Faithfulness to Mission: Working Together for Greater Kingdom Impact
Dear APU Family,

Now several months into my role, I continue to be amazed by all that God is doing in our midst. The mission of APU, lived out in the Four Cornerstones of Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service, has come alive for me as I interact daily with students, faculty, and staff. I’m experiencing firsthand a community marked by a deep love for Jesus and a heart to serve others. It’s what Faith and I sensed during the presidential search process and it confirms yet again our calling to APU.

The Four Cornerstones of APU are not just words on a page. They capture the ethos of this Christ-centered university and serve as a differentiator from the majority of colleges and universities in our nation.

At APU, Jesus is central to who we are, as has been true throughout our 123-year history. The Bible describes Christ as the Chief Cornerstone, and with Him as our sure foundation, our faculty and staff are reaching out to the students entrusted into our care with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

APU is also serious about scholarship—about the life of the mind. The Scriptures tell us that the mind of Christ stands in sharp contrast to the wisdom of this age. As a Christ-centered university, I want the Truth of God’s Word to permeate all of the academic disciplines—for students to leave here fully trained and equipped with the technical skills to thrive in their vocation, while also being the hands and feet of Christ and living out the Fruits of the Spirit.

APU’s third cornerstone of community is found in the warmth of our student body and the kindness of our faculty and staff, marked by the presence of the Holy Spirit. This became real to me a few weeks ago as I listened to a student share her testimony. Following the unexpected death of her father and times of deep struggle and grief, she talked about how the AP community surrounded her, loved her, and introduced her to the One who truly saves. With tears in her eyes, she shared her salvation story and her decision to enter the waters of baptism on our campus.

I’ve also been moved by the ways the AP community is living out its fourth cornerstone—Community, and Service, has come alive for me as I interact daily with students, faculty, and staff. I’m experiencing firsthand a community marked by a deep love for Jesus and a heart to serve others. It’s what Faith and I sensed during the presidential search process and it confirms yet again our calling to APU.

As you read this issue of APU Life magazine, I trust you will be reminded anew of our commitment to live out our God First mission with courage and conviction and to train and equip disciples and scholars to make a difference in our world for the cause of Christ.

In Christ,

[Signature]

Adam J. Morris, PhD
President
The new John and Marilyn Duke Student Commons on West Campus serves as a welcoming space for all students. Designed for multiple uses, the modern and spacious venue provides areas to gather for a shared meal as well as comfortable places to study. The fully donor-funded facility opened at the start of the fall semester and is already enhancing campus life, functioning as a home away from home for commuters and a place to connect for graduate students.
Azusa Pacific University celebrated the inauguration of its 18th president, Adam J. Morris, PhD, on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022. More than 2,000 people attended the event, which took place in the Felix Event Center, with overflow seating in the gymnasium.

During his address, Morris revisited the history of APU, back to its roots as the Training School for Christian Workers. “The institution is grounded in a mission, and that mission is to provide a Christian education for our students,” Morris said.

Morris spoke about the priorities for the year ahead, including developing a financial roadmap, reinvesting in infrastructure, building community, and charting the course into a future full of possibilities. “There is much to do, and I couldn’t be more optimistic for our future, but I would be remiss today if I didn’t ground us yet again in our sacred, time-honored mission.”

APU Ranks as a Top University for High-Earning Female Alumni

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, females make up only 27 percent of the workforce in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), despite these areas including some of the fastest-growing and highest-paid jobs of the future. Azusa Pacific University defied that trend, with its recent ranking as one of the top 12 Western R2 universities that produce the most high-earning females. “This ranking is especially noteworthy. For our female alumni to be recognized in male-dominated STEM fields, it attests to how APU’s STEM programs and faculty help our students excel in critical thinking, problem solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership, in addition to our distinctives of transformative learning and faith integration,” said Louise Ko Huang, PhD, acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Steppingblocks study used demographic, education, and employment filters to generate a list of R2 universities producing the most females under 40 earning $100,000 or greater.

“We are thrilled to know our alumni are shattering the glass ceilings—these women represent the best of APU. Christian-centered difference makers, who because of their skill, intelligence, and character stand out as rising stars in their workplaces and communities,” said Stephen P. Johnson, DMA, interim provost. “The high expectations and mentoring they received from our committed faculty contributed to them becoming leaders that others want to follow.”

As an R2-designated institution, APU engages in high research activity. Faculty members are deeply engaged in original research, teach their own courses, and often involve their students in their research projects, including undergraduates. This translates to richer research output, resulting in a better return on investment.

APU also placed in the top 12 percent of universities nationwide on its return on investment. Categorized in an online database published by Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce, APU was scored on a variety of factors, including tuition and costs, average student debt, graduation rates, and net earnings after graduation.

APU Celebrates the Inauguration of Adam J. Morris, PhD

Morris spoke of the impact these great leaders had, including Richard Felix, Cornelius Haggard, William Marshburn, Cliff Hamlow, Carolyn Koons, Ron Turner, Nobel Henson, and Jon R. Wallace. “Pausing to remember anecdotes from APU’s past is both healthy and wise; it’s Biblical and it’s fitting for a day like today,” Morris said. “The Psalmist writes, ‘I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you’ve done; I ponder the work of your hands’ (Psalm 143:5). Recalling moments from our past is really an invitation to reflect on God’s goodness and faithfulness, and to acknowledge all that God has done.”

Morris spoke about the priorities for the year ahead, including developing a financial roadmap, reinvesting in infrastructure, bringing clarity to the strategic plan, spending time cultivating this community well-being, and building an executive team to chart the course into a future full of possibilities. “There is much to do, and I couldn’t be more optimistic for our future, but I would be remiss today if I didn’t ground us yet again in our sacred, time-honored mission,” he said. “APU is an institution that is unapologetically Christ-centered, with a deep commitment to academic excellence, a global Great Commission mindset, and a passion to touch the lives of our beloved and diverse student body.”

Wall Street Journal Features APU Professor Wendi McGehee’s Expertise on LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®

The Wall Street Journal featured the expertise from Wendi Dykes McGehee, PhD, CF-LSP, chair of Azusa Pacific University’s department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology, in a story about companies using LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® (LSP) in the workplace.

McGehee and Blaise Gilbert, DSL, CF-LSP, also from the Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology, are pioneers in bringing LSP into the classroom for graduate students. This method of engaged learning and cocreation provides a groundbreaking enterprise in adult learning where significant obstacles are removed, leaving room for personal and group transformation. Trained faculty in APU’s School of Business and Management (SBM) use LSP in their consulting practices to help organizations of all types solve complex challenges facing the workplace today.

The conference offered presentations by certified facilitators on best practices and innovative strategies for using LSP, research studies and theoretical papers surrounding the phenomenon, and a refresher session on the methodology of LSP. Method co-croptors Robert Rasmussen and Per Kristiansen presented at the conference.

Read the full Wall Street Journal article at tinyurl.com/4u3x39sd.
Applies for New Engineering Program

A锦州大学工程学院于7月1日，2022年接受政府和非盈利奖项，其中总计131.1万美元。这些资金支持了各种类型，包括航空航天，农业，计算机科学，数学，物理，和统计，以支持在科学领域研究。该学院表示，该奖项将极大地促进学生和教师在研究和教育方面的发展。
Grants Advance Significant Research and Scholarship

$4,999,904

From the Lilly Endowment Inc. to Bobby Duke, PhD, interim associate provost for research and libraries and accreditation liaison officer, this funding will support a partnership between APU, Life Pacific University (LPU), and the Latin American Bible Institute (LABI) to create transformational training pathways for Hispanic pastors. This project seeks to address two significant obstacles for Hispanic students: access and affordability. By developing a shared curriculum with online classes available, APU, LPU, and LABI are removing barriers and preparing students to make a difference in their communities and churches. Students who choose to pursue their undergraduate degrees at LPU or LABI can go directly to Azusa Pacific Seminary for their MDiv or DMin degree.

$3,956,580

From the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to Aja Lesh, PhD, RN, executive director of APU’s Institute of Health Research, to provide loan forgiveness for nursing students. This includes a $2,630,688 grant for undergraduate students and a $1,325,892 grant for graduate students. APU is the third-largest producer of new nurses into California’s workforce, and last year APU’s School of Nursing graduated more than 700 licensed nurses. These grants will enable many more future nurses to attain an affordable degree.

$1,053,634

From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA) to Aurelia Macabasco-O’Connell, PhD, AGNP-BC, FAHA, chair of the Department of Doctoral Studies in the School of Nursing, to support students on a trajectory to become full-time nursing faculty in schools or colleges of nursing. The Nurse Faculty Loan Program has provided continued funding to APU for the past 12 years totaling $6,286,658. At a time of great nursing shortages and workforce challenges in health care, this program supports nurses and their education, especially students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

$729,218

From the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) to fund Project SUDUCATE overseen by a multidisciplinary team: Rachel Castaneda, PhD, MPH, professor in the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences and Lynda Reed, RN, FNP-C, DNP, associate professor in the School of Nursing, in partnership with UCLA’s School of Medicine, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, Training Director, Sherry Larkins, PhD. The aim of the grant is to integrate substance use education and training into the nursing curriculum to enhance student competencies in addressing substance use issues in primary care settings in local communities.

Scholarship at Work

Organizational Behavior: A Guide for Leaders, Supervisors, and Managers (Cognella Academic Publishing, 2022) by Rosanne Helm-Stevens, DBA, interim dean and professor, and Daniel Kiley, DBA, professor, School of Business and Management

A Guide for Leaders, Supervisors, and Managers provides readers with research and strategies to help individuals reach organizational objectives and create positive workplace cultures. The text is organized into five dedicated sections. Section one underscores the importance of studying organizational behavior, introduces key theories, explores various methods for understanding human behavior, and examines the concept of emotional intelligence. Section two discusses employee motivation and job design, need-based motivation, learning theory, cognitive and behavioral theory of motivation, organizational reward systems, and pay structures. In section three, readers learn how to create and lead effective, high-performing teams; strategies for communication in organizations, and methods for understanding and resolving conflict. Section four addresses topics related to leadership and management, including management styles and approaches, formal and informal leadership, decision-making styles, and ethics. Section five speaks to organizational culture and change. An essential and enlightening guide, Organizational Behavior is an exemplary textbook for courses in organizational behavior and business management.

The Nurse’s Handbook of Spiritual Care (Wiley Blackwell, 2022) by Pamela Cone, PhD, RN, CNS, PHN, professor emerita, School of Nursing, and Tove Giske

The Nurse’s Handbook of Spiritual Care helps nurses develop a high level of competence in spiritual and existential care as an important part of whole-person, patient-centered nursing care. Every patient and situation a nurse encounters is unique, and spiritual issues, concerns, and needs can be expressed and met in a variety of ways. The intersection of spirituality and illness creates a sensitive and sacred space where the nurse-patient relationship of genuine caring and compassion is of crucial importance. This handbook covers the fundamentals of spiritual care, written to inspire and challenge the reader. It provides a space for reflection and encourages lifelong learning. The authors present a new teaching-learning theory—the learning spiral—to enable and empower readers to “tune in” to patients and work to soothe spiritual suffering and existential pain, ultimately facilitating patient well-being.

Reading the Bible Around the World: A Student’s Guide to Global Hermeneutics (IVP Academic, 2022) by Federico A. Rott, PhD, professor, Justin Marc Smith, PhD, associate professor, Närsten S. Oh, PhD, professor, Alice Yadeh-Queh, PhD, professor, and Kay Higaura Smith, PhD, professor, School of Theology

In Reading the Bible Around the World, the cross-cultural team of scholars describes and workshops global readings in biblical interpretation, focusing on passages in the Old and New Testaments. By presenting a range of readings from different regions and people groups, with particular attention to marginalized groups, the authors demonstrate the importance of contextually sensitive approaches. They help us build up key values for reading Scripture in the 21st century: self-awareness, other-awareness, and true dialogue. Who we are shapes how we read. Guided by these expert teachers, readers gain a deeper understanding of the influence of their own social location and how to keep growing in biblical wisdom by reading alongside the global Christian community.

APU Theater Presents Phantom of the Opera

Azusa Pacific’s Department of Theater Arts presented Phantom of the Opera, a live rendition of the French novel by Gaston Leroux with an enthralling score by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Based in the 19th century, Phantom of the Opera tells the story of a beautiful soprano singer who becomes the obsession of a masked musical genius living beneath the Paris Opera House. Phantom of the Opera is luxuriously orchestrated and acted, magnificent in scenery and costumes, and awesome in scale. The production was directed by guest director Gary Krinke, who directed APU’s The Addams Family and has extensive experience as a director at UCLA’s School of Music, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, and as the music director of the St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. The production was directed by guest director Gary Krinke, who directed APU’s The Addams Family and has extensive experience as a director at UCLA’s School of Music, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, and as the music director of the St. Mark’s Episcopal Church.
God put the word REVIVAL on my heart and it’s only grown in intensity. Alongside me, there are many faculty, staff, and students who are also praying regularly that the Spirit of God will fall afresh on this community.

Faithfulness to Mission: Working Together for Greater Kingdom Impact

BY ADAM J. MORRIS, PHD

On January 26, 2022, I sat with the APU Board of Trustees for what turned out to be my final interview in the presidential search process. It was more than a 12-hour day, and we all came prepared with our final round of questions. By midafternoon, having talked through the many complexities of leading a faith-based organization with hundreds of employees and thousands of students, we dove into a topic near and dear to my heart—faithfulness to mission. I wanted to probe core aspects of APU’s institutional identity and APU’s resolve to stand its ground amidst the tumult facing all of Christian higher education.

My heart was filled when trustee after trustee talked about APU’s mission and their strong conviction as a board to hold firm to our time-honored identity as a Christ-centered university. We unpacked the challenges of the last several years and talked about what will be required of APU moving forward amidst the strong headwinds and adverse threats to religious liberty. I sought confirmation that APU’s Board of Trustees had the conviction to remain missionally faithful, come what may. Our conversation affirmed the board’s unswerving commitment and confirmed my deep desire to join a Spirit-led leadership team that was truly on mission.

Continued on page 14

DANA ATTEBERY, MA ’17
Victorville.
in downtown Socks, Shoes, at the annual pairs of shoes sanitized more cleaned, and donated, Campus Regional High Desert The entire...

Look neither right nor left; leave evil in the dust" (The Message).
Watch your step, and the road will stretch out smooth before you.
reminded of the supremacy of God and His clear instructions in Proverbs...]
and to] give practical training in all that

Los Angeles desperately needed a training school "to provide thorough and men were gathered in uptown Whittier, California, believing that three decades, I agree that the pressures facing us are great. But I'm

As one who has served in Christian higher education for more than three decades, I agree that the pressures facing us are great. But I'm reminded of the supremacy of God and His clear instructions in Proverbs...]
and to] give practical training in all that

Unfortunately, this has been the demise of far too many faith-based institutions that have compromised mission for financial exigency or some other perceived benefit. It's been said that the coming years will be tough for Christian colleges and universities—many will crumble financially or care missionally.

The entire nursing student body of APU's High Desert Regional Campus donated, cleaned, and sanitized more than 1,000 pairs of shoes given away at the annual Socks, Shoes, and Salvation outreach event in downtown Victorville.

The founders of the Training School for Christian Workers (now Azusa Pacific University) had as their singular focus a school that was fixed on training and equipping women and men to become agents of the Gospel for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

The founders of the Training School for Christian Workers (now Azusa Pacific University) had as their singular focus a school that was fixed on training and equipping women and men to become agents of the Gospel for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

As one who has served in Christian higher education for more than three decades, I agree that the pressures facing us are great. But I'm reminded of the supremacy of God and His clear instructions in Proverbs...]
and to] give practical training in all that

As one who has served in Christian higher education for more than three decades, I agree that the pressures facing us are great. But I'm reminded of the supremacy of God and His clear instructions in Proverbs...]
and to] give practical training in all that

The entire nursing student body of APU's High Desert Regional Campus donated, cleaned, and sanitized more than 1,000 pairs of shoes given away at the annual Socks, Shoes, and Salvation outreach event in downtown Victorville.

The founders of the Training School for Christian Workers (now Azusa Pacific University) had as their singular focus a school that was fixed on training and equipping women and men to become agents of the Gospel for the expansion of God's Kingdom.
First-generation college student Eimee Ponciano '24, whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from Guatemala, applied to many Southern California colleges, wanting to stay close to home. She chose Azusa Pacific University after feeling a strong connection to her admissions counselor. “I had a lot of questions; she just kept answering them happily and asking if I had any more,” Ponciano said. “I really liked that. That was something I didn’t get from any other school—the personal touch and dedication from the staff.”
The Sword Project: Blessing Athletes with Personalized Bibles

BY NATHAN FOSTER

Carrie Webber, Azusa Pacific University’s head softball coach, was on a mission. She walked onto the field with a stack of thick leatherbound books in her arms, knowing that this moment meant more than any win ever would. These were no ordinary books; in fact, they were copies of the bestselling, most read book of all time. Titled Study Bibles to all incoming athletes.

Webber said, “It was awesome watching the impact that had. Jewett was a student at APU, she went into her own pocket to buy Bibles for the freshmen on the team. Webber does and got them in contact. After talking with Webber, Wurm knew he wanted to be a part of the Sword Project. “I’m very excited to know that this is going toward such a great cause,” Wurm said. “It is a blessing to be a part of possibly providing a student-athlete with their first Bible ever.”

Webber, the inspiration for the Sword Project came from former player Becca Jewett ’21. While Jewett was a student at APU, she went into her own

Webber began to notice that many incoming athletes didn’t have Bibles. “I think that one of the best things that we can possibly do for our athletes is to put a Bible in their hands,” she said.

As Webber looked for the right study Bibles, she encountered a problem—the Bibles weren’t cheap, and the cost added up quickly with the large number of athletes. This problem was solved thanks to a generous donation through a foundation run by Jamen Wurm, CPA, MS ’98, a member of APU’s 1998 NAIA national-championship-winning football team. Wurm, a partner at Goehner Accountancy, is a big believer in giving back to the program that helped shape him into who he is today. When APU announced the closure of the football program in 2020, he asked former football coach Bo Beatty ’94 if he had any ideas about where the funds he had donated could go. Beatty told him about the work Webber does and got them in contact. After talking with Webber, Wurm said he wanted to be a part of the Sword Project. “I’m very excited to know that this is going toward such a great cause,” Wurm said. “It is a blessing to be a part of possibly providing a student-athlete with their first Bible ever.”

The Sword Project’s name comes from a hand-engraved sword on the cover of each Bible, referring to the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). Inside the sword, Webber can inscribe up to 12 characters, which athletes choose. Many ask for their names or the Scriptural location of their favorite Bible verse. Webber has received lots of encouraging feedback from the athletes. “This is the most spiritual growth from meaningful conversations with their teammates and coaches,” Pine said. “The beauty of athletics is that when you’re on a team, you develop a bond that allows for vulnerability. People feel comfortable asking deep questions that they might not feel comfortable asking elsewhere.”

In academic classes, APU faculty find ways to integrate their faith with the subject material. On athletic teams, coaches model a Christian lifestyle and walk alongside their players. “We want to impact our athletes beyond the four years they’re here. Nothing can impact your life greater than the Word of God,” Pine said. “When our student-athletes walk across that commencement stage, they’re no longer a student and no longer an athlete. We hope to pour into them enough so they know their identity is not in academics or athletics, rather it is in Christ. Now they’ll have their own Bibles, and it’s a book they’ll continue to use long after they graduate.”

Each coach has their own ways they pour into their players—some do Bible studies, others have team movie nights featuring Christian productions such as The Chosen, and others pray with their team before and after practices. All APU coaches are available to talk to their players when deep questions arise. “I had a player call me recently and say, ‘Coach, I know God’s real, and I don’t know much more, but I really want to know. Can you sit down with me and tell me more?’” said Webber. “I told her I absolutely could. I live for those moments. Wins are pretty cool, but the joy from those moments lasts way longer. I don’t always get to be there for that moment when they say yes to their faith and yes to God. But while I might not get to see that moment, I definitely notice how they’ve been transformed at APU. That’s very special.”

Jamen Wurm
Donors Made This Possible

TOTAL GIVING
By Constituency
FISCAL YEAR 2022

$12.6M

1. Unrestricted
2. University Fund
3. Restricted
4. Capital
5. Endowment

Total: $12,614,793

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$700,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>$691,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches/Organizations</td>
<td>$68,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$6,341,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff</td>
<td>$89,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>$2,225,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>$1,987,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$89,487</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FY22 Planned Gifts
$1,502,212.48

What is a Planned Gift? A planned gift is a charitable gift made as part of an individual’s estate planning. Examples include bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and life insurance gifts. Planned gifts can provide significant tax benefits and can be combined with other estate planning choices to achieve personal and charitable goals.

FY22 Matching Gifts
$28,241.18

What is a Matching Gift? Many companies encourage philanthropy by matching their employees’ gifts to colleges and universities such as Azusa Pacific. Most match the gift dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount. Participating companies may also recognize donations made by retirees and/or spouses of employees.

Will My Company Match My Gift? To find out if your company has a matching gift program, inquire with your company’s human resources department, or contact the Office of University Advancement at (626) 815-5333 or advancement@apu.edu.

Student Profile

DILLON LYNCH ’23
Liberal Studies: English Concentration
Los Angeles, CA

Impact of Generosity

My scholarship helps me tremendously because I can get the additional resources I need to be able to graduate.

APU and Your Calling/Career

The story of how I ended up at APU was all God! In spring 2019 I wasn’t in school, because I couldn’t afford it, and I had a part-time job that I did not like. In the fall semester I had gone back to West Los Angeles College, where I was heading into my fourth year. I was not the type of person who was going to go to college, you know? I told my dad I was going to transfer after the fall semester, but I told him this with absolutely no plan! That night I prayed, “Lord, please bless me and make a way for me to get to a university where they will give me a chance.”

Thriving at APU

I have been most involved in the intramural sports teams at APU. Also, being part of the Kaleo chapel team has been the best experience. These are the places where I met most of my friends. Everyone here is amazing. We all have the same thing in common: honoring God and devoting our lives to Him. It’s amazing being able to talk freely about what God has done in our lives and being able to pray for one another.

Making an Impact

Once I graduate from APU, I will be going into the education field. I want to teach and make a difference in students’ lives. With God by my side, I know the expectations I set for myself will be achieved.

* Kaleo is a weeknight chapel service designed to guide students through an ongoing exploration of Scripture.
Since 1899, Azusa Pacific University has trained students as leaders and difference makers, equipping them to advance God’s work in the world. To continue this important and meaningful legacy, Azusa Pacific embarks on an exciting campaign where new scholarship endowments were matched dollar for dollar up to $25,000, and our generous donors answered the call—as student scholarship endowments were started. These dedicated donors have created $16,000 of scholarship funds annually for students wanting to make a difference in the world for Christ. If you are interested in establishing an endowment at APU, contact Bernice Hong at bhong@apu.edu or (626) 387-5879.

In fiscal year 2022, APU embarked on an exciting campaign where new scholarship endowments were matched dollar for dollar up to $25,000, and our generous donors answered the call—as student scholarship endowments were started. These dedicated donors have created $16,000 of scholarship funds annually for students wanting to make a difference in the world for Christ. If you are interested in establishing an endowment at APU, contact Bernice Hong at bhong@apu.edu or (626) 387-5879.

The Cougars wrapped up the 2022 campaign with a 9-4-4 overall record and a 6-2-2 PacWest mark. Azusa Pacific won five of its final six matches, including a 1-0 win on its home pitch over rival Biola in the Cornerstone Cup. Mackenzie Coleman anchored the Cougars backline all season long, earning Second-Team All-West Region after starting every game for the Cougars and helping the team to 10 clean sheets and 13 games in which their opponents scored one goal or less. Coleman also contributed in the attack, scoring a goal and adding two assists.

Swimming and Diving has had an impressive first half of the season, highlighted by a victory over Biola in the Cornerstone Cup on Senior Day. In the Winter Invitational, which took place November 18-20, four swimmers earned national qualifying times at the “B” standard, along with Olivia Liddle earning national qualifications in the 1- and 3-meter dives. Madeline Schults broke a school record in the 50 free, and the quartet of Schultz, Riley Smith, Hannah Swales, and Montana White bested the APU record in the 200 free relay. The Cougars will compete in the Alumni Meet at Elmont Pool in Azusa on Saturday, January 7, at 10 a.m.

For more news and updates on APU athletics, including team schedules, visit athletics.apu.edu.
Fulfilling Their Call with Shelter on the Lake

BY NATHAN FOSTER

Dylan ’98 and Cheri (Hacker ’98) Harris are spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth, or about as close as you can get to that. In 2011, after years of traveling across Asia and Europe and down the Pan-American Highway, the couple settled with their three kids—Ritter, 15, Amelia, 13, and Tobin, 11—in San Carlos de Bariloche, a lake town at the base of the Andes mountains in southern Argentina. Dylan and Cheri decided that this would be the perfect spot to launch a ministry—one geared toward backpackers.

“We spent a lot of time sharing the Gospel with locals on our travels, but they weren’t generally very receptive,” Dylan said. “Backpackers, on the other hand, were much more willing to talk about their faith. They’re searching, exploring, and are open to learning about Jesus.”

The couple runs Shelter on the Lake, which offers up to eight travelers at a time a spot to stay for free. Though lodging is free for guests, most contribute by helping pay for community food and participating in cleaning, cooking, and upkeep projects. Travelers come from all over the world, passing through on their journey north. During the day, guests and volunteers spend time on outdoor adventures including rock climbing, hiking, and paddle boarding. “We purposefully spend time with them, getting to know their story, who they are,” Dylan said. “It’s when we’re out in this gorgeous Argentine paradise that we talk about Jesus.”

Shelter on the Lake is staffed by a rotating handful of volunteers from the U.S. who spend a few months at a time furthering God’s Kingdom. “When backpackers stay with us, they step into this Christian community where we truly do life together,” Dylan said. “We get to know them and pour into them. They’re overwhelmed by this love in word and deed that they’ve never experienced before.” Before the travelers depart, they’re given a small, lightweight Bible in their language to bring with them on their journey. “Our vision is for them to hear the Gospel, see it in action in the community, and take it with them,” Dylan said.

This ministry is possible because of what Dylan and Cheri learned while students at Azusa Pacific. Dylan worked full-time in the bookstore and helped lead Walkabout with former APU President Jon Wallace. “I was a nobody, but Jon made me feel like the most important person in the world,” Dylan said. “His listening and caring inspired me!” Dylan uses these same skills with guests and while discipling volunteers.

Cheri graduated with a degree in Spanish and Christian ministries and a minor in art. “Our ministry is a direct result of being equipped with the education we received at APU,” she said. Cheri used her creative skills to design the building for Shelter on the Lake, as well as make the furniture, crockery, and art inside. She uses her Spanish knowledge to communicate with locals and run the shelter. The couple also operates a small church out of their house, allowing Cheri to use what she learned in her ministry classes.

Dylan and Cheri are exactly where they want to be. “We’re living our dream. Everything that God created us for—outdoor adventures, travel, ministry, language, art—it all just came together,” Cheri said. “At APU, there were always conversations about doing what God has called you to do. We’re blessed to be doing the work that God made us for.”

Nathan Foster ’20 is public relations manager in the Division of Strategic Communication and Engagement. nfoster@apu.edu

To learn more about Dylan and Cheri’s work with Shelter on the Lake, arrange a visit, or volunteer for the season, contact them at shelteronthelake@gmail.com.
Breaking Barriers: Providing Foster Youth with Shoes for Grades

BY NATHAN FOSTER

Randall Trice '19, MSW '20, got lost on his first day of school at Azusa Pacific University. As he tried to find the way to his theology class, his nerves began to grow. When he finally stumbled into the classroom, his professor, Paul Shrier, PhD, looked at him with compassion and asked if he was looking for theology. Trice nodded and Shrier replied, "Well then, you're in the right spot. Have a seat."

As a first-generation student, the struggle to get to that classroom on his first day of college was symbolic of a greater challenge. "I didn't have any family to show me how to fill out the FAFSA application or how to read a syllabus," he said. "I had to learn to navigate college on my own."

As he adjusted to college life, he explored majors. Like many students, Trice wasn't sure what career path to take. He knew he loved working with kids and thought about becoming a nurse, then a psychologist, before discovering his dream profession. "There are so many avenues to travel with social work," he said. "You won't become rich in that profession. "There are so many avenues to travel with social work," he said. "You won't become rich in that profession."

Trice decided to pursue a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree because he wanted to work with children and families. After he graduated in 2019, his passion for education began to dissipate over the years. "I wanted to get connected to church for the first half of his life, his faith had dissipated over the years. "I wanted to get connected to church for the first half of his life, his faith had dissipated over the years."

"I didn't fully learn how to read until 7th grade," he said. "A lot of kids were really mean. They'd throw things at the shoes foster kids had worn before, but weren't really fit for many foster kids can relate to—bullying. "All of my clothes were hand-me-downs, things that other kids in the community and across the nation. The results have been striking—the motivation of new shoes has led to children getting much better grades. Trice hopes to continue the growth of Shoes4Grades by building a facility to provide a space for mentoring and tutoring. He also hopes to partner with a shoe company. "We want to go from 2,000 pairs of shoes to 200,000, but we don't have the funds for that," he said. "If we had a partner to help us, we could expand our impact, blessing more kids in the community with confidence and encouraging them to do well academically".

"If you can get a good education, you can break the cycle of poverty and set an example for the next generation to follow."

"If you can get a good education, you can break the cycle of poverty and set an example for the next generation to follow."

Randall Trice is APU's nominee for the 2023 Council of Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) Young Alumni Award, which recognizes an individual (or a team of individuals working in a joint venture) who has achieved uncommon leadership or success in a way that reflects the values of Christian higher education.
In a single day, Charlie Reynolds ’25 discovered his fiery passion for serving God. Growing up, most of Reynolds’ family and friends were nonbelievers, and faith was not an important part of his life. “I had heard about Christ, but I never truly knew who God was, or what He had done for me. I had a hunger deep inside me for something more, but I didn’t know what it was.”

It was in Reynolds’ junior year of high school that he had his breakthrough faith experience, after one of his football teammates invited him to church. “When my friend asked me to go to church, I was nervous and didn’t know what to expect,” he said.

What started as just a morning service turned into an all-day event, concluding with an evening service and Reynolds accepting Christ. “I don’t exaggerate when I say my conversion was radical,” he said. “Before that day, I knew nothing about God. I came out on the other side with an insatiable desire to fervently love Christ and share the Gospel with everyone. It was like a fire ignited in me.”

With his heart for evangelism, Reynolds feels called to become a minister and said that being a student at Azusa Pacific University is life changing. “In high school, my only Christian friends were at church,” he said. “When I came to APU, I discovered other Christian students and professors wanting to dive deep into conversations and community. I am able to make meaningful relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ—people I can pray with and go to in times of need. I have been blessed to be able to walk with warriors of the faith right alongside me.”

In his studies at APU, Reynolds is being equipped for a lifelong career in ministry. Pursuing a major in Christian ministries and a minor in honors humanities, he is encouraged by studying with like-minded peers and professors in subjects that interest him. Reynolds notes the importance of his classes in preparing him for the future. “My classes don’t just skim the surface—every day I am challenged to confront aspects of the unexamined Christian life,” he said. “I get to study what I’m passionate about in engaging and relevant ways. APU is equipping me with so much more than just a degree—it’s helping me see how God is working and growing me.”

Stemming from his own testimony of being invited to church, Reynolds has a strong conviction toward outreach, inviting others to join him at church and APU community events. Reynolds participated in his first mission trip to Ensenada during spring break, expanding his vision to global outreach. “It was remarkable to see others’ dependence on Christ, even in the face of homelessness and poverty,” he said. “That kind of faith is what I want to embody in my life.”

Reynolds plans to attend seminary after he graduates. “I am excited to continue pursuing God’s calling for my life, staying open to his guidance along the way,” he said.

Peter Cooley is a public relations intern in the Division of Strategic Communication and Engagement. He is a music education and honors humanities major, and performs in multiple ensembles at APU. Outside of work, Peter enjoys reading, hiking, and playing music.
Azusa Pacific University honored the legacy of coach Jim Milhon with a football alumni reunion hosted by the Office of Alumni Engagement and the Athletics Department from September 30-October 1, 2022. An APU football legend, Milhon was the Cougars head football coach from 1978-95. Over those 17 seasons, Milhon led the Cougars to an 81-69-3 record, accounting for the second-most wins in program history.

"Jim Milhon epitomized the best of Azusa Pacific coaches; he turned the Cougar football program around, establishing a culture of success built on playing tough and executing good fundamentals," said Gary Pine, director of athletics. "His players knew that he loved them by how he interacted with them. He was a very personable coach who had a story to share for every situation. He took time to know you, your family, and the people who were important to you. He could be direct, but he was never demeaning. His players loved him, and played hard to win for him."

Of the hundreds of players who were coached by Milhon, none went on to have a more successful professional career than Christian Okoye ’87, the “Nigerian Nightmare.” Okoye, who came to APU to train for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics in track, was offered a spot on the football team after Milhon and the rest of the coaching staff witnessed his legendary “running back’s speed in a linebacker’s body.” After breaking numerous records at APU, Okoye was selected by the Kansas City Chiefs in the second round of the 1987 NFL draft, accumulating 4,897 career rushing yards and 40 touchdowns in six seasons.

"Coach Milhon cared more about his players’ hard work and well-being than winning a football game," Okoye said. "I remember Coach Milhon’s booming voice. He was always happy and willing to teach. Everything he did on the field was done with love and God in mind."

This event is the first opportunity the university has had to recognize and celebrate the Azusa Pacific football program since it was discontinued.

“We hope this gives our alumni, who were so deeply impacted by this program, the opportunity to remember and celebrate together, as well as honor the leaders who were such an integral part of their experience at Azusa Pacific College and Azusa Pacific University,” said Angie DiClaudio, MBM, director of alumni engagement. "We hope to have other generations of APU football players come together for a similar opportunity in the near future."

Nathan Foster ’20 is public relations manager in the Division of Strategic Communication and Engagement. nfoster@apu.edu

Remodeled Campus Store Opens

Azusa Pacific University’s new Campus Store, located inside the Duke Student Commons, is a one-stop shop for students, alumni, faculty, and staff. From course materials, clothing, and gear to gifts, computers, and other tech, the Campus Store has it all. Come visit us in person Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., or online at campusstore.apu.edu.

Scan the QR code to view the updated Campus Store website and browse the many products and services it offers.
Our APU

This Christ-centered community supports students as they seek answers to life’s most important questions, grow in their faith, and serve others so they can make a difference in the world.