

APULIFE

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Volume 30 | Number 1

MAXIMIZE YOUR ETERNAL NET WORTH ■ GOD'S DESIGN IN BACTERIA ■ JUSTICE FOR ALL



THE CASE FOR COLLEGE:
Rediscovering the Purpose
of Higher Education

God First Since 1899

APULIFE

Volume 30 | Number 1



One of my earliest memories is the sound of my father working with tools. My dad was a farmer, and his work truck always had tool boxes with all the stuff you need to fix a broken tractor. But for me, the *sound* of his tools remains my strongest memory—the loud clang of metal on metal and the rhythmic whir of vibrating drills.

One such memory occurred before sunrise one morning. We were riding in the cab of a tractor trailer loaded with apples en route to a packing house on a cider run. Suddenly, a loud bang shattered our peaceful thoughts, and the truck began to shake. My dad pulled over, grabbed his flashlight and an armload of tools, and disappeared under the front end of the truck. Sitting in the dark cab, I could hear the comforting refrain of my father working with his tools—banging and clanging, peppered by the frustrated farmer-mechanic muttering to himself—and then he appeared with dirty hands and his tools, announcing that it was probably fixed. Sure enough, the repair held.

My father passed into heaven more than 10 years ago, but the memory of those tool sounds still rings in my ears. I sometimes wonder about my own tool sounds—things that others hear in the execution of my work that lead them to believe repairs are under way, improvements are near, something good and different will emerge. I want my tool sounds to be encouraging memories in the development of scholars and disciples.

In the classrooms, residence halls, and virtual environments of Azusa Pacific, myriad tool sounds give evidence of important work. My favorites are those of dialogue and instruction between faculty and students within the sacred space of the classroom—the hard work of scholarship that brings a Christian worldview as the key template in new ideas, challenging questions, and learning outcomes. They join the hum of debate teams, athletic teams, and the late-night keystrokes of students crafting papers as evidence that something good, beautiful, and lasting is being created. The sounds of disagreements and celebrations, of prayer meetings and chapel worship, even those of whispered desperation given to a trusted friend and returned with hope and promise—all these are part of the cacophony of this Christ-centered university fulfilling its mission.

In Luke 10, the Gospel writer recalls a time when Jesus appoints 72 workers to go into society to speak the Good News of the Kingdom. Before they leave, Jesus says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.” I can only imagine the tool sounds coming from those disciples in the towns and villages marked by their presence. They touched lives that were broken, bruised, and in need of the repairing work available through the Good News of Jesus Christ. Those reverberations echo what you might hear on our campus—questions that define us, conversations that matter, confessions that free us, and words of truth that direct and empower us. In Luke 10:17, those 72 returned with joy and reported to Jesus what happened: “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” We get a picture that the mass chorus executed by obedient disciples in the name of Jesus accomplished more than they could have imagined.

What are your tool sounds? When I think of the many alumni, friends, parents, and students who are an extension of the APU mission and a shining example of the Gospel story, I imagine thousands of tools hard at work against brokenness and despair in a world hungry for His repair. Thank you for the example you are to me and the support you are to this university. I celebrate and encourage the tool sounds I hear coming from you.

Shalom,

Jon R. Wallace
Jon R. Wallace, DBA
Apprentice with tools

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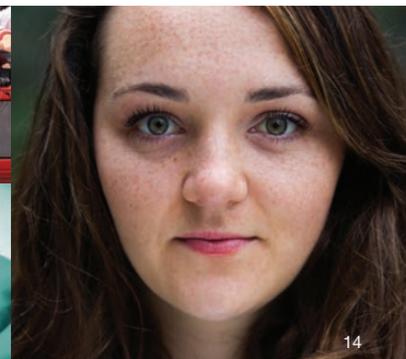
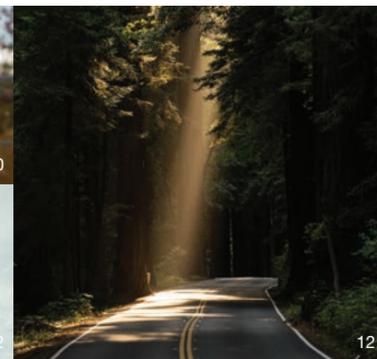
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“That’s what social work does; it allows a space for people to be vulnerable and allows a space for people to feel safe and comfortable, to be honest, and be themselves.”

Rebecca Bekele '17, Social Work major
APU Need-based Grant, APU Director's Scholarship, and
Jon Campbell Servant Leadership Scholarship recipient

Watch Rebecca's student portrait: apu.edu/bas/programs/bsw
Photo by Sidney Diongzon

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The Mary Hill Award

This award honors an individual who exemplifies the heart and soul of Mary Hill. Known for her fervent prayer life, sacrificial service to others, and obedience to God's call, Hill exemplified the deep faith and compassionate works of a transformational Christian leader.

This year, the university community bestowed the inaugural Mary Hill Award on Kimberly Battle-Walters Denu, Ph.D., vice president and chief diversity officer, who embodies Hill's inspirational leadership and empowers those around her to become the best version of themselves according to God's will and grace. Her wise counsel and genuine compassion spring from rich personal and professional experiences that she willingly shares.



In 1899, Mary Hill, set the standard and the trajectory for the *God First* institution known today as Azusa Pacific University. As the first president of APU's predecessor, the Training School for Christian Workers, she inspired 25 of the school's first 30 students to serve as missionaries in foreign fields—a tradition that remains a hallmark of APU. What she and others started from scratch by rolling up their sleeves and saying yes to Christ's call, God has blessed countless times over through miraculous provision and changed lives.

APU Offers Scholarships to Charter Oak Students

Making the APU experience more accessible and affordable to its closest neighbors, Azusa Pacific University and the Charter Oak Unified School District (COUSD) formed a special relationship that creates a smoother college pathway for Charter Oak High School students. The Charter Oak Board of Education approved a memorandum of understanding with APU at its February 23, 2017, meeting following a reception with President Jon R. Wallace, DBA; David Dufault Hunter, vice president for enrollment management; Superintendent Mike Hendricks, Ed.D.; school board members; and COUSD students. The agreement provides students who meet admissions requirements with guaranteed admittance to APU, a \$10,000 renewable scholarship, application fee waiver, and support with the application process. The

initiative begins fall 2017 and includes this year's graduating seniors who meet the program's academic requirements. Incoming high school freshmen who successfully follow the academic pathway all four years will be eligible. In addition, current sophomores and juniors who meet the requirements may pursue this education option.

This partnership recognizes that many local students place Azusa Pacific at the top of their college wish list, but many families find paying for a private college education prohibitive. Wallace announced at the reception that the university is committed to giving more neighboring students access to APU and making it easier for their families to finance the opportunity. Further, he anticipates that this partnership with Charter Oak represents the first of several such symbiotic agreements with local districts to come.

APU Named to President's Honor Roll

For the ninth time, Azusa Pacific earned a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The award celebrates "institutions of higher education that support exemplary community service programs and raise the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships."

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which has administered the award since 2006, recognizes higher education institutions in four categories: General Community Service, Interfaith Community Service, Economic Opportunity, and Education. For the past two years, APU has been honored in the General Community Service and Education categories based on the scope and quality of various university service and academic programs.

In the General Community Service category, CNCS recognized three APU programs. The first, Nursing Students Impacting Health at Home and Abroad, encompasses the School of Nursing's emphasis on urban and international service, from attending to the homeless in downtown Los Angeles to caring for patients in Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying in Calcutta, India. The second project, Education Support for an Immigration Population, includes APU's Community Advancement Programs, which hire students at 11 local sites to help K-12 students with academics and physical fitness. Finally, the Community Building through a University and Multi-city Collaboration project involved a joint effort between APU and three neighboring cities to host the 2015 Special Olympics.

In the Education category, CNCS also recognized three APU projects. Timely Educational Interventions focused on college preparedness through programs such as College Headed and Mighty Proud (C.H.A.M.P.), the Eighth-grade Majors Fair, and OPTIONS, which equips at-risk youth

with basic school and life skills, including role modeling and mentoring. Second, the annual Brain Awareness Fair educates local seventh-graders about brain-related topics and emphasizes healthy lifestyle choices and neuroscience research. Finally, the Opening the World of Music project partners APU music majors with local students of all ages and ability levels to provide musicianship skills, performance ensemble opportunities, music technology classes, and summer camps.

These projects highlight the myriad projects, programs, and people on APU's campus devoted to caring for those in need and practicing Christ-like hospitality. Inclusion on the President's Honor Roll affirms Azusa Pacific's vow to keep service at the heart of every endeavor.

Renowned A.M.E. Pastor Engages Campus in Conversation

Rev. Michael Waters, D.Min., founding pastor of Joy Tabernacle African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Dallas, Texas, spoke on campus January 12, 2017. Hosted by Azusa Pacific's School of Theology; the Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence; and the Student Center for Reconciliation and Diversity, Waters discussed the issues addressed in his new book, *Stakes Is High: Race, Faith, and Hope for America* (Chalice Press, 2017).

The community leader and social activist urged attendees to see and listen to the suffering caused by racism and to help facilitate a just future for the country. While Waters outlined the theological, historical, and cultural context and proliferation of racism, he also offered an optimistic outlook. He emphasized the power of hope and its ability to effect change, then discussed how to recapture hope and allow it to heal and transform.

The son of APU's Kenneth Waters, Ph.D., associate dean of the School

of Theology, professor in the Department of Biblical and Religious Studies, and associate chaplain, Michael Waters brings extensive experience and knowledge to this important conversation. The Center for Theological Activism's 2015 Justice Awards named Waters Pastor of the Year, and the *Dallas Business Journal* named him a Class of 2015 40 Under 40 honoree. Further, Waters received the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' 2016 Community Leader of the Year Award and Southern Methodist University's 2015 Distinguished Alumni Emerging Leader Award. The author of the award-winning book *Freestyle: Reflections on Faith, Family, Justice, and Pop Culture* (Fresh Air Books, 2014) uses his platform to inspire national and international audiences through words of hope and encouragement.

APU Hosts Faith-based SBIRT Training

APU hosted the first Faith and Spirituality Integrated SBIRT Network Training Summit at the beginning of the academic year. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, APU led the efforts in establishing this network—a partnership with five faith-based universities and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health—which provides information and support to allied health professionals as they care for their clients and patients through SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment), a public health approach to treating those at risk for substance use disorders.

More than 40 faculty and staff trainers attended from the partner institutions—Azusa Pacific University; Biola University; California Baptist University; Concordia University Irvine; Fresno Pacific University; and La Sierra University—in preparation for implementing an interactive,

internet-based SBIRT training program into courses and practice settings beginning this spring. The new program equips students in nursing, social work, and psychology as professionals prepared to engage in their work with cultural competence and the ability to integrate faith and spirituality when caring for people in a wide range of healthcare settings.

The summit introduced faculty and staff to the SBIRT concept—screening using standardized and validated tools, applying motivational interviewing as part of the Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment components, and integrating a cultural competency framework of faith and spirituality into SBIRT practice—and allowed attendees to practice using didactic role plays.

Faculty from APU's Departments of Psychology, Graduate Psychology, and Social Work and the School of Nursing helped organize and lead the event, which included a core session, faith and spirituality components, and a practice panel that facilitated discussion regarding the implementation and sustainability of SBIRT training within social work, nursing, and psychology internship sites. Visit sbirtfaithandspirituality.org for project and event information.

Assemblymember Inspires Students of Color to Lead

California State Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D) inspired students of color to break through barriers and embrace their leadership potential at an on-campus luncheon just prior to the spring semester. Azusa Pacific invited the four-year 59th District representative to speak with students and faculty about his compelling life journey and firsthand experience with overcoming obstacles on the path to success. Many students in attendance hail from Jones-Sawyer's district, which includes South Los Angeles, Florence-Firestone, Walnut Park, and

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Zuventurez Winners Announced



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZUVENTUREZ

Showcasing their ingenuity, business skills, and passion, five APU students competed against fellow Cougars and walked away with top honors on November 15, 2016, in the annual Zuventurez startup pitch competition. Christian Sanchez '17, Seth Fontaine (attended 2015), Reef Coleman (attended 2015), Chase Molenaar '20, and Carlos Mendoza '18 worked together to pitch their idea for a high-quality headphone business, Urban Vinyl, and earned \$15,000 to help kick-start the company.

Zuventurez PITCH, APU's wildly popular and steadily growing startup program, supports emerging entrepreneurs by providing an opportunity to pitch ideas, test business plans, network with professionals, and gain invaluable experience through real-life failures and successes. The Urban Vinyl team began with a vision for vintage-style headphones with state-of-the-art technology, and progressed through more than a year of product development, research and design, and close work with mentors. After competing against 35 other entrants and submitting their final pitch to five industry expert

judges, Urban Vinyl won first place for demonstrating concept viability and bottom line sustainability. In second place, M57 pitched an idea for a custom ring and watch company with a mission of helping nonprofit organizations. Third-place honors went to I Am Unique, which promotes self-love and a way for individuals to share their distinctive gifts with the masses.

As the Urban Vinyl team members make plans for developing and growing their new business, they also intend to honor one of the primary tenets of Zuventurez—Kingdom care. The team established a partnership with the Children's Music Fund, an Encino, California-based organization that provides music to terminally ill children, and will host an annual fundraising concert to support the kids musically and financially. By giving back, looking forward, working through adversity, discovering their "why," and determining their "how," Urban Vinyl and all Zuventurez participants actively learn how to meaningfully approach the program's main challenge: "If we are about the Father's business, then what can our businesses look like?"



Reading Recommendations from Christopher Flannery

Christopher Flannery, Ph.D., is a professor in the Honors College.

Essential Shakespeare: Selected and with an Introduction by Ted Hughes (Ecco, 2006)

Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas (Penguin Classics, 2013)

Farewell, My Lovely by Raymond Chandler (Vintage Crime/Black Lizard; Reprint edition, 1992)

Joy in the Morning by P.G. Wodehouse (The Overlook Press, Second Edition, 2002)

My Early Life: 1874-1904 by Winston Churchill (Scribner, 1996)

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

New Master's Program Prepares Leaders in Biotechnology



Preparing competent, competitive, and ethical leaders, Azusa Pacific's new Master of Science in Biotechnology equips graduates to make significant contributions to and profoundly influence this emerging science field. Set to launch in fall 2017 with a cohort of 24, the advanced degree distinguishes itself from counterparts at other institutions by approaching the discipline from a distinctly Christian worldview and instilling in students the ability to synthesize human need, potential, and responsibility.

Graduates with this level of training find a wide-open marketplace eager to hire. Jobs in the biomedical industry show an upward trend throughout the country, and particularly in California, home to more than 50 percent of these companies. According to a 2014 report from *Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News*, the industry expects significant job growth over the next decade in the areas of epidemiology, bioinformatics and genetic counseling, microbiology, biomedical engineering, and biomedical research. Nestled in the heart of the country's second-largest

cluster of bioscience businesses, APU offers students a distinct advantage that surpasses traditional internships and networking. A collaborative enterprise, this program partners APU with local bioscience companies, including Grifols Biologicals, Gilead Sciences, Johnson & Johnson, Allergan, and others. In addition to technical proficiency, APU's program also provides industry-critical skills, such as project and program management, communication skills, teamwork, business ethics, and leadership, which produces graduates who are productive employees on the first day of hire in a corporate setting.

Open to students and professionals with bachelor's degrees in molecular or cellular biology, biochemistry, applied mathematics, statistics, engineering, or computer science, the M.S. in Biotechnology offers a unique approach to the field through the lens of Christian faith and imparts a clear understanding of how believers can participate in and provide guidance to the industry in a way that advances science and glorifies God.

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a portion of Huntington Park, which made the visit especially meaningful and relevant.

An insightful follow-up visit on February 3, 2017, involved a discussion between Jones-Sawyer and key faculty and staff members: Kevin Mannoia, Ph.D., university chaplain; Edgar Barron, Ed.D., chair and assistant professor in the Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology; and Maureen Taylor, associate vice president for external affairs, who participated as part of APU's growing outreach to government representatives. The conversation also engaged the voices of three students: Norris Spagner '15, M.Div. '18; Adedeji Olajide '16, M.Div. '18; and Francisco Vargas '18, an Azusa Scholar. Each expressed keen interest in inner-city social justice and welcomed discussion focused on how to galvanize young people to action.

While he leads many efforts to help his community thrive and prosper, Jones-Sawyer focuses on the areas of education and prison reform. As a member of the Higher Education Committee, he initiated significant improvements in local schools and increased the accessibility and affordability of higher education. He also helped improve the California criminal justice system by injecting more than \$300 million back into the budget and creating legislation that assists people convicted of crimes they did not commit as they re-enter society (AB 672).

From a long line of civil rights proponents, Jones-Sawyer's call to public service reflects a deeply rooted family tradition. He serves as co-chair of the Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color, chair of the Select Committee of Urban Planning and Land Use in Underserved Communities, and former chair and current member of the California Legislative Black Caucus. Under his leadership, the caucus expanded its annual programs, increased the number of college scholarships, and

improved state funding for programs and institutions such as the California African American Museum.

Jones-Sawyer's visit strengthened the growing relationship between Azusa Pacific and elected officials and provided a tangible model of solid values, leadership, and perseverance for students seeking to make a difference in the world.

Poet Laureate Visits Campus



Sharing his work and inspiration with students, faculty, staff, and alumni, California Poet Laureate Dana Gioia read selected poems

and engaged his audience in meaningful conversation surrounding the art of poetic literature. Part of the James L. Hedges Distinguished Lecture Series, hosted by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of English, and the Honors College, Gioia's address illustrated his belief that poetry, more than merely an artistic outlet, serves as an essential aspect of life and human flourishing.

As he read, the acclaimed poet offered personal insights into his work, giving attendees a rare glimpse of the motivation, pain, triumphs, and soul searching behind the words he writes. A question-and-answer session allowed audience members to delve even deeper into his life's journey, his education, and his quest to make poetry accessible for everyone.

Gioia, a first-generation college student and son of Italian and Mexican immigrants, began writing poetry as an undergraduate student at Stanford University. Inspired by the Northern California landscape, he penned descriptive works that engaged his readers and fueled his dreams to write poetry for a living. After earning a master's degree from Harvard University, Gioia became the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California. In

By the Numbers

8: The number of years the Next Generation Jazz Festival has selected APU's Jazz Ensemble to perform in its popular annual event sponsored by the Monterey Jazz Festival. One of only six college groups accepted from throughout the country, APU's ensemble, directed by associate professor David Beatty, not only competed, but also received detailed critiques from jazz professionals and helped expose hundreds of the nation's best high school musicians to the university. Held March 31-April 2, 2017, this marked the event's 47th year.

44: The number of students who journeyed to the Holy Land of Israel, including 29 TRiO Target Success first-generation undergraduates and 15 Azusa Pacific Seminary students, as part of the Israel Study Away program. Sponsored by the Center for Global Learning and Engagement in partnership with the Museum of the Bible, the experience allowed students to visit biblical sites, trace the footsteps of Jesus, and explore the political, economic, and cultural aspects of Israel.

3,600: The number of seventh-grade students from all four Azusa Unified School District middle schools who have participated in APU's annual Brain Awareness Fair since its inception in 2012. Founded by Skyla Herod, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Biology and Chemistry, as part of national Brain Awareness Week, the event partners APU neurobiology and service-learning students (191 to date) with junior high schoolers to learn about the brain through activities centered on anatomy, senses, neurons, brain safety, and the effects of drugs on the brain. **Read more:** apu.edu/articles/inspiring-young-students-through-stem/.

2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed Gioia as California Poet Laureate, charged with advocating the art of poetry in schools and organizations, inspiring literary artists, and educating Californians about influential poets and authors. His visit to Azusa Pacific complemented the university's commitment to God-honoring creative expression and cultural literacy.

Disability Awareness Week Sparks Interest and Action

The university hosted its second annual Disability Awareness Week, founded on the principles of *Imago Dei* (the image of God) and Azusa Pacific's biblical perspective on diversity, February 27-March 4, 2017. Various campus events helped the APU community explore how and why society tends to marginalize those with disabilities, how to recognize

it, and how to prevent it. Cosponsored by several departments, the weeklong event educated nondisabled people and gave a voice to those with disabilities (more than 5 percent of APU's student population), including a platform from which to share their concerns.

The week's events included "Empowering Voices: Disability and the Student Experience," a student leadership chapel featuring guest speaker Travis Davis; "Disability Perspectives and Liberal Arts Education," a faculty/staff luncheon with Amos Yong, Ph.D.; and "Perspectives from the Inside," a faculty/staff/student luncheon and guest panel presentation. New this year, STRONG, a group founded to support those with invisible illnesses such as fibromyalgia and even undiagnosed conditions, displayed a

675: The number of young scholars who attended the annual 8th Grade Majors Fair, cosponsored by Azusa Pacific, Citrus College, and Cal Poly Pomona, March 17, 2017. Now in its sixth year, the event allows students to learn more about college life and explore possible career tracks as they talk with college students about various options. APU students at this year's fair represented theology, English, Spanish, art and design, music, liberal studies, and physics majors, as well as football and volleyball.

12,343: The number of elementary students (plus 848 from the Baldwin Park Summer Camp) who have gained invaluable exposure to the possibility of higher education through APU's C.H.A.M.P. program. After 26 years, the event remains one of the most beloved and popular collaborative experiences as each year it connects local fourth-grade students (more than 170 this academic year alone) with about 90 college counterparts from APU who inspire them to include college in their plans.

88: The number of South African delegates who called APU home during the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles. As host-town participants, volunteer students, faculty, and staff welcomed, housed, entertained, and forged friendships with these talented athletes. This, along with myriad other collaborative campus/community events, caught the attention of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which named Azusa Pacific to the 2016 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition an educational institution can receive for its commitment to community, service-learning, and civic engagement.

photo exhibit in Seven Palms Amphitheater titled "But you don't look sick..." to increase awareness and understanding.

Disability Awareness Week instilled participants with a broader understanding of the diversity within the disability population and a new perspective on those with less-obvious disabilities, such as diverse learners, parents of children with disabilities, and others who do not fit traditional categories. The event generated valuable dialogue about how the APU community can continue to reframe its consideration of this population and intentionally view one another through a lens that more closely reflects the Kingdom of God.

The event complements the long-term efforts of APU's Learning Enrichment Center, which has come alongside students with disabilities for 39 years and offers four comprehensive

academic support programs for students, including Disability Services. The numerous resources and services, based on the individual learning needs of each student, include advocacy, academic and technical support, registration assistance, testing accommodations, assessment referral, liaison with university academic service areas, liaison with community agencies, and more. Disability Awareness Week substantially supports APU's resolve to appreciate uniqueness and pursue Christ-like unity.

L.A. Dodgers Honor APU Staff Member



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS

For her more than 15 years of exemplary service, the Los Angeles Dodgers honored APU's Luchy Guerra by naming a room after her at the team's newly remodeled training center, Campo Las Palmas, in the Dominican Republic. Now the executive assistant to David Bixby, Ed.D., executive vice president, Guerra brings the same level of dedication to APU that made her an integral part of the Dodgers organization.

While she worked with the Major League Baseball team, the players affectionately called her "Mama Luchy," recognizing her important role in their lives. For many of the players with Dominican roots, the connection ran even deeper. Born and raised in their native Dominican Republic, Guerra knew exactly how to make them feel welcome, teach them English, and help

them assimilate into American culture. As assistant director of international player development, she embraced the role with her signature way of caring and organizing that ultimately impacted her own life as much as the players she assisted.

When the team's training center underwent remodeling, all involved agreed that Guerra must be part of the plan. The Dodgers senior vice president of planning and development, Janet Marie Smith, helped brainstorm the concept of naming a room for Guerra, and invited her to the dedication ceremony in January 2017. There, alongside Mark Walters, the Dodgers franchise chair, and Danilo Medina, president of the Dominican Republic, Guerra became a permanent part of Dodger history.

Recent Grants Advance Research and Scholarship

\$493,745

From the Kern Family Foundation to Robert Duke, Ph.D., dean of the School of Theology and Azusa Pacific Seminary, and professor, Department of Biblical and Religious Studies, to fund a five-year pastoral degree program. The dual bachelor's/master's program for pastoral education offers an accelerated timeframe in which students can complete a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. This encourages emerging pastors by creating an efficient pathway for undergraduate and graduate scholarship, while simultaneously sustaining a strong theological, biblical, and practical ministry core. Students may apply during their freshman or sophomore year of study, and although theology-related majors fit this program well, students from any discipline are welcomed. Through this program, the School of Theology and Azusa Pacific Seminary address the practical hurdles to pastoral ministry and the financial cost of answering the call, while helping to ensure that every graduate goes into the community equipped and prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the contemporary world.

\$62,421

From the American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition (a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities subaward) to Katherine Tong, chair, Undergraduate Professional Programs, and assistant professor, School of Nursing, for the American Samoa Indigenous Samoan Partnership to initiate research in colorectal cancer health literacy.

\$199,108

From the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Education for an integrated teacher preparation program to increase the number of candidates qualified as math, science, and special education teachers.

\$42,369

From the National Science Foundation (NSF) to Young Kim, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Higher Education, to examine effects of social ties and social capital on STEM student outcomes such as retention in STEM majors, GPA, academic satisfaction, job placement, and pursuit of graduate study. This subaward, part of a larger NSF grant of \$497,483 to the University of Maryland for a project titled "Connections Matter: The Impact of Social Ties and Social Capital for STEM College Students," allows Kim to collaborate with colleagues at the University of Maryland and UCLA.

\$9,000

From the VWR Charitable Foundation to Ronald Norris, MD, assistant professor, Department of Biology and Chemistry, for mentoring underrepresented students in the Student-to-Scholar program, which gives undergraduate biology and chemistry students significant research experience through a relationship with a faculty mentor.

\$5,000

From the CVS Health Foundation to Lynda Reed, DNP, RN, FNP-C, chair, Advanced Practice Nursing programs, and assistant professor, School of Nursing, to fund the advanced practice nursing and physician assistant scholarship.

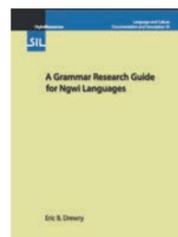
Scholarship at Work



Exploring Intertextuality: Diverse Strategies for the New Testament Interpretation of Texts (Cascade Books, 2016) by eds. B.J. Oropeza, Ph.D., professor, Department of Biblical and Religious Studies, and Steve Moyise, Ph.D. This book provides advanced biblical studies students, seminarians, and academicians with a variety of intertextual strategies to New Testament interpretation. Each chapter, written by New Testament scholars, offers an established or avant-garde strategy that begins with an explanation of the particular intertextual approach used. The authors first define important terms and concepts relevant to their approach and discuss scholarly proponents or precursors. They also employ their respective intertextual strategies on sample texts from the New Testament, such as the Gospels, Acts, Pauline epistles, disputed Pauline epistles, general epistles, or Revelation, to show how their approaches enlighten or otherwise bring the text into sharper relief. Finally, they end with recommended readings for further study on the respective intertextual approach.



Research in Parental Involvement: Methods and Strategies for Education and Psychology (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) by Yvette C. Latunde, Ed.D., professor, Department of Teacher Education This book walks the reader through the process of conducting research on parental involvement in an effort to promote academic achievement across all school levels, income levels, and racial lines. The text explores the laws, provisions, and policies that have emerged to support the role of families in the education of youth while exposing the reader to germinal works on the topic. Lastly, it examines the nuances of diverse parental involvement and situates them as critical components of effective programs, practices, and policies.



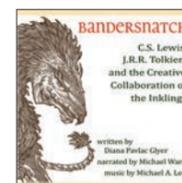
A Grammar Research Guide for Ngwi Languages (SIL International, 2016) by Eric B. Drewry, J.D., Ph.D., associate professor, Department of English This research grammar guide addresses a need recognized in 2009 when the linguistics community identified a new language group related to Burmese—the Ngwi languages, which are spoken in northern Laos, Thailand, Burma, and southwestern China. The group includes 48 recently recognized languages without any written form, some of which are facing extinction. The grammar guide gives an overview of phrase and sentence types in seven well-described Ngwi languages, thus providing field linguists with a foundation for collecting data more efficiently and an aid for documenting and preserving these languages while there is still time.



"Trigger Warning: Breakthru Design," Exhale Unlimited Gallery, Los Angeles, June 2016, artwork by Terry Dobson, MFA, director of design programs and associate professor, Department of Art and Design Curator for 10 consecutive student group shows at Exhale Unlimited—a social justice gallery in L.A.'s Arts District of Chinatown—Dobson designed the exhibition catalog and gallery window graphics for this year's group show of student work in the 2016 Los Angeles Design Festival. The three-dimensional letterforms that span the six-foot window present a collage of recycled, redacted newspaper articles symbolizing the increasingly censored nature of language permitted on college campuses. The group exhibition featured student artists who designed visual responses that relate to and connect with various other social issues. Proceeds raised from the sale of their artwork benefitted the Los Angeles Youth Network, which provides hope and homes for foster and homeless youth in Southern California.



The Social Contexts of Intellectual Virtue: Knowledge as a Team Achievement (Routledge, 2016) by Adam Green, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Philosophy This book reconceives the intellectual virtues in light of the conviction that people are essentially social creatures. Traditionally, virtue has been considered something that allows individuals to accomplish things on their own. In contrast, Green argues that depending on others is meant to occur skillfully and proactively. Thinking through how to depend on each other well is important to understanding what it would mean for the Church to flourish intellectually.



Bandersnatch: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the Creative Collaboration of the Inklings (TreeHouseStudios, 2016) by Diana Pavlac Glyer, Ph.D., professor, Honors College, Department of English; music by Michael Lee, M.M., associate professor, director of music technology, School of Music; narration by Michael Ward, Ph.D., associate professor of theology, University of Oxford, and director of the C.S. Lewis Centre, Houston Baptist University In the spirit of the Inklings, Glyer teamed up with Lee and Ward to produce an audio version of her new book, *Bandersnatch*. The audiobook details the conversations between C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien and shows how these writers supported, corrected, and challenged one another. In the same way, the *Bandersnatch* team collaborated to create a high-quality audio experience that would resonate with Inklings fans and encourage others to consider how collaboration might transform their own projects, dreams, and plans.

MAXIMIZE YOUR ETERNAL NET WORTH

BY JOHN M. THORNTON

The topic of money confuses many Christians. And no wonder. At first blush, Jesus' financial advice seems terrible. "Blessed are the poor." How can that be? "Give to everyone who asks." I would be broke in a day. "To the one who doesn't have, even what he has will be taken from him." How is that fair?

Jesus' teachings on money can be hard. So hard that we often discard them—or Him. He flips the tables on everything we thought we knew about peace, prosperity, and the pursuit of happiness. Only when we understand Jesus' purpose in coming to this world—to glorify His Father—do His teachings on money become a different kind of terrible. They change from seemingly convoluted to terrifying and awesome. Terrifying, because He ruins the empty lives we had planned for ourselves; awesome, because He replaces our mere existence with better lives than we could have ever imagined.

From Scripture, I see three clear reasons God calls us to give: to know Him better, to set us free from money as a master, and to enrich us.

Too often, my attitude toward giving reminds me of how my young sons used to respond when I asked

them for one of their french fries. You know, the ones I had just bought for them. Under great duress, they would sort through the scraps to find one short enough to spare. That is how I often treat God, though everything I have comes from Him.

In truth, God is a giver. He delights to "exercise kindness, justice and righteousness on earth" (Jeremiah 9:24, NIV). When we give what is kind, just, or right, we reflect our Father and know Him better.

Giving physically trades the promises offered by money for the promises offered by God. Whatever masters us, enslaves us. When we misplace our love or fear on money, it enslaves us. It is God who provides for us, and He deserves the glory.

We do not seem to understand that Jesus commands us to give to enrich us, not impoverish us. It really is more

blessed to give than receive. If we truly believed Him, wouldn't we be trying harder to give than to get?

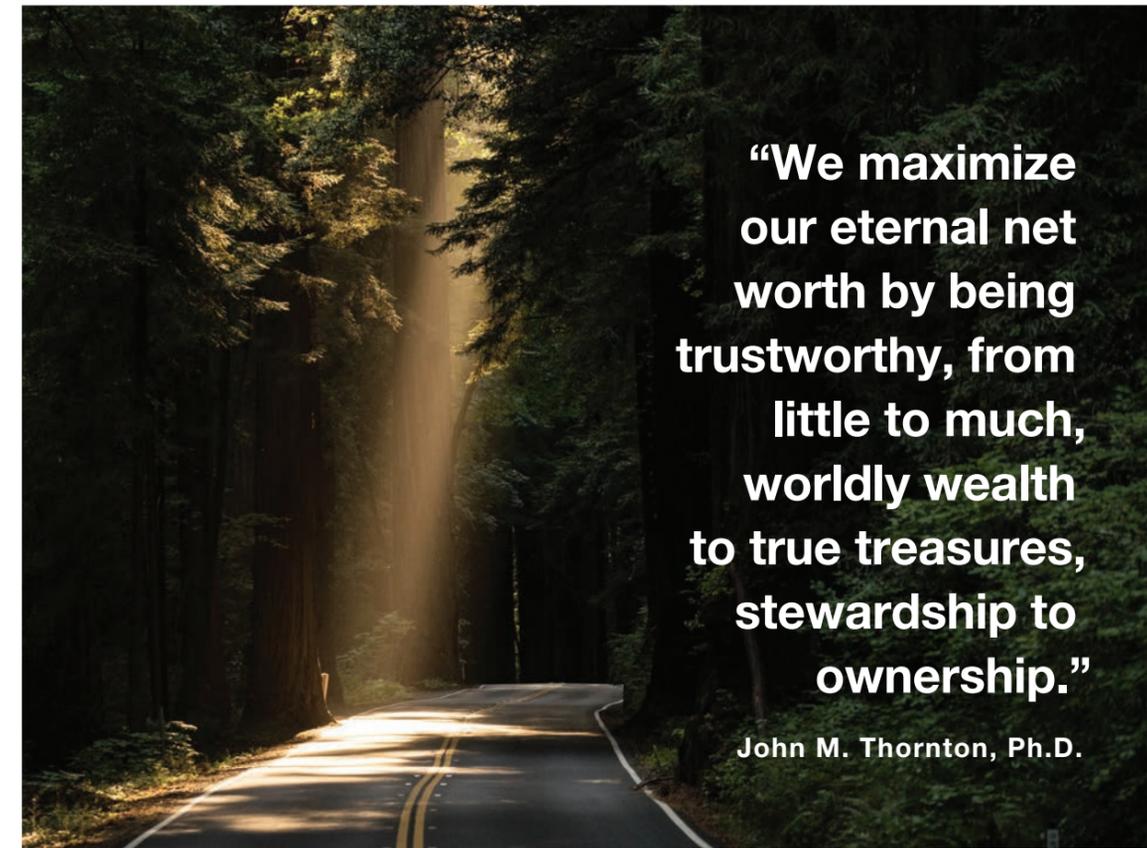
Imagine playing Monopoly and someone offers you the chance to trade in your pink fivers for greenbacks. You would trade every single one. Why? Because when the game is over, the pink paper is worthless. Even one penny, invested at 10 percent annually, exceeds \$100 billion in about 315 years. Clearly then, anything invested for eternity is worth more than everything here.

So why don't we give all we can? It comes down to faith. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1, NIV). But if we don't know what treasures in Heaven are, how can we hope for them? Jesus' formula for using worldly wealth is summed up in Luke 16:10-12 (NIV):

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" (Emphasis added.)

We maximize our eternal net worth by being trustworthy, from little to much, worldly wealth to true treasures, stewardship to ownership.

Begin by making the most of the little you have, and God will honor it. The widow who gave from the very little she had was one of the few Jesus commended for generosity.



"We maximize our eternal net worth by being trustworthy, from little to much, worldly wealth to true treasures, stewardship to ownership."

John M. Thornton, Ph.D.

Next, handle worldly wealth well. We cannot trade worldly wealth for true treasures without learning to live within our means, because we cannot give what we do not have.

Finally, moving from stewardship to ownership is faith's final frontier. Simply put, stewards manage someone else's money. Owners manage their own money. If you are an owner, you make the final call. No layers remain

between you and God—you are directly accountable to Him.

What will you do with Jesus' terrible financial advice?

This article adapts content from Thornton's latest book, *Jesus' Terrible Financial Advice: Flipping the Tables on Peace, Prosperity, and the Pursuit of Happiness* (Moody Publishers, 2017).

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ZADIE Kenney '17

Liberal Studies major
Special Education concentration
PELL GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
Watch Zadie's student portrait:
apu.edu/clas/programs/liberal-studies-major

Working alongside children
opened my eyes ^{TO} THE impact
I can have ^{AS} A teacher.

THE CASE FOR COLLEGE: Rediscovering the Purpose of Higher Education

by CYNNDIE HOFF

College—and the reasons to attend—have changed. Decades ago, students pursued higher education to explore new schools of thought and discover their vocation—not their *job*, their *vocation*. These young scholars understood the intrinsic difference between the two and sought their calling, as they peeked behind the curtain of the arts, sampled the sciences, dabbled in business. But those days are gone. The function and main goal of higher education shifted drastically in the 1960s, and today many colleges exist solely to churn out job-ready graduates programmed to perform and earn.

Or do they?

Studies indicate that the shift in focus from pure intellectual exploration to job preparation has neither increased the value of higher education nor rendered graduates more marketable. The Association of American Colleges & Universities found: “When it comes to skills and knowledge that employers feel are important to workplace success, large majorities of employers do NOT feel that recent graduates are well prepared . . . for applying knowledge and skills in real-world settings, critical thinking skills, and written and oral communication skills.” Azusa Pacific University bridges the chasms between the academy’s ideal, the students’ lifelong welfare and viability, and the employers’ reality by doubling down on its 118-year commitment to the pursuit of a higher calling.

“Pursuing one’s vocation means much more than finding meaningful employment,” said Mark Stanton, Ph.D., ABPP, provost. “Vocation lies at the intersection of talent, passion, conscience, and the needs of the world. A job is merely the work you get paid to do. Vocation, which comes from the Latin word *vocare*, ‘to call,’ embodies the work we do, but it also includes the aspects of well-being, meaning, purpose, and the confidence that this is what I was created to do.” Stanton simultaneously identifies the very characteristics lacking in today’s workforce and the reason employers across industries enthusiastically recruit Azusa Pacific graduates.

Steve Woo, group supervisor at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, looks for employees who can engage in the big picture and think beyond the narrow parameters of a specific skill set, and he looks to APU to fill that need. “Their volunteer and service involvement outside of school demonstrates an awareness bigger than themselves and an earnest desire to be involved,” said Woo, who gets at the very heart of APU’s path to vocation—it is not merely job preparation, but life preparation.

School districts, hospitals, high-tech companies, corporations, state and federal government, and nonprofits agree, and have come to rely on APU’s comprehensive approach to vocational training when they want to add to their workforce. “Students who take full advantage of what a well-rounded liberal arts education has to offer—study abroad, research, language, volunteering, and leadership development opportunities—that’s what makes APU students stand out,” said Justin Tierney, internship program supervisor at World Vision.

Employers may call these soft skills, but they contend that they matter as much as technical aptitude when it comes to hiring and retaining good employees. Many institutions of higher education, however, abandoned the activities, programs, and philosophies that develop such skills. In contrast, APU immerses students in a rich environment that instills these abilities from day one through myriad experiences on and off campus. For instance, those who participate in the High Sierra Semester and live in community with faculty and students studying the Great Works become employees who can synthesize disparate concepts and integrate complex information. The more than 3,400 students who serve more than 160,000 hours each year in their communities become inspirational team players who care for their organization at every level and can communicate needs and solutions. Graduates with relevant internships and international experience demonstrate the ability to lead with confidence and adapt to the unexpected. Learning how to collaborate, communicate, and solve problems before entering the workforce allows these graduates to begin their careers with a distinct advantage, and led the *Economist* to rank them among the most employable in the nation last year.

“What is uniquely APU is that our students not only have the needed skills, but they are also leaders in all areas—ethical leaders,” said Robert Duke, Ph.D., dean of the School of Theology. “Students here realize that they are not getting an education merely for their own benefit, but to better humanity. When I taught at a secular university, I heard many conversations between students that focused solely on the money and the job. At APU, the students care about why they are doing what they are doing. They want to help people, make improvements, save lives. They are passionate.”

Photography by
SIDNEY DIONGZON

But what happens when that passion falters? Yvette (Irizarry '09) Martinez knows. “My nursing degree program was challenging and I was spread too thin. I was ready to quit,” said Martinez. “But then I talked with my instructor, Viann Duncan (PMHCNS-BC, MSN, RN), and she saved my career. She cared for me, taught me that ‘there is a season for everything,’ and helped me focus and explore my calling and purpose. That gave me the confidence to realize that this is what I was meant to be, and I finished my degree—one of the best decisions of my life. When I interviewed for a position at Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles, they recognized the holistic training I received at APU.” Martinez notes that on any given day, at least 5 out of 10 nurses in her unit are APU graduates who bring the same values to their work. “The insight I gained from studying in South Africa for a semester not only taught me how to respect scarce resources and equipment, which my supervisor appreciates, but also taught me firsthand how to care for the whole patient, not merely the wound or disease. APU teaches how to blend the psychological, social, and spiritual aspects of care.”

Part of that holistic approach springs from a classic liberal arts education, which leads students to consider the greater questions of humanity. Part of it comes from learning at a Christian university that emphasizes cultivation of the mind while building character and faith. But just as important is how APU intentionally connects academics with student life. “We constantly build bridges between departments and people,” said Duke. “Everything we do is intentionally interwoven so that the college experience engages the heart,

BRANDON Sao '17

Nursing major
PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

What a privilege to journey
WITH patients facing challenges
AND provide care FOR THE whole person.

the mind, and the soul. Students don't just graduate with a major that makes them employable, they graduate with a ministry that transforms work into calling." By valuing relationships and creating an others-oriented culture, APU produces desirable employees. Mark Sanborn, in his best-selling book *The Fred Factor* (Currency, 2004), calls this ideal employee "Fred" and notes that all Freds adhere to four key principles: everyone makes a difference, success is built on relationships, you must continually create value for others, and you can reinvent yourself. When the Ruffalo Noel Levitz team, renowned consultants for higher education enrollment management, evaluated Azusa Pacific last year, they stated that "APU's campus is a walking, talking, breathing version of *The Fred Factor*."

While many aspects of APU's ethos and pathos contribute to this—including mentorship, discipleship, small class sizes, faith integration, countless personal encounters and conversations, and an unapologetic *God First* commitment—the university also works continuously to identify new needs and new ways to adjust its infrastructure and pour into students. For example, APU views and treats students with undeclared majors (about 15 percent of each incoming class) differently from most universities, offering them several options to find and develop their vocations. Freshmen and sophomores participate in the Exploring program, which introduces them to vocation paths through two specially designed classes, individual advising, speakers, retreats, and discussion groups. Many may opt for the new Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, one of APU's clear pathways from education to vocation, launching fall 2017. This 54-unit major includes an 18-unit vocational development core that emphasizes leadership strengths and skills, career and life planning, writing across disciplines, and an internship, then allows students to customize their own major in partnership with a faculty advisor.

For students with declared majors, the minor in vocational development complements all career tracks by focusing on virtuous character, faithful engagement, and vocational coaching. "People change careers six to seven times during their lifetime, and a college degree today must help them navigate those transitions," said Ryan Hartwig, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication Studies. "APU's vocational programs produce valuable employees with vocational agility, and good neighbors with a heart to serve. These degrees are flexible, but the core is applicable to whatever the Lord calls them to do."

The benefits of this approach constitute a win-win for students and the university. Students gain the freedom to explore and develop vocational identity and purpose, avoid the pressure of choosing a major too quickly, and combine a liberal arts education with professional preparation. For Azusa Pacific, these options reinforce APU's value, facilitate transfer enrollment, increase retention, and increase the number of graduates who enter careers upon graduation, including fields facing shortages such as nursing and education.

In addition, APU's commitment to vocation, innovation, and alumni provides a comprehensive cadre of resources to equip students and alumni. "We are moving the dial for education to vocation, equipping students and alumni to respond to God's call and do good," said President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. "We intentionally form partnerships between academic departments, student life, career planning, alumni networks, and hands-on entrepreneurial projects. Everyone works together toward helping students and alumni translate their passion into their vocation."

Some participate in Zuventurez, a business-plan competition that allows students and alumni to develop an idea from concept to pitch with the help of expert advisors and industry professionals. Others sign up for entrepreneurial coaching.

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MARK STANTON, Ph.D., ABPP
Provost

"Everything we do is intentionally interwoven so that the college experience engages the heart, the mind, and the soul. Students don't just graduate with a major that makes them employable, they graduate with a ministry that transforms work into calling."

ROBERT DUKE, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Theology

Undergraduate seniors can attend the Next Event, preparation for postgraduate life, and alumni choose from a robust set of resources to advance their professional goals, including networking events, consulting, workshops, and APU Connect, an exclusive online networking tool.

Since introducing resources that align with this trajectory, APU has seen a 111 percent increase in overall engagement and connects with alumni in every sector and industry, advancing the mission of APU. During the 2015-16 academic year, 75 employers interviewed more than 250 students and alumni on campus; 1,100 students and alumni attended 21 networking, recruiting, professional development, and career fair events; and more than 3,000 jobs and internships were posted on APU Career Network. "We know that connectedness and relationships are how things get done, and it is our academic, spiritual, and fiduciary responsibility to make sure every graduate is prepared," said Phil Brazell '08, M.A. '13, executive director of career and alumni relations.

Gone are the days of attending college to explore interests without thinking about outcomes—but gone, too, is the notion of attending college just to make a buck. The value of an APU education lies in its inherent ability to equip responsible, ethical employees who know how to serve and work together and contribute to an organization's culture in practical and meaningful ways. These are the service-minded global citizens who value relationships, lean into community, do life together, and make the most productive employees, the best neighbors, and the real difference makers.

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BY SARAH RICHART

God's Design in Bacteria

**ON THE FIFTH DAY,
GOD SAID,**

“Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens” (Genesis 1:20, NASB). You can almost feel God’s joy in filling every conceivable niche on Earth with such diverse life forms—including bacteria. Not only do bacteria occupy every part of the world—including strange places like the Dead Sea, glaciers, and volcanoes—but within each human being there exists an entire world of diverse microscopic creatures. Because we have 10 times as many bacterial cells as our own human cells (not even counting the fungi and viruses), we are not just solitary humans, but our very bodies are communities comprising multitudes of God’s tiny nonhuman creatures. Life teems within us.

Unfortunately, bacteria have gained a negative reputation since Louis Pasteur proposed the Germ Theory of Disease. Most now think of bacteria as disease-causing superbugs that must be avoided at all costs. But that is true in only a small number of cases. Sometimes, normal beneficial bacteria, like the *E. coli* we have in our intestines that make vitamins, can change when they encounter DNA from other bacteria. For example, the *E. coli* O157:H7 strain of bacteria that makes the evening news from time to time acquired a toxin gene from another bacterium, making it a potential threat. When normal, beneficial bacteria find themselves in the wrong context, they can make us sick. Regular, nonharmful *E. coli*, if introduced to the urogenital system, can cause bladder infections, even though it does not cause infections in the intestines.

Good bacteria, on the other hand, rarely get much press, but they should. Photosynthetic bacteria (cyanobacteria), among the oldest fossils recorded, may represent the very first of God’s creations. If they were anything like today’s cyanobacteria, they may have helped to create oxygen in the atmosphere that would allow for more complex multicellular animal life to exist. Interestingly, we are still dependent on cyanobacteria and algae, not just green plants, to produce the oxygen we breathe. Bacteria are the only creatures on Earth that can convert nitrogen gas from the atmosphere to other nitrogen compounds, making them available to plants for their growth.

Through the years, scientists have come to understand this delicate balance and intricate relationship between bacteria and their hosts. From healthy digestive functioning and healthy weight maintenance to the prevention of asthma and type 2

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diabetes to boosted immune systems, God made humans dependent on these simple creatures. If we consider them all potential threats, we ignore our true relationship with them. In contrast, recognizing this symbiotic connectedness illustrates the theological principle of *shalom*—a mutual flourishing.

When something disrupts this harmonious relationship, the whole system can break down, as seen in the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Since bacteria can share DNA with each other, they can also share ways of becoming resistant to antibiotics. When that happens, we must either develop new drugs (to which the bacteria will probably also become resistant) or find new ways of treating diseases. Vaccinations against disease-causing bacteria are much more effective than treating them with antibiotics, because they not only prevent people from getting sick in the first place (and thus infecting others), but it is extremely difficult for bacteria to become resistant to our immune systems. The pertussis vaccine is a great example of circumventing this problem while protecting the most vulnerable—babies—from whooping cough. Of course, this does not mean that we should never take antibiotics. But we should use more care, prescribe them only to treat confirmed bacterial infections, and if possible, prescribe drugs that will not kill off healthy bacteria.



And the concern involves more than the medical community. Most antibiotics used in the U.S. each year are in livestock to prevent disease and keep their weight up—which many public health advocates believe generates antibiotic-resistant germs that transfer to humans. While some countries ban this practice or allow only antibiotics that are not used in human treatments, the U.S. does not regulate this practice. However, more and more companies advertise their meats as “antibiotic free,” reflecting people’s awareness of this practice and their demand for alternatives, even though it usually translates to higher meat costs.

Consumers play an important role in curbing rampant overuse in food as well as other products. A recent trend toward “antibacterial” everything, including soap, cosmetics, plastic cutting boards, toothpaste, etc., introduced new chemicals into myriad products. In addition to increasing the likelihood of bacteria’s resistance to these chemicals, the substances are potentially harmful to the environment. In September 2016, the FDA reported that these chemicals were not shown to effectively control bacteria and increased the risk of creating resistant bacteria—17 of those substances are now banned in certain products like soap.

As a professor, I hope that as my students learn how to ask scientific questions, design experiments, and interpret results, they will also come to see the goodness in bacteria and resist misinformation like...well...the plague. As a Christian, I believe that many of the recent findings in microbiology illustrate God’s good purpose in creating bacteria and allow us to marvel at the intricate and complex relationships God created among all His creatures.

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JUSTICE

FOR ALL

by Deshonna
Collier-Goubil
illustration by
Sara Montgomery '12

Scrutiny of the U.S. criminal justice system has never been more intense. Every news outlet, television network, internet feed, and social media site reveals not only information and commentary, but also audio and visual accounts of traffic stops, arrests, and court proceedings. With cameras on every cell phone and millennials' natural inclination to share their experiences publicly, we are now privy to more incidents of police contact with the community than ever before. This changes everything about criminal justice, professionals in the field, crime victims, and outcomes of the justice system.

While shedding light on inappropriate behavior benefits all fields, it carries the most weight in law enforcement, where it exposes abuse, excessive force, and criminal activity. The fact that sworn criminal justice professionals have the legal right to use deadly force if and when necessary raises the stakes considerably.

As citizens increasingly call for justice and accountability in the actions of criminal justice professionals, many positive steps can help raise the bar, such as additional training (cultural competency training), advanced technology (body cameras), higher education requirements (bachelor's degree for line officers), external review boards to hear complaints (citizen review boards), and most important, strict accountability for wrongdoers (filing charges, changing laws to aid

in convictions, termination). In addition, shared leadership, open communication, dialogue, and explanation of action serve to improve the system. Older policing tactics must give way to new approaches that transform the interaction during routine stops. Prosecutors and judges must be questioned about their actions as well, and their records examined to determine biases over the course of their careers. Further, as new DNA evidence exonerates formerly

Ahead of the curve, Azusa Pacific's Department of Criminal Justice prepares students to use critical analysis and ethical reasoning in approaching the field of criminal justice.



incarcerated individuals, many have questioned the overall effectiveness of the courts and are calling for a complete overhaul of the criminal justice system.

This necessitates the preparation of professionals across the criminal justice spectrum committed to an honest, thoughtful, ethical approach to their work. Ahead of the curve, Azusa Pacific's Department of Criminal Justice prepares students to use critical analysis and ethical reasoning in approaching the field of criminal justice. While many safe officer-citizen meetings occur and many instances of fair justice play out in the courtroom, there still exist many unethical encounters and instances of unethical sentencing (or lack of sentencing). In this program, faculty challenge students to think critically about real-life issues from multiple perspectives and learn to discuss them rationally and fairly. The diverse student makeup in this department adds to the rich classroom environment and promotes a climate in which peers challenge one another, engage in healthy debate, and work toward collaborative problem solving. This encourages students to seek creative, innovative solutions to issues requiring great leadership, ethical standards, and Christlike justice perspectives.

Uniquely prepared to address tough issues and evolving societal narratives, graduates of this program enter a multitude of professional outcomes. Some students aspire to law enforcement careers (local officer, state police, FBI, DEA, Border Patrol), while others seek involvement in the court system (prosecutor, defense attorney, etc.), engagement with juveniles as a probation officer or

counselor, working alongside crime victims (human trafficking victims, domestic violence survivors), or effecting change within the criminal justice system through activism (scholar-activists). As a liberal arts degree program, we take a multidisciplinary approach to studying the justice system, combining the disciplines of criminology, sociology, psychology, political science, and law. Students gain invaluable critical thinking, written communication, oral communication, intercultural competence, and civic engagement skills that can be applied to any criminal justice profession. Students also study, listen to, and network with professionals in the field, activists, and exonerees, and they engage in service-learning, study-away opportunities, and active-learning strategies in their everyday classroom experiences.

The 21st-century criminal justice system needs informed, ethical leaders like APU graduates—those who view the world through a clear and unbiased lens, those who guide according to biblical principles, and those who consider service an inextricable component of leadership. Only this new brand of leadership and these structural changes will help bridge the gap between communities experiencing unrest and the criminal justice system.

Deshonna Collier-Goubil, Ph.D., is associate professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice.
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GROWING UP THE WINDING ROAD

by Micah McDaniel

Middle reliever. Accomplished starter. Failed closer. Repeat starter. Collegiate baseball has taken Michael Fairchild '17 down a challenging road. From coast to coast, with Hawaii and Alaska added in, he has developed as a player, met people from all walks of life, and along the way, grew up.



PHOTOS BY DUSTIN REYNOLDS '17, MBA '18

“One of the great perks of baseball at this level is that I have been able to build so many relationships, make connections, and grow as a man,” said Fairchild. “[Azusa Pacific Head Baseball] Coach [Paul] Svagdis always talks about the process, and because of it, I feel more confident today as a Christian man.”

That process began at age 6, long before he ever heard about APU—the day he learned he had type 1 diabetes. He faced that monumental challenge with the support of his parents, who helped him put his diagnosis and his life into perspective. “I realized this wasn’t going to slow me down, and now I don’t even think about it that much; it’s just a part of who I am.”

Years later, that can-do attitude caught the attention of two-time MLB All-Star Stephen Vogt '07, who was working out and giving lessons in Fairchild’s hometown when the two met. They instantly hit it off, and Vogt helped start the recruiting process. “The man that Stephen is, that’s what turned me on to APU. He was a confident Christian man and treated me with respect. I wanted to be like him. I knew that APU could encourage me and build me up in my faith. Baseball was important but so was becoming a godly man.”

But it wasn’t always easy. “He was a little naïve when he got here,” said Svagdis. “Actually he possessed a refreshing innocence to being in college and being out on his own, he was excited to learn. As a freshman, after team meetings, he would come into my office and ask questions on what things he needed to do and say to be a leader, because that’s who he wanted to be. Now, three years later, he’s so much more comfortable with who he is becoming as a man and a person of faith, and it has translated into Mike being a great Christian leader in the clubhouse.”

It’s that maturity and confidence that have also helped him deal with adversity on the baseball diamond. Fairchild has made more starts on the bump than any other Cougar the past three seasons, and that number would be higher, but Svagdis temporarily moved Fairchild to the closer role for the first month of his junior campaign in 2016. When a starter went down, he returned to that rotation.

“At the time, I felt like it was the right call,” said Svagdis. “I never questioned his attitude, though. Mentally, he is much like Vogt was when he was here. He was willing to be sacrificial, put the team first, and buy into the coach’s vision, even if it meant a position change or something that may not have been best for him individually.”

Humility and a servant’s heart characterize him off the field as well. In addition to his athletic responsibilities, he serves as president of APU’s Student Athlete Advisory Board, and vice president of the Pacific West Conference’s Student Athlete Advisory Council. Understandably, his team named him captain as he heads into his final season and toward graduating with a degree in applied exercise science. If that were not enough to keep him busy, Fairchild also constantly monitors his health and pitches with his insulin pump. “My experience is that APU cares for its students and our holistic well-being. I have received so much support from my coaches, athletic trainers, and professors. That’s a big reason I came here—for the people.”

Fairchild aspires to pitch professionally for as long as the game will have him, but he also has a backup plan of becoming a nurse practitioner back home at Seattle Children’s Hospital, the same place where he was diagnosed with diabetes. But before all that, he has one final collegiate season and is back in his zone—the starting rotation. “This could potentially be my last season of baseball ever, so there are a lot of emotions that surface. I have a deep love for this game and the experiences it has given me, and I also have a deep love for Azusa Pacific and the opportunities it has given me to become the man I want to become. I feel as prepared as I can be for the real world because of how APU has created different challenges for me athletically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. I feel ready.”

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

Cougars

SPORTS ROUNDUP

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Cougar Sports Update

Winter Sports Championship Festival (Women's Swimming and Diving, Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field): National championship qualifiers from Azusa Pacific's track and field and women's swimming and diving teams competed at the NCAA Division II Winter Sports Championship Festival in Birmingham, Alabama. Shakiel Chattoo '19 defended his individual national championship in the men's heptathlon and led a group of five teammates who earned All-American honors. The Cougars posted a sixth-place team finish, with Chattoo placing third in the 60-meter hurdles and Corey Reid '19 as the heptathlon runner-up.

The women's track and field team placed 15th overall, led by All-American performances from Eileen Stressling '18 in the 3,000 meters (sixth) and 5,000 meters (fourth). Daphne Chambers '17 claimed fifth in the pentathlon to earn her first Division II All-American honors, and Cyinna Booker '18 registered a fifth-place finish in the triple jump.

The women's swimming and diving team posted its best finish in three years of NCAA Division II championship competition, with a 27th-place team finish. The Cougars entered the championships with seven competitors, the most in program history, and Tamara Miler '18 highlighted the meet with a school record in the 1,650-yard freestyle event (16:52.06) to place seventh overall and become the program's first NCAA All-American.

Women's Basketball: A five-game midseason win streak propelled Azusa Pacific into the PacWest Tournament, where the Cougars posted a 95-60 first-round win over Notre Dame de Namur before finishing the season with a 16-14 record after a narrow one-point defeat to eventual West Region champion California Baptist. Gabrielle Kaiser '18 and Abigail Goodsell '18 each All-PacWest second-team recognition.

Men's Basketball: Azusa Pacific finished the regular season with six wins in seven games, earning a spot as the No. 5 seed in the PacWest Tournament. The Cougars finished the season 16-15 overall and went 11-9 in conference play while facing the PacWest's toughest conference schedule. Petar Kutlesic '19 earned his second consecutive All-PacWest second-team honors after leading Azusa Pacific in scoring (14.9) and rebounding (8.5).

Baseball: Led by one of Division II's most prolific offenses, Azusa Pacific put together a 30-4 start to the season and ranked in the top 25 nationally in home runs, runs scored, and team batting average. The regular season concludes with a four-game series against PacWest rival Dixie State on Monday, May 8, with the NCAA West Regional Championships set to begin on May 18 at a site to be determined.

Softball: Azusa Pacific took the early lead in its bid to defend its 2016 PacWest title, winning four of its first five games at the season-opening Desert Stinger Tournament in Las Vegas and winning 10 of its first 12 conference games. Three-time PacWest Player of the Year Nicki Sprague '17 became the program's all-time leader in hits, doubles, RBIs, walks, and total bases, as she led the Cougars toward a second consecutive NCAA West Region playoff appearance.

Tennis: The men's program approached the end of the regular season in contention for its first PacWest title and a spot in its second consecutive NCAA Division II Championships (May 10-13). Oliver Frank '19 led the way as the top singles player, going undefeated in singles play entering the postseason. The women's team consistently ranked as a Division II top-25 program, led by a 12-3 singles record from Lisa Schneider '17.

Women's Water Polo: Azusa Pacific entered the final weeks of the regular season positioned for a top-half finish in the Golden Coast Conference standings, and the Cougars used a five-game win streak in the middle of the season to ensure an overall regular-season win percentage of at least .500. Heading into the final games, Megan Myers '17 ranked among league leaders in goals, and Erica Marquez '18, the GCC saves leader, ranked in the top 10 in steals from her goalkeeper spot.

Williams Hired from NCAA National Office to Lead Compliance



Payton Williams became the new director of compliance and academic support, joining Cougar Athletics from the NCAA national office in Indianapolis, where he worked since 2009. Williams, a Southern California native and Academic All-American at Fresno State, played three years of professional football—2000 and 2001 with the Indianapolis Colts and Pittsburgh Steelers, and 2002 with the Canadian Football League's Calgary Stampeders.

Cougars Hosted Acrobatics and Tumbling National Championships



Azusa Pacific hosted the 2017 National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association (NCATA) National Championships, April 27-29, at the Felix Event Center. The second NCATA program to host multiple national championships, Azusa Pacific provided the site for the premier week of acrobatics and tumbling for the second time in four years.

BASEBALL

May 8-10 | Cougars vs. Dixie State | Cougar Baseball Complex
May 18-22 | NCAA Division II West Region Playoffs | Location TBA

TRACK AND FIELD

May 25-27 | NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships | IMG Academy (Bradenton, Florida)

Stay Connected

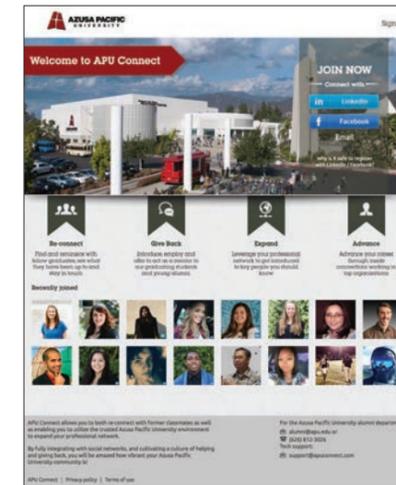
Check out the multiple career and networking resources available to all alumni year-round.

APU Connect: Join APU's alumni and career networking platform to get involved and connect with more than 3,800 fellow alumni already benefitting from these valuable relationships. apuconnect.com

Center for Career and Calling:

Brush up your résumé, meet with a career counselor, or search for jobs—Azusa Pacific alumni have complete access to the Center for Career and Calling for life. apu.edu/career

APU Career Network: Looking for a job? Want to hire APU students or alumni? Search for or post a job opening or career opportunity anytime. apu.edu/career/apucareernetwork



HOMEWORD | AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

How to Live a Simpler, More Satisfying Life *by Jim Burns*

In our fast-paced, hurry-up society, most of us long for a simpler, more satisfying way of life. Sadly, the idea of slowing our pace is easier said than done. We may not be able to control every aspect of our lives, but we can choose our beliefs and attitudes. Here are some key perspectives you can choose to embrace that will move you a few steps closer to your goal.

1. Understand that no one can have it all. Many chase after this unattainable goal. Don't waste your

time trying to accumulate things you don't need. As long as you have salvation by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, you have everything you need.

2. Realize that certain things in life are nonnegotiable. Too often, we invest considerable time, effort, and money mistaking the negotiable for the nonnegotiable. Learning to put first things first will help you see life more clearly and appreciate the simplicity of the power of God's love in our lives.

Recent Highlights

The NEXT Event: In February 2017, undergraduate seniors gathered for a night to imagine and discuss what comes next after graduation. Featured speakers encouraged students to contemplate transitioning well out of the APU community and become contributors to the Kingdom beyond campus.

Alumni Merit Scholarship: The Office of Alumni Relations awarded \$2,000 scholarships to 20 undergraduate and graduate students who will complete their degrees during the 2017-18 academic year.

Save the Dates

Homecoming and Family Weekend

October 19-21, 2017

Alumni, Family, and Friends Homecoming Golf Tournament

October 19, 2017

Dinner Rally

October 20, 2017

3. Recognize that failure is not final. Think for just a moment about the goals you have not pursued simply because a past failure has left you feeling as though you cannot, should not, or do not deserve to achieve them. Know this: If you have the Lord in your life, you may stumble, but you will never fall. So keep moving forward. (And remember, your kids will learn important lessons from watching your example.)

4. Believe that, in most cases, it's better to be kind than right. This happens only by God's grace. Think about the relationships that are most important to you. Are you gracious with those you love? Are you willing to be misunderstood or overlooked from time to time? Remember, we are saved

by grace—and not by knowing all the right answers.

5. Remember that you live in the light. Why is it that we often live our lives as if we can keep secrets from God? The first step to finding freedom from shame is to bring our faults into the light. Confession is good for the soul. Ask God for forgiveness. And make sure you have at least one person in your life whom you talk with about your shortcomings. The adage is true: A friend is someone who knows all about you—and still loves you anyway.

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

1970s

1 RUSSELL STEVENS '74 earned a Ph.D. in Business Management in August 2016. He teaches online for Hope International University and Geneva College, and on a contract basis for several other small Christian colleges and universities. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Salisbury, North Carolina.

SHARON (NEWLAND '78) RIDDLE spends her days praying, teaching God's Word, writing books, and believing in God for great things. She and her husband volunteer as teachers at Oakwood Baptist Church in New Braunfels, Texas.

1980s

CLINT HARWICK '88, ED.D. '00, recently became superintendent of the Huntington Beach Union High School District. Previously, he worked as the superintendent of Saddleback Valley Unified School District, Charter Oak Unified School District, and Rim of the

World Unified School District, and worked at the Claremont Unified School District. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Newport Beach.

KATHY (O'BRIEN '88) BOWLING owns and operates Mountain Marketing Group, which specializes in website development, social media marketing, and search engine optimization. Kathy has been married to her husband, Brent, for nearly 30 years, and they have three grown daughters and two grandchildren.

1990s

DAVID AULIA '91 works as a business development coordinator at Chevron Geothermal Indonesia. He also recently started a small poultry farming business.

2 CHRISTOPHER COLE '97 works as the executive director of philanthropy at Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare in Pomona, California. He and his wife, Alicia, lead the young adult ministry at their church, as well as a short-term mission team to Argentina each summer. The couple lives in Glendora.

COUGAR INTERVIEW—MATTHEW GONZALEZ '10



Equipped with an impressive array of academic accolades—TELACU scholar, Teach for America corps member, and Fulbright fellow—Matthew Gonzalez '10 seeks to hone the leadership skills of passionate educators seeking change in a system fraught with challenges. As manager of program data and evaluation at Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE), he leverages data analytics to better support current and former educators seeking to advocate for students as leaders in policy and politics.

APU LIFE: What do you see as the greatest education needs facing the U.S.?

GONZALEZ: Ensuring that all students have equitable access to a quality education and employment opportunities is the fundamental challenge. Many people confuse equality and equity, but the nuances between the two are critical to understanding this challenge. Systemically, the best way to break this down is in dollars. An equal education system invests the same amount of money in every student's education. An equitable education system gives more money to the highest-need students—homeless, low-income, special needs. This ensures that a student's circumstance doesn't limit his or her potential.

APU LIFE: What determines which school districts receive more funds?

GONZALEZ: Unfortunately, in the U.S., educational spending is neither equitable nor equal. Spending from state to state and school district to school district varies widely. Historically, we invest the most money in students who need it the least

KEELY (FORD) MILLIKEN '99 is a voice instructor at Citrus College, runs a nonprofit theater company called Centre Stage, Inc., and directs and performs on stage at local theaters. Many of her students perform on Broadway, cruise ships, and tours. She and her husband, Ryan, have two children: Berlynn, 16, and Reece, 10. They attend International Full Gospel Fellowship church and run a theater outreach ministry for the community.

CHRISTY (MANN '99) SEMSEN and **DANIEL SEMSEN '01** won a Dove Award for Children's Musical of the Year for their creation of *The Kingdom Connection*. They attended the Dove Awards with their sons Nathaniel and Noah.

2000s

STEVEN HEBBARD '00 runs an eight-unit bed and breakfast in Austin, Texas. The facility is located in the largest tiny-house community for the chronically homeless in the country. Steven hopes to increase it to 17 units as he helps to employ some

of the 250 former chronically homeless who live on site. The facility houses about 70 "neighbors" and continues to grow by two to three neighbors each week.

ROBERT BRIGHAM '01 serves as the performing arts event manager at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. He manages and promotes all performing arts activities for the college and for external clients who produce their projects on campus.

JOHN BURDETT '01 works as the director of instrumental studies, bands, and graduate music education in APU's School of Music. He gave two presentations at the International Society for Music Education Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, last summer: a poster session titled "Training the 21st Century Musician in Los Angeles: Institutional Lessons Learned after 10 Years of 'Traditional' and 'Commercial' Performance Degree Offerings," and a presentation on his dissertation research, "Authentic Membership: The Experiences of Two Students with Hearing Loss in Instrumental Music." Additionally, he served in fall

saw the toll of violence, poverty, and an education system that is highly politicized. But I haven't given up on finding an answer. I have a feeling it's a solution that parents, students, teachers, school leaders, advocates, CEOs, and elected officials will need to work on together.

APU LIFE: What impact do these issues have on life beyond the classroom?

GONZALEZ: These issues affect everyone—not only students who aren't sure there will be dinner on the table when they get home, but on our economy. Every adult who can't read, do basic math, or work on a computer is a lost economic opportunity for our nation. They are more difficult to employ and will be very vulnerable to the automation of manual labor. Imagine the economic force that would be unleashed if all students grew up in an equitable education system. As a teacher in a high-needs school, I saw the extreme imbalances of our education system firsthand. At LEE, I'm working with like-minded leaders to move the needle in correcting these imbalances.

2016 as the lead adjudicator for the classical instrumental category in the prestigious Music Center of Los Angeles Spotlight Awards and is on the board of directors for the Claremont Community School of Music.

JASON SAMUELIAN '01, M.A. '04, recently became the national account director for Facility Solutions Group. He focuses on the commercial and industrial sectors. The company is one of the largest electrical contractors and lighting distributors in the country, serving a variety of customers.

SHERRY TEMPLETON '01 works as a senior customer executive for Hormel Foods in Irvine, California. She is responsible for Stater Bros. and Jetro Distributors and has been a member of Saddleback Church for 11 years.

TAD BEATTY '02 is a director of operations at Fresenius Medical Care, managing clinics in San Diego and Orange County. He is also working to open a new medical school specializing in dialysis in Portland, Oregon, in spring 2017.

TAVIA LAWSON '02 serves as a community advisory member for the Interactive Autism Network, which provides assistance and advocacy for people with autism. She also chairs and serves as the parent representative for the East San Gabriel Valley Special Education Local Plan Area Group Community Advisory Committee, is an active cadre member for the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN), and works at Parents' Place Family Resource Center.

3 JEFF TIRRELL '02 works as an adjunct professor in the Departments of Theater Arts and Practical Theology at APU. In September 2016, he presented a paper titled "Staging the Great Divorce: Artistic Imagination as an Interpretive and Communicative Theatrical Lens for Understanding C.S. Lewis" at the Verge Conference 2016: Arts + The Inklings at Trinity Western University in British Columbia, Canada. He and his wife, **HOLLIE (ELLIS '01),** have a son, Oliver, 1.

KIMBERLEY (MICETIC '02) and **JOHN MARK '03 WIEDEFELD** moved to Rochester, New York, with their children, Joshua and Kate. Kimberley is the vice president of enrollment at Roberts Wesleyan College.

SAMUEL ADDRESS '04 and his wife, Ana, purchased their first home in Granada Hills, California. Samuel works as a real estate agent at Huntington Group in the Greater Southern California area.

HENRY ALONZO '05, who works on the public relations and release direction team for the Spanish Language Album of the Year, won a Dove Award for Christine D'Clario's *Eterno Live*. The album is also a Latin Grammy nominee.

KRISTIN DUPREE, M.A. '05, M.A. '12, is principal at Marina Academy in Apple Valley (California) Unified School District for the 2016-17 school year. She brings to the job 15 years of experience serving with Apple Valley Unified, Hesperia Unified, and Victor Valley Union High School.

KILEY (HILL '06) GOODPASTURE works as the creative director for the Bethel Music label, which won a series of awards at the 47th Annual GMA Dove Awards, including Worship Song of the Year for "No Longer Slaves," Inspirational Album of the Year for *Brave New World*, Children's Album of the Year for *Bethel Music Kids: Come Alive*, and Instrumental Album of the Year for *Without Words: Synesthesia*.

JODIE PEEBLES '06, M.A. '09, works for the San Diego County Office of Education and Union Institute & University as an early educational specialist. Previously, she worked as an adjunct professor at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges. Additionally, Jodie serves on the California Mentor Teacher Selection Committee and is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Prior to receiving a master's degree, she also earned a B.A. in Human Development at APU's San Diego Regional Campus, where she hopes to teach.

TIFFANY (PORTER '06) MOORE founded the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) Scholar Academy, a tuition-free public charter middle school. Previously, she worked as an English-language learner intervention specialist and coach at KIPP L.A. College Preparatory School. The academy has been named one of the top middle schools in Los Angeles serving low-income students in East Los Angeles, and one of the top nine in math.

BOB VERDUGO '06, M.S. '11, works as the account manager at Action Duct Cleaning Company for the western U.S. The company specializes in providing commercial cleaning services within the food and beverage industry to help organizations comply with the Food and Safety Modernization Act of 2016. Bob and his wife, Beatriz, have two grown daughters, Jessica and Destiny, and two grandsons, Damien and Dominic.

COLLEEN BALLINGER '08 stars in a new Netflix original series, *Haters Back Off*, which premiered in October 2016.

ANDRE MADURO '08 works in visual effects and postproduction for the Brazilian television network Record TV. After a recent promotion, he supervises the postproduction of two biblical television series, *A Terra Prometida (The Promised Land)* and *O Rico e Lázaro (The Rich Man and Lazarus)*.

THOMAS JENKINS '09, an education technology specialist at the Diocese of San Bernardino, helps parishes and schools integrate technology into their learning objectives.

2010s

JAMIE CRISS '10 wrote, produced, and stars in a new web series, *Drama School*.

JEFF DOW '10 and John Tillery started a risk management and insurance brokerage firm in 2014. They hope to add APU alumni to their team. They have three offices: San Diego, Orange County, and Chicago.

BRIAN PIPKIN '10 coedited *Early Pentecostals on Nonviolence and Social Justice* (Pickwick Publications, 2016) and *Pentecostal and Holiness Statements on War and Peace* (Pickwick Publications, 2013). He works as an executive assistant for the Mennonite Disaster Service and lives in Litzitz, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Shannon, and their three children: Brenna, Connor, and Brogan.

TRAVON MOORE '11 and his wife, **DREA '17,** recently relocated to Albuquerque with their three daughters. Travon is the general manager for Sports and Wellness. Travon and Drea plan to create an outreach to married couples and launch a website to use as a platform to share couples' testimonies as well as their own.

COLTON SIMMONS '11 works as the director of operations at AdoptTogether, the world's largest nonprofit crowdfunding platform for adoption. In just four years, AdoptTogether has helped more than 2,200 families raise more than \$9 million for their adoptions. Colton also hosts a podcast called *The Back Pew* (available on iTunes), which addresses current issues surrounding the Church and spirituality.

ROBERT SOTO, M.A. '11, recently celebrated his 21-year anniversary at Schneider, the third-largest domestic transportation and logistics company in the U.S. He moved out of operations to serve as an associate relations director for the intermodal division. While supporting approximately 2,000 associates, Robert works to ensure that the company's core values are lived out and that trust and strong business relationships are fostered. Robert is also excited to have become a grandfather for the second time, in May 2016.

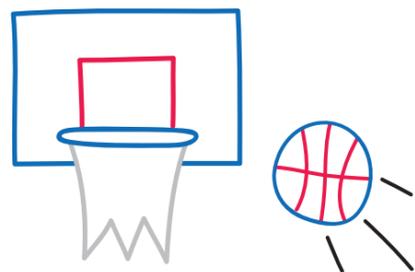
TY TUIN '11 directed *Coca Love*, a short-film finalist at the 2016 Sankofa Film Festival and an official selection at Asia International Youth Short Film Exhibition 2016, and now being considered for the Sundance Film Festival. Ty, who participates in Tamar's Voice, an outreach ministry, also filmed *A Kenyan Sunrise* (available on YouTube) in Kitale, Kenya, to help fundraise for a women's shelter and education center in western Kenya.

MIKE WILSON '11 is a high-performance consultant in the field of sport psychology. He focuses on elite athletics along the West Coast, but his passion for ultimate engagement in human performance has expanded his work into areas outside of sports. He completed a master's degree in sport psychology at John F. Kennedy University and now owns a private consulting firm based in Santa Barbara, California, and Portland, Oregon, called Evolving Concepts. Mike is also a member of the Association for Applied Sport Psychology and the American Psychological Association (Division 47).

ALY EASTON '12, a company member with Ophelia's Jump Productions, served as the assistant director for *The Electric Baby* in December 2016. She is also producing a stage reading with *A Noise Within*.

continued on page 33

IT PAYS TO CREATE



BY MICAH MCDANIEL



The L.A. Clippers' adrenaline-inducing 105-95 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on February 29, 2016, paled in comparison to the heart-stopping fan experience of the more than 19,000 people in attendance, which will forever be etched in Clippers lore. At halftime, the organization unveiled its new mascot, Chuck the Condor, and the night culminated with the Clippers' multimillionaire owner, Steve Ballmer, jumping off a trampoline for a slam dunk that sent the entire building into a frenzy. It also sent each ticket holder home with a brand-new pair of red Converse Chuck Taylor shoes, an unforgettable moment punctuating an incredible win.

Behind the scenes yet at the center of it all, Clippers Vice President of Marketing Matt Paye '98 witnessed his passion, skill, training, and hard work converge on the court and in the stands. He remembers the moment he first realized this ambition to generate something big, something unique and important. In 1997, when his human resource development professor, Rob McKenna, Ph.D., tasked the class with capturing in one word what they wanted

to do with their life, Paye said without hesitation, "Create." That one word, that single assignment, shaped the course of his marketing career, which has now spanned eight years.

"That assignment stuck with me and drives me in my career, where I get to create every single day," said Paye. "Create a brand. Create a memory. Create an experience."

Paye oversees all things consumer facing, including the Clippers brand locally and globally, advertising and promotion, merchandise, giveaways, entertainment, and game presentation. He stepped into his role in January 2015 as the second executive hired after Ballmer purchased the Clippers, charged with building the marketing team from scratch. Along the way, Paye and his team have rapidly garnered industry attention and energized the fan base with the "Together We Will" marketing campaign of 2015-16 and this season's "It Takes Everything" campaign.

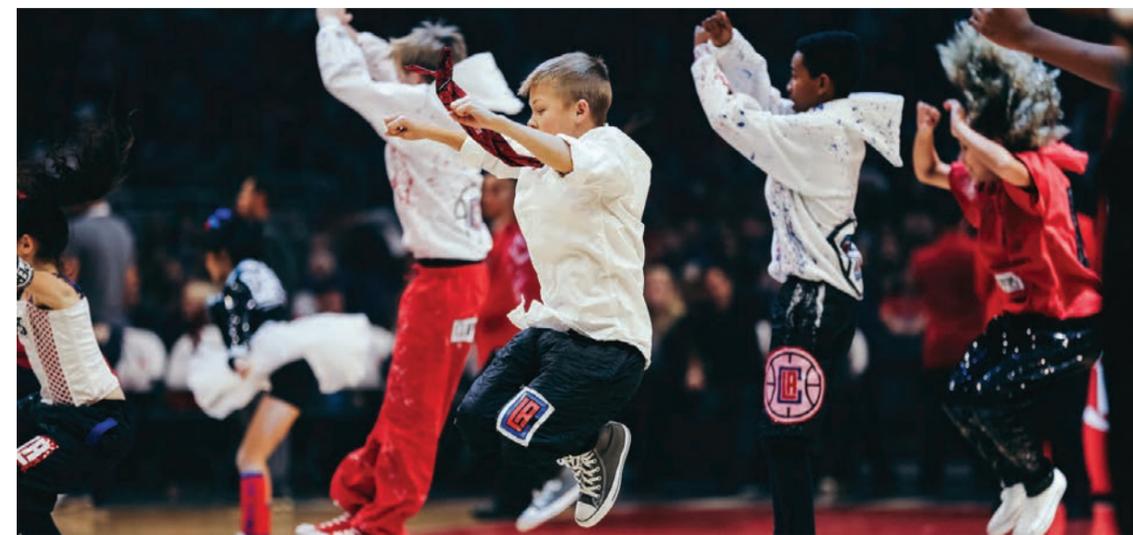
Paye credits much of his team's success to its unconventional approach. The Clippers gained national recognition with a surprise "flash mob" led by multi-Grammy Award-winning artist

Fergie during a timeout that now has nearly 2 million views on the Clippers' YouTube channel. They did it again the following year with the mascot unveiling. This year, they hosted a Star Wars night, complete with breakdancing characters. "We work hard at creating the unexpected. We want everyone to leave feeling like there's no other place they could have that kind of experience. Our goal is to bring elements that are surprising, fresh, and different."

Like the Clippers, Paye's career has taken an unconventional trajectory. He began his career in enterprise software, building technology startups in industrial automation, supply chain management, and document management. He later made the jump to the sports industry, heading consumer marketing and growing the fan base for Auto Club Speedway in Fontana—leading to the track's first sellout in more than a decade.

When Paye's Speedway boss, Gillian Zucker, became president of the Clippers, she recruited him. "It's incredible to work for one of the most dynamic and innovative executives in all of sports," said Paye. "She gave me an opportunity to put my fingerprint on something special and blaze a trail, and it's been amazing to get to work alongside visionary leaders like Gillian and Steve in a thriving league like the NBA. When I was a student at APU, I didn't envision myself in pro sports."

Yet he is—thriving in the second-largest media market in the United States brimming with entertainment options, successfully serving up something unique. And it's working. The Clippers are averaging more fans per game than at any point in their history, with more than 19,000 per game, which also ranks in the top 10 of the NBA this year, ahead of their rivals down the hall—the Lakers. "There is a renewed sense of excitement and optimism in the organization. We have 41 regular-season home games, and each one takes on a different feel. Steve



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS

believes in the fan's ability to impact the outcome of the game, so we try to grow and inspire our fan base to attain a home-court advantage. We gear a lot of what we do toward that end—motivating, entertaining, and overdelivering on what everyone expects. Our market is challenging, but I tend to see obstacles as opportunities."

Paye attributes this approach to his time at Azusa Pacific and, specifically, to being a student in the School of Business and Management, learning from professors like Ilene Bezjian, DBA, the former dean. "Dr. Bezjian gave us so many opportunities to actually try things by throwing us in the deep end of the pool. Sometimes we fell short, but the point was to go out and do it, not just read about it in a textbook. What that did was give me a sense of confidence going into the unknown. And when I look at my friends who were in the program with me, they share that attribute.

"My job is about creating memories, and the deeper and more meaningful, the better. I want to make an impact on each person who walks through our doors and have them take home something unforgettable."

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

"CREATE A BRAND. CREATE A MEMORY. CREATE AN EXPERIENCE."

MATT PAYE '98



From left: Paye; daughter, Stella; and wife, Clara (daughter, Hayden, not pictured).



The surreal moment signified the culmination of hopes, dreams, challenges, and hard work. From her position on the Munson Chapel stage, Blanca Rubio '99, M.A. '03, could see the faces of family and friends gathered in her honor, and she felt their love and support. As she stood to take the oath of office, the location seemed particularly poignant—Azusa Pacific University, the place that helped shape her passion for public service.

The January 28, 2017, in-district swearing-in ceremony marked Rubio's inauguration as California assemblywoman for the 48th District, representing approximately half a million residents in the cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Bradbury, Covina, Duarte, Glendora, Irwindale, and portions of El Monte, Industry, Monrovia, and West Covina.

Her unlikely journey to the state capitol began in Juarez, Mexico. The eldest of five children, Rubio and her family came to the United States when she was 8 years old in search of a better life in Southern California. After graduating from Belmont High School in Los Angeles, Rubio took classes at East Los Angeles College and became a citizen in 1994 before transferring to APU, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in education.

Rubio's parents modeled a strong work ethic for their children that left an indelible mark. Her father, now retired, served as a carpet machinist for 30 years and her mother still works as a housekeeper. The two stressed the importance of determination, initiative, and the value of education. Rubio lived out these principles as a young woman, balancing full-time work with her classes at APU, where she found the support she needed to succeed.

"After a rough day at work, I would come to school and we would start the class with prayer," said Rubio. "It allowed me to regroup." She remembers a professor demonstrating grace when she expressed doubt about completing an assignment on time. "He said, 'I believe in you and will work with you.' With his encouragement, I turned in the paper on time." Rubio said she took lessons like this to heart, and they influenced how she interacted with her own students as an elementary school teacher for the Baldwin Park and Fontana school districts.

Rubio's passion for education, especially for helping students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and those who struggle with English as a second language, inspired her to run for a seat on the Baldwin Park school board in 2003. "When I came here from Mexico, I spoke little English, but I managed to learn. For my brother, the language barrier proved more challenging, and he was placed in special education classes. He grew discouraged and eventually dropped out of high school. Our education system should do more for students like my brother."

Having spent nearly two decades in public service as an elementary teacher, school board member, and director on the Valley County Water District board, last year Rubio decided the time was right to take her commitment to the next level. "I asked myself, 'If not now, when? If not me, who?'"

As mother to Aiden, 9, and Nadia, 8, Rubio will work toward a brighter future for her children and her community with a platform that focuses on education. As the first woman to represent this district in more than 25 years, one of the few immigrants to serve the primarily Latino area, the first Latina to chair the Assembly's Committee on Human Services, and one of the few freshmen to secure such an important appointment, she will represent her neighbors well. "I knocked on many doors during the campaign and I connected with my community. I told them, 'I will be your voice. I will work for you.' I am honored that they placed their trust in me and I look forward to advocating on their behalf in Sacramento."

Rachel White is associate director of public relations in the Office of University Relations at Azusa Pacific University. rewhite@apu.edu

Choosing to Celebrate



Four years ago, Bekah Pogue '03 had a choice to make: continue proclaiming God's goodness, or give up in the face of loss. A popular Christian blogger, acclaimed inspirational speaker, and mother of two, she encouraged thousands with honest storytelling and humor. But the unexpected death of her father sent her reeling. "Suddenly, life fell completely out of my hands," she said. "I felt I didn't have anything of value to offer, and I realized I desperately needed God."

Pogue chose to continue writing, trusting that God would use her grief for good and emerging with fresh purpose—helping her readers discover God working even in life's darkest moments. "How does faith intersect with real life?" she asked. "I wanted to explore how God is genuine, loving, and close in the middle of chaos." With this in mind, she began work on a book, released last December, *Choosing Real: An Invitation to Celebrate When Life Doesn't Go as Planned* (Shiloh Run Press, 2016).

A self-described recovering control freak, Pogue offers a surprising suggestion to trusting God in the midst of turmoil: celebration and gratitude. "Life often looks

different than we planned or hoped," she said. "But God remains with us and uses our loss for good. At the end of the day, we can celebrate this in the face of any circumstances."

Pogue created her blog eight years ago as a young mother, inundated with busy schedules and cleaning messy fingers, in order to document the joys and challenges of those years. But as her blog grew in popularity, she began speaking to readers from all walks of life, writing on topics such as loneliness, developing healthy community, self-worth, generous living, and society's pressure to appear perfect. Responses poured in from readers across the nation touched by her words. "Stories and words hold power," she said. "They can bridge gaps between people, inspire change, and come alongside others in their struggles."

Today, Pogue still draws on her life experiences and encounters with God to inspire others through regular speaking engagements, writing coaching, and her blog, bekahpogue.com, which now reaches thousands of readers per month. She also regularly returns to her alma mater, taking the stage at student events to encourage APU students with her experiences and engaging storytelling. "I want each reader and audience member to feel like we are sitting across from each other, sipping tea and exchanging our true stories," she said. "When we share our struggles, we help one another glimpse God in the painful moments as well as the beautiful ones."



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MATTHEW ANDERSON, M.M. '13, earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in brass performance at the University of Washington. He is principal horn with the Seattle Rock Orchestra, City Opera/ Ballet Bellevue, the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, and the Bainbridge Symphony. Matthew also has a thriving private French horn studio in the Greater Seattle area.

IAN BLAIR '14 owns a do-it-yourself platform for building mobile apps, called BuildFire. The company was featured in a 10-minute segment on KUSI San Diego morning news and boasts a user base of more than 1.5 million people. In fall 2016, Ian spoke at Zuventurez to help inspire young entrepreneurs.

REBECCA BROWN '14 works as a case manager at World Relief, a refugee resettlement agency. In 2016, World Relief Sacramento resettled more refugees than any other World Relief office, breaking a 2005 record.

SEAN GABEL '14, M.M. '16, is the audio engineering, event, and production specialist in APU's Office of Information and Media Technology. In winter 2016, during his final semester as a student, Sean, **LILA CROSSWHITE '16**, and **RYLAND TALAMO '17** released a Christmas album. Lila arranged and coproduced the album as her senior project, Ryland recorded and coproduced it as his senior project, and Sean was the lead singer/artist. The trio recorded the album at APU and Master Recording Studios with an orchestra comprising primarily APU musicians. The album can be purchased at seangabel.com.

CURTIS GREEN '14 became the executive director at a subacute hospital outside of Sacramento. In this role, Curtis runs the hospital budget, hosts meetings with various departments, and ensures that the quality of care is exemplary.

ALEC NAKASHIMA '14 recently became the product manager at Green Chef, a venture-backed startup in Mountain View, California. The company delivers everything customers need, such as organic ingredients and recipes, to help them cook delicious meals at home.

CALEB WAGNER '14, a graduate student in physics at Brandeis University, recently published an article titled "Classical Nucleation Theory Description of Active Colloid Assembly" in the prestigious journal *Physical Review Letters*.

ANNALISE LARSON YAHNE '14 started graduate school at the University of Denver to earn a Master of Arts in International Human Rights with a concentration in Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. She plans to graduate in June 2018.

HOLLY (SAVARESE '15) MESERVE is the assistant vice president and loan officer at Commerce Bank of Temecula Valley, where she specializes in small-business loans. Holly began studying for a teaching credential as well as an M.A.Ed. in Learning and Technology in November 2016.

ERIN BELLUOMINI '16 was accepted into Vancouver Film School's Makeup Design for Film and Television program. She joins the January 2018 cohort and plans to graduate in 2019.

HANNAH DYSLIN '16 performed at the Credo Musical Festival in Chicago. Bonita Boyd and Gary Woodward coached her. She is the publicity coordinator for the APU School of Music and is part of the Artist Certificate Program.

ANNA ECKBERG '16 recently became a customer service representative at Tangram Interiors, an interior design and architecture company that focuses on the redesign of big office spaces. She assists in the process of placing orders within projects and working alongside the sales team.

OLIVIA JAMES '16 is a residence life coordinator at Regis University in Denver. She oversees a building of 200 upper-level students and teaches a women's leadership course for first-year students.

JUSTICE MONTGOMERY '16 works as an administrative aide at Don Day Neighborhood Center in Fontana, California. In November 2016, an online news source featured her many leadership accomplishments.

JUST MARRIED

RACHEL PENTECOST '08, M.A. '11, to Jeffrey Voth on July 22, 2016. **MICHAEL MONTGOMERY '10** officiated the

ceremony. The bridal party included **TANA VIGUS '08** and **MEGAN MONTGOMERY '08** as matron of honor. Rachel teaches in Beaverton, Oregon.

4 ALICIA WILSON '11 to Josh Baker on June 25, 2016, in Indianapolis. The bridal party included **BETHANY (WILSON '14) GEORGE, EMILY FORD '11, HANNAH MARRS '11, TRACY ROBERTS '11**, and **LEONICIA MCGRUFF '11**.

KINSIE WALTERS '13 to **JOE HENRICH '14, M.A. '16**, on August 13, 2016, in her parents' backyard in Tulare, California.

5 BRIANNA AMBROSE '14 to **ANDREW WOOD '15** on April 9, 2016, at Secluded Garden Estate in Temecula, California. They met during their junior year and got engaged in September 2015. The wedding party included **CAM AGNEW '15, JACOB VILLANUEVA '15, BRIAN JESSUP '16**, and Jessica Reaves. Brianna is pursuing a master's degree in marriage and family therapy at Fuller Theological Seminary, and Andrew directs student ministries at PCC Costa Mesa and works as an EMT for the Anaheim Fire Department. The couple lives in Costa Mesa.

CHELSEA CROW, M.A. '15, to **GEORGE FUENTES, M.A. '15**, on October 23, 2016, at Tivoli Tool in Laguna Beach. **JOSHUA GARTH '16** was one of the groomsmen. Chelsea and George went through graduate school together and graduated with Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology degrees with emphases in Marriage and Family Therapy in June 2015. They traveled to Kenya twice as cross-cultural counselors. At the end of their second trip, directly following graduation, they stopped in Paris so George could fulfill a promise he made to Chelsea five years earlier—he proposed in front of the Eiffel Tower. They are both working toward licensure in a private practice setting. They specialize in premarital counseling, biracial and interfaith couples, and couples with trauma, offering couple-to-couple therapy. They are passionate about promoting marriage restoration and working together to help enrich the relationships of their clients.

6 ALYSSA MASCARI '15 to **JORDAN ZARRAONANDIA '16** on May 1, 2016, at Twin Oaks House & Garden Estate in San Marcos, California. The bridal party included **KELSIE ROCHE '16, ERICA KNUDSEN '16, JULIANNA (HAYKIN) WILLIAMS '14**, and **CECILY DENHAM '16**. Current student **JULIANA LYONS '17** played piano and sang at the ceremony. The couple met during their freshman year in Trinity Fourth North and have been together ever since.

7 KATIE POWELL '15 to **BRADLEY ELLIS '15** on July 2, 2016, in Gold Hill, Oregon. As undergraduates, they met at Midnight Madness in November 2012 and then served on the same Mexico Outreach team in March 2013. Katie is now pursuing an M.A.Ed. in Educational Counseling at APU.

SEBASTIAN BOEHM '16 to **CHLOE BEUTLER '17** on August 21, 2016, at Mt. Hood Organic Farms in Oregon. The couple lives in Monrovia, California, where they serve the middle school ministry at Fellowship Monrovia church. Sebastian is a registered nurse at City of Hope Medical Center in Duarte, and Chloe is pursuing her dream of wedding coordinating.

8 KARA HAYES '16 to **JEREMY HITCHCOCK '16** on October 8, 2016, at San Moritz Lodge in Crestline, California. The couple met during their sophomore year at a dance party in the Mods parking lot and later dated each other at the GiG. Their wedding party included **SEBASTIAN BOEHM '16, AMY BONDS '16, ERIC DONG '16, ZACH DOUGLAS '16, KATIE FULTON '16**, and **SETH JOHNSON '16**.

9 MICHAEL MATCHELL '16 to **VERONICA ROBERTS '16** on May 21, 2016, at Heritage Square Museum in Los Angeles. Recently, Michael accepted the position of director of operations with Chick-fil-A.

FUTURE ALUMNI

10 To **LEEANNE (CARSON '02) JONES** and her husband, Paul, a daughter, Paisley Elizabeth, on July 9, 2016. Paisley joins big sister, Denali Marie, 2. LeeAnne is a freelance writer and editor working with

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lifestyle and travel magazines such as *Diablo*, *Via*, and *Rhapsody*. The family lives in Dublin, California. writerleeanne@gmail.com

11 To **SHANNON (PERRY '03) ESPOSITO** and her husband, Chris, a son, Aidenn, on August 18, 2016.

12 To **KEVIN DICKSON '04** and his wife, Daniela, a daughter, Ester Abigail, on June 20, 2016. She joins big sister, Anna Joyce. Kevin recently accepted a position as national director of outreach ministries for Josiah Venture Czech Republic.

13 To **JOSHUA RICE '04** and his wife, **ALLISON (TOWERS '05)**, a daughter, Penelope Joy, on October 16, 2016. She joins her big sister, Evangeline, 2.

To **STUART WANN '07, M.A. '13**, and his wife, **ELIZABETH, M.A. '14**, a daughter, Ellie May, on June 8, 2016.

14 To **HAZEL (UY, M.ED. '09) ENG** and her husband, **THOMAS, M.A. '09**, a daughter, Margaret Elle, on August 23, 2016.

To **CARRIE (BILLER '12) TRAVER** and her husband, Justin, a son, Parker Michael, on June 1, 2016.

15 To **SABRINA (MEDINA '12)** and her husband, Daniel Cannistraci, a son, Luca Francisco, on August 19, 2016.

16 To **CARTER POSLADEK '12** and his wife, **PAIGE (WHITMORE '12)**, a daughter, Marlow Mae, on September 18, 2015.

17 To **SLATER EZELL '13** and his wife, **TERYN (CARUSO '16)**, a son, Tristan Daniel, on May 26, 2016. Tristan was named after Slater's father's partner, Daniel T. Fraembs, who was killed in the line of duty.

IN MEMORY

18 **KIMASI BROWNE, PH.D.**, director of ethnomusicology and music research for 15 years, passed away on January 14, 2017. Internationally recognized, Kimasi frequently presented at scholarly conferences in Asia, Europe, and Africa and authored books, book chapters, and many journal articles on the topics of ethnomusicology and the nexus of music and culture. The recipient of a Fulbright

Specialist in American Studies Grant in 2016, he lectured for two weeks at the Sorbonne Paris, France. In addition to teaching at several American universities, he was also a visiting scholar and professor at the University of Oxford; Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China; and the Yared School of Music, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. His wife, Ramona, survives him.

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EMILY BRYANT '14,
LINDSAY UJIHARA '14,
JENNA CALAMUSA '14, AND
AMY STADELI '14
TROLLTUNGA, NORWAY



VALERIE HAAS '09
STUTT GART, GERMANY



JENNA CALAMUSA '14
AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS



AMY (BRAIO '90) WILCH
TANZANIA



LUZVIMINDA RICARDO '12
MANILA, PHILIPPINES



Rev. Joseph H. Smith

The convergence of two events gave rise to the formation of Azusa Pacific University. In Whittier, California, 118 years ago, Rev. Joseph H. Smith, Methodist-Episcopal Bible teacher and evangelist, led a 10-day holiness convention exploring the higher attainments of the Christian life and the doctrine of full salvation. At the same time, a small godly group of men and women gathered at the home of Philena Hadley under divine direction to pray over the establishment of a Bible school on the West Coast. Smith attended this meeting, along with representatives from all orthodox churches of Whittier, eager to help. Together, they launched the Training School for Christian Workers (APU's predecessor). Smith strongly believed that the school should be interdenominational, an important characteristic of the university for more than a century. He maintained a long association with the school, serving on the Council of Reference in the 1940s,

speaking at the close of the first semester in 1940, and stating in 1941 that "the School is, and has been from its beginning, one of my favorites. ... I love to fellowship with the School." Upon the construction of the Marshburn Memorial Library in 1966, Smith's son and daughter-in-law, J. Hunter and Clarinda Smith, made special provision for a much-needed conference room in honor of Rev. Smith. After Azusa Pacific purchased the Brown Military Academy (Hillside Campus) in 1966, the sprawling masonry women's dormitory building, which spread up the hillside on five levels, took the name Smith Hall. In 1985, when that property sold, Clarinda Hall on the Valley Campus became the new Smith Hall. Azusa Pacific University owes a debt of gratitude to its character-shaping, visionary founders such as Rev. Joseph H. Smith.

—Ken Otto, MLIS, professor, Special Collections librarian

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