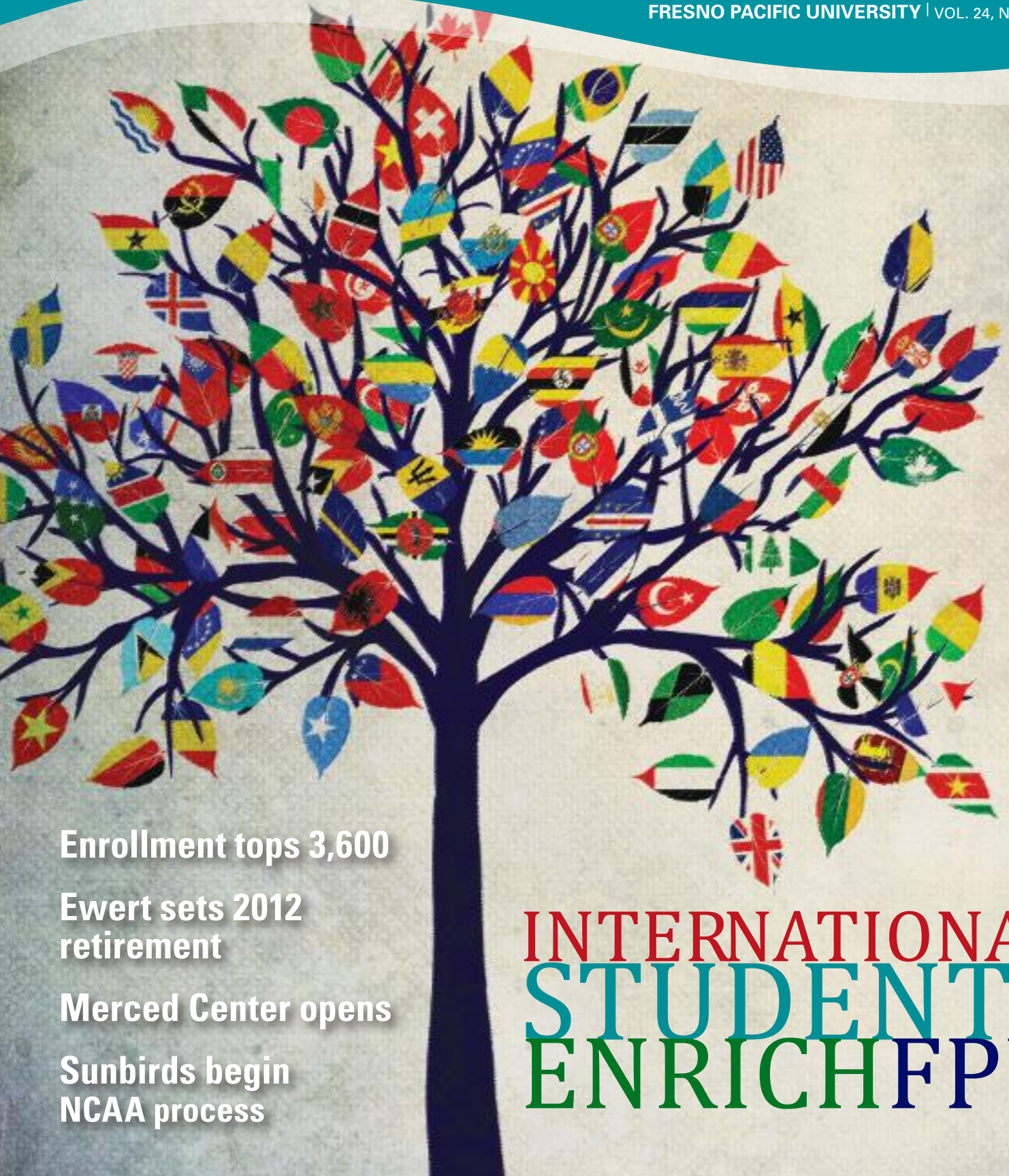


# PACIFIC

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 24, NO. 2



**Enrollment tops 3,600**

**Ewert sets 2012  
retirement**

**Merced Center opens**

**Sunbirds begin  
NCAA process**

**INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS  
ENRICH FPU**

# president's message



D. MERRILL EWERT, PH.D.

## The world in a drawer

**T**he world I studied in school is very different from the one our students study today.

Look at the drawer in which I keep my expired passports. I have lived in, worked in or visited countries that subsequently gained their independence, split, united, moved their boundaries, changed their names and implemented new political philosophies through civil wars, coup d'états or plebiscites.

Priscilla and I have been privileged to live in Belgium, Congo (known for a time as Zaire), Kenya, Ethiopia and the Philippines. I've worked with graduate students on research projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. These experiences shaped my understanding of nations, peoples and cultures. That's why I believe strongly in the importance of international exchanges, travel and study abroad.

My deepest insights, however, came not through my formal studies but through my relationships. After college I lived in Congo. There I taught with a young man who became my assistant when I returned several years later to lead a community development project. As we worked and traveled together, we not only became close friends, but he helped me see and understand the culture within which he was born, raised and lived. That taught me more about his world than anything I read in books or learned by living in his country.

Students from 36 countries study at Fresno Pacific. The degrees and credentials they earn help prepare them to lead in their communities, nations and churches. They also learn about North America, while students raised here learn about the rest of the world, through living together and building relationships. These personal bonds help all of us—students, faculty and staff—understand the hopes and fears of other peoples and nations.

Only one institution crosses every political, social, ethnic and class boundary: the church. Fresno Pacific is part of that global congregation of those who follow Jesus. As students gather here from around the world, they prepare to serve as agents of reconciliation and change throughout our global village, no matter how national boundaries and political systems evolve. They do this because at Fresno Pacific teaching and learning are wrapped in relationships that are diverse, inclusive and Founded on Christ.



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# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENRICH FPU

THEY COME FROM MANY PLACES  
AND FOR MANY REASONS, BUT EACH  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADDS TO  
THE FPU COMMUNITY



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Fall sees growth in student numbers, academic preparedness and ethnic diversity

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Robert Hernandez (BA '09) keeps on running

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## Enrollment of 3,603 marks 51 percent increase in three years

**T**he 3,603 students in class at FPU in the fall of 2011 represent an increase of 9 percent over this time in 2010, and 51 percent over the last three years.

With official figures available as of the university's 16-day census September 23, enrollment is up in traditional undergraduate, bachelor's degree completion and graduate programs, including the seminary.

"We have increased in total numbers, academic readiness and diversity," said Stephen Varvis, Ph.D., vice president of enrollment management. "There are possibilities here for extending the mission and vision of the university and providing the excellence in Christian higher education that we offer throughout the Valley and world."

Some 1,145 students are in the traditional undergraduate program, designed for those coming directly from high school or another college, up from 1,043 in 2010 and 100 above the previous record. Of these, 436 were new students.

The entering class is not only larger, but better prepared and more ethnically diverse. The average SAT score was 1,030, up from 1,004, and the average grade point average was 3.59. At the same time, the number of students identifying themselves as Hispanic grew from 28 percent to over 30 percent.

Degree completion, where students are older and have some college and work experience, recorded an increase from 1,288 to 1,393. A new regional center opened in Merced September 19, joining those in North Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield. An expansion at the North Fresno Center is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2011.

Graduate enrollment rose by 82 students over fall 2010 to 1,065, the largest number since at least 2002. The 265 new students include 35 from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, bringing seminary enrollment to 116 students, up from 111 in fall 2010.

The large increases of the last three years have brought reflection as well as celebration. "We need to think about our enrollment goals and capabilities to ensure each student gets the academic, professional and ethical education that sets FPU apart. There is a lot of potential here," Varvis said.



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



## Merrill Ewert announces retirement in 2012

**D** Merrill Ewert announced he will retire as president, effective July 31, 2012.

“It’s been a very unique and special privilege to serve in this capacity. It’s not anything I would have sought or imagined,” he said.

The Board of Trustees has selected the Dingman Company, a worldwide search firm based in California, to lead the search process and appointed a search committee including board members, alumni, faculty and staff.

Ewert came to FPU from Cornell University, where he was director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. He also taught at Wheaton College and the University of Maryland and spent more than a decade in Africa with Christian relief organizations.

“The university is in its best financial position ever. The academic programs have grown significantly. The university has greatly strengthened its presence in the Valley,” said Board Chair John Thiesen.

Many deserve the credit. “The commitment of the faculty, the hard work of the staff, the generosity of the donors, the enthusiasm of the students, the trust of the parents and the prayers of all our friends,” Ewert said.



### Since Ewert took office June 1, 2002, FPU:

- Grew from 2,049 students to more than 3,600.
- Opened new regional centers in North Fresno, Visalia, Bakersfield and Merced.
- Began programs including the global MBA, master’s in kinesiology and bachelor’s in Christian ministry and leadership, nursing, criminology and restorative justice, and early childhood development.
- Dedicated AIMS Hall of Math & Science, Steinert Campus Center and the remodeled Alumni Hall.
- Won national championships in volleyball, swimming and tennis. The number of sports has also grown from nine to 16, and the university is becoming part of the NCAA Division II.

## Be led and lead, graduates told during May commencement

**F**ollow God and lead others, graduates were told at commencement May 7.

“God wants to be your leader,” Gary Wall told 426 graduates, their friends and families on the East Hall Green of the main campus. “There are many choices to be made, but this is by far the most important.”

But following is only the beginning. “What will you build for the glory of God?” asked Wall, pastor for the Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, the denomination affiliated with FPU.

Wall recalled that in 1960 a few faithful leaders bought a cotton field and built the school that became FPU. “What,” he asked the graduates, two of whom were his daughters, “will they say 60 years from now would not have been if it were not for the class of 2011?”

Ceremonies were in the morning for the 208 graduates of traditional undergraduate and graduate programs, and in the evening for the 218 bachelor’s degree completion program graduates. The morning commencement included 21 members of the first class of Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, formerly MB Biblical Seminary. The seminary became a school of the university effective June 2010 and this marked the first joint ceremonies. Wall is a graduate of FPU and MB Biblical Seminary.

Graduates Jennifer Deibert and Kelsey Penner received the Harold Haak Award and the Academic Award, respectively. Marshall and Pamela Johnston, assistant professors of history and classics, received the Nickel Excellence in Teaching Award. Every Neighborhood Partnership received the Seminary Social Service Award.





# Dennis Langhofer understood his students

by Wayne Steffen

Since helping found the degree completion program, Dennis Langhofer, has been a champion for adult students at FPU. After all, he was one. Langhofer, who retired this spring as dean of the School of Business, began his bachelor's degree at California State University, Fresno, when he was 25. After a stint as a salesman for 3M Company, he finished his MBA at CSUF at 31 and earned an Ed.D. from the University of San Francisco at 61. He knows the advantages older students have: experience and resources. "These two elements are what drive degree completion," Langhofer says. "Our task is to provide theory."

Dennis and wife Julia grew up in the Reedley-Dinuba area and attended Dinuba MB Church, where they married in 1968. The couple lived in the same house on Townsend near the campus for more than 35 years, raising son Andrew and daughter Cynthia and attending Butler MB Church.



## In and out of FPU

When Langhofer welcomed 17 students to the first DC course in 1991, it actually marked his return to FPU. In 1973, Langhofer joined the faculty as the solo business professor. "That meant I taught almost everything," he says.

In the early 1970s there were about a dozen business students out of total enrollment of 300-400. Some faculty wondered if business belonged at a liberal arts institution. "It was kind of fun, we were able to try things we wouldn't have otherwise," he says. "Eventually we gained a sense of acceptance."

Today more students study business than any other field. Traditional undergraduates choose from among five emphases, degree completion offers two and there are two master's programs.

When Langhofer left in 1982, it was not to get away from

FPU. "I was trying to get more experience and test my skills," he says.

He and two partners built a Computerland franchise to five stores, selling it back to the company when the franchise expired in 1991. That same year Langhofer was asked to return to FPU to start the program with which he would become identified. "When I came back it was with a very different perspective," he says.



Dennis and Julia

**Give to the Langhofer Scholarship**  
See page 29

## Growth of DC

Fresno Pacific paid \$350,000 for a curriculum from Spring Arbor College. "There was a lot of concern about us putting out that kind of money," Langhofer says. Costs paid for as a percentage of tuition were covered in about one year.

Just as with business courses in the 1970s, some faculty wondered if accelerated DC programs were rigorous enough for FPU. Part of Langhofer's strategy was to involve those very faculty. "It took a lot of time to wear down some of that resistance," he says.

Langhofer pioneered locations as well as programs, among them Visalia, Bakersfield and Merced. Classes were conducted in churches and other locations that did not charge rent. "We got to go to places where the students were," he said.

## Taking some time

In May Dennis and Julia, a retired nurse practitioner, moved with Cynthia to Spokane to be near Andrew, daughter-in-law Brandie and granddaughter Olivia, 1. He plans to read and write as well as work on his golf game and fly fishing. "I'm going to take time to think those great thoughts I've had, see if they're still true and maybe do something with them."

## REMEMBERING FRIESEN, MATHEWS

Family and friends gathered May 6 to dedicate a bench and garden in honor of two deceased students. Katie Friesen and Jeanette Mathews were members of the class of 2011. In 2009 Mathews died of natural causes and Friesen was killed in an automobile accident during a class field trip. Among the speakers were Friesen's father, Dr. Brian Friesen, classmates Aly Shackelford and Mariah Mandelbaum and alumnus Kelly Nachtigall, who designed the memorial. The bench and garden are between East Hall and Strasbourg Quad on the main campus.



## HRSS deans took different roads to FPU

*The past and present deans of the School of Humanities, Religion and Social Sciences found FPU, and the Mennonite Brethren denomination that sponsors it, from very different directions. Stacy Hammons, Ph.D., had never heard of MBs. Kevin Reimer, Ph.D., knew them only in the past tense.*



### Kevin Reimer

Reimer came in July from Azusa Pacific University, where he taught psychology. He has a doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oxford and the University of British Columbia. His master of divinity is from Regent College and his B.A. is from the University of California, Davis. In 2004

he was an adjunct instructor at FPU and from 2000-2004 he was assistant professor at MB Biblical Seminary, now part of FPU.

Today he is an ordained minister in Presbyterian Church USA. Though his ancestors were MB from Russia who immigrated to Canada, they left the church and he grew up in the Bay Area with no religious upbringing. "I'm a convert to Christianity," he said.

Like a secular Jew, Reimer said he knew his heritage through food and customs, not context. When a friend invited him to a Christian camp, Reimer said, "I was transfixed." He started attending a Presbyterian Church in high school and was in InterVarsity in college.

While at Fuller Reimer met Al Dueck, longtime seminary faculty, which led to his first work at FPU and the seminary. While at Azusa from 2005-2011, Reimer commuted from Coarsegold. He and his family moved to Chowchilla about one year ago. His wife, Lynn, teaches eighth grade math and science at Rivergold Elementary.

Identity can be hard to come by in a diverse school like HRSS, but Reimer plans to forge one around the Fresno Pacific Idea and the concept of welcome as discipleship. The timing is perfect since the school is welcoming a large number of new faculty and new students, all from varied backgrounds. Reimer is getting to know faculty over lunch and coffee, finding them creative in their approach and committed to FPU and students. "It doesn't get any better than that," he said.



### Stacy Hammons

Like many at FPU, Hammons wore several hats—usually simultaneously. But she did it with enough style to win the 2011 President's Distinguished Service Award for faculty. On her last day, Hammons hung up the titles of interim HRSS dean and sociology department chair, student advisor and only full-time faculty. Hammons sees her new positions as associate dean of

the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences and Business at Indiana Wesleyan University, where she oversees 40 faculty, as a way to focus. "I am excited to do more in administration," she said.

An ad in a professional journal led Hammons to a position at Tabor College, FPU's sister school in Kansas. She did some research to learn about MBs. Raised in Southern Missouri in the Church of the Nazarene, she and her husband Kent, a teacher in the Fresno County adult transition program, attended an evangelical Quaker congregation in Fresno.

Before Tabor, Hammons, who has a bachelor's from the University of Missouri and master's from the University of Denver, practiced social work in Denver. When Tabor closed its social work program, she came to FPU in 1991. She directed (and was solo faculty in) social work until 1995, when she left to pursue a doctorate in sociology from Washington State University. Upon her return in 1999 she took over the sociology program, making it a major.

Highlights at FPU have included small class size. "There's more engagement with students and I can do more hands-on activities." "I really appreciate the holistic approach we take," she said. "I have really enjoyed my time here."

## Bakersfield pioneer John Birkhauser retires



**A** pioneer of the Bakersfield program retired this spring. John Birkhauser has been with FPU since 1995, for the last nine years as director of the center's administrative services program.

Beginnings were humble. "At the time we were the only program," he says. The staff was Birkhauser and an administrative assistant to run

the facility and manage the center in downtown Bakersfield. He typically worked a couple nights each week.

The Bakersfield administrative service program started with about 15 students. Enrollment averages about 25 total in the credential and master's programs, but has been as high as 50.

At least teaching was an easy commute. Class took place at Laurel Glen Elementary where Birkhauser had a day job—as principal. In all, he spent 37 years in public education, retiring as personnel services director in Panama-Buena Vista Union School District near Bakersfield at the same time he left FPU.

Birkhauser won't give up education in retirement. He will consult for Target Success, an interview training company for educators. He and his wife, Cathy, bought a home in Costa Mesa near their four children and eight grandchildren.

Working as an educator made Birkhauser a credible degree completion teacher. "I could give examples of what's happened that day to relate to what we're teaching," he says. "That's the advantage of our program."

## Kreigbaum returns as interim business dean

**D**on't call him the new guy. Richard Kriegbaum returned to FPU as interim dean of the School of Business June 16 while the university seeks a replacement for departing dean Dennis Langhofer.

Kriegbaum, university president from 1985 until 1997, is enthusiastic about being back. "In one sense, one never really leaves," he said.

In 1984 Kriegbaum came to FPU from Wheaton College to serve as administrative vice president. After a year, he was asked to replace Edmund Janzen as president. Since his resignation, Kriegbaum has written a book, *Leadership Prayers*, published by Tyndale House; worked for One by One Leadership, a Christian community development organization in Fresno; and spent eight years as CEO of United Way of Fresno County.

Since 2007, Kriegbaum has taught distance-learning courses through the Center for Professional Development while working on a book about consulting and speaking. He has consulted with nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education on leadership and organizational development.

Kriegbaum's goals include the search for a new dean, hiring faculty, preparing for evaluation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and collaborating with Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. He is also open to what God will do with his time in the role. "I just love stumbling along, ignorant as I am, watching for what God does," he said.



## Brownell takes part in program to improve math teaching

**C**hris Brownell will help public school teachers learn while he earns a doctorate.

Brownell, assistant professor of mathematics, took a two-year leave of absence to be part of the TEAMES (Teachers Employing Applied Mathematics to Engage Students) grant at Claremont Graduate University. TEAMES provides \$1.5 million over five years to help 16 middle- and high-school teachers in San Bernardino earn master's degrees.

A former high school math teacher, Brownell is grant coordinator, overseeing the day-to-day work and earning a Ph.D. at no cost to himself. The goal is to improve the teaching of math in public schools and show students that math can be a springboard to many careers. "Mathematicians are in almost every field," Brownell said, including businesses such as Google and Microsoft, and the social and natural sciences. "The hottest field right now is biology."



*All programs are targeted to working adults with some college credit.*



Fresno Pacific University's new 4,800-square-foot Merced Center.

## Merced Center opens

**T**he mix of strong academics and convenient access that FPU is known for has come to Merced and the surrounding area.

After more than a decade of classes in different locations in the city, the Merced Center opened September 16 at 3379 G Street, Building P, in the El Portal Plaza. Presently 45 students are enrolled in the bachelor's degree in early childhood development. Bachelor's programs in liberal arts and business administration with an organizational leadership emphasis are coming in spring 2012.

"Fresno Pacific University Merced staff is here to serve and our commitment to excellence and success is the ultimate goal," said Cynthia Kaitfors, interim center director.

All programs are targeted to working adults with some college credit. Classes meet in the evening and are taught by university faculty. Groups of 12-22 students go through each accelerated 14- or 18-month program together.

The 4,800-square-foot center offers four classrooms, along with admissions, financial aid, career support and other services. There is Internet access, a computer lab, an electronic library and places for students to relax and study.

New cohorts start in March and September for business and in February and August for early childhood development and liberal arts. For more information, go to [fresno.edu/merced](http://fresno.edu/merced) or call the center at 209-354-5900.



## Alpha Chi Chapter earns fifth Star award

California Zeta, FPU's Alpha Chi chapter, has again been named a Star Chapter by the national honor society. This is the fifth annual award since 2006-2007.

Only 37 of Alpha Chi's 300 chapters nationally received the designation. Fay Nielsen, Ph.D., associate dean of retention, is the main sponsor and president of Alpha Chi Region VII. Marshall Johnston, assistant professor of history and classics, is co-sponsor. Seven of the 62 members presented papers at the Alpha Chi national convention in San Diego March 31-April 2:

- Joshua E. Blagaila—"Knights: A Product of Ideology"
- Daniel Crosby—"Einhard: A Renaissance of Literature in the 9th Century"
- Brennen Christian Henry—"The Creative Exploration of an Adventure into Hell"
- Samuel Ryan Kelly—"Behold, It Was A Dream': The Significance of Dream in The Pilgrim's Progress"
- Matthew Michal—"Gridlock Freeways vs. Non-stop Red Lights: What is the Fastest Path Through the City?"
- Maria Guadalupe Trujillo—"The Language of Learning: The Advantages of Non-English Speaking Students"
- Yun-Kyeong Shin—"Understanding the Relationship of the Aryan and the Indus Valley Civilization"

Crosby also won a \$3,000 Joseph E. Pryor Graduate/Alumni Fellowship for master's degree work. To be eligible for Alpha Chi, students must be in the top 10 percent of the junior and senior classes.

## FPU supports local tech



Connections were many between FPU and the 59 Days of Code web and mobile app competition and showcase.

The second annual celebration of area high-tech entrepreneurs took place June 21-22 at Veteran's Memorial District, Clovis, organized by the Central Valley Business Incubator and Geekwise.

- FPU's entry, FPULSE, was a finalist in the in-progress category. Created with local firm Hundred10 Design, FPULSE helps people personalize websites and is on the university website. Nick Gundry, associate director of interactive media, and Lisa Alvey, social media manager, represented the university.
- The Graduate and Degree Completion Admissions Office and the North Fresno Center gave a \$1,500 sponsorship.
- Travis Sheridan (BA '00) is member services director for the Central Valley Business Incubator.
- Chris Brown (BA '96), Hiebert Library staff member, was a contest judge.

Popular vote determined the three finalists in each category, with each finalist giving a short presentation for the judges. The in-progress winner was Re.vu, which creates web-based resumes. Derrick Reimer's GuideKit, a way to ease documentation for businesses, won the zero-code category.

## Fresno schools and FPU work together to provide the best student teachers

The Highly Qualified Student Teacher (HQST) project is a partnership between FPU and Fresno Unified School District.

Now in its second year, HQST prepares prospective high school teachers for high-poverty, low-performing schools. "That's the area of greatest need in education," said Linda Hoff, associate professor of education.

One happy side effect is high school students themselves are becoming more effective learners. "Teachers are reporting their students' test scores are going up in the classrooms where the HQST students are doing their student teaching," Hoff said.

Acceptance into HQST is competitive, and selectees receive a \$2,000 federal scholarship. In addition, FUSD is hiring many of the teachers who complete the program. "They are ready to hit the ground running as a new teacher," Hoff said.

# TOO MUCH

There's too much going on to fit in *Pacific!*

Fresno.edu

Flash mobs....Student Activities....Alumni Profiles....

Check our news website for articles, photos and video on all the latest happenings. For the most complete view of FPU, try FPULSE.

faculty & staff focus



**Mark Baker, Ph.D.**, associate professor of mission and theology, in August published *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross: Atonement in New Testament and Contemporary Contexts*, second edition, with Joel B. Green through InterVarsity Press. In June Baker traveled to Peru on an Association of Theological Schools/Lilly Research Expense Grant to work on a commentary on Galatians in Spanish for the series *Comentario Biblico Iberoamericano*, published by Ediciones Kairós and the Fraternidad Teológica Latinoamericana (Latin American Theological Fraternity). In March, Baker was the speaker at the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba Annual Assembly at Westside Community Church, Morden, Manitoba, Canada.



**Larry Warkentin, Ph.D.**, music faculty emeritus, published the novel *Bloodline: Of Peasants, Pilgrims and Poets* with Xlibris Corp. in June. The story follows members of an Anabaptist-Mennonite family from the Middle Ages in Holland to the twentieth century in Oklahoma, and their struggles due to their faith. Warkentin has read sections of the book on Valley Writers Read, KVPR 89.3. More at amazon.

[com/Bloodline-Peasants-Pilgrims-Larry-Warkentin/dp/1462884059/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1312756274&sr=8-1](http://amazon.com/Bloodline-Peasants-Pilgrims-Larry-Warkentin/dp/1462884059/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1312756274&sr=8-1)



**Duane Ruth-Heffelbower, J.D., M.Div.**, associate professor of peacemaking and conflict studies and business, reviewed "The road to forgiveness: A meta-analytic synthesis of its situational and dispositional correlates," by R. Fehr, M. Gelfand and M. Nag, M., which appeared in *Psychological Bulletin*, American Psychological Association, vol. 136, no. 5. The review was published in July by the American Society of

Victimology online journal *Research to Practice*. More at [american-society-victimology.us/research/](http://american-society-victimology.us/research/). The fourth edition of his book *After We're Gone: A Christian Perspective on Estate and Life Planning for Families that Include a Dependent Member with a Disability* was also published in July by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network. More at [adnetonline.org](http://adnetonline.org), also available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). In March he chaired a panel and presented a paper at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual meeting in Toronto. The title of the panel was "Pushing the boundaries: critical examinations of the roles of ideology, anarchist systems of belief, and paradigmatic functions of human rights dignity in modern-day systems of government and culture" and the paper was titled "Anarchist Criminology: a new way to understand a set of proven practices."



**Karen Cianci, Ph.D.**, dean of the School of Natural Sciences, published the article "A Cultural Shift" in the spring 2011 of *CCCU Advance*, the publication of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.



**Tim Geddert, Ph.D.**, professor of New Testament, published "Parade or Protest March: What are We Celebrating on Palm Sunday?" in the April-May 2011 *Christian Leader*.



**Peter Kopriva, Ed.D.**, professor of special education and early childhood development, had an article, "I Met a Real Hero," published in *Physical Disabilities: Education and Related Services*, Volume XXX No.1, Spring 2011. Kopriva also presented two workshops: "The Importance of Social-Emotional Learning in the Lives of Young Children and How Music, Movement and Play Activities Can Enhance

Development!" June 8 in Merced as part of the Merced County 2011 Early Childhood Institute; and "Young Children Living with Social/Emotional Deficits: The Personal and Educational Implications that Just Keep Growing Unless Needs are Addressed" at the 27th Annual Conference on Character & Civic Education, Benjamin and Marion Kremen School of Education and Human Development, Fresno Convention Center, April 8.



**Sherry Walling, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of psychology, published her dissertation, "Community violence exposure, adverse childhood experiences, and posttraumatic distress among urban development workers," in the Volume 3, Issue 1 (March 2011) of *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*.



**Matt Gehrett, M.A.**, executive director of the Office of Continuing Education, presented at the Computer-Using Educators Conference March 17. The session, titled "Online Course Accommodations for Students with Disabilities," identifying best practices, technological solutions and recommendations for policy development and training online teachers.



**Breck Harris, Ed.D.**, associate professor of business, gave a presentation titled "Social Media & the College Educator: How Facebook & Twitter Can Be Effectively Used to Build Community & Connect with Students" at the 2011 Lilly Conference on College & University Teaching at Cal State Pomona March 12, 2011.



**Patricia DeBenedetto, M.M.**, adjunct music faculty, participated in the California Music Educators Large Group Festival of Bands in Reedley March 9-10. She was one of three adjudicators who evaluated more than 23 high school and middle school concert bands.

## All schools add faculty in fall 2011



**Deanne Bell**, M.A., assistant professor, biology lab coordinator, has degrees from California State University, Fresno, and has taught at FPU, CSUF, Fresno City College and Tianjin International School, Tianjin, China.



**Terry Brensinger**, M.Div., M.Phil., professor of pastoral ministry, has degrees from Asbury Theological Seminary and Drew University. A pastor for 12 years, he has been department chair at Messiah University and a pastor/teacher for The International Brethren in Christ Association (IBICA).



**Jim Bryan**, Ed.D., assistant professor of management, has degrees from the University of San Francisco and the University of Southern California and has been executive director for the College of Extended Learning at San Francisco State University and associate dean in the School of Education at Azusa Pacific University.



**Cindy Carter**, Ph.D., associate dean of the School of Business, degree completion academic coordinator, has degrees from Pacifica Graduate Institute, California Lutheran University and Moorpark College. She has served as the academic vice president at Pacific Oaks College and President at Pacific Oaks College and academic vice president at Pacifica Graduate Institute.



**Darren Duerksen** (seminary '02), M.Div., assistant professor, intercultural studies, has degrees from MB Biblical Seminary (now Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary) and is completing a Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been a missionary and country leader in India with Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International (MBMSI).



**Chandra Johnson** (MA '01), M.A., director of academic language proficiency services, has degrees from Tabor College and FPU. She previously held this position at FPU and was ESL coordinator for the Writing and Reading Center at Fresno City College.



**Darin Lenz**, Ph.D., assistant professor, history, has degrees from Villanova University and Kansas State University. A former assistant professor at Northwest University, he is an elected member of the Royal Historical Society (U.K.).



**Elizabeth Martinez**, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology, has degrees from Loyola Law School and the University of Notre Dame, where she taught.



**Nathan Smith**, Ph.D., assistant professor of business/finance, has degrees from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and George Mason University. He was a lecturer at George Mason and a sophomore tutorial leader at Harvard.

### *Limited-term appointments went to:*



**Andrea Gray**, Ph.D., assistant professor, chemistry (one-year appointment), has degrees from California State University, Fresno, and Virginia Commonwealth University.



**Tim Haydock** (BA '06), M.A., assistant professor, communication (one-year appointment), has degrees from FPU, where he was student body president, and Fuller Theological Seminary.



**Kelsey Ryska** (BA '07), M.S., STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) grant coordinator (two-year appointment), has degrees from FPU and California Polytechnic State University. She will recruit and support high school students for the \$3.75 million grant program with College of the Sequoias, develop and maintain community/educational partnerships and collaborate with grant partners.



**Peter Smith** (BA '94), Ph.D., assistant professor, conflict studies and peacemaking (two-year appointment), has degrees from FPU, Fuller Theological Seminary and the University of Wales/International Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague, Czech Republic.

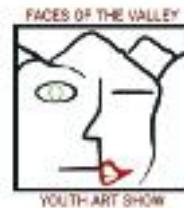


**Steven Zook** (BA '04), M.A., instructor of mathematics (one-year appointment), has degrees from FPU and California State University, Fresno.



## Faces of the Valley

Students and faculty from FPU and the Fresno County Office of Education came together to create the exhibit *Faces of the Valley: Youth Art Show* at Fresno Art Museum (FAM). The assignment for the Exhibition & Gallery Design class was to learn how FAM puts together a show, then do it themselves. The inspiration for the show was the Royal Bank of Canada’s (RBC) traveling exhibit *The Human Touch*. The artists were K-12 students in Fresno County Schools. Most of the work in the RBC show deals with identity and the human figure, so the student artists did self portraits. FPU students designed the exhibit layout, mounted the works and created the labels and an interactive activity for viewers. More than 1,200 people attended the opening reception April 12, and the show was up until April 29. Rebecca McMillen, art program director, teaches the class. Also involved were Bob Bullwinkle, Fresno County Office of Education visual and performing arts coordinator, and Linda Cano, executive director of FAM. As one man said to his son at the opening, “Wow, you’ve got your artwork up in a real museum!”



## Play explores unusual friendship between families

A real-life story of friendship between two couples—one Jewish from Russia, one Christian from Texas—was the basis for the spring play, *The Immigrant*, April 7-9, 14-16 in Ashley Auditorium. Michael Harelik’s play is based on the experiences of his grandparents and the production used photographs from Jewish life in Russia, the town of Hamilton, Texas, and the Harelik family album as a backdrop. The cast was Trevor Thomas, Misty Ann Stewart, Joshua Andrade-Cantu and Breanna Edmonds. Julia Reimer, associate professor of theater faculty, directed.



## Degree completion program turns 20

The alumni, faculty and staff past and present who built bachelor's degree completion into the program with FPU's largest enrollment celebrated 20 years of success May 6.

More than 2,500 students from 241 cohorts have graduated since the first DC cohort began in 1991 under the leadership of Dennis Langhofer, Ed. D., whose retirement was included in the evening festivities in Shehadey Dining Room, Steinert Campus Center.

Speakers included President D. Merrill Ewert; Vyacheslav Tsvirinko, director, Visalia Center; Cindy Steele, executive director, regional centers; Arnie Prieb, former DC associate director of admissions; Breck Harris, associate professor of business; and Allen Carden, professor and program director, liberal arts.

FPU reached out early to adult students, signing an agreement with Spring Arbor College (Michigan), in 1990 to develop a B.A. program in Management and Human Resources (MHR). (Carden was a Spring Arbor consultant.)

Courses started in Visalia in 1992, and Bakersfield and Merced in 1996. After renting classroom and office space in churches, schools and other locations, FPU leased centers in Visalia (2003) and Bakersfield (2004). Expanded facilities replaced these centers in 2009. The North Fresno Center opened in 2005, and DC programs were offered in Hanford in 2006 with College of the Sequoias, and in Lemoore in 2007 at West Hills College. A new Merced Center opened in September.

Majors changed as demand grew. In 1994 MHR was reorganized as MOD (Management and Organizational Development), which is now OL (Organizational Leadership). Christian ministries (now Christian ministries and leadership) began in 1998, liberal studies (now liberal arts) started in 2001, business management in 2005, early childhood development in 2006, criminology and restorative justice in 2007 and RN to BSN in 2009.



From left: Wendy Wakeman, former dean of the School of Professional Studies, which oversaw the DC program; Breck Harris; Dennis Langhofer; and Allen Carden.

## MCC sale raises \$180,000

The 44th West Coast Mennonite Sale & Auction for World Relief raised more than \$180,000 April 1-2 on the main FPU campus. Visitors bought quilts, antiques, crafts, books, plants, fine art, furniture and food from traditional Verenika to dishes from Asia and Mexico. Besides hosting, FPU sold coffee at the alumni booth (shown), and the jazz band and Pacific Bronze hand bell choir performed. A new feature was a concert, "Tripping the Sixties," by Barry McGuire and John York. The sale is organized by the West Coast Mennonite Central Committee. More at [westcoastmccsale.org](http://westcoastmccsale.org)



## Continuing education increases student service, wins national award

A desire to increase service and security has led to national recognition for the Office of Continuing Education.

The online registration system the university created for its distance learning program has been selected by *University Business* magazine as one of six winners of its Models of Efficiency Award. FPU is featured in the July/August issue of the publication. The awards are sponsored by Higher One, Inc.

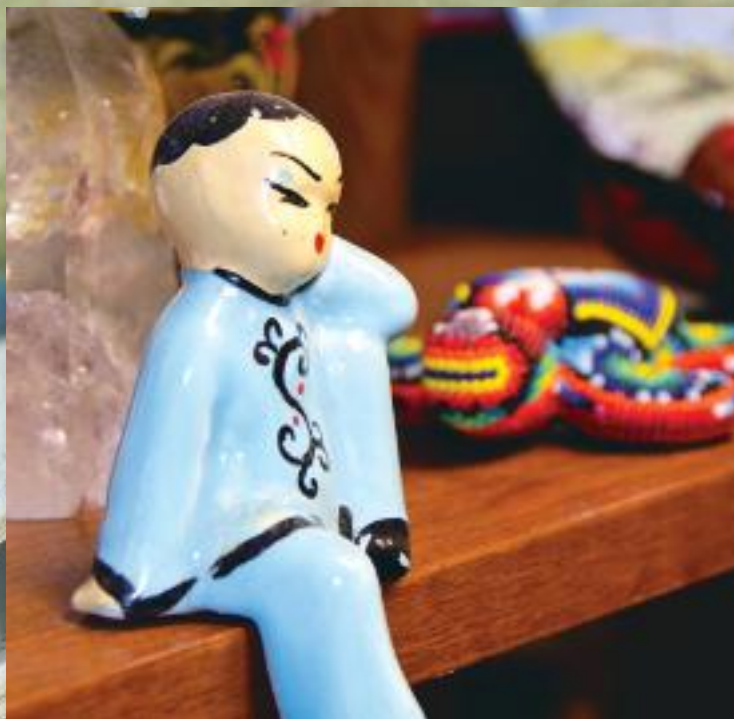
Before FPU started its system in April 2008 an outside vendor handled registration, but this arrangement cost more, was less secure and didn't serve students as well. A do-it-yourself solution was the best one possible. "The fact we were able to pull resources together and do it internally has allowed us to build a customized system," said Matt Gehrett, executive director of the Office of Continuing Education.

Students now get a secure account, credit card transactions are automatic, financial issues are resolved 50 percent faster and customer service issues can be addressed within 24 hours. The system is also easy to expand, with online grading, account statements, student course ratings and lists of similar courses so students can see what else is available in their area of interest. "It really has become kind of a master database and central hub for both our students and instructors," Gehrett said.



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ENRICH FPU

by Wayne Steffen







and Spain. “You get smatterings of ones and twos from a lot of countries,” Prieb says.

Ironically for Prieb, students from Africa have a harder time getting into the country than those from Asia, Europe and South America. “The last hurdle is the U.S. Consulate, which issues the visa,” Prieb says. Though the consulates are all operated by the United States, standards vary country to country and sometimes, seemingly, from day to day. If a student is turned down, “we don’t know why; the consulate doesn’t have to give them a reason, or us,” he says.

Finding potential students is no problem. “We get lots of applicants, but they don’t have money,” Prieb says. Many are from areas where MBs work internationally. “They’re good, solid kids, but they’re from economically depressed areas,” he adds. With few exceptions, international students can not work off campus and are not eligible for loans without a U.S. co-signer. “That really limits them,” Prieb says.

**A**rnie Prieb has packed the world into 120 square feet of Steinert Campus Center. The off-white walls of the International Programs and Services Office are barely visible under the gifts from students Prieb has collected in 13 years as IPSO director. Flags festoon the ceiling, there are fans with Asian writing, soft drink cans from South America, figurines from China, ships in bottles from Nicaragua and Brazil, ceramic figures from Albania, a soccer jersey from Cameroon and pictures and wall hangings from all over.

The newest is a small painting, still wet, by a student from Rawanda, called “Sunbirds.” There’s even an extra door in the hallway—from the old IPSO Office—covered with autographs and messages. An energetic guide, Prieb hops midsentence from his chair, darts to a bookcase, digs out an object and tells what it is and where it’s from. He’s just as enthusiastic about the students who gave him the presents.

Prieb’s interest in international students stems from his background and the Mennonite Brethren, the church he belongs to and that sponsors Fresno Pacific University. “It’s in my DNA,” he says.

Like many MBs, Prieb’s ancestors left the Soviet Union one step ahead of the Stalinists. What’s more, Prieb and his four siblings grew up living the MB commitment to mission as missionary kids in Congo, the children of Arnold (PBI ‘50) and Rose Prieb. He felt like an international student when he came to the U.S. to study at Fresno Pacific. “Coming from Congo and growing up there, in my mind it was all about Congo,” Prieb says.

FPU has around 80 international students from 39 countries studying in all programs: traditional undergraduate, degree completion, graduate, seminary and language and cultural studies. These days most come from Canada, Brazil



Arnie Prieb

International students are eligible for FPU scholarships for academics, music, drama and athletics. IPSO also has some grants. To cover the balance, students may have sponsors, such as family members or churches, here or in their home country. Prieb does what he can to build those relationships. “It’s all in who you know, so we try to connect,” he says.

Just as international students come from many places, they come for many reasons: FPU’s reputation in particular fields, friends and family who have attended and recommendations by alumni are all important.

“Everything has a story behind it,” says Prieb, his eyes seeking treasure in another corner of his office. And every story is a student.



*“Everything was new for us—everything.”*



## Sandra Baez and Cesar Garcia | Colombia

The Mennonite Brethren showed Sandra Baez the difference between religion and faith.

“My family was broken in many ways,” she says. At 17, Baez was going through a hard time in her life in Colombia, and had tired of “going through the motions of worship” in her Catholic church. A friend invited Baez and her mother to an MB church, where she saw a practical example of God’s love and care. “My heart was like a big block of ice and his love started melting the ice,” she says. “My vision and my entire life are more open now.”

Baez and husband Cesar Garcia have been church leaders for more than 16 years. At FPU, he pursued a master’s in theology at the seminary and she studied for a master’s in peace and conflict studies while their two teenage daughters attended Sunnyside High School. The couple is preparing for a larger role as Garcia goes through the process to become general secretary of Mennonite World Conference in 2012.

Representing 100 Mennonite and Brethren in Christ national churches from 57 countries on six continents, Mennonite World Conference is “a global community of Christian churches rooted in the 16th-century Radical Reformation

in Europe, particularly in the Anabaptist movement,” according to its website (mwc-cmm.org). More than 60 percent of the 1,600,000 conference members are African, Asian or Latin American.

Garcia has learned inside class and out. There has been theology: fundamental theology, methods of theology and orienting theology to culture. “A lot of good material to take to my country,” he says. “I have had the opportunity of questioning and affirming my faith beliefs.”

There are also the lessons of life as a stranger in a strange land. “The fact of experiencing a different culture makes you a different person,” Garcia says.

And different is the word for living in the U.S. “Everything was new for us—everything,” Baez says. Language was a big frustration. “If you can communicate with people you can make friends, you can make everything.” Otherwise, “reading takes more time, writing takes more time. We don’t have time to hang around with friends and share,” she adds.

University and church support have lessened other challenges. The IPSO has helped with everything from visas to furniture. “They are always open to help,” Garcia says.

Being ready to get and give support is the secret to success when studying abroad. “Always you will need people who care about you,” Baez says.



*“FPU has helped in building my faith and making it very strong.”*



## Rene Asanga | Cameroon

For Rene Asanga, FPU is home away from home. The business major from Cameroon admits getting to know people in the U.S. has been difficult. While his homeland in west central Africa is close-knit, “in the states it’s more an individual lifestyle,” Asanga says. The university, however, has become his community. “It’s pretty amazing because you get to see somebody like five or six times in a day,” he adds.

The emphasis on peace and conflict studies attracted Asanga to Fresno Pacific. Conflict is common in many African nations, including Cameroon, and Asanga hopes to help bring justice and stability. “That is what I’ve always dreamt of doing, based on what is happening on my continent,” he says. He plans to pursue graduate studies in the field.

Asanga appreciates not only what is taught, but how. Here professors and students work together. “Back home you get everything from the teacher. He’s pretty much a god,” Asanga says. Lessons also have practical applications. “We don’t only get the theory part of things,” he says.

College Hour and other kinds of Christian care make a difference to Asanga. “FPU has helped in building my faith and making it very strong.” He says. “I now look at life as something which is not all about me. How I can serve others through what I’ve learned at FPU?”

The U.S. can be daunting, but at FPU, “there are always people willing to help,” Asanga says.





*“It took awhile to jump into the whole swim of things.”*

## Pedro Valez | Portugal

At first glance Pedro Valez could be an American. The native of Portugal speaks English and rides a skateboard like a Californian, thanks to his education.

Valez attended a missionary high school in Lisbon, where “I was interacting with English-speaking people every day,” he says. “My family and I also lived in Fresno for a year when my parents were in seminary.” At that time he went to Clark Intermediate School and Clovis High School. His father, Joe, was an intern at Mountain View Community Church, Clovis, and his mother, Paula, was a student at MB Biblical Seminary, now Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary.

Another local connection piqued Valez’s interest in coming to FPU, where he majors in kinesiology/secondary teaching with minor in coaching. Pastor Otto Ekk, from Dinuba, planted a church in Portugal with Joe and Paula Valez. All Ekk’s children have been Fresno Pacific students. “I heard a lot of stories,” Valez says.

Despite experience and outward cool, Valez admits coming here was a big adjustment. “Mainly just being away from home and being out in the world by myself. It’s still a little rough. It took awhile to jump into the whole swim of things,” he says.

Honoring his missionary background, Valez does media and sound for Eagle’s Harbor Community Church, a plant of Mountain View. Faith plays a big role in his life and is one reason he chose FPU. “I grew up a Christian and that’s who I am,” he says.

*“JCC helped me to grow my faith.”*







## Evanti Kurniawan | Indonesia

In high school Evanti Kurniawan had already made it to the United States from her home in Indonesia. Her goal for college was the West Coast.

As a senior she attended Shalom Christian Academy High School in Pennsylvania. Though a member of the Mennonite Church, she did not know of FPU; a friend of her father's did, however.

Most of Kurniawan's friends study abroad. "The U.S. is the first destination they want to go," she says, usually to community colleges, then public universities, though some church friends go to Christian colleges in the eastern U.S.

Kurniawan finds people very friendly, and enjoys activities such as the Asian Club. A finance major, she likes all her classes, especially those with Peng Wen, professor of business, and Jesus and the Christian Community with Laura Schmidt Roberts, associate professor of biblical and religious studies. "Peng Wen is funny, and he gave me a good direction," she says. "JCC helped me to grow my faith and...expand my knowledge about Christianity."

Living abroad has made Kurniawan more responsible, "because I'm far from home and there's no family that can help me," she says.

Her next step is to work for an international company, such as a bank, and earning an MBA. "I'm still deciding, U.S. or China," Kurniawan says.



*"I get to meet so many other people from different cultures."*

## Brigitt Marku | Albania

The lure of the Golden State also drew Brigitt Marku from Albania. "I really wanted to come study in California, so I Googled all the colleges and universities," she says. "I didn't know anything about FPU," she says.

Some of Marku's friends went to UCLA or schools in Boston, but study in the U.S. is still unusual. "From my country we tend to go and study in Italy," she says. Her parents studied in Albania under communism. "Someone picked their major for them and told them where they would go. Now we once again have the choice," says Marku, who's majoring in chemistry.

Leaving home always brings surprises. American diversity was a good surprise. "I got to meet so many other people from different cultures. Where I come from are only Albanians," she says.

American eating habits were not a good surprise. "Something I'm never going to get used to is the food," Marku says. She's used to fresh food, rather than fast or premade. "At the beginning I would eat the food and it tasted like water," she says.

Religion is also different in the U.S. Albania is 60 percent Muslim, 20 percent Orthodox Christian and 20 percent Roman Catholic. Marku, a Catholic, was not used to phrases like "I'll pray for you," but has come to appreciate them. "It helps with the community," she says.

Taking the good with the bad, Marku recommends everyone study abroad, and learn the lifestyle. "If you're in America, you need to meet the Americans."







*“I was so excited about the idea of faith and sports.”*

## Eugene Vollmer | Fiji

A scheme to get new shoes transformed Eugene Vollmer’s life.

In 2005 JT Thiesen, associate track coach, came to Fiji on a mission trip with Athletes in Action. Vollmer was playing field hockey at the next field and saw they were giving away Nikes. “I said I’m going to make up something just to get some shoes,” he says.

The two spoke and JT asked what his track event was. “I looked behind him and saw the shoes and just made something up. I said triple jump,” Vollmer says. Their friendship, and Vollmer’s enthusiasm, developed over several summers. “I was so excited about the idea of faith and sports,” Vollmer says, noting in Fiji the two are not connected. He also respected JT. “I liked the idea that he was intentional about my faith, rather than just how I performed on the field,” he says. “I thought if JT was like that his school would be, too. And sure enough, when I got here it was just like he painted it.”

Vollmer did eventually confess. “JT started laughing, because it turned out I was a really good triple-jumper,” says Vollmer. Good enough to set records in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and in Fiji.

An applied mathematics major, Vollmer wants to become a civil engineer. “I hope to go back and work on facilities because Fiji is a Third World country,” he says. There’s also a chance to be a professional track athlete. “Those are my plans,” Vollmer says. “I’m not sure those are the plans the Lord has laid out for me.”

**F**or Prieb, each student is a gift and “diversity” is a synonym for wealth. “A little bit of who international students are will rub off and the American students will gain more insight into them, their country and the world. Their lives are enriched,” he says.



Enrichment isn’t limited to the American students. After Yugoslavia collapsed in civil war, FPU hosted students from the new nations. “They were fighting over there, but they were sharing rooms over here,” Prieb says. “International students learn from each other that we’re all human, and that we’re brothers and sisters,” he adds.

As many gifts as international students give to Arnie Prieb, they give more to FPU.





# IMPRISONED BY MORE THAN BARS

by Mark D. Baker

I go to jail every Tuesday afternoon. Please join me.

After locking my bike in front of the Fresno County Jail I show the front desk guard my volunteer ID card; she pushes a button so I can open the first heavy metal door. It clangs shut behind me and she unlocks the second one. I walk down the hall past some holding cells and take the elevator to the third floor. A guard lets me into a room at the end of the hall. I arrange the benches into a circle while waiting for the guard to bring in the men who want to attend Bible study.

Six men file into the room wearing red jumps suits with “Prisoner” on the back. We shake hands and exchange warm greetings. After reading Mark 1:15 I ask what does “repent” mean? They say, “to confess your sin, to turn around, change direction.” One young inmate, a new Christian, asks, “Why is it that even though I have repented, I keep heading back the other direction and do things I should not do?” I say “good question” and send a silent prayer: “What do I say, God?” I could give a theologically correct response, but he is not looking for information. He has repented. He has experienced God transforming his life, but wants to know why he still stumbles. I invite the others to respond. They tell what they find helpful: spending more time reading their Bible, praying with others, sharing with a fellow Christian, resisting the devil, staying away from old friends, etc.

I share other ideas and start wrapping up so we can begin our prayer time. An inmate, “Steve,” blurts out, “I can’t mess up again. If I sell drugs again I will be in prison for a long time. What do I do?” He talks about how much he is praying, and how it is helpful, but he had tried this before, gone to church, spoken in tongues, etc., but it had not worked. Moved, I again pray for guidance, then start asking questions. “Steve” tells us he has a college degree, had a good job, and a nice house, but when money got tight he turned to selling drugs. He acknowledged being driven by concern of what others thought of him. Selling drugs provided money to keep up appearances.

I tell them of a friend with a good job who had bought a new house. I visited and found the living room totally empty—no furniture. Why? They had used up their money. I ask, “What would most people do?” The group says most people would beg, borrow or steal to get furniture rather than have an empty living room, fearing what people would think. My friend, however, lived within his means and waited until they had money for furniture. “Steve” admits that is not what he would do.

We talk about society’s lies—that more things equal better life, that people with more money deserve more respect. I then say that trusting God and obeying what Jesus teaches about money can deflate those lies. Our hour is up. I encourage “Steve” to imagine himself back in his house with half the possessions he currently has, and then think of himself resting in God’s loving embrace as he imagines what others might say about him. I say another quick, heartfelt, prayer for the men. The guard comes to take them back to their cells.

*Mark Baker is associate professor of mission and theology at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. A version of this article was first published in the Christian Leader.*

# the Giving Garden

by Sam Kelly

A gift that keeps on giving was the goal of one FPU degree completion student's community project.

When Nasreen Riahizadeh's (BA '11) business management program assigned her to connect an organization with the community to create something new, she went above and beyond, bringing three organizations together to give a garden to a school for students with special needs in the Fresno Unified School District.

"It was dirt and weeds and just a mess," Riahizadeh said of the one-acre lot at the northeast corner of Bullard and Fruit avenues. A maze of planters now bursts with the colors and aromas of fruit trees, pumpkins, strawberries, zucchini, chili peppers, cactus and other fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices. In the center mist sprays down from an awning onto a pair of shaded benches, while the trickle of a fountain filled with vibrant blue stones makes visitors forget the sounds of the street.

Rata High School's 70 students in grades seven through 12 have a wide range of disabilities. Many are non-verbal or non-ambulatory, and outside the classroom had little to engage with—a few swings and a narrow walking path. Riahizadeh's garden changed all that.

"We had never even envisioned this," said Rata Principal Pam Linsner. Wide pathways make the garden accessible to all, and the variety of sights, smells, tastes, sounds—even the feeling of sunlight or mist on their skin—stimulate students.

The project also gives students opportunities to develop vocational activities and life skills. By turning the garden's produce into zucchini bread, veggie pizzas and stir-fry, students learn where food comes from. According to Rata PTA President Shane Halvorsen, students used to think food came from the cafeteria wrapped in cellophane. One young man named Conrad received the gift of new perspective when he went out to the garden one day and could not find the tomato plant that he had planted the week before—until Halvorsen showed him it had grown to twice its original size.

But the garden is not just providing educational opportunities. A girl named Anabel had never laughed at school. One day she went out to the garden to plant pumpkin seeds, and the gift of a well-timed sprinkler burst caught her in the face. She lit up and gave a chuckle to her teachers and peers for the first time.

"That was worth all those wheelbarrows of mud," Riahizadeh said.

Riahizadeh, a marketing coordinator for Netafim USA, a Fresno company that provides drip irrigation products, began thinking about the garden when she received the assignment for her community project in March 2010. While Netafim has a history of philanthropy, rarely had its donations been connected to its primary business of irrigation. "I thought it would be great to be a little more visible in our community," said Riahizadeh, now a student in the FPU global MBA program.



Photos, top to bottom: (From left) Nasreen Riahizadeh, Shane Halvorsen and Susan and Randy Asadoor. Rata students enjoy the garden. Volunteers help with construction.



In September 2010 Halvorsen, Riahizadeh's boyfriend, was elected president of the newly formed Rata PTA and, before having talked to Riahizadeh about the project, had come up with some gardening ideas of his own. "They're always the last to get things," he said of the Rata students. Halvorsen wanted to give them something to enjoy and be proud of, and the dirt lot on the corner of the school grounds seemed like a perfect place. "I had an idea what I wanted," he said. "I had no idea how I wanted to do it."



That November, Randy and Susan Asadoor of the California Ag Leadership Group, without having any contact with Halvorsen or Riahizadeh, came to Rata with an interest in building a garden. They had lived in the neighborhood before when the school had a small garden, and decided to give the students one again.



Riahizadeh saw something special about four people, three organizations and a single idea. "Things don't come together that easily," she said. "It was a miracle."

By March the garden had Netafim's corporate backing and irrigation systems, the Ag Leadership Group's materials, personnel, expertise and professional landscaping and the full support of Rata High School and its PTA. Some \$15,000 in materials, 2,000 feet of drip irrigation tubing and 1,400 volunteer hours later, the students had their garden.

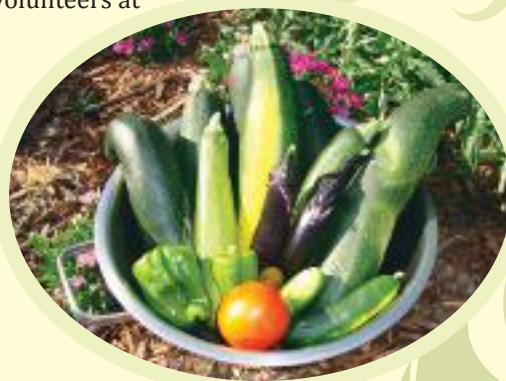


Originally Riahizadeh thought she would just coordinate the irrigation, but that proved to be impossible. "I got wrapped up in the project. I needed to be here," she said. She's not the only one who felt that way. The garden has produced a crop of community involvement, with neighborhood volunteers giving their time to work alongside students, and donors making financial contributions.

Rata has made a name for itself. "One of my main goals was just for people to realize what this school is all about," Halvorsen said. The school that was once last in everything now has the best garden in the district. "The kids couldn't do this themselves," he said, "it took the whole community."

"It's been an amazing experience," Riahizadeh said. She hopes, though, that the experience is not over yet. She wants the students to have a place that will be a gift for years to come, and that hope inspired the name for the project: The Giving Garden.

Follow the Giving Garden at [Facebook.com/TheGivingGardenatRata](https://www.facebook.com/TheGivingGardenatRata) or view blogposts by teachers and volunteers at [TheGivingGardenatRata.com](http://TheGivingGardenatRata.com).



ALUMNI PROFILE

Robert Hernandez  
BA '09

Hernandez has  
Olympic goals

by Sam Kelly



For one FPU alumnus, graduation has put things into perspective. “You’re not a spoiled athlete anymore,” Robert Hernandez said.

After graduating a Sunbird track all-American, Hernandez (BA '09) took a temporary grounds crew job while waiting to enter the teacher credentialing program. Going from being a full-time student to a full-time worker can really take a bite out of someone’s running career, but when Hernandez won the Eye-Q Classic Half Marathon in downtown Fresno May 22 he proved he could do both.

“He wakes up super-early for work in the mornings, runs during his lunch break, gets off work and then runs again,” said Kaili Zink (BA '09), Hernandez’ girlfriend and fellow runner.

Despite his extreme commitment to his sport, his job does not suffer. “He takes the same attitude into his work that he has with his running,” FPU Grounds Supervisor Marc Gilpin said.

“If I do something, there’s no point in doing it half-way,” Hernandez said. “You just do it.”

At 5’4” and 123 pounds, 25-year-old Hernandez has a very deliberate manner in his speech and bearing. Whether repairing sprinklers outside of student housing facilities or pushing himself through the final leg of a race, he moves with purpose, working toward his goals.

Hernandez began running as a freshman at Sultana High school. His mother had given him two alternatives: get a job or be an athlete. Opting for the latter, he decided to try out for his high school track team, and has been competing ever since. “I wasn’t great at running, but I was decent at it, so it kind of stuck,” he said.

The prospect of a good education and the integration of faith and sports led to Fresno Pacific. “He was a very intelligent and hard working athlete,” track coach Eric Schwab said. Hernandez took seventh in the NAIA national championship marathon in 2006 and made all-GSAC in the 2007 10,000 meter, winning that race in 2008, and coming

in fifth place in the NAIA championship marathon.

Nowadays, though, his running is “very blue-collar,” according to Zink. “It definitely has had to take a backseat to work and other priorities.”

Despite uncertainties, Hernandez and Zink decided to run in the Eye-Q Classic Half Marathon in downtown Fresno on Sunday, May 22. “Rob and I had been talking about making a ‘comeback’ of sorts for a while,” Zink said.

Some 2,500 runners started at Chukchansi Park in downtown Fresno. The course would take them through the downtown area, past Fresno City Hall and the Old Fresno Water Tower west to Roeding Park and through the middle of Chaffee Zoo, then north to the Tower District and finally back to Chukchansi Park.

Hernandez arrived to find he would be running with Jesus Campos, who had beaten him in the Eye-Q Fresno Two Cities Marathon in 2009. He knew it was going to be a race.

“He always says nothing has been easy,” Zink said about Hernandez. “He has had to work for everything he has—getting into college, then earning his degree, running, trying to get into the credential program, making a living.”

Hernandez finished in one hour, nine minutes and 33 seconds. Although he missed his personal record by about 15 seconds, he finished first in the competition—more than a minute ahead of Campos.

“I was happy,” he said of the race. His efforts had not been for nothing. “You win a half marathon, you’re still in it.”

Despite her own commitments as a teacher and coach at Fowler High School, Zink came in fourth among the women and first in her age group at one hour, 25 minutes and 56 seconds—a little under a minute behind her personal record.

Hernandez is not done yet. He hopes to qualify for the Olympic trials, just to say he did. There is no saying he can’t. “He’s still young and has several very good years ahead of him,” Schwab said.

General  
Announcements

Armenian Theological Students’ Aid, Inc., marked its 66th anniversary with a memorial tribute to the late **Reverend Karl Vartan Avakian (PBI '59, FPU trustee)** at a luncheon on February 13, 2011, in the fellowship hall at First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Fresno. ATSA assists students of Armenian descent preparing to become ministers, preachers and teachers of the Holy Bible in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Karl was a former director and secretary of the ATSA Corporation.

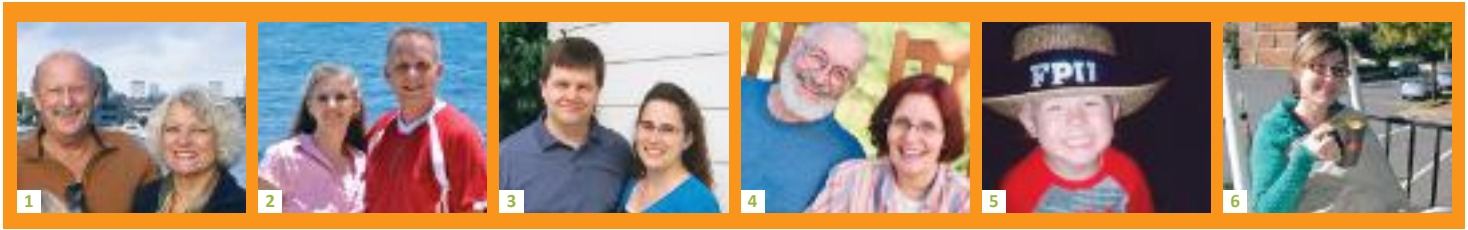
**1 Darrell (Attended '61) and Helen “Tootzi” (Neufeld attended '61) Bese** celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on June 17, 2011. They have been on mission trips to Romania and Spain. They have been involved in church musical groups, teaching and counseling. Their three children **Jeff (Attended '81), Terry (BA '86, MA '98) and Bonnie (Attended '87)** are all alumni. Terry is instructional designer for the Online Learning Center at FPU. Three of their eight grandchildren are currently students at FPU. Darrell retired from the San Jose Fire Department. Tootzi and Darrell enjoy assisting their children with remodeling projects and still like to water ski.

**Margaret (Reimer Attended '62-'63) Duerksen** is proud that her son **Darren Duerksen (Seminary MA '02)** has accepted a position in the FPU biblical studies department starting fall 2011.

**Richard “Rick” Miles (BA '72)** answered a call to serve as priest and rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Reidsville, North Carolina, August 1.

**Debra (Findley BA '79) Brayfindley** earned her master’s in education with an emphasis in special education from Humboldt State University. Her thesis is, “Using Music to Increase Verbal Imitation in Children with Language Delays.”





**1 Rodger (Bray BA '79) Brayfindley** is pastor at First United Methodist in Redding. Debra was hired as a K-3 special day class teacher at Rother Elementary in Redding.

**2 Joel Kauffman (BA '82)** was named athletic director of Hesston College on February 15, 2011. Kauffman has taught humanities courses at Hesston since 1990. He has an associate degree in liberal arts from Hesston College and a master's of education degree from Wichita State University.

**3 Patrice "Patsi" Johnson (MA '83)** has been named superintendent of the Jordan School District in Utah near Salt Lake City. Jordan district includes 52 schools and just under 50,000 students. She began teaching in 1992 in the Clark County School district in Las Vegas, later serving as associate superintendent.

**4 Debbi (Soeth BA '84) Blair** and husband Chris celebrated 25 years of marriage in February with a cruise to Cozumel. In March and April they spent three weeks in Kigoma, Tanzania, Africa. Chris taught a class on church history at Hope of the Nations Bible College and Debbi helped teach English to four year olds in Kamala Village.

**5 2 Drake (BA '93) and Crystal (Gates BA '93) McCalister** currently live in Steubenville, Ohio, with their five daughters ranging in ages from 1-16. Drake is a professor and director of catechetics at Franciscan University.

**6 Jeff Higgins (MA '94)** presented data regarding the identification of students with specific learning disabilities using the Response to Intervention and Instruction

methods at U.C. Riverside. About 80 school psychologists and special education administrators attended the sessions. He serves as the school psychologist and director of special education for Farmersville Unified Schools.

**7 Joseph Coppola (BA '96, Seminary MA '06)** was named campus president for DeVry University's central California campuses. This includes Fresno, Bakersfield and a satellite location at West Hills Community College, Coalinga. "I would not have this opportunity without the superb education I received at both FPU and the seminary. To serve God's kingdom this way is such a privilege and so much fun!"

**8 3 Sean (BA '97) and Kristi (Blankenship BA '96) Peifer** celebrated their fifteenth wedding anniversary on June 15, 2011.

**9 Marlon Hall, Ed.D. (MA '97)** has been promoted to vice president of student services at West Hills College, Coalinga. He previously served as the associate dean of educational services, evening college at West Hills College, Lemoore.

**10 Pascal Kulungu (BA '97, MA '98)**, director of the Centre for Peacebuilding, Leadership and Good Governance in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, has published a book on conflict resolution titled: *Manuel de Formation de Formateurs sur la Résolution Pacifique, Médiation et Réconciliation de Conflits*. The preface to the



new book was written by Dalton Reimer, international program coordinator for the FPU Center for Peacemaking & Conflict Studies.

**11 Heidi (Halverson BA '01) and Ryan (BA '07) Leach** live in Madera, with their two children, Levi Quiry, 3; and Leah Susan, 1. Heidi is a homemaker and Ryan is a probation correctional officer.

**12 4 Nori (Carlson MA '01) Naylor** and husband Mike own Naylor Organics, a farm located near Dinuba. Mike took over the farm from his father and had it certified as organic—farming without the use of synthetic pesticide, herbicides or fertilizers—in 1990. They opened Naylor's Organic Family Farm Stay in February 2011 to give people a connection to the land and the people who grow their food. [naylorsorganicfarmstay.com](http://naylorsorganicfarmstay.com)

**13 5 Deborah (Tolan BA '02) Achterberg** retired after eight years as an older adult instructor. She now has more time to spend with grandson Ethan Albert Achterberg, 4 (pictured).

**14 Mona (Knoll BA '02, TC '03) Peracca** and husband Dennis celebrated their three-year wedding anniversary on January 5, 2011.

**15 Douglas Noll (MA '02)** has been named president-elect of the California Dispute-Resolution Council. Doug, a former trial lawyer, devotes himself to conflict resolution services outside litigation.

**16 6 Lisa Freeman (BA '03)** is in Kabul, Afghanistan, with the U.S. Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), part of the

Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). OTI is designed to provide fast, flexible and innovative assistance to countries in transition from conflict, she writes. "Projects vary from area to area depending on...what will have the biggest impact." Lisa finished her master's in international peace and conflict resolution from American University in May 2010. Before that she served with the Peace Corps.

**17 Anthony Nocella (MA '03)** has co-authored *Call to Compassion: Religious Perspectives on Animal Advocacy*. Information is available at [lanternbooks.com](http://lanternbooks.com)

**18 Ken Melban (BA '03, MA '07)** has joined the staff of the California Avocado Commission as director of issues management to lead a variety of industry affairs, grower communications and technical initiatives.

**19 Daniel Arzola (BA '04) and Shelley Richards-Arzola (BA '09)** celebrated their third wedding anniversary on May 3, 2011. Daniel received his Colorado teaching license in January 2011. Shelley completed her master's in social work from Rutgers the State University of New Jersey in May 2011. She is also receiving a certificate in violence against women and children from Rutgers. The couple resides in the Denver area.

**Emilee (Larson BA '04) Slater**, FPU senior admissions counselor, received the Southwest Regional Service Award by the North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals (NACCAP). She was honored at the NACCAP annual conference in San Diego in part for coordinating Christian college fairs.

**Michael Duarte (BA '05, MA '08, MBA '10)** started Electrostatic Disease Prevention, a business that disinfects and protects facilities and equipment. Information at [electrostaticdiseaseprevention.com](http://electrostaticdiseaseprevention.com)

**Christina (Maule BA '06) Baltazar** started Christina Baltazar Photography, specializing in newborn, maternity and My Beauty Campaign sessions. Information at [christinabaltazarphotography.com](http://christinabaltazarphotography.com)

**Pulkit "Paul" Bose (BA '07)** began school at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in August 2011. Pulkit wants to engage others in this journey over the next four years and beyond through his blog at [bosemd.blogspot.com/](http://bosemd.blogspot.com/)

**April (Ordway BA '07) Summerford** received her master of science degree in industrial organizational psychology from the University of Phoenix in June 2011. April is credential analyst at University of Phoenix, Fresno.

**Stan Geist (BA '08)** has been promoted to director of safety for California Dairies, Inc. Stan joined CDI in March 2000 as human resources manager for Fresno and safety trainer for all CDI locations.

**Anna Melnychuk (BA '08)** plans to begin the master's program in government at Sacramento State University in fall 2011.

**Vadim Zhernokleyev (BA '08)** has been accepted into the master's program in economics at San Diego State University.

**Katia Sabate (BA '10)** was named assistant women's tennis coach at Radford University on January 19, 2011. While at FPU, Katia was a member of the 2010 NAIA National Champion squad where she was named Senior of the Year, Most Valuable Player and admitted to the NAIA All-America squad.

**Amanda Turpin (BA '10)** has been promoted to development officer of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Sacramento County.

**Joan Hensleit-Minasian (MA '10, FPU Staff)** received the Volunteer Service Award for the President's Council on Service and Civil Participation May 4, 2011.

**Steve Esau (seminary MA '11)** accepted the position of an Outreach Youth Addictions Counselor with the Fraser Health System, British Columbia, Canada.

## In the News

**Bruce Stryd (BA '70)** was featured in the *The Salt Lake Tribune* in March 2011. The article, "Blood, fire and—bras? Are miracles in the eye of the beholder?," discussed whether or not something is a miracle. Stryd leads the Christian congregation at Pathway Community Church in Fremont. The article is available at [sltrib.com](http://sltrib.com)

**Debbie (Parrott BA '05) Sneed** was featured in the Stockton Women's Network Newsletter in April 2011. The article "Spotlight on Debbie Sneed" is about Sneed's life. In January 2010, Sneed was recruited by Optimal Hospice and works as a medical social worker and community educator.

## Engagements

**1 Dulce Romero (BA '07)** and Ulises Urbina announce their engagement. Dulce received her master's of science degree in physics from California State University, Fresno, and is working on her Ph.D. in physics at the University of Texas, San Antonio. She is employed by the City of San Antonio as a teacher.



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## Births

**Sherra (Kelley BA '72) Garabedian** and husband Aram announce that each of their children will have their first child this year. Their first grandson, Logan Holiday Flynn, was born Memorial Day, May 30, 2011. His first cousin is due in October 2011.

**Wendy (Luebbers BA '92) Schuller** and husband Mark announce the birth of son Brandon Maximus on June 3, 2010.

**1 Sharlene (Hilliard BA '96) Eldredge** and husband Dee announce the birth of daughter Emily Grace on January 31, 2011.

**2 Norman Holmstrom (BA '96)** announces the birth of daughter Abigail Jean Holmstrom on August 31, 2010. **Marion (Fast PBI '60) Holmstrom** is a grandmother for the first time.

**3 Juan Carlos Tafolla (BA '96)** and wife Sandy announce the birth of son Matthew Martin on May 1, 2011, in Tulare.

**4 Lorelei (Swanson BA '98) Macomber** and husband Ronny announce the arrival of son David Shawn. He was born in Sacramento on February 13, 2006, and adopted November 30, 2010.

**Ann (Kauffman BA '03) Hilton** and husband Michael announce the birth of son David John on November 20, 2010.

**5 Jonathan (BA '03, FPU staff) and Lisa (Koelewyn BA '04) Maher** announce the birth of daughter Annie Chiharu on February 9, 2011.

**6 Mary-Anne (Born BA '05, FPU Staff) Douglas** and husband DeAndrae announce the birth of daughter Malia Desiree on May 8, 2011.

**Jessica (Hadden BA '05) Kulekjian** and husband Justin announce the birth of daughter Melody Marie on June 21, 2011.

## Weddings

**2 Leanne Mazza (BA '04)** married David Shellhamer on January 1, 2011, at Tulare Wayside Nazarene Church. The couple resides in Tulare.

**3 Amanda Richardson (BA '09)** married **Albert Bernabe (BA '07)** on July 25, 2009. The couple resides in Porterville.

**Tia Eager (BA '10)** married **Ben Weemes (BA '10)** on June 18, 2011, in Visalia. Both work at FPU, Tia as an undergraduate admissions counselor and Ben as student mediator. The couple resides in Fresno.

**4 Kyle Taylor (BA '10)** married **Kristen Donohew (Current Student)** on April 15, 2011. Kristen studies criminology and restorative justice at FPU. The couple resides in Tulare.





**7 Erica (Bettencourt BA '05) and Chris (BA '08, FPU staff) Lassen** announce the birth of son Lincoln Ellis on May 26, 2011.

**8 Melissa (Arnold BA '05) Pool** and husband Nicholas announce the birth of son Josiah Gale on April 8, 2011.

**9 Jonelle (Michael BA '05) Richardson** and husband Peter, FPU swimming coach, announce the birth of daughter Brooklynn Faith on May 26, 2011.

**10 Bonnie (Harrison BA '05) Smith** and husband Jake announce the birth of son Asher Harrison Smith on March 18, 2011.

**Orlando (BA '06) and Casie (Hilty BA '06) Ramirez** announce the birth of son Jude Gabriel on June 29, 2011.

**11 Yamilette (Gutierrez MA '06, FPU trustee) Rodriguez** and husband Jim announce the birth of daughter Lizette Mycaela on January 19, 2011.

**12 Albert (BA '07) and Amanda (Richardson BA '09) Bernabe** announce the birth of Michael Anthony on March 18, 2011.

**13 Krystal (Rodriguez BA '07) Klaassen** and husband Corey announce the birth of daughter Isabelle Joy Klaassen on March 18, 2011.

**Roxanne (Farias BA '08) Tinoco** and husband Jesse announce the birth of son Jayden Christian on March 14, 2011.

**14 Michaela (BA '08) and Braden Warren (BA '08)** announce the birth of son Ephraim Wayne on March 11, 2011.

**15 Kyle Guess (BA '10) and wife Tasha** announce the birth of daughter Eliana Rose on June 25, 2010.

**16 Thou Yang (BA '10) and wife Susan** announce the birth of daughter Alene Elizabeth on April 10, 2010.

LeVa and Evelyn Loewen; son **David Kasdorf (BA '85)**; brother Nickolai; and four grandchildren. Memorial services were April 1, 2011, at North Fresno MB Church, Fresno.



**Robyn (Becker AA '64, BA '88) Brandt** died February 17, 2011, in Reedley at the age of 66. She had suffered from breast

cancer. Robyn was born November 16, 1944, in Fairview, Oklahoma, and was a third grade teacher at Roosevelt School in Dinuba for 23 years. Robyn married **Jim Brandt (AA '64)** on May 22, 1965. He survives, along with son **Steve (BA '91)**, daughter **Cheryl (BA '93)** and her husband **Ken Clyburne (BA '93)**, as well as five grandchildren. Memorial services were February 23, 2011, at the Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church, where she was a member for 46 years.



**Craig Allen Warkentin (BA '79)** died February 27, 2011, in Dinuba at the age of 53. He had suffered from a

cancerous brain tumor. Craig was born May 24, 1957, in Jacksonville Florida's Naval Air Station Hospital to **Allen (PBI '55) and Belva (Becker PBI '53) Warkentin**. Craig worked as an accountant for Kern

Medical Center in Bakersfield and in the accounting department at Saint Agnes Hospital, Fresno. As a member of Bethany Mennonite Brethren Church, Fresno, he was actively involved in choir and the Awana program. In June 2006, Craig married Nancy Miller of Dinuba. Memorial services were March 5, 2011, at the Dinuba MB.



**Qin Wen (BA '02)** died May 22, 2011, at her family's home in Nanning, China. She was diagnosed

with cancer about one year ago. She had been living in Fresno and working at Pelco as an international account specialist. She became a Christian while a student at FPU and was a member of the Chinese congregation at Bethany MB Church. A member of the volleyball team for three years, Qin helped the Sunbirds to three GSAC championships and two NAIA national final four appearances. She was named to the NAIA and American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America Team three times and was inducted into the FPU Hall of Fame. Survivors include her father, Wen Zhi Xiang; her sister, Man Ping; and her brother, Wen Yong. The memorial service was June 18, 2011 at Bethany.

## Deaths



**Hans Kasdorf (FPU faculty 1968-1978, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary faculty 1978-**

**1993)**, died March 26, 2011, at the age of 82. Born July 27, 1928, in Alexandrovka, Slavgorod, Siberia, he emigrated with his parents and nine siblings to a homestead in the Brazilian rainforest in 1929, moving to Canada 20 years later to pursue higher education. He earned doctorates at Fuller Theological Seminary and the University of South Africa after studying at Winkler Bible School, Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Tabor College, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary and the University of Oregon. At Winkler he met his wife of 57 years, Frieda Reimer, who survives. Other survivors include daughters Dianne

## FPU begins NCAA membership process, joins PacWest Conference

A new and exciting chapter in Fresno Pacific athletics began July 11 when the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) notified the university that its application for membership in Division II had been accepted. The decision marks the



### The PacWest

culmination of a two-year process for national affiliation outside the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) but alongside fellow Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) members.

“We are very pleased and excited that the NCAA has approved our application to begin the membership process,” said Dennis Janzen, Ph.D., athletic director. “This is an affirmation for the entire university.”

FPU begins a three-year candidacy this season, its final in the NAIA and the GSAC, FPU’s home for more than 25 years. In 2012-13, FPU will begin play in the NCAA’s Pacific West Conference (PacWest). Fellow GSAC schools Azusa Pacific and Point Loma Nazarene are also making the move to the PacWest, and California Baptist has already joined.

The PacWest currently features four schools in Hawaii, four in California, one in Arizona and one in Utah; and several are Christian schools. “The PacWest is a great fit with our university’s core values, aligns us with like-minded institutions, and will enable our student-athletes to continue to compete at a high level,” President D. Merrill Ewert said.

## Kelly Winter hired as volleyball coach



Kelly Winter

Fresno Pacific looked to one of its own to take the reins of the volleyball program, hiring former player and assistant coach Kelly Winter to succeed Dennis Janzen as head coach.

Sunbirds setter from 1997-2000, Winter (Watney BA '01, MA '08), is no stranger to success at FPU. In addition to being the program’s all-time assists

leader and award-winning player, she helped guide the team to five GSAC titles and two NAIA National Championships as Janzen’s number-one assistant.

“FPU is a place that is near and dear to my heart,” she said. “It is a special place that encourages spiritual, intellectual and physical growth of all who are a part of the institution. I believe the culture of commitment of Sunbird volleyball is unique and special and I desire to continue the traditions that have been established and lead the volleyball program into the next era.”

In 2009 Winter was inducted into the FPU Hall of Fame.



Chris Schwinden

## Schwinden makes the majors

Former pitcher Chris Schwinden became the first Sunbird to play major league baseball when he was promoted to the New York Mets. He got the news September 5 and three days later started game one of a doubleheader vs. the Atlanta Braves.

The 24-year-old Visalia native was originally drafted in the 22nd round of the 2008 Amateur Draft. Schwinden began the season at Double-A Binghamton but was promoted to the Triple-A Bisons in April. From there, he led the Bisons in starts, innings pitched, ERA and strikeouts while tying for the team lead with eight wins. The Bisons named Schwinden pitcher of the year.



Jesse Darrah

The summer of dreams began in June when pitcher Jesse Darrah was the first college player from Fresno, and the first NAIA player, to be selected in the MLB Amateur Draft, going in the eighth round to the Arizona Diamondbacks. Infielder Andrew Douglas, a Kingsburg senior, signed with the Chicago White Sox.



## Rivals to friends equal national success Track and field athletes remember who they're competing for

More than four years ago, former rivals Peter Richardson and Patrick Ota met at In-N-Out Burger to discuss the new FPU swimming program. Richardson would coach the team and was looking for an assistant. Today the Sunbirds are the top swimming program in the NAIA, but change is in the wind, as Ota moves to Fresno State, and FPU heads into the NCAA Division II.

In college Ota watched Richardson lead the University of the Pacific to two straight Big West titles, ending UC Santa Barbara's 23-year conference stranglehold. When Richardson graduated, Ota helped UCSB to two more titles and regained supremacy.



Patrick Ota and Peter Richardson

Over double-doubles they laid the foundation. In 2011 FPU has two national team championships, one national runner-up finish, 13 national records, 21 individual national champions, 11 championship relays and three national coach of the year awards. "Absolutely none of this could have happened without Patrick Ota," said Richardson. "He has always been more than a coach to his swimmers, and he'll always be more than a colleague to me."

"Pete and I always tell people we have something special at FPU, and I will work my hardest to spread those concepts to any team I work with in the future," said Ota.

That something special was on display in March in St. Peter's, Missouri, as the men brought home their second championship. The women finished second, their best ever. "I can't say enough about Carl Weigley," said Richardson. "He, Ray Eggert, Rowen Shaterian and Joel Howard... have been the backbone of this team."

The men also showed depth as all 18 participating swimmers scored points. "We work so hard every year and it's not just the people who are setting records," said Richardson.

Richardson had as much to say about the women's team. He specifically applauded Lauren Malthaner, who dropped eight seconds in the 200 breaststroke this year, culminating in a national championship 2:16.17.

He also raved about Brooke Turner, the "heart and soul of this team" and still a factor after shoulder surgery. "It shows the kind of heart this team has," said Richardson.

The women's team returns all but one swimmer in 2011-2012 and the men have a shot at a three-peat. "I'm pretty confident I'm walking away from two more national titles next year," said Ota.

Heading into the NAIA National Championships in May, the FPU track & field teams already had much to be thankful for. The men's team had captured the school's first GSAC track title, while the women had broken multiple school records.

At the nationals the Sunbirds put the icing on the cake, finishing a school-high sixth overall.

Junior Ethan DeJongh became the national long jump and triple jump champion as well as the meet's Most Outstanding Performer. He is the second Sunbird to earn that honor, after Ben Bogdanof.

Eugene Vollmer, last year's triple-jump national champion, overcame a heel injury to finish second. Anthony Clark finished seventh.

Despite injuries, the women's competition saw valiant performances by distance runner Amanda Johnson and jumper Veronica Pantoja. Johnson, who'd qualified for the 3,000 meter steeplechase early in the season, hadn't run in over a month—at least, not on land. Though the injury should have ended her season, a series of pool and bike workouts helped the senior stay in shape.

The day before the race Johnson ran 11:19, just three seconds off of her qualifying time. She missed the finals by one spot in a performance head coach Eric Schwab called, "the most incredible thing I've seen in all my years of coaching."

Pantoja, meanwhile, fought wind and rain to take seventh in the triple jump and give the women their only points of the meet.

Most important, the team was true to its year-long "Don't Shade the Shine" theme that all glory be given back to God. The team reaffirmed their goal with a rally-cry of "A01" (Audience of One) at every practice and meet.

"By yelling this, the team reminded each other who we were performing for and where we get our worth from," said coach J.T. Thiesen. "No matter our teams' results, we found freedom in knowing that our best was good enough because it is all God asks of us."

### Chris Moore joins staff



Chris Moore

Chris Moore is the athletic program's first associate athletic director for compliance. Moore had the same position at the University of North Texas, and brings extensive NCAA Division I compliance experience from Portland State, Fresno State and Southern Mississippi.

Moore will be part of FPU's transition to the NCAA Division II.



## Men tennis national champs, women second

The tennis teams wrapped up their seasons with a one-two punch at the NAIA National Championships in May in Mobile, Alabama, with the men claiming their second title in three years and the women first runner-up.

The men completed the season undefeated against NAIA competition. In the nationals

they defeated their opponents by a combined score of 21-4, including a 5-1 win title-match over Embry-Riddle. The women did not lose a singles or doubles match until the finals, reaching the championship match for the sixth consecutive year and holding a 3-1 lead on Auburn-Montgomery before falling 5-3.

## Fourth straight Director's Cup top four

FPU is again among the nation's elite athletic programs, finishing fourth in the annual NAIA Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings for overall athletic success.

The Sunbirds have finished in the top four in each of the past four seasons, including a program-best third place last year. This season's top three were Azusa Pacific, Embry Riddle and Shorter.

## Five inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

*More than 50 years of athletic success were honored at the Hall of Fame Banquet September 19 as five new members were inducted.*



**RON ADAMS**  
men's basketball  
(1965-1974)



**RAFAEL DE CICCO**  
men's soccer  
(1983-1986)



**LIN GAO**  
volleyball  
(1999-2003)



**DENNIS JANZEN**  
volleyball  
(1983-2010)



**RANDY PFOF**  
men's basketball  
(1970-1974)



## GET THE WHOLE STORY

Go to [fpuathletics.com](http://fpuathletics.com) for more on what you see in *Pacific*, as well as features and news available nowhere else.

*A new feature is live Internet broadcasts of games!*

Check out home volleyball and basketball games at the athletics website or <http://client.stretchinternet.com/client/fpu.portal#>





## Board of Trustees notebook

### Recent actions by the Fresno Pacific University Board of Trustees include:

- Adopting a faculty senate and rank system. Faculty will now be ranked instructor, assistant professor, associate professor and professor and may be promoted through education, scholarship and other achievements.
- Approving a \$46 million budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. The 2010-2011 budget was \$40 million.
- Affirming the Advisory Council of the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary as a standing committee of the board.
- Confirming Suzana Dobric Veiss (BA '99, MA '02) and Will Dyck (BA '97) as new board members. Dobric Veiss is a former student body president and associate director of admissions who is now an adjunct instructor at the Visalia Center. She and husband Victor (MA '04), a school psychologist, have three children and live in Visalia. Dyck served as the MCC student sale coordinator and is now president of the Summa Development Group, a Fresno real estate investment company. He and wife Allison have one daughter.
- Naming Dennis Langhofer, Ed.D., dean, School of Business, and Jean Fennacy, Ph.D., education, faculty emeriti.
- Naming Velma Dyck trustee emeritus. She served from 1996 to 2010.
- Awarding sabbaticals to Michael Kunz, Ph.D., professor of biology; Eleanor Nickel, Ph.D., associate professor of English; Laura Roberts, Ph.D., associate professor of biblical and religious studies (all fall 2011); Tim Neufeld, Th.D., associate professor of biblical and religious studies (spring 2012); and Julia Reimer, Ph.D., associate professor of theater, (2011-2012, with a leave of absence 2013).

## Seminary students to benefit from Guenther Old Testament Scholarship

The Allen R. Guenther (Ph.D.) Old Testament Endowed Scholarship was established in 2011 by Anne Guenther to honor the memory of her husband, an MB Biblical Seminary professor emeritus of Old Testament. This gift to Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary carries the Guenther family's vision to benefit men and women called to study and teach God's word, particularly the Old Testament.

The scholarship shall be awarded to seminary students who:

- are pursuing a master of arts in Old Testament
- have completed at least 30 units
- have a 3.0 grade point average or above
- show financial need
- have a personal character that reflects the moral and ethical standards of the seminary

**To contribute to these or other  
FPU Scholarships call the  
Advancement Office at 559-453-7139.**

## Langhofer scholarship honors business education pioneer

The Dennis Langhofer Servant Leader Scholarship was created by colleagues, former students, friends and family to honor Langhofer's 29 years as faculty member, co-founder and director of the FPU bachelor's degree completion program and interim dean of the School of Business.

Applicants must be degree completion students with a GPA of at least 2.75, whose characters reflect the moral and ethical standards of FPU and who demonstrate servant leadership, including the ability to listen well and empathize with others, conceptualize a vision and develop growth and community among those one leads.

The selection committee may include the executive director of regional centers, the degree completion admissions advisor and a business faculty member.

# 2010 | 2011 annual report

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

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## Emeritus

Wesley Braun, Fresno  
Velma Dyck, Fresno  
Marvin Steinert, Bakersfield  
Max Steinert, Bakersfield  
Peter Klassen, Fresno

## About this report

THIS IS A SPECIAL REPORT to the supporters of Fresno Pacific University and the members of the sponsoring Pacific District Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches.

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this report and gratefully acknowledge all contributions. Please call to our attention any omissions or errors by contacting the Advancement Office at 559-453-2080.

Financial information on the university covers the fiscal period May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2011. Information on the foundation covers the fiscal period January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010.



## Foundation Board

Randall Franz, Bakersfield  
Tim Franz, Fresno  
Robert Herrick, Fresno  
Jon Hillen, Cambria  
John V. Martin, Fresno  
Roger Nord, Fresno  
Randall Penner, Fresno  
Rick Schuil, Kingsburg  
Don Warkentine, Fresno

A list of board member addresses and corporation members is available from the President's Office. A copy of the auditor's report may be requested from the Fresno Pacific University Business Office.

## Administration

D. Merrill Ewert  
President

Stephen Varvis  
Vice president for enrollment management/  
interim academic vice president and provost

Mark Deffenbacher  
Vice president for advancement and university  
relations/executive director of the Fresno Pacific  
University Foundation

Alan Ours  
Vice president, chief information officer

Diane Catlin  
Vice president for business affairs

Lynn Jost  
Vice president and dean of the seminary

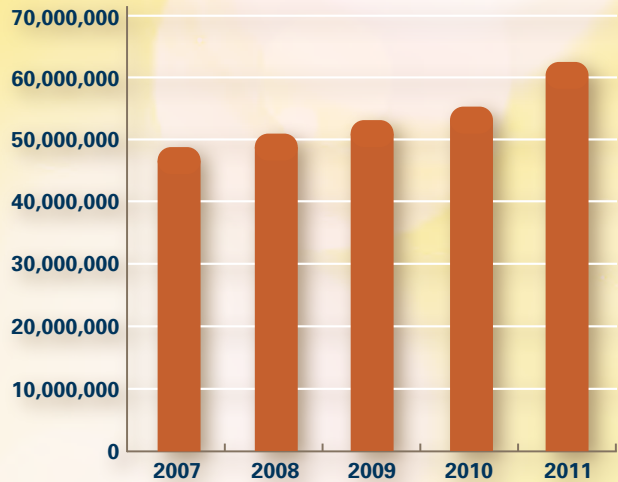


# university financial report

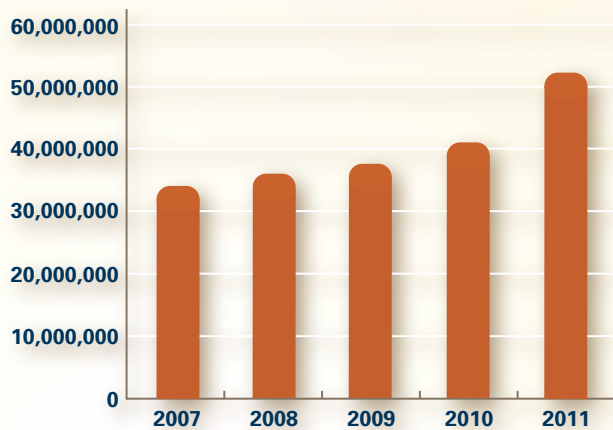
## University Summary Statement of Activities

	2011	2010
<b>Total revenue, gains, losses and reclassifications</b>	<b>52,329,388</b>	<b>40,670,439</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>46,048,598</b>	<b>38,644,516</b>
Change in net assets	6,280,790	2,025,923
Net assets, beginning of year	28,767,039	26,741,116
Transfer of assets from MBBS, US Inc.	990,444	
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>36,038,273</b>	<b>28,767,039</b>

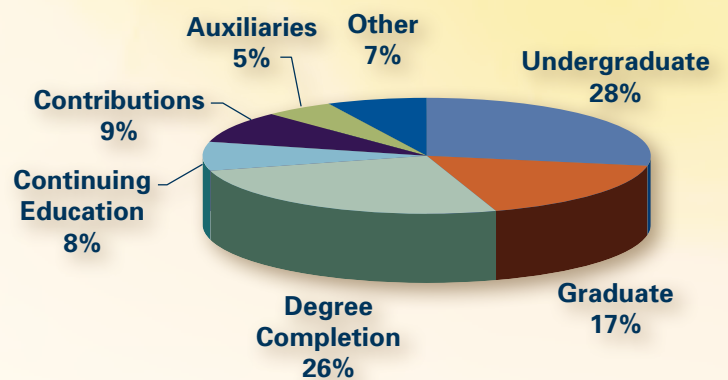
## University Assets



## Total University Revenue

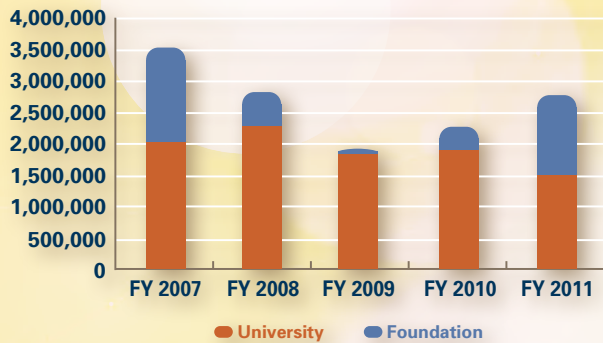


## University Sources of Revenue

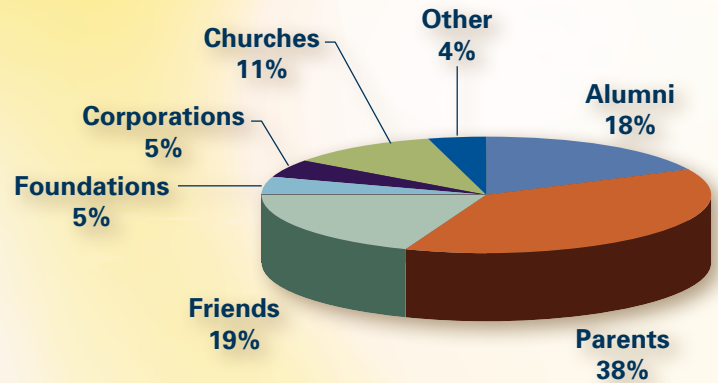


# university financial report

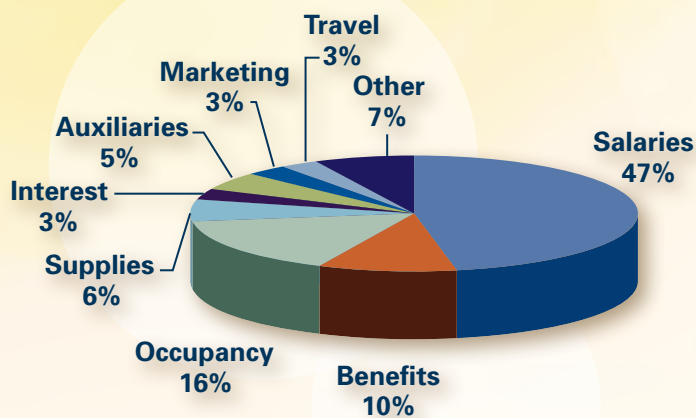
## University and Foundation Giving



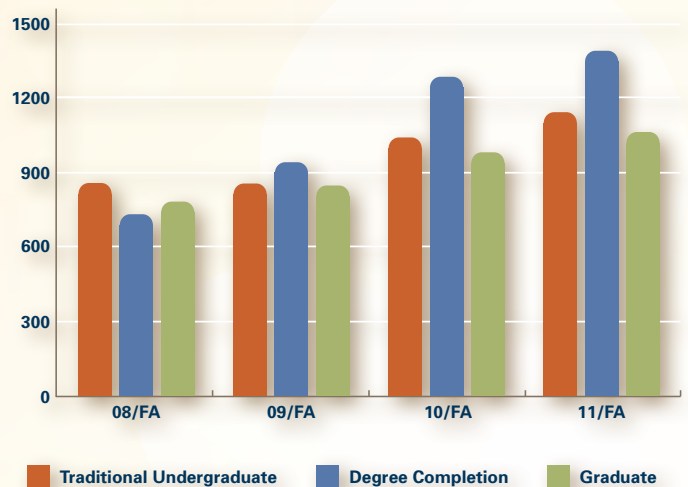
## University and Foundation Donor Groups



## University Expenses by Category



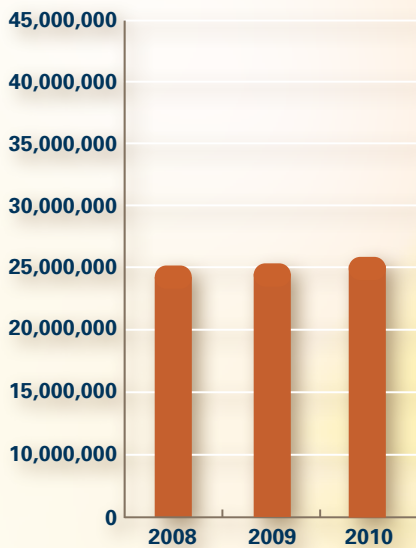
## Enrollment



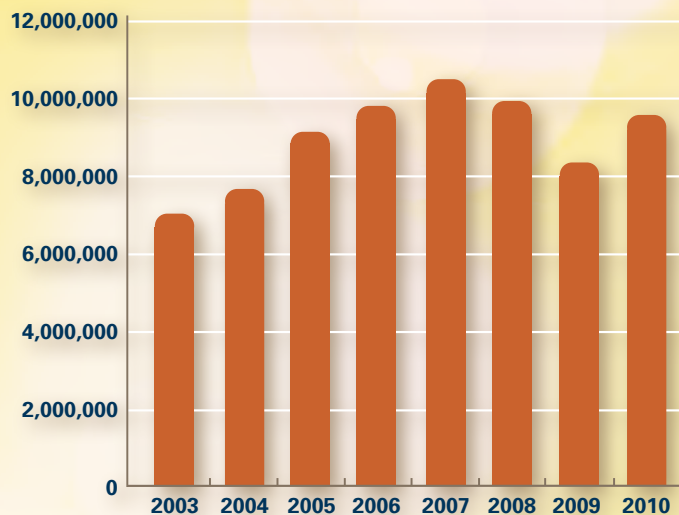


# university financial report

## Foundation Managed Assets



## University and Foundation Endowment



## Foundation Report

### Foundation Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and other Changes for the year ended December 31, 2010: statement of activities

	2010	2009
<b>Revenues, gains and other support</b>		
Total revenues, gains and other support	1,488,538	1,635,620
<b>Expenses and losses</b>		
Total expenses and losses	895,752	744,434
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>592,787</b>	<b>891,187</b>
<b>Net assets at beginning of year</b>	<b>15,493,180</b>	<b>14,601,993</b>
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>16,085,967</b>	<b>15,493,180</b>
<b>Trusts/annuities/liabilities</b>	<b>9,749,913</b>	<b>9,598,060</b>
<b>Total managed assets</b>	<b>25,835,880</b>	<b>25,091,240</b>



# Join the Flock!

## Gifts include:

- Piggy bank
- Children's book written and illustrated by alumni Karen Neufeld and Robert Friesen
- FPU lunch tote
- FPU drawstring backpack and sports bottle
- FPU ear buds
- Pass to an FPU event
- \$10 coupon (a 40 percent discount!) to attend The Encounter

Know someone aged infant through high school senior who would make a great Sunbird?

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

### **\$35 per child lifetime membership**

Each child receives a membership card and t-shirt. Every year they get birthday cards, with special gifts to mark select birthdays. High school students will begin receiving information from the FPU Admissions Office.

## Join today!

Register online at [fresno.edu/theflock](http://fresno.edu/theflock)