

PACIFIC

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TAKING CHAN-CES

Francis Chan
calls Christians
to risk for faith

Pete Menjares selected
11th president

Giving is gratitude for
the Steinerts

Sunbird swimming for
the Olympics



president's message



D. MERRILL EWERT, PH.D.

TRANSFORMING LIVES GIVES CAREER MEANING

"Fresno Pacific University is the Mennonite Brethren Church's gift to the Valley." With those words over dinner in New York City 11 years ago, the late Harold Haak (FPU president 2000-2002) made the case for why I should consider becoming a candidate for president of FPU. He described this university as a place where lives are changed and people called into leadership and service.

I listened; and at the end of July, I will retire after 10 wonderful years.

A year or so after arriving at Fresno Pacific, Priscilla and I were chosen to participate in a Council of Independent Colleges program on the university presidency as "vocation" and "calling." Funded by a major foundation, 20 presidents and their spouses spent several days discussing university leadership.

Though we had never met, Walter, president of a historically black institution, and I often came down on the same side of various issues. He had been a tenured professor and administrator at Harvard during the same years I had taught and served as director of extension at Cornell.

Between sessions, a group gathered around Walter and me and asked what teaching in the "Ivies" was like. We both said the students are very bright, which makes teaching very challenging and great fun. Walter joked, "My students were a lot smarter than I am!" "The same at Cornell," I added, "I never took on a new Ph.D. student unless I was absolutely sure that she/he was smarter than I."

After a short silence, another president mused, "That must have made the decision for you guys to leave Harvard and Cornell

very difficult." "Not really," said Walter. I agreed and then asked, "Walter, during those 12 years at Harvard, how many times did a student come up to you and say, 'I thank God for Harvard! My life has forever changed because I came here? I'm so glad that I came to Harvard?'"

Walter thought for a moment and said, "It never happened; no one ever said that to me. How about you, Merrill? How often did someone tell you that Cornell changed his or her life?" "Never," I replied, "I don't ever remember hearing those words from a student during my 11 years at Cornell."

"So Walter," I continued, "how often do students tell you that they thank God for your university; that coming there changed their lives?" "At least once a day," he replied. "And how about you, Merrill? How often do you hear that at Fresno Pacific?" "Not nearly as often as you do," I responded. "I probably hear it only two or three times a week."

The group again fell silent, then another president said, "I get it; I understand why you left Harvard and Cornell to go where you work now."

Asked to capture the essence of this university in one word, I say "transformational." Lives are transformed here, and that gives meaning and purpose to the call that brought Priscilla and me to Fresno Pacific. We have thoroughly enjoyed serving here. To all of you who have become our friends through this process, thank you very much!

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PETE MENJARES

SELECTED AS ELEVENTH PRESIDENT OF FPU

Pete Menjares, Ph.D., will be the 11th president of Fresno Pacific University. The Board of Trustees voted to appoint Menjares during regular board meetings March 2-3.

"The board of trustees is pleased to appoint Dr. Pete Menjares as president of FPU. Pete has exhibited strength of character, grace, dignity and humility throughout the search process. His leadership abilities and experience and his deep spiritual commitments will serve him well as he leads this Christian university," said John Thiesen, board chair and co-chair of the presidential search committee.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected as the 11th president of Fresno Pacific University and I am looking forward with great anticipation to serving this vibrant and dedicated academic community," said Menjares, who received his Ph. D. in education: language, literacy and learning, from the University of Southern California in 1998. His master of arts in education: teaching and curriculum, is from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and his bachelor of arts in religion in pastoral ministries is from Vanguard University. For the last 16 years, Menjares has been a teacher and administrator at Biola University, mostly recently serving as Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Academic Effectiveness.

Menjares has also served with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities as a conference presenter and consultant on intercultural competencies. Currently he is a senior fellow in the Leadership Development Institute, a program dedicated to helping emerging leaders explore their vocational call in CCCU institutions. Menjares has also been a public school teacher, a licensed

minister and a senior pastor. He and his wife, Virginia, are natives and lifelong residents of the Los Angeles area.

The presidential search committee included faculty, staff, students, board members and community representatives. Executive search firm the Dingman Company facilitated the search process for the university. Four final candidates were presented to the search committee for interviews. The committee then recommended Menjares to the board as a finalist, and the board invited Pete and Virginia to the university in February for three days of meetings with members of the FPU community, who provided feedback to the board.

The selection process was rigorous and inclusive. "This is a wonderful end to a thorough, wide-ranging and prayerful search for FPU's next president. We are thankful for all who participated and for all who have prayed for the university this past nine months as we engaged in the search," said Larry Martens, presidential search co-chair and university trustee.

Menjares takes over from D. Merrill Ewert, who will retire effective July 31, 2012, after 10 years as president. "I have come to know and deeply appreciate Pete through our shared participation in CCCU. He has the respect of leaders throughout Christian higher education and I am confident he is the one to lead Fresno Pacific to a whole new level of success," Ewert said.



I am looking forward with
great anticipation to
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dedicated academic community



KEEPING FPU AN AFFORDABLE INVESTMENT

To keep students and families investing in higher education, FPU continues to hold tuition below the national average and increase services students need to succeed.

"A high-quality private education can be affordable," said Stephen Varvis, vice president for enrollment management. "Fresno Pacific has the faculty, academic programs, facilities and financial aid to make this happen."

Traditional undergraduate tuition for 2012-2013 will be \$24,960, less than the 2011-2012 national average for independent colleges of \$28,500. Even with the increase in room and board, the first in three years, combined expenses for a student living on campus will go up no more than 2.9 percent.

Graduate tuition, including Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, will not increase for 2012-2013. Bachelor's degree completion tuition will go up \$5-10 per unit, depending on the program.

The 1.8 percent traditional undergraduate tuition increase compares to average 2011-2012 hikes of 8.3 percent at public colleges and universities, 4.5 percent among independent schools and 8.7 percent at community colleges, according to the College Board, an association of 5,900 colleges, universities and other educational organizations. California's tuition increases last year—21 percent at public four-year colleges and 37 percent at two-year colleges—were the highest in the nation.

Housing and room and board for 2012-2013 will be \$3,450 per semester, up 7 percent. This compares to more than \$5,000 and

higher at area public universities; higher yet in many parts of California. "Students can pay less to come to FPU and live on campus than at a state school in a major metro area," Varvis said.

Affordability has long been important at FPU. In 2009-2010 the university was one of six nationwide to freeze tuition, and in 2009 it introduced a four-year graduation guarantee. The 3.7 percent raise in 2011-2012 remained below the national average for independent college and universities, while increases were made in financial aid, the number of faculty, educational technology and academic services.

That practice continues for 2012-2013. The university will continue to renovate residence hall rooms and increase need-based financial aid. "We have set aside \$12,350,000 in institutional aid—that's what FPU gives in addition to state and federal programs—for 2012-2013. That's \$1,000,000 more than we offered in 2011-2012," Varvis said.

Other improvements to the main campus include adding two student houses, a commuter-student lounge in East Hall, a study area and technology lab in AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science and improved security cameras. A 12,000 square-foot expansion of the North Fresno Center opened early in 2012, with several new classrooms, offices and a student lounge area.

"We work very hard to serve academically qualified students of all ages. And today, more than ever, we're doing that with an eye toward value," Varvis said.



FRANCIS CHAN URGES MINISTRY FORUM ATTENDEES TO **RISK** FOR GOD

Francis Chan believes in just trying things—in life, in ministry and in front of 1,300 pastors, lay church leaders and nonprofit agency staff members.

“I look back at my life and all the great things that happened were things that just happened. I was just trying things,” the author of *Crazy Love*, founding pastor of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, CA, and co-founder of Eternity Bible College said at the 2012 Central Valley Ministry Forum.

To accommodate by far the largest audience to attend the annual Ministry Forum since it began in 2004, Chan spoke from the middle of the Special Events

Center gymnasium. The square stage set with only a café table and two chairs was perfect for Chan’s enthusiastic, conversational style. Screens above the stage captured his animated facial expressions and often expansive gestures as Chan’s voice rose with laughter or fell to a hush.

Chan was clearly open to the inspiration of the moment, even to admitting discomfort. “You’re sitting at tables and taking notes,” he said with a smile. “That means I have to have something to say.”

What Chan said in “Living by Faith,” the first of the day-long event’s three sessions, was that to follow Christ is to trust him, and him alone, even in the middle



Francis Chan
is author of
Crazy Love,
Erasing Hell,
and
Forgotten God

starting a seven-week “Taste of God” series where 50 Christians meet with 50 nonbelievers. In its fifth week as he spoke, Chan reported “Taste of God” had six baptisms in one week; due to space problems, those baptisms took place in a wading pool atop a building.

What stops others from doing what Chan does? Forgetting to trust God and be courageous. “If you’re going to try things, you’re going to fail,” he said. The risk of failure is that criticism comes quickly, especially in the digital age. “Every time I make a mistake somebody tweets it,” he said.

But there’s also a risk in not failing. “Once something is successful, people try to protect it,” he said.

Either one, “can take away the courage the Holy Spirit gives you,” Chan said. The answer is to ask yourself: “Am I letting expectations get to me? My reputation get to me? Or am I being real before God?”

A reputation as being real before God clearly preceded Chan to Ministry Forum, attracting more than four times the usual attendance for the February 16 event. “There was a lot of demand for him” said Charity Brown, director of alumni and church development at FPU.

Having guests like Chan is what the Ministry Forum is all about. “The goal is to be a resource for ministry leaders, especially those at smaller churches who aren’t able to travel to big ministry conferences,” Brown said. “It’s our gift as a Christian university to the Valley.”

Chan’s message of trying things—of risking to reach people—appeals to many and is biblically sound. “He’s saying we need to be bold in our relationship with Christ,” Brown said. “It hits where FPU is.”

of every action. “My whole point right now—and which wasn’t the point of my sermon—is that I don’t know what I’m doing,” he said.

Instead, Chan figures God looks down and says, “Francis, you have no idea what I have planned for you.”

Among the things God has had planned so far for Chan have been quitting work three weeks after his marriage to start a church, starting a Bible college over a burrito lunch, selling his home and traveling the world with his family while wife Lisa was pregnant with their fifth child, hosting a steak-and-lobster feast for the poor in San Francisco’s Tenderloin District and



MORE THAN MET HIS EYE

Richard Unruh retires from the career he didn't see coming

By Wayne Steffen



At first glance, Richard Unruh didn't see a career. It had been a long drive alone from his home in Seattle in his prized 1964 Corvair Monza, and Pacific College looked nothing like the greenery and Gothic architecture of the University of Washington, his first college choice. "We didn't have any of that," he says.

What Pacific had in 1964 were the men's dorm (now Witmarsum), the women's dorm (Strasbourg), the classroom building (Sattler), Hiebert Library and Alumni Hall. Today those structures are part of the 50 acres of buildings, sports facilities, flower beds and tended green space that is the main campus of Fresno Pacific University. As Unruh plans his retirement in 2012, the

university has more than 3,600 students and four regional centers. Then he was one of 235 students living on a campus that had been a cotton field four years before and was still mostly land for the single groundskeeper to mow and disc.

Pacific was not in Unruh's plan. A few years in Christian schools had convinced Unruh that a public school was the place to be. Then John Redekop, who sang with Unruh in the Shoreline Mennonite Brethren Church choir, visited Unruh's uncle's dairy farm, where Unruh was spending the summer. "He said, I'm going to Pacific College to be the first political science teacher and I want you to be the first political science student," Unruh says. Redekop told Unruh he would help build the program as

student assistant. "He seemed to make it sound like it was going to be a great experience," Unruh says.

Political science was in Unruh's plan. As a high school senior, Unruh had taken the required government course and been fascinated. He switched career plans from farming to teaching college political science. "I never questioned that goal," he said.

Redekop got on the telephone with Pacific and got Unruh accepted and set up with financial aid. His pastor's brother-in-law ran Pacific Printing Press, later Pacific Printing, and got Unruh a part-time job.

Ivy-covered walls or not, Unruh jumped into campus life, joining the Peace Club, the Model United Nations Club, Student



Council and Student Court, where he was chief justice. He also edited the school newspaper with future teaching colleague Luetta (Feil '66) Reimer.

As Unruh prepared for his professional career, his personal life took a less intentional, at least to him, path. After a girlfriend in Seattle broke off their relationship during his senior year, Unruh spotted freshman Pat Friesen in the Alumni Hall food line. When his roommate and a friend asked Unruh to make it a triple, he walked to the women's dorm and asked Pat out over the lobby intercom, which was as far as men could get into the building. "I'd never spoken with her before," he says. "She first of all had to check with her girlfriends to see who I was."

That was six weeks before he graduated in May 1967. After three dates, including the junior-senior banquet, they decided to stay in touch. At commencement Pat met his parents and that summer she came to Seattle from her home in Dinuba. During that visit, the voice that would lead 1,000 class discussions stumbled over a question to Pat. He doesn't remember what came out. "What she said was, Are you trying to ask me if I will marry you?" Unruh recalls. They got engaged at Christmas 1967 and married in August 1968.

Teaching at his alma mater had never occurred to Unruh, who was still set on a public university. But in 1968 the war in Vietnam shadowed the country, and draft deferments had been nearly entirely eliminated. The Unruhs were vulnerable, as were many young couples.

While he never found out for sure, Unruh assumed John Redekop was behind

what happened next. After four years at Pacific, Redekop was returning to Canada, opening a spot for Unruh to teach at Pacific as an alternative to military service through the Mennonite Brethren Christian Service Program. The service program paid \$40 a month and \$40 more for food. Pacific provided an apartment near the Fresno County Fairgrounds a few blocks from campus.

Pat, still a student, worked a few hours a week as a teacher's aide. She earned her BA in 1970 and teaching credential in 1971. She would get a master's at FPU in 1980 and administrative services credential in 1991 and have a career as a teacher and administrator, mostly in Christian schools. The couple has a daughter, Elizabeth, who is an architect in North Carolina.

When his service obligation ended in 1970, Pacific offered him and Pat a campus apartment if he'd serve as head men's resident in addition to teaching full time. "I don't know if there was a formal invitation to stay on. It was just assumed," Unruh says.

The one time Unruh pondered changing course was while considering doctoral studies. He asked the senior faculty, mostly in their thirties, what they thought. "They affirmed me," Unruh says. "That's the last time I questioned it. I had the feeling I was doing what God wanted me to do and I always enjoyed doing it at Fresno Pacific." Unruh earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1993.

Unruh's students have gone to law school, worked in the California Assembly and become teachers. Several have followed him as FPU faculty, and two have

offices near his on the second floor of McDonald Hall.

Rod Janzen (BA '75), professor of history and director of the individualized master's program, took three classes from Unruh. As a teacher, Unruh encouraged debate and conversation. In one course he dedicated one session a week to current events; in another he required students to volunteer in a political campaign. "We were always tying what we were learning into contemporary issues," Janzen says. "Everything I took from him demanded full participation by students."

Taking his own advice, Unruh has also participated in governance at FPU as chair of Faculty Session, the social sciences division and many committees, but he never gets far from the classroom. "Teaching is the most important thing he does at FPU," Janzen says.

Ken Martens Friesen (BA '84), associate professor of political science and history, is a veteran of eight courses. "I think that was basically every class he taught," Friesen says.

Both by his style of teaching and his attitude toward his subject, Unruh inspired Friesen. "He was concerned that politics be something that is in the public square. Not just for politicians, media and special interests," Friesen says.

In retirement, Unruh, who was awarded emeritus status in March by the FPU Board of Trustees, plans to dive into his library of 1,500 or so books, overwhelmingly history and political science, just as he dove into FPU—the 44-year career he didn't see coming.





College UNIVERSITY

MERRILL AND PRISCILLA EWERT WERE PASSIONATE ABOUT FRESNO PACIFIC

By Wayne Steffen

AS HE LOOKS BACK AT 10 YEARS as president of Fresno Pacific University, D. Merrill Ewert can still hear the mandate he got when he accepted the position.

"The board told me: In 1997 we changed the name of the college, now change the college to a university," Merrill says.

Whatever the sign on Chestnut Avenue said, the feeling was that Fresno Pacific was still a college. "Things were a bit confused," says Larry Martens. A member of the FPU Board of Trustees since 1999 and chair from 2004-2009, Martens was on Merrill's search committee.

The focus was on traditional undergraduate students. Bachelor's degree completion and graduate programs were sometimes treated as add-ons, with classes spread over many locations. Academic areas did not communicate and faculty in

one department but teaching in multiple programs could report to as many as three deans. Becoming a university meant becoming more comprehensive. "We were pretty narrowly defined," Martens says.

GREATER EXPECTATIONS

Today FPU has five schools, organized by discipline. Students have a path from their first day of class through commencement, whether they come straight out of high school or back to the classroom after years in the workplace. Departments work across the schools to bring faculty together. Adult bachelor's degree completion and graduate programs are concentrated in centers in North Fresno, Bakersfield,

Visalia and Merced. Though all programs have expanded, degree completion has been the engine that has driven enrollment from 1,600 students in 2003 to 3,600 in 2012.

The board is also different, in makeup and mission. Where once 75 percent of the members represented the Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, which sponsors FPU, that figure is now 40 percent, with the rest coming from the surrounding community. Ewert also brought in Robert Andringa, then president of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, for a retreat on helping the board manage appropriately. "We went to the mountains on our retreat and we came down a different board," Martens says.

At the same time, FPU has grown in stature with new buildings, academic

programs, music ensembles and sports teams. As Ewert spends his last weeks in his office on the Fresno main campus, another new sign goes up; this one on the corner of Chestnut and Butler, cementing the 2010 union of FPU and MB Biblical Seminary as Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary.

Along with the new organization came new expectations for those who taught in it. "There was more emphasis on faculty being involved in scholarship," says Paul Toews, professor of history and director of the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, who has been on the faculty since 1967. "I think we're a better institution for it."

The increased rigor has been leavened by personal attention. "He'll actually come down to faculty members' offices and talk about things they care about," says W. Marshall Johnston, Jr., associate professor of history and classics.



COLLEGIAL SPIRITS

Another way Merrill connects is by attending events. As does his wife, Priscilla, who Johnston calls, "an amazing presence." "She's part of the team," Johnston says.

Though the Ewerts don't claim credit for the success of the university's sports, music and performing arts programs, they have been more than casual supporters. "We both truly enjoy music, drama and athletics. The added benefit is it's our students doing it," Priscilla says.

"It's important to people to know that other people care about how they did," Merrill says.

No administrator has done more to support music, says Wayne Huber, associate professor of music. "They're here; you don't even have to think about it."

Senior Deanna Den Hartog enjoys seeing Merrill and Priscilla at concerts. "One or both of them show up at nearly every single music event," she says. "They both attended my senior recital and the reception afterwards."

That interest in students is not limited to certain groups. "They are big on the stories of students in general," says Athletic Director Dennis Janzen. From national championship ceremonies to regular dinners in the cafeteria, they connected. "It's not very often you have a president of the university take that level of interest."

Like the concerts and sporting events, those meals became a chance to find out what's going on. "Students see us so often they forget who we are and talk to us like regular people," Merrill says.

Priscilla also gets to know students as chemistry lab supervisor. In AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science, Priscilla is a lot more than the first lady. "She reigns in this building," says Karen Cianci, dean of the School of Natural Sciences.

Her job description is to lead labs and tutorial sessions, but Priscilla does more. "She's also the number one cheerleader," Cianci says. "Many top students will testify to her significant encouragement and mentoring."

Chris Veldhuizen is one such student. The sophomore entered as a math major, taking general chemistry lab as a freshman. That year he scored in the top percentile nationally on the general chemistry test. He qualified for an internship with Dean Lee (BA '87) at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. "Priscilla really drew the love of science, for chemistry, from me," Veldhuizen says.

LEADING AS A TEAM

Merrill is happy to credit Priscilla's contributions. "Most people would agree that the best part of my presidency has been bringing Priscilla here," he says.

While Priscilla is the hugger of the two, Merrill's reserve clothes a caring nature, Martens says. "He's got a heart and tremendous empathy. When you're in the role of president and have to make hard decisions you don't always come across as warm and fuzzy."

Watching the couple in action is to see a team. The Minnesota natives met in

graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. They have two daughters, Michelle, who has a law degree from the University of Wisconsin, and Stephanie, who has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Washington.

Both Priscilla and Merrill love a good discussion, which set an open communication style that served them early: they married in June 1973, and started a three-year Africa service term that August. "We were uprooted. We became each other's primary support system," Priscilla says. "Since we were first married we have talked everything through," Merrill adds.

The last 10 years have given the Ewerts plenty to talk about, from the joys of student achievements and enrollment records to the pain of recession budget cuts and the sudden death of students and a faculty member. The worst part of being president is the phone call in the middle of the night. "That's the sort of thing you never get used to," Merrill says.

More than one person says Merrill leads best during crises. While disagreeing that difficult times are his finest hours, Merrill knows the importance of leading effectively when the going gets tough. "If the leader is scared and uncertain, this will shake people's confidence in the leader, the organization, the future and themselves," he says.

LOOKING AHEAD

Confidence in FPU is high at the end of Merrill and Priscilla's term. "We're starting to hit our stride," Martens says.

Priscilla wants to be remembered for the personal. "I hope people would say I cared about students and invested in them. I hope I made donors, faculty, staff and students feel appreciated," she says.

Merrill would be pleased if during his time FPU became more engaged in the region. "A friend of mine in town said that on my watch the doors and windows of Fresno Pacific opened," he says.

Dennis Janzen sums it up: "Merrill and Priscilla made Fresno Pacific better."

They came to make a college a university—they accomplished a lot more.



CREATING SCIENTISTS through community

By Wayne Steffen



The freshmen gather in Room 108 of AIMS Hall of Mathematics and Science. Using wheeled chairs that look like they came from a starship, they pull together into a ragged oval among the anatomical dummy and charts, the computer stations and the sign that says “do the math.” As some finish their lunches, Kelsey Ryska tells them about the convention she just attended and asks how they enjoyed spring break the previous week.

Everyone shouts “Hooray” for Rachel Boldt, who just finished her master’s in regenerative studies at Cal Poly Pomona, but the cheers turn to groans when talk turns to the upcoming biology test.

“No one’s sleeping tonight,” says one.

“Starbucks at midnight,” adds another.

Then the water pasteurization indicators arrive, and everyone sets up an informal assembly line to assemble and test simple scientific devices that could save lives in Africa. The students doing the work are as much a project as the indicators themselves.

This is the first year of an FPU program promoting the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and math) among those statistically less likely to earn a bachelor’s degree in science and math fields: low-income, Hispanic and/or first generation college students. The program started in the fall of 2011, funded by a \$3.75 million, five-year federal grant shared between FPU and the College of the Sequoias. There are 15 students from FPU and 18 from COS; all fit one of the criteria, many fit two or all three.

The COS effort is called Promoting Achievement & Scholarship with Enrichment Opportunities (PASEO). An articulation agreement between the schools helps

interested COS students transfer to FPU. The schools also cooperate through an advisory committee. More on PASEO at cos.edu/Academics/MathEngineering/PASEO/Pages/default.aspx.

At FPU, Boldt (Camp BA '07) is the learning community coordinator who handles the administrative necessities. Ryska (Zimmerman BA '07), the grant coordinator, meets with participants at least weekly and is in overall charge. "I basically make sure that every activity around STEM happens," Ryska says.

The first thing Ryska makes sure happens is that students bond. "STEM is a learning community based on academics," she says. A shared enthusiasm for science will turn this group into a team, just as a passion for sport welds a group of athletes and a love of music binds an orchestra.

The plan is working for Patricia Vasquez and Jorge Cubillos. "We encourage each other to perform well and not slack off," says Cubillos, who graduated from Kerman High School. "If we notice one person is off by themselves, we see what's going on with them."

"There's a lot of support," says Vasquez. "You feel connected."

Part of Ryska's role is to mentor students. "She's like our parent; she pulls our ears when we need it," says Vasquez. The graduate of Fresno's McLane High School appreciates this added support since her mother and siblings are back home in Mexico.

What puts students like Cubillos and Vasquez at risk is not a lack of ability or interest. "They're extremely intelligent, driven individuals; they just need a little extra support their freshman year," Ryska says. Support in dealing with professors, handling registration and other issues, even what school supplies they need.

Parents are as involved as they can be, but since many didn't attend college themselves they can't help their children with these challenges. "You can't lead someone somewhere you haven't been," Ryska says.

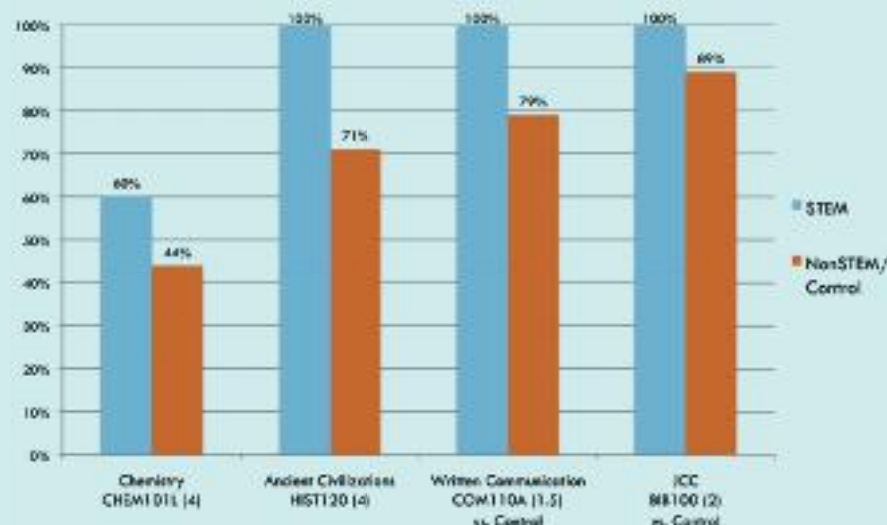
The STEM program is built on several similar efforts across the country, including the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The main elements are:

- Summer Bridge. Students come to campus for a week before their freshman year. They get subject preparation, live in residence halls, eat in the cafeteria and meet each other and faculty. COS students also participate.
- The cohort. As freshmen participants take four classes together: General Chemistry, Ancient Civilizations, Jesus and the Christian Community and Written Communication.



OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Academic Success Rates



- Supplemental instruction. Study sessions are available for JCC, General Chemistry and Ancient Civilizations. Participants are guided by model students, who have already completed the classes but audit them again to support the new students. This activity is open to all students, not just those in the STEM program.

Another plank in the program is community activities related to science and service. That's where the water pasteurization indicators come in. The group made more than 150 of the devices for a missionary going to Swaziland this summer with Project Glory. Pasteurizing water, heating it to a specific temperature for a given time, kills harmful bacteria. Each reusable indicator allows a family of 10 to heat their water in the sun while they are at work or elsewhere.

Ryska will keep track of the first class after the freshman year, and plans to hire several as support instructors, teaching assistants, ministry assistants and peer counselors. Plans for 2012-2013 are to have 40 students in the program at each school.

Early results show students in the FPU STEM program are significantly more likely to get a grade of C or better in the four courses the cohort takes together. (See graph) "So clearly it makes a difference," Ryska says.

The program is making a difference to Vasquez and Cubillos. "If I weren't in STEM, I would have changed my major," says Vasquez, who plans to become a physician and work with immigrants in the Central Valley.

Though he changed his major from science to intercultural studies, Cubillos sees value in studying science as he prepares for his career as a missionary. "Just the way I think more analytically," he says.

Just like those water pasteurization indicators, students in the STEM program are being prepared to contribute to the well-being of those beyond their classroom.



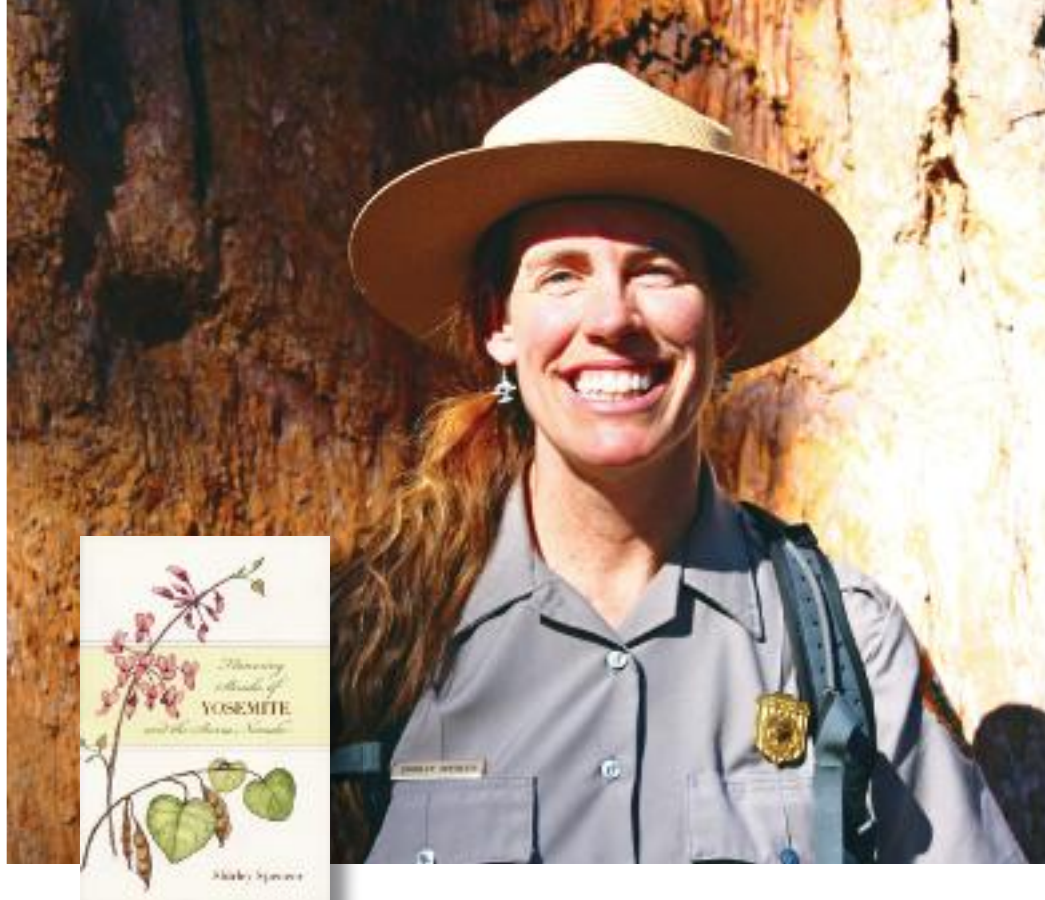
GET INVOLVED! There are many ways to support mathematics and science at FPU. On the website, go to fresno.edu/schools/natural_sciences to learn about our students, faculty and facilities. Know a high school student who could benefit from our mix of academic, professional and ethical development? Send them to experiencefpu.com/degree/

pre-health-sciences. Seed money has already been given to establish the nursing lab at the North Fresno Center. You can help! To contribute to the nursing lab equipment, science equipment maintenance funds, science and math scholarships and more, contact Nicole Linder at nicole.linder@fresno.edu or 559-453-2058.

SHIRLEY SPENCER (MA '06)

IMAP studies lead to nature guide book

By Katie Fries (BA '00)



A love of the outdoors has resulted in a book for Shirley Spencer (MA '06), a graduate of the FPU Individualized Master of the Arts Program (IMAP).

Originally conceived as her master's thesis/project, *Flowering Shrubs of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada* grew out of Spencer's desire to produce something both meaningful and functional that fused her scientific knowledge and artistic abilities. "I also wanted to create something that could be used and appreciated by many people, not just academic circles," she says. The book is an extension of the work she does in Yosemite National Park. There, Spencer works and teaches with a variety of groups doing everything from leading educational trips and presenting hands-on workshops and lectures to working as a seasonal park ranger interpreter.

IMAP provides a structure for master's study in areas where FPU has significant strengths but does not offer a formal program. Students, in consultation with an advisor, design a program subject to approval by the IMAP Council and the availability and willingness of university faculty to supervise study in the proposed area. IMAP students follow all normal admissions procedures and requirements. Rod Janzen, professor of history, is program director.

Spencer's interest in the wilderness and outdoor education was sparked the summer after she graduated from high school, when she was part of the Youth Conservation Corps at Palomar Mountain. "After that summer experience working outdoors," she says, "I really wanted to pursue a career of working in a wilderness environment with the public, either teaching or guiding." She received her bachelor's degree in life science from Pacific Union College and later received a teaching credential and her EMT-1 certification.

While teaching and leading field trips for FPU's adult programs, Spencer became interested in furthering her education at the university. A professor had encouraged her to get her master's degree in environmental studies, noting that with an advanced degree she would be able to lead educational programs on her own without the having an advance-degreed professor accompanying her. Spencer took the requisite graduate exams to apply to master's programs and worked with Michael Kunz, professor of biology, to form a curriculum.

The structure and flexibility of the IMAP allowed Spencer to pursue her master's degree as a working professional. "Generalists like Shirley are usually the people who are able to think holistically and integrate materials from different disciplines," Kunz says. "I think Shirley benefitted from the one-on-one interaction and our ability to tailor the curriculum to meet her specific needs." While the IMAP is not for everyone, Spencer's pre-determined goals and self-direction were instrumental to her success, he adds.

When it came time to begin work on her master's thesis, Spencer initially hoped to create a tree and flower guide but her boss at the Yosemite Institute pointed out that there were very few shrub guidebooks. Initially resistant to the idea ("I didn't think that shrubs could be very glamorous!"), Spencer eventually came around and approached the Yosemite Conservancy with a mock-up of her scientific writing and illustrations—their enthusiasm for the project resulted in a book deal; it was published as a joint venture between the Yosemite Conservancy and Heydey Books.

"Putting together my scientific and artistic interests and ability to create a guidebook was a compilation of my academic work at FPU and my career work as a naturalist in the national parks," Spencer said. She intends to continue to work and teach in Yosemite National Park while continuing to write and illustrate, though she cautions that ideas for her next book are still in their infancy.

"It is a stimulating and rewarding life and career," she says. "I have found my niche in what I really enjoy doing. There can hardly be any better place to teach scientific principles than in an outdoor wilderness."

Flowering Shrubs of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada is available for purchase via Heydey Books (heydeybooks.com) and major online booksellers, or can be ordered by local independent booksellers.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Terry Frantz (BA '71) is employed by Systran in Houston. He is a senior instructional technologist and the company specializes in educational technical training services. He went to Saudi Arabia for five weeks at the end of September 2011. He worked with Shell Oil, teaching supervisors how to instruct their employees using computers.

James DeVries (seminary '76) has reached 35 years as a missionary with One Challenge International. He has 10 grandchildren, all living overseas with their parents as missionaries.



Penny Weaver (MA '92) was appointed to serve as Scotts Valley Unified School District superintendent in July 2011.

Michael Allen (seminary '06) is employed as FPU director of institutional research.

Ernestine (Fletcher BA '07) Houston and husband Jamie will celebrate eight years of marriage on May 8, 2012.

Chris Meyer (MA '08) began as Dinuba High School principal in August 2011. He has worked in the Dinuba Unified School District for 16 years. "I got into education and discovered that I enjoyed being around the kids, and I had the ability to positively impact their lives" he says.

Jaclyn Rios (BA '09) is employed in the financial aid department at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jennifer Deibert (BA '10) has begun a one-year service assignment with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Hanoi, Vietnam, as a manuscript editor at The Gioi Publishing House. She is serving through MCC's SALT – Serving and Learning Together – program for young adults from Canada and the U.S. who volunteer outside both countries.

Pedro Urena (BA '10) assists non-profit agencies in the Central Valley such as Our United Cultures Inc., Association of Mexican American Educators, Education and Leadership Foundation and Education for Peace and Justice. He works with various projects and has started a student leadership committee for Our United Cultures, Inc.

Melissa Kent (MA '10) joined FPU as student success coordinator. She is also the founder/president of Educational College Consultants (EC-Squared), an independent educational consulting firm helping students with college planning, academic advising and career guidance. For more information visit ec-squared.com

Kimberly Nolan-Molina (BA '11) is in a master's program for library and information science at San Jose State University.

Nasreen Riahizadeh (BA '11) received the John Valentino Award for her work on The Giving Garden from Tree Fresno at the 6th Annual CityScape Awards. The John Valentino Award was created to thank and honor a volunteer whose passion, commitment, advocacy and example inspire to continue Tree Fresno's mission to enrich the quality of life in the region through the addition of trees and trails.

César Garcia (seminary '11) was named the general secretary of the Mennonite World Conference in January 2012.

FACULTY



Father Dale Matson, Ph.D., emeritus School of Education, has published his third book, a second edition of meditations about living the Christian life in contemporary society. *Meditations of a Plumber Priest II* is

available at Barnes and Noble or Amazon Books.

Loyal Martin (seminary faculty '72-'83) and wife Rosella have directed Prudent Tours for 10 years with other director couples. They also do pastoral calling on seniors from Hillsboro Mennonite Brethren Church. They attend games at Tabor College as well as "Learning in Retirement" sessions offered by Tabor.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER!

Join fellow Sunbirds on the Alumni Council. We're looking for representatives from traditional undergraduate, graduate, degree completion and seminary alumni. If you have interest in remaining actively engaged with your alma mater and other alumni, this opportunity is for you.

The time commitment is limited. For more information, contact Charity Brown at charityb@fresno.edu or 559-453-2236.

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.

Please include your graduation year(s) with your update. Photos must be 1 megabyte for digital files and at least 3x4 inches for prints.

Email: alumni@fresno.edu

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

Fax: 559-453-2033
(attention: alumni updates)

DOUGLAS SUMI (BA '05)

Douglas Sumi (BA music '05), pianist/vocal coach with the Los Angeles Opera, returned to FPU October 17 for a Pacific Artist Series concert with Deborah Sauer-Ferrand, soprano and associate professor of music. Sumi has been involved in productions of *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Tamerlano*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Die Gezeichneten*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Das Rheingold* and *Siegfried* in *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. As a recitalist, Sumi has performed across the United States, in Europe and in Canada. Internationally, he served on the music staff of Centro Studi Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy. His master of music degree is in classical accompanying from the Manhattan School of Music.

What do your Los Angeles Opera duties entail? What goes into mounting a production like *La Traviata*?

Pianists in opera houses wear many hats: repetiteur (rehearsal pianist), vocal coach, accompanist for auditions and musical preparation for the young artist singers. Beginning with musical preparation of resident young

artists; principal singers arrive and we begin staging rehearsals. During the staging rehearsal period, usually three-four weeks, I am also coaching the singers on the roles. Orchestra rehearsals begin about one week before the opening performance and I serve as an assistant to the conductor.

Who are some of the artists you've worked with?

Plácido Domingo, James Conlon, Sir Thomas Allen, Carol Vaness, Vladimir Chernov, Linda Watson, Erik Halverson, Richard Paul Fink, Bejun Mehta, Bruce Ford, Sarah Coburn, Juan Diego Florez, Joyce DiDonato, Nathan Gunn, Charles Castronovo, Bo Skovhus, Martina Serafin and Andrea Silvestrelli.

Are there other areas of music or performing you'd like to pursue?

Currently, opera is my love; however, I've been flirting with

a bit of chamber music recently, which has really been a treat. Learning about the voice has affected so many areas of my approach. Most instruments are trying to imitate the voice, so I never feel that far from opera or classical singing.

What do you enjoy—or have time for—personally?

I enjoy regular exercise, including yoga—something all singers should consider. Good food, wine and conversation. Cooking for friends makes me very happy.

You got your master's in New York and now live in Los Angeles. Which do you prefer?

New York by far. L.A. has lovely weather and all, however no city in the states, or the world, can offer what N.Y.C. does: opera, symphony, dance, recital, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, etc. Living in a real melting pot of so

many cultures, nationalities, languages, cuisines, etc. on one city block, or building for that matter, is truly a rich experience. Also, New Yorkers are frank; not rude, but forward. Not passive aggressive. Generally, people don't take things so personally, so more work gets done.

What's your advice for young musicians?

Study hard and seriously. It's extremely competitive. Staying encouraged is not easy, and there will be many sacrifices along the way. Figure out now if you really want this, because it only gets harder. Force yourself to be a small fish in a big pond, that's where you'll grow out in the real world. Learn how to learn music efficiently. Be a sponge. The greatest performers were always students at heart, which takes a large dose of humility and self confidence.

What effect does your faith and your time at FPU have on your life today?

FPU was the place where considering this all as a career began. It was a nurturing place, considering I got a late start compared to my colleagues at Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard. My faith in God is the only thing that gets me through some days. When studying and then working in an environment with so many egos, hatred, jealousy, insecurity, etc. I had to get to a point of realizing what really is important. How am I furthering His kingdom? Sharing the Gospel? The arts community is definitely a huge mission field.



IN THE NEWS

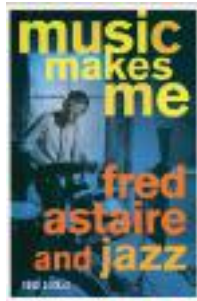
Tim Neufeld (BA '85, M.Div. '93, FPU Faculty) was featured in the November 7, 2011, *Mennonite Weekly Review*. The article, "Prof teaches theology with the music of U2," discussed the course Theology, Culture and U2, which Neufeld has taught three times. The course uses best-selling music group U2 as a case study for how to think theologically. "Many of U2's songs use metaphors and images in the same way that Jesus used the symbols of his day to craft parables," he said. The article is available at mennoweekly.org

Bryan Feil (BA '07) was featured in the January 13, 2011, issue of *The Business Journal*. The article, "Jobseeking through faith," interviewed Feil on his involvement with the creation of the Neighborhood Thrift Store, which provides low-cost products as well as employment training with what he calls a "faith-based twist." The article is available at thebusinessjournal.com

Whitney (Hutton BA '08) Bunker was featured in the January 2012 issue of *SALT Fresno*. She is director and co-founder of City Without Orphans, a non-profit ministry, and a former foster agency social worker who wants to mobilize local churches to care for "temporary orphans" in Fresno. The article is available at saltfresnomagazine.org

Wilfred Martens (faculty '65-'00) had an article about his memories of catch-and-release fishing with his grandson, Adam, published in the *Senior Living* section of the *Fresno Bee* in August 2011.

Robert de la Torre (FPU staff) was featured in the January 13, 2011, issue of *The Business Journal*. The article, "Program to educate residents for jobs gets rolling," discussed the creation of the Learn 2 Earn Initiative to bring awareness that 69,000 adults in Fresno lack basic education and that adults can go back to school. He was interviewed about his own story of earning his high school diploma in juvenile hall and becoming an FPU degree completion representative. The article is available at thebusinessjournal.com



Todd Decker (BA '89) has published *Music Makes Me: Fred Astaire and Jazz* with the University of California Press. An article-length review of the book, "They're the Top," was included in the April 5 issue of *The New York Review of Books*. An assistant professor of musicology at Washington University in St. Louis, Todd won the Best First Book Award from the Cinema and Media Studies group in 2012 for *Music Makes Me*. Another book, *Show Boat: Performing Race in an American Musical*, is to be published by Oxford University Press. More on the book at music.wustl.edu/people/decker. The review is at nybooks.com/articles/archives/2012/apr/05/theyre-the-top-adele-fred-astaire/

WEDDINGS

1 David Kleschold (BA '82) and Lori Jantzen Regier (BA '84) married on July 2, 2011 in Pacific Grove, CA.

2 Sheila Kamps (BA '04) married Nathan Frowsing on March 26, 2011. Sheila has a Farmers Insurance Agency and Nathan is in medical device sales.

3 Alyssa Black (BA '09) married Matthew Garvin on June 12, 2011. Alyssa will graduate with her master of arts in interdisciplinary studies from California State University, Fresno, in spring 2012.

4 April Fujihara (BA '10) and Timothy Kahn (BA '11) married on December 21, 2011. April is studying optometry at the Southern California College of Optometry. Tim will attend the University of California Irvine School of Medicine.

5 Flavia Tincu (MA '10) married Claudiu Mich on October 30, 2011 in Sacramento, CA.

6 Tyler Enns (BA '11) and Grecia Madriz (BA '11) married on August 20, 2011. They reside in Fresno, CA.

7 David White (BA '11) and Sarah Benjamin (BA '11) married on December 21, 2011. Both are in the teacher credential program at FPU.





BIRTHS

1 Amy (Voris BA '92) Lewis and husband Stephen announce the birth of son Xavier Philip on November 1, 2011. He joins siblings Nadine, Ariadne, Kyrie, Peter, Calvin and Zachary.

2 Anna (Kattenhorn BA '96) Huffman and husband David announce the birth of son JohnMark Ethan on September 12, 2011. He joins siblings Matthew, 9; and Julianna, 6.

3 Todd (BA '97, MA '03) and Sarah (Steckling BA '97, TC '98, MA '03) Friesen announce the birth of son Adam Robert on March 5, 2011. He joins brothers Paul, 8; and Levi, 4.

Christa (Bryan TC '00) and Aaron Wiens (BA '00) announce the birth of son Gabriel on October 7, 2011.

Veronica (Villalobos BA '03) Meadors and husband Brock announce the birth of son Seth Allen on May 2, 2011.

4 Michelle (Wilkinson BA '04, TC '05) Carr and husband Nathan announce the birth of son Ethan David on December 19, 2011. He joins sister Darby, 2.

Dmitriy (BA '05, FPU staff) and Tatyana (Moroz BA '05) Obyedkov announce the birth of daughter Katie Daniel on November 21, 2011.

5 Jennifer (McCarty BA '05) Ribb and husband Josh announce the birth of daughter Elizabeth Joy on August 13, 2011.

6 Jeff (seminary '10) and Stephanie (Berg BA '06, seminary '09) Zimmerman announce the birth of son Maddex Dean on August 7, 2011.

Blanca Lopez (BA '07) announces the birth of son Xavier Brandon Castillo on July 27, 2011.

7 Candice (Schaeffer BA '08) Tickel and husband Anthony announce the birth of son Hudson James on October 9, 2011.

ADOPTIONS

Alicia (Vom Steeg BA '94, TC '95) DeVore and husband Nicholas announce the adoption of son Isaiah, 2 years old.

DEATHS

David Lee Bonetto (MA) died September 26, 2011. David, 78, was a retired school administrator for Central Unified School District. He is survived by his wife, Erna, and their two sons, **David W. (BA '89)** and Maurice Bonetto.

Éric Wingender (seminary '88) died October 5, 2011, after a heart attack. Éric, 54, was vice-president and professor of theology at ETEM (École de Théologie Évangélique de Montréal). He is survived by his wife, Farrah, and their three sons, Jean-François, Sydney and Spencer.

Martin Cordero (BA '95) died November 2, 2011, after a battle with cancer. Martin, 39, taught math for 15 years at Riverdale High School. He also coached boys and girls soccer and tennis. His wife, **Veronica (Hamm BA '97) Cordero**, is also deceased.

Scott Alan Nelson (MA '03) passed away after a bicycling accident August 17, 2011. Scott, 41, taught math at Mt. Whitney High School in Visalia. He is survived by his father, Bill Nelson; sister, Kim Feijo; brother, Randy; children, Audrey and Ethan; and their mother, Brandi Nelson.



Rosella (Koop) Prieb passed away January 14, 2012. Rose, 85, served as a Mennonite Brethren missionary for 30 years in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa, with

her husband **Arnold Prieb (PBI '50)**. Upon return to the United States in 1980 they served as pastoral couple at Bethany Mennonite Brethren Church for 12 years. Rosella Koop was married to Arnold on September 21, 1945. He preceded her in death, as did one daughter, Carol Joanne. Survivors include one daughter **Gloria Enns (attended '67)**; four sons, **Garry (BA '71, seminary '84, FPU staff)**, **Larry (BA '71)**, **Arnie (BA '74, seminary '80, FPU staff)** and **James (attended '73)**; 18 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one sister, Beatrice Warkentin; one brother, Ronald Koop and his wife, Mary; sister-in-law Evelyn Koop; and brother-in-law Leonard Heinrichs.

A present from his kids has become A GIFT TO MANY

By Wayne Steffen



Scott Garrison took the paragliding lesson his daughters bought him for Father's Day 2005, but decided "that's a little edgy for a guy my age," says the director of business programs at FPU's Bakersfield Regional Center.

Gliding lessons worked, but Garrison's wife, Karen, had no interest in flying without an engine. Six years ago came what Garrison smilingly describes as "the most expensive weekend of my life" when a friend flew the couple to Santa Barbara in his private airplane. "She thought she could do that," he said of Karen.

Today they fly for more than fun. Since 2006, Garrison has flown his Cirrus SR-20 single-engine aircraft on more than 100 missions for the Southern California Wing of Angel Flight West. Like all the organization's 1,900 volunteer pilots, he covers his own costs (average \$400 per flight). "It's not my money," Garrison says. "The Lord has allowed me this opportunity."

Throughout the U.S., Angel Flight organizations arrange free air transportation for people with health or other needs. Since it

began in 1983, AF West has made 40,000 flights over 13 states with no accidents.

A poster and brochure piqued his interest. "I thought biblically, to whom much is given much is expected," says Garrison, who also serves the nonprofit as hospital outreach coordinator, mission orientation pilot and Kern County Area Leader.

Chloe Redfearn (pictured with Garrison) is a regular passenger. The two-year-old goes to Stanford every two weeks for treatment for atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome, a disease affecting the kidneys. "We're very thankful for what he does," says Chloe's mother, Candace. "Her survival depends 110 percent on her getting to Stanford."

When he's ready to take to the air for Angel Flight West, Garrison, or any other pilot, chooses flights from the organization's website and emails. "They get picked up pretty quickly; it's on the pilots' hearts to do this," Garrison says.



ROAD TO RECOVERY

FPU & EVANGEL HOME HELP WOMEN GET BACK ON TRACK

By Jaime Huss

As she prepared to graduate from high school, the future looked promising for Melissa. With a 4.0 grade point average and plans to start her freshman year of college, her life seemed on the road to success. Instead, Melissa's carefully mapped prospects took a detour.

"I started hanging out with the wrong people. I just fell off the bandwagon," Melissa says.

Wanting to lose weight, a friend suggested Melissa try methamphetamines. Within six months Melissa had lost nearly 50 pounds, and much more. "My whole behavior changed," Melissa says. "I became really deceitful, dropped out of college ... the only thing I wanted to do was to die."

In spring 2009, Melissa's detour hit a dead end. A botched drug smuggling attempt into Mexico landed her eight months of federal time. Following her release, Melissa had two choices: more prison or an alternative sentencing program. Melissa chose the latter and was connected with Evangel Home in Fresno.

Evangel Home is a Christian-based shelter for women and children that provides a number of services—including food, shelter, clothing, recovery services and alternative sentencing programs—to those in need. Founded in 1955 as part of one woman's calling to help displaced women, Evangel Home has grown to help more than 400 women and children a year.

For Melissa, the next nine months were spent in a residential recovery group attending classes, counseling, Bible studies and work programs. There, she discovered a career planning course partnership between the home and Fresno Pacific University.

Started in 2008 through a grant from Bank of the West, the program is giving new hope to women trying to regain their footing in life. The three-month program combines a series of correspondence courses with weekly onsite meetings.

Monthly presentations by community leaders supplement the curriculum, covering key topics such as résumé writing, interview skills and pursuing a GED. The program culminates with a mock interview at FPU before a panel of staff, faculty and community members. Further, FPU has set aside a \$1,000 scholarship for Evangel Home participants.



"Education is so important. It determines which path you take," says Joanie Joy, FPU special projects coordinator. "It's neat to see these women come to that realization."

Starting the Evangel Home program was particularly fulfilling for Joy. A friend of Evangel Home Executive Director Gerre Brenneman and a one-time intern with the organization, Joy knew first-hand about Evangel Home's life-changing influence. "I'd been impressed with their work. They're Christ-centered and equip women to live a life of integrity," she says.

The career planning course is based on FPU's Life Skills Program for incarcerated inmates. Considering how to expand the Life Skills Program to other groups, Evangel Home seemed like a perfect fit. "We had the class, they had the need," Joy says.

Reentering society after being incarcerated is a real challenge. A study of nearly 300,000 prisoners by the U.S. Department of Justice showed that within three years more than 67 percent were arrested for a new crime and more than 25 percent reentered prison for a new offense. But finding work can lessen those odds. A separate study by the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center found ex-prisoners who found work within two months of release that

paid more than \$10 an hour had an 8 percent reincarceration rate within one year, compared to 23 percent for those who remained unemployed.

Brenneman sees the difference the FPU partnership is making. "If you ask our women what they want, most just want to be 'normal,'" she says.

Reflecting on the mock interviews, Brenneman remembers the looks of nervousness many of the women wore on their faces beforehand. And just as memorable were the looks of accomplishment afterwards. "It's one more step in restoring our women's lives," she says.

For Melissa, restoration has put her life on a new path. Following graduation from Evangel Home in fall 2010, she began full-time studies at a local adult school, graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Next stop? More classes en route to her career goal: becoming a legal assistant.

Definitely a step in the right direction.

Evangel Home is the winner of the Seminary Social Justice Award.

LESSONS LEARNED

FATHER'S EXAMPLE LEADS TO LIFE OF GIVING

By Wayne Steffen



Some memories live so deep in the heart they bring a catch to the throat decades later. Ask Marvin Steinert about gratitude to God and he'll tell you about his father. "My dad taught me tithing," he says. When Steinert was 14 his father, Emanuel, supported the family of four on \$25 a week. Yet every Saturday he'd put \$2.50 into an old Calumet Baking Powder can for the collection plate on Sunday. "It makes me teary-eyed thinking about it," his son remembers, "because I knew how bad he needed that \$2.50."

Emanuel Steinert died two years later, without any deep father-son talk about honoring God's generosity through charity—or any need for one. "He never did say anything, I just saw it. The minute I started making any money I started giving," Marvin says.

That lesson of thankfulness has benefitted many. Marvin and wife Nadene are major donors to FPU, Heritage Bible Church and groups such as Bakersfield Memorial Hospital and Kern County Teen Challenge. When the couple was honored as the Outstanding Philanthropists of 2011 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) San Joaquin Valley Chapter, Marvin put the credit where it belonged. "It's all through the grace of Jesus Christ," he says.

Sitting in the den of their Bakersfield home, Marvin on the leather couch and Nadene next to him on the stuffed chair with the flowered print, the Steinerts live among comfortable surroundings with decorations ranging from decorative masks to traditional painted plates. Prominent are family portraits, the last one taken at the couple's 50th wedding anniversary, almost 20 years ago.

Today Marvin wears athletic pants and shoes. He's been on his weekly visit to a trainer. Later his son, Max, or another family member or friend will take him on his daily walk around the neighborhood.

Marvin speaks quietly but distinctly. His eyes are blinded by temporal arteritis but his memory is clear and his mind shifts nimbly from past to present. Nadene leans forward, always listening, sometimes fleshing out his comments and adding her own. She has, for example, her own family giving story: Nadene's father, Ed Kruger, gave to Pacific Bible Institute, the forerunner of Fresno Pacific University. "I was raised to tithe to Pacific," she says. Today both families are honored in the Steinert-Kruger Scholarship Fund.

Nadene is a South Valley native, her parents having farmed around Shafter, growing raisin grapes, cotton,

alfalfa and a little bit of everything. Marvin was born in Kansas but the family moved to Bakersfield when he was six months old due to his father's health. They met at the 1940 Frontier Days Rodeo and married two years later.

Union Oil was Marvin's first employer, and he would have stayed longer had he been able to stay near home. "They wanted to transfer me to Los Angeles and I didn't want to go," he says.

That led to 20 years with Rudnick and Klipstein, where Marvin began as an accountant and soon started managing cattle feedlots. This is also when Marvin started his career in land development, acquiring property, first for his employers and then for himself, and ultimately getting a real estate license.

Running feedlots led Marvin to study cattle nutrition and found Kern Livestock Supplement. At first he remained employed by Rudnick and Klipstein while running the new business. Eventually his products were used in most feedlots within a couple hundred miles. "They accepted me because I knew the cattle business," he says.

The businesses, which later included Kern Livestock Grain, did well, but Marvin wasn't content to give just a portion of his income; he looked for charitable opportunities. A 180-bed hospital and 1,200 acres of ranch land on Ashlan Avenue in Fresno subdivided into housing lots were just two deals he was involved in specifically to benefit Fresno Pacific. "We did anything to raise money to keep the college solid," he says.

Arthur Wiebe, Al Warkentine and Chester Jost were frequent partners and longtime friends. Arthur was president of Fresno Pacific from 1960-1975, Al is a retired Fresno dentist and Jost, who owned a carpet business in Bakersfield, died in 2004. Marvin and Al were members of the university's foundation board. Marvin also served on the FPU Board of Trustees.

Finances were challenging in the 1960s and 1970s, and few board members had entrepreneurial experience, so Marvin's expertise was as appreciated as his commitment. "He's a successful businessman who is deeply committed to supporting the cause of Christ," says Wiebe.

While major donors commonly gear their gifts to their interests, Marvin remembers the generosity he's been shown and has put his money where the demand was. "Wherever the need at the time happened to be, that's where the money went," Warkentine says. Though he did have his heart set on a place for students to gather, relax and learn. When that building opened in 2003, it was natural to call it the Steinert Campus Center. "That was his passion for 20 years," Warkentine says.

Warkentine recalls spending 25-30 hours a week in the volunteer position of board member. "Marvin was right in the forefront of it," Warkentine says. "It was hands-on involvement."

Involvement in FPU for the Steinert family has not been limited to time, talent and treasure. All three of Marvin and Nadene's children—Max, Randy and Gary—attended, with the oldest, Max, graduating in 1967, and later serving on the board of trustees. Charlotte (Bartell), Max's wife, attended, as did all four of their children, (all daughters) two of whom graduated. Delores (Regier), Randy's wife, attended, along with one of their two daughters.

He may be 89, but don't call Marvin retired: He goes to his office once a week, where a granddaughter helps him oversee the family holdings. Max is in property management, Randy is in real estate and Gary is a designer.

What Marvin wants to pass on to his children, grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren is the thankfulness to God he learned from his father and that Calumet can. "To be givers of what the Lord blessed you with. I never dreamed we'd be able to give as much as we did," he says.

Nadene thinks she knows the secret of Marvin's success. "The Lord knew who he could trust with the money," she says.

Deep memories teach profound lessons.



STEINERT CAMPUS CENTER



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OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

Cheyenne Coffman's
singular spark fires
team success



Your team's first national team championship, eight national records in one meet, ranked in the top 15 nationally, FPU and NAIA swimmer of the year.

Sounds like a career.

But for Cheyenne Coffman, the final buzzer has yet to sound. The Prather senior is looking forward to her chance at gold: she's qualified for the Olympic Trials in Omaha in June and is hoping to climb to the next level of what she calls a never-ending pyramid.

"Swimming is a never-ending pyramid because there are so many steps, and within each step there are certain things you have to be willing to do to move on," she says.

The 2011-2012 season has certainly been one of moving on and

up, for Coffman and the entire swimming team. The women's team won its first national championship March 1-3 in Oklahoma City. The men's team, national champs in 2010 and 2011, missed the top spot by .9 seconds in the final race.

On their way to the one-two performance, their final in the NAIA as FPU moves into NCAA Division II, Sunbird swimmers



set 11 records. Coffman set or helped set eight of those marks: the 50 freestyle, the 100 backstroke, the 200 backstroke, the 200 freestyle relay (with Sofie Gjemmestad, Michelle Moreno and Katelyn Brown), the 200 medley relay (with Lauren Malthaner, Kendall Swanson and Brown), the 400 freestyle relay (with Brown, Gjemmestad and Stacy Carter), the 400 medley relay (with Malthaner, Moreno and Gjemmestad) and the 800 freestyle relay (with Brooke Turner, Gjemmestad and Carter).

Men's records were set by Paul Marie-Rose (100 freestyle) and Guy Kosov, Marko Tanasovski, Damien Bernard and Marie-Rose

(200 and 400 medley relay). Coach Peter Richardson was named Women's Coach of the Year, an honor he also achieved in 2009-2010. He was Men's Coach of the Year in 2008-2009 and 2010-2011.

Going into the nationals Coffman had the 13th fastest time in the U.S. in the 100 backstroke, a second faster than any swimmer in the history of the NAIA and ahead of the top swimmers on four leading NCAA Division I teams: USC, Stanford, Indiana and Florida. At the UNLV Invitational in December Coffman defeated five Division I teams. Of the nation's 100 top times, Coffman's was one of only two not posted by Division I athletes. She is also the only non-Division I swimmer in the Top 50 in the 50 freestyle, at number 26.

It's the 100 backstroke and 50 freestyle Coffman hopes will get her on the U.S. Olympic Team for the 2012 London or 2016 Rio de Janeiro games. As Coffman trains 30 hours a week to scale the next level of the pyramid, Richardson remembers how far up she has already climbed.

"When she arrived at Fresno Pacific she had never broken 1:00 in the 100 backstroke," he says. "I remember telling her as a freshman that she could go 53 someday, it seemed so far away back then, but she has already reached 52. There's not another team in the country, in any division, that wouldn't want her. She's very special."

Sunbirds on the web ▶ Spring is the season for outdoor sports! Find out what's happening on the tennis courts, the baseball diamond, track and field and women's water polo. For up-to-the-minute results and features, go to fpuathletics.com.

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