

PACIFIC

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 26, NO. 1

*May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the
Holy Spirit you may abound in*

HOPE.

ROMANS 15:13
(FPU theme verse for 2012-2013)

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PETE C. MENJARES, PH.D.

president's message

PLANNING OUR ACADEMIC WORK, WORKING GOD'S SPIRITUAL PLAN

*"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans
will be established." —Proverbs 16:3 (ESV)*

This proverb has been one of our guiding verses during the strategic planning process undertaken earlier this year and now in full swing. The proverb speaks to two aspects of planning: the "work" of planning committed to the Lord (the process), and the plans themselves (the product). For the past several months everyone in the campus community, including a number of alumni, have been engaged in the "work" of planning through surveys, focus groups and listening sessions.

The process has invigorated FPU and has opened meaningful conversations about who we are as a Christ-centered university; our mission and core values; our unique Mennonite Brethren/Anabaptist, evangelical and ecumenical identity; our distinctive education; the richness of our diversity; and of course, where we are headed. In my opinion, the process of planning has proven to be as important for our community, if not more important, than the actual plan.

One question generated some of the most meaningful insights: "What characteristics or qualities of FPU do you most value and want to

preserve as we dream our way into the future?"

The hundreds of replies received by the Strategic Planning Committee are remarkably similar and consistent, focusing on our Christian foundation and sense of calling, our Christian community, spiritual vitality, the value we place on others, academic excellence, the FPU Idea, our commitment to restorative practices such as peacemaking and reconciliation, and our commitment to serving the needs of the Central Valley. These wonderful insights reflect our collective dream for FPU and speak to the "soul" of who we are. What an exciting vision of our future!

I am happy to see strategic planning reinforcing the truth that Fresno Pacific University is a very special place. From Bakersfield to Visalia, to North Fresno and Merced, and of course, the main campus in southeast Fresno, this university is loved and appreciated by alumni, students, faculty, staff, administration and thousands of friends and supporters. For this I am grateful. My prayer is that our plans for Fresno Pacific University will continue to be established as we commit our work unto the Lord!

PACIFIC
FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

*Empowering leaders.
Transforming lives.*

fresno.edu

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

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



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A new feature focuses on what makes FPU special

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Some pertinent information was left out of "Learning About Faith and Courage in Guatemala," which appeared in the November 2012 Pacific (Volume 25, Number 2). The name of the class described was PSY 471 Cross-Cultural Psychology, taught by Sherry Muterspaugh Walling, Ph.D., at the time an assistant professor of psychology at FPU. Walling, now director of clinical training at House Psychiatric Clinic, Fresno, and adjunct faculty at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, also provided the photographs. We apologize for this omission.

What's the News?

From launching a new flock of Sunbirds at commencement to honoring our academic best to helping people while having fun at the MCC Sale, it's all happening at Fresno Pacific University!

CATCH UP AT FRESNO.EDU

MAKING TEACHERS TOGETHER

**FPU, UC Merced join to
address Valley teacher
shortage**



Filling the Central Valley's need for high-quality teachers is the goal of an exceptional partnership between Fresno Pacific University and the University of California, Merced.

Called the Central Valley Teacher Prep Partnership (CVTPP), the program "will provide a seamless career pathway from undergraduate education at the University of California to professional preparation programs located at Fresno Pacific University's center in Merced," according to the memo of understanding between the universities.

The partnership builds on FPU's expertise in teacher education and UC Merced's pool of students who are interested in education and desire to stay local. The two universities serve a large number of students who are the first in their families to attend college, and share a vision to increase the number of effective K-12 educators, especially those serving in low-performing schools in high-poverty areas.

The program will begin in the summer of 2013. Students who have earned a bachelor's from UC Merced can enroll directly in the FPU teacher education program to begin work on their credential, which they can complete in as little as one academic year. Like all teacher-education candidates, they must pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) and relevant portions of the California Subject Examination Test (CSET).

"I'm really proud of the work we've done," said Linda Hoff, Ph.D., chair of the FPU Division of Teacher Education. "A public-private partnership is unusual; a partnership between the University of California and a small, faith-based institution is very unusual."



"A partnership between the University of California and a small, faith-based institution is very unusual."

—Linda Hoff

“Our goal is to keep them
in the Valley.” —Amanda Krum-Stovall



Fresno Pacific University has about 3,500 traditional and adult students. FPU has the highest four-year graduation rate of any university in the Valley and is the region's only comprehensive Christian university granting master's degrees. UC Merced, opened in 2005, is the 10th campus in the University of California system. Nearly 5,800 undergraduate and graduate students study in three schools: engineering, natural sciences and social sciences, humanities and arts.



JUAN MEZA

UC Merced students who enroll in CVTPP can study at any FPU location: the main campus in Southeast Fresno, or one of the regional centers in Merced, North Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield. “The opportunity is there for students to get their credential in the community where they grew up and maybe do their student teaching there,” said Amanda Krum-Stovall, FPU graduate program advisor. “Our goal is to keep them in the Valley.”

Connections to the region are one reason UC Merced was interested in working with FPU. Forty percent of UC Merced students come from the Valley, and many want

to stay, said Juan Meza, Ph.D., dean of the School of Natural Sciences at UC Merced. “One of the things we like about FPU is that it's local,” he added.

That local connection is also important to potential students. “Many UC Merced grads who wish to become teachers are excited to discover they can complete their professional preparation at the FPU Merced Center, which is just down the road from the UC,” Hoff said.

FPU also offers these students their first 3 units free. “That makes it a nice monetary incentive, as well,” Meza said.

Funds for CVTPP come from the University of California system's Cal-Teach/Science and Math Initiative (SMI). Students who wish to teach in all fields are welcome, but a special effort is being made to recruit science and math educators.

“There really is a shortage of qualified teachers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields,” said Meza, who is also SMI principal investigator. “This is a way to take students interested in science and math and motivate them to go into K-12 teaching. It's going to make it a very successful program.”

GET INVOLVED! FPU has many opportunities for educators to expand their expertise. More at fresno.edu/education

LEARNING GOES MOBILE

FPU students help Liberty H.S. welcome smart phones, tablets



By Wayne Steffen

“Today our
phones are
our offices.”

—Robert Murray

Can the invasion of iPads, Galaxies, iPhones and Black-Berries into every Nook and Nexus of public schools Excite any better result than flocks and flocks of Angry Birds darkening the digital sky?

Is there a Brightside, or are our children destined to be Droids—shambling the halls, texting instead of talking, exercising their thumbs but not their brains? A group of Fresno Pacific University graduate students is helping an area high school Kindle a

connection between smartphones, tablets and learning.

As a project for Robert Murray’s Safe School Environment seminar, Roxanne Berry, Mac Blate, Miguel Garduque, Monica Monroy de Garcia and Victoria Orosco, students in the master’s in school counseling and/or school psychology programs, put together information that became part of a plan adopted by Liberty High School, part of the Golden Valley Unified School District.

There are important differences between mobile devices and traditional time-wasters

“If we’re not going to roll with it, it’s going to roll over us.” —*Miguel Garduque*

like comic books and Pee Chee folders. For one thing, parents provide the devices, smart phones being the most popular. “They want to be in communication with their children,” Garduque says.

For some schools, even public ones, technology is part of student recruitment. Located west of Madera, Golden Valley is a middle-class district of about 2,000 students (580 at Liberty High). Neighboring Minarets High School gives students laptops instead of textbooks. “We do lose a few students to Minarets,” says Melanie Lewis, coordinator of learning resources at LHS and head of the district technology committee.

There are also government requirements for teaching students to use technology. California Assembly Bill 307 requires districts to “educate pupils and teachers on the appropriate and ethical use of information technology in the classroom, Internet safety, avoiding plagiarism, the concept, purpose, and significance of a copyright so that pupils can distinguish between lawful and unlawful online downloading, and the implications of illegal peer-to-peer network file sharing.”

All these factors combined to convince an initially skeptical Garduque that mobile devices are in schools to stay. “It’s not going to go away,” Garduque says. “If we’re not going to roll with it, it’s going to roll over us.”

Many experts say the same. “The National Association of Psychologists as well as other researchers agree that we need to create a safe environment that promotes academic engagement,” Monroy de Gracia says.

While most schools still try to ban or severely limit student use of mobile devices, it’s a losing battle because both students and parents want that level of communication, according to Murray. For young people as well as adults, “today our phones are our offices,” he adds.

The key is to channel the time and energy students are putting into their mobile devices to the forces of good, as in doing their school work. In this the digital natives need help. “Even though they know how to use the technology, they don’t know how to use it for research,” Garduque says.

Under the program approved by the Golden Valley school board, students may use their devices at school for primarily educational purposes. The plan was introduced as a pilot project from September-December, 2012, and extended for the rest of the school year in January 2013. The school provides filtered Internet access and teachers receive instruction on how to use mobile technology in their teaching. Students without personal devices can use the school computer lab or have a friend share.

While Lewis says most Liberty students have mobile devices, “students will never be required to use their own devices, and if technology is necessary for an assignment, it will be provided by the school,” she says. This policy does not mean anything goes, as the school has the right to seize and search student devices if there is cause.

Allowing students to use their own devices will bolster school facilities, since many district budgets don’t keep up with the progress of technology. A Chukchansi

Community Grant made it possible for LHS to upgrade from 20 computers that were several years old to 36 new units. There are still challenges, however, because the school has one computer lab to serve 580 students. “The lab is in constant demand, and teachers are often frustrated that they’re not able to use it as often as they would like,” Lewis says.

So Lewis appreciates the FPU students, whose work helped the district develop its plan, called Bring Your Own Device. “The group did a lot of research to put this together so we could go forward,” she says.

That research included background information as well as suggested actions. “We provided the school with an implementation system and with pros and cons drawn from other schools’ experiences,” group member Monroy de Garcia says.

This kind of practical outcome is not unusual for Safe School Environment students. “The signature assignment in that class is to go to a school site and do a safe schools assessment,” Murray says. This group connected with Liberty High because a member, Mac Blate, teaches there, and knew mobile devices were an issue. “This assessment isn’t just some pedagogical exercise. It can benefit the school and community around it,” Murray says.

In this case the benefit is using smart phones to make smart kids.



ROBERT MURRAY

CELEBRATING GREAT MUSIC

An event and an ensemble celebrated 10 years
of making great music and connecting the
campus and community

By Katherine Elwood

Lessons and Carols

Music Professor Roy Klassen, D.M.A., started the Lessons and Carols service, which takes place each year at the beginning of or just prior to Advent. The service originated at King's College, part of Cambridge University, as a Church of England service of Scripture readings and choral music. Klassen brought the idea back from a sabbatical in England. "The experience was meaningful. There was an austere sense of worship and respect for the season, for the birth of Christ," he said.

Lessons and Carols was an immediate hit. In its first year there was one service, which filled Fresno's First Congregational Church beyond capacity and many people were





turned away. An evening service was added the second year, a practice that continued when the event moved to University Presbyterian Church in 2012.

Klassen feels he achieved what he set out to do. "I wanted our community to experience the spiritual and musical excellence initially begun by King's College, Cambridge. Humbly, I will admit that it worked. So much so that people seemed to leave the Lessons and Carols services with an increased spiritual sense strongly aided by the selection and performance of the music and hymnology," he said.

Zachary Durlam, D.M.A., director of choral activities, took over the service in 2010, when Klassen retired from FPU. Durlam has added his stamp to the program. "In 2010, we began to connect things a little bit more musically," he said. "We had more continuous music or music playing under Scriptures. In 2011, we added more ensembles and pulled in our men's and women's choruses. In 2012, we included all four of our choral groups (Concert Choir, Crosswind, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorale). We have given it more of a theme outside of Lessons and Carols as well." The First Church Christian Academy Children's Chorus and several community instrumental musicians also participated in 2012.



Community Wind Ensemble

The Community Wind Ensemble is the largest instrumental music group at the university. Patricia DeBenedetto, adjunct music faculty, is the founding conductor and leads the ensemble. The group is a mix of about 20 university music students and 25-30 community musicians, including music teachers, conductors, music shop owners and members of other local ensembles.

Wayne Huber, associate professor of music and music department chairman, had long been on the lookout for a way to start a group like this when he connected with DeBenedetto. "It was my dream to have a wind ensemble. We have needed a band forever," he said.

As the ensemble has grown, there have been kinks to work out. One has been

logistics due to the size of the group. "It's expensive to run a band and transport equipment," DeBenedetto said.

Among the highlights of the last 10 years has been the CWE's 2009 performance in Carnegie Hall. Since that trip, the quality of the group has continued to increase. "It has evolved over time," DeBenedetto said.

The group's 10th anniversary performance on November 30, 2012, in Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall, Clovis, featured guest conductor Craig Kirchhoff, professor of conducting and director of bands at the University of Minnesota. Kirchhoff is a nationally known conductor and educator.

Huber praised DeBenedetto, who brought Kirchhoff in for the concert, for her work. "It's been quite incredible. Patricia has done a wonderful job," Huber said.

The wind ensemble is of value to the students, according to DeBenedetto. "If you are going to graduate students with a degree in music education, that are going to go out and teach, then they have to have ensemble experience," she said. "The students get to play really good music with really good musicians and feel a part of a group that's bigger than themselves."

This dual purpose drives both Lessons and Carols and the Community Wind Ensemble: "We do it for the community but we do it for our students. We want our students, our community, to be exposed to the arts and the culture," Huber said.

“Growing up my Dad always put the flag out.” – Kevin MacNeill



VETERAN



By Wayne Steffen

The third week of December is the quiet after the storm at Fresno Pacific University. Finals are over, and parking is plentiful. Most students are enjoying the comforts of home on Christmas break, while the more adventurous take a short mission trip.

December 2012 was no exception—except for Kevin MacNeill. The junior psychology major from Clovis was heading into the unknown as he prepared for his first deployment in the California Air National Guard. His destination was East Africa, more than that the soft-spoken young man wouldn't say. "They teach us that," he says.

How did he feel? "Excited, nervous, scared, ready to go, ready to come back," he says.

MacNeill joined the Air National Guard in February 2009 while still in high school. "I shipped out to BMT on my 18th birthday," he says. "BMT" is Basic Military Training, the Air Force term for recruit training. MacNeill went through the same regime as regular duty airmen. An aircraft navigation technician, his rank is senior airman, on the level of an Army corporal or specialist and a Navy petty officer third class.

A growing presence

Some 85 FPU students are veterans or active-duty members of the armed forces. Of these, 43 are in bachelor's degree completion programs, 27 are in the traditional undergraduate program and 11 are in graduate programs, including Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary.

A 2011 Pew Research Center study shows a smaller percentage of Americans (one-half of 1 percent) are now in the military than at any time since the years between World War I and World War II, despite the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq being the longest period of sustained conflict in U.S. history. At the same time, the number of veterans on college and university campuses is climbing. In an April 2011 article in *USA Today*, Keith Wilson, director of education service for the Department of Veterans Affairs states about 800,000 returned veterans used GI Bill benefits in 2010, up 40 percent from 2009.

FPU is following the trend: 44 veteran students were enrolled in 2009, 76 in 2010 and 89 in 2011. The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which went into effect in 2008, provides more funds for veterans to attend private colleges and universities, according to Heidi Marshall, FPU certification and student services coordinator. "It's made private schools a better option," she says.

STUDENTS

ACCOMPLISHING A NEW MISSION



"I guess I wanted direction, and the Navy gave me that, and pride."

— Izzy Sanchez

Fresno Pacific received just under \$1 million through the bill in 2011-2012 to cover tuition. Other funds are paid directly to students, who then pay FPU. The university is also enrolled in the federal Yellow Ribbon Program, which helps qualified veterans cover costs not covered by the G.I. Bill. Most FPU students who are veterans are on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, a dozen are on the older Montgomery G.I. Bill, 10 use vocational-rehabilitation funds and five use military reserve benefits.

An unscientific sample

The question: "Who are the veteran students of FPU" would require as many answers as there are students who have served. Often they are older than other students—but not always, particularly in the DC, graduate and seminary programs. Few live on campus, so the library and lounges are popular hangouts. Many chuckle at, or are frustrated by, the complaints and concerns of their classmates who have not seen what they have seen.

To find out more, we turn to MacNeill and other volunteers: "Kali" Kalaitzidis, Joseph Medina, Jerome Trembley and "Izzy" Sanchez.

Joining up

Kalaitzidis wasn't ready for college, hadn't done as well as she would have liked in high school and wanted to work with her hands. "I kind of used it as a way to find myself," she says.

As a child, MacNeill was patriotic and loved airplanes. "Growing up, my Dad always put the flag out," he says. When his brother enlisted in 2007, MacNeill loved the atmosphere at the BMT graduation exercises. "My brother said I caught the bug," he recalls.

Sanchez was looking for something. "I wanted stability, I wanted an education. I guess I wanted direction, and the Navy gave me that, and pride," he says. He also wanted to serve. "Especially after 9/11, I felt it was time to do something," adds Sanchez, who says family military connections played no role in his decision. "I'm the first one. I kind of discovered it all on my own," he says.

Trembley and Medina, on the other hand, had close relatives who had served. Trembley's father and grandfather had both been Marines, his grandfather during the Korean War.

Medina's father and uncles were in USMC or the Army, and he had cousins in the Navy and Air Force. "I pretty much knew I would go into the military somehow," he says. Medina also wanted a challenge. "The Marine Corps was supposed to be the best of the best and I figured if I could do that I could do anything," he says.

A discharge from the Marines didn't end Medina's interest, so he eventually joined the Guard. "I'd been following the war. It pained me not to be involved," he says.

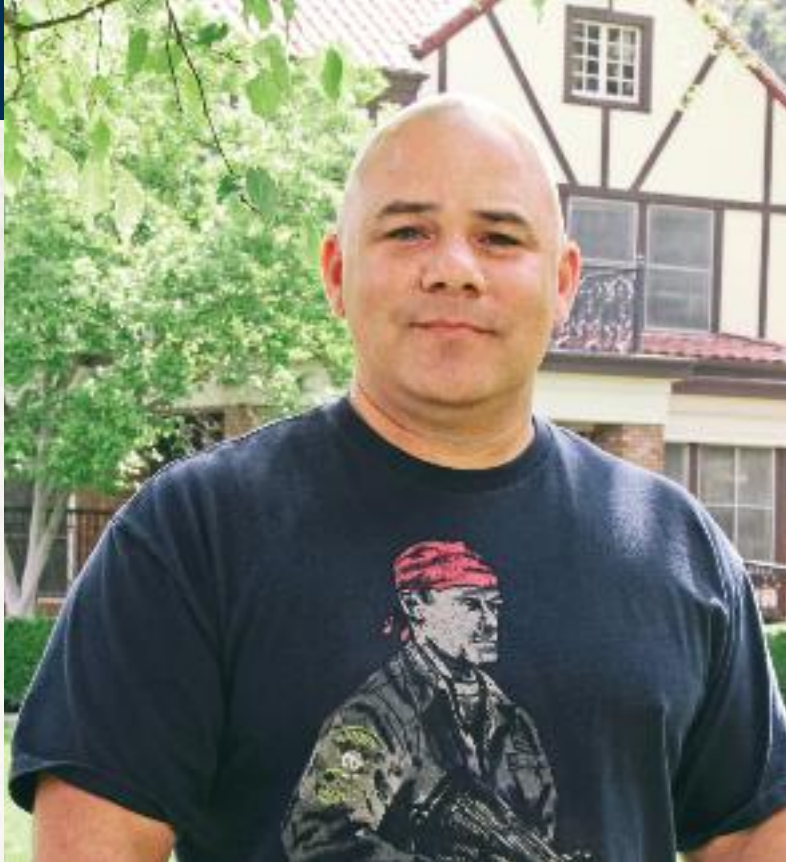
KIRIAKONLA "KALI" KALAITZIDIS

Kiriakonla "Kali" Kalaitzidis started at FPU in the fall of 2012 as a freshman kinesiology major. She served in the Navy from November 1998 to November 2003 and lives at Naval Air Station Lemoore with her husband, a 16-year veteran still on active duty, and their 12-year-old daughter. A Boston native, she served in California and Virginia and the family has been stationed in Japan, Maine and Florida. At the time of the interview Kalaitzidis' husband was on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. John C. Stennis, working on the F/A-18 Hornet fighter planes, which is what she did.

The couple met in the Navy, which she joined at 19. Kalaitzidis left the military to make for an easier family life. Still, there are challenges. "It was difficult but we worked it out. We're still going strong 12 years later," she says.

The family has no idea how long Lemoore will be home. "Hopefully long enough for me to finish school," she says.





“I’ve been loved here.” – Joseph Medina

JOSEPH MEDINA

Joseph Medina (BA '12) is studying for master's degrees in Old Testament and New Testament at the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. He earned a bachelor's degree in liberal studies through the Visalia Center, then started seminary in the fall of 2012. He and wife Kim live on campus.

The Tulare native served in the Marine Corps 1993-2001, working on Hawk and Avenger missile system equipment and serving at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama and in Fresno. In 2005 he joined the California Army National Guard, where he's a motor transport operator ("A long term for being a truck driver," he jokes.) Medina was in Iraq in 2006-2007 with a Guard infantry unit.

Kim Medina spent nine years in the National Guard and is now studying for her teaching credential at FPU. They went through the degree completion program together. "We both planned to be educators, but the Lord took me in a different way," Joseph Medina says.

MBS AND MILITARY SERVICE

Fresno Pacific University is affiliated with the Mennonite Brethren (MB) churches. MBs are part of the Anabaptist tradition of Christianity. Anabaptists, who include other Mennonite groups and the Amish, are committed to peace and reconciliation between individuals and groups. One of the many ways in which Anabaptists live their commitment is to not serve in the military.

Here is what the *USMB Confession of Faith* says about duty to the state and nonresistance. More on the Mennonite Brethren at usmb.org/about-us

ARTICLE 12: SOCIETY AND STATE

The State as Instituted by God

We believe that God instituted the state to promote the well-being of all people. Christians cooperate with others in society to defend the weak, care for the poor, and promote justice, righteousness

and truth. Believers witness against corruption, discrimination and injustice, exercise social responsibility, pay taxes, and obey all laws that do not conflict with the Word of God.

God has given governments authority to maintain law and order and to punish wrongdoers. Followers of Christ respect and pray for those in authority so that peaceful order may prevail. We deplore the loss of life in the exercise of state-sanctioned violence.

Christian Allegiance in Society

The primary allegiance of all Christians is to Christ's kingdom, not the state or society. Because their citizenship is in heaven, Christians are called to resist the idolatrous temptation to give to the state the devotion that is owed to God. As ambassadors for Christ, Christians act as agents of reconciliation, and seek the well-being of all peoples.

Because Christ forbids the swearing of oaths, we simply affirm the truth in legal transactions. Believers do not participate in secret societies which demand the swearing of oaths or which otherwise conflict with a Christian's allegiance to Christ and the church.

Exodus 20:13, 16; Leviticus 19:11; Psalm 82:3-4; Jeremiah 29:7; Daniel 2:21; Daniel 3:17-18; Daniel 4:17; Matthew 5:13-16, 33-37; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 17:24-27; Matthew 22:17-21; John 15:19; John 17:14-18; Acts 5:29; Romans 13:1-7; I Corinthians 5:9-13; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:6-13; Philippians 1:27; Philippians 3:20; I Timothy 2:1-4; Titus 3:1-2; James 5:12; I Peter 2:13-17.

ARTICLE 13: LOVE AND NONRESISTANCE

God's Community of Peace

Believers believe that God in Christ reconciles people to himself and to one another, making

peace through the cross. The church is a fellowship of redeemed people living by love. Our bond with other believers of Jesus transcends all racial, social and national barriers.

Christian Peacemaking

We seek to be agents of reconciliation in all relationships, to practice love of enemies as taught by Christ, to be peacemakers in all situations. We view violence in its many different forms as contradictory to the new nature of the Christian. We believe that the evil and inhumane nature of violence is contrary to the gospel of love and peace. In times of national conscription or war, we believe we are called to give alternative service where possible. Alleviating suffering, reducing strife, and promoting justice are ways of demonstrating Christ's love. Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:17-28, 38-48; Romans 12:9-21; Romans 13:8-10; I Peter 2:19-23.

Keeping the faith

Being a Christian soldier—or sailor, airman or Marine—is possible, but difficult.

"When I enlisted it was very different from my walk with Christ," MacNeill says. Many in basic training called themselves Christians to get out of the dormitories (Air Force term for "bar-racks") for church on Sunday. This came as a surprise. "I grew up in a somewhat sheltered home," says MacNeill, whose father was a youth pastor.

Being in such a secular atmosphere brought MacNeill closer to God. "I see it as an opportunity," he says. Trying to set an example to others of what the Christian life is really like, he quotes the phrase attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach continually... when necessary, use words."

Sanchez attended services on ship and on shore. "I always had that open line of communication with my chaplain," he says. Jesus and the Christian Community, the foundational FPU undergraduate Bible course, was a challenge for Sanchez, but he enjoyed it so much he's now taking Biblical Interpretation: to 18th Century. "I'm learning to decipher the Bible," he says.

Serving God and country is a balancing act between two loves, according to Medina. "For me it's a very tough challenge," he says.

Marines, for example, are trained to be aggressive and value the unit, the Corps, God and country—in that order. "We're told we're being taught to be a killer, to fight battles for our country," Medina says. There were Bible studies in Iraq. "But that was secondary to the mission, which was to get out there, do what we have to do and come back alive," he says.

Seminary is giving Medina a new view of the Bible. "It's going to be hard if I'm called up again (by the National Guard)," he says.

Finding FPU

Students who are veterans find out about FPU the same way other students do: through employers, family and friends. They also attend for the same reasons: strong academics, programs that are accessible, relationships with faculty and fellow students and the Christian atmosphere.

What attracted Sanchez? "The pre-med program," he says. He was also impressed that classes were available, that previous credits transferred and at the welcome he got on his campus visit. "They did the whole red-carpet thing for me," Sanchez says.

Trembley also appreciates that his credits from Empire State College transferred. "Fresno Pacific was very helpful," he says. "They were veteran-friendly. And the science program here has been wonderful."

Kalaitzidis heard about FPU through the Navy College Program, which helps personnel connect with educational opportunities. "I really liked the school," she says.

"They come to us
with life experiences we
do not have."

– Laura Schmidt Roberts



JEROME TREMBLEY

Trembley plans to be a physician, and has two years to go as a biology/chemistry major. In the Navy from September 2001 to September 2011, he was part of the submarine service, first as a nuclear operator on the U.S.S. Memphis, then as a nuclear power instructor. Both the nuclear and the submarine fields are extremely competitive. "That's the top 1 percent of the Navy," he says.

On the Memphis, Trembley supported Operation Iraqi Freedom, toured the Mediterranean Ocean and the Persian Gulf. He also cruised underneath the North Pole and supported the evacuation of U.S. citizens in Lebanon when Israel declared war on that country.

Raised by his grandparents, the 2001 Selma High School graduate enlisted at 17. In addition to his studies, Trembley is an academic research associate in the emergency room department at the University of California at San Francisco Fresno Medical Education Program.



"We're now thinking for ourselves."

— Izzy Sanchez

ISRAEL "IZZY" SANCHEZ

Israel "Izzy" Sanchez spent nine years as a U.S. Navy corpsman, enlisting in October 2002. "I'd just turned 17," he says.

At one time attached to the First Marine Battalion, Sanchez served in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Cambodia, Taiwan, Thailand, Australia, Spain, Italy, the Horn of Africa, Peru and India. Ship duty included the aircraft carriers U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, U.S.S. Ronald Reagan as well as the U.S.S. Stennis.

Today Sanchez is a sophomore in the pre-med program who commutes to the main campus from Visalia, where he is a fitness instructor. A native of Atlanta, GA, his family moved to Tulare when Sanchez was in high school and he graduated from Tulare Union High School. The son of a pastor, Sanchez grew up in mostly non-denominational, some Pentecostal, churches.

PTSD: A SOUVENIR VETERANS DO NOT WANT

SOME WOUNDS DON'T BLEED.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is part of everyday life for veterans and those around them. Defined as "a set of symptoms that follow a traumatic event," the disorder can unexpectedly bring a little of the battlefield to the home front.

All the veterans interviewed for Pacific say they experience PTSD. Though some were closer to combat than others, all have served during wartime.

Loud noises are difficult. "When the professor slammed the books on the table it triggered me," says Izzy Sanchez.

Patience can be hard to find, according to former submariner Jerome Trembley, who once spent 98 straight days under water. "The stress was real for us," he says.

Sherry Walling, Ph.D., has been working with veterans since 2004. First with the Veteran's Administration in Los Angeles and Boston, then during post-doctorate work at the National Center for PTSD in Boston. Today Walling, a former fulltime member of the FPU psychology faculty and still an adjunct at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, sees veterans in her practice as director of clinical

training at House Psychiatric Clinic, Fresno.

The trauma could be something experienced or witnessed. "It's an event that creates intense fear, horror," Walling says. PTSD is not limited to veterans, but is, along with mild traumatic brain injury, a signature affliction among them. "That's what we're seeing over and over," Walling says.

Shock and pain become PTSD when symptoms continue more than 30 days after the event and become serious disruptions to life. In extreme cases people may not be able to leave their house. "It's different than being worried or preoccupied," Walling says.

Though PTSD was diagnosed in 1982, warriors have felt its affects throughout history. "We see the symptoms in Homer's writing, and definitely in World War I and World War II," Walling says. "It's not a new phenomenon; it's a newly identified phenomenon."

There is no cure for PTSD, but a variety of treatments can be effective. "People get better, and have very happy lives," Walling says.

One goal is to put the traumatic event in context. A woman assaulted by a man may decide no man can be trusted. A veteran who saw a comrade die may feel guilty he or she

lived. Each may no longer believe the world a good place. "Treatment involves re-working out those aspects of life," Walling says.

Faculty and staff can help by understanding that students who seem distracted or uncaring may not be slacking off. Services are available through the campus and the Veterans Administration. Though many will not admit a problem, it's good to open communication lines. "I think it's helpful to ask, if you feel comfortable," Walling says.

While PTSD is widespread, it's difficult to count how many have it. Medical professionals know only of veterans who screen positive when they leave the military or seek help later. That's not everybody. "What we definitely know from the conflict in Vietnam is that people can go their whole lives without presenting for treatment," Walling says.

What can be seen is that the disorder is a community problem. "PTSD affects the veterans who have experienced it, but it also affects their family, spouses and children," Walling says.

More at the National Center for PTSD ptsd.va.gov

A cousin who had gone to FPU suggested the university to Medina, who had two years of coursework from Modesto Junior College. "She told me they had a great program," he says.

The program Medina had in mind was teacher education, but the degree completion version of Jesus and the Christian Community proved a revelation. "I was enthralled. I had always loved talking about Jesus, talking about the Bible," he says.

Another Bible class, talks with faculty, encouragement from his wife and prayer led Medina to the seminary. "That was a total God thing," he says.

MacNeill wanted to return to the fold. "I needed to be around people like me," he says. He was familiar with FPU because father Steve (BA '85), mother Carol (Palmquist BA '84) and brother Jeff (BA '08) are all graduates. "It's been a big part of my family," he says.

Fitting in

All students interviewed said they felt welcome at FPU. Each was aware this is a Christian university; only Kalaitzidis and MacNeill were aware that the Mennonite Brethren is a historic peace church when they enrolled. "Even though they are a peace church they respect the veterans, and I respect what they believe in," Kalaitzidis says.

"I've been loved here at the college, I've never been shunned," Medina says. Some days he wears a shirt from his old outfit to remember his "brothers," some of whom are back in Iraq.

MacNeill wore his uniform for a speech in oral communication class about his basic training. "They treated the uniform differently, which I respect. I'm just a person; it's the uniform that really calls for respect," he says. "In America we live to be free. Freedom isn't free."

FPU has been extremely helpful to Trembley, who was an atheist until December 24, 2009. "God spoke to me," he says. Angulus Wilson, university pastor, and Karen Crozier, assistant professor of practical theology and member of the Office of Spiritual Formation, have guided Trembley. "I have nothing but wonderful things to say about OSF," he says. "It's refreshing to come to a place that has a Christ-centered focus."

Christian is all Sanchez knew about Fresno Pacific. "I didn't know what a Mennonite was until I got here," says Sanchez, who appreciates that people have not stereotyped him. "It's a rewarding experience," he says.

Knowing veterans

Students who are veterans have gotten to know FPU. What does FPU need to know about them?

Veterans are great students still adjusting to civilian life, according to Trembley. "I'm here for a reason and a purpose and I treat it with the same gravity as I did the military," he says.

Given their age and experience, veterans may be more drawn to faculty than to classmates. "It was a challenge for me to be working with my peers, who are now 19," says the 29-year-old Trembley.

At 33 years old, Kalaitzidis feels it, too. "I just take it one day at a time and do what I have to do," she says, echoing a phrase often heard among veteran students.

All of the students praised their faculty for their support as well as their knowledge. "Thank you to all my teachers," Kalaitzidis says. "I'm genuinely grateful."

While they may be rusty at being in class, veteran students have their advantages. "We're good with deadlines, we're quick learners," Sanchez says. "You pull a veteran to do a task for you, they'll get it done in a heartbeat, that's for sure."

A love of order is an important, but two-sided, trait. These students respect faculty, are punctual and are used to following instructions. Veterans are always on time, being used to being told where to be and what to do. They are, however, learning to again deal with the shades of gray of everyday life after the black-and-white outlook of the military. "We're now thinking for ourselves," Sanchez says.

Connecting thread

Ask one of these students what they liked about the military and you'll hear about serving a greater cause.

The standards of Air Force and Air National Guard are: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. "The military is one of the only places in the world that says it's not about you, it's about something larger than you," MacNeill says.

The other place MacNeill hears this message: church.

Sources

Pew Research Center study
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the-military-civilian-gap-fewer-family-connections/](http://pewsocialtrends.org/2011/11/23/the-military-civilian-gap-fewer-family-connections/)
USA Today article
http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/education/2011-04-11-college-vets_N.htm

A photograph showing three people sitting around a table in a meeting. On the left, a man with a tattoo on his right arm and a watch on his left wrist is wearing a light blue t-shirt with 'O'REILLY' printed on it. In the center, a bald man is wearing a dark t-shirt with a graphic. On the right, a woman with dark hair is wearing a dark blue jacket with yellow and white stripes on the sleeves. They are all looking towards the center of the table, which has a grey cloth. The background is a brick wall.

HAVING MILITARY VETERANS at a university founded by a historic peace church is educational for everyone.

The same is true at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. "The fact they are here and taking courses and learning the Bible and learning theology is quite appropriate. We welcome students who come here to study the Bible," says Tim Geddert, Ph.D., professor of New Testament.

Christians disagree about the role of the military, Geddert points out. Many join the military out of a commitment to honor and

Students interviewed for *Pacific* hold Schmidt Roberts and Geddert up as exemplary professors. Both value what students who are veterans bring to FPU. "They bring concrete experience, worldviews, ideas that have to be considered in a direct way as we talk about the Gospel of peace and reconciliation," Roberts says.

Having veterans in the seminary keeps others from making glib generalizations about the military. "It adds to the discussion," Geddert says. Students who are veterans also show an openness to learn, he adds. "Why else would they come to an Anabaptist seminary?"

An FPU education challenges everyone involved—students and faculty—to explore new ideas and deepen their understanding.

Jost agrees. "Almost invariably exploring biblical theology leads veterans, and the rest of us, to new challenges grading our identity as peacemakers, children of the God of peace," he said.

Pete C. Menjares, Ph.D., president of FPU, has a two-fold interest in students who are veterans. Veteran's Day is his birthday, and his father served in the Airborne during the Korean War. His sister and nephews have also been in the military. "I come from a family of veterans," he says.

He also views these students pastorally. "Those who have served in war zones or seen combat have been changed. They have lived and experienced things the vast majority of us will never know," Menjares says.

FPU is a good place for these students to reintegrate into society and prepare for the next chapter of their lives. “I don’t see a commitment to peacemaking as being incompatible with having veteran students. My hope is that it would inspire them to work for peace,” Menjares says. “I’m happy these students are here.”

CARRYING THE TORCH OF HISTORY

Toews enlightens the future



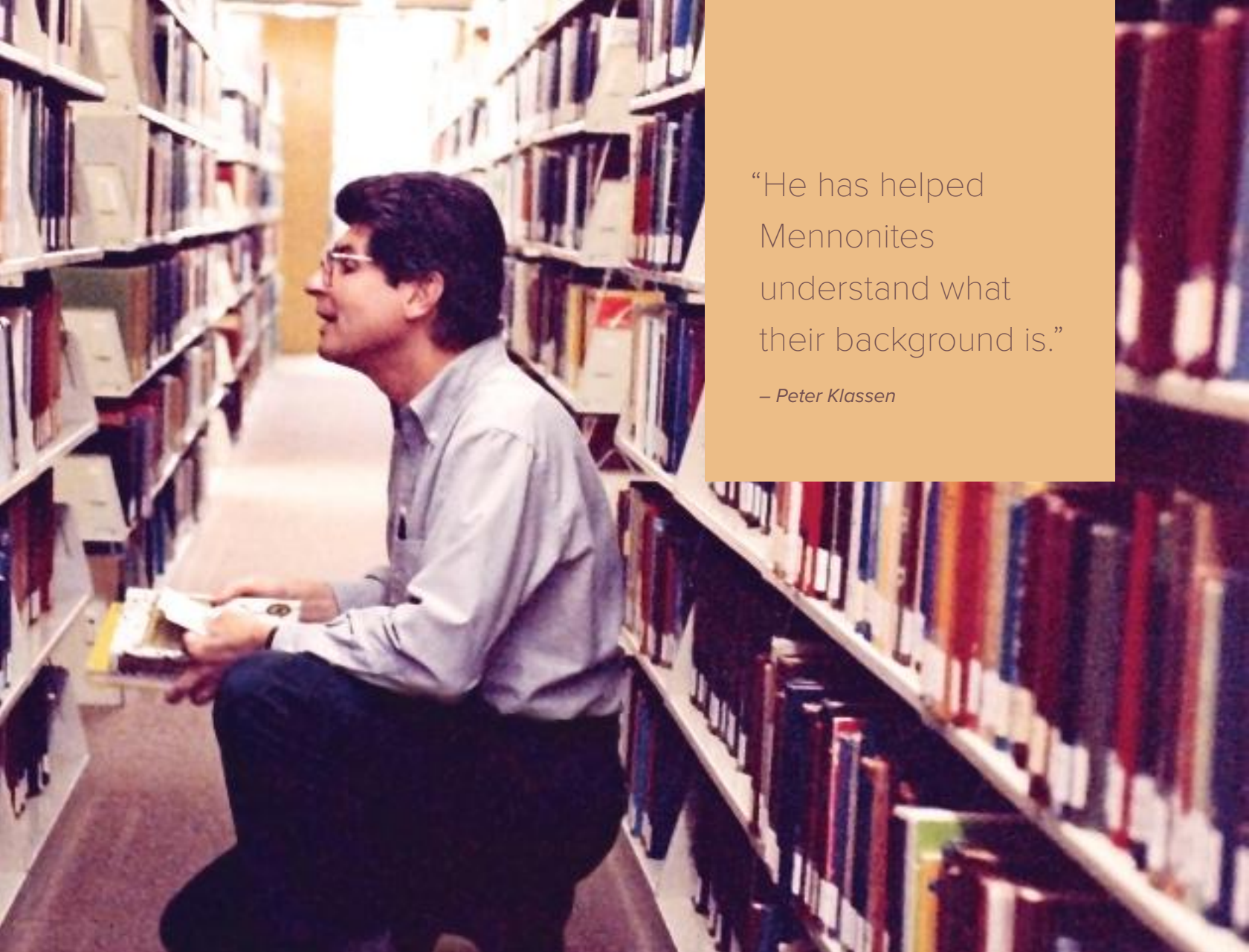
By Wayne Steffen



Each time Paul Toews Ph.D., led a pilgrimage to the Ukraine, he closed a circle for himself and thousands of other Mennonites.

Maybe that circle was more a ragged oval, for this middle son of Mennonite Brethren patriarch J.B. Toews had already attempted a brief bid for freedom from, and a negotiated settlement with, the culture that created him. In choosing instead to carry the torch and fan its flame, Paul Toews would enlighten lives far beyond Fresno Pacific University, where he has spent 44 years as a history professor, retiring in July 2013.

All Mennonite groups, including the Mennonite Brethren, come from the Anabaptist tradition. Part of the 16th-century Christian Reformation, Anabaptists were the first to practice adult or believer's baptism. Placing Jesus' Sermon on the Mount at the center of their faith, they also traditionally do not serve in the military, though the Toews family has certainly seen war.



“He has helped
Mennonites
understand what
their background is.”

— Peter Klassen

Growing up Toews

Born in Ukraine when it was part of Russia, J.B. Toews lived the end of Mennonite history there: the Bolshevik Revolution and the repression that followed displaced all and killed many. The story had a better beginning, as Catherine the Great invited Mennonites to farm vast lands in her growing empire. Starting in 1788 Mennonites moved to Russia, mostly from Poland and Prussia, where over the next 130-plus years many became prosperous landowners before losing everything in the 1920s. The Toews family was among those who fled to Canada.

To grow up in the house of J.B. Toews was to live in the lap of MB society. At the dinner table church leaders discussed where “The Brotherhood” had been and where it was going. “There was interplay between past and present,” Paul Toews says.

No surprise Paul Toews loves history and teaching. “It’s in my DNA,” he says. The pulpit would have been an acceptable career, but, “one didn’t become a stockbroker,” he says.

That household—J.B., Nettie (Unruh) Toews and their three

sons—moved among MB centers, not as refugees but as a family of growing stature. Starting in Canada, where the elder Toews pastored churches and taught in Bible churches; then to California to pastor the Reedley MB Church (then the denomination’s largest); next to Kansas to serve as general secretary of MB Missions; finally westward again to Fresno as president of the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (now Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary).

Retiring as seminary president in 1972, J.B. Toews helped establish the MB Historical Commission, serving as executive director of the commission and the Center for MB Studies in FPU’s Hiebert Library. That post later belonged to Paul Toews. “It’s a family that has cut a pretty wide swath, certainly in the Mennonite Brethren world,” says Kevin Enns-Rempel (BA ’82), today director of Hiebert Library and former center archivist.

Being the son of J.B. Toews carried expectations—older brother John E. Toews, Ph.D., taught at and was dean of the seminary and later president of Conrad Grebel University College, a Mennonite school affiliated with Canada’s University of Waterloo, while James

has been a social worker and administrator in Oregon and Washington, D.C.—but Paul Toews did not find his father’s shadow cold or dark. “I’ve always understood it as providing enormous opportunities,” he says.

Intermission

After earning a bachelor’s degree at Tabor College, the MB school in Kansas, and a master’s at the University of Kansas, Paul Toews joined the Fresno Pacific faculty in 1967 as he was finishing his doctorate at the University of Southern California. In 1969 came his break with tradition.

Of his two years as assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, Toews says little, other than to call it “trying to run away from home.” With a smile he notes that his revolution failed. “When you’re away from Mennonite communities you come to intellectually embrace them,” Toews says.

Aiding his return was a radical restating of Anabaptism and an admiration by those from outside the fold. John Howard Yoder’s *The Politics of Jesus*, published in 1972 and still a standard, paints Jesus as deeply concerned with social, political and moral questions on earth, not just eternal souls. Rather than being “the quiet in the land,” Yoder called Anabaptists to involvement in the world.

Also influential on Toews was the reaction to the book from people he met in secular institutions who had great respect for Anabaptists, but no connection to Mennonites. “They just knew the story,” he says.

Coming home

When he returned in 1971, Toews first tried to bargain for independence by not becoming an “MB” historian. “I said to myself ‘I’m going to teach at this little Mennonite college, but I’m going to keep my interest in 19th century U.S. religious history,’” he says.

The negotiation, like the revolution, didn’t work. In the end Paul Toews did much to not only tell the story of his literal and religious ancestors—the cousins in the wider Mennonite world as well as his



“MB is who we are, but we’re open, we’re ecumenical.”

— Paul Toews

brothers and sisters within the MBs—but to add to and shape it for the future.

Fitting work for one who saw the story in history and knew the past was more than a list of dates to be memorized. “What Paul provided was this interpretive scheme,” says Enns-Rempel, who was Toews’ student. “That was a revelation for me.”

Teacher and guide

With no clear idea of a major or plan after graduation, Enns-Rempel signed up for American Civilization in January 1979. The course brought direction to his life. “It was because of Paul’s teaching,” Enns-Rempel said.

The Toews style is “erudite,” Enns-Rempel says; he’s a lecturer in the best sense of that beat up word. “A good lecturer is an amazing thing, and he was,” Enns-Rempel says. Toews prepared students for graduate school before they knew they wanted to go. “So when we got there, it really wasn’t all that surprising,” Enns-Rempel says.

At least 14 history students during Toews’ time have completed doctorates, and many more have earned advanced degrees. Enns-Rempel is one example: Toews pointed out that the archivist at the Center for MB Studies would be retiring. “He asked, ‘Think maybe you might want to do that?,’” Enns-Rempel recalls. Taking the hint, Enns-Rempel earned a master’s at University of California, Riverside. “So then I was a colleague,” he says.

And Toews treated Enns-Rempel as a colleague. “Paul wasn’t one to pull rank,” Enns-Rempel says. “I’m grateful to him.”

Idealistic entrepreneurism

As Enns-Rempel appreciated Toews, Toews appreciated what was happening at Fresno Pacific when he came. “Arthur Wiebe had gone out and hired a generation of kids,” Toews says. “There was a lot of idealism.”

President from 1960-1975, Arthur Wiebe, Ph.D., in many ways built the university. Under his leadership the school first earned accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and started offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Before national searches and hiring committees, Wiebe molded a faculty that made careers at Fresno Pacific and topped student “favorite professor” lists.

Under Wiebe FPU explored what it meant to be an MB school based on beliefs, not church attendance. Fresno Pacific students are not required to be Christian, and faculty and staff, while they must be active Christians, need not be MB. The identity that grew out of the idealism is based in Anabaptism and contained in the Fresno Pacific Idea, which calls FPU to be Christian, a community of learners and prophetic. “MB is who we are, but we’re open, we’re ecumenical,” Toews says.

The school was entrepreneurial, as well. Creating programs needed in the region has become second nature to FPU. “I’ve said many times that this institution lives by its wits,” Toews says.

That spirit is felt today in initiatives like the regional centers. “We keep looking for ways we can reach new publics,” Toews says.

Toews has been proud to be a part of this time in FPU history. “There aren’t many



generations that are given that opportunity," he says.

The world calls...twice

The telephone brought two opportunities for Toews to study Mennonite history and become an ambassador to the wider Mennonite world.

The first call came in 1975, from Robert Kreider, Ph.D., historian and president of Bluffton University, a Mennonite college in Ohio. Was Toews interested in writing for a four-volume series on the Mennonite Experience in America, chronicling the various Mennonite and Amish groups from their first arrival in colonial North America to the latter half of the 20th century?

Toews wrote volume four, *Mennonites in American Society, 1930-1970*, published in 1996 and the best-known of his seven books. Toews has also written 54 articles for scholarly journals or the religious press and 15 chapters, book forewords and encyclopedia articles. Toews' scholarship has brought him a Fulbright Scholarship, four National Endowment for the Humanities awards and fellowships from the Lilly Foundation and the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals.

Mennonites in American Society made Toews—Paul Toews—a name among Mennonites at large, not just Mennonite Brethren. He would speak at and get to know leaders from most of the Mennonite schools in the U.S., creating a network of scholars. "It was enormously invigorating and enriching," Toews says.

A river runs through it

The second call came in 1995, from Marina Unger, who was organizing Mennonite Heritage cruises. She wanted to know if Toews was interested in venturing beyond the cinderblock walls of his Hiebert Library office to lead a cruise on the Dnieper River, which flows from Russia, through Belarus and Ukraine to the Black Sea. Ukraine was, literally, the land of Paul Toews' father, and the cradle of the Mennonite Brethren.

Interested, Toews was also dubious since he'd have to lead the cruise during the school year. But his dean, Dalton Reimer, Ph.D., another of Arthur Wiebe's "kids," became the first of many administrators and others who supported Toews through 15 annual Mennonite Heritage cruises. "It was a very generous accommodation," Toews says. Toews' travels have also taken him to Mennonite communities or former settlements in Poland, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and other countries in Europe, South America and Asia.

Each 12-day cruise was made up of 150-180 people, overwhelmingly the survivors and descendants of Catherine's invitation and Stalin's purge. All who attended this "floating Mennonite university" had a connection to the land and an interest in the subject. "It's a professor's dream," Toews says.

All for "nol"

On his second time down the river it occurred to Toews that, though there were no Mennonites left in the region, their fingerprints might still be found. At state archives in Odessa and other cities, he struck historic gold in the form of Tsarist and Soviet records. "There were enormous riches," Toews says.

Each year thereafter Toews copied documents and brought them to the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, building the largest collection of its kind in the United States: 200,000 pages. The cost of this priceless return on the investment of Reimer and others to FPU? In Russian its "nol." In English, "zero." Thanks go to the people on the cruises. "Virtually all of this has been

funded by the Russian Mennonite diaspora," Toews says.

Alongside Toews in several efforts was Peter Klassen, Ph.D., former FPU faculty member and longtime board member as well as retired professor of history at California State University, Fresno. "He has helped Mennonites understand what their background is," Klassen says.

Scholarly meticulousness and a diplomatic touch have made Toews successful with students, scholars and bureaucrats. "Paul is a real diplomat and a genuine person," Klassen says. "He functions in any kind of setting." Asked to describe Toews, Klassen quotes poet Alexander Pope: "An honest man is the noblest work of God."

This is retirement?

The teacher who has guided careers and the diplomat who has charmed former Soviet officials becomes tongue-tied at the thought of how he should be remembered. First he tries to pass the question. "I don't know that I have a good response," Toews says.

With thought come words. "I hope it's as one who inspired at least a few students and who inspired a little broader intellectual world," he continues. "I hope students became more sympathetic and tolerant to other understandings—we need to remember, as the Apostle Paul wrote, 'We do see through a glass darkly.'"

Differences between Toews on the faculty and Toews in retirement may not be readily apparent. He plans to continue mining and assaying the treasurers of the Ukraine, leading tours to former Mennonite colonies in Europe and dividing his time between where he calls home and where his ancestors came from.

The circle—or ragged oval—of discovering, telling and shaping the story of his church and his people continues to draw Toews. In so many ways, "Paul was at the right place at the right time in history," Enns-Rempel says.

ALUMNI PROFILE

VALERIE
(SLENTZ)
QUIRING
BA '85

CHOIR FOUNDED BY GRAD CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

Passion for choral music becomes community outreach

By Michelle Murphy

As 5:00 p.m. nears, 120 young people begin to sign in and scurry off to their assigned rooms for choir practice at North Fresno Church. The kids are running around laughing, eager to begin. Kathy Blumer, director of the Vivace class, calls her students to attention, and they stand with their heads held high ready to sing. In other rooms of the church singers ranging from kindergarten to high school fill the halls with the music of the Bach Children's Choir.

In the Prima Voce room, children as young as five warm up their vocal chords with a game of "Button, Button." The playful exercise has the group sitting in a circle singing, "button you must wonder everywhere," as a girl walks around to drop the button into her friend's hand.

Across the hall, Christa Scott, the director of Dolce, is teaching a class of 25 first- and second-graders. The lively atmosphere has all of the kids in a buzz of excitement, sitting on the edge of their seats with smiles on their faces as they sing, "Trumpets resound! Let the people sing praise to the Lord!"

Tonight the choirs are preparing for the "Fairytale and Frogs" performance at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. Sarah Griffin, director of Prima Voce, the youngest group in the choir, has the students practicing their song for the zoo performance. The nine kids stand tall singing "Daddy's taking us to the zoo tomorrow!"

This is the scene every Tuesday as members of the five ensembles that make up the choir come to practice and grow musically. The saying in the Bach Children's Choir is that

anybody can learn how to sing, and that belief guided Director Valerie (Slentz BA '85) Quiring 10 years ago to found the Bach Boys' choir. Later, Valerie and her husband Greg started a girls' choir, combining the two to create Bach Children's Choir six years ago.

Finding a path

Valerie Quiring grew up in a musical family that was always singing for enjoyment. "It was one of the things I loved most," she says. But it wasn't until her time at FPU, where she majored in music education, that she realized music was her passion.

Quiring's first semester with the choir at FPU was unlike anything she had ever been involved with musically before. "It was like something came alive in me. It was such an exciting experience. I just thought, 'Okay, this is my path.' For the rest of my college career, choir was the most important thing."

That path led her to become an elementary music specialist with Clovis Unified School District. In addition, she taught elementary and middle school vocal music at Fresno Christian Schools and was the artistic director of the Central California Children's Choir for seven years.

Now she is able to help children discover their love for music through her own choir. "That's one of the things that's so awesome, when you see that light come on in the children," Quiring says. "For some that light may be instantaneous, while for others it may switch on gradually, but the whole experience is great!"



“It’s such an important part of our culture, our lives and our brains.” —Zachary Durlam (FPU faculty)

With the 10th anniversary of Bach Children’s Choir, Quiring is even more excited to see that musical growth. “What I love about this type of program is students can start out really young and if they stay with the program you can watch them develop into really accomplished musicians, and to be a part of that process is very rewarding,” she says.

The music directors for the various age groups also enjoy seeing the spark in the children’s eyes during the season, and how they go on to continue their passion as they progress. “It’s hard to lose kids each year, but it’s great to see them continue,” says Christa Scott, director of Dolce.

Michele Sanders enrolled her two girls in September and has already seen a huge difference in their singing ability and overall happiness. “They’ve learned so much in a short time under Valerie. She’s a very good teacher, showing the kids how to sing well. It’s a giant family here,” Sanders says.

Spreading the music

Seeing the impact singing has had in the lives of the children in Bach Children’s Choir left Quiring with the desire to offer that experience to children who don’t have the opportunity to sing in school. “I was concerned some of the underserved communities don’t have music in Fresno,” she says. Since many of these students could not come to Bach Children’s Choir, she decided to go to them with the Neighborhood Chorus project.

The project’s mission is to unite children throughout the community and across socioeconomic, cultural, racial and geographical lines through music. Due to cutbacks in the Fresno Unified School District, many schools have been unable to offer choir programs for the past 10 years. “It was something we had been thinking about for many years,” Quiring says. “We had tried to find the funding, but were unsuccessful, so finally we just decided to do it.”

Quiring sought out Ann Leavenworth Elementary School in Southeast Fresno. The administration couldn’t have been more thrilled to have her. “You don’t notice when things are slowly taken away due to budget cuts, until something like this comes back,” says Stephanie Friedrich, resource teacher. “You realize how important music is for kids. It’s a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn from a very skilled and professional instructor who has high expectations, and I think that makes all the difference.”

Every Monday and Tuesday, Quiring meets with a group of 60 fourth-, fifth- and sixth- graders in the school cafeteria, where the students get the last 40 minutes of the day to sing and learn about music. “It’s very rewarding as a teacher, because all of the capability was there, just nobody had asked them to sing. They’re musically growing by leaps and bounds and it’s really exciting,” she says, smiling.

Plans are to expand the program to include other schools in Fresno Unified next year to teach students creativity, cooperation, musical skills and focus through classical music training that include fun activities and performance opportunities.

Zachary Durlam, D.M.A., director of choral music activities at FPU, sits on the board of the Bach Children’s Choir. “I think it’s really important for students to have musical experiences and music education. It’s such an important part of our culture, our lives and our brains. It’s a part of being human that is often neglected within the school academic settings,” he says.

Something came alive in Quiring at FPU. The moment her light came on, she knew her passion for music would lead her to help other children find that special moment for themselves. Now, her reward is seeing children of all ages and backgrounds discover their own love for singing.

More about Bach Children’s Choir and Neighborhood Chorus at bachchildrenschoir.org

GET INVOLVED! Valerie Quiring is able to spread the joy of music because of her experience as a music student at FPU. Support music and the arts at Fresno Pacific with a contribution to the Performing Arts Center and inspire the next generation of performers and educators. Contact Nicole Linder, major gifts director, at nicole.linder@fresno.edu or 559-453-2058.

IN THE NEWS

Brandon Dorman (BA '05, TC '07) was featured in the December 24, 2012, issue of *The Fresno Bee*. The article "12 Faces of Christmas," discussed how Brandon formed a triathlon club, Tri-This!, about six years ago. Since then the nonprofit has spread to six local schools and continues to expose youth from low-income households to the sport. More information is available at trithis.org.

Ashley (Harper BA '11) Cortes and her husband, Sergio, were featured by KVPR, the Valley National Public Radio affiliate, for their work to improve the lives of Fresnoans living in low-income housing. See more at kvpr.org/post/young-couple-calls-no-more-slumlords.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Helmut K. Harnisch (BA '67), M.D., Ph.D., retired in July 2012 after 35 years of practicing medicine. He and wife Elizabeth have been married for 38 years and have one son, a computer specialist, and one grandson.

George Martzen (BA '82) and his family are on a furlough from their United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries assignment in Singapore, where they have been missionaries for 11 years. George works with the Methodist Church in Singapore and his wife, Chin Cheak Yu, teaches at Trinity Theological College.

Debbie (Soeth BA '84) Blair and her husband Chris went to Tanzania in February and March 2013. Chris taught a theology class at Hope of the Nations Bible College in Kigoma and Debbie worked at a primary school in Kamala village.

Elizabeth Enrique-Damian (BA '91) received a doctoral degree in educational administration and supervision in May 2009. Elizabeth is currently taking classes toward a professional counseling degree at Grand Canyon University

and Western Bible College in Phoenix, AZ. She plans to use her new skills within the church.

Tiffany Friesen (BA '91, MA '00) received her Ph.D. from Curtin University in Perth, Australia, on December 4, 2011.

Ed Willms (seminary '92) was appointed executive director of the Ontario Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches) Board of Directors on September 1, 2012.

David Buettner (BA '95) was promoted to administrative nurse II, assistant manager of the University of California Davis Department of Emergency Medicine in Sacramento, CA.

J. Edward Epp (seminary '95) was appointed director of development of United States Mennonite Brethren Conference on October 1, 2012, and will work from his home in Henderson, NE.

Laura Kalmar (seminary '00) was appointed interim communications director of Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches (CCMBC). She is responsible for overseeing all external and internal conference communications. Laura will also continue in her role as editor of the *MB Herald*.

Denise (Payton BA '01) Jereb was appointed vice president, compliance officer, for Central Valley Community Bank in November 2012.

Lisa (Meneses MA '01) Coorough was named Middle School Educator of the Year in September 2012 at the 19th Annual Confucius' Birthday/Educators of the Year Celebration. She is an English and history teacher at Springville Union School District, Tulare County, CA.

Mark Peterson (BA '05) received his Ph.D. in political science from Purdue University in

August 2012. He is teaching international relations and American politics at Purdue.

Ron Sears (MA '07) is the director of education at Fountainhead College of Technology in Knoxville, TN.

Danny Gray (seminary '09) has been accepted for the Mental Health Loan Assumption Program (MHLAP), a state program that will pay up to \$10,000 in student loans in return for the recipient working in community psychology in the Fresno area from July 2013 to June 2014. His master's is in marriage, child and family counseling.

Tessa Fischer (BS '12) has been accepted to the master's in public health program at the University of Illinois, where she is already pursuing a doctorate in veterinary medicine. She hopes to work with zoonotic diseases someday, perhaps with an agency like the Centers for Disease Control.

Gonzalo Villegas (BA '12) was hired as a grant writing research assistant at California Consulting LLC.

WEDDINGS



Dulce Romero (BA '07) married Ulises Urbina on September 10, 2011. They reside in San Antonio, TX. Dulce was recently awarded the Partnership for Research and Education in Material (PREM) fellowship at the University of Texas at San Antonio to continue her studies in the physics Ph.D. program. Ulises works as a high school physics teacher.

Melanie Nachtigall (BA '12) married **David Hawes (BA '12)** on August 16, 2012, at the G.L. Johnson Chapel at People's Church in Fresno.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

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

Email: alumni@fresno.edu | Please include your graduation year(s) with your update. Photos must be high resolution jpeg files.



Elizabeth “Libby” (Rowland MA ’77) Meux died December 23, 2012. Libby, 65, was a reading specialist, ESL teacher and literacy coach for 37 years at many Fresno elementary schools.

Paige (Turner BA ’88) Garcia, 47, died March 17, 2013. She worked at AIMS Foundation and in a variety of social services positions for Madera County. She earned her MSW from California State University, Fresno.

Cheryl Marye (Hansen BA ’91) Buntich, 43, died March 26, 2013. A native of Selma, she was a teacher for several years and lived in Sun Valley with her husband, Stephen, and children Natalie, Jacob and Matthew, all of whom survive.

Beatrice “Bea” Warkentin, 89, died October 11, 2012. Bea and her husband, Herman, were missionaries in India from 1946-53, and the Warkentin Prayer Chapel on the FPU main campus is named for them. She is survived by daughter Sharon and sons John and Ken.



Waldo Hiebert, 98, former dean of students at MB Biblical Seminary (now Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary), died February 25, 2013. In addition to 25 years at the seminary, he also pastored the Hillsboro and Reedley MB churches. Denominational posts included chair of the Board of General Welfare and Public Relations, chair of the Board of Missions/Services and chair and vice chair of U.S. Reference and Counsel. Waldo was born July 3, 1914, at Mountain Lake, MN. He is survived by his children, Ted Hiebert, James Hiebert, Susan Bercilla and Daniel Hiebert. (Photo courtesy Winnipeg Center for MB Studies)

3 Anna (Manzyuk BA ’05) Doroshuk and husband Yuri announce the birth of daughter Grace Belle on July 17, 2012. The family resides in Dallas, TX.

4 Scott (BA ’08) and Jane (Chakhlasyan BA ’08) Metcalf announce the birth of daughter Addisyn Araxie on August 2, 2012.

5 Jeff (seminary ’11) and Stephanie (Berg BA ’06, seminary ’09) Zimmerman announce the birth of daughter Paisley Renne on September 19, 2012. She joins brother Maddex.

DEATHS

Mathilda “Tillie” Wall (PBI ’54) died November 30, 2012. Tillie, 97, served as a missionary nurse in the Congo (previously Zaire) for 35 years.

Mary Ethel (Carroll BA ’67) Bull died December 31, 2012. Mary, 88, was a public school teacher in the San Joaquin Valley and taught for over 25 years. Survivors include stepchildren Alvolyn Hiebert, **Almalyn Smith (MA ’83)** and Peggy Andrus; sisters Margaret Gonzales and Nancy Martinaitis; and brothers Jesse Carroll and Clifford Carroll. She was preceded in death by husband Alva and stepson Robert Bull.

Janice Marie (Oyler BA ’77) Ratzlaff, 56, died November 17, 2011, from colon cancer. Survivors include her husband, **Joel Ratzlaff (BA ’76)**, and daughters Stephanie Dobrenen and Julie Woodward.

ADOPTIONS

James Jackson (BA ’91) and wife Ellen announce the adoption of their four foster children on June 4, 2012. They have adopted a total of five children and are raising three birth daughters.

BIRTHS

1 Sarah (Unruh BA ’99) Hayden and husband Chad announce the birth of daughter Tess Ashley on August 20, 2011. Sarah is the risk manager for a national staffing company based in Fresno and Chad teaches advanced placement literature and runs the speech and debate program for Clovis North High School.

2 Dawn (Chidester BA ’03, TC ’03) Mustin and husband Aaron announce the birth of daughter Alice Annmarie on August 24, 2012. She joins brothers Jackson, 5; and Jacob, 2.

MIKE DESPAIN BA '96

“My first job is to think as a Christian. My second job is as fire chief.”



By Jaime Huss

FPU OPENS DOORS FOR DESPAIN

When God shuts one door, he opens another.” The phrase is familiar to many, but for Clovis Fire Chief Mike Despain (BA '96), it's been the theme of much of his professional life.

That life with fire services began 28 years ago, not in a firehouse, but in a church pew. There, as a teenager, Despain first heard about the need for volunteer firefighters in his hometown of Tipton, CA, a community of about 2,500 people in Tulare County. “There were no Boy Scouts or after-school sports,” he says. “It was a way to get out of the fields a bit and do something different.”

It wasn't long before the “different” volunteer duties with his small-town fire service became more intriguing than Despain's paid position as a student deputy with the Tulare County Sheriff's Office. And the door to the fire house swung wide open when Despain was offered his first paid position as a seasonal firefighter during peak fire months. The firefighter who met Despain in that Sunday church service was on

his first interview panel. “This was no coincidence,” Despain says. “He grabbed me in a heartbeat.”

That preliminary fire service stint put him on the frontline of projects that few firefighters experience during their lifetime—including the infamous Yellowstone fires of 1988, which scorched nearly 40 percent of the national park.

Over the years, Despain found his niche in fire service management, rising from firefighter to engineer and into several executive roles. One door after the next eventually led Despain to the greater Fresno area—first in Clovis for 17 years, then Fresno for nearly six years and back to Clovis in 2012 as deputy chief—until in March 2013 Despain stepped into his newest and most exciting role: chief of the Clovis Fire Department.

Many of the day-to-day dangers that come with frontline firefighting have given way to a different set of challenges in the management sphere. Days are spent addressing needs, solving problems and influencing future plans. “It’s a huge blessing to know I’m making a difference—not just organizationally, but all the way down to the person,” Despain says.

A human door, in the form of a recommendation from a friend and FPU graduate, propelled Despain to Fresno Pacific University. The degree completion program allowed him to finish his bachelor’s degree in management and organizational development in 18 months.

At FPU, Despain found an educational framework where he belonged. “I thought, ‘Here’s a college where I feel like part of the family,’” he says. “Right away, the response I got was ‘we’re going to take care of your transcripts, your books ... you be the student and learn.’”

He also found a university where his faith could be at the top of his job description. “My first job is to think as a Christian. My second job is as fire chief,” he says. “That’s something FPU offers that secular settings don’t.”

The Despain family—Mike, wife Rachel and 16-year-old twins Jared and Erica—share their faith as part of Northpark Community Church, in Fresno. Rachel and Mike help with greeting and ushering. Ushering for a church Mike says is “bursting at its seams” is a challenge but being the former Fresno City Fire Marshal comes in handy. “It helps me help the church in making sure we do a good job of getting everyone in and out safely,” he says. “Again, God using people and their talents in unique ways is the way I see it.”

Looking forward, Despain hopes the mark he leaves is not in the number of fire stations built or how many firefighters are added under his watch. Rather, the important issues for him are: What does it look like to lead by example? To put relationships first? To walk by faith?

“I don’t believe in coincidences,” Despain says. “God has us exactly where we are.”

... until the next door opens.

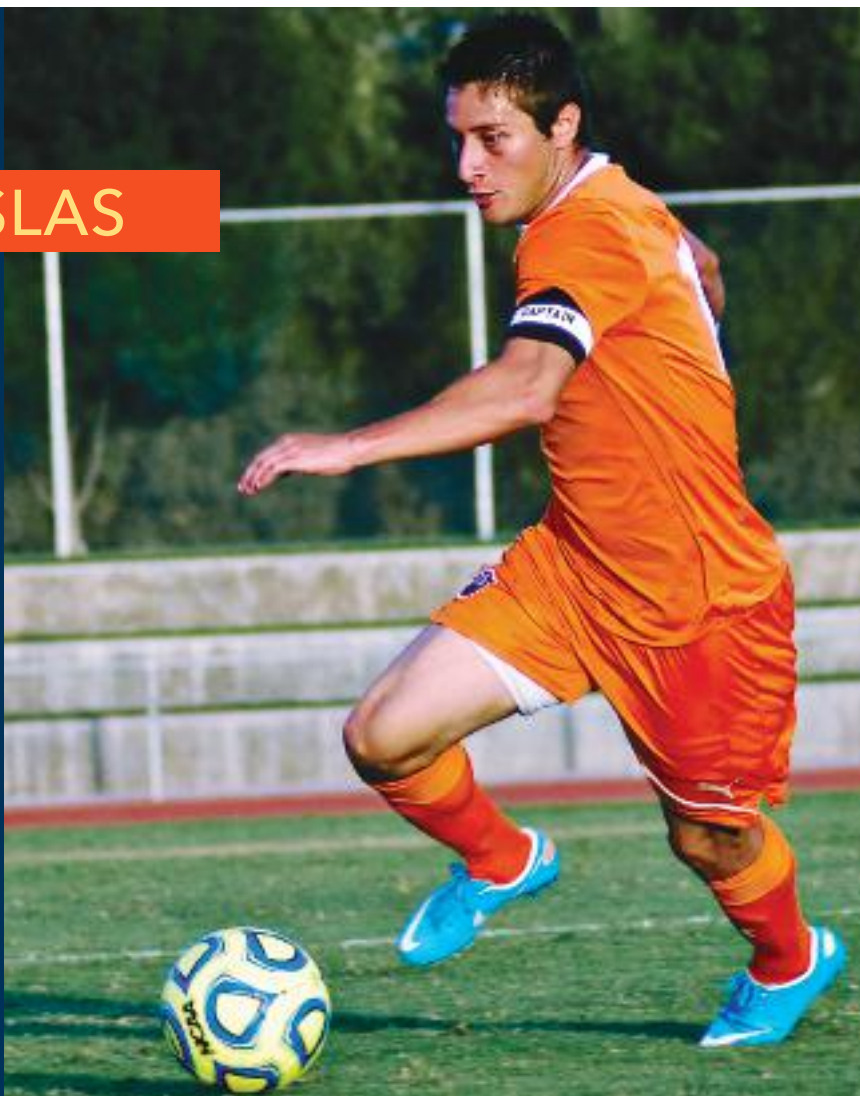


SUNBIRD PAUL ISLAS

FOLLOWING A SOCCER DREAM

“Paul has the skills and abilities to compete.”

—Jaime Ramirez



By Brandon Tripp

PLAYING MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER is more than a dream for forward Paul Islas—it’s a goal.

That goal is a work in progress for the Fresno native, who was drafted in the first round of the MLS Supplemental Draft by Chivas USA, the first NCAA Division II player drafted in FPU’s first year in DII.

Though the Chivas spot didn’t materialize, Islas has played reserve games with the San Jose Earthquakes, another MLS team, and played regularly with the Fresno Fuego in the USL (United Soccer Leagues) Premier Development League.

Those who know Islas are confident he will succeed. “Paul has the skills and abilities to compete,” says Jaime Ramirez, FPU head soccer coach.

Islas capped one of the best careers in Sunbird history with a 22-goal and 12-assist senior season that earned him awards including a spot as NSCAA (National Soccer

Coaches Athletic Association) Division II All-American. He helped FPU to a second-place finish in the Pacific West Conference, and finished his career third all-time at FPU in goals (55) and assists (33).

Beginning his career playing rec league soccer at a park on Dakota and West, Islas made the United States U-18 (Under 18) team while playing at Bullard High School and for the California Odyssey Soccer Club. After his U-18 world tour Islas returned to play for the Fresno Fuego, a member of the PDL (Professional Development League), and led Bullard deep into the state playoffs. A top Division I prospect, Islas enrolled at Fresno Pacific to stay close to home and play for Ramirez.

Islas was the second FPU player to be drafted by the MLS after Orlando Ramirez in 2005, and could become the fourth player in Sunbird history to play for an MLS franchise (Ramirez, Pablo Campos, Milton Blanco).

[MORE AT FPUATHLETICS.COM](http://FPUATHLETICS.COM)



NEW FITNESS CENTER

**AN ASSET AND
A SYMBOL**

Many hands built the new FPU Fitness Center. “With our New Fitness center I can confidently and proudly say that FPU meets the needs of students on the academic level through our superior class standards, the emotional and spiritual level through our Christ-centered values, and now physically with a facility that enables students to pursue a healthy lifestyle,” said Rachel Eng, the student speaker at the March 1 grand opening ceremony.

The Fitness Center is located on the north end of the Special Events Center, in the former weight room and racquetball court areas. The 3,200-square-foot space features cardio equipment including treadmills, elliptical machines and cycles; strength equipment featuring pneumatic (air) and free weight resistance for both traditional and functional-movement training; and body-weight exercise equipment. Open floor spaces allow for training flexibility, and amenities include flooring and music/TV entertainment.

Thanks to the many who made the Fitness Center possible came from Pete C. Menjares, FPU President; Don Diboll, associate professor of kinesiology; Barry Lockton, facilities director; Nicole Linder, major gifts director; John Thiesen, FPU board chair; and Dennis Janzen, athletics director. Donors, board members and others were noted for their generosity. Major gifts came from the Dr. Gunther Henry Schmitt estate, The Associated Students of Fresno Pacific University, the graduating class of 2012 and athletics donors. Completed in late February, the center was built by Target Constructors, Inc., Madera, with local subcontractors. The architects were RDT Architecture & Interior Design, Inc., Fresno. Most of the equipment is from Keiser Corporation and was manufactured in Fresno. Diboll serves as center director, and the staff is made up of students majoring in kinesiology.



With so much teamwork involved in the success of the project, the center is more than a place to exercise, said Eng, student body vice president, kinesiology major and student-athlete. “It should be remembered as a symbol of unity. We need to recognize our Fitness Center as a time of collaboration where alumni, community members and the various facets of Fresno Pacific united to create this facility that will benefit our FPU family not only today, but for many years to come,” she said.

The grand opening closed with tours of the Fitness Center and demonstrations of the equipment. Tours were also available of the Commuter Lounge in nearby East Hall, which opened December 7.

GET INVOLVED! The Fitness Center is just one of many facilities and programs you can support at FPU. Learn more about the Annual Fund by contacting Nicole Linder at nicole.linder@fresno.edu or 559-453-2058. Interested in Sunbird Athletics? Contact Nolan Yoder at nolan.yoder@fresno.edu or 559-453-5694.

Stories of transformation are everywhere, and remind those of us in the FPU community why we are here. Sharing those moments with *Pacific* readers is the goal of this series. If you have a story, or know someone who does, email Wayne Steffen at wsteffen@fresno.edu.

GOD'S TIME AMONG THE TREES



Courtney People

*They are like trees planted
by streams of water, which yield their fruit
in its season, and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.* Psalm 1:3 (NRSV)

Among the trees of Hume Lake in the Sequoia National Forest, Courtney People reached out and made a stranger a sister—and learned a little about God's time.

Resident assistants, club leaders, student-athletes, student government officials, president's scholars and other students with leadership roles or potential gather in August at Hume Lake Christian Camps for the Leadership Retreat. This time of preparation and reflection under the direction of the Student Life Office and the Office of Spiritual Formation readies these students to lead, serve and minister in the coming academic year.

Courtney was readying for an assignment as resident assistant in Heaton House 3, where she would be overseeing several young women. Mentoring women to be disciples is important to the senior psychology major, who has led a mission trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo and is active in spirit care with the OSF. A Reedley native who grew up in Fresno, Courtney is also a youth leader at New Beginnings Community Baptist Church.

Already in prayer for her work over the coming year, Courtney thought she was preparing for the future. "I had been asking God

to meet me and help me in my living area," she says. God, however, wouldn't wait for Courtney's return to campus to make her part of the plan.

Sitting next to a freshman woman at a retreat event, Courtney struck up a conversation. The newcomer was enjoying her time at the retreat, but was unfamiliar with the songs and some practices because her family was not active in a church.

"Everything she was experiencing was new to her. She felt the love and the family-like experience," Courtney says. "I asked God to just use me. That was a changing moment, that God would answer prayers."

On the second day the young woman (who has requested to remain anonymous) approached Courtney again after a foot-washing ceremony. "She came up and asked me if I would pray with her." They prayed with three others, and Courtney asked the young woman if she would accept Christ into her life.

The answer was yes.

When Courtney asked God for guidance, she didn't expect an answer quite so soon. "But it just came like that—Amen," she says.

THANK YOU!

TO ALL WHO SUPPORT FPU

2012 DONOR HONOR ROLL

THIS IS A SPECIAL REPORT to the supporters of Fresno Pacific University and Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this report. Please call to our attention any omissions or errors by contacting the Advancement Office at 559-453-2080.

Information in this report covers calendar year 2012 for the university and seminary.

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- promote FPU whenever possible
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- encourage students to attend
- offer advice, counsel and encouragement

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Italics indicates donations include gifts for the seminary.

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