Emily LaVelle '14 pursues her passion to glorify God through art.
The Christian faith stands on a foundation of Truth, and at that core lies the transformational reality of the shalom extended to us through the power of the work of Jesus Christ.

As we approach Christmas and anticipate the New Year, I reflect on the year’s many blessings, the faithful friends who have supported the university, and a pivotal moment that I believe will change this campus. Last spring, I engaged the APU faculty and staff in a listening tour—a series of conversations over several months focused on bringing questions, concerns, and comments into a one-hour, face-to-face dialogue with me. Community members offered words of encouragement, insight, wisdom, and discernment as they told me about both the inspirational and the discouraging aspects of their vocational call to APU. At the end of these conversations, we identified the common themes—some affirmed the direction and mission of the university and others called for attention and correction. One repeated theme pointed to overfilled calendars and the busyness that seems to have become part of our culture, our society, and this growing Christian university. I learned that some of the successes of recent years have come at the expense of life and workplace balance.

I sensed a strong pull to declare 2014–15 a year of shalom—for the APU community would intentionally lean into a peaceful, rhythmic life that provides both a passion for vocation and a place for obedient faith. Further conversations with trustees, university stakeholders, and influential thought leaders from around the country clarified and supported this approach. And Pastor John Dil’s commencement address about God’s provision, protection, and peace for busy people living in an anxious world further confirmed this direction.

At the annual Faculty/Staff Kickoff, we began the year of shalom, recalibrating our approach to our work by pushing back on this lure of unsettled busyness and leaning into God’s peace. Gary Black Jr., Ph.D., a gifted theology faculty member, defines shalom as a settled state of holistic wellness, a sense of complete security and thriving in our families, our neighborhoods, our vocations, and our souls, echoing the theme verse for the day, John 14:27 (NIV): “Peace (shalom). I leave with you. my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

To lead the campus toward this peace, I changed my own patterns of busyness and overcommitment. I then asked all APU employees to join me in the following:

• No texts and nonemergency email after 6:30 p.m. weeknights (or whatever framed the natural bookends of the workday for those who serve our graduate, adult, and regional center students).

• No texts and email from 6:30 p.m. Friday until 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

• I asked committees to consider fewer meetings and shorter meeting times.

• I asked APU leaders to avoid making urgent requests of others whenever possible.

• I announced that we would focus on existing priorities and not add policies, practices, or procedures.

At the annual Faculty/Staff Kickoff, we began the year of shalom, recalibrating our approach to our work by pushing back on this lure of unsettled busyness and leaning into God’s peace. Gary Black Jr., Ph.D., a gifted theology faculty member, defines shalom as a settled state of holistic wellness, a sense of complete security and thriving in our families, our neighborhoods, our vocations, and our souls, echoing the theme verse for the day, John 14:27 (NIV): “Peace (shalom). I leave with you. my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
Under Thursday night lights on September 4, 2014, and before a crowd of more than 6,000 and a national television audience, No. 22-ranked Cougar football team defeated Grand Valley State (then ranked No. 2) 26-23 in double overtime, marking the start of an incredible first season in NCAA Division II.

Contribute your best photos of campus—people and places, events and spaces—that showcase APU. Go to flickr.com/groups/azusapacific to submit today.
School of Nursing receives Federal Grant to Train Mental Health Care Providers

The School of Nursing received a $12 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create a new program for training psychiatric mental health nurses.

Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the grant is intended to help address the growing need for mental health care providers.

The grant will fund the training of 1,800 additional nurses in the next three years.

“We are thrilled to have received this grant,” said APU’s Dean of the School of Nursing, Dr. Bonita L. Huiskes. “This program will help meet the growing demand for mental health care providers, particularly in underserved communities.”

The grant will support the training of nurses in seven different specialties, including psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners, mental health counselors, and addiction counselors.

Nursing students will receive special training in the areas of medication management, assessment, and intervention.

The grant will also provide students with opportunities for clinical placements in community mental health settings.

“The grant will also provide our students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in real-world settings,” said Huiskes.

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Year in Review: 2013–14

APU Ranked One of America’s Best Colleges by U.S. News & World Report

APU earned a place in the National Universities category of U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges 2013 rankings (No. 173), post-secondary premier universities such as Princeton University, Stanford University, and the University of California, Los Angeles. The publication also ranked APU on its lists of Highest Retention Rate, Highest Six-year Graduation Rate, Highest Proportion of Classes with Fewer than 20 Students, Campus Ethnic Diversity, A+ School for B+ Students, and Most International Students.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Names New Dean

Leading the university’s largest academic area into the next era, Jonathan E. White, Ph.D., as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on June 1, 2014. Building on the tradition of excellence established by his predecessor, David L. Weeks, Ph.D., who became founding dean of APU’s new Honor College in 2002, White plans to facilitate an academic environment characterized by innovation, collaboration, and excellence that enables faculty members to educate a new generation of disciples who can read, write, think, and reason well, who demonstrate integrity in problem solving and decision making, and who live and work as virtuous citizens capable of contributing to the common good.

Honors College Launches

Building on two-decades of providing advanced materials to students seeking a more rigorous academic curriculum through the Honors College, APU expanded that effort in with the launch of the Honors College. One of only 150 institutions nationwide to offer an Honors College, APU stands among its peers with the ability to equip high-achieving students with character-based leadership skills. The new, cohesive curriculum affirms the wisdom of the Christian tradition, instills moral and intellectual virtue among tomorrow’s Christian leaders, and reclaims the classical quest for truth, beauty, and goodness.

Vice President for Alumni, Vocation, and Innovation Named

Annie Tsi, Ph.D., former chair of the Department of Psychology, became vice president for alumni, vocation, and innovation, a position applying a collaborative approach designed to synergize the efforts of career transition and alumni relations approaches and increase opportunities for student success and vocation. Tsi’s strategy involves creating a network between existing offices and organizations in multiple industries seeking high-caliber interns and employees. Through an enhanced university career advising model, on-campus exposure to multiple pathways to pursue higher education when and where it fits their lives.

By the Numbers

The number of scholars and policy makers, including APU’s Anupama Jain, who are interested in the story of one family. The number of career rushing yards Terrell Watson ’13 reached when racking up 200 yards against Humboldt State University in November 2014, completing a three-year application process. This allows the program to offer students outside service ministry opportunities through local churches, prisons, inner-city locations, and parachurch and secular organizations, exposing them to real-world circumstances where they can apply their leadership skills as a service to the community.

Mental Health continued from page 7

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Theater Production Explores Journey of Youngest Holocaust Refugees

In November, APU presented Kindertaten, a drama production referencing eyewitness testimonies of 10,000 Jewish children who were among the department’s goal to support theater’s propensity to inspire social change.

APU Division II Welcomes Cougar Athletics

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) approved Arena Pacific for full Division II membership beginning July 2014, completing a three-year application process. This allows Cougar sports teams to compete in NCAA Division II postseason play and enjoy all membership privileges. Arena Pacific’s 19-sport athletic program enters Division II with 51 national championships in 12 sports from previous national affiliations. In two years of competition as a provisional Division II member, Arena Pacific won four conference championships, claiming Pacific West Conference’s women’s cross country (2012, 2013) and women’s soccer (2013), along with the 2013 Great Northwest Athletic Conference championship in football.

Programs and Services

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The theater production explores the journey of a Jewish child who escaped the Holocaust and placed in a Kindertransport by his parents to leave Europe. The production, titled “Kindertaten,” was directed by Dr. Michael P. Coffey, and the cast included students and faculty. The production received positive reviews and highlighted the importance of remembering the Holocaust and its impact on individuals and society.

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Concert Honors Gospel’s Influence on American Music

Reenvisioning Commencement Brings New Traditions

APU Community Contributes to Public Art Project

Scholarship at Work

Reconsidering the Relationship between Biblical and Systematic Theology in the New Testament

1960s Counterculture: Documents Decoded

Dreams of Caladria (Encapsulated)
Contrary to the popular saying, I believe it is unfamiliarity, not familiarity, that breeds contempt. This occurs not only when we encounter different cultures and religious beliefs, but also when we discover differing understandings, traditions, and practices of our Christian faith. Confronted with these variations, many Christians tend to withdraw from fellow believers in a veiled, yet very real, form of bias toward those who do not share the same interpretation of the history and practice of Christianity.

This proves sadly ironic given the history of orthodox Christian faith, which reveals a full, rich, diverse, and awe-inspiring representation of Christian devotion through many unique expressions. In his book Streams of Living Water (HarperCollins, 1998), noted author and one-time APU faculty member Richard Foster outlines what he sees as six “streams” that form the “river” of Christian faith. To illustrate these streams, Foster provides a simple tree-chart tracking the history of Christianity over the past two millennia. We tend to forget that for the first thousand years after the resurrection of Christ, there existed primarily one main branch of Christian faith, expressed through the Catholic Church. It was not until 1054 CE, when the East-West Schism occurred and the Eastern Orthodox Church was established, that Christianity faced its first fork in the river of Christian religion. The second fork came in 1517 CE—commonly known as the Protestant Reformation, first led by John Wesley, an Anglican, who attempted to find a “middle fork” between Protestant and Catholic streams of Christian life and faith. Yet Foster reminds us that each of these tributaries springs from the same main body of water. The source of our faith carries a few consistent similarities in its tributaries. There exists a consistent affirmation of the supremacy of Christ, His birth, death, resurrection, and Lordship over all Creation through the establishment of the Kingdom of God and the development of Christ’s disciples. How Christ rules over this Kingdom, and how disciples are developed and for what specific purposes, remains a matter of debate and exploration within the differing Christian streams of thought and devotion.

For instance, the Pentecostal/Charismatic stream of Christian faith, which emphasizes the necessity of engaging the Holy Spirit’s empowerment and guidance for all of life and living, does not mean only “card-carrying” Pentecostals are interested in the work of the Holy Spirit. In fact, many throughout the six streams are equally devoted to seeking the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Many Pentecostals are very interested in the sacramental nature of their Christian worship, or intent on leading holy lives of obedience to the ways of Christ, as devoted to justice and compassion. The same should be said for those who come to their faith from the Evangelical traditions and have been deeply devoted to sharing the Gospel— we should not assume that celebrating, honoring, and sharing the Word of God excludes dedication to a life of prayer or devotion to justice and mercy.

Foster posits that these six streams represent the rich history and diverse tapestry of Christian life: Contemplative, Holiness, Charismatic, Social Justice, Evangelical, and Incarnational/Sacramental. In other words, these streams focus on either a life of meditation and prayer; living holy lives; spirit empowerment; justice, mercy, and compassion; sharing the Truth and Good News in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; or the discovery, celebration, and experience of the sacred and incarnational nature of life with God. Foster also argues that this diverse assortment of orthodox Christian expression is a great gift that allows us to celebrate and experience each stream as it flows into the mighty river of God’s Kingdom. For instance, the Pentecostal/Charismatic stream of Christian faith, which emphasizes the necessity of engaging the Holy Spirit’s empowerment and guidance for all of life and living, does not mean only “card-carrying” Pentecostals are interested in the work of the Holy Spirit. In fact, many throughout the six streams are equally devoted to seeking the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Many Pentecostals are very interested in the sacramental nature of their Christian worship, or intent on leading holy lives of obedience to the ways of Christ, as devoted to justice and compassion. The same should be said for those who come to their faith from the Evangelical traditions and have been deeply devoted to sharing the Gospel—we should not assume that celebrating, honoring, and sharing the Word of God excludes dedication to a life of prayer or devotion to justice and mercy.

Most of us first learn to swim by jumping into a single stream of faith. Once we travel down that waterway for a while, we begin to encounter others who have learned to navigate different waters that may be new to us, but which may have a degree of longevity and global reach far exceeding that of our own faith tradition. At this point of discovery, we can choose humble curiosity and the excitement of learning, or we can choose fear and withdrawal, or even contempt. As a nondenominational university devoted to many streams of Christian traditions, APU extends generosity and hospitality in order to widen our banks from a single stream into a river of inclusive Christian grace, understanding, and maturity. There is no benefit to fostering competition between streams and nothing to gain from succumbing to our fears and engaging in the unseemly posturing of “better/best” arguments. Instead, in Christlike fashion, we can seize the opportunity and the blessing to recognize and celebrate the many unique, historical expressions and visions of Christian life and experience that surround us in our classes, on our athletic fields, in our departments, and in our relationships, while also honoring and sharing our own faith tradition. When we do, then we truly represent the best of what a “universal” Christian education promises. Such a university has the distinct opportunity to become the city on a hill that cannot be hidden. One that shines the light of God’s wisdom, love, devotion, peace, humility, and commitment to truth that our world so desperately longs to experience.

Gary Black Jr., Ph.D., is a professor in Azusa Pacific Seminary. His latest book, The Divine Conspiracy Continued: Fulfilling God's Kingdom on Earth (HarperOne, 2014) coauthored with the late Dallas Willard, challenges disciples to transform the world from the inside out. gblack@apu.edu

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by Gary Black Jr. Illustration by Vanessa Esparza ’15
Whether it conveys a literal message or elicits a primitive reaction, art moves the viewer to feel something. Which begs the questions: Why does that matter? Does it serve a purpose in society? And what is art’s place in the Christian academy?

Whether sculpture, architecture, paintings, music, dance, crafts, or fashion, human creativity inevitably expresses itself through works of art, and these pieces reveal more about the artist, the culture, and the state of humanity than any other indicator. As such, art represents an invaluable thread in the cultural fabric of society worthy of reverence and study. In fact, the arts have an undeniable role to play in the academic experience. Through the relationship between the Church and the arts, students can gain a deeper understanding of their faith and its implications in the world around them.

As testament to that, Azusa Pacific boasts the largest art department of all the schools in the Council of Christian Colleges & Universities and is the only one with graduate degrees: a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art (MFA) and an Online Master of Arts in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism. High-caliber programs and faculty not only attract remarkable students, but they also garner the attention of foundations and philanthropists seeking to advance the relationship between the arts and the Church. The Windgate Charitable Foundation, known for supporting art and art history programs throughout the country, recently presented APU with the most significant gift in CMA history: a challenge grant of $3 million to establish scholarships for art majors and sponsor a graduate program that equips student leaders through a bold online initiative in art education. This remarkable opportunity from Windgate reflects the strength of a 20-year relationship between the foundation and APU, and mirrors the Board of Trustees’ value of art in culture and higher education. The $1.5 million in matching funds, to be raised by the university by April 2016, will increase the total art endowment to $4.5 million.

“This pledge serves as a landmark moment in the early formation of the College of Music and the Arts,” said Stephen P. Johnson, DMA, dean. “Raising an additional $1.5 million to meet the challenge grant provides a catalyst to engage the greater arts community and share the story of art education at Azusa Pacific University.”

Given the freedom found in Jesus, Christians engage in the culture of the day as the Apostle Paul did, while maintaining spiritual integrity. Rather than isolate themselves, Azusa Pacific art students use their gifts and talents to express the Christian worldview of hope and redemption. They discover ways to communicate real life, real people, real emotions.

The Windgate gift helps equip the next generation of Christian artists to reclaim the lead in contemporary art; to offer an answer to the desperate, the disillusioned, the hopeless; and to create exceptional art that addresses all aspects of humanity while unapologetically reflecting the One who endowed them with the gifts to do so.

Cynndie Hoff is a freelance writer and editor living in Walnut, California. ceh.hoff@verizon.net

Before the mind comprehends the stories unfolding on the ceiling, before the eye delights in the incredible palette of rich, saturated colors, even before the nostrils breathe in the unmistakable musty aroma of ancient paint and polished wood, each visitor to the Sistine Chapel experiences an indescribable visceral response—a feeling—that transcends the senses and speaks to the soul.

GOOD ART DOES THAT.
Become an accountant. Save the world.

That’s not an exaggeration. As proof, consider that criminologists classify most crimes into two categories—passion and greed—and that crimes of greed lead every list of “Top 10 News stories of the Year.” New York Times bestseller The Accretion of Money documents how monetary manipulations caused the greatest political upheavals in the world, from the fall of the Roman Empire to the French Revolution. It stands to reason that accountants are uniquely positioned to thwart financial crimes, much like Cynthia Cooper, 2002 TIME Magazine Person of the Year, who exposed the $11.3 billion fraud at telecom giant WorldCom.

So what makes a good accountant? I spent several years studying why accountants get sued, and it boils down to two things: corruption and negligence. The antidote? Competence. Stymied, they convinced King Darius to pass a law banning prayer to any man or god but him, then “caught” Daniel doing what he always did—praying to God. But in truth, they threw Daniel into the lions’ den because he was a good accountant.

Examining Daniel’s life reveals two keys to obtaining the moral courage we need to do the right thing, regardless of the circumstances. First, Daniel found his courage in a right understanding of the sovereignty of God over the kingdoms of men. He understood that even in an unjust world, our God remains just. Such knowledge allowed Daniel to do the right thing, even if it cost him his life.

Competent training, practicing good character, and following the lead of godly role models prepares our accounting students to do the right thing when faced with moral dilemmas like Daniel did. He rose above great challenges, against all odds, to become the top person in two of the most powerful kingdoms the world has ever known by recognizing God’s sovereignty, being trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent, and surrounding himself with likeminded friends. In both cases, the kings changed their edict from “Worship me only” to “Worship Daniel’s God only.” That’s how God used one good accountant to save the world—twice.

John M. Thornton, Ph D., CPA, is professor and the Leung Chair of Accounting Ethics in the LP and Timothy Leung School of Accounting in the School of Business and Management. thornton@apu.edu
Investing in Our Mission

Total Giving

APU receives gifts from faculty, staff, alumni, parents, trustees, foundations, corporations, churches, and friends. We are grateful for this support of our mission and investment in students.

Total Giving by Constitute

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constitute</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>$1,671,347</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Giving Summary

- Capital: $1,064,000
- Endowment: $1,400,393
- Restricted: $3,180,924
- University Fund: $2,000,091
- Auxiliary/Trust: $892,759

Total: $8,328,167

University Fund Giving

The University Fund supports student scholarships, faculty positions, academic and student life programs, and technology advancements.

University Fund Giving by Constitute

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constitute</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Trustees</td>
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Total: $2,000,091

Stewarding Our Resources

Selected financial numbers/Operating Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 (unaudited)

Expenditure Breakdown

- Instruction and Academic Support: $117,159,987
- Institutional Support: $77,948,385
- Scholarships/Financial Aid: $65,202,118
- Student Services: $57,683,761
- Auxiliary Services: $117,159,987

Total: $322,387,557

Revenue Breakdown

- Tuition and Fees: $262,760,487
- Auxiliary Services: $34,500,000
- Investment Income and Gains: $10,517,749
- Private Gifts and Grants: $8,777,150
- Other: $5,832,171

Total: $322,387,557

Assisting Our Students

- Institutional Scholarships and Grants: $62,500,105
- Federal and State Scholarships and Grants: $19,892,051
- Percent of undergraduate students receiving any form of institutional or need-based financial aid: 90%
- Freshman retention: 82%

Summary

- Total Assets: $366,378,664
- Total Debt: $129,209,097
- Debt-to-Asset Ratio: 35%
- Endowment Balance: $58,943,568
- Five-year Growth: 59%
Corporate Matching Gifts and Government Grants

104 individuals multiplied their personal donations to APU by participating in their employers’ matching gift program, resulting in $93,132 in corporate matching funds from 87 companies. Through APU’s Office of Research and Grants, faculty secured $3,492,443 in government grants.

Gift and Estate Planning

APU provides professional services to help individuals make informed decisions regarding their current and future estate plans, while also facilitating investment in our mission. Over time, these generous gifts have helped build today’s endowment to nearly $50 million. In 2013-14, APU received $802,798 through gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, mature bequests, and other gift-planning vehicles.

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Premier Physical Therapy & Sports Performance
Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital
Rollins Consulting Group, LLC
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Sona Products, Inc.
OMS CSMC
Target Foundation

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 (NIV)

In one of his signature works, The Problem of Pain, C. S. Lewis wrote: “The Christian doctrine of suffering explains, I believe, a very curious fact about the world we live in. The settled happiness and security which we all desire, God withholds from us by the very nature of the world: but joy, pleasure, and enjoyment He has scattered broadcast. . . . Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inn, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.”

God balances this doctrine of suffering, however, with a covenant of hope. Grounded in this certainty, the Christian faith offers followers experiences of joy in the midst of sorrow, beauty mixed with brokenness, and healing mingled with hurt. Emily LaVelle ‘14, who traveled such a painful and perplexing road, discovered, too, that this God of Hope and His plan for her life.

At 18 months of age, LaVelle contracted spinal meningitis, which left her deaf. Blessed with a godly mother, the two cultivated her emerging passion for nature and art at a young age, photographing and painting scenes of Creation together. LaVelle’s mom was her best friend, teacher, and mentor. But at 16, LaVelle’s world turned upside down when her mom received a pancreatic cancer diagnosis. She succumbed to the disease following a brief battle, just a few months before LaVelle graduated high school. In her grief, and almost without noticing, LaVelle closed the door on her love for nature and passion for art. In a way, LaVelle lost a second sense—her ability to see God’s Creation.

Though an exceptional student, LaVelle put college on the back burner while she tended to her broken heart. After a couple years, she realized the best way to honor her mother would be to extend to others that same incredible care her mother experienced at the end of her life. She enrolled at APU’s highly competitive School of Nursing with a noble purpose and soul-deep determination.

At the start of each academic year, President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, challenges every APU student to wrestle with three questions: Who am I? What is my purpose? What difference will I make in the world? LaVelle believed she had those questions answered conclusively, but by her sophomore year she began to wonder. Through chapel messages, faculty mentors, discipleship groups, Bible studies, and friends, LaVelle sensed God nudging her to revisit them. One day, a friend noticed her artwork and asked her to create a painting as a gift for a friend. Soon faculty and friends began challenging her: Why had she closed the door on art? Was she avoiding it because it was a painful reminder of her loss? What was God’s purpose for her? If He had gifted her as an artist, was she willing to trust Him? What difference could she make in the world as an artist?

Slowly, painfully, LaVelle began to trust God and pick up her paintbrush and camera again, once more seeing God’s Creation, this time with fresh eyes. First, she confronted her anger at God; then she began to see God’s goodness even against the backdrop of pain.

She eventually made a bold decision to change majors, and three years later, graduated from APU with a degree in fine art. She celebrated her graduation with a three-week trip along the John Muir Trail in the Sierra. “My mom honored and glorified God in life and in death,” LaVelle said. “As an artist, I can honor the gift and memory of my mom in a way that is true to how God made me.” Through trusted friends and faculty, LaVelle rediscovered that artistry and creativity lead us closer to our Creator.

That understanding is the foundation of Azusa Pacific’s rich history of investment in the arts. Honoring that commitment, the Windgate Charitable Foundation recently bestowed upon APU a $1 million matching grant to enrich scholarships and launch new programs if APU can raise $1.5 million by April 2016. LaVelle, one of APU’s first Windgate scholarship recipients, plans to pursue a master’s degree in art therapy to work with children facing significant life trauma. To see more of her work, visit facebook.com/emilylavelleart or watch her story at apu.edu/stories/emily-lavelle/.

Corbin Hoonbeek is vice president for university advancement. choonbeek@apu.edu
“That is the best way to describe him,” said Azusa Pacific Head Football Coach Victor Santa Cruz. “He lives in a world that is freer than most, because every day he is trying to get better. He owns his shortcomings, understands the process, and knows his responsibility is growing up.”

Growing up as Terrell Watson, though, had its challenges. Left in a basket on his grandparents’ doorstep at two weeks old, he never really had a relationship with his birth parents. His biological dad died when Watson was 12, his mom comes in and out of his life, and he functions with a learning disability. Watson has more excuses at his disposal than most, yet he never plays any of those cards. Instead, when faced with challenges, Watson stays behind his lead blockers and blasts through the hole with a determination and strength instilled in him by his grandparents, who adopted him. “If the things in my life didn’t happen to me, I wouldn’t be the person I am today,” said Watson. “I’m thankful God doesn’t make mistakes. My parents taught me how to value life and look at challenges as a learning opportunity.”

That winning philosophy resulted in one of the best football players in Azusa Pacific’s storied history. Watson has rushed for more yards and scored more touchdowns in a quarter, half, game, season, and career than any other running back in Azusa Pacific football history—even legendary former Cougar and NFL star Christian Okoye ’87. Six games into the 2014 season, he became the first player in all of college football to surpass the 1,000-yard mark. By season’s end, he was the leading rusher in all college divisions of football, amassing a school- and Great Northwest Athletic Conference-record 2,153 yards. With no space left in his trophy case, he continues to rewrite the Cougar record books and turn the heads of NFL scouts. Current Azusa Pacific assistant coach and NFL Hall of Fame offensive lineman Jackie Slater, M.A. ’12, who blocked for Hall of Fame running backs Eric Dickerson and Walter Payton, believes Watson has a chance to play on Sundays. “I would have loved to have blocked for him,” said Slater. “He’s one of the toughest guys I’ve ever run with the football. He’s technical, breaks tackles, and when he gets in the open field, nobody is going to catch him. I’ve been around a lot of running backs, but Terrell is a different guy. He is special.”

Indeed, football gives Watson a chance to excel on the field, but his concern lies with how he shines off of it. “I love football, but I’m so much more than football,” said Watson. “I want to leave a legacy here, and I want it to be in the way I showed God’s love and the way I served people.”

“Playing in the NFL would be a great opportunity, but I also understand the percentages are against me,” said Watson. “My coaches always talk about being a championship man and ask us, ‘When you’re done with football, who are you going to be?’ I know who I am, and I know what I want to do.”

And like a true champion, Watson gets better every day.

Micah McDaniel ’99 is a digital and content marketer in McKinney, Texas. micah.mcdaniel@gmail.com
SPORTS ROUNDUP

Upcoming Alumni and Parent Events

Alumni and Parent Cruise 2015
January 30–February 2, 2015 | Ensenada, Mexico
Join the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations on a three-day Princess Cruise to Ensenada, Mexico. With prices starting at just $414 per person, this is an event you will not want to miss. For more information, visit apu.edu/alumni/cruise2015.

Grandparents’ Day
February 20, 2015 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Invite the grandparents to spend a day on campus, take a tour to chapel, and attend a class with their grandkids to catch a glimpse of life at APU. Families are welcome to attend. For more information and registration, visit apu.edu/alumni/ grandparentsday15.

Refeshing Your Marriage
March 13–14, 2015
Be our guest at this annual marriage conference that focuses on issues like intimacy, essential balance, effective communication, and more. Featuring Jim Burns and Doug Fields. For more information, visit refreshingyourmarriage.com.

50-Year Reunion
May 6–8, 2015
Come celebrate the 50-Year Reunion for the class of 1965. The weekend begins with dinner on Friday. Saturday events include breakfast with Off Hambly ‘56, a trolley tour of campus, dinner, and the class of 1965 walking in the spring commencement ceremony.

LAPC Reunion—Save the Date
June 27, 2015
Invitations will be mailed in spring. For more information, call Jill MacLaren at (626) 812-3377.

When couples participate in ongoing marriage-strengthening opportunities, they report increased marital satisfaction. Resources like retreats, conferences, and small groups play a powerful role in helping strong marriages remain so, and in responding to troubled marriages.

For more information about premarital and marriage resources and events, visit homeword.com, gettingreadyformarriage.com, and refreshingyourmarriage.com.

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Upcoming Athletics Events

Acrobatics and Tumbling | February 4 & 5 | 1:30 p.m.
Baseball | February 21 | 5:00 Women, 7:30 Men
Basketball | February 21 | 5:00 Women, 7:30 Men
Baseball | March 6 & 7 | 4 p.m. and 12 p.m.
Soccer | Point Loma | 4 p.m.

Azusa Pacific University's HomeWord Center for Stock and Family with Jim Burns Lll, Ph.D., and Doug Fields provides biblically based resources for parents and couples to help build healthy families.

homeword.com

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Strong Marriages: Before the Wedding and after the Honeymoon by Jim Burns and Doug Fields

It happens all too often with couples. Two people marry the love of their lives, and then work, kids, and kid's pull attention away from the relationship. For some, the result creates an ocean of distance between spouses, and they find that other pursuits, even other people, have captured their hearts, resulting in broken marriages and often divorce. Marriages do not come with guarantees. Rather, successful marriages are built when two people commit to the work necessary to build and maintain a strong relationship, both before and after the wedding day. To guard against the issues that weaken relationships, couples must proactively plan, defend, protect, and preserve their marriages. Committing to assist couples on the sacred journey of marriage, Home/Word improves, develops, and delivers tools and resources that help navigate the terrain.

Just as research validates the value of an investment of just eight nights in premarital education to a 31 percent lower chance of divorce after four years of marriage, HomeWord recognizes that the work of marriage does not stop once you’ve said your I-dos. HomeWord’s Getting Ready for Marriage resources, including a book, a workbook, and an online app, assist couples in laying the foundation for a healthy marriage.

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations • (626) 812-3205 • alumni@apu.edu • apu.edu/alumni/parents

Brooke Smolen
Athletics Communications Coordinator
(626) 812-5485 • brooke.smolen@apu.edu

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homeword.com

For the most up-to-date details on events:
Like APU Alumni Association and APU Parent Association on Facebook.
Follow @APUAlumni on Twitter.
Follow apu50marriage on Instagram.

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homeword.com
BLANCA (INCLAN—ATTENDED ’92–’93) is an admissions counselor for Clovis Unified School District. She lives in Redmond, Washington, after spending the past 16 years as a stay-at-home mom. cloabill@gmail.com

EVANGELIA (PATSAOURA ‘03) LARKIN, M.A. ’10, and her husband, Tim, plan to travel to Athens, Greece, as missionaries through FourSquare Missions International. 

STEPHEN VOGT ’07 got the Oakland Athletics ’2014 Jim “Catfish” Hunter Award, naming the player whose performance and conduct play best exemplifies the late Al “Bam” Hogg. Vogt takes over as A’s shortstop in the season’s minor leagues before making his debut in the majors with Tampa Bay. His first major league game was on April 11 against Kansas City. Vogt is a graduate of APU’s communication arts program. TJPZZVR.com

LARKIN, M.A. ’10, and her husband, Tim, plan to travel to Athens, Greece, as missionaries through FourSquare Missions International. 

TIM PAWLEY (ATTENDED 1985–87) is the president and CEO of the Midwest Association for Community Higher Education. pawley@midwestahce.org

ROBERT “CLINTON” GERTENRICH ’91 is an admissions counselor for Clovis Unified School District. He lives in Beaumont with his wife, Nancy, and their two daughters. TJPTennisProfessionals@yahoo.com

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Elisa Hoeffrich ’12 believed she would never get into a physician assistant (PA) program. No matter how many times she talked to her and encouraged her, she still remained convinced her grade-point average (GPA) would prevent her from reaching her goal. I knew different. In fact, I had so much confidence in her that I wrote an “I told you so” letter, sealed it, and placed it in my top desk drawer, telling her that she could have it when she was accepted into her first PA program. It was a fatherly note to remind her that God had brought her to this point in life and had given her remarkable and skills.

While GPA matters on an application, there are many other important aspects equal to or greater than GPA. Elisa did not realize that she had everything that PA programs wanted in a student, except a GPA in the top 10 percent. She served as student coordinator for APUS Team Luke outreach—which organizes and sends medical teams into Mexico four times a year, delivering health care to an underserved community—and her goal. I knew different. In fact, I had so much confidence in her that I wrote an “I told you so” letter, sealed it, and placed it in my top desk drawer, telling her that she could have it when she was accepted into her first PA program. It was a fatherly note to remind her that God had brought her to this point in life and had given her remarkable and skills.

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The road to a college presidency offers no map for those seeking the way, no signposts to suggest direction, merely a few stepping-stones left by the few who have traveled the unbeaten path before them. Navigating the process requires determination, fortitude, and faith—especially for women.

Two Azusa Pacific graduates found a way. For Deana Porterfield ’88, M.A. ’96, Ed.D., the journey began with an entry-level job at APU that led to positions of ever-increasing responsibility. Under extraordinary mentorship, particularly that of President Jon R. Wallace, DBA, she learned the ropes of management and the art of leadership at a growing university. Though she was well prepared, the final step took a leap of faith as she and her family left their longtime home state of California and headed to Rochester, New York, where she became president of Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary on July 1, 2014.

One year earlier, Melanie J. Humphreys, Ph.D. ’07, entered the top administrative position at The King’s University in Canada. Humphreys, too, benefited from knowledge gained at APU, which she put to use in diverse international settings—first in Eastern Europe as vice president of student life and dean of students at Lithuania’s UCC International University, then at Wheaton College as dean of student care and services, and now in her native Canada at The King’s in Edmonton, Alberta.

Both alumnae serve as the first female presidents of their respective institutions. Their appointments increase the number of women leading North American member institutions of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) to nine.

Their selections of Porterfield and Humphreys represent an important milestone for institutions that are part of the mosaic of Christian colleges and universities. “The selections of Porterfield and Humphreys are taking what they’ve learned at APU and in their careers and using that knowledge for the benefit of the Kingdom, guiding institutions that are part of the mosaic of Christian colleges and universities.”

“What motivated me to remain at APU for more than two decades was the opportunity to energize people around the story of Azusa Pacific,” said Porterfield, a first-generation college student who most recently served as executive vice president of Azusa Pacific Online University (now University College). “I saw so many people come to APU and have their lives transformed the very mine was. I was fortunate to find a community willing to take risks on me, and many mentors who saw my potential and gave me more responsibility. I was affirmed, challenged, and stretched in ways I wouldn’t have been anywhere else.”

“The faculty in APU’s doctoral program in higher education lifted us to a level of expertise and academic rigor,” said Humphreys. One year into her presidency, Humphreys has built strong connections to students, faculty, staff, donors, and supporters of The King’s, engaging them in intentional conversations around renewing the university’s strategic direction. “I now have an even greater responsibility to open doors for others like they were opened for me.”

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Deana Porterfield ’88, M.A. ’96, Ed.D. President Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary

“...I have an even greater responsibility to open doors for others like they were opened for me.”

Melanie J. Humphreys, Ph.D. ’07 President The King’s University

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As both lean into the next leg of their presidential journeys, their interminable steps make the path over that much wider for all those whom God calls to the highest levels of leadership.

Evelyn Allen is a senior writer and editor in the Office of University Relations. eallen@apu.edu
The Alumni and Parent Relations staff and your classmates want to know what's new with you. Upload Alumni Class Notes and photos to apu.edu/submit. To submit your notes or photos, please consider donating to the Al Clifft Memorial Fund at APU, which will provide tuition scholarship support to students with financial need. Donations can be made at apu.edu/give or sent to the Office of University Advancement, c/o Al Clifft Memorial Fund.

CLASS NOTES

Notable and Noteworthy

The Alumni and Parent Relations staff and your classmates want to know what's new with you. Upload Alumni Class Notes and photos to apu.edu/submit. Thank you for sharing!

Brian, a daughter, Ronen, on May 24, 2014, in Calimesa Ranch in Malibu, California.

Jeff Robinson (Attended 1980–83), a son, Ethan. Ethan joins big brother, Mocca, 2.

To Annette, a daughter, Darby Jane, and her husband, Cliff Hamlow. He scored 1,193 points and led to his lifelong dream of becoming a NAIA Hall of Fame basketball coach.

To DILIP Joseph ‘96 and his wife, CILICA (SHAW ‘96) ‘96, a son, Ronen. APU touched many lives during his time as an Azusa Pacific player at that time. He was a devoted member of Mountain Home Baptist Church and served as a postal worker and insurance agent in addition to his ministry. He passed away in September 2014.

To Otho Cowart, a daughter, Jameson, on October 4, 2014.

To SHARON LOPEZ, a son, Charles. Charles joins big sister, Elaina, on December 27, 2014.


To JEFF ROBINSON (ATTENDED 1980–83), a son, Ethan. Ethan joins big brother, Mocca, 2.

To Tian (Trician) Liu, a son, Branson. Branson joins big sister, Bella, on April 1, 2014.

To Sherry, a daughter, Cali. Cali joins big brother, Brady, on October 29, 2014.

To JILL (HOEKMAN ‘05) ALONZO, a daughter, Grace, on March 21, 2014. Kelly works as a nurse practitioner, and her husband, Brian, a daughter, Parvati, on May 15, 2014.

To SHARON LOPEZ, a son, Charles. Charles joins big sister, Elaina, on December 27, 2014.


To Sydney, a daughter, Alex, on October 27, 2014. Sydney joins big brother, Matt, 4.

To Sherry, a daughter, Cali. Cali joins big brother, Brady, on October 29, 2014.


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.

Send us 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, Attention alumni: WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU WEARING YOUR APU CLOTHING?

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19. Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

University Publications

Universities throughout the country publish periodicals that document current events and activities across their campuses. Over time, these publications become an invaluable resource when researching historical foundations, changes in educational theory and practice, and current trends in higher education. From the time of its founding as the Training School for Christian Workers to the present, Azusa Pacific University’s publications have included Witness and Training School News, Bulletin, Herald, Messenger, Proclaimer, and APU Life—each illustrating the continuity and growth of traditions and visions. The March 1925 issue of the Bulletin of The Training School for Christian Workers, shown above, documents the school’s 25th anniversary, and founder Philemon Hadley offers a firsthand account of the inspiration that launched the forerunner of Azusa Pacific University. After some students related a story about their inability to defend their faith, Hadley knew something had to be done: an elderly man, . . . wanted them to prove that Christ was anything except a good man, and nothing more. The young people felt that they could not explain how or why, but did not want to get into controversy with him, so they paid no attention to him. . . . The Lord spoke to me, saying, ‘Our young people must have a clear-cut, orthodox teaching on all lines to be ready to answer correctly all questions on the Bible in a convincing way.’ I began talking of the need we had of a Bible Training School for Christian Workers. Stories like these, preserved in cherished archived publications, weave together the rich heritage that shapes our present and guides our future, highlighting the people and events that represent the 115-year-old pledge to keep God First.
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