

# PACIFIC

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■ **New MBA  
features  
global focus**

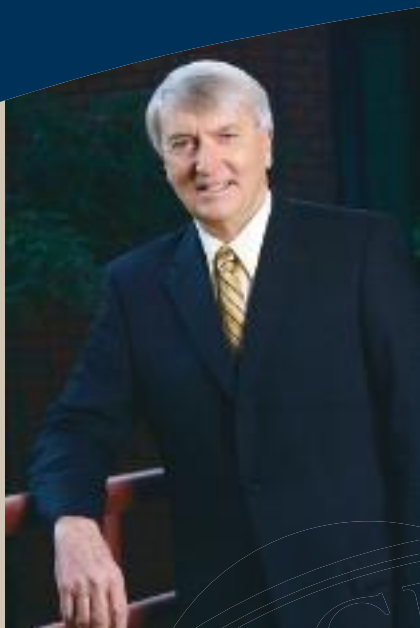
■ **MCC Sale  
bookshop  
looks to new  
generation**

■ **Men's tennis  
national  
champions**

## Bearing fruit

Grads ripen for success in "every good work" of life

# president's message



D. MERRILL EWERT

The first question I get from the parents of many high school students is, “What job will my daughter/son be qualified for if she/he comes to study at Fresno Pacific?” I tell them a liberal arts education helps student think critically, gather and analyze data, synthesize ideas and construct logical arguments. They study other cultures, learn to interpret new experiences and are challenged to write more clearly and broaden their worldviews. We’re preparing students for life—for careers that may not even exist yet.

I wrote my doctoral dissertation on an electric typewriter made by a company that no longer exists, using data punched onto cards and analyzed by a computer that filled a large room. My laptop has much more power and versatility. While living overseas in the middle 1980s, I marveled at the telex, which enabled me to send short and terse messages to my organization’s home offices. When I returned to the States in 1986, I exchanged emails with the only two people I knew who had that capacity. Today, I don’t go anywhere without my iPhone, which I use for everything from text messaging to finding my car in a crowded parking lot.

The world is changing rapidly; so must we. What doesn’t change, I tell those parents, is our commitment to academic excellence, to living with integrity and our deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

A businessman told me he hires FPU graduates first. When I asked him why, he laughed and replied, “You screen them for me; you screen them for values. Your students know the content of their fields, but also have integrity and a work ethic.” He went on to say most students graduating with degrees in business have generally taken the same courses; he assumes he can teach them the specifics of his business. What he can’t teach, he told me, is character.

These are incredibly challenging times for our nation. Our society is crying out for leaders who demonstrate personal integrity, reflect a commitment to excellence and are prepared to assume the mantle of leadership. Though our students graduate with specific knowledge and skills in their respective disciplines, we go the extra step and prepare them for lives of “leadership and service through excellence in Christian higher education.”

That’s our mission, our passion, our calling.



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In good economic times and bad, FPU prepares graduates to live worthy lives, as Paul wrote, "bearing fruit in every good work." In this issue six grads talk about the good work in their future and the difference classes, faculty and friends made to their minds, their skills and their wisdom.

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Tennis gives the nationals a one-two punch as the men earn the championship and the women claim first-runner-up

# We do not choose our time— we can make the most of it

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

When Gandalf the Grey dropped that pearl of wisdom on Frodo Baggins, the time was grim. Middle Earth would soon be fighting for its existence against evil and a humble Hobbit was its only hope.

Gandalf and Frodo have the advantage of being fictional characters. But the author of those words, and the rest of *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, was very real and knew times of worldwide depression and war.

Today no evil eye glows on the horizon, thankfully, but now is not the easiest time to set out, university degree in hand, in search of a new life and career.

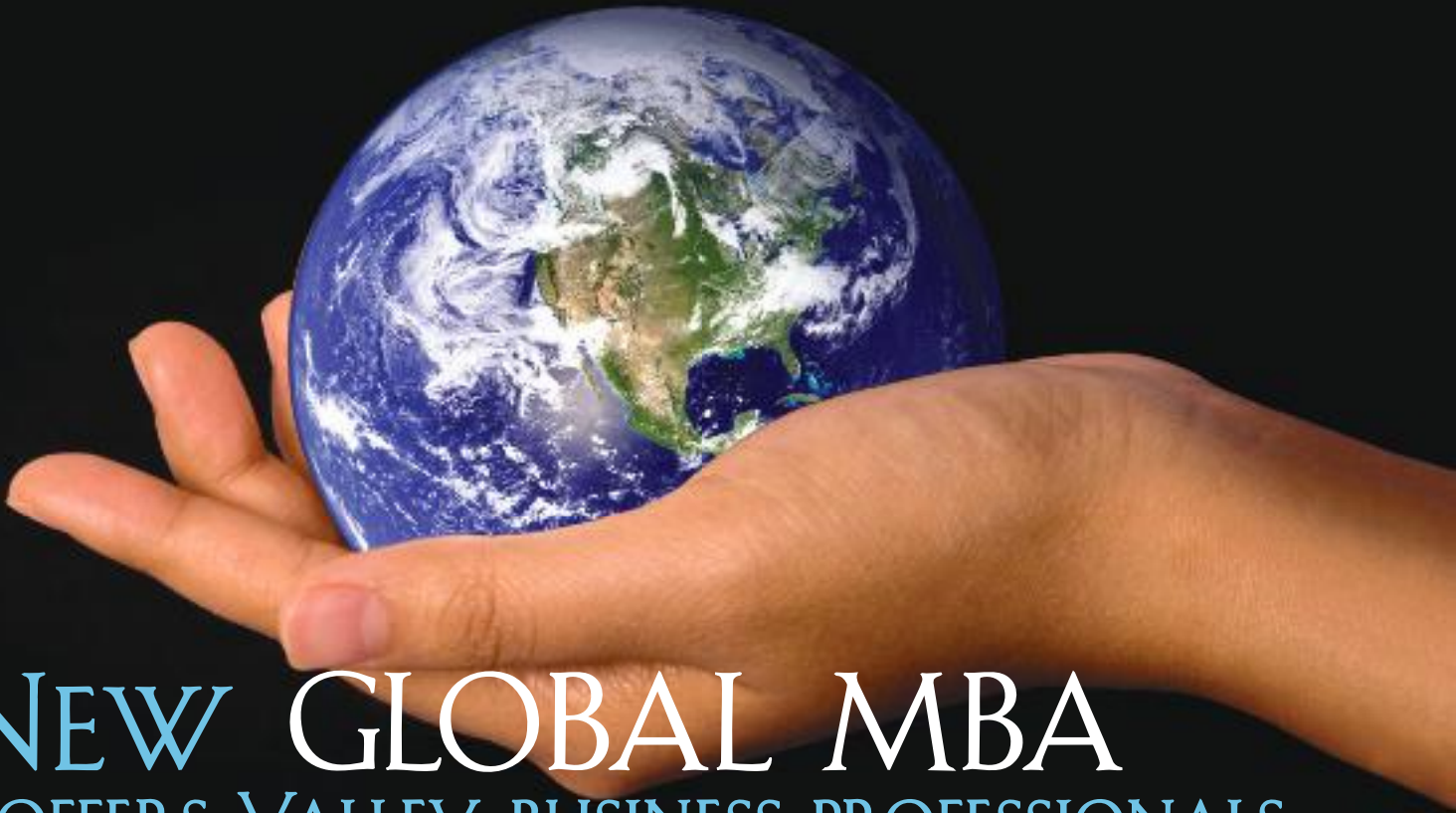
Some of our graduates step from commencement onto the fast track in careers, service or further education. Others sort things out over a few more shifts at Starbucks. No worries—lives move at different paces and with patience the slow traveler may go farther.

Of course Frodo had to exert effort, which goes for graduates as well as Hobbits, but neither he nor they toil alone. Frodo was equipped with Sting, elven armor and the light of Earendil. He also had a mentor in Gandalf and friends in the rest of the fellowship. FPU graduates are equipped with knowledge, professional preparation and an ethical foundation in Christ. They also have mentors in the faculty and friends in their fellow alumni.

Frodo's example offers advice to our graduates: travel light, take one step at a time, look ahead no matter what and have faith.

—Wayne Steffen





# NEW GLOBAL MBA

## OFFERS VALLEY BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

**T**he new global MBA will prepare Valley professionals for success in the world economy.

As recent events have reminded everyone, the business world is just that—worldwide. What happens in Asia and Europe affects our region. “You just can’t be in your own little place and ignore what’s going on around you,” said Justin Dermon, business faculty.

FPU’s global MBA takes a broader view than conventional programs. “The traditional MBA is just the functions of an organization—marketing, accounting, etc.—you assume it’s a domestic organization,” said Dennis Langhofer, program director. “We assume we are working...to prepare people here (in the Central Valley) to work in a global environment.”

The degree’s international component comes through in the faculty, curriculum and foundation. Langhofer, who is also the interim dean of the School of Business, has run his own

business and studied and taught leadership. Dermon, who teaches finance, is a Fresno native who moved to France at age 12 when his parents (his father is French) became missionaries there. He earned advanced degrees and taught in France before returning in 2008, the same year he joined the FPU faculty. They are joined by Peng Wen, a native of Taiwan who has been teaching economics at the university since 1990. He is also a member of the economic advisory council to the Taiwanese government.

Another fascinating feature of the global MBA is that students will see the world they’re learning about. A two-week international trip is included in the tuition.

Travel will be more than sightseeing. “We’ll connect with the local business community,” Wen said.

Classes will meet one night a week, and there will be an online component, as well. Groups of students, known as cohorts, will study together and sup-

port each other from the first class to graduation. The 41-unit program will take 16 months and the first cohort begins in August at the North Fresno Center.

The need for the global MBA is real. FPU’s research in the Stockton to Bakersfield and Central Coast regions suggests demand for graduate-level education will increase hand-in-hand with the need for people in management positions. Candidates for the program may be traditional B.A. graduates or working professionals who have completed their bachelor’s degree. The goal is to prepare them to be entry- or middle-level managers, or to operate their own businesses.

Finally, the program fits well with FPU’s mission to help students become professionally prepared and ethically equipped leaders. “There’s a right way to do business, and then there are other ways. We are to be ethically oriented,” Langhofer said.

[fresno.edu/business/mba](http://fresno.edu/business/mba)

# Reading—and making readers—is a passion for Jean Fennacy

by Wayne Steffen

QUIET AND THOUGHTFUL may be your first impression of Jean Fennacy. That impression misses her passion. “Reading opens the world,” she said.

To open the world for a child a teacher must “look at each child as an individual and see the abilities each child has and how we can use those abilities to make each child a more proficient reader,” she said. Fennacy, retiring this spring as reading and language arts program director, has been teaching teachers to produce proficient readers at FPU for 26 years.

During her tenure Fennacy saw three California Commission on Teacher Credentialing reviews, a Western Association of Schools and Colleges reaccreditation, a stint as associate dean and service on a myriad of campus committees. Among her informal honors, she is a founding resident of Bartsch Hall. “I think I’m the only person of those who first moved in who’s still in the same office,” she said. “Which means there’s some stuff to be cleaned.”

Fennacy’s office shows a reader at work. Shelves are crammed with books and magazines, with more lining the walls. Framed pictures from *The Horn Book*, a journal of children’s and young adult literature, hang on the walls.

Some students who entered that office became colleagues. Bobbi Jentes Mason, single subject program director in teacher education, was the first potential student Fennacy interviewed. Rene Lebsock, education faculty, was in her first teacher education class.

Lebsock spotted something different about Fennacy’s classes. “Jean used the same teaching techniques she was teaching us. My classes had always been ‘instructor lectures and student listens’ but in her classes we were actively engaged in the learning process,” Lebsock said.

Mason found Fennacy interested in individual students and the field as a whole. “Jean has had incredible influ-



ence on literacy because of her bringing nationally and internationally known literacy scholars to the university,” Mason said. “And her keen intellect helped so many graduate students work through a master’s project.”

Though a Fresno native, Fennacy’s first contact with Fresno Pacific came when she was teaching in Fresno Unified School District and brought her fourth grade class to a production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

Fennacy’s inspiration to become an FPU student and faculty member was Jane Skinner, her predecessor as program director. But her first contact with Skinner started poorly.

A cafeteria full of teachers was at Lane Elementary for an in-service presentation. Skinner was the speaker, but had forgotten the appointment. “The teachers were fussing,” Fennacy remembered. Someone called Skinner and she came over. Any fussing Fennacy was doing quickly turned to fascination. “I found her presentation rather enlightening,” Fennacy said in her understated style, “and I thought I’d like to hear more.”

After enrolling in the reading specialist program, Fennacy developed a writing class and co-taught a reading class with Skinner. After 16 years at FUSD as a classroom teacher and read-

ing specialist, Fennacy was coming to the end of a three-year special assignment teaching teachers to teach writing. FPU was attractive because Fennacy would have more flexibility while finishing her doctorate.

Through the years Fennacy has kept that passion. “I’m still working with wonderful students: teachers who want to make children into thoughtful, joyful readers,” she said.

The field has changed, and may be changing again. “When I came here in the eighties it was a very rich time,” Fennacy said. Teachers were involved in curriculum decisions and there was a rich array of trade books in the classroom.

The past 10 years saw the rise of outside forces, such as No Child Left Behind and the emphasis on standardized tests. “That’s reduced the curriculum in many places,” she said. “California has had a particularly restricted view of NCLB.” This emphasis often results in teaching to the test.

For the future? “There’s beginning to be some loosening up,” Fennacy said. Research has criticized Reading First, the NCLB reading program, as ineffective, with its emphasis on “fluency” as the ability to read fast with little or no concern for meaning. “My philosophy hasn’t changed. I still see that the purpose of reading is to make meaning,” Fennacy said. “That’s what makes passionate readers.”

As for Fennacy’s future, “retirement” will return her to her first role at FPU: adjunct faculty. “I’ll do pretty much what I’m doing now—but I won’t have to go to meetings and serve on committees,” she said, and that was a smile. There’s also gardening and Petunia’s Place, the bookstore she co-owns.

“It’s been a great ride,” Fennacy said. “I’ve said many times God put me here for a reason, and it’s not what I could give but what I could receive.”



## Demystifying financial aid (Part 2)

Students from many backgrounds plus aid from a variety of sources equals affordable quality

A Fresno Pacific University education has many benefits: challenging academics, expert faculty devoted to helping students succeed and ethical as well as professional preparation.

One more thing—it's also affordable to students and families of many different backgrounds and circumstances.

More than 98 percent of traditional undergraduate students receive financial aid, and last year the university awarded over \$32 million, including more than \$8 million in Fresno Pacific grants and scholarships. Annual academic scholarships and awards for activities such as sports and music can amount to full tuition. In addition, 40 percent of freshmen and transfers get Cal Grants ranging from \$9,708 to \$11,259 per year.

"Our counselors are ready to help students attend Fresno Pacific," said Ken Isaak, director of financial aid. "Don't be intimidated—contact our office and see what we have to offer."

To demonstrate, let's pretend. The names below are not real, but the aid packages are:

**JENNIFER** — *"I got very good grades in school, but my family is a long way from rich. I'm from California and look forward to living on campus."*

ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES	
Full-Time Tuition (12-18 units per semester)	\$23,640
Housing & Full Access Meal Plan	\$6,180
Student Body Fee	\$258
Total Tuition and Fees:	\$30,078
Gift Aid	
President's Scholarship	\$10,000
Cal Grant	\$9,708
Pell Grant	\$5,350
ACG Grant	\$750
Total Gift Aid:	(\$25,808)
Loans	
Stafford Student Loan	\$4,270
Total Loans:	(\$4,270)
Remaining Amount Due FPU:	\$0

**DANIEL** — *"I hope my involvement in music helps me get financial aid. I'll move to California to attend FPU and live on campus."*

ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES	
Full-Time (12-18 units per semester)	\$23,640
Housing & Full Access Meal Plan	\$6,180
Student Body Fee	\$258
Total Tuition and Fees:	\$23,898
Gift Aid	
Dean's Scholarship	\$7,500
Pell Grant	\$5,350
Music	\$3,000

ACG	\$750	
FPU Grant	\$773	
Total Gift Aid:		(\$17,373)
Loans		
Stafford Loan	\$5,500	
Total Loans:		(\$5,500)
Remaining Amount Due FPU:	\$7,205	
Payment Amount (Semester Payment Plan):	\$3,605	
- OR -		
Payment Amount (4 Payments per Semester):	\$900	

**AMANDA** — *"Athletics is my gift, and though I don't come from too far away I plan to live in a residence hall."*

ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES	
Full-Time (12-18 units per semester)	\$23,640
Student Body Fee	\$258
Housing & Full Access Meal Plan	\$6,180
Total Tuition and Fees:	\$30,078
Gift Aid	
Dean's Scholarship	\$7,500
Volleyball Scholarship	\$5,300
Total Gift Aid:	(\$12,800)
Loans	
Stafford Student Loan	\$5,500
Parent Plus Loan	\$11,778
Total Loans:	(\$17,278)
Remaining Amount Due FPU:	\$0

**JOSE** — *"I'm a transfer student and my hard work has paid off with good grades. I can live at home while attending FPU."*

ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES	
Full-Time (12-18 units per semester)	\$23,640
Student Body Fee	\$258
Total Tuition and Fees:	\$23,898
Gift Aid	
Transfer Scholar Award	\$8,000
Cal Grant	\$9,708
Pell Grant	\$5,350
Total Gift Aid:	(\$23,058)
Loans	
Stafford Student Loan	\$840
Total Loans:	(\$840)
Remaining Amount Due FPU:	\$0

These are just a few of the sample financial aid packages at [fresno.edu/experiencefpu](http://fresno.edu/experiencefpu). To find out where you, or someone you know, might fit in, contact an admissions or financial aid counselor at [ugadmis@fresno.edu](mailto:ugadmis@fresno.edu) and [sfs@fresno.edu](mailto:sfs@fresno.edu) or 1-800-660-6089 and 1-866-321-7502.





## Bakke urges urban churches to rethink

*Sixth Ministry Forum draws 350*

Seven words keep city churches from ministering to the multitudes around them, Ray Bakke says. It's the We Never Did it That Way Before Syndrome, and it crosses theological and denominational lines.

Bakke—a pastor, teacher and author—talked about getting beyond that syndrome as featured speaker for the 2009 Central Valley Ministry Forum February 26.

“They’re the seven last words of churches,” Bakke said. “Ninety percent of the major barriers (to urban ministry) are not in the cities. They’re in the churches, people, seminaries and denominations.”

For example, Fresno has 500,000 people and about 500 churches—one church for every 1,000 residents. In Chicago the Hancock Building is daytime home to 28,000 people, Bakke said, half of whom also live there.

What would happen, Bakke asked, to pastors who suggested buying 28 condominiums in the Hancock Building to start 28 churches—the same ratio as Fresnoans enjoy? Laughter from the 350 pastors and lay leaders gathered in the Special Events Center was all the answer needed.

Yet extreme thinking is required to reach the urban unchurched, according to Bakke, a former inner-city pastor and co-founder of the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education. His books include *The Urban Christian* and *A Theology as Big as the City*. Today he is distinguished professor of global urban ministry, chancellor and chairman of the board at Bakke Graduate University in Seattle.

Another radical idea, work with police. Officers know the problems in neighborhoods. “We’re peers here—whether it’s tax money or tithe money, it’s all God’s money,” Bakke said.

Bar owners also do a lot of informal social work. “You can’t pay for the education you get,” Bakke said, “if you just ask people the questions.”

Traditional church growth aims at increasing attendance one day a week and encourages pastors to create churches in their image. “If you’re going to move into the city, the exact opposite is true. Most people aren’t going to look like you,” Bakke said.

## ALPHA CHI STUDENTS TAKE NATIONAL HONORS

FPU’s CA ZETA Chapter of Alpha Chi was well represented at the national honor society’s annual convention in April in Indianapolis.



From left, Guravova, York, Crosby, Johnson, Greaver

Jennifer Johnson received the prize in the Contemporary Bioethical and Other Ethical Issues category for her presentation “Patient Confidentiality versus Duty to Warn: Stuck between a Biomedical Scylla and Charybdis.” Her faculty mentors were Alan Thompson, biology, and Elizabeth Lake, psychology.

Daniel Crosby presented “Livy: The Creation of History” and served as the university’s student voting delegate. His faculty mentor was Marshall Johnston, history and classics. Melanie Greaver presented “Heathen,” a short story. Her faculty mentors were Bruce Boeckel, English, and Pam Johnston, history and classics.

Elena Guravova presented “Russian Impact: Students for Orphans.” Her faculty mentor was Peng Wen, economics.

Rachel York presented “Hinnom: Underworld of Jeremiah’s Jerusalem.” Her faculty mentors were Greg Camp, biblical and religious studies, and Nate Orgill, history.

Chapter sponsors Fay Nielsen, associate dean of mentoring and retention, and Marshall Johnston served as judges. Nielsen judged the Exercise Science/Nutrition and Johnston judged and Economics/Political Science/Social Science categories. Nielsen is also Region VII vice president.

CA ZETA received Star Chapter Recognition for the fourth consecutive year, and was nominated by Region VII to apply for the National Outstanding Chapter Award.



## UNCLE VANYA IS SPRING PLAY

Anton Chekhov’s classic look at what happens when relatives stay too long was the spring Mainstage production. *Uncle Vanya* was performed April 16-18 and 23-25 in Ashley Auditorium, directed by Julia Reimer, theater professor. Cast members were Vanya—Noe Hernandez, Sonya—Jennifer Smith, Yelena—Stephanie Wasemiller, Maria Voinitskaya—Maureen LeDesma, Astrov—Ben Carr, Professor Serebryakov—Patrick Allan Tromborg, Telegin—Joshua Andrade-Cantu, Marina—Jeanetta Smith, Factory worker—Jessica Velasquez and Servant—Marrissa Lopez. (Photo by Bethany Rader)



## faculty &amp; staff focus



**Larry Warkentin**, D.M.A., music faculty emeritus, saw his cantata for choir, soloist and orchestra, "Sun, Moon and Stars," premiere at Tabor College May 10. He also performed several of his

compositions during Sound in the Lands, a conference of Mennonite composers and performers at Conrad Grebel in Waterloo, Ontario, June 6-8. They are *Immigrant Laughter and Tears*, *Three Ancient Chinese Songs* and *Two Songs of Russian Mennonite Persecution*. He presented a paper titled "Art or Popular Music?—Finding Appropriate Responses to our Fractured World" at the conference.



**Allen Carden**, Ph.D., degree completion academic coordinator/liberal arts faculty, gave a talk titled "The Lincoln Legacy" at the Fresno County Law Day Luncheon (sponsored by the Fresno

County Bar Association) on May 8.



**Kevin Enns-Rempel**, M.A., archivist, presented "'Missing the Point': the Development of Mennonite Brethren Church Building Design, 1880-1960," to the California Mennonite Historical

Society Annual Meeting in Fresno April 19.



**Brian Schultz**, Ph.D., biblical and religious studies professor, has written *Conquering the World: The War Scroll (1QM) Reconsidered*. The book is published in the series *Studies on the Texts of the*

*Desert of Judah* (vol. 76) by Brill Academic Publishers. The book is a new look at the War Scroll, among the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Found between 1947 and 1956 in 11 caves near the Dead Sea, these 800-plus texts are believed to have belonged to a Jewish sectarian group, probably a branch of the Essenes.



**Peter Kopriva**, Ed.D., special education and early childhood development professor, was on a board of institutional reviewers for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing's accreditation

review of Mills College and its teacher credential programs within the Mills College School of Education. His focus during the March 2009 visit was the early childhood specialist credential in special education.



**Fran Martens Friesen**, M.A., English faculty, presented "Peers, Papers, and Progress: The Evolution of Stretch Class Writing Lab," at the Conference on College Composition and Com-

munication 2009 annual convention March 11-14 in San Francisco. She presented with Suzanne Kobzeff, FPU writing program coordinator 2000-2005, 2007-2008.



**Eleanor Nickel**, Ph.D., English professor, was among 30 faculty members nationally selected to participate in the seminar *Slave Narratives* at Yale University, June 7-10. Sponsoring organizations include

the Council of Independent Colleges and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.



**Richard Wiebe**, M.A., philosophy professor, was appointed to a "mixed-use" consortium representing the Sierra Club to the city of Merced. The group is working with UC Merced on in-fill projects with multiple uses (retail, office, condominium) to reduce sprawl.



**Ruth Dahlquist**, Ph.D., biology professor, presented "An evaluation of pheromone trapping for banana weevil (*Cosmopolites sordidus*) management in Costa Rican smallholder

plantain farms" at the 2008 annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America, November 16-19, 2008, in Reno.



## KLASSEN WINS HORIZON AWARD

Roy Klassen, D.M.A., music professor, was selected by the Fresno Arts Council for the Ella Odorfer Educator Award, part of the 2009 Horizon Awards. Klassen has performed with the New York City Opera Company and numerous orchestras. He joined the FPU faculty in 1977 and teaches conducting and voice, directs the university Concert Choir and Pacific Chamber Singers and is founder and conductor of the San Joaquin Chorale, a community choir. Klassen has also been involved in church music in Pasadena, Bel Air, Glendale, Sanger and Fresno. He has served as clinician and adjudicator for schools throughout the United States and Japan, including festivals and workshops for the American Choral Directors Association, California Music Educators Association and Association of Christian Schools International. The FAC initiated the Horizon Awards 24 years ago to recognize artists and arts supporters in the Fresno community. Klassen was nominated by fellow music faculty Wayne Huber. Shown here from left are Roy and Paula Klassen and Laurel and Wayne Huber. (Photo by Eddie Melikian courtesy of Fresno Magazine)

## COSA mixes support and accountability to help offenders rejoin the community



### WHAT DO WE DO WHEN OUTCASTS COME BACK?

People convicted of sex crimes are reviled on both sides of prison walls. Inside they are protected from other prisoners; outside lists and locations of convicted sex offenders are only a Google away.

But most sex offenders do not serve life sentences, which means they rejoin the rest of us. Then what?

Some shrug and say there is no rehabilitation for offenders, only vigilance for the community. Others try and reach beyond the rap sheet with a mix of accountability and support.

The Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies received a \$290,000 grant from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA). Created in Ontario, Canada, by a pastor, COSA seeks to reduce the risk of re-offense and ease offenders back into society.

"Experience and research have shown that providing support for sex offenders while holding them accountable is very effective in creating safe communities and in assisting ex-offenders to lead productive lives," says program director Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower.

Each circle comprises four-to-six people from the community and an ex-offender, known as the "core member." Circles meet regularly, generally at a church, and members provide practical, physical, emotional and spiritual support for the core member, as well as holding him accountable for his actions. (No circle meets at FPU.)

The first Fresno circle was formed in July 2007 and as of March 2009 10 are operating with more being formed. Each circle works with one offender and begins with weekly meetings and a one-year commitment. Some circles go on for years. "From what I've seen the groups really become a strong mini-community that bonds very closely," Ruth-Heffelbower said.

Core members are all volunteers. "We're looking for people who really want to rehabilitate," Ruth-Heffelbower said.

That doesn't mean COSA takes only easy cases. The program wants offenders with large needs and no support. "The ones people are scared of," Ruth-Heffelbower said.

Community circle members come from many backgrounds. "It doesn't take a particular expertise," Ruth-Heffelbower said. One circle includes a housewife, a student and a retired person.

While Ruth-Heffelbower does not expect a perfect record, she does see COSA making a difference. A 2007 Canadian study found a group of offenders in COSA reoffended 83 percent less than a group that was not. In Fresno, some core members have returned to prison for parole violations, but none have reoffended.

The foundation on faith and emphasis on volunteers is the genius of COSA, said Ruth-Heffelbower, a pastor herself. "When the community takes responsibility for its own safety and for assisting offenders to live productive lives, healing for all involved can occur," she said.

Read a conversation between a core member and a survivor at: [fresno.edu/news/COSAsidebar](http://fresno.edu/news/COSAsidebar)

## STUDENTS CONFER ON CONSERVATISM

A student organization hosted a public conference on the state of conservative politics. "The Conservative Movement: Past, Present, and Future" was May 2 in the Special Events Center, sponsored by the Sunbird Conservatives. Featured speakers were Victor Davis Hanson, classicist, military historian, author and fellow at the Hoover Institute; Bruce Thornton, author and professor at California State University, Fresno; Jonathan Krohn, teenage author and performer; and Marshall Johnston and Steve Varvis, FPU faculty. Panel discussions also included Congressmen Devin Nunes (R-Cal.) and George Radanovich (R-Cal.), faculty member Peng Wen, radio personality Inga Barks, Jon Fleischman of FlashReport, Pastor Chad Vegas (B.A. '95), Assemblyman Danny Gilmore (R-30th) and Jim Patterson, former Fresno mayor. From left: Radanovich, Wen, Nunes, Cliff Unruh (B.A. '71). (Photo by Bethany Rader)





## WIND ENSEMBLE ROCKS CARNEGIE HALL



The Community Wind Ensemble rocked the Big Apple with a concert at Carnegie Hall as part of the 2009 New York Band and Orchestra Festival.

The 50-member ensemble was invited to the March 28-April 2 festival by Larry Sutherland, artistic director for hosting organization World Projects and faculty emeritus at California State University, Fresno.

The concert was in the Isaac Stern Auditorium/Ronald O. Perelman Stage. "We all felt like stars," said Patricia DeBenedetto, music faculty and ensemble conductor. "After we played our final note, the audience rose to their feet in a spontaneous standing ovation."

"In that hall everything sounds fuller, warmer and more sonorous," said percussionist Sarah Carter (BA '08). Matthew Michal, a sophomore who plays bassoon, agreed. "Being in that kind of hall just forces the entire group to play at their utmost."

Among the selections was the New York premiere of "From Alpha to Omega: Prelude and Fugue X" by Walter Saul, music professor. Saul's arrangement, expressly for the wind ensemble, was from his *From Alpha to Omega*.

Other highlights included giving a pops concert in Central Park (shown here) that drew a standing room only crowd.

## The key to Ecclesiastes is not where you think

To find the key to Ecclesiastes, ignore the main wise man and skip to the end.

That's the short version of "Challenging the Idols of the Twenty-first Century: The Message of the Book of Ecclesiastes," part of the 2009 Janzen Lectureship in Biblical Studies, sponsored by FPU and MB Biblical Seminary.

The lectureship, honoring Edmund Janzen for his 35 years as FPU professor and president, took place March 19-20. The speaker was Tremper Longman, III, Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies at Westmont University and member of the committee that produced the New Living Translation.

Ecclesiastes seems to contradict itself and the rest of the Bible, Longman told about 85 people gathered the evening of March 19 at MBBS. Yet it raises questions for today. "It's our idol-buster," Longman said. Idols for contemporary people being careers, wealth and other people.

Readers need to remember the two speakers. One is Qohelet, the "preacher" or "teacher," a son of David and king of Jerusalem who is the main voice and speaks in the first person. The second speaker Longman called the "frame narrator," a father talking to his son about Qohelet. This narrator appears at the beginning and end of Ecclesiastes and speaks in the third person.

Longman summed up Qohelet's view in one sentence: "Life is difficult and then you die. Death for Qohelet renders life meaningless," Longman said.

Philosophers of the time claimed the wise and the virtu-

ous would have good lives, while the foolish and evil would not. Qohelet's experience tells him that wise and foolish meet the same fate. "Qohelet is a struggling, confused wise man," he said.

Qohelet's best advice is to forget our fate through work, food and drink and friends and family. "It's the gift of distraction," Longman said.

This book belongs in the Bible because Qohelet does not get the last word. That last word, and the key to the book, lies with the frame narrator, who in the closing two verses turns Qohelet on his head. "He's saying, 'Son, I have exposed you to the thinking of Qohelet because it is true, as long as you stay under the sun,'" Longman said, using Qohelet's phrase for the world—that which is "under the sun."

The son, and all of us, needs an "above the sun" perspective, Longman said: Death is not the end. There will be justice because God will judge. Meaning is found only with God.

"He's very clearly saying read the rest of the Bible," Longman said.





## 400 GRADUATE MAY 9

### Kunz father and son earn awards

About 400 students graduated May 9 during the 2009 Spring Commencement.

Approximately 150 graduates came from the traditional undergraduate program, 150 from bachelor's degree completion program and 100 earned master's degrees. The traditional undergraduate ceremony began at 10:00 a.m., and the degree completion and graduate ceremony was at 3:00 p.m. Both events took place on the East Hall Green.

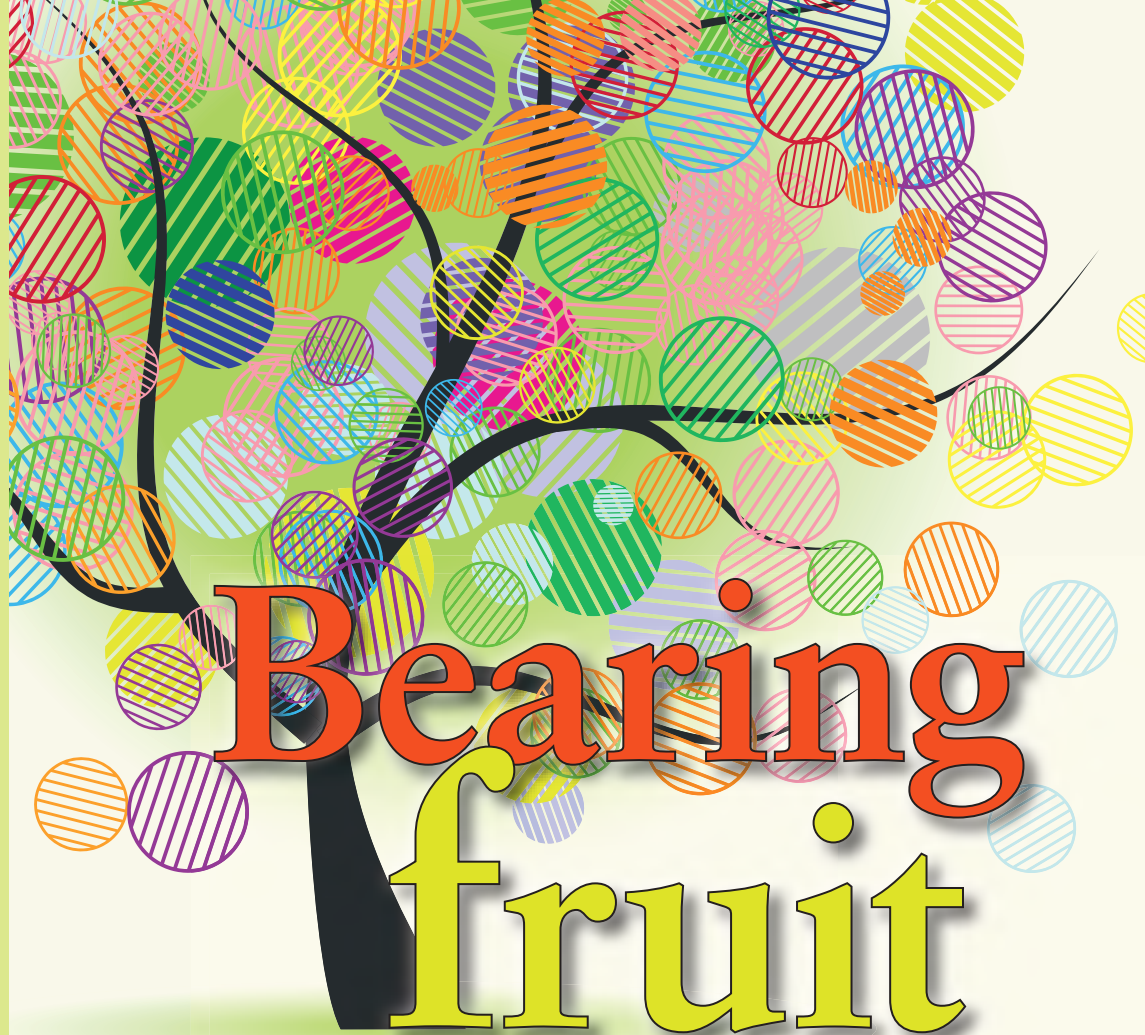
The morning commencement address was "Finding Delight in Being a Jar of Clay," by Kent Eaton, dean of the FPU School of Humanities, Religion and Social Sciences. The afternoon address was "Fifty-year, Three-tab Roof Shingles...and You," by Gary Gramenz, dean of the School of Education.

Both speakers urged graduates to seek humble service. Humility is a precondition to being used by God and, along with faith, will bear you up in times of trouble, Eaton said. "The humble person is the one who remains buoyant."

Gramenz called 50-year, three tab roof shingles unsung heroes because they succeed at important but unglamorous work through their strength, unity and quality materials. The best contractors use them, he said, "because they want their work to last."

Michael Kunz, AIMS professor in science, received the Nickel Excellence in Teaching Award (NETA). Michael's son, Richard Kunz, who graduated in December, won the Harold Haak Award for Academic Achievement. Casey Hawes was given the prize for the highest grade-point average with a perfect 4.0.

Special music was provided in the morning by Tonya Carskadon, piano, and Christa Scott, flute, and in the afternoon by Kaylan Roberts, mezzo soprano, and Brandon Roberts, keyboard. Preston Little gave the traditional undergraduate student address.



by Wayne Steffen

## *Six grads glance back at how FPU readied them for success*

### CALL THEM FIRST FRUITS.

They represent the best FPU has to offer.

Elena's passion to develop others. Christel's focused directness. Dave's wide smile. Susana's energy and optimism. Vanessa's sense of vocation. Dallas's considered insights.

These six are among all the new and recent graduates braving the world of employment and graduate school. An unpredictable journey in good times, and requiring an extra dose of faith and fortitude during these uncertain days.

While markets seem down everywhere, not all the numbers are bad. A university education remains a plus, with the 2008 unemployment rate for college graduates at less than half

the rate for those with a high school diploma, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The U.S. Census Bureau says individual college grads earned about \$26,000 more in 2007 than those with a high school degree.

FPU graduates in particular are welcome in business, education and other fields. Two examples: In recent years 95-100 percent of our grads who have applied to medical school have been accepted and our passage rate for the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) in mathematics is more than twice the state average. In addition, more than one area employer tells us they can count on our alumni to be the best in any crop.

## LET'S SEE WHAT THE HARVEST BROUGHT:

## Elena Guravova

**(BA '09) INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT MAJOR**

Originally from the city of Novomoskovsk in Russia, Elena Guravova came to Gustine, California, as a high school exchange student and stayed because she had little chance of attending a university in her homeland. Some adult friends encouraged her to attend FPU.

While a student, Guravova started Russian Impact ([russianimpact.org](http://russianimpact.org)), a network of students who visit

and improve the lives of children at three orphanages in Russia.

"There is no better way to build peace than to build relationships between countries. I guess we're little diplomats," she says.

One accomplishment was creating a computer lab at an orphanage. Since Russian Impact raised money for the equipment, the Russian government will provide a teacher. The next project is an English classroom. "Computer skills and English are very important to get jobs," she says.

Guravova also took online courses from Denmark Technical University. Through a camera on her computer and another at

the classroom in Denmark, she could attend class, work in groups and give presentations.

After commencement Guravova plans to work with Russian Impact from May to August, then go to Denmark in August or September for a paid position with an engineering company specializing in environmental projects related to development. She has a six-month contract with this firm and may have opportunity to extend it.

At some point Guravova hopes to return to India, where she's part of a project with Innoaid.org, a think tank for sustainable development. Guravova met the founder of Innoaid at Den-



mark Technical University. Innoaid is helping street food vendors in Calcutta organize self-help groups on marketing, hygiene, waste management and financial training. "People came together to see how they can develop," she says.

## Christel Tee Sy

**(BS '08) CHEMISTRY AWARD FOR HIGHEST GRADE-POINT AVERAGE WITH 3.95 (OUT OF 4.0)**

Christel Tee Sy has been admitted to the pharmacology/toxicology doctoral program at UC Davis and is one of 15 recipients of the Atmospheric Aerosols and Health Training Grant, which provides up to \$50,000 for two years to help fund a research project on air quality and health. "It's targeted to study air pollution," Tee Sy says.

Open to any incoming or continuing graduate student, the grant supports

research that involves some aspect of science, engineering or policy. The goal is to integrate the three fields and expose students to the complexity of air quality research. The idea is to apply science to policy and make a difference in people's lives. "Air pollution is not just about research, it's also about legislation," she says.

Tee Sy's family came to the Valley in 1994 from the Philippines and she graduated from high school in Orosi. Tee Sy's interest in science led her to examine air pollution in the region, which has some of the worst air in the United States.

"I found out the extent of the problem of air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley, including its soci-

etal, economical, environmental and health effects," she says.

The San Joaquin Valley Aerosol Health Effects Research Center (SAHERC) at UC Davis ([saherc.ucdavis.edu/](http://saherc.ucdavis.edu/)) is the only program in the state that looks at air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. "That's why I picked Davis," Tee Sy says.

It's already known that diesel exhaust can lead to asthma; Tee Sy is taking the next step and studying its effect on the heart and lungs. She will study how diesel fuel exhaust and particulate matter contribute to atherosclerosis. "Several studies have suggested there is some connection, but they don't really know. That's what I'm going to study," she says.





## David Watson

**(BA '09) MUSIC MAJOR IN COMPOSITION AND PIANO PERFORMANCE**

David Watson is taking the same first step toward a music career as Irving Berlin and George Gershwin.

"I got an internship with a song plugging company," says the Hanford native who was a member of the Concert Choir, Pacific Chamber Singers and Jazz Band.

"I'd like to be a song artist, eventually, or at least

a composer. I feel like that's my calling: to write songs," he says.

The company is Sharp Objects (sharpobject.com). Located in Nashville, the firm writes and promotes country and Christian songs to radio stations. The paid, part-time position began in June and has no set end-date. "If he likes me he could offer me a job; a cool possibility," Watson says. "He" is Steven Sharp, a Valley native who owns Sharp Objects.

Watson hopes to make himself at home in Nashville, since it is a center for both country and Christian music. "They're both passions of mine," he says. "The internship is a foot in the door for me."

Duties will be basic to start with, but Watson was becoming part of the organization even before graduation. "[Sharp] already has me writing critiques of country songs," Watson says. The staff meets Fridays to critique the week's work. "I think he is trying to get me set up for this," he adds.



## Susana Garcia

**(MA '09) LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES (LEAD)**

In the hall next to the Business Office in the vastness that is Kaiser Permanente in Fresno, there is a door. Behind that door is sunshine.

The name of that sunshine is Susana Garcia, and she needs every degree of her natural warmth for her position as healthcare ombudsman/mediator. Her work usually begins after someone thinks something's gone wrong, either with their medical care or the care of a loved one.

"I'm a neutral party who facilitates communication. My role is to open up communication between the organization and the family," she says.

The job may have heated moments, but Garcia wouldn't trade it. "It's always new," she says. "It's wonderful to work here. When I was helping a person this morning, I said,



"This is why I love this job."

A 10-year veteran at Kaiser, Garcia has been in this position five years after a stint as member service director, helping people understand policies. "I've always been member-focused," she says.

A colleague was in the LEAD program. "She went on and on about the quality of education she was receiving and the people she was in the class with," Garcia says.

Garcia has found the same to be true. "Every class had something to offer. I didn't expect that," she says.

Lessons in leadership and conflict management have been especially helpful. Garcia points out she has no staff, no budget, and no authority. "I lead through influence," she says.



## Vanessa Ronk

(BA '08, TC '09) ENGLISH—  
SECONDARY TEACHING  
EMPHASIS  
HAROLD HAAK AWARD  
FOR ACADEMIC  
ACHIEVEMENT

Vanessa Ronk came out of FPU's Teacher Job Fair with the ultimate bird in the hand: a job offer. But she turned it down to help start a school that hasn't opened yet and, as of May, doesn't have a building.

Ronk plans to teach English and social studies at Big Picture High School Fresno ([big-picture-high-school-fresno.org/](http://big-picture-high-school-fresno.org/)), a charter school approved in spring

2009 by Fresno County Office of Education.

Organizers hope to open in the Tower District with 125 freshmen and sophomores and add new freshman classes until the school is full. Ronk's contract begins in August, but she's already involved. "There's a lot of work to be done," she says.

Big Picture focuses on small schools, where:

- Students get to know each other, teachers and administrators.
- Teachers make education plans with the student and parents.
- Students learn how to dress and act in the workplace and spend several

hours each week shadowing someone in a profession of their choice.

Students have had a great deal of academic success at Big Picture schools, and educators can make instruction relevant, Ronk says. This is particularly easy in a large subject like English. "English can become a part of any subject because its part of all disciplines. You write in everything," she says.

The risk is worth it to Ronk because Big Picture has the emphasis on relationships and community she's already grown to love. "This school model is very much in line with Fresno Pacific," she says.



## Dallas Thiesen

(BA '09) POLITICAL  
SCIENCE—PRELAW/  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Dallas Thiesen left commencement with a position in the Law Office of Jeffrey D. Bohn and an acceptance from San Joaquin College of Law. The job at Bohn is the result of an internship in the office. "Apparently they were impressed with me," Thiesen says.

A native of the Reedley-Dinuba area and graduate of Dinuba High School,

Thiesen will work with attorneys on case research and other duties. "Basically I'll be a law clerk," he says.

Once Thiesen graduates from San Joaquin College of Law, he plans to practice. As to what kind of law, "I'm fairly open, but as of now I'm looking to get into civil litigation," he says. Bohn is involved extensively in this area. "That's why this internship was great," Thiesen says.

Thiesen also checked out criminal and immigration law, but lacked interest in them. "There's just something about it that draws me to it," he says of civil litigation. "I really like

doing the research." There is a challenge in sorting through the circumstances leading up to the dispute and relating points of law, according to Thiesen.

Again, the internship was a key to Thiesen's choosing the area of law as well as the profession as a whole. "I've been able to take what I already knew, expand it and apply it in the real world," he says.

## How did FPU prepare these graduates?

Here's what they say:

### CHALLENGING CLASSES/SUPPORTIVE FACULTY

Walter Saul, music, and Edmund Janzen, biblical and religious studies, were influential for David Watson. “(Dr. Saul) was definitely a big influence on my music and on my life in general. When I was having hard times he was always there. He wasn’t just a music teacher,” he says.

Watson took Sermon on the Mount from Janzen. “If you had questions he’d take an hour after class and talk to you,” Watson says. “What makes FPU special is the people you meet and the friends you gain—both in fellow students and teachers.”

Teacher education classes were inspirational for Vanessa Ronk, especially those with Bobbi Jentes Mason. “The vision and mission statement of the teacher education program is that teaching is a calling to redemptive service. If we’re called to this profession, we’re called to minister to that child academically, but also emotionally, socially and spiritually,” she says.

Billie Jean Wiebe’s course Critical Approaches to Teaching, which introduces secondary emphasis students to the teaching profession, was also influential. “To be placed in a classroom before we’re in the teacher ed. program? That’s huge,” she says. “That’s really helped me find my place in the job world.”

The academic focus is just right, Dallas Thiesen says. “There’s a huge emphasis on critical thinking and debate, which helps critical thinking.”

Many pre-law classes are also taught by practicing attorneys. “They were able to convey how this works in the real world,” he adds.

Thiesen called Richard Unruh (BA ’67)—political science faculty and pre-law program director—“brilliant.” “He’s just always been there to help me keep moving along,” Thiesen says. “I always appreciated his style of teaching. (Students could) argue our opinion on the material to really make it our own and apply it to life.”

Elena Guravova agreed with Thiesen on the value of critical thinking. “They taught me to ask good questions,” she says.

“They” are Peng Wen, economics, and Ken Friesen, political science and history. “I’m good in business but my real passion is development. Ken and Peng worked with me a lot,” Guravova says.

Katrina Poetker, former intercultural studies program director, was also helpful as Guravova minored in that area. “Our professors have such a variety of backgrounds in international things,” Guravova says. “They have incorporated that into their teaching.”

The class Theological Ethics and the Environment with Kim Thompson was crucial to Christel Tee Sy. “It was her class that really made me want to do research on air pollution in the Valley. I felt compelled to want to do something about it,” she says.

Also important were Alan Thompson, biology, and Steve Pauls, mathematics and science, who wrote letters of recommendation; Jonathan Dick, chemistry, who gave Tee Sy the opportunity to do research as an undergraduate; and Priscilla Ewert, lab assistant, and Michael Kunz, AIMS professor of science. “They challenged me in their courses. They took time out of their busy schedules,” she says.

### PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE

Practical help such as the job fair and workshops in resume writing and interview skills was, “phenomenal,” according to Ronk. Workshops included the participation of educators in area school districts. “I was very well prepared,” she says.

Susana Garcia liked the mix of philosophy and hands-on learning. “Getting the theory behind it and the practice behind it, (that) makes us stronger leaders,” she says.

Studying conflict management and leadership help Garcia do her job better. “All those focuses, I was able to pick them up and use them,” she says. She talks like a successful prospector. “They all had nuggets and pearls of wisdom I could bring back.”

### ETHICAL FOUNDATION

The foundation is what attracted Guravova. “First of all it’s a Christian school,” she says. “Here I was able to meet a lot of people God put into my life and I was able to take part of them.”

Guravova appreciated FPU’s community. “That genuine concern made me want to be like that too,” she says.

“The courses had a real spiritual aspect. It was really exciting for me,” Garcia says. “That’s Fresno Pacific’s strength, the spiritual thread that goes through it.”

When graduates talk about how FPU nurtured them, the ingredients of the ripening process become as hard to separate as the mix of sunshine, water and soil that makes a peach. A conversation about classes leads to professors leads to relationships leads to the spiritual aspect that circulates and permeates all.

And so it should be.

# Richard Bernard helps people who share his past find a future

by Wayne Steffen

A lot of good people travel the road to hell. A special person uses it as a highway to get others out. Richard Bernard (BA '03, MA '08) is doing just that because he believes God has a plan for him. That's the only way he can explain why he's still alive.

Today Bernard is a quiet man. With his ponytail and bi-focals, he may not seem like someone with a master's degree, but he definitely does not look like a former gang member and heroin addict.

But at Bernard's Mariposa home is an M.A. in peacemaking and conflict studies, and under his plum sweater is a gallery of gang tattoos. And in his past is a study of roadmaps, human and holy.

At first life seemed without direction. Bernard started using heroin when he was 11, growing up in North Visalia. "It was everywhere," he said. He got involved in a street gang, then went to prison and into the life there.

During 28 years as an active addict, gang member and convict, there were some hints at a path. He married Gloria, who stuck with him. They have a son, Richard, Jr., daughters Leah, Felicia and Raquel and five grandchildren.

Bernard started treatment in 1983 and by 1990 was a drug counselor and assistant director at Fresno's Maroa Home, a Christ-centered treatment home for men. "My pastor described me as a fallen minister," he said.

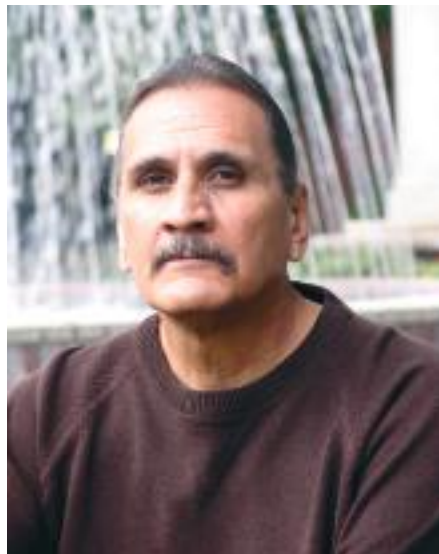
Continuing work as a counselor, Bernard completed a bachelor's in FPU's management and organizational development program and life's way seemed clear. The next year he began what he saw as the next step. "My master's degree is one of the last goals I wrote for myself 20 years ago when I got into treatment," he said.

Peacemaking was a natural. "Mediation is a lot of what you do dealing with people in recovery," he said. "It's a basic of the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program. They're both biblical principles and they both work," Bernard said.

Enter Ron Claassen, who would become more than a professor. "He was well on his way to changing when he came here," Claassen said.

In 2004, Bernard started his master's. Within a year all plans were on hold. Bernard found he had Hepatitis C from cirrhosis and needed a liver transplant. "All I had left was two units and my thesis," he said.

After gangs, after prison, after addiction came this new twist in



the road. Bernard's weight fell to 118 pounds and ballooned to 240. He found himself on the second of two lists for potential liver transplants: One of family and friends who could be a match, the other a general list, which includes less-than-perfect livers. Eighty percent of people on the second list never get a liver.

At one point, "my surgeons told me if they didn't find a match I didn't have more than 24 hours to live," he said. Six hours later a match was found, but the ordeal went on. Before surgery Bernard was in a coma four times and pronounced dead twice. "The experience I had then I consider more real than what I see around me," he said.

On January 23, 2007, Bernard had a new liver and two surprises—the surgeon mistakenly gave him a clean liver instead of the imperfect one he expected, and he had also been dying of cancer of the liver. "You can't deny the hand of God is in everything that's happened," he said.

Another signpost was the support of family and friends, as many as 20-25 at a time in his hospital room. "I knew it was their prayers that kept me alive," Bernard said.

One friend called Bernard on his way home from the hospital. "I had a note on my phone that just sat there and sat there," Claassen said. "That I called him right then he believes is not an accident."

Today Bernard is going back to the Hispanic gang members still trapped where he was. "I know it from the inside," he said.

Bernard calls gang members "misplaced warriors"—which he thinks is a great title for his book. "There are people of the same race that have developed ancient hatreds and would kill at the drop of a hat because of physical locations and the colors they wear. Many do not have a clue how the war started and yet their misplaced affections and affiliations govern their very existence," he said.

Claassen is excited by the opportunity. "When he came into the program... I said restorative justice needs to speak to the whole gang issue," he said. "I was hopeful Richard would try to help us figure that out."

His example has already meant something. "I've had many people come to me and say, Richard, how did you get clean and sober?" Bernard said.

The answer: "The difference in me is Jesus," Bernard said. Faith has taken Bernard from places he's been—ex-gang, ex-addict, even surgery survivor—to the future: First in the family to graduate from college.



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Roy Dick (PBI '51)** and son Mel Dyeck traveled to Greece in November 2008, visiting Philippi, Thessaloniki, Corinth, the Parthenon and the site of the ancient Olympics. Highlights included climbing Mt. Olympus and participating in the Athens Marathon.

**Connie (Buckingham BA '81) Blesse** teaches kindergarten at Auberry Elementary School.

**Greg Sommers (BA '89)** is a senior lecturer at Southern Methodist University. He will also become director of the master's of science in accounting program. He and wife **Susan (Phariss FS '94)**, former staff member, live in Dallas.

**Elizabeth Enriquez-Damian (BA '91)** received her doctorate in education from Arizona State University in Tempe in May 2009.

**Judi Rush (BA '96)** has served as a missionary teacher in Okinawa, Japan, since August 2008. She teaches high school math at Okinawa Christian School International.

**Diana Toche (BA '98)** was appointed statewide dental director for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. She previously served as dental director for the Central Valley Indian Health and was an associate dentist.

**Kimberly (McGuire BA '99) Carroll** was appointed vice president of sales and marketing, convenience and foodservice for Ruiz Foods, Inc.

**Tim Schellenberg (BA '01)** and **Steven Zook (BA '04)** were named dean's medalists by California State University, Fresno, during commencement May 22. Steven received his master's degree in math and Tim earned his master's degree in electrical engineering. Steven and Tim were childhood friends in Germany while both sets of parents—**Jill (BA '01, MA '03)** and **Tim Schellenberg** and **Rod and Julia Penner Zook**—served with MBMSI.

**Shirley (Haynes MA '06) Spencer** published the book, *Flowering Shrubs of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada* (Yosemite Association, 2009). The field guide, which features text and watercolor paintings by Shirley, was originally completed as her M.A. thesis in Environmental Studies at FPU.

**Ami Dieye (BA '08)** serves as an executive assistant with Menno-nite Central Committee in Fresno after participating in an orientation at MCC offices in Akron, Pennsylvania, from January 27 to February 6, 2009.



**Nettie Inouye (BA'08)** was named president/CEO of the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce in August 2008.

**Maria Villasenor (BA '08)** is employed by Fresno attorney Chris Bijev as a legal research assistant.

## IN THE NEWS

*Celebrating alumni featured in print and broadcast media.*

**Dina Gonzalez-Pina (BA '90, MA '98)** was a guest speaker on This is Our City on Channel 49/KNXT on May 6, 2009.



**Marc McAlexander (BA '04, TC '05)** was featured in an article in the April 2009 edition of *CUSD Today*, the newspaper of Clovis Unified School District. Marc is choir director at Kastner Intermediate School. Read the article at <http://notes.clovisusd.k12.ca.us/news/cusdtoday.nsf>

Photo special to *CUSD Today* by Ron Webb. Article by Carol Lawson-Swezey.

## MARRIAGES



**Becky Wehmuehler (BA '01)** married Darin Van Stavern July 28, 2007, in Pismo Beach. Becky works at Southwest Baptist University as an admissions counselor. The couple resides in Willard, Missouri.



**Jesse Dunbar (BA '07)** and **Tiffany Nyberg (BA '07)** married on November 8, 2008.

**Brandi Young (BA '08)** married Kyle Travis on April 4, 2009. Brandi is working on her multiple subject teaching credential at FPU and Kyle is a technician at Royer Cycle and Marine in Lemoore. After a honeymoon cruise to Mexico the couple plans to reside in Visalia.

## BIRTHS

**William (BA '97)** and **Allison Dyck** announce the birth of daughter Ashlyn Paige on January 23, 2009. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20.25 inches long.



**Catherine (Massey BA '99) Perez** and husband Alex announce the birth of son Jack Gavane on April 12, 2009. He weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.

**Chris Jacobs (BA '00)** and wife Naomi announce the birth of daughter Chara Rachel on March 8, 2009.

**Victoria (Jackson BA '00, TC '01) Mendes** and husband Alan announce the birth of daughter Amora on November 10, 2008. She joins sister Alana, 4.



**Dan (BA '01) and Kerrie (McPherson BA '01) Rich** dedicated Olivia Charlotte Rich at Mountain Christian Center on March 22. Olivia was born August 11, 2008. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20.75 inches long. She joins sister Lauren, 2.

**Eugene (BA '01, TC '02) Trofimenko** and wife Tanya announce the birth of son Isaac Zachary on February 7, 2009. He weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 inches long.



**Ann (Kauffman BA '03, TC '04) Hilton** and husband Michael announce the birth of daughter Elena on July 26, 2008. Michael is a software engineer and Ann is a part-time secretary for their church. The family lives in San Diego.



**Kristin (Warkentin BA '03) Wood** and husband Justin

announce the birth of daughter Alyssa Grace on November 13, 2008. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Alyssa joins brother Trevin James, 3.

**Becky (Tillery BA '05) Field** and husband Adam announce the birth of Oliver Edward on December 10, 2008. Oliver weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 21.5 inches long. The Fields live in Fresno, where Becky works as dean's assistant in FPU's School of Humanities, Religion and Social Sciences.

## ANNIVERSARY

**Marty (Wagner BA '80) Wiens** and husband Vic celebrated 30 years of marriage in March 2009 and now live in Fresno after 25 years of missionary work in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Vic is working at Mennonite Brethren Mission Service International (MBMSI) as coordinator of mission capacity building.

## DEATHS

**Dorothy (PBI '44) Kopper** died March 4, 2009, in Reedley. She served in the Belgian Congo for 35 years, where she was founder and principal of an all-girls pattern making and sewing high school. She is survived by brother Ed Kopper and his wife Jan, sister Frances Krause, sister-in-law Margie Kopper and brother-in-law Lee Siebert as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

**Dorothy May Kauffman (PBI '44)**, 83, died March 25 in Fresno. She was born in Kansas on September 27, 1925. A graduate of Reedley High School, she became an insurance agent. She is survived by her husband, Howard; sons Morris and Lynn and Lynn's wife, Mary; granddaughter Ann Hilton and

her husband, Michael; and great-granddaughter Elena Mae.

Several other Pacific Bible Institute alumni died in 2009: **Wilma (Dick PBI '47, BA '79) Wall** on January 19, **Jane (Huebert PBI '49) Loewen** on January 5, **Lorraine (Seibel PBI '52) Cordell** in January and **Deloris (Keith PBI '58) Smith** on March 4, 2009.

**Jim Miller (BA '72)** died in January of 2008. Jim was known for making his own mascot costume and cheering for the team when they were the Vikings.

**Barbara Anne (Cackler BA '99) Holm** died in April 2009 after a two-year battle with breast cancer. She is survived by husband Mike and children Julianna, Jackson and Joshua.

FPU has also learned of the deaths of **John Hone (BA '69)** in January 2009, **Maria Alejandro (MA '83)** on January 23, 2009, **Gayle Bonds (MA '84, TC '84)** on February 22, 2009, **Deborah (Sweeney BA '91) Berry** on February 1, 2009, **David Haney (TC '93)** in January 2009 and **Mary (Mattes BA '97) Barber** in January 2009.



## RUTH'S CHRIS WILL COOK FOR THE BAKERS

**LeAnn (Morine BA '99, TC '00) Baker** and her husband Dan won the alumni Facebook contest.

The couple received a \$150 gift certificate from Ruth's Chris Steak House. They were among 200 alumni who became FPU fans on Facebook.

LeAnn and Dan live in Washington, Illinois, with daughter, Kayla Joy (22 months), and expect another child in December. Dan is children's pastor at Great Oaks Community Church in Germantown Hills and LeAnn is a stay-at-home mom who teaches swim lessons a few hours a week at the local community center. Recently, LeAnn also completed her first half-marathon. They enjoy visiting family in Nebraska and California as often as they can.

## IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

**WHAT'S GOING ON?** It's so easy to let your classmates and friends know what's happening in your life. Send your news—job, marriage, children, new address, awards—to alumni updates.

**Email**  
alumni@fresno.edu

**Mail**  
Charity Brown  
Fresno Pacific University  
1717 S. Chestnut Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93702

**Phone:** 559-453-2236  
**Fax:** 559-453-2033  
(attention: alumni updates)  
Please include your graduation year(s) with your update.  
Photos must be 1 megabyte for digital files and at least 3x4 inches for prints.



# MCC book sale under new management

by Wayne Steffen

They could have passed a torch, but they'd have incinerated the inventory.

The book sale, a pillar of the West Coast Mennonite Sale & Auction for World Relief, has new proprietors: In 2009 the Nick and Lydia Reimer family made way for Ray Winter (BA '98) and Jeff Jones (BA '01).

Even before "The Sale" moved to FPU in 1982, the Reimer family has overseen the books. "My parents got involved and dragged the kids in," Dalton Reimer says.

Dalton says "dragged" with the same sly humor familiar to generations of students and colleagues who knew him as professor and dean from 1960 to 2002. Whether there's an underlying truth to his choice of words, Dalton won't say. He will gladly talk about the Reimers and others who have helped with the books over the years.

Nick is 98 and Lydia 95. Their children are Dalton and his wife Beverly; Wilbert, math professor emeritus, and Luetta, English professor emerita married to Wilbert; Rosalie Carter; and Eldene Farrar and her husband James. All of the eight grandchildren have participated.

Books account for \$8,000-9,000 of the \$200,000-ish raised each April by the MCC Sale, but the book sale has built a following figures can't capture. East of the food booths and just north of the quilts, the atmosphere in the Special Events Center racquetball courts radiates quiet intensity as bibliophiles work their way up and down rows of tables, perusing, pondering and eventually pouncing on finds in hardback and paperback books, record albums and CDs. This year for the first time colorful banners and light background music leavened the scene, but most eyes stayed glued to the lines of spines.



Jones, left, and Winter serve a customer

For Jeff and Ray, taking over the book sale was a case of two customers moving to the other side of the cashbox to keep a treasured tradition alive—and feed their own reading habits. "It was something Ray and I had in common," Jeff says. "We'd go to the book sale the first day; the first hour."

Quantities of books are not measured in numbers. "We took seven and one-half truckloads over," Jeff says. Another 40 or so boxes were contributed during the sale.

When not pricing, hauling and selling books, Jeff is FPU institutional research coordinator. After seven years of teaching high school, Ray is working on his doctorate in literature at the University of California at Merced.

There's no predicting what people will contribute, which is both exciting and challenging. "You never know what will be in that box," Dalton says.

All or parts of the libraries of such Mennonite Brethren luminaries as J.B. Toews, Robert Vogt, Henry Schmidt and D. Edmond Hiebert have found their way to the tables. Still available through the online service Beverly Reimer oversees is an 1890s edition of the novels of Alexander Dumas, including the 48-volume core set and all but one volume of two six-volume supplementary sets.

Not every contribution has such merit. "What do you do with romance novels? Good heavens," Dalton asks.

Ray and Jeff recycled them, along with one and one-half tons of titles they

have extra copies of or that have gone unbought year after year. But shredding is the last resort. "We'd love to have the books be a blessing," Jeff adds.

What did the rookies learn? "How dependent we need to become on the concept of team, and building team," Ray says. "We were overwhelmed."

Team—or family—was the Reimer way. Books were stored in Dalton and Beverly's garage and sorting and pricing became Saturday reunions. Customers also became friends. "It's not just about books. It's about people—and books," Dalton says.

Already in awe of Dalton as a teacher, Jeff and Ray are now convinced he can bench press 250 pounds. For his part, Dalton feels that at 71 it's time for someone else to take the load. Still, he recognizes an irony: "We're transitioning out at about the age my parents started," Dalton says.

The generations eagerly honor each other. "This story is about Dalton and the Reimers," Ray says. And Dalton compliments Ray and Jeff's work. "You always have to leave room for someone to do better than you did," he says.

"We had fun doing it and we're going to continue to do it," Ray says. "The physical experience of holding a book is probably timeless."

Timeless for 27 years, and counting.



## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

In 2009 FPU celebrates the 30-year anniversary of the President's Circle. This special group of friends promotes the university, prays for its people and needs, encourages students to attend, gives at least \$1,000 annually and offers advice and encouragement.

"At this time especially we honor the generosity and the example of these founding President's Circle members. Their vision and support still means so much to the mission and students of Fresno Pacific," said Mark Deffenbacher, vice president of advancement and university relations.

Circle membership has grown to 624 since 1979. Those who have been here from the beginning are:

Eugene & Phyllis Enns  
Lorraine Franz  
Dr. Jake & Ruth Friesen  
James & Ruth Unruh

George & Judy Franz  
Dr. Roger & LaWanda Franz  
Marvin & Nadene Steinert  
Dr. Al & Dotty Warkentine

*"FPU is important to us personally as well as to our Mennonite Brethren Conference because it produces people trained in the arts and sciences by faculty members who are motivated by truths consistent with their Christian heritage. On a more personal level, three of our children have attended FPU and we are expecting two grandchildren to enroll in fall 2009."* —**Dr. Jake and Ruth Friesen** (parents of Ken [BA '84] and Fran Martens Friesen [FS '84], faculty members and President's Circle members)

*"Fresno Pacific has been a part of both of our lives for many years. Judy's mother, Katherine (Suderman) Harder attended Pacific Bible Institute. George has a business degree from Pacific. Both of our sons, Chris (BA '04) and Dave (BA '07), are graduates of FPU. We are thankful for the way the university has enriched our lives and are happy we can invest in the FPU community."* —**George and Judy Franz**



President's Circle dinners took place May 1 in Bakersfield and May 2 in Fresno. About 230 people attended the events, which featured entertainment by university ensembles and a report from President D. Merrill Ewert. Here, Lowell and Betty (PBI '51) Bergman, Shafter, arrive at the Bakersfield dinner.

### NEW PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

*FPU welcomes those who have joined the President's Circle between January and April 2009.*

Martin Fox  
Ralph and Elaine Lynn  
Skip and Heidi Lynn  
Peter and Michele Orlando  
Dean and Carol Pryor  
Michael and Susan Sherfield  
Doris Siebert  
William and Sherri Stewart  
Mark and Cindy Wiens

BUILDING ON  
EXCELLENCE

YOUR GIFTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THANK YOU!

**OUR TOTAL TO DATE \$21,810,000**

# Baseball team makes NAIA elite eight

## EARNs FIRST WORLD SERIES BERTH

by Ken Robison

Dwight Nixon's left thumb was hurting. The outfielder had reinjured it on opening night of the NAIA World Series, and coach Oscar Hirschhorn kept him out of the Sunbirds lineup for game two against Embury-Riddle.

Hirschhorn told Nixon to be ready in case the Sunbirds needed a pinch-hitter, and that call came in the bottom of the ninth of a 6-6 deadlocked game.

Nixon blasted a two-out, two-run, pinch-hit, walkoff home run to give Fresno Pacific an 8-6 victory, putting the Sunbirds into elite company—the final eight teams standing in NAIA baseball.

The Sunbirds did not bring home a national baseball title, but they will long remember their team's first trip to the World Series in Lewiston, Idaho.

"It was unforgettable," said senior Anthony Lowell, who had 10 hits in 13 at-bats in the prestigious tournament.



Sunbirds celebrate Nixon's game-winning run

"It's been an honor," said pitcher Daniel Brodie. "I'm honored to be here for this program."

The Sunbirds' season ended in Lewiston with a 5-4 loss to Lee of Tennessee. Hirschhorn's team ended the year 39-21, its best season in the program's four-year existence.

"You feel like it's never going to end, now it's over," Brodie said, referring to both the season and his four-year Sunbirds career.

"Every team [in the World Series] was here for a reason," Nixon said. "We showed we deserved to be here. I wouldn't trade this team for anyone else in this tournament."

Hirschhorn praised his Sunbirds as "such a special group of kids."

"Their toughness, their commitment to the program, to get us to the World Series in our fourth year," Hirschhorn said. "They'll have this for the rest of their lives."

FPU's baseball season was successful in several respects: Making inroads into the Top 10 in the NAIA rankings; placing second in the Golden State Athletic Conference; taking five straight elimination games to win a regional in Iowa and qualify for the World Series. Kelyn Schellenberg also got an All-American team honorable mention.

This was the 10th consecutive year Lewiston hosted the NAIA World Series, and the town of 30,000 on the Snake River rolled out the red carpet for its participating teams.

Nearly 9,000 fans went through the turnstiles on opening night; including more than 5,000 to watch the host Warriors face the Sunbirds.

"I've never played in anything like this before," said catcher Jared Coleman. "They treated us like royalty. I don't think I'll ever sign more autographs than I did this week."

## TRACK & FIELD MARKS RECORD YEAR

The men's and women's track teams had the best Sunbird (or Viking) season ever in 2009, with athletes reaching personal bests, breaking records, winning regional and national honors and more.

School records fell 24 times in 13 events. At the GSAC Championship Track Meet April 25 in San Diego, the teams combined for their highest point totals in school history, with the men finishing second and the women third.

Head coach Eric Schwab was named GSAC Coach of the Year, and four athletes won events: Jessica Suddaby the women's 400 meters, Tiffany Marininos the women's javelin throw, Amanda Straw the women's heptathlon and Ethan DeJongh the men's long jump.

## FPU RECORDS

Men: Ethan DeJongh—60 meter hurdles; Wes Wells—High Jump; Andrew Clark, Anthony Clark, DeJongh, Ben Reckas—4 x 400 meter relay.

Women: Bridney Reese—100 meters; Brandy Hurd—200 and 400 meters; Jessica Suddaby—400 meter hurdles; Amanda Johnson—3000 meter steeplechase, 800 meter run, 1500 meter run; Amanda Straw tied school record—high jump; Suddaby, Tori Alvarez, Reese, Hurd—4 x 400 meter relay; Misty Ramsey, Jessica Perschica, Reese, Hurd—4 x 100 meter relay.



Nationally, two Sunbirds were named All-Americans following the NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships May 21-23 in Edwardsville, Illinois. Marinos and Kaili Zink received the honors after Zink placed third in the women's marathon and Marinos finished fifth in the women's javelin throw. The women's team scored 11 points overall to finish 21st.

At the NAIA Indoor National Championships in Johnson City, Tennessee, the men—paced by DeJongh, Wes Wells and Anthony Puente—finished 17th and the women—led by Johnson, Straw, Suddaby, Alvarez and Reese—finished 34th. DeJongh, Wells, and Straw were named All-Americans.

### AND THERE'S MORE...

As for "and more," at least one member of the team made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and several others rededicated their lives. "The All-American awards, conference finishes and school records are amazing and a credit to this young team of hard-working student athletes," said J.T. Thiesen, associate head coach. "Seeing kids accept Christ as their Savior and Lord and recommit their lives to God is why FPU exists. We are about transforming lives and the track is one more place where this can happen."



## Men's tennis team takes nationals

Both the men's and women's tennis teams had phenomenal seasons capped off by two national final appearances and a first men's national championship.

Coach Neil Castro was named the NAIA Men's Coach of the Year and FPU's Vincente Joli was recognized as the championship's most outstanding player.

Each Sunbird squad faced NAIA tennis powerhouse Auburn University Montgomery in the national finals.

### MEN SNAP SENATORS' STREAK

FPU's third-seeded men's team pulled off the 5-3 upset over the eight-time national champion Senators.

Other awards for the men include senior Marco Foelz's recognition as an NAIA Scholar Athlete for the fourth straight year after compiling a 4.0 GPA over the course of his academic career. An international

business major, Foelz earned his master's this spring.

Junior Alex Gonzalez was selected as the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) national and regional player-to-watch for his outstanding first-year campaign. Gonzalez compiled an impressive 25-1 record primarily at No. 3 singles to go along with a solid 22-5 mark with partner Joli at No. 1 doubles.

The Sunbirds men's tennis team was ranked second and fourth nationally the entire season and secured a second consecutive GSAC title (15-1) with a game to spare.

FPU finished the year 25-2 overall and brought home the fifth overall national title in Sunbirds history. The women's volleyball team won the other four (1989, 2003, 2007 & 2008).

### WOMEN MAKE FINALS

Not to be outdone, the women's team was nationally ranked at No. 2 for the entire season and claimed a fourth-straight GSAC title with a perfect 18-0 conference record and a 24-2 overall mark.

Juniors Katia Sabate and Vanessa Heroux led the Sunbirds. Sabatia compiled a 25-2 record at No. 1 singles and went 25-1 in doubles. She played primarily with Heroux, who was undefeated in doubles play at 25-0.

The women's team has gone undefeated in conference play in all four of its seasons (2006-2009) and ran its GSAC winning streak to 54 in 2009 – just four wins shy from surpassing the all-sports GSAC consecutive wins record.

### TENNIS PLAYERS EARN HONORS

Five Sunbirds earned NAIA All-American team honors, while eight were named to all-GSAC teams. For the women, Ornella Gentile, Maria Klokotzky and Sabate are first-team All-Americans, while Heroux placed on the second team. On the men's side Joli and Fabio Silva earned first-team honors and Maxime Adam was second team. At GSAC, Gentile, Klokotzky, Sabate, Heroux, Joli, Silva and Gonzalez were all selected.



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