China’s Explosive Economy

HELP OR HARM?

Stuart C. Strother, professor of economics, analyzes the sudden growth of the Chinese economy and discusses its impact on the United States.
Regardless of the context, "Do you remember?" represents a door that opens to character formation, spiritual development, and transformational growth.

One of the most rewarding parts about being president is meeting with students, from near disaster. Sometimes, it’s a recollection of a moment of pain or loss or a season of walking down a darkened path with uncertain outcomes. Regardless of the context, "Do you remember?" represents a door that opens to character formation, spiritual development, and transformational growth.

Recently, I traveled to South Africa to see the more than 50 APU students who spent a semester studying and living in that remarkable country and culture. While there, I visited the service sites located in townships adjacent to the Pnietermaritzburg campus. My visit coincided with the last day of service at each of those sites. I watched with wonder as students said goodbye to children and adults who had become very important to them over the previous months. One such goodbye took place at the home of Nomvula, a Zulu grandmother or crèche rem ains a favorite service site for APU students. Last year’s team added a covered patio roof to the back of Nomvula’s home to provide shelter from sun and rain for the children. On the outside wall, they added the finishing touch by painting the words of 2 Corinthians 8:2. This sem ester, the eight students serving there had the good fortune to build meaningful relationships with one another. The moment of our departure struck me deeply. Of course, every APU student took pictures of the children, the small dirt-covered yard, and the surrounding neighborhood, but the last picture each student took was of Nomvula. Turn by turn, students handed their cameras to a friend and stood beside this small, very African grandmother, and with each one beam ing, they captured a moment for future remembrance. Watching closely, I was reminded that the Christ-centered mission of APU is best reflected in these kinds of transformational moments. This is where disciples and scholars are formed to be world changers and difference makers. Of course, the power of transformation is not limited to a township in South Africa. It extends through every classroom, residence hall, faculty encounter, roommate conversation, and unexpected discovery that becomes a part of the Azusa Pacific University experience.

In Paul’s epistle to the church in Philippi, he says to those who have come to mean so much to his ministry, “I thank my God every time I remember you” (Philippians 1:3). I fully expect that today or tomorrow or next week, someone will stop me on the sidewalk or call me on the phone and ask me if I remember when. I most certainly will, and in recalling that memory, we will thank our God for that remembrance and consider together how that moment continues to shape and form us as world changers and difference makers. And so, to each of you who support APU in this tremendous effort of Christian higher education, let me borrow from the Apostle Paul and say, “I thank my God every time I remember you.”
West Campus’ Cornerstone Tower illuminates the night. Its four pillars represent Azusa Pacific’s Four Cornerstones—Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service—with the one depicting Christ standing higher than the rest, reinforcing the university’s God First mission and purpose.
Reading Recommendations from Karen A. Longman

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (Vintage, 2010)

Keeping History Alive

Despite an uncertain economic climate and budget cuts to education, APUS’s Keeping History Alive (KHA) program and its partners – K-12 history and social science education by awarding grants to Los Angeles County teachers to enrich their students’ learning. This year alone, 190 teachers were awarded grants to teach history, social studies, and critical thinking skills to students in K-12 schools in Los Angeles County. These grants total $50,000 and are administered through the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LA COE). The grants support activities related to the local history of the Los Angeles area, including cultural events, art exhibits, and museum exhibitions. The program aims to promote a deeper understanding of local history among students and to encourage them to pursue further education in the field.

The program is funded through a grant from the Ahmanson Foundation, a Los Angeles-based private foundation that supports education and arts programs in the region. The grant is designed to provide financial support to APUS faculty and staff, as well as to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LA COE), to implement and expand the KHA program.

The program’s success is attributed to the collaboration of APUS and the LA COE, as well as the support of the Ahmanson Foundation. The grant has enabled APUS to expand its programming and reach more students in the Los Angeles area, while also providing valuable professional development opportunities for LA COE teachers. The KHA program has been successful in promoting the importance of history and social science education in the region and in fostering a deeper understanding of local history among students and teachers.

The program has also received positive feedback from educators, who have praised the KHA program for its innovative approach to teaching history and for its ability to engage students in meaningful and relevant learning experiences. The program’s success is attributed to the collaboration of APUS and the LA COE, as well as the support of the Ahmanson Foundation. The grant has enabled APUS to expand its programming and reach more students in the Los Angeles area, while also providing valuable professional development opportunities for LA COE teachers. The KHA program has been successful in promoting the importance of history and social science education in the region and in fostering a deeper understanding of local history among students and teachers.
A zusa Pacific U niversity

CLUES ABOUT AUTISM CAUSALITY

More children are diagnosed with autism each year than juvenile diabetes, AIDS, and leukemia combined. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism now affects 1 in 88 American children, prompting researchers to scramble for answers. Hoping to provide a significant piece to this complex puzzle, Loren Martin, Ph.D., APU professor and director of research for the Department of Psychological Studies, published the results of his groundbreaking study collected over the past 10 years. Using the Exchange database utilizing information from more than 300 sibling pairs diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Martin’s study also confirms previous research for the study involved several ingredients like real butter, flour, milk, sugar, yeast, and eggs. The bakery also includes a small diné-in café and baked goods store.

God First mission, Dr. Martin is making significant advances in the field of autism research, said Robert Wells, Ph.D., dean of the School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences. “His exemplary research is his Christian vocation. Dr. Martin’s high-quality work bolsters the reputation of the university and has the potential to impact the lives of those with autism.”

Martin first became interested in the biological underpinnings of autism when, as an undergraduate student at Olivet Nazarene University, he provided behavioral therapy to a child with autism. At the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where he earned his Ph.D., he studied the role of cerebellar neuropathology in autism. Martin completed postdoctoral work at the MIND (Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders) Institute at the University of California, Davis. He joined the faculty at APU in 2006.

In a new study, the researchers examined how birth order affected the risk of autism in siblings of children with autism. The results were published in the November 30, 2012, issue of PLoS ONE.

By the Numbers

21: The number of research assistants working with Stuart Strother, Ph.D., professor of public administration, on a federal level grants and qualitative research project on America’s current economy, forecasting future prospects and strategizing for citywide economic improvement. A $16,530 Canyon City Foundation grant funds the project.

741: The number of eighth graders from all three APU Unified School District middle schools who participated in the Eighth Grade Majors Fair, an event developed by APU and held on March 14. Citrus College and California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, also provided activities at the fair to showcase possible pathways, college admissions, and scholarship opportunities, and excite middle school students about college.

46,000: Equipment budget to transform a classroom into a film/video editing lab. Funding was supplied by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, several of its departments, Information and Media Technology, and an anonymous donor. The funds equip the smart classroom with the latest Avid, Apple, and Adobe software for use with a teaching console, 19 monitor editing bays, and 2 laptop stations. Students enrolled in film/video production courses will use the room for classes, labs, and homework assignments.

Chambers of Commerce across the country are innovative choices for the local consumer.”

“M artin's study, representing the first large-scale study of the role of birth order effects on autism to date, involved more than 300 sibling pairs diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), involved APU faculty members have helped art and design students develop exceptional skill to apply in a real-world environment like Evolve.”

Just a few blocks east on West Foothill Boulevard is APU's Madera Café and Bakery supplies the campus and community with fresh baked goods from its new location. Students, workers under the guidance of professional bakers Blake Bruce and Deann Gotto, make bread, muffins, bars, scones, rolls, and cookies from scratch. “We don’t take short-cuts by using cheap ingredients or preservatives,” said Bruce. “Our simple recipes use great staple ingredients like real butter, flour, milk, sugar, yeast, and eggs. The bakery also includes a small diné-in café and baked goods store. By offering quality services to the public as well as APU, these business endeavors generate new and positive revenue for the university.”

The bakery and Evolve respect exciting university-to-business opportunities and service venues to the APU Glendora communities now can experience what the APU community has enjoyed for many years: creative, professional graphic design services and wholesome gourmet baking.

Music, Theater, and Art

Counter at the Seven Last Words of Christ event The School of Music; Department of Theater, Film, and Television; and Department of Art and Design joined forces on March 21 for The Seven Last Words of Christ event, an evening of music, theater, and art united in celebrating Christ’s death and resurrection. This collaboration encouraged people to think about how they should respond to Christ’s powerful final words. In order to honor that important call and facilitate an atmosphere conducive to deep contemplation, the performances were accompanied by piano music to meet the highest level of excellence,” said William Catling, MFA, professor and chairman of the Department of Art and Design.

A purposed interaction of faith and academic excellence, this fusion of artistic forms invited faculty, staff, students, and off-campus guests to experience Christ in new ways. “This high-quality collaboration among scholars and students centered our thoughts around Christ during the Easter season,” said Donald Neufeld, dean of the School of Music.

APU 2013 Graduate Narges Horriat ’11 received $98,000 in a grant in the department’s recent history, $100,000 goes toward upgraded facilities, while $80,000 goes to faculty and staff stipends.

50: The anniversary of Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time, celebrated by an exhibit, “Madeleine L'Engle and the Chrysonom Society,” supported by APU and the Nina Anna University Library Special Collections. In the tradition of John Wesley's Holy Club, which explored creative ways to express faith in learning communities, L'Engle helped charter the Chrysonom Society, named after an ancient Greek preacher. APU recently began collecting the works of the society, whose collaborative writing efforts mirror those of C.S. Lewis and the Inklings. This free public exhibit runs through May 20, 2013, in the Darling Library.
Turning East: Contemporary Philosophers and the Ancient Christian Faith (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2012) edited by Rico Vitz, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Theology and Philosophy

Pinsky served as the United States Poet Laureate, the nation’s official poet, for an unprecedented three terms (1997–2000), becoming one of America’s most beloved poets and raising national appreciation of poetry. In 1997, he received the David Awards Project, an initiative inviting hundreds of Americans from varying ages and backgrounds to share their favorite poems, and reinforcing the value of poetry in American culture. “The art of poetry uses something people use every day, even in their solitude for thought and understanding; words,” said Pinsky. “Poetry gives tremendous pleasure; it ranges a physical sensation of saying something that feels right.”

Pinsky’s poems explore new territories of language usage and employ moving, energetic rhythms. His poetry collection The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Essays 1969–2000, received numerous awards and a Pulitzer Prize nomination. “Pinsky’s poetry masterfully experiments with the rhythms and common, juxtaposing unusual words to create unique sounds,” said Eaton. “The poetry poetry reading and student poetry readings hosted by APU’s English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, exemplify poetry’s importance on campus as an outlet of artistic expression that promotes literary excellence and awareness of the surrounding world. “Poetry shows that language is more than just words, but an art form that calls us to pay close attention to the world,” said Eaton. “It also helps students understand the magnificent beauty and power of language, one of the great gifts God gave us to describe the world around us and communicate essential truths about the human experience.”

Scholarship at Work

Stay Up! Los Angeles Street Art

Barbara Streisand’s Back to Brooklyn Tour Shows

Handbook of Asian American Health (Springer, 2012) edited by Richard Y. Lee, Ph.D., professor, Department of Psychology; with lead editors Grace I. Yoo, Ph.D., MPH, and Mai-Nhung Le, DPH, MPH.

This book describes the unique health trends of Asian Americans, the fastest-growing ethnic minority in the nation. While past studies have discussed the Asian American community as a whole, this groundbreaking volume begins to light the distinct health concerns of the different Asian American subgroups. Compiling the efforts of more than 60 authors, it alerts readers to the unique health needs of some of our most common and diverse Asian American cultures, allowing Asian Americans and health professionals to make important preventive health choices in advance.

Relational Theology: A Contemporary Introduction (Wipf and Stock Publishers, Point Loma Press, 2012) edited by Karen Strand Window, Ph.D., professor, Graduate School of Theology; Brint Montgomery, Ph.D.; and Thomas Jay Oord, Ph.D.

Relational theology emphasizes the relationships between God and humanity, as well as relationships among people inside and outside the Church. The authors come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but agree that God actively relates to people. Although God’s loving nature never changes, human work and background makes a difference to God. The book, useful discussion in churches and other group contexts, focuses on theological themes pertinent to current culture. Chapters discuss Christian ethics, biblical narratives that illustrate how obedience to God’s ways influence the outcomes of their stories, and Jesus Christ as the best example of God’s relational love. Window and T. Scott Dunham, Ph.D., dean of the School of Theology and Philosophy, wrote the chapter “Relational Theology”.

Spring 2013

CAMPUS CLOSE UP

CAMPUS CLOSE UP
It began with a fall—well, several falls actually. My mother, an active senior citizen gardening. She suffered a fall, suffered a fall, suffered a fall. My retirement community in the Chicago area, fell while gardening. She suffered a subdural bleed that required holes burred into her skull to relieve the pressure. Though identified as a fall-risk patient, she fell an additional five times while in the hospital. The next bur hole procedure nicked her brain and rendered her unstable on her left side. That's when we moved my mom to California and began the journey of caring for an aging parent.

The seven-session program starts with an examination of the biblical perspective of families and marriages and an exploration of our feelings about these relationships. As we discuss what it means to honor our mother and father, we find various interpretations that can lead to conflict. This session shows us what God intended for these relationships and sets the foundation for the rest of the process. Session two helps families identify red flags that indicate areas of need and concern. Checklists regarding hygiene, housekeeping, and physical and mental abilities clarify these areas for the whole family as well as health care providers. We also talk about what level of care is good enough, when it is appropriate to say no, and when and how to set healthy boundaries. Session three focuses on goal setting, problem solving, and good communication strategies. In session four, the decision-making process begins. Everyone wants to do the right thing, but what is the right thing? No single solution fits every family. We assist with identifying key issues, the competent parent’s wishes, and strategies for avoiding conflict, including how to hold and moderate a family meeting. Session five offers a basic education about health care resources and agencies, how to evaluate and select a facility, how to work with hospitals, and how to handle transitions. We also cover important end-of-life issues such as wills, trusts, and advanced directives, urging families to have these discussions before they are needed. Session six explores spiritual issues and focuses as much on the caregiver as on the aging parent. The final session culminates with a debriefing and the formulation of individual plans of action for each family member.

These workshops, piloted several times in local churches, allow participants to build faith, hope, acceptance, and the foundations of resilience and successful coping. But they represent only a fraction of the solution that ultimately requires expertise from multiple fields to fully address the myriad challenges. Several APU faculty members formed an interdisciplinary group to support and facilitate research on aging and the support of family caregivers. Leading the group, Adria Navarro, Ph.D., a gerontologist at the Department of Social Work, researches health and aging, and examines Church-based programs and services that improve the quality of life for vulnerable older adults. Julia Puetzer, MN, RN, director of APU’s Neighborhood Wellness Center (NWC), conducts research on living with the losses and gains of aging. Along with APU’s senior Community Health Nursing students, she also works with the Anna Senior Center and NWC, offering Anna seniors free drop-in and ask-a-nurse services, including screenings and risk assessments, health and wellness education, and counseling regarding disease management and medication compliance. Navarro and her social work colleague Barbara Johnson, MSW, NCCW, presented two workshops sponsored by APU’s Office of Human Resources that assist APU faculty and staff who care for aging parents, and other members of the group presented their research at Common Day of Learning on March 6, 2013.

Statistics clearly show that this research and its applications in community- and Church-based programs will soon become a top national priority. According to the President’s Council on Bioethics, “We are entering an unprecedented phase of our history—indeed, of human history—featuring a new age structure of society, longer and more vigorous old age for millions, new modes of declining and dying, and a likely shortage of available caregivers.” Whether triggered by a fall like my mom’s or by other physical or mental concerns, this inevitable life stage calls for more than love and good intentions. People need information and practical resources. I hope that my research, workshops, and pending workbook will serve as a complement to the efforts of my colleagues in the Church and academia as we seek ways for families and their elderly loved ones to journey through the aging process together with confidence and dignity.

Brian Z. Eck, Ph.D., is chair emeritus and professor in the Department of Psychology back@apu.edu

Aging America

As of January 1, 2011, 10,000 people turn 65 each day. The trend will continue for the next 20 years. Alliance for Aging Research

- Double by 2040
- 60 percent
- 83 percent
- 16 billion hours
- By age 65, 8 percent of the population develops Alzheimer’s disease; 60 percent have it by age 85. Alzheimer’s Association

10,000 people

The population over age 65 will double by 2040, and those over 80 will quadruple. Alliance for Aging Research

60 percent

By age 65, 8 percent of the population develops Alzheimer’s disease; 60 percent have it by age 85. Alzheimer’s Association

Triple by 2040

The number of persons living with Alzheimer’s dementia is estimated to triple by 2040. National Care Planning Council

83 percent

Families or other private resources pay for 83 percent of elder care; 73 percent of all care takes place in the home. National Care Planning Council

19 hours

Approximately 20 percent of U.S. residents provide an average of 19 hours per week caring for adults aged 50 or higher. If paid, these services would exceed all current Medicaid expenditures. National Alliance for Care Giving

1.6 billion hours

In 2010, families providing Alzheimer’s and dementia care in California provided 1.6 billion hours of unpaid care at a value of $19.8 billion and paid an additional $7.9 billion in health care costs for themselves. More than 60 percent report high levels of stress, and more than a third report symptoms of depression. Alzheimer’s Association

Overwhelming numbers of family caregivers report that their caregiving activities negatively impact their work lives, requiring them to take time off, take a leave of absence, go from full- to part-time employment, take a less-demanding job, turn down a promotion, give up working entirely, or perform less efficiently and face possible dismissal.
By Stuart C. Strother

China’s Explosive Economy
HELP or HARM?

As the Boeing 737 descends toward the Chengdu airport, behind me sit two elderly Chinese farmers with their toddler grandson. Intimidated by the flight attendant who firmly scolded them to sit down and fasten their seatbelts for the landing, the couple spread out newspapers and allow their grandson to relieve himself right on the floor of the plane.

This crude story illustrates China’s economic miracle of quickly pulling millions of her citizens from abject poverty into the ranks of the global middle class. My fellow travelers, these farmers, probably never had the means to purchase airline tickets before, but have recently experienced what the Chinese call a wealth “explosion.” Most likely, a son or daughter moved to a major city, struck it rich in business, and can now purchase formerly out-of-reach luxuries such as airline tickets.

Just how fast is China’s economy growing? The U.S. economy typically grows by just 2–3 percent annually, but in recent years, the Chinese economy has grown by about 10 percent each year. When I first visited China in 1993, it didn’t matter how much money I had in my pockets; there was nothing to buy. In 2000, when I lived in Shanghai on a two-year teaching stint, everyone still rode bicycles. These days, store shelves are packed, the roads overflow with private cars, and the shiny new subway systems extend their tentacles across the city map. What caused this explosive growth?

CHINA’S RISE AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Part of the impressive growth stems from the simple math of starting near zero. The implementation of communism in the 1950s and 1960s nationalized productive industries, collectivized agriculture, closed foreign firms, and ostracized China’s most educated citizens, especially the entrepreneur class. Many fled the country. My friend Leah’s family ran a bakery in Zhejiang at the time. Mao’s Red Guards closed the business and forced the family to work on farm collectives. Mao Zedong did well to establish what many call “New China,” but his economic policies, especially the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, resulted in deindustrialization, famine, and the ruin of the economy. Apparently, the tasty cakes at Leah’s bakery were too great a threat to communist rule.

“Poverty is not socialism; to be rich is glorious,” explained China’s new leader as he broke from Mao’s policies and enacted widespread reforms that transformed China’s economy from a dysfunctional totalitarian state to what is today mostly a market economy. Premier Deng Xiaoping’s Open Door policies attracted the return of foreign investment, and the Deep Reforms modernized and deregulated much of the economy. Today, with the exception of security, defense, and media, nearly every sector of the economy is market-based.

In the 1980s, foreign firms such as General Electric, General Motors (GM), and Volkswagen renewed their China operations, opening factories in the new Special Economic Zones that offered tax breaks and other incentives. Foreign firms engaged the Chinese economy for two key reasons: sourcing or selling. In the 1980s, Chinese labor was very cheap, so foreign firms opened factories in China to cut manufacturing costs. The consumer market, albeit large, was poor in the 1980s, but in recent years, consumer spending is on the rise. Many foreign firms from Pringles to Panerai, from McDonald’s to Maserati, derive a significant amount of their income from their China operations.

Most foreign firms entered into mutually beneficial joint ventures with local companies, and while the foreign firms were able to expand their businesses, the local firms acquired foreign technology, allowing the Chinese economy to advance up the value chain. Factories specializing in laptops and Cadillacs are replacing those that once made paper clips and underwears.

Workers’ wages and consumer purchasing power have significantly grown since the beginning of reforms. Today, China’s 1.3 billion consumers make up one-seventh of the world’s population. About half are in cities and the rest in the countryside. Aggregate national statistics, such as average per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of just $5,434, make China appear as a poor, developing nation, but the wealthiest 300 million urban consumers comprise a consumer market equal in size to the entire U.S. population with similar discretionary income.

CULTURAL FACT:
In Eastern cultures, the Dragon symbolizes power, strength, and good luck. The Snake represents prosperity, encouraging new ventures and connecting with new friends. This illustration combines the symbolism of both.
The table below compares the Chinese and U.S. economies. China boasts the second-largest national economy after the U.S. and just ahead of Japan. At the current growth rates, China’s economy can equal that of the U.S. by 2021. Today, 54 of every 100 yuan spent in China goes into investment rather than consumption. The Chinese people and their leaders understand that growing tomorrow’s economy requires forging consumption today and investing in the future instead. Just as in the U.S., the Chinese national government uses borrowed funds to cover some expenditures. Unlike the U.S., however, the Chinese government stockpiles foreign exchange, putting the government in a relatively strong position for future growth, especially as compared to the U.S.

China is often portrayed as a predator exporting cheap goods and refusing to pay for its $2.5 trillion trade surplus. For example, in exchange for access to China’s markets, GM transferred 100 years’ worth of automotive technology to China in 3 short years. Now GM’s joint venture partner, Shanghai Automotive Industrial Group, manufactures equivalent cars right across the street from GM’s Shanghai plant.

The Chinese people and their leaders understand that growing tomorrow’s economy requires forging consumption today and investing in the future instead.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CHINA</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POPULATION</td>
<td>1,343,329,823</td>
<td>313,847,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT</td>
<td>$7.3 trillion</td>
<td>$15.1 trillion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP growth rate</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchasing power</td>
<td>$28,500</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP per capita</td>
<td>$5,421</td>
<td>$12,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment as share of GDP</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN EXCHANGE</td>
<td>$2.3 trillion</td>
<td>$14.6 trillion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC DEBT</td>
<td>$2.3 trillion</td>
<td>$14.6 trillion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLATION</td>
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<td>EXPORTS</td>
<td>$2.1 trillion</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPORTS</td>
<td>$1.7 trillion</td>
<td>$2.3 trillion</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

From the perspective of business and economics, China’s prosperity is a good thing. The world economic pie is not fixed. That is, when China grows, it may take a larger slice of the pie, but the entire pie also grows, and all of us end up with more pie. If China has its way, however, it might be red bean pie and green tea instead of apple pie and coffee.

Over the past eight years, I’ve had the privilege of leading 19 APU study abroad trips to China. Our 229 students have studied at Zhejiang University, visited factories and offices, and toured historic sites across the country. We have witnessed the growth of the economy, and even the transition from a backward agricultural land to a sophisticated modern city. The dark days of totalitarian rule are clearly over, and the people we meet exude an extreme optimism rarely seen elsewhere. As foreign friends, we should celebrate China’s progress, assist her in her development, and embrace her people, including the nouveaux riche farmers learning to navigate the ins and outs of air travel.

Stuart C. Strother, Ph.D., is a professor of business and economics in APU’s School of Business and Economics. He is the author of the recent book China: Doing Business in the Middle Kingdom (Business Expert Press, 2012) and Living Abroad in China, which is in its third edition (dunleavy Travel Publications, 2013). strother@apu.edu
I can’t remember when the subject of God infused the films recognized at the Oscars like it did this year. It testifies to the power of story to shape and set the wet concrete of cultural imagination. To use a phrase from last year’s Oscar-nominated Moneyball, the medium holds a unique ability to “change the game” in ways few others can. God has always been a part of humanity’s best stories—if not their writer, director, and lead or best-supporting actor.

The depictions of God’s character conveyed in Oscar-winning movies like Les Misérables and Life of Pi provoke meaningful reflection and insight into how we think about, imagine, and interact with our ideas about God and faith. These films arrive at a crucial time in our cultural conversation. While we are reconsidering and reimagining the role religion should play in the multicultural theater of American life, art is helping to lead the way.

Les Misérables, adapted from Victor Hugo’s book of the same name, stands out as the year’s most overtly theologically centered film. Despite the number of explicit Christian themes presented throughout the film, it still drew millions to the box office. The score contains multiple references to God, heaven, Jesus, and the soul; an entire song (“Bring Him Home”) devoted to prayer; and several explicit illustrations by Jessica Esparza conveyed in Oscar-winning movies like Les Misérables and Life of Pi, adapted from Victor Hugo’s 1861 novel, seems a simpler story: Yet, when considered as a multicultural pursuit of a proven western theology, the arts allow us to reimagine the religiously Universalist “coexist” movement. Certainly, Pī momentarily embraces aspects of Hinduism, Islam, and either atheism or agnosticism of his pragmatic father. Yet Pī’s expectation faith in God and his individual reasoning mind—working together—to deliver or save him from tragedy. The movie does not champion one religious worldview over another, and Pī is not caught inside the maze of doctrinal traps; he is a man of the world, Pī finds God despite his naïveté and helpless when considering the mind and character of our Creator. Both of these Academy Award-winning movies provide a glimpse into the Divine revealed in and through human life. Valjean and Pī force us to look into our preconceived notions about God and ask: “What does our characterization of God reveal about ourselves?” “What do we expect of our religious life?” and “How should we respond to the possibilities created by a loving God who permeates our world?” These films also remind us that a loving God looks on only the prodigal’s heart and willingly forgives naïve and misguided theological constructs. Finally, where our ideas and beliefs may fail and lead us astray, the arts allow us to reimagine what is possible, beneficial, and beautiful once again.

Gary Black Jr., Ph.D., is chair of the Graduate School of Theology’s Department of Advanced Studies and director of the Doctor of Ministry program. gblack@apu.edu

The entire film celebrates this promise: If we seek God with our whole heart, we will find Him.

by Gary Black Jr. 
illustrations by Jessica Esparza
Evokephotography.com

She has carved out for students to assist in her research,” Stanton said. “It serves as a reminder of the outstanding work our Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D., made a point to stop by the office of Rachel Castaneda, Ph.D., M.P.H. “I’m impressed by the space last year alone hired more than 90 faculty members like Castaneda. The vast majority boast terminal degrees, and all bring the impressive academic and industry credentials that have become standard on the APU campus. Castaneda; Terry Dobson, M.F.A.; Bin Tang, Ph.D.; and Tom Cairns, D.B.A., exemplify a growing cohort of industry leaders and world-class researchers who recognize that the Christian academy, and APU specifically, offer an unparalleled opportunity for the advancement of that discipline. The resulting synergy affects faculty and students alike, and means that APU graduates emerge ready to live their faith while tackling some of the world’s toughest problems.

Rachel Castaneda, Ph.D., M.P.H.
For Castaneda, assistant professor of psychology, research at APU represents a personal crusade. Her research grew from her family’s pain. “My father came out of addiction when he was saved. As a result, I vowed to better equip communities to fight the poison of addiction.”

During her undergraduate work with UCLA’s prominent Medication Development Research Unit, she studied veterans’ mental health and co-occurring drug abuse. After shifting from research to practice, she discovered systemic flaws in substance abuse treatment. “We treated addiction like an acute illness needing short-term treatment. Substance abuse doesn’t have a quick fix. After the four-month program, users would ask, ‘Where do I go now?’ My heart knew, ‘you need God’ but I couldn’t say it.”

Resolving to fix the broken system, Castaneda pursued a master’s degree in public health. Then, during her doctoral work, she received the phone call that changed her focus to youth: at only 17, her brother had overdosed on drugs. “He needed God, but didn’t want to hear it. I had to try.”

She took her brother in and began to manage his treatment. Over several years, he turned away from his addiction. “I prayed over him constantly. I’d test him Scriptures or questions about his values and career goals.” Eventually, he entered college and transferred to UCLA. Today, he teaches elementary math and science in an inner-city community, and is working toward a doctorate in higher education.

“When I asked what made the difference in his recovery, he said, ‘It was the continued support you gave me asking about God and my purpose in life, and your encouraging text messages.’” This insight drove Castaneda to apply for a grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse to develop programs that focused on continuing care, incorporating mobile texts to support youth and substance abusers after treatment.

Since 2008, APU has added 72 full-time faculty positions.

APU added 90 faculty members in 2011.

Among full-time teaching faculty, 80% hold a doctorate, professional, or terminal degree.

By Caitlin Gibson

Provost Mark Stanton, Ph.D., made a point to stop by the office of Rachel Castaneda, Ph.D., M.P.H. “I’m impressed by the space she has carved out for students to assist in her research,” Stanton said. “It serves as a reminder of the outstanding work our faculty members do on a daily basis.”

Over the last four years, Azusa Pacific has added 72 full-time faculty positions, and last year alone hired more than 90 faculty members like Castaneda. The vast majority boast terminal degrees, and all bring the impressive academic and industry credentials that have become standard on the APU campus. Castaneda; Terry Dobson, M.F.A.; Bin Tang, Ph.D.; and Tom Cairns, D.B.A., exemplify a growing cohort of industry leaders and world-class researchers who recognize that the Christian academy, and APU specifically, offer an unparalleled opportunity for the advancement of that discipline. The resulting synergy affects faculty and students alike, and means that APU graduates emerge ready to live their faith while tackling some of the world’s toughest problems.

However, Castaneda knew ultimate success required God. “I was prevented from integrating faith into my work at UCLA, which constantly frustrated me.” A colleague suggested a faith-based institution, and when the grant transferred, she knew God wanted her at Azusa Pacific. “APU’s academic setting allows me to explore treatment elements that the secular academy overlooks. Here, I can empirically investigate faith-based models that inform practice.”

This integrated approach transfers to the classroom. “We analyze theory-based models through the lens of Scripture. Often, students find that theories alone ignore personal values and address life on a superficial level. The Bible offers a roadmap for loving someone in treatment. A Christian perspective provides more ethical treatment, a more effective program, and the hope of everlasting life.”

According to Stanton, this integration of faith and discipline and a student development focus play crucial roles. “Our vision for academics calls for a cogent understanding of faith integration and spiritual formation and the continued improvement of student learning. The commitment that Rachel has brought to her role exemplifies this vision.”

Terry Dobson, M.F.A

Dobson, assistant professor of art and design, views his move to APU as the logical next step in his growth as an artist and servant leader. Two decades at the Walt Disney Company took him from graphic designer to creative director. Throughout his career, Dobson focused on storytelling and socially interactive play. “My niche was conceiving new kinds of Disney theme park attractions, where I could craft an authentic narrative around genuine experiences to help families create lasting memories.”

He led the creative teams that designed two Innovations pavilions—which allowed Disney guests to interactively play with near-future technologies—and based on those project successes, next told the stories of countries around the world through the Millennium Village pavilion at Disney’s Epcot Center. After the project won a T.H.E.A Award, the themed entertainment industry’s equivalent of an Academy Award, Dobson spearheaded the Virtual Magic Kingdom, Disney’s first massive multiplayer online theme park. “I harnessed this medium’s power to influence trends for good purposes, by revealing the magic of the science behind Disney’s theme park rides to inspire the next generation of young scientists, engineers, and mathematicians.”

After 20 years with Disney, Dobson felt pulled toward something greater. “It was difficult to talk about faith in that environment.” The moment he stepped onto the APU campus, he knew he had found his calling. “The quality of the faculty artists impressed me, as did the students they produce: solid, mature, creative young people who speak eloquently about their work. At APU, I’m challenged to be a leader and role model. Here, it’s about educating the whole student. I’m carried by their passion for learning.”

“Terry exemplifies the kind of mentor-scholars we seek as part of APU’s Shared Vision 2022,” said Stanton. “They combine outstanding industry experience and connections with a heart for growing students as Christ followers, scholars, and practitioners.”

As a result of Dobson’s background, his design students receive a unique opportunity: their senior project calls for them to design Christian theme park attractions, the results of which are critiqued in class by a senior executive from the...
“Every scholar exists in community, building on the work of others. It gives a sense of the difference they can make. It’s not esoteric, or research for research’s sake—the results of which may make a tangible difference in people’s lives.”

Mark Stanton, Ph.D.

Walt Disney Company: “This provides an opportunity to impress a Disney executive and perhaps make connections for internships or interviews. But just as important, students learn about making mission their life. They aren’t just designers or artists; they’re storytellers who can combine their faith with their creativity. Designers as original content— that’s how they’ll make a real difference.”

“...to address ‘Big Science’ problems, we boil them down to a set of well-formulated, fundamental problems derived from real-world applications, they will be inspired to think more deeply and tackle them from angles that have never been studied before.”

Stanton agreed: “Every scholar exists in community, building on the work of others. This is applied, real-life research—where no pastor can reach—YOU are the missionary.”

A recent National Science Foundation grant has allowed Stanton to take his research and APU student involvement to the next level. He now works with five computer science students to tackle new sensor network problems and publishes the results.

"When sensors operate in harsh environments such as oceans, volcanoes, or glaciers, preserving the large amount of data they generate while taking into account storage is a fundamental problem that needs solving. "We want an academically rigorous program that supports students and emphasizes both science and spiritual beliefs. Our culture imparts the same values to faith and each other, so from a strategic standpoint, the government went through an acquisition." When his government role came to a close, he closed to apply all his being to the subject of organizational leadership. "Our values have a dramatic impact on our character and leaders," Stanton explained. "In a similar environment, I could be up to the edge, but at APU I can jump off into what really helped me be effective as a leader." "APU’s Shared Vision 2022 focuses on academic reputation, but Stanton emphasizes that this focus, and Stanton asserts, offers life-changing perspective to the students involved. "It gives a sense of the difference they can make. It’s not esoteric, or research for research’s sake. This is applied, real-life research—the results of which may make a tangible difference in people’s lives.”

Mark Stanton, Ph.D.

Tom Cairns, DBA

Cairns, associate professor of business and management, considers his move to APU as part of a progression of increasingly meaningful career roles. After leaving the military, he worked his way up the ladder in various human resource roles for NBC, managing culture change and human resources as the company bought television stations and other business units. Eventually, he managed the human side of NBC’s acquisition of Universal Studios. "I learned that though people are different, their issues remain the same. Everybody wants to engage in something meaningful." After 11 years as the senior vice president of human resources for NBC Universal, he took early retirement and then went off to get the G. Nothing gets your attention quite like the question, ‘Will you serve at the pleasure of the President of the United States of America?’ "said Cairns. "My work in entertainment was important, but this was an opportunity to serve my country." As chief human capital officer under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama from 2008–09, Cairns oversaw human resource management and training for the Department of Homeland Security’s 200,000 employees. "I was involved in significant group processes there. We transitioned from one administration to another, so from a strategic standpoint, the government went through an acquisition." When his government role came to a close, he closed to apply all his being to the subject of organizational leadership. "Our values have a dramatic impact on our character and leaders," Stanton explained. "In a similar environment, I could be up to the edge, but at APU I can jump off into what really helped me be effective as a leader." Cairns enjoys weaving faith into the graduate classes he teaches online and on campus. "Students must understand that faith isn’t a separate component of their being, but rather it’s a fundamental part of their character as a leader." His most popular assignment, a faith integration journal, frequently triggers important discussions about how God’s unconditional love translates into a business setting. Moreover, Cairns emphasizes that faith makes his students more than just businesspeople. "Believers exist across a large variety of industries. Businesspeople go into areas where no pastor can reach—you are the missionaries!" APU’s Shared Vision 2022 focuses on academic reputation, but Stanton emphasizes that reputation must reflect quality. "Our continued ability to attract outstanding faculty who have secured recognition for their expertise affirms the quality of faculty who already exist on campus," he explained. “Our commitments to Christ and scholarship allow faculty to integrate faith into their discipline. Rather than detracting from their commitment to their discipline, it adds to it. APU represents an opportunity for our faculty to be congruent, to live out who they are." Glynis Caple-Wit ’15 is a freelance writer, marketing consultant, and research expert in Revelo, California. aepacalwn@gmail.com

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Departments and procedures, a compliance manual, an annual report, and an
years of eligibility. The Cougars put a 20-year streak of 20-win seasons on the line
and regulations. In July 2013, the NCAA will notify Azusa Pacific regarding its
in all but one of their contests, a nonconference rivalry game against Biola. The
Cougars won each of their major firsts of NCAA competition: the season opener in
Azusa Pacific helped launch acrobatics and tumbling as an
addition of three new schools to the National Collegiate Acrobatics
program to consecutive national tournament appearances for the second time in
youth workers and parents can help kids see the negative consequences of
viewing pornography. Begin with defining pornography as fantasy.
Pornography offers a tool for going beyond reality, and once used, becomes
difficult to live without. As sexual addiction among youth increases, it
becomes a strong obsessive compulsion similar to the intensity of alcohol,
drug, and gambling addiction. Sexual addiction breaks families apart, causes people to view the opposite sex as
objects, and turns the moral fiber of good people. We must sound the alarm
with our kids about pornography, clearly communicating the dangers of pornography to encouraging
them to set clear boundaries at home

the w orld, kids cannot avoid
related to computer use (such as not
their bedroom s).

them to set clear boundaries at hom e

In today’s world, kids cannot avoid
related to computer use (such as not
their bedroom s).

American University’s Barnabas Center for Youth and Family with Jim Burns ’75, Ph.D.,
provide biblically based resources for parents
and youth to help build healthy families.

Azusa Pacific University

SPRING 2013

25
Principled Leadership

by Evelyn Barge

On any given school day, students quickly spot Rosalinda Keeler ’03, M.A. ’05, along the walkways between buildings at Valleydale Elementary. They dash toward her to offer greetings and hugs, spouting details of classroom activities and home life. They play out as Victoria Velasquez ’89, M.A. ’09, strides across the breezeway with a classroom of kindergarteners in tow.

Betwixt the two, Keeler and Velasquez serve more than 1,000 kindergarten through fifth-grade students in the Azusa Unified School District (AUSD). While Keeler and Velasquez have risen through the ranks of leadership locally, their reach represents just a sliver of the influence Azusa Pacific’s School of Education graduates impart in their schools, districts, and educational settings across Southern California and nationwide.

In the past two years alone, more than 200 school districts across California have contracted to place APU teachers-in-training. "Accreditation and credentialing reports testify to the fact that our graduates love their jobs and perform well in them," said Anita Fitzgerald Henck, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education.

"What’s more, most of our students are the first in their family to earn a graduate degree. The transformative nature of an APU education spreads, first through graduates’ own families and neighborhoods, and then out into the schools and teaching communities where they are making a lasting impression on young scholars."

An emerging demand for well-trained educators means that APU graduates face an even more fertile job market in the near future. While the education field—and public schools in particular—have endured the weight of economic turmoil, change is on the horizon.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Education released a report outlining the dire need for quality teacher education programs to recruit and equip the next generation of educators. In that report, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan noted that 1.6 million teachers are expected to retire over the coming decade, posing the significant challenge of increasing the number of newcomers to the field while improving educational quality and preventing gaps in service to students across the nation.

Equal to the task, the School of Education emphasizes preparing educators—not just traditional classroom teachers—and its academic programs reflect the depth and breadth of the field itself. "Time and time again, superintendents and principals tell me that when they see the résumé of a graduate from APU’s School of Education, they know they will be meeting a highly prepared, caring professional that will be an asset to their school and district," said Henck.

That reputation represents years of dedication and hard work and dedication for Keeler and Velasquez, now the highest administrators within each of their Azusa elementary schools. Both earned undergraduate degrees at APU before returning to earn master’s degrees and, for Velasquez, also teaching and administrative credentials.

"The teaching community in Azusa is so dedicated, and there’s a real desire to give back," said Velasquez, a 23-year AUSD veteran. "Many of the teachers on staff are themselves products of local Azusa schools and Azusa Pacific University."

During her years as an APU student, Keeler became, if not always a familiar face, a very familiar voice around the APU campus as a switchboard operator. She recalled many late nights spent studying in her office, the only quiet place she could claim while simultaneously working toward a degree and raising a family.

"Every child deserves that," said Keeler. "It’s about the kids, always, because we change our communities from the inside out."
COURIER INTERVIEW—GLORIA MORROW, M.A., ’83, PH.D.

APU LIFE: How did your APU graduate student experience pave the way for your career?

Morrow: APU showed me how to integrate the spiritual with the secular in psychology. Some people think psychology is a secular subject, but at APU I found that I could be transparent about my faith and do the work God was calling me to do, both with people who identified as spiritual and those who did not.

APU LIFE: How does your faith play a role in your profession?

Morrow: My faith informs my work. I believe that our God is inclusive and loves and values all of us, regardless of who we are or where we come from. I integrate principles like this into my profession at every level. I help my clients get rid of things that hinder them from being all that God wants them to be, so they can be successful in their life and faith. My favorite verse is 2 Corinthians 2:15, “For we are a fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.” We must be the fragrance of Christ so others can feel Him when they encounter us. I remind myself that it’s not about me—It’s about Christ in me breaking chains in people’s lives.

APU LIFE: The Things That Make Men Cry features interviews with men who suffer from depression. What did you discover through these interviews?

Morrow: A huge burden of expectations exists around being a man in our society. Men are socialized to be protective and providers, and emotional outbursts like crying are viewed as weak. Many are emotionally strained, suffering from depression disorders because they can’t express how they’re feeling. Absentee fathers also serve as a common source of depression in men. Once, while speaking at a church, I asked, “How many of you are secretly crying because your dad is missing something?” I was shocked at how many men stood up and started weeping.

APU LIFE: How does The Things That Make Men Cry strive to reach readers?

Morrow: Each chapter includes a work piece—therapeutic activities that help men acknowledge their condition and begin healing. People can very easily read a book and come away with a good message but it is more important that they actually do some work that brings about change. Many people have shared with me that this book inspired them to turn something around in their lives.

APU LIFE: What’s next?

Morrow: I am interested in doing some more work with men. We’re going to be launching a new television series to provide viewers with an opportunity to explore anything that contributes to negative thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. This will take what I am doing now—helping people find inner healing—to the next level.

APU LIFE: What advice do you have for current students pursuing careers in psychology and counseling?

Morrow: Be sure to strike a balance—your life cannot be all work. Take time for family, friends, and most of all, God. People who go into this profession are givers, and it is sometimes hard for us to receive. I learned firsthand through many issues how important it is to be open to love and support from others. We can’t walk this walk by ourselves—God uses people to help us.

For more information about Morrow and her work, visit www.gloriamorrow.com.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For more information or a personalized proposal from the Office of Gift and Estate Planning, call (626) 815-5070, email stewart@apu.edu, or visit www.apufg.com.
An Iraqi man held up his arm, showing Robert Alt '98 a stub where fingers used to be. He had been in competition with Saddam Hussein’s favorite merchants—it cost him his hand. Not long after, Hussein’s favorite merchants—his fingers used to be. He had showing Robert Alt ’98 a stub where fingers used to be. He had

For Alt, investment in law and politics does not come at the expense of his faith. "I don’t see a tension between law and religion," he said. "There is a great opportunity to do good in the law and for peace—the faith is not inextricably linked to all I do."

As early as junior high school, Alt discovered how to pursue a career in law, but he credits his time at Anasa Pacific and professors like Christopher Flannery, Ph.D., and David Works, Ph.D., with sparking his interest in politics, which has culminated in his current role as CEO of the Buckeye Institute. "The political science program that Drs. Flannery and Works had in place involved engaging with serious thinkers from Plato and Aristotle to modern philosophers," said Alt. "Their classes caused me to grapple with some of the most important questions we face as human beings."

"Robert was the kind of student who makes you want to be a better teacher," said Flannery. "He was hardworking as he was intellectually untried and eminently admirable. I know he will do some good work at the Buckeye Institute, as he has everywhere he has served."

Alt’s work for Ohio’s Buckeye Institute, a free-market think tank, concentrates on finding solutions for the state’s toughest public policy challenges. "I focus on promoting liberty and opportunity in Ohio—making sure Ohioans can get back to work, start a business or get jobs, and send their kids to their school of choice," said Alt. "We seek to create a vibrant economic environment that makes Ohio a better place to live and work."

Although Alt’s different roles have allowed him to see and accomplish much overseas and in the U.S., he understands his work does not carry an end date. "It’s hard for me to imagine a day when I wouldn’t want to be involved in advancing a proper understanding of the Constitution and freedom for citizens, whether it’s in Ohio or anywhere else," he said. "These are sacred ideas worth defending."

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Tackling Stereotypes

While many consider football the archetypal sport of men, Natalie German ‘12 boldly defies the notion. And her success starting and running a women’s football team in Manhattan, California, validates her stance. The West Coast Lightning finished their first season, with five team members, including German, making the All-Star team.

For those who see the sport as violent and un Feminist to women, German has a ready response. "It is a sport of strategy," she explains. "It’s like chess. Everyone on the field must understand her own role and how she contributes. brute force alone won’t do it."

More importantly, German finds the sport beneficial to women’s health and body image. "This isn’t feminine football, it’s real tackle football, and a football team needs all types of bodies. Fat, skinny, short, tall, fast, slow—there’s a place for everyone on a football team. Of course, as we train, we learn about proper diet and exercise, and we lose weight whether we mean to or not. In six months, you lose 15 lbs. without knowing it. Team sports don’t feel like work, and tackling someone is a great stress reliever."

The team enters this family by partnering with a residential foster home. German recalls what happened the day they set up a football game. One girl expressed her hostility to the idea by crossing her arms in the corner, complaining, and planning to return to her room. When they broke into smaller groups to learn positions, the girl opened up a bit. Soon she found herself in the game. "By the end," German said, “she was giving out high fives and saying it was the best time she’d had in months. As we left, she was crying when she said, ‘Come back, nobody ever comes to see us’."

This chance to build relationships inspires German. "It would be easier to just send them some Christmas gifts or donations rather than sitting down and having conversations with them, but what these kids really need is someone who will listen."

German and her teammates not only lend an ear, but also their time and training, proving that "real" women can indeed bond over football and may even use it to change the world.

The Joy of Funk

As a young boy, Zach Rudulph ’02 competed with his brothers and sisters to save one of their father’s record albums from the fire. They rescued the album just in time, as their father, Marvin, crushed a trove of his classic soul and R&B records. The album evoked memories of his life before he came to Christ, when he toured as a musician in a secular industry he came to view as corrupt.

Today, Rudulph plays bass internationally with major pop groups, and he credits his record-breaking father with launching his career. His dad left a church whose pastor spurned music, taught Rudulph and his siblings to play instruments, and formed a band to play for their new church. "We were like the Jackson Five of our church," he recalls. But Rudulph could not confine himself to worship music. As their father worked long hours, and his four siblings often tuned the radio to R&B, Earth, Wind, and Fire—the band whose album he saved—remains his favorite group and influence. "I love crazy horn lines, thick vocal harmonies, and funky bass lines—that music introduced a new thing: a bass line that signifies the song," Rudulph developed his ear by playing along to the radio on the left-handed bass his father found for him. He also learned to read music, thanks to his father’s discipline. "My father was self-taught and hadn’t completely mastered sight-reading—but he was determined that we learn. From age 9 until college, he was my only music teacher."

Rudulph’s recent musical accomplishments include touring in Armenia, Turkey, Russia, and Dubai with Persian pop group Kamran and Hooman, and recording and touring with Korean-American singer Claire C. He plays bass for pop singer-songwriter Andy Grammer—touring the U.S. in 2011, recording, and performing on The Rachel Ray Show. Live with Regis and Kelly, and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Rudulph feels particular pride about the Leno appearance, because Grammer entrusted him with the musical direction.

Rudulph suggested a special challenge for musicians. "On a TV appearance, we spend 12 hours to tape 3 minutes and 30 seconds. When the moment comes, it’s a cold start, and you have one chance to get it right." But Rudulph emanates a joy that belies the trying circumstances. His wife, Diana (Valenciano ’03, M.A. ’05), assistant professor in APU’s Department of Exercise and Sport Science, says that this joy is manifested in all that she does and serves as an indicator of his faith. Sometimes, in a chat after a show, or on Facebook the next day, a fan will realize Rudulph is a Christian. "I know it," the fan will exclaim. "I could tell just by looking at him."

"That, to me, is the Holy Spirit moving," Rudulph said. "It validates what I’m doing. I am surrounded by secular activities. How can musicians or fans of secular music go to experience Christ if they don’t see Christians?"

In Zachrudulph.com for a video of his Time Network Show and other appearances. Find him on Facebook or follow him on Twitter (@zachonbass).

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The Joy of Funk

As a young boy, Zach Rudulph ’02 competed with his brothers and sisters to save one of their father’s record albums from the fire. They rescued the album just in time, as their father, Marvin, crushed a trove of his classic soul and R&B records. The album evoked memories of his life before he came to Christ, when he toured as a musician in a secular industry he came to view as corrupt.

Today, Rudulph plays bass internationally with major pop groups, and he credits his record-breaking father with launching his career. His dad left a church whose pastor spurned music, taught Rudulph and his siblings to play instruments, and formed a band to play for their new church. “We were like the Jackson Five of our church,” he recalls. But Rudulph could not confine himself to worship music. As their father worked long hours, and his four siblings often tuned the radio to R&B, Earth, Wind, and Fire—the band whose album he saved—remains his favorite group and influence. “I love crazy horn lines, thick vocal harmonies, and funky bass lines—that music introduced a new thing: a bass line that signifies the song,” Rudulph developed his ear by playing along to the radio on the left-handed bass his father found for him. He also learned to read music, thanks to his father’s discipline. “My father was self-taught and hadn’t completely mastered sight-reading—but he was determined that we learn. From age 9 until college, he was my only music teacher."

Rudulph’s recent musical accomplishments include touring in Armenia, Turkey, Russia, and Dubai with Persian pop group Kamran and Hooman, and recording and touring with Korean-American singer Claire C. He plays bass for pop singer-songwriter Andy Grammer—touring the U.S. in 2011, recording, and performing on The Rachel Ray Show. Live with Regis and Kelly, and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Rudulph feels particular pride about the Leno appearance, because Grammer entrusted him with the musical direction.

Rudulph suggested a special challenge for musicians. “On a TV appearance, we spend 12 hours to tape 3 minutes and 30 seconds. When the moment comes, it’s a cold start, and you have one chance to get it right.” But Rudulph emanates a joy that belies the trying circumstances. His wife, Diana (Valenciano ’03, M.A. ’05), assistant professor in APU’s Department of Exercise and Sport Science, says that this joy is manifested in all that she does and serves as an indicator of his faith. Sometimes, in a chat after a show, or on Facebook the next day, a fan will realize Rudulph is a Christian. “I know it,” the fan will exclaim. “I could tell just by looking at him.”

“That, to me, is the Holy Spirit moving,” Rudulph said. “It validates what I’m doing. I am surrounded by secular activities. How can musicians or fans of secular music go to experience Christ if they don’t see Christians?”

In Zachrudulph.com for a video of his Time Network Show and other appearances. Find him on Facebook or follow him on Twitter (@zachonbass).
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WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU WEARING YOUR APU CLOTHING?

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. Please send high-resolution images or prints only.

ALVERNA SPURGEON MESSICK, ’66 passed away November 2, 2012. She was married to her husband, Earl, for 72 years until his passing in November 2011. Related to the great English preacher C.H. Spurgeon, Alverna was herself a very talented speaker, preacher, and teacher who worked many years in children’s ministry. For the past 35 years, she and Earl worked on the Navajo Nation to support, encourage, and partner with many Navajo pastors. Alverna leaves a legacy of people whose lives she touched through the Good News of the Gospel, including her children, Gloria (Messick) Swave and Fred (daughter Karen Watz passed away in 2013), grandchildren, Brenda, Regine, Christian, Noah, and Muzi, and great-grandchildren, Cora.

PEGGY TOBIASSEN, M.ED., ’88, passed away November 11, 2012. Born in Los Angeles on August 2, 1935, to Ethel and Harry Haller, she taught for 37 years, spending the last 30 at Cathedral City Elementary, from which she retired in 1984. Her husband of 52 years, Richard; daughter, Karen; and her husband, Michael Doyle; grandchildren, James and John; and sister, TV Anderson, survive her.

SANDRA PETERSON, ’03, M.A. ’05, passed away peacefully December 25, 2012, at the age of 62. Sandy enjoyed hiking, fishing, snorkeling in Kauai, watching the Lakers, driving her red Mustang, entertaining friends, and spending time with her family. She worked at Bank of America in a variety of positions, beginning as a teller and ending up as a financial relationship manager. She then went on to fulfill her dream of helping children by becoming an elementary school teacher. Sandy also dedicated many years to the Battledore Women’s Support Group as a facilitator and was an active volunteer in the Domestic Violence Program. Her devoted husband of 31 years, Tom; loving daughters, Angelina and Rachel; sisters, Ruby, Lori, and Charlene; and mother, Henrietta, survive her.

KRIS JONES ’90
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

EVELYN RODRIGUEZ ’11
ZACATECAS, MEXICO

RYAN SOMERS ’03
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

MARGARITA RAMIREZ ’12
AZORES, PORTUGAL

BEKASH WIKNDER ’11 AND ASHOK BANISHASHMEI ’11
GRENADA, WEST INDIES

Ashkon attends St. George’s University School of Medicine in Grenada. Bekah participates in the Significant Others Organization of SGU, volunteers at a local orphanage, and enjoys the sun and beautiful weather of Grenada. The couple met during their freshman year at APU and married in June 2012.
A zusa Pacific’s legacy of caring for people holistically, including a rich tradition of spiritual formation, academic rigor, and advanced health care, coalesces in the School of Nursing. The 1900–01 Catalogue and Prospectus of the Training School for Christian Workers (predecessor to APU) listed that the Medicine and Nursing class, taught by Rev. Levi D. Johnson, MD, existed “to thoroughly qualify the students for emergencies in the sick room as they may occur in their mission work.” The 1917 course description for Practical Nursing captured the underlying motivation even more directly: “Principles relating to preservation of health and the proper course to be pursued in sickness are carefully considered in the light of the Holy Scripture.” The university’s official undergraduate program—launched in 1975, with the first graduating class (shown above) earning the Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1977—marked a rich expression of faith integration through a challenging academic program that also meets societal needs. Today, the School of Nursing offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees, including the first research-based Doctor of Philosophy at APU. Programs such as the Neighborhood Wellness Center, the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program, and the Homeless Outreach Clinic broaden the scope of APU nursing students’ clinical training and provide opportunities to care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the world in light of Holy Scripture. The fusion of unparalleled nursing competence and compassionate care become the hallmark of APU nurses’ practice wherever God calls them.

Ken Otto, MLIS, associate professor, Special Collections librarian

Legacy of Care

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