

# Cornerstone

Transformational Scholarship at Azusa Pacific University

Office of Research and Grants | Summer 2018



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School of Theology/Azusa Pacific Seminary  
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**AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**

## Office of Research & Grants

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<http://www.apu.edu/researchandgrants/>



## A Hilltop Retreat Receives High Praise from Faculty

Comments from APU faculty on a recent APU-sponsored event include the following:

"It was special, from beginning to end! The connection times with people across departments are especially invaluable."

"This is one of the best benefits of being a faculty member at APU. I hope it doesn't end."

"I feel humbled and blessed by the experience which was fruitful spiritually and professionally. I believe I have grown on both levels."

"The experience was absolutely wonderful . . . The peer conversations were amazing and it was a privilege . . . I am thankful to the provost Mark Stanton for his kind consideration by providing a special time to accomplish so much!"

"I am so grateful to APU for providing this time away to do our work. The environment is perfect for work and reflection. This sends a message of support and understanding of the nature of our work."

When asked to suggest changes to make the event work better for the future, three particularly succinct, but representative, comments were:

"No!!!" "No, perfect as is."

"Don't fix what isn't broken. This is an extraordinary experience . . ."

Why all this high praise? It is from APU faculty who attended one of four writers' retreats hosted by the Office of Research and Grants (ORG) in summer 2018.

These retreats are designed with minimal structure or planned activities. The goal is to provide an environment where faculty can devote quality, undistracted time to their scholarly pursuits. Each retreat has a rich array of disciplines represented. Projects worked on include books, book chapters, musical compositions, dissertations, journal articles, encyclopedia entries, grant applications, and conference presentations. Indeed, there is a long history of APU writers' retreats...

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# Congratulations!!

## Recent funding (May – July 2018)

**Rachel Castaneda (BAS).** *Evaluation of CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) Coalition Approach to SBIRT with the Goal of Reducing Adolescent Substance Use.* Funded by UCLA ISAP. (\$119,544)

**Rachel Castaneda (BAS).** *Evaluation Plan for Shasta County.* Funded by Shasta County, CA. (\$98,118)

**Rachel Castaneda (BAS).** *Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Youth Pilot.* Funded by Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). (\$35,000)

**Rachel Castaneda (BAS).** *Marijuana and Substance Use Training for Transition Age Youth.* Funded by Los Angeles County, Department of Mental Health Providers. (\$81,600)

**Aja Lesh (SON).** *Jonas Scholars Program 2018-2020.* Funded by Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare. (\$20,000)

**Sally Mansour (BAS-CCC).** *Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Campus Suicide Prevention Program.* Funded by US Dept of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (\$304,067)

**Robert Muthiah (SOT).** *Lament as a Way Forward on Racial Issues.* Funded by Louisville Institute. (\$44,940)

**April Reed-Hoy (Athletics).** *The NCAA-DoD Grand Alliance: Concussion Assessment, Research and Education (CARE) Consortium - Grant Supplement.* Funded by University of Michigan, NCAA/Department of Defense - Army. (\$13,146)

**Kathleen Ruccione (SON).** *Nurse Faculty Loan Program.* Funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). (\$861,077)

**Abbylin Sellers and David Weeks (CLAS/HC).** *Koch Fellows Program.* Funded by Charles G. Koch Foundation. (\$43,835)

**William Whitney (BAS).** *Hospitality and Belonging: Developing a Christian Response to Mental Illness within North American Churches.* Funded by Louisville Institute. (\$45,000)



## Student Spotlight

### Lauren Rietkerk CLAS Biotechnology BAS Psychology '17

... University provided the perfect environment to be able to explore a multitude of research interests, both in my time as an undergraduate student and as a graduate student. I believe what set me up for success was an incredible support system, which included two constant advisors, Dr. Benjamin Marsh and Dr. David Dyer.

From the beginning, I had a strong desire to pursue a career in research when I was an undergraduate psychology student. I took cognition and neuroscience and saw that there was still a large world of unexplored questions and mysteries. My curiosity led me to joining a few research teams in the psychology department where we were quickly taught to use current software and technology to help broaden our understanding and accomplish tasks within the research studies. Integrating practical uses of technology into research developed a new, exciting interest in the study of biotechnology, which became the focus of my current graduate studies.

As was often pointed out by Dr. Marsh and Dr. Dyer, it is worth pursuing our passions to see where God's path leads us. I have always loved animals and their behavior, so degrees in psychology and biotechnology seemed like a practical way to work in areas that I loved. I currently work for San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG), at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, where I have the pleasure of being able to educate and inspire guests about ways they can contribute to global conservation. I am able to do this all while working with some amazing animals. SDZG has an incredible research program where they integrate new developments of technology to "lead the fight to end extinction." I feel fortunate that my past, current, and future research studies have been cultivated by the strong support system I received at APU.

*"Lauren is a hidden gem of the psychology department. Her reliability is unmatched. She has an indomitable character that is certain to attract much success her way."*  
**Benjamin Marsh, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, BAS Psychology

# SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY  
**03**  
OCTOBER  
**2018**

## Cayuse SP Launch

New Grant Lifecycle Admin System

## ORG Open House

ORG Suite | 10 am – 12 pm  
680 E. Alosta Ave., Suite 115

**AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**

*Demos, treats, a sweet cup of coffee, giveaways and great company to move you forward in your grants endeavors!*

## THE CONVERSATION

Become an author with The Conversation!

<https://theconversation.com/us>

A US-based, independent, nonprofit news organization that produces and promotes evidence-based information, analysis, and commentary on issues affecting society. The organization identifies talented academic researchers and encourages them to write timely articles and essays that draw on their research and bring fresh insights to contemporary issues and events.



# Calendar & Events

## Faculty Spotlight

APU recently received two notices of award from the Louisville Institute for the Collaborative Inquiry Team program. The two awarded projects are:

*Lament as a Way Forward on Racial Issues*, Project Lead: Robert Muthiah, Other APU team members are Brian Lugioyo, John Ragsdale, Jessica Wong

*Hospitality and Belonging: Developing a Christian Response to Mental Illness within North American Churches*, Project Lead: William Whitney, Other APU team members are Jennifer Payne, Curtis Lehman

Each of these projects are funded at \$45,000. The success of these two projects highlight the innovative approaches by Robert Muthiah, PhD, and William Whitney, PhD, along with their teams, in pursuing solutions to pressing societal issues. It is stimulating to hear about the motivation behind these projects.



**Robert Muthiah:** “The initial imagination for this project came from my co-leader on this grant, John Ragsdale, who knew of my passion for racial justice, and specifically, my organizing of “Black Pain and Tears” a campus-wide worship service of lament held last fall in response to ongoing racism in our midst. Inspired by that experience, our grant will explore lament as a way of possibly furthering

conversations and actions--specifically in congregational contexts--in relation to racial justice. Using an action research methodology, our grant team of four professors and four pastors will read and discuss several books together over the next few months and then plan and carry out two one-day church summits for members of our participating congregations. We are enthusiastic about this novel focus on lament to promote racial justice and healing.”



**William Whitney:** “The Louisville Institute Collaborative Inquiry Team program supports teams of four to eight pastors/ministers and scholars/professors who propose projects to strengthen the life of North American Christian communities.

Our Collaborative Inquiry Team is interested in providing a response to address mental health in North American churches since in times of psychological distress religious persons generally seek help first from pastors and lay leaders rather than trained mental health professionals. It is also common for church communities to hold attitudes and theological beliefs that actually perpetuate stigma and suffering for those with a mental health diagnosis. These assumptions guided my application and grant proposal to the Louisville. It is our belief that Christian theology holds a unique understanding of thriving that can contribute to a more holistic perspective on mental illness than psychology can offer by itself. We are extremely excited to receive funding to move forward with this crucial project.”



*“The scholarship of discovery takes faculty member on a journey which illuminates the unseen contours of God as creator, designer, innovator. Each new discovery opens the door to a deeper understanding of the Maker.”*

*Rukshan Fernando, Ph.D.*

*BAS Associate Dean, Professor, Interim Head of University Libraries*

### Events/Workshops

**Cayuse SP Launch: ORG Open House**  
680 E. Alostia Ave., Suite 115

October 3, 2018: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Upcoming Sabbatical Luncheons**  
12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. | LAPC

September 26, 2018: Brian Lugioyo

October 9, 2018: Enrique Zone

October 17, 2018: Karen Winslow

November 29, 2018: Heekap Lee

**Fulbright Luncheon**

November 13, 2018: Catherine Heinlein

**Beverly H. Stanford Luncheon**

December 11, 2018: Paul Shrier

**Skill Development**

October 26, 2018: Finding Funding: PIVOT  
Advanced Search

**Common Day of Learning**

*What is Your Life's Blueprint.*

February 20, 2019

**Big Data Discovery Summit**

*Understanding the World Around Us*

*Through Big Data*

March 16, 2019

### Program Deadlines

**Jr. Faculty Mentoring Program**

October 10, 2018: Intent to Apply Due Date

October 26, 2018: Application Deadline

January 2019: Cohort to start

### Research Ethics Deadlines

**IRB (human subjects research)**

September 5, 2018: Full Board Review

Application deadline for September meeting

October 3, 2018: Full Board Review

Application deadline for October meeting

November 17 2018: Full Board Review

Application deadline for November meeting

November 28, 2018: Full Board Review

Application deadline for December meeting

**IACUC (animal research)**

September 12, 2018: Protocol or amendment

deadline for September meeting

October 10, 2018: Full Board Review

Application deadline for October meeting

November 14, 2018: Full Board Review

Application deadline for November meeting



**STEM Research Symposium**

September 29, 2018

9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Segerstrom Science Center

Inquiries and RSVP: [cris@apu.edu](mailto:cris@apu.edu)



(Hilltop Retreat article, continued)

... initiated by former APU School of Education faculty, Dr. Beverly Stanford, in 2002, and later carried forward by Director of Research, Dr. Carole Lambert. As noted on the ORG website, "Each summer, APU provides opportunities for 80-90 faculty (including senior adjuncts) to participate in three-day writers' retreats at the Serra Retreat Center, an idyllic retreat campus in the Malibu hills. There are two traditional and two special retreats. The special retreats are the Early Career Writers' Retreat and the Top Performers Writers' Retreat, for which retreatants are nominated by their deans. The Early Career Writers' Retreat involves matching each retreatant with a pre-designated faculty mentor."

Faculty mostly work alone on their scholarship, often in special locations such as in the Serra Room with an unfettered view of the Pacific Ocean. These solitary practices, however, are balanced by stimulating and productive cross-disciplinary conversations around meals. During a recent retreat lunch, one faculty had a significant conceptual breakthrough from an off-hand comment by a colleague in a completely different discipline. Another faculty overcame long-standing statistics obstacles during her interaction at a dinner. And, one group at a 2018 writers' retreat birthed the idea of a multi-disciplinary volume on the *Value of a Person* during their meal conversations.

Interestingly, those at one APU writers' retreat this summer had a firsthand 'imitation-is-the-best-form-of-flattery' moment. Upon arriving at the Serra Center, the APU group saw a former APU faculty colleague with a group of ten faculty from another Southern California CCCU school. It was quickly learned this former APU faculty had convinced her new institution of the value of sponsoring writers retreat at the Serra Center, identical to what she had experienced with APU in previous years! Kudos to provost, Mark Stanton, who is far ahead with continuing support for APU writers' retreats.

Looking to 2018-19, dates will be announced in fall 2018 for summer 2019 retreats. Invitations to apply will be made in early spring 2019. These announcements will come through the regular *ORG News* emails sent to all APU faculty, staff, and administrators. Be looking out for the announcements, and be sure to speak with colleagues who have attended if you have any questions!

## Graduate Student Publications New Handbook for Dissertations and Theses

The newly revised *APU Format and Style Handbook for Dissertations and Theses* (1<sup>st</sup> edition), was developed by the Office of Graduate Student Publication (GSP) and approved by the DSC and MSC in Spring 2018. It is posted at <https://den.apu.edu/forms/> and accessible to faculty, staff, and students. This handbook took effect August 1, 2018. The purpose in revising is to make processes for publishing dissertations/theses more transparent and easier to follow. It provides helpful format resources, thus speeds up the time of degree-posting. A summary of the main changes is as follows.

### Structural and Process Changes

- Combines the 2017 versions of master's and doctoral handbooks into **ONE**.
- Gives **THREE options** for dissertation/thesis committee approval.
- Separates publication on ProQuest (required) from bound copies**.
- Provides for all students to **upload PDF files to ProQuest themselves**.

### New Content

- A **review flowchart** allowing students to visually follow the process leading to publication.
- Sample format pages** with marked margins and spaces.
- A **submission checklist** that assists students in checking the format and style of their manuscript.
- A requirement for **keywords** under Abstract to promote prospect of others finding their publication.



### Resources and Workshops

- A **master template** and **title and signature pages** for most APU doctoral and thesis-writing will be posted along with the new handbook.
- Workshops** on the review process for publication, use of templates as well as uploading on ProQuest are available on request by programs and departments.
- A **list of and Guidelines for external readers** will be posted soon.
- Specific format resources** are under development.

Since Spring 2018, the changes have been tested and proven effective in helping students format their dissertations/theses. Additionally, eight workshops reached over 100 graduate students, preparing them to format manuscripts. The GSP office is eager to help graduate students and faculty, individually or in groups, to understand processes by which dissertations/theses are completed and published.

## Student Accomplishments

**Zachary Fuhr** (CLAS History and Political Science '17) had a paper published in the spring 2018 issue of *History Matters*, a national undergraduate history journal (<https://historymatters.appstate.edu/>). This result is a rare accomplishment for a history undergraduate student. Mr. Fuhr was working on a 2017 SURE award while being mentored by Ethan Schrum, PhD. Congratulations!

**Maya Maley** (CLAS Political Science/Honors Humanities) received a coveted AEI Values & Capitalism Young Scholar Awards for the 2018-2019 academic year. With a highly competitive applicant pool of top students from Christian colleges all over the country, Ms. Maley's research project was selected as one of six scholarly research projects. Congratulations!

**Heather Turner** (BAS Social Work) alongside faculty mentor Anupama Jacob, PhD, co-authored an article, 'Relocation To/Within A Retirement Community: Older Adults' Perceived Satisfaction With Transitioning,' accepted for publication in the *Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work*. This comes after Ms. Turner won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for her research poster at the national undergrad social work conference (BPD) in March 2018. Congratulations!

**Crystal Helt** (CLAS Modern Art History '17) is listed in July's top 25 master's theses based on frequency of access through ProQuest. The theses title is 'Cinema sisters: Laura Mulvey, Cindy Sherman, and the destruction of the male gaze.' Congratulations!