

PACIFIC

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 26, NO. 2

FIELD NOTES

Planting the seeds of peacemaking

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PETE C. MENJARES, PH.D.

president's message

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” *Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)*

EDUCATING FOR TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TIMELESS VALUES

What does it mean to educate for transformation? This is the question being asked at Fresno Pacific University this academic year. We—administration, faculty and staff—are asking this question not from naiveté, but to bring new focus and energy to our efforts.

Transformation is change and change is what a university education is about. Change is the process of helping young people become adults, of helping workers become professionals and of helping all who come to us as students forge a path toward learning for life.

At Fresno Pacific, we educate students as whole people, engaging the mind, heart and spirit within a community of learners. The arts, athletics, clubs and service ministries are not “extra-curricular” activities, but “co-curricular,” directly supporting what goes on in the classroom. The same is true for housing, dining, campus employment and service offices on the main campus and at the regional centers. Everything we do empowers leaders and transforms lives.

So transformation at FPU comes from our unchanging values: commitment to a Christ-centered education, academic excellence, mission, sense of calling, spiritual vitality and restorative practices such as peacemaking and reconciliation.

What, then, is the goal of this transformation? Our theme verse for 2013-2014 is Romans 12:1-2. Here Paul says those who are transformed by the renewing of their minds “will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” We look to our graduates to be leaders who will discern and help put in place God’s will for their lives, families, communities, congregations and professions.

The results of that transformation are everywhere, including the pages of this issue of *Pacific* magazine. Rooted in faith, empowered by education and directed by their passion, our students and alumni put hands and feet to all they learn at FPU.

*Empowering leaders.
Transforming lives.*

fresno.edu

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

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A higher standard.
A higher purpose.



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There's so much happening at FPU!

Check the news website at news.fresno.edu for:

- More on the *U.S. News* and *Chronicle* rankings
- How President Menjares opened the 2013-2014 academic year
- The Pacific Artist Series, the university's signature music event

See all the events at events.fresno.edu

NATIONAL ACCOLADES AFFIRM FPU'S FOCUS ON STUDENT SUCCESS



Honors from *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* bring national attention to the quality of an FPU education, particularly its strong graduation rates.

U.S. News ranked Fresno Pacific 30 points higher in its annual ranking of colleges and universities in the United States, while *The Chronicle* named FPU to its national top 10 among Hispanic-Serving Institutions in graduating Hispanic students. "Recognition such as this affirms that Fresno Pacific University is fulfilling its commitment to academic excellence, leadership and service," said President Pete Menjares, Ph.D.

U.S. News

Long a top-tier institution in its category, FPU is now number 42 among regional universities west, according to the rankings, which were published September 10, 2013. Regional universities, states *U.S. News*, provide a full range of undergraduate majors and master's programs and draw most of their students from surrounding states.

U.S. News revised its formula this year to put more emphasis on whether students graduate than who gets admitted. Graduation-related data—including graduation and retention rates—is now the most-heavily weighted factor among the 16 used to determine rankings, accounting for 30 percent of the formula. Selectivity, based on high school class rank and scores on tests such as the SAT and ACT, is now 12.5 percent, down from 15 percent. Other factors include school reputation, class size and average student debt. The changes, "take into account the latest data and trends in higher education," *U.S. News* Director of Data Research Robert Morse told *USA Today*.

FPU students benefit from challenging academics and supportive faculty who are committed teachers as well as experts in their fields, according to Provost Stephen Varvis, Ph.D. "The intensive work of our professors with students in courses and in research translates into higher retention and graduation rates, and to readiness for entrance into their chosen professions or graduate studies," he said.

The Chronicle

According to *The Chronicle's* 2013-2014 Almanac, published August 19, 2013, FPU's overall graduation rate for first-time, full-time students is 57.1 percent in six years (based on 2011 figures). The rate for Hispanic students is 55.2 percent. FPU is the only member of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities in the top 10.

FPU's 3,500 students represent the cultural and ethnic mix of California's Central Valley, Menjares said. "The face of Fresno Pacific is the face of our region, and the future of this nation. Many of our students are the first in their families to attend a university. It is our mission and our privilege to help these students attain their dreams."

Fresno Pacific has the highest graduation rate of any college or university in its region. "Now it is clear that rate extends to our Hispanic students, as well," Varvis said. There is also a four-year graduation guarantee for qualified students.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions are those where Hispanic students make up at least 25 percent of the enrollment, according to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. At FPU, 32 percent of traditional undergraduate students are from a Hispanic background, along with 39 percent of degree completion students and more than 20 percent of graduate students, according to fall 2012 figures, the most recent available.

The changes at *U.S. News* and *The Chronicle's* focus on graduation rates play to FPU's strengths, Menjares said. "A university education is about transforming students so they, in turn, can transform their world. We have long had a commitment to educate our students in ways that empower them to excel in college and beyond."



LIFELONG LEARNING & LIVING WATER

By Jaime Huss (BA '01)

IT WAS A SWELTERING JUNE MORNING HIKING THROUGH ISRAEL'S WILDERNESS OF ZIN.

Barren. Parched. Desolate.

This was not the land of milk and honey. This was the land of dust and rock. This was the desert where the Israelites wandered—where God sustained his people on a humble diet of manna and quail, and where he lovingly shaped them before they entered the Promised Land.

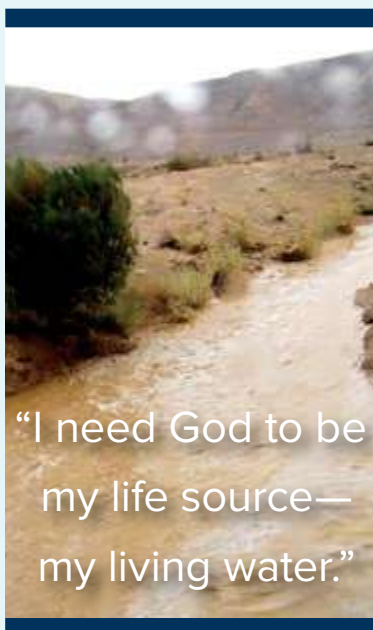
The desert isn't where I choose to have an "aha" moment. The desert is where I'm overheated, exhausted and tested. But that's exactly the place where I believe God wants to teach us his most compelling lessons. And during my journey through Israel, it's in these desert settings where I found my most vivid snapshots.

Visiting the Holy Land had long been high on my bucket list of trips. When the opportunity arose to make a 10-day trek with my church, The Well Community Church, Fresno, I was all in. I couldn't pass up the chance to be taught by many of my own pastors and experience the Bible in 3-D with my church family. Our time in Israel felt much like drinking from a fire hose. Every city, every hillside, every artifact had significance. And together, they brought lessons to life.

One of my most meaningful lessons was about my need for water.

When it comes to staying hydrated, I am notoriously neglectful. Rarely do I get my eight servings of water a day. But traveling the Holy Land—with many of our days creeping into triple-digit-temperatures—I learned to rely on water. I also considered what it means to rely on living water.

Jesus told the crowds that if anyone is thirsty, come to him and drink (John 7:37-38): "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture says, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"



Jesus clearly tells us that He is our source of refreshment. This isn't your average tap water we're talking about. It's exactly what we crave. Trekking through Israel, I couldn't help but wonder how often I settle for less. We all have our vices—pride, public approval, the need to do "good" things—the list is endless. How often do I make do with these "broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13)?

That lesson spoke loudest the day we witnessed a wadi flash flood. June rain is a rarity in the Israeli desert. Driving through the Negev, our guide assured us he hadn't seen rain in this region in at least 20 years. But rain it did. What began as a few sprinkles gathered into small roadside streams. Larger streams soon gave way to raging currents.

That evening, after safely arriving at our destination, I began to think about the flash flood. Here we were surrounded by bone-dry land. Yet when the rain came, the ground could not absorb it. Parched and thirsty, the soil could not soak in the very gift it desperately needed. Instead, the water that could so easily bring relief rolled past. And then I began to wonder: How often does my life mirror this scene? How often do I neglect my "soil"? And how am I preparing my heart for what God wants to do through me?

FPU taught me that learning is a lifelong process; it's taken many other marked moments—like a trip to the Holy Land—to gently remind me I need God to be my life source—my living water. For my relationship with God to be its fullest, that starts with relying on him.

I'm thankful God continues to patiently draw me back to these lessons.

Jaime Huss, (above, at left) is a senior communications specialist at St. Agnes Medical Center, Fresno.



An initially reluctant pioneer learns to appreciate another facet of online scholarship.

No shot at the links

Mark Baker, Ph.D., associate professor of theology at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, presented a paper at a conference sponsored by the University of St. Andrews in Scotland—but he didn't get to play 18 holes on the historic links.

And it wasn't just because Baker doesn't golf. Only a handful of more than 50 presentations at Ecclesia and Ethics, from May 18 and May 25, 2013, were given at St. Andrews, considered the home of golf. None of those who signed up for the conference traveled to the university, founded in 1413, the oldest in Scotland and the third oldest in the English-speaking world.

The conference was subtitled: "An Eco-friendly and Economically-feasible Online International Biblical Studies and Theology Conference." Participants listened to and gave presentations from wherever they were in the world using Megameeting.com, a Skype-like messaging service.

Organizer John Frederick believes this conference was the first of its kind in biblical studies and theology. "I know the webinar has been a popular way of beaming in speakers for smaller events at colleges, etc. and I've heard of at least one small day conference that had four or five speakers," he says.

Instead of a carpeted conference room with chairs and a microphone, Baker presented "Learning from Paul: Centered Ethics that Avoid Legalistic Judgmentalism and Moral Relativism" from his daughter's room. An online host welcomed people and supervised the discussion, and audience members signed in and could post questions on Baker's screen. "People were speaking to their computers, like I was doing in Fresno," Baker says.



“I gave the paper and there was nobody there. I just left and walked into the kitchen.”

—Mark Baker

An international audience

The 208 registered attendees included groups at two churches, a university, a home/small group and several dorm rooms, putting the total number of participants at around 300, says Frederick, who was one of five conference administrators spread between Scotland, Oregon and Nevada. Most attendees were from the United States and the United Kingdom, with others from Canada, Taiwan, Tokyo, Germany, Singapore, India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland and the Netherlands.

In addition to coming from all kinds of places, attendees participated at all kinds of times. “Some of the sessions were in the middle of the night in various parts of the world,” Frederick says.

Major speakers included N.T. Wright, Michael Gorman and Stanley Hauerwas. Wright is a British Anglican bishop, author and leading New Testament scholar. Gorman is Raymond E. Brown Professor of Biblical Studies and Theology, St. Mary’s Seminary & University, Baltimore, and the author of *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness: Following the Lamb Into the New Creation*. Hauerwas is a theologian, ethicist, professor at Duke Divinity School and author of *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic*.

Between the main sessions were parallel presentations, where attendees could choose from four or five speakers and, because everything was online, could go back at a later time and catch others. Baker presented during one of these slots.

Cheap and charitable

Ecclesia and Ethics was born out of Frederick’s desire to help younger academics who were spending large amounts of money traveling long distances to participate in conferences attended by very few people. He built on what he learned from teaching an online course. “I began to imagine how this platform could be used to facilitate an entire academic conference,” he says.

Colleagues from St. Mary’s and St. Andrews formed a planning team. Corban University, Salem, OR, signed on as a sponsor.

The budget came from a grant for 500 pounds from St. Andrews and \$700 from Corban. To keep the conference a grass-roots effort, word was spread through social media.

Organizers emailed more than 500 different institutions of Christian learning, as well as pastors and lay leaders. The addresses came from a free list found on Google. This cost-cutting kept registration fees to \$10, which were then donated to several charities.

A new kind of conversation

Baker’s first reaction to this brave new world? “I did not like it. It felt strange,” he says. The lack of human contact was unsettling. “I gave the paper and there was nobody there. I just left and walked into the kitchen,” Baker says.

Then Baker’s daughter called and said she and her friends at Seattle Pacific University had been talking about his paper and other parts of the conference for two hours. He also found out about viewers from San Francisco, Fresno and other locations.

By the time Baker had exchanged emails with someone who had asked him a question during the discussion—and who Baker felt he had not answered well—he was much more positive about the experience. “I started getting more of a sense of conversation,” he says.

While neither he nor Baker is ready to give up face-to-face conferences, Frederick noted 86 percent of those responding to a survey said they would attend Ecclesia and Ethics again, and 13 percent said “maybe.” The second event is planned for October 2014.

Several participants suggested combining live and webinar elements. “I think this hybrid model could be a potentially huge next step,” says Frederick.

Baker also enjoyed being able to go to the conference website and look at presentations on his own schedule. “I appreciated watching and listening to other people’s papers,” he says. “It was a lot better than reading a paper in a journal.”



Planting seeds of peace:

CPACS graduates make the world their field

By Wayne Steffen

To assess its effort to plant the seeds of peacemaking around the globe, the FPU Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies called upon those who would know best—the graduates.

Graduates traveled from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and the United States for a consultation on an initiative that has brought international students to the master's program in peacemaking and conflict studies. "This really was an intercontinental gathering," said Peter Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of peacemaking and conflict studies and leader of the meetings, which took place May 13-15 on the main FPU campus.

Candidates were usually selected by church or education leaders in their home countries in collaboration with CPACS. Most earned an M.A. in peacemaking and conflict studies, others incorporated courses from the center into other graduate study. In addition to university financial aid, several also received support from Mennonite Central Committee.

The program's goal has been to train leaders based on the idea that peacemaking is best done by people in their own countries. Discussion centered on how graduates are putting what they learned at CPACS to work. "We decided one way to assess the effectiveness of their preparatory studies at FPU was to bring some of our graduates back to campus to listen



carefully to their triumphs and challenges," Smith said. "It was a very rich time of mutual learning and storytelling."

What came through in the conversation was the variety of areas in which graduates are involved. They are pastors, church and organizational leaders, directors of peace centers and college and university faculty.

The common thread is that graduates are training others, which goes along with the master's program's focus on practice and education. "We're looking for a multiplier effect—we talk about planting seeds," Smith said.

The consultation itself was the flowering of seeds planted by Dalton Reimer, Ph.D., professor emeritus of communication, who has dedicated his life to peacemaking. "Dalton was the visionary impetus behind the project," Smith said. "For many years, Dalton carried the leadership and the burden of the CPACS international program, frequently spending out of his own pocket to meet the needs and goals. Alumni may not have always been aware of his quiet service in this regard, but given the numerous comments that the graduates made during our May sessions, they were all impressed by the ways that Dalton and other faculty at CPACS embodied caring and self-giving lifestyles while relating to students."

Funding for the consultation came from FPU and a \$20,000 grant from the Wabash (College) Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. The International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB) supported making videos on the ICOMB website at usmb.org/icomb.

ICOMB was launched in 1990 during the Mennonite World Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and comprises conferences in 15 countries. The Wabash Center supports scholarship in religion and theology (wabashcenter.wabash.edu/home/default.aspx). Mennonite Central Committee is an international relief organization made up of Mennonite and related denominations (mcc.org).

CPACS faculty will use what they learned to improve instruction for future students. "We want to create professional graduates who are able to practice peacemaking, provide leadership and develop peace programs," Smith said.

ATTENDING THE CONSULTATION WERE:

■ **Pascal Kulungu (MA '98)—Democratic Republic of Congo**

A former teacher, headmaster and administrator of a Mennonite Brethren-sponsored hospital, Kulungu is the founding director of Kinshasa Center for Peacebuilding, Leadership and Good Governance, and adjunct faculty at Christian University of Kinshasa.

■ **Giedre Gadeikyte (MA '02)—Lithuania**

Gadeikyte graduated from LCC International University, which sent her to FPU to prepare for a teaching position at LCC. She is now a faculty member in sociology and peace and conflict studies at LCC, a Christian university.

■ **Ernst Janzen (MA '04)—Brazil**

Janzen pastors an MB Church in Curitiba, Brazil, and is a faculty member at Faculdade Fidelis, a Christian college. He also conducts workshops and has published books on managing conflict, church meetings, marriage and church conflict.

■ **Hien Vu (MA '06)—Vietnam**

Vu was with World Vision in Vietnam when she participated in a training there by Ron Claassen, professor of peacemaking and conflict studies/leadership studies and then-CPACS director. After earning her master's, she became a program officer for East Asia with the Institute for Global Engagement.

■ **Sandra Baez (MA '11)—Colombia**

Baez and her husband, César Garcia, were co-pastors of an MB church in Bogota, Colombia, when she began graduate studies and he entered MB Biblical Seminary (now Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary). Upon their return to Colombia, Baez resumed pastoring an MB church, while Garcia became general secretary of Mennonite World Conference.

"It was
a very rich
time of mutual
learning and
storytelling."

—Peter Smith

■ **Amdetsion Woldeyes Sisha (MA '13)—Ethiopia**

Sisha is the national peace ministry coordinator of the Meserete Kristos (MK Mennonite) Church of Ethiopia. Upon completion of his studies, he returned to his national leadership role in the peace ministry of the church.

■ **Alex Sannikov (MA '12)—Ukraine**

Sannikov now resides in the U.S. In March of 2013 he and Dalton Reimer provided peacemaking training to regional superintendents of the Russian Baptist Church at Moscow Theological Seminary.

SEVERAL GRADUATES WERE NOT PRESENT:

■ **Oksana Bezv (MA '03)—Ukraine**

Bezv and Reimer co-edited a Russian-language anthology published in St. Petersburg, Russia. The English translation of the title is *Christian Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution*.

■ **Girma Kelecha Oda (MA '06)—Ethiopia**

Oda coordinates the Evangelism and Mission Office of the Addis Ababa region of the MK Church, and is adjunct faculty member at MK College.

■ **Christina Asheervadam (MA '09)—India**

Asheervadam is a faculty member at MB Centenary Bible College, where she and husband I.P. Asheervadam co-direct the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies.

■ **Fekadu N. Abebe (MA '10)—Ethiopia**

Abebe taught at Meserete Kristos College for one year, then returned to the U.S. for doctoral studies.

The photo at the beginning of this article depicts the graduates and faculty of the FPU Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies at the consultation. Back row, from left: Ernst Janzen; Jill Schellenberg, Ph.D. candidate, assistant professor of criminology and restorative justice studies; Dalton Reimer, Ph.D., emeritus professor of communication; and Amdetsion Woldeyes Sisha. Middle row, from left: Peter Smith; Ph.D., assistant professor of peacemaking and conflict studies; Alex Sannikov; Larry Dunn, Ph.D., associate professor of peacemaking and conflict studies; and Duane Ruth-Hefelbower, M.Div., J.D., associate professor of peacemaking and conflict studies/business. Front row, from left: Pascal Kulungu; Giedre Gadeikyte; Sandra Baez; and Hien Vu.



Extending Love to more than just the neighbors

*"The Word became flesh
and blood, and moved in
to the neighborhood."
—John 1:14 (The Message)*

Photos by Mike Karibian

By Michelle Murphy

Love is everywhere. We surround ourselves with it and are blessed to receive it. Love compels us to share with our neighbor. It compels some to jump in with both feet and redefine the idea of "neighbor."

Among those are Ashley Cortes (BA '11) and Nick Jones (BA '10, current MA student). The belief in becoming one with your community has led both to some of Fresno's neglected areas to share God's love for the poor.

ASHLEY & SERGIO CORTES ►

A sign in the sky

Life would lead her somewhere special, Ashley Cortes knew, she just didn't know quite where. Driving to work one morning, Ashley looked out from Highway 180 over the buildings and historic houses of downtown Fresno and felt God's love. She knew she and husband Sergio would become a part of that community.

Ashley had already participated in the Pink House, a program from InterVarsity's Fresno Institute for Urban Leadership (FIFUL) where college students live downtown in an intentional community. "God gave me a vision of the landscape of downtown Fresno, and there was a huge heart over it," Ashley says. "It sounds cliché, but I just knew the Lord has a heart for downtown and our entire city."



ASHLEY & SERGIO CORTES

That heart led Ashley and Sergio to move to Lowell Neighborhood and create No More Slumlords, a nonprofit organization dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of tenants. Ashley describes Lowell as a historic area that suffers from corporate landowners who take advantage of tenants.

Joining in

Ashley and Sergio became two of these tenants. For two years, they lived sur-

rounded by gang violence and unlivable conditions. They saw their neighbors dealing with mold on the ceilings and without working water heaters. The on-site manager was not doing the job, and the property owner had no intention of making repairs, they said. "We were naïve when we moved in," Sergio said.

Sergio became the on-site manager in an attempt to share the stories of the other tenants. Their neighbors' stories became Ashley and Sergio's story.

Though they left the apartment complex, Ashley and Sergio still reside in Lowell. Living where they serve has developed the couple's calling. "They're far more confident in the particular gifts and passions that they have now, and how that may fit in the larger picture of what God is doing in Fresno," said Randy White, D. Min., executive director of the FPU Center for Community Transformation and founder of FIFUL, which operates the Pink House. "Ashley is an artist. The integration of her art and her idea of justice is just now beginning to blossom. Sergio inherently knows how to build trust. Those gift sets are just perfect for the neighborhood."

Other residents, like Craig Scharton, former director of downtown and community revitalization for the City of Fresno, are also working to rid the neighborhood of slumlords. "(Slumlords) like people who really can't defend themselves. That's part of the system. If you're undocumented, don't have good credit or rental history, you're not going to complain. In many cases, they don't even know what their rights are. That's why what Ashley and Sergio are doing is so important, because they're informing people of their rights," Scharton says.

Spreading the word

Angela Mendoza, a junior at FPU, heard Ashley in her Community Psychology class. Ashley's passion compelled Angela to volunteer and learn firsthand from tenants.

"These people let you into their homes and you can see the damage to the ceilings and the mold growing and you get passionate about helping them," Mendoza says.

Ashley doesn't know how things will turn out, but her hope for a community that cares about everyone, where everyone is loved, will keep her and Sergio following their calling. "We're just living our life. We're not trying to save the world. We're just trying to follow what God's calling us to do," she says.



NICK JONES

◀ NICK JONES

Impatient to start

For Nick Jones, stepping up is the way to help. "I didn't want to sit in the classroom talking about this stuff," he says.

Dropping out of the traditional undergraduate program, he would later graduate through the bachelor's degree completion program,

Jones ultimately moved into the Ranchwood Apartments across Butler from the main campus, and took over an after-school program. Meeting kids over basketball became Reality Check, a non-profit that paired churches with impoverished neighborhoods.

After two years, Care Fresno offered him his current position as CEO. Care Fresno works with churches, community leaders, police departments and students to help children in gang- and drug-riddled apartments.

There's more than one way to learn, Randy White says. "The role of experience in education has been demonstrated now,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



FPU student and Care Fresno staff member Alexandra Corona reads to children.

ALUMNI PROFILE

DEBBIE
(PARROT)
SNEED
BA '05



“I’ve just been so blessed that I’ve been able to work with my bachelor’s degree.”

SNEED LEARNED CARING AT HOME, FPU MADE IT A CAREER

By Angela Mannino

She knew as a child that the world needed people who cared. Her father showed her. “He was the example of Christ’s loving,” Sneed says. “I remember he said, ‘You know that ‘love your neighbor thing?’ God meant that.”

Her desire to help others eventually translated into a major at FPU.

“It was actually my roommate who started talking to me about what classes she was taking,” Sneed recalls. “She was taking this class called Helping People, and I thought, ‘Really? There’s a major where you can learn to help people?’ So I signed up and it just clicked.”

Sneed met Donna Callahan, MSW, the chair of the social work program, and was inspired by her heart for giving and caring about people. Sneed also credited Stacy Hammond, Ph.D., former faculty in social work and sociology as well as dean of the School of Humanities, Religion and Social Sciences; and Richard Wiebe, philosophy professor, as professors who truly inspired her. To this day, Wiebe’s teaching has stuck with Sneed through the ups and downs of working in hospice.

During her senior year, Sneed was an intern at the Children’s Hospital Central California in Madera. Her first

full-time job was as a case manager for children with disabilities in her hometown of Stockton. “You’re an advocate for them,” she explains, “within the school, within their home life, making sure their parents are connected with all the services.”

Another old roommate contacted Sneed about a job at Optimal Hospice, which was expanding to Stockton. Typically, hospice clients have been given six months or less to live; Optimal Hospice sends employees into the variety of locations—from private houses to skilled nursing facilities—clients call home. Visiting teams include nurses, chaplains, social workers, physicians, aids and volunteers.

“Our number one goal is to make sure the patient is comfortable and all of his or her needs are met, physically, spiritually and emotionally,” she says.

Sneed’s patients have been as young as 25 years old up to over 100. The burnout rate for hospice employees is, on average, about two years, but Sneed sees no reason to leave. “When it’s somebody you don’t know,” she says, “you can step back a little bit, and you can look at: What do they need? How can I help them?”

While some times are especially emotional, Sneed knows that if she were to get caught up in her own emotions, she wouldn’t be able to help the person or people she’s meant to serve. She tells a story about a 40-year-old mom with two



children that she found a particularly difficult case. As a mom herself, this one hit home for Sneed. "It's not easy to lose the ones you love," she says.

Then there was the summer Sneed's father was admitted into hospice care after going into respiratory arrest. "It was a rollercoaster for the last two weeks," Sneed admits. "When it's you going through it, you're a daughter, and you forget all about what you've done professionally. You're just... hanging on for the ride."

When work takes its toll, Sneed leans on her husband, Victor, for support. They met at Mission Springs Christian Camp, Santa Cruz, when she was a student at FPU and he was at California State University, Sacramento. They dated for three years and married the December after she graduated. Their two sons are Joshua and Noah.

At Fresno Pacific, Sneed participated in track and field as well as cross country. Sports gave her skills in team-building that she took with her when she graduated, she says.

Of all FPU taught her, Sneed says her strongest skill is her ability to listen. When she meets new clients and their families, it's best to hear their stories and let them tell her what they need, rather than imposing preconceived methods and practices.

"It's a skill that's talked about in social work," Sneed explains, "to listen to the person and validate whatever feelings they have, to hear where they are at, and then plug in. That way, you can really understand how to help them best."

For the future, Sneed knows a B.A. was her first career stepping stone, and has started her master's degree at CSU Sacramento. "I've just been so blessed that I've been able to work with my bachelor's degree in social work," Sneed said.

With a master's degree, Sneed will be able to move up in social work and reach out to even more people in need of someone who cares.

unequivocally, to be crucial to being a leader. I kind of view what Nick did as jumping in with both feet into the experiential side of education. There's something about experience that clarifies one's calling."

In need of a miracle

Care Fresno received federal funding, but that money disappeared during the recession of 2008, and the organization had almost zero dollars in the bank by 2009. Fifteen sites with full-time programs were dropped and 10 staff were let go. Jones, a husband and father, went without a paycheck for a month. "We'd been federally funded for 15 years, and when the recession hit, non-profits like ours got almost no funding for direct service. I started praying," he says.

One day, while struggling to find sacrifices that might keep Care Fresno running, Jones received a letter. The agency was among the beneficiaries of a wealthy donor's estate. The amount was almost to the dollar the same as the lost federal funding.

The love of one Fresnan helped save Care Fresno. "It was just another miracle on God's part," Jones says.

An opportunity for change

Back at FPU for his master's studies, Jones read the business leadership book *Good to Great*, which made him ask the question for Care Fresno: "What can we be the best at that very few other people are doing?"

The answer was training. In order to create lasting change in its Southeast neighborhood, Care Fresno works with two to three churches a year to prepare missionaries who will make a long-term impact and build lasting relationships between the church and the community.

The Mission Care program trains college students. This group is important because they are at a stage where they can choose what to do with their lives and faith. "They have more freedom than any other time in their life to make that radical commitment to Christ," Jones says.

Passing it on

Alycia Hansen, an FPU student and site manager for Care Fresno, has been working to achieve what Jones envisions. "I didn't really know what I was getting myself into," she says. "I just jumped in and I started building relationships with these kids and got to know them. Now I can't get enough of them."

Mentoring isn't all fun. "I walk these kids home every day from the program, and I walk them home to an empty apartment. There is this 10-year-old taking care of her little brothers. It breaks my heart," Hansen says.

But after the tiresome hours spent trying to connect, kids start to realize that there are people who care. "[The children] knowing that you care about them...it makes it all worth it," Hansen said.

Love: surround yourself with it, share it and bring others along.

LEARN MORE

Ashley and Sergio Cortes: nomoreslumlords.org

Nick Jones: carefresno.org

IN THE NEWS

Kathy Mahan (MA '12) edited *The Fresno Bee's* first e-book, *The Company We Keep*. The book, written by Donald Munro, *Bee* staff writer, tells the story of Fresno's Good Company Players and its leader, Dan Pessano. The book looks at the themes of family, friendship and sacrifice, exploring the true meaning of success. It is available at the Kindle and Apple iBook stores and at Vook.com.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Five alumni graduated in 2013 from San Joaquin College of Law, Clovis. **Dallas Thiesen (BA '09), Ramon Gonzales (BA '08), Eric Licalsi (BA '09) and April Woods (TC '08)** earned Juris Doctor degrees. **James McCann (MA '13)** simultaneously earned his master of arts in Peacemaking and Conflict Studies from FPU and his Juris Doctorate from San Joaquin College of Law through a cooperative program between the schools.

Robert Aguirre (seminary '12) accepted a position as assistant chaplain at Palm Village Retirement Community.

Gonzalo "Gonzo" Villegas (BA '12) was accepted into two Capital Fellows programs: the Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship and California Senate Fellows. He accepted the Unruh Fellowship and went to Sacramento in October 2013 for 10-11 months to work full-time in the office of a policy development office or for an Assembly member. He also enrolled as a graduate student at California State University, Sacramento. The Assembly Fellowship Program, co-sponsored by the State Assembly and Sacramento State, was voted one of the top 10 internships by Vault.com in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Former fellows include a justice of the California Supreme Court, members of the United States Congress and the California State Legislature, a deputy director of the Peace Corps and state and local government officials.

Nancy Boswell (BA '11) graduated with her master's in counseling psychology marriage & family therapy in April 2013 from National University. She is now pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Dave DiPalma (seminary '11) has been hired as a full-time chaplain at Community Regional Medical Center, serving the patients and staff of the burn center and palliative care departments. He completed two years of seminary and two more years of post-seminary training

in clinical pastoral education (CPE). Dave, who came to the seminary after working in medical sales, encourages others to pursue the fields they love, and consider taking a unit or two of CPE.

Camille Valentine (BA '10, MA '13) was promoted July 1, 2013, to director of mediation services family division of the FPU Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, located within the Self-Help/Facilitators Office at the Fresno Superior Court. She serves as president for the Association for Conflict Resolution Central California Chapter and operates her own mediation business, ValentineMediation.com. Camille is the first African American female to become a settlement officer for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Department and for the past three years has been an advocate for Castle Keep, which raises awareness for elder abuse.

Shant Barsoumian (attended seminary '08) was appointed minister of Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, MI, in March 2013. Shant is a graduate of California State University, Northridge, and Talbot School of Theology at Biola University. Previous posts include pastoral intern at Fresno's First Armenian Presbyterian Church; interim pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Mount Prospect, IL; and Christian education director of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ. He was ordained at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles on March 10, 2013.



Chad Ensz (BA '08) and wife Kennen Barber-Ensz are pastoring their first church, First Presbyterian Church in Estherville, IA. Chad was a Paragon Scholar. They earned master of divinity degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary, and Chad received his ordination through the Presbytery of South Dakota. In their first months, they developed the parish accountability team, confirmation class and after-school program; fixed a decades-old problem with bats in the church attic; and joined the congregation's bell choir. Church

members have shown their affection by showing up at 7:00 a.m. the day after a snowfall to help shovel. Their treasured mementos of Fresno include a chihuahua/dachshund mix named Ophelia originally rescued by Pam Johnston, Ph.D., associate professor of history. "It was really moving to me to visit my first students who have gone to their own pastorate, and in their mid-twenties," said W. Marshall Johnston, associate professor of history, who reconnected with the couple while on sabbatical. "What Chad and Kennen have done is what it's all about."

Aaron Henderson (BA '07, MA '09) was named athletic director at Immanuel High School, Reedley, CA, effective July 1, 2013. He had been assistant athletic director for event operations/assistant men's basketball coach at FPU for seven years and an instructor in the kinesiology program for two years.

Martha Lozano (BA '07) has been deployed to Afghanistan as part of her California Army National Guard Unit, the 1106th Theater Aviation Sustainment Management Group. Martha has the rank of specialist, repairing aviation systems. She left in April 2013 and the deployment is to last up to one year.

Mark Petersen (BA '05) is teaching American politics and international relations at Bethany College in West Virginia.

Rhonda Dueck (BA '99, MA '12) is the director of The Micah Project, a ministry program launched in August 2013 through North Fresno Church. The 10-month discipleship experience places participants in a community, where they explore church and urban ministry and develop leadership skills.

Kirsten Barnes (MA '98) of Lemoore, has been appointed to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. She has been a counselor and teacher at Crossroads Charter Academy in the Armona School District since 2008 and has served in multiple positions for the Hanford Joint Union High School District since 1993, including guidance counselor, independent study teacher and continuation high school teacher. Barnes is a member of the California Teachers Association, the American School Counselors Association and the California Association of School Counselors. This position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation.



FUTURE FPU SUNBIRDS

The Flock is for children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and young friends of FPU alumni.

Join today! \$35 lifetime membership
Register online at fresno.edu/theflock



WEDDINGS

Kaitlyn Gaede (BA '14) married **Tyler Goslinga (BA '14)** on June 8, 2013, in Fresno.

Alexis Nahigian (BA '13) married **Jordan White** on May 26, 2013, in Fresno.

Katy Pacino (BA '13) married **Weston Smart (BA '13)** on July 6, 2013, in Kenwood, CA. The couple is moving to Wheaton, IL, so Weston can pursue his master's degree.

Sarah Rhoads (BA '10) married **Ryan Siemens** on April 27, 2013.

Corrie Hilty (BA '09) married **Casey Hawes (BA '09)** on June 29, 2013.

BIRTHS

Nathan (BA '08, TC '10) and **Rachel (Camp BA '07) Boldt** announce the birth of daughter **Leah Delphine** on April 29, 2013. Proud grandparents are **Greg (BA '82, seminary '87)** and **Esther (attended '91) Camp**.

Jonathan (BA '06) and **Kandi (Grady BA '07) Broersma** announce the birth of daughter **Alice Mae** on March 17, 2013.

1 Matthew (TC '03, MA '05) and **Anita (Gonzales BA '01) Cockrum** announce the birth of **Nathanael Levi** on May 14, 2012. He joins older brothers **Matthias** and **Thaddaeus**.

2 Jennifer (McCarty BA '05) Ribb and husband **Josh** announce the birth of **Rebecca Hope** on June 15, 2013. She joins sister **Elizabeth**.

Luke (BA '05, MA '09) and **Jennifer (Jesser BA '06) Shellenberger** announce the birth of son **William Ronald** on April 12, 2013. He joins sister **Eden**.

3 Sheila (Kamps BA '04) Frowsing and husband **Nathan** announce the birth of son **Zachary Charles** on May 14, 2013.

4 Jonathan (BA '03) and **Lisa (Koelewyn BA '04, MA '12) Maher** announce the birth of daughter **Ada Mary Ruth** on July 6, 2013. She was born at 11:24 am. She joins **Annie**, 2½.

Dan (BA '01) and **Charis (Cook BA '00, TC '01) Chapman** announce the birth of son **Silas Timothy** on July 7, 2013. He joins sister **Kira** and brothers **Elliot** and **Nathanael**. Dan is a registered nurse at Kaiser Permanente in Fresno. Charis stays home with their children and is homeschooling the older two.

Will (BA '97, trustee) Dyck and wife **Allison** announce the birth of daughters **Brielle Holland** and **Breitlyn Nash** on April 9, 2013. They join sister **Ashlyn**, 3.

FACULTY/STAFF

Chris Janzen (assistant professor of art) and wife **Robin** announce the birth of daughter **Nellie Genevieve** on April 18, 2013. She joins sister **Analia Rose**, 2.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

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

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

LIFESAVING DEGREE:

MSN expands nurses' role



The baby's heart wasn't beating.

Rushing to help with a million things happening at once, the nurse prepared a dose of epinephrine, also known as adrenaline, to return the child to the living. But the dose was too much—10 times too much.

Tragedy...except:

The situation was a simulation and the baby was a Laerdal manikin. This time Stephanie Blundell, assistant professor of nursing in Fresno Pacific University's new master of science in nursing program, was the "confederate," intentionally making the mistake to judge the reactions of the students, all registered nurses.

Blundell has seen students make that and other mistakes that would be fatal in real life. Simulations are a central part of FPU's MSN curriculum because, more than reading a case study, a simulation sharpens students' skills and gives them a taste of the emotional side of the work. "It's important we have a very safe environment," Blundell says.

Classes for the MSN program began August 28, 2013, at FPU's North Fresno Center with 20 registered nurses with bachelor's degrees. The goal of the 51-unit program, which will meet weekly for five semesters, summer included, is to prepare students for licensure as nurse practitioners and nursing educators.

FPU offers two tracks: family nurse practitioner and nurse educator/clinical specialist. The first track focuses on caring for patients and the second on teaching. All students, however, will do a micro-teaching practicum.

A great start

Community support for the MSN program has already been strong. The Fresno-based Leon S. Peters Foundation has given \$140,000 to purchase equipment for the simulation lab. Blundell's story moved the foundation to finance a child manikin as well as an adult-sized

one, in addition to two-way screens and a multi-position electric hospital bed. "We need nurses in the Central Valley," said Foundation President Kenneth Peters. "This gift helps everyone."

Edwin and Mildred (Warkentin PBI '48) Ewy have given an additional \$17,000 for nursing equipment. The Ewys provided seed money for Fresno Pacific's bachelor of science in nursing program.

Both donations will help the MSN program create nursing leaders. "The gifts from the Peters Foundation and the Ewys are a direct contribution to quality of life," said Karen Cianci, dean of the FPU School of Natural Sciences.

Why nurse practitioners?

Nurse practitioners are becoming more important in California's Central Valley as the new federal health and insurance regulations take effect in an area already short on resources, including medical doctors. "Every national trend will be exacerbated in the Valley because many rural and urban clinics are already underserved," Cianci said.

With the ability to supervise clinics, prescribe medication and oversee health promotion and disease prevention efforts, nurse practitioners can free up doctors for many other tasks. "A master's education in nursing equips nurses with valuable knowledge and skills," said Mariamma Mathai, Ed.D., professor of nursing at FPU and director of the nursing program.

This opportunity to do good for the Valley is also a chance for the students to do very well. While nurses can earn \$80,000 a year in a hospital, the income of a nurse practitioner, depending on where he or she practices, can be twice that, Cianci said. "This is a burgeoning and highly paid career," she said.

Quality from the first

The nursing department, which already offers a BSN through the bachelor's degree completion program, has been going full speed since the FPU Board of Trustees approved the MSN program this June in order to start in August. "That's two months, that's huge," Cianci said.

Response was immediate. The goal was to start with 15 students. "In 48 hours we had more than 18 applicants," Cianci said. Ultimately more than 30 applications were received.

Current students have a combined 230 years of experience and range in age from 20s to mid-career. They come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including Hmong, Hispanic, Filipino, Indian and African American as well as European American. Some have missions or military experience. "You really felt like you were in a professional meeting," Cianci said of orientation.

The FPU difference

Wherever they come from, students will learn true health care involves more than prescriptions and procedures. Care for the whole person is one way FPU's MSN program stands apart. "The university is Christ-centered and the program is grounded in Christian principles," Mathai said.

The program is different in format as well. The curriculum is a blend of in-person and online instruction, in a cohort system where a group of students remains together through the program. "The class schedule is geared toward the working adult," Mathai said.

Graduates of FPU's MSN program will have the tools to improve health in the Valley. "Our nurses will be able to teach patients how to care for themselves and how to make healthy lifestyle choices," Mathai said.

The next cohort is now planned for fall 2014. For more information, contact Joanie Joy at joanie.joy@fresno.edu or 559-453-3446.



THE YES! PROJECT

FPU helps high school students say YES! to Shakespeare

By Norma Vasquez

The YES! (Youth Engage Shakespeare) Project is a new partnership between FPU and the Woodward Park Shakespeare Festival to introduce high school students to the works of William Shakespeare.

Julia Reimer, Ph.D., associate director of theater at FPU, conducted the project from July 29 to August 16, 2013. Other staff members included Brooke Aiello, local actor and teacher, and FPU student interns Trevor Thomas and Misty Ann Stewart.

Workshops on campus culminated in a public performance August 16 before an audience of about 150 people on the Shakespeare Festival stage at Fresno's Woodward Park. Some of the eight cast members came from Sanger, University, Edison, King's Christian, Bullard and Roosevelt high schools, while others were home schooled.

The chosen play was the classic fantasy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. "We decided to focus on just the lover's scenes, so we could explore relationships, something we felt the teens would relate to," Reimer said.

The approach was playful, with many games and collaborations, such as imaging the text and creating a rap to learn Shakespeare's style and language. Students added their own touch by creating their own scenes. "The students chose to call it 'Midsummer Remix (Fairies Not Included)'. I think everyone felt proud of their work," Reimer said.

Students grew over the three weeks. "We developed a small community with one another. The students seemed to enjoy themselves and each other," Reimer said.

The Rotary Club of Fresno and North Fresno Rotary Club each contributed grants of \$1,000. "We could not have had the project without them," Reimer said.

SUNBIRDS GIVE BACK

STUDENT-ATHLETES COMMIT TO MAKE-A-WISH, COMMUNITY

The 2012-2013 season saw FPU athletics embrace a renewed commitment to serving through various projects and events. Student-athletes volunteered 2,328 hours of service to the surrounding community and raised \$3,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"The department of athletics and our student-athletes are committed to serving the community in a variety of ways as a component of the NCAA Division II athletic experience and the Christian mission of our university," said Senior Associate Athletics Director Leslie Schuemann, who took the lead in directing community service initiatives for the year. "We provide our student-athletes many opportunities to serve, engage and lead. In turn, community service provides growth opportunities for our student-athletes, as well as real-world experience across many different venues."

Each team participated in multiple community service and community engagement activities. This included working with local elementary schools, foster children, Special Olympics, Children's Hospital, Community Food Bank, Fresno Rescue Mission, Toys for Tots and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) raised \$3,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The SAAC hosted two separate Penny Wars events on campus to raise funds for the foundation during the fall and spring semesters. Faculty, staff and students competed against each other in various groups, including the FPU Visalia Center, to contribute to the cause. Founded in 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has enriched the lives of more than 250,000 children around the world with life-threatening medical conditions.

Student-athletes also planned, promoted and executed the first SAAC community engagement activity hosted on the main campus for the surrounding area. The FPU Fitness Fair on April 20 brought multiple local businesses, student-athletes and fans together to promote health and wellness.

All 16 teams participated, partnering with nearly 20 local businesses to provide entertainment, prizes and fun ways to inform the community about the event's three specific foci: obesity, nutrition and exercise.



KEEPING UP WITH THE SUNBIRDS

The fall athletics season is underway! Follow all the action with game and feature videos, schedules, rosters and more at fpuathletics.com

99

SUNBIRDS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

FPU saw 99 student-athletes earn recognition from the Pacific West Conference for their academic performance during the 2012-13 season.

Members of all 16 sports were represented, including a team-high 14 athletes from men's track and field and 13 each from baseball, women's soccer and women's track and field. Women's volleyball had the highest percentage of its members earn academic honors with 11, 80 percent of the team roster. The men's swimming and diving team earned the NCAA Division II Scholar Team award in both the fall and spring semesters.

AWARD WINNERS

Sunbird of the Year—Kathleen Anderson (volleyball), Senior of the Year—Milika Tuivanuavou (women's track & field), Scholar of the Year—Sienna Gonzales (women's basketball), Freshman of the Year—Wesley Coles (men's swimming) and Sarah Hill (women's track and field). Left to right: Coles, Hill, Tuivanuavou, Gonzales, Anderson.



Wilson looks to bring the spark back to women's basketball

Lindsey Wilson became head coach of the women's basketball team in May 2013. Wilson, who becomes the seventh head coach in program history, comes to FPU from Eastern New Mexico University, where she spent the last two seasons as head coach in one of the nation's toughest NCAA Division II conferences.

Senior Associate Athletics Director Leslie Schuemann expects Wilson's infectious enthusiasm, work ethic and knowledge of the game to make her a perfect fit for a women's basketball program in need of a spark. During her two seasons with the Greyhounds, she revived a program that had failed to make the conference tournament since 2004, taking ENMU to back-to-back tournament appearances.

Wilson's coaching experience also includes five years as an assistant coach at NCAA Division I Texas-Arlington. She helped the Mavericks to a perfect 17-0 record in the Southland Conference and a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

The daughter of an Oklahoma high school basketball coaching legend, Wilson has been around the game all her life. After a standout high school career, she went on to play college basketball at NCAA Division II Central Oklahoma, where she was team captain.

The Sunbirds went 4-21 last year in its first season of NCAA Division II and Pacific West Conference play. The program has not experienced a winning season since 2007 and hasn't posted a winning conference record since 2002.

"I am very thankful God has opened this new door and new opportunity in my life," Wilson said. "I am extremely appreciative of President Menjares for his confidence in me to restore Sunbird women's basketball to prominence. I am very excited for the future. We will play hard and be fun to watch."



New position focuses on increasing the excitement

Jose Guerrero joined the athletics staff in August 2013 as the new assistant athletics director for event operations.

Guerrero comes to FPU from Beachbody LLC's corporate headquarters in Santa Monica, where he served four-and-one-half years as facilities and logistics coordinator.

"Jose brings knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to the FPU athletics staff," said Senior Associate Athletics Director Leslie Schuemann. "His commitment to using collaboration, cooperation and hard work to provide outstanding Sunbird events will provide an exciting atmosphere for our fans. Jose's strong Christian faith and past experience at Christian institutions made him the perfect fit for FPU."

While at Beachbody, Guerrero helped oversee facilities and events for a company with more than 700 employees and was instrumental in maintaining infrastructure during a span of rapid growth after the success of popular workout programs such as P90X and Insanity.

At FPU Guerrero's duties will include overseeing athletic events, assisting in management of facilities, implementing new game-environment initiatives and working with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) to increase FPU's community engagement.

A graduate of Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, Guerrero served as a mentor to younger students in college while developing a passion for a positive collegiate athletics atmosphere and student-athlete experience.

Guerrero was added after former Assistant A.D. Aaron Henderson was hired as the athletic director at Immanuel High School, Reedley, CA, in May.

SCHOLARSHIPS EMPOWER STUDENTS TO TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

FPU students overcome many challenges to reach their goals. Here are just a few of their stories:



“God just guided me all the way to FPU.”

Miguel Padilla—making opportunities

Miguel Padilla (BA '13) believes God provides opportunities, and we have to make the most of them.

Some opportunities—like coming to Fresno Pacific University—are obvious. Others aren't.

Early on Miguel learned to work for what he had. Born in Mexico, Miguel was 10 when his parents brought him to the United States. The family settled near Gustine, CA, where Miguel worked in a dairy, fed cattle, drove tractors and did whatever had to be done. Education wasn't on anyone's mind. “My parents didn't know there was a law that all children had to go to school,” he says. “There were about two-three years where I didn't go to school at all.” Ultimately he attended school in the mornings and spent afternoons in the dairy.

School taught Miguel the importance of education. “I realized there were a lot of opportunities in the U.S.”

Graduating from high school made Miguel the most formally educated person in his family. Being class valedictorian got him accepted by universities including UC Berkeley and Stanford. His immigration status, however, made Miguel ineligible for financial aid.

An FPU admissions counselor told Miguel about the Samaritan Scholarship. “That literally opened my entire world,” he says. Miguel saw the opportunity as a sign of God's provision. “My parents told me, God will provide, and just be faithful. It's meant the world to me,” he says.

Even with tuition covered, Miguel had to work to pay for room, board, books and other expenses. First it was weekends at the dairy, then at a Lemoore restaurant. Study time for the pre-health/Spanish language and culture major came right after class. “I wouldn't waste any time at all,” Miguel says. He did take time to marry wife Susana (Gonzalez BA '10) during his junior year.

Today Miguel is working toward his dream of being a physician. He completed training as a certified nursing assistant and has been accepted into nursing school. The goal is an RN to MD program and perhaps service with an organization like Doctors Without Borders. “I want to help people who don't have what we have,” he says.

Looking back, Miguel sees his opportunities clearly. “God just guided me all the way to FPU,” he says. “I got the greatest education. It was a challenge, but it was worth it.”

That education went beyond the textbooks. “I learned that if you get an opportunity, take it,” Miguel says.

Araceli Solis

For Araceli Solis, what began with helping out at her children's schools has turned into a career and an education at FPU. Araceli, a supervising personal service coordinator at Turning Point of Central California, earned her B.A. through FPU's degree completion program, and is working on her master's this fall.

Small class size, excellent instructors, helpful counselors, friendly staff and the academic challenge all build Araceli's abilities and confidence. "The work ethic you learn in DC helps you when you go into the field," Araceli



says. "I found that FPU is the best choice of school for me."

What would have made the choice easier? Financial aid. While over 90 percent of FPU's traditional undergraduates qualify for grants and scholarships, adult students must rely more on loans. "For me it would have taken a lot of the stress off," Araceli says.

Like many adult students, Araceli knows stress. She has been raising four children alone since her husband died six years ago, and has had to make hard choices now to provide a better future for herself and her family. Still, she looks ahead with excitement. "The master's program is going to open more opportunities," she says.



Dustin Maddox

Dustin Maddox thought he was just hanging out. Friends had invited the Oakhurst teenager to their youth group at Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church and there was an announcement about a mission trip to Mexico.

"My friend turned to me and said, 'Why don't you come?' And I said, 'Sure, I don't have anything better to do,'" Dustin recalls. "They put me in a VBS (Vacation Bible School) group. At the time I didn't know what those letters stood for."

The impact was immediate. "In terms of conversion it was less of a Peter and more of a Paul moment," he says. "If this is what it means to follow Jesus, then sign me up," he says.

Sign up Dustin did. After completing his B.A. in contemporary Christian ministry and biblical studies at FPU, he enrolled in Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary and started work as a youth pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Fresno.

Each seminary class builds Dustin's ministry. "Almost every time I leave class and we've been talking about a particular issue, when I get back to church that issue is there in flesh and blood," he says.

While he helps others, Dustin continues to thank those who have helped him. "The value of scholarships is that they're invaluable," he says.

Vanessa Montes

A high school career as a competitive swimmer, a perfect university GPA and preparation for a career as a physical therapist seemed the furthest thing from Vanessa's life when she was born eight weeks premature.

Back then the goal was survival. Vanessa needed a ventilator and a feeding tube. Later diagnosed with cerebral palsy, she wore a leg brace through most of elementary school.

Vanessa found strength in swimming. In four years on the varsity team at El Diamante High School in Visalia, she medaled three times in Valley championships. "I stuck with it," she says.

Sticking with it helped Vanessa earn an FPU President's Scholarship. She dove into her studies with the same determination she had devoted to swimming, earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average her freshman year, while keeping a full schedule of classes and a campus job.



"I wouldn't be able to attend this school without it," Vanessa says of the scholarship. But it's more than money. "I think it proves that God has a plan for me."

Vanessa wants to be a physical therapist to pay forward what has been given to her. "I really want to just inspire people with my story and I want to encourage them," she says.

GET INVOLVED! Share videos about these students and see how you can help empower leaders and transform lives at [FPU.edu/transform](https://fpu.edu/transform)

donors, dollars & students

FPU ANNUAL REPORT | 2012-2013



YOUR DOLLARS ACCOMPLISHED:

AUG
2013

Additional \$100,000 in scholarships offered to FPU students

⋮

JUNE-AUG
2013

Campus-wide beautification, renovations of classrooms and refurbishing of student housing

⋮

MAR
2013

Opening of the new Fitness Center

⋮

JAN
2013

Increased academic program offerings

⋮

DEC
2012

Opening of the new Commuter Lounge

⋮

NOV
2012

The Center for Community Transformation is launched

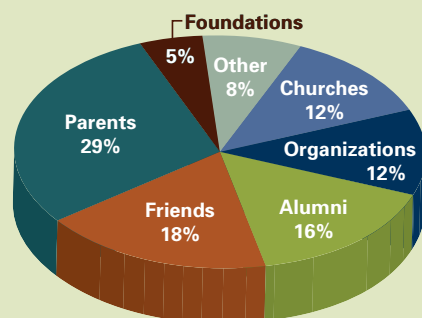
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AUG
2012

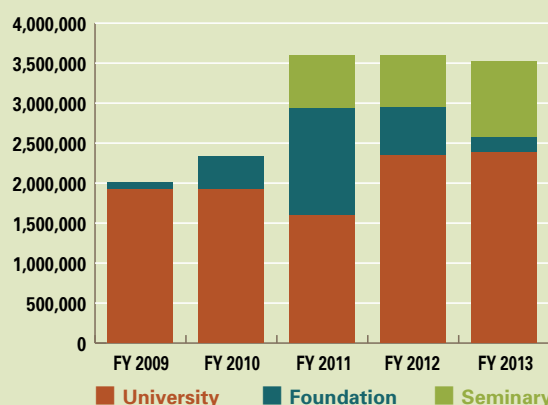
Acquisition of new Willow Garden properties to expand our campus footprint.

University, Seminary and Foundation Donor Groups

Parent donors
up 12%
from 2011-2012

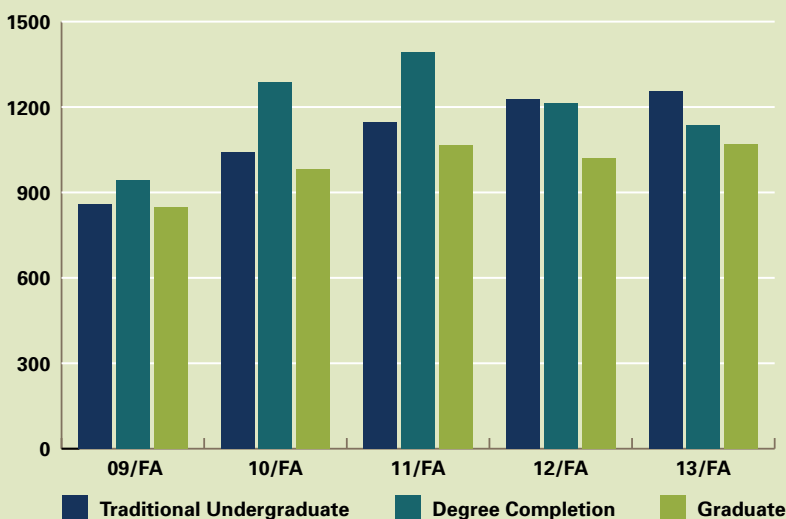


University, Seminary and Foundation Giving



Seminary
donations
up 45%
from 2011-2012

Enrollment



Financial information on the university covers the fiscal period May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013. Information on the foundation covers the fiscal period January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012.

FINDING YOUR PATH IN A FOREIGN LAND

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I; send me!”*
—Isaiah 6:8 (NRSV)



Cinthia Gordillo

Faith and family have come together for senior Cinthia Gordillo during her time as an FPU student—but not always on campus.

Until coming to the university, Cinthia had never left Fresno. Her mother, however, had emigrated from Honduras more than 20 years previously. Cinthia had never met her grandmother, and knew her grandfather only as a voice on the telephone.

The summer following her freshman year, Cinthia spent a month in Guatemala on a university trip. “To make the jump to another country was awesome,” Cinthia says.

Adding extra meaning was the chance to spend a couple of days with her family in neighboring Honduras. The bus ride was nothing like traveling the I-5. “It was 14 hours of hills and curves,” Cinthia recalls.

The journey was worth the bumps, as Cinthia met relatives and was reunited with the brother who had returned to Honduras five years before. Here she found answers to questions she had about her own upbringing. “It explained some things,” Cinthia says.

Higher education, for example, is not a priority in a place where there is nowhere to use a degree. The middle child of six, Cinthia is the first to finish high school and enter college. FPU mentors—Dina González-Piña, assistant dean of multicultural ministries, University Pastor Angulus Wilson and Easter Hawkins (seminary '13)—have kept her

on track as she enters her senior year this fall, pursuing a B.A. with majors in psychology and Spanish.

Their support, and Cinthia's fascination with Central America, carried her through more education and mission trips: 10 days in Guatemala as part of the Cross-Cultural Psychology class; a summer in Honduras for her brother's wedding and volunteering with kindergarteners and teenagers for an organization called Honduras Children; and four months in Costa Rica leading a Bible study for young people ages 9-18 who worked in a woodshop. “A lot of them are from single-parent families and they had a lot of resentment against their fathers,” Cinthia says. “I told them they had another father in God.”

The summer of 2013 saw Cinthia in Costa Rica in a leadership position helping women start small businesses and serving as a translator and guide for church groups. “Now I am the teacher,” she says.

In Costa Rica everything came together for Cinthia. “My time there was like being able to get into Scripture more. Talking to God every day and praying and saying thank you for allowing me to be here and allowing me to go to FPU and be mentored by amazing people. It was just one of those moments when you know you're in the right spot.”



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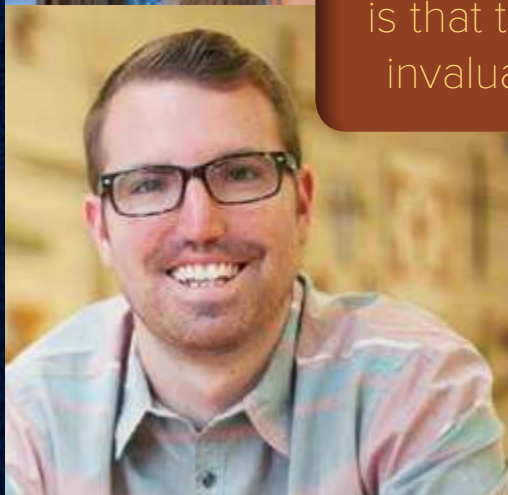
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