



# November-December 2011

## Research Reporter



### Cahleen Shrier, Ph.D., Awarded \$4,993 Grant from the VWR Foundation.

Cahleen Shrier, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry, has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$4,993 from the VWR Foundation. This grant supports the Student 2 Scholar (S2S): Inspiring Students Through Scientific Research Mentoring Project by providing research supplies for students participating in the summer program. This project immerses students in cutting-edge scientific inquiry lab-centered research to gain critical research

skills in preparation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers. Mentored by expert faculty, the students' experiences distinguish and equip them as expertly trained future scientists, doctors, and teachers. APU has offered the summer research program for over seven years with impressive results. During the Summer 2010 program, nine faculty members, committed to training undergraduates in the sciences, mentored twenty-

four undergraduate students in critical thinking skills, technical writing, analysis of scientific articles, successful presentations, and in-depth knowledge of their research project.

Thank you to the Biology/Chemistry faculty for their dedication to give students the knowledge and skills needed for them to be successful in their future STEM careers!- Diane Newman

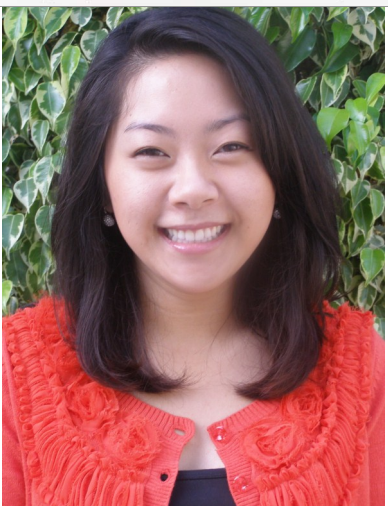


### Stacey Kim Awarded \$3,000 Grant for Kids on the Move.

Congratulations to Stacey Kim, Program Coordinator for the Office of Community-Based Federal Work Study program, for her hard work in preparing a grant for *Kids on the Move*. The Office of Community-Based Federal Work Study has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,000 from the Canyon City Foundation. The grant provides exercise equipment, supplies, and training ma-

terials for the *Kids on the Move* program. *Kids on the Move* began in the spring of 2010 as a fun and energizing fitness program for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls of Azusa to exercise their way towards a healthy lifestyle. In attempts to combat childhood obesity, the Office of Community-Based Federal Work Study and the Department of Exercise and Sports Science at APU partnered with the City of

Azusa Recreation & Family Services Department to design a program that would focus primarily on high energy and exciting workouts with the goal to not only improve kids' strength, flexibility, and balance but to also teach habits in both exercise and nutrition that lead to overall health. *Kids on the Move* strives to get Azusa strong and healthy, one child at a time.—Diane Newman



## “To Do Justly and Love Mercy: Using Scripture to Guide Criminal Justice Policy” by Jennifer Walsh, Ph. D.



Walsh discusses numerous examples of these responses including: protecting those who are most often victimized, insuring that the punishment fits the crime, advocating for alternative sentencing, protecting the welfare of the guilty, and providing re-entry programs for offenders leaving prison.

Walsh, J. E. (2011). To do justly and love mercy: Using scripture to guide criminal justice policy. In D. K. Ryden (Ed.), *Is the Good Book Good Enough? Evangelical Perspectives on Public Policy* (pp. 57-74). Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Criminal justice is a disciplinary study with its own unique developmental history. Across time, political, social, psychological, and religious trends have informed an array of policies regarding the government's response to crimes and those who commit them. The nature and purposes of these responses have varied depending on the shifting cultural and political climate within these various social arenas, and the corresponding state and national understandings about the nature of persons involved in criminal activity and the policies and laws that affect them.

In this chapter **Jennifer E. Walsh**, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor, Department of History and Political Science, examines the influence of evangelical, mainline, and Catholic

church communities on crime and punishment concerns and considers how the Scriptures provide important guidance to ongoing conversations of the subject. Her chapter is part of a larger work looking at evangelical perspectives on domestic and global public policy.

Taking her cue from Micah 6:8, Walsh highlights how evangelicals who desire to contribute to this conversation may influence the establishment and implementation of renewed perspectives on crime and punishment. These redemption-focused responses would promote *practice* around the values of justice and mercy and reframe *perspective* about the moral dimensions of crime. Walsh discusses numerous examples of these responses including: protecting those who are most often victimized, insuring that the punishment fits the crime, advocating for alternative sentencing, protecting the welfare of the guilty, and providing re-entry programs for offenders leaving prison. Such evangelically informed responses can remind policymakers of the moral

aspects related to crime and punishment and can help address some of the shortcomings of policies that have tended to emphasize the expediency and utilitarian benefits of rehabilitation, deterrence, and incapacitation without sufficient attention to remediation and reduction in recidivism.

Walsh's historical explanations of the issues are illuminating; readers will come to understand why prisons came to be called correctional institutions (formerly penitentiaries) in the 1950's, and also how evangelical ideals and theological themes regarding human nature, redemption, retribution, and restitution have much to contribute to the current public discourse. This type of integrative research conducted by Jennifer Walsh exemplifies how Christian based scholarship can not only inform disciplinary practice, but also be a model to Christian scholars working in other fields.—Roger White





## “By a Crooked Star: Developing Spirituality within the Context of a Faith-Based Institution” by Ruth Anna Abigail, Ph.D.



**Ruth Anna Abigail, Ph.D.**, Professor in the Center for Adult and Professional Studies, provides a captivating autoethnography in her chapter entitled “By a Crooked Star: Developing Spirituality within the Context of a Faith-Based Institution” (Heewon V. Chang and Drick Boyd, eds., *Spirituality in Higher Education: Autoethnographies*, Left Coast Press, 2011). She frames her essay around faith integration in the classroom and the personal crossing of borders that can seem frightening at times. Wisely she states, “Understanding [of faith integration] increases . . . when faculty members have the chance to start with their personal spiritual narrative and work outward to broader concepts, rather than starting with general ideas of faith integration and attempting to enact them in the classroom.” Her goals for her spiritual journey in life include maturing in the Christian faith

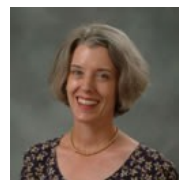
as a professor at a Christian university and being consciously aware of how her faith impacts her professional development and “can be taken into the classroom in scholarly ways.” She hopes her sensitivity to her journey can help others better comprehend themselves and how they do faith integration.

Arriving at APU in 1982, she found it populated by about 1,300 students and 75 faculty, a far cry from its current status. Over the years she grew in her faith and professional expertise in spectacular ways: finding her voice via art after completing, very slowly, course work for an art major at APU; becoming an ordained minister in the Free Methodist Church after, again, taking numerous biblical and theological courses that enhanced her personal spirituality as well as her teaching in this Christian environment; and establishing an impressive world view: “All persons are made in the image of God. All persons should be treated as image-bearers. We should be willing to embrace others. As bearers of the image of God, we are able to be creative and affect our environment in positive ways.”

The “border crossings” mentioned above are complemented by some painful

experiences such as recognizing that a rocky past invited a new start with a new name: Ruth Anna Abigail. Divorce sadly resulted in the loss not only of her husband but also of her church. The “Simplified Worldview Map,” her one illustration for this essay, reveals seven branches stemming from a powerful center which states: “God has called me to love Him and to love my neighbor as he has loved me. Therefore, I will live as one who loves God and in an attitude of embrace towards others.” This centering statement transcends the highs and lows of her spiritual journey; others can adapt it for their own enlightenment and needs.

Recently she announced to the APU community that this will be her last year of teaching here since she will move to Santa Fe, New Mexico, into a new home on, yes, Sunshine Way. In her article she notes that she likes being on “the margins, where the view is much clearer.” Sunshine Way may, paradoxically, turn out to be both a marginal and a centering location. On behalf of the APU community, I wish her God’s richest blessings as she continues her spiritual journey.—Carole J. Lambert



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**Office of Research Mission Statement:**

Our purpose is to assist faculty and doctoral students with their research and dissemination endeavors and to promote an academic climate that celebrates and strengthens the Azusa Pacific University community of Christian scholars and researchers.

**Office of Sponsored Research & Grants**

**Mission Statement:**

Our purpose is to support Azusa Pacific University’s mission in the pursuit of academic excellence and the advancement of knowledge by striving to consistently meet or exceed expectations in services provided to faculty, project directors, the University community, and external funding sponsors, and by providing consistency in administrative systems and processes.

Welcome to the new consultants!

Thank you to the past consultants!



Dr. Beverly Hardcastle

Dr. Hae-Seong Park

Dr. Kevin Reimer

Dr. Ying Jiang

We welcome Dr. Beverly Hardcastle Stanford, who is now serving as APU’s qualitative research consultant, and Dr. Hae-Seong Park, who is now serving as APU’s quantitative research consultant; both are replacing Dr. Kevin Reimer and Dr. Ying Jiang, respectively. Please contact our new consultants if you need research assistance: [bstanford@apu.edu](mailto:bstanford@apu.edu) and [hspark@apu.edu](mailto:hspark@apu.edu)

