

PACIFIC

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 32, NO. 1

Fresno Pacific University

75
YEARS
1944-2019

THE IDEA

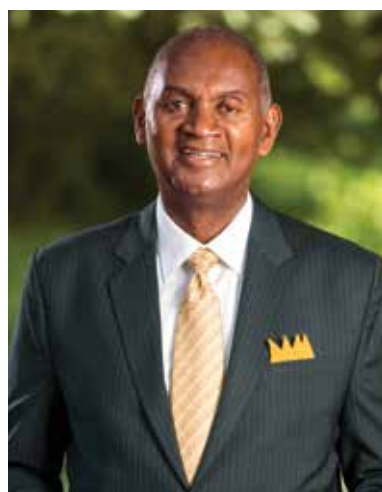
How reflecting
on the past
defines the future

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION | SPRING 2019



president's message

LIVING THE IDEA BEFORE WE KNEW IT



“Not only did it (the Fresno Pacific Idea) identify with our long-term commitments, but it specifically articulated our personal mission and vocational calling in higher education.

— Joseph Jones, Ph.D.

Over two years ago, my wife and I were serving at a Christian university in Lahore, Pakistan. We had begun discussions with Fresno Pacific University about me serving as president. Our reluctance was allayed when we discovered the *Fresno Pacific Idea*. Not only did it identify with our long-term commitments, but it articulated our personal mission and vocational calling in higher education.

We recognized a confluence of our lives, work and education with the prophetic charge of the *Idea*, a charge to live beyond rhetoric, where education serves as a vehicle to actualize the great commandment to love God and neighbor; where nurturing the life of the mind is combined with maturing the heart with a hope and faith that dispels fear and doubt. This prophetic charge galvanizes justice and reconciliation with service and humility, strengthening a vision for flourishing.

Our personal calling was “to extend the influence of the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education.” We discovered almost the exact wording as we examined the *Idea*. We extend this influence by stretching our faith to live beyond ourselves, consistently discovering

ways to combine theory with praxis, rhetoric with engagement and service with love.

Yvette and I both are first-generation college students from economically challenging backgrounds. Our faith in Christ brought us together and launched us into new possibilities. Our testimony has always been: “seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and everything else will follow.” In that context we have overcome so many challenges that defeated our contemporaries. We were living the *Fresno Pacific Idea* before we knew of it.

The *Idea* affirms the university’s Christian identity and commitment to mature as a community of learners with a prophetic purpose. We seek to be intentional in the integration of faith, learning and action motivated by love, which prompts our students and the institution to engage the cultures and serve the communities of the Central Valley and beyond.

The *Idea* continues to be a compass guiding FPU and our graduates into a future of possibilities. As we approach our 75th anniversary, the *Idea* invigorates our faith and resolve that “possible happens here.” Our graduates will explore new pathways, build new bridges and discover new venues of hope, where courage is alive and faith reaches beyond the possible. 🏠

contents

Volume 32,
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Editor's Note

You Can't Say Thank You Too Often

Pacific magazine is meant to represent the best of Fresno Pacific University. I'm proud to share this work with the best:

Faculty, administrators and staff generous with their time and wisdom.

A graphics staff that makes the magazine a partnership between words and images: Niki DeLaBarre, Jared Phillips and Ashley Mejia. Special props to Susan Angusta for negotiating a new printing contract while an issue was in production.

When words bloom from pages errors sprout right alongside. Joining me in the never-ending weeding are Bev Kopper, Anita Cockrum, Ali Sena, Becky Bradley, Hannah Becker, Chase Conklin, Echoe Otto and Justin Gable.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

—Wayne Steffen



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fresnopacific

Pacific is sent to alumni and friends of Fresno Pacific University and to members of the Pacific District Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches.



FEATURES

- 4 **THE IDEA IS BORN...**
As a Bible institute becomes a college, young leaders cast a vision
- 8 **...AND GROWS WITH FPU**
The *Fresno Pacific Idea* still guides university academics, faith and life
- 17 **HIDDEN GEMS**
The wonderful and unusual things that hide in plain site on the main campus

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 19 **LIVES TRANSFORMED**
Ashley Jaramillo helps foster youth go F.A.R.
- 20 **ATHLETICS**
Sunbirds team up for impact on local youth
- 22 **ALUMNI PROFILE**
Two alumni named Warkentin follow God's call in Paraguay
- 24 **ALUMNI NOTES**
Grads publish books and pay it forward through a nonprofit
- 30 **ADVANCEMENT**
Generations of donors tell stories of support



KEEP UP WITH FPU!

At news.fresno.edu. Find *Pacific* on the web at fpu.edu/pacific-magazine

Fresno Pacific University develops students for leadership and service through excellence in Christian higher education.

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WHAT IS THIS BIG

Today's *Idea* calls
Fresno Pacific University:

John E. Toews and Dalton Reimer have been talking since junior high in Reedley, CA. John's father, J.B. Toews, pastored Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church, where both families worshipped, and Dalton's uncle, Arthur Wiebe, was principal at Immanuel, where both young men studied. Not even John's polio quarantine stopped the conversation, as Dalton simply walked the two doors down Rupert Street to chat with his friend through the bedroom window. "We were talking constantly," Toews says.

Before these two teenagers turned 30, their conversations and the vision of community they grew up in would shape Fresno Pacific University. Along with a fresh generation of faculty and a bold president, they would help Pacific Bible Institute develop into Fresno Pacific University. The pair would create the *Fresno Pacific Idea*, defining Pacific College, Fresno Pacific College and Fresno Pacific University. "We were extremely privileged to be in at the creation of something new," Reimer says.

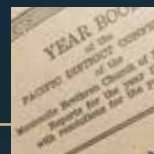
The *Idea* has had three editions: the 1966 original; a second from 1983, edited by Wilfred

1922



► "Bethany College" is proposed to Pacific District Conference of MB Churches (PDC)

1935



► PDC creates School and Education Committee

1941



► PDC votes to establish a Bible institute

IDEA

ANYWAY?

By Wayne Steffen

- ▶ A Christian university
- ▶ A community of learners
- ▶ Prophetic

Martens, Ph.D., then English faculty, that included graduate programs; and the current, longest-serving, edited in 1994 by John Yoder, Ph.D., then graduate dean. First there were seven points: Christian, community, liberal arts college, experimental, Anabaptist-Mennonite, non-sectarian and prophetic. The second edition reduced those to Christian, liberal arts and community.

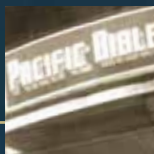
The story of the *Idea* began in 1960 when Arthur Wiebe, Ed.D., became president and Pacific Bible Institute became the two-year Pacific College. In 1965, Fresno Pacific awarded its first bachelor's degrees and received four-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Over his 15-year administration, Wiebe built a core faculty that would serve into the 1990s. Reimer, 23, was Wiebe's first hire in 1960 as communication faculty, and Toews, 24, joined in 1961 to build the biblical studies department.

Growth demanded direction, so Wiebe started a planning process in February 1966 involving faculty and administration. Planning required committees and subcommittees, and



1943

- ▶ PDC establishes "Pacific Bible Institute" as official name



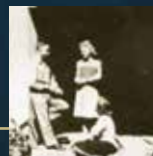
1944

- ▶ February 11: Building purchased at 1095 N. Van Ness



1944

- ▶ September 18: First day of classes (28 students enrolled)



“None of us had the sense that it would become

Toews and Reimer were the subcommittee charged to write a planning statement. “We were a young faculty trying to sort out what does it mean to be a Christian college, and more importantly what does it mean to be an Anabaptist college,” Toews says.

Several streams fed Reimer’s and Toews’ new discussions: their experiences as small-town boys at large university graduate schools—Wichita State for Toews and Northwestern for Reimer—the optimistic spirit of change in the mid-sixties and the Anabaptist renaissance sparked by Harold S. Bender’s “The Anabaptist Vision.” Bender said the theological ideals of the Reformation Anabaptists, such as discipleship, community and pacifism, remain relevant in modern times.

The *Idea* was born out of the desire to create an educational community where followers of Jesus would actively engage both the culture and church in love and reconciliation rather than reacting out of fear. Fresno Pacific would be a place where ideas

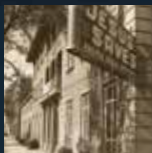
may be explored within the context of Christian higher education regardless of how those ideas might be received by others. “It was the notion of discipleship as defined by following Christ,” Reimer says.

Pen met paper at a meeting of the Council for the Advancement of Small Colleges in the summer of 1966 in Rochester, N.Y. Toews and Wiebe attended. “One of the things they stressed in the sessions I went to was the need to have a purpose or mission,” Toews says.

The conference ended at noon, and Toews wrote the first draft of the *Idea* in his hotel room; he made revisions after dinner with Wiebe. Back in Fresno, Toews gave his handwritten draft to Reimer, who gave input and typed the draft so it could be read by the planning committee in August and by the full faculty in September. “Everyone made suggestions,” Toews says, and he and Reimer did the final editing. “It became the document for long-range planning.”

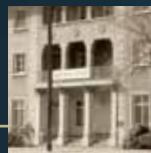
Toews and Reimer agree Wiebe gave the faculty freedom in academic matters. “He was the numbers

1945



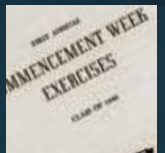
► Spring: Building purchased at 2049 Tuolumne Street

1946



► January 30: Campus moves from Van Ness Avenue to Tuolumne Street

1946



► June 2: First commencement

this important document,” Toews says.

guy,” Toews says. “He laid out excellent enrollment and faculty projections.” Those projections spurred rapid enrollment growth and foreshadowed much of the present main campus.

Reimer would watch that happen over 42 years on the Fresno Pacific faculty and administration, retiring in 2002 but continuing part-time in the Center for Peacemaking & Conflict Studies until 2014. Toews would leave Fresno Pacific in 1968, then return in 1977 to teach at the seminary. In 1995 he would become president of Conrad Grebel University College, retiring to Fresno in 2002.

Both smile when looking back. “None of us had the sense that it would become this important document,” Toews says.

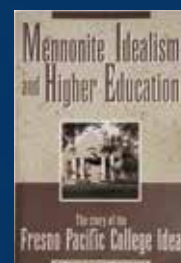
Cooperation was the key, Reimer says. “This was to be a process of the entire faculty and administration. It reflects a concept of community.” 🏠



LEARN MORE

Read the Idea at fpu.edu/idea.

For more background, read *Mennonite Idealism and Higher Education: The Story of the Fresno Pacific Idea*, edited by Paul Toews, Ph.D., and available in Hiebert Library.



Watch the interview with John and Dalton at fpu.edu/ideatalk

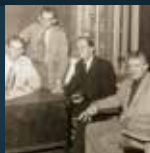
1947

► Summer: G. W. Peters appointed as first official president (resigned August 1952)



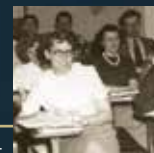
1948

► Bible institute accreditation



1949

► Fall: Enrollment peaks at 161, highest of PBI era



GUIDING Fresno Pacific through the DECADES

By Doug Hoagland

Gary Gramenz gives thanks for the *Fresno Pacific Idea*. “It’s like you’re reading Thomas Jefferson. It’s exquisitely well-crafted,” says Gramenz, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education. “It’s a very holistic way of looking at the Gospel, a way of making the Gospel relevant to the world in which we live. It becomes a touchstone for us.”

Those words help explain why the *Idea* has guided Fresno Pacific University through decades of growth and change. Its three tenets—FPU is a Christian school, a community of learners and prophetic—permeate classrooms, athletic fields, dorms and leadership offices.

“The *Fresno Pacific Idea* is the foundation of our work, which seeps into everything we do,” he says. Here’s how each tenet of the *Idea* is applied across the campus:

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The School of Education frames teaching as a call to redemptive service, and it’s one of the standards in the teacher credential program. “We talk about the ways the *Fresno Pacific Idea* informs that self-understanding of people going into teaching,” Gramenz says. “People in education are called to do kingdom work.” Citing the ideas of C.S. Lewis, Gramenz adds: “Where you are bringing truth, beauty and goodness, you are bringing the kingdom along with you.”

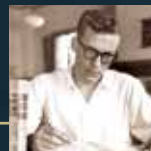
Helping FPU students integrate faith into their professional lives also is a goal in the School of Business. Servant leadership is a key principle, says Katie Fleener, Ph.D., associate professor and dean of

1953



- Spring: Rueben M. Baerg appointed Acting President (resigns December 1954)

1954




- October: Mennonite Brethren establish a unified education system for PBI and Tabor College. Both institutions are governed by the same board.

1955



- By Spring: Purchase of “Jones Property” near Chestnut & Butler Avenues



“ Jesus says in Matthew: ‘Nor are you to be called teacher, for you have one teacher, the Christ.’ That is part of the community of learners concept expressed by the informality between professors and students at FPU.”

– Greg Camp, Ph.D.,
professor, biblical and
theological studies

“ The informality at FPU provides a shared space where professors dutifully lead their students to make their own assumptions and conclusions, and develop their own ideas. This is the basis for any truly creative university that models itself after Christ as the only teacher articulated in Matthew.”

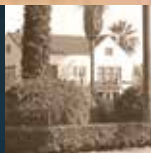
– Payton Miller (BA '17) graduate student,
biblical and religious studies

1955



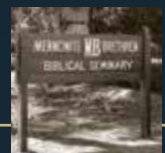
► May:
B. J. Braun appointed president of PBI &
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary
(MBBS) (resigns 1960)

1955



► Summer: Purchase of
“Clark Property” at Chestnut
& Butler Avenues

1955



► Fall:
MBBS opens



“We do quite a bit in terms of the community of learners. In many of our degree completion and graduate classes, we break bread together.”

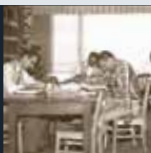
– Katie Fleener, Ph.D.,
dean, School of Business



“I would not change my experience at Fresno Pacific for anything in the world. We studied together, prayed together, broke bread together and were there for each other. We became a family, a tight-knit community.”

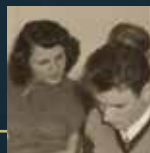
– James Cummings (BA '18)
degree completion in business administration

1956



► Fall: Seminary moves into Giffen Home on the Clark Property

1956



► Fall: Creation of liberal arts program for Pacific Bible Institute

1957



► Butler Church opens on land originally purchased by Board of Education



“The *Idea* goes far beyond what other universities do in terms of a mission or vision statement. It not only explains who we are but also models for our students the benefits of a liberal arts education—the ability to critique, understand and explain complex ideas.”

– **Melanie Howard, Ph.D.**, assistant professor and program director, biblical and theological studies

the school. Servant leaders understand the importance of positive interpersonal communication with team members in the business world. Fleener says Proverbs 18:13 offers wise counsel: “He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.”

Also in the School of Business, courses in the degree completion program begin with devotions. “By doing so, even students who may not have been raised Christian are exposed to the Bible and Christian teaching,” she says. The degree completion program operates on the cohort model—groups of students take multiple courses together—which builds opportunities for mutual support. Furthermore, degree completion faculty understand that they’re responsible for “fostering opportunities to further the teachings of Christ,” Fleener says.

Another example of Christian identity happens in the Office of Continuing Education, which provides courses (mostly online or correspondence) to 6,000 students in 50 states and 10 foreign countries. The program’s staff regularly gathers to pray for students who share personal needs, says Peggi Kriegbaum, executive director. “We can live out FPU’s Christian mission even though our students are remote from the campus,” she says.

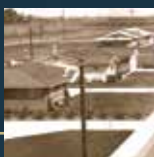
Christian principles find expression beyond the classroom, as well. The campus residential program builds a Christian community where roommates from diverse backgrounds value and care for one another, says Dale Scully, M.A., vice president of student life. “We celebrate different cultures. We want people to be wholly who they are with one another. We think that represents the Gospel and what it means to be believers,” he says.

COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

One expression of this tenet comes in the course *Jesus and the Christian Community*, which all freshmen and transfer students take. “Everyone can join together to examine the story of Jesus,” says Greg Camp (BA ’82), Ph.D., professor in biblical and theological studies. The course focuses on the Gospel of Matthew. Camp says Buddhist, Sikh and Muslim students have done well in the course. “They are free to examine the text as history and literature while also coming to grips with Jesus’ teaching and its implications in his day as well as today’s world,” Camp says.

The insights of Christian and non-Christian students in the class exemplify FPU’s community of learners, Camp says: “You bring your background, your

1957



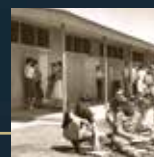
► First houses completed in Campus Homesites subdivision

1958



► October 19: Groundbreaking for classroom building on new campus

1959



► May 24: Dedication of classroom building (Sattler Hall)

experience and your intellectual abilities to the text. Every year I learn from all my students.”

In the School of Natural Sciences, a community of learners comes together every summer in an innovative program for all incoming freshmen who are STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) majors. Groups of 20 students, plus a faculty member and two upperclassmen, form virtual communities through social media for one month. They begin the communities with day-long meet ups for ice breakers and orientation to online learning.

“It’s prep for college, but it’s also an introduction to the power of the community,” says Karen Cianci, Ph.D., dean of the School of Natural Sciences. “I think it’s so profound to challenge the concept of American individualism and show students you’re stronger in a group and that learning occurs there.”

The community of learners concept is recognized as a best practice by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, and it benefits students once they graduate. “Many top companies like Google are looking for employees who understand community and can work in it,” Cianci says.

Often professors structure that concept right into their classes, says Melanie Howard, Ph.D., assistant professor and program director in biblical and theological studies. “Many of us won’t spend a full 50 minutes in the front of a classroom just lecturing to students,” she says. Rather, professors solicit students’

ideas about course material.

“We are genuinely interested in the insights that students can help us to see,” Howard says. “We want to hear their voices because their voices are going to help all of us in this process of learning.”

A PROPHETIC VOICE

Prophets are sometimes seen as people who stand on street corners predicting the future. But in the biblical context, the prophet is someone who clearly sees reality and calls for change. “It’s a much more robust understanding of what it means to be prophetic,” says Ron Herms, Ph.D., dean of the School of Humanities, Religion and Social Sciences.

Herms says the ALAS (“wings” in Spanish) program is an example of Fresno Pacific prophetically addressing the fact that half of its students are the first generation of their families to attend college. ALAS provides academic support, career counseling and other services to help these students graduate, and helps train faculty to embed more Latin American and cross-cultural content into their courses—recognition that 45 percent of FPU students are Hispanic. “I think ALAS is an example of a really prophetic step forward,” Herms says.

Another prophetic stance plays out in FPU athletics. The standard of success in most athletic programs is how many games you win. But, “At FPU, we seek to be counter-cultural in that we take a much

1960



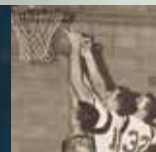
► Arthur J. Wiebe appointed president

1960



► May: Name changed to “Pacific College”

1960



► Fall: Intercollegiate basketball program begins



“ Sometimes when people think of a Christian university, they focus on the fact that students can't drink, can't party, can't stay out all night. We focus on the very positive aspects of what it means to be a Christian community—that we care and value each individual living in our community.”

– Dale Scully, vice president of student life

“ I believe in the FPU community. It is hard to find any student, faculty member or staff member who is not welcoming. The community that we have here makes me feel at home.”

– Madison Hicks, sophomore, kinesiology-occupational therapy

1960



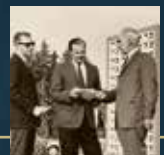
► December: First phase of dormitories completed; College completely moves from Tuolumne Street to Chestnut Avenue

1960



► December: “Viking” mascot is selected

1961



► February: Pacific College receives junior college accreditation



“Fresno Pacific University believes people are constantly in a state of learning when they are in a community interacting with one another through the exchange of wisdom, ideas and experiences. Learning is an odyssey that learners explore and grow throughout.”

– Alexandria Longoria (TC '17 BA '16),
Visalia Unified School District teacher,
master's degree student

more holistic approach,” says Associate Athletics Director Jeremiah Wood. That means not reducing student athletes to “commodities” who are viewed “simply in terms of what we can get out of them,” he adds.

FPU recruits talented athletes, and some have competed professionally and at Olympic trials. But many end their playing days as a Sunbird, and it's common for some to question their identities when that time comes, Wood says. “We strive to be a place that prepares them and comes alongside them in those moments, showing them their true identity and value in Christ.”

More prophetic work occurs at the university's Center for Community Transformation—through initiatives in social enterprise, job readiness, financial literacy training, anti-human trafficking and leadership for Latino pastors—and in promoting restorative justice in families, churches, schools, workplaces and communities through the Center for Peacemaking. “From a biblical point of view, we're working to redeem the community and make it a better place,” says Gayle Copeland, Ph.D., provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Furthermore, Copeland says, the FPU School of Business and the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary work together to help train pastors in business principles so they can better handle organizational leadership in their churches. “It's a response to what our world needs,” she says. “Real life involves integration of our faith with all things.”

1961



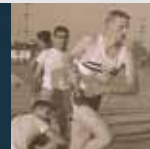
► Fall: Arthur Wiebe begins full-time duties as president (resigns in 1975)

1961




► Dirt track and soccer field on east end of campus completed

1962



► Spring: Track & field program established

A large background photograph showing a young man with a beard and a backpack, wearing a maroon shirt, talking to a woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey blazer over a purple shirt. They are in a library setting with bookshelves in the background.

“On a highly pluralistic campus, we may not all agree, but the *Idea*’s language of a shared mission is at least a starting point for genuine community.”

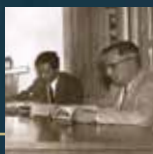
– Karen Cianci, Ph.D., dean, School of Natural Sciences

“Coming into college as a freshman is a very anxiety-inducing moment, but the summer STEM program connected me [in a community] with other students and gave me a feel for the STEM classes I would be taking. It is a very effective program.”

– Richard Parker,
sophomore, biology major,
human health emphasis

1962

► Fall: Bible institute curriculum no longer appears in catalog



1962

► Men’s soccer program established



1962


► September: Hiebert Library completed



'OUT IN THE WORLD'

In the 1970s, the late Silas Bartsch led the university in the prophetic work of expanding the graduate education program to provide professional development for teachers. "It was always about Fresno Pacific being out in the world and serving teachers, their students and the students' families," says Bartsch's son, **Douglas Bartsch, (BA '77)** associate dean in the School of Education.

Douglas Bartsch says his father knew the importance of FPU acting prophetically. "He believed as people of faith we should be doing something that matters," Bartsch says. "It's not because we matter but because of what we believe God and Jesus have done for us."

UPON THAT ROCK, THE
FRESNO PACIFIC IDEA
WAS BUILT. 

“ The *Fresno Pacific Idea* is a core values statement. We want our students in the School of Education to think about what Jesus is teaching and think about how to care for all the children in their schools.”

– Douglas Bartsch, associate dean, School of Education

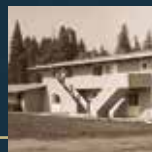
1963

► Fall: Enrollment exceeds 200 for first time



1963

► January: Second phase of dormitories completed, includes Witmarsum and Strasbourg (shown)



1964

► May: Alumni Hall completed



HIDDEN GEMS

EVEN THOSE WHO SPEND EVERY DAY ON THE MAIN CAMPUS MIGHT NOT KNOW THE STORIES OF THE GEMS EXISTING OFF THE BEATEN PATH OR HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT.

By Katie Fries

Three Flags

Students come to FPU from all over the world—nearly 40 countries in the spring of 2019. One way the university welcomes them is to display their flags in front of the Special Events Center (SEC).

The three flags, says international recruitment and admission specialist Ellie Carlson, include the American flag and two international flags—one representing the home country of student attending on an F1 visa, the other the home country of an alumnus. The flags are changed about every two weeks by the International Programs & Services Office (IPSO) in order to include as many countries as possible.

Celebrations—like Mexican Independence Day, Chinese New Year and even student birthdays—along with visits by international delegations and events like the 2016 Colombian peace agreement, may result in a special display. The office also monitors events that require adjusting the United States flag. When President George H.W. Bush died, the U.S. flag was flown at half-staff and the other flags removed.

IPSO maintains a collection of 70-80 flags, adding new ones when a student from a country



not previously represented enrolls. Flags flown for the first time this spring, or for the first time in many years, included Israel, Italy, Japan and Senegal.

The flags are a simple gesture that reminds all students they're part of FPU. "Every student from every country matters," says IPSO Director Angela Chapa.

Moore Memorial Organ

Of all the places one might expect to find a theater pipe organ, the SEC is probably not in the list. Yet there it is, hidden away in a side closet of the gymnasium.

In 1981, Marguerite Moore donated the 1920s-era Wurlitzer—which accompanied silent films, then radio programs at CBS studios—in memory of her husband, Richard. The Moore organ includes 1,800 pipes, which vary in size from "16 feet tall and as big around as a fire hydrant, to eight inches tall and no bigger around than a pencil," says Larry Warkentin, D.M.A., music faculty emeritus. Like other theater organs, the Moore organ has

1964



► September: Third phase of dormitories completed

1965



► May: Senior college accreditation

1965



► Spring: Original amphitheater completed

sound effects (“toys”) such as a train whistle, auto horn and sleigh bells.

Restoration and installation of the instrument took five years and cost well over \$50,000—with a significant portion donated by brothers Ron and Don Underdown. The refurbished organ was unveiled to great fanfare March 7, 1986, with a program that included a silent movie, singing waiters and organ performances.

For many years the organ was employed for special events, like graduation. Students and faculty still hear it occasionally, and are welcome to play it if they can find time around a busy athletics schedule.



Henry W. Lohrenz Library Patio Garden

Behind Hiebert Library, an ivy-covered wall away from Krause 1 Residence Hall, hides the Henry W. Lohrenz Patio Garden at Hiebert Library. While many campus buildings are named for historical figures or those who have played an integral role in the university's development, Lohrenz had no connection to the school. He was, in fact, affiliated with Tabor College.

As Tabor's first president, and executive secretary for what was then known as the Board of Foreign Missions, Lohrenz left a trove of documents upon his death in 1945, says Hiebert Library Director Kevin Enns-Rempel. When his family chose not to donate

them to Tabor, some wondered at their fate.

Enter Fresno Pacific's J.B. Toews, and later his son, Paul. J.B. was a president of what is now Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary who helped establish the Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission. Paul, Ph.D., became an emeritus history faculty at FPU and led the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies in the library. Both felt the papers belonged in an MB institution. At first Lohrenz' daughter, Mariana Remple, was not ready to part with the documents, but was interested in memorializing her father, so FPU offered to host a memorial, hoping she would place the papers with Pacific—which she did.

The garden, created when Hiebert Library was enlarged in 1979-80, includes a wooden sculpture, a fountain and an olive tree, which was lifted over the wall via crane.



Cross in the Forest

Strolling through Alumni Plaza—also known as “the Forest”—your eye might be drawn to a simple wooden cross planted alongside the trees.

Built and designed by Fresno-area pastors, the cross was donated to the school by New Beginnings Church, an affiliate of the Mennonite Brethren Pacific District Conference, said Angulus Wilson. Created as a student Holy Week project in 2011, it became a permanent fixture.

Today the space has become a place to “gather, reflect, worship and make our prayers known to God,” says Wilson, dean of spiritual formation and chief diversity officer. Outdoor worship services, concerts, classes, lectures and fellowship all take place in the area. “We are pleased with the many groups that come to meet with the Lord at the foot of the cross,” Wilson said.

The cross is maintained by the FPU Facilities Office and Office of Spiritual Formation and Diversity. 🏠

1966

► Pacific College Idea first adopted

1966

► May: Warkentin Prayer Chapel completed

1966

► Cross-country program established

Helping Foster Youth Go F.A.R.

By Kelly Lapadula

Ashley Jaramillo decided to complete her B.A. in Business Administration at FPU's Visalia Campus to grow professionally while honing her management skills—and she got so much more. When a professor encouraged her to turn a class project into a nonprofit organization that would transform the lives of local foster youth, there was a personal connection.

"My first professor at FPU, Raquel Garcia, incorporated a community service proposal as a major project for the class," Ashley says. "After completing the class assignment, the only thing left to do was put it into action—so I did."

The nonprofit, F.A.R. (Formal Attire Ready) provides foster youth with attire appropriate for special events such as prom, graduation and other occasions they might not otherwise be able to enjoy. Ashley understands the challenges these teens face because she was a foster youth herself.

"The idea is that with assistance from the F.A.R. project, foster youth will have a higher rate of participation in these events, allowing them to go further in life," Ashley says. "I had the privilege of helping a teen who had never attended a dance before...and through the donations from the community, I was able to provide her with a gift card to offset the cost for graduation as well. It was great to see her so confident."

Ashley's idea is getting noticed. In the spring of 2018, F.A.R. received \$1,000 at the Visalia Chamber of Commerce's crowdsourcing SOUP event.

While Ashley, who also works full-time as a clerical assistant at College of the Sequoias, isn't sure what the future has in store, her goal is to take the leadership skills she gained at FPU and continue to make a positive impact on students. "FPU has definitely taught me that business and leadership are not about how well we are doing as individuals, but more importantly, they are about how we are serving those around us," she says. 🏠

“ After completing the class assignment, the only thing left to do was put it into action, so I did.”

—Ashley Jaramillo, B.A. Business Administration



TEAM IMPACT

draft day

By Katie Fries

SUNBIRDS FIND IT WORKS BOTH WAYS

Fresno Pacific University signed its youngest recruits in a special ceremony in November 2018. D.J. Bledsaw, 8, and Norah Kerr, 7, each signed a National Letter of Intent, a two-year contract signifying their commitment to the men's and women's basketball teams, respectively. Later the new Sunbirds suited up for their first games as official NCAA athletes.

It was all part of Team IMPACT Draft Day, sponsored by Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Team IMPACT is a national nonprofit that connects children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses to local collegiate athletic teams.

The program "provides the kids with hope, and a sense of connectedness and belonging in the community," says Lynn LaRocca, LICSW, a Team IMPACT case manager. "In athletes, we see and increased empathy and civic-mindedness." The result is a mutually beneficial relationship important to

FPU student-athletes and Team IMPACT recruits alike.

Sunbird athletics has been recognized by the NCAA for campus and community service, with students racking up 3,090 service hours in 2017-2018. Partnering with Team IMPACT was a natural fit, says men's basketball head coach, **C.J. Haydock (BA '10)**. "As student athletes we feel it's really important that our guys are leaders in service. The opportunity to develop a long-term relationship that we could invest in, with somebody we could rally around, that was a pretty easy yes," he adds.

Haydock is quick to dispel the notion that D.J. and Norah are Sunbirds in name only. They participate in as many team activities as possible, including practices and team meals. D.J. enjoys shooting baskets with the rest of the men's team. "He's actually quite talented—he can really play," Haydock says.



The youngsters wear their Sunbirds gear to games, where they sit on the bench and participate in huddles with fellow teammates. And they enjoy fellowship off the court, as well. Some of Norah's teammates have attended her dance recitals.


Haydock says the student athletes have benefited as much as D.J., who lives with cystic fibrosis. "There's an opportunity to learn and grow from D.J. He has this undying, endless amount of energy and enthusiasm in the face of medical challenges. It's an opportunity for our guys to count their own blessings, and learn to navigate and be inspired by that," he says.

The women's team has had a similar experience with Norah, who has Dandy-Walker syndrome. "Norah has a glow about her when she's around our team, and our girls have that also," says women's basketball head coach Tim Beauregard. "The relationship really goes both ways. It's really what our program is based upon—the best types of leaders are

leaders that serve the need around them. We've served a need for her and she's definitely served a need for us as well."

"I think it feeds into our ethos of service, and the opportunities we get as college athletes—the benefits and privileges that come with it," Haydock says. "We would like to share with the community and see it paid forward, and bring along as many people as possible."

Both teams are very committed to the children they are matched with. "They just go above and beyond. It's wonderful to see that really simple human acts can be so life-changing," LaRocca says.

The partnership with Team IMPACT is a two-year commitment. But Beauregard has a feeling his team's relationship with Norah will outlast her contract: "For all that she's been through, she's such a beacon of light and has so much positive energy," he says. "I think we will keep her around for many, many years because of the benefits we all get from it." 

SUNBIRD ATHLETICS
HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY
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IN STEP WITH THE SUNBIRDS
fpuathletics.com

Marcelo Warkentin (BA '98) & Delbert Warkentin (BA '15)

Warkentins Live Their Passion and Follow God's calling in Paraguay

By Amy D. Fienen

Two men from different countries who attended FPU some 20 years apart are changing young lives in Paraguay today.

While they don't work together on a day-to-day basis, the combined efforts of **Marcelo Warkentin (BA '98)** and **Delbert Warkentin (BA '15)** are helping break the cycle of poverty for Paraguayan children.

Marcelo and Delbert (no relation) met for the first time in March 2018 at the Colegio J. Gutenberg Campo 9 School in the city of Juan Eulogio Estigarribia. Marcelo is the principal at this mission school supported by the Mennonite Brethren Paraguay Conference, and Delbert is the conference public relations manager. When Delbert visited Marcelo's school to provide communications consulting and support, the two found they share

an alma mater as well as a last name. They also share a passion....

Heeding God's Calling

Born and raised in Brazil, Marcelo found his way to FPU through a family friend in Reedley. He graduated with a B.A. in Christian Ministries and a minor in Latin American history, going on to earn a master's degree in Latin American studies from U.C. Santa Barbara, and began his career in education teaching Spanish at a Mennonite school in Indiana. It was on student trips and through student exchange programs that he began visiting Paraguay.

After marrying Clarice, a childhood friend from Brazil who joined him in Indiana, the couple pursued U.S. citizenship. They were rejected three times, which led them to believe that God had a different plan. In 2012, after 17 years in the

U.S., Marcelo took Clarice and their two American-born children, Isabella and Lucas, to Paraguay, where he became the first principal of Colegio J. Gutenberg Campo 9 School.

Marcelo credits his time at FPU with preparing him for the career that God led him to.

And while that journey took Marcelo to a place he hadn't imagined, he feels confident that he is where he is supposed to be. "This was not what I had envisioned for my future, but you grow into your missional calling," he says. "If there's an extraordinary situation, God can make his calling very clear."

Choosing God's Path

In much the same way as Marcelo, Delbert found himself at a crossroads where he had to choose the easy path—or God's path. He was born in Paraguay to a Paraguayan mom and an American dad from Reedley. After earning a B.A. in Business Administration from FPU with a nonprofit emphasis, he was faced with the choice to stay in the U.S. or return to Paraguay. He'd had a great experience at FPU and gained valuable experience through his internships. His family assumed



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The conference's schools will gladly accept monetary or volunteer assistance. Marcelo would welcome the help of teachers wishing to teach abroad.

Go to: marcelowarkentin@gmail.com or delbert.warkentin@gmail.com.



“FPU helped show me how the principles of education and Christianity are so closely intertwined,” he says. “I think my journey really started there.”

- Marcelo Warkentin (BA '98)

he would stay in the States, and although he admits that might have been the easiest choice, it didn't feel like the right choice.

As the public relations manager for the Mennonite Brethren Paraguay Conference, he most enjoys raising scholarship funds for students to attend the five missional schools the conference supports. Many students at these schools, including the one where Marcelo is principal, are underprivileged, with up to 60 percent receiving partial to full tuition assistance.

Having received financial assistance to attend FPU himself, Delbert understands the significance


scholarships can play in determining one's future success. “The generosity that I received from FPU, where I was on the receiving end of financial help, has allowed me to be on the giving end,” he says. “Now I'm in a place where I can help facilitate scholarships for others who need them.”

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

The work of the Warkentins and Mennonite Brethren Paraguay Conference in education is important because the country's public schools are severely lacking, and the educational needs are

“I realized God wasn't letting my heart be at peace with that decision,” he says. “Looking back, I can see that this is where God wanted me to be.”

- Delbert Warkentin (BA '15)

significant. “The purpose of these missional schools is to break the cycle of poverty through education,” Marcelo says. “Providing a well-structured Christian education can change lives.” 

IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

GENERAL » ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrew Hart (BA '18) is an associate professional in global marketing and communication at DXC Technology, Tysons, VA.

Brian Lawton (BA '17) has been accepted to Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont. Brian spent a gap year with Somos Hermanos in South America getting medical experience while improving his Spanish.

Mykaela Millard (BA '17) is a business account executive at Comcast.

Robin Munoz (MA '17) published the peer-reviewed journal article "Multidisciplinary Cancer Care Model" in the October 2018 issue of *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*.

Sou Saeteurn (MA '17) is a ninth-grade school counselor at San Mateo High School.

Kayla (Hamilton BA '16) Vest teaches third grade in Farmersville Unified School District.

Shantay Davies, CLE (BA '15) finished her MBA with a specialty in healthcare management at Johns Hopkins University. Her course track emphasized healthcare economics and equity.

Staci (Miller MA '14) Phipps is the director of Porterville Adult School in Porterville Unified School District.

John Burns (BA '12) is a science teacher at Hanford Joint Union High School District.

Rick Eoff (MA '08) is a physical education teacher and boy's water polo and swimming coach in Clovis Unified School District.

Melanie Bond-Garrido (BA '04) is an occupational therapist at Synergy Healthcare, Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Andrey Ivanov (SEM '03, BA '01) is an assistant professor of history at University of Wisconsin-Platteville and a Residential Fellow (2018-2019) at the Notre Dame Institute for advanced study. His current book, *A Spiritual Revolution: The Impact of Reformation and Enlightenment in Orthodox Russia, 1700-1825*, was featured in *The New York Review of Books*, on April 16, 2018.

Natasha Kosachevich (BA '03) is a social work missionary in Greece at Connect International.



» RUTH ANN PAYS IT FORWARD

Ruth Ann Bailey Miller (MA '17, BA '05) is clean from crystal meth for almost 21 years, as well as healed and delivered from sexual abuse, domestic violence and reproductive trauma. She now pays it forward through Sisterhood of Grace, a faith-based nonprofit organization that has served the Tulare County Sheriff's and Probation departments for more than 10 years and that she hopes to expand throughout the Central Valley. Ruth Ann also won the Soroptimist International Ruby Award for serving women in the community and celebrates restoration in her life and with her family: husband Michael Doyle, three children and four grandchildren. More at sisterhoodofgrace.org.



John Arriola (BA '97) is an administrator in the Corcoran Unified School District after teaching in Porterville schools and being selected as Teacher of the Year in 2001. John was also a kidney donor for his sister in 1987.

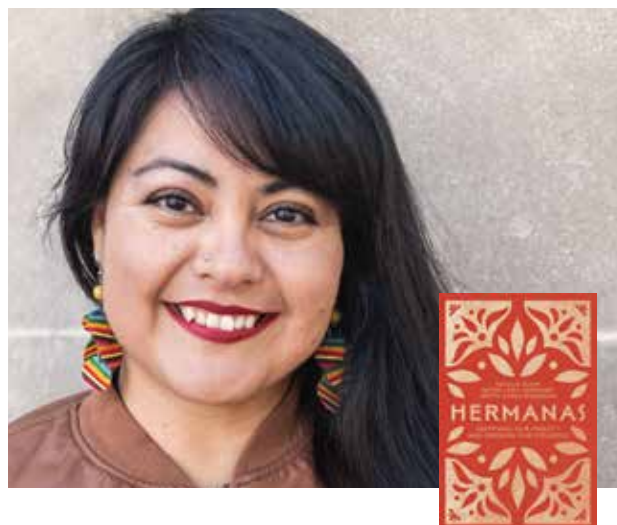


Alice Marie (Bennett BA '86) Smith is the administrative assistant for visual and performing arts at Fresno Pacific University. She completed her B.A. in Music 32 years ago at FPU, and she is pleased to be back as a Sunbird serving the university as an employee.



» MARSH WRITES ABCS OF AUTISM

Wendela (Whitcomb MA '00) Marsh, RSD, retired from Merced County Office of Education in 2016 and has published a book, *The ABCs of Autism in the Classroom: Setting the Stage for Success* (2018, Future Horizons). Wendela and her three children moved to Salem, OR, and she started a consultation company, PIPS for Autism, LLC—Promoting Independence & Problem Solving. Today she sees private clients, writes and speaks. Her consultation website is pipsforautism.com and her author website is wendelawhitcombmarsh.com.



» ALUMNA EXPLORES LATINA IDENTITY

Noemi (Vega MA '17) Quiñones co-authored the book *Hermanas: Deepening Our Identity and Growing Our Influence*, published by InterVarsity Press. More at ivpress.com/hermanas.



WHAT'S GOING ON?

It's so easy to let your classmates and friends know what's happening in your life—job, marriage, children, new address and awards.
visit fpu.edu/alumniupdate

» IN THE NEWS

Jordyn Ryfiak (MA '18) coaches the Aptos High School girl's soccer team. She is also an assistant coach for the UC Santa Cruz squad. fpu.edu/321-ryfiak

Laura Harmon (MA '18) was hired as the University of Minnesota Duluth's head women's cross country and track and field head coach in November 2018. fpu.edu/321-harmon

Meg Clark (BA '17) played the female lead on Fresno's Good Company Players production of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. fpu.edu/321-clark

E.J. Hinojosa (BA '16) wrote the music and text for "Christmas Visions," which is set for women's choir and chamber orchestra. He is also the founder of the local "Composers' Showcase," a summer event featuring choral music by Fresno composers and musicians. fpu.edu/321-hinojosa

Mikey Varas (MA '15) was named an assistant coach for Dallas FC soccer. More at fpu.edu/321-varas

IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

Fotini Alfieris (MA '14, BA '11), director of donor relations at Fresno State, was the subject of a *GV Wire* article August 24, 2018, on her efforts to establish an endowed scholarship for students who have Multiple Sclerosis (MS), or who have parents with the disease. fpu.edu/321-alfieris

Daman Lomax (MA '13) was among five educators who received the Excellence in Teaching award from Teaching Tolerance at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, AL, in July 2018. Youtube Video. fpu.edu/321-lomax

Matt Gilbert (BA '13) was named head boy's and girl's swimming coach at Pine Creek High School, Colorado Springs, CO. fpu.edu/321-gilbert

Sue Navarro (TC '13, TC '05, BA '99), a teacher librarian at Fresno High School, won the California School Librarian Association Good Ideas Award in recognition of her collaborative planning and implementation of library units of instruction. fpu.edu/321-navarro1 fpu.edu/321-navarro2 fpu.edu/321-navarro3

Aaron Lynn (BA '11) was named president of Great America Opportunities, a fundraising company. fpu.edu/321-lynn

Jennifer Deibert (BA '10) was featured as the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCCU) Young Alumni of the day on November 14, 2018, because of her work in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. (Jennifer was featured in the May 2018 issue of *Pacific*: fpu.edu/321-deibert)

Perry Huang (BA '09) has joined the coaching staff of the Northern Arizona Suns in the NBA G League. fpu.edu/321-huang

Richard "Jerry" Breckinridge (MA '08) was selected city manager of Arvin after serving that community as police chief. fpu.edu/321-breckinridge

Jennifer (Paul BA '07) Schroer was unanimously confirmed by the New Mexico State Senate as Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Tourism Department in February 2019. fpu.edu/321-schroer

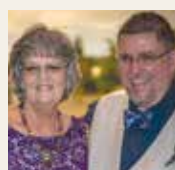
Efrain Tovar (MA '06, BA '95) was featured in *The Fresno Bee* for a "Newcomers" class he teaches at Abraham Lincoln Middle School in Selma for students new to the United States. fpu.edu/321-tovar

Eddy Aleman (MA '05) was approved as general secretary by the Reformed Church of America's General Synod in June after serving the denomination as director of strategic leadership development and coordinator of Hispanic ministries since 2014. fpu.edu/321-aleman

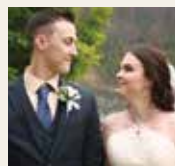
Barry Falke (SEM '04) was promoted to chief operating officer of the Pacific Division of the Red Cross. fpu.edu/321-falke

Hannah (Lee BA '04) York performed as soprano guest soloist in the "Winter Magic" concert with the Fresno Community Band. fpu.edu/321-york

» WEDDINGS



Paula Scofield-Schrock Olson (SPEC ED CRED '07, '04) married Ron Olson on September 21, 2018. Paula retired after 20 years of teaching special education for the Madera County Office of Education and in Chowchilla Elementary School District.



Kayla (Hamilton BA '16) Vest married Dylan Vest on May 26, 2018, in Bass Lake, CA.

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» DEATHS



Devon Harvey Wiens, 82, died September 10, 2018. He retired as an emeritus professor of biblical and religious studies in 2003 after 33 years. Devon was born in Shafter and grew up in Wichita, KS. Devon earned degrees from Friends University, Fuller Theological Seminary and the University of Southern California, joining Fresno Pacific after four years at Huntington College. At FPU, he was the first to take students on a study-tour to Israel in conjunction with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and The Institute for Holy Land Studies. Survivors include wife Beverly; daughter Pam Ferguson and husband Scott; son Jim Wiens and wife Angela; grandchildren Staci, Heather and Alexander; and brother Danny.



Pascal Kulungu (MA '98, BA '97), 65, died January 16, 2019, in his native Democratic Republic of Congo after a short illness and five days after being elected to Parliament. Pascal earned teaching diplomas and was an experienced educator and hospital administrator in Mennonite Brethren institutions before entering FPU. Returning to DRC after his studies at Fresno Pacific, Pascal became director of the MB Church of Congo Health Department, and finance director and professor at the Christian University of Kinshasa. He established the Center for Peacebuilding, Leadership and Good Governance in Congo's capitol of Kinshasa. Survivors include his wife, Therese; children, Bienvenu, **Doug (BA '10)**, Julio, Irin, Cristelle and Juliana; his mother; and one grandson.



Peter Klassen, Ph.D., 88, died March 25, 2019. Born in 1930 in Crowfoot, Alberta, Peter taught history at Fresno Pacific from 1962-1966, when he joined California State University, Fresno. There he taught, was dean of the School of Social Sciences and director of international programs. He served on the FPU Board of Trustees from 1979-85 and 1990-2008, and as chair from 2000-2004, retiring as trustee emeritus. Peter and wife Nancy were charter members of College Community Church Mennonite Brethren (now Willow Avenue Mennonite Church), where Peter was moderator. He earned his B.A. from the University of British Columbia and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. Survivors include Nancy and sons Kent, Kevin and Bryan.



» BIRTHS



Irma Ramirez (BA '16) announces the birth of daughter Rebekah Vazquez Ramirez on April 6, 2018.



Tanya (Jennings BA '15) Whittington announces the birth of son Ezra Rechee Whittington on July 31, 2018.



Ramona (Shahaff BA '14) and Matt Gilbert (BA '13) announce the birth of son Elijah Matthew Gilbert on October 25, 2018, at Colorado Springs Memorial North Hospital. Elijah joins big sister Arya.



Rosalyn Jamili (BA '12) announces the birth of daughter Sofia Ava on December 4, 2018.

Sheila (Kamps BA '04) Frowsing and husband Nathan announce the birth of daughter Kylie Ann on February 17, 2018.



Shar Garo (BA '01) announces the birth of twin daughters Kahealani and Mahealani on February 15, 2018. The family resides in Bellingham, WA. Pictured: Shar, husband Glenn, the twins and older daughter Isabella Prince.

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1946-1987

3 A TALE OF SWIMMING POOLS

By Kevin Enns-Rempel, Director, Hiebert Library

Most visitors to the FPU main campus know of the swimming pool south of the Special Events Center, but fewer know this is the third swimming pool in FPU's history.

The first was acquired in 1946 when Pacific Bible Institute purchased a new campus at the corner of Tuolumne and L Streets in downtown Fresno. This building had been the YWCA recreation center, so an indoor pool was not surprising. PBI leadership, however, struggled with how to use it. At the time PBI had no athletic programs, and behavior codes prevented mixed-gender swimming. By 1949 PBI had begun swimming classes as part of its physical education curriculum. Early yearbooks show photographs of students in the pool—but never men and women together.

In 1955 PBI purchased the Clark Property near the corner of Butler and Chestnut Avenues, once the home of agribusiness tycoon Wylie M. Giffen. Part of the estate included a swimming pool south of the main house (between the rows of palms east of the present-day Prayer Chapel). This property was designated for use as the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, and the pool was soon filled in.

After completion of the Special Events Center in 1981, the Student Executive began discussing building a pool on campus for student recreational use. In order to make it less appealing to the athletic department should it ever establish aquatics programs, the students decided to build the pool slightly under competition size. It was completed in 1987. Today, the university has aquatics teams, and

while they cannot compete in the pool, it is adequate for practices. As a result, the pool originally intended for student recreation is today used mostly by the athletics department. 🏊

From the Archives...



Fresno Pacific University



1944-2019

PACIFIC JOURNAL

Celebrates FPU's 75th Anniversary

Read the 2019 *Pacific Journal* for an in-depth look at 75 years of Mennonite Brethren Christian higher education in the Central Valley:

- Historical overview
- The Fresno Pacific Idea
- Diversity and Demographics
 - Anabaptism, Evangelicalism, Ecumenism
- The "Educational Experiment"
- Alumni Reflections

To order your copy, contact Rod Janzen, editor, by email at rod.janzen@fresno.edu, or by telephone at 559-453-2210. Annual subscriptions are \$15.

TAX STRATEGIES

for Charitable Living

While history shows friends of Fresno Pacific University are generous regardless of the current tax laws, some donors are feeling understandably uncertain about the tax-saving value of charitable giving. There are opportunities to continue changing lives by contributing to FPU while still enjoying the benefits of the new tax law. Here are some tax strategies and ideas for charitable living and tax savings:



Reduce Taxable Income Through Charitable Gifts

An initial strategy is to reduce taxable income through charitable gifts. The most attractive charitable deduction is a gift of appreciated property, such as stocks, bonds, land or other assets. These gifts offer two benefits: they provide income tax deductions for state and federal taxes, plus all capital gains on that property will be bypassed. Cash gifts can be combined with appreciated gifts with the potential of reducing taxes up to 75 percent.



IRA Charitable Rollover

An additional strategy for the donor age 70½ or older is to make use of the IRA charitable rollover. A donor may transfer up to \$100,000 as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The QCD also satisfies the IRS rule to take a required minimum distribution annually.



Tax-free Sales

The tax-free sale can benefit taxpayers who own real estate, stocks and bonds that are appreciated. These assets can be sold tax free through a Charitable Remainder Unitrust. Donors can fund a trust without paying capital gains taxes, receive a charitable contribution for the gift and enjoy a life income distribution from the value of the trust.



Tax-free Income

If tax-free income is the donor's desire, the charitable gift annuity can reduce both current and future taxes. Because the goal is to maximize tax-free income, the donor can request a decreased payout rate that provides a significant charitable contribution that will minimize state and federal taxes and reduce or eliminate taxes on the income in the future.



Additional Tips

Additional estate planning opportunities include designating the university as beneficiary of life insurance policies, IRA, 401, 403 and other qualified plans. A testamentary distribution in a will or living trust can provide significant benefit for the university without disrupting assets that may be needed in the donor's retirement years.

For the donor concerned about the new tax law, it is possible to increase giving to take advantage of the deductions in one year. The bunching of gifts and the deductions available from various trusts can provide significant charitable deductions from state and federal income tax.

All these plans provide the donor the opportunity to make life-transforming gifts to Fresno Pacific University now and in the future and take advantage of the new tax law.

Call our Legacy Gifts Office at 559-453-2129 for more information, or visit the FPU Foundation website at fresno.edu/foundation.

WHY WE GIVE

To inspire, to increase access, to honor a commitment and carry forward a vision—the reasons people support Fresno Pacific University are as varied as the supporters themselves. Here is a cross section of donors, including a family who has been part of the story for generations, a long-serving faculty member and administrator, a young faculty member and a recent graduate who has joined the staff. Each has a compelling reason to give their time, talent and treasure.



Enns Family: Generations of Commitment

Eugene Enns wants to carry forward the vision of his father, Peter A. Enns, and the rest of the Mennonite Brethren Board of Education who built Pacific Bible Institute into a fully accredited four-year liberal arts college where their children and grandchildren could earn degrees valued in both the secular workplace and in Christian life.



Pictured left to right are Andrea & Loren Enns, Eugene & Phyllis Enns, Sherrilyn Regier & Connie Stewart

The connection between the Enns family and Fresno Pacific has spanned four generations and is poised for the future.

Eugene Enns' role as chair of the 75th Anniversary Executive Committee is the latest in a lifetime of service. "From the time my father (Peter A. Enns) led us children through the secret rooms of the new Seminary House in 1955, I knew the vision he and his fellow MB Board members started needed to be carried forward," Eugene says.

In the 1950s, Peter A. Enns and the rest of the Mennonite Brethren (MB) Board of Education dreamed of building Pacific Bible Institute (PBI) into a fully accredited four-year liberal arts college. These pioneers envisioned a campus where their children and grandchildren could earn degrees valued in both the secular workplace and in Christian life.

Today Eugene sees how the faithful commitment of those visionaries succeeded. "As I look back 59 years

and recall Phyllis Litke, my future wife, entering PBI as a freshman in the downtown 'Tuolumne Building' before transitioning to Chestnut and Butler, I marvel at the many changes. Those original buildings with sidewalks that led to nowhere have transformed a cotton field into a beautiful campus," he says.

Wanting to carry that vision forward, Enns jumped at the chance to join the Fresno Pacific Board of Trustees in 1984, and began a 10-year stint as chair in 1990. That year *Pacific Magazine* honored the bond between the Enns family and the school with a cover photo of Peter and Eugene and an article titled "A Family Tradition." Advances during the decade included building McDonald Hall and integrating the trustees into commencement, which gave Eugene the privilege of shaking hands with graduates as they crossed the stage, including his son, Loren, the third Enns generation. "These were highlights of my 30-plus years as a trustee," Eugene says.

The year 2019 marks another milestone for Eugene and Phyllis: the 40th anniversary of the Presidents Circle of Donors, of which they are charter members. They have also supported building projects, been members of the Cornerstone and Heritage donor groups and established scholarship funds.

Phyllis and Eugene have enjoyed watching, guiding and encouraging their three children—Connie, 1991; Sherrilyn, 1989; Loren, 2000, and his wife Andrea, 2000—and three granddaughters—Ashley, 2017, and her husband, Ryan, 2017; Annie, 2020; and Alyssa, 2022—through their studies at Fresno Pacific. Today two are public school teachers, four are in business and two are students.



Pictured left to right are Ryan & Ashley Phillips, Annie Regier & Alyssa Regier

Dalton Reimer: Making Vision Reality

By Dalton Reimer, Ph.D., emeritus communication (1960-2002, part-time to 2014)



“ Given my first commitment to teach at Fresno Pacific, investing financially naturally followed.”

In the spring of 1960 I faced a choice. I was in the final months of my master's degree program at Northwestern University, and the time had come for me to fulfill my service obligation. I had registered as a conscientious objector, but was still obligated to serve my country in an approved alternative.

In February of 1960, Arthur J. Wiebe, Ed.D., was appointed president to lead the transition of Pacific Bible Institute to a liberal arts college following a plan he had earlier proposed to PBI's board as a consultant. Wiebe had been my teacher and principal while I was at Immanuel Academy, now high school, in Reedley. He also happened to be my uncle.

At his invitation, in the fall of 1960 I began teaching in fulfillment of my draft obligation. Vision, more than reality, was the attraction at the time. Coming to a fledgling institution from a leading university in my field of communication, where I had been privileged to serve as a graduate assistant to one of the foremost

university debate programs in the country, was a bit of a shock. Yet, visions are compelling, even when realities are challenging. And so the die was cast, with me serving as faculty, dean and with the Center for Peacemaking, among other roles. Few have the opportunity to help shape an institution from its rebirth as a liberal arts college to maturity as a university. It has been a great honor.

A great institution, however, is the work of many people, including donors who faithfully contribute resources for scholarships, operational funds, special projects and endowments. When all share their particular gifts, we prosper and grow.



“The reason that I started giving to FPU was because I felt that I wanted to make sure that our students would have access to materials and music that could allow them to grow as musicians.”

Erik Leung: Increasing Student Resources

*By Erik Leung, D.M.A.,
assistant professor and program director of music*

When I joined the music faculty, FPU did not have the resources—instruments, etc.—to perform the kind of high-level repertoire I believed students were capable of playing, so I went out and bought instruments on my own with my own funds. Now the students I teach can play the music that we want to play. An excellent education in music means there should be equitable access to great music and great performing opportunities.

As a faculty member, I feel a sense of stewardship.

Voltaire said in *Candide* “to tend your garden.” This is my garden and I want to tend that garden. And I invest in that garden to make it grow. That investment could be in time, it could be in money.

In the five years I’ve been at Fresno Pacific University I’ve seen some amazing things happen with faculty and students. If we could all share this focus, this garden, even more could happen. FPU is our garden. We can donate effort, donate spirit, donate passion.



“I choose to donate to Fresno Pacific because it is an investment in the future of the university and the students, faculty and staff who will shape the future of Fresno and the world.”

Angel De Leon: Sharing the Blessings He Received

By Angel De Leon (BA '17)

Going to college was my dream, but I knew it was not going to be easy. Being a first-generation student with undocumented legal status, my options were limited. During my senior year of high school, I desperately looked for colleges that I felt were welcoming to students like myself. I applied to 23 universities, but Fresno Pacific rose to the top. I knew I wanted a Christ-centered community that would challenge my beliefs, but more importantly, allow me to explore my spiritual journey.

It was evident God wanted me at FPU and it did not take long for me to make this my home. I found friends, mentors and professors who saw me grow into the person I am today.

As a student I actively contributed to FPU as a freshman class senator, Student Judicial Board member and residence assistant. I made it my goal to give back to the university that gave me so much, and I was able to see FPU's values come to life for students. Today I remain active through the Alumni Council.

Now as an undergraduate admission counselor, I am reminded of my own journey. It is a blessing to expand FPU's vision to surrounding communities and future generations. I am forever thankful for the generous donors that made my education possible. Because of them, I can proudly say that I am the first one in my family to attend and graduate from college. That is why I give financially and freely from my heart back to my alma mater. 🏠

Fresno Pacific University

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Fresno Pacific, the Central Valley and beyond —
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Thursday, September 5, 2019 | 4:00 p.m.

Special Events Center | Followed by a picnic on The Green

Fresno Pacific University Main Campus | 1717 S. Chestnut Ave., Fresno

Since 1944, Fresno Pacific has transformed generations. Join us throughout the 2019-2020 year as we commemorate the work of our alumni and our rich heritage of Christ-centered higher education.

More information on this and other 75th Anniversary events
and activities to come at 75.fpu.edu



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*An elegant evening celebrating 75 years of God's faithfulness to
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Join us throughout the 2019-2020 year as we commemorate the work
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