

PACIFIC

A close-up, profile view of a woman with dark, curly hair, smiling and looking towards the left. She is wearing a black headset with a microphone. The background is dark and out of focus, showing blurred city lights in warm tones (yellow, orange, red) and some cooler tones (blue, green) on the left side.

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 35, NO. 2

TRIAL RUN

**Internships Offer Students a
Glimpse at the World of Work**



president's message

AND, WHO ARE YOU?

“The FPU community is loved by God and is being renewed day by day by God’s spirit.”

— André Stephens, Ph.D.

July 1, 2022, was my first day as president of Fresno Pacific University. With a mix of excitement and nervousness I made the eight-minute drive to the main campus, then spent an hour with IT setting up my computer and two hours in the Human Resources Office.

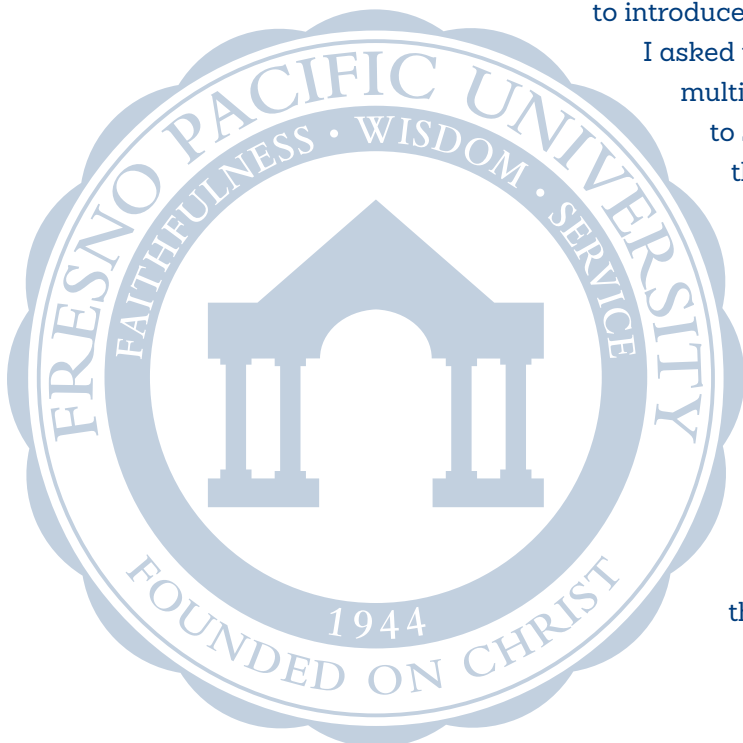
I wondered if the six others being onboarded were excited, too? At the end of the session, I jumped up and thanked HR Director Jordan Sharp for leading us.

Since we had no opportunity to introduce ourselves earlier,

I asked the others in the multi-purpose room to share where they were from, a little about their family and what they would be teaching. I am a relational leader and this was a special day for me—I wanted to know who was in the room.

One new faculty member raised her hand and asked, “And, who are you?” There were some chuckles (and I admit I had a grin on my face) as I explained I was the new president. Slightly embarrassed, our new faculty member apologized for not knowing me. Of course, no apology needed! The question is an important one. Not who am I in terms of my role, but who am I in terms of my life and leadership.

So, who am I and who is Fresno Pacific? I am a deeply loved child of God. The FPU community is loved by God and is being renewed day by day by God’s spirit. I came to FPU because I believe the grace and love of God is forming and transforming the hearts and lives of students on our campuses. My wife, Beth, and I are thrilled to join this work. Thank you for your prayers and support of FPU. I do hope that I can meet many of you soon. 🏠



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Number 2
NOVEMBER 2022



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



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Pacific is sent to alumni and friends of
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CHRISTMAS IN MAY

*Cutting the Ribbon on a Gift of the Arts
for the Campus and Community*



A GREAT DAY

Check out the complete coverage of the CAC
ribbon-cutting ceremony at fpu.edu/CAC



Left page, clockwise from top: The plaque on the front of the CAC celebrates AI and Dotty Warkentine and Larry Warkentin, D.M.A., emeritus music. Surrounded by board members, past presidents and other friends of FPU, AI and Dotty Warkentine cut the ribbon for the building they and others have long dreamed of. About 400 people can be seated in the Elizabeth V. Lyles Theater for concerts and other events.

Right page, clockwise from top: Presidents (from left) Joseph Jones, Allen Carden, Richard Kriegbaum, Edmund Janzen and Merrill Ewert were among the celebrants. Instructor and alumna Karen Madden provided music as visitors enjoyed the Lyles Theater. The front of the Warkentine Culture and Arts Center. Artist John C. Wiebe and the sculpture he created and donated to the CAC. (Photos by Karen Vargas Photography and JSA)

news ○



WE CAN ALL WIN

André Stephens Brings
Relational Leadership
Style to FPU *By Wayne Steffen*

A desire to see students formed and transformed by the love of God drew André Stephens, Ph.D., to the presidency of Fresno Pacific University.

Children—preacher’s kids in particular—get their first taste of faith at home and may see God in their fathers. In the Stephens house in West Covina, CA, he learned fear of both earthly and heavenly father. “My father was a United Methodist pastor. But he was an angry person and I grew up afraid of my dad. That translated to my view of God as a God of punishment,” Stephens says.

Stephens’ parents, who divorced when Stephens was a teenager, came to the United States from Panama in the 1960s. He was born in New York City and the family relocated to Southern

“We’re changing people from self-centered to God-centered.”

– André Stephens

California when he was a small child. He has a younger sister and brother who both serve in K-12 education in Southern California public schools.

A glimmer of new faith

A high school basketball camp at Westmont College introduced him to Christian higher education. A family friend suggested he attend Biola University, where he could minor in Bible while majoring in communication. “When I discovered I could take Bible classes and not be a pastor, it was perfect,” Stephens says.

The short version of his college career certainly sounds “perfect”—Stephens met his wife, Beth, at Biola, then graduated and stayed on for 30 years, rising from setting up tables as an admission



**“We put on Christ
for our students...”**

– André Stephens

counselor to sitting on the university cabinet as vice president for student development.

Beth Stephens is a fellow Biola graduate whose father was a pastor in San Francisco. Their sons Jason, 26, and Micah, 23, are USC graduates who work as software engineers. Daughter Victoria, 19,

is living with her parents and excited to volunteer in the community. Also sharing the Smith House presidential residence is the family's 12-year-old Schnoodle (schnauzer-poodle mix). Beth taught elementary school in Los Angeles right out of college. She has spent her adult life serving the church through various ministries, including teaching Bible studies, facilitating small groups

and mentoring youth. She looks forward to being involved in the FPU community.

“Perfect” not “easy”

But “perfect” did not start easy. “I felt like I was in a foreign country at Biola, I didn’t speak ‘Christianese,’” Stephens says. “I wanted to transfer.”

Two things converted that desire to transfer into a fulfilled transformation: First, a group of track & field athletes encouraged him to join the team. They became like family. Second, a chapel speaker taught about the love, grace and kindness of God—attributes of God he was unfamiliar with. “My heart just melted. The Holy Spirit got hold of me,” Stephens says.

That transformative power still calls Stephens to Christian higher education today. “We’re changing people from self-centered to God-centered,” he says. Not just students, but faculty, administrators and staff are transformed since all are in community.

While fewer students are going to church, a sizeable number are attending Christian colleges and universities. “We have an opportunity to do something through the power of God to bring people to Christ,” says Stephens, who is quick to include adult students in degree completion and graduate programs. “We put on Christ for our students, we put on grace for our students, we put on love for our students.”

Opportunity at FPU

Advancing that opportunity in a new way led Stephens to FPU, a place he had known and

admired for its commitments to first-generation Hispanic students, and its posture toward restorative justice. He also respects the university’s engagement in the Central Valley. Being a Christian college president is tough, and getting tougher, he admits. “Who would want to do the job unless you felt called? And if you feel called then the only answer is ‘yes,’” he says.

Since joining FPU July 1, Stephens has put getting to know people high on his to-do list. “I’m a relational leader. I believe everyone is gifted

“I believe everyone is gifted and I want us all to win.”

– André Stephens

and I want us all to win,” he says. “Leadership is generous. Leadership is kindness. Leadership is positive influence for the collective good.”

Kingdom-building remains the goal as FPU works on issues ranging from budgets, new programs and deferred maintenance, to a long-term clarity of vision as the number of traditional college-age students declines and the university looks at what it is and what it’s becoming. “I don’t have all the answers. I’m looking forward to the creativity that is going to emerge so we can thrive in the future,” Stephens says. “That’s going to be exciting—to see what God is going to bring.” 🏠

TRIAL RUN

Internships Offer Students a
Glimpse into the World of Work



SHARING A PATH OF HEALING

Shellie Warren
shows her clients
there's always hope

By Doug Hoagland

Shellie Warren (MA '22, BA '18)
listened to the client erupt over the phone:
“I can’t take it anymore . . .”

In that instant, the pain of Warren’s personal life collided with the pain of a person who needed her help. Warren’s 26-year-old son, Brett, had taken his life in 2014, and now for the first time she needed to assess whether a client intended to die by suicide. Warren had known this moment would come during her internship in the Fresno Pacific University Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) program. But that knowledge didn’t make it easier to handle.

“My training truly did kick in,” she says. Thoughts about her son would come later. “In that moment, all I felt was concern and compassion for this person. I felt their pain, but I didn’t allow it to cloud my judgment. I felt very calm as I went into the assessment.”

Internships present FPU students like Warren with opportunities to gain valuable experience in their fields of study. But challenges exist. Internships can require students to juggle other jobs, schoolwork and family obligations. It’s difficult to imagine a bigger challenge than Warren’s as she sat at a plastic table in a

windowless room on that winter afternoon. Did the person on the phone have an actual suicide plan or did they simply need a mental and physical break from their stressors? From her education at FPU, Warren knew to directly broach the subject of suicide.

“Are you going to hurt yourself?”

“No,” was the reply.

“Are you planning to kill yourself?”

“No.”

The more they talked, the less agitated the client sounded. Emotion drained from the voice; words lost their bite. Warren’s assessment: the person wasn’t planning to end their life that day. Nevertheless, she helped the client develop a safety plan: a list of emergency numbers and self-help steps if the stress flared again that night. After the call, Warren sat alone. As her adrenaline crashed, her body began to shake. “It hit me what just happened—the severity of what it could have been and the importance of the work.” The memory of her son also came into focus. “I couldn’t help but think: ‘Where was the me in his life when he needed it most?’”

But she didn’t linger with those thoughts. Instead, Warren called her supervisor for a debrief. The supervisor said to call the client back in an hour for a check-in, and Warren found a calmer and more stable person. She ended the night with a sense of satisfaction—and relief. “My training and professionalism—along with empathy—had served me well. I could see someone through a really hard time. It wasn’t the last time I’ve had to work with someone struggling with suicidal thoughts, though none was as hard as that first time.”



‘Barely surviving’

Warren’s journey to becoming a therapist began decades ago. From a young age, she found that people seemed comfortable talking to her. At 14 she heard about customers’ lives while taking orders at a roadside diner. Later as an adult, she listened to people over coffee. “I’ve always looked beyond someone’s words,” Warren says.

Then came her son’s death. “I was surviving. Barely surviving.” Warren sought out a Christian counselor, and, she says: “Slowly, slowly, I began to put the pieces back together. I felt like I owed it to Brett to do something with all of his pain.” She went back to college, first earning a Bachelor of Arts in Social Welfare through FPU’s degree completion program. Then she entered the M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy program at the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. At first, Warren wanted to concentrate on grief counseling, but eventually realized that grief—even if not verbalized—is a part of all counseling. “Everyone who comes into

your office is dealing with the pain of some kind of loss,” she says.

Warren learned that truth again and again during her internships at the On-Site Counseling Program, where she worked with children at a school, and at Kings View Behavioral Health, where she worked with adults at a clinic. Such internships are vital to students studying to become therapists. “They need clinical experience to put their book learning into practical, real-life experience working with people,” says Angela Turner, M.A., director of On-Site Counseling. The program serves the FPU community as well as the public. State law allows students to see clients because licensed therapists at their internships must supervise the students’ work and review their clinical decisions, Turner says. “The learning curve for becoming a therapist is pretty steep, and Shellie met the challenge and stepped into her own as a therapist.”

At Kings View, Lisa Zepeda, M.S., LMFT, says Warren was “hard working, organized, diligent” and exercised “sound clinical decision-making.” Other marriage and family therapy students from FPU have interned at Kings View, and they come well-prepared to address a person’s mental health with the whole-person approach to wellness, Zepeda says.

‘Grace and space’

In the MFT program, Warren found the care, concern and community she needed. “I knew going into the program that I would confront suicide,” she says. “But I had no idea it would be part of almost every class.” The reason: suicidal thoughts are more common than people realize, and therapists must be prepared to deal with them. But knowing

that class discussions could trigger memories of her son, Warren would explain to FPU faculty why she might have to excuse herself for short breaks. “They gave me the grace and space to get through that. I can’t imagine that happening at any other school,” she says. “It was a ministry to me—and it taught me how to minister to others.”

Warren also found support from fellow students doing their own internships. “We were all going through these very powerful and sometimes difficult situations with clients,” she says. Once a week, the interns would come together in a class to share experiences. “That allowed us to know we weren’t alone—that someone else had the same experience with a client and questioned themselves in the same way afterwards. It helped

us become the unbiased listeners that all clients deserve.”

At home, Warren also found support from her husband, Tom, pastor of the First Christian Church in Hanford. His was the sole income during her three years

in the MFT program, and he offered constant encouragement. “He was a true partner in every sense of the word,” she says.

Warren, 62, completed her master’s last May and was named an FPU Outstanding Graduate. In August she began working for On-Site Counseling at FPU’s Visalia Campus. Much had happened for her. Internships. Graduation. A job to help others. Each a step further away from despair. “There is always hope,” she says. “I wasn’t feeling much of that after Brett died. But God put me on a path of healing, not only for myself but for helping others. God used Fresno Pacific to transform the hardest and darkest time of my life into a beautiful and hopeful future.” 🏠

“There is
always hope.”

– Shellie Warren



A LOOK AHEAD

Isaac Parker-Sleator Learns Self-Reliance

By Doug Hoagland

The iPhone alarm sounded at 5:15 a.m., but Isaac Parker-Sleator (BA '22) gave himself a few extra minutes in bed.

Planning ahead, after all, has its rewards. The night before, he'd laid out the chinos and long-sleeved dress shirt he'd wear to his internship at Johanson Transportation Service (JTS). He'd also made a bowl of breakfast oats that now only needed a microwave.

Outside, dawn pushed aside the darkness on a summer morning in Fresno.

Parker-Sleator would soon begin another day in a fast-paced, high-stakes business he'd known nothing about weeks before. "The job helped me

realize that this kind of work environment was going to be my life after graduation," he says. "It was a really good taste of what was ahead for me."

Internships prepare students for life after

college, offering a bridge from the jobs of youth to the career demands and opportunities of adulthood. Students get a taste of workplace cultures, relationships with colleagues and expectations from bosses. Since 2020, business majors like Parker-Sleator have been required to complete an internship. At JTS, he worked

as a broker intern, making deals with small and medium-sized trucking companies to move fruits and vegetables for commercial customers across

“What mattered was stepping into the professional working environment”

– Isaac Parker-Sleator

the United States. Cherries from California to New Jersey. Vegetables from California to the Pacific Northwest. These and other loads were arranged and monitored from the Fresno office.

The 22-year old Parker-Sleator learned the importance of multitasking in today's business world, and he gained experience in trusting his judgment to make sound, independent decisions. "No matter where my career leads me, I will apply those important lessons in the future," he says.

Strong work ethic

Arriving at FPU in the summer of 2018 to play soccer for the Sunbirds and study marketing (later adding management), Parker-Sleator grew up in Woodside, a Bay Area community between San Jose and San Francisco. One parent works for Google in Silicon Valley, and his family values a strong work ethic. In high school, Parker-Sleator stocked shelves in a grocery store, later coaching summer soccer. Those jobs gave him money for clothes, entertainment and soccer equipment. He started playing soccer at age 4 ("my older brothers played so I wanted to") and became a standout in high school.

Parker-Sleator received athletic and academic scholarships at FPU, where small welcoming gestures made a lasting impression. For example, School of Business faculty Benjamin Smith, M.A., already knew Parker-Sleator's name when they first met, and Smith never forgot it.

More help came from head soccer coach Jaime Ramirez. Through two friends who work at JTS,

Ramirez learned about the internship and helped connect Parker-Sleator to the job. It didn't matter to Parker-Sleator that he knew nothing about transportation or that his ultimate career goal

was in sports management.

"What mattered was stepping into the professional working environment," he says, "and getting more comfortable talking to random people I'd never met."

Multitasking required

On a typical day at JTS,

Parker-Sleator worked on two computers, shifting concentration continually between different flows of information demanding quick responses. For eight hours a day, he:

- Posted loads for sale on the company's website for truckers seeking work.
- Took calls from interested truckers, quickly checking if they had worked with Johanson, and emailing contract forms if not.
- Negotiated agreements with truckers to deliver perishable loads, often at great distances.
- Monitored loads en route to ensure quality control. One day, he reached out to a trucker whose refrigerated trailer had malfunctioned, and his load of fruit was at risk of spoiling. Digital monitoring on his end had warned Parker-Sleator of the problem.

The goal was to sell multiple loads by lunchtime, which underscored the need for results. "If I made those sales, it would give me drive for the rest of the day, and if I didn't, I'd have a cloud hanging over my head," Parker-Sleator says.

“It was a really good taste of what was ahead for me.”

– Isaac Parker-Sleator

The good news: his supervisors were helpful and reassuring. Alicia Bly, vice president of corporate operations and legal affairs, provided solid training before having interns take on more responsibility. Shawn Dhillon, carrier procurement lead, always offered encouragement. “Regardless of how the day was going, Shawn reassured me that my work was good, and I should keep at it. That helped pick me up.” Parker-Sleator could turn to Dhillon for help, but he worked to resolve issues on his own. “The most important thing I learned about the world of work is how self-reliant you need to be.”

‘Stellar employees’

Johanson has had a relationship with FPU for decades. The late Richard Johanson, company founder, believed in local educators and institutions. Parker-Sleator and other FPU interns have been “stellar employees,” Bly says: “Each has come to us with respect and a foundation of knowledge that has accelerated their job performance.”

In the summer of 2021, Parker-Sleator gained valuable experience while helping JTS provide an essential service during the employee shortage caused by COVID-19. The company not only paid Parker-Sleator and other interns, but wanted them to understand this about the corporate world: “There are still great companies to work for that offer respect and gratitude for employees,” Bly says. She adds: “If we can provide work experience to help our youth find and begin their careers, our community benefits.”

During the internship, Rose Winn, director of career development at FPU, also supported Parker-Sleator. “She was continually checking in with me

to make sure the internship was a good fit and to see how the experience could relate to a future work environment,” he says. Winn—lead instructor for the School of Business internship program—says FPU is committed to ensuring that students gain a “professionally relevant experience.” She adds: “I maintain communication throughout their internship to help them learn as much as possible from their job, and to support them in whatever way I can.”

On to the future

After working at JTS from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (with an hour for lunch), Parker-Sleator spent three afternoons a week coaching soccer and took three summer courses. Time management became a new and valuable discipline. Johanson offered him a

job at the end of the internship, but he opted instead to focus on his academics and his senior soccer season. After graduating last May, Parker-Sleator returned to the Bay Area. He works part time in marketing for the San Jose Earthquakes soccer team

and part time for a Menlo Park youth center that offers creative arts, athletic fitness and nature awareness. Parker-Sleator has also started work on a master’s degree in sports management at the University of San Francisco.

He may never again broker a truck delivery of cherries or strawberries, but he’s grateful for the opportunity to work and learn during the internship. “Compared to other jobs I’ve had, there was more of a professional feel to the environment as well as an understanding that the work was very important. The experience pushed me to be more responsible and plan out my days. I have taken that with me.” 🏠

“The experience pushed me to be more responsible...”

– Isaac Parker-Sleator

GETTING HER FEET WET

Jacklyn Avila Expands Her Storytelling Vocabulary

By Cyndee Fontana-Ott



Jacklyn Avila's first camera was small, pink and sparkly—a Christmas gift for a little girl growing up in Reedley.

The palm-sized toy lacked a screen to show images, but that didn't matter. **Avila (BA '22)** spent the holiday snapping away at everyone and everything before uploading images to her parents' computer.

That Disney camera sparked a love for photography and storytelling. Avila fed both flames through the years by taking pictures of nature and soaking up every class related to film or photography at Fresno Pacific University.

As Avila, 22, approached college graduation, she dreamed of a behind-the-scenes career in film. But she also needed an internship to complete her bachelor's degree—and she earned that opportunity and more at ABC30/KFSN-TV.

Today, Avila is a full-time news producer at the Fresno television station. While it might not be her ultimate dream job, she is excited to follow a path revealed only by the practical college requirement of an internship.

"Before the internship, I had no knowledge or experience in news," says Avila. "Then, just a few months into my internship, I realized how much I enjoyed scriptwriting and I looked forward to every day that I worked with producers...I wanted to spend all of my days and hours working with producers and writing stories."

Avila now produces several weekend morning newscasts—choosing stories, writing scripts, organizing the show and more. She also works a



few weekdays and is absorbing the business like a thirsty sponge.

"I could tell that she was a quick learner and I could tell that she was really smart," says Graciela Moreno, anchor/reporter and internship coordinator at ABC30. "She had a really good head on her shoulders and that is something that I look for in our interns."

In reality, Avila wasn't the typical candidate for the station's internship program. Many college interns arrive with some ambition to be in front of the camera along with an academic grounding in television news.

Avila didn't. That didn't bother Moreno, who chose her from candidates recommended by Disney, the station's parent company that offers a company-wide professional internship program and handles much of the search process along with initial applications and interviews.

Moreno took over as internship coordinator just before the pandemic hit; her first few interns worked via Zoom. Avila was the first to come back into the station, and Moreno was determined to provide a full experience for her and others that followed.

"I want them to know how a television station works," she says. "I want them to know everybody's role and how all of them work together to produce the news that they watch on television and that they see on our website and apps."

"I want them to know what it's like to be in this building and how the decision-making process works, how the news-gathering process works. And I want them to learn about how to get their first job."

The news business wasn't on Avila's radar in college, where she majored in communication with an emphasis in media and film along with a minor in English. Throughout high school in Reedley, Avila cultivated a love of photography—selling a

“I want them to learn about how to get their first job.”

– Graciela Moreno

few nature prints at the city's first Art Hop—and hoped that could become her career.

She chose FPU even though the university didn't offer the perfect academic path. After public high school, Avila yearned for a campus that incorporated faith into daily life. "It felt like the small Christian community and Christian education that I had been longing for and that I really needed in my life at that point," she says.

She soon found a campus job as the student photographer for athletics—a position she held all four years of college. Avila also took every class related to filmmaking, cameras or video production.

In the summer of 2021, as graduation approached, she began hunting for an internship close to those interests. She discovered the ABC30 program.


"I didn't know if news was something I wanted to do as a career," Avila says, "but I thought what better way to learn and get my feet wet?"

Surprised but also overjoyed to be chosen for the internship, Avila quickly realized she had a lot to learn. "I'd never been in the newsroom and essentially had no prior concept or experience in the news, writing for the news or even speaking in front of a camera," Avila says. "It was definitely intimidating."

The biggest challenge—in addition to overcoming a natural shyness and ditching her college t-shirt-and-jeans wardrobe—was learning the roles, responsibilities and technical skills associated with each position. Moreno made sure that she spent time with reporters, producers, engineers and employees in other departments such as marketing and promotions.

"I know Jackie wasn't sure about what she wanted to do when she first came in," Moreno says. Having a diversity of experience helped Avila learn what she did enjoy (producing) and what she didn't (reporting), while also building up a resume suitable for many different jobs at a TV station.

Those were valuable lessons. "I knew that even if she chose to work behind the scenes that she still gained such great confidence and knowledge by going out with the reporters and understanding their job," Moreno says. "I think that's going to make her a better producer."



“I thought what better way to learn and get my feet wet?”

– Jacklyn Avila

As the internship progressed, and was extended by several months, Avila struggled to balance those demands with her college classes and campus jobs. She ultimately gave up a second campus photography job, and dialed back the sports photography work because she was spread too thin.

“It definitely started feeling like a lot and I had to prioritize,” Avila says.

She also began thinking about the next step after college. Avila was passionate about producing and began prepping to apply for an open position at the station.



LEARN MORE

For information on internships, check out the Career Development Center at fpu.edu/careercenter

“I started to look at ways that news could be a stepping stone to get to what my dream was as a career,” Avila says. “Rather than dropping my prior plan and dream, and just going for news, I could use it as a learning experience and another part of the path that could help me get to where I wanted to be.”

Shortly before graduation, she landed the job. Moreno was happy for her and pleased with her growth during the internship.

“The kind of confidence that you see, the kind of change you see in a young person—it’s just amazing, and it happened with Jackie,” she says.

Avila calls Moreno a mentor, teacher and friend who helped her break out of her shell and find a footing in the business through an invaluable internship experience.

“Just trying to jump into a career out of college without internship experience,” Avila says, “would have been a huge struggle.” 🏠

Finding Her Voice for God

By Christopher L. Scott

Shalom Mejia didn't want to walk away from her faith as many young adults do when they move away from home to attend college, so she chose Fresno Pacific University. "I didn't want to say 'bye-bye' to God when I went off to school," she says. "I always wanted to go to a Christian school."

FPU has been a place that both deepened Shalom's faith and pushed her out of her comfort zone. Very shy in high school, she was nervous when speaking in meetings and didn't want to give public presentations. "I am a quiet person. I was uncomfortable for a while," she says. But when Shalom was hired to be a student chaplain that quickly changed. She was required to attend weekly chaplain meetings, engage in conversations with students and occasionally speak in public.

When asked to present to the FPU Board of Trustees, Shalom says, "I did not want to do it. But I knew I had to." She told the board how she had grown spiritually as a student and in her role as a chaplain. "I knew doing this would help me in the future. I ended up doing it and it was fun," she says.

Another way Shalom deepened her faith was by co-leading a small group called "Deeper." "We talked about the different ways we can hear God's voice," she says. She helped students discern God's voice and explore the different ways in which he speaks, such as meditating on Scripture, discussing worship and sitting in silence for 15 minutes.

As a result of speaking as a chaplain at meetings and leading a small group she says, "Now I am not scared to say what I think or believe." 🏠



EDITOR'S NOTE

Do you know a student who has been transformed at FPU? Contact Wayne Steffen at wayne.steffen@fresno.edu

ALUMNI PROFILE

ROBERT PEREZ CLASS OF '19

By Katie Fries

TURNING A KNACK FOR NUMBERS INTO A PROFESSION WITH A FUTURE



Robert Perez is no stranger to hard work. At FPU he combined academic excellence with real-world work experience.

Now business development manager with Boos & Associates, a Fresno accounting and consulting firm, Perez credits his professional internships, alongside his undergraduate studies, with positioning him for this job and success in the field.

Perez decided to major in accounting while attending FPU on a Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation scholarship. "I have always been good with numbers and into finance," he says, "and if you have a degree in accounting, it's hard not to have a job." He cites the school's smaller classes and opportunities to connect with professors as a major factor in choosing FPU.

One connection, Sylvia Kim, D.B.A., helped Perez land a senior-year internship with Boos & Associates. An associate professor at FPU, Kim is also Boos' tax director. (Kim and Perez are pictured above.)

“An internship in business, especially in accounting, is very important,” Kim says. “Students usually don’t have any accounting experience. An internship gives them a little bit of experience with the real business world, and when they start working as accounting professionals, they feel much better about themselves.”

Focused work experience

Perez already knew how to work: summers at dairy farms around his hometown of Kerman during high school, and a sales job at Fresno’s Clawson Honda starting his sophomore year of college. But he knew a professional internship was crucial to becoming an accountant.

After a summer internship with the San Jose office of PricewaterhouseCoopers, a “Big 4” accounting firm, he hoped to stay around Fresno after graduation. Boos eventually offered him a full-time position.

“Almost all of my accounting students get full-time job offers before they graduate,” notes Kim.

“Our accounting curriculum includes more in-depth courses and hands-on practices than other universities, which is possible because of small classes.” FPU’s humanities courses, which focus on writing, presentations and discussion, also prepare students for a professional environment, she adds.

The value of an internship can’t be understated. “When you’re actually doing the work, everything makes a lot more sense than just doing accounting problems from a textbook,” Perez says. For


example, being able to look at a client’s financial statements and understanding *why* it experienced a net loss.

Learning to be a professional

Another benefit was getting used to a professional schedule. This is especially important in accounting, which is seasonal. “From January to April 15, you’re going to be busy,” he says. “It can be different for somebody who has never been an intern and goes from being a student and having more free time to sometimes working up to 80 hours a week.”

During college, Perez says, he primarily focused on school and work, foregoing many of the social activities associated with the undergraduate experience. However, he adds, his demanding schedule helped him when the time came to study for his CPA exams while working full-time at Boos.

“It worked out perfectly, and helped me go up the corporate ladder here,” he says. “I started as an associate in 2019, then became a senior associate, and now I’m a manager.”

Today Perez has the opportunity to work alongside his mentor Kim while mentoring a new class of interns. “At Boos & Associates, we have a coaching system, and I actually mentor some of the interns. I know they appreciate it, and it helps prepare them.” 

“Almost all of my accounting students get full-time job offers before they graduate.”

– Sylvia Kim

IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI



» ALVAREZ BEGINS HEAD COACHING CAREER

Brianna "Bree" Alvarez (MA '19, BA '17) was named head varsity girls' basketball coach at Selma High School in July 2022. This will be Bree's first head coaching job after stints as assistant coach at Fresno City College, Buchanan High School and Clovis High School. At FPU, Bree received All PacWest Player and Academic All PacWest Player honors.



» FRAZIER TAKES CHARGE IN PASADENA

Ryan Frazier (MA '14) was hired as head men's basketball coach and instructor at Pasadena City College in March 2022.

» GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alejandra Garibay (MA '22) is enrolled in the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program at California State University Stanislaus. She has been director of fiscal services at Los Banos Unified School District for many years.

Kevin Keo (MBA '22, BA '19) is director of IT at Bitwise Industries in Fresno, CA.

Amanda Koen (BA '22) works as an early education specialist for Kings County Office of Education.

Patricia Velez (BA '22) is a special needs/early intervention preschool teacher for Porterville Unified School District.

LaNetta Small-Whittle (BA '21) is enrolled in FPU's school psychology program and interning as a school psychologist.

Hannah Flores (BA '20) is a lead case manager for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Adolescent Family Life Program.



Kelsey Lowrey (BA '20) completed a Master's in Mathematics at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and is now in a mathematics Ph.D. program at the University of California Santa Barbara. Kelsey is grateful for the constant encouragement she received from her family in addition to the instruction and uplifting support from FPU professors and classmates.



» DUECK COACHING IN NEW YORK

Justin Dueck (TC '19, BA '17) was hired as an assistant women's volleyball coach at State University of New York at Stony Brook (Stony Brook University) April 12, 2022.



» SALLES MOVES TO CLOVIS HIGH

J.D. Salles (MA '15, BS '13) was hired as Clovis High School head baseball coach in August 2022. He also has head coaching experience at Kingsburg and San Joaquin Memorial high schools.

Robert Griswold (FS '19), former Sunbird swimming & diving team member, won a gold medal in the 100-meter backstroke, S8 classification, at the Paris Swimming World Championships June 13. It was his third consecutive world title in the event.

Hillary Markley (MA '19) was promoted to associate athletics director for compliance and student services-senior woman administrator at FPU.

Mariah Montoya (BA '18) is an accounting specialist at Saint Agnes Medical Center.

Tannisse Tuttrup (BA '18) is a special day class teacher for Pleasanton Unified School District and resides in Dublin, CA.

Alexa Crown (BS '17) graduated from California Health Sciences University with her Doctorate of Pharmacy in May 2022. She works at a health care clinic in Madera.

Lora (Whitaker, BA '16) De Leon was chosen as a 2022 Madera Unified School District We Believe Champion, which recognizes a staff member who has made a positive impact in the lives of students, staff and the community. Lora is a school counselor.

Sarah (Hill, BA '16) Eicher finished her Master's in Applied Linguistics from the University of Massachusetts, Boston in 2021. Since fall 2020 she has been teaching ESL at CSU Bakersfield's American Language Institute.

Jerome Trembly (BS '15), D.O., is a physician (pediatric resident, PGY-1) at Albany Medical Center in Albany, NY.

» **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS** (CONTINUED)



» **ADAMS HONORED FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

Ron Adams (BA '69) won the National Basketball Coaches Association's Tex Winter Assistant Coach Lifetime Impact Award. Ron is entering his 54th season of coaching, 28 of them in the National Basketball Association after more than two decades in the college coaching ranks, starting with Fresno Pacific. For the last eight seasons he has helped the Golden State Warriors bring home four national championships. For five consecutive seasons Adams was voted Best Assistant Coach in the annual NBA general manager's survey.

Elinore Carlson (BA '14) is the operations manager of MCE Social Capital in San Francisco, CA.

Dante Rosh (MA '14) was the featured speaker at the Visalia Economic Development Commission's annual meeting July 20, 2022. A mindset coach, Dante spoke about helping employees find purpose and organizations create healthier cultures.

Anthony Duhon (BA '13) won the U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade's Soldier of the Year.

Dr. Kaitlen Lawton-Betchel (BA '13), a veterinarian, writes the column "Ask Dr. Kait" on animal care twice a month for *The Sentinel* in Hanford, CA. She grew up in and practices in Lemoore, CA.

Stephanie Bowers-Buckridge (BA '11) was honored as a Tulare County District Four Woman of the Year for 2022.

Amanda Hodges (BA '10) was honored as March 2022 Employee of the Month at Career Technical Education Charter School in Fresno.

MaryJo Burchard (MA '09, BA '03), Ph.D., was the keynote speaker at Pillar College's 5th Annual Faculty Symposium: "Faith Leadership and Learning: Interdisciplinary Approaches." FPU LEAD Program Director **Suzana Dobric Veiss (MA '02, BA '99)**, Ph.D., also gave a presentation at the symposium titled "Generating Hope During Crisis: Leadership Growth Exercises."

Sara Beth Williams' (BA '09) latest book, *Anchor My Heart*, is a 2022 Selah Award Finalist.

Tim (MA '08) and **Alice (Bennett, BA '86) Smith** relocated to Fillmore, CA, as Tim is the new Santa Paula Unified School District Director of Elementary Education. Alice continues to work remotely as finance manager for Students International, based in Visalia, CA.

Chris Wright (MA '08), former head FPU men's basketball coach, was hired as head men's basketball coach at Langston University in Langston, OK, in April 2022. Chris just finished his fourth year as head men's basketball coach at Talladega College where the team reached the NAIA National Tournament in all four seasons.

IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

Sharon Starcher (MA '07, BA '99), DBA, presented at the 27th Annual Christian Adult Higher Education Association (CAHEA) Conference June 14, 2022, in Nashville, TN. Her title was "Our New & Unexpected Solutions in a Post-COVID-19 Academic Environment." Sharon, along with husband Steven Starcher, D.Min., also gave a CAHEA Talk "Anyone Teaching at a Christian University & Desiring to Incorporate Spiritual Formation in Their Courses."

Chris Haynes (FS '06), former Sunbird men's basketball player, is now a journalist with TNT and Yahoo Sports and was featured June 13 on KMPH FOX 26, Fresno. His career covering the NBA was also featured in June 29 by *The Spin*, part of *Sports Illustrated*.

Robert Rose (MA '06) is an installation chaplain for the United States Air Force.

Jessica Kulekjian (BA '05) is an author for children ages 4-8. *Before We Stood Tall* and *First Notes of Spring*, are both available at Bookshop.org, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Target and locally at Petunia's Place. Jessica's latest work, *Hiders Seekers, Finders Keepers*, is to be published in fall 2022. Learn more at jessicakulekjian.com. Jessica also teaches second-grade language arts for the virtual academy at Central Valley Charter Schools.

Suzanne Banach (MA '98, TC '95) was named principal of St. Mary of the Hills School, Milton, MA. She has taught in both public and private schools and been a middle school history teacher and academic guidance counselor at St. Mary's since 2015.

Craig Griffin (BA '97) was hired to coach his high school alma mater's boy's basketball team, Simi Valley High School, in April 2022.

Greg Stobbe (TC '96, BA '84) was honored for mentoring student journalists at Fresno Christian High School with a surprise dinner April 29, 2022. An even bigger surprise came at the event when the 25-year teaching veteran was presented with the Charles R. O'Malley Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Lance Leach (BA '95) was promoted to lead pastor at Valley West Christian Center in Madera, CA. He has served there since 1991 as youth pastor, associate pastor and family pastor.



Amy (Voris, BA '92) Lewis and husband Stephen moved to Geelong, Australia, with three of their seven children in August 2021. Stephen is training pastors at the Reformed Theological College in Melbourne while Amy homeschools their youngest sons and gallivants around Victoria interviewing people for *The World and Everything In It* podcast and *WORLD Magazine*. She appreciates the years of training invested by Wilfred Martens and Luetta Reimer and her time as editor of *The Syrinx*.



Bob Weathers (BA '79) has two books accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press, UK: *Building Recovery Resilience* and *The Recovery Resilience Program for Addiction Recovery: Facilitator's Guide*, both co-authored by Guy Du Plessis, Derrick Tollefson and Kevin Webb. He also presented a nationwide webinar in April 2022 sponsored by the Behavioral Health Association of Providers, called "Recovery resilience vs. shame and trauma: Necessary innovations in addiction treatment."

IN TOUCH WITH **ALUMNI**

» WEDDINGS



Elizabeth Marian Wilson (BA '21) married **Seth Lucas Garcia (BA '22)** on May 14, 2022.



Davy Vartanian (BA '16) married **Reilly Reis (BA '16)** on June 11, 2022.

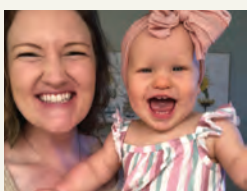
» BIRTHS



Hannah Flores (BA '20) and **Justin Brown** announce the birth of **Anylah** on March 22, 2022. She joins sister **Nevaeh**.



Nicole (Marshall, TC '18, BA '14) and **Aaron Jacobsma** announce the birth of **Oliver Dean** on April 9, 2022. He was 8 lbs., 8 oz. and 20.5 inches long.



Sarah (Hill, BA '16) and **Ezekiel Eicher** announce the birth of **Abigail** in August of 2021.

» BIRTHS CONTINUED



Catherine "Cat" (Michaelis, TC '14, BA '12) and **Steven (MA '15, BA '13) Waite, Ph.D.**, announce the birth of **Reese Catherine** on January 20, 2022. She was 6 lbs., 14 oz. Steven is Assistant Professor of Kinesiology at FPU.



Chris (BA '12) and **Danielle (Scholl, MA '17, BA '13) Dickie** announce the birth of **Lucas John** on September 29, 2021.

» DEATHS

Oleksandr "Alex" Sannikov (MA '12) died on October 10, 2020.

Katherine "Kay" (Butler, MA '93) Armijo, 81, died on June 18, 2020. With her M.A. in Bilingual Education, Kay spent her career focusing on making educational content accessible to elementary school students who spoke Spanish.

Anita Anne Dodson (MA '93), 73, died on January 31, 2022. She was a longtime teacher in Sanger Unified School District, including a stint directing the Young Expectant Mothers Program. She and husband Dave had one daughter, one son and two grandchildren.

Pat (Jacobs, MA '89, TC '84) Hansen died on April 16, 2022, in Visalia, after a lengthy struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Pat worked in education for 34 years.

Jeffrey Fleming (BA '81) died on June 28, 2022, after battling a rare form of leukemia for four years. He had



STAY IN TOUCH

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UPDATE your info at
fpu.edu/alumniupdate

JOIN the LinkedIn
FPU Alumni Assoc.

ADVISE & mentor students
fpu.edu/Sunbirds-Can

» DEATHS CONTINUED

his own periodontal practice in Chico, CA, for over 20 years and later came out of retirement to work in Redding, CA, for several years. He is survived by his wife, two sons, three grandchildren and siblings.

Randy Penner (BA '74) died June 12, 2022. He and his wife, **Pam (Riffel, FS '73)**, were residents of Shafter, CA, where Randy was a partner in Furrow Farms and an active member of Shafter Mennonite Brethren Church. In addition to his wife, Randy is survived by son **Brian (TC '01, BA '00)** and his wife, **Shandra (Snook, MA '04, TC '00, BA '99)**; son **Nathan (BA '02)** and his wife, Mary Martha; daughter **Allison (MA '13, BA '07)** and her husband, **Sean Munoz (BA '07)**; and four grandchildren. Randy is also survived by his siblings, **Steve (MA '79, BA '71)** and his wife, Glena; **Susanne (BA '72)** and her husband, **Mark (BA '71) Franz**; and **Sharon (BA '79)** and her husband **Bob (FS '77) Wiebe**. He was preceded in death by his parents, **Art** and **Donna (Boese, PBI '48)**.

Richard Thiessen, Ph.D., 83, died on April 10, 2022. Richard taught at FPU from 1987-2003, serving as director of the graduate mathematics, science and educational technology program. After leaving the university, he continued as director of AIMS Educational Foundation, a position he began in 2000. His wife of 60 years, Evelyn, died in 2021. Survivors include three sons, a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

Adina B. Janzen, J.D., 95, died May 3, 2022. She joined FPU's Teacher Education Division full time in 1991 and retired in 2003. The Henderson, NB, native moved to the Central Valley in 1947 and began teaching elementary school in 1956, coming to Fresno in 1960. Survivors include spouse Glenn Snyder, daughter Jeryll Klassen Tadros, son Herman E. Janzen, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



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



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)**.

LIKE or comment at   
Facebook.com/FPUalumni



GREAT BRITAIN AWAITS!

Dust off your kilt and get ready to kiss the Blarney Stone as the FPU Alumni and Friends Tour heads to Scotland and Ireland in June 2023.

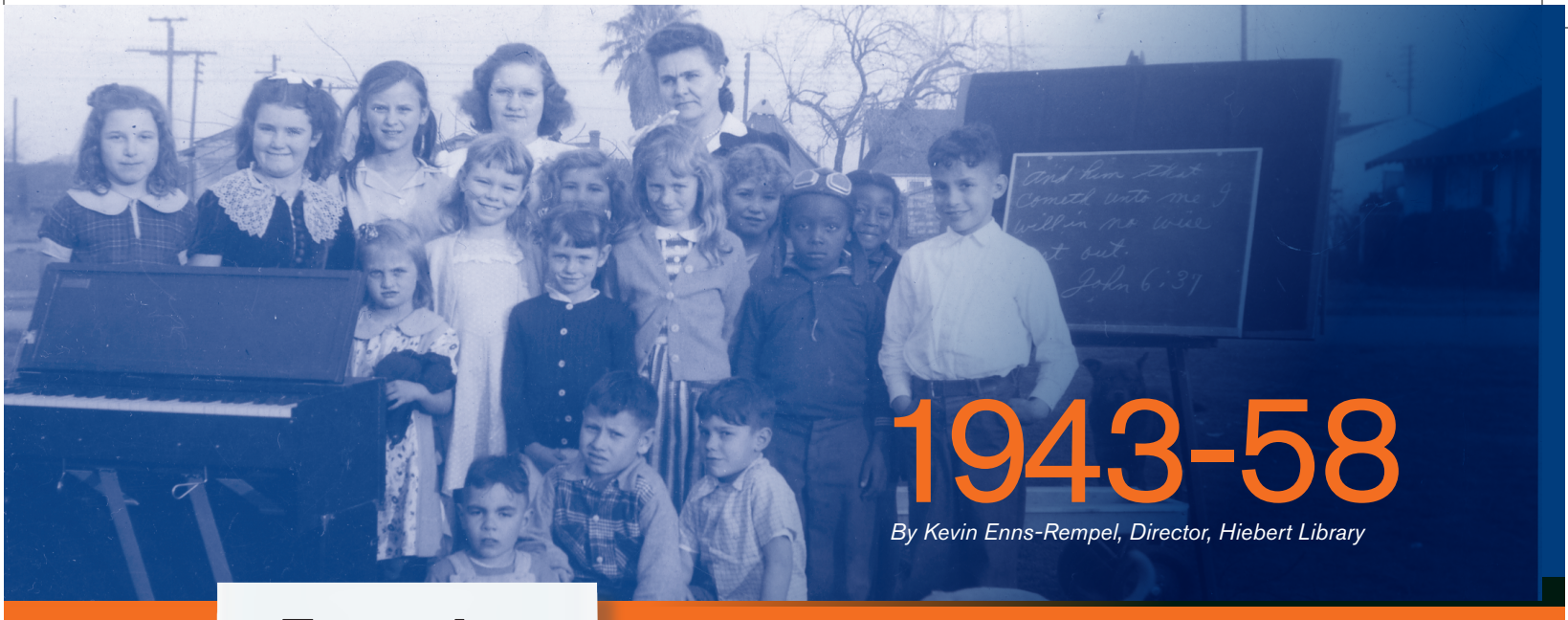
Your guide, as always, is Stephen Varvis, Ph.D., professor of history. Details at fpu.edu/alumnitour. Check out the 2021 and 2022 tours at grouptoursite.com/stevevarvis

FPU ALUMNI & FRIENDS TOURS

Sites include:

- ◆ Edinburgh
- ◆ Scottish Highlands
- ◆ Belfast and the Titanic Museum
- ◆ Dublin
- ◆ St. Patrick's Cathedral
- ◆ Library of Trinity College
- ◆ Galway
- ◆ The Dingle Peninsula
- ◆ The Blarney Stone
- ◆ Waterford Crystal Factory
- ◆ Kilkenny
- ◆ Optional extension to London for Windsor Castle, Stonehenge and Oxford





1943-58

By Kevin Enns-Rempel, Director, Hiebert Library

From the Archives...



HIS JEWELS CLUBS TRAINED STUDENTS TO REACH CHILDREN

During the Pacific Bible Institute era students were required to participate in some form of “Christian Service.” Among the most significant activities were the His Jewels Bible Clubs. These children’s afternoon Bible classes were taught by PBI students in Fresno and the surrounding region. Many classes were offered in areas struggling with socio-economic challenges, including West Fresno, small rural communities in Fresno and Tulare Counties and migrant farm worker camps.

His Jewels had been founded in 1943 by the Fresno Mennonite Brethren Church (now Bethany Church), administered by Rosella Thiesen. When

Thiesen became PBI’s instructor of Christian education in 1946, the program came with her. Edna Kliwer and Elsie Friesen later served as assistant administrators of His Jewels.

The clubs quickly became a significant part of student life and service. By 1947 the program consisted of 37 classes in Fresno, Calwa, Malaga, Parlier and Dinuba, with 49 teachers serving over 1,000 children. PBI students led the clubs with Immanuel Academy students, PBI alumni and local Mennonite Brethren Church members. The high point seems to have been 1949, when the program served over 1,500 children.

Most classes were taught in private homes, tents, trailers or even outdoors, but a few small buildings were erected for the programs. One of these buildings later became the West Park Mennonite Brethren Church on Jensen Avenue west of Fresno.

His Jewels remained vibrant at PBI during the 1950s. The number of clubs, however, seems to have diminished as the decade (and PBI era) drew to a close. The program is last mentioned in the student yearbook in 1958.

These clubs gave PBI students practical experience in the evangelism for which many were being trained, and brought the message of God’s love to many local children. 🏠

LINDA HOFF RETIRES

By Amy D. Fienen

When asked what she'll miss most about Fresno Pacific University, Linda Hoff, Ph.D., doesn't hesitate; "My colleagues," she says.

"My colleagues have been important, and the work we did was important." That work spanned 30 years, and came to an end when Hoff retired June 30. During three decades at the university, her positions included associate professor of mathematics education, professor of education and director of the Teacher Education Division.

Early on, Hoff discovered her heart for teaching underserved students by working in some of the Los Angeles area's most impoverished schools. In 1998, Hoff moved to Fresno with her husband, Calvin, and four children, and was hired to supervise student teachers at FPU. Hoff focused on developing relationships with area school districts, which led to her involvement in community educational outreach efforts.

The relationships she's built with Fresno Unified School District paved the way for Hoff's next opportunity: leading the district's efforts to launch the state-funded Community Schools program, which aims to involve the entire community the school serves by honoring their needs and



perspectives. Hoff hopes creating a greater sense of belonging through Community Schools will change the landscape of education in California.

Hoff hopes to be remembered for her role in shaping the mission of FPU's teacher education program. "I would hope that my legacy would be that teachers...would see that their work is a calling to redemptive service," she says.

Hoff credits her time at FPU with opening doors to serve beyond the campus, which is sometimes where the greatest impact is made. "My work in the community all got started because of FPU," she says. "It was a great run, a great 30 years and I loved it."



MEET SHARON TAN

By Amy D. Fienen

Sharon Tan, Ph.D., begins every day praying over the same question: How can I serve today?

That question acts as the starting point for her role as vice president and dean of Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. She is taking things from there, learning the culture and how to best join the work God is doing at the seminary.

Born and raised in Malaysia, Tan came to the U.S. to study business and religion at Oral Roberts University. Law school followed, and she worked in litigation with a goal of becoming a judge, but realized the legal field wasn't as glamorous as it appeared on TV. Feeling led to explore teaching using her background in religion, she went back to school for a Ph.D. in religion.

For a long time, Tan wrestled with returning to Malaysia. "I felt Asian in America instead of Asian-American," she says. It wasn't until she became a mother to two daughters that she decided to stay in the U.S. and focus her scholarship on Asian-American theology.

Luke 10:27 encouraged Tan's religious studies. "I've always thought of the verse that says to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and



strength and mind, and I wondered how I could love God with my mind," she says.

Tan looks forward to discovering and helping develop FPU's gifts. "God above all is creator," she says. "How can we join God in creating the new future of Christianity in a way that remains faithful to the Anabaptist tradition? I'm honored to be invited here to join what God's doing and to serve with what I have."



LEARN MORE

About the new seminary VP and dean at fpu.edu/sharontan





NATIONAL GOLD

Four runners—and the fifth who got them there—create Sunbird history

By Katie Fries

“Iron sharpens iron”

For Kyra Bailey, Madison Flores, Danae Manibog-Gatewood and Chloe Sharp, Proverbs 27:1 (“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another”) became the rallying cry that led to an NCAA DII national title in the 4x400-meter relay.

Several in this Valley group had competed with or against one another since high school. When they came together at FPU, Flores says, they knew they had something special.

The 2019 4x400 squad—Flores, Manibog-Gatewood and Sharp, along with **Brie Courseault (BA '20)**—broke a school record at the national championship, helping the women’s track and field team place sixth. The team looked forward to building on that momentum in 2020, but that season was cut short by COVID-19. Then 2020-21 saw only modified competition.

As the 2021-22 season began, team captain Manibog-Gatewood encouraged her teammates with mental health resources and bonding activities, including Bible studies. “We talked about ‘iron sharpens iron,’ and what that looks like in a team atmosphere,” she says. “Coming back into an actual season, we were a lot more balanced and athletically mature.”

The result, she says, was a highly focused team going for gold at the National Championship meet in Allendale, MI.

An elite race

Known as the 4x4, the race is four legs—or laps—around the 400-meter track. Closing the meet and featuring top runners, the 4x4 is a highlight of track meets from elementary school to the Olympics.

“Even elite athletes understand the 400 is intimidating,” says Kyla Richardson, who competed as anchor runner all season until she was sidelined with an injury just prior to nationals. “The 400 is a full sprint all the way around the track.”

Flores, as first runner, sets the tone for the race. “You want to put [your teammate] in a good position coming off the turn,” she says. “Going into nationals I knew the teams that were going to be putting pressure on us, and I knew I had to be right next to them or a few steps ahead if we were going to take the lead going into the second leg.”

Flores handed the baton to Manibog-Gatewood, who handed off to Sharp. “My goal was to get my anchor into first place,” says Sharp. “There’s not a lot of time to think or process.” Sharp was in first place when she handed off to anchor Kyra Bailey.

“Every time one person went around, it was another push of motivation,” Bailey says. “It was my last race, my last 400.”



A win in the bag

When Bailey began her run, the team knew victory was theirs. “I knew Kyra, I’d raced with her since high school,” says Manibog-Gatewood. “When I saw her hit that 50-meter mark, I knew we were going to win that national title.”

Bailey crossed the finish line with another new school record and the Sunbird women placed 10th overall. “To look up at the time and the split that I ran, to learn that we broke our school record, we were all speechless,” she says.

Bailey, Flores and Manibog-Gatewood set personal bests—a feat Flores attributes to “iron sharpening iron.” “That was what we reminded each other of, on the really hard days or when some of us were tired,” she says.

Manibog-Gatewood adds, “What makes it so special is you’re not only running for yourself.

When you’re smoking down the stretch and running neck and neck with the next person and you think you can’t give anymore, you somehow find it within yourself. For once your view isn’t ‘What am I going to get when I cross the finish line?’ Your view is your teammate, who is holding their hand out, asking for the baton.” 🏠



**IN STEP WITH
SUNBIRDS**

fpuathletics.com

UNCOMMON HEROES

make personal investment

“Not all heroes wear capes” has never been more true as donors from all walks of life make an impact on FPU.

Like the story of Richard Martinez, who wears an Advance Auto Parts uniform rather than a cape. Martinez, a general manager at the Kings Canyon and Clovis location in Fresno, organized a scholarship to Fresno Pacific because of its importance to the community where he works. This sparked the corporate offices to encourage every Advance Auto Parts to invest where they are. Martinez is the definition of an uncommon hero, someone who saw a need and without expecting accolades, rose to meet it.

FPU has relied on these uncommon heroes throughout its 77 years—people who use their talents to bolster the work of the university and invest in students.



UNCOMMON HEROES


Join the ranks of Uncommon Heroes at
fpu.edu/uncommonheroes



Richard Martinez with Katherine Herms, assistant director of donor engagement.

The Uncommon Heroes campaign celebrates this legacy and invites new donors to contribute in ways meaningful to them. Launched in December 2021 with initiatives ranging from stocking the student food pantry to sending students to the Urbana missions conference to funding the Warkentine Culture and Arts Center, the campaign offers the specificity that allows donors to make a more personal connection than a gift to a general fund.

The campaign also serves as an antidote to the pressures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Donors to the campaign can experience the joy of giving and witness its impact on students immediately.

(This article is being republished to correct information). 

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AND GROWING GENEROSITY

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This two-hour long seminar by the Fresno Pacific University Foundation will equip you to eliminate debt and take control of your finances while exploring how to be a blessing to the next generation and the ministries you are passionate about. Cultivate a Christ-honoring legacy while communicating your values to your family for sustained Kingdom impact.



Discover the **two biblical principles** leading to financial freedom



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To schedule the Biblical Financial Freedom Seminar at your church or organization, contact Steven Redekop at 559-453-3451 or steven.redekop@fresno.edu.



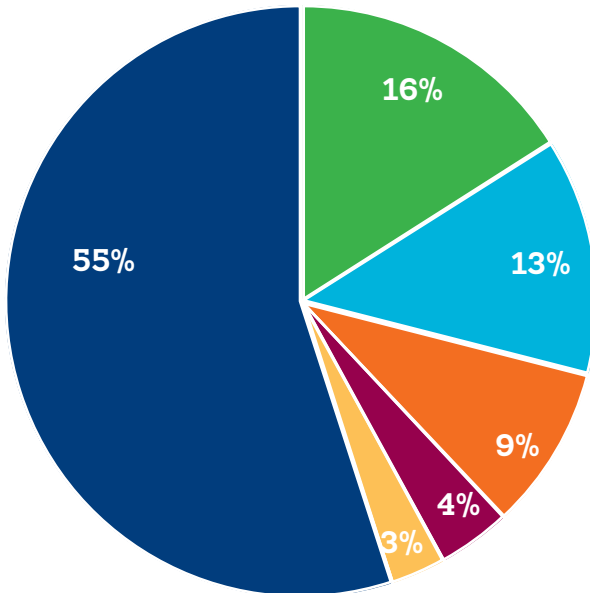
For more information on seminars, gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts or other planned giving strategies through Fresno Pacific University, contact Steven Redekop:

steven.redekop@fresno.edu | 559-453-3451

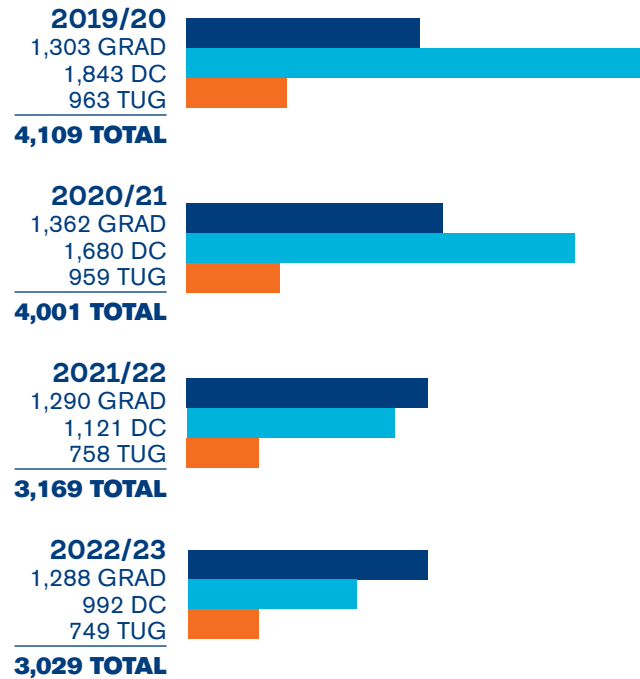
Annual Update 2020-21

GIFTS BY DONOR GROUP

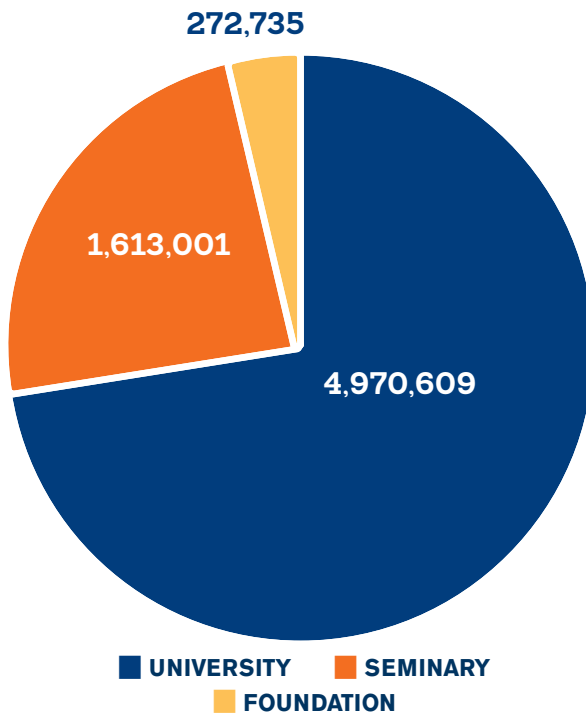
ALUMNI FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS
CHURCHES OTHER FOUNDATIONS



ENROLLMENT



2020-21 GIVING SUMMARY



REVENUE & EXPENSES

2019/20 | Audited

Revenue	72,955,299
Expenses	65,573,886
Surplus (Deficit)	7,381,413
Cash Position	4,734,711
Net Assests	64,680,096

2020/21 | Audited

Revenue	72,171,971
Expenses	60,212,287
Surplus (Deficit)	11,959,684
Cash Position	8,090,137
Net Assests	76,639,780

2021/22 | Unaudited

Revenue	71,823,520
Expenses	70,753,671
Surplus (Deficit)	1,069,849
Cash Position	6,555,219
Net Assests	77,709,629

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



Igniting a Spark: University Advancement Seeks Donors to Fan the Flame

Jireh Mukawa (MA '22, BS '18), graduate of the FPU Community Leadership and Transformation and Business Marketing programs and aspiring city planner, embodies a certain student—one who earns an education to transform his community. In short, a Fresno Pacific student.

At the City of Fresno's department of transportation, Fresno Area Express (FAX), Mukawa makes transportation more accessible to low- and moderate-income residents. Mukawa also serves as an administrator at On Ramps Covenant Church in downtown Fresno. In his free time, he teaches local youth around African drum circles.

"It is very important for me to contribute to the well-being of this place while I am here. My faith compels me to do it," he says.

Mukawa is one student who inspired this year's Ignite the Spark-Change the World annual giving campaign, which connects FPU donors to community-transforming students, funding ways to enable students to fulfill their purpose, whether as a social worker, teacher, nurse, minister, entrepreneur or other professional dedicated to making a difference in their community.

For FPU, this annual campaign is timely and more important than ever. Students lost critical personal connection to faculty, classmates and donors during the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is crucial for FPU students to re-engage in community during increasingly polarizing times.

FPU's model of community, centered on the *Fresno Pacific Idea*, pushes students toward counter-cultural service and stewardship—work that needs faithful donors. For Mukawa, an international student from the Democratic Republic of Congo, scholarships are imperative. "Not only are we required to be full-time students, but we don't have access to federal loans, so most of our payments come from out of pocket," he says.

FPU needs your help to ignite the spark for students like Mukawa. Help us continue to change lives, consider a donation today. 🏠

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