

# PACIFIC

The cover of Pacific magazine features a photograph of three individuals—two men and one woman—smiling and looking upwards. They are positioned under a wooden structure with a corrugated metal roof. The man on the left wears glasses and a dark suit over a blue shirt. The man in the center has a beard and is wearing a dark suit over a purple shirt. The woman on the right has long brown hair, wears glasses, a blue top, and a patterned scarf. The background shows the wooden beams and corrugated metal of the structure against a clear blue sky. The word 'PACIFIC' is printed in large, orange, serif capital letters across the top. Below it, an orange banner contains the text 'FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 34, NO. 2'. In the bottom right corner, the title 'Living Legacies' is written in white, with a subtitle below it: 'Mentoring is the past, present and future of education at FPU.'

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 34, NO. 2

## Living Legacies

Mentoring is the past, present and future of education at FPU.



president's message

## LEAVING A LEGACY IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

**“The ancient Greek statesman Pericles describes them well: “what you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”**

— Joseph Jones, Ph.D.

We all know individuals who impact our lives by the way they live. We rarely communicate how much we appreciate them. Some we know only at a distance, others serve as mentors, friends and advisors. Their words stir our souls, their actions humble our ways and their love is dependable.

My grandfather, my namesake, left me a legacy by his life. I never sat in his counsel, did very little work with him and only visited him irregularly. He was a quiet man who raised

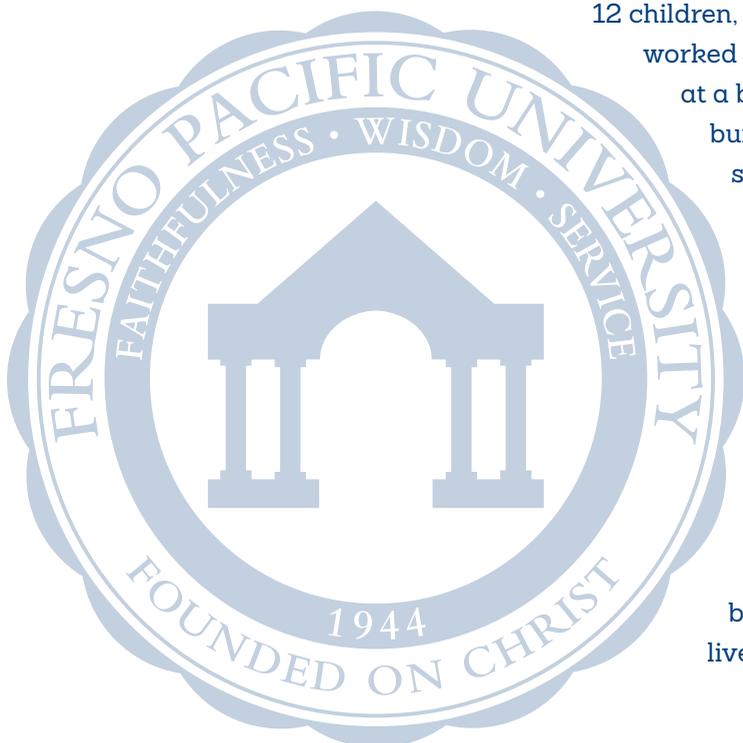
12 children, built his home,

worked as a boiler man at a bakery and later built and pastored a small church. He played the piano and led worship, preached the sermon, collected the offering and visited the sick. His life of service brought him no financial benefit, but he lived the message

of a servant of God. No one can remember him ever being sick, and when he died, he did so in his sleep. I think of him as the model of godliness, humility and servanthood.

The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. said: “the end of life is not to be happy, nor to achieve pleasure and avoid pain, but to do the will of God, come what may.” My grandfather’s life is a legacy not only to me, but to my children and grandchildren.

In this edition of *Pacific*, we feature faculty who left legacies in how they lived among us on earth before joining my grandfather. The ancient Greek statesman Pericles describes them well: “what you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.” The three featured faculty collectively served our students and their colleagues for 113 years. Thousands of lives were impacted by the message they lived. As they honored God in their service, we honor the legacy of their lives. 🏠



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# Hope Nisly and David Bruce Rose Retire



## Hope Nisly

“Are you going to teach?”—the question for every history major. Finding alternatives drove Hope Nisly’s career.

Labor history was her passion, and Nisly was an archivist in The

George Meany Memorial Archives (AFL-CIO) and Cornell University’s Rheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives. “My degrees and my intent were that I would work in archives (preferably labor) the rest of my life,” she says.

But in 1998 she, husband Douglas Kliewer and their two teenagers moved from Ithaca, NY, to Reedley, CA, and Nisly worked for the West Coast Mennonite Central Committee. In 2000, Hiebert Library Director Steve Brandt invited her to FPU. “I told him that I’m really an archivist, not a librarian. He didn’t seem to care,” she says. She joined the staff in 2001 and retired this spring as acquisitions librarian.

Students gave Nisly joy. “I loved watching the students (some of them at least) fall in love with learning for its own sake. I loved working with those students who viewed libraries with trepidation and fear—and see them come to find a place and space in our library,” she says.

An author, Nisly also worked with humanities faculty Fran Martens Friesen to bring the Mennonite/s Writing Conference to FPU. “We introduced Mennonite writers to the West Coast and introduced FPU to the world of Mennonite/s Writing,” Nisly says.

Writing remains part of Nisly’s future. Her essays and short stories have appeared in *Fredericksburg Literary and Arts Review*, *Journal of Mennonite Writing*, *Mojave River Review* and—her favorite—*Dead Housekeeping*. She will continue working with *Pacific Journal*, FPU’s academic publication, and Martens Friesen on the Jean and Louis Janzen Writers Series.

A longtime activist, Nisly also plans to continue organizing, and would like to squeeze in some travel and volunteer work.

## David Bruce Rose

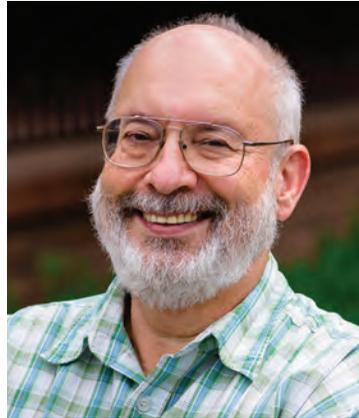
Flunking two seminary counseling classes convinced David Bruce Rose, Ph.D., he had no future in psychology. Then Rose, who retired this summer as associate professor of marriage and family therapy, saw the ministry of counseling.

Leading a small Montana Presbyterian Church USA congregation showed Rose pastoring was more than preaching. “When people came to me for counseling I couldn’t say ‘no’ because I didn’t want to do it,” he says.

Counseling classes clicked after Rose moved to a Las Vegas megachurch. “The classes were talking about the people at my church—not

abstractions,” he says.

This shift in awareness awakened a call to teach. Still, Rose “stumbled into” a successful private practice, and taught part time. Fresno Pacific Biblical seminary faculty Al



Dueck and Delores Friesen invited him as an adjunct in 2006, which became a full-time role in 2011.

During seven years as program director Rose worked to attract the equivalent of 30 full-time students to the M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy each year. Today that figure is 80-90, and MFT is the seminary’s largest program. The program’s reputation also grew under Rose. At first, staff at some local agencies feared seminary interns would be homophobic and prejudiced, he says. But not only did staff come to see the students as excellent counselors, they started talking about faith themselves, Rose says. “That’s a reputation I would really like Jesus’ followers to have—competent and caring—and I really think we have built that.”

Future plans? Fewer than ever. Instead, Rose and wife Mary plan to spend time with their two sons, their wives and the 13 grandchildren. “Five years ago I had this list of things I wanted to do,” he says. “Today somebody else is doing those things and doing them better than I would.” 🏠

## Kern Family Foundation grant finances accelerated ministry program

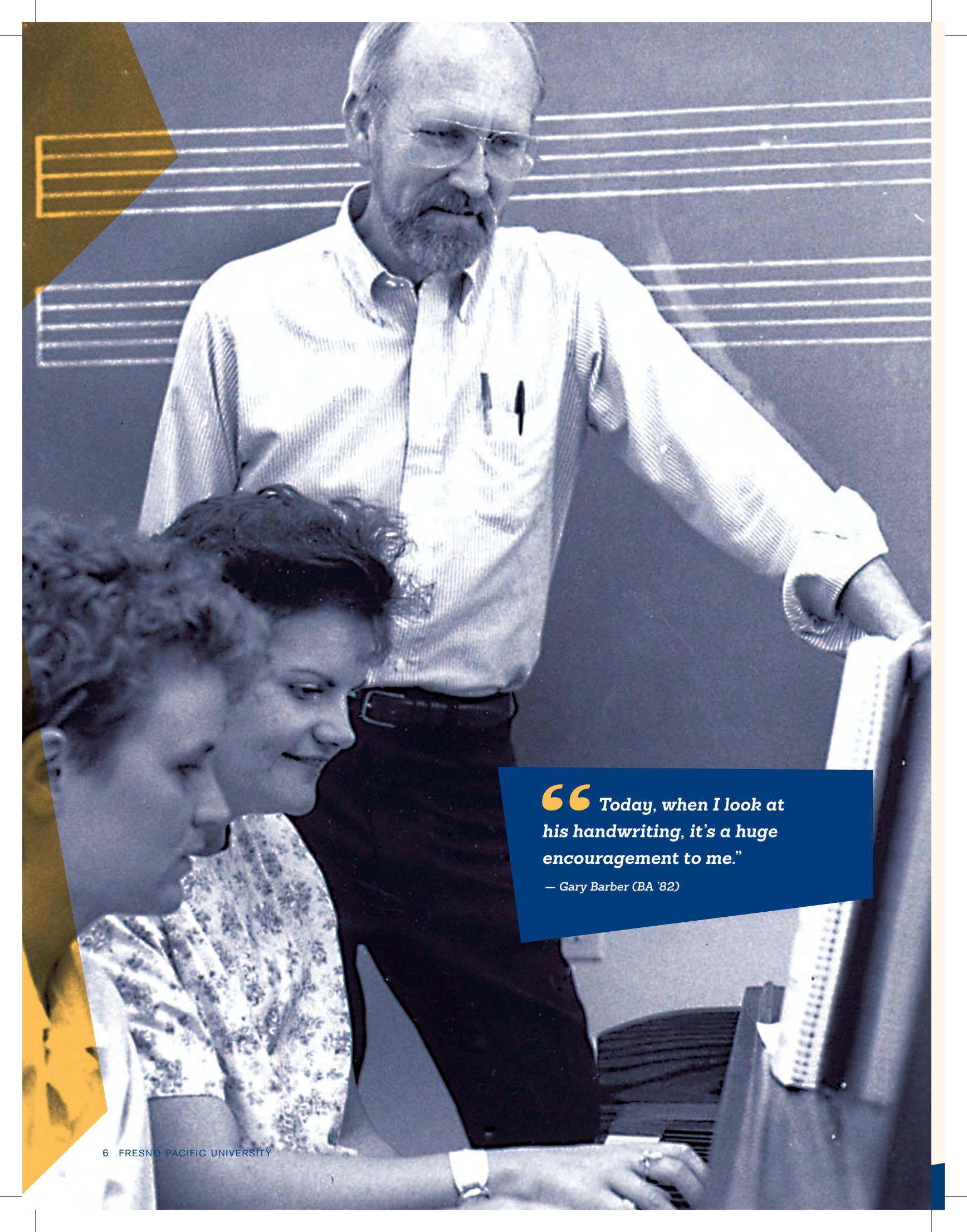
A new grant will help young adults pursue a career in ministry.

The Kern Family Foundation awarded FPU a four-year grant worth \$551,000 to create Bridge to Ministry, an accelerated pastoral degree program for students 18-22 years old. Participants will earn a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry & Leadership in three years through the university and a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry in two years through Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, saving one year of study. Classes are planned for the fall of 2022.

The grant will provide scholarships and help cover the salaries of the program director, a part-time recruiter and a part-time administrative assistant. “We appreciate this chance to partner with the Kern Family Foundation to expand educational possibilities here in the Central Valley and beyond,” said Joseph Jones, Ph.D., FPU President. “This outreach will enhance the university’s vision to empower churches.”

Based in Waukesha County, WI, the Kern Family Foundation was established in 1998. 🏠

— THE —  
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**“** Today, when I look at his handwriting, it's a huge encouragement to me.”

— Gary Barber (BA '82)

# LIVES of MENTORSHIP

## UNRUH, WIEBE AND WARKENTIN EXEMPLIFIED THE INFLUENCE OF A CARING FACULTY

By Cyndee Fontana-Ott

The sheet music from Larry Warkentin came in the mail to the house in San Francisco. Gary Barber (BA '82) opened the envelope with anticipation because — as he says today — “Larry was my friend and mentor for life.”

Warkentin sent the sheet music — an original Christmas carol he composed — several months before his death earlier this year. He hoped to encourage Barber to resume playing the piano following a long break due to a professional setback. Warkentin, D.M.A., emeritus music faculty at Fresno Pacific University, was a man of deep faith committed to students for a lifetime. “Larry exemplified his Anabaptist beliefs through his daily life,” Barber says. “He taught me you could show the world what you believe, not necessarily by what you say, but by your actions.” The sheet music came with Warkentin’s original notations. “Today, when I look at his handwriting, it’s a huge encouragement to me,” Barber says. “I may be 61, but I should keep pressing on and learning.”

And yes, he started playing the piano again.

### MENTORING LEGACIES

Warkentin died in April 2021, and **Karen (Crockett, BA '02) Madden** also remembers his mentoring with appreciation. “Through the years whenever I saw him, I could count on

Dr. Warkentin to have the right word at the right time. He was clear, wise and aptly spoken on any subject we were discussing,” She says. “He always gave you his full attention in conversation.” Humility added to his credibility, as did a skill in offering criticism positively. “As a performance major, I trusted his advice, which was always musically sound, and appreciated that his instruction was always given in a kind way,” she says. Madden teaches piano privately and is inspired by Warkentin’s far-reaching influence. “You always hope to encourage and inspire your students like he did—for a lifetime.”

Two other late faculty members — Billie Jean Wiebe and Richard Unruh — also mentored students in life — changing ways. Wiebe, Ph.D., associate professor of communication and English, and director of the communication program, died in December 2020. Unruh, Ph.D., emeritus political science faculty, died in May 2021.

“You have to treasure the moment someone comes to you and wants to talk. Billie Jean taught me that.”

— Joy Rubio (BA '17)



## WIEBE'S EMPATHY

Rachel Cooper (BA '17, TC '20) found courage and comfort in Wiebe's office but not always immediate answers. "I often would leave Billie Jean's office with more questions than I had going in," Cooper says. "She wouldn't tell you what to do. She asked questions and allowed you to come to her conclusions. I think Billie Jean already knew what was important to me even if I didn't quite have a handle on that yet." Most significantly, Cooper shared the trauma of being sexually assaulted during her junior year, and Wiebe let Cooper's pain pour out, encouraging her to write about it. "I don't think I would have processed

anything if it weren't for Billie Jean and the safe emotional space she provided."

When Cooper was disappointed by a church leader's response to the assault, she and Wiebe talked about sexism in some Christian settings. "That helped me understand how everything that happened to me influenced my relationships in the church and with God." Through it all, Wiebe helped Cooper realize the importance of every person's full story – including hers. Now an elementary teacher, she seeks out books that

reflect her students' realities and encourages them to begin writing their stories.

**Joy Rubio (BA '17)** says Wiebe excelled as a mentor because she knew the right time to speak and did not minimize difficulties. "As I started to share my story, some really intricate pieces of my life, she just listened and listened without interjecting anything. That was new to me. Once she felt I was ready to receive feedback — to receive her voice — she offered it." On one occasion, Rubio shared a problem and then downplayed the trouble before Wiebe could respond. "Billie Jean just gave me a little chuckle and smile that said to me, 'Joy, it doesn't sound like it's going to be fine. In fact, it sounds really bad.' She was ready to take on whatever story students brought with them."

Rubio, a former admissions counselor at FPU and now a high school guidance counselor, strives to emulate her mentor. "You have to treasure the moment someone comes to you and wants to talk. Billie Jean taught me that."

## UNRUH'S AVAILABILITY

**Ken Martens Friesen (BA '84)**, Ph.D., professor of history and international studies, experienced Unruh's mentoring as a student and later a colleague. "Simply by taking a class from Richard you felt mentored in a sense," Friesen says. "He always pushed us to think in a very comprehensive way. We never knew what his perspective was, but he was constantly questioning ours and presenting an eloquent counter-argument." Unruh helped Friesen broaden his worldview to see poverty and social justice as critical issues of faith, which contributed to Friesen's decision to teach in Africa after graduation. Later, he earned graduate degrees and joined the faculty in 2002.

"Richard had decades of experience over me but treated me as an equal." As chair of the social



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## Billie Jean Wiebe Memorial Scholarship

[fpu.edu/Wiebescholars](http://fpu.edu/Wiebescholars)

science department, Unruh gave Friesen freedom to develop new courses and allowed him to take over Unruh's favorite foreign policy course. Then, for almost seven years, Unruh set aside time from his busy and disciplined schedule for a weekly lunch with Friesen. It was a time of professional and personal fellowship, and it left a lasting impression. "I want to make room for conversations and time with colleagues to develop personal relationships," Friesen says. He also attempts to follow Unruh's practice of making himself available to students. "I try to have an open-door policy that encourages them to talk about their concerns, whether it's about a class assignment or larger questions about life."

## 'MOST INFLUENTIAL'

**Lisa Freeman (BA '03)** sat in Unruh's world politics course on September 11, 2001, as the nation was plunged into shock. "Richard helped us begin to process what it was to be a global citizen in the midst of this terrible terrorist attack. It was a critical moment to think about how the United States interacts with the world." As Freeman's faculty advisor, Unruh encouraged her to go to New York City three weeks after 9/11 to attend a Mennonite Central Committee conference on pacifism. Freeman went with uncertainties about pacifism, but the conference brought clarity. "I realized it is not just not fighting, but working



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## Richard Unruh Memorial Scholarship

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**“** Richard was the most influential part of my college career. The things I learned from him helped determine the direction of my life.”

— Lisa Freeman (BA '03)

hard to achieve peace and the resolution of conflict.” Freeman says this new-found perspective helped lead her to the U.S. Office of Transition Initiatives, which runs programs to help countries experiencing political instability. She’s worked at the agency for the last decade, often traveling overseas.

Freeman says Unruh was her first professional mentor. Before meeting him, she was used to

youth group leaders who relied on fun-loving, sometimes silly camaraderie to reach mentees.

“Richard was more reserved and serious, and he showed me what’s important is being genuine,” she says. Freeman tries to do the same as she partners with people around the world, always remembering Unruh’s example. “Richard was the most influential part of my college career. The things I learned from him helped determine the direction of my life.” 



# MENTORING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

*By Doug Hoagland*

## DALE SCULLY MENTORS STUDENTS TO SUCCEED BY TALKING ABOUT A TIME HE FAILED.

As a freshman at a community college, he flunked one class, did poorly in others and landed on academic probation. Scully (pictured previous page) soon dropped out to work and coach. Six years later, he earned a master's degree from the Ivy League's Columbia University and today is vice president of campus life at Fresno Pacific University.

"Sharing that failure—and how I came back from it—helps students understand that we're all in process, and that successes and failures go hand in hand," Scully says. "We're all people who are growing and developing." Communicating that reality requires vulnerability, but it builds relationships with students and enables them to share honestly and receive a mentor's counsel. "If you're trying to keep a wall between yourself and students, they will have a harder time reaching out to you and connecting," he says.

## A MISSION TO MENTOR

Fresno Pacific freshmen, seminary students, athletes and others experience mentoring to meet many needs. Academic. Spiritual. Emotional. As a Christian university, FPU seeks not only to educate but also equip students for a life of learning and service. Mentoring advances that calling. For freshmen and transfer students, it begins in a seminar class in their first semester. Groups of 10 to 15 students meet weekly with a faculty advisor and two peer mentors to discuss topics ranging from careers to making friends on campus. Individual meetings also occur.

"Having someone come into your office to discuss why they're in college, and where they hope to go, can lead in many different directions," Scully says. While teaching the seminar, he had a student open up about his ongoing substance abuse. Scully and the student talked about campus counseling options and accountability. "There's not a college in the U.S. that doesn't have these types of stories," he says. "Students struggle, and they need the connections that come through mentoring to find the resources to work through their problems."

**C.J. Haydock (BA '09)**, head men's basketball coach, believes mentoring is a vital part of the university's mission. "It is so integral to the *Fresno Pacific Idea*—that we are a Christian university, a community of learners and prophetic—and it's what we do best," he says. About half of Haydock's players are African American. In 2020, they needed to process complex emotions following the murder of George Floyd. Haydock already had in place weekly one-on-one sessions (in person or on Zoom)—in which he and players talk about life, not basketball. Haydock's questions can include: When did you last talk to your mom? How's your girlfriend? What about that internship next summer to help with your career?

"I ask leading questions, and I'm getting to hear their dreams, their successes and their struggles," Haydock says. "And then occasionally I offer my input. You want to listen twice as much as you guide." Haydock did his best to mentor his players in 2020 but recognizes his limitations. "I'm a 35-year-old white male who's had every possible privilege. To fully understand my players and their struggles, I have to do the rigorous intellectual study of race in this country and the societal structures we've built. Even then, I only get a sliver of their reality," he says.



Ken Cheung



**Tara Sirvent**

“It can be reassuring for somebody at my point in life to say to a student, ‘I care about what you’re saying. You can make it.’”

— Eldon Fry

## IDENTIFYING WITH MENTORS

The School of Natural Sciences offers opportunities to students in biology, chemistry, health, kinesiology and mathematics to conduct research with faculty members. Mentoring relationships develop in the process. “The research can be clarifying for a student’s career, and the faculty mentor becomes part of a student’s professional network,” says Karen Cianci, Ph.D., who retired as dean of the school last summer.

Ken Cheung, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry and chemistry program director, says the research/mentoring model boosts the academic success and career possibilities for groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics): women, Hispanics, African Americans, first-generation college students and low-income students receiving federal aid.

Tara Sirvent, Ph.D., new natural sciences dean, says mentoring also helps first-generation college students see faculty members as “real people,” making it easier to seek help and guidance. Furthermore, a diverse cadre of mentors—including women, African Americans and Hispanics—benefits similar students. “Mentoring is not only about finding resources and establishing networks, but seeing images of yourself in what you want to be,” Sirvent says.

## ‘SAFE SPACE’

At Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, mentors and students in one online program live throughout the United States and Canada. The mentors (referred to as coaches) provide a listening ear and guidance to students seeking an M.A. in Ministry, Leadership and Culture. Most students already work in churches or nonprofits and, significantly, don’t live in the same communities as their coaches. This gives students “a safe space to share the good, the bad, and the ugly” of their ministry positions as they apply what they’re learning to daily realities, says Brian Ross, D. Min., associate professor of pastoral ministries and director of the program.

Eldon Fry, who lives near Harrisburg, PA, has decades of pastoral experience and has served as a coach for six years. “It can be reassuring for somebody at my point in life to say to a student, ‘I care about what you’re saying. You can make it,’” he says.

Students in bachelor’s degree completion programs often need that kind of encouragement as they juggle work, family and course work. Academic advisors in Bakersfield, Merced, North Fresno and Visalia can step in to help. “They’re not just saying ‘Take this class. Drop this class.’ The advisors are helping our adult learners navigate real-life situations and figure out how to get across the finish line to graduation,” says **Denise Baronian (MA ’13)**, executive director of regional enrollment. “Many times they’ll pray with students. It’s very personal and hands-on.”

The pandemic made such care especially important, says Dani Fox-Lopez, M.S., assistant



Chris Janzen

director for advising at the Bakersfield Campus. As COVID-19 spread, some students lost family members, got sick themselves or lost jobs. “Our students needed someone who knew what they were going through to listen and help give them reasons to keep going,” she says.

## LIFE LESSONS

Mentoring is an inevitable part of instruction at FPU, says Chris Janzen, M.F.A, assistant professor of art. Smaller classes allow students and faculty to develop relationships that begin around course material and extend to deeper issues. In his art classes, for example, he learns about family histories, career goals and even what music students like as they sculpt, paint or draw. “Sometimes students haven’t quite figured out

“*There’s a sense of family at FPU. We’re in this thing together.*”

— Chris Janzen

how to organize all the different pieces of their lives,” he says. “But I can give advice that is very tailored to each individual because I know them so well.”

Janzen is not only helping students graduate but preparing them for the years ahead. “Everyone has to juggle many tasks in their work and family lives, and sometimes that’s what mentoring is—dealing with broad life lessons.” In the final analysis, he adds: “There’s a sense of family at FPU. We’re in this thing together.” 🏠

# MENTORSHIP IN THE ARCHITECTURE

THE WARKENTINE CULTURE & ARTS CENTER | THE LEGACY CONTINUES

By Cyndee Fontana-Ott



Jeffrey Wilson, George Dougherty, Christa Pehl Evans



**Music professor Jeffrey S. Wilson watches the future develop as he walks by a construction site on the main FPU campus.**

Wilson, D.M.A., music program director and director of choral activities, joined the faculty during the COVID-19 shutdown and made the best of teaching and mentoring students mainly via Zoom. At the same time, his frequent strolls around campus allow him to monitor progress on the Warkentine Culture and Arts Center (CAC) that will unite the university’s art, music and theater programs under one roof.

To be fully occupied in winter 2022, the emerging building will provide 26,000 square feet of critically needed space such as a multi-purpose auditorium, a black box theater, an art gallery and back-of-the-house necessities like dressing and practice rooms. With those new amenities, it will also offer something more: a fresh venue and opportunities for mentoring students.

**Dramatic changes**

“Things will change dramatically” when the center opens, Wilson says. “Having a place on campus for rehearsal and performance, I think that will help students feel more like that is their home and this is part of Fresno Pacific University and who we are.”

Wilson and other professors consider mentoring a natural and vital part of their everyday job. It can take many forms—academic, spiritual, personal—and happen in



individual, small- or large-group settings, on a tour bus or over a meal.

“There is a certain amount of professional mentoring as educators,” Wilson says. “But there is also a personal mentoring that is going on and that is an important part of Fresno Pacific University. We are interested in more than just what you can do—we are interested in who you are and how you can be a good leader and servant wherever it is that you end up.”

George Dougherty, D.M.A., director of bands and coordinator of instrumental music, appreciates how the university’s Christian worldview guides mentoring approaches. After all, he says, “Jesus was a master teacher and mentored 12 disciples—and they went out and changed the world.”

Most professors think mentoring styles won’t change much in the future. Technology may offer new avenues—Wilson was surprised at how well he got to know his students by Zoom, for example—but in-person interactions are likely to remain the constant.

“I think the possibilities of change will probably reflect changes in culture, changes in technology,” Dougherty says. “But at the core, we will always be mentoring person-to-person. There is always that strength there.”

The CAC will become a foundation for those connections. Mentoring can take place during practice, lessons and rehearsal, during the creation or installation of artwork and in the simple rhythms of life.





**Brandi Martin**

## Igniting creativity

Brandi Martin, M.F.A., assistant professor and program director in theater, wants to make a lasting impression as a mentor; a concept she carries forward from one of her mentors. “You help ignite or fan the flames of someone else’s light, and that allows them to pass the torch to someone else,” she says.

Martin, who also joined the faculty during the pandemic shutdown, describes her mentoring style as holistic and individual. “What I love about Pacific is that we have the time and the ability to really interact with the students one-on-one,” she says. She meets with students individually to ask about their educational goals and interests. Sometimes a student arrives with the idea of performing, but finds they are drawn to design or directing.

Having dedicated space in the center where experimentation and exploration can take place will aid the mentoring process. “The students already have within them their purpose and their talents that God will use to bless the world around us,” Martin says. “It’s only my job to help them discover what that is. Ultimately, we want the students to know that they are loved, that they are capable and that they are everything they need.”

Christa Pehl Evans, Ph.D., assistant professor of music, teaches general education classes along with courses specific to music majors. She sees herself as a mentor to all students, whether that occurs in groups, in individual sessions, over the phone or in other settings.

“I have close relationships with students, even after graduation,” she says. “I really do care about the whole person.”

## Mentoring across disciplines

In part, Evans helps students see that the skills they master—such as receiving and processing feedback—can be used in any discipline. As for the new Warkentine Culture and Arts Center, Evans looks forward to a home that provides for the arts and greater opportunities for collaboration. “It’s so important to have places to perform and to bring in artists, and to make Fresno Pacific a beacon (for the arts),” she says.

Chris Janzen, M.F.A., assistant professor of art, also mentors students from all walks of academic life. “I get to know students in a more meaningful, in-depth way because my classes are smaller,” he says.

Even in a general education class, he tailors his feedback and critique so that it arrives with personal impact for an individual student. Janzen says he meets students who are involved in all kinds of academics and athletics—from natural sciences to volleyball—and helps relate art to their pursuit. “If you can think creatively in whatever field you go into—that is a most essential skill,” he says.

In mentoring students planning for a career in studio art, graphic design or other arts field, Janzen helps students identify both strengths and weaknesses. He says there is a place for everyone who practices art at their highest level of excellence.

Yet not all mentoring is academic or strictly related to a career path. Sometimes, Janzen says, a student needs someone to talk to about other issues or stressors in life. “Mentoring can move in different directions,” he says. “I’m just trying to do what my professors and advisers modeled for me



when I had difficulties as a college student. We all need someone to listen sometimes.”

### **A game-changer for the arts**

Janzen describes the CAC as a game-changer for the visual and performing arts. The building opens up a whole world of possibilities for the students, campus and community—and for mentoring.

For example, some art majors must prepare artwork for display as part of their coursework. Creating that artwork is one task, but making it ready for the public is another challenge. That is a

difficult process to communicate in the classroom, and much easier to navigate with the help of a mentor at their elbow in a campus gallery, Janzen says.

That is just one of many future benefits to the Warkentine Culture and Arts Center now under construction. “You learn about artwork in art history, you get some experience in making artwork, but I think that the mentoring that happens one-on-one carries more weight when there is a place on campus where the community can engage in the discussion,” he says. 🏠

# SUNBIRDS HUNGRY TO COMPETE AND ACHIEVE IN 2021-22

*By Katie Fries*

After a 2020-21 season that involved, at one point, not being able to pass the ball to her own teammates at practice, senior women's volleyball player Chantel Montayre looks forward to things collegiate athletes often take for granted: "It will be the first season my family will be able to come to Fresno from Hawaii and watch me play a home game," she says. "We're excited to be able to play every team in the PacWest and travel more."

Last year those experiences were a casualty of COVID-19. While the athletics department made accommodations that allowed student-athletes opportunities to practice and compete, Sunbirds

began the 2021-22 season eager to return to normal.

The university is following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and NCAA guidelines. Most student-athletes and staff are vaccinated and plans are for fans in the stands.

Creative solutions,

such as competing against fewer schools and live-streaming competitions for fans, allowed FPU student-athletes to play even when other universities across the country paused competition. "I trust the NCAA and CDC and our school





## SUNBIRDS HUNGRY TO COMPETE

and things they have put in place to keep us safe,” says men’s basketball player A.J. Kirby. “Last season the school did a good job of incorporating safety and including that as our main priority.”

Despite the challenges of the “COVID season,” head track and cross country coach **Ray Winter (BA '98)** says the athletes’ accomplishments should not be overlooked. “Athletes were out there grinding every day, suffering in a very disciplined manner. They were doing that with no guarantee,” he says.

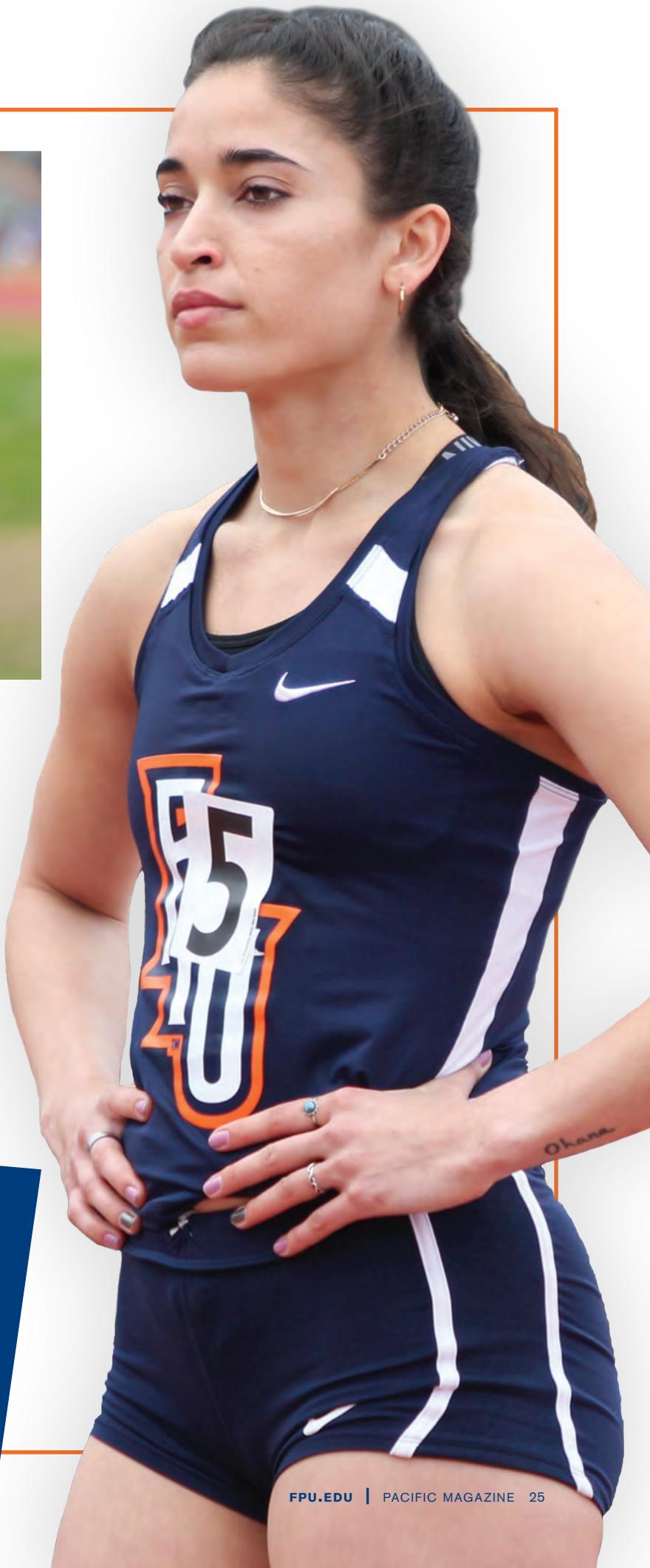
And yet, “records were broken and that wouldn’t have happened if the school wasn’t responsive to finding solutions,” Winter adds.

Senior track and field athlete Danae Manibog agrees last year was difficult. Not knowing if or when they would have a season, spending so much time online for classes and team meetings and seeing reduced rosters due to some opting out was “probably the hardest

mental struggle I’ve had to deal with since being an athlete,” she says.

Yet the experience made her stronger. “Knowing I’m giving it my all, that’s a big part of it for me and why I wear the emblem of the Sunbird on my chest,” Manibog says. “Knowing some of those





obstacles won't be there is going to make for a refreshing season, but I'm also coming back hungrier."

While the university is confident in its plans for 2021-22, much depends on how the virus continues to move. "There is a need to refresh the screen every day and see what the latest is," says Winter. "We are still being malleable; attuned to safety first and being creative in finding ways to make it happen." 🏠



**IN STEP WITH  
SUNBIRDS**

[fpuathletics.com](http://fpuathletics.com)

# Starting Spiritual Conversations

By Christopher L. Scott

Jesus Gomez didn't think much of religion—until he came to Fresno Pacific University.

Growing up in Porterville, Jesus and his family rarely attended church, but when they did he saw hypocrisy and didn't want to be part of it.

"We didn't go to church very often. Whenever we did go to church, my impression wasn't a good one," he says. "It was not what happened in the church, but the people in the church. Most of the time I saw them utilizing religion to justify something that they later on did or didn't do."

So before coming to FPU Jesus didn't consider himself a "religious person." However, because of FPU he has grown in his spiritual life. Taking the required Bible classes at FPU sparked a hunger in him to learn more about the Bible and Jesus Christ.

"I started out being pretty distant from religious conversations. After some of the courses that I have taken at Fresno Pacific, I have grown to appreciate biblical literature much more," he says.

After taking the required Bible classes at FPU "Jesus in the Christian Community" as well as "Biblical Literature: Revelation," Jesus took an



**“ Sometimes, I actually start the conversations,” he says. “That’s now a huge difference.”**

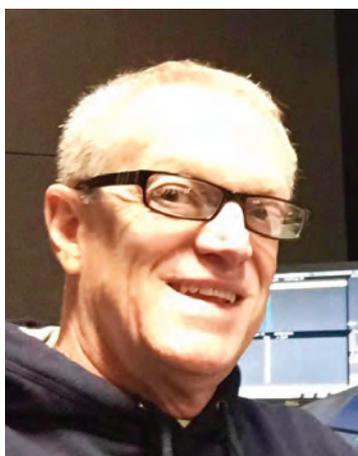
elective on the Bible called, "Heaven, Hell, and Christ's Return." "Both of these courses really got my interest in reading more about the Bible," he says.

Before coming to FPU and as a freshman, the political science major would not talk with friends about the Bible or spiritual things. "And now, whenever my friends start conversations about the Bible, I can actually engage with them. Sometimes, I actually start the conversations," he says. "That's now a huge difference." 



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Do you know a student who has been transformed at FPU? Contact Wayne Steffen at [wsteffen@fresno.edu](mailto:wsteffen@fresno.edu)



ALUMNI  
PROFILE

C. ALAN BETTIS  
TC '90, BA '81

## WALLFLOWER TO CENTER STAGE: Bettis Helped Students Like Him Transform from Shy to Shining

By Amy D. Fiener

As his 40-year career teaching theater reaches its final curtain, **C. Alan Bettis (TC '90, BA '81)** still remembers “The Tragedy” that started it all.

So nervous speaking in front of people he passed out delivering a speech in a required public speaking class, Bettis salvaged his grade with a part in a play. Six minutes onstage was enough to begin conquering his fears. Later starring as Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, he laughs he was the first person to legally dance at FPU.

Though Bettis started as a social work major, his new love of the stage led him to add communication with a theater emphasis. He earned a master's in counseling from Liberty University, then his teaching credential at FPU.

Bettis taught theater at Merced High School, his alma mater, from 1993-2001, until being selected to lead the theater program at Buhach Colony High School, Atwater. He stayed until his 2021 retirement.

Studying social work and theater perfectly prepared him to teach, Bettis says, as they go hand-in-hand with helping people. FPU also

showed him Christianity is more than rules; it's an attitude of compassion and care. As a result, his classroom was open during break and lunch periods, with food in a refrigerator for students without lunch, and he was a listening ear for struggling students and parents.

All his students were his “kids,” Bettis says. “Standing in the audience during a show and seeing them succeed; watching them go from being squirrely freshmen to confident seniors—these are the moments I will miss.”

Looking to his next act, Bettis will mentor his Buhach Colony replacement, a former student. He'll also continue teaching creative drama for the FPU degree completion program in Merced, and looks forward to watching shows from the audience instead of behind the curtain. 🏠



# IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

## FLYING THE NEST - FPU GRADS

» FPU grads take what they've learned as Sunbirds to new heights at a variety of top universities (and sometimes they stay close to home). Here are just a few!



### SCHOOL OF » NATURAL SCIENCES

**Guadalupe Ramirez** graduated in 2020 with a B.S. in Kinesiology: Pre-Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy. She is now enrolled at the University of Southern California's Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy earning her M.A. in Occupational Therapy.



### SCHOOL OF » BUSINESS

**Kevin Keo** graduated in 2019 with a B.A. in Business Administration: Business Management and is now enrolled in the FPU Master of Business Administration program. Kevin is director of IT at Bitwise Industries in Fresno.

## GENERAL » ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Topazio Guzman (BA '21)** wrote an article about completing a degree at FPU while working full time and caring for her children during the pandemic in the June 5 *Hanford Sentinel*.

**Lupe Rubalcava, Jr. (MA '21, BA '16)** is deputy director of eligibility services for the San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency.

**Erika Escudero (FS '20)** teaches in Porterville Unified School District.

**Gabrielle Rodriguez Hernandez (BA '20)** is a materials management associate at Adventist Health, Reedley, CA.

**Erika Martinez (BA '20)** was featured in a *GVWire.com* article about the California Teaching Fellows Foundation June 9.

**Ryan McMahon (CTE '20)** is a performing arts teacher at Visalia Charter Independent Study.

**Beatriz Montez (BA '20)** was accepted into the Master's in Social Work and Title IV-E Child Welfare programs at Fresno State. After interning at the Fresno County Department of Social Services, she accepted a position



as a special education advocate and research assistant for a study on foster youth. "I have been truly blessed and am so grateful for all the mentors and professionals I have had around me at Fresno Pacific that have helped me prepare for this next step in my life."

PEPPERDINE

SCHOOL OF  
» EDUCATION

**Patricia Camarillo** graduated in 2016 with an M.A. in Special Education and is now earning a Ph.D. in Global Leadership and Change at Pepperdine University.

Seton Hill  
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES,  
» RELIGION & SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Luke Fredette** graduated in 2021 with a B.A. in English and is now earning a dual MFA in Writing Popular Fiction at Seton Hill University and Edinburg Napier University.

**Sam Delk (BS '19)** is the lead author of the review paper "Apolipoprotein mimetics in cancer" for *Seminars in Cancer Biology*, a journal published by Elsevier publishing. Sam is in a UCLA Ph.D. program.

**Dustin Marvin (MA '19)** is a sergeant in the Visalia Police Department.

**Abhijeet Nayak (BS '19)** was accepted into medical school at California Health Sciences University, Clovis, CA.

**Jesse Parr (BA '19)** is an English teacher at Kimbrough Middle School, Mesquite, TX.

**Jamie Ralph (MA '19)** is head athletic trainer at Jesuit High School, Sacramento, CA.

*Your Central Valley* (TV stations KSEE 24 [NBC] and KGPE 47 [CBS]) featured Well Done Moving March 15, 2021. **Carlos Torres (BA '19)** founded the company.



**Elijah Nora (BS '18)** earned his Doctorate of Physical Therapy Degree from Fresno State. He is thankful to FPU for helping prepare him for this life goal and providing him with the tools to be successful.

**Meg Clark (BA '17)** starred as Jerusha Abbott in the Good Company Players' musical production of *Daddy Long Legs* at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater in July, August and September 2021.

## FLYING THE NEST - FPU GRADS



# SMU

## FRESNO PACIFIC » BIBLICAL SEMINARY

**Noemi Vega Quinones** graduated in 2017 with an M.A. in Theology and is now enrolled at Southern Methodist University earning a Ph.D. in Religious Studies with a concentration in the field of ethics.

**Shantay Davies-Balch (BA '15)** was honored for excelling professionally, serving as a role model and giving back to her community at the 38th annual Top Ten Professional Women and Leading Business Awards by the Marjaree Mason Center in Fresno.

**Caleb Fiedor (BS '15)** graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy at the University of the Pacific with his Doctorate of Pharmacy. He is now a clinical pharmacist at Adventist Health, staffing several hospitals and collaborating with system specialists, pharmacy administration and physician groups to create a system-wide ambulatory care program.

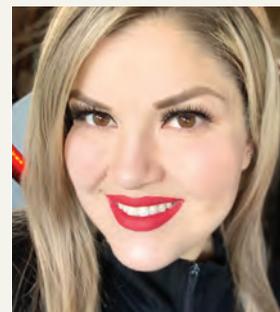
**Jorge Matos (BA '15)** is central plains regional sales manager at Papillon Agricultural Company. Based in Easton, MD, Papillon produces feed products for the dairy industry.

**Yasmine Mejia (BA '15)** is a senior investigator for the Fresno County Public Defender's Office.

**Delbert Warkentin (BA '15)** earned an M.S. in Nonprofit Management from Columbia University. Delbert lives in Paraguay and is fundraising coordinator at Fundación Carácter and public relations administrator at Instituto Bíblico Asunción (Mennonite Brethren Seminary of Paraguay).

**Lisa Davis (BA '14)** is police support services manager at the Visalia Police Department.

**Hannah (Mendes, BA '14) Gill** and husband Levi own Arrowhead Agriculture, formerly Arrowhead Forestry Mulching.

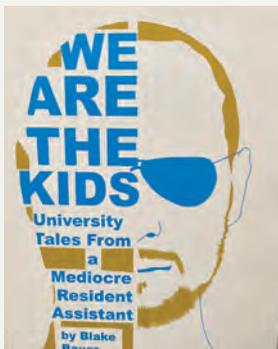


**Irma Padilla (BA '14)** won the Tulare County Hispanic Leadership Network (TCHLN) Teacher of the Year Award. She serves as the TCHLN communications director, part-time instructor for the IMPACT program and curriculum and instruction specialist at Lindsey Unified School District.

**Christopher L. Scott (BA '13)** is senior pastor at Lakeview Missionary Church, Moses Lake, WA.

**David White (TC '13, BA '11)** recorded a TED Talk titled, "Gray: The Way Forward." David is a Central Valley public

## » GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)



**Blake Bauer (BA '16)** is territory manager at TTI (Techtronic Industries Company Limited), leading reps for the Milwaukee, Ryobi and Ridgid brands in Central California. Blake also published a book, available on Amazon, about his time at FPU titled: *We Are the Kids: University Tales from a Mediocre Resident Assistant*.

**Jose Eduardo Chavez (BA '16)** is a staff member for the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

**Noemi Murillo (BA '16)** graduated from Campbellsville University in June 2021 with a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree.

**Michael Smith (BS '16)** is attending Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine, Meridian, ID.

# IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

school teacher, religious leader, speaker and community advocate.

**Rob Haynes (MA '12)** is Fresno City College's new men's head basketball coach and full-time faculty member.

**Melody Kruse (SM '12, BA '07)** was core artist for the collaborative theater production *Overcome: An Original Show about Shame and Resilience*, which premiered June 4 via Zoom, presented by Near/Far Theatre and hosted by Reedley Peace Center.

**Casey Rangel (TC '11, BA '09)** has been named principal of Burton Middle School, Porterville, CA.

**Joan Minasian (MA '10)** was one of nine Fresno Women Leading the Way in celebration of Women's History Month. Honorees contributed to arts and culture, business, community advocacy, education, health and wellness, labor, public safety and youth.

**Stephanie (Aguirre, BA '10) Santos'** weight-loss journey and joy in helping others was featured May 29 on *Bakersfield.com*.

**Christine (Dillon, BA '09) Russell** has opened Simple Dry, the first curbside recyclable moisture absorber developed to replace silica gel, clay and other non-recyclable desiccant packets.

**Margarita (Rita) Andryushchenko (BA '08)** was profiled for Immigrant Heritage Month by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration), her employer.

**Shondra Walker (BA '08)** is principal at Delano High School. She had been principal at Delano's Wonderful College Prep Academy.

**Paul Davison (BA '07)** is a partner at Dedekian, George, Small & Markarian Accountancy Corporation, Fresno. He and wife **Jessica (Wood, MA '13, BA '07)**, reside in Reedley, CA, with their two children.

**Mathias Duck (SM '07)** is global advocacy manager for The Leprosy Mission International. He lives in Asuncion, Paraguay.

FPU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient **Yammilette Rodriguez (MA '06)** was appointed to the California State University Board of Trustees. She had been national trainer and consultant for the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) and YLI Central Valley senior director.

**Rob Rose (SM '06)** is installation chaplain for the U.S. Air Force stationed in San Antonio, TX.

**Lucy (Hughes, MA '06, TC '93, BA '92) Van Scyoc** is superintendent of Tulare Joint Union High School.

**David Arzola (TC '05, BA '04)** teaches in Dinuba Unified School District.

**Erica Lassen (BA '05)** is assistant registrar, degree audit and transfer credit and articulation officer at Fresno State.

**Elsa Gomes Bondlow (BA '04)** was honored as one of Boston's Most Impactful Black Women 2021 Philanthropy and Social Justice category. She is vice president of growth and partnership development at Building Impact.

**Dan Casarez (BA '04)** is a reporter for the *Tulare Advance-Register* and *Visalia Times-Delta*.

**Darren Duerksen (SM '02)**, Ph.D., FPU associate professor and director of the intercultural and religious studies program, appeared on the podcast *Multifaith Matters*.

**Elizabeth Wynn (BA '95)** was named the 26th Assembly District's Woman of the Year by Assemblymember Devon Mathis (R-Visalia). Elizabeth directs Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation, working for access to health care, food, shelter and education.

**Catherine Bowen (BA '94)** is regional human resources director for Diamond Resorts in Hawaii.



**Amy (Voris, BA '92)** and **Stephen Lewis** moved to Australia with three of their seven children. Steven is the Old Testament lecturer at Reformed Theological College near Melbourne, Victoria.

**Richard Rawls (BA '87), Ph.D.**, was named Advisor of the Year at Georgia Gwinnett College Registered Student Organization awards. Richard is the advisor for the Organization of Latin American Students and professor of history.

**Richard Rankin (BA '82)** retired as athletic director at Porterville Unified School District in June 2021.

# IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

## » GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**Vern (SM '82) and Gloria (SM '85) Neufeld Redekop** co-edited the book *Transforming: Applying Spirituality, Emergent Creativity, and Reconciliation*, a companion volume to *Awakening: Exploring Spirituality, Emergent Creativity, and Reconciliation*. Vern Neufeld Redekop, Ph.D., is professor emeritus of conflict studies at Saint Paul University, Ottawa, ON. Gloria Neufeld Redekop, Ph.D., is an author and researcher in spirituality and religious social history.

**John Carter (BA '78)** is minister of religion at Hull Unitarian Church and Lincoln Unitarian Chapel in London, England.

## » WEDDINGS



**Lisa Flores (FS '20)** married Gabriel Garcia on February 22, 2021. She works for Selma Unified School District, and he manages The Wakehouse in Reedley, CA.



**Kimberlina Bender (BA '18)** married Trevor Carr in Ahwahnee, CA, on March 20, 2021.



**Evelyn Smith (TC '18, BA '17)** married Joel Caraballo in Fresno. Joel is from the Dominican Republic and the two met on a missions trip to Jarabacoa, D.R., where Joel was a missionary with Students International. After waiting two years for the legal immigration process, they were married and will live in Fresno. Evelyn is a Fresno Unified School District elementary teacher.



**Ty Sena (BA '16)** married Jenn Rocha on May 1, 2021. Ty works at United Rentals Trench Safety Division and the couple resides in Fresno.

## » BIRTHS



Nick and **Stephanie (Bogdanov, TC '17, BA '15) Sainato** announce the birth of Nicholas James William on March 12, 2021, after a long journey of infertility. Stephanie teaches third grade and Nick is a high school physical education teacher and head boys' basketball coach in Orange County, CA.



**Ashley (BA '16)** and Joseph **Mejia** announce the birth of Vivien Jules on August 4, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20.5 in. long.



**Brennen (BA '13)** and Kathryn **Henry** announce the birth of Rowyn Levia on May 28, 2021.



**Christina (Maule, BA '06) Baltazar** and husband Frank announce the birth of Zelig Alice Hope on March 8, 2021. Zelig joins Joseph, Elena, Edward and Cecelia.



**Karl (BA '06)** and Heidi **Strube** announce the birth of William Joseph on July 1, 2020. He joins Norah, 3.

### Key to Abbreviations

- BA** Bachelor of Arts
- BS** Bachelor of Science
- CTE** Certified Technical Education
- FS** Former Student (alumnus, did not graduate)
- MA** Master of Arts
- SM** Seminary Graduate (master's degree)
- TC** Teacher's Credential

**UPDATE** your info at  
[fpu.edu/alumniupdate](http://fpu.edu/alumniupdate)

**JOIN** the LinkedIn  
FPU Alumni Assoc.

**ADVISE** & mentor students  
[fpu.edu/Sunbirds-Can](http://fpu.edu/Sunbirds-Can)

## DEATHS

**Bailey King (BA '16)** who was pursuing her M.A. in Math Education, died July 10, 2021, from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident.

**Jill Hoevertz (Slentz, BA '91)** died from cancer February 27, 2021. She is survived by husband Frank and children Joseph, Katarina and Isabella.



**Tim Karber (MA '00, BA '89)** died June 6, 2021, of kidney failure. After working in insurance, Tim retired from the IRS after 19 years. A faithful church attender, he lived his faith through church and community activities. Survivors include parents, David

and Elaine Karber, sister **Gail Neufeld (TC '85, BA '85)** and niece **Allison Gonzalez (BA '13)**.

Former men's soccer player and Sunbird Hall of Fame team inductee **Mark Allen (BA '88)** died April 1, 2021.



**Conrad Peters (BA '69)** died May 26, 2021, due to COVID-19. After one year at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Conrad earned his M.Div. from Western Seminary, Portland, OR. He was a pastor in Oregon, California, Washington and

Saskatchewan, Canada, then a missionary in Alaska for 20 years. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, **MarJean (Quiring, BA '70)**, four children and 17 grandchildren.

**Carol Hiebert (Wiebe, BA '67)** died February 2, 2021, in Downs, IL. She was the daughter of Elias Wiebe, longtime education faculty, and his wife, Phyllis. Born January 18, 1946, in Los Angeles, survivors include husband Dean Hiebert.



## NEW MEMBERS OF THE FLOCK

Recently had a baby? Let us know—we'd love to send you one of our cute little Future Sunbird baby t-shirts, like Rowyn Henry is wearing, pictured here with dad **Brennen (BA '13)**.



## WHAT'S GOING ON?

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

**LIKE** or comment at     
**Facebook.com/FPUalumni**



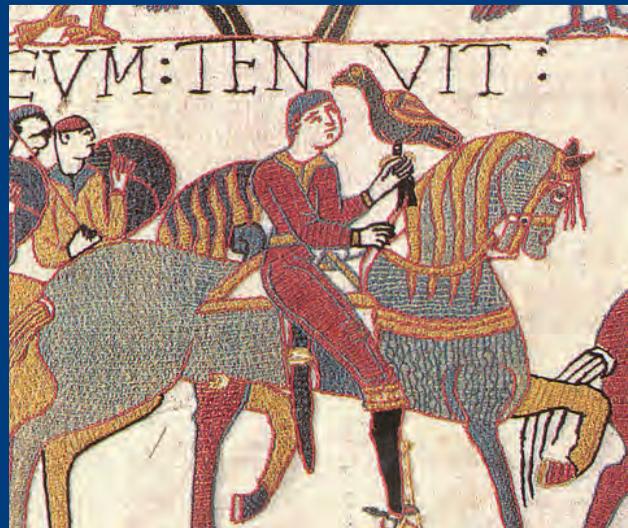
# Alumni Invited to Two Tours in Summer 2022

Too long at home? See the world on an FPU Alumni and Friends Tour—or two!



## June 13-23: Budapest, Prague and Vienna

With an optional extension (June 23-26) to see Salzburg and the Oberammergau Passion Play. These cities are among Europe's most beautiful, and the Passion Play ([passionsspiele-oberammergau.de/en/home](http://passionsspiele-oberammergau.de/en/home)) has been running every 10 years for almost 400 years.



## July 2-14: Beautiful France

See Paris, Monet's Giverny, Normandy, Mont Saint Michell, the Loire Valley, Chartres Cathedral and more. For centuries the most revered country in Europe, France retains the marks of its history and culture.



Check out the FPU Alumni Tours page ([fpu.edu/alumni/alumni-friends-tour](http://fpu.edu/alumni/alumni-friends-tour)) and click on the Go Ahead Tours link ([grouptoursite.com/stevevarvis](http://grouptoursite.com/stevevarvis)).

Both tours led by Steve Varvis, Ph.D., professor of history. Contact him at [steve.varvis@fresno.edu](mailto:steve.varvis@fresno.edu) or 559-906-5545.



## PACIFIC COLLEGE

### CHRISTIAN SERVICE UNIT

The July 1960 *P.B.I. Messenger* announced the creation of “a unit of I-W men” at Pacific College. I-W (pronounced One-W) was the selective service classification for conscientious objectors who performed voluntary service in lieu of military duty. Because the United States had a military draft many young men were forced to decide how they would perform such service. By creating a I-W unit, Pacific College provided a way for Mennonite Brethren men to fulfill their national obligation and maintain their commitment to pacifism, while also benefitting from an inexpensive labor pool.

The college offered workers regular college meals and housing, a monthly allowance of \$10 and “access to all college recreational, educational, and religious life programs at no charge.” Service obligations lasted two years.

The unit’s primary purpose was to employ construction workers for the many campus building projects in the 1960s. As those projects were completed, the volunteers took on general maintenance projects. At least 19 of the more than 50 volunteers in the Pacific College unit served in such jobs. From the beginning, however, the college envisioned other kinds of assignments for



# 1960-78

By Kevin Enns-Rempel, Director, Hiebert Library

“certain qualified members” of the unit, including tutoring and teaching. Among the earliest I-W men on campus were Dalton Reimer and Gary Nachtigall, who were given teaching assignments, and Robert Klassen, who served as director of the library.

While most volunteers served their two-year terms and then moved on, some stayed at the college for many years. Reimer, Nachtigall and Richard Unruh remained for the rest of their careers. Others who became college employees for some years after their service term included Don Isaac (business manager), Michael Vogt (maintenance director), Glen Zimmerman (development department) and Ron Adams (basketball coach).

The program reached its largest size from 1967-1973, coinciding with the peak of the Vietnam War military draft. In each of those years nine-14 workers were completing their alternative service on campus.

When the draft ended in 1973, the number of volunteers quickly decreased. While a few volunteer workers were still here in the 1980s, the college’s Christian Service unit had essentially come to an end by 1978. 🏠

From the Archives...





# EVERT LEGACY IMPACTS GENERATIONS

**“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”  
Hebrews 11:1, ESV.**

by his family and close friends, but indeed by the Fresno Pacific University community as well—a community that continues to benefit greatly from the family’s legacy of service and generosity.

Owners of Paul Evert’s RV Country, launched in 1977 following other successful business endeavors, Paul and Sherri Evert were compelled to invest in the vision of FPU. They had the conviction and courage to not only invest in the Central Valley through their business endeavors, but to invest in a multitude of ways in FPU. They did so in a most personal way, assisting the FPU Foundation in gaining maximum value for donated vehicles and RVs while opening their home to the Advancement Office team on several occasions for planning meetings as well as rejuvenating staff retreats. Mark Deffenbacher, former vice president of advancement and executive director of the FPU Foundation and now senior foundation

A legacy that not only impacts others, but also inspires future generations is a noble goal for those with the vision, commitment and conviction to use their gifts for God’s glory. When prominent local businessman Paul Evert went to be with the Lord in May 2021, a deep void was felt not only



**For more information** on setting up your own gift annuity, charitable remainder trust or other planned giving strategy through Fresno Pacific University, contact Donald Griffith or Steven Redekop:

advisor, had the privilege of stewarding a growing partnership between the Everts and the university. Sherri Evert also enjoyed serving on FPU's Board of Directors from 2005-2010.

The son of a Mennonite immigrant and Bible professor who migrated from the Kuban region of Russia in 1919, Paul was convinced of the value of higher Christian education and the FPU emphasis on Christian community that impacted the larger Central Valley in such positive and transformational ways. The Everts' passion for FPU's vision was also exhibited by their personal and financial support of many projects through the decades, from the Haak Tennis Courts Complex to the Warkentine Culture and Arts Center, where the snack shop will be named Paul's Place in his honor. In the future, through the Everts' careful estate planning, additional resources will further the vision of FPU for years to come.

The university community is truly grateful for the legacy and generosity of Paul and Sherri Evert and remembers Paul with appreciation and fondness while embracing ongoing meaningful connection with Sherri. It is fitting then that much meaningful connection and conversation will continue at Paul's Place within the Warkentine Culture and Arts Center for years to come. Thank you, Paul & Sherri Evert, for your faithful friendship and generosity toward Fresno Pacific University. 🏠

The logo for RV COUNTRY features the words "RV COUNTRY" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The text is set against a white background that is part of a larger graphic of a tire tread pattern in shades of blue and white, which curves across the right side of the page.

[donald.griffith@fresno.edu](mailto:donald.griffith@fresno.edu) | 559-453-3485  
[steven.redekop@fresno.edu](mailto:steven.redekop@fresno.edu) | 559-453-3451

The Fresno Pacific University Foundation can help friends of the university combine tax and retirement advantages with a legacy to Christian higher education.



# Putting Donors at the Center

Tucked away upstairs in McDonald Hall, computers and staff are abuzz. While not as obvious as a new building, technology upgrades in the Advancement Office are an essential part of building the FPU legacy and improving the donor experience, says Don Griffith, vice president for advancement & executive director of the FPU Foundation.

For the past year, advancement has been implementing a new constituent relationship management system, or CRM. Griffith says this new system, called Raiser's Edge, will enable his team to "better support every campaign we conduct." The system integrates advancement business processes (like the timing or measurement of a fundraising campaign) with a comprehensive database and communication platforms. "The system will help us identify and communicate with donors and qualify [potential donors] who might have an interest in seeing the university succeed in its mission," Griffith says.

Donors will notice more timely attention and invitations to support the university more closely aligned with their values and interests. Perhaps an email inviting alumni to donate to a program they once participated in. Griffith says donors should notice more personal communications reflecting

their philanthropic goals and lifestyle. And all that hopefully means more money for university initiatives, like an honors college, endowed faculty or even a health sciences building.

Employing technology professionals, philanthropy consultants and university leadership and staff, Griffith led efforts including researching CRM platforms, gathering donors in focus groups and engaging university stakeholders. This marks a new, "disciplined approach to philanthropy, including donor discovery, gift proposals and stewardship. It facilitates a donor-centric process where the donor is at the center of our strategic initiatives," says Glen Quiring, executive director of development and advancement services.

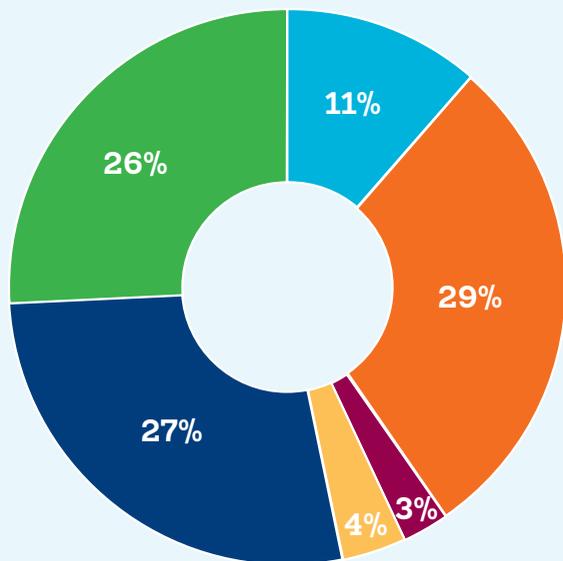
The advancement team got to see the benefits of the new system first-hand. Over lunch off campus, the group struck up a conversation with an alumna. Learning about FPU's impact on her, Quiring used a cellphone app to update her information and preferences on the new CRM. Now FPU can send her relevant communications.

With the November launch, the excitement is mounting. "[This project] has the capacity to revolutionize the way we do donor development, and the way we engage the entire university in the process," says Griffith. 🏠

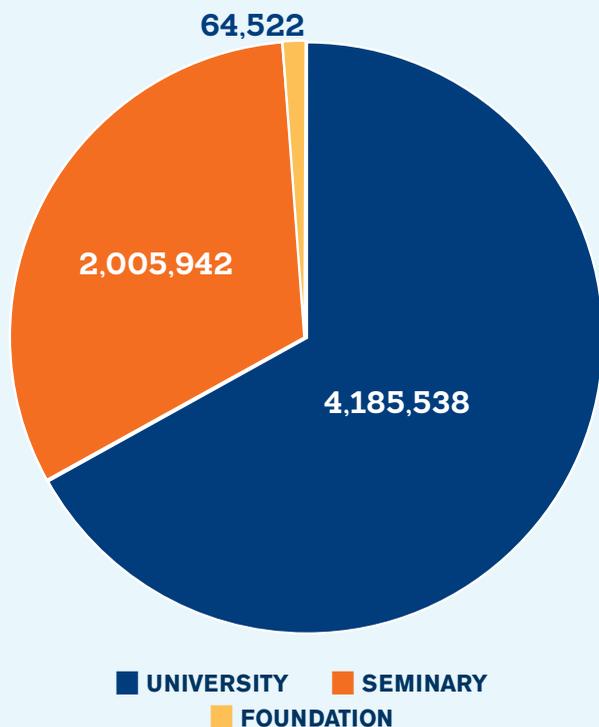
# Annual Update 2020-21

## GIFTS BY DONOR GROUP

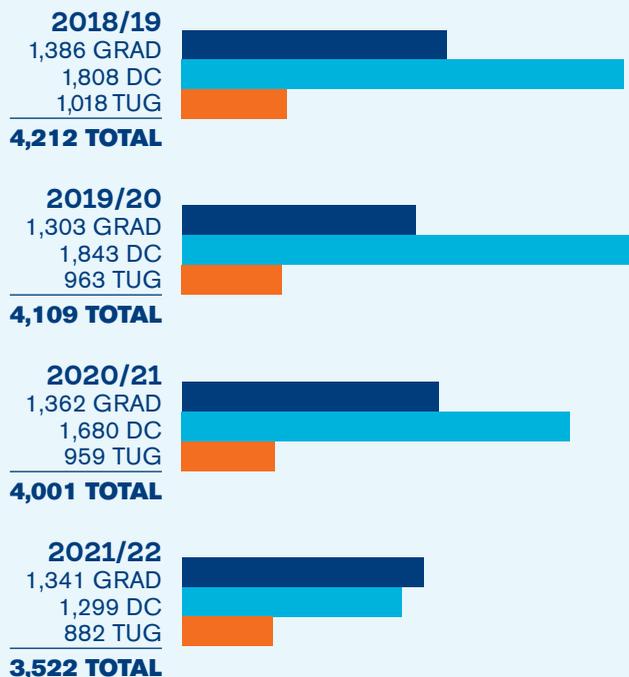
ALUMNI FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS  
CHURCHES OTHER FOUNDATIONS



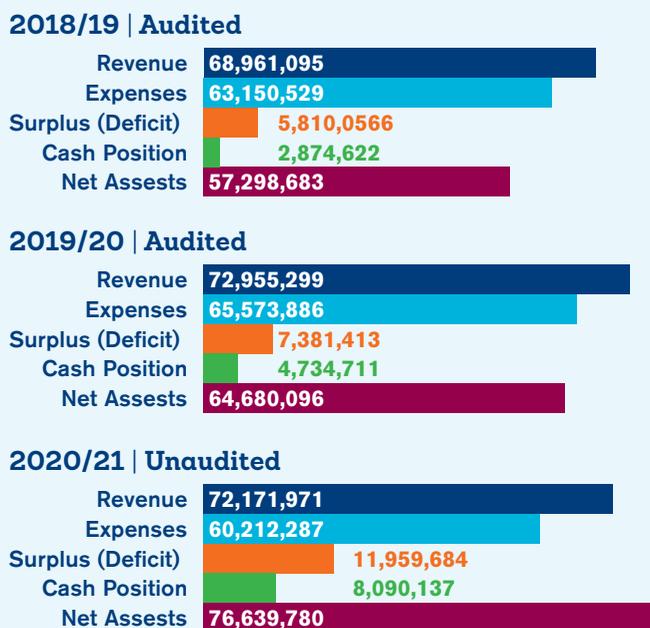
## 2020-21 GIVING SUMMARY



## ENROLLMENT



## REVENUE & EXPENSES



Fresno Pacific University Consolidated Financial Information  
Includes Fresno Pacific University, FPU Foundation, MBBS-US Inc.  
Includes both operating and non-operating activities

For a full version of the report: [fpu.edu/annual-report-2021](https://fpu.edu/annual-report-2021)



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