. His time at APU strengthened his faith and his focus, affirming his passions for ministry and teaching.

Attentive to God’s call, Chetti returned to India to teach at an Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Madras and serve as assistant pastor at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church for 13 years. From Chetti’s vantage point as a professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon, he sees history in the making. The upheaval and aftermath of the Arab Spring and the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis provide heartache and opportunity as never before. Chetti equips leaders for the Arab world from nine countries across the Middle East and North Africa, including Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. “These difficult times allow God to reveal Himself among His people,” he said. “There is an interdimensional revival taking place in the Middle East because of the Arab Spring, Evangelical, Armenian Evangelical, Church of God, and Pentecostal members are uniting in their recognition that God’s Kingdom transcends all boundaries and individual identities. The Church is a much bigger tent housing all nations and all tribes.”

The church Chetti attends in Hadath, Lebanon, reflects this awakening. The congregation, which includes members from several countries, recently grew from 250 to more than 500, drawing Lebanese, Iraqis, Kurds, and Syrian Christians to worship together. “The 21st century is the age of the migrating Church,” he said. “Populations are crossing borders. In Lebanon, every third person is now a Syrian refugee. At the time of Christ’s birth, there was no room for the Lord in the inn. The Church in the Middle East today is not different.”

Chetti’s training in church leadership, the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary houses the Institute of Middle East Theology, which focuses on positive relations between the Middle East and by encouraging Christian-Muslim dialogue through various programs, and educational events. The institute aims to shape inclusive relationships among various faiths and find common ground. “We are at the forefront of an Arab Renaissance, a public engagement in search of the best ideas, values, and models that can shape the society,” said Peterson. “We do whatever is necessary to make God’s Word available and alive everywhere. The Gospel of Jesus Christ changes lives, and everyone on Earth should have the opportunity to know the great story.”

But Peterson’s ultimate goal beyond placing a Bible in someone’s hands. “Access to the Bible is important, but we pray that people might truly know Jesus, and engage Scripture with all their hearts and lives.” Recently, American Bible Society ministered to women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who suffered abuse and lost family members to war. “They found new life and freedom in the healing words of Scripture, and went on to help other women in their country through emotional and spiritual restoration,” said Peterson.

Even with great strides in recent years, much work remains for Bible translators. More than 1,400 languages have no translations, and more than 1 billion people are without access to the complete Bible. Peterson sees the next generation of businesses as key to spreading the Gospel. “The world needs people who can create more efficient and effective systems using technology and best business practices,” he said. Peterson’s insight gained at APU carry into my work today, and I look forward to seeing today’s students become servant leaders. No matter where God places you—whether in business or ministry—that’s your calling.”

The Gospel for All

Peterson did not initially plan a career in Christian mission work. With an undergraduate degree in business administration, he worked for more than a decade in sales management. “He wanted to work for a business office for a very different work environment: the mission field of Ecuador and Guatemalas, where he worked for eight years as a liaison between Wycliffe Bible Translators and local government, ministry, and business leaders, while also studying leadership at Aranac Pacific. “God’s calling was clear,” he said. “I knew He was leading me to use my business experience in a new way—contributing to the Bible movement. Eventually, the threads of his experience in leadership, business, and Bible translation came together when he served as president and CEO of Wycliffe Bible Translators USA and The Seed Company, international nonprofits focusing on Bible translation. Today, Peterson guides American Bible Society in its mission to reach all the people in the world’s 8,000 languages with the Bible, engaging the 1.8 billion people without access to the complete Bible in their language of choice.

“God weaves together our diverse experiences to prepare us for whatever He calls us to do,” said Rev. Peterson. “In 1979, Alderson, then just 19, worked with an interfaith agency to feed the hungry and establish the premier certified farmers’ markets in low-income communities of Los Angeles County. The effort first opened in a Gardena church parking lot with a mission to bring the healing power of food to every community. Now, as founding executive director for the Institute for Responsible Nutrition (IRN), Alderson’s latest endeavor brings him full circle to his passion for creating change that empowers others to transform their health. “Food is fuel. It gives us energy, health, and happiness. It is a basic human need. It is a source of connection. It brings us together,” he said.

Alderson’s latest endeavor brings him full circle to his passion for creating change that empowers others to transform their health. “Food is fuel. It gives us energy, health, and happiness. It is a basic human need. It is a source of connection. It brings us together,” he said.

It was a powerful experience to have my personal and professional lives integrated into this model of leadership learning, and I carried that forward in my career,” said Alderson.

With Alderson’s guidance, IRN earned nonprofit status in 2014 and set out to upend many of the practices that have gained a foothold in the food industry. The institute seeks to introduce a food packaging label that would help consumers easily identify clean, additive-free products and push the Food and Drug Administration to remove sugar from its Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) database of food substances. “Giving up food manufacturers to stop adding sugar will mean the end of processed food and pave the way to producing real food that sustains health and nourishes families,” said Lustig.

The initiative also ignited Alderson’s career dedicated to social change and knocking down barriers to sustainable, nutritious food. That conviction and drive recently attracted Alderson to the vision of Robert Lustig, MD, a San Francisco pediatric endocrinologist and a sugar-addictive five-time New York Times bestseller Fat Chance (Plume, 2013). Lustig’s idea for a nonprofit fit well with Alderson’s decades of nonprofit start-up experience. “Wycliffe is helping steer IRN toward becoming an influential voice in the debate over food production. It is the food of the future,” said Peterson. Peterson’s latest endeavor brings him full circle to his passion for creating change that empowers others to transform their health. “Food is fuel. It gives us energy, health, and happiness. It is a basic human need. It is a source of connection. It brings us together,” he said.
Andrew Montes ’15 remembers the cold, dreary winter afternoon at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, in 2010 when the care packages arrived. Boxes containing handwritten notes and drawings from school children, Christmas cards from neighbors and strangers alike, warm socks, and an assortment of candy and snacks brightened the day and made Montes even more grateful for his hometown of Azusa. He shared the contents with his fellow servicemen and women and posted the cards and notes of support in a common area so all could benefit from the encouraging words. “Just knowing I had everyone back home thinking of me made all the difference in the world,” said Montes. “It demonstrated what I love most about Azusa—the people.”

The Montes family’s roots run deep in the city, with three generations calling Azusa home. “My grandparents, parents, and extended family all live here,” said Montes. “In fact, Azusa Mayor Joseph Rocha was my mother’s sixth grade teacher.” Montes’ dad coached him in baseball and served as the league vice president, constantly modeling the value of hard work and sacrifice—traits learned from his father, Andrew’s grandfather, Bacilio, a veteran who served during the Korean War. While Bacilio made it home from the war, six others from Azusa did not. The city’s strong support of its military men and women and the courage of his own ancestors affirmed Montes’ decision to enlist in the U.S. Air Force upon graduating from Azusa High School in 2006. He deployed to Iraq in 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, facing the harsh realities of combat when the U.S. moved to secure and protect critical areas of Baghdad and Al Anbar Province. After Montes completed his tour in Iraq, the Air Force sent him on a peacekeeping mission in South Korea, more than 50 years after the Korean War, which proved a poignant end to his military career. Montes returned to Azusa a hometown hero who downplayed his service and focused on his new mission—to use his experiences to help others. The support Montes received from his family, friends, and community helped ease his transition to civilian life. “Not everyone is that fortunate,” Montes said. “I personally know veterans who struggled when they returned home with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), homelessness, substance abuse, and marriage and family conflicts.”

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports that 10 to 18 percent of veterans who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars face PTSD, and returning troops experience depression and engage in excessive drinking and substance abuse at higher levels than the general population. Given these dismal statistics, Montes aspired to pursue a career where he could assist veterans in need and sought the advice of his older brother Jesse, MSW ’10, to help him define a path forward. “I saw my brother as a role model,” he said. “Through his work as a licensed clinical social worker at a California state hospital, Jesse makes a positive impact on the lives of his clients who battle mental illness. He attributes his success to hard work and the education he received at APU.” Montes decided to follow in his brother’s footsteps and enroll at APU as a social work major. “My experience was just as Jesse said it would be,” Montes said. “I benefited from small class sizes, supportive faculty and staff, and a strong social work program that helps students prepare for this challenging field.”

After graduating with his Bachelor of Social Work in May 2015, Montes chose to continue his education in APU’s Master of Social Work program, securing a competitive 500-hour internship beginning fall 2015 with the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, which provides services to more than 67,000 veterans in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. As a social work intern, Montes will assist veterans seeking mental health services. “I believe Andrew will connect and empathize with his veteran clients in ways that other social workers cannot,” said Rukshan Fernando, Ph.D., associate dean, School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences. “The knowledge and competencies he learned from his BSW and MSW programs, coupled with his military experience, equip him to validate and help navigate the personal, educational, and professional challenges veterans face when they return to civilian life.”

Active duty may be behind him, but for Montes, this new chapter of service is just beginning. Rachel White is associate director of public relations in the Office of University Relations. rewhite@apu.edu
BETHANIE FROST ’07, M.Ed., ’11, to TRAVIS LAFOND ’16 on December 20, 2014, at the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena. The reception was held at APU. Bethanie is the daughter of PATI (MEYER) FROST ’00, M.Ed. ’02. Members of the wedding party included SHERI (MENDENHALL) VEG BURG, KENDRA LAFOND ’16, BENJAMIN VER BURG ’14, and CHRISTOPHER JONSON ’10. Travis is a corporal with APU’s Department of Campus Safety. They met at Western Christian High School, where Bethanie teaches and Travis coaches football. Travis is also pursuing his B.S. in Organizational Leadership through APU’s University College. They live in Upland, California.

CHRISTY BRUEGGER ’07 to Matthew Bowser on September 26, 2015, in Fallbrook, California. Members of the wedding party included ADAM ’06 and LISA (NESTOFF) ’07 BOTT. SPENCER FOSTER ’17, KATY JELLSA ’10, MONICA MOLLOY ’09, and KIM ULRICH ’10, M.A. ’14. Breann is the alumni and college relations coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Music and the Arts at APU. The couple lives in La Habra, California. breannalulich@gmail.com

CHRISTY ROBERTSON ’06 to BREANIE KIRK ’09 on February 21, 2015, in Fallbrook, California. Members of the wedding party included ADAM ’06 and LISA (NESTOFF) ’07 BOTT. SPENCER FOSTER ’17, KATY JELLSA ’10, MONICA MOLLOY ’09, and KIM ULRICH ’10, M.A. ’14. Breann is the alumni and college relations coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Music and the Arts at APU. The couple lives in La Habra, California. breannalulich@gmail.com

CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS ’04 to REINHARDT ’08, M.S. ’10, and ANDREW GAINES ’08, M.S. ’10, in Redwood City, where Christy is a part-time teacher in the Covina Unified School District. The couple lives in La Verne, California. christyrichardt@gmail.com

MELISSA (MEYER) MASLOWSKI ’03 to BRIANA (BARRY ’03) CORY, M.A. ’07, and her husband, MIKE ’03, a son, Jonah Michael, on August 15, 2015. Jonah joins big sister, Ava Brookelyn, 2. Mike is a technical lead at The First Movement in Pasadena and Briana is a part-time teacher in the Covina Unified School District. The couple lives in La Verne, California. mke.briana@gmail.com

BRANDON SISK (ATTENDED 2003-05) to his wife, MELISSA MILLER ’08, a daughter, Sierra Rain, on August 7, 2015.

KATIE (LAYTON ’04) GRIFFITH and her husband, JONEL ’04, a son, Brekon Cole, on January 24, 2015. They joined big brothers, Clayton, 5, and Luke, 3. Joel works as a senior solutions manager at Vtech Systems Group, and Katie stays at home with the boys. The family lives in Dana Point, California.

RACHEL HASTINGS ’05, M.A., ’10, and her husband, Randy, a daughter, Samantha Grace, on May 19, 2015. She joins big sister, Audrey, 3. Rachel recently left her position as APU’s Honor College program manager when Randy received a job promotion and relocation. The family now lives in Las Vegas, nevhastings50@gmail.com

SAM TURBOCH ’00 passed away on September 17, 2014. Sam and his wife, BOBBIE ’10, taught in the Hacienda La Puente School District for many years. Sam taught and was a continuation high school counselor, as well as a brand officer, while Bobbie taught kindergarten. They moved to Fallbrook, California, where they retired and served their church in the nursery, as choir members, and as Sunday school teachers. Sam and Bobbie also went to Mexico and taught the linguists’ kids as Wyldie Bible Translators. Sam had Alzheimer’s for some years before passing away. He will miss their four children, MISTIE (TURBOCH) SHAW (’77), JIM (’78), Don, and Tamis two sisters; and many grandchildren and great-grand- children survive them.
Christian Okoye grew up in war-torn Nigeria, where, in spite of his father’s disapproval, he loved to play sports. He came to Azusa Pacific to participate in the track and field program, becoming a world-class discus thrower and later a powerhouse running back despite having never played football before age 23. In just three years on the APU gridiron, he ran more than 3,500 yards, averaged nearly 7 yards a carry, and scored 34 touchdowns. In April 1987, the Kansas City Chiefs drafted him, and after six seasons, he became the Chiefs’ all-time leading rusher while establishing himself as a two-time Pro Bowler. Some of his greatest accomplishments, however, occurred off the field, such as founding the California Sports Hall of Fame, supporting the Impact a Hero veterans program, and, through his foundation, hosting kids’ camps, teaching them to “keep looking, keep learning, keep laughing.” Okoye’s life represents one of myriad examples of APU students who draw upon lessons learned on the field and in the classroom, and go out fulfilling their God-given calling, not only as athletes, but also as financial advisors, filmmakers, teachers, nurses, pastors, or other vocations to which God calls them, impacting their communities, churches, and professions with a Christian perspective. As they model the mind of a champion, striving for God-honoring excellence and remembering to keep God First in all they do, they accomplish the work of the Kingdom of God.

—Ken Otto, MLIS, associate professor, Special Collections librarian
Advancing God’s Work in Culture and the Arts

The Windgate Charitable Foundation generously pledged a $3 million challenge grant to establish an art endowment at APU. Join the ranks of those who have risen to the challenge and help build an endowment that supports arts education through scholarships and innovative artist-teacher education.

The foundation will donate two dollars for every dollar you give between now and April 2016. Together, we can build a $4.5 million endowment to sustain a flourishing God First environment that prepares and equips difference makers in culture and the arts. To date, we have raised $928,000. Triple your impact: Help us raise the remaining $572,000 needed to secure the full $3 million grant for the arts at APU.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For more information, contact Corbin Hoornbeek at (626) 815-5329 or choornbeek@apu.edu. To give online, visit apu.edu/give and designate your gift to “Windgate.”