Congratulations!

CLASS OF 2017
The everyday work inside and outside classrooms prepares our more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students to take God’s revealed, Christ-centered mission. The everyday work inside and outside classrooms prepares our more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students to take God’s revealed, Christ-centered worldview into culture and graduate students and outside classrooms for His redemptive purposes. Like Jonah, these are often tenuous assignments, hedged by conversations, cultural norms, and values that are increasingly in tension with the Christian message. In partnership with the Church, our response enables us to see these challenges as opportunities for engagement—to take the faith integration of the classroom into faithful living in the world. Let me cite a few recent examples of such opportunities.

This summer, APU hosted the Institute on Theology and Disability to address two primary questions: How does God see disability, and how would He have us respond? Keynote speaker Jeni Earlecomb Tafa framed these questions, and attendees reaffirmed God’s call in this assignment.

Meanwhile, the School of Nursing celebrated Catherine Heiden, Ed.D., RN, receiving a prestigious Fulbright award to live and study at the Calcutta Mercy Hospital in India. The insight gained and knowledge gained from this yearlong assignment will influence her academic impact at APU and reveal how to best prepare students and colleagues for their Kingdom assignments.

Just recently, Joshua Martinez ’04 was one of four teachers in America to receive the prestigious 2017 New Teacher Project Goldman Prize. Joshua teaches fourth grade at the KIPP Raíces Academy in East Los Angeles. His commitment to his students, their families, and the community his school serves exemplifies responding to God’s call.

In turn, the Hugh and Hazel Darling Foundation gift to fund the new Azusa Pacific University Center for Public Affairs and Master of Public Administration in Sacramento will enable APU to prepare graduates to grapple with complex issues at the forefront of governance and legislation from a Christian worldview.

God gives each of us gifts and abilities, empowered through His Holy Spirit. Our call and commitment to use these gifts through the Church, local or distant, allows us to participate in God’s work in the world. Like Jonah, we must take a faithful and courageous step of obedience to be used as God sees fit in sometimes uncomfortable places and in surprising ways. Today, many of us faithfully live in the place God has called us, exercising our God-given gifts against an outcome that may seem improbable. May God’s triumphant outcome in Jonah’s story inspire us to trust Him ever more so.

Shalom,
Jon R. Wallace, DBA
President

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Mirroring the moment their journey began during freshman orientation, APU’s class of spring 2017 took part in a candela ceremony (top center) led by President Jon R. Wallace, DBA. The event, now a highlight of Commencement Weekend, signifies the culmination of the graduates’ college experience. On May 6, more than 1,700 APU students celebrated their graduation, crossing the stage toward a bright future with their bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degrees in hand.
Alumni Matched with STEM-Festival

Twelve Azusa Pacific alumni who are fourth-year medical students sought and received placement in their preferred specialties this spring. These alumni will serve in medical residencies throughout the country, further preparing them for careers as physicians.

Jon Milhorn, Ph.D., professor in the Department of physiology and mentor to many of these alumni, likens the residency-pairing process to deal with in training activities. After years of hard work and weeks of intense interviews, students rank their top choices for residencies while hospitals and universities rank the top students. A computer analyzes the data and matches students with residencies while thousands of anxious candidates await the results. Sometimes, the news disappoints, and many students must face the reality of an undesirable location or specialty—or worse, no match at all. The alumni’s sweep in this year’s residency-pairing process speaks well of their preparation for the journey.

In an interview with alumni who are currently in residencies, they described their residency match and their experiences.

Jaycen Brown ’18, MD University of Arizona, Orthopedic Surgery at Texas A&M College Station

Peter Westrick ’11, MD University of Tennessee, Memphis, Plastic Surgery at University of Mississippi, Oxford

Nargas Hormat ’11, MD University of Wisconsin, Internal Medicine at Loma Linda University, California

Daniel Lemming ’12, DO Wayne State University, Internal Medicine at Loma Linda University, California

Ryan Maloney ’11, MD Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Family Medicine at Mehrymeh in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mitch Seman ’12, MD Children’s Hospital, Ophthalmology at the Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona

Caitlin Scartez ’12, DO West Virginia University, Emergency Medicine at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Illinois

Marie Sharp ’11, MD University of Miami, OB/GYN at Loma Linda University, California

Daniel Shoults ’12, MD University of California, Davis, Family Medicine at University of Washington, Seattle

Austin Terrien ’12, DO Western University, Emergency Medicine at Rochester University, New York

Alumni Participates in Study of Christian Higher Education Impact

To better understand, support, and communicate the benefits of Christian higher education, America’s Christian Credit Union provided the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) with a $100,000 grant to conduct research on the economic impact of faith-based colleges and universities in the U.S. This study will examine how and why these institutions collectively affect local communities, states, and the country, and will also focus on specific institutions, beginning with Azusa Pacific University.

In partnership with Eccosolutions, a Philadelphia-based organization that will provide insight into economic, policy, and strategic matters, the CCCU will generate a national impact analysis that incorporates quantitative and qualitative information from all member colleges and universities. The data will help construct an emerging narrative regarding the national impact of CCCU schools and graduates, as well as their state and local impact.

The first of its kind, this study seeks to generate the relevant statistics and measurable data necessary to effectively develop and market Christian higher education’s value to policymakers, the CCCU’s ability to lobby for legislation on behalf of its member institutions and communities, and to provide unique benefits of Christian higher education to business leaders, government officials, and stakeholders in every field. Further, this strategic national study, with results expected later in this year, will establish a stronger argument for individual states and institutions seeking to pursue similar research studies.

Grants Fund New Center for Public Affairs

The Hugh H. Hefner Foundation granted Azusa Pacific $760,000 toward the establishment of APU’s Center for Public Affairs in Sacramento, California. The new center creates an academic pathway for students seeking careers in government, legislation, and other areas of public service by providing a unique combination of coursework and internships at legislative, executive, judicial, and other government agencies.

The center will enroll 25-30 students during its first year. During their semester in Sacramento, students will take 3-6 units of academic coursework in public policy and 6-9 units of government internship work. In addition, the center will offer the Master of Public Administration (MPA), the first ever within the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. With an estimated start date in fall 2019, the MPA will build on APU’s existing social service professions seeking advanced positions in Sacramento or in other cities nationwide. Students who complete the center will meet the standards of a solid academic foundation steeped in the workings of state government, contribute to the development of legislation and governance, engage in the multiple workings of state government, contribute to the development of legislation and governance, and help train health educators in diabetes self-management and help train health educators in diabetes self-management and treatment education so the work can continue beyond the short term.

This teaching and research project addresses the urgency to educate people who are unsure of the impact diabetes can have on their lives. While information
Goubil, Ph.D., chair and associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, “Called to teach and equipped with a faith-infused education that promotes justice, wisdom, and service. They look forward to meeting educators in the system, these districts will have advantages during the hiring season. In-person interviews, giving them a distinct advantage at the state level. The proposal further calls for full-time CCLS-patient ratio, among other care services, and adolescent units. If successful, this change in the healthcare continuum and has the potential to change at the state level.

By the Numbers

Many California schools rank in the top tier of U.S. News & World Report’s “Best National Universities” list, and APU is no exception. Each year, this publication releases its annual rankings, which are based on a variety of factors, including academic reputation, student selectivity, and research activity. APU appears on several of these rankings, including the “Best National Universities” list, which places APU among the top 100 public universities in the U.S. Additionally, APU is ranked in the top 25% of universities worldwide by the QS World University Rankings, a respected and reputable publication that ranks universities based on a variety of criteria, including academic reputation, employer reputation, and publication citations. These rankings reflect the high quality of education and research at APU, and demonstrate the university’s commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.
Leadership Conference Focuses on Advancing Women

Recognizing the vital role of women in American history, Congress passed a resolution in 1981, designating March 7-12 as Women's History Week. Congress renewed it every year until 1995, when the President permanently proclaimed March as National History Month. On March 24, 2017, celebrating the occasion and the contributions of women in academia, Azusa Pacific joined Biola University, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Pepperdine University, joined Biola University, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Pepperdine University, to host the second annual Advancing Women in Leadership Conference.

Held this year on the Biola campus, the event drew women and men from all stages of life and professional development. Attendees included faculty, staff, and students from these and other institutions seeking to gain insight and perspective from top women leaders in higher education.

The keynote speakers presented a duo of powerful leadership experience from Shirley Hoogstra, JD, the CCCU’s first female president, and Kimberly Denu, an author and ordained minister, speaks throughout the Greater Los Angeles area on women’s issues, family matters, ethics, and leadership. At the conference, Denu addressed Cultivating Diversity in Leadership.

In breakout sessions, Karen Longman, Ph.D., professor of APU’s Department of Higher Education, and lead pastor of Quest Church, an urban, multicultural, and multigenerational church in Seattle, Washington, and Mimi Haddad, president of Christians for Biblical Equality, spoke about the plight of women around the world. Hoogstra also moderated a panel discussion among college presidents from Azusa Pacific University, Biola University, and Houghton College. Breakout session topics included “2016 Research and Review of Women in Leadership: Have Our Campuses Made Progress?” and “Advancing Your Professional Development: Learn the Art of Negotiation, Proposals Preparation, and Personal Vision Casting.” Next year’s conference, slated for March 5, 2018, will take place at Azusa Pacific.

Recent Grants Advance Research and Scholarship

$1,287,310

The U.S. Department of Education awarded APU a five-year grant for its TBIO Upward Bound proposal. LaTochia Hagler, Ed.D., director of TBIO Student Support Services and principal investigator, will work with Keith Hall, Ed.D., executive director of the Undergraduate Academic Success Center, and Vicky Bowden, DNSc, RN, vice provost for undergraduate programs and professor in the School of Nursing, to implement the project. The first year of this project, funded at $257,862, begins September 1, 2017, and goes through August 31, 2018. The award letter indicates that comparable funding is expected for the ensuing four years, bringing the total to nearly $1.3 million.

Through this timely grant, APU will partner with the Artesia Unified School District and Artesia High School to provide Upward Bound educational services to 60 low-income, first-generation students each year. The program involves a comprehensive academic program designed to ensure that students are at grade level and able to pass state-mandated exams, remediate deficiencies, and provide skills necessary for postsecondary enrollment. Students are expected to pass state-mandated exams, remediate deficiencies, and provide skills necessary for postsecondary enrollment.

$59,136

From the National Science Foundation through a subaward from Grinnell College to Rodney Sturdivant, Ph.D., professor, Department of Mathematics and Physics, for his co-principal investigator role in the project Student Engagement in Statistics Using Technology: Making Data-based Decisions, which advances STEM learning by creating, implementing, and testing inquiry-based online games that simulate data-based decision making embedded in a research-like experience.

$46,000

From the National Science Foundation (NSF) to Azusa Pacific University for hosting a NSF student fellow to attend the M.S. in Research Psychology and Data Analytics program under the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship program.

$10,000

From Microwave Products and Technology, Inc. to Enson Chang, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Mathematics and Physics, for his project Digital Beam Former Using Software Defined Radios, which investigates the use of software-defined radios for digital beam forming phased arrays.

Scholarship at Work

White Out: Understanding White Privilege and Dominance in the Modern Age (Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 2017) by Christopher S. Collins, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Higher Education, and Alexander Luo, Ph.D., professor, Department of Higher Education, Collins and Jan discuss the changing nature of White identity and how a new set of stimuli and challenges confront dominant whiteness. They reflect on strategies to defend privilege and dominance, and under this umbrella term explore how the “White architecture of the mind” leads to the production of concepts such as “White-upping” (stating race), “whiteness” (privilege as a virtue), and White 22 (you are White if you do, and White if you don’t). The book concludes with suggestions for a way forward that involves greater introspection of identity and advocacy toward antiracism.

The Scholastics and the Jews (Angelico Press, 2017) by Edmund J. Mazza, Ph.D., professor, Department of History and Political Science, offers an alternate interpretation of long-held opinions regarding Catholic Europe in the 12th and 13th centuries. While in no way diminishing the reality of Jewish suffering, Mazza identifies the origins of early missions to nonbelievers not with the drive for homogeneity, but for holiness. The author rediscovers the development and implementation of a medieval worldview—sacramentalism—that sees the institutions and inhabitants of this world as, respectively, sanctified symbols reflecting God’s infinite majesty and sinners in need of redemption. Mazza tells the little-known details of how this scholastic hermeneutic hindered and helped the cause of tolerance.

Christian Ethics: Four Views (VP Academic, 2017) by Steven Wilkens, Ph.D. (Ed.), professor, Department of Philosophy, as Christians grapple with how to live ethically in an increasingly pluralistic society, most of the available resources and research leave them feeling confused and unsure. This book offers in-depth dialogue and multiple approaches in a way that clarifies the field and simplifies the way. The four ethical views presented include virtue, Ramsey, Deontological, and the various character and the moral agent rather than actions; divine command, which looks at whether an action has been commanded by God and is, therefore, morally right; natural law, which argues for a universal, objective morality grounded in nature, and propositional ethics, which judges what is moral considering a biblical understanding of divine justice and shalom. Written by noted Christian ethicists, the book extends beyond the range of today’s ethical systems and moral philosophies and brings new insight to the conversation of Christian ethics.
For Christians, the concept of wellness takes on a heightened level of importance. While the Bible addresses spiritual and mental health, encouraging believers to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37 NIV), it also stresses the importance of physical bodies, calling them the “temples of the Holy Spirit” and encouraging believers to “honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1). “Christ himself provides a model of self-care, intentionally taking time away to rest, spiritually connect, and physically prepare for the work ahead,” said Christopher Schmidt, Ph.D., ATC, associate professor and director for the M.S. in Athletic Training program.

What does it mean to be “well”? The World Health Organization defines wellness as more than simply good physical health, but as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity.” A growing body of research documents the benefits of wellness and the interconnected nature of its parts. “We are created as multidimensional beings,” said William “Jody” Wilkinson, MD, associate professor of exercise and sport science. “Our physical health is key, but we are also spiritual, emotional, psychological, and social beings.” And these parts affect one another—our physical health affects our mental health, which in turn affects our social health, which then affects our emotional health. “We have to work to create a connection on a summer nursing mission trip to India led by Catherine Heinlein, Ed.D., RN, associate professor of nursing and associate director of APU’s Neighborhood Wellness Center. “We prepared ourselves physically by increasing our walking, mentally by learning about the culture and language, and spiritually by grounding ourselves in why God was calling us to go,” Perrigo said. That preparation came in handy. “We walked everywhere. I ended up physically lifting patients from wheelchairs to beds, and they would kiss my forehead to thank me. At one point, a teammate sat behind a dying woman as a living backboard so that I could spoon-feed her a fast meal.” These encounters presented physical, mental, and spiritual challenges.

Heinlein emphasizes this total mind-body-spirit connection as she prepares her students for the trip. “All of these areas affect each other,” she said. “As believers, we strive to do our best in every area, which includes what we put in our mouths. Good nutrition will help you feel your best physically, which leads to feeling better emotionally, which then allows you to focus on God’s purpose for your life and helping others.” Research supports this connection. A 2001 study published in the Journal of Internal Medicine found that high levels of personal well-being resulted in higher levels of empathy. “We have to take care of ourselves in order to do His work,” said Heinlein.

When asked about the mission field, this wellness mindset also applies to Christians at home. “We all know we need to do, but that knowledge rarely translates into actual behavior,” said Wilkinson. “The first step to real change is developing a vision. Think about your motivations. Ask, ‘Why is this important to me? What benefits am I looking for?’ Then identify your personal barriers to success, and create concrete goals and strategies to overcome them.”

One of the most common barriers is an all-or-nothing mindset. “When dealing with change and major health goals, it’s easy to become overwhelmed and put it off,” said Schmidt. “However, research shows that small, incremental changes are more effective. Make small efforts and changes that are manageable on a daily basis.” Schmidt emphasizes that recording data also assists change. “Write down what you’re eating or invest in a device to track your activity levels to keep yourself accountable.”

When it comes to lifestyle changes, accountability often equals success. “Find a trainer, class, or workout buddy,” said Annette Karim, PT, DYT, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy and a member of APU’s Wellness Council, a group of APU faculty focusing on improving the health of APU’s faculty, staff, and students. “Find someone to connect with for support. Much like our need for spiritual mentorship, we need a need for mentorship in overall wellness and health.”

Karim encourages the APU community to take advantage of multiple wellness programs, such as discounted fitness memberships, walking groups, Weight Watchers classes, and brown-bag lunch talks on wellness topics like stress management, social health, and emotional well-being. “APU’s Four Cornerstones touch on all six areas of wellness,” said Karim. “In order to be effective in the Kingdom, our community must be grounded in Christ (spiritual), Scholarship (intellectual), Community (social, emotional, psychological), and Service (physical).”

“God calls us to abundant living today, a life where we love Him fully by using our gifts and passions to serve others,” said Wilkinson. “Being mindful of how we spend our time, and the wellness benefits you care about, will keep us moving forward on our journey toward health, wholeness, and service.”

Caitlin Gipson ’01 is a freelance writer and share results regularly.

Steps for Change from APU’s Wellness Experts:

1. Identify your end goal, what motivates you, and the wellness benefits you care about.

Example: “I want to play with my kids without getting winded.”

2. Identify your roadblocks for change and make a plan to address them.

Example: “I don’t have time to cook healthy meals, so I need to identify fast, healthy food options.”

3. Determine small, realistic, measurable goals.

Example: “I will add one extra vegetable serving to my diet each day.”

4. Write it down or invest in an app or device to track your progress.

Examples: Fitbit, MyFitnessPal, MyPlate, HealthyOut

5. Choose an accountability partner or group, and share results regularly.

To read more about mindfulness and its place in the Christian life, see “Reclaiming Mindfulness” by Regina Chow Turnball, Ph.D., LCSW, assistant professor, Department of Social Work, in the fall 2015 issue of APU Life. apu.edu/articles/reclaiming-mindfulness/

To learn about steps pastors can take to increase their levels of wellness and longevity in ministry, see “Tending the Shepherds: Helping Ministers Thrive” by Chris Adams, Ph.D., associate professor and executive director, Center for Vocational Ministry, in the winter 2017 issue of APU Life. apu.edu/articles/tending-the-shepherds-helping-ministers-to-thrive/
A Golden Opportunity

BY CYNNIDIE HOFF

CALIFORNIA EMBODIES A MICROCOSM OF THE NATION’S JOB MARKET WITH EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS IN VIRTUALLY EVERY FIELD. HOWEVER, WHILE THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA PROJECTIONS A STEADILY INCREASING DEMAND FOR WORKERS WITH A COLLEGE EDUCATION THROUGH 2030, IT ALSO ESTIMATES THAT THE STATE WILL “FALL ABOUT 1.1 MILLION COLLEGE GRADUATES SHORT OF ECONOMIC DEMAND”—A SITUATION KNOWN AS THE WORKFORCE SKILLS GAP. AZUSA PACIFIC SEeks TO BRIDGE THAT GAP BY PRODUCING COMPETITIVE, SKILLED GRADUATES PREPARED TO THRIVE IN MANY OF THE STATE’S FASTEST-GROWING OCCUPATIONS.

APU Alumni Earn Significantly More than Their Peers: $30,000 More Annually in Health Care; $28,000 More in Education

A prime Southern California location, adjacent to many of the nation’s biggest industries and largest employers, means APU supplies the state with some of its most qualified professionals. “As Azusa Pacific cultivates connections with those industry leaders, more and more of our students reap the benefits of a real-time, industry-based education,” said Phil Brazell ’08, M.A. ’13, executive director of career and alumni relations. APU introduces strategic programs that meet marketplace needs. We invite industry leaders like Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena to review curricula so that they equip students for immediate application. Moving toward partnerships between the academy and the marketplace means that our graduates who participate through internships leave campus ready to perform the roles employers need today.

The strategy not only helps APU alumni get hired, but also results in financial reward. Based on national wage reports, APU alumni with bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degrees earn more than others who hold the same degrees, and in key California industries, APU alumni earn significantly more than their peers: $30,000 more annually in health care, $28,000 more in education. Good news for Azusa Pacific graduates ready to enter virtually any field, including those projected as some of California’s highest-growth markets—physical therapy, education, and nursing.

Several factors contribute to the flourishing physical therapy field, including population growth especially老龄化, heightened interest in health and fitness, and popularity of sports and physical activities that result in injuries. The California Employment Development Department expects the physical therapy field to grow much faster than all other occupations, and PT jobs “to increase by 26.9 percent, or 3,500 jobs, between 2014 and 2024.” That report further reveals an “average of 530 new job openings per year anticipated for physical therapists, plus an additional 520 job openings due to net replacement needs, resulting in a total of 1,050 job openings.” With 2016 annual salaries between $81,565 and $113,288, the field draws more students to the state’s 14 universities that offer Doctor of Physical Therapy programs. That means APU graduates compete in a large pool for those jobs, but they do so with a distinct advantage. The rigorous curriculum paired with Azusa Pacific’s Christian worldview sets graduates apart from their peers. “They enter the field equipped with the capacity and the desire to care for the whole patient,” said Susan Shore, PT, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy. Shore also points to the department’s extensive technology resources, such as required iPads for each student; iTunesU access for all lectures, which ensures continuity and consistency of information; innovative apps created by APU faculty; interactive lab manuals; and a vast video library that makes all techniques, evaluation processes, diagnoses, and treatments available for study anytime, anywhere.

This combination of academic rigor and holistic training produces successful private practitioners and highly desirable additions to medical groups, clinics, and consortia. “I hire APU alumni because they approach their career as a mission, not a job,” said Mark Baker, DPT ’04, PT, OCS, owner, Covina Hills Sports Medicine. “APU graduates have book smarts, but APU’s hands-on curriculum and training put them in a better position to translate their knowledge to the treatment of real-life patients.” King points to the forward-thinking, innovative faculty who constantly evaluate the curriculum and adjust it to fit the evolving needs in the field. “APU’s DPT faculty emphasize more than the accumulation of skills; they teach and model clinical reasoning, which is one of the most important factors when treating patients.”

Physical Therapy

The Department Holds a 97% Graduation Rate, a 100% Employment Rate, and, in 2016, an Impressive 100% First-Time Pass Rate (Compared to the Country’s Average of 93.3%) on the National Licensure Exam

By 2024, the California Physical Therapy Consortium projects a potential shortage of 1,050 positions, which could mean an emerging glut of unmet needs. APU’s Department of Physical Therapy, however, is well-prepared to meet the demand, from Passaic to Pasadena. The department holds a significant 97% graduation rate, a 100% employment rate, and in 2016, an impressive 100% first-time pass rate (compared to the country’s average of 93.3%) on the national licensure exam. “APU students succeed because they are trained to treat the patient in front of them,” said Brandon King, DPT ’12, OCS, senior physical therapist at Kaiser Permanente.

“Most graduates have book smarts, but APU’s hands-on curriculum and training put them in a better position to translate their knowledge to the treatment of real-life patients.” King points to the forward-thinking, innovative faculty who constantly evaluate the curriculum and adjust it to fit the evolving needs in the field. “APU’s DPT faculty emphasize more than the accumulation of skills; they teach and model clinical reasoning, which is one of the most important factors when treating patients.”

continued on p. 16

Matt Klinger, DPT ’16
Challenging his patients to succeed with a healthy lifestyle of fitness and strength training in Glendora, California

PHOTOS BY ISTOCKPHOTO.COM, SIDNEY DIONZON, AND EVOKEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Baker employs 3 APU graduates (11 overall since he began his business). He joins a long list of other California employers who seek physical therapists with a degree from Azusa Pacific. The department holds a 97-percent graduation rate, a 100-percent employment rate, and, in 2016, an impressive 100-percent first-time pass rate (compared to the country’s average of 93.3 percent) on the national licensure exam. “APU students succeed because they are trained to treat the patient in front of them,” said Brandon King, DPT ’12, OCS, senior physical therapist at Kaiser Permanente. “Most graduates have book smarts, but APU’s hands-on curriculum and training put them in a better position to translate their knowledge to the treatment of real-life patients.” King points to the forward-thinking, innovative faculty who constantly evaluate the curriculum and adjust it to fit the evolving needs in the field. “APU’s DPT faculty emphasize more than the accumulation of skills; they teach and model clinical reasoning, which is one of the most important factors when treating patients.”

continued on p. 16
Like physical therapists, teachers also face a wide-open California job market in the coming years, although the circumstances differ. In 2016, the Learning Policy Institute Perkins reported dramatic teacher shortages throughout the state, particularly in the areas of special education, mathematics, and science. The study revealed that 75 percent of 200 districts surveyed experienced steadily increasing shortages. The reason lies in a complex set of conditions, including a growing, sometimes stagnant, supply of credentialed graduates (remaining at 11,500 since 2013), a glut of substitute credentials and permits issued to unqualified teachers to meet the demand; and low enrollment in teacher education programs. “The teaching profession is in flux,” said Anna Fitzgerald Henck, Ph.D., dean and professor of the School of Education. “On a national level, the field suffers from a fluctuating economy, a high burnout rate, and a perception problem.”

Azusa Pacific meets those obstacles head on by producing a different caliber of teacher. APU’s School of Education begins by ensuring that every program meets the highest standards possible. “Although we are only required to obtain regional and state accreditation, we choose to submit to the national standards as well,” said Henck. Under the watchful eye and scurrying reviews of the WASC Senior College and University Commission, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, APU offers students the assurance of a closely scrutinized, top-notch education. In addition, APU provides the advantage of unmatched support and creative approaches to teacher preparation. “One of the main reasons for educator burnout is that new teachers face overwhelming classroom dynamics for which they have not been trained,” said Henck. Although California instituted the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment program in 1986 to encourage new teachers and increase retention, APU takes it several steps further by equipping all education students with a cadre of interdisciplinary courses regardless of the credential they seek, covering topics, trends, and issues most education programs miss. “These courses provide a working knowledge of the benefits and challenges of a diverse classroom, help teachers prepare for the unexpected, and instill in them a deep understanding of policies, procedures, and inner workings of today’s school systems,” she said. School of Education graduates also gain a unique perspective on their careers while at APU. “Teaching is a calling,” said Henck. “We help students explore what that means personally and professionally, and help them discover their passion for education.”

These skills prove vital in every classroom, including those with special needs. “We have students starting their careers at the critical field end unpartnered training at Azusa Pacific and a plethora of programs to help them succeed,” said Henck. In 2015-16, APU’s state’s fourth-largest recommender of preliminary special education credentials, recommended 106 students for a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential, awarded 125 students in 2015-16 to pursue their Clear Education Specialist Credential, and conferred 49 Master of Arts in Education degrees with an emphasis in special education.

“When choosing a career in education, it is important to have both a deep sense of purpose and a willingness to grow and innovate as an educator,” said Jerri Mandarano, superintendent Colton Joint Unified School District, 1 of 150 districts with which APU maintains a relationship. “APU graduates possess a clear sense of their core values, know why they want to become teachers, and have a servant leader’s heart. APU produces focused professionals who believe strongly in what they are doing, constant training for new and better ways to prepare their students.”

“Don’t recommend Azusa Pacific when candidates ask me which university stands out above the rest,” said Mandarano. “APU is well regarded. Every district has a new principal. We promote and hire new leaders.”

Hesperia Unified School District. “We recommend APU graduates among those districts clamoring to hire them.” In 2015-16, APU’s state’s fourth-largest recommender of preliminary special education credentials, recommended 106 students for a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential, awarded 125 students in 2015-16 to pursue their Clear Education Specialist Credential, and conferred 49 Master of Arts in Education degrees with an emphasis in special education.

“The healthcare industry has long lamented a pervasive nursing shortage throughout the country, with California leading the way in vacancies with more than 10,000 newly registered nurses needed based on 2015-16 data. The reasons boil down to a growing elderly population, increased access to health care, and an aging workforce. Nursing schools in the state have stepped up to the challenge, as APU, increasing undergraduate nursing enrollment and creating new pathways to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree such as the LVN to BSN and the 2+2 program. APU graduates approximately 4 percent of the newly registered nurses in the state, with more than a 90 percent employment rate within 12 months of graduation as more employers seek BSN graduates.

The 2009 introduction of the Affordable Care Act created a unique challenge for nurses in primary care, specifically in Los Angeles County. According to California State Senator Ed Hernandez (D-32nd), chair of the Senate Health Committee, California has the country’s largest number of primary care physicians and nurse practitioners, but ranks only 23rd in the number of primary care physicians per resident. “We need to make better use of the trained healthcare workforce we already have if we are ever going to meet demand, and [family] nurse practitioners are some of the best-trained people in that workforce,” said Hernandez. Offsetting the deficit, APU offers one of the largest Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) programs in the state, with 138 students in San Bernardino, 151 in San Diego, and 315 in Azusa. Approximately 40-50 students graduate every semester, adding 130 primary care providers to the workforce each year. Another obstacle facing the nursing industry is the dearth of faculty. APU’s Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Ph.D.) programs address that need. A Nurse Faculty Loan Grant ($1 million annually), awarded to APU’s School of Nursing, forgives 85 percent of loans for those who teach for four years. “We enroll 70 students in our DNP and Ph.D. programs, and more than half take advantage of this grant,” said Aja Tallent Hess, Ph.D., RN, dean and professor of the School of Nursing. “This loan forgiveness program is also available to those enrolled in our Master of Science in Nursing, which encourages graduate nursing students to become clinical or adjunct faculty.”

“An additional challenge is the nursing workforce shortage,” said APU’s School of Nursing Dean Sandy Lesh, Ph.D., FNP, APN, FAAN. “Increasingly, healthcare employers look to BSN graduates to manage those transitions. APU received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration last year to supplement BSN (nursing program) graduates 350-400 annually) with case management and career transition skills. "Many opportunities exist for nurses—especially those educated at APU—to impact the health of California communities," said Lesh. "Hospitals, clinics, and private practices alike seek our graduates because of their strong commitment to ethical practice and compassionate care based on Christian values and their own personal deep spiritual commitment."”

“Over the past 15 years, I have had the pleasure of working alongside many APU nursing graduates as members of the care delivery team at Methodist Hospital and Valley Digestive Health Center. I am very impressed with the high quality of nurses APU produces for our community,” said Elas Taski, M.D., medical director, Valley Digestive Health Center. “I am particularly impressed with the Nurse Practitioner graduates. I find them to be well trained and highly knowledgeable with a great attitude.”

While California, like any region, faces challenges, the Golden State repeatedly renews and even more of that vitality to its college graduates. Today’s employers require more than ever before, seeking those with honed communication skills, the capacity to collaborate, and the clear ability to think critically and creatively. There has never been a more critical point in California history to increase higher education’s accessibility, retention, and completion, and never a more advantageous time to be an Azusa Pacific graduate.
Faith integration sounds like fitting rhetoric for a Christian university, and a worthy pursuit, but what does it mean? Is prayer in class? Is it a chapel requirement? How do faculty members in disciplines with low-obvious ties to theology, such as modern language, finance, and athletic training, appropriately incorporate the viewpoints of the Christian faith into their curricula? And why does it matter? To understand the profundity of faith-infused learning that emerged at APU, we must understand the history of that subject. Because God is the Source of all knowledge, APU faculty seek His truth in all things, and they look for ever-more-effective ways to engage their students in that pursuit of Christ Himself, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” 

Paul Kaak, Ph.D., is the executive director of the Office of Faith Integration and a professor in the Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology at the Nihon College. pkaak@apu.edu

“God’s truth is not limited to what the preacher offers in a weekend church service or a weekday chapel event. Academic faith integration offers a robust rebuttal to the tendency to separate the sacred from the secular.”

BY PAUL KAAK

Academic faith integration offers a robust rebuttal to the tendency to separate the sacred from the secular. APU graduates, on the other hand, leave the APU stage as they engage the global conversation. From this foundation, APU students demonstrated the powerful faith-informed learning that emerged from bringing C.S. Lewis’ book The Great Divorce (HarperCollins, 1946) to the APU stage. Conrad Kervin, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology, prepared students in the Honors College. She explained how the patriarchs of early Christianity offered theological validation for caring for vulnerable populations. And Monica Ganas, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, prepared special education majors to address issues central to their profession.

Faith integration offers in a weekend church service or a weekday chapel event. Academic faith integration offers a robust rebuttal to the tendency to separate the sacred from the secular. It challenges APU faculty to our mission as a Christian university, to incorporate the viewpoints of the diverse side of academic freedom found in institutions of higher learning: exposure to diverse viewpoints and passionate pursuit of truth. As philosopher Paul Gould noted, “Christian scholars should be principled pluralists in the academy—allowing, even encouraging, various perspectives to compete in the marketplace of ideas for the mantle of truth. Such a posture requires the conviction that ultimately truth is found within a Christian view of reality and intellectual humility.”

In order to keep this critical task central to our mission as a Christian university, the Office of Faith Integration has been charged to come alongside APU faculty, department chairs, and deans to provide encouragement, resources, and support. Examples of solid integration are myriad. At a recent Faith Integration LIVE! lunchroom, sponsored by the Faith Integration Council, Randy Wallace, Ph.D., associate professor and associate dean for regional campus business programs, pointed that the virtues of the Christian faith offer the precise resources that make prospective employees employable. Carol Holms, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Teacher Education, prepares special education teachers. In her presentation, she explained how the patriarchs of early Christianity offered theological validation for caring for vulnerable populations. And Monica Ganas, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, prepares special education majors to address issues central to their profession.

Faculty members, however, overlook, and even prohibit, the deep insights of the Christian story and its various traditions, putting their graduates at a significant disadvantage as they engage the global conversation. APU graduates, on the other hand, leave the APU stage as they engage the global conversation. From this foundation, APU students wrestle with challenging questions aimed at discovering and clarifying deeper truths within the subjects they study. How does Christian wisdom add new dimensions to the data of my discipline? How does God’s provision of general revelation—available to all people—come into conversation with the special revelation of the Scripture? How have thoughtful Christians clarified and deepened our understanding of academic and professional knowledge and practice across time? How should I engage in faithful learning and faith-informed working within my area of calling?

In his book Remembering the Christian Past (Wm. B. Publishing Company, 1995), Robert Wilken noted, “Christian truth has been handed on through a learned tradition in which it has been transmitted, criticized, analyzed, refined, and tested by experience.” Many academic institutions, however, have struggled to make sense of that subject. Because God is the Source of all knowledge, APU faculty seek His truth in all things, and they look for ever-more-effective ways to engage their students in that pursuit of Christ Himself, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

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Linking Interests: The Value of Adding an Academic Minor

by Bethany Wagner

As she stepped off the graduation stage, Sara (Hickenbottom ’14) Tillema had her career goals in place: earning a Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary and working in a full-time ministry position. But while her philosophy major gave her a solid foundation for pursuing this dream, her minors in religion and humanities proved the tipping point in discovering her calling and preparing her for a career in ministry. These two areas of study gave specific purpose and application to her philosophy classes, and after graduating from Princeton, Tillema took on the role of campus minister at the University of California, Davis.

Every spring, millions of undergraduate students like Tillema venture into an increasingly competitive job marketplace. A recent study by LinkedIn found that today’s graduates will change jobs four times in their first decade out of college, compared to college graduates in 1986–90, who averaged only two job changes during that time. In this unpredictable economy, how can a college graduate stand out from the rest? One option APU offers has the potential to equip students with the stamina, breadth of knowledge, and flexibility to succeed in today’s workforce: the academic minor.

Students pursuing a minor choose a secondary discipline in addition to their major. From biology to music, art history to nutrition, marketing to international relations, APU offers 56 academic minors in a wide variety of fields, all requiring students to take six to eight courses in their chosen area. “Minors give students a framework to intentionally choose additional classes outside their major that build on each other, creating a solid skill set,” said Vicky Bowden, DNSc, RN, vice provost for undergraduate programs.

With minors that complement and focus their majors, students can apply their main studies in a specific context. For example, a business student can better understand the intricacies of the entertainment industry with a music minor, while a psychology student can prepare for running a private practice with a minor in entrepreneurship.

This year, APU established the practical and professional ethics minor with the goal of enriching students’ majors. “Every profession, including business, nursing, psychology, social work, law, and so on, has a code of conduct,” said Rico Vitz, Ph.D., the philosophy professor who spearheaded the program. “Employees should not only know this code, but also how to interpret and revise it to act ethically in new situations, as the needs of their professions evolve.” Students earning the minor in practical and professional ethics can take courses like Practical Ethics, Business Virtue and the Good Life, Biomedical Ethics, and Environmental Ethics, developing strong Christian values within the context of their chosen career fields.

Graduates with minors can also go into job interviews with additional practical skills that equip them to serve in their desired field more effectively. Bowden, a retired nurse and a professor in the School of Nursing, has witnessed firsthand the power of minors in healthcare careers. “Nursing students often choose minors that help them serve their future patients, and employers take notice,” said Bowden. “A minor in international studies opens doors for nurses to serve overseas or on the global mission field. A minor in Spanish boosts nurses’ capabilities to care for and communicate with patients both globally and in Southern California.”

In an economy where the average worker holds 10 jobs by the age of 42 (Department of Labor), minors can give students the ability to easily transition between positions and even career fields. “Minors provide a more diversified skill set that creates a more employable graduate,” said Philip Brazell ’08, M.A. ’13, executive director of career and alumni relations at APU, where thousands of students and alumni receive assistance exploring career options, applying for internships and jobs, crafting résumés, and pursuing graduate school. “Students with minors demonstrate that their interests reach beyond just one program or major. Hiring managers and graduate schools look for this kind of individual.”

Often, interweaving a minor with a major course of study leads students to discover new interests, talents, and callings. “We’re not uncommon for students to discover their love for philosophy later in their undergraduate experience when it’s too late to add the major, so they choose to minor in philosophy instead,” said Vitz. Recently, one of Vitz’s students minoring in philosophy decided that this field was his calling, applied to graduate school, and received a full ride scholarship to one of the nation’s top philosophy doctoral programs.

Ultimately, minors communicate to potential employers and graduate schools a commitment to academic excellence and engagement with their world. “Students with minors show focus and direction, because they go beyond completing a degree and take initiative to enhance their own learning,” said Bowden. “Strong minor programs promote rich intellectual life and growth into well-rounded individuals.”

Bethany Wagner ’74 is a freelance writer and editor living in Portland, Oregon. 
bethanykwagner@gmail.com
Life as a student-athlete involves a unique set of challenges, and multiple studies have shown that more than half of all athletes experience heavy stress related to their sport in the form of pressure to win, extreme anxiety, and fear of failure. These add to the stressors common to all student time management, relationships, finances, and academic performance. Today, because the athlete part of the student-athlete equation often carries a disproportionate amount of weight, it can be easy for student-athletes to lose sight of who they are and why they do what they do, resulting in burnout.

Siblings Cayla ’19 and CJ ’17 Broussard, however, have kept their focus and learned to navigate the pitfalls inherent in their choice to compete in college. Cayla, an all-conference softball player, and CJ, an All-American football player, have earned individual honors and been part of team championships. They credit their ability to stay on top of their game to their relationship with FCA.

Their participation with the national organization that challenges coaches and athletes to impact the world for Christ, goes back to their childhood, when their parents, Joe and Faythe, were full-time FCA staff members. The family attended summer camps each year, and CJ and Cayla look back on these days as playing a key role in their faith development. The two carry on the tradition, serving as leaders in Azusa Pacific’s FCA program. The group meets weekly to talk about their struggles, how to deal with temptations, how to balance the demands on their time, and how to impact their fellow athletes and the world at large. “While APU has had a longstanding relationship with FCA that stretches back nearly 40 years, the past 3 years have seen a renewed commitment to that relationship,” said Gary Pinn ’84, MBA ’03, director of athletics. “CJ’s and Cayla’s leadership has been vital to FCA’s new growth and expanded impact at the university.”

Although leaders, CJ and Cayla also reap the benefits of belonging to the supportive community. “FCA is my safety net, and this group has become my second family,” said Cayla. “Our meetings give me a chance to step away from the struggles of being a student-athlete and spend time in an environment with people who understand what I go through, and that is what helps me get through the challenges—knowing there are others walking in my shoes. We grow together and support each other, and there’s something special about knowing I’m not alone.”

Cayla takes that feeling with her onto the playing field. “I learned at FCA camp last summer to play with God and envision Him on the field with me,” she said. “When the pressure ramps up, I remember He’s with me and thank Him for the opportunity to play. That’s when the pressure fades away and the game becomes more fun. I remember making an error that cost my team a couple of runs and put us behind. Some might crumble, but because of the foundation I have, I took a deep breath and remembered there’s more to life than this one mistake.”

That is the same footing that keeps CJ upright in difficult moments. Whether he gets flagged for a penalty or misses a coverage or tackle, he knows the reason he is on the field in the first place. “Coach [Victor] Santa Cruz always talks about building champions while pursuing championships, I grew up in that environment and around those types of Christian athletes. I got to see what that looked like firsthand, and I learned that they work just as hard as everyone else, but they’re different, because they work for the Lord and try to glorify Him with everything they do.”

That’s something I strive to do now, and it’s why I can make a mistake on the field and get up and make the next play—because I know who I am in Christ.” That perspective and foundation, hallmarks of all successful Christian athletes, give meaning and purpose to every bat swing, every tackle, every moment devoted to their sport. It turns an enjoyable game into a life-changing ministry. The Broussards, like so many other faithful student-athletes aspiring to God-honoring excellence, see beyond the scoreboard, beyond the name on the jersey, it is the name written on their hearts that makes a difference in this world.

Micah McDaniel ’99 is a digital and content strategist living in Arlington, Texas. micah.mcdaniel@gmail.com

Faith, Family, and FCA

by Micah McDaniel

C.J. BROUSSARD

COUNTY Clovis, California

HIGH SCHOOL Clovis HS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF APU ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT AND HOLLY MAGNUSON

CAYLA BROUSSARD

COUNTY Clovis, California

HIGH SCHOOL Clovis HS

C.J. Broussard

C.J. BROUSSARD

POSITION Cornerback

HEIGHT 5-9

WEIGHT 198

CLASS Senior

MAJOR Physical Education

HOMETOWN Clovis, California

High School Clovis HS

Cayla Broussard

CAYLA BROUSSARD

POSITION Shortstop

HEIGHT 5-2

WEIGHT 125

BATS L, THROWS R

CLASS Sophomore

MAJOR Psychology

HOMETOWN Clovis, California

HIGH SCHOOL Clovis HS
Tovalin was selected in the 26th round by the Houston Astros; Staudinger was selected in the 27th round by the Chicago White Sox. Barnett and Reid were selected as co-captains of the Cougars’ 2003 draft class. In total, 22 Cougars have been drafted.

Reid’s association with Azusa Pacific track and field spanned 32 years, and he was a two-sport standout for the Cougars in football and track and field. He served as APU’s men’s track and field head coach, guiding the Cougars to 14 of the program’s 26 national titles. A 15-time NAIA Coach of the Year, Reid earned more national championships than any coach in NAIA history, including APU’s first-ever indoor national title.

Barnett and Reid were part of the coaching staff that helped Bryan Clay ‘02 claim the NCAA Division I decathlon national title in 2003 and then repeat as NAIA men’s decathlon champion in 2004. Clay also claimed the 2004 NAIA Outdoor Track and Field Men’s National Championship.

Barnett led Azusa Pacific to all seven of its NAIA women’s track and field national championships. He also directed APU’s annual Night of Champions youth outreach event.

End of an Era: Barnett and Reid Move On

Two track and field icons move on from Azusa Pacific: Mike Barnett ’97 (director of track and field) and Kevin Red ’85 (men’s head track and field coach) resigned following the end of the 2017 season.

Barnett’s career as an athlete, Olympic athlete, head coach, and director of Cougar track and field spanned nearly four decades. A member of the Azusa Pacific Athletics Hall of Fame and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Hall of Fame, he was a five-time individual national champion before a 14-year professional career that culminated in a seventh-place finish in the javelin in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. As a coach, Barnett led Azusa Pacific to all seven of the NAIA women’s track and field national titles.

He also directed APU’s annual Night of Champions youth outreach event. Reid’s association with Azusa Pacific track and field spanned 32 years, and he was a two-sport standout for the Cougars in football and track and field. He served as APU’s men’s track and field head coach, guiding the Cougars to 14 of the program’s 26 national titles. A 15-time NAIA Coach of the Year, Reid earned more national championships than any coach in NAIA history, including APU’s first-ever indoor national title.

Barnett and Reid were part of the coaching staff that helped Bryan Clay ’02 claim gold in the decathlon at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

In just its fifth season in the PacWest, the baseball team claimed the conference title. The Cougars finished the season with a 42-12 overall record and went 27-9 in PacWest play to claim the program’s 12th conference title overall and its first since joining the PacWest in 2013. Eleven players earned all-conference honors as the squad earned the No. 2 seed and hosting honors for the NCAA Division II West Region Championship.

The track and field teams successfully defended their PacWest titles. After winning the men’s and women’s championships in 2016, the Cougars repeated as league champions—the men’s and women’s teams won four event conference titles.

The game is on the line, the body is sore, yet the eyes still twinkle with excitement. Why? Fun. As much as we are conditioned to think of fun as something we have to work hard to get, fun is an inherent part of our nature. In fact, fun is absolutely essential to healthy relationships.

You have heard the expression “Laughter is good medicine,” but did you know that it comes from Scripture? “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person’s strength” (Proverbs 17:22, NLT). I wholeheartedly believe that this truism applies to marriage. It may sound like an oversimplification, but couples who have fun, play, and laugh together are the couples who enjoy a deep and gratifying relational connection.

Marriage researchers report that strong emotional connections are more often the result of fun rather than from checking off the to-do list or telling one another what is wrong with the relationship. Fortunately, you do not need a Ph.D. to understand the simple enjoyment they experience. Fun is fun! When fun is evident in a marriage, couples communicate more effectively if you want your spouse to talk more—more fun! But there is a bigger reason to be FUN in your marriage. By Jim Burns

Volunteer Opportunities

Welcome Ceremony Friday, August 25
Help welcome new students into the APU family during Welcome Weekend. Dinner and T-shirt provided to all APU alumni volunteers, who will be recognized on stage. All will join in cheering the new students through the APU Gate. To register, visit apualumni.com/welcomeweekend/

New Student Mugging Monday, August 28
Help us “mug” our new students with root beer floats! Volunteers will receive an alumni T-shirt and gift for participating in this long-standing APU tradition. To register, visit apualumni.com/mugging17/

Save the Date

Homecoming and Family Weekend
apu.edu/homecoming
Thursday, Oct. 19: Golf Tournament
Friday, Oct. 20: Homecoming Chapel, Dinner Rally
Saturday, Oct. 21: Department Events, Block Party, Football Game

Legacy Bricks

Would you like to leave your legacy on campus? Legacy bricks are a time-honored gift opportunity offered by the Office of Alumni Relations—a brick, engraved with the graduate’s name and class year, placed in the walkway in front of the Hartwig Memorial Student Prayer Chapel on East Campus. To learn more and to order, visit apualumni.com/brick18/

The Serious Choice to Have Fun in Your Marriage

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FOOTBALL
September 9  I  Home Opener: Cougars vs. Humboldt State  I  6:30 p.m.
September 16  I  Cougars vs. Central Washington  I  6:30 p.m.

SOCCER
October 4  I  Women’s and Men’s Soccer vs. Biola  I  5 p.m. (W) and 7:30 p.m. (M)

VOLLEYBALL
September 14  I  Cougars vs. Point Loma  I  7 p.m.
September 22  I  Cougars vs. Biola  I  6 p.m.
For complete Azusa Pacific sports schedules, visit athletics.apu.edu/

2016s

PAUL YEUN ’68 recently earned the degree of Doctor of Ministry from Rotary College of Theology, established in 1969. He was acknowledged as a fellow Rotarian, a certification that recognizes his service to humanity. He is active in the California Society of CPAs (CalCPA), an organization that empowers professionals to make an enduring and positive impact for the betterment of our communities.

2017s


PHILIPOTTE ’86, M.A. ’89, a former social worker and adjunct professor of psychology at APU, was featured in "Spiritual Care in the Military: A Guide for Healthcare Providers," an educational charitable organization that offers an annual music festival and promotes local organizations with environmental regenerative practices and produce local organizations with environmental regenerative practices. He also started Music for the Revolution, a Christian healthcare organization that promotes music and worship.

ANNE BERGTHOLD ’10 graduated from California University in California. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Global Studies, Sociology, and TESOL in Business and Technology. Additionally, she is a member of the California Society of CPAs (CalCPA), an organization that empowers professionals to make an enduring and positive impact for the betterment of our communities.

BERLIN ’71 graduated from Concordia University, Los Angeles. COUGAR INTERVIEW—REX G. ’85

COUGAR INTERVIEW—REX G. ’85

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When wronged, people often seek compensation and retaliation. But, when drug-addicted gang members vandalized and overran a rental house in Los Angeles, its owner, R. G. ’60, chose a different course of action—reparation and salvation. He turned his life into ministry by sharing God’s Word with his transgressors, and then by taking his message to prison inmates. One Sunday morning, for example, he met with 40–70 male prisoners, remembered by him as a most challenging day.

LAUREN D. CARROLL, M.A. ’12, works as a mental health counselor at American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and a member of the California Society of CPAs (CalCPA). She is a member of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the California Society of CPAs (CalCPA). She is a member of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the California Society of CPAs (CalCPA).

SHEIKH BAKR ’02, M.B.A. ’06, a former professor in the Department of Crossroads Church of God. He also started Music for the Revolution, a Christian healthcare organization that promotes music and worship.


JESSIE CATHY ’04, a former professor of psychology at APU, was featured in "Spiritual Care in the Military: A Guide for Healthcare Providers," an educational charitable organization that offers an annual music festival and promotes local organizations with environmental regenerative practices and produce local organizations with environmental regenerative practices. He also started Music for the Revolution, a Christian healthcare organization that promotes music and worship.

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Our family’s journey from Vietnam to the U.S. succeeded because of my father’s diligent planning, and because everyone shared a vision of where we were going and what we needed to do to get there,” said Lawe. Now a leader in secondary education, Lawe applies that same mindset to create a common mission among the faculty, staff, and students she serves, knowing that collective purpose put into action can achieve mighty things. “My history is a testament to that,” she said. “I want them to know that together we can beat the odds and rise to the occasion, no matter the challenges.”

Proud to note that once again, Lawe recently accepted the role of inaugural director of the Eastvale STEM Academy, an expansion of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Riverside County—a natural progression after two decades as a classroom science teacher and assistant principal. Though Lawe struggled as a first-year teacher, uncertain she was meant for the important but demanding role, her calling became evident. In the middle of the school year, a near-fatality collision caused by a drunk driver put Lawe in intensive care. She awoke from a coma to heaps of heartfelt messages from her worried students, wishing for her full recovery and anticipating her return. “It stunned me to realize the impact I was having on their lives,” said Lawe. “A firefighter who pulled me from the wreckage said God was giving me a second chance, and I clearly understand that now. I am here to fulfill my mission serving His children, our future generations.”

Soon Eastvale STEM Academy students will experience an advanced learning center guided by Lawe’s hand and vision. A place where indoor classrooms spill out into expansive common areas for research and collaboration, while outdoor learning spaces provide open air for open minds. Vast night skies, coworking labs, and glass-walled “spark” tanks lend themselves to the academy’s mission to offer students a specialized STEM education. An alchemy of intentional planning and inspired architecture results in a community where interdisciplinary collaboration and partnership are prized and learning can happen anywhere. Not a single classroom has four walls.

“All students should have access to a STEM education, whether they intend to be a surgeon or a medical office assistant,” said Lawe. “The world needs capable workers at all levels, so the academy is open to any student with a desire to pursue these fields.” With no set GPA requirements and an environment where special education students also receive support, Lawe’s scholarship on diversity and inclusion proved a perfect fit.

“Dr. Lawe’s research outlines the care and resources that have been helpful as young women develop their aspirations for STEM schooling and careers,” said Jenny Yau, Ed.D., professor in the School of Education’s Department of Educational Leadership, who mentored Lawe during her time in APU’s doctoral program. “The findings of her study, alongside her skills as a passionate, intelligent, and relational leader, provide strong support for the vision and goals of her academy.”

Corona-Norco Unified School District officials broke ground in February on a facility with an expansion of Eleanor Roosevelt High School’s accredited STEM programs for medical science or engineering. When the new facility opens, that number will grow to 1,000. Once something only imagined, now Eastvale STEM Academy stands as a testimony to the power of vision and the strength of an education champion, one drawn from a rich legacy of family and of faith.

Evelyn Allen is a senior editor in the Office of University Relations.

“So much has happened since that tiny boat arrived with us, that it is a testament to the power of dreams and the strength of an education champion,” Lawe said. “From checkpoint to checkpoint, from day to day, and by some grace, we knew that together we could beat the odds and rise to the occasion, no matter the challenges.”

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“ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO A STEM EDUCATION, WHETHER THEY INTEND TO BE A SURGEON OR A MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT.”

— Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. ’16
Last December, another round of missiles and bombs struck the war-torn city of Aleppo, Syria. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians had already lost their lives to nationwide civil war, and citizens waited in terror each time another airstrike approached. For years, they struggled with no power, no water, no schools, and little hope. Finally, the international community agreed to a mass evacuation. On December 15, more than 100,000 Syrians left their homes—over the past six years—one of every five people had lost their homes, belongings, and livelihoods, like more than 100,000 Syrians left their homes for the last time.

Bethany Wagner ’14 is a freelance writer and editor living in Portland, Oregon. hvagner@gmail.com

By Bethany Wagner

Parents as Ministry

Helping with homework, driving to extracurricular activities, scheduling doctor appointments, and preparing multiple meals—the parental juggling act can be overwhelming. Not so for Nathan ’83 and Lori Ryberg ’83, proud parents of 11, 7 adopted special needs children and 6 biological kids, from 2 to 33. The Rybergs move to the grocery store, to visit their family as well as numerous foster children. "We can’t afford to pay for vacations, but we work extra jobs and manage to always have everything we need." Ryberg coworkers at the police station said to practice kindness, patience, and love." And where they serve as an inspirational force, they find deep joy in helping their children, even through hospital stays, physical therapy, and other medical care. Recently, their biggest challenge has become transportation. "It will be great for them to take their vehicles, and manually lift three wheelchair-bound children into their van."

For the whole family to travel together, they must take three vehicles, and manually lift three wheelchair-bound children into their van. Ryberg’s greatest reward is seeing their kids and other families take up the mantle of helping children find their forever homes. "Family is where we get to do our best work," said Nathan. "It’s a great mission field," said Lori, who helps other families overcome the red tape to foster and adopt children. "Once you get involved with children with disabilities, there’s no going back.” The Ryberg’s oldest kids proved her point. Their daughter has traveled to several countries helping Lori and Friends’ Wheels for the World, while their two older sons, who have disabilities, spend their weekends volunteering. The Ryberg’s greatest reward is seeing their kids and other families take up the mantle of helping children find their forever homes. "Family is where we get to do our best work," said Nathan. "It’s a great mission field," said Lori, who helps other families overcome the red tape to foster and adopt children. "Once you get involved with children with disabilities, there’s no going back.” The Ryberg’s oldest kids proved her point. Their daughter has traveled to several countries helping Lori and Friends’ Wheels for the World, while their two older sons, who have disabilities, spend their weekends volunteering. The Ryberg’s greatest reward is seeing their kids and other families take up the mantle of helping children find their forever homes. "Family is where we get to do our best work," said Nathan. "It’s a great mission field," said Lori, who helps other families overcome the red tape to foster and adopt children. "Once you get involved with children with disabilities, there’s no going back.” The Ryberg’s oldest kids proved her point. Their daughter has traveled to several countries helping Lori and Friends’ Wheels for the World, while their two older sons, who have disabilities, spend their weekends volunteering. The Ryberg’s greatest reward is seeing their kids and other families take up the mantle of helping children find their forever homes. "Family is where we get to do our best work," said Nathan. "It’s a great mission field," said Lori, who helps other families overcome the red tape to foster and adopt children. "Once you get involved with children with disabilities, there’s no going back.” The Ryberg’s oldest kids proved her point. Their daughter has traveled to several countries helping Lori and Friends’ Wheels for the World, while their two older sons, who have disabilities, spend their weekends volunteering. The Ryberg’s greatest reward is seeing their kids and other families take up the mantle of helping children find their forever homes.

"Their resiliency, intelligence, humor, and relentless dedication to our cause inspires me to continue.”

by Bethany Wagner

"This is a story of hope and persistence, the story of a mission where every life matters. "We serve to alleviate human suffering and provide the means for families to thrive," said Huddleston of her work helping refugees in Syria. "We do so by partnering with local Syrian organizations who act as our hands and feet within Syria and keep us informed of the constantly shifting situation.

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In the midst of these dark realities, Huddleston finds hope in people. The majority of her co-workers and team members are Syrians who lost their homes and loved ones, some enduring displacement several times. “Their resiliency, intelligence, humor, and relentless dedication to our cause inspires me to continue,” she said.

Immigration to Turkey

Huddleston explains why Turkey is what made her want to be a World Vision employee. “The War in Syria began in 2011 and by 2013 we saw as many as 30,000 people leaving the war-torn city of Aleppo, Syria. We were able to get into Syria and start working with the refugee populations but this was not sustainable and World Vision needed to make strategic decisions. Turkey was one of the countries that was able to support an influx of refugees at a larger scale than any other country. Turkey hosted the majority of Syrian refugees and World Vision was excited about getting in on the ground and providing support within Turkey,” she said.

World Vision’s work in Turkey

Huddleston describes how World Vision’s work in Turkey evolved. “When I arrived in May 2013, we had a small team in Turkey that was able to provide emergency relief and respond to the needs of refugees out of the camps. We were there to deliver food, water, medical care, education, and support,” she said.

In 2014, World Vision sent a team of 50 to work in Turkey and that’s when the majority of the work began. “When we arrived, World Vision had been working in the camps since 2012 and had a team of 15 that was there to respond to the needs of refugees in the camps. World Vision, along with local organizations, supported the refugee population by providing food, water, medical care, and education,” she said. “We were able to get into the camps and provide relief to refugees and then help them find their way into the cities once they were ready to move on,” she said.

Working in Turkey

Huddleston describes the challenges of working in Turkey. “Working in Turkey was a challenging experience. We had to navigate an unknown system and work with local organizations. We had to learn how to work with the Turkish government and understand their policies and procedures. We had to be flexible and adapt to changes in the situation,” she said.

In the midst of these challenges, Huddleston finds hope in people. “In the midst of the war, we were able to find people who were willing to help refugees. We were able to find local organizations who were willing to work with us and provide support to refugees,” she said.

Huddleston describes how World Vision works with refugees in Turkey. “We work with local organizations to provide food, water, medical care, and education to refugees. We also work with local organizations to provide support to refugees who are moving to the cities. We are able to provide support to refugees in the camps and then help them find their way into the cities once they are ready to move on,” she said.

Conclusion

Huddleston describes what she hopes to accomplish while working in Turkey. “I hope to be able to make a lasting impact on the lives of refugees in Turkey. I hope to be able to provide relief to refugees and help them find their way into the cities. I hope to be able to provide support to refugees who are moving to the cities and help them find their way into the cities,” she said. “I hope to be able to make a difference in the lives of refugees and help them find their way into the cities.”

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Every effort is made to publish all photos submitted to APU Life. We apologize if your photo was not published.

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE To learn more, call (828) 317-5070, email legacy@apu.edu, or visit apugifts.org.
From Alaska to China to Guatemala, the first students in Azusa Pacific’s history traveled far and wide to help a needy world, firmly planting service at the heart of their education. Over time, the places and people have changed, but service remains one of the institution’s unwavering Cornerstones. In the 1940s, every student engaged in practical Christian fieldwork serving local churches as Gospel Teams (shown above), Sunday School teachers, assistant pastors, or special speakers. Today, APU undergraduate students extend this service heritage, fulfilling a service requirement in community programs such as City Links and L.A. Term, or international programs such as Action Teams or Mexico Outreach. Throughout the years, acts of service have taken innovative forms and permeated every aspect of campus life, from intimate discipleship and mentoring to uplifting the marginalized to serving their country through APU’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC).

As students and alumni continue to serve others locally and around the world, they connect to a deeper relationship with Christ, develop a greater sense of community, and model scholarship put into practice, thus living out APU’s Four Cornerstones: Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service.

—Ken Otto, MLIS, professor, Special Collections librarian

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